

Scales and tails

Wildlife on the Move presents wild animals to Springtown Cub Scouts



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Eric Brittingham, the president and program presenter of the North Texas nonprofit Wildlife on the Move, makes an "O" shape with his hand to tell Cub Scouts that he's holding an opossum.

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Eric Brittingham held up a poster of an animal's spiny tail and asked a group of attentive Springtown Cub Scouts in Pack 303 to guess "whose tail is it?"

Some kids guessed that the animal was a rat. Another Scout speculated that the animal was an armadillo. In the end, the kids who guessed "opossum" came out victorious when Brittingham revealed the fluffy marsupial cradled in his arm. The surprised Scouts sounded off with "oohs" and "aahs."

"It's a Texas-sized rat," Brittingham joked before correcting the record to tell the Scouts that opossums are not rodents but pouch-mammals like a kangaroo.

Brittingham, the president and program presenter of the North Texas nonprofit Wildlife on the Move, told the kids more facts about opossums, like that they are the size of jellybeans when they are born and adult opossums have 50 teeth.

After answering questions and letting a Scout touch the opossum, Brittingham moved on to repeat the cycle

of letting kids guess which animal was next, revealing the animal and sharing facts about it. Besides the opossum, the animal cast included a corn snake, savannah monitor lizard, legless lizard and a jungle carpet python during the Pack 303 meeting on Nov. 29 at First United Methodist Church in Springtown.

This was the second year in a row that the Cub Scouts in Pack 303 attended a program to see and touch wild animals, though last year the Scouts were taught by a different wildlife exhibitor, The Creature Teacher.

Cubmaster Holly Lowe said she met Brittingham at the Paradise Main Street Festival and invited him to lead a presentation for the Scouts.

"He is used to doing the Cub Scout programs and things like that," Lowe said. "We just geared it towards having fun to give the Scouts something back for all their hard work they've been doing this year so far."

Throughout the show, Brittingham delivered an animated performance, cracking jokes the whole

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Neighbor to Neighbors, Our House prepare to serve the community for Christmas

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Food pantries in Springtown and Reno are getting ready to serve families in need for Christmas.

Neighbor to Neighbors food pantry in Springtown served about 220 families for Thanksgiving, and Board President James Heil expects to serve a similar number of families for Christmas.

Unlike Thanksgiving, people who visit Neighbor to Neighbors will not receive a separate food box, but they will be able to select holiday food, like ham and stuffing, during their normal pick-up times.

Providing holiday food to families is important to Heil because it helps families maintain a sense of normalcy.

"Just to have that nice meal together as a family, I think, is important," he said. "I get to do that, and I think other people, folks that maybe don't have the money to go out and buy that, it gives them an opportunity to have that and be able to celebrate with their families with a really nice meal."

Neighbor to Neighbors is

also trying to provide families with children under age 18 with a small gift, Heil said. Local churches and individuals have been helping with donating toys.

Heil is confident that the food pantry will see an increase in families served for Christmas compared to last year, year over year.

"We're serving more families just overall this year than we did last year," he said.

A few months ago, Heil said in a previous Epigraph article that the food pantry was getting fewer food donations than usual, but the holiday season has since motivated people to donate.

"We had a really good donation period during the holidays for sure. We'll see if it keeps up," he said. "People really stepped up over the holidays and made sure we had what we needed."

Neighbor to Neighbors is able to carry out its mission to feed locals in need because of its volunteers. The food pantry has volunteers who deliver food to older adults who are homebound, and a crew who tend to the

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PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Rachele Ortega is the city of Springtown's new event coordinator and has led event planning efforts for the city's Christmas events.

Meet Rachele Ortega, the city of Springtown's new events coordinator

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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In two separate Springtown City Council meetings, City Administrator David Miller heaped praise upon the city's new events coordinator.

"Rachele Ortega, who is our new events coordinator, has done an excellent job of securing right at, right

now about \$10,000 worth of sponsorships to cover the cost of (the Old-Fashioned Christmas festival)," Miller said during the November council meeting. "I'm very pleased with her and (Director of Administrative Services) Christina (Derr) and everybody around the table out there that serves on our events committee. They have done a fantastic job."

For Ortega, having support from Miller as well as other city leaders means a lot.

"I feel honored. I really do. I'm glad he likes me," she said, before releasing a hearty laugh. "You can feel like you're doing a good job and OK, but it's a different thing to hear it from somebody else; and to hear from him, I'm very fortunate."

Just a few months ago,

Ortega was hired for the development clerk position at the city of Springtown. When she found out that the city needed an events coordinator, she offered to help, since she has previous experience with event planning.

"She just kind of hit the ground running," Derr said, who serves as Ortega's supervisor.

SEE ORTEGA, PAGE 4A



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OLD-FASHIONED
CHRISTMAS 5-9A



Mini Showstoppers at Azle VFW luncheon

COURTESY PHOTO

On Nov. 20, the Mini Showstoppers, led by Springtown High School Showstoppers, performed at the annual Azle VFW luncheon at Azle Manor Health Care and Rehabilitation. Pictured in the back row are veterans Joe Holder and Terry Henderson. In the second row are SHS Showstopper President Dixie Miller, Mini Showstopper Payton Rutherford, Mini Showstopper Harlie Hodo and SHS Showstopper Kayden Kenney. In the front row are Mini Showstoppers Reagan Reeves, Remington Osborn, Annabelle Wood and Harlie Dean.

Reno police officers honored for meritorious service after high-risk arrest

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Audience members at last week's Reno City Council meeting stood up and clapped when three police officers were honored for navigating a high-risk arrest of a man charged with possessing child pornography.

Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner and Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer presented Lt. Andrew Nalley, Sgt. Edgar Gonzalez and Officer Armando Gonzalez with Meritorious Service Awards on Nov. 28.

In October, these officers arrested Steven Harsch, who is accused of possessing several hundred child pornography images, which Stringer said were found by police on Harsch's phone before the arrest.

Reno Police Department obtained a warrant to search the suspect's home. At about 6 a.m. on Oct. 4, the officers - including Stringer

- knocked on Harsch's door and announced their affiliation with the Reno Police Department. Officers breached the door when Harsch refused to answer, Stringer said.

Upon breach, the officers found the suspect pointing a handgun at them, but he did not fire the weapon, Stringer said. Nalley deployed his Taser, and once Harsch was incapacitated, Edgar Gonzalez and Armando Gonzalez disarmed and arrested him.

The confrontation was over in minutes, but Stringer said those kinds of situations feel much longer.

"When you're standing in there, it seems like an eternity," the deputy chief said.

The officers later found out from a letter on Harsch's desk that he aimed to use a police officer to kill himself, which Stringer described as "suicide by cop."

"Suicide by cop" is when someone doesn't want

to shoot themselves and doesn't want to kill themselves, so they want the police to do it," he said. "So, they will do something to cause the police to use deadly force."

Harsch was charged with possession of child pornography, promotion of child pornography, aggravated assault of a peace officer and tampering with evidence. Stringer said the U.S. Attorney's Office is handling the possession and promotion of child pornography charges while the other charges will be litigated in Parker County.

At the council meeting, Stringer said Nalley, Edgar Gonzalez and Armando Gonzalez "embody the highest standards in law enforcement."

"This would have been a time that deadly force was justified," the deputy chief said. "However, these officers made the decision to preserve his life with great risk to their own safety."

Reno to host Pancakes with Santa on Saturday

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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Santa Claus is coming to Reno, but instead of cookies, he wants pancakes.

The Reno Events Committee is hosting Pancakes with Santa from 9-11 a.m. Dec. 10 at Reno City Hall.

The event is free and includes a breakfast of sausage, bacon and, of course, pancakes, as well as photos with Santa Claus along with crafts, reindeer treats and holiday cookie decorating.

Events Committee Chairperson Ted Lyon gave

a report to the Reno City Council on Nov. 28 regarding planning for the event, and he opened his report with a joke.

"Santa is supposed to be here, though I have some pretty big concerns about that. With people hitting deer with their cars around here, I think it'd be just a matter of time before somebody hits Rudolph or Dasher or Dancer, and Santa won't be able to get here," Lyon said.

On a more serious note, he said the events committee - which is paying for the event, not the city, except for the bacon - has been resourceful

in pulling this holiday gathering together. The committee members are donating items needed for the event like pancake mix and sausage, and they found someone to play Santa.

"It's no expense to the city. It's all being taken care of in the events committee," Lyon said.

Lyon reported that the committee has about \$300 - the profit made from the Reno Fall Festival at the end of October - but an official bank account has not been set up yet.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Officer Armando Gonzalez, Lt. Andrew Nalley and Sgt. Edgar Gonzalez of the Reno Police Department were presented with Meritorious Service Awards at the Reno City Council meeting on Nov. 28.

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Water is Life

Years ago, on a veterinary mission trip to Haiti, I was astonished when I witnessed a daily routine in the village where we worked.

Early in the mornings, villagers walked for miles and miles to a stream to gather water. They carried huge jars, filled them up with water, and balanced them on the tops of their heads to make the journey homeward.

This act required immense balance because any drop of water that was lost on the trek would mean one less drop they could have to quench their thirst. Literally hours per day were spent in the pursuit and transport of water. As a rancher, rain and water availability is a daily discussion, but watching this ordeal intensified my understanding that water is humanity's source of life, and the average American takes it for granted.

