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THURSDAY, December 1, 2022 • \$1



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Springtown High School senior Chandler King poses for a photo at the Tabernacle on the Springtown Square after making an appearance on the trivia game show "Spectrum News Challenge."

SHS senior steps into the spotlight on competition game show

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

For anyone who is nervous about appearing on TV, Springtown High School senior Chandler King has a

piece of advice. "Just smile and always remember that you're on camera," King said with a laugh.

This is something that King knows from experience. Back in August, the

17-year-old filmed his episode on the trivia game show "Spectrum News Challenge," which aired a few weeks ago, in the Spectrum News studio in Dallas. He was selected for the competition after he saw a commercial for it and decided to apply last spring. The trivia show pitted a

4, the final question about ballet was delivered by Debbie Allen from "Grey's

> Anatomy." In the first two rounds, Texas maintained the lead, but New York sailed ahead in Round 3. Luckily, Texas recovered in the final round by correctly answering the final question identifying the first

team of three Texas high

three New York high school

The contest happened in

four rounds, with the first

round consisting of rapid-

fire true-or-false questions

about weather, multiple

choice questions on U.S.

geography-related ques-

presidents in Round 2 and

tions in Round 3. In Round

school students against

students.

Black principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre (Misty Copeland).

This question was the toughest for King, he said. Luckily, his team guessed correctly, sending their final score up by 500 points to crush their New York competitors. The Texas team won against New York, 860-410

"It was good to win," King said. "We were down. We were all worried that we would lose that one, but we didn't."

The competition tested the random knowledge of its participants, and King prepared by being well-read and tuning into some classic game shows.

"Sometimes I watch some

of the trivia game shows like 'Jeopardy!' and occasionally 'Wheel of Fortune,' too, and I also like to read a lot, too, so I felt that that also helped (me) prepare," he said.

King felt like he contributed knowledge of history and geography to his team, even though he faltered on a question about the length of the Panama Canal.

"Distance is not one of my strong suits," he said, laughing again.

King's mother, Mary King, said she thought he did great on the show

"I wasn't able to be there the day he filmed, and I was extremely nervous for him since we weren't sure what

SEE SHOW, PAGE 5A

Walnut Creek SUD addresses Frontier **Communications about water line** breaks, fire hydrant meters

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Walnut Creek Special Utility District general manager Steve Harris claims that Frontier Communications has caused multiple problems while working on fiber optic cable installation, but after a meeting with the company, he thinks dealings with Frontier will be smoother from now on. At the Nov. 21 SUD board of directors meeting, Harris reported that he met with

Frontier Communications representatives, contractors and subcontractors last month.

Frontier Communications has been installing fiber optic cable throughout the area for at least four months. Harris said their work has caused conflict with the district because, in part, workers are hitting the district's water lines. Harris said Frontier

his team of eight who have to fix pipes that are hit by Frontier and are tasked with locating lines for Frontier as well as their regular duties.

The district usually responds to three or more hits nearly every day, and on one day, there were as many as 10 hits, Harris said. The general manager said his team has also been overwhelmed by line locating work with as many as 140 locates when

Santa Claus comes to Springtown



more than 40 crews working in the district's area, a stark difference compared to

they arrive to work in the

SEE FRONTIER, PAGE 4A

Vaping detectors at SISD

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown High School students who use vaping devices in the restrooms are having more difficulty doing so without consequences, thanks to recently installed detectors.

Springtown ISD Superintendent Mike Kelley said during last month's school board meeting that there has been an increase in disciplinary alternative education enrollment mostly because of kids caught vaping, even though the students were notified about the detectors' presence.

"This is a problem across the country, and we're not immune to it or different than anybody else in that sense," Kelley said during the school board meeting on Nov. 15.

SISD vaping detectors lead to more students in disciplinary alternative education program

The detectors are fairly new, Kelley said, and are as small as a smoke alarm. They pick up on noise, humidity and tampering.

The detectors send administrators a notification when vaping is detected.

"It texts and emails our assistant principals or principals, whomever we've identified, and they're able to leave their office and get to the bathroom before the kid's even gone," Kelley said.

Similar detectors from a different company are expected to be installed at Springtown Middle School as well, Kelley said, though hopefully there won't be a high number of middle schoolers caught vaping.

"We hope that these detectors end up being a deterrent," Kelley said during the meeting. "We have no way of knowing if it has been.'

After the meeting, Kelley said the increase is significant because the disciplinary alternative education program usually only has a dozen or fewer students. The alternative education building is near the admin-

SEE VAPING, PAGE 5A

After the city's Christmas parade and tree lighting on Nov. 27, Santa Claus took photos with children in the Tabernacle. He is pictured with 1-year-old Mackenzie McConnell.

SEE STORY PAGE 8A.





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PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS



The Springtown 4-H Community Club debuted its 2022 Christmas parade float at the Springtown parade on Nov. 27. This year, the club's parade float theme was "4-H, the gift that keeps on giving." Members of the Springtown 4-H Club wave to the crowd.

Springtown 4-H illustrates theme 'the gift that keeps on giving' with parade float

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

With the help of their families, kids in the Springtown 4-H Community Club put in a fair amount of elbow grease to plan and build their Christmas parade float this year.

The 4-H kids had high hopes that their float would win first place. That wasn't the case during the competition on Sunday, but the club still created a float to be proud of. 4-Hers, and the parents did what they could to help carry out their vision.

"We love their ambitiousness, and so we got to make sure their ambitiousness is realistic," said Jessica Demele, mother of 4-Hers Scarlett and Maverick Webb.

