



Springtown Police Patrol Sgt. Katy Wacasey stands out as the only woman in the department's top leadership group. From left, Sgt. Jamie Oliver, Wacasey, Chief Cres Salazar and Lt. Jason Cobb. Courtesy photo

Officer of the Year

Police Patrol Sgt. Katy Wacasey reflects on her career in Springtown

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Even in a leadership role, Springtown Police Patrol Sgt. Katy Wacasey still patrols the city streets. Wacasey was promoted from corporal to sergeant last year, and October will mark her sixth year at the department. She still does patrol work, which promotes visibility in the community, so she doesn't forget where she came from. "It's where I started. I don't want to forget where I came from because if it wasn't for that ground foundation, I wouldn't be where I'm at today," Wacasey said.

Wacasey has the respect of her peers, which is evident because she won the peer-voted award of Officer of the Year. Springtown Police Chief Cres Salazar spoke highly of his patrol sergeant. "She is very near and dear to our department, very near and dear to my heart," Salazar said. "Her experience, her knowledge and the way she cares about people and her officers – you couldn't get a better officer. You just can't." Wacasey didn't start out her career in the police field but rather in a fire department. At age 16, she started out as a volunteer firefight-

er and eventually became a career firefighter. The fire department she worked at offered to send her to the police academy, and she agreed to go. She made the jump from firefighter to police officer because she felt as a police officer she would be able to take more action in certain incidents, like being able to charge someone for a crime for a wrongdoing. Her long-term goal is to one day become a fire marshal, which combines firefighter and law enforcement skills. When she started at Springtown

SEE WACASEY, PAGE 3A.

SISD sees growth in STAAR exam scores

BY DON MUNSCHE
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Springtown ISD students showed improvement in many categories of the recent State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness exam, according to information from the Texas Education Agency. Students are scored on three measurements of testing: approaches grade, meets grade level and masters grade level. Students are evaluated in 20 subject areas,

and students in those skills being assessed range from third graders to high school juniors.

SUBJECTS AND GRADES TESTED:

- Third: Math and reading
- Fourth: Math and reading
- Fifth: Math, reading and science
- Sixth: Math and reading
- Seventh: Math and reading
- Eighth: Math, science, reading and social studies

Other testing areas on the STAAR are Ninth Grade English Language Arts and Reading, Algebra I, 9th-10th Biology, 10th English Language Arts and Reading II and 11th Social Studies (U.S. History). There were not standalone STAAR writing assessments for fourth and seventh grades in 2021-2022. SISD Superintendent Mike Kelley said there were "quite a few areas" the district can be proud of as far as the STAAR scores this year. "Our student achievement at the 'Approaches' level improved in 18

of 20 tested areas, and met or exceeded state averages in 17 of 20 tested areas," he said in an email. "A great deal of time and energy has been spent really focusing on the state's curriculum (known as the TEKS) and ensuring that we re-teach content in which students struggle to demonstrate proficiency. Our most recent scores also reflect significant growth at the 'Meets' level, with improved averages on 17 of 20 tests. Springtown ISD compared favorably against state numbers, outpacing averages

in 11 of 20 tested areas." Kelley pointed out how "Masters" scores declined in four of 20 tested areas (compared to prior-year scores), and he said "we obviously have some work to do on that front." However, he said, double-digit improvement in seventh and eighth grade reading is commendable, while the third and fourth grade math scores were "extremely promising, as were our U.S. History

SEE STAAR, PAGE 4A.

THE CLASS OF 2022'S FAVORITE TEACHERS

Saskia Hornback

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

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Saskia Hornback, a seasoned science teacher at Springtown High School, has a message for new teachers: "Wear comfortable shoes." "You're going to be an effective teacher if you teach from your feet, not your seat," Hornback said. "You need to be up and about your classroom." She explained that it's difficult to know what's going on in a classroom or to be able to assist students effectively from behind a desk or standing at the front of the room. "I'm very hands on," she said. "If they're struggling with putting

a DNA model together, I'm just not going to tell them how to do it from my desk. I'm going to go over and we're going to work it out together. So, wear comfortable shoes because you should be tired by the end of the day if you're doing it right per se." Hornback has been teaching for 23 years, and all but three of those years were spent in Springtown. She has taught multiple science courses, and last year, she taught dual credit and honors biology and advanced animal science. When she was in college, Hornback wanted to be a veterinarian, not a teacher. She didn't realize she wanted to teach until she taught a lab course while working on her master's degree.

"It just felt right," Hornback said about teaching her first biology lab class at Tarleton State University. "I enjoyed it. It was fun. It was hands-on. It was very engaging, interactive. The students would ask questions; I would help them." In her classroom, Hornback favors hands-on learning through the lab activities, practice with using tools and answering questions in class. One of her favorite parts of the job is when students grasp the concepts that she teaches – the moment after the concept is explained, they practice and do the activity, then the metaphorical light bulb clicks on, and the students say they understand. Teaching at SHS for 20 years means that Hornback not only taught students who graduated in the Class of 2022 but some of their siblings as well. She has also



Saskia Hornback has been teaching for 23 years, and all but three of those years were spent in Springtown. She has taught multiple science courses, and last year, she taught dual credit and honors biology and advanced animal science. Courtesy Photo

SEE HORNBACK, PAGE 3A.





Springtown ISD Camp Porcupine

Above: Springtown ISD hosted Camp Porcupine for kids enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade from June 20 to July 1. The kids got to participate in activities related to various science topics.

Top right: Braxton Bleeker created a space innovation during Spacecation, a module through Camp Invention – a program designed by the National Inventors Hall of Fame – at Springtown ISD’s Camp Porcupine.

Bottom right: Manning Showers created an ice volcano like the one on Jupiter, during Spacecation a module through Camp Invention – a program designed by the National Inventors Hall of Fame – at Springtown ISD’s Camp Porcupine.

Courtesy Photos

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FREE Report Exposes Back Pain Myths and Dangerous Treatments...

