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THURSDAY, September 15, 2022 · \$1

Here for the kids

Springtown

SISD behavior specialists hope to change students' lives

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

R ebecca Zbynski described her younger self as a kid who would have benefitted from someone noticing that her behavior communicated a larger message.

Today, Zbynski has the chance to provide that kind of support to Springtown ISD students as a behavior specialist. SISD administrators brought on

Zbynski and Amy Baker this year to serve as behavior specialists in the district, with Baker covering elementary-level education and Zbynski working in secondary education.

Tiffany Cano, SISD director of elementary curriculum and instruction, said teachers indicated via surveys administered by the district that they wanted more support with non-special education behavior. Cano said this was also the feedback received from students and community members. SISD leaders used this feedback to create the behavior spe-

SEE **BEHAVIOR**, PAGE 4A.

PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Springtown ISD behavior specialists Rebecca Zbynski, left, and Amy Baker, right, are joined by Coordinator for Counseling and Behavioral Services Tiffany Millsap, middle. Zbynski, Baker and Millsap have all taken on new roles at SISD this year.



Reno citizens successfully push back on removal of P&Z members

BY CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN

The city of Reno's council chambers featured standing room-only capacity on Sept. 6, and it quickly became clear the citizens were of one accord.

At issue were two items on the agenda: one item to consider the removal of Planning and Zoning Secretary Alicia Kubena and Commissioner Stuart White and a second item to consider removal of Davis - voted at an Aug. 11 council meeting to place the items on the agenda for behavior they deemed inappropriate on the part of the three P&Z commissioners. Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker opposed the measure. At the Sept. 6 meeting, Tucker entered a motion to dismiss the entire matter, but her motion died for lack of a second. (In Reno, the mayor only votes to break a tie.)

The behavior in question

City Administrator Scott Passmore was speaking, keeping council members from hearing what Passmore said. During the July meeting, the council discussed and approved a water task force to make recommendations about water infrastructure improvements to council. Kubena asked the council why action to improve the water infrastructure had not been made previously, and this prompted a back-andcording to Swift, was unfairly blaming the council for issues with the city's water infrastructure.

At the Sept. 6 council meeting, resident after resident spoke passionately about the matter. While each person who spoke presented their remarks differently, it was clear they all thought the council was wrong to bring action against the P&Z members – especially for conduct, as they pointed out some Some highlights from citizen comments include:

"We have a very knowledgeable group of volunteers in our P&Z committee. If we ever needed this input and directional assistance, it is now. To even suggest removing one of these citizen volunteers because of hurt feelings is ludicrous."

"We're not going forward, we're going backward. Our city is burning down, and we're watching you argue. You have the most qualified people in that position (P&Z) you have ever had in this city; as a matter of fact, they are actually the most qualified people to hold any position in this city."

"The council wants to give a consequence to Stuart (White) and Alicia (Kubena) for their conduct at that meeting in the form of excluding them and denying their efforts to make this city a better place. At the July 25 meeting, I also witnessed a council member yell at Brian (Schrader). ... Council, you are the authority figures in the city that we're depending on. If you're going to dismiss Brian, Stuart and

P&Z Chair Brian Schrader. Three council members – Deputy Pro Tem Hernando Herrera, Shelli Swift and Jeff

occurred during a July 25 meeting during which Davis alleges Kubena and White talked in the gallery while cluded raised voices on both sides of the dais. Schrader's misdeed, accouncil members have also behaved badly. Some even described the effort to remove the members as retaliatory.

SEE REMOVAL, PAGE 2A.

Springtown City Council extends juvenile curfew

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown City Council has continued the city's juvenile curfew.

The council took that action and didn't make changes to the ordinance in a unanimous vote at last month's meeting. The ordinance is reviewed and voted on every three years.

The ordinance, which the city adopted in 2016, prohibits minors being in public late at night or in the early morning, with some exceptions. Minors must not be out in public during the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from midnight to 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE FOR MINORS WHO ARE:

 with a parent or guardian
 on an errand for a parent or guardian

 in a vehicle involved in interstate travel
 working or traveling to

and from work

involved in an emergency
 on the sidewalk in front
 of or next door to their home
 attending an official
 school or religious activity,
 or another activity super-

vised by adults • exercising their First Amendment rights

• married or emancipated Those who break this rule are subject to a Class C misdemeanor, penalized by a citation.

Springtown Director of Administrative Services Christina Derr said the curfew was started in response to youths getting involved in unsafe situations at night.

"At that time, they were having a lot of issues with unsupervised juveniles being out all hours of the night getting into situations that were not safe for them," Derr said. "It wasn't necessarily concerns about a lot of vandalism or anything like that. It was finding younger (people) – especially 14, 15, that age group – in some

SEE CURFEW, PAGE 3A.

Springtown High School Lighting of the Letters



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

LIGHTING LETTERS: The Springtown community witnesses the homecoming tradition of setting the letters "SHS" on fire on Monday at Porcupine Stadium.



VOLUME 59, NUMBER 24 Local, zone(s) 3 sections, 30 pages

INSIDE

WILD WEST 2022

News - 1-10A | Obituaries - 6A | Sports - 1-3C | Classifieds 6-8C | Special Section

UTGCD to have hearing, board meeting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District's public hearing and regular board meeting are set for 5 p.m. Sept. 19 at the district office or via Zoom videoconference, UTGCD stated in a news release.

In addition to the regular board meeting agenda, which begins at the conclusion of public hearing, another item of interest includes:

Public Hearing regarding multiple applications for Operating Permit for several commercial and/or public water systems in Parker and

has already begun.

thousands of dollars to further their missions.

Rescue and Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Help Center.

to support, visit www.northtexasgivingday.org.

Montague counties.

The public is welcome and encouraged to remotely attend via online videoconference/teleconference. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.

us/j/89783488580 1 (346) 248-7799 - US

Meeting ID: 897 8348 8580 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 qual-

North Texas Giving

North Texas Giving Day, hosted by Communities Foundation of Texas, is Sept. 22, but early giving

Several local nonprofit organizations are taking part in the annual event, which can help raise

Local nonprofits taking part are Community Caring Center, Good N.E.W.S. for Seniors, Servolu-

tion Network, Azle Area Ministerial Alliance, Heather's Old Skool Village, Reel Recovery, TAGG

There are hundreds of organizations taking part in NTX Giving Day this year. To find a nonprofit

Day is Sept. 22

ity 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 at 817-523-5200.

Good N.E.W.S. hosting fundraiser to support seniors

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

azlereporter@azlenews.net

The Good N.E.W.S. Living at Home/Block Nurse Program will hold a fundraiser at 11 a.m. Sept. 24 at One Azle, 412 Commerce St., across from the post office.

The program is seeking \$250 sponsorship donations from local businesses and individuals and/or a silent auction item.

The fundraiser will have singing performances by Chris Journey, a bake sale, a silent auction and \$5 hot dog lunch baskets.

Two items will also be put up for a raffle on the day of the event. The first item is a custom made six-seat outdoor table (retail value 1,000, and the other is a Green Mountain Trek Grill (retail value \$500). Tickets are available now for \$10.

The bake sale will begin on Sept. 19 and will continue through Sept. 24. Donations of baked goods or ingredients for cakes, cookies and other items may be dropped off at the One Azle building.

The program is volunteerbased and is supported entirely by grants, donations, and fundraising events, and Good N.E.W.S. does not receive any state or federal funding.

Good N.E.W.S. is a nonprofit social support program that assists senior citizens in Azle, Springtown and the surrounding area.

N.E.W.S. is to enrich the quality of life of seniors in the community by "providing essential support services, thus enabling them to stay in their homes and avoid premature entry into nursing homes."

Some of the services provided by Terri Bartlett, pro-



COURTESY PHOTO

gram director, and her team

include telephone reassur-

ance, friendly visits, shopping assistance, transporta-

tion, minor home repairs,

laundry detergent and dish

Bartlett said that Good

N.E.W.S. has also been ex-

cited to be able to host its

Tuesday morning weekly

again. Breakfast is served

breakfasts for seniors once

at 8:30 a.m. at the One Azle

"We have between 20 and

soap.

This custom made six-seater outdoor table is one of two raffle items for the Good N.E.W.S. fundraiser on Sept. 24. Tickets are on sale for \$10.

> with us each week," Bartlett said. "They really look forward to this time to gather and socialize and have a good hot breakfast."

> The program will also be gathering gifts for its "Senior Angels," later this year, bringing Christmas to clients.

Good N.E.W.S. just celebrated its 25th anniversary in June, and it currently assists about 150 seniors.

"It's only because of our wonderful community that we can do all of these wonderful things to support our seniors at home," Bartlett said.

For more information about the program, how to volunteer and what support it needs, call 817-444-2300, or visit www.goodnews-4seniors.org.

Alicia for conduct, based on what I've witnessed at several council meetings, a few of you should also be dismissed for conduct. If we're going to teach our kids to problem solve and suffer the consequences of their choices and actions, then you, too, should be subject to the same consequences you're handing out."

REMOVAL

FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't believe, when I got here for my first meeting, the behavior of the council. I felt like I had walked into junior high. ... Today's meeting, though, is like the difference between night and day. So thank you for cleaning it up and bringing the professional side tonight." Once the citizens had spoken, Tucker moved to kill both agenda items related to removal of P&Z members, but her motion died for lack of a second. City Attorney Dottie

Palumbo stated her motion should have been worded to "postpone indefinitely" rather than to "kill."

Tucker stated that certain council members are guilty of the same behavior P&Z members are accused of - shouting, speaking before being called on, gesturing or pointing. She said a member of the council was the first to shout and point on July 25 and stated her belief that if the code of conduct is the same for everyone, then two council members who should be punished in the same manner as the P&Z members. The citizens stood and applauded Tucker's remarks. After further discussion among the council, Mayor Sam White asked for a motion on the matter. Jody Works, who was sworn in to replace the late Granville "Randy" Martin III just moments earlier in the meeting, entered a motion to permanently table the item to remove White and

Kubena from P&Z. The motion was seconded by Tucker. However, Herrera, Swift and Davis voted the measure down, which leaves the possibility of removal of the two members a possibility in the future.

Mayor White moved on to the item to remove Brian Schrader from the P&Z. Several citizens spoke on this item, again chastising the council and urging them to let bygones be bygones.

Swift then explained that

light household chores, vard work, respite, and community resources. Each quarter, volunteers put together bags of household and personal goods that many seniors may not be able to afford, such as shampoo and deodorant,

The mission of Good

building. 40 seniors eating breakfast



both measures started out to discuss the behavior of the three P&Z members, but social media comments fueled the fire to the point that some council members decided to ask for removal.

Mayor White asked for a motion, but none was made. No action was taken to remove Schrader. but as in the item to remove Stuart White and Alicia Kubena, the item has the potential to come up again in the future.

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• SWEET SHOP

- CANNED GOODS AND BAKED GOODS
- SHOPS CRAFTS
- BOUNCE HOUSE AND GAMES
- INFLUENZA AND COVID VACCINES 9:00AM - 12PM
- SILENT AUCTION 9:00AM - 12PM
- LIVE AUCTION & **RAFFLE DRAWING BEGINS AT 1PM**





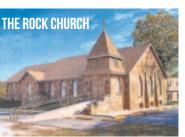
• HOT LUNCH - PULL PORK OR CHICKEN

LIVE MUSIC - THE JOSHUA EXPERIENCE

ADULTS \$10, CHILDREN \$5

"GOD'S BIG BAND"





CORNER OF 3RD AND HWY 51 N. | SPRINGTOWN

Springtown City Council allows temporary concrete batch plant for paving in new subdivision

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown City Council approved a variance for a paving contractor to set up and use a temporary concrete batch plant in the future Sculptor's Park subdivision.

The temporary concrete batch plant would be in operation for 30 days and will be used to pave streets within the subdivision, not to produce concrete for the con-

struction of the homes. Sculptor's Park, which was sold by Lee Hughes to D.R. Horton, will be located near J.E. Woody Road and South Birch Street. When the council passed the preliminary plat in December, the subdivision was expected to have 108 single-family residences on land that is about 22 acres, with lots between 5,696 and 8,900 square feet.

The concrete plant will be located on eight lots in the

subdivision, said Jeff Van Horn, a representative from D.R. Horton.

Van Horn said the selfcontained batch plant will not create more traffic on J.E. Woody Road, which he described as "pretty congested at times and has a lot of traffic down that road all throughout the day." The concrete will come from the onsite plant as opposed to using trucks to deliver the concrete.

"With the batch plant, we would not have that much traffic on J.E. Woody. Everything would come in while the plant was being built on site as far as material-wise," he said.

Van Horn said having the temporary plant also allows the site to having concrete on site to pour as opposed to not knowing how many trucks would be able to come out and pour concrete. The plant would also provide consis-

tency on the concrete being mixed.

"You're getting a lot better concrete for our perspective and our standards. As D.R. Horton, we don't want failure," Van Horn said.

Van Horn said the noise and dust coming from the plant is typically very minimal, and the crew will follow the guidelines from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. He also pointed out that D.R.

Horton uses the temporary concrete batch plants in other developments as well.