4-Hers Scarlett Webb and Makayla Beasley cochaired the planning committee, and they said the committee of kids came together to brainstorm ideas for their float and came to a consensus on the final plan. "Just from a parent's perspective, I was super proud of the committee and how they worked it, because usually the parents are kind of in it, and this time, they were like, 'No, we're going to go talk amongst ourselves.' So, the four kids that were there went off on their own, and they had like a 30-minute brainstorming session, and then they came back and then they talked to us" about logistics, said Tiffany Beasley, Makayla's mother. "It'll be nice to see their plan that they came up with come to life."

Makayla Beasley suspected that the hardest part of the project would be "putting it all together and then trying to find out what looks good and what looks wrong and trying to fix that."

The best part? "Definitely seeing the finished project in all its glory," she said.

Springtown 4-H Club is no stranger to planning Christmas floats. Last year, the club won second place with their "All I Want for Christmas is 4-H" float which featured represent tions of the activities available in 4-H - and they scored first place the year before at the stationary parade where they created a 4-H barn. Vanessa Orrison said participating in the Christmas parade float is one of her daughter Kate's favorite 4-H activities. "Every year, it's important. It's just kind of one of those fun things for the kids," Orrison said. "It's something they get to enjoy and participate in the community events."



This year, the club's parade float theme was "4-H, the gift that keeps on giving," and the float included a big Christmas tree with presents underneath to illustrate that theme. As a nod to their livestock exhibition activities, club members created representations of animals – hay bales spray-painted to look like a pig, a cow, a chicken and a rabbit – and placed them on the float.

Prior to the parade, the Epigraph caught up with 4-H club members as they prepared to build their float. The design was crafted by the

PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Springtown 4-H Community Club members spray painted hay bales to look like a pig, a cow, a chicken and a rabbit for their Christmas parade float.



Walnut Creek SUD prepares to get bids on urgent water system improvement projects

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

The Walnut Creek Special Utility District board of directors heard an update on the district's emergency project for improved water pressure and volume at the board meeting on Nov. 21. In July, the board ap-

proved two resolutions

authorizing applications to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for approval to use certain bond funds. This included a resolution to use no more than \$5 million - including surplus bond funds of about \$2.5 million and remaining funds from the district's general fund - for urgently needed water system

improvements.

In a previous Epigraph article, Walnut Creek SUD general manager Steve Harris said the money would go to improve water pressure and volume in the SUD's southeast area. The funds would pay for a 16-inch water line from Jay Bird Lane, down State Highway 199, to Newsom Mound Road and

then south to Veal Station Road as well as moving an elevated storage to the area of high growth and where there are pressure problems, said Bill Lohrke, senior project manager from E.S.&C.M. Inc.

The district is also working on a 10-inch water line for the new Azle ISD school, Hilltop Elementary, at FM 730 and Stewart Street,

which Harris said is expected to open by next school year. He said during the meeting that he'd like this project to be done by the end of May.

The school project will be bid out on the same day as the 16-inch water line project and is expected to be done by the same contractor, Lohrke said. Lohrke said the SUD is

ahead of schedule for the plans on both projects, and the call for bids is expected to be advertised before Christmas.

"December is not a real, real good time to take bids around Christmas," he said. "The early part of December is OK. If you get close to Christmas, everyone used to say they went south."

Ok! Go ahead and start decorating

I know some of you started already because-ahem "Thanksgiving is a day but Christmas is a season.'

You have the right to your wrong opinion.

Any with any sense of proper decorum knows that nothing Christmas (including-but not limited todecorations, music, spoken or written greetings, etc) is allowed until the day after Thanksgiving.

The previous sentence was not only snobbishly opinionated; it was also punctuationally suspect. (I may or may not have just made up a couple of words).

I actually believe (as a matter of personal preference) that we ought to wait until after Thanksgiving to start with Christmas "stuff" but the part about proper decorum and wrong opinions was pure jest.

But don't we all run the risk of turning personal preferences into strongly held opinions?

And then turning strongly held opinions into litmus tests for "rightness?"

And then turning litmus tests for "rightness" into prejudicial judgments against those who hold differing opinions?

And then turning those prejudicial judgments into conclusions that identify enemies?

So, all you ungrateful

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

evil decorating! Oops! Sorry. I really don't care when you decorate, start playing Christmas music, or start saying "Merry Christmas" (or your greeting of choice). What I really care about is

You

Seriously. If you're reading this, you matter to me.

More than my preferences and opinions.

Even if we disagree.

Even if you think I'm completely bonkers.

Even if I think you're completely bonkers. Even if I cannot support or affirm the things you support

and affirm. And vice versa. You matter and I want you

to flourish in the amazing life you were created for. None of this is because I'm

a great guy. Whether that is true or not, is all a matter of perspective. My "great guy-ness" is in the eye of the beholder.

And is completely

irrelevant. The reason vou matter to me and I want you to flourish flows from the core of my

faith.

I can't prove any of this, but here's what I believe:

There is one all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God who has always been and always will be.

He created all that exists and He sustains all He created.

He has revealed Himself in various times and various ways and those ways are recorded in a reliable collection of writings we know as the Bible.

He has revealed Himself ultimately in Jesus-God in flesh-whose life, death, and resurrection revealed God's nature and purpose for the world.

Every person is created in the image of God.

Every person is someone who God loves.

Every person is someone for whose sins Jesus died to pay all penalties.

Every person has a unique God-given purpose.

If I believe this to be true, how could you NOT matter? Even if you jumped the gun n your decorations

What the heck happened to **October and November?**

Is it just me or have the past two months flown by at supersonic speed?

I have always been told as one ages, the days go by quicker, but this past two months have gone by ridiculously fast. There have been all sorts of community events to attend, high school football and volleyball to watch, and getting ready for the holiday season.