“Not everyone will qualify to receive this report that uncovers Back Pain Myths and Dangerous Treatments ... Take the qualification quiz to find out if YOU are eligible:

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- A life where you can walk in the grocery store without the embarrassment of hanging on the cart because of your back pain
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- A life where you can do and enjoy all the things you see so many others doing and enjoying but your bad back has kept you watching from the sidelines.

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1. Are you between the ages of 35-70?
2. Do you currently have or have had back pain in the last 6 months?
3. Is your back pain affecting your daily activities?
4. Are you open minded and willing to take action to end your back pain?

Please do not call if you are just curious! We only have a limited number of reports, please don’t take one from someone who really needs the help.

If you passed the qualifications quiz above and would like your free copy, call

817-220-6677

Chief Salazar's report: fewer roadway accidents, new traffic radar trailer

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown Police Chief Cres Salazar has reported fewer roadway accidents now that the roads in Springtown have reopened.

At the Springtown City Council meeting last month, Salazar showed statistics for the number of roadway accidents from December to May, which listed figures in the 20s for December, February, April and May as well as 18 in January and 17 in March.

Farm-to-Market Road 51 and State Highway 199 fully reopened in April after being closed because of Texas Department of Transportation construction. Salazar's presentation to council noted an

overall decrease in accidents compared to last summer. He said his officers have been working fewer minor and major accident scenes.

"That's from the road opening and my guys being seen," Salazar said.

The police chief also reported that the department had received and is using a new traffic radar trailer, which has a traffic count function to capture data.

"If you haven't seen it, you probably won't if you blink," Salazar said during the meeting. "It's a lot more compact than our normal one, but it works to count, traffic counts, which is excellent. The other radar trailer doesn't do that."

City Administrator David Miller said the new radar

trailer measures speed and will allow the city to monitor speeds in certain areas and consider speed limit changes.

"Some of the areas that people have asked us to look at lowering speeds or doing the opposite (as) some have asked, we'll be able to use this new technology on the trailer for that purpose," Miller said.

Salazar said the department is working toward hiring three more police officers to be fully staffed in the patrol division. The department recruits from Weatherford College Law Enforcement Academy but will branch out to look for recruits in Tarrant County as well.

HORNBACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

been able to teach alongside her former students who became educators and gets to see them do the same activities in their classrooms they enjoyed when they were in her class. She also described seeing former students of hers who teach at other campuses who approach her to give gratitude.

"They come up to you and they're like, 'Thank you, I'm a teacher because of how you taught me' or 'because you were there for me when nobody else was,'" Hornback said. "That's super special, too. I don't think you get that in every profession."

The 2021-22 school year in Springtown marked students' complete return to campuses after having some degree of remote learning during the past two school years. Hornback's reflection on the year was optimistic. She pointed out that because of virtual learning, every student had been given a device to use, and it brought out online platforms for teachers to use in the classroom.

"You got to find the silver lining (with) some of the cards that we've all been dealt," Hornback said.

Hornback's goal and the message she tries to impart

to her students is to use each day as an opportunity to do better. For the Class of 2022 graduates, some of whom selected her as their favorite SHS teacher, she hopes they will strive to be lifelong learners.

"I kind of hope that these kids are always going to be lifelong learners, whether it be science or reading or math or whatever, but I just kind of hope that we're promoting lifelong learners," Hornback said. "I hope they're not just OK with what they've learned up to this point, that they continue to try to do better."

WACASEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

Police Department, there was only one other female officer, and Wacasey said she looked up to that officer. After that officer left, Wacasey said she was the only female officer for years until recently. Today, she stands out as the only woman in the department's top leadership group. She hopes to encourage other women in the department and pass on what she was taught.

"Keep working hard," Wacasey said, describing the wisdom she learned and hopes to pass on to other officers. "Don't hold a chip on your shoulder. Stay humble. Just do your job. Your hard work, it will get recognized."

Salazar remembers Wacasey being impressive and outgoing when he first met her. He said her experience with emergency services stood out on her application for the job.

To do her job, Wacasey must be intelligent, willing to help and be knowledgeable of Texas law, Springtown Police Department standard operating procedures and of Springtown in general, Salazar said.

"She is an asset to our department," he said when asked why Wacasey was promoted. "Everyone looks up to her. She helps out with the day-to-day operations, and she supervises patrol. She is perfectly suited for that job."

Wacasey's job as a sergeant involves plenty of paperwork and administrative functions, but she also takes



Sgt. Katy Wacasey dons her fire protection suit from her days as a firefighter. Courtesy Photo

time to train and develop the officers under her supervision. Her goal is for her officers to one day be able to get promoted into leadership like she was.

"I like to work with my other officers that I have because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be in this position," she said. "It was them that got me here."

Wacasey likened the officers in her department to a family and said she couldn't do her job without them.

"There's nothing I wouldn't do for them," she said.

Wacasey often attends city and community events where she will sometimes hand out police badge stickers to kids and let them tour a police car. Being part of the Springtown community is one of her favorite aspects of her job.

"We get to help people," Wacasey said. "I get to be a part of the community and make it better."

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 00 11 00 Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

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

- 1,300 LF of 6" PVC water main
- 1,250 LF of 6" PVC sewer main
- Permanent Pavement repair for utility installation

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of the engineer, Pacheco Koch, 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained free of charge by the prospective bidders at www.civcastusa.com under the following project name - "Springtown CDBG - Avenue D Reconstruction". Additionally, bid documents may be obtained free of charge from Pacheco Koch at 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Springtown or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. Deadline for questions is 10:30 AM on Monday, July 18th, 2022. The City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Springtown for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award. The City of Springtown is an equal opportunity employer.

