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THURSDAY, March 2, 2023 • **\$1**

Springtown police sergeant promoted to deputy chief

City administrator to serve as public safety director

MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown City Administrator David Miller recently named Jamie Oliver as the Springtown Police Department's new deputy chief.

"I'm excited," Oliver said about his new position after the promotion was announced at the Springtown City Council meeting on Feb. 21. "I'm looking forward to it."

Oliver was formerly the police department's criminal investigations department sergeant. He was hired in 2014 as a patrol officer, and he has also served as an investigator.

"After a thorough evaluation of the department's needs, including extensive discussions with each of the department's employees, the city's other department heads, and the city council, the decision was reached to promote Jamie Oliver from his current role as CID sergeant to deputy chief," Springtown Administrative Services Director Christina Derr said.

This change in leader-

ship was announced about seven months after former police chief Cres Salazar resigned from the department in July. Salazar's resignation followed the death of his teenage daughter in an ATV accident.

Oliver's promotion comes with a shift in the police department's leadership structure. Miller, who served as the police department's interim chief in Salazar's absence, will now have the role of the city's public safety director in addition to being city

PLEASE SEE **DEPUTY** | A5



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Dallas Oliver pins his dad's, Jamie Oliver's, badge to his uniform during the Springtown City Council meeting on Feb. 21. Oliver was promoted to deputy chief of the Springtown Police Department.

One Fancy pig

SHS senior claims victory at Fort Worth pig show





Springtown High School senior Tye Goree started showing livestock

COURTESY PHOTO

Springtown High School senior Tye Goree won Reserve Champion Duroc at the Fort Worth Gilt Show with his pig, named Fancy. Pictured, from left, are Brandi and Charlie Pitts, Chad Freeman, Branton Langston, Sarah Goree, Tye Goree, Jarrod Goree, Hudson Pankey, Rylan Corbin, Lyla Pankey, Kaitlyn Goree, Bryson and Anna Kate Pankey, and Mason Corbin.

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or plenty of FFA students, showing livestock is a family affair. This is especially true for the Goree family. Jarrod

Goree said he's always been involved in the livestock industry, and his wife Sarah showed livestock for several years when she was in school. When Jarrod Goree's kids showed interest in livestock

exhibition, he felt pleased.

"I didn't want to make it mv idea and them hate it," Jarrod Goree said. "It had to be their idea."

When Jarrod Goree was asked what qualities he hoped to pass on to his kids about raising pigs, his

17-year-old son Tye answered vice president of the school's for him.

"Probably just the time and dedication," Tye Goree said about what his dad has taught him.

Tye is a senior Springtown High School and FFA chapter. He started showing pigs when he was in sixth grade, following in his sister's footsteps. After being involved with FA for six years, Tye is quite accomplished. He is a

when he was in the sixth grade.

Lone Star Degree recipient (a high honor in FFA) and winner of the Melton Harms Swine Proficiency Award for his Supervised Agriculture **Experience Project.**

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

PLEASE SEE FANCY | A11



Deen talks transportation needs, potential bond election

MADELYN EDWARDS THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH **Parker County Judge** Pat Deen talks to the attendees of Commerce's monthly luncheon on Feb. 23 about the state of the county.

MADELYN EDWARDS

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Parker County Judge Pat of the Springtown Area Chamber Deen talked about a potential county bond election to address transportation issues during the recent Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Deen addressed luncheon attendees on Feb.

23 about the state of the county with an emphasis on transportation.

Deen brought Chris Bosco of the engineering, planning and consulting firm Freese and Nichols to talk about transportation needs. Bosco said the county can leverage funding using a bond program and part-, particularly nerships

the Texas Department of Transportation.

"The project here on (FM) 51 is a good example of that. The bond paid for engineering and right of way, working with the utilities, and then TxDOT came in with the money to build it," Bosco said. "That's kind of the

power of the bond program. (It) allows the county and the

cities to advance the project and get the bulk of the money actually being paid for by TxDOT."

The specific projects that could be funded by a potential bond election in November are still in the works. Bosco mentioned some projects that have been

PLEASE SEE DEEN | A8





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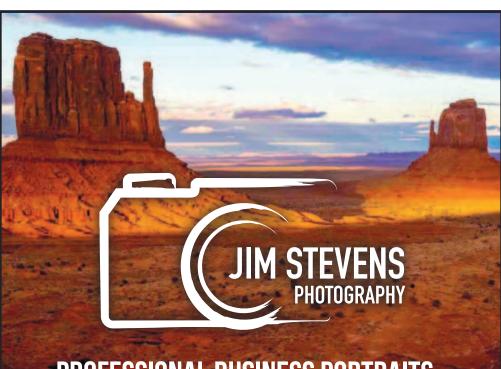
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Springtown High School's vocational student of the month

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce named Christian Nolan as the vocational student of the month at the chamber's monthly luncheon on Feb. 23. Christian has been in the POJO Tech Club and on the wrestling team for two years. He is pictured between Chamber Executive Director Amy Walker and Springtown High School computer science teacher Chris Walker.



PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS PORTRAITS COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY • FAMILY PORTRAITS

Black Balloon Day on March 6



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Springtown Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed March 6 as Black Balloon Day in the city. Black Balloon Day is a national and international event that aims to make the public more aware of drug overdose deaths. "I urge all citizens to work together to help reduce drug abuse and be diligent in reaching out to those at risk," Hood said in his proclamation. Hood is pictured presenting the proclamation to Joe Castro and his daughter Joey. Joe Castro and his wife Jessica founded the Springtown overdose awareness group "We ARE our brother's keeper."

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I'm sure there are variations on the saying I subtly referenced in the headline. You get to fill in the blank yourself.

No matter what word you choose, you will actually be proving the point – you even have an opinion about how to fill in a blank.

Here's a confession: I have LOTS of opinions.

That's why I write every week as a blogger/newspaper columnist. I'm not an investigative journalist writing articles to educate and inform. I'm writing my opinion and observations about life with the goal of encouraging and inspiring.



Some of my opinions are based on my understanding of objective facts and historically verifiable events, but I don't objectively report on those things.

I reflect on those things. I try to interpret those things, but I do so through my own lenses and personal biases.

Here's my point: I know

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.

what my lane is.

For me to attempt to pass off my opinions as objective truth would be disingenuous at best and potentially dangerous.

The list of topics on which I could be considered an authoritative expert is extremely short.

The list of topics on which my experience allows me to

offer a helpful and encouraging perspective is a little longer, but it's still a short list.

Because of the above reasons, choosing to stay in my lane means that I feel no compulsion whatsoever to weigh in with my opinion on every hot topic.

If you ask me my opinion, I'll tell you the truth – about my opinion.

If I'm going to share a public opinion (such as in this post), I'm going to ask myself these questions (in no particular order):

Is it beneficial to people who think differently? Is it respectful and kind to

everyone?

Does it challenge people to be better?

, everybody has one.

Is it hopeful? Does it build bridges instead of burning them?

Does it open the door to ongoing dialogue? Would it be better, in this

case, if I kept my opinion to myself?

I can't tell you how many deleted sentences have resulted from that last question!

In the New Testament, there are two different accounts of a particular incident (Mark 9, Luke 9) in which it is recorded that the Apostle Peter said something because "he did not know what to

say."

Sometimes we think we just have to say ... SOMETHING.

Maybe – in those moments – the best thing to say is "I don't know what to say."

There are certainly times when we know what we WANT to say, but an intentional pause might allow us to consider what we SHOULD say.

That's the approach I try to

take. You get to choose your own.

But I think sometimes that less may be more.

At least that's my opinion. Be amazing today, my friend.

Candidates file for May 6 election in Reno

MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

The upcoming Reno City Council and mayoral election will give residents a chance to choose who will lead the city for the next two years.

Three places on the Reno City Council as well as the mayor's seat are up for election.

For the mayoral race, current Mayor Sam White is being challenged by Hector G. Bass Jr.

In Place 2, the two can-

Sudoku

9

MARCH 2, 2023

2

didates who filed are not incumbents of the current city council — Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson Brian Schrader and Tod Siedell.

In Place 4, current Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker is being challenged by Jappifer Vogla

challenged by Jennifer Vogle. Reno will also have a special election for Place 1. Council previously appointed Jody Works to this seat after the death of council member Granville "Randy" Martin III. Council member Jody Works did not file for Place 1. Instead, current Deputy Pro Tem Hernando Herrera — who has served in Place 2 on the council — has filed for Place 1 along with Planning and Zoning Commission Pro Tem Jason Holden. Council members and the

mayor have two-year terms, except for Place 1 which will have a one-year term. Election Day is set for May 6, and early voting will take place from April 24 through May 2.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joyce A. Trainham, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2023, in Cause No. 23P013, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Phyllis Ann Peel, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Phyllis Ann Peel, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086. All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by Iaw. Dated this 23rd day of February, 2023. /s/ Wendi E. Andino Wendi E. Andino Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, LLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 wendi@andinolawfirm.com.