Van Horn hopes to be working on this at the end of December through early or mid-January, but the official start date for the concrete plant is still to be determined. Work would start around 7-8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, though leeway can be given if the crew needs to work on Saturdays.

Water woes in Reno prompt loan for repairs

BY CARLA NOAH STUTSMAN

The Reno city council voted at a special meeting on Sept. 6 to issue a limited tax note in the amount of \$656,000, with proceeds from the note to be combined with a matching grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$500,000 to make long-needed repairs to the city's water system.

Proceeds from the tax note and the matching grant will be used to convert the disinfection method of the city's water system from chlorine to chloramine to make it compatible with nearby muas Azle, Springtown and Walnut Creek SUD.

This change will enable Reno to purchase water from those entities any time a problem occurs, rather than issuing a boil water notice. Additional proceeds will be used to replace several broken valves in the water system; installing a 6-inch water line and fire hydrants along Miller Road, thereby increasing water pressure on Cardinal Road; and installing a booster pump at one pump station; and possibly purchasing a spare pump.

The council initially considered issuing the note in the amount of \$1.325 million. which would allow the

nicipal water systems, such city's water department to switch out existing manually-read water meters with smart meters in addition to the work noted above. The automated smart meters would negate the need for water department personnel to physically read each meter in the city, thereby saving on labor costs.

Asked if the city could afford the \$215,000 annual payments for a \$1.325 million loan, City Administrator Scott Passmore told the council it could if water rates were increased. When he was asked if the city could afford the \$106,000 annual payment for a loan of \$656,000, Passmore said water rates still need to be

increased.

Council member Shelli Swift entered a motion to authorize the mayor to issue the tax note in the amount of \$656,000, to authorize Passmore to sign the documents as city secretary, and to reconsider purchasing the smart meters at the Sept. 19 council meeting following a budget workshop on Sept. 8. That motion was seconded by council member Jeff Davis and approved by the council. with Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker voting to oppose it.

Deann Carson of **Government Capital Group** cautioned the council prior to the vote that splitting the loan into two compo-

nents would require cost the city about \$17,000 in additional loan fees. She recommended the second loan, if approved, be categorized as personal property in order to save those fees. Carson also said the city will likely pay a higher interest rate than the 3.39 percent it will pay on the first loan.

The city's legal counsel, Dottie Palumbo, explained that although proceeds from the loan will be deposited into the water department, which is an enterprise fund, repayment of the loan will come from tax revenue.

CURFEW FROM PAGE 1

situations that weren't safe, and so as a response, the council adopted a juvenile curfew, which is not an unusual thing to happen. A lot of cities have them.'

Since then, Derr said the situation has corrected itself.

According to the agenda background document, since the ordinance was established, police officers have only responded to two complaints of the curfew rule being broken. In one case, police issued a citation, and in the second incident, the minor was returned to their parents.

"I would say that the juvenile curfew ordinance works very well, obviously by the low stats that we have," City Administrator David Miller said during the meeting. "Momma always told me nothing good happened after midnight, so this gives us the opportunity to make sure they get home to momma."

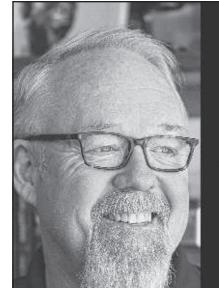
"Man, My Back Is Killing Me! I Don't Even **Know What | Did!"**



By Local Health Expert Dr. Robert

Moss PT ScD

I bet you've uttered those words before. We all have! Back pain is one of the most common aches and pains people suffer from; yet, often the pain comes on gradually and most are not sure what caused the pain. Most people ignore minor to moderate pain when it first happens, especially if the pain was not from an accident or injury.



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OCS, FAAOMPT The real culprit might not even be something you did, but rather something you are doing everyday! Poor posture and body alignment is often at the root cause of many of our aches and pains. If not addressed they can lead to long term complications often resulting in dangerous surgeries or taking a handful of harmful pain pills daily.

3 Surprising Risks Of Poor Posture – In a recent article Harvard medical experts point out that in addition to the typical pains from poor posture such as neck pain, headaches, lower back pain, difficulty breathing and poor balance having poor posture can lead to bowel and bladder issues such as incontinence, constipation, poor digestion and heartburn.

Are you suffering from frequent back pain, poor posture, or body alignment or know someone who does?

Here's what you should do. Visit the Moss Rehabilitation Center at the Wild West Festival and get:.

1. A FREE No Obligation "Fix My Posture" assessment to see if you are at risk of developing any of the mentioned conditions and *discover a single* simple tweak can drastically improve how you feel.

2. Enter a chance to win numerous gift cards to all your favorite stores PLUS cool swag.

3. Grand Prize - Enter to win a Fitbit and a deep tissue laser massage **package (valued at 499.00)**; the perfect way to help relieve those aches and pains and track your daily activity.

See you Saturday September 17th from 8-3PM.

Our booth is located inside the tabernacle fence on the southside. Be sure to stop by, enter our drawing and claim your free "Fix My Posture" assessment from the experts at Moss Rehabilitation Center.

407 Old Springtown Rd • Suite 114 • Springtown, TX 76082

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

Monday Mini Pancakes, Applesauce Tuesday Chicken Biscuit, Pineapple Cup Wednesday EggStravaganza, Blueberries Thursday Breakfast Pizza, Apple Slices Friday Strawberry & Vanilla Yogurt, Banana Muffin

K - 4th Lunch

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

Monday Mac and Cheese, Steakfingers, Chili Beans, Roll Tuesday Homemade Lasagna with Cheesy Breadstick, Corn Dogs, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Broccoli Wednesday Crispy Chicken Tenders with Waffles. Fiesta Sticks, Tator Tots Thursday Beef Enchilada Bake, Hot Dog, Spanish Rice, Ranchero Beans Fresh Broccoli Friday Pepperoni Pizza, Popcorn Chicken with Roll, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Bananas

5th - 12th Lunch

Monday Popcorn Chicken, Steakfinger, Hummus Box, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Fresh Baby Carrots Tuesday Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Southwest Salad, CK Fried Steak Sandwich, Fresh Broccoli, Fresh Carrots Wednesday Cheeseburger or Hamburger, Deli Wrap Box, Tator Tots, Broccoli Salad Thursday Beef Tamales w/ Chili, Hot Dog w/ Chili, Chili Tots, Ranchero Beans, Garden Salad, Spanish Rice Friday Pepperoni Pizza, Corn Dogs, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Celery & Carrot Cup, Baked Beans



BEHAVIOR FROM PAGE 1

cialist roles, as well as Tiffany Millsap's position as coordinator of Counseling and Behavioral Health Services.

The new behavior specialists have different backgrounds from each other. Baker, a Springtown native, spent seven years as a third and fourth grade teacher before accepting this new role. Meanwhile, Zbynski served as a school social worker and classroom counselor in the Chicago area. Despite their different backgrounds, they have a common purpose: to support the students.

"We're in it for our kiddos," Baker said. "We want to help them process their emotions. We want to help them find appropriate ways to express things, and we want help our families. We just want to be supportive." Behaviors can have mul-

tiple interpretations, particularly for children who might not be able to communicate what they need, Zbynski said. Therefore, she wants to help educators, as well as the community at-large, understand what the kids are trying to communicate so they can be successful.

"Unfortunately, so many of us - especially adults - we don't recognize (behavior) as almost like a second language, and so it's really important to me that these kids have someone who does see and recognize that that behavior is trying to communicate something," she said. "I think it's also equally important to help the faculty and other members of the community recognize that as well so we can all kind of work together and help students be successful in school, in

their homes and in their community by kind of learning how to speak that language, essentially."

Baker and Zbynski are tasked with providing support to teachers, campus and district leaders, students and families regarding behavior. For Baker, that work has included observing classrooms and coaching teachers to help them counter challenging behavior issues with researchbased strategies.

The behavior consultation process is on the Porcupine Portal. The response to intervention process is for students who have received referrals or have certain behavior or social/emotional issues and allows behavior specialists to observe classrooms, support the teacher, collect data on what interventions are effective and develop a plan, Millsap and Baker said. "Right now, we're doing a lot of coaching, but we will eventually be moving into working one-on-one with a teacher and a kiddo on those interventions and tracking the data of how successful that's being," Baker said.

On the secondary side, Zbynski has led crisis counseling for students individually as well as in a group. The one-on-one sessions can help students identify, process and manage their emotions, while the small group focuses on "receiving feedback from peers and just communicating in a socially acceptable and healthy and appropriate manner."

Splitting up the behavior specialists to work with either elementary or secondary-level students shows that behavior varies between the two age groups. Millsap said younger kids are more likely to exhibit disruptive and challenging behaviors in the classroom, while the older students tend to shut down more. Zbynski and Baker's roles differ because Zbynski focuses more on individual students while Baker works with whole classes and teachers more often.

Deputy SISD Superintendent Shane Strickland said Baker and Zbynski's roles can also help the district support and retain teachers.

"It's really intervention that helps with behavior, which helps instruction, which helps teacher morale," Strickland said. "Retention of teachers is very critical for us, and if we can add that extra support for our teachers and take some of that burden off them to where they're really focusing on instruction, it's good for everybody. Everybody wins." Working with the students also includes looping in parents to the behavior discussions happening at school. Baker said classroom strategies, such as those for recognizing and expressing emotion, will be shared with parents so they can reinforce those strategies at home. Zbynski added that her job includes letting parents know about available community social resources that could be beneficial to a whole family, such as counseling services.

Millsap said Baker and Zbynski have already made an impact on SISD and have been excellent to work with. She also praised the administration and school board members for their support.

"They've done so much right now. I'm excited to see what else they're going to do and how much they're going to do for our community," Millsap said. "The sky's the limit with these two for sure."

Most Texas teachers consider quitting

POLL: MOST TEXAS TEACHERS CONSIDER QUITTING

More than three-fourths of Texas teachers say they have seriously considered quitting the profession largely because of a perceived lack of respect and support, according to a new survey by the Charles Butt Foundation. Excessive workload and inadequate pay were other major reasons that teachers are considering leaving, The Dallas Morning News and other media outlets reported.

The percentage of teachers considering quitting has risen to 77% this year from 58% in 2020, when the foundation conducted the first survey on the subject.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas has experienced a teacher shortage that prompted the Texas Education Agency to form a task force to address the issue. No official findings have been released.

The statewide survey included 1,291 public school teachers drawn randomly from TEA's 2020 roster of teachers. Among those teachers who seriously thought about leaving the profession, 68% updated their resumes, while about one-third applied for another job.

"This isn't just teachers not feeling satisfied," research



for the CEO of H-E-B, the largest privately held employer in Texas. Its goal is "pursuing a more equitable and prosperous future for all Texans," according to its website.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 11

Eligible Texans who plan to vote in the Nov. 8 general election must be registered by Oct. 11, according to Texas Secretary of State John Scott. While voter registration in Texas is county based, Texans can make sure they're registered by visiting the secretary of state's Am I Registered portal: https://tinyurl.com/4wcn4b9x.

Early voting runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4. A hotly contested governor's race between incumbent Republican Greg Abbott and Democratic challenger Beto O' Rourke is at the top of the ballot. Other statewide races include lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, and railroad commissioner.

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.

> cal offices. Check with your local elections clerk for a full sample ballot.

ABBOTT: ELECTRIC GRID SAFE THIS FALL

The state's electric grid should have no problem handling power demand this fall, Gov. Greg Abbott said after meeting with members of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas and the Public Utility Commission. A joint meeting was held last week to discuss the issue, although typically there are few challenges to the grid during autumn and spring because of decreased demand.

The new forecast by ERCOT predicts plenty of power available in October and November, despite planned shutdowns by a number



of Texas power plants for scheduled maintenance.

"The State of Texas continues to monitor the reliability of our electric grid, and I thank ERCOT and PUC for their hard work to implement bipartisan reforms we passed last year and for their proactive leadership to ensure our grid is stronger than ever before," Abbott said.

The grid faced unprecedented demand this summer with triple-digit temperatures across most of the state for weeks on end.

UPDATED COVID-19 BOOSTERS Shipping to state

The third booster vaccine for COVID-19 is shipping to health-care providers across the state this week, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has allocated about 900,000 doses of the updated boosters to Texas. That figure includes 502,5000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 192,800 doses of the Moderna vaccine available for order by health-care providers. Another 200,000 or so doses will be available through large retail pharmacies, such as H-E-B, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart.

The so-called "bivalent" vaccines differ from earlier versions in that they protect against both the original strain of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant that has been responsible for more than 99% of the COVID cases in Texas in the past month, according to DSHS.

People can get the updated booster if it has been at least two months since they received the original vaccine or one of the previously offered boosters.

COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS DROP

The number of new COVID-9 cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University during the past week dropped to 49,326, down about 10% from the previous week, with 133 new deaths reported, also a decrease. DSHS reported 2,440 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations, just slightly lower than the previous week.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS EASE IN STATE

Welcome rains across the state have eased drought conditions, with 62.3% of the state in moderate to severe drought, affecting about a third of the state's population, according to drought. gov. That is down from the end of June, when drought conditions covered 86% of the state.

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associate Victoria Wang told The Morning News. "They're actively taking steps to leave the classroom."