City of Springtown Greg Hood, Mayor 06/30/2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

City of Springtown is accepting sealed requests for a contract on group medical insurance until 10:30 A.M. local time, July 28, 2022 via email, at which time they will be publicly opened. Specifications may be obtained from Brinson Benefits at 214-379-5157. The Title of the email should include "RFP# 10-22-817 for Group Medical Insurance". Any bids received after the time and date stated above, regardless of the mode of delivery, will not be considered. The City of Springtown reserves the right to accept, negotiate, amend, accept and/or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or to waive any informality in any bid, which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the City of Springtown.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CAUSE NO. 22P293

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN JOE LARIMORE DECEASED TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN JOE LARIMORE, DECEASED Steven Brett Larimore in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters Of Administration Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estates Code and to Determine Heirship On 07/06/2022 In the Estate Of Steven Joe Larimore, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Steven Joe Larimore, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate, and appointing Steven Brett Larimore to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and Determined Heirship. The court may act on said application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation. at the Parker County Court. One Courthouse Square, Weatherford, TX 76086 in Parker County, Texas. All persons interested in this case are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Parker County, Texas on or before the above noted date and time. Given under my hand and the seal of said Court of Parker County, Texas at the office of the Parker County Clerk, on this 7th day of July, 2022.

LILA DEAKLE County Clerk, Parker County Texas By: Sharon Hall, Deputy Clerk
Applicant's Attorney: W. Faye Murphree 337 W Main Street Azle TX 76020



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The Texas Homeowner Assistance Program is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Providing false, incomplete, or inaccurate information on application forms or seeking duplicative benefits may result in up to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$10,000 for each occurrence. Program limitations and eligibility requirements apply and not all households may be eligible. See TexasHomeownerAssistance.com for details. Funds are limited and may not be available by the time a household applies.



UTGCD to hold hearing, board meeting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District's hearing and regular board meeting are set for 5 p.m. July 18 at the district office at 1859 W. Highway 199 in Springtown or via Zoom videoconference, a UTGCD news release stated.

In addition to the regular board meeting agenda, which begins at conclusion of Public Hearing, another item of interest includes a public hearing regarding multiple applications for an operating permit for three commercial water systems in Parker County.

The public is welcome and encouraged to remotely attend via online videoconference/teleconference. Join Zoom meeting by accessing

us02web.zoom.us/j/82018726507
1 (346) 248-7799 – US
Meeting ID: 820 1872 6507

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 groundwater, respect and protect the property rights of landowners in groundwater, and operate the District in a fair and equitable manner for all residents of the District," the release stated.

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

STAAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

ry and Biology scores.

"Overall, I think we're pleased with the results; we also fully recognize STAAR data is only one of many sources of feedback our teachers and staff should reflect on," he said. "The old saying that 'Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts' is as true now as it has always been, but the consistent improvement we've seen in STAAR scores is certainly encouraging."

The Texas Education Agency released spring 2022 STAAR results for Grades 3-8 in early July. The results include exams in mathematics and reading for grades 3-8, fifth and eighth grade science, and eighth grade social studies. This year's STAAR results show across-the-board improvements in all grades and subjects from 2021, with significant gains in reading, according to a TEA news release.

"The investments that the state is making in reading academies and accelerated

instruction are clearly paying dividends for our students, and the results are a testament to the hard work of teachers across our state," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in the release. "While we still have much work to do to recover from COVID-related learning loss in mathematics, the improvements our students have made in reading are clear."

State policy changed one aspect of STAAR testing this year, TEA stated in the release. In light of HB 4545, which passed during the 87th Legislative Session, the fifth and eighth grade promotion requirement associated with STAAR was eliminated, so "there are no longer any high stakes for elementary and middle school students taking the STAAR. School systems, however, may have local policies related to how students are promoted to the next grade or retained."

More changes are due for the STAAR next year. TEA will be implementing changes from House Bill

3906 (86R), which requires the STAAR test to be redesigned to better align with classroom instruction. The STAAR will also transition to a full online administration. Writing will also be assessed as part of the reading/language arts assessment in grades 3-8 for the first time. These changes aim to improve student engagement and reduce teaching to the test, with changes taking full effect in spring 2023.

The release stated that both federal and state laws require school systems to offer end-of-year assessments, such as the STAAR. State law requires that students take the assessment. Additionally, STAAR fulfills the federal requirements as established in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Laws have been adopted at both the state and federal level as "evidence shows that using common assessments aligned to rigorous state standards helps improve the quality of education students receive. Similarly, data shows that without a

common statewide system to determine student mastery, certain groups of students disproportionately received educational opportunities that were consistently at a lower rigor level than their peers."

In June, TEA released this year's STAAR EOC assessment results, which showed progress in the three tests that saw a decline during COVID-19. In these three tests, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History, Texas student performance in the "meets grade level" category improved. As the percentage of high school students meeting grade level is moving closer to pre-pandemic levels, these improvements are a "welcome sign that Texas students are moving in the right direction in their post-pandemic academic recovery. In the two tests that did not show a negative impact from COVID-19, English I and English II, results stayed largely consistent from last school year."

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Kid Scoop

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Albatross

Wide, Wide Wingspan

The albatross is one of the world's largest flying seabirds.

The most common North Pacific species is the Laysan albatross. There are more than 660,000 breeding pairs just on Midway Atoll in the northwest Hawaiian Islands.

The wandering albatross is the largest member of the albatross family. This bird is one of the largest birds in the world. They have the largest wingspan, ranging from 8.23 to 11.8 feet.

ACTIVITY: Stretch your arms out wide. Have a family member measure your "wingspan" from fingertip to fingertip.

How an Albatross Chick Eats

Number the steps below in order.

- The chick then pulls food out of the parent's mouth to eat.
- To feed its chick, the adult forces food up out of its stomach and into its mouth. This is called regurgitation.
- The adult flies back to its chick with the food in its stomach.
- An adult albatross scoops up food for its chick from the sea.

Plastic Problem

Replace the missing words!

Even though this large group of albatross lives far away from people, their young get _____ and die because of _____ people. Small plastic toys, bottle caps, toothbrushes, and other small pieces of plastic have been found in the _____ of the chicks.

How did plastic end up in the stomachs of _____ that live so far away from populated areas?

Albatross parents _____ hundreds of miles to find food for their chicks. They scoop up squid, krill, fish eggs and other seafood from the _____ of the ocean. But these days, they also accidentally swallow floating plastic.

Skip the Straw! Plastic straws create huge problems for the environment. Use a paper straw or better yet, just skip the straw!