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Buster Joe Morton, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2023, in Cause No. 23P015, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Linda Jo Harris, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Linda Jo Harris, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 23rd day of February, 2023. /s/ Wendi E. Andino Wendi E. Andino Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 Phone: 817-717-7505 wendi@andinolawfirm.com.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Hardy Conner, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2023, in Cause No. 23P021, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: Peggy Ann Conner, Independent Executor. Claims may be mailed in care of the Estate as follows: Peggy Ann Conner, Independent Executor c/o Wendi E. Andino, Attorney Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086. All persons having claims against said Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 23rd day of February, 2023. /s/ Wendi E. Andino, Wendi E. Andino Law Office of Wendi E. Andino, PLLC 1005 Fort Worth Hwy. Weatherford, Texas 76086 Phone: 817-717-7505 wendi@andinolawfirm.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Storage Bright will hold a public auction to satisfy Storage Bright's lien(pursuant to Title 5, Liens, Chapter 59, Sec. 59.044), by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the locations indicated: All spaces contain household goods unless otherwise noted. Storage Bright Springtown East, 104 Adalida LN, Springtown, TX. 76082. (817) 409-8634. Denesha Vanderburg. Kody Biegler. Trevon Scott. Danny Himes. Storage Bright Springtown Central, 1220 Hwy 199 Springtown, TX. 76082 (817) 587-8802. Roxie Rogoski. March 20, 2023, 10:00AM.. The auction will be listed and advertised on www. storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with card and paid to the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Storage Bright may refuse any bid and may

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Solution to last week's puzzle

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SAM HOUSTON

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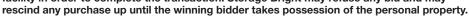
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Epigraph

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Managing Editor

CLAUDIA PEREZ RIVAS





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

Street takeover spurs governor's action; TxDOT proposes \$100 billion transportation plan

STREET TAKEOVER SPURS GOVERNOR'S ACTION

Gov. Greg Abbott has created a statewide task force after several "street takeovers" recently took place in Austin in which motorists obstructed intersections, shot off fireworks and drove recklessly.

Videos posted after the events showed vehicles doing donuts, crowds gathering around intersections, and people setting off fireworks, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Seven people were arrested in the incidents, which occurred at four Austin intersections

Abbott directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to investigate the events and "target the organized crime aspect" of the events, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"We are seeing fireworks fired at officers in crowds. lasers pointed at aircraft, drivers driving upwards of 130 miles per hour with no lights on in the dark of night — all of it is reckless, and it needs to be stopped," DPS Director Steve McCraw said.

Additional arrests are expected, law enforcement officials said.

TXDOT PROPOSES \$100 BILLION TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing a record \$100 billion, 10-year transportation plan to improve congestion, increase safety and maintain the state's roadways. That's a \$15 billion increase over the original plan and comes after record projected revenue for the state, generated by oil and gas fees that are dedicated ed to highway projects.

The latest plan would increase funding in a number of areas, including "safety, energy sector, rural and urban connectivity, border infrastructure, maintenance and preservation," according to a TxDOT statement.

"Safety is a top priority for TxDOT, and these funding levels reflect that," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

TxDOT now has more than \$33 billion in transportation projects under construction throughout the state. More than 7,000 projects are either underway or scheduled to break ground this year.

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Parl gborders@texaspress.com.

BILLS WOULD BAN COVID RESTRICTIONS

A trio of bills by state Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, would address Gov. Greg Abbott's calls to end COVIDrelated restrictions put in place as the pandemic began in 2020.

'This legislation is aimed at preventing future repeats of these controversial public health measures, which did little to slow the spread of the virus and did serious damage to the economy and education systems," Kolkhorst said in a statement, as reported by the Statesman.

The measures, if passed, would codify executive measures issued by Abbott in 2021 that prohibited employer or governmental COVID-19 mandates requiring people to wear masks or to be vaccinated.

Since Abbott has made the COVID-19 package an emergency measure, it bypasses many of the rules put in place by the state constitution to slow passage of legislation, the Statesman reported.

SENATE REVIVES EFFORT TO MAKE ILLEGAL VOTING A FELONY

After lowering the penalty for illegal voting to a misdemeanor in 2021, leaders in the Texas Senate appear poised to again raise the penalty to a second-degree felony, the Texas Tribune reported. Legislation filed by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, would also modify the standard for determining a person's intent to vote illegally.

Current law says a person commits a crime if they "knowingly or intentionally" vote or attempt to vote and know they are not eligible. Under Hughes' bill, the language changes that to say anyone who votes or attempts to vote in an election in which "the person knows of a particular circumstance that makes the person not eligible to vote" could be charged.

That means, for example, that someone who knows they are not a U.S. citizen but did not know they were ineligible to vote could still be prosecuted. An attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project criticized the proposed change as a "very nasty and very potentially consequential provision.'

"That is why this intent requirement exists, because it's not fair for people to go to jail for good-faith mistakes,' attorney James Slattery said.

STATE COULD FOOT AG OFFICE'S LEGAL BILL

A \$3.3 million settlement of a whistleblower complaint filed against the Texas attorney general's office should be paid by the state and not personally by Attorney General Ken Paxton, an agency attorney said. The AG's chief of general litigation told lawmakers that the agency, not Paxton personally, is the defendant under the Texas Whistleblower Act, and that taking the case to trial would cost even more.

"The agreement itself is contingent on legislative funding," he said. "It's a settlement that we made in order to save money for the state of Texas. It was the prudent thing to do to minimize litigation risk," Chris Hilton of the AG's office said, according to kut.org.

However, House Speaker Dade Phelan has said he does not support using taxpayer dollars for the settlement. Abbott has said "this is an issue that the attorney general is going to have to fully explain to both the House and the Senate.'

TEA RELEASES TEACHER VACANCY RECOMMENDATIONS

A task force appointed last year by the Texas Education Agency has released its recommendations to address the teacher and staff vacancy crisis in Texas, as record numbers of both leave the education field in the wake of the pandemic and other issues.

• The Teacher Vacancy Task Force, established last March, was comprised of teachers and school system leaders from across the state. The recommendations include:

• A significant increase in overall teacher salaries · Enhancing teachers' total compensation package, including reducing cost of health care insurance.

• Provide incentives and support for hard-to-staff areas, such as special education and bilingual education teachers.

 \cdot Improve the pipeline and pre-service preparation of novice teachers.

· Expand training and support for teacher mentorship. · Provide access and support for high-quality instructional materials.

· Demonstrate respect and value for teacher time. · School culture and discipline supports.

The task force urged the Legislature to increase funding for teacher salaries, noting the state ranks 28th in the nation for average teacher salary.

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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Springtown will receive bids for Springtown CDBG -<u>Avenue C Reconstruction until 10:00 AM</u> on Friday, March 24th, 2023 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:05 AM on Friday, March 24th, 2023 at Springtown City Hall, 102 E 2nd St, Springtown, TX 76082. Bids are invited for several items and

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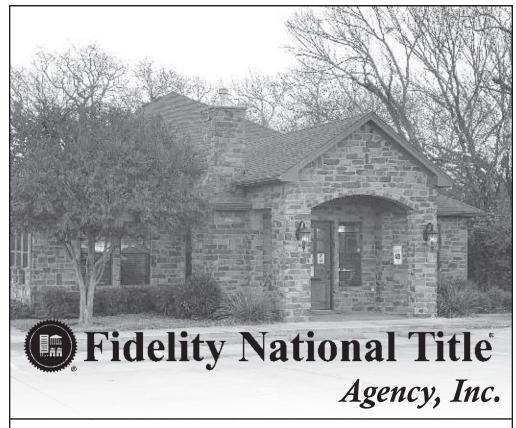
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3. 160 SY of Asphalt Pavement

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of the engineer, Pacheco Koch, 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained free of charge by the prospective bidders at www.civcastusa.com under the following project name - "Springtown CDBG - Avenue C Reconstruction". Additionally, bid documents may be obtained free of charge from Pacheco Koch at 4060 Bryant Irvin Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the <u>City of Springtown</u> or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because ofrace, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive. All contractors/ subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Deadline for questions is 10:00 AM on Friday, March 17th, 2023.

The <u>City of Springtown</u> reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the <u>City of Springtown</u> for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Springtown is an equal opportunity employer.

City of Springtown Greg Hood, Mayor 02/21/2023



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Adam Mitchell is an Assistant Professor of Entomology at **Tarleton State University**

Native Plant Society set to meet on March 9

STAFF REPORTS

The Cross Timbers Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will meet in the community building at Cherry Park on Davis Street in Weatherford on March 9.

The business meeting will start at 6 p.m., and the program starts at 6:30 p.m. The program information is listed below:

Biological invasions and global insect decline: What can we learn from alien plant invasion?

Members will understand the mechanisms in which the introduction of alien plant species impacts the diversity, evolution and behavior of

native insects and related arthropods through an examination of multiple functional groups (herbivores, detritivores, predators, pollinators and others) with evidence provided from local and international studies. In addition, the group will discuss opportunities promoting the importance of mitigating the impact of plant invasion and incorporating native plants in the landscape.