Here at the paper, the last three months of the year are probably our busiest, with the special Veterans Day section and covering all the holiday events. The staff has been working nonstop to cover all that is going on in our communities.

Part of me feels like it should still be September. I think the weather changing so quickly and the introduction of winter-like temperatures made it seem like fall roared in and out. Heck, at my house we have already burned six or seven fires in the fireplace, and it is not even December! Who would have imagined such a thing. I am not even going to mention the massive snow in the northeast, where more than six feet of snow has already

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/pr

fallen. Makes me think it is Ianuary.

We all made it through Thanksgiving, and before we know it Christmas will be here, and then New Year's Day. I am not ready for it to be 2023! In my mind it seems like 2023 is five or 10 years down the road, but here it is knocking on our door. So many plans to make and so many tasks to be accomplished.

As you plan for the balance of the year, do yourself a favor and get your Christmas shopping done as early as you can to avoid the last-minute stress. Stop and catch your breath, for at least a moment, and reflect on the past 12 months. Look back at all the good things that happened in the past year. Remember all the places you went, people you met and joys you experienced. Sometimes we are so busy working and struggling our way through life,

we fail to stop and enjoy it as it occurs.

We are all fortunate to live in Texas and to have our friends and families, as well as our churches, schools and clubs. There are people around the world who would give any and everything to have the opportunity to experience what we have, where we live and the freedoms we enjoy. We are blessed, and no matter how fast it goes by, we are lucky to have lived it.

Lastly, I did want to give a "shout-out" to Margitta Taylor. She is one of our loyal readers and after seeing one of my columns about "collecting" she sent me a nice note showing me her collection of thimbles. Thanks for writing to me and sending me a photo of vour collection!

Thought for the day: Time flies. It is up to us to be the navigator. Until next time.



Thanksgiving haters just went right ahead with your

Be amazing today, my friend.



BREAKFAST PRICES	
EC-12th Grade \$1.75	
EC-12th Reduced \$0.30	
Adult \$2.25	
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade\$3.00	
5th-8th Grade \$3.25	
High School \$3.00	
Reduced ^{\$} 0.40	
Adult\$4.25	
Students may prepay for their meals.	

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 Banana Muffin, Strawberries

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 Popcorn Chicken, Steak Fingers, Mashed Potatoes, Corn Tuesday Open Face Chicken Pot Pie, Ck Fried Steak Sandwich, Carrot Sticks, Green Beans Wednesday Chicken and Waffles, Tator Tots, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Blueberries Thursday Beef Tamales, Hot Dog, Black Beans, Bell pepper Strips, Apple Slices Friday Pepperoni Pizza, Chicken Sandwich, Carrots, Fresh Broccoli, Banana, Craisins

5th - 12th Lunch

Monday EggStravaganza, Chicken or Sausage Patty, Biscuit, Hash brown, Cucumber & Tomato Cup Tuesday Mac & cheese, Salisbury Steak, Fresh Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Glazed Carrots Wednesday Pulled Pork Sandwich, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Tator Tots, Coleslaw, Broccoli Salad Thursday Enchilada Bake, Corn Dog, Ranchero Beans, Spanish Rice, Garden Salad, Fresh Baby Carrots Friday Pepperoni Pizza, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, Baked potato Basket, Baked Beans, Celery & Carrot Cup, Banana.

This menu is sponsored by ...



Springtown

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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.

C00 SAM HOUSTON

Publisher

KIM WARE nuhlisk

DON MUNSCH

Editor

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Changes urged in funding community colleges

CHANGES URGED IN FUNDING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A report submitted to state leaders ahead of the 88th legislative session's opening in January urges lawmakers to develop "an innovative new model" to fund community colleges.

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance, established last year by the Legislature and consisting of 12 lawmakers, business leaders and community college leaders, offered three sets of recommendations for supporting the state's strategic plan for higher education: Reward community colleges for positive student outcomes Increase affordability and

financial aid

· Increase capacity at colleges to meet changing workforce needs

"We need a funding model for our 50 community college districts that is bold, strategic and fully aligned with our emerging workforce needs," said Woody Hunt, a member of the commission and longtime business leader.

The commission also recommended the state make

community colleges more affordable by increasing financial aid provided by the state, more aid for dual-credit courses and supporting workbased educational opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships.

Under the state's current system for funding community colleges, most revenue comes from tuition and property taxes levied by the college district. The state also contributes some funding.

NEW POWER GRID MARKET DRAWS SKEPTICS

The state Public Utility Commission is proposing an untested structure for the state's power grid after legislators ordered its overhaul in the wake of the 2021 winter storm. The Dallas Morning News reported the proposed "performance credit mechanism," or PCM, "offers power

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

> producers a financial reward to have their plants available during times when Texans are consuming the most energy."

Some lawmakers are skeptical. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, questioned why the PUC would create a new, untested market mechanism, according to The Morning News. In addition, a consulting firm hired by the PUC did not recommend the PCM.

The public and stakeholders have until Dec. 15 to submit comments on the proposal.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the marketplace and people tell us," Lake said.

FEDS PROVIDE DISASTER AID AFTER STORMS

The federal government has approved a request by Gov. Greg Abbott for disaster aid for a dozen Northeast Texas counties hit by severe weather and tornadoes earlier this month.

The U.S. Small Business Administration granted access to its loan program to businesses and residents in Lamar, Morris, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Marion, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

"Northeast Texas residents and business owners will now have access to critical financial support as they rebuild, repair and recover from the physical damage and economic injury caused by this storm system," Abbott said.

Applicants may apply online at disasterassistance.sba.gov or by calling 800-659-2955.