Midway Atoll

PACIFIC OCEAN

Hawaiian Islands

SICK

TRAVEL

STOMACHS

SURFACE

BIRDS

One bird researcher on Midway saw an adult regurgitate a toothbrush and its chick ate it. Chicks are not able to regurgitate food or other materials out of their stomachs and the plastic food stays there, making them sick and sometimes killing them.

You Can Help the Albatross!

You can keep trash from traveling to the sea by recycling, putting trash in trash cans, and choosing reusable alternatives over single-use plastic. Less plastic on land means less plastic in the sea!

Instead of Plastic

Look through the newspaper and find five things made of plastic. What could people use instead of plastic for each of these five things?
Example: Plastic bag—use a cloth bag instead.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many pounds of plastic waste do scientists estimate albatross bring to Midway Atoll each year?

Color each odd number red to reveal the answer.

2	8	4	8	4	6	8	8	4	6	2	2	4	6	8	4	2	6	2
6	9	6	9	1	9	2	7	9	5	8	9	3	9	2	1	9	5	6
4	3	2	9	6	5	6	9	2	9	6	1	6	7	6	9	2	9	4
8	9	6	5	8	3	4	5	6	1	2	9	8	9	4	7	6	7	8
2	5	8	9	4	9	8	9	2	9	4	7	4	5	8	9	2	9	2
4	9	4	9	2	1	6	3	8	7	6	5	2	9	6	3	8	5	4
2	1	8	7	4	9	2	7	4	9	8	9	4	1	2	9	4	9	2
4	1	2	9	2	5	8	9	6	9	2	3	2	9	8	1	6	3	4
2	9	4	3	6	9	6	1	2	9	6	9	6	7	6	9	2	9	2
8	9	6	9	9	1	2	9	3	9	8	1	9	5	2	5	9	1	8
6	2	4	2	8	6	4	2	8	6	4	6	8	2	6	4	2	8	6

Kid Scoop Together Proof It

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the seven mistakes in this story. Then, rewrite it correctly on the lines. Have a family member check your work.

Ocean Pollution

Many people thinks that trash found in the ocean is from boats or ships. This is knot true.

Most ocean pollution is litter that starts out on land. Even hundreds of mile from the ocean, rainfall washes bits of trash into city storm drains and out into streams and rivers that lead to the ocean. Wind and currents can carry plastic cups, bags, bottles, straws and more far out two sea.

Millions of tiny pieces of plastic flow into our oceans each days. Scientists estimate that over half of all see turtles and 90 percent of all seabirds on the planet have eaten some form of plastic.

By using much less plastic and recycling, you can help make a difference for our planet.

Double Double Word Search

ALBATROSS

PACIFIC

WINGSPAN

PLASTIC ISLANDS

CAPS

MIDWAY

TOYS

LITTER

ATOLL

SQUID

OCEAN

SICK

BIRD

EAT

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Greater Than or Less Than

Cut six numbers from the newspaper. Paste two of them on a piece of paper with space between them. Make a number sentence by adding a "greater than" (>) or "less than" (<) symbol, such as 23 > 9. Repeat this with the rest of the numbers.

Standards Link: Math: Compare numbers using the < and > symbols.

Write On!

If I Had Wings

What would it be like if you had wings like a bird? Use your imagination to write a short story about life as a person with wings.

Fourth of July is over, but fire dangers continue



ESD 1 Firefighters handled a grass fire just north of the FM 1885 and 920 intersection the morning of July 5th on Box 4610. Courtesy photo

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY
azlereporter@azlenews.net

North Texas residents saw firsthand the danger of fireworks being discharged during a period of severe drought over the Fourth of July weekend.

Professional pyrotechnics shows like the one at Panther Island Pavilion in Fort Worth had to be canceled almost as soon as they began because of grass fires that were ignited by the fireworks.

The same happened in Hudson Oaks at its Boomin' Fourth celebration, with dry grassy fields being ignited and quickly spreading at the start of the show.

Tarrant and Parker counties are both at 100% abnormally dry conditions, according to www.Drought.gov, with no immediate relief in sight.

Currently, more than 95% of Tarrant County and nearly 67% of Parker County are classified under severe drought. The rain chances forecasted for the next 10 days are less than 20%.

The dry conditions prompted Parker County Judge Pat Deen to issue an emergency order preventing the discharge of fireworks before the holiday weekend. The order was then extended by Gov. Greg Abbott through July 5 in an effort to curb the number of fires that would be sparked by residents setting off fireworks at home.

But the order did not prevent many holiday revelers from setting off fireworks anyway.

Azle Fire Chief Will Scott said that his department responded to eight fireworks-

related calls for service during the holiday weekend.

Moses Druxman, the fire marshal and chief for Briar-Reno Fire Department, said that his department also stayed busy during that weekend.

"During the holiday weekend, we had the following: 22 firework violations in Pelican Bay; 15 firework violations in Reno; four firework violations in Sanctuary; 45 firework violations in Northeast Parker County as a part of the Parker County Fire Marshal's Office; 18 EMS calls, three major accidents with injuries, five fire related incidents," Druxman said.

On July 1, the Parker County Commissioners Court approved an extension to the fireworks prohibition that extends through Sept. 6.

Fundraiser for homeless vets July 23

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Operation Texas Strong is holding a fundraiser to help give back to homeless veterans in Texas.

The event is being held from 3 to 8 p.m. on July 23 at Hidden Acre Ranch, 4850 E. Bankhead Highway in Hudson Oaks.

Tickets are \$10 each, or admission is allowed through donated items for homeless veterans. Dinner will be provided.

There will be raffles and auction items. All money raised will go toward the Operation Texas Strong mission of helping to get every homeless Texas veteran into a home of his or her own.

Operation Texas Strong takes donated RVs, makes any necessary repairs and gives them to a veteran in need. They have set up 97 RVs so far, and their wait-

ing list grows daily.

The biggest raffle item is a free concrete coating (\$5,000 value) from L&L Concrete Coating LLC.

Tickets for this raffle can be purchased online at go.rallyup.com/otsaffle/Campaign/Details.