Adam Mitchell is an assistant professor of entomology at Tarleton State University. He received bachelor's degrees in agriculture and natural resources, entomology, plant protection and

wildlife conservation at the University of Delaware in 2011, his master's degree in fish and wildlife management at Montana State University-Bozeman in 2014, and his doctorate degree in entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware in 2019. Mitchell and his lab conduct research exploring how anthropogenic (or human-induced) disturbances affect arthropod biodiversity and ecosystem services, which include disturbances from climate change, invasive species, urbanization, and pollution. Mitchell's past research has included exploring arthropod food

webs in response to plant invasions in Texas and in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. Current research in the Mitchell lab includes exploring pollinator performance of drought-tolerant plants for landscape plantings, using native grass pollen as supplemental feed for pollenating insects, monitoring pollinators of concern through environmental DNA, assessing habitat quality of freshwater turtles through aquatic insect surveys, and exploring how microplastic pollutants move through aquatic plant and insect food webs.

DEPUTY FROM PAGE A1

administrator.

Derr said this change means Oliver is leading the police department's daily operations while being mentored by Miller, who has previous experience as a public safety director and police chief. Miller's position includes responsibility for the city's emergency management and working with Oliver to improve the police department's service.

"I look forward to working with him to help shape him and mold him into being the police chief that I believe he can be," Miller said.

The new leadership structure will stay in place for the foreseeable future, Derr said, and there is a chance that Oliver may someday be promoted to chief of the department.

Miller said internal candi-

dates were interviewed by staff and by a group of city managers who did not know the officers.

The consensus reached from these interviews was that Oliver was a good candidate but would benefit from more police leadership experience, which Miller was quick to point out is not a criticism of Oliver.

Miller conducted more interviews, including with police officers about what qualities they wanted in a chief. He was sold on Oliver after realizing that Oliver's goals for the department aligned with his own.

"I had him write a set of goals and objectives that he would want to see accomplished in the police department over the next year to two years, the philosophies that he held with those goals and objectives, and they were very much in tune with the direction that I felt like the department needed to be he said.

moving in, as far as making sure we have proper training, proper accountability, proper discipline, proper equipment, those types of things," Miller said.

Miller said his immediate goals for Oliver is for him to establish a "well thought out" training program and make sure officers have the equipment necessary to do their jobs safely and efficiently.

The city administrator has a piece of advice for Oliver moving forward.

"Stand firm in your integrity and always do the right thing, even if the right thing is not the most popular thing, is the advice I would give him," Miller said.

Oliver said he wants Springtown residents to know that he works hard and is dedicated.

"The department is going to be one of the best ones they've had in a long time,"



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

City Administrator David Miller shakes hands with the Springtown Police Department's new Deputy Chief Jamie Oliver during the Springtown City Council meeting on Feb. 21. Miller is now serving as the public safety director.





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Springtown middle schoolers win big at UIL **District Academic Meet**

MADELYN EDWARDS

A6 Springtown Epigraph

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown Middle School students who competed in the UIL District Academic Meet cheered when they found out their team won first place.

At the meet on Feb. 11, Springtown Middle School was named UIL District Academic champion. Springtown ISD Academic UIL Director Andrea Hungerford

said the team earned 721 points to bring home the championship trophy.

In UIL academic meets, students compete in subjects such as art, calculator, chess puzzle, creative writing, dictionary skills, editorial writing, impromptu speaking, listening, maps, graphs and charts, math, modern oratory, music memory, number sense, oral reading, ready writing, science, social studies, spelling, and storytelling.

Springtown Middle School competed against other area middle schools, such as Azle's Forte Junior High School, Azle Junior High School, Lake Worth's Lucyle Collins Middle School and Fort Worth Castleberry's Irma Marsh Middle School.

Individually, Springtown middle schoolers won 67 awards, 37 of which were either first, second or third place awards.

The team was led by cam-



Springtown middle schoolers Case Campbell, Hayden Fanning and Alexis Hutchison celebrated when their team won first place at the UIL District Academic Meet on Feb. 11.

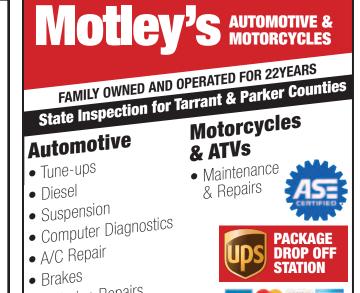


Springtown Middle School was named UIL District Academic champion at the meet on Feb. 11. Seventh and eighth graders earned 721 points to bring home the championship trophy.

COURTESY PHOTO







COURTESY PHOTO

pus director Sierra Horton, as well as multiple teachers who worked with the students for several months to prepare them for competition, Hungerford said.

"I couldn't be prouder of Springtown Middle School's incredible achievement at the recent UIL meet," Horton said. "Our hard-working teachers and students dedicated themselves to success all year long, and it paid off in a big way. What made our victory even more special was that we had a coach for every single event — a rare feat that truly speaks to the commitment and teamwork of our entire school community."

Hungerford thanked the SISD school board, district and campus administrators, teachers and parents "for supporting Springtown academics."

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SPRINGTOWN INSURANCE DIRECTORY



Springtown Middle School educator honored as 'exemplary teacher'

MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

About a decade ago, Springtown native Candice Adams joined the staff at Springtown Middle School as an instructional assistant. With the guidance of her former kindergarten teacher, Adams became the teacher

that she is today. And now, she's being praised for the teaching skills

she cultivated. Adams was one of 43 teachers to be inducted into Weatherford College's Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers on Feb. 10. For the past 27 years, the Jack Harvey Academy has honored local teachers in the region, which this year includes teachers from school districts and Christian academies in Parker County and beyond. The academy was named after Professor Emeritus Jack Harvey, who taught at the college for 23 years.

Adams, who teaches eighth grade English language arts and reading, represented Springtown ISD in the 2022-23 Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers. She wasn't expecting to receive this honor that she said has been given to numerous great teachers before her, including her former kindergarten teacher and mentor.

"That award has been given to some amazing, prestigious people before me, and it was really just an honor to know that I'm doing something that is being recognized and making a difference," she said.

Being a teacher was not Adams' lifelong goal. Instead, she found the career path



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE Candice Adams, an English language arts and reading teacher at Springtown Middle School, was honored as Springtown ISD's 2022-23 Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers award recipient.

through circumstance. First, she studied business at Weatherford College, but she found out that she wasn't interested in the content she was being taught. Then, she got her cosmetology license, and realized that she wasn't passionate about that work either.

When her kids were younger, Adams would help with their pre-kindergarten schooling as well as read with them and teach them at home. From there, Adams took a job as an instructional assistant at Springtown Middle School and finally found a job that was fit for her.

"I realized very quickly that I really like this," she said. Adams' interactions with

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE

Weatherford College recognized 43 teachers in the region at the annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration on Feb. 10. Among the award recipients was Springtown ISD's Candice Adams, who is pictured fourth from the right in the front row.

the students inspired her to earn her teaching certification. She enjoys working with the kids and being able to impact their lives.

Moreover, Adams likes teaching eighth graders specifically because she can help them realize their potential that they can go to college or trade school — and instill a love of learning.

"I just feel like eighth grade is such a pivotal time in their life where they're trying to figure out who they are, who they want to be," she said. "It's really such a great time to help them get on a track of success."

When asked to guess what made her stand out enough to be selected for the Jack Harvey Academy, Adams mentioned that she sets high expectations for her students, builds positive relationships with them and pushes them to be better. She also said she works well

with her peers and that she and other faculty members help each other to be better educators.

Springtown Middle School Principal Matthew Scott came to a similar conclusion about why Adams deserved the award.

"Candice Adams exemplifies the spirit of the Jack Harvey Excellence Award," Scott said. "She is a dedicated educator who exudes passion each and every day for her content. She builds relationships with students, mentors other teachers, and is always willing to go the extra mile for our campus. Mrs. Adams strives for perfection and is eager to learn and grow. She passes her love for learning on to her students every day. She sponsors Student Council and serves as a lead teacher for our eighth grade (English Language Arts and Reading) department. I can't say enough about what she

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does for our students and our campus."

Adams attended the Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration on Feb. 10 and listened to the speech by the event's keynote speaker — 2023 Texas Teacher of the Year Shelley Jeoffroy. Hearing Jeoffroy speak made Adams feel inspired to tackle another day in the classroom.

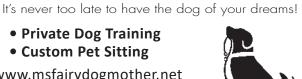
"It really just gave me goosebumps. It drove me back to my 'why' - Why exactly I became a teacher, why exactly I do what I do, why I get out of bed every day and love what I do," Adams said. "Sitting in that award ceremony, listening to her and being around other teachers that love what they do is exactly what I needed. It relit that fire, that 'why I do what I do,' and I think every teacher needs to remember their 'why."



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Reno P&Z discusses code compliance complaint process

MADELYN EDWARDS madelyn@azlenews.net

The Reno Planning and Zoning Commission met on Feb. 21 in a workshop to discuss the code compliance complaint process.

The P&Z spoke with Reno Police Chief Scott Elsner, and by the end of the meeting, commission members seemed satisfied with the chief's plan to handle the complaint process.