The foundation is named

Other races are underway for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, Texas Legislature and assorted lo-



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OUR MISSION: The Springtown Epigraph shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

Springtown Epigraph **5A**

A Breath of Fresh Air

"Where could you travel over and over again?" I got that question via

email from Storyworth, an online service that sends me a question every week to share the story of my life.

The idea is that I'll share enough short snippets to be bound into a book for my grandchildren.

I've been blessed to do a lot of traveling in my life. Not as much as some. Way more than others.

There are a few destinations to which I've made multiple trips, primarily because of a ministry connection of some kind.

The truth is that I simply love to travel and my favorite part of travel (besides eating) is being outside in nature. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

A place with lush vegetation, breathtaking views, and cool streams where I can hike, explore, and contemplate—this nurtures my soul.

In fact, I'm sitting on a bench in a park right now enjoying a shade tree and a cool breeze as I compose this post on my iPhone.

Today I needed to get out of the house, the office, and the car and get a breath of fresh air (literally and metaphorically).

I don't do it often enough. You probably don't either. There's so much to do. So many pressures, challeng8

es, and responsibilities. So many distractions, disappointments, uncertainties, and conflicts.

Dare I suggest that there are too few breaths of fresh air in most of our lives?

I thought about that early this morning as I read from Philippians chapter 2.

Some selected verses really hit home for me today. "Do nothing out of self-

ish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

It's so easy to be internally focused—me first, mine first.

I know I've read those verses hundreds of time, but a word hit me unexpectedly today: "the"

"Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of THE others." Not generically and vague-

ly the interests of "others" but "the others."

Real people with names and faces.

By Gerry Lewis Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING.

BE AMAZING

He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

The ones you literally interact with on a regular basis.

It's one thing to say I care about others.

It's another thing to say I'm committed to the well-being and interests of John, Sally, Lorenzo, Lizzie, Achmed ...

"The" others.

And that perspective, then, calls upon me to behave in a certain way.

"Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society." (Philippians 2:14-15, The Message).

This question occurred to me:

What if we decided TODAY to BE the breath of fresh air we want to experience?

What if we were to live intentionally as those who speak life, vitality, and refreshing into everyone with whom we come in contact? Be the breath of fresh air

and be amazing today, my friend.

What fuels the fascination many of us have with stockpiling 'collectibles?'

For some reason, human beings like to collect. It stands to reason a person might attempt to collect and store food so they would have something to eat at a future time. It makes sense for someone to collect money so they can provide for themselves when they are too old or infirmed to work.

But why do we collect items? There is something in our inherent nature that drives people to gather associated items. Maybe it is the power in "ownership" and the thought of having an item others covet.

There are people who collect because of the potential for profit. People who collect cars, guns, comic books, antiques or baseball cards often buy with the expectation their purchase will appreciate.

My brother-in-law has a huge collection of Springfield rifles and is considered as an expert by many in their valuation and his knowledge of their workings. I have sat and listened to him describe a small screw for a particular sight from a Springfield, and why the screw he owned was valuable and sought after by fellow aficionados. I could see the pleasure in his eyes that he had obtained something that others treasure. He fully believes his collection will provide well for his children when he passes, and from what I know about it, he is probably right.

Any time groups of people are interested in collecting the same type of items



the potential exists for the price of a collectible to go up. Remember Beanie Babies? They were simple, small stuffed toys, but amid the Beanie Baby craze, the cheaply made creatures were traded for hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars. Nowadays, they seem to end up in garage sales or thrown out in the trash.

My wife collects old match books. Some folks collect souvenir shot glasses. I guess the nearest thing I have to a collection is a bunch of old poker chips from casinos around the country. If the items do not have a true monetary value, perhaps it is because the mementos take us back to another place in time.

My poker chips remind me of trips made with friends to Las Vegas, Atlantic City and other places, and the good times we shared. While serving as a good paper weight at my work desk, when I pick up the chips and jingle them in my hands and I can hear the "clicking of the chips," it conjures up a good memory. It is that feeling, that memory, that makes me keep them. My mother collected a

certain type of china. She spent thousands of dollars, "investing" her time and money, mainly because she thought the china was so beautiful. She also thought it would continue to appreciate and we kids would have a "jackpot" when she passed. Unfortunately, when sold the china never brought anywhere close to what she thought it would. I did save a few pieces because they reminded me of Mom.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Sam Houston is a syndicated columnist and newspaper executive. He is

also an author, actor, playwright and entertainment producer/promoter

By Sam Houston

I think some folks collect just so they will have a purpose. Their desire to add a special piece to a collection keeps them motivated and inspired to keep searching. I have also witnessed the quiet satisfaction of the person who has completed a collection. Curiously, there seems to be a portion of sadness that comes with the end of the search Satisfaction of course, but a degree of sadness in knowing the hunt is over.

I would love to hear what it is you collect. Is it imprinted golf balls, old cookbooks, marbles, or what? Send me a note by email (see below) and tell me what items you collect and why you collect them. I may give the most unique collector my inherited collection of Captain Kangaroo photos.

Thought for the day: Often the story of an artifact's journey is more remarkable and entertaining than the object itself.

Until next time.





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Beloved restaurant is 60 years old

Who hasn't eaten at Howell's Western Cafe?

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Howell's is entrenched in the town's history – and that's because of the restaurant's quality and ironclad reputation as the place to eat in Springtown.

At Howell's you can order breakfast all day as well as chicken-fried steak.

The restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials...and then there's their famous pies – with everything homemade.

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Howell's came to Springtown on May 18, 1962. That's when Dorothy Howell bought the place – without telling husband Claude.

Since then, Howell's has fed multi-tudes.

Today, the Springtown mainstay is run by retired Shirley Fletcher and grandson Harold Buffington.

Come see why Howell's Western Cafe has the best food in town – and it's been that way for more than half a century.

Located at 401 West Highway 199, Howell's is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Stop by and find out what so many have known for decades: You can't beat the prices and classic homemade food at Howell's Western Cafe.



Springtown P&Z approves final plat for subdivision near Williams-Ward Road, Walnut Creek Drive

BY MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Despite neighbors' concerns, the residential subdivision Boardwalk Estates has completed the final plat process, and the developer is preparing to start construction.

Last week, Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission approved the final plat for the residential subdivision in a unanimous vote.

The city has been working with this applicant for about a year and a half, starting with annexation in spring 2021, Springtown Director of Administrative Services Christina Derr said during the meeting. Last year, the city council approved the zoning and preliminary plat.

When the development came up in a P&Z meeting last year, resident Beth Podell - whose property neighbors the incoming subdivision - attended and talked with the developer Don Sneed after the meeting. She has continued to attend city meetings to voice her concerns about the development, particularly about the clay-like mud she claims is coming onto her property from the new subdivision.

The subdivision will be located on about 24 acres at the northeast corner of Williams-Ward Road and Walnut Creek Drive and is expected to have over 90 lots.

During the past nine months, the city's consulting engineer Tom Hoover worked on the review of the subdivision's water, sewer, drainage and street plans, and Hoover has approved the final plat and all relevant plans.

Derr said Boardwalk Estates went through a longer final plat process than usual, with that process usually lasting just a few months on average.

"We're certainly not going lightly or just glancing over (it). It was an in-depth process between Mr. Sneed's engineer and our engineer to

get to where we're at today," Derr said.

At previous city meetings, Podell and another neighbor have voiced concerns about the subdivision regarding the underground springs in the area, drainage issues and sediment discharge. Podell continued to talk about similar issues at last week's meeting.

Specifically, Podell claims that mud has continued to come onto her property, especially the driveway.

"I have to carry my dog food on my head a half mile to get my dogs fed," Podell said during the meeting. Podell said she has had difficulty using her driveway for about a year and a half when she claimed the subdivision property was clear cut and orange clay-like mud started coming onto her driveway.

"I would like to be able to get up my drive, I would like for them to keep their orange soil on their land, and I have environmental concerns about this," Podell said after the meeting.

After the meeting, Podell expressed disappointment by the P&Z's decision.

Derr did mention during the meeting that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is investigating Boardwalk Estates for issues related to storm water. She said the city attorney advised that state law doesn't allow the investigation to be considered as part of the final plat decision.

"We are considering the future improvements and are they sufficient from an engineering standpoint, and our engineer says that they are," Derr said during the meeting.

A TCEQ spokesperson confirmed that two complaints related to Boardwalk Estates were received. Both complaints claim that the construction site discharged sediment. An investigation is ongoing, and the results are pending.

Sneed, the developer, said he put up silt fencing to

prevent sediment breaking through to Podell's property and has been willing to put up more if needed, but was told by an inspector that there weren't any more breakthrough areas.

"I don't know what else to do," Sneed said after the meeting. "Trust me, I'm willing to do whatever they want me to do, but I cannot help that she's mad because there's houses going in next door.'

Sneed also said that his crew will install an underground storm drain that will replace the temporary culvert to handle water. He said he would like to start construction on the subdivision in a few weeks.

To Podell's concerns about the underground springs, Derr said because there are springs in the area, building on springs is not unusual. She said during the meeting that safeguards are in place to ensure that it is safe to build upon the springs.

qualifier to construct the

subdivision. We take the appropriate review and safety checks to make sure that it is being done correctly," Derr said.

After the meeting, Derr said the city staff is doing what it can to address Podell's concerns as well as the concerns of fellow neighbors.

"I understand their concerns. I witnessed some of the things that were going on myself. We're doing what we can within our authority to address it," she said. "We are also asking for help from other agencies that have more authority to address it."

When construction starts, Derr said the city will have more enforcement power over the development and can stop construction if needed.

"By moving them to the construction stage, it actually expands our ability to address some of these problems," she said.

"That in itself is not a dis-



DeLee Rae Landrum 1958 - 2022

DeLee Rae (Murray) Landrum, 63, passed away Friday Sept. 9, 2022 in Bridgeport, Texas. Memorial Service will be held at noon on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022 at Mount Olivet Funeral Home Chapel in Fort Worth. She was born Dec. 2, 1958 to James and Golda (Evans) Murray in Jacksonville, Florida.

DeLee was preceded in death by her husband of 10 years Clyde Thomas. She is survived by her son, Josh Johnson and his wife Kallye; mother, Golda and her husband Paul Graff; sister, Sherry (Murray) Scheidt; brothers, Troy Murray and his wife Vicki, Frank Graff,



and Tia Graff: grandchildren. Julius, Kenlee, Korbyn; nieces. Brandi Low and Whitney Reeves; four great-nieces and two great-nephews.

DeLee will be dearly missed by all who knew her.



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So, What's Next?

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." -- David Bly, former Minnesota state legislator.

Let's visit a little about some of the things that we have been through during the past 12 months and how they have affected the quantity, quality and prices of agricultural products.

Since September 2021, we have experienced cold temperatures, extremely dry weather, wildfires, hail, tornadoes, flooding and high temperatures. Of course, all of these affect our lives in many ways. But because of agriculture's strong reliance on at least decent production conditions, we received a triple whammy in the quantity, quality and pricing department of agricultural products. Because of the drv. windy conditions this spring, the likelihood of dry plant material becoming good tinder for wildfires increased.

Of course, people losing their lives and homes was the highest on the tragedy list and then and then came

AG By Ja Jack De

AG 101 By Jack DeShazo

Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field

Just Another Day in the Life of an Agriculturalist!

livestock producers who not only lost animals to the fires but also any grazing materials that remained including stored hay. So, we now had livestock producers who immediately lost a portion, if not all of their source of livelihood due to animals being killed in the fires.

Producers with livestock who survived their encounters with the fires now had animals with no or little forage to graze or hay to feed. The livestock raisers then had to make the decision of having to feed expensive feed or liquidate their stock. And then the next decision for many raisers was to either try to keep their heads above water or completely get out of the business.

Another concern was the ones making the choice to get out also put more pressure on the job market.

Now before we leave the topic of the wildfires, I want to mention that several firefighter friends of mine have told me that upwards of 80-90% of wildfires are caused by humans. Whether due to careless burning of refuse, including brush, and reckless use of fireworks, welding, grinding and even mowing can be the cause of fires. Vehicles with catalytic converters being driven through or parked in dry grass are also possible starters of fires. Even though we did get some much-needed rain, the soil was so dry that much of the moisture is already gone because of it soaking into the ground, so the danger is still there.

Also be aware that as fall arrives and the warm season grasses and other plants go dormant, rainfall will not deter fire nearly as easily as when the plants were actively growing. Please be careful with any activity that may cause fire.

Now let's go back to the topic of agricultural losses and their effects on everyone.

Remember that you do not have to be an agriculturalist to be affected by these things. Keep in mind the old saying "If you eat, you are involved in agriculture," but it's not only food that is affected, also included are clothing, shelter and energy.

Don't let the idea slip past that when dry weather is figured into the equation the plant crops are also affected which means that human food crops, livestock feed crops, fiber crops and plants that are used for energy production and even timber for lumber can be stunted or nonexistent.