Back home, many Americans are blessed to



DISTRICT 60

By Glenn Rogers

Representative Glenn Rogers is a sixth generation Texas rancher, and his family has deep ranching roots in Palo Pinto County going back to the 1890s. He represents District 60 in the Texas House of Representatives.

have water at their disposal. But what if when we went to turn on our faucets, nothing came out? Not even a drip? It seems doubtful that this question would cross many people's minds.

Yet just in recent years, water crises have hit states and cities across the nation. From the Flint, Michigan, contaminated water, to the severe western droughts draining Lake Mead, and to the floods disrupting water systems in Jackson, Mississippi, it is evident that America is not immune from water crises. To keep local communities safe, it is imperative to stay aware of the warning signs and of the solutions to water problems.

In Parker County, many

residents rely on groundwater from the Upper Trinity Aquifer. Others, in much of western Parker County, have extremely limited groundwater and must rely on water piped in from Mineral Wells (which comes from Lake Palo Pinto) or Brazos River water that has been through a reverse osmosis (RO) system. The Walnut Creek Special Utility District relies on water from Lake Bridgeport.

For several years, Parker County has been amongst the top counties for drilling new wells. On average, counties drill less than 50 wells per year. In 2017, Parker drilled 600. In 2021, the county drilled 1154; that number led the state by a substantial margin.

For perspective, the second-place county drilled 525 wells. In 2022, through September 30, the county has drilled 1149 wells. The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has been monitoring the situation since 2009. Not surprisingly, its work has shown water is being used faster than it is being replenished. Its research indicates that fluctuation of water levels more than rainfall patterns.

During dry and hot summers, private well owners tend to water their lawns more than usual, contributing to the fall of water levels. The UTGCD recognizes the need for alternative water sources in Parker County and is funding a study for Parker and Wise counties; an over-reliance on groundwater is not sustainable.

In Palo Pinto County, efforts are underway to create a new reservoir, Turkey Peak. This project aims to

double the available water to Palo Pinto Municipal Water District No. 1. This will ease the county's risk of a water shortage, which is especially relevant during dry conditions like the ones seen this past year. The project is projected to be completed no earlier than 2027, so between now and then, Palo Pinto Lake will continue to be the major reservoir supplying water in the county. A lake is only useful, however, if there is an efficient water treatment plant. Palo Pinto's plant is 70 years old and due for a major upgrade.

In the last session, the legislature proactively searched for solutions to water shortages. Senate Bill 601 created the Texas Produced Water Consortium. The consortium's diverse team of researchers concluded in its report that water produced from oil and gas operations could indeed be beneficial for use in industries such as agriculture and for other mu-

nicipal needs. They project that the state could treat an estimated two billion barrels per year of produced water.

In the upcoming legislative session, infrastructure is going to be a priority - and that includes water. Recently, I was invited to become an inaugural member of the Texas Water Caucus. The Caucus will serve as an educational platform to inform fellow members of our state's most important water issues, elevate water as a top policy priority and support the next generation of water champions at the Texas Legislature.

As the population of District 60 booms, it is critical to remain ahead of potential water issues to ensure that the basic needs of residents are met. Legislators are eager to continue researching solutions and are ready to implement plans to protect one of the most fundamental elements of life: water.

CHARITY

FROM PAGE 1

food pantry itself.

"We've got a really good group," Heil said.

While the food pantry doesn't exactly need volunteers, those who are interested in lending a hand can contact Neighbor to Neighbors and find a way to serve, Heil

said.

Food donations can be dropped off at Neighbor to Neighbors at 413 S. Main St. If an organization has a food drive and needs the donated goods to be picked up, they call can the food pantry at 817-523-6095. Monetary donations can be made for Neighbor to Neighbors at Pinnacle Bank.

Neighbor to Neighbors

is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

OUR HOUSE

Reno's food pantry Our House served 27 Thanksgiving meals, which is an increase from the amount usually served, founder Scott Passmore said.

"This year, they hit us pretty good, which is OK," Passmore said. "That's what it's about."

People can sign up to receive Christmas meals - which will include meat, vegetables, bread and pie - and Christmas toys at Reno City Hall. Passmore expects to serve the same amount of Christmas meals that were served on Thanksgiving,

and the same amount of Christmas toys as last year - 250.

"I'll be picking up toys on the 11th over in Dallas at the Margarita Society," he said. "That'll give us 50 toys. And then we've got three storage sheds that are full of toys, too."

At the end of last year, Passmore said he was able to buy Christmas toys marked

70% off from the dollar store to add to this year's inventory.

Does Our House still need toy donations?

"We do. We just keep stocking them back," Passmore said.

People can donate toys to Reno City Hall and donate food to Our House at 1530 E. Reno Road, which is open on Thursdays from 5-7 p.m.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Springtown Independent School District intends to accept and examine contract proposals and negotiate a contract for complete custodial services of the District. Proposals shall be due at Springtown Independent School District, 301 E 5th St, Springtown, TX 76082. Proposals will be accepted until 10:00 am, January 12, 2023. A copy of the Request for Proposals requirements can be obtained by contacting:

Meredith Hill
Chief Financial Officer
Springtown Independent School District
mhill@springtownisd.net
817-220-1700

The Springtown ISD reserves the right to accept any proposal which it deems most favorable in the best interest of the school district and to reject any or all proposals or any portion of any proposal submitted, which, in their opinion, is not in the best interest of the District.

The Springtown Epigraph

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Dec 5 - Dec 9, 2022
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

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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 Dutch Waffle, Strawberries **Tuesday** Breakfast Stick, Blueberries **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Apple **Thursday** Cinnamon Roll, Strawberry Applesauce **Friday** Vanilla Yogurt, Blueberry Muffin

K - 4th Lunch **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Monday Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Garden Salad, Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges **Tuesday** Ck Alfredo with a Twist, Chicken Sandwich, Green beans, Baby Carrots, Roll **Wednesday** Hamburger, Cheeseburger, French Fries, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Blueberries **Thursday** Tostadas (Beef or Chicken), Corn, Refried Beans **Friday** Cheese Pizza, CK Fried Steak Sandwich, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Broccoli, Banana

5th - 12th Lunch

Monday Tangerine Chicken, Tso's Chicken, Broccoli, Fried Rice, Roll, Cucumber & Tomato Cup **Tuesday** Lasagna w/ Cheesy Breadstick, Chicken Sandwich, Garden Salad, Glazed Carrots **Wednesday** Reg or Spicy Chicken Tenders with Waffles, Broccoli Salad, Tator Tots, Strawberries **Thursday** Tostadas or Nachos, (Beef or Chicken), Spanish Rice, Baby Carrots, Refried Beans, Corn **Friday** Cheese Pizza, Steak-fingers w/ Roll, Baked Potato Basket, Mixed Veggies, Baked Beans, Fresh Carrots, Banana, Pear Cup

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Springtown High School

December 12th, 6:00 pm

Springtown ISD's sixth "Facilities Planning Meeting" will be held at Springtown High School on December 12th. Interested stakeholders are asked to arrive by 6 PM and be prepared to discuss the District's facilities needs, enrollment patterns, and bond capacity. Feedback from our community is greatly appreciated. We hope stakeholders will participate in the Facilities Needs Survey found on our website at www.springtownisd.net

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Reno awards contract for new water line on Miller Road

BY MADELYN EDWARDS
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To help with water pressure in the Scenic Wood and North Cardinal area, Reno is moving forward on installing a new 6-inch water line on Miller Road, all the way from Ladybird Lane to North Cardinal Road, to replace the 4-inch line.

Reno City Council awarded the contract for this project to Atkins Brothers Equipment Company during the council meeting on Nov. 28.

City Administrator Scott Passmore said there were three bidders on this project, which the city had to receive bids from outside companies instead of doing the work in-house because the project is grant funded. The contract with Atkins Brothers is for about \$544,000.

Deputy Pro Tem Hernando Herrera pointed out during the meeting that the bid the council selected was \$100,000 less than the other two bids.

Passmore expects work on the project to begin in the next few weeks.

In total, the TX-BLK grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture is providing \$500,000 to the city of Reno for multiple projects, and the city's match is \$636,000.

In addition to the Miller Road project, the grant money is recommended to be used for converting the disinfection system at well sites from chlorine to chloramine to be compatible with water systems in Azle, Walnut Creek and Springtown, an additional booster pump at Well Site 1 and reconfiguring the booster pumps at Well Site 5.

However, because of multiple factors including inflation, the grant funds probably won't be able to cover all of those expenses. Planning and Zoning Chairperson Brian Schrader said the quotes for the projects are coming in higher than expected, including the Miller Road water line project that was originally estimated at \$402,912.

The disinfection system conversion project also received a bid that was much more than expected. The original estimate was \$369,600, but the sole bid for the project was \$1.77 million. Schrader said there may have been some confusion about the scope of the project.

"Not all of the electrical work at all the pump sites to do the chloramine is identical," he said. "The bidder that did bid, bid the same dollar value for the electrical and ancillary equipment at all seven pump sites, and that's not right."

Schrader also said the city should have acted faster to avoid incurring extra costs.

"In terms of lessons learned and takeaways from what we've done, we need to take actions earlier," he said. "We've collectively sat on our hands and done nothing."

Passmore said during the meeting that the city will re-bid the disinfection system project.