SEARCH AND RESCUE DRONE PROGRAM PROVES USEFUL

The use of drones by game wardens with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has helped to find two missing persons recently and assisted in the arrest of a man in East Texas wanted in a shooting and assault. Game warden Michael Hummert responded to a report of an elderly man who had gone missing the

night of Nov. 3.

The setting sun prevented us from locating him through usual means," Hummert said. "The thermal drone picks up body heat, which is necessary to locate someone at night. With the cold creeping in, it was imperative to find him quickly."

The Erath County sheriff's department used cell phone records to determine a general location. Hummert mapped out a search area and located the man with the drone using a thermal scan and led to deputies to the location. A similar situation occurred nine days later in Bell County. Hummert again used his drone to locate the missing person.

Heading farther east, another TPWD drone operator, Doug Williams, was called to assist authorities searching for a suspect who shot at and assaulted two people, then fled into the woods. Using another thermal drone, Williams found the suspect hiding in the brush during freezing weather. He was arrested and later treated for hypothermia.

"Empowering our division with the drone program in

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Springtown, Texas invites sealed proposals from all qualified vendors desiring to furnish the City with the Annual Contract for Veterinary Services for Animals Impounded at Springtown Animal Control, complying with the following specifications as listed herein. A sealed copy of the bid proposal may be submitted by courier or hand delivered to Christina Derr, Director of Administrative Services/Interim City Secretary, City of Springtown, 102 East Second Street, Springtown, Texas 76082. Mark envelope in lower left corner "RFP Contract for Veterinary Services for Animals Impounded at Springtown Animal Control" so that the proposals will not be opened until the appointed hour. Proposals may also be submitted by courier, hand delivered in a sealed envelope or box to Christina Derr, Director of Administrative Services/Interim City Secretary, City of Springtown, 102 East Second Street, Springtown, Texas 76082. Proposals submitted must be received before proposal closing on Friday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. Faxed, emailed, or USPS mailed bid proposals will not be accepted. Proposal documents may be obtained free of charge at the City of Springtown, 102 East Second Street, Springtown, TX 76082, by emailing Christina Derr, Director Administrative Services/Interim City Secretary, cderr@cityofspringtown.com. Questions regarding the Request for Proposal shall be directed to: Christina Derr, City of Springtown Director Administrative Services/Interim City Secretary, cderr@cityofspringtown.com. Questions regarding this Proposal must not be directed to other City of Springtown council, commission, committee, or staff members. Clarification requests will not be accepted by telephone. Questions pertaining to this Proposal must be received no later December 7, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On December 15, 2022, at 7 p.m. the City of Springtown City Council acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing and consider a request for a variance for Lot 1, Block 1, Hilltop Addition, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas, being 5.49 acres of land situated in the Ambers Angley Survey, Abstract No. 4, City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas for the required landscaping. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers and the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082

Notice Of Public Hearing

On November 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on a request for a zoning change request for Lot 1R. Block 8. Tummins Addition, an addition to the City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas from SF-2 Single Family Residential 2 to MF Multifamily. On December 15, 2022, at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same. Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082

FRONTIER FROM PAGE 1A

morning.

"They've made us have to pay out a lot of overtime because a lot of times, we find out at 4:30 that we got to leave and got to go work through the night," Harris said at the November SUD board meeting.

Harris said the Frontier representatives agreed not to work on Friday afternoons and pick back up on Mondays, which the SUD general manager said is helpful. Frontier crews are also supposed to be doing the work to locate water lines.

Frontier apologized for any inconvenience in a statement to the Epigraph from the corporate public relations team.

"We are building fiber to homes and businesses in Springtown so we can deliver high-speed, reliable connectivity to this community." the statement read. "To do this, we lay the fiber underground and there's always a chance that we may hit other buried lines. While this is common in our industry and other industries that do similar work, we always talk to the city and take the necessary steps to ensure that we don't interfere with other utilities as we build. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to have Springtown connected soon.' Harris said during the SUD board meeting that he suspects that Frontier workers have been stealing water from fire hydrants to run their drilling machines instead of getting a meter from the SUD. He said the usual process is for contractors to

get a fire hydrant meter from a week and a half break in the SUD, which allows them to get water and be billed for it. Crucially, the meters have a backflow prevention device to protect the public water system.

Because of how many Frontier crews are actively working, the SUD doesn't have enough meters to accommodate all of them.

"We've had several on the waiting list for them for months, and there's no real reason for us to go buy a whole bunch of them because this project will be over and then they're just laying here, and they cost \$1,000 a piece,' Harris said.

Contractors are allowed to bring their own meters for projects, provided that the SUD inspects their meters beforehand.

"But a lot of them don't have one, so they're just stopping at a fire hydrant, screwing the hose on it and getting water," Harris said. "And that's got to stop. It's dangerous to the public water system, and it's a federal crime to tamper with the pub lic water system, besides the stealing of the water." Without a meter that has a backflow prevention device, the water supply could be contaminated from the hose used to get the water, Harris said. Walnut Creek SUD isn't the only water provider that has had issues with Frontier. Reno City Administrator Scott Passmore said Frontier crews are "hitting water lines right and left." He said Frontier crews were having four hits per day, and the city administrator had to restrict them to only boring three times per week as well as recently making them take

Reno. "They have worn us out," Passmore said. "We'll be

sending them a bill for what they've hit on our end and plus for the parts." This bill may be close to

\$60,000 in parts and labor, Passmore said.

"That's something that this little city, that type of maintenance, really can't handle," he said. "That puts a good bind on us.

To Harris' concern about crews taking water illegally, Passmore said Frontier crews were caught stealing water, and citations were issued.