Now let's go to the principle of "supply and demand." Remember from senior economics class that when supply is in short supply and demand is great, the prices go up and with great supply and little demand prices go down. Everyone knows that not everything is governed by supply and demand, but do know that most of agricultural products are, right? Let's look at just a few

examples. A wildfire burns all of the forage used for livestock grazing, the raiser can no longer provide feed for the livestock so they are sold at the livestock sale barn, the market becomes flooded with the livestock so the price ultimately goes down. Secondly, the lack of rain has caused the feed grains to be in short supply

causing the prices on livestock feed and human food to go up. When we finally do get rain, it pours down and we have floods which wash out the crops thereby making a shortage of foodstuffs pushing the prices up for the consumer. When you are going through the grocery store and you are noticing prices, don't forget that supply and demand is a snowball rolling downhill gathering more snow and velocity as it goes. This principle also includes agricultural products. This can be a very complicated subject that cannot be covered in one individual column, but its importance does warrant consideration by everyone.

Sometimes we get caught up in so many of our own concerns that we take our food supply and other necessary agricultural products for granted; this can be a dangerous oversight, so please be conscious of the importance of our agriculturalists and the tough times they also face.

Until next time.

Focus on health: TLC or overkill?

Dear Frankie, I'm concerned that my mom is over-focused on my health. Once a month, she gives me pills to prevent heartworm, fleas and ticks. I'm OK with that; no one wants heartworms or Lyme disease.

I also get a daily medicine chew for my hips and joints that tastes terrible. I won't eat it unless it is smothered in something edible. My mom coats it with peanut butter. She thinks she is fooling me, but whatever, nothing like a



peanut butter snack.

She insists on cooking my

food. She says you can't trust

Every time there is a recall for

it on Facebook. She wants her

a toxic ingredient, she posts

friends to see what she has

been telling them all along.

the dog food companies.

DEAR FRANKIE By Geneva Woodruff

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

> My food is cooked weekly and divided into 14 meals. She insists that two meals a day are necessary for good digestion.

A typical meal is an organic chicken seasoned with a pinch of salt (dogs need sodium), mixed with a powdered vitamin supplement, and fresh green beans.

When it comes to exercise, she is a fanatic. I go to doggie daycare four days a week for strength training and yoga classes.

I won't go into the monthly grooming appointments or semi-annual physicals, dental exams, and cleaning.

Don't you agree that her focus on my health is a bit of overkill?

Signed, Marcia

Dear Marcia, I agree that the monthly

pills are essential. Excellent work on the peanut butter snack.

What's your beef otherwise? Delicious home-cooked meals twice a day sound like heaven to me. It beats food poisoning.

Probably grooming every six weeks is sufficient. Nothing worse than a dog with matted and smelly hair

with matted and smelly hair. If it's the exercise that gets you, what's so bad? In your golden years, you can look back on the years you looked like a canine goddess. I do think the teeth cleaning twice a year is a bit much. Anesthesia shouldn't be taken lightly and should be avoided whenever possible, especially in your twilight years.

Maybe it's time for a new vet. When the vet walks in to examine you at your next appointment, growl, bark, and whine, maybe your mom will get the hint.

Best, Frankie



The Price of a Soul

Matt 16:2-26 (verse 26) "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul."

The Lord Jesus never spoke more solemn and meaningful words in all His earthly ministry than these. In this statement our Lord places a value upon the human soul that is beyond all the worth of the world. The words Jesus uses here for the world is the word Kosmos which means all of God's material creation. Now upon that fact consider this. The worth of your soul is worth more than all the stars, the entire solar system and all the planets...plus all the material wealth.

Jesus is saying to us, the worth of one soul is worth more than all this. The question now comes, why did Jesus put such value upon one soul? Consider this, a soul is valuable because of God's purpose for man. When God created the earth, and made the animals and the creeping things, the seas and all that is them and He said it's good.

However, God was not satisfied. We are told in the word of God that God is love. Love desires an object like unto its self which it can bestow its affection. God said let us make man in our image and likeness, so on the sixth day God created man. We should take notice that God's crowning work of all his creation was the being formed in His own likeness and image. We are then told that God breathed into the nostrils of this dust man and he became a living soul. God is eternal so the man whom God created in His likeness and image is as eternal as God, a soul which will never die.

We seldom stop to consider that in His image we have the capacity to think, to desire fellowship, to walk in communion with God, to live with God and the ability to love. Not only is there this truth, but the purpose that God had for men was to be the Lord of all of His creation, and then one day he would reign with Him in glory through out all eternity. However, in the face of all this man deliberatly turns his back upon such a destiny, thereby defeating the purpose that God has for them. We are told in (Isaiah 59:2) Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. In the face of this we have robbed God of the rightful glory that belongs to Him in our lives. This is one reason why Jesus said "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loose his own soul."

Let me share with you another purpose as to why the soul is of such value. The soul never dies, it lives forever. When I was young, long ago the old saints of God use to sing "I'm on my way to that fair land where the soul never dies." Once

again, I would have you consider we are created in the likeness and image of God. With body, soul and spirit. I will therefore live forever, I shall never cease to be. If you are like me it's hard for me, with my infinite mind, to grasp that truth. Nevertheless, it's a truth. We must however realize there was a time when we were not. I was not here when Abraham received his call to leave his homeland of the Ur of the Chaldees, and seek a city. When Columbus boarded the Mayflower Ship and headed out to discover a new world, I was not there. Nor was I there when George Washington crossed the Delaware River with that group of bare footed men, to purchase the freedom I now enjoy. However, listen real close, since I was conceived in my mother's womb there will never be a time that I will cease to be. I know this to be true because of the Prophet Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 1:5) God said "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee (set you aside) and ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

I will never cease to be living, I will be some where living. When the sun burns out I will live on, when the stars fall from their sockets I will live on, when the mountains turn to dust I will live on, when the universe grows tired of its weary cycles of ages and goes back to nothing, I will live on. I read this illustration long ago, if a little sparrow with a beak of water went from one ocean and emptied it into another when he was finished, eternity would just be beginning. With this in mind consider if you were not a child of God. Lost & unsaved because of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ. Lost and separated from God having no hope in this world. My friend, you need to link physical death. With the second death the eternal death of an unsaved lost soul. Jude, the brother of James, describes this death. Jude (verse 13) "Like wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." Unsaved friend you need to listen to the cry from hell of a man who has been there for at least 2,000 years. His cry is still the same as it was when he reached hell. "Father Abraham have mercy send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." No doubt some will say I don't believe that. Understand your disbelief will not remove the reality of hell, nor will it cool its flame one degree. I have heard people say "well if I go to hell I'll be there with my friends." No, you will not have any friends in hell, and your friends will not be glad to see you either. Also, hell is a place of memory. This man in hell was told to "remember."

Hell my friends is a place of horrible tortures and the place of tragic tragedies for the unsaved soul. One of the things

you will remember in hell is I didn't have to be here, Jesus paid the price for my soul. He was betrayed by his supposed to be friends. His back was beaten wih a cat of nine tails, he was slapped, spit upon and mocked, a crown of thorns put upon His head. Then lead to Calvary and there he was nailed to a cross, crucified and died the horrible death of the cross. His precious blood was shed for you and me that we would not have to go to this horrible place of torment. It is such a sad thing today, that the sinner places such a small value upon that which the son of God died for.

The Soul-Jesus asked the question "what will you give in exchange for your soul?" This is a great question, what will you give in exchange for your never dying soul? I can assure you that the devil will offer to you the pleasures of this lower life. Again I remind you of the Prodical Son, who had been given wealth. Remember he left his father and went into a far country. He had money and lots of friends, but good times came to an end. His friends forsook him, no man would help him. In the face of the famine, he joined himself to the hog pen and ate with the hogs. You can remember this, the good times of the devil don't last. Please remember the devil can not deliver on his promises.

Jesus said he is a liar and has been since the beginning. Have you thought about what he has caused? Listen to the Apostle Paul he said in the book of Romans " The whole creation groaneth and travelth in pain." The ground upon which we walk God has cursed, all because of the devil. Understand he is the author of all the heartache, sorrows, crime, abuse, hospitals and wars....the bottom line it is Satan. Remember, he will offer you a way that seems right but the end there of are ways of death. I encourage you to come to Christ, he offers the very best, he knows whats best for you. He offers to you His redeeming blood. He died to save and forgive you of sin. (I John 1:7) says "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.

The Apostle Peter said of Jesus "It's not my will that any should perish but that all come unto repentance. Jesus wants to save you. His will is that you come to Him. (John 1:12) says "To as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

My prayer is if you are without Jesus Christ as saviour, that you will receive Him. God bless you in His service until He comes.

Because of Calvary,

Preacher White Isaiah 54:10



201 J.E. Woody Road, Springtown, TX 76082 • 817-523-0376

Pastor Dr. George White, Co-Pastor Luther White

Weekly Sermon can be seen and heard live on Facebook. All Sunday sermons can be heard on our website:

www.SpringtownBaptistTemple.com



BOOK REVIEW

Dog shows, bridge and murder – so much to like about this mystery

Peg and Rose Solve a Murder

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

It's your deal.

Cards cut, they're in your hand, and now you dole them out. Thirteen cards each, one at a time around the table, let the game begin. Do you bid, or pass and hope that your partner has a good hand? As in the new mystery, "Peg and Rose Solve a Murder" by Laurien Berenson, do you even have a shot at winning? It should've been a very

good day.

Peg Turnbull was judging at a dog show, and being with dogs was her favorite thing. The dog show community in her Connecticut area was close-knit, she knew everyone, the sun was shining – and then she saw her sisterin-law, Rose.

Back when Peg and her dear, departed Max were first married, a teenage Rose had just entered a convent. Fast forward through the years, Rose left the nunnery to marry a priest, blah-blah, Max died, Rose and her husband moved nearby, Peg still didn't get along with that woman.

And there Rose was, ruining a perfectly good dogjudging day with a ridiculous invitation for Peg to join her in a bridge club.

After so many decades, Rose Donovan felt it was time to try to connect with her sister-in-law. Rose had things to apologize for, and neither of them were getting any younger. Years ago, Peg used to play bridge or something, didn't she? So maybe they could – well, if not be friends, at least not be enemies anymore.

As it turned out, the bridge club needed two new hands and they welcomed Peg and Rose into the fold immediately – although the two women could tell right away that there was big drama inside the room. There were hints of impropriety and personality clashes, both of which had Peg intrigued. She loved nothing more than a good mystery.

So when one of the bridge players was shot inside his home, she wondered. Would Rose make a good partner outside of the bridge club, too?

For a mystery lover, "Peg and Rose Solve a Murder" could be a bit of a let-down.

At least a third of this book passes before there's even a whiff of crime, in favor of dog show and bridge plotlines and character introduction. The murder itself feels almost like a footnote or a minor faux pas once it finally appears, and it's only discussed in terms relative to the people in the bridge club, as if no one else in Connecticut could've been the killer.

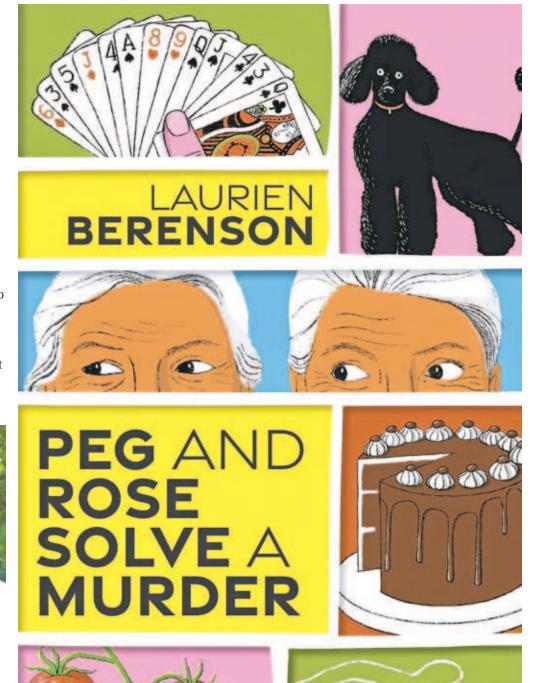
Don't put this book down yet, though.

Author Laurien Berenson writes with a breezy flair that's perfect for this kind of mystery, and that breeze blows in the humor. Berenson's Peg is feisty and ornery, a perfect companion to prim, fussy Rose. Seriously: you know a TV series like this, don't you?

Mystery mavens who love dogs will particularly love this book, as will readers who enjoy sleuths who are past "a certain age." If that's you, though it has its bumpiness, grab "Peg and Rose Solve a Mystery." You'll like it a great deal.



