

# Family by blood, soldiers at heart

*Vietnam veteran follows family's footsteps into battle*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the second of two stories spotlighting area veterans in preparation for the special Veterans Day supplement to be released Nov. 10 in the Epigraph.

**BY ASHLEY INGE**  
Staff Writer

Freddie Williams was only 18 years old when he felt the call to enlist in the Army — a decision that was largely influenced by his family. Williams' father, two uncles and older brother all served in the military, leaving Williams with a tough, yet noble path to follow. His father and uncles all served in World War II, but in different branches. One of Williams' uncles also experi-

enced a traumatic encounter when he was held captive in a German prison camp for approximately 13 months. After his older brother Dwayne enlisted in the Army in 1965, Williams talked his cousin into enlisting with him a week later on a "buddy plan" — an Army program that guaranteed Williams and his cousin would attend basic combat and advance individual training together and then be assigned to the same first duty station after

SEE **VETERAN**, PAGE 10A.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Freddie Williams with his patrol in Vietnam.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Springtown Mayor Greg Hood is joined by representatives of the crisis intervention center Freedom House after he proclaimed October 2022 to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the city council meeting on Oct. 27. From left is Hood, advocate Debbie Buckman and Programs Manager Mary Lou Curry.

## Reno Elementary SRO promoted to full-time

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

Reno Elementary School parents, staff and students will be seeing school resource officer Ray Cannon a lot more often. Reno City Council approved promoting Cannon from a part-time officer to a full-time officer at a meeting last week. This change amounted to a decrease in cost for the city. Part-time officers are paid \$34,944 annually. To bring Cannon to full-time status, Springtown ISD is expected to pay \$28,000 annually, and the city will pay \$23,350.92 for the school resource officer, which is \$11,593.08 less than what the city was paying him as a part-timer. In all, Cannon's salary after the promotion is \$51,350.92, including \$7,670.92 in benefits.

SEE **SRO**, PAGE 6A.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Reno City Council approved promoting Reno Elementary School resource officer Ray Cannon from a part-time officer to a full-time officer at a meeting on Oct. 24.

## Reno City Council retains law firm to represent the city in disincorporation petition lawsuit

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

Reno City Council approved hiring a municipal law firm to represent the city in a legal case against Mayor Sam White related to the Reno disincorporation petition. At last week's meeting, the council members deliberated in closed session for about an hour before coming out to make their decision. In a 4-1

vote, the council approved retaining Messer, Fort and McDonald, PLLC. The opposing vote was cast by council member Jeff Davis, who participated in the meeting via Zoom. The cost of these legal services was capped at \$2,500. Reno residents Eric Hunter, Joy Jenkins and Jennifer Vogle filed a lawsuit against White to order him to call for the election for disincorpora-

tion. The plaintiffs claim that they submitted a petition with the correct number of required signatures needed to trigger an election, but the mayor did not order an election. After a review of the signatures, "the City of Reno review 'invalidated' enough signatures that the number of valid ones dropped below the requisite 400 number," the lawsuit states. The rea-

sons the city gave for invalidating signatures were that residents had moved from the city after signing the petition, the same person signed for all household members, and some signatures were illegible. The lawsuit claims that those reasons are not valid to reject a voter's signature. "The defendant had no business attempting to 'go behind' any of the challenged

signatures," the lawsuit states. "Instead, Defendant's duty was to order an election under Ch. 62, Tex. Local Gov't. Code, on the question of abolition of the corporate existence of the City of Reno." Since this matter is still legally pending, White declined to comment other than to say that legal advice is being

SEE **LAWSUIT**, PAGE 3A.



FILE PHOTO  
Mayor of Reno Sam White



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# Raising music lovers: Springtown singers selected to perform in regional choirs

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

When eighth grader Gracelynn Yochum found out that she earned a spot in the Region 30 Middle School All-Region Choirs, she couldn't wait to spread the word.

"I literally ran into my room and texted everybody," she said, laughing.

Going into the audition last month, Gracelynn said she was nervous at first but felt better when she started her audition because she couldn't see the judges. The auditions concealed the performers' identities from the judges,

which is a tactic that is used to prevent bias.

"I felt like I did OK, like decent," she said. "Then when I got home, my mom told me I made region, and then I was like literally so excited."

Gracelynn was one of the 19 Springtown Middle School choir students who participated in the All-Region audition. In all, the audition included about 1,000 students in the region.

Gracelynn and seventh grader Kohen Egger will represent Springtown Middle School at the All-Region Choir Concert on Saturday at Weatherford High School.

Gracelynn will be performing in the Select Treble Choir, and Kohen will sing in the Tenor-Bass Choir.

Kohen said he loves to sing, and he attributed his talent to his mother, who sings on the worship team at their church. He hasn't sung on the worship team, but he hopes to do that someday.

Like Gracelynn, Kohen was also nervous heading into the audition, but ultimately, he thought he performed well.

"I just put my mind on just singing and doing good and thinking about the positive stuff," he said, describing his strategy to shake off the

nerves.

Once he heard the audition results, he excitedly alerted his family members. As for his musical mother, "She was proud of me," Kohen said.

Springtown Middle School varsity choir students learned the three audition songs, three for the girls and three for the boys, middle school choir teacher Brooke Christoffersen said. In the auditions, the students performed a 30-second section of each song, based on the region chairperson's choosing.

The students were sorted to groups based on their vocal parts - soprano, alto,



COURTESY PHOTO

Gracelynn Yochum and Kohen Egger will represent Springtown Middle School at the All-Region Choirs concert on Saturday at Weatherford High School. Gracelynn will be performing in the Select Treble Choir, and Kohen will sing in the Tenor-Bass Choir.



COURTESY PHOTO

Springtown High School students auditioned at region in mid-September, and some of them will be performing at the Texas Music Educators Association Region V and VII Concert on Nov. 12 at Stephenville High School.

tenor, bass - and the judges selected the best performers for the All-Region Choirs. Christoffersen said Gracelynn and Kohen, a soprano and a bass respectively, competed against 80-90 other students and only about half or less were selected.

"We're very excited for those two," Christoffersen said.

For the concert in Weatherford, Christoffersen said the students will perform about half of the songs they have already learned along with one more song.

Christoffersen described the Springtown Middle School varsity choirs as younger groups with more kids in seventh grade than eighth grade. A lot of the students had never done the audition before, she said, and the music they had to learn was difficult and more akin to high school-level music.

"This was a brand-new experience for them, and I thought they all did really well. We had several who came very close to actually making the choir,"

SEE CHOIR, PAGE 3A.



COO  
**SAM HOUSTON**  
Hyde Media Group

Publisher  
**KIM WARE**  
publisher@azlenews.net

Editor  
**DON MUNSCH**  
editor@azlenews.net

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COURTESY PHOTO  
Springtown Middle School choir students participated in the All-Region audition last month. In all, the audition included about 1,000 students in the region.

## CHOIR

FROM PAGE 2A

Christoffersen said. "I think next year, some of those seventh graders will probably - now that they're more prepared - will probably make it."

Christoffersen attributed Gracelynn's and Kohen's success to their work ethic. Both attended rehearsal sectionals, took note of constructive feedback from choir teachers and practiced at home.

However, the middle school choir teacher was quick to point out that the Springtown students who didn't pass the audition also worked hard. She said sometimes the auditions boil down to luck on audition day.

"It always kind of depends on just how the auditions go that year, so we had a lot of really competitive schools that we were going up against," Christoffersen said. "We only have 19 kids audition, and some of these schools have hundreds of kids at the audition. But, even the ones who didn't make it really put in a lot of really hard work, so I was just really impressed overall with how hard all the kids worked."

Choir teaches kids individual accountability, teamwork and a love for music, Christoffersen said.

"This is kind of their first exposure to what serious choral music is like," she

said. "At first, some of them were kind of like, 'I don't know if I like this,' but then they started getting into it, and they absolutely loved the more difficult pieces that were in foreign languages and things that they really wouldn't be used to. So that's another thing, I think it teaches them a love and appreciation for music that they don't ordinarily listen to."

### HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The regional audition in middle school choir is a steppingstone to the All-State Choir audition process that they can participate in during high school, Christoffersen said.

That process has already begun for Springtown High School choir students. SHS students auditioned at region in mid-September, and some of them will be performing at the Texas Music Educators Association Region V and VII Concert on Nov. 12 at Stephenville High School.

Similar to the middle school auditions, the high school students learned a few songs and auditioned with a cut of those songs, SHS choir teacher Holly Owen said. The students are then ranked by their performance. Out of about 308 students auditioning, the top 50 are selected, she said.