At the beginning of the workshop, P&Z Chairperson Brian Schrader said the commission would be discussing the complaint policies and procedures, not individual cases or code enforcement.

Schrader said complaints should be logged, dated and serialized. He said followups should be conducted in a timely manner, as opposed to residents approaching the City Council to say they never received a response after filing a complaint.

"I think our citizens deserve some type of reporting back to them, so they know that their city is working for them, not just falling on deaf ears," Schrader said. Elsner said an online system to file complaints will be set up, and forms will be available at city hall.

"We're going to revamp the code compliance office," Elsner said. "What we would like to do is the same thing that we're going to do with emergency calls is prioritize them. And everything won't be addressed immediately; it will be addressed within a certain timeframe. But they'll come in, and they'll will be categorized — one through three, one through four, whatever they may be — and it will be addressed in that order." P&Z discussed anonym-

ity in filing complaints, what qualifications a person should have to file a complaint, and how to protect against using the complaint process for retaliation.

In addition to the police department, the Briar-Reno Fire Department was also represented at the meeting. Fire Chief Moses Druxman said a report is generated for every phone call that the department receives, and complaints are marked as such. Those reports are logged into the department's report management system. Druxman also said code

enforcement should not be driven by complaints.

"If your code enforcement office is only complaint driven, they will not be effective," he said. "Code enforcement needs the ability to go out, perform building inspections, perform septic inspections and those things on their own. That is their job. It shouldn't be just because a citizen is calling and complaining on another citizen. They need to be able to go out and do their job."

As far as anonymity, Elsner and Druxman said they don't allow complainants to be

anonymous because that information is needed for documentation purposes. However, they said complainants' names won't be shared with the public.

One of the city's attorneys, Alan Wavland, added that he needs live witnesses in order to prosecute for code violations in municipal court.

"We're not going to go and tell this guy's neighbor, 'Hey, your neighbor called you in.' We're going to send (Code Enforcement Officer) Joe (Harris) out and take care of the problem, whatever the problem may be," Elsner said.

DEEN FROM PAGE A1

suggested, including safetyrelated improvements on FM 920. The commissioner's court is expected to make a decision in August on calling a November bond election.

"One of the initiatives over the next several months is

really to identify those projects, so engaging the cities, engaging the commissioners to get that list of projects," Bosco said. "The ones I mentioned today are ones that we've kind of brainstormed. but what we've done in the past is had a committee that we present the different projects, the cost of them and then ultimately kind of worked through what is that roadway accidents on FMs

number of projects."

Precinct 1 Commissioner George Conley reassured the luncheon attendees that there would be projects in Precinct 1, which includes Springtown and Reno, in the bond package.

Some initiatives are being advanced by TxDOT. Bosco said increased growth in the county has led to a rise in

51, 730 and 920. TxDOT is studying FMs 51 and 920 and is considering expanding those roadways in about eight to 10 years.

TxDOT is hiring engineers who will prioritize projects based on needs, such as most traffic or most accidents, Bosco said.

"Those are like 18 mile segments of road, so in all likely, they might divide it

in halves or even thirds depending on available money," he said. "There will be pieces of it that will be built over time, but it's probably more like a 10-year completion type of thing.' Bosco also said TxDOT

plans to widen Interstate 20 in the next 10 years.

However, Deen said another route to move people east and west in Parker County

and beyond, besides I-20, is needed.

"We've got to have that (alternative) route if we're going to solve the bigger problem," Deen said. "If you add a lane to I-20, that doesn't solve the problem. It's critical we have the second material route going east and west."



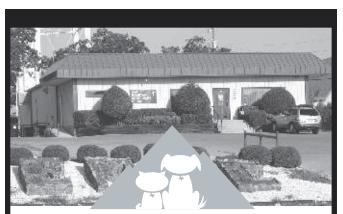
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Weatherford College gets approval to offer education bachelor's degree

STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board gave Weatherford College staff-level approval to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching, according to a press release from the college.

The new program will be the college's fourth bachelor's degree, and it's expected to start this fall.

This program is for students who have finished an associate's degree and want to further their education, according to the press release. The hybrid model classes will allow students do coursework online as well as participate in hands-on learning experiences and internships.

"This program will open doors for students of this generation and those to come," Education Department Chairperson Shannon Stoker said in the press release. "Students will have access to internships in the community and the abil-

ity to reshape communal narratives as they complete their coursework and enter the workforce."

The new bachelor's degree program aims to prepare students to work with children ages newborn through sixth grade. The press release cited the Texas Workforce Commission in saying that the need for teachers for this age group is expected to increase by more than 30% during the next 10 years.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this bachelor's degree program in education to our students," Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer said in the press release. "There is a critical shortage of teachers throughout Texas. and Weatherford College is now poised to help close that gap by producing exceptional teachers. WC is now one of only two community college districts in the state authorized to offer this degree program."

For more information on the program, visit *https://bit*. lv/41nKSOK.



PHOTO COURTESY LIBERTY ELEMENTARY Children at Liberty Elementary celebrate the first 100 days of class. With a critical shortage of teachers throughout Texas, degree programs like these will help future staffing needs.





springtown-epigraph.net



Flute Festival coming up at Weatherford College

STAFF REPORTS

Flutists, take note: Weatherford College will host the second annual Flute Festival on Saturday, April 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Alkek Fine Arts Center.

The festival, which is for flutists of all ages and all playing abilities, will feature international flutist Stephen Clark and beatboxing sensation Greg Pattillo, according to a Weatherford College press release.

"Clark is the recipient of the 2016 Sir James Galway Rising Star Award, first prize winner of the 2018 IMKA Music Competition and the 2018 Alexander and Buono International Flute Competition," according to the press release. "In 2015, he was accepted into the Recording Academy of America and is now a voting member in the Grammys. Clark has appeared on screen as the flute player in both the BBC's period drama series 'Desperate Romantics' and ITV's feature film 'Miss Marple – The Secret of Chimneys.'"

As for Pattillo, the press release noted that the beatboxing flutist was praised by The New York Times as "the best person in the world at what he does." He has performance videos on YouTube that have been viewed more than 70 million times.





Stephen Clark

on April 1.

Speedy registration for the Flute Festival is encouraged because masterclasses with Clark and Pattillo are only available on a limited basis. Musicians can also audition for the honor flute choir via a prescreened recording of audio only, which is due PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN CLARK

A young artist competition will also be included in the festival, according to the press release. The festival day will end with a public concert.

Visit *https://bit.ly/3X7uikP* to register for the festival for free.

Greg Pattillo







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FANCY FROM PAGE A1

After this year's Fort Worth Stock Show, Tye was able to add another entry to his FFA resume: Reserve champion in the Duroc competition and winner in his Chester pig class. Tye's Duroc also won reserve champion at a show in Mississippi.

Duroc pigs have coats with a reddish hue. For this reason, Tye named his reserve champion pig "Fancy" after the song by Reba McEntire, who is known for her red hair.

Winning always feels good, Tye said, but this year's win in Fort Worth was a little sweeter because this is his senior year.

"We're trying so hard, and I think that one felt good when it paid off," he said.

Winning at a stock show isn't an easy feat, especially in Fort Worth where Tye estimated there were eight Duroc classes with about 40-50 competitors in each class. Despite the competition, Tye had confidence in his pig.

"We had her ready, looking good," Tye said about Fancy. adding "I never try to go into it with too high expectations, but I'm always hoping for the best."

Of course, Jerrod Goree is proud of his son. He said FFA has taught Tye a work ethic of self-reliance.

"(It teaches) you how to not rely on somebody else but rely on yourself to actually get your livestock where they need to be, learn how to feed them yourself. That's the part that I think he's really, really grown at," Jerrod Goree said.

Tye also said FFA has taught him the value of hard work.

"I don't think anything is just handed to you," Tye said. "I think you need to work hard for everything."

Meanwhile, Tye described how keeping his mental composure while problem solving is the most challenging part of FFA.

"The most challenging thing is probably like just the mental game, trying to keep pigs on feed, trying to keep them looking right, and there's always a problem that'll come your way," he



PHOTO COURTESY OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

A Duroc is a breed of pig developed between 1822 and 1877 from the Old Duroc pig of New York and the Red Jersey pig of New Jersey; it was formerly called the Duroc-Jersey. The Duroc proved particularly suitable for feeding in the United States Corn Belt; by the 1930s it was the predominant breed in the United States, a distinction it held intermittently throughout the century. Exportation has been extensive, especially to the temperate regions of North and South America. Red is the preferred and predominant colour for the Duroc, though wide variations may occur. Breeding selection has emphasized length, trimness, fine muscling, and rapid weight gain.

said

Tye's favorite part about being involved in FFA is the people he has met and befriended. He said he'll miss going to contests and seeing his friends there. After he graduates from

high school, Tye plans to attend college at Tarleton State University. He hasn't quite figured out his major, but he

knows it will be related to agriculture. He said his dream job is "raising hogs."