The timeline for the city

to use the grant money is coming up on Feb. 21, but Passmore told council that the city is seeking an extension.

WATER TASK FORCE REPORT

Also during the meeting, Schrader gave a report to the council on the latest activities of the Water Task Force, which was approved earlier this year.

The task force, which has met a few times already, includes civil engineer Schrader, Passmore, Mayor Sam White, Public Works Director Chris Albright, P&Z member and "chlorine expert" Jason Holden, mechanical engineer Greg Miller and Ladonna Miller, who has program management expertise, according to the report.

The task force reviewed seven projects - including the new water line on Miller Road and the chloramine project - which are expected to be funded via grants.

One of the more detailed projects in the report is

about the rented equipment at Well Site 1. New 20-horsepower pumps and variable speed controllers have been ordered and are expected to arrive next year in the first quarter. Tri-County Electric Cooperative is expected to install 480-volt, three-phase power this month at the well site, which will allow the city to no longer use the diesel tank and generator that power the rental pumps at Well Site 1 and will result in cost savings. The new pumps and motors will also save the city money when they are installed at Well Site 1 by reducing the rental costs.

"This project is a cash bleed on the city budget that needs to be resolved as quickly as we can get the new pumps online," Schrader said in his report.

Both the final system and rental system generate more water pressure and flow than what was recommended for Well Site 1 upgrades by the 2021 Cobb-Findley Potable Water Report. However, the

rental system offers more pressure and flow than the final system will have. The task force recommended reprogramming the rental equipment to the flow rate and pressure of the final system so water users can adjust to what the final system will be like.

"We don't want to see a big drop in pressure," Schrader said to council. "We want to slowly bring them down and educate them to a tolerance level of what they will expect."

The Water Task Force report also noted a suggestion to change the Drought Contingency Plan because of the continued drought in the area. The proposal is that all homes with programmable irrigation systems for lawns be confined to watering at certain times on certain days, Schrader said. Houses with odd and even addresses would have alternate watering days throughout the week. This task will be considered by P&Z.

ORTEGA

FROM PAGE 1

Particularly, Ortega has worked on the city's Christmas events: the parade and Christmas tree lighting at the end of November, and the upcoming Old-Fashioned Christmas festival on Saturday.

Derr said planning for the Christmas events usually starts in the summer, and Ortega stepped into the events coordinator role in the middle of the process.

"She's taken the bull by the horns and (has) really been

able to get a lot accomplished in a short period of time," Derr said.

Derr said she is excited to see what Ortega can accomplish next year with more planning time.

Something that not everyone may know about event planning is how time-consuming it is, Ortega said. Her process includes a diagram of tasks that need to be finished and a timeline of when certain items need to be started and completed.

Luckily, Ortega isn't working on the events alone. The city's events committee, which includes representa-

tives from all city departments, works together to pull off the events and make sure families have a good time, she said.

"We really have a good team," she said.

Ortega's impact is really expected to show in this year's Old-Fashioned Christmas, which will include several new and free attractions, such as ice skating and an expanded area for children and families near Newby Pavilion. Ortega wanted to include more activities for families to enjoy without worrying about the cost of participation.

"We want to be able to in-

volve the community and have them come out and actually have a family time and enjoy the time with their kids and make memories of that here in Springtown," she said.

The only way the city can offer these attractions for free is via sponsorships, Derr said, and Ortega has been able to get more sponsorships than the city has gotten in years past. Ortega said her strategy to getting sponsorships has been to reach out to potential sponsors, including meeting them in person.

"She's definitely put a lot of work into it and has had to go and make those face-to-face

contacts," Derr said. "The business community has been a big part of our success in that they were willing to step up and help support us."

Despite her success, Ortega said the biggest challenge of the event planning process has been waiting to see which businesses or organizations commit to sponsorships. She continued to check in with people who showed interest in sponsorships but doesn't hound those who don't respond.

"Every day I look forward to seeing something in the mail or getting a phone call, and when I do, I just celebrate it

with everybody else because I feel like it's a joint effort," Ortega said.

In the future, Ortega hopes to plan for one city event per month. She has ideas for movie nights on the square during the summer, something to give families an activity to look forward to and embrace smalltown spirit.

"It's just a thought, but it's a process to get it started," Ortega said. "Just adding more that way it shows Springtown is more involved with their community and families."

Spotlight on BUSINESS

DECEMBER

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Springtown Flower Shop has a friendly staff that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Most of the employees are life-long residents of Springtown who take pride in their work and are happy to supply their friends and family with beautiful arrangements and gifts.

We are getting new items every day. The Springtown Flower Shop should definitely be on your list of places to shop for the upcoming holidays! In fact, we're open every Saturday for your shopping convenience.

Come in and shop our seasonal decor to put the finishing touches on your home!

Stop in at 311 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown, Texas. You can visit our website at www.springtownflower.com. If you don't see what you like, call 817-220-0033 and we'll be happy to help you with a selection.

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SATURDAY, December 10, 2022



THE TRADITION OF

Christmas Lights

Decorating with colored lights didn't become popular until the 1960s

Holiday lights are now everywhere come the holiday season. Private homeowners tend to hang the holiday lights outside their homes around Thanksgiving weekend and keep them up through New Year's Day. Though it might seem like a tradition without a deep history, decorating a Christmas tree with electric lights can be traced all the way back to the nineteenth century. In 1882, Edward Johnson, who was a friend and colleague of the man who invented light bulbs, Thomas Edison, replaced candles, which had traditionally been used to briefly light Christmas trees, with light bulbs. But at the time of Johnson's innovation, the high cost and relative infancy of light bulbs ensured the idea did not catch on. And though United States President Grover Cleveland used electric lights to illuminate a Christmas tree in the White House in 1895, it would be another eight years before General Electric would begin selling Christmas light kits. Those kits cost \$12 in 1903, which equates to several hundred dollars today. The first outdoor Christmas light shows started to become popular in the 1920s, and this is the same time when commercial sales of Christmas lights picked up. In the 1960s, GE's decision to begin manufacturing Christmas lights overseas helped reduce the price of outdoor lights even further, thus paving the way for the tradition of decorating home exteriors with string lights during the holiday season to take a firm hold. And that tradition remains wildly popular today.

PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS
TREE LIGHTING: The city of Springtown lit up its Christmas tree on the Springtown Square on Nov. 27, following the parade.

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Cut out the pieces of the house before baking.

How to create a durable gingerbread house

Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights. In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread.

Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses. Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century Germany. The fairy tale 'Hansel and Gretel' helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.

Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there's no denying it can be exacting work — especially for those who strive for perfection. Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but those who are craft-

ing from scratch can employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.

- Go for form and not flavor. Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.

- Get the right icing texture. Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred 'glue' to adhere gingerbread pieces. Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.

- Mind the dough. Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked. Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked. Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.

- Patience is key. Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before mov-

ing and handling the house, says Beddall. Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.

- Kids likely will need help. Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction. They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.

- Utilize a template. Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces.

One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don't take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice. Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition.

Homemade Egg Nog



INGREDIENTS

6 egg yolks
½ cup sugar
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup whole milk
1 ¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
Pinch of salt

INSTRUCTIONS

Whisk together egg yolks and sugar. Heat cream, milk, nutmeg, and salt in a saucepan over medium-low until it steams. Temper egg mixture by slowly ladling in cream mixture, whisking constantly until all is added. Pour custard back into saucepan; cook until a thermometer registers 160°. Transfer custard to a glass bowl, place in refrigerator, cover, and stir occasionally until cold.

Easy Ritz™ Toffee

INGREDIENTS

40 Ritz™ crackers
1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 bag (11.5 oz) milk chocolate chips (2 cups)




INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 350°F. Line 15x10x1-inch pan with foil. Spray foil with cooking spray. Place crackers in single layer in pan. In 2-quart saucepan, cook and stir butter, sugar and salt over medium heat until butter is melted. Heat to boiling, stirring frequently. Boil 7 to 9 minutes longer, stirring frequently, until light brown color. Remove from heat. Add vanilla; stir until blended. Immediately pour mixture evenly over crackers in pan; spread to cover. Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until bubbly and brown in color. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top of cracker mixture. Let stand 5 minutes. Spread chocolate evenly over cracker mixture. Sprinkle with candy sprinkles. Cool completely, about 2 hours or until chocolate is set. Break into pieces. Store covered in refrigerator up to 1 week.

A silent night, a star above, a gift of hope and love. A blessed Christmas to you!