The SHS students who will advance to the Pre-Area competition and will perform with the Region Mixed Choir

are Ava Guerra in fourth chair, Landon Edwards in ninth chair, Hailey Hughes in ninth chair, Malia Vincent-Wilson in ninth chair and Seth Wright in ninth chair. Owen Williams is first alternate, and Gunnar Remington is second alternate.

The students who made it to the Treble Honor Choir are Megan Sanderson in 11th chair, Madylyn Merendon in 14th chair, Skylia Hayes in 15th chair, Marina Cox in 16th chair, Lilly Baleisis in 17th chair and Jaime Hughes in 20th chair.

"I am so proud of these kids," Owen said. "They've worked so hard."

The All-State Choir audition process pushes students to grow individually and that ultimately makes the SHS choir stronger as a whole, Owen said.

"What I really love about this audition process is it really encourages personal growth and starts off our year with those kids being really motivated to work hard to grow as musicians and to push themselves harder, which makes us a better choir in the end," she said. "It really helps us prepare for like the things for our concerts and for the UIL concert in sight reading that we do in April where we get to compete as a whole group. I think the region process is more about making them stronger as individuals so that we really get to be a stronger choir."

## LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1A

sought.

The lawsuit claims that the Parker County Elections Office verified 423 signatures. County Election Administrator Crickett Miller said an individual asked the elections office to review the petition for Reno registered voters, but her office did not validate the veracity of the signatures and was not given criteria to follow.

Miller confirmed that the city — not the county — oversees validating the signatures.

"In all actuality, the county doesn't have anything to do with it. It's the city," she said.

### OPPOSING VIEWS

Some petitioners — including Jenkins and Vogle, who are plaintiffs in the lawsuit — spoke at the council meeting on Oct. 24 in favor of calling for an election on the disincorporation matter. They claimed that signatures were falsely rejected because the city and mayor are trying to avoid an election.

"Their voices have been suppressed only because the city was looking for enough voters to reject so they would fall below the 400-mark, giving the city an

excuse to keep the issue off the ballot," Jenkins said during the meeting.

Reno resident Diane Blair said residents should be given a chance to vote on the disincorporation issue, no matter what city officials think of the issue.

"We're not giving any opportunity for people to oppose or accept this, which doesn't make any sense," Blair said.

Offering an opposing viewpoint, Reno resident Brian Schrader argued that the city and council acted with good faith and transparency.

"If you have questions to the validity of the rejection of signatures, why not work with the council on these reasons rather than bringing a petty and frivolous lawsuit and then complaining at what it might cost the city?" Schrader said.

After the council adjourned into closed session, Hunter — who is also a plaintiff on the lawsuit — claims he had asked White to discuss the validity of the signatures but was turned down.

"I asked the mayor to sit down with me and look at the Secretary of State's website and what they say about invalid signatures, which ones are invalid, which ones are not. At that time, we didn't have any legal representation, but they're try-

ing to use the excuse, 'Well, since you're represented, I can't talk with you,'" Hunter said. "I just want to talk to you citizen to mayor and discuss this and ask you to have an open mind about it."

Some speakers also argued that it would be unfair to use taxpayer dollars to fund White's legal fees.

"Why not just avoid paying for an attorney with taxpayer money by just following the law and put the petition to disincorporate on the ballot?" Vogle said during the meeting. "Why should the taxpayers pay for the legal fees for Sam White when all this could be avoided by simply putting it on the ballot? Why should we have the citizens pay to take away our right to vote on an item that 499 citizens want to be heard on?"

Ladonna Miller argued that the city and council should support White because he was acting in his role as mayor and therefore, the city is associated to the lawsuit.

"I believe a strain will be placed on the city's and the city council's reputation, credibility and culpability if it is decided not to support an elected city official who was performing their civic responsibilities," she said at the council meeting.

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# The inevitable changing of the guard will soon be upon us

One thing certain in life is change being constant. No matter how well-managed and organized you believe your life to be, no matter how well things are going, no matter the positives that are taking place, some event will happen to create change. Humans seem predisposed to be afraid of change. Frequently upon learning of the circumstances that cause the change, they react negatively. They fear the uncertainty of what is to come and fret over how the change will alter events in their life. It causes people to toss and turn in their bed, eat only a portion of their meal, and become grumpy or distant. Sometimes change can be like



## FROM MY FRONT PORCH

By Sam Houston

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

a giant elephant resting on your shoulders, weighing a person down.

In the two years the new ownership has operated the Hood County News, we have undergone a massive amount of change. We have gone from what was an 8- or 10-page newspaper to a 16-to-24-page publication. We have added staff, expanded our operation to include three additional newspapers, and increased the volume of our

outside printing jobs. Some of the changes have been difficult on the staff. They have been forced to move outside their comfort zone, change from the ways they have done things for years, and to adapt to new technology and processes. It has been a challenge for all of us, but we have made it through. But now, even more new challenges await us.

Over the next 60 days, three of our very best em-

ployees will be retiring from our organization. With those retirements, 75 years of newspaper experience will walk out the door. These are people I have worked with closely since my first day at the paper. Without question, they have strived to pass on their knowledge to me and to others. They have been committed "newspaper" people for a large portion of their adult life.

While I celebrate their retirement as they move on to the next stage in their lives, I am deeply saddened to lose my co-workers and friends. Words will never be able to express the respect and admiration I have for them, nor the love I have in my heart.

They will be missed. They have made my life experience so much richer and better.

The change will bring new staff, new ideas, and we will continue to evolve as a newspaper group. It is my intent to continue to expand our coverage, and to be a bigger, better, more informative newspaper than ever before. We want to be your "source" for news in Hood County and in all the locations where we have a newspaper. We want to evolve, adapt and remain meaningful in an ever-changing world.

Over the next few weeks, I am certain my column will reflect specific words of congratulations to the retirees, and I will undoubtedly wax

poetic of their skills and talents. They deserve that public acknowledgement. In the meantime, the remaining staff will be working and attempting to fill the very large shoes that will soon be empty. But we are not afraid, nor do we fret. This is but another change in the never-ending changes that occur in life. Opportunity, growth, refinement and improvement are on the horizon. My staff is ready to run ahead. The future is an exciting place. No fear lives here.

Thought for the day: There really are two lives we live. The first life and then the second life when we realize we only have one life. Until next time.

# Behind the Mask

"Who are you? Who, who, who, who? I really want to know."

There are at least three possible responses to that quote.

I remember the 1978 recording by The Who.

I recognize the theme song from CSI (2000-2015) or the reboot CSI: Vegas (2021).

I don't know what this guy is talking about.

Ok, maybe there's a fourth: I can't figure out your Halloween costume.

As I write this post, Mrs. Sweetie and I are preparing for our annual Halloween tradition of turning off all the lights in the front part of the house so we can hide out in the back and pretend we're not home.



## BE AMAZING

By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover their AMAZING. He is an author, musician, and speaker, and a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at [www.discoveryouramazing.com](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

It's not that we have any objections to Halloween. We've just never really had trick or treaters in our neighborhood and I don't need all the leftover candy that we would have if I got some on the outside chance someone might stray in our direction.

And we're on-the-go enough that a quiet evening at home has great appeal.

On this particular day (and for the past few since Halloween tends to be a "sea-

son" rather than a day), many folks wear masks and/or costumes to hide their true identity and pretend for a day to be someone besides who they really are.

In other words, to do something for a few days for fun that many of us do all the time.

Maybe not so much the costume and mask part, but the hiding the truth about who we are part.

I think there are varied rea-

sons why we may "mask up" sometimes.

It could be that we are insecure. We think that if people really know who we really are they won't like us or approve of us. Or we think their expectations of us are above our capacity to deliver.

In the current climate of finger-pointing, posturing, mistrust, and whataboutism, those may be legitimate insecurities.

It could be that we are ashamed. We've all done some dumb stuff. We've all messed up and, in some ways, we ARE messed up.

And since we have a tendency to define people by what they did when they were at their worst, we figure that we bet-

ter hide behind something so that OUR worst won't see the light of day.

There could be other reasons, but I don't want to spend the entire post on all the possibilities.

Here's what I want us all to understand: the masks we wear can become a heavy burden when we are constantly adjusting our persona to try to fit with the expectations of the moment.

This morning I read these words: "Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did." (1 John 2:6).

As a person of faith, I want people to see things in me that look like the faith I proclaim. If I'm not careful, that

will result in more masks and more insecurity because I fall so short of looking like Jesus.

But here's the kicker—that verse doesn't say I should look like Jesus. It says I should live like Jesus did.

Jesus was perfect in every way. He never messed up. That's beyond me. I can't imitate that.

But THE WAY he lived was CONSISTENTLY and INTENTIONALLY. He didn't try to impress anyone. People were drawn to Him by the way that He loved them as He told them the unvarnished truth.