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United Way of Parker County fashion show

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICOLE WRIGHT **United Way of Parker County** hosted its Little Black Dress **Fashion Show and Dinner** on Feb. 23 at the Covered Bridge Venue in Springtown. According to its website, "United Way brings the community residents, business leaders, and representatives from our local community together to identify and address shared community concerns. Our goal is to engage people to understand the issues most important to them and their families – including the ability to access a quality education, obtain good jobs, and to live healthy lives."









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Track is back

Porcupines shine at Brock Relays to start season

JEFF PRINCE

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track and field uniform is thin, flimsy and scant protection against the cold winds that swept across the Brock Relays track meet on Feb. 23. The frigid weather didn't keep the Porcupines — boys and girls - from doing their best. The Porcupines went head-to-head, and foot-to-foot, with 15 other schools and had a blast while winning plenty of hardware.

"It's a good first track meet," said Heather Dickey, who was watching daughter Ashlynn Dickey, a Springtown senior, perform in the high jump.

Before the event ended, Ashlynn would do something she'd never done before.

BRRRR! IT'S COLD!

The temperature was nippy and windy when the track meet began, and Brinklee Dauenhauer waited until the last moment to remove her sweats before attempting a long jump. The sun peeked from behind clouds, indicating the day might warm up soon.

"It's cold, but it's nice," Dauenhauer said.

This year, the senior pushed the Lady Porcupine volleyball team to the regional quarterfinals and led her team in assists, digs, and kills. She set school records for career aces and digs and earned All-State recognition. She plans to play volleyball in college soon.

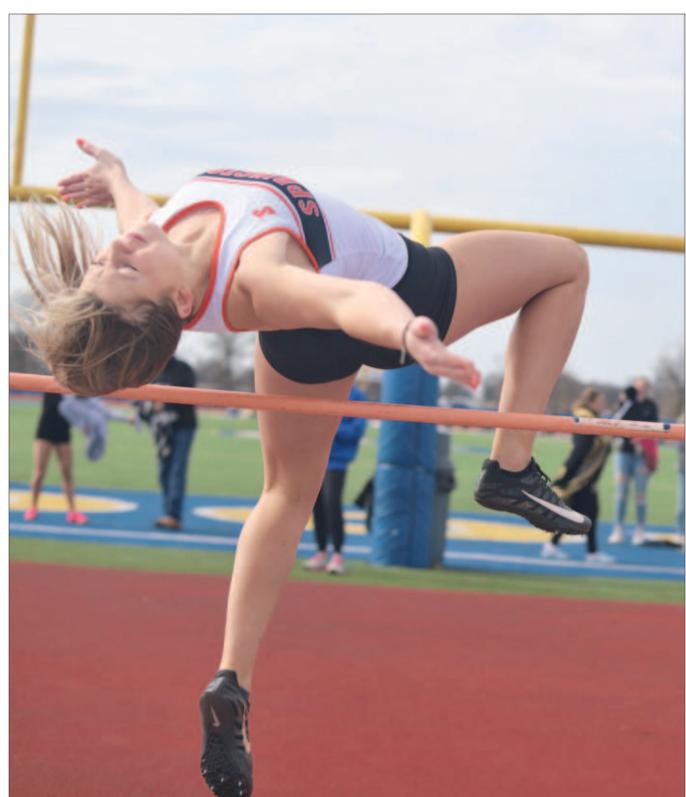
Dauenhauer relies on track to keep in shape but isn't as serious about the sport as volleyball. She has been long

jumping for three years but couldn't recall her personal record.

"I just jump," she said. Dauenhauer keeps track of her best times in races and relays but considers the long jump and high jump events as just for fun. Besides, Springtown sophomore Mack Flaugher owns the school record in long jump and went to state last year as a freshman. Dauenhauer didn't expect to beat Flaugher, although the younger girl was nursing a sore leg and wasn't sure she could jump her best. "She is amazing,"

Dauenhauer said of her teammate. "I'm still competitive and want to win, but at the same time I know there are bigger things out there for me other than track."

After Dauenhouer's final long jump, she hustled to the far side of Eagle Stadium to compete in the high jump. To get there, she cut across the football field and bumped into long distance runner Wesley Payne, who was heading in the opposite direction



PLEASE SEE TRACK | B3 Ashlynn Dickey clears the high jump bar to win first place.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Springtown powerlifting boys

Brady McDonald shows the strain during the squat event at district.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

push their way to regionals

JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

At the district meet on Feb. 22, Porcupine powerlifters set personal records, earned medals and qualified to compete at the upcoming regional meet.

Medals and records are fun to chase, but the athletes say the best part of powerlifting is the camaraderie.

Eli Hansen, a senior at Springtown, holds the school record in the squat and bench press in the 220-pound weight class. At the district meet, his goal was to beat his

personal record. However, he lost weight and entered to compete at 198 pounds, thinking he would gain an advantage over his smaller competitors.

One of his main rivals at meets is Azle senior Drew Dorris, who also competes at 220 pounds. Dorris has been beating Hansen's lifts by about 15 pounds this season.

Hansen was surprised to discover that Dorris, too, had trimmed down for the district meet and signed up to compete at 198 pounds.

PLEASE SEE **PUSH** | B3

Springtown's powerlifting girls win regional championship...again

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown powerlifting girls earned their ninth regional championship recently.

On Feb. 25 in Kennedale, the Lady Porcupines competed at the regional meet and scored 64 points to knock off Decatur, which came in second with 56.

The victory marked the ninth time the Lady Porcupines have taken home a THSWPA Region 6 Division 2 regional championship.

Fifteen Porcupine lifters competed at regionals this year, and all of them earned medals.

The team shattered eight regional records. Brianna Graham (105-pound weight class) benched pressed 195 pounds, beating the regional record by a whopping 35 pounds. She also tied the overall total record at 795.

Macy Chavez (132-pound) broke the 190-pound bench press record by lifting 210.

Kylie Wear (148-pound) broke the squat record in grand fashion, lifting 420 pounds. The previous record was 350.

Abigail Stoner (148-pound)



PLEASE SEE POWER | B3 Springtown powerlifting girls won the regional powerlifting team championship and other awards.

COURTESY PHOTO



Brayden Fox struck out 11 batters in 5-1/3 innings against Kennedale.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Porcupine baseball players sticklers for consistency

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Striding to the plate like Babe Ruth, pointing to the outfield wall, and walloping a home run to win the game makes for a great story.

More often, nailing down a victory requires the simple act of scooping up a routine grounder, catching a pop fly, tagging a runner, or making an accurate throw to first base.

"Consistency is something we talk about every day," said Colin Crawford, the first-year head coach for Springtown baseball. "Win or lose, you show up and go to work on things you need to get better at. The process just starts over. The only day that matters is today."

Springtown lost its first game at a recent tournament in Kennedale before winning three in a row.

On Feb. 25, the final day of the Kennedale tournament, the Porcupines beat Borger 8-1 and squeezed past Alvarado 6-5 to close out the tourney. Carson Cox and Keegan Martinez picked up wins on the mound, and Todd Smith was a beast in general.

On Feb. 24, the Porcupines knocked off Kennedale 6-0 on the strength of pitching by Brayden Fox, who struck out 11 batters through 5-1/3 innings for the win.

On Feb. 23, the first day of the tourney, Springtown lost a nailbiter to Maypearl, 6-5.

In the first game of the season, Springtown bested Graham 5-1 and has posted an overall record of 4-1.

"I feel OK with where we are consistent in those areas," after this weekend's tour-

nament in Kennedale," Crawford said. "We still have plenty to work on in every aspect of the game, but it was a good job by the kids winning the final three games after Thursday's loss."

His pitching staff has shown command, and his fielders are making plays — much of the time. Consistency on the mound and on defense go a long way toward putting wins on the scoreboard.

"We need to be more consistent in those areas," Crawford said. "We have to be solid defensively and execute the situations that present themselves during the game. The kids understand that, and we will continue to get better at them as we go along."

The Porcupine offense might be ahead of schedule. No one has been pointing to outfield walls, but batters have been powdering the ball.

"The offense is usually behind earlier on in the season, but we have some kids that are starting to figure it out at the plate," Crawford said. "We need some to get going, and I think they will." Overall, the view is pretty

good from the dugout. "I like the group we have,

and I feel like they want to be a good baseball team," the coach said.

Springtown will compete at a tournament Thursday through Saturday in Glen Rose.

"We have a tough stretch coming up against some really good baseball teams, and we are excited about it."

Springtown soccer to play home game Friday

JEFF PRINCE



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The Springtown soccer boys stopped their six-game losing streak by knocking off district rival Collegiate Academy at TCC Northeast 3-1 on Tuesday night.

The victory marked the first district win for the Porcupines, lifting their record to 1-5 and keeping them in the running for a playoff spot with three regular season games remaining. One of those remaining

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Mason Coleman and the Springtown soccer boys are fighting for a playoff spot. Springtown is just one game behind the Bullfrogs in the district standings.

Another of those games is against Decatur, and Springtown is just two games behind the Eagles.

Victories in those games could do much to push Springtown into the postseason.

The Porcupines will play at 7:15 p.m. Friday at home against Castleberry, the undefeated leader of District 8-4A.

Softball team on firm footing

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown High School softball team traveled to Glen Rose recently for a three-day tournament and beat five of six teams.