For more information about Operation Texas Strong or to make a donation, call 940-452-6052, or email peggycrutsinger@rocketmail.com.

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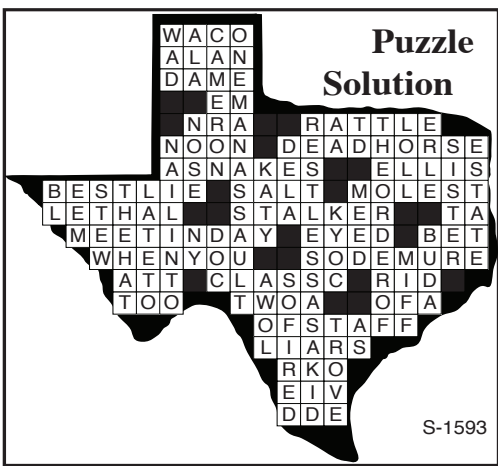
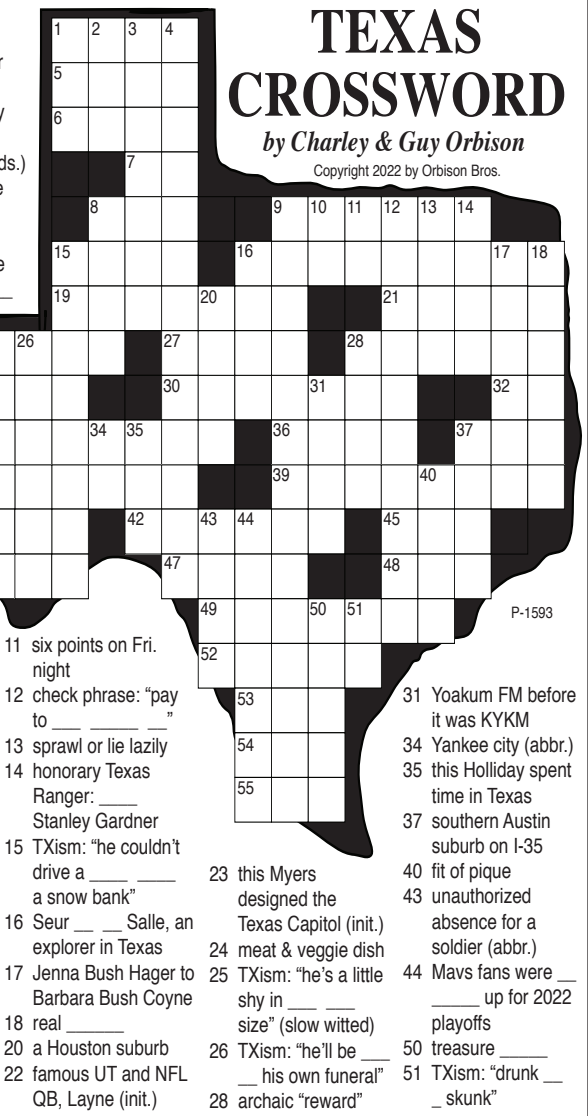
ACROSS

- 1 seat of McLennan County
- 5 Texas moonwalker, Bean
- 6 both Texas Christian & Notre ____ claim the 1938 national championship
- 7 "Hook '____ Horns!"
- 8 gun rights grp.
- 9 TXism: "first ____ out of the box"
- 15 Tex Ritter sang the theme song for 1952 western "High ____"
- 16 TXism: "you're buying oats for a ____" (waste)
- 19 TXism: "lower than ____ belly"
- 21 Waxahachie's county
- 22 most outlandish fishing story? (2 wds.)
- 27 popular seasoning
- 28 abuse sexually
- 29 deadly
- 30 illegal pursuer of another person
- 32 this Agee blocked for Emmitt Smith in 1990 (init.)
- 33 TXism: "go to ____" (Sunday)
- 36 Texans love black-____ peas
- 37 a wager at Lone Star Park
- 38 Texas-based film, "____ Comin' Back, Red Ryder?"
- 39 "____ she wore flannel PJs on her honeymoon"
- 41 cell service provider
- 42 least serious crime: ____ misdemeanor
- 45 "get ____ of it"
- 46 TXism: "got ____ many irons in the fire"
- 47 Vega High class (2 wds.)
- 48 TXism: "that's a horse ____ different color"
- 49 TX James Baker was Reagan's and George H.W.'s Chief ____

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "tight ____" (cheapskate)
- 2 peach cobbler ____ mode
- 3 Milam County seat
- 4 TX Lucian Adams got Medal of Honor for ____ against Germans
- 8 TXism: "plain as the ____ on your face"
- 9 TXism: "____"
- 10 Quannah High class
- 11 six points on Fri. night
- 12 check phrase: "pay to ____"
- 13 sprawl or lie lazily
- 14 honorary Texas Ranger: ____ Stanley Gardner
- 15 TXism: "he couldn't drive a ____ a snow bank"
- 16 Seur ____ Salle, an explorer in Texas
- 17 Jenna Bush Hager to Barbara Bush Coyne
- 18 real ____
- 20 a Houston suburb
- 22 famous UT and NFL QB, Layne (init.)
- 23 this Myers designed the Texas Capitol (init.)
- 24 meat & veggie dish
- 25 TXism: "he's a little shy in ____ size" (slow witted)
- 26 TXism: "he'll be ____ his own funeral"
- 28 archaic "reward"
- 31 Yoakum FM before it was KYKM
- 34 Yankee city (abbr.)
- 35 this Holliday spent time in Texas
- 37 southern Austin suburb on I-35
- 40 fit of pique
- 43 unauthorized absence for a soldier (abbr.)
- 44 Mavs fans were ____ up for 2022 playoffs
- 50 treasure ____
- 51 TXism: "drunk ____ skunk"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Obituaries

Vivian Martin

1921 - 2022

Vivian Muriel Martin, age 101, born April 8, 1921, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, passed away July 4, 2022 in Springtown, Texas.

Memorial service is at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 30, 2022 at Agnes Baptist Church, Springtown, Texas. Inurnment: Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Vivian was born in Kansas City, Missouri to Guy C. Bowen and Zora M. Sloan.