THAT I can do if I only will. And that would be amazing.

Be amazing today, my friend.

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# Early voting ends Friday, election is Tuesday, Nov. 8

## EARLY VOTING ENDS FRIDAY; ELECTION IS TUESDAY, NOV. 8

Early voting for the general election ends on Friday, Nov. 4, with the closely watched governor's race pitting incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott against challenger Beto O'Rourke headlining the ballot. A number of other statewide races are on the ballot, including lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and comptroller.

Voters can find polling places in their county by visiting [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov). Those voting early can visit any location in the county in which they're registered. However, those who choose to vote on Election Day must go to the specific precinct in which they live.

## DPS DIRECTOR SAYS HE WON'T RESIGN

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw is fending off calls for his resignation in light of his department's handling of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde last May, in which 19 students and two teachers died. However, McCraw said "every responding officer needs to be accountable for their actions," according to the Austin American-Statesman. The Texas Rangers, an arm of the DPS, reportedly are investigating several troopers among the 90 who were on the scene. DPS Sgt. Juan Maldonado was fired recently for his role in the shooting response.

As the Statesman report-



## 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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

ed, officers from multiple law enforcement agencies delayed confronting the gunman for 77 minutes even as those trapped inside called for help.

McCraw said the Rangers' investigation will be complete by year's end.

## REPORT CARD: TEXAS STUDENTS LAG IN MATH

Like students across the country, students in Texas are struggling to recover from learning losses stemming from the pandemic, particularly in math, the Nation's Report Card indicates. Officially called the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the test is administered in reading and math for a sample of students in 4th and 8th grade roughly every two years, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The bright side appears to be that students in Texas showed more progress than most in their academic recovery, TEA reported. Reading scores for Texas students are not statistically different than in 2019, the last time the test was administered — and before the pandemic struck. However, math scores are significantly lower than they were in 2019.

"Results from the 2022 Nation's Report Card highlight the hard work of Texas teachers and students. While we are largely recovering from the effects of the pandemic in reading, much work remains in math," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

## STATEWIDE VETERANS' HIRING EVENT

Texas veterans, service members and their spouses are invited to participate in this year's Hiring Red, White & You! statewide hiring event, which began Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 18 with in-person and virtual events across the state.

Hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission, along with workforce development boards and other agencies, the hiring fair connects veterans, transitioning service members and spouses with Texas employers seeking their skills and experience. The state is home to more than 1.7 million veterans and current military members.

Employers who hire veterans could be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$9,600. The event in the past 10 years has worked with more than 20,000 employers, connected

more than 144,000 job seekers to job opportunities, and helped facilitate 3,198 same-day hires.

The events are free. Job seekers can find more details at [twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you](http://twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you).

## AGRICULTURE STILL SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DRIVER

While the state's large cities are experiencing considerable population growth, agriculture continues to be a big part of the Texas economy. Farming and ranching operations can be found in every part of the state — citrus crops in the Rio Grande Valley, cotton in the High Plains, rice paddies in the Coastal Plains, cattle ranches in West Texas and timber in East Texas.

The state comptroller's office reported nearly \$25 billion in cash receipts in 2021 from the Texas agricultural industry, the fourth-highest among all states

— trailing only California, Iowa and Nebraska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports the state has 247,000 farms (ranches are considered a type of farm), more than double the next two states, Missouri and Iowa.

Cattle represent the state's top ag commodity, with 40.4% of the cash receipts generated. The top three commodities are cattle, dairy and poultry, according to USDA.

## DRY WEATHER TEMPER DEER SEASON EXPECTATIONS

Dry weather throughout much of the state as deer season approaches is tempering expectations for the general white-tailed deer season, which begins Saturday, Nov. 5.

"A number of hunters and landowners report seeing lots of deer, especially younger deer," said Alan Cain of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. "Part of that is a result of good fawn crops

the last couple of years, so there's more bucks in those younger age classes relative to bucks in that four- to six-year-old range. As we move into November and closer to the rut, those older bucks should increase movement activities in search of does, hopefully presenting an opportunity for a lucky hunter."

Drought impacts on deer habitats have adversely affected antler quality, Cain added.

## COVID-19 CASES STAY STEADY

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in Texas during the past week stayed steady at 11,667, with 81 new deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas, as reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services, was essentially unchanged at 1,042.

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Be Well Primary Care has been serving the area for two years, and recently welcomed Dr. Joshua Richard to the staff in July.

Dr. Richard is a Sports Medicine and Family Medicine-trained physician. He has trained at UT Southwestern in Dallas and is finishing his fellowship training at Texas Tech University Health Center in Lubbock. He is a proud lifelong resident of DFW.

Although the clinic only sees patients 16 and older for primary care, Dr. Richard can see children 12 and older for sports medicine treatment, including concussion man-

agement and other sports-related injuries.

Working alongside Dr. Richard is Eric Bash, Physician Assistant. Bash served in the U.S. Air Force as a surgical technologist and earned his degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Bethel University in Tennessee before returning to Texas.

The entire team at the clinic will work together to find a complete balance to your health, relieve pain, and help you get back to feeling like your best self.

Be Well Primary Care is located at 721 Southeast Pkwy. in Azle, next to White's Funeral Home. A ribbon cutting will be held Nov. 10 at 5 p.m.

They are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they close for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Be Well Primary Care accepts most commercial insurance plans, including Medicare.

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## ON FISHING

## When is usually the 'best time' to catch bigger hybrid stripers?

I was questioned recently on when is the best time to catch a big hybrid striper. Well, there are definitely times that are better than others, but a big fish can be caught any time of the year.

I struggle with these types of questions as any generalization made can be refuted. I do know based on my experience on the water when I have been more likely to catch big fish, namely stripers and hybrids. Big largemouth bass are more typically caught in the winter, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Share-a-Lunker program is set up for this interval. This interval lasts many months, but many of the big fish are caught in the first few months of the year.

Striper bass and their cousins in the hybrid striped bass have some differences and similarities. The biggest difference is the fact that the hybrid striped bass is more tolerant of the Texas heat. First, let's cover the striped bass



## ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. He has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

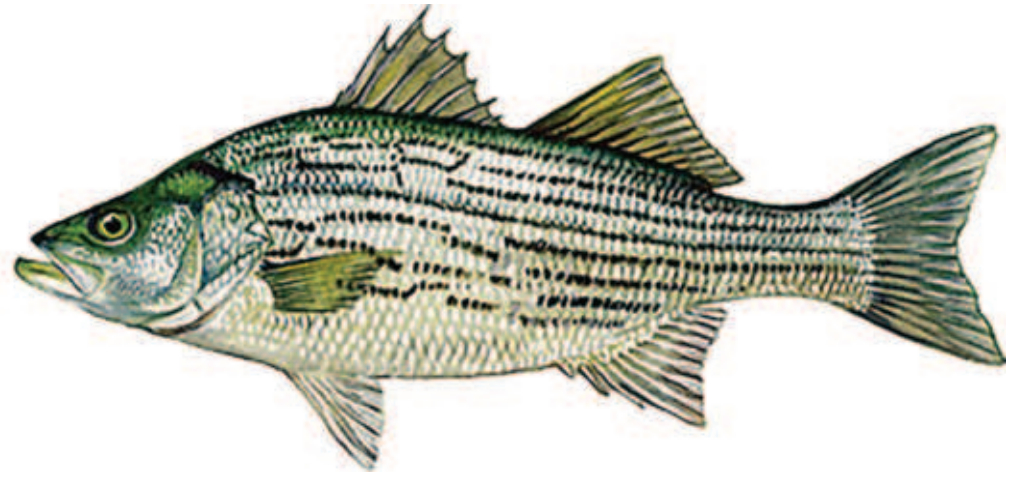
and then follow that with the hybrid striped bass.

Striper bass in freshwater in Texas do not generally grow to the massive sizes (50 to 60 pounds) like they do on the East Coast and in Arkansas. According to biologists, the heat is more stressful to the larger fish and it is difficult for them to get really big. Twenty pound fish can usually be found but these are few and far between. The really big fish in Texas have historically been caught in the tailraces below dams where relatively cool oxygenated water can be found year-round. These tailraces typically have plenty of food available for the stripers to feed on. Spring-fed holes where water temperatures

are cooler can also hold big fish in the summer as well.

In my opinion, your best chance to net a big striper is in the winter. Of course the fall and the spring produce big fish as well, but in my experience more numbers of bigger stripers come after the first freeze in the upper tributaries or creeks feeding most impoundments. Typically, this pattern starts around the first week in December plus or minus a few weeks depending on the weather.