The victories pushed the Lady Porcupines to 7-2 this season, and that's not a bad place to be.

"I was proud of our fight and effort all weekend," head coach Scott Mann said.

On Feb. 25, the final day of the tourney, Springtown defeated Clifton 7-0 and Glen Rose 4-2.

On Feb. 24, the Pines edged Hico 1-0 but fell to Maypearl 6-3.

Springtown started the tourney in dramatic fashion on Feb. 23, winning a close game over Godley, 4-3. The Lady Pines followed that victory by blasting Venus 14-1. "The team is looking pretty good early on," Mann said. "I really like our team chemistry and how we are battling out of some adversity thus far."

The coach said the Lady Pines have a "really good chance at putting something special together this season as long as we keep working to get better each time out."

The roster includes a mix of ages — five seniors, six juniors and two sophomores. A couple of other girls split time between the varsity and junior varsity.

The Lady Pines made it to the regional quarterfinals last year, and the girls are eager to try to plow deeper into the postseason.

"I don't think being area champs adds any pressure to this group," Mann said. "Our goals remain the same, to get better each time out, win a district championship, and



Head softball coach Scott Mann talks to the Lady Porcupines before a recent game.

go as far as we can in the playoffs. I think our chances are pretty good if we do not get complacent anywhere along the way."

Having a large number of returning players means they are comfortable with each other and are setting lofty but attainable goals. Mann expects every returning player to make an impact this season.

Noelle Fernandez and Haylee Sanborn will be key pitchers, and Cheyanne Atchley is rock solid behind the plate. Veteran shortstop Karley Haynes and second baseman Lauren Brandt are back, along with outfielders Nevaeh Vasquez, Madison Terrell, and Blaize Flood, all returning in important roles. Ava Fernandez made the

Ava Fernandez made the team as a freshman last year,

and she is back as designated hitter and third baseman and performing well.

A recent TGCA poll ranked the Lady Porcupines as 15th best in the state in Class 4A.

TRACK **FROM PAGE B1**

to report to the starting line for the 3,200-meter race. The Brock Relays includes boys and girls competing in separate events.

"You better win," Dauenhauer told him.

LONG DISTANCE KID

The 3,200-meter race is the equivalent of a 2-mile run, and long distances are Payne's specialty. The junior qualified for the state finals last season in cross country and made regionals in the 3,200-meters.

At Brock, Payne planned to run the 1,600-meter and 800-meter races, as well. Including warmups and races, he figured to run more than seven miles during the meet.

The cold weather was causing his muscles to stiffen, and the strong wind from the north meant he would run face-first into a gale at times. His plan was to duck behind other racers early on and make his move later.

"If you're behind somebody, you can use them to block the wind," he said.

He finished the race in 10:52.22, several seconds faster than his previous best.

"A little PR to start off the season," he said with a smile. He wants to set a school re-

cord in the mile run this season, although he will need to shave more than 10 seconds off his fastest time.

"I'll just work hard every day," he said.

DICKEY FLIES HIGH

Mother Nature wasn't being helpful, but Mother Dickey

Track meets are more relaxed than most sporting events, and proud mom

Heather Dickey sat with her daughter's teammates beside the high jump pit, cheering for Ashlynn during her jumps.

was.

"I come out here in any type of weather to support her,' Heather said. "Lots of cold track meets, but I'm always here to support her and video her. She is really good at high jump, and I love watching that. And her relays, her 4x400 is probably her most exciting."

Dickey was the rebound leader on the Springtown basketball team this season. Parents at basketball games are restricted to the stands. Track meets can be more forgiving.

"I like being able to talk to her, and I show her the videos after she jumps, and she looks at what she needs to correct," Heather said.

Last year at the Brock Relays, Dickey jumped 5 feet, 2 inches to set her personal record, which qualified her for regionals. This year, her goal was to beat her PR. It didn't seem likely to occur at Brock. She would need to jump 5 feet. 3 inches on a frigid day with a strong wind blowing into her face on the approach.

She tried to ignore the elements.

"I don't focus on the wind." she said. "Sometimes, I wait for the wind to die down, and if it doesn't, I just go.'

She was more worried about her muscles stiffening up in the chilly temperatures. "Your muscles get tighter,

so I just stretch a lot and stay

bundled up until I jump," she said. She considers track

and field her main sport. Basketball is "just for fun," she said.

The relaxed atmosphere of a track meet suits her. There is plenty of down time between events to chat with friends, meet new friends, and enjoy being outside, even when bundled up on a cold day.

Track motivates her to be her best.

"Whenever your race comes, you're very nervous," she said. "The nervousness pushes you to do better. Then, it's over, and you're like, yeah, OK."

Dickey cleared 4 feet, 8 inches on her first jump and 4 feet, 10 inches on her second before setting her sights on 5 feet. She grazed the bar with her back, causing it to tremble but not fall.

The wind threw off her approach to the bar, she said.

"It felt like I couldn't run fast enough," she said. "I felt slower, and I couldn't get up all the way."

Dauenhauer was also competing, and the two girls were asked to pose for a photo between jumps. Dauenhauer pretended she didn't want to take a photo with her teammate. Joking around and enjoying time with friends is a big part of track meets.

The high jump contest came down to Dickey and Graci Brown, a girl from Nocona. Both cleared 5 feet, 2 inches after all the other competitors had been unable to handle 5 feet. Dickey complimented Brown and asked how long she'd been jumping.





JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Brinklee Dauenhauer earned several medals and finished in sixth place in the long jump.

"This is my first year," the girl said.

"You will go far," Dickey said.

Not far enough, however. Brown couldn't clear 5 feet, 4 inches. Dickey sailed over the bar to win the event and beat her personal record.

Then, she asked to try for 5 feet, 5 inches.

On the first attempt, Dickey lifted her body over the bar, but the back of her head knocked the bar to the ground — and hurt her noggin. She rubbed it with a hand and grimaced before heading back to the starting point to try again.

Again, the bar crashed to the ground.

On her third attempt, Dickey planted her leg in a stiff manner, crashed through the bar, and rubbed her leg as she limped from the pit. But she was smiling. She'd beaten jumpers from 15 other schools and beaten her own record, too.

"I wanted to push myself," she said. "I hit my head, but it was worth it. I PR'd, so I'm happy."

Before the day ended, she would beat her personal record in the 400-meter race.

VARSITY BOYS TOP 5



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH From left, Ashlynn Dickey and Brinklee Dauenhauer try to stay warm between turns at the high jump bar.

· D'Aishune Elam, Blake Leach, Braydon Butler, and Conner King, fifth place, 4x100 relay.

· Elam, Leach, Butler, and King, third place, 4x200 relay.

· Jeremy Morrow, third place, discus.

· Kamryn Cleveland, second place, high jump.

· Brayden Florence, third

· Chenault, Dauenhauer, Shayne Greenwood, and Skyler Tyree, second place, 4x100 relay.

· Tyree, Dauenhauer, Brianna Shreeves, and Jennifer Ramirez, fifth place, 4x200 relay.

· Dickey, Flaugher, Greenwood, and Peyton Reynolds, fifth place, 4x400 relay.

· Mackenzie Shumacker, fifth place, shot put. · Dickey, first place, high jump.



FINISHERS

Here are the Porcupines who finished in the top five in their events: · Darren Sweeley, fifth place, 110m hurdles. • Sweeley, fifth place, 300m hurdles.

place, long jump.

VARSITY GIRLS TOP 5 FINISHERS

• Here are the SHS girls who finished in the top five of their events: • Hannah Chenault, fourth place, 100m.

· Dauenhauer, fourth place, high jump.

• Flaugher, third place, long jump. • Tyree, fifth place, triple

jump.

PUSH **FROM PAGE B1**

The friendly rivalry would continue.

"He's the best competitor I ever went against," Hansen said. "I like it. It's fun. He's a cool guy. He's really strong, but he's not too far past me. I have a chance at winning."

Dorris feels the same way about Hansen.

"He's a great competitor to go against," Dorris said. "He has always been super friendly to me. It's fun every time we get to go against each other. It keeps things interesting. We're pretty close in totals."

Friendly rivalries such as this make the meets more fun. Everyone is mostly competing against themselves, trying to lift a heavier bar than they did previously.

"The good thing about powerlifting is everyone over here knows it's just us against the weights," Dorris said. "It's a very friendly sport."

Hansen and Dorris would have their hands full trying to beat another Azle powerlifter at 198 pounds. Case Moore, a

sophomore, might be stronger than either one of the older boys.

Wesley Payne uses a competitor as a wind break during the early part of the 3,200-meter race.

"I'm just trying to compete with him at this point," Dorris said, nodding to his younger teammate. "That dude is good."

Moore was excited to be lifting in the same weight class as Dorris, his friend and mentor.

"This is the first meet we've competed against each other at our whole high school careers," Moore said. "He is two years older than me, but we're pretty good friends outside of this and on the football field."

On the day of the district meet, Dorris told Moore he had dropped down to the same 198-pound class. Moore wished him luck, saying, "I know you are going to be competition, but good luck to you - and also good luck to me."

