

Springtown deputy chief gives annual police report

MADELYN EDWARDS
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Newly sworn-in Deputy Chief Jamie Oliver spent his first City Council meeting after his promotion was announced giving the annual report for the Springtown Police Department.

The report began with a statement from the deputy chief on Springtown's

growth.

"Our community's growth has continued from 2021 through 2022 as reflected in the new neighborhoods that are continuing to be developed and the new businesses opening up within city limits," Oliver wrote in his report that he gave during the council's February meeting. "As the city grows, so does the size of our department."

In 2022, the Springtown Police Department responded to 11,919 service calls, according to the report. The top calls were for assisting other first responder agencies (423), animal complaints (358), reckless drivers (275), accidents (272) and alarm calls (225).

Oliver remarked that animal complaint calls were high before the city started its

own animal control service, and traffic accidents were reduced in 2022 compared to the previous year.

"I think you've got less people being upset from the construction," the deputy chief said about traffic accidents decreasing.

As for service calls initiated by officers, there were 4,225 extra patrols and security checks, 2,224 traffic stops

and 458 suspicious persons/vehicles.

Springtown officers issued 1,704 citations in 2022, which is 383 more than in 2021 and is a higher total than the previous five years. Officers also gave 1,348 warnings last year, which is more than in 2021 and 2020 but significantly less than the totals in 2019, 2018 and 2017.

These citations are Class C

misdemeanors and most of them are for traffic-related offenses. Some are for city ordinance violations and offenses.

"The objective of traffic enforcement is to be a deterrent to traffic violators and reduce the number and/or severity of vehicle accidents," according to the report. "The de-

PLEASE SEE REPORT | A2



Carrie Wilkerson and Mary Harms share a hug after Wilkerson announced that a new scholarship for young women in business would be named after Harms.

JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Making an impact

Scholarship for young women in business is named for Mary Harms at Springtown Chamber awards gala

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Dressed in their best, the who's who of Springtown gathered on Friday evening to honor individuals and groups throughout the community.

In several ways, this year's awards gala and silent auction - hosted by the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce - was similar to last year's banquet. The event took place at the Covered Bridge Venue. Mike Kelley served as the master of ceremonies. The DJ initiated a song-guessing game

to decide the order in which tables could visit the chow line. Longtime chamber members were honored, and awards were handed out.

However, one event at the gala stood out as different than last year. Author and speaker Carrie Wilkerson announced that a scholarship to support young women pursuing business would be named after Chamber Board Second Vice President Mary Harms.

"It is my honor and my privilege to announce that we have established an annual scholarship in honor of Mary Harms called the

PLEASE SEE HARMS | A8

Parent plans Easter event for people with special needs

Easter event to take place April 1

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Crystal Childers has made an observation: special needs kids don't seem to benefit as much from Easter events that include children without special needs.

"You have all the other kids running in and grabbing all the eggs, and then you have the special needs kids that are slower or in wheelchairs and not able to get up there, and all the stuff is gone before they're able to get anything," Childers said.

That's why she's creating an Easter event in Springtown just for special needs children and adults.

"I wanted to do something that is just for them where they would feel welcome and have fun at their pace," Childers said.

This event will take place at 10:30 a.m. on April 1 at the part of

the Springtown park behind Wells Fargo, and it will include an egg hunt, face painting, hair coloring, hot dogs, a cakewalk and the application of temporary tattoos.

The Easter bunny is also scheduled to make an appearance at the event. Peter Thoune has experience dressing up as the bunny, so when he heard about this event, he volunteered his services.

"It's a good cause for the autistic and special needs kids," Thoune said. "It's fun to do. (I) do it for the kids. She's doing this event for the special needs (people), and it's a good cause; and if I can help her in any way, it's my way of helping."

Thoune started dressing up as the Easter bunny 25 years ago and visited nursing homes and hospitals in Illinois. He said seeing the looks on people's faces, both kids and adults, when they see the Easter bunny "makes it

worthwhile."