The water in the upper ends of the reservoir is typically shallower and tends to warm quicker than the main lake in the winter, which eventually congregates the baitfish (the baitfish move to the warmer water). With



Hybrid striped bass are a cross of white and striped bass species.

the baitfish congregated, the predators are usually not far behind. I have noticed as well that the bigger fish tend to travel more. The smaller fish will generally stay in the main reservoir. I am sure this is not always true, but I believe this fall migration has to do something with the spawning urge at certain water temperatures.

Striper bass prefer the cooler water and will gorge themselves. These winter fish are extremely healthy and obese and will weigh more. The big females will also have developing egg sacks. Conversely in the dead of summer the fish are much thinner due to the stress of the warmer water.

Fall and spring are also great times to catch big stripers. These fish will push baitfish up in the shallows. These fish are definitely more active and this shallow water/top water action is an exciting time. In the dead of winter, the baitfish are more lethar-

gic and you have to slow down your presentation to get those big sows to bite.

Though I fish year-round, winter fishing is by far my most favorite time. The fish are more apt to hit artificial baits and the action is really good.

Big hybrid stripers are also catchable in the winter on artificials. However, my experience over the years tells me that this species generally prefers to feed during the warmer part of the day more so than the full-blooded striper. I am sure on those really cold days all species approve of warming temperatures. One thing for sure is that the hybrid striper species are just as healthy and obese as their full-blooded cousins in the colder water.

The big difference to hybrid striper fishing that I alluded to earlier is the fact that big hybrids can be caught in the dead of summer. When the full-blooded striped bass is stressed due to the heat and

the action is slower on area lakes, the hybrid striped action can be tremendous.

Hybrids can be stressed by the heat as well, but not like the striper. In fact, some of my biggest hybrids have been caught in the middle of the summer. The trick to catching big hybrids in the summer is to locate deep main lake humps and points. These big boys will be positioned throughout the summer in these same locations. When they do start to feed, a large gizzard shad (8 to 10 inches) will be easily wolfed down.

Stripers and hybrids are great fighting fish. They get relatively big and are a blast to catch. Hybrids don't get quite as big as a striper, but the white bass part of their makeup make them the hardest fighting fish in freshwater for their size. The hybrid striper is a cross between a striped bass and a white bass, which is the reason why they can handle the Texas heat better.

## FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are near the 70-degree mark. Best action continues to be crappie on jigs and minnows fish near structure. Small striped bass and white bass are slow to fair mid-lake. Look for any surface action. Catfish action is picking up with the lowering temperatures with some big blues being caught up to 20 pounds. Black bass fishing is good in numbers on soft plastics with an occasional bigger fish to 7 pounds. Look for topwater action early. Keeper-sized striped bass are slow to fair on live shad in town and on the lower ends near Blue Water Shores.

Comanche Creek, which just reopened, continues to be on fire for Tilapia, Largemouth bass and catfish. Limits of channel catfish are good on prepared and cut baits. Largemouth bass are being caught on most every type bait, and it is possible to catch 50-plus fish a day. Tilapia are abundant and many are catching them using cast nets.

## SRO

FROM PAGE 1A

"In the past events of what's been going on with schools, it would be a black eye to the city of Reno if something - God forbid - were to happen over there, and we're not aware of what's going on with city hall being across the street and the police department being across the street," Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner said during the council meeting.

Reno Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said during the meeting that Cannon is expected to spend all his time at the school, unless he is called away to help out with a critical incident. Stringer said Cannon's job will focus on keeping the school safe and community outreach through educational programming.

Cannon, a 25-year law enforcement veteran, spoke during the meeting and described

his job duties as making sure the school building is secure, monitoring traffic during drop-off and pick-up times and leading presentations about stranger danger, using 911 and internet safety. He has also been trained to handle active shooter situations.

"My concern is simply to provide a safe atmosphere for our kids and to get them used to dealing with police officers, understanding who we are, and I've had the opportunity to go and speak to several of them, speak to several classes," Cannon said. "I high-five the kids, and I'm kicking around with them. I'm also helping them out with some of the special needs kids and some of the disciplinary issues that come up and some of the kids that have behavioral issues. About the last 10 years, I've been a mental health police officer, so I'm trained specifically to deal with those types of situations."

Cannon's presence at Reno Elementary School has been evidently appreciated. Elsner said Cannon has "built a really good rapport" with the Reno Elementary School principal, and SISD dubbed Cannon a VIP - Very Important Porcupine - on Facebook last week.

"He has stepped up and met whatever the needs of the students and staff are each day," stated the SISD Facebook post. "From drop off, lunch duty, dismissal, to things such as meeting with groups of students for enrichment, he is already such an asset to Springtown ISD and Reno Elementary School."

The council's Deputy Pro-Tem Hermendo Herrera said during the meeting that Cannon's full-time presence at Reno Elementary School is needed.

"You're already making a difference. I mean, I see you at PTA, the principal's

comments on your presence there," Herrera said. "My granddaughter goes to school at Reno Elementary, so I'm going to have to admit I'm a bit biased."

After the meeting, Mayor Sam White said the city's partnership with SISD to have Cannon as the school resource officer was a good move.

"He's good with kids. He's good with people," White said. "I think it's the best move for Reno's safety for our kids that we pitched in with the school district."

Reno resident Brenda Spradlin, who sometimes works as a substitute teacher at Reno Elementary, also spoke about Cannon's service with high praise.

"I've seen this officer interacting with the kids, especially the boys, talking some sense into them," Spradlin said. "I'm very grateful to have him at the school when I'm there. He's a real value."

## OBITUARIES

Charles Markum III  
1985 - 2022

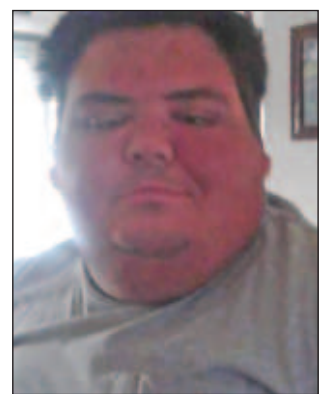
Charles Wesley Markum III, 37, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in Azle.

He was born January 30, 1985, to Charles Wesley Markum Jr. and Lisa (Sill) Markum in Fort Worth.

Charles was a security guard employed by Allied Security. He enjoyed playing BINGO. Charles loved animals and especially his dogs, Rocky and Rosco. He had a big loving heart and was dearly loved by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Jeffery Markum; grandparents Dale and Nellie Sill; and uncle Dale Sill.

Charles is survived by his fiancé Angel Hammett; mother Lisa Markum; brother, David Markum; uncles,



Curtis Sill, Gary Sill and his wife Melissa; aunts Diana Robertson, Connie Markum, Didi Markum, Sandy Hurley and Molly Markum; along with numerous cousins, extended family and friends.

The Springtown Epigraph,  
Nov. 3, 2022 Edition

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# Walnut Creek SUD upholds water restrictions

*County extension agent gives tips on growing lawns while conserving water*

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

Some Walnut Creek Special Utility District customers are having trouble with a builder not installing sod and irrigation systems for their new homes because of the district's watering restrictions.

At last month's Walnut Creek SUD board meeting, Office Manager Paula Spence said clients have told her that the yard and sod are included in their new home contract, and they can't have their yard installed until all water restrictions have been lifted.

However, Walnut Creek SUD has had Stage 1 water restrictions in place for years, which limits outdoor watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to twice a week and only during the late evening, night and early morning hours.

"These people have the cost of the yard and irriga-

tion in their mortgage that they're paying, and the builder will not put the yard in because we still have these restrictions," Spence told the SUD board members.

Spence said that, to her understanding, the contracts call for a fully functioning yard with grass that isn't dead, and these homeowners are essentially paying for sod and an irrigation system that hasn't been installed.

Spence also said this issue is occurring with one builder, who was not named, and that other builders were installing sod and sprinkler systems regardless of the water restrictions.

Board members questioned why the water restrictions were tied to the lawn being installed.

"Why does it matter to the builder if the grass dies tomorrow?" board member Jim Cox said.

SUD General Manager Steve Harris said the builder

wants to run the sprinkler system seven days a week to establish the grass. He recommended that the board continue the water restrictions without exceptions, which is the direction the board took.

"Customers need to start thinking about planting plants and grass that require less water than some of the things that they're doing because these water restrictions are likely to be with us for a while," Harris said after the meeting.

## GROWING LAWNS WHILE CONSERVING WATER

Establishing a lawn from seed is a process. Initially, keeping the soil and roots moist is important, and then watering can be reduced after the first month of growth, said Jay Kingston, Parker County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources.