"Peg and Rose Solve a Murder" by Laurien Berenson c.2022, Kensington Cozies, \$26, 290 pages







Rain, cooler temperatures have increased the action on our area lakes

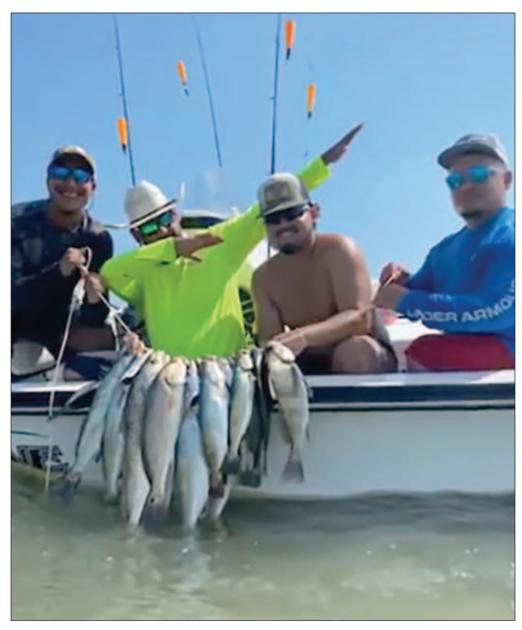


PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL ACOSTA The recent rains have cooled the surface temperatures of all local bodies of water and the fishing is taking off. You can't absolutely predict the fishing for any given day, but you can get close right after a rain. Fishing after it rains or even during a drizzle can produce some great action as most of us know.

The recent rains have cooled the surface temperatures of all local bodies of water and the fishing is taking off. Water temperatures fell to around the low- to mid-80s on most reservoirs. I am sure that summer is not over and these temperatures may rise some, but we will take what we can get.

Numerous lakes, including our own, are producing better catches for most every species.

Last week, I reported that the fishing was picking up on

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.ne

Lake Granbury. This week, I have an even better report, especially for white bass and striped bass. Black bass catches are reported good as well to 8 pounds plus. Lake Granbury may not be the fishery it used to be, but there is still a tremendous amount of action to be had and there are very few folks taking advantage of it.

Due to rain/storms in the forecast, staying at home was in order. Cooling water along with live shad (bait) or silver and chartreuse slabs you too can get on the fish. The white bass, or sand bass as we typically call them, are active early near feeding flats from The Shores in town, to Indian Harbor and near DeCordova.

Smaller striped bass are mixed in with the sandies and many times they are boiling the surface. The bigger striped bass are typically not too far away. The lower ends are still the best for the keeper striped bass, and live bait is generally hard to beat.

FISHING REPORT

Catfish action continues to be good on cut bait on many areas of Lake Granbury. Look for incoming water or stained water. Crappies continue to be good near submerged timber mid-lake. Small jigs and minnows are the best choice for crappie.

Other reservoirs are reporting lots of top water action as well (Lake Whitney and Possum Kingdom Lake). Possum Kingdom striped bass and largemouth have been feeding from South D&D and down-stream by Bluff Creek and Hell's Gate. Whitney striped bass are near McCown Valley to the state park.

I believe the fishing will continue to improve as the month rolls on. Watch the predicted times based on the moon phase. Look for morning and evening bites near the quarter moon when this article is published.

The recent rains did not have enough runoff to fill the lake, but there was a rise in level and the fresh water is needed.

Springtown High School Homecoming 2022



PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Young Springtown football players and cheerleaders are introduced and walking to their places to watch the homecoming pep rally and lighting of the letters on Monday at Porcupine Stadium.



The Sound of Springtown band marched around Porcupine Stadium during the community homecoming pep rally on Monday.



Springtown High School cheerleaders performed during the community homecoming pep rally on Monday at Porcupine Stadium.

Double Word Search

INVESTING

DONATING

INCOME

LEMONS

RHYMES

GARAGE

MONEY

Find the words in the puzzle.

How many of them can you find on this page?

RMGNITANOD

HAKRNBLOCK

YINACGMYOH

MNEEOSEERT

FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

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STEP 1: The Business

Plan

You will need to invest a little

cash to get started. Visit or call

a local store to find out the cost

of the items you need. Add up

your costs to determine your

price and profit. Here is what

Total cost for 10 cups of lemonade: \$2.00

10 cups of lemonade at 50¢ each ... \$5.00

..... \$1.20

.20

.60

the math looks like:

EXPENSES:

12 lemons cost

10 paper cups cost ..

INCOME:

1 3/4 cups of sugar cost



Parents

your child ways you earned

spending money when you were a child. Help them think of ways they can earn money.

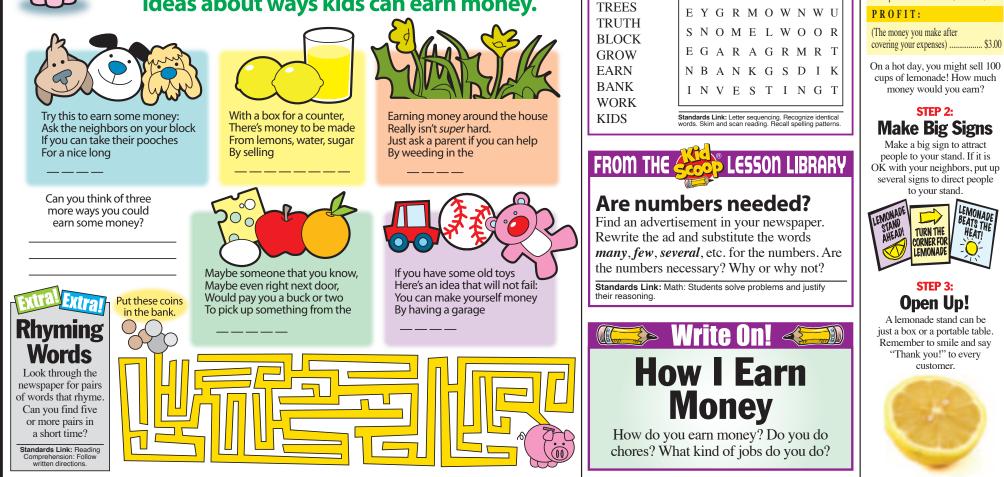
But what if we did? It might look something like this. How much money can you find growing on our silly money tree? (Each "leaf" is a \$1 bill.)

The Big Question

Earn it!

Do you plan how to use your money wisely — for spending, saving, investing and donating? But how do you get money to put in the bank? It might be nice if people would just give you money. But most people get money by earning it. That means they do some sort of work in exchange for money. This is called **income**.

Complete each of these rhymes to discover ideas about ways kids can earn money.



Springtown High School Homecoming 2022





PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Mini Showstopper Harlie Dean, 9, dances with the Springtown High School Showstoppers on Monday during the homecoming pep rally at Porcupine Stadium.

Freshman Lily Rogers (Shotwell) shakes her pom-poms while performing with the Springtown High School Showstoppers at the community homecoming pep rally on Monday at Porcupine Stadium.



HELP US HONOR OUR Local Veterance

We're running a special section in November to honor our local veterans. HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, October 3rd.

SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN AT OUR WEBSITE: www.azlenews.net

INCLUDE NAME OF VETERAN, BRANCH OF SERVICE, YEARS SERVED. OR EMAIL JOHNNA@AZLENEWS.NET



Azle Spring News Epigr



City of Springtown



Home to 'community' spirit' and 'pride'

The city of Springtown offices are located at 102 E. Second St. The city offers a 33-acre park with amenities like soccer and baseball fields, sand volleyball courts, disc golf and a walking/jogging trail, as well as Springtown Legends Museum, which features the city's heritage and community spirit. You can reach city offices at 817-220-4834.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

he city of Springtown offers several features and activities for families and children alike, making the town a great place to live, work and play.

The city offers a 33-acre park with amenities like soccer and baseball fields, sand volleyball courts and disc golf. A walking/jogging trail winds through the park and passes by an area of creek bed which hosts a newly discovered set of dinosaur tracks.

"We also offer the Springtown Legends Museum City of Springtown: Home to 'community spirit' and 'pride' which captures Springtown's rich heritage and community spirit that is still the driving force which makes Springtown the best place to be in Parker County," said Christina Derr, the city's director of administrative services.

Residents and visitors to Springtown can visit the nostalgic historic square that is centered on a preserved open-air Tabernacle, which adds to the town's Old Fashioned Christmas celebration and the annual Wild West Festival.

"Springtown is a unique community that is rich in

history and tradition," Derr said. "One can't help but sense the community spirit and pride when visiting the city, and that is especially true during the Wild West Festival."

Derr said the city will continue to grow and create a positive environment for future generations of Springtown residents.

She added, "As the city of Springtown moves into the future, our vision includes continuing to provide quality parks, events and activities that are geared towards creating a sense of community spirit that will carry on for generations to come."

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Colt Midstream safely delivers energy to the community

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Colt Midstream is a producer-focused natural gas gathering and processing company in the Fort Worth Basin and Barnett Shale. Colt is privately-owned and operated. Headquartered in Houston, Colt also has field offices in Weatherford, Springtown, Eastland, Jacksboro and Decatur. We consistently serve our producers through superior customer service and reliability.

Colt owns and operates

over 3,700 miles of pipeline, over 100,000HP of compression, and 135 MMscfd of active processing capacity across 14 Texas counties

NATURAL GAS GATHERING AND PROCESSING

due gas.

TRANSMISSION OF NGL AND

Once natural gas liquids

emerge from a plant, they're

energy markets. Colt's pipe-

lines take the products from

RESIDUE GAS TO MARKET

(NGLs) and residue gas

ready for distribution to

the processings plants to

Colt's system gathers and compresses raw natural gas from wells and transports it to gas processing plants through low-pressure pipelines. Once the gas arrives at our processing plants, it's processed into natural gas

liquids (NGLs) and dry resiend markets, which distribute gas to the community for heating and powering homes.

CONDENSATE PROCESSING (STABILIZATION)

Unrefined (high vapor pressure condensate and offspec NGL) gas product needs additional processing to become a marketable energy

source. We take this commodity and process it into on-spec NGL product and a high-gravity crude stream.

COLT strongly supports Public Awareness and Community Outreach.

There is a whole world that lives beneath our feet, including pipeline infrastructure used to move the energy used to run our homes, hospitals, and businesses

Meeting with the community, public officials and first responders is important to Colt.

As a reminder, calling 811 before you dig protects you and your community and it's the LAW! Hitting a buried line while digging can dis-

SEE COLT, PAGE 2A.



Colt Midstream is a producer-focused natural gas gathering and processing company in the Fort Worth Basin and Barnett Shale.

Wells Fargo supporting community through festival sponsorship

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The 38th annual Wild West Fest is getting ready to kick of in Springtown with vendors, sponsors and attractions, and Wells Fargo is once again showing their unwavering support for the community event.

Wells Fargo has been a sponsor of Wild West Fest since its origination.

Missy Grubis, Springtown branch manager, noted that staying involved in the community is a priority for Wells Fargo.

"My team and I love to support our community where we live and work," she said.

The Springtown branch of Wells Fargo is located at 201 South Main Street. on the southwest corner of Tabernacle Square.

The branch's lobby hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

The drive-thru is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

Grubis and her staff make it their mission to offer a hometown touch to your banking needs.

You can visit the website at www.wellsfargo.com for a complete list of all of the products and services that your local Wells Fargo offers, or call 817-220-4823 with any questions you may have.



The Wells Fargo team in Springtown are there to help you with all of your banking needs! Pictured: Chris Gray (from left) Alta Bingham, Dawn McCarter, Missy Grubis, Julie Hinkle, Irma Lambert and Miriam Delgado.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Some employees at the Taco Casa location in Springtown take a quick break before lunch one day last week. Pictured are Kathy Starbuck, Tanya Higgins, Peggy Rios, Chrystal Anderson and Shaan Whitehead.

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Taco Casa

Celebrating more than two decades 20 years of quality food, service

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Taco Casa is a beloved fastfood establishment in all of North Texas, and Springtown is no exception.

"People love Taco Casa," said Springtown Taco Casa Owner Tom Loughrey. "When I make everyone aware that I am a franchisee of Taco Casa, their eyes light up, they get a big ol' smile and 99.9 percent of them say, 'I love Taco Casa.' It's fun to be a part of that product and that brand that people love so much."

For more than 20 years now, Taco Casa of Springtown has been dishing out fresh food to its customers and creating a family-oriented atmosphere. "We want it to feel like

you're eating a home cooked meal," Loughrey said. "We've got people that's worked for me since day one and in fast food, that's very rare, but these people are like family, and they treat our customers like family. We do our best to provide a quality product with excellent customer service each and every time you come in."

The most popular item on the menu is, unsurprisingly, tacos, followed by 'chiladas. "Our philosophy is 'keep it

real simple," Loughrey said. "We have 16 menu items — 17 if you count our little Casa Delites, which is our dessert.' Of course, it's not hard

to have a successful fastfood joint if you have overwhelming support from the community.

"The community has treated us very well and the Chamber of Commerce in Springtown has been a strong advocate of Taco Casa and supported us in the community," Loughrey added. "Taco Casa corporate has supported us from day one, and they've delivered a wonderful product that's really easy for us to sell as long as we give out great customer service and that's what our goal is, to meet and exceed our customer's expectations every time they come in."

Taco Casa is located at 101 W. Highway 199 and is open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.



sistance and sponsorship. Our team has been active in disaster relief and rebuild efforts throughout North Texas this past year after the devastating fires and tornadoes. In addition, Colt is a proud sponsor of numerous organizations throughout North Texas communities with a focus on sports and agriculture programs.

rupt utility service, cost you money, or even cause serious injury or death. Always call before you dig!

We are very passionate about our outreach programs and are always searching for opportunities to reach out to our communities offering as-

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237 W. Main St. • Azle • 817-444-2170

Parker County Hospital District has several programs to meet community needs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Parker County Hospital District offers a host of services.