Childers made it clear that she's not part of a nonprofit organization, but rather just a mom who wants to do something good and fun for the community.

"There's not very many events that go on for special needs for holidays," she said. "I figure doing something now would trigger more stuff to happen in the future. And if everything goes right, I'll like to keep doing this every year, along with even breakfast with Santa Claus for Christmastime."

The community can help this event by donating candy for the eggs, sodas, Gatorade or water, or by volunteering to help at the event, Childers said. People can drop off supplies at 3W Smoke Shack or at The Nutrition Lodge. Childers can be reached for questions or to pick up supplies at crystalchilders9@gmail.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Peter Thoune in costume as the Easter bunny. Thoune will make an appearance at an Easter event in Springtown for people with special needs.



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Man charged in 2020 manslaughter to be sentenced

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The former Boyd High School assistant principal who was charged with killing a man while driving in 2020 pleaded guilty to the felony charges filed against him and is scheduled for sentencing next month.

Springtown resident Kevin Scott Evans is scheduled to be sentenced in 415th District Court on April 3. He was charged with intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle — a second-degree felony — and with accident involving serious bodily injury — a third-degree felony.

In January 2020, Reno po-

lice officers responded to a hit and run in the 4200 block of East State Highway 199 at about 9:30 p.m. Ernest D. Medley, 51, of Springtown, was hit and died at the scene as a result of his injuries.

That same night, Evans was arrested after a Springtown police officer noticed that the truck he was driving on west-

bound SH 199 was similar to the description of the vehicle seen fleeing the hit-and-run scene. The officer stopped Evans, and his truck reportedly had front-end damage, a non-working headlight and what appeared to be human tissue on the front of the vehicle.

Evans was indicted in June

2020.

District Attorney Jeff Swain said the victim's family is expected to make statements at the sentencing hearing on April 3.

The Epigraph reached out to Evans' attorney requesting comment.



FILE PHOTO

Kevin Scott Evans

We ain't never done this before!

There's a first time for everything (or so the saying goes).

When was the last time you did something or the first time?

I'm sitting here this morning thinking about first times.

I've written quite a few times over the years about my experience singing with the Singing Men of North Central Texas. Fourteen years ago this month was my first time to sing with SMONCT.

In October 2010, I went to Ukraine for the first of four SMONCT concert/mission tours.

Next month will be our first trip to Poland.



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.

In July 1984 I did something for the first time — I became a husband. I became a father for the first time in May 1988 and six months later became a pastor for the first time.

And when I became a grandpa for the first time in October 2014 I found out what all the hubbub was about!

Mrs. Sweetie and I have had quite a few firsts since that wedding day in 1984 (in addition to becoming parents and grandparents). We bought our first house in 1991 (after seven years in church parsonages). We bought our first honest-to-goodness new car in 1996. We experienced our first retirement when she retired from Azle ISD in 2013.

And in a few months, we're going to leave that house we bought in 1991 and move to a new one in a new place.

Last week I announced my upcoming retirement from Harvest Baptist Association effective June 30. That's not our first retirement since she already did it. It won't be our first move since we've done that three times since 1984. It won't be our first house (though if our pattern holds true, it will likely be our last).

But it will be a first in another way. It's the first time we've moved for a reason other than going to seminary or taking a new job. We're making this move to start a new

chapter near our kids and grandkids in Amarillo. It's a deliberate choice to write the next chapter of our lives with family as the main plot line — and to do so while we are still young enough that we're not creating a chapter for them that is dominated by taking care of the old folks.

So, while I'm "retiring" from full-time association/church employment, my calling and identity as a minister will be as real as ever. It just won't be carried out in the way it has for the past 39 years.

I'll be giving more attention to my coaching/consulting/writing business as well as

helping churches with leadership transitions and strategic planning. I'll be doing more with music while I've still got some left in me. And I'm working on some opportunities to partner with other ministries and organizations that I believe in.

But we ain't never done this before and it's exciting and terrifying and wonderful and sad all at the same time.