"When establishing a new lawn from seed, it is important to not let the roots dry out," Kingston said. "It takes seven to 10 days from planting for seed to germinate and start growing. And it needs the soil to be moist and the correct temperature range to germinate. The soil needs to be kept moist, not saturated during the initial growth stage. The first 10-14 days are important to not let the soil dry out."

Kingston continued, "After about the first month of growth, then watering frequency can be reduced, and supplemental irrigation can be done on an as-needed basis."

As far as limiting outdoor watering to two days a week or less, Kingston said all grasses available to homeowners be managed under those conditions if homeowners know how to properly care for that grass species.

"There are some species that do not need to be in full sun, and then there are others that cannot survive in heavy shade. Knowing the species of grass and their needs play a big role in properly managing them. This is especially true when it comes to irrigation," Kingston said. "For most grass species used in our part of Texas for home lawns, we recommend 1 inch of water per week during the growing season. This would include any rainfall. And ideally if I have to supplement the full 1 inch, I would want to water that at one time with my target of wetting the soil to a depth of 6 inches."

Homeowners should know that using native grasses - such as the drought-tolerant buffalo grass - on their lawns is a viable option, Kingston said. However, he said the selection of grass species is "not the silver bul-

let solution" for the issue about the amount of ground-water being used on home lawns.


"Yes, there is a scale of drought tolerance for plants, but that aspect alone may not mean it is the best one for a particular home site," Kingston said. "The goal that I hope all property owners in Parker County have is to be good stewards of the land and resources entrusted to them."

As far as saving water, Kingston said rainfall collection should be discussed and utilized more.

"Just think, if your lawn was a modest 2,500 square feet in size and your home is 2,500 square feet and you collected a 1-inch rainfall (roughly 1,400 gallons), you would have enough water to supplement your lawn for a whole week," he said. "Who wouldn't have loved to have that this past July?"

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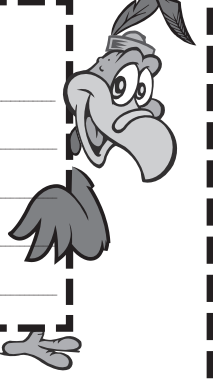


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# VETERAN

FROM PAGE 1A

graduation.

"I just felt like it was something I needed to go do," said Williams, who resides in Briar. "That's what my dad and our uncles did and so, we wanted to do our part."

Williams was deployed to

fight in Vietnam where he served as an LRRP — pronounced "lurp" — short for long-range reconnaissance patrol, a team in which soldiers patrolled deep in enemy-held territory.

"We pulled ambushes and tried to take prisoners and went out in six-man teams, so we were kind of hung out there to dry except for if we

got in big trouble, we'd call in the Air Force for an air strike and occasionally, artillery," he said.

As part of the six-man team, Williams and his men were in charge of carrying many different types of explosive devices and ammo. Different kinds of grenades like claymore, smoke, and phosphorus along with regular hand grenades were part of their mobile arsenal.

"We carried an extra canteen cover and carried it full of grenades," Williams said. "You never know how long you're going to have to stand and fight. The weight, we were probably carrying 70 to 75 pounds of stuff on our backs at all times."

He said his six-man team would get dropped in the middle of the jungle to search for the enemy. He explained that the jungle in Vietnam was extremely thick.

"You can stand five feet away from somebody, and they could walk by and you would never see them," he said. "Close to 50% of the time you'd make contact with the enemy, and if you did, if they knew where you were, you couldn't stay out there with only six men. It was dangerous, and so they would come pick us up. One occasion we couldn't find an LZ (landing zone) that was big enough for helicopters to sit down in and they pulled us out on ropes, dangling 110 feet in the air and they flew us back to basecamp."

Williams said his troop was considered "elite," doing tasks that most of the troops didn't have to do.

"I think it was considered the most dangerous job in Vietnam," he said. In fact, a memory that stands out to Williams the most was when he thought he was going to die.

"We had been sent out to a field that had been defoliated with Agent Orange, and they also had hit it with the B-52 strike," he explained. "They sent our team out because they wanted us to go see what they hit. (The enemy) was still there and we run up into the middle of them. They outnumbered us. We were trying to escape and evade and we had gone so far, we jumped over into a bomb crater, and we called for an airstrike. I happened to be the assistant team leader at that time, so I sent a claymore grenade up behind us to try to help us escape when we decided to leave."

"When the bomber came around behind us, he let that napalm (a weaponized mixture of chemicals designed to create a highly flammable and gelatinous liquid) go and I swear I thought it was coming in right in that bomb crater. I was looking straight down its nose. My heart skipped a beat, but it looked like it was going to be short and after it got down closer and closer, then you could tell that it was going

to go over. He made a really good shot. It did go over right where you needed it to. Napalm is unforgiving. If it splashes in front of you, it's going to cover you up and they tell you that it will burn all the oxygen out of the air and it's gonna kill you."

He said he and his team didn't really sleep out in the jungle; they just rested.

"When you worried about somebody sneaking up on ya, you didn't sleep well," Williams explained.

During the times that it rained, the team used a rubberized sheet as a blanket.

"It didn't make a lot of noise, but you couldn't put it over your face," he said. "With the rain drops hitting it, you wouldn't hear the enemy coming in, so you could put it down below your chin and get a little warm from covering your chest, but that was it. It was an exciting time, believe me."

Williams spent a total of three years in the military before heading to work in the fire department at Sheppard Air Force Base near Wichita Falls. He later transferred to Carswell Air Force Base, located northwest of Fort Worth and then the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth before retiring in 1997.

Now, at 75, Williams lives in Briar with his wife of 52 years, Karen. Together, they have two children: Kristie Smith, who works as a third-grade teacher at Springtown

Elementary School, and their late son, Shane. They have seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Karen and Freddie enjoy watching television together, especially with Freddie's most recent purchase.

"We just bought an 85-inch TV. I figured if I'm gonna spend most of my time here, I might as well have a good TV," Freddie said, chuckling.

When asked what he misses the most about the Army, he simply replied, "Vietnam."

"Not that, you know, I want to go around and kill people all of the time or anything," he said, hastily. "Just, you don't have to put up with all of the stateside stuff. Over there, you were walking around and during monsoon season, it would rain days and days without stopping and we were walking around in the mud. We didn't have to worry about spit shining our boots or breaking starch (making clothes smooth and crisp). Course, with the exception of being dangerous, it was just much better duty over there I would say."

Freddie said he also misses the camaraderie he had with his six-man team.

He added, "I really like all the guys that I served with and especially the ones in Vietnam because we were a small unit, and you got really close to some of them."

ashley@hcnews.com / 817-573-1243



COURTESY PHOTO

Williams enlisted in the Army with his cousin in 1965.



COURTESY PHOTO

Williams at the veteran memorial in Lamb County.



COURTESY PHOTO

There were no bathing facilities in the jungle, so soldiers like Williams had to take a shower in the rain.

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# The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch



PHOTOS BY LORA PASCHAL  
 Glenn Rogers, state representative District 60, spoke at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Oct. 27 at the Springtown Event Venue on the Square.

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Orion Gray as the vocational student of the month at the monthly luncheon on Oct. 27. Pictured from left is Chamber Executive Director Amy Walker, Orion Gray and industrial tech/welding teacher James Young.



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for American Home Builders at the monthly luncheon on Oct. 27.



The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Union Home Mortgage, owned by Kathie Cameron, at the monthly luncheon on Oct. 27.

## Kid Scoop

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 Find the answer in the fall leaf border! Start here. Then read every other letter as you move clockwise around the border.

**Extra! Extra! Fall Syllables**  
 Find words in the newspaper that have the same number of syllables as the fall words below. Paste each word on the picture with the matching number of syllables.

Leaf

Acorn

Harvested

Jack o' lantern

Standards Link: Decoding and Word Recognition: Decode regular multi-syllabic words.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

START

FINISH

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

---

### Double Double Word Search

LEAVES WATER SYLLABLES CARBON SEASON WINTER SCENE BORDER CRISP ACORN GREEN DISAPPEAR ROOTS FALL DAYS

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

S	Y	S	E	R	E	D	R	O	B
Y	S	E	L	B	A	L	L	Y	S
A	T	A	L	A	R	S	V	E	R
D	O	S	A	S	E	C	H	A	E
G	O	O	F	V	T	A	N	C	T
R	R	N	A	C	A	R	B	O	N
E	N	E	C	S	W	G	E	R	I
E	L	G	P	S	I	R	C	N	W
N	R	A	E	P	P	A	S	I	D

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

---

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Autumn

Find five words in the newspaper that describe the autumn season. Paste the words onto a sheet of paper. Write a sentence using each word. Decorate your paper with images of fall.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use adjectives in writing. Sentence Structure: Write simple and complex complete sentences.