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Everyone's Favorite Fruitcake

Recipe from King Arthur Flour

INGREDIENTS - FRUIT

- 1 ½ cups (213g) diced dried pineapple
- 1 ½ cups (255g) raisins, golden or regular
- 1 cup (128g) diced dried apricots
- 1 ½ cups (223g) chopped dates
- heaping 1 cup (170g) candied red cherries, plus additional for decoration, if desired
- 1/3 cup (64g) diced crystallized ginger, optional
- ¾ cup (170g) rum, brandy, apple or cranberry juice

INGREDIENTS - BATTER

- 16 tablespoons (227g) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 cups (425g) dark brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 3 cups (361g) King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour or your favorite all-purpose flour.
- 2 tablespoons (11g) black cocoa, optional, for color
- ¼ cup (85g) boiled cider, golden syrup, or dark corn syrup
- ½ cup (113g) apple juice, cranberry juice or water
- 2 cups (227g) chopped, toasted nuts (almonds, pecans, or walnuts)
- Topping/glaze (optional) rum, brandy, simple syrup, vanilla syrup, or ginger syrup

INSTRUCTIONS

- To prepare the fruit: Combine the fruit with the liquid of your choice in a non-reactive bowl; cover and let rest overnight. Too impatient to wait until tomorrow? Microwave everything for 1 minute (or until it's very hot), cover, and let rest 1 hour.
- Preheat the oven to 300°F. This recipe makes enough batter for ONE (not all!) of the following: 3 dozen individual (muffin pan) cakes; 16 mini loaves (about 3 ¾" x 2 ½"); 6 to 8 medium loaves (about 3" x 5"); or 2 standard 9" x 5" loaves. Choose your pans (or combinations), and lightly grease them. If you're making muffin-size cakes in a standard muffin pan, line the pan with muffin papers, and lightly grease the papers.

TO MAKE THE BATTER:

- Place the butter and sugar in a large bowl (at least 6-quart), and beat together until well combined.
- Beat in the salt, spices, and baking powder.
- Beat in the eggs one at a time, scraping the bowl after each addition.
- In a separate bowl whisk together the flour and cocoa.
- Add the flour mixture and the syrup (or boiled cider) to the mixture in the bowl, beating gently to combine.
- Stir in the juice or water, then the fruit with any collected liquid, and the nuts. Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl, and stir until everything is well combined.
- Spoon the batter into the pans, filling them about ¾ full.
- Bake the cakes on the middle shelf of the oven, as follows: about 60 minutes for the individual cakes; 65 to 70 minutes for the small loaves; 75 minutes for the medium loaves, and 2 hours + 10 to 15 minutes for the 9" x 5" loaves. The cakes are done when a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean.
- Remove the cakes from the oven. Fruitcake can remain in its pan for storage, if desired. Or carefully remove cake from the pan after about 5 minutes, loosening its edges first.
- Brush the warm cake with rum or brandy. Or simple syrup, or flavored simple syrup (vanilla, rum-flavored, etc.). If you like just a hint of rum or brandy flavor, add 1 tablespoon of liquor to ¾ cup vanilla syrup or simple syrup, and brush this mixture on the cakes.
- When the cakes are completely cool, wrap them tightly in plastic wrap, and store at room temperature for up to 6 to 8 weeks.


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Peanut Butter-Chocolate No-Bake Cookies

INGREDIENTS

2 cups sugar
 ½ cup milk
 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
 ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
 1 cup smooth peanut butter
 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
 Large pinch kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

Line a baking sheet with wax paper or parchment.
 Bring the sugar, milk, butter and cocoa to a boil in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally, then let boil for 1 minute. Remove from the heat. Add the oats, peanut butter, vanilla and salt, and stir to combine. Drop teaspoonfuls of the mixture onto the prepared baking sheet, and let sit at room temperature until cooled and hardened, about 30 minutes. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Wassail: Serve up warmth for the holidays

Wassail is a hot, mulled cider that was traditionally consumed while wassailing, a ritual of Medieval English Christmas and Twelfth Night celebrations. A warm beverage and caroling go hand-in-hand.

Wassail can be made in many different ways, depending on one's tastes. But cider is an integral ingredient in most wassail recipes. Home cocktail creators can use this basic recipe and modify as they see fit.

WASSAIL

Serves 8 to 10
 ½ gallon apple cider
 2 cups orange juice or pineapple juice
 ¼ cup lemon juice
 8 whole cloves
 4 cinnamon sticks
 1 cup orange juice
 Whiskey, if desired

DIRECTIONS

Add all ingredients to a large pot over medium heat. Allow to boil. Reduce and simmer for 30 to 45 minutes. Strain out the cloves and cinnamon sticks. For an alcoholic drink, add whiskey to desired taste. Wassail is traditionally served out of a communal punch bowl, but can also be presented in individual mugs garnished with cinnamon sticks.

Roast Chicken with Whole Roasted Garlic

Roasts are customary during the holiday season because they often feed a crowd and look impressive on serving platters. Some people opt for a roast beef while others prefer to roast a turkey. However, chicken just as easily can be turned into a Christmas dinner since it is versatile and tasty. In addition, the cooking time for a roasted chicken is much shorter than it is with other roasted dishes.

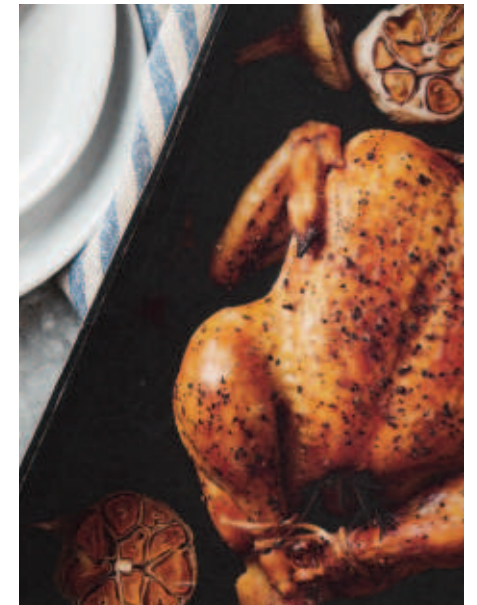
This recipe for 'Roast Chicken with Whole Roasted Garlic' from 'Rachael Ray 50: Memories and Meals from a Sweet and Savory Life' (Ballantine Books) by Rachael Ray provides the basis for a tasty holiday meal. Simply multiply the recipe as needed depending on the number of guests.

INGREDIENTS

1 4-pound chicken
 Kosher salt
 2 lemons, one pierced several times with the tines of a fork and one halved
 Few sprigs each of thyme and rosemary
 4 large bulbs garlic, 1 per person or portion, ends cut to expose the cloves (keep the hairy root end intact)
 Extra-virgin olive oil for drizzling
 Freshly ground black pepper
 3 tablespoons butter
 1 cup white wine
 Warm, crusty bread

DIRECTIONS

Place the chicken in a shallow baking dish. Salt the chicken inside and out and place uncovered in the fridge overnight.
 Preheat the oven to 450 F.
 Pat the chicken dry and fill with the pierced whole lemon, thyme and rosemary. Tie the legs up. Dress the bulbs of garlic with extra virgin olive oil; season with salt and pepper. Arrange the garlic in the baking dish around the chicken. Rub the skin of the chicken with butter and season with pepper. Pour the wine into the bottom of the dish.
 Roast the chicken for 1 hour or



until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the dark meat reads 165 F. Let the chicken stand for a few minutes on a carving board until just cool enough to handle. Carve the chicken, dividing the white and dark parts and slicing the breast meat on the bias. Arrange the chicken on plates or a platter and top with drippings, juices and the juice from the remaining halved lemon. The garlic may get dark but it won't be charred. Serve in the skins or squeeze the paste from the skins with your knife and pass with a spoon to eat with the chicken or to slather on the warm chunks of bread.

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OBITUARIES

Dennis Sherrill

1945 - 2022

Dennis Wayne Sherrill, 77, of Springtown, Texas passed away on November 30, 2022.

Visitation is at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 5. Celebration of Life Service at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 5. Both visitation and service will be held at First Baptist Church of Springtown.

Dennis was born in Austin, Texas on October 15, 1945 to Joe and Dorothy Sherrill. He graduated from McCallum High School in Austin and immediately joined the United States Navy. Dennis proudly served on the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier during the Vietnam War until his term of service was complete in 1969.

After working several years as a master craftsman plumber and welder, Dennis started his own heating and air conditioning business serving customers in Springtown and surrounding areas for 10 years. He served many years as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Royal Ambassador leader at First Baptist Church in Springtown.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kathy Jo,



and their three children: son Patrick Sherrill (Amy) of Lubbock, Texas; son David Sherrill (Melissa) of Canton, Ohio; and daughter Holly Thayer (Justin) of Olympia, Washington. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law Bobby Thornton (Kathy), niece Connie Bearden, nephew Adam Thornton (Danelle), and niece Sara Hudgins (Bradley). Dennis, aka "PawPaw", especially loved his grandchildren: Caleb and Nathan Sherrill of Flagstaff, Arizona; and Rowan and Rose Stine of Olympia, Washington.

The Springtown Epigraph, Dec. 8, 2022 Edition

Rufus Deskins

1954 - 2022

Rufus Andrew 'Andy' Deskins, 68, passed away, suddenly, Sunday, December 4, 2022. A celebration of Life for Andy, will be at a future date. Alexander's Midway Funeral is handling arrangements.

Andy was born November 23, 1954 in Greenville. He loved playing bluegrass music, fishing, flying his airplane, restoring old cars, collecting guns and most of all he loved hearing and telling a good joke.

Andy is preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Rufus and Beulah Jean Deskins; brother, Jay Kenneth Deskins and son, Kenneth Carl Deskins.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Robin of 29 years; son, Zachary Burleson and wife Laurie; mothers-in-law Lois Slate and Becky Slate; sisters-in-law, Willene Deskins, Kelli Slate and Karen Slate; nephew, Jay K. Deskins and



wife Dawn; niece, Jennifer Deskins Villasana; great nieces and nephews Larry, Stormie, Chance and wife Katelynn, Cameron and wife Kayleigh, Jacob and wife Dallas and Caitlyn; and great great nieces and nephews Tristan, Bailey, Kynlee, Ellie, Ryder, Rayleigh, Raiden and Charli.