Moore has totaled 1,405 this year. His best squat is 575. He began powerlifting as a freshman and increased his total more than 300 pounds. He thanked older teammates, such as Dorris, for pushing

him to be his best.

"Even guys from these other schools," Moore said. "That's one of the biggest parts about powerlifting. It brings everybody together. It's everybody versus the weight, not you against somebody else."

Cranking weights helps him become better at other sports, he said.

"It's just power," Moore said. "Everything is about power and speed and being explosive. That helps in every sport."

Another youngster showing promise at the district meet was D'Aishune Elam, a Springtown junior who lifts at 148 pounds. He didn't powerlift as a freshman or sophomore and is new to the sport, but he placed at several meets this year after training in the off season.

"I had a really good summer," Elam said. "I just kind of kept working and pushing myself. It's helped me a lot in sports and in life. When you fall down, you got to pick yourself back up. That's why I do sports. That's why it motivates me. That's why I work hard. It feels good."

Springtown senior Jeremy Morrow has relied on powerlifting to gain the strength and explosiveness that will help him succeed at playing football on the college level.

At Springtown, Morrow holds several school records for powerlifting in the 275-pound and 308-pound weight classes. He can squat lift 600 pounds and bench press more than 400. That kind of power will help him play on the offensive line at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

After he graduates from SHS in May, Morrow will head to Missouri and join former teammates Cody Brackeen and Matt Lockard. Brackeen started on the offensive line as a college freshman, and Morrow plans to do the same.

"Me and Cody were really good friends last year, so I think it's going to help me work even harder to play football better when I'm up there," Morrow said.

First, though, Morrow has unfinished business. He won first place at district and will be headed to



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Jeremy Morrow wins a district championship and a trip to regionals.

regionals, along with teammates Hansen, Parker Bening, Beau Leach, Robert Lewis, Hayden Nichols, and Ridge Westendorf.

The regional meet will be held Tuesday, March 7, at Decatur. The state meet is March 24 in Abilene.

POWER **FROM PAGE B1**

topped the bench record of 210 by hoisting 235.

Angela Chavez (259-pound) broke the squat record by 10 pounds, lifting 540. She also set a bench record, lifting 335

pounds. The previous record was 280.

Wear was awarded best squat in the lightweight division.

Graham took best bench press, best deadlift and best overall lifter in the lightweight division.

Chavez won best squat,

best bench and best overall lifter in the heavyweight division.

Thirteen girls qualified for the state meet on March 17-18 in Frisco.

The Lady Pines won a state championship in 2019.

The regional meet came on the heels of the Weatherford

Last Chance Qualifier, held on Feb. 15. It was the final invitational meet of the year, and the Lady Pines let everyone know they were going to be steamrolling into regionals.

The Porcupines scored their highest total of the season with 70 points. Peaster came in second with 23 points.

Graham was named best lifter in the light division with an 820-pound total.

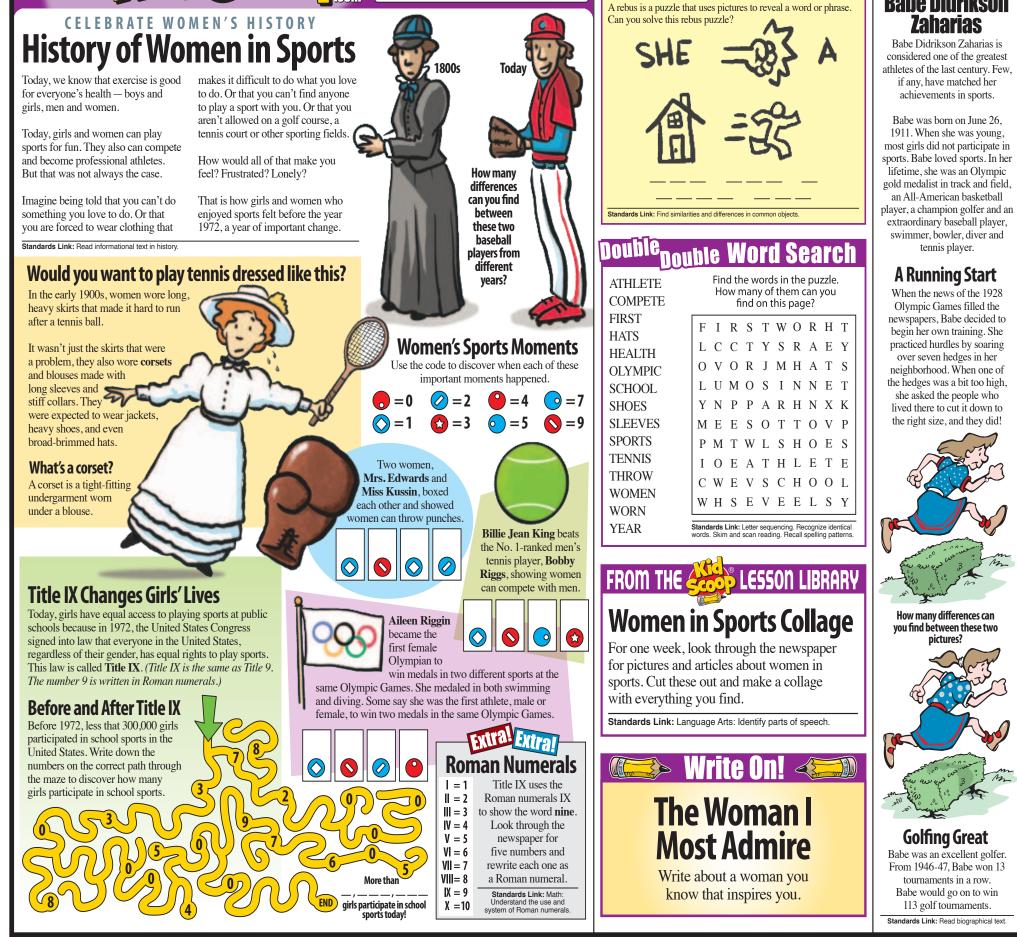
Anaie Rodriguez earned best lifter in the heavy division with an 885-pound total. Chavez set a school record on squat at 550 pounds and finished with a total of 1,270. Regional qualifiers in-

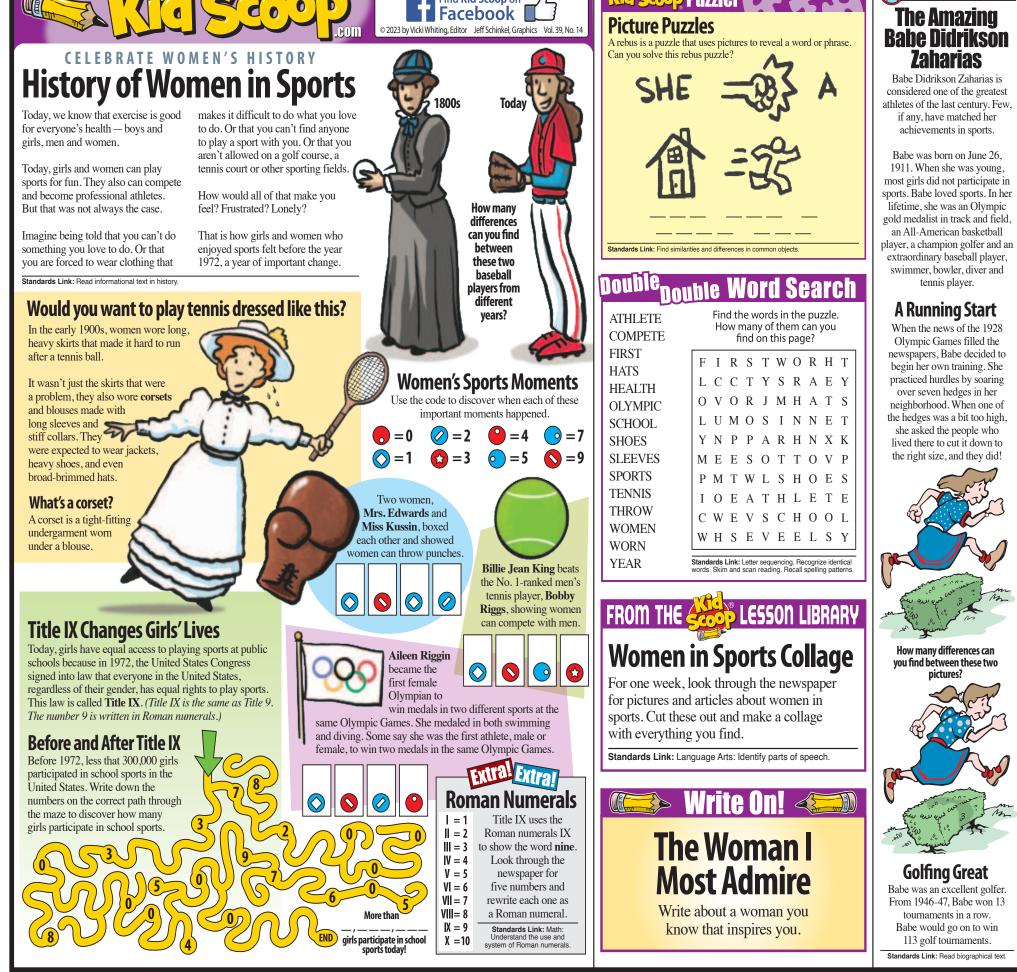
cluded Zoey Adams, Angela Chavez, Macy Chavez, Marie Cook, A'shianya Elam, Reaghan Fortner, Brianna Graham, Isabella Medina, Jessica Montgomery, Emily Plumlee, Sarah Self, Abigail Stoner, Skyler Tyree, Abigail Rodgers, Anaie Rodriguez and Kylie Wear.