---

### Write On!

#### Eat Like a Plant

Would you like to “eat” like a plant—meaning have the ability to turn sunshine, water and CO<sub>2</sub> into food through photosynthesis? Why or why not?

### Kid Scoop Together: FALL WORD GAME

Each row of squares below has the letters of a word that can be found on this page. Read today's Kid Scoop page and then try to unscramble them all.

1-3: Junior Hiker  
 4-7: Botanist  
 8-10: Dendrologist (Tree scientist)

C R O O L

\_\_\_\_\_

B R A N O C

\_\_\_\_\_

T W E R I N

\_\_\_\_\_

G R O N E A

\_\_\_\_\_

T H U S L I G N

\_\_\_\_\_

B R A S O B

\_\_\_\_\_

G Y O N E X

\_\_\_\_\_

A V E L S E

\_\_\_\_\_

G E N A C H

\_\_\_\_\_

M U A U N T

\_\_\_\_\_

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level words correctly.

How many leaves can you find on this page in two minutes?  
 Have a friend try, too.  
 Who found the most?

Can you find at least five silly things in this fall scene?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



# Reno Fall Festival 2022



PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Abigail Guerrero, 8, dressed up as a witch for Reno's fall festival on Saturday at Reno Elementary School.



Local kids dressed up in costume for the Reno Fall Festival Saturday at Reno Elementary School. From left is 10-year-old Kannon Terrell as Freddy Krueger, 7-year-old Jackson Ellis as a ninja, 8-year-old Emma Ellis as a witch, 8-year-old Kimberlyn Jensen as Chrissy from the show "Stranger Things," and 9-year-old Ezra Cisar as himself.



Dressed as a police officer, 9-year-old Angelice Hunt rides on horseback Saturday at Reno Elementary School.



Edison Reed, 3, showed off his tractor costume while on the hayride at the Reno Fall Festival on Saturday.



**good news** Each One, Give One

What you consider a household necessity, your senior neighbors consider a luxury. Below is a list of items most needed by the seniors in our community:

**Items Needed:**

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Dish Soap
- Tissues (Kleenex)
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

**Accepting donations thru Nov. 30th.**


Look for bins at the following locations:  
Eagle Crest Villa, Azle Chamber of Commerce, Azle News, Azle Manor Nursing Home & Rehab & Northwest Physical Therapy



(817) 444-3249  
www.eaglecrestvilla.com



(817) 444-2300  
www.goodnews4seniors.org




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Texas Health is right there with you.

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817-720-9218 | [TexasHealth.org/BreastCare](https://www.texashealth.org/BreastCare)



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COURTESY PHOTO

The Sound of Springtown, shown performing at Liberty Hill, won the area championship and will head to the state contest.

## Sound of Springtown headed to state after winning area championship

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Oct. 28 football game between Springtown and Burkburnett at Porcupine Stadium was a soggy mess.

Steady rains fell all day and night, but members of the Sound of Springtown were there on the field with their instruments, marching and performing in front of the large hometown crowd for Senior Night.

The next morning - at 5:30, no less - the band members loaded onto a bus and departed for Liberty Hill to compete in the area D marching contest.

Springtown's preliminary performance earned it a spot in the finals, and the marching band was selected to perform first at 8 p.m.

"Our goal was to set a high standard for everyone else to follow," director Scot McPhetridge said on social media.

The standard they set, however, was so high that nobody else could match it. Springtown made school history by winning the area championship two years in a row. This marks the third area championship for the band overall.

The victory means Springtown will compete at the UIL 4A State Marching Band Contest on Nov. 9 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

McPhetridge acknowledged school administrators for supporting the band program and the fine arts in general and thanked the school district's transportation department for "continuing to get this group and their gear all over the state for competitions, rehearsals and football games."

He also thanked parent volunteers who "give up their time to serve meals, move equipment, run errands and provide funds to keep this marching machine running," he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sound of Springtown will compete in San Antonio on Nov. 9.



## Senior Night

Macy Chavez, center, was one of dozens of upperclassmen who braved wind and rain on Oct. 28 to celebrate Senior Night at Porcupine Stadium before the football game against Burkburnett. Chavez, flanked by brother Kevin and mom Martha Chavez, walked out onto the field with the other seniors to a warm applause on a chilly evening. "I'm really excited," the senior cheerleader said. "I just wish the weather would be better." The Springtown area received about two inches of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service. The Porcupines fell to Burkburnett 46-20 and play their final regular season game on Thursday, Nov. 3, at Wichita Falls.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE



## Playoff season

From left, Harlee Jackson and Brinklee Dauenhauer are leading the Springtown volleyball team into the playoff season. The Lady Porcupines began their postseason on Tuesday, Nov. 1, by taking on Burkburnett in the bi-district championship as the Springtown Epigraph was going to press. Watch for details in the next edition.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE



# Springtown cross-country runner to make first trek to state meet

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Wesley Payne began running cross-country in eighth grade, and it took four years to reach one of his goals.

For the first time in his career, Payne is headed to the state finals on Nov. 4-5 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

"I feel pretty good," the junior at Springtown High School said. "Finally, everything is coming together."

Payne was the only member of the boys cross-country team to qualify for state this year. He remains low-key about his success, although coach Raul Guerrero expressed pride in the athlete's determination and success.

"Wesley is as good as they come," Guerrero said. "When it comes to work ethic and character, he is one of the hardest workers I've had the privilege of coaching. His discipline and consistency make it extremely easy for us coaches. He is extremely coachable and a great teammate."

Payne's athletic accomplishment is extra impressive considering he is devoted in the classroom and is currently in the top 6% of his class.

"It is really difficult to get to the state meet, especially coming out of Region 1," the coach said. "There is always really good competition, and it is one of the toughest courses in the state."

The last time a Springtown cross-country runner made

it to state was 2004.

Payne qualified for state by finishing in 27th place at the regionals meet on Oct. 22.

Last year at regionals, he finished around 40th place and didn't qualify. He improved his time this year by working harder, he said.

"I was listening to my coach all year long and trusting that he knew what he was doing," Payne said. "I put in a lot more work this year."

He began running longer distances while training this season.

"It made three miles seem like a shorter amount, so I could go faster," he said. "I wanted to get better, and that's the way to do it."

He doesn't expect to win the state championship but wants to run his best race and set a personal record. His goal is to attract the attention of college recruiters.

So far, his plan is working. "After I qualified for a state, a couple of colleges called me the next day," he said. "They asked me how the season has been going and asked me a few questions about what I do and stuff like that. It was pretty nice to have someone finally reach out. It helps to keep the dream alive."

COURTESY PHOTO

**Wesley Payne is Springtown's first cross-country runner to qualify for the state championship in almost 20 years.**



# Porcupines to play Wichita Falls in regular season finale

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines are traveling to Wichita Falls this week for a rare Thursday night varsity football game.

It's the final regular season contest, and the Pines want to win.

Springtown has clinched a playoff berth, but a victory against Wichita Falls could improve their seeding heading into the postseason. At the very least, a victory

would give Springtown a shot of momentum.

Wichita Falls won't go down easy. The Coyotes are 2-1 in District 4-4A competition and 5-4 overall and are currently holding down second place.

Springtown is 1-2 in district play and 3-6 overall.

The Porcupines are coming off a loss to Burkburnett on Oct. 28. The game was played on a rainy night and remained close at halftime, with Springtown down by just six points. Burkburnett,



PHOTO BY STEVEN MARTER

**Brayden Fox and the Springtown Porcupines are running toward postseason play with one final game remaining in the regular season.**

however, had the hotter second half, and Springtown couldn't catch up.

Final score: Burkburnett 46, Springtown 20.

Quarterback Hudson Hulett and the Porcupine passing game struggled in the rain, with Hulett connect on just three of 11 passes for 22 yards. The running game was better. Hulett ran for 92 yards and two touchdowns,

and Nathan Johnson logged 108 yards and a TD. Drake Doggett added 42 rushing yards.

On defense, Robert Lewis led the team in tackles with five, trailed by Blake Walker with three. Darren Sweely recorded one sack for Springtown.

Springtown (3-6) plays at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at Wichita Falls (5-4).