The Springtown Epigraph, Dec. 8, 2022 Edition

Jesse Freeman

1940 - 2022

Jesse M. Freeman, 82, passed away suddenly on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at his home in Fort Worth, Texas.

Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2022 at Biggers Funeral Home, 6100 Azle Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76135.

He was married to his wife, Patsy Freeman, for 56 years. Born September 18, 1940, in Poyner, Texas, Jesse faced and conquered adversity to shape him into the steadfast and hardworking individual he was.

Jesse enlisted and served in the U.S. Army as an ambulance driver stationed in Germany. After completing his time in the service, he returned home in 1966 and married his wife, Patsy with whom he had two children, Kelly and Corey. Jesse spent the next 56 years as a transmission mechanic and then truck driver for Little John's Wrecking Yard, a family-owned business started by his in-laws. He was especially close to his mother-in-law, Reta, who he said felt like a mother to him and who he always took care of. He loved his job and worked all the way up until the day before his passing.



A quiet man in nature, Jesse enjoyed fishing, spending time with his family, and going to the casino. He loved watching all sports including baseball, basketball, and golf. However, first and foremost, he was the #1 fan of NASCAR legend Jeff Gordon.

Along with his wife Patsy, he is survived by his daughter, Kelly Stover and her husband, Jimmy; son, Corey Freeman and his wife, Valerie; granddaughters, Deven Johnson, Layne Stover, Isabella Freeman, and Jillian Freeman; as well as great-grandchildren, Madison Johnson, Benjamin Johnson, and Peyton Hight.

The Springtown Epigraph, Dec. 8, 2022 Edition

James Rae

1936 - 2022

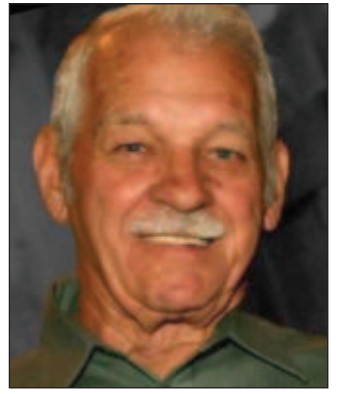
James (Jim) Martin Rae of Azle, Texas passed away peacefully to be with our Lord on December 1, 2022 at the age of 86. His battle with recent medical issues showed great courage, perseverance and faith until the end.

A funeral will be held at White's Funeral Home in Springtown.

Jim was a mechanic most of his life, a skill he taught to all three sons. In 1979 he set off on his own. He bought the old Mobil gas station in Springtown, Texas along Route 199, and started Rae's Service. In 1984 he moved to the corner of Route 51 in Springtown and remained there until he retired. His vision still remains to this day and is now owned by his son Tim.

Jim loved to travel across the country with his wife in their RV, doing woodworking projects in his shop, square dancing, and was one competitive game player.

Most of all he was a man who truly understood the redemptive power of the cross and his life was changed by his personal relationship with Jesus. He loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. For many years it was a joy to hold the annual Easter celebration at their home and to see his grandchildren hunt for eggs. He strived to make a difference and served for seven years



at the Community Caring Center in Azle and faithfully at the First Baptist Church of Azle where he and his wife Diane were members. He will be greatly missed by his loved ones and friends who celebrate the fact that he is with His Lord and Savior and no longer bound by the constraints of an earthly body.

Jim is survived by his wife, Diane Bird Rae of 34 years, as well as six children, Michael (Tami) Rae, DeeDee (John) Anthony, Tim (Kathleen) Rae, James Rae Jr., Doreen Rae, Stanna (Paul) Lowell and lovingly embraced three more upon his marriage to Diane, Tammy (Andy) Fulfer, Kim (Michael) Woolsey, and Bobbi Jo Evans. He was Papa to 21 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren!

The Springtown Epigraph, Dec. 8, 2022 Edition

Lonnie Richardson

1957 - 2022

Lonnie Ray Richardson, 65, of Weatherford died on November 30, 2022.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 9 at Azleland Chapel and Cemetery.

Lonnie was born in Independence, Louisiana to Floyd and Opal Richardson. He moved to Weatherford in 1995.

He worked as an auto salesman and loved to go fishing and to work on cars and lawnmowers.

Lonnie is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Letha Richardson; and brothers, David and Eddie Richardson.

He is survived by his brothers, Robert and Floyd Richardson; sister, Suzie Richardson; children, Vicki Richardson



of Fort Worth, Carla Richardson of Weatherford, Lonnie Richardson Jr. of Bridgeport, and Linda Garibay of Weatherford; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Springtown Epigraph, Dec. 8, 2022 Edition

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Now that you're decorating ...

In case you missed my post last week, please know that you have my permission to decorate for Christmas.

I know that you were waiting for that.

Or if not my permission, at least my blessing.

Wait, you didn't need either of those?

So much for my ambition of being an influencer!

I guess the truth of the matter is that (apologies in advance of this next phrase) decorators gonna decorate.

So let's talk about another aspect of the season: Advent.

There was not, in the small country Baptist churches of my upbringing, much talk of Advent.



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.

It was all about Christmas. I was an adult before I know anything about Advent—the season of waiting and expectation in the Christian liturgical calendar leading up to Christmas.

We didn't do things like Advent or Lent or anything that seemed measured, slow-paced, or reflective because we had stuff to celebrate. We weren't thinkers, we were doers!

Ain't nobody got time for that high church, snooty stuff!

Could it be that we were just impatient?

To be clear, I'm not bitter about my religious heritage.

I've just recognized that God's family is much bigger and broader than my own experience and I've grown to appreciate expressions that are outside my own tradition and experience.

And I've learned that much of the joy in life's adventure is found in the journey itself—including the slow downs, detours and blind curves—as it is in the destination.

How we travel—the getting there—can be as meaningful as the arrival.

Which brings me back to Advent.

This is a season of deliberate waiting in anticipation of what is to come.

I picked up an Advent devotional book that I started on Dec. 1 and will finish on Dec. 25. "The Songs Tell the Story" by Janet Denison takes a brief look at the story behind 25 familiar Christmas songs.

Today's song is "Silent

Night," possibly the most beloved Christmas song of all time.

Janet writes, "Twenty-first century Christmases are anything but silent or still. It's a busy, hectic, joyfully noisy season. We can easily become overwhelmed with family, friends, and fun—and making sure it's well-documented on social media."

But celebrating Christmas wasn't always that way.

Depending on your age, you might remember when people would decorate their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve and take them down on New Year's Day. Or when Christmas was celebrated with the family and friends

who lived nearby because travel wasn't possible or feasible.

We have added so much to our Christmas celebrations today that it might not be easy to remember how it was for Mary. But we have songs like "Silent Night" to help us imagine what that first Christmas could have been like."

Here's what I'm wondering today: could it be possible for us to deliberately incorporate silence, reflection and a slower pace into our preparation for Christmas? If so, how?

Something to think about.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Lots of changes over the course of 123 years — some good, some not so much

As I sit to write this column it came to me, today is my grandfather's birthday. Exactly 123 years ago he came into the world. He passed away in 1994, so he had a long and full life. We were always very close, and as thoughts of him stream to the forefront of my mind, I cannot help but think of the life he led and the changes he saw.

Being born in 1899, it was just a mere 23 years earlier that Custer fell at the Little Bighorn. Oklahoma was not yet a state, nor was Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, or Hawaii.

He was born on the family farm where there was no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. Those three conditions would continue for nearly 50 years until the county was electrified after World War II.



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.

He survived the Spanish flu epidemic, though a sister did not.

He lived through World War I.

He saw the automobile replace the horse as a mode of transportation.

He survived the Great Depression and witnessed farm prices drop like a rock in a well. He saw men waiting in long lines trying to find work, and families eating in soup kitchens.

He worked six days a week 11 hours a day and ranched after work for additional income to keep a roof over his

head and feed his family.

He farmed, with mules pulling the plow, and eventually saw the tractor come into use.

He was 42 years old when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred and served on the Selective Service Board as his county filled the ranks of our nation's military.

He was thrilled with the invention of the radio and fascinated with the advent of television.

He was employed with the county road department and built roads still in use today. He saw segregation end.

He saw men go to the moon and walk upon its surface.

He raised five children and saw them all become successful, responsible citizens.

He was married to the same woman for 73 years, and he respected and appreciated her every single day.

Without question, Granddad saw a lot of changes. Changes in technology and changes in how people act and behave. Wonder how he would think about today?

He enjoyed nothing more than sitting beneath a shade tree, whittling and visiting with friends and neighbors. Not sure what he would have to say about people carrying their phones with them and being so engulfed in the information it has to offer.

He would not understand young women buying jeans that have large holes in them so they could be "stylish" —

when he worked to make sure his girls could afford jeans without holes.

He would be embarrassed for young men who let their pants sag down.

He would be bewildered that people only work a 40-hour week.

I feel like I know what he would have to say about politics. He would be dismayed at the money spent on campaigns and how elected officials seemed to do little about improving the lot of their constituents. He would also shake his head at people who have strong political opinions, but little facts to support or validate their feelings.

He would not understand why there needed to be so much paperwork in the world, and how a man's word ought to be enough to secure any transaction.