One of those is the Campbell Clinic, which is a family practice providing care to those patients who are two months and older. Male and female providers are available. The clinic accepts most commercial insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. Sliding scale is available upon approval. There are also in-house lab, child and adults vaccines and workers comp for select payors. Bilingual staffers are available. To schedule an appointment, call 817-458-3370.

The district also administers the County Indigent Health Care Program, better known as the Medical Assistance Program (MAP) for Parker County residents.

Designated as the payor of last resort, MAP is designed to provide covered medical services to low-income residents who have no other public or private health care benefits and who meet all eligibility requirements of the program. MAP utilizes medical services through local physicians, hospitals, and other facilities. Eligibility is determined by residence (must live in Parker County); income, as an individual's income may not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; resources, as an individual's resources may not exceed \$1,000 per month (this in-



www.pchdtx.org

Remote Clinic Location:

1501 Texas Drive, Weatherford, Texas 76086 Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm (by appointment only) Remote Clinic 817-458-3335 Telemedicine Main Office 817-458-3331

cludes property, checking/ savings accounts or other assets as defined by MAP regulations); citizenship, an individual must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien; and medical need, as an individual must have a medical need of some kind.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, please contact the MAP office at (817) 458-3358.

An outreach program for immunizations is available, and can be acquired through the district. Adult and child immunizations (office and mobile), cholesterol screenings, blood pressure and glucose screenings and state certified vision and hearing tests are available.

For more information, call 817-458-3254.

The district has a telemedicine program, which is a partnership between Parker County schools and Parker County Hospital District to provide medical care onsite at each campus and remote clinic. Through the use of telemedicine, the health care needs of staff and students can be met in a convenient setting with each campus nurse. The purpose is to increase the educational success of students and staff by assuring access to health care. Early treatment can decrease the need for expensive medical care and unnecessary emergency room visits.



Brookshire's Food and Pharmacy is located at 501 E. Highway 199 in Springtown and offers online ordering, pickup, bakery, deli, pharmacy, floral, beer, fresh cut meat, seafood, wine, sushi, Rx to go, Western Union and lottery tickets. You can reach the store at 817-220-1177.

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Brookshire's: Putting the customer first since 1928

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Brookshire's Grocery Co. (BGC) has been supplying groceries to community members and local residents for close to 100 years. BGC was established in

Tyler on the courthouse square in 1928 as a family business. The original owner, Wood T. Brookshire, started the grocery store with only four employees in a small, 2,500 square feet store, according to the

Brookshire's website. Now, BGC currently operates more than 200 stores in four states: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Known for its great variety of quality fresh products, BGC puts its focus on people, just like Wood T. Brookshire did 93 years ago when he made the decision to put the customer as "top priority."

The grocery chain has

come a long way since its establishment, but the store is still "focused on offering the same exceptional customer service it was founded on."

The company's mission is "to create and deliver exceptional experiences and value through the W.T. Brookshire Way."

Brookshire's in

Springtown is located at 501 E. Highway 199, and is open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.







Burtnett Insurance Agency



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

back to

Burtnett Insurance Agency prides itself in providing outstanding insurance services for all your personal or commercial needs. It's a mother-daughter team operating the agency, with Kaye Burtnett starting in 1997 and then Vanessa Roberson beginning at the agency in 2014.

The agency has been doing business in Parker County and surrounding areas for more than 20 years. It has appointments with multiple companies to search for the best possible rates, but its major carrier is Germania Insurance. Germania is a Texas only company with over 100 years of experience.

Burtnett focuses on rural property, home and auto insurance, with a special niche for barndominiums that are very popular right now as well.

Call the agency to request a free quote and they will be happy to serve your insurance needs. The office is located at 905 E. Highway 199 in Springtown and can be contacted at 817-220-7682.

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Fidelity National Title



Fidelity National Title takes pride in title and escrow services that meet customer demands for efficient and timely processing and quality products. Fidelity National Title is located at 224 W. Main St. in Azle and can be contacted at 817-270-0948. For more information, visit the website at https:// fntazle.com/.







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Attorneys: Beckham, Rector and Eargle, LLP

Congratulations Azle Area Chamber of Commerce on a great Sting Fling Festival!



Open Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm Sat - 8am - 2pm Sun - Closed

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

William **K** Ross **Properties**

Making space for businesses

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY

azlereporter@azlenews.net William K Ross Properties

is a commercial development in Springtown offering flex office warehouses.

If your business struggles to find a location with enough storage but moving into a typical warehouse is just too much for what you need, then bringing your business to William K Ross Properties might be the right solution.

Most small businesses need space. This could be space for inventory or materials, a place to park vehicles, or an area large enough to operate your business.

William K Ross Properties offers buildings ranging in size from 1,800 square feet up to 8,400 square feet. Each space includes a 12x12 airconditioned office area and an 8x8 restroom. The rest is

a warehouse space with a 14foot electric garage door.

Whatever your business needs, William K Ross Properties can customize and build to suit.

If you're starting a new company, looking to expand or relocate, Springtown is the place to be. William K Ross Properties is currently building a new industrial business park. Right now, they have two 1,800-squarefoot buildings ready for your business.

William K Ross Properties is located at 3056 W. Highway 199 in Springtown. They are open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday by appointment.

For questions or more information about finding the right space for your company, call 817-832-6019, or email emily@wkrossllc.com.

Chicken Express

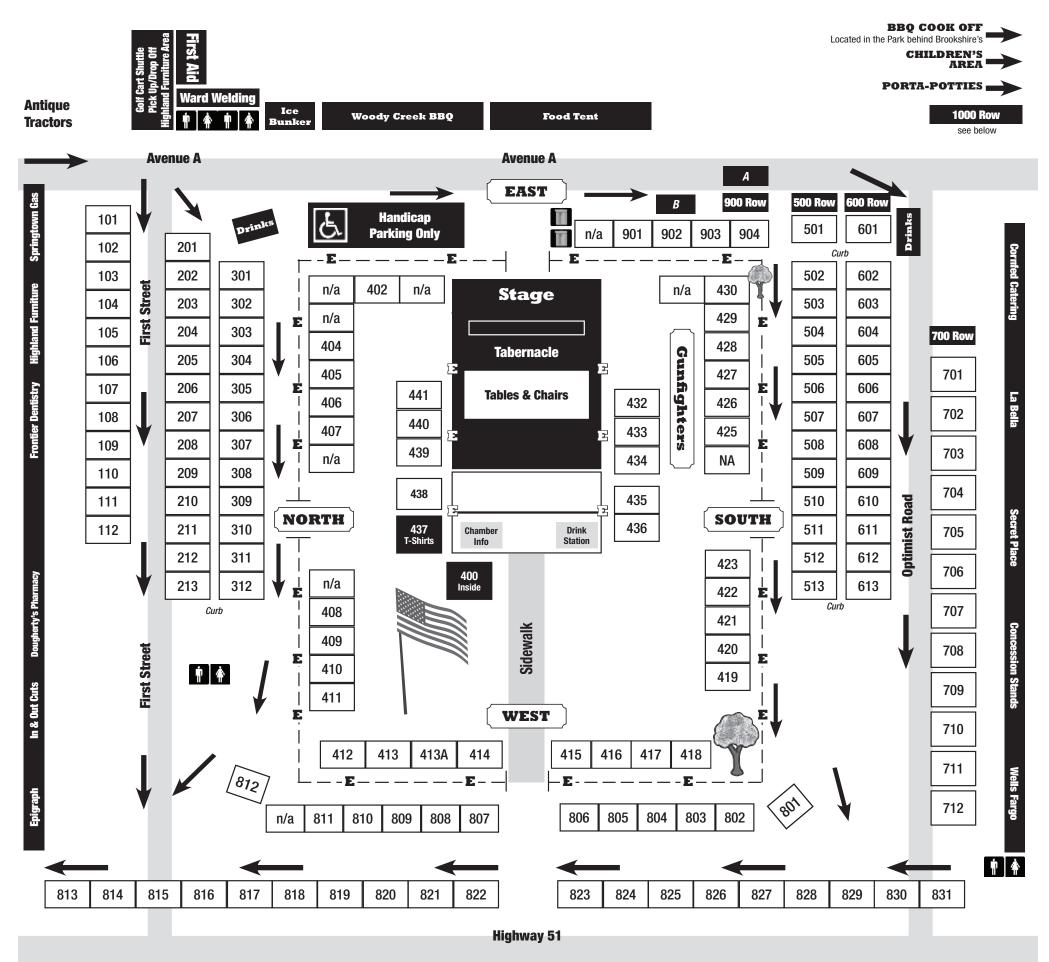


The Springtown "Chicken E" is a frequent hangout for diners of all ages. The mouth-watering chicken is fantastic, the sides enticing, and the sweet tea is famous throughout several states. Join the crowd of regulars and stop by 502 Highway 199 – or call ahead at (817) 523-0009 - and fill up on the best meal in town, Chicken Express.





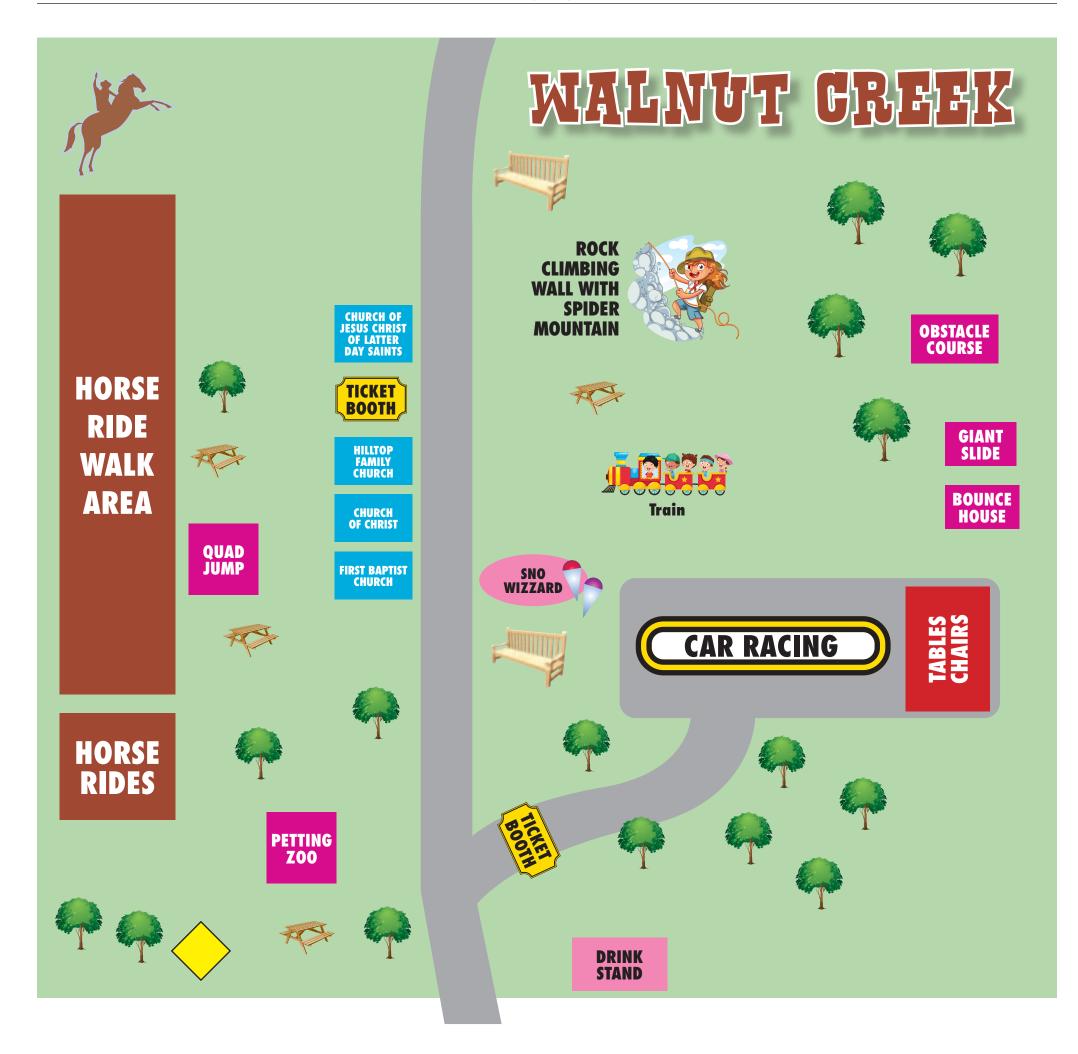




1000 Row and Children's Area Ave. A										\rightarrow	•						
1000 Row East Side	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	
1000 Row West Side	1000 Row West Side 1024		1025	1023	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017								