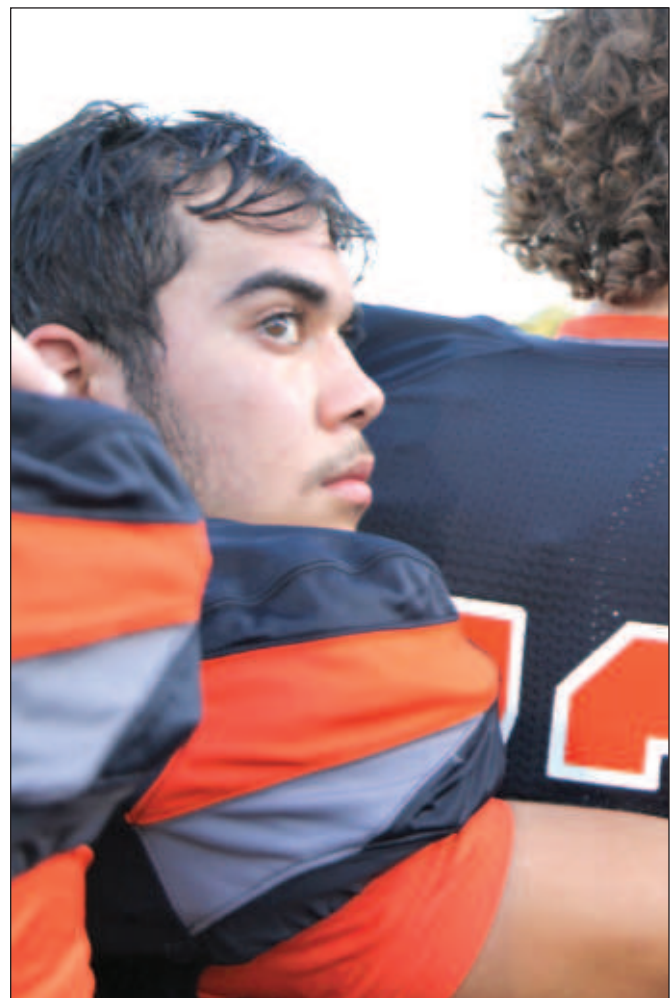


PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

**From left, Cameron Mashburn and the Porcupines football team hope to knock off Wichita Falls before the postseason begins.**

## Football Contest

### WEEK 11

Wes Robinson won this week's football contest by correctly prognosticating 10 of 12 games. His wallet will be \$20 richer. Woody Young earned second place and \$10 by picking nine of 12 winners. Two players tied for third, but Margaret Swanzy came out on top by coming closest to the tiebreaker score with 48 points. Congratulations to the winners!



# FOOTBALL CONTEST

**1st PLACE \$20** **2nd PLACE \$10** **3rd PLACE \$5**

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.

**SPRINGTOWN**  
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

Tiebreaker: 10 Score \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*No photocopies accepted*



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10. Los Angeles Rams at Tampa Bay Buccaneers



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3. Brewer at Aledo  
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8. Baylor at Oklahoma

**Chicken EXPRESS**

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5. Merkel at Millsap

**El Gordo Burrito \$6.49**  
Chicken or Beef, Rice, Cheese, Sour Cream & Sauteed Onions, Pico de Gallo

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**BREAKFAST Breakfast Burritos, Tacos, Biscuits**



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[www.mrjims.pizza](http://www.mrjims.pizza)





# Congratulations to Sound of Springtown!

COURTESY PHOTOS  
Sound of Springtown is traveling to San Antonio to compete in the UIL State Marching Band Competition after winning the area championship.







# Congratulations to Lady Porcupines!

PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

The Lady Porcupines began their postseason on Tuesday, Nov. 1, by taking on Burkburnett in the bi-district championship.





## CLASSIFIED

817-270-3340 - Azle - classified@azlenews.net

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

### Ad Classifications

- |                            |                                 |                               |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
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| 2..... Antiques            | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found          | 70..... Septic Tanks                   |
| 3..... Appliances          | 26..... Excavating              | 48... Maintenance/Repairs     | 71..... Sewing/Alterations             |
| 4..... Appliance Repair    | 27..... Exterminating           | 49... Masonry/Stonework       | 72..... Sewer Service                  |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts         | 28..... Farm Equipment          | 50... Mobile Home Service     | 73..... TV/Radio                       |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving      | 29..... Fencing                 | 51..... Motorcycles           | 74..... Tractor Service                |
| 7..... Auctions            | 30..... Firewood                | 52..... Movers                | 75..... Upholstery                     |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks       | 31..... Free                    | 53..... Musical Instruments   | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners                |
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| 11..... Boats, Motors      | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales   | 56 Party Planning/Events      | 79..... Welding                        |
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### 034 Garage & Estate Sales

HUGE 5 family garage sale, Corner of Breezy Lane/Dunaway Lane, Azle. 11/4 Friday and 11/5 Saturday 8:00 - 4:00.

Estate Sale  
Saturday, November 5, 2022  
8:00-? 1429 Meadowlakes Azle, TX 76020. Furniture, tools, appliances, dishes, clothing, Christmas decor, Waterford Crystal.

### 3 Family Garage Sale

7230 Rucker St., Azle, Nov. 3, 4, & 5. (9am - 5pm). Ladies, kids, baby clothes, toys, planters, home décor.

BIG Sale Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm. 2000 Oak Crest Ct, Azle. Furniture, kitchen ware, clothing, etc.

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Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

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### 034 Garage & Estate Sales

4 Family Christmas Garage Sale  
Something for everyone, everything cheap. 1004 Dunaway, Azle. November 3-5.

Indoor Yard Sale Tools, riding mowers, furniture, nick-knacks, hot tub. 1560 Chaparral Ln, Pelican Bay. November 3-5 9am-5pm.

### REED EXCAVATING

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• LOT CLEARING • PARKING LOTS  
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Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

### 035 Garden/Mowing Service

COWBOY LAWN CARE.  
Residential, farm, gardens, landscaping, tree trimming. Free Estimates. 817-271-0450. Spring Specials.

Concrete Services, Patios, Driveways, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls, Foundations, Stone Walls. Free Estimates. 817-371-8597.

### 029 Fencing

BOBBY'S FENCE. All types, Free Estimates, Over 26 years experience. 817-444-3213.

KILEY CHESNEY CONSTRUCTION  
All Types Fences - Tractor Work  
817-846-6645

McDowell Lawn Service  
Mowing, edging, flower beds, fertilizer, tree trimming, residential or business. Weekly or bi-weekly. 817-437-9100

**LEON'S TREE SERVICE**  
Expert take downs  
Stump Grinding  
Residential/Commercial  
Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates  
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**Kiley Chesney Construction**  
Dirt & Concrete Work  
Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons  
Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways  
Kiley Chesney, Owner  
Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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Dock & Fence repair  
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Residential/Commercial  
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\$85 Service Call

### OUTDOOR SCENE

682-553-1560  
**STUMP GRINDING**  
Don't dig it! Grind it!  
1 or 100 - We can do it.  
\$85 minimum within 5 mi.  
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### YARD SERVICES

SKID STEER  
SOD INSTALLATION  
FENCING  
STUMP GRINDING  
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### 039 Help Wanted

Springtown ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Monitors. Training available. Contact the Transportation Dept. 817-220-1418.

MAINSTREAM group homes are hiring for FT/PT direct care staff. Weekday 3:30pm-8:30am shifts as well as 24-hour weekend shifts. Work 2 days a week, get paid to sleep, and have a full-time job! Paid training, benefits, bonuses, and OT opportunities. Start \$9.00/hr with quick advancement possible. Call 817-270-2747, Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm.

Azle ISD is currently accepting applications for a Licensed Plumber in the Maintenance Department. Prefer a minimum of 3+ yrs. experience. Apply online at www.azleisd.net

Azle ISD is currently accepting applications for a Licensed Electrician in the Maintenance Department. Prefer a minimum of 3+ yrs. experience. Apply online at www.azleisd.net

Painter helper needed. Must be reliable, honest and have transportation. Pay based on experience. BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377.

**ADS Steel Services**  
Now Hiring  
Experienced Fitters,  
Installers & Shop Labor  
Competitive Wages  
Health Insurance  
Paid Holidays & Vacations  
apply in person at  
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Ft Worth, TX 76116  
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### 039 Help Wanted

**KARL KLEMENT**  
Body Shop Porter  
Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.  
Parts Driver/Warehouse Associate  
Growing Parts Department with advancement opportunities. TXDL and approved driving record required. Monday-Friday work week  
Body Collision Technician  
Competitive Salary with a full Benefits Package! MON-FRI, Paid Vacation/Training/Holidays

### KLEMENT Jeep

**Service Technicians**  
HIRING BONUS available for all skill levels!  
Seeking ALL LEVEL of Service Technicians; Lube Tech's to Master! Be part of our GROWING TEAM and advance within our Service Department as we offer a Competitive Salary with a full line of Benefits, including 401K. Mon-Fri, 5-day work week with paid vacation, training & holidays! Up To \$5,000 Hiring Bonus for Skilled Technicians!

**KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.**  
(Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)  
No Positions Available At This Time

**Karl Klement Properties, Inc.**  
No Positions Available at this Time

For consideration of all positions apply in person:  
605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas  
OR CALL Human Resources Dept:  
Jodi Pettis or Lara Lancaster  
@ 940-627-6362 | hr.info@klementford.com  
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**Part Time Grounds Keeper**  
Applicants must pass background check and drug screen.  
30 hours a week. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Wage \$12-\$15 per hour.  
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**817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN**

Deadline:  
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

# Classifieds

**039 Help Wanted**

**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](http://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**

**062 Plumbing**

**GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.**  
  
**Commercial-Residential**  
**Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area**  
 M#15899  
**817-220-2469**  
[grahamplumbingco.com](http://grahamplumbingco.com)

**069 Sand/Gravel**

**HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL**  
 Quality Family Business Since 1938  
 CALL Cliff Hall  
**(817) 221-2681**  
 We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$.  
 On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

**079 Welding**

**SOLID STEEL SOLUTIONS**  
  

- Metal Buildings
- Steel Components
- Welding Supplies
- Concrete Supplies
- Fabrication Supplies
- Pipe Fencing
- Deer Blinds
- Deer Feeders

**8894 W Hwy 199 • Springtown**  
**817-220-0008**  
**www.SolidSS.com** **Open to the Public**

**Help Wanted in Aurora/Alvord Area**

- Mechanic
- Welder
- Equipment Operators

Competitive pay, some benefits. M-F day shift only, Overtime weekly.  
**For information call 214-802-5157**

**WANTED**

Property Maintenance Labor/Person  
 Gene Thompson & Associates  
**817-246-4646**

**040 Home Improvement**

**BILL ROSSER PAINTING & REMODELING.** Big Savings: \$100 off any job of \$1,000 or more. Painting, Carpentry, Porch Covers, Decks. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 817-304-9974; 866-374-3559.

**WORKHORSE HANDYMAN SERVICES.** Bathrooms, kitchens, remodels, water & sewer repair, mobile home repair, roof repair and well repair.  
**Quality at a reasonable rate. Call 817-874-6109.**

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**BOBBY MCWILLIAMS PAINTING 817-821-6377.** Interior/Exterior Painting Residential & New Homes. 50 years experience.

**Kevin's Handyman Services**  
  
**40 Years Experience**

- Carpentry
- Drywall & Painting
- Tile & Laminate Floors
- Doors & Windows
- Decks & Stairs
- Cabinets & Countertops
- No Job Too Small

Springtown and Surrounding Areas  
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**Devin's Handyman Service**

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
- Kitchen/Bath
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- Decks

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**Call Devin at 817-629-9608**

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 817-270-3340  
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**LOCAL BUYER JIMMY DAN**  

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- Farm Equipment
- Trucks And Trailers
- Horse Trailers
- Boats
- Golf Carts
- Propane Tanks
- Fork Lifts
- Heavy Equipment
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**049 Masonry/Stonework**

**Silva Masonry, L.L.C.** AZLE, TX  
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**052 Movers**

U.S. Army Retired-but not tired!  
 Careful moving-Cheap.  
 Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.

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Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.  
 Free cats/kittens some spayed. Will help with \$ for neuter/spay. Call or text 817-229-3628.

**HORSE SALE November 4, 2022**  
**Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM**  
**Horses Follow**  
 Stephenville Cattle Co.  
 Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX  
 Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

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**LANDERS Plumbing Co.**  
**940-233-2862**  
 M-10078

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 Call us for a metal roof quote.  
**We'll be here after the storm.**

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- Insurance Claim Specialists;
- Free Estimates

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**EXPERIENCED ROOFING SPECIALIST**  
**FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS**  
*Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs*  
**ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
**cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600**

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- Metal Buildings
- All General Contracting

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 Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

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

**079 Welding**

owner Rodney Vick  
 817-220-3044  
 fax 817-523-7639  
 cell 817-253-1614

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**Metal Building Specialist**  

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- Pipe Fencing
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- All Types Fencing
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 Compare Pricing  
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**081 Business/Commercial**

40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.

**082 RV's for Rent**

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

**084 Mobile Homes for Rent**

Pelican Bay: 1524 Partridge, 1-1, stove/fridge, central heat, window unit, \$585/mo. \$400 deposit. Owner/Broker 817-988-9954.

**Nice 2-2 SW, quiet area, Azle ISD, fenced yard. Qualified Tenants Wanted. 817-228-2414.**

**086 Mobile Home/RV Lots**

Beautiful RV Spots available in nice, quiet area near Eagle Mountain Lake. \$400/mo. plus electric. Call for more information 817-228-2414.

**POJO RV PARK**

302 Allison Road Springtown, TX 76082  
**817-925-3673**  
**30x60 RV Spaces Available**  
*One small inside pet allowed*  
**NEAR POJO STADIUM**

**087 Rent Furnished**

3/2/1 brick house in Azle for \$1650 per month and a \$1650 deposit. Background/credit check \$40 per person. 817-980-3066

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

3-2 Duplex for Rent in Springtown. \$1,200/mo. \$600 deposit, no pets. 817-980-3066.

1833 PELICAN DR. N.  
 2-2-1 \$1,195 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1904 CORAL RD  
 2-1-1 \$1,195 MO. \$1,000 DEP.  
 1920 PELICAN DR. N.  
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 Gene Thompson & Associates  
 817-246-4646 gtax.com

3/2/1 brick house in Azle for \$1650 per month and a \$1650 deposit. Background/credit check \$40 per person. 817-980-3066

**FOR RENT**  
**1 Bdrm Springtown FOR RENT**  
**Water • Furnished NO PETS**  
**940-229-1045 or 940-229-1046**

**088 Rent Unfurnished**

**GENE THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES**  
**HOMES and MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT**  
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**AZLE OAKS APARTMENT**

700 JARVIS • AZLE  
**817-444-1712**

**1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished**

Accepting Applications  
 Rent based on income  
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 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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**HOME IMPROVEMENT**



**Check out the Home Improvement Specialists in the Classifieds for help with your next project!**

Continued next page...

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 Convenient Location  
 Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle  
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 10X10 \$60/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT  
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# Classifieds

088 Rent Unfurnished

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Family-owned, family-run



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



# Don't Break The Poor Little Piggy!

Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!  
 16 words for \$10

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- TXism: "let the cat out of the bag"
- religious ceremony
- "Gateway to Eagle Mountain Lake"
- TXism: "can't hunt with \_\_\_ empty gun"
- dir. to Levelland from Ozona
- TXism: "he uses barbed wire for \_\_\_ floss" (tough)
- TXism: "suits \_\_\_ a fare-thee-well"
- in 2014, Texan J.J. Watt got the "Bart \_\_\_"
- TXism: "skinny \_\_\_"
- TX Featherston of all 5 "Paranormal Activity" films
- educate a pet? (2 wds.)
- El Paso FM station
- "she \_\_\_ car" (did vandalism)
- piece of ground for growing vegetables
- compounds with iodine elements
- \_\_\_ Campo, TX
- TX Audie Murphy autobiography: "\_\_\_ Back"
- TX Swayze was "\_\_\_ Main" in "North and South"
- Washington-on-\_\_\_-Brazos, TX
- TXism: "if he \_\_\_ he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)
- similar to the MSRP or SRP
- enjoyed a good Texas steak
- Hawaiian necklace

**DOWN**

- bikini top
- this TX Smith was a New York gossip columnist
- in Cass County on highway 43
- "Eyes of Texas" tune: "I've \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ Railroad"
- bird casa
- Juan de Onate named El Paso area: "El Paso \_\_\_"
- Texas restaurant \_\_\_ Chico
- "I \_\_\_ to jump, and he did it!"
- \_\_\_ Ormy, TX
- "\_\_\_ Tunes"
- a mojito is \_\_\_ drink
- TXism: "blister \_\_\_" (handle)
- Christmas word
- TX composer, Scott Joplin: "King of \_\_\_ time"
- smallest
- show anger with foot
- Texas does not have an MLB team in this league
- "it \_\_\_ to build trust"
- TXism: "salt some \_\_\_" (save)
- TXism: "a day \_\_\_ and a dollar short"
- Texas City's "College of the \_\_\_"
- "Lady \_\_\_" Johnson
- 1932 western: "\_\_\_ Cowboy"
- "\_\_\_ out" (start the poker game)
- TXism: "they're two peas in \_\_\_" (alike)
- olden delivery cart
- TX actress, Darnell (init.)
- early web portal
- hooligan
- mild expression of annoyance
- said after making a minor mistake
- unaligned
- this architect designed Dallas City Hall (3 wds.)
- TX Gary Lee Clark Jr. was in 2022 film about this rock "King" (init.)

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