And amazing. Let's continue to enjoy this journey together as far as it takes us.

Be amazing today, my friend.

REPORT

FROM PAGE A1

partment is exploring other options for utilizing traffic enforcement to best impact our traffic crashes and traffic safety."

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

The police department's budget increased by \$156,653 from last fiscal year to this fiscal year.

"The additional expenditures for the police depart-

ment include acquisition of new vehicles, upgrades to software and hardware and \$20,000 additional funds for training," according to the report.

Springtown Police department was able to acquire new equipment including tactical shields and helmets for every officer. The shields and helmets were paid for by the department and a federal grant. Oliver said in his report that this equipment is a direct response to the rise of active shooter situations in the U.S.

The biggest part of the bud-

get — more than 82% — pays for personnel costs of the department's 19 employees, including three school resource officers, four telecommunications officers, and seven patrol officers.

The leadership structure of the Springtown Police Department has changed this year. City Administrator David Miller is serving as the public safety director while Oliver oversees the department's daily operations as the deputy chief.

A few department employees have been transferred or

promoted.

Sgt. Katy Wacasey is taking over Oliver's former position as the head of the criminal investigations department where she will serve as the department's investigator, Oliver said in his report. Wacasey is also overseeing the school resource officer program.

Corporals Ken Hopkins and Victoria Thomas will lead the patrol officers, Oliver said. Thomas was recently promoted to corporal.

The position of telecommunications supervisor has

been added to the leadership hierarchy. Angela Sessums has been promoted to that role from her former one as a dispatcher. She is supervising the department's dispatchers and records management.

"Mrs. Sessums has experience in both telecommunications supervision and records management and will use those skills and knowledge to ensure that our telecommunications are receiving the highest level of training possible in order to provide a greater level of service," Springtown Administrative

Services Director Christina Derr said. "This position also brings more direct supervision to our telecommunications division than has been in place previously."

Sessums is also the victims' liaison, with which she has previous experience.

"Sgt. Wacasey, Corporals Hopkins and Thomas, and Mrs. Sessums will report directly to Deputy Chief Oliver and assist him in the day-to-day operations of the department," Derr said.

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Springtown Legends Museum to open March 17

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After more than a year's hiatus, the Springtown Legends Museum is reopening next week. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 17-18, the museum's leading volunteer and coordinator Marilyn Fackler said. Likewise, the museum is expected to be open during those same hours on Fridays and Saturdays moving forward. Since the museum is re-

opening on St. Patrick's Day, Fackler is planning a leprechaun-themed game with prizes. Attendees can visit the museum and collect leprechaun hats and pins to win prizes. The grand opening will include a leprechaun — courtesy of Fackler's grandson — and a rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. This event is open to kids and adults. The museum has been closed since the end of 2021. Fackler and her family have endured health issues and medical procedures that have prevented the museum from

Children's programming at the museum to be announced

reopening sooner. Now that she's able to open the museum again, Fackler is planning upcoming activities for children. These free events are expected to occur monthly and include a story and craft for children. She also may show history-related movies at the museum in a drive-in theater style.

"We've got big plans," Fackler said. Some of the story and craft events that Fackler wants to have are:
• The story of the train that was supposed to come through Springtown with children crafting a train.
• A lesson on space and kids will make a helmet.

• A lesson on Quanah Parker and the children will make a handprint on a tipi tent.
• The story of the La Salle Expedition with a dig for gold coins.
• A dig to explore the history of the gold rush.
The kids who attend every event can make a mobile of their activities in August,