He also would not under-

stand why so many people have been married multiple times. He understood relationships could be tough, but that commitment was a huge part of success in life, especially marriage.

He would be particularly confused seeing people fail to take responsibility for themselves and their own actions.

There have been a lot of changes in the past 123 years. Lots of growth, progress and shifting in social norms. Not sure the changes in my lifetime will be as great as those in Granddad's. I do hope that whatever changes come, people stay kind, loving, generous and caring. Those traits should never change.

Thought for the day: There are many ways of going forward, but only one way to stand still.

Until next time.

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The Springtown Epigraph

ANIMALS

FROM PAGE 1A

time while also giving the Cub Scouts interesting facts about the animals. He said his strategy for educating children is to “capture their attention, keep their attention and make a point.”

“You got to do some funny silly things to keep them with you, especially these days because everything’s electronic, so their attention spans are pretty short, so you got to try to do different things,” Brittingham said. “A lot of the jokes are really more for the adults to keep them with me, too, because they’ll tune you out. But a lot of it is just capture that attention, keep it and make a point at the end, and that’s kind of what we do with every show we do.”

Brittingham said he’s been doing this type of work for about 34 years, including at

the Dallas Zoo and a nature center. Wildlife on the Move – which has been around for 17 years and caters to a multitude of events – was created to bring animals to schools that couldn’t afford to take kids on field trips to zoos.

Brittingham’s goal and mission is “to educate kids to get them to appreciate animals so they can take care of them when we’re gone,” he said. For the Cub Scouts in Pack 303 specifically, he hopes that the presentation dispelled fear and myths about certain animals, especially big snakes.

“That’s usually the animal most people fear,” Brittingham said. “That’s why it’s kind of our mission to get that out there and get people over it. Just because it’s a snake doesn’t mean you have to be afraid of it or treat it badly or hate it because it does have a place in the world.”



Eric Brittingham, president and program presenter of the North Texas nonprofit Wildlife on the Move, lets Pack 303 Cub Scouts Bryce Young and Jerrik Hansen hold a legless lizard during their Pack meeting on Nov. 29.



Cub Scout Chloe Salazar giggles as Eric Brittingham, the president and program presenter of the North Texas nonprofit Wildlife on the Move, lowers a savannah monitor lizard over her head.



PHOTOS BY MADELYN EDWARDS
Springtown Cub Scouts in Pack 303 – and their parents – listen to a presentation about wild animals and ask questions during their Pack meeting Nov. 29 at First United Methodist Church in Springtown.

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Parade of Lights 2022

PHOTO COURTESY SAVE EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE PARADE OF LIGHTS
 Families gathered around Eagle Mountain Lake on Dec. 3 to watch the annual Save Eagle Mountain Lake Parade of Lights.

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Kid Scoop Together:

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the articles below and correct the seven spelling and grammar errors you find. The first one is done for you.

Birds Counting Birds

Every year for over a century, Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) have been run across America during the holiday season. Counting the birds every year at the same time and in the same location gives scientists important information about birds and the environment.

In 2007, Tom Rusert of Sonoma, CA had the idea to include kidz in this important "citizen science" effort.

He launched the first Audubon CBC for Kids. It was so successful that now organizations around the country are started their own CBCs for Kids programs, following Rusert's model.

This is a wonderfully simple, healthy, hollyday celebration for almost any school, youth group or community organization.

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand the importance for individuals and society of commonly-held responsibilities such as being attentive to public issues.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word GIFTS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

HOLIDAY HIGH-RISE

APT. 15C: THE ANDERSONS

The Anderson family celebrates the birth of Jesus on Christmas. They give each other gifts, sing songs and decorate their home with a Christmas tree and colorful lights.

Follow the maze to put the ornament back.

APT. 15B: THE WALDS

The Wald family celebrates Hannukah, a Jewish festival of light. They light a candle on a menorah each night for eight nights. They exchange small gifts each evening, sing songs and eat delicious foods. They display their menorah in their window.

Menorahs come in many different designs. Find the two identical menorahs.

People from different cultures have a wide variety of winter celebrations, many more than can fit on this page. How does your family celebrate in December? Draw it here.

APT. 15A: THE MILLERS

The Miller family celebrates Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration honoring African culture.

They light red, green and black candles in a kinara and have a feast at the end of Kwanzaa. They also give each other small gifts.

Mrs. Miller wears a kaftan during Kwanzaa. Hold this page up to a mirror to find out what this is.

A KAFTAN IS A COLORFUL, PULL-OVER ROBE

Holiday Dot-to-Dot

Find the letters that spell each of the following words on one page of the newspaper. Use different color crayons to connect the letters in order to spell each word.

**CANDLES
FEAST
LIGHTS
FAMILY
CELEBRATE**

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find these four squares in this order on the larger grid?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find identical patterns.

Double Double Word Search

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

NEIGHBORS	T	R	K	S	G	N	O	S	D	N
APARTMENT	S	N	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	E
DECORATE	H	E	E	J	F	O	V	I	C	G
MENORAHS	A	F	O	M	B	T	G	E	O	N
KWANZAA	R	I	E	M	T	H	A	H	R	A
KAFTAN	O	E	Y	A	B	R	O	N	A	H
SYMBOLS	N	S	D	O	S	M	A	C	T	C
EXCHANGE	E	T	R	E	E	T	E	P	E	X
FEAST	M	S	K	W	A	N	Z	A	A	E
SONGS										
TREE										
HOME										
FAMILY										
GIVE										
RED										

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Holiday Images

Look through the newspaper for words or pictures related to the holidays. Cut and paste these onto a sheet of construction paper to make a collage poster.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to convey meaning.

Write On!

The Greatest Gift

What is the greatest gift you could give that doesn't cost money?

Standards Link: Social Studies: Students know how traditions and celebrations of other cultures compare.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

Kelby Castro, a football tight end turned basketball power forward, is the biggest athlete on the team, and is relied upon for rebounds.



Drake Doggett is among the handful of football players adapting to the different type of conditioning on the basketball court.

Springtown basketball boys show grit

BY JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Nov. 29 basketball game that pitted Springtown's boys against Western Hills was a microcosm of this young season.

Springtown started fast and built a lead, lost it, fought to reclaim the lead, then won the game.

Nothing has come easy this season.

The team's progress, however, has been indisputable. After losing its first three games, Springtown toppled Weatherford in a close game and has been finding the win column more frequently

since then.

The starting unit features several football players still trying to transition from football condition to basketball shape.

What's the difference?

Plenty.

"In football shape, they're used to going really hard and then stopping and getting a break," said Nathan Purvis, head basketball coach. "In basketball, you got to go-go-go. We're struggling a little bit in the second half with fatigue and not quite being in basketball shape yet."

Three of the team's five starters played football for the Porcupines until

mid-November. Then, once they joined the basketball team, school broke for Thanksgiving vacation. The football guys are just beginning to feel their basketball legs under them.

On Nov. 29, Springtown beat Western Hills, 67-61.

"We're getting better every game, and that's one thing that I like to see as a coach," Purvis said.

He saw plenty of mistakes by his players during the Western Hills game but appreciated the result.

"There are things we could have done better, but it's just

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 2B

Springtown basketball girls hosting hoop fun at Chicken Express Invitational this weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Springtown girls basketball team and Chicken Express will hold a major tournament at the Springtown gymnasium Dec. 8-10.

The Chicken Express Porcupine Invitational has attracted numerous powerhouse teams, and games will be played back-to-back for three days. Schools scheduled to participate include Lubbock Christian, Hurst L.D. Bell, Levelland, Paschal, Weatherford Christian and many others.

PHOTO BY JEFF PRINCE

Blaize Flood and the Springtown basketball girls will host and participate in the Chicken Express Porcupine Invitational this weekend.



Dauenhauer signs intention to play volleyball at Southern Arkansas University

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The kill-shot queen at Springtown High School will be taking her hard-slammng style of volleyball to Southern Arkansas University, a NCAA Division II school in Magnolia.

Dauenhauer led the Lady Porcupines to an area championship this season and established herself as one of Springtown's best volleyball athletes of all time. She broke school records for career aces

and digs and led Springtown in kill shots in her senior year.

At college, Dauenhauer plans to play volleyball, earn a bachelor's degree and begin a career in accounting or human resources.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

Brinklee Dauenhauer, who set school records in aces and digs, will continue playing volleyball at the collegiate level, at Southern Arkansas University.



Brinklee Dauenhauer lets loose with a yell during the regional quarterfinals, the final game of her high school career.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 1

things we need to learn," he said. "I'm glad we learned it with a win instead of a loss."

The team includes several young players without any previous varsity experience.

"They are learning on the go, and it's hot and heavy," the coach said.

Only two seniors are on the team, and they are leading a roster with five freshmen and four juniors.

On Dec. 1-3, Springtown and Western Hills met again at a Weatherford tournament, and Springtown prevailed again, this time 50-40.

The tournament offered "a lot of learning opportunities for these guys," Purvis said.

NEW LOOK DISTRICT

Springtown's chances of winning a district title might have improved this year with the loss of Argyle, the powerhouse team that moved up from District 7-4A. Argyle was undefeated as the district champion last year.

The Porcupines will continue to face tough teams in their district contests, which are scheduled to begin Jan. 13. Their conference foes include Castleberry, Decatur, Krum, Lake Worth and Bridgeport.