Harris said a foreman from the county and a pollution deputy from the constable's office also attended the meeting with Frontier and confronted them about dumping drilling fluids in creeks and culverts.

"They had over 70 pictures that had been sent to them by citizens of dumping stuff where they shouldn't be, besides some that they had taken themselves," Harris said

cooperation with Gear Up

for Game Wardens dona-

tions creates a lifeline where

there wasn't," said TPWD's

Lt. Matthew Bridgefarmer.

"Game warden drone opera-

tors arrive first on scene to

locate lost boaters and hikers.

We search in the aftermath of

natural disasters. At the end

lives.'

FOR STUDENTS

of the day, this program saves

NO COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES

Abbott has told the Texas

Education Agency and school

COVID-19 vaccine cannot be

mandated as part of school

overrides a recommendation

from the Centers for Disease

Control that added the vac-

ules for adults and school-

aged children.

said.

cine to immunization sched-

"Regardless of what the

the COVID-19 vaccine remains

shall not require students to

receive the COVID-19 vaccine

for any reason," Abbott's let-

ter to TEA and school chiefs

CDC may suggest, in Texas,

voluntary. Texas schools

superintendents that the

entry requirements. This

at the November SUD board meeting.

The Frontier corporate public relations team said any claims of wrongdoing would be looked into.

"If our crews have done something wrong, we have proven that we will take the appropriate action," the statement read.

For Walnut Creek SUD's area, Frontier is supposed to be finished around May, Harris said.

In Reno, Passmore said the city was told that Frontier would be complete by the end of the year, but he doubts that will be the case after he slowed down their crews.

Notice Of Public Hearing

On December 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on a request for a zoning change request for a 29.27-acre tract of land situated in John Freeman Survey, Abstract 472 and the John Carter Survey, Abstract 234, City of Springtown, Parker County, Texas from Single Family-2 SF-2 to Multifamily MF. On December 15, 2022, at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same. Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On December 15, 2022, at 7 p.m. the City of Springtown City Council acting as the Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing and consider a request for variance for a 1.46-acre tract of land situated in the T&P R.R. Company Survey, Abstract No. 1461, for the required landscaping. The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers and the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

Notice Of Public Hearing

On December 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council on an amendment to Chapter 14, Zoning, City of Springtown Code of Ordinances and an amendment to the City of Springtown zoning map. On December 15, 2022, at 7 p.m., the City of Springtown City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation on the same. Both meetings will take place in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Annex Building located at 200 North Main Street, Springtown, Texas 76082.

SPRINGTOWN INSURANCE DIRECTORY



Springtown Epigraph **5A**

SHOW FROM PAGE 1A

exactly to expect," she said. "None of us had been able to find a taping of the show to preview, so before he left that morning, I told him to just have fun with it since it's very rare that an experience like this comes along. As soon as he was done filming, he sent me a message saying that they were headed back home and that he had had a blast. At that point, I was like ... OK, it's over, all went well, and now we can relax."

All the Texans won \$500 gift cards, which Chandler said he'll put toward college expenses, particularly textbooks. He wants to attend an Ivy League school, particularly Yale University, and major in political science. His end goal is to earn a law degree and become a prosecutor.

"I just had an interest in politics, and I wanted to make a difference in people's lives, so I figured I'd do that in law, probably being a prosecutor," Chandler said.

Chandler's big takeaway from being on the show was "teamwork makes the dream work" and recounted how he collaborated with his team of fellow Texans as well as the producers and technicians on set.

Aside from the winnings,

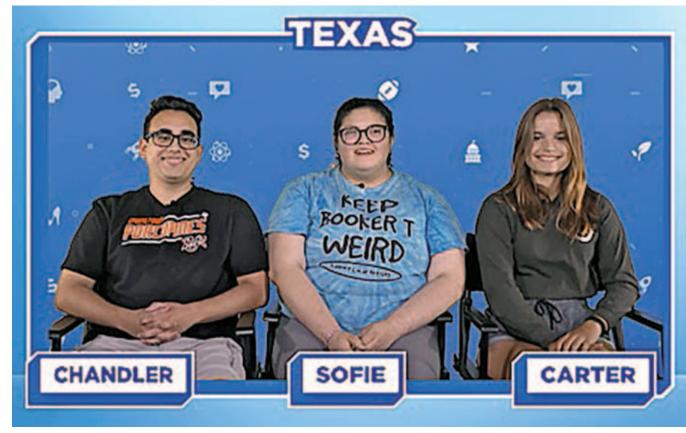
Chandler said he learned about how TV shows work behind the scenes and enioved watching the crew produce the game show episode on set. He recalled joking around and having fun with his team and the producers between filming segments.

Chandler's mother, Mary, said the experience allowed him to take a risk and seize an opportunity.

"I feel like this experience reminded him that you never know what can happen unless you go for it," Mary said. "He wasn't sure what would happen when he applied, but we told him, if they ask for an interview, that's OK, and if they don't, that's OK, too. At least you know that you tried. He's kind of experiencing the same nervousness with college applications right now so we try to put him at ease by joking with him that no matter what happens, he'll always have Spectrum News Challenge."

Chandler was excited to be on TV and would consider doing it again. He did learn that TV production comes with its fair share of technical difficulties. One of the issues he mentioned was getting the earpieces - which is how the team heard their questions and instructions from the Los Angeles studio to work and fit properly.

Chandler, who serves as



COURTESY PHOTO

Springtown High School senior Chandler King competed on the trivia game show "Spectrum News Challenge" with two other Texas high school students. The competition tested the random knowledge of its participants, and King prepared by being well-read and tuning into some classic game shows.