Fackler said. "I'm trying to get things that I know kids would like, especially the digs," she said. "When we did that dinosaur dig, those kids went crazy about it, and we had 100-200 kids that came for that dig." A lot of the activities will be for younger children. Fackler said she is working on programming for junior high age children as well. To schedule a special tour of the museum, call 817-523-5939 or call Fackler directly at 817-694-7301. Those who would like to volunteer at the museum can contact Fackler.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS
1 TXism: "winder" (exciting)
5 in 1910, TX Johnson knocked out the "great white"
6 Greek given name
7 TXism: "bunched up like ____ at a trough"
8 birth month for TX "Dandy Don" Meredith (abbr.)
9 with 36-across, cartoon animals named by Bill "Tex" Henson
16 actress Patricia of TX-based "Hud" American Airlines Center to the Dallas Mavericks (2 wds.)
21 sch. exercise (abbr.)
22 drug addict
23 TX "alligator" or "spotted" fish
24 ground-huggin' cloud? (2 wds.)
30 boot repairs (2 wds.)
34 private San Antonio univer. (abbr.)
35 gas at \$2.50 per gallon these days? (2 wds.)
36 last name in 9-across cartoon
37 Texas among other states?
39 TXism for "vulnerable" (3 wds.)
43 murders
44 San _____, TX
45 TX "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)

DOWN
12 orange's skin
13 TXism: "up ____ without a paddle"
14 TXism: "leave ____ stone unturned"
15 TXism: "he ____ his own grave"
17 woolly critters at the front? (2 wds.)
19 snake in Texas
20 most factual
24 ____ Porte, TX
25 female eggs
26 TXism: "if he ____ dog he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)
27 "Alibates _____ Quarries National Monument" in Texas

46 TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder ____"
47 TXism: "____ bunkhouse chili"
49 restaurant reminder: "____ server"
52 Texas peak: "____ Capitan"
53 Love or Hobby guess
54 ethanol scopolamine, e.g. "truth"
55 most slippery

38 big pelvis bone corporation abbr.
40 "Swoosh" sneaker
42 German Christmas market in Texas, if spelled with a "K": "____markt"
48 TXism: "____ some away" (save)
50 sneak a look
51 TX Willie has lived 89 of these (abbr.)
56 "____ to love her but it's all over now"
57 it cost \$ 31,000 to _____ famed Texas longhorn "Starlight"

Correction

In the article "Candidates file for May 6 election in Reno" that appeared in the March 1 edition of The Azle News and the March 2 edition of The Springtown Epigraph, mayoral candidate Hector G. Bas Jr.'s name was misspelled. We regret the error.

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MARCH 8, 2023

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| | 5 | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | | 1 | | | 8 | | | | |
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Solutions

MARCH 1, 2023

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1626

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| 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 |

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY CHARLENE CARTER, DECEASED, were issued on February 9, 2023, in Cause No. 23P026, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas, to: MERRILL THOMAS CARTER. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: W. Faye Murphree, Attorney at Law, 337 W. Main Street Azle, TX 76020 DATED the 28 day of February, 2023. W. FAYE MURPHREE Attorney for Merrill Thomas Carter StateBarNo.: 00792710 337 W. Main Street, Azle, TX 76020 Telephone: (817) 270-0030; Facsimile: (817) 270-0085 fmlaw@earthlink.net

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Local EMS students to train using new ambulance simulator

MADelyn EDWARDS

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When Weatherford College's emergency medical services program coordinator requested grant-funded supplies, she didn't know she'd get almost everything she wanted.

Now, EMS students will learn using new, updated equipment.

Springtown resident Samantha Grimsley started working at Weatherford College as an adjunct in the EMS department in February 2021. Last May, she was promoted to program coordinator. In this role, she was tasked with requesting items to purchase through the Perkins Grant, which allocates federal funding for workforce education programs.

"I started in May 2022, and I was told in a week that Perkins Grant items were due, and I had no idea what I was doing, what that entailed, or what I needed to ask for," Grimsley said. "I had obviously been an adjunct, but I didn't know what the program really needed per se in large ticket items."

To make up the wish list, Grimsley said she went back to her roots. She remembered using an ambulance simulator when she was an emergency medical technician student, so she asked for one of those. She also put in bids for a slew of other items, such as a power cot stretcher, two cardiac monitors, IV pumps and a couple of ventilators.

Grimsley said she was impressed when she realized

that the department would receive almost everything she asked for, which she previously didn't expect to happen.