Wild West Booths on the Square

Booth #	VENDOR NAME	Booth #	VENDOR NAME	Booth #	VENDOR NAME
301	Brooke's Bouquets Fresh Floral Arrangements	504	Wise Acres Candies Jalepeno, BBQ Sauce, Pepper Jelly,	813	Angel's Accessories Women & Kids Clothes,
302	Springtown OES #498 Tickets/Information		Spices, Seasonings	014	accessories
303	Sweet Charity Clothing Co. New, Made in USA	505	American Home Builders Information	814	June Holt Creations Custom Tumblers & Apparel
004	Clothing & Accessories	506-7	Center of Hope Information	815	Arrogant Texan Décor & More Bullet Art, Animal Skulls, Leather Work, Jewelry
304	Euereka Masonic Lodge Raffle Tickets	508	First United Methodist Church Raffle - Quilt, Generator	816-17	Hibiscus Boutique Boutique Items
305	Maker's Lane TX Laser Engraved and 3D Printed Items (hats,cups,earrings, small toys)	509	Hooked Up Baits Fishing Lures	818-19	Tried and True Candle Candles
306-7	Wild Ace Boutique, LLC Women's Clothing/	510	Patriot Swim School Swimming Lessons Information	820	Hilltop Church Information
	Accessories	511-13	Texas Blade Barn Knives	821	McDonald's Games
308-9	Knob Hill Tabernacle Church Raffle Basket, Games,	602	Cub Scouts Pack 22 Popcorn/Shirts	822	Diamond B Roofing Information
	Fall Items	603	Icky & Sunshine's Face Painting Face Painting	823-25	Legacy Church Information
310	BeasHive Creations & Twisted O Kreations Car Freshies, Shirts, door mats, Croc charms,	604	Rusty Nail Wood Crafts	826	Sacred Fine Arts TX Art/Information
	Pom Pom tags, pens	605	Great Day Tax Relief, LLC information	827-28	Champion Group Enterprises Man Cave/Golf Cart
402	Gloria Creations Sewing	606-9	The Savage Belle Clothing/Jewelry	829-30	SPT Boutique & Barrels
404	Wilmer's Gourment Sauces Salsa	610	New Hope Baptist Church Information	831	Parker County Young Marines Information
405	Cookseys Cupcakes Cupcakes & Confections	611	Mary Kay Mary Kay Products	901-2	Trimble Sales
406	CBD American Shaman CBD/Vapes	612	The Spirit Tree Co. Crochet Items	903	SEWA-USA Covid-19 Information
407	Nana's Gone Crafty Crafts	613	Project Celebration Raffle	1001	GZ's Handcrafted Flatware, Crocheted Products
408	Tanna & Allie Sew Sewn Gifts: Aprons, Lavender Eye	701	Tent	1002	Shelly's Collectibles Embroidery/Sewing
	Pillows & SlipCovers,bags	702	Drinks	1003-4	Geosyn Mining, LLC Bit Coin Miner
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413A	Steel Hope tshirts/hero banners/flag tags	706	Chuck's Kabobs Chicken/Steak Kabobs	1010-11	Memaw's
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	Cooling Station		pickles/oreos		Lemonade
420	Parker County Republican Women Voter	801	Tri-County Church of Christ Information		Momma Rosa's Cocina & Taco Venero Tacos/
404	Registration	802	Euphoria Co. Springtown IV Hydration Sessions		Flautas/Burritos/Tamales SnoCones Gone Wild Extreme Milkshakes
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423	Pampered Chef Stoneware/Kitchen Tools	805	Burr Oak Leather Leather Goods	1024	Upper Trinity Water Conservation Information
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434 435	Springtown EEC Information	007 0	Phone Grips		ldren's Area
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The Community Bank: Keeping it local



The Community Bank in Springtown is located at 600 E. Highway 199 and can be reached at 817-523-8801 or online at www.onlinewithtcb.com. The bank offers online banking, mobile app, e-statements, bill pay, debit cards, 24-hour phone banking, money orders, wire transfers, night deposit, safe deposit boxes, merchant processing services and remote deposit capture.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Community Bank of Springtown opened its doors in October 2018, providing its clients with a locally owned bank.

The bank of Springtown is a branch of the original Community Bank, which was established in June 2007 in Bridgeport.

According to The Community Bank website, the location in Bridgeport is the "only locally owned and independently operated bank" in the town. The bank's board of directors and shareholders all have strong ties to the local community.

You are invited to come in and meet our new Branch Manager, Bruce McCarley.

The Community Bank's hours of operation are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday and motor bank drive-through is open from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday. The bank is located at 600 E. Highway 199.



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Bryce Gambill (back left), Aaron Sugg PTA, Joseph Marcum PTA, Dr. Craig Griebel PT, Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD, OCS, FAAOMPT, Kim Hilton, Dalene Perrin, Jayla Stevens (front left) and Lesli LueVanos are part of the team at MOSS Rehabilitation Center. We want to help you quickly recover from pain and injury so you can get back to living your life. Our therapists are highly certified and have years of valuable experience to help you on the path to living painfree. We are located at 407 Old Springtown Road, Suite 114, in Springtown. Our office is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.). For information about how we can help you or to schedule an appointment, call 817-220-6677.





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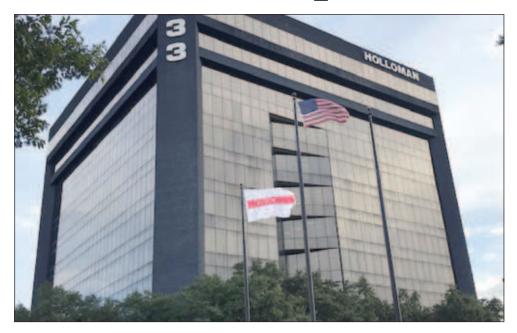
Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle



The team at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle provides quality care close to home for Parker and Northwest Tarrant counties. Located at 108 Denver Trail, Texas Health Azle is designated as a Level III Stroke Center and Level IV Trauma Center. Here, you can count on the best care for chronic disease management and valuable education programs for implementing lifestyle changes.

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Holloman Corporation is an engineering, procurement and construction company with capabilities to design, build, and service energy-related projects on a global level, according to the company website. Based in Houston, the company is actively involved in the oil and gas exploration industry, natural gas processing, infrastructure engineering and construction and the development of property for the purpose of construction on oil and gas-related projects. The company has a division office in Krum and can be contacted at 940-482-3442.





Pinnacle always available to help in banking, life

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lending a helping hand is just part of living in a small town.

The staff at Pinnacle Bank, sponsors of the 38th annual Wild West Festival, knows all about helping their neighbors both in the banking business and in life.

Their sponsorship of the town's annual festival is just one way Pinnacle Bank gives back to Springtown.

The bank's support of Wild West has a lot to do with its focus on community banking – a concept fostered by the home office in Nebraska several decades ago.

Pinnacle Bancorp was founded by a Nebraska banking family in 1938. That same family runs the organization today.

With the backing of a large

organization, the Springtown bank can provide its customers with all the services they need – from free checking and debit cards to an array of online banking services.

The bank also specializes in consumer, commercial, and real estate loans.

Paige Slate, Market President, says she feels blessed to work for a company that allows the Springtown Branch to invest time and money in our community.

To see how much Pinnacle Bank values community, see the stories at whycommunitymatters.com.

To use the bank's online services via the Internet, tap into www.pinnbanktx.com. Pinnacle Bank is located at 726 E. Hwy 199 in

Springtown.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Employees of the Springtown branch of Pinnacle Bank are, front row, Cynthia Salas, Erin White, Paige Slate, Kathy Lockhart and Caitlin Chong. Back row are Haylee Furr, Mindy Hokett, Hayden Holbrook, Shelby Cucuta and Amber Merrill.

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Texas Blue Skies Construction makes remodeling dreams come true for **Springtown area residents**





Texas Blue Skies Construction owner Chris Vinson

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas Blue Skies Construction provides home remodeling services to customers in Springtown as well as surrounding areas, such as Willow Park, Aledo and Weatherford. Customers trust Texas Blue Skies Construction to handle kitchen remodeling, bathroom remodeling as well as home renovations and additions.

For kitchen remodeling, Texas Blue Skies Construction can help with expanding the area, modernizing lighting, adding new countertops and custom cabinets, installing new appliances and changing the kitchen layout, among other projects. Kitchen remodeling projects range from \$53,000 to over \$100,000.

In bathrooms, customers can go to Texas Blue Skies Construction to replace countertops, adding in a new showers, tubs and vanities as well as new light fixtures and more, so that the bathroom feels like an at-home spa. Bathroom remodeling projects range from \$25,000 to more than \$63,000.

Texas Blue Skies Construction can also help residents rethink their homes by taking down walls to maximize space, updating fixtures and appliances, adding rooms or second stories and remodeling and repainting rooms, among other projects. Home renovations and additions range from \$150,000 to more than \$400,000.

All prices depend on the size of the work area, materials used and accessories as well as the customer's needs and wants for the project.

Texas Blue Skies Construction has successfully completed more than 20 bathroom remodeling projects, more than 10 home renovations and additions and more than five kitchen remodeling projects.

The process starts with filling out a form online and then getting a consultation over the phone and on-site. After a contract is signed, the design phase begins, and the home and customer are prepared for the work to start. Once the project is finished, Texas Blue Skies Construction sends out expert cleaners to clean up the work site. Texas Blue Skies Construction offers a fiveyear labor warranty, and the company checks in with its customers every six months for two years to ensure that residents are enjoying the renovation.

Honesty is very important to Texas Blue Skies Construction owner Chris Vinson. Vinson said he has seen other contractors in the industry be dishonest with their clients, which usually doesn't end well for the client. Vinson hopes to reach more people, so he can keep the dishonest contractors away from them and their homes.

"I love helping people just like you get the space you need to fit your lifestyle," Vinson said on his company's website. "The best way to do that is by being honest, communicative and humble. Then we can have an incredible experience together."

To schedule your consultation, visit Texas Blue Skies Construction's website at https://www.texasblueskiesconstruction. com/contact-us/ or call 817-694-8233.

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Midway Underground Solutions

PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

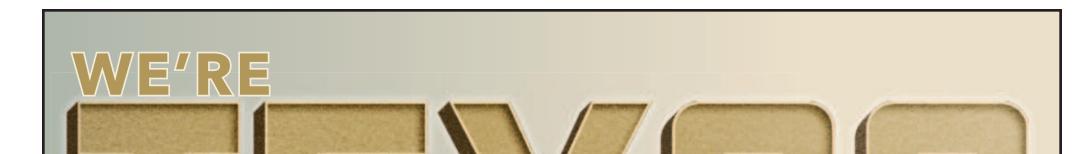
Employees at Midway Underground Solutions break for a moment one day last week at a job site in Springtown. Pictured here are Caleb Wynn, Joe Crow, Jeff McLeod and Dominic Rivera.

WILD WEST FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has made it its mission to ensure that residents that rely on the Upper Trinity Aquifer have clean water for many generations to come, protecting the rights of landowners, as well as the environment and ecosystem. To learn more about how UTGCD serves you, or for information about what you can do to be a responsible landowner, visit https:// uppertrinitygcd.com/, or call 817-523-5200. Their office is located at 1859 W. Highway 199 in Springtown.





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Reaghan Fortner encourages the student section to get loud during football games.

Springtown student riles up rah-rahs at gridiron games

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

ressing up in orange and black and leading chants and cheers from the student section at Porcupine Stadium was a favorite pastime of Reaghan Fortner during football games last year. Cheerleaders applauded her infectious spirit and encouraged cheer coach Chrissy Mayo to invite Fortner down to the sidelines for games this season. They even bestowed her with a moniker: Spirit Leader. "People started to recognize the spirit that I have for this school, and they gave me a title for it," Fortner said. "I'm friends with some of the cheerleaders, and they realized, 'Hey, Reaghan is at every single game, and she's always dressed up and going all out to get the student section going.

Before a recent game, Fortner handed out minimegaphones to students in the stands to help boost their volume during cheers.

"It's a really good feeling to know that the football team has so many support-

SEE SPIRIT, PAGE 2C.

Homecoming celebration set for Friday's football game

BY JEFF PRINCE

The teams met again on Sept. 9, this time in



jeff@azlenews.net

A new homecoming queen will be crowned on Friday night at Porcupine Stadium, and the football team will be working hard to even its record at 2-2.

Currently, the Porcupines are 1-2 after spending the previous Friday night trying to run through a brick wall known as the Hirschi Huskies.

The last time Springtown had battled the Hirschi Huskies was at the tail end of last season - Dec. 3, 2021. That's when the Huskies knocked the Porcupines out of the regional quarterfinals in Wichita Falls by the score of 32-6.

Springtown. The Porcupines were missing a key offensive player in Speck "Tabulous" Behle, who sat out the game with an injury, along with a couple of other players. Still, the Pines were fired up before the game.

Homefield advantage seemed to help the Porcupines hang tough early in the game, and the first quarter ended in a 0-0 draw.

Hirschi found its footing afterward. On the first play of the second quarter, the Huskies faced a fourth-andone situation on their own 38-yard line. Rather than punt, the Huskies gambled

PHOTO BY JEFE PRINCE SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 2C. Coach Sawyer Cooper talks to the offensive line in the first guarter of the Hirschi game.



PHOTO BY JEFE PRINCE Aubree Adams was Springtown's top blocker at the net in the victory over Blum.

Sports roundup

BY JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

SPRINGTOWN VOLLEYBALL RIDES WINNING STREAK TOWARD DISTRICT OPENER

The Lady Porcupines are on an impressive streak, winning their three most recent volleyball games and nine of their last 11.