Springtown soccer girls win crucial game against Bridgeport









JEFF PRINCE jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown and Bridgeport soccer girls have been battling to lock down second place behind the undefeated Decatur in District 8-4A. What a battle it's been.

The Lady Porcupines and Lady Bulls played to a 0-0 tie on Feb. 21 and were scheduled to play again just three days later. (An earlier game between the two teams had been rescheduled due to an ice storm.)

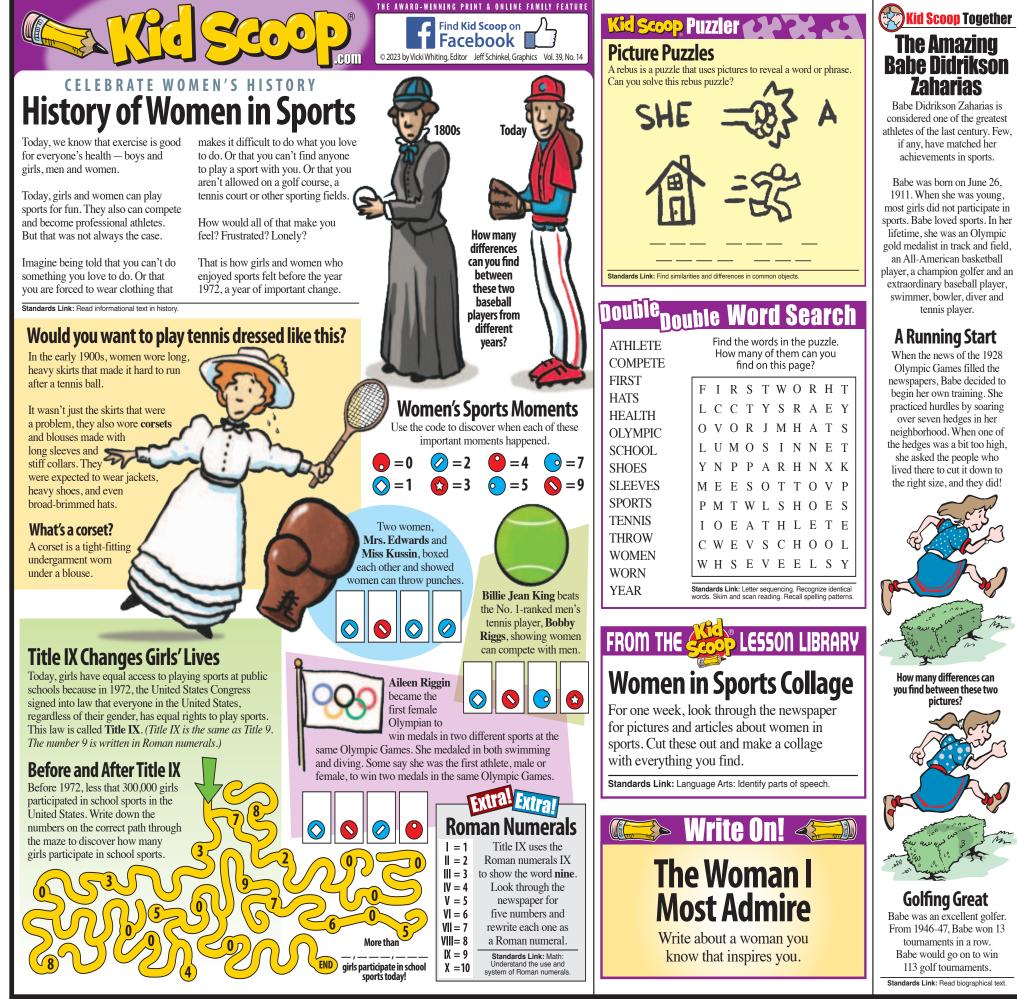
Springtown's defense has been stingy all season, and they were relentless yet again, shutting down the Lady Bulls for both halves. Springtown pulled off a 1-0 victory.

Then, on Tuesday night, the Lady Pines beat Collegiate Academy at TCC Northeast 4-0. The victory boosted Springtown's district record to 5-2 and put the Lady Pines in a tie for second place with Bridgeport.

Three games remain in the regular season, and Springtown will face Castleberry, Lake Worth and Decatur, the leader of District 8-4A

Springtown will play at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Castleberry.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Jireh Ortega and the Lady Porcupines will play at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Castleberry.





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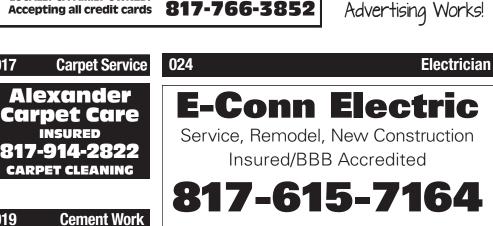
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Our Team offers impeccable service to the people we serve. Our employees, our customers, and our community are our most valuable assets. As a Junior Estimator, you will learn and participate in developing a proper repair plan for each vehicle; prepare estimates in accordance with Insurance Partners and Company guidelines; maintain and execute timely schedules before, during, and after repair completion; and communicate timely and efficiently with Customers, Partners, and Vendors,

Candidates must have excellent communication & customer service skills with a positive and friendly attitude. Basic computer proficiency with the ability to learn new technology, repair and service procedures.



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

All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC Klement Distribution, Inc.

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



2017 Yamaha drive

2 golf cart, 48 volt.

\$4500.00. Call

817-798-0483.

Silver, Has 2 covers,

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Residential, farm, gardens, Specials.





049 Masonry/Stonework

Masonry

CONCRETE

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Remodels Estimate

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email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

051

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AZLE, TX

Storage Convenient Location

Corner of Main St. & Locust • Azle 817-444-3292

Ash Creek

088 Rent Unfurnished

2-2 4-PLEX, Newly Remodeled. \$1,100mo \$800 security deposit, WBFP, walk-in closets, box windows, large kitchen w/pantry, 1,100 sf. 817-360-3039.

1-1 Duplex, no pets, no smoking. \$600/mo, no utilities included 817-296-6169.

1532 CORAL CUT OFF 3-1-1 \$1,195 MO. \$800 DEP. 1920 PELICAN DR. N. 3-2-1 \$1,495.MO \$1,000 DEP. 1916 PELICAN DR. N. 3-1-1 \$1,295.MO \$1,000 DEP Gene Thompson & Associates 817-246-4646 gtatx.com

2BR apartment on FM 1886, Azle, quiet/gated. Possible room for horse, non-smoking, free water, large storage area. \$1,200/mo. \$250/deposit. 817-312-4759. Available April 1st.

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



and employer

EQUAL HOUSING



Motorcycles Gas Lines 2001 American Iron Horse Ranger. 113 cubic inch S&S Engine, Lots of extras. \$9,500 Negotiable. 066 Call Leslie 682-552-9711 or 817-703-5347 Movers U.S. Army Retired-but not tired!

Careful moving-Cheap. Call Big Jim @ 817-237-5151.







817-270-3340

817-220-7217

or EMAIL:



Thursday, March 2, 2023 • Springtown Epigraph



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AUCTION

BANKRUPTCY SALE, Fort Worth. 50,000± SF Data Center/Flex/Warehouse, 9100 NW U.S. HWY 287. Bid deadline Mar. 23. Built 2018 w/ \$6.7M in upgrades, expansive warehouse, 13.72± AC with 6.6± AC for expansion, 22 drive-in doors & 2 loading docks, heavy power (10 MW electric), modern 2-story office space, leased 5,000± SF storage warehouse. 855-755-2300, HilcoRealEstate.com.

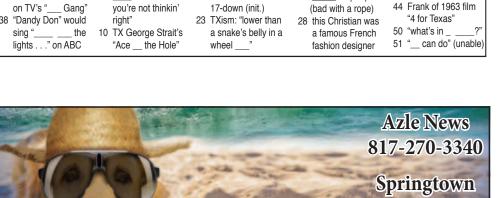
EVENT

RUN WITH SAM 5K – SAT., MARCH 4, Sam Houston State University Campus, Lot Z2-5 17th St. & Bobby K Marks Dr., Huntsville, TX. Check in: 7-7:45 a.m. Race begins at 8 a.m. \$20 Pre-registration at www.RunWithSam.org, \$25 day of race. Email: runwithsam1793@gmail.com. **Portable Oxygen Concentrator** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

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EMPLOYMENT

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision. Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023 by 3 p.m. CST. Specifications: Purchasing@ktttribe.org or 830-773-2105.



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