She lived a full, fun and busy life, enjoying competitive roller skating, square dancing, playing the organ and piano, traveling and even tried Ziplining at the age of 94! Vivian also won the titles of Ms. Mature Irving 1990 and Mrs. Texas Senior America 1991.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Wayne F. Martin; her sister, Juanita Zschoche; and her brother, Ray C. Bowen.



She is survived by her daughters, Sharon Hensley (Tom), Hot Springs Village, Arkansas; Sandra Lambour (Bob), Easley South Carolina.; Shirley Rapp (Mike) Springtown, Texas; and son, Gary Martin (Paula), Ardmore, Oklahoma.; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was loved and will be missed and remembered by all her relatives and friends who knew her.

The Springtown Epigraph
July 14, 2022 Edition

William Steinly

1929 - 2022

William Freddie "Fred" Steinly, 93, of Azle, Texas, entered into his eternal rest on Friday, July 1, 2022 in Azle, Texas.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Home in Fort Worth, Texas. Funeral services will be held on Friday, July 15, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Home with Pastor Thomas Kolb, officiating. Burial will follow at Isham Cemetery at 11:15 a.m. Arrangements are made by Shannon Hill Funeral Home.

Fred was born in Carnegie, Oklahoma to Fred and Dola Steinly on March 2, 1929. He married Minnie Bolton on April 2, 1948 in Fort Worth, Texas. He worked as a master of many trades throughout his lifetime. He was a veteran of the Korean war and served in the Army. He was involved in the American Legion, VFW, and many Musical Venues. He is most widely known for his legendary fiddle playing.

Fred is preceded in death by his parents Fred and Dola



Steinly, son Rickey Wayne, and siblings Shirley, Irma, Dorita, LaVae, Lew, and Movita.

Fred is survived by his wife of 74 years, Minnie Steinly, his children, Freddie Steinly and spouse Vivian, Jemmie Steinly and spouse Terry, and Jack Russell Steinly and spouse Sherry; his sisters, Rhonda and Deanna; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The Steinly family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the nurses and staff of Solaris Hospice and Pastor Thomas Kolb.

The Springtown Epigraph
July 14, 2022 Edition

Russell Posey

1956 - 2022

Russell Curtis Posey, 65, passed away July 9, 2022 in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Funeral was at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Alexander's Midway Springtown. Visitation was from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Russell was born Oct. 6, 1956 in Columbia, Louisiana to Curtis Lee Posey Jr. and Virginia Lea (Russell) Posey Nelson. Russell was a skilled tradesman and enjoyed working with his hands. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, and spending time with family.

Russell was a loving son, brother, and uncle who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Russell was preceded in



death by his father, Curtis Posey Jr.

He is survived by his mother Virginia (Russell) Nelson; sisters, Lisa Cash and her husband Cecil and Cathy Blackwell along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The Springtown Epigraph
July 14, 2022 Edition

Frances Holsomback

1943 - 2022

Frances Ann Holsomback, 78, passed away Monday, July 11, 2022 at her home in Springtown.

Funeral is at 12 p.m. Monday, July 18, 2022 at Alexander's Midway, Springtown.

Visitation will start at 11 a.m. on Monday, prior to the service. Burial will follow at Goshen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers family request donations be made to Cook Children's Hospital or St Jude.

Ann was born Dec. 27, 1943 in Gatesville to Lawrence and Vera Herring. They both preceded her in death along with two brothers and her granddaughter, Haley Mobley. She married her sweetheart in 1961 and they moved to Springtown in 1968. Ann was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Left to cherish her mem-



ory are her son, J.T. Holsomback and wife, Wendy; daughters Starla Irby and husband Philip, Tisha Mobley and husband, Michael and Tomi Jean Vaeth and husband, Nathan; her sister, Lanell Hill and husband Harold; 17 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The Springtown Epigraph
July 14, 2022 Edition

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Cool it! I'm not kidding!

Is it because I'm older or is it really hotter than it used to be?

I told Mrs. Sweetie yesterday that I think summer hibernation should be a thing in our neck of the woods. Just stay inside and sleep under the ceiling fan until November.

Every time I walk out my front door, I start doubting all my life choices. Well, maybe not all of them – just the ones that involve anything outside.

And this heat is making everyone act crazy.

Or maybe I'm so hot and grumpy and impatient that it just seems like they're act-



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.

ing crazy.

I get up in the morning with plans for what I hope to accomplish and then I walk out the door and ... "Nope!"

Can we all – including the weather – just cool it?

OK, rant over.

I'm 99% certain (holding desperately to that unrealistic 1% dream) that there is nothing I can do to control this Texas summer heat.

I'm equally certain that

summer hibernation is not a viable option.

And if there is any truth to the idea that I may be feeling it more at 60 than I felt it at younger ages – and I suspect there is a measure of truth there – turning back the clock is neither an option nor a preference.

I guess I'm just going to have to bring my own internal coolness with me.

What's internal coolness?

I'm glad you asked.

It's choosing patience when everything around is a hot mess.

It's choosing kindness when tempers are overheating.

It's choosing to create emotional and spiritual shade for others – not "throwing shade" but being safe and letting people rest and be refreshed in our presence.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

That doesn't mean that our generosity is simply a means for our own benefit or that

we are really serving ourselves when create refreshing shade for others.

It means that being part of God's work through generously sharing refreshing "shade" is to participate in a community of refreshment where God multiplies the supply to meet the need in ways that often surprise us.

Take a minute right now and try to remember a time when someone – maybe someone you didn't even know – provided you a momentary unexpected respite.

Maybe it was a smile and a kind word that was just at the right time.

Maybe someone held the

door for you when your hands were full or stopped to help you pick up something you dropped.

Maybe someone let you get ahead of them in the checkout line.

Maybe someone sent you a card, text or email just to let you know they were thinking about you.

Shade.
Refreshing.
Coolness.

Now think about how you could do that for someone else. Watch for opportunities over the next few days.

Cool it.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Walnut Creek SUD general manager talks growth, infrastructure

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

When an area grows, infrastructure is usually impacted. Walnut Creek SUD general manager Steve Harris is familiar with this kind

of impact.