Purvis is working hard to prepare them for the district race.

"We've got pretty tough competition in pre-district this year," Purvis said. "I scheduled it that way on purpose just knowing that we

need to prepare for district. We've got a really tough district, and I want to be ready to compete and try to get a playoff spot this year - something we haven't done in a while."

The Pines haven't qualified for the postseason in four years. Nine years have passed since the team won a playoff game.

Purvis likes the team he is putting on the court.

"These kids work tremendously hard," he said. "They've got a lot to learn, but they are willing to do it. They are coachable, and that's a great place to start."

The Porcupines face a hard challenge next week when they take on the Class 5A Azle Hornets starting at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13 in Hornet Gymnasium.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

Nathan Purvis hopes to guide Springtown to the playoffs.



Aaron Tidwell, one of two seniors on the team, brings plenty of hardnosed varsity experience.

Azle News DEVOTIONAL PAGE The Springtown Epigraph

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- BY THE WORD BAPTIST**
West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar
817-444-3484
- CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST**
1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241
- CENTRAL BAPTIST**
4290 Old Agnes Road
817-594-5918
- CHURCH ON THE HILL**
836 NW Parkway, Azle
817-444-3752
- CHRISTWAY BAPTIST**
7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes
817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581
- CLEAR FORK BAPTIST**
Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154
- EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**
8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle
817-237-4135
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AZLE**
1017 Boyd Road
817-444-4828
- FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS**
401 Beverly Rd., Azle
817-797-4706
- FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH**
700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary
817-237-2624
- FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE**
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside
817-237-8113
- FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE**
1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale
940-433-5539
- FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE**
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville
817-594-3916
- FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN**
5th & Main Street, Springtown
817-523-7011
- FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST**
801 Friendship Rd., 9 1/2 miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917
- FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST**
5th & Main in Springtown
817-523-5477
- GRACE BAPTIST**
3 miles N. of Springtown on Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower
- GRACE POINTE CHURCH**
4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
817-221-5683
- HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford
817-564-3946
- IGLESIA BAUTISTA**
Nueva Jerusalem
6640 Midway Rd., Springtown
817-694-0444
- INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-8441
- LAKE WORTH BAPTIST**
4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth
817-237-4163
- METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**
6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-2201
- NEW HOPE BAPTIST**
782 New Hope Rd., Reno area
817-221-2184
- NORTHWEST BAPTIST**
5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476
- SILVER CREEK BAPTIST**
730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle
817-444-2325
- NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**
3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-707-2741
- PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST**
FM 2048 and CR 4677, Boyd
940-433-5477
- PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**
300 S. Stewart, Azle
817-500-3641
- SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown
817-523-0376
- UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown
682-333-1645
- WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno
817-221-2110
- BIBLE COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno
817-521-4510
- NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth
817-624-2111
- SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-3444
- CATHOLIC**
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
800 High Crest Dr., Azle
817-444-3063
- CHRISTIAN**
THE CHURCH AT AZLE
1801 S. Stewart, Azle
817-444-9973
- AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
35 West Forty Estates., Azle
817-688-3339
- GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle
817-825-0485
- THE ABBEY CHURCH**
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-238-1404
- CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**
120 E. Main St., Azle
817-406-4577
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
336 NW Parkway
817-444-3268
- BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST**
109 W.N. Woody Rd.
(1/2 block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)
817-444-7102
- MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**
6400 Midway Rd.
817-221-2107
- NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.
817-677-3290
- NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST**
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1205
- POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**
West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182
- SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown
817-221-2799
- SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Just west of Hwy. 51 North
817-523-4419
- TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST**
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown
817-980-8156
- CHURCH OF GOD**
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7 Springtown, 817-677-3208
- LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD**
THE WORD@LAKESIDE
9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886)
817-237-5500
- DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**
AZLE CHRISTIAN
117 Church St., Azle
817-444-3527
- CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**
1602 S. Main St., Weatherford
817-594-3043
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
4th & Main, Paradise
- EPISCOPAL**
ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1888
- PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL**
405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford
817-596-7476
- ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**
5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks
817-739-0504
- GOSPEL**
CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth
817-237-7919
- JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**
KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
212 Pearson Lane, Azle
817-221-2242
- LUTHERAN**
THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE
1313 SE Parkway, Azle
817-237-4822
- HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**
4795 Hwy. 199, Reno
817-221-HOPE
- METHODIST**
BOYD UNITED METHODIST
FM 730 North in Boyd
940-433-5334
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST**
200 Church St., Azle
817-444-3323
- LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP**
7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth
817-237-2758
- SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST**
2200 Church Rd., Azle
817-444-1382
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST**
Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown
817-523-7874
- GARVIN UNITED METHODIST**
3 miles West of Boyd on C.R. 4699
- POOLVILLE UNITED METHODIST**
1 block W. of FM 920 (behind Poolville Post Office)
817-599-3601
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (THE MORMONS)**
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1010 Timberooks, Azle
817-237-5075
- PENTECOSTAL**
GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-4844
- PRESBYTERIAN**
GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford
817-594-2744
- ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH**
Meeting at Northwest YMCA
5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth
817-989-9800
- ORTHODOX**
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle
817-752-8255
- OTHER**
ALIENTO DE DIOS
2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
817-521-4694
- BETTER LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
3131 E. Hwy 199, Spt
817-677-2300
- THE CHURCH IN PEASTER**
www.thechurchinpeaster.org
817-596-8805
- CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
2233 Hwy 199 East, Springtown
817-221-LIFE (5433)
- FAMILY CHURCH**
9 miles S. of Springtown on Hwy. 51
817-599-7655
- GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**
2964 W. Hwy 114, Paradise
940-969-2427
- HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH**
1227 Old Cottondale Road, Springtown, 817-220-7177
- THE HOUSE OF PRAYER**
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551
- POWERHOUSE OF PRAISE CHURCH**
1649 S.E. Parkway, Azle
817-319-7364
- BRANDED CROSS COWBOY CHURCH**
3282 FM 2048, Boyd 76023
817-755-7021
- SECRET PLACE MINISTRIES**
112 Optimist Rd., Springtown
682-229-1433
- GOSPEL GATHERING FELLOWSHIP**
7315 Silver Creek Rd at Flatrock Rd, Azle
817-313-1793
- LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH**
6409 FM 730 S., Azle
817-444-4311
- LIGHTHOUSE HARBOR CHURCH**
1960 Long Circle, Pelican Bay
817-444-3547
- NEW LIGHTED WAY**
624 Harbor Dr. Circle, Azle
817-444-1577
- NORTHWEST TEMPLE OF PRAISE**
6781 Jacksboro Hwy., Lake Worth
817-444-4311
- PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH**
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551
- THE RANCH COWBOY COUNTRY CHURCH**
14600 FM 730 North, Azle (Briar)
817-909-5627
- REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
202 Pearson Lane, Azle
817-677-5963
- SOULS HARBOR**
11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-726-2065
- WESTERN HARVEST FELLOWSHIP CENTER**
6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford
817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087
- SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH**
14435 FM 730 N • Azle
817-444-7777
- WESTERN STAR COWBOY CHURCH**
790 CR 3696 • Paradise 76073
817-688-6887

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CPMT
636 Profit St., Azle, Tx

45 Years of Quality

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Azle News: 817-270-3340
Springtown Epigraph: 817-220-7217

Celebrating over 35 years in business

AZLE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
817-444-HELP (4357) Rodney Gatlin, D.C.
400 Boyd Court
www.azlechiropractic.com

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Call Jessica to reserve this space.

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Place your ad here!
Call **817-270-3340**

Place your ad here today!
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817-220-7217

HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177

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"In business since 1946"

Joe Rider Propane, Inc.

PROPANE TANKS

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Our family serving your family since 1908

Bob White, Anita White and Zack Bellenger

Full Service Funeral Home
Cremation Services
Pre-Need Plans

Azle • Springtown
Mineral Wells • Weatherford
817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle - kimmy@azlenews.net
 817-220-7217 - Springtown - shirley@springtown-epigraph.net

Ad Classifications

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating | 24..... Electrician | 46..... Looking to Buy | 69..... Sand/Gravel |
| 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 Opportunity | 53..... Musical Instruments | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale | 54..... Music Lessons | 77..... Wanted |
| 10..... Backhoe Service | 33..... Furniture | 55..... Miscellaneous | 78..... Well Drilling |
| 11..... Boats, Motors | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales | 56 Party Planning/Events | 79..... Welding |
| 12..... Bookkeeping | 35 ...Garden/Mowing Svc | 57..... Pets/Livestock | 80..... Lots/Acreage |
| 13..... Business | 36..... Hauling | 58..... Piano Service | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Opportunity | 37..... Hay | 59..... Pool Service | 82..... RV's for Rent |
| 15..... Campers/Trailers | 38..... Health/Fitness | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale |
| 16..... Carports/Patios | 39..... Help Wanted | 61..... Personal Services | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17..... Equipment Repair | 40 ...Home Improvement | 62..... Plumbing | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18..... Carpet Service | 41House Leveling | 63..... Public Notice | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19..... Catering | 42..... House Cleaning | 64..... Photography | 87..... Rent Furnished |
| 20..... Cement Work | 43..... House Cleaning | 65..... Printing | 88..... Rent Unfurnished |
| 21..... Demolition | 44..... Janitorial Service | 66..... Roofing | 89 Wanted to Rent |
| 22..... Child Care | 45..... Job Wanted | 67..... Recycling | |
| 23..... Computers/Services | | 68..... Storage | |

RATES

16 Words or Less:
Combo (Azle & Springtown)
Only \$10.00 per week!

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word

Extras such as Bold, Center & Border are available for a small fee

Classified boxed display ads also available for \$9.00 per column inch

(All ads must be paid in advance unless you have previously established credit)

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE:
1:00 PM FRIDAY

Most ads require payment in advance, but we do accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS by phone.