One of the most exciting games occurred Sept. 9, when Springtown traveled to Blum and beat the Bobcats in three of four action-packed tight games: 27-25, 25-20, 21-25 and 31-29.

Brinklee Dauenhauer was the main slammer jammer, notching 25 kill shots and adding 26 digs to lead in both categories. Kylie Druxman logged 49 assists, and Sterlyn Smith led the team in aces. Aubree Adams blocked three shots.

On Friday, Springtown faces a tough Aubrey at home, a nonconference game to be

played in preparation for next week's district opener on the road against Krum. Springtown (16-12) will play Aubrey (21-8) at 4:30 p.m. Friday at home.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNERS FINISH STRONG AT DECATUR MEET

Springtown's cross-country team represented itself well on Sept. 10 when competing against more than 30 teams at the 15th Annual Decatur Assault on Eagle Summit track meet.

For the boys, Springtown varsity runner Wesley Payne finished in 16th place, and Jeremiah Duvall was 18th.

For the girls, Aubrey Mueller won fifth place with a personal record of 12:49. Shayne Greenwood earned 17th place.

Five other Porcupines set personal records, including Jake Chaires, Kylie Russell, London Smith, Layla Cox and Makayla Ballard.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE Parker Kirk, shown with coach Scott Mann, is ready to shoot video.

Freshman gains fresh perspective recording football games

BY JEFF PRINCE *jeff@azlenews.net*

Parker Kirk had never operated a professional video camera, but he volunteered to become an end zone digital videographer at Springtown Porcupine football games for his own reasons.

"I wanted to get into games free," he said. Three weeks ago, the fresh-

man attended his first varsity football game for free, although he earned his admission by filming the game from behind the end zone. The gig requires about three hours of his time each Friday. Kirk plays wide receiver, running back and linebacker on Springtown High School's freshman football team. Working a camera at varsity games gives him a fresh perspective on the sport.

"I get to see how the football game goes, see all the plays that we do," he said. "I get to watch all the players and learn more and see what happens. I'm looking for whatever I can find to see if I'm doing anything wrong. Maybe they can help me."

Before a recent game, Kirk stood alone behind the end zone while munching on a hamburger and fries. He was planning to train an understudy that night, but the trainee hadn't showed up yet.

Kirk's video camera was mounted on a tripod that extends about 40 feet into the sky for elevated angles. While recording, he focuses his lens on the interior linemen so they can study film on Saturday mornings and learn from their mistakes.

Digitally recording the action for the duration of a football game benefits Kirk in ways beyond just learning how to work a camera, he said.

"It teaches me to stay focused on my objective and always look ahead," he said.



From left, Daishune Elam breaks for daylight with blocking assistance from Conner King.

FOOTBALL FROM PAGE 1

and handed off the ball to a running back, who gained a yard and a half and a first down.

On the next play, the Huskies connected on a 60yard touchdown pass.

Perhaps trying to surprise Springtown, the Huskies attempted an onside kick. The Porcupines weren't fooled and recovered the ball near midfield with first and 10 and good field advantage.

Springtown quarterback Hudson Hulett hoped to take advantage of the short field and tie the game. Instead, a Hirschi player intercepted a pass. The Huskies offense took over at their own 44yard line and tossed a long TD soon after.

Then, Hirschi's defense nabbed a pick-six, and the Huskies took a 21-0 lead midway in the second quarter.

The Pines struggled to play catch-up but couldn't get much offense generated until the fourth quarter, when Springtown scored 21 points. Final score: Hirschi 50, Springtown 27.

Springtown head coach Brian Hulett said his staff and team didn't feel good about the outcome but did like certain things they had accomplished on the field and certain moments where they played good football.

"Unfortunately, moments aren't a game," he said. "We have to be better the entire time." The coach appreciated how his team worked during the game and how players responded after the loss.

"We had two seniors, Jeremy Morrow and Aaron Bowen, who played well up front but more importantly acted like senior returners should act," he said. "Overall, our boys bounced back and went back to work Saturday morning."

Panicking is not an option. "We feel the same way we do every week, 0-0 and trying to be 1-0," the coach said. "We believe a season is a long season, and each week should be taken separately, and along the way, we will group things together - like a two-week run or a month of tough games or non-district, etc. - and have mini goals within that time frame. Then, we are able to evaluate those goals, make others and get better."

This week's opponent might not be as intimidating as the Huskies. The Creekview Mustangs of Carrolton are 0-3 and have scored just 26 points in three games, but they are a big 5A team that plays tough competition in a large district.

"We expect Creekview to play like a 5A team should," Hulett said. "They will have some big kids and kids who are faster and more athletic than us. It's what we need to be facing. We need to respond accordingly, play fast and aggressive and for a full game."

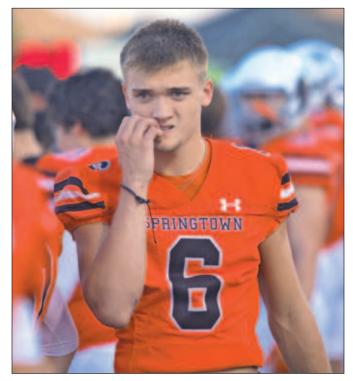


PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

The Porcupines were forced to play without their injured offensive standout Speck Behle.



PHOTO BY STEVEN MARTER Springtown's defense pressures Hirschi's quarterback.

Football Contest WEEK 3

Of this week's 12 contest games, the Indianapolis Colts vs. Houston Texans game ended in a tie and was omitted from the final tally. Several contestants picked nine of 11 games correctly, but only three players - Eddy Swanzy, Margaret Swanzy and Brett Horton - picked 10 games with accuracy. The winners were determined based on the tiebreaker game of Tampa Bay vs. Dallas, which ended at 19-3 for a total of 22 points. That means Horton, who guessed 44 tiebreaker points, won first place and \$20. Margaret Swanzy earned second place and \$10 by guessing 51 tiebreaker points, and Eddy Swanzy won third place and \$5 after predicting 55 points.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Reaghan Fortner raises spirits with the help of a megaphone and an eagle costume.





ers behind them," Fortner said. "Every home game, our stands are filled to the max. Even some of our away games are like that. It's just a really nice feeling for the football players to know that they have an entire town supporting them."

Cheer coach Chrissy Mayo said Fortner and other spiritminded students turn up the energy and fun at games.

She has plenty to do in addition to being spirit leader. She serves as student council president, Business Professionals of America president and National Honor Society secretary, and she competes in powerlifting while holding down a parttime job.

Next year, she hopes to attend Texas A&M or the University of North Texas to major in business.

"My dream some day is to open up a dog boarding school/rescue," she said.

"Her passion and love for our Porcupines really shows while she is leading our students in chants, cheers, call backs and even dances that everyone can participate in," Mayo said. "She always advocates for school spirit and stands for what a true Porcupine is. She goes out of her way to make every game and support our teams and takes pride in dressing up for our spirit themes each week."

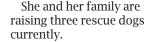
Fortner is also announcer at school pep rallies and "gets our entire school engaged in school spirit," the coach said.

Fortner feels good helping to boost spirit and spread love.

"It's a nice feeling of gratitude to be so involved in everything here at the high school," she said.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Reaghan Fortner holds one of the POJO signs painted by members of the Student Council before a recent game.



"They really opened up my mind to how intelligent and capable dogs are," she said.

Fortner was born in Anaconda, Montana, a city of about 5,000 people, where she and her brother "didn't really have the potential to grow," she said. In 2015, her family moved

to Springtown. Fortner was in the sixth grade and nervous on her first day of school.

It didn't take long to fit into the crowd and find her place.

"I've never regretted mov-

ing," she said. "It has opened

me up to so many opportunities and really given me the





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Deadline for entries 6 pm Friday at Highland Furniture. Winners can pick up their checks at the Epigraph office after Thursday.

• 2022 •

Official Rules:

There are 12 games listed in advertisements on this page. To enter, pick the winner and write the name of that team in the appropriate blank on the official entry form.

Deliver the form to Highland Furniture on the north side of the Square by 6 PM Friday.

Entries will be tabulated weekly and the results published in that week's issue of the Springtown Epigraph. Winners may pick up their checks at the office after Thursday. The first place winner each week will receive \$20, the second place winner \$10 and the third place winner \$5. The tiebreaker will be used to determine placings. In case of a tie, the money will be divided equally. To pick the tiebreaker, predict the total number of points in the selected game and enter in the appropriate space on the official entry form. All entries become the property of the Springtown Epigraph. Please write clearly and be sure to enter your pick in the correct blank. Second tiebreaker decided by whoever picks Azle and Springtown games correctly.

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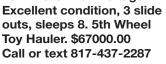
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Springtown/ Reno area

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034 Garage & Estate Sales

Moving Sale, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 15th-17th. 8am-3pm. 536 Old Springtown Rd. Furniture and lots of misc.

Huge Garage Yard Sale! Saturday, Sept. 17th 8A-3P, First United Methodist Church Springtown, 109 W. Third Street, Springtown. Clothes, toys, housewares, furniture, etc. Something for everyone! Come find your treasures!

5645 Sabatheny Rd, zip 76085. Thurs-Sun. Huge amount of new merchandise. 7 generators, 8 lawn mowers, 6 pressure washers, 2 gas & electric cook tops, 6 aluminum radiators, 20 inflatable pools 5x10, 1 heavy duty inflatable boat, 9 electric motors, 100 cabinet pulls, rear tine garden tiller, 50 rolls of electrical conduit, carpet stretcher, radial arm saw, table saw, compound slide miter, Mouser Carbine 6.5 Credemore, air purifier, 2 Craftsman tool sets, faucets- bath and kitchen. Thousands of smalls. 817-412-0125.

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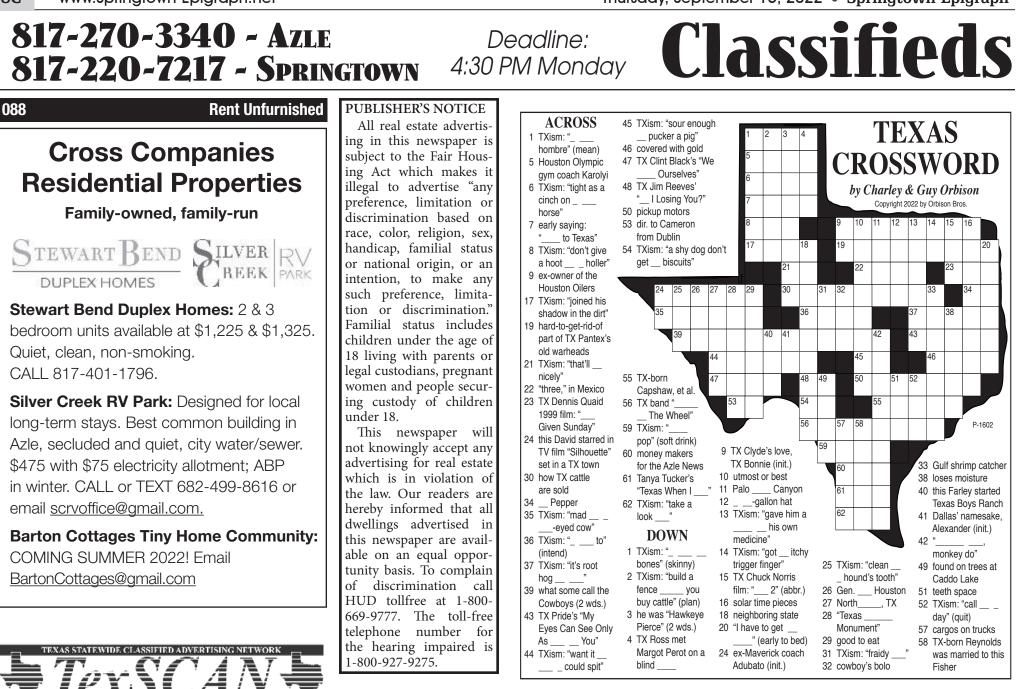


Or apply in person at 7461 W. Vickery Blvd.,

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Lindsey State Jail Current Openings **Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager Recruiting Sgt. • Education Counselor Education Clerk • Academic Instructor** PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS. A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months' there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer. Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department. Management & Training Corporation is an Equal **Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled**





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Huge Estate Auction – Thur., Sept. 22, starts at 9:01 a.m., 34960 West 51st St. S., Mannford, OK. Tiny home, dump truck, backhoe, bulldozer, semi truck, heavy duty trucks, tractors, trackhoe, horse trailers, zero turn mowers, trailers, welders, air compressors, implements, cattle panels, oil field pipe & pump jacks, horse saddles & tack, arena lights and more. Live on site & online bidding on Lots 1-43 Start at 12:31 p.m. Estate of Rick Bartlett. For more info & pictures, visit chuppsauction.com.

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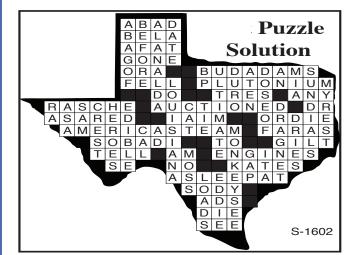
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