SHS Student Council president among other activities, would recommend that more of his high school peers participate in the Spectrum News Challenge.

This is a sentiment that he shares with his mother.

"I absolutely would recommend other Springtown High Schoolers to apply," Mary said. "It's good for us to get out of our comfort zone every once in a while. It's a great way to meet other people. Chandler got to meet

students from all over Texas and he got to know Sofie and Carter (his teammates) before they met in person. Plus, regardless of winning or losing, competing in something is always fun." Check out Chandler

King's appearance on "Spectrum News Challenge" here: spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/austin/ SNchallenge/2022/11/15/ spectrum-news-challengenew-york-vs-texas-111622

VAPING FROM PAGE 1A

istration office, and alternative school is scheduled there almost concurrently with regular class times. Kelley said disciplinary alternative education bridges the gap between suspension and expulsion.

Kelley is concerned that the students could get addicted to the high levels of nicotine in the vaping devices or that the kids are making their own vaping liquids based on internet recipes and could be harming themselves.

"It's a concern and one that we need to tackle," he said. "My hope is that this makes it really, really difficult for those kids to find a place between the hours of 8 and 4 o'clock to participate in that kind of activity, and if that then helps them kick that habit or prevent it from

district has also found some vaping devices containing THC - the psychoactive substance found in cannabis and the district has test kits to determine THC content. Law enforcement usually is involved in cases with THC vaping devices.

"The police would have to identify whether the percentage is high enough that there would be charges, and unfortunately for some of our kids, those charges are very significant," Kelley said. "We're trying to educate

them about not only in terms of health what the long-term impact could be but in terms of a record. And if you're not a juvenile, that stays with you for a very long time."

To any in the community who think the district's approach is "heavy-handed," Kelley countered "that would be hard to argue if there was a student who became very, very sick or worse, if they were under the influence of the THC and made a bad decision that impacted their life or somebody else's.'

Weatherford College Calendar

• Monday, December 5, 2022

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Alkek Fine Arts Center **Visual Art Exhibition** Join us for the Fall Semester art show reception.

• Monday, December 5, 2022

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Alkek Fine Arts Center Winter Words Choir concert featuring Britten's Ceremony of Carols. Directed by Rick Rainey. Free admission. Doors open at 7 p.m.





becoming a habit, then it's worth the money for us." In the past, Kelley said the

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



Saturday, December 3rd • Noon - 5:00 PM

The Optimist Club, Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Azle News invite you, your friends and family to join us for a wonderful community Christmas celebration.

2022 theme: "Miracle on Main Street"

Azle Christmas on Main Vendor Show W. Main Street • 12 - 5 PM

Vendor booths will be open for holiday shopping. Help us support local businesses this season.

Children's Christmas Event at 404 **404 W. Main Street • 2 - 5 PM**

Brought to you by the Azle Optimist Club, the Azle News, and the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce this event will include activities for the children of Azle. Register for bike giveaways, pick up a cookie kit to decorate with family at home, and get a chance to see Santa. There will also be ornaments, candy canes, coloring books, and reindeer food to take home.

Simultaneous City Christmas Tree Lightings at 6:30 PM Azle Historical Museum • 124 W. Main Street Azle City Hall • 505 W. Main Street

Join the Mayor of Azle and other community leaders for the lighting of the City Christmas Tree at the Azle Historical Museum. Join other officials for the City Hall Tree Lighting.

Main Street Business Decorating Categories :

Most Christmas Spirit • Best Theme "Miracle on Main Street" Most Creative • Best Light Display • Best Overall

Winners will be announced at the Azle Historical Museum at 6:15 pm.

Silent auction for decorated Christmas trees provided by Chamber members inside 404 Main Place. Proceeds benefiting 2023 bike giveaway.

OBITUARIES

Jacob Barlett 1998-2022

Jacob Ryan Barlett, beloved son and brother, passed away on November 19, 2022, at age twenty-four. Jacob grew up in Aledo, Texas with his mother Meredith Smith, his father Christopher Logsdon, and his stepparents Dan Smith and Jennifer Logsdon.

A memorial service was held on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 4 p.m. at North Side Baptist Church in Weatherford, Texas.

Family was incredibly important to Jacob, and he poured his love out to his siblings Jackson Logsdon and Zachary Logsdon, as well as bonus siblings Korbin Smith, Robert Eaton, and Rebecca Kozar. Jacob's loving spirit was also shared with his Aledo friends and his vouth group at Springtown Church of Christ who enjoyed his infectious smile and his incomparable loyalty. Jacob's ultimate joy was found when he was surrounded by the people he loved.

Jacob adored baseball, the sport he played throughout his life, and he was known to spend his birthday at Rangers games each year with family and friends. Travel was another love of Jacob's that was sparked by a Colorado trip with his youth group during high school. One of his favorite adventures was a roadtrip across the country that took him as far as South Dakota as well as returning him to his beloved Colorado, where he felt at one with nature.

Jacob was preceded in death by his "Pawquaw" James McBee, his "Nana" Lousara McBee, his

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or email us at:

To place an obituary



"Grandaddy" Mike Logsdon and "Poppy" Noel Glenn Smith. He loved them all dearly.

Jacob is survived by his grandparents "Nonnie" Pamela Logsdon, "Mimi" Joyce Smith, "Mimi" Pat Bird and "Poppy" Eldon Bird, parents, Meredith and Daniel Smith, Christopher and Jennifer Logsdon, his siblings, Jackson Logsdon, Zachary Logsdon, Korbin Smith, Robert Eaton, and Rebecca Kozar, and a wealth of loving aunts, uncles, and cousins who will all miss Jacob profoundly.