Reach more than **8,000** households with **combo** advertising in the Azle News and the Springtown Epigraph.

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving

BYRUM CONSTRUCTION
 Asphalt Paving
 •Driveways •Parking Lots
 •Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
 •Asphalt Millings •Gravel

Bruce Byrum
 Azle, Texas 817-690-2429

020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE

We Create Vacancy

- Tear Down •Barns
- Removal •Houses
- Haul Off •Bobcat
- Mobile Service
- Homes •Dirt/Gravel
- Garages Spreading

FREE ESTIMATES
817-996-7887
 253 Eagles Way, Springtown

030 Firewood

\$150 Half cord, delivered and stacked. Call 817-689-2424.

032 For Sale



New 7 ft Marston Caternia Pool Table. Teflon coated cloth and accessories. MSRP \$3699. Sale for \$2300 including free delivery and installation. Call 817-444-7021.

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Chad's Tree Service

Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL **FREE ESTIMATES**

Insured for your protection



Find a Job in the Classifieds!
 Azle News
 Springtown Epigraph

008 Autos, Trucks



Chevy Silverado, Year 2015, 8 cylinders, new tires, runs perfect, tool box on the bed, bull bars on the front. 172 k miles, asking \$ 14,500 Cel 817-703-1261

Azle News!

009 Auto Repair Service

Rainwater's
Transmission & Auto Repair
COMPETITIVE PRICING

TRANSMISSION • BRAKES • A/C
ENGINE SERVICE • WRITTEN ESTIMATES
FREE TOW & FREE DIAGNOSTIC


201 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED!
Accepting all credit cards

682-615-7250
817-766-3852

039 Help Wanted

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

Radial Saw pulled from storage. One owner. Used for crafts. Need to sell. Make an offer. 817-999-6736



039 Help Wanted

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 evening custodians. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Apply online at www.azleisd.net

039 Help Wanted

KARL KLEMENT

Parts Driver/Warehouse Associate
 Growing Parts Department with advancement opportunities. TXDL and approved driving record required. Monday-Friday work week

Lube Tech
 Experience a plus, but willing to train the right person. Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday thru Friday work week

Body Shop Porter
 Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

Office Assistant
 Seeking a dependable and detail-oriented person that enjoys diversity in their workday, or daily tasks. We offer Competitive Pay; Paid Training/Holiday/Vacation; full line Benefits Plan, and opportunity for growth.

Custodian Performs
 Custodial tasks throughout the building. Position can be full-time or part-time

014 Campers & Trailers



2017 Dutchman Voltage
 Excellent condition, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8. 5th Wheel Toy Hauler. \$67000.00
 Call or text 817-437-2287

024 Electrician

BULLDAWG ELECTRIC CO.
 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
 Free Estimates. 817-675-4921
 www.bulldawgelectric.com.
 TECL#25253.

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Estate Sale
 400 CR 3598, Boyd 76023.
 December 8th-9th, 9am-4pm.
 Dec 10th, 9am-3pm. See Durhamstatesales.net for pictures & details.

E-Conn Electric
 Service, Remodel, New Construction
 Insured/BBB Accredited

817-615-7164

Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

017 Carpet Service

Alexander Carpet Care
 INSURED
817-914-2822
CARPET CLEANING

026 Excavating

REED EXCAVATING

- SITE PREPARATION
- LOT CLEARING
- LEVELING
- FINAL GRADE
- LAND EROSION
- GRAVEL ROADS
- PARKING LOTS
- DEMOLITION
- STOCK TANKS

Dump Truck Hauling 817-919-3696

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

019 Cement Work

Allen Chesney Concrete
 All Types of Concrete Work
 Residential - Commercial
 Foundations, driveways, sand, gravel, demolition, haul-off, retaining walls
 817-271-4541

ALL TYPES OF EXCAVATING
 Tanks • House Pads • Clearing

HASTY EXCAVATING
 Also ..
 Sand • Top Soil • Gravel
817-523-7248 • 817-239-6215

IRRIGATION REPAIR

Residential/Commercial
 License# LI007825
 \$85 Service Call

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

029 Fencing

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

OUTDOOR SCENE
682-553-1560

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

www.azlenews.net
 www.springtown-epigraph.net

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

STUMP GRINDING
Don't dig it! Grind it!
 1 or 100 - We can do it.
 \$85 minimum within 5 mi.
817-237-5592

PLACE AN AD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!
817-270-3340

KLEMENT
 RAM CHRYSLER DODGE 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)

Route Driver
 No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday with Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities.

*****\$1,000.00 SIGN ON BONUS*****

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
FOR MORE INFORMATION

817-270-3340 - AZLE
817-220-7217 - SPRINGTOWN

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted

Ash Creek Baptist Church is now accepting applications for the full time position of

Receptionist/Music Secretary
 Stop by the church office to pick up an application between 8:30 - 4:30 then return it to the office for Dr. Larry Lormand.

Ash Creek Baptist Church
 300 S. Stewart St
 Azle, TX 76020
 817 444-3219

066 Roofing

Miles Roofing
 • Insurance Claim Specialists;
 • Free Estimates
817-797-3420

AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS
817-304-4224

079 Welding

Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!
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Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design
 Office **817-237-2282**
 Fax 817-237-0904
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

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**

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

Tired of always replacing your roof?
 Call us for a metal roof quote.
We'll be here after the storm.

WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Metal Building Erectors
 • Pre-engineered Weld-up
 • Barns/Shops
 • Arenas/Hangars
 • Fencing
 1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
817-220-2150
www.weld-done.net

081 Business/Commercial
 40x50 building For Rent, 3 miles west of Springtown. 817-713-7495.
 Office for lease
 1800 sq. ft. 2 miles South of Main St, FM 730 S. \$1200/mo plus electric. Gary 817-239-9571

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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.

051 Motorcycles

2001 American Iron Horse Ranger. 113 cubic inch S&S Engine. Lots of extras. \$10,000. Negotiable. Call Leslie 682-552-9711.

DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

- Roofing
- Metal Roofing
- Carports
- Metal Buildings
- All General Contracting

417 N. MAIN ST • SPRINGTOWN
817-523-4137
 Here Before The Storm. Here Long After.

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
 Nice 2-2 SW \$1200/mo, quiet area, Azle ISD, fenced yard. Qualified Tenants Wanted. 817-228-2414.

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Ash Creek Storage
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 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

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT
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 Room to Rent, females only, 1 bedroom \$325/Mo. All bills paid, call 682-290-5276.

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Continued next page...

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Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

088 Rent Unfurnished

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ACROSS

1 Astros, Cowboys, or Spurs

5 TX B.J. Thomas sang "___ Lone-some I Could Cry"

6 TXism: "___ mama" (waitress)

7 TXism: "costs ___ arm and a leg"

8 horse mouthpiece

9 TXism: "it ___ big loop to rope him" (obese)

15 TX Oveta ___ Hobby was 1st U.S. secretary of HEW

16 item to fasten a horse to a plow, e.g. (2 wds.)

18 subjugate

20 backs of necks

22 defensive wall

27 a few female sheep

28 Jacqueline of film "The Deep" with UT grad Wallace actress Trevor of 1941 film "Texas"

30 flight photos

32 "Alamo City" abbr.

33 with "Mae," "Cow-Cow Boogie" singer from Texas (2 wds.)

36 TX Freddy Fender's "Before the Next Tear ___ Falls"

37 once, International Telephone & Telegraph: "___, Inc."

38 in Fannin County, on highway 34

39 "___ run" (fast food)

41 fish appendage

42 TXism: panting like a lizard ___ rock"

45 TX Freddy Fender sang "You'll ___ a Good Thing" (1975)

46 Chinese sauce

47 thankfully, it's almost the weekend (abbr.)

48 Kampground found in Texas

49 resident of "Gem State"

10 Coleman h.s. class

11 TX Rote, star RB at SMU, 1947-50 (init.)

12 on Memorial Day weekend: "___ Festival"

13 oceans

14 Egyptian vipers

15 most Texas colleges have a graduation ___ in May

16 assert something

17 "he ___ writing on the wall"

19 young Scot: "just ___ lad"

21 "Lone Star ___"

22 ___ Cola

23 former chain founded in Dallas: "Steak and ___"

24 shopping center

25 rice dishes

26 receiver of WBAP-AM signal (2 wds.)

28 "ink ___" test

31 TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"

34 TX Buddy Holly 1958 hit: "Rave ___"

35 border river: "___ Grande"

37 "___ girl!"

40 classic 1952 western: "High ___"

43 TXism for "against"

44 Edinburg is the seat of this county

50 this TX Taylor was a UH All-American defensive end

51 25th governor of Texas, Colquitt (first two initials)

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