Growth in the homes that Walnut Creek SUD serves started about five years ago, Harris said, particularly after travel was made easier to the Springtown area. He said last fiscal year's growth

rate was calculated at about 6.5%.

Harris said the growth rate has been steady for the past four years, and he estimated that the SUD would average adding 250 water meters per month by the end of the year.

"The growth came in; we had to meet the demand and try to stay ahead of it," SUD Board President Mike Gilley said. "Of course, right now what's happened to us is we can barely stay ahead of it" because of the increase in

new subdivisions.

Walnut Creek SUD serves people from Farm-to-Market Road 920 to the west, FM 730 on the east and State Highway 114 to the north. The southern boundary stretches from Poolville

to about four miles south of Azle. Cities serve water inside its limits, and the SUD has a district that it serves. Outside the boundaries of those two entities, custom

SEE WATER, PAGE 11A.

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Reno calls for service up in June, police chief reports

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner reported an increase in calls for service in June.

As of June 20, the Reno Police Department received 527 calls in June, according to Elsner's report to city council last month. Elsner described this as an increase from May, which he attributed to kids being out of school for the summer.

"Summer typically brings more investigative calls as kids are out of school and are staying out later. Calls for service always go up during the summer months and there are a lot of reasons for this," Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said. "More people tend to be out and about more often in the summer months and college-age students are typically home for the summer. More people equals more calls for service. This does not necessarily mean they are committing more crimes.

Remember, calls for service include traffic accidents and the like, so an increase in call volume could mean there's more vehicles on the roads, which can drive call volume up."

The increase also may be the result of the police department's move to provide 24-hour service, Stringer said.

By the end of June, Reno police officers responded to 587 calls for service, Stringer said, which is slightly more than the average of about 580 calls per month though call volume varies throughout the year. The monthly figure refers to all types of police activity in June, both officer-initiated and the public calling for police service.

Out of all police activities, the most common one is traffic stops, Stringer said. In terms of calls from the public, the category with the highest call volume was disturbances, which includes calls regarding assault, sexu-

al assault, child in need of supervision, civil disturbances, domestic disturbances, fight in progress, and person with weapons calls.

Three arrests were made in June as a result of service calls, not including arrests made on traffic stops for another agency's warrants, Stringer said.

Animal control calls have increased as well, Elsner reported at the June council meeting. The animal control officer, a position established this year, has received eight to 10 calls per month in the previous month. Stringer said the animal control officer had 19 calls by the end of June.

The chief also gave an update on the department's progress on closing old cases. Elsner said there were over 100 open cases when he started his position in November.

"It was from a report management system that hadn't been maintained properly in quite some time, and it was

also an aging system, and it was starting to shut down on us whenever we were trying to pull up case files," Elsner said.

Stringer said the backlog of open cases is relatively current.

Some of the cases had been open since 2004, Elsner said.

Detective Brandy Bennett said some of the cases had been solved, but the cases hadn't been closed. Other cases had investigative work that needed to be done.

Bennett said the department's work to close the cases had a positive response from the residents involved in these cases, some of whom assumed they would never get closure.

"They don't know, so as far as they're concerned, nobody is working on it," she said. "We communicated very well and contacted everybody that had an open case that we needed to. We got a lot of positive response from that."

WATER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10A.

ers turn to Walnut Creek SUD for water service if they have fewer than two acres of land and therefore cannot use well water and a septic system.

Harris predicted that a slowdown is coming in terms of housing development growth.

"It isn't going to stop, that's for sure, but I think nationwide it's going to slow a little bit," he said. "It's been at a never-before pace for two years."

Growth means utilizing and building more infrastructure, such as the sizes of pipes, tanks and pumps, Harris said. The SUD is looking to add a tank and pump station south of town by FM 51, which will allow the SUD to store more treated water in the area where it will be used.

"We had a lot of lines out in this area that were underutilized. Now, they've caught up so we're looking at, in the near future, adding some tanks and some pump stations and some larger lines in some areas to accommodate this growth," he said.

Construction projects in the SUD's future that Har-

ris hopes to begin the bidding process for are four tanks, two pump stations, water mains and increasing the treatment plant size, he said.

While Harris is not concerned about running out of water at Lake Bridgeport in the near future, he said if the growth continues decades from now, the SUD will have to find another water source as not to be "tied to one source."

Harris described growth as a "two-sided coin." The upside is being able to use infrastructure that was built for future growth, and the challenge is having to hire more staff and buy more vehicles for crews to do their jobs.

"Growth is good and it's bad. It helps generate revenue to operate on, but it also causes you to have to spend more money to grow," he said.

However, the cost of growth isn't expected to be handed off to the customer. Harris said the last time the base rate was increased was in about 2017, and there are no current plans to increase rates in the near future.

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Aaron Bowen, shown protecting quarterback Hudson Hulett's backside in a game last season, will anchor the offensive line alongside Jeremy Morrow and other big guys in the trenches.

Porcupines sweat during summer to thrive come fall, spring

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The week of July Fourth was quiet at Springtown High School's indoor facility, for a change.

On July 7, the only vehicle parked in the school's massive parking lot belonged to athletic director Brian Hulett, who was working inside his office.

During June, however, kids flocked to the summer strength and conditioning camp held on weekday mornings. The camp is designed to improve athletic performances and reduce injuries.

About 140 football play-

ers from ninth to 12th grades have attended.

"That would be more than any year that I've been here," said head coach Brian Hulett, who is in his ninth year at Springtown. "The kids have been doing a good job."

The summer camp isn't focused on football exclusively. Boys and girls from all sports participate.

"Lifting, running, agility skills - we do it all," Hulett said. "Flexibility. Explosiveness. It's an overall training program. Strength. Conditioning. Straight-line speed. Agility. The whole thing."