If you prefer not to send flowers, please consider donating in honor of Jacob Barlett to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention or similar organization. If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), text "STRENGTH" to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741 or go to suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

> The Azle News, Dec. 1, 2022 Edition

Natalie Cotton 1991-2022

Natalie Cotton, 31, passed away November 27, 2022. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on December 1 at Azleland Cemetery, 850 N.

Cardinal Rd., Reno. A memorial service is planned for December 10. Natalie was born on May 5, 1991 to Buddy and Lora Cotton. She lived her entire

life in Azle. She did not let cerebral palsy slow her down. She was an adventurer who loved being outdoors and found joy in swimming and four-wheeling, and summer camp every year.

Natalie had an impact on so many lives and she will always be remembered for her adventurous spirit. She wasn't scared of anything. She is survived by her par-

ents, Buddy and Lora; brother, Bryan and sister-in-law,

Ginger Yvonne Taylor Cox-Patton went to be with her Lord and Savior on the Lord's day, Sunday, November 27. Ginger was born in

Gainesville, Texas to Maggie Cain and Alvin Taylor on June 29, 1947. She moved to Fort Worth Texas at the age of 17 and married Frank Roland Cox. Together they had two children, Derek and Misty Cox. Several years after her divorce from Roland she married Dennis Wayne Patton and acquired two more kids, Rene' and Dennis Jr. After their second grandchild was born, she and Dennis moved to Azle, Texas where they lived out their lives in the country.

Her favorite job was being a mom and grandmother, but she also worked for the Yellow Checker Cab Company, Santa Fe Credit Union. and EECU.

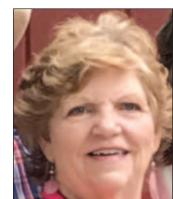
She is most known for her love of God and Antiques. She was a devout Christian and



Gillian Davidson; grandma, Hope Doss; aunt, Sondra Doss; uncle John Doss and wife Mari; uncle, Toby Doss and wife Rose; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends too numerous to name.

> The Azle News, Dec. 1, 2022 Edition

Ginger Cox 1947-2022



her husband Brett Brown, and Gunnar Cox; two daughters, Misty Cox-Simpson and her husband Bryan and four sons Slade, Jake, Jaxon, and Shane, and Rene Patton Correa and her husband Todd and two sons Michael and Matt; son Dennis Jr. and daughter Brittany.

She will be buried at Mount Olivet cemetery in Fort Worth with her family in a private burial.

In lieu of flowers, please

Larry Dowdy 1953-2022

Larry Lee Dowdy, 68, of Azle, Texas, passed away on November 22, 2022 after a lengthy and courageous battle with illness.

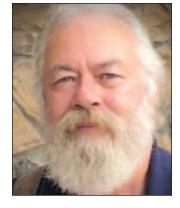
Service was held at Alexander's Midway Chapel, November 29 at 1 p.m. with burial following at Azleland Memorial Park.

Larry was born December 1, 1953, to James and Elizabeth Dowdy. A native of Azle, he grew up in his grandparent's grocery store, Clyde E. Rochelle Grocery, and the real estate office on Jacksboro Highway. When he wasn't playing sports, he would spend as such time outdoors with his brother and fellow friends roaming and fishing Ash Creek, Redbird Creek and also Eagle Mountain Lake.

Larry definitely loved running in his school days. It is often brought up by his peers, that he led the Azle track teams to many successful meets as anchor on the 4x100 relay team. He went on to graduate from Azle High School in 1971, a year earlier than scheduled.

Larry really enjoyed music. He started a band while in school, replicating many popular bands from that time period, including the Beatles. He had a natural skill-set on a set of drums. It didn't matter where he was, if they had drums, a few minutes later, Larry would find his way on stage. He was also a talented guitarist and keyboardist. Professionally, Larry, was known for his long career in the concrete, aggregate & transportation industry. For a number of years, he worked in various roles for his step-dad, Dee Womack, Jr., who owned and operated Northwest Concrete in Azle, which led to a solid foundation of experience and knowledge. After Northwest Concrete sold to Beall Industries, Larry went on to serve in many capacities until leaving the organization in 1996.

Larry loved the outdoors, but the mountains were al-



Rebecca and Tim, and several grandchildren.

It was also during this time, he began a life with his love, Teresa, for 17 years. The two were great friends in their younger years and had always remained close, so it was a easy for them to love one another.

Our beloved Larry enjoyed numerous hobbies, which included: fishing, hunting, camping, ham radio, rc planes, wood working, performing music, road tripping and so much more.

Larry was a very humble man with a huge heart for others. To know him, was to also love him. Larry never met a stranger. He loved to meet and get to know the people he met across his travels. He loved to entertain people, either through story telling, jokes, or just doing funny things at his own expense. He sure loved his precious family, especially his best friend and mother, Elizabeth, and most importantly, his personal savior, Jesus Christ.

Larry is preceded in death by his father, James Dowdy, Jr.; grandmother, Martha Dowdy; grandmother, Marguerite Rochelle; grandfather, Clyde Rochelle; and stepfather, Dee Womack, Jr.

He is survived by spouse, Teresa Mayo; daughter, Rebecca Dowdy (Marvin); son, Tim Dowdy (Jaymi);their mother, Helen Dowdy; stepsons, Adam Mayo (Jasmine), Daniel Mayo (Charlotte), Dvlan Mayo; Mother, Elizabeth Womack; sister, Jan Womack (Scott); brother,

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Springtown families gather to watch Christmas parade, tree lighting

BY MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

As the sun set in Springtown on Sunday, folks lined up on First Street to watch the city's annual Christmas parade.

Adults, kids and a few dogs all waited for the parade to reach the Springtown Square. The smell of popcorn was in the air, and vendors with carts called out for parade watchers to buy their light-up accessories. With all the light-up gear – particularly toy swords – the crowd glowed before the parade even arrived.

Sometime after 6 p.m., the parade marched past the square, starting with a police vehicle and fire trucks sounding off their sirens. Trailers, tractors, vehicles and horses followed, all decked out in Christmas lights and decorations.

The parade was judged by the Springtown City Council, and the therapeutic riding center Stars and Strides Stables won first place. Sunset Mountain Miniatures and Jeep Girl Mafia Club were also recognized with second and third place, respectively.

After the parade had ended, attendees gathered by the Christmas tree on the square to watch as the tree's lights were switched on. Springtown Mayor Greg Hood welcomed the crowd and thanked the parade participants and the organizers who made the event possible. After a countdown, the glowing Christmas tree was revealed to the community.

PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Left: The city of Springtown lit up its Christmas tree on the Springtown Square on Nov. 27, following the parade.

Bottom: Last year's Springtown Christmas parade float contest winners the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who kicked off the showing of this year's parade entries on Nov. 27.







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Dama Puerco Espin

BY JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The young and relatively inexperienced 4A Springtown girls basketball team traveled to Azle to take on the hardcharging 5A Lady Hornets in late November.

The Lady Porcupines were thumped on the scoreboard but not on the court. Springtown made the game more exciting than the 54-14 score indicated because the girls never stopped hustling or striving to win.

"We came in here knowing how Azle is," said Blanca Alapont, playing in her first season with Springtown. "We know Azle is good, but we fought. We at least tried."

Much of the Pines' work ethic can be attributed to Alapont herself. The 5-foot 3-inch point guard arrived four months ago as a Spanish exchange student brimming with positivity and athleticism.

"She always makes things fun," said head coach Kyle Sivadon. "I enjoy every day getting to work with her and everything that she's brought to the team."

Springtown's 1-5 record shows the girls have struggled to claim victories, but most of their games have been close, beginning with *Spanish exchange student enjoying year as Lady Porcupine*

the season opener on Nov. 4. Springtown lost to Wichita Falls 65-60 in overtime.

Alapont ranks among the area's top players in assist-to-turnover ratio.

"She works really hard and is one of the best passers I've coached in 22 years," Sivadon said. "She has a lot of experience with basketball and knows Xs and Os."

The 15-year-old Spaniard has traveled in the past but rarely outside of Europe. Coming to America and living in Springtown has been a fun adventure, she said.

"I like it a lot," she said. "I really like the people. They are very nice. I really like the family I'm with and all my friends."

She took basic English classes as a youngster but rarely used the language in daily speech while growing up. She figured she would remember enough words and phrases to get by in the United States without too much difficulty. Then, she arrived in Texas, heard the drawls, accents and unfamiliar expressions and realized conversations would be more challenging than she had anticipated.

"I thought the English level I had was going to be enough to come here, but no," she said. "If you come here to America to study and you think you know English, you don't know. It's like I'm starting from zero learning English."

Her English has improved during her stay in Springtown. She understood questions and responded clearly if somewhat haltingly for this interview.

Alapont has been involved in sports for years, including gymnastics, soccer, tennis and basketball. In Springtown, she is focusing on her favorite, basketball.

In June, she will return to her family on the eastern coast of Spain.

She is in no hurry. "I miss my family and my friends, but this is a year to focus on myself," she said. Alapont's focus is ben-

efiting herself and her teammates. "All the girls love her,"

Sivadon said. "She has been doing a great job for us."



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE Blanca Alapont's assist-to-turnover ratio is among the best in the state.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE Blanca Alapont, shown hustling after a ball, displays a strong work ethic on the basketball court.



PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE Still smiling even after a tough loss to Azle.

Springtown basketball girls to host mega-tourney

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A passel of impressive players will bounce basketballs Dec. 8-10 at the Springtown gymnasium as the Lady Porcupines host the Chicken Express Porcupine Invitational.

Many powerful teams are slated to appear, and the lineup is "loaded," said Springtown head coach

Kyle Sivadon.

Teams scheduled to participate include Lubbock Christian, a three-time consecutive state champion in TAPPS; L.D. Bell, a 6A regional finalist last year; undefeated Levelland; TAPPS 2A state runner-up Weatherford Christian; and many others.



Springtown senior Kelsey Beaman and her fellow Lady Porcupines will host a basketball tournament Dec. 8-10 at the home gym.



Azle News CLASSIFIEDS Springtown Epigraph

10A www.Springtown-Epigraph.net Thursday, December 1, 2022 • Springtown Epigraph

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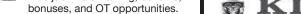
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Bob's Baseball Tours – DC Cherry Blossom Tour: Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2023, home games at Washington Nationals, NY Yankees & Boston Red Sox. East Coast Tour: Aug. 18-27, 2023, home games at Yankees, Red Sox, Orioles, Phillies, Nationals, Mets & Little League World Series. Tours include sightseeing, motor coach transportation and hotels/game tickets. Call or Text 507-217-1326.

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EVENTS

Pleasanton Merry on Main – Dec. 2-3, Pleasanton, TX. River Park Wonderland, tree lighting, talent show, carnival, parade, music, vendors, food trucks and more. www.merryonmain.org.

Palacios Downtown Christmas – Fri., Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m., The Palacios, Texas Downtowners are hosting A Downtown Christmas. Cookie crawl, Christmas pageant, lighted bike parade, turkey giveaway, door prizes, shopping, food and much more. Chamber's free seaside holiday event on Dec. 3.

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