Those 140 kids are high school age, but Hulett's

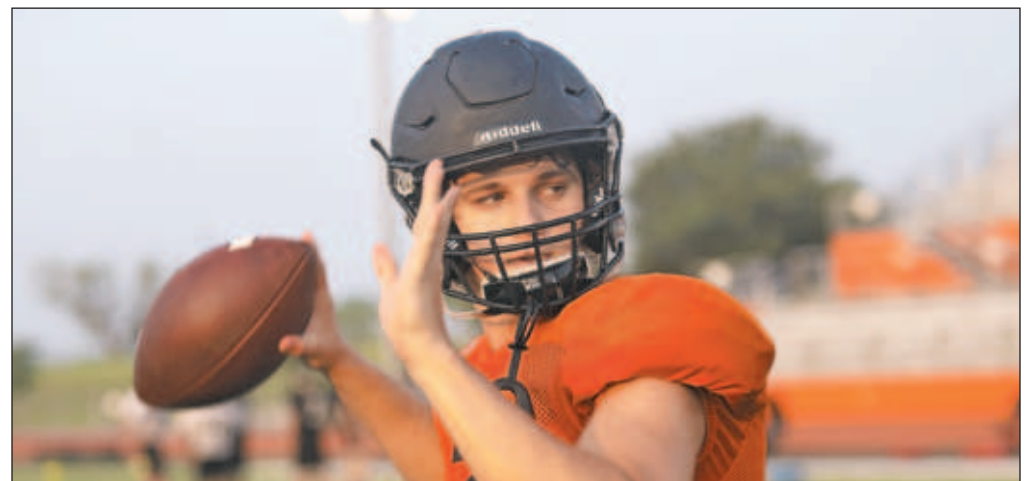
coaching staff sees plenty of middle school boys and girls working hard to prepare their bodies.

"We've got basketball players, baseball, soccer," Hulett said. "It's been a good summer."

The girls are turning out in large numbers, perhaps motivated by the success of girls powerlifting, volleyball and other programs in recent years. An additional 30 to 40 girls are expected to attend an athletic period in the fall, Hulett said.

The high number of girls is a welcome trend.

"At one time we had a hard time building a soccer team for a couple years," he



Hudson Hulett returns at quarterback after tossing 22 touchdowns last year.

said.

Now, about 35 to 40 boys and girls focus exclusively on soccer.

GROWTH GAINS

Springtown's population boomed from 2,600 to 3,300 in recent years, and North Texas is one of the nation's hot spots for newcomers in general.

"Growth in the district has been coming," Hulett said. "It's getting here pretty fast now. There are more people in the Springtown school district than there were last year, than there was the year before, and the year before, and so on."

Combine that growth with the success of the football team and other sports programs, and a buzz can be felt on myriad fields of battle.

"On the boys' side, football has something to do with it," Hulett said. "We have maintained a good number of kids."

Currently, most of those kids are on the younger side. Of the 140 high school players, just 15 are seniors.

Back in seventh grade, the Class of 2023 boys started with a small number of football players. Not many tried out for the team, and the numbers have decreased over the years.

"It's just a small class," Hulett said. "It's not an indictment on them."

While the boys were in seventh grade, their numbers were so small that only one seventh grade team was

fielded. Most years, two or three teams are needed to accommodate everyone.

Then, in 2020, COVID-19 struck during their sophomore years, impacting their involvement in extracurricular activities even further.

"That knocked it back a little bit," Hulett said.

Last year's senior class was another one affected by COVID. The bunch was small, but the players were mega-talented, led by Cody Brackeen, Matt Lockard, Brodee Trejo and William Gleason. They helped push the Porcupines to the regional finals while compiling a 10-4 record in a tough district.

This season, the Porcupines will rely on Class of '23 seniors to fill those shoes and create their own legacy.

THE HOSSES

Dave Campbell's "Texas Football" magazine pegged the Porcupines to prevail in District 4-4A Division I, and heralded quarterback Hudson Hulett as the preseason Offensive MVP. Hudson Hulett soared as the starting quarterback during his sophomore season and should be even better this season as a junior.

The lofty expectations for the Porcupines are "more of a product of what's happened in the past three or four years than what is on paper for next year," the coach said. "I can compare us with a couple of teams in the district on paper, and you

wouldn't pick us."

The coach isn't concerned about being picked to win the district. Nor is he buying into the hype.

"It's good that we have had that experience of winning, good that people think that highly of us," he said. "We know we're going to be young and inexperienced, but the opponents don't necessarily know that, or even if they do know that, they don't care. You've got to understand that the target is on you because of those expectations. It's good to have them. I'd rather have them than not."

Campbell's magazine noted that last year's powerful defense will have just three starters returning this season. Hulett expects last year's substitutes and role players to become this year's hosses.

"We've got some kids to play," he said. "You're always going to field a team. Somebody is going to get out there. Somebody is going to be bigger, stronger, faster, better. But it's going to take a little time more than likely to find out all of that."

Based on last year's performances, some standouts are easy to predict. Seniors Aaron Bowen and Jeremy Morrow are expected to anchor the offensive line after manhandling opponents on a regular basis as juniors.

"You've got to start with those two men," Hulett said.



Bryce Hollingsworth is one of several seniors who will be relied upon to spark the team.

Photos by Jeff Prince

SEE TRAINING, PAGE 14A.



Noah Duvall

SPRINGTOWN Game Faces



Jeremiah Duvall

TRAINING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A.

Last year, Matt “Mr. Everything” Lockard was the blur of constant motion that propelled the team. This year, senior Speck Behle will fill that role.

“Speck is going to play a lot of positions on both sides of the ball,” the coach said.

Bryce Hollingsworth is another all-around talent. “They will be all over the place,” Hulett said.

Also joining the team will be Dallin Fabrizio, younger brother of Logan Fabrizio, a talented player who graduated two years ago.

“Logan was tough nosed,

worked hard and did things right,” Hulett said. “Dallin is the same way, just at this moment a little bit shorter but 20-25 pounds heavier. Kind of a different build but the exact same kind of kid: You’re talking about put your hardhat on, grab your lunch and go to work. That’s what they do.”

The Porcupines will need everyone to put on their hardhats, grab their lunch pails and go to work throughout July and early August to prepare themselves for the opening game of the season on Aug. 26 at Alvarado.

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