"I've loved seeing students' faces when they get to see all the new equipment or the fact that we are doing something to help them do better," she said. "It's an amazing feeling."

The indoor ambulance simulator is basically an ambulance that doesn't have driving capabilities. Inside, it is identical to ambulances that EMS workers use daily. Using the simulator, students will be able to practice the process of responding to a medical emergency, including putting a patient on a gurney and providing care to the patient in the ambulance, Grimsley said.

"They're now getting the most realistic training that they possibly can because that is essentially what we hear from students all the time, 'Well, it doesn't feel real,'" she said. "We're making it as real as we possibly can get it at this point."

Other items that were funded by the grant are replacing old or outdated equipment. For example, the EMS department will now have a power cot that will replace the department's manual-style gurney.

Some items, like the IV pumps, also allow the educational program to stay up to date with the equipment that professional EMS departments are using. Grimsley said Parker County Hospital District and Wise County EMS are using IV pumps to deliver



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA GRIMSLEY

Weatherford College EMS students practice responding to calls for help and providing care to patients. The EMS department is acquiring new equipment for students to use in their training.

critical care medications, and now, the students can learn how to operate the same equipment that they would use in the local workforce.

"We wanted to have the ability to train our students on those so they wouldn't have any issues when they go to get a job outside of school and actually know how to utilize that equipment," she said.

The goal of the EMS department is to train students so

that they can successfully get certified and get to work, Grimsley said. Currently, Weatherford College's EMS department has about 50 students with two paramedic classes and one EMT class.

"We want them to be trained so that they could pretty much walk onto an ambulance or a fire department job and not have somebody go, 'Gosh, they're so behind in their training, and they don't understand this,'" she said.

"We want them to be successful in the long run because it's a career industry that is constantly needing people. We're a job that will essentially always be needed, and there is a need for these people."

So, why should average Springtown residents care about Weatherford College's EMS program?

Grimsley pointed out that Springtown residents typically pay taxes to Weatherford

College, and the college provides an educational opportunity to Parker County folks that's not far from home.

"I wanted to showcase this to the community because I think they have a right to know what is going on over here as far as training goes," she said.

Grimsley thanked Weatherford College for allowing her to be able to help train EMS students.

If you or someone you know has back pain then this article is for you.

A common question we get is: Do I need to get an MRI or X-ray to determine what is wrong with my back?

The short answer is NO! Why do I say that?



By Local Health Expert Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD, OCS, FAAOMPT

Let's start with an x-ray which looks at the bones and how they are aligned. They do not look at the soft tissue which is frequently what is causing your pain. Now if you have had a major trauma (car accident, fall etc) then an x-ray would be useful to rule out some type of fracture. A good clinician who listens to your complaints and how the pain came to be can help guide you on whether an X-ray is necessary or not.

MRI's – are great, almost too great. There have been numerous scientific papers that have shown up to 80% of the population has a disc herniation or bulge yet they **DON'T HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS**.

What does that mean? It means it is quite likely that we are all walking around with some type of bulge or herniation in our disc but we don't have pain. Once we do start to have back pain we get an MRI and the specialist say "Ah ha" here it is, Mrs. Jones you have a herniation in your back...you need surgery. When in fact the herniation could have been present for numerous years.

As part of a routine check up we don't get MRIs on our lower back, only when we have pain. It would be most helpful if we had an MRI performed when we didn't have pain and then compare it to one when we did have pain. Then we could look at the two images and say with greater confidence "this has changed and could possibly be causing your pain".

So if I don't recommend initial imaging for your lower back, what do I recommend? Wait, begin treatment on your back and see how things go. Like I said earlier a good clinician can help determine if you need some imaging. There are certain signs and symptoms that would indicate imaging is needed and treatment should wait until certain things are ruled out.

For 99% of the people we see, imaging is not necessary and frequently delays getting in to see us so we can help you get your life back and do what you love.

If you are looking for guidance on your next step to finding relief from your lower back pain then call our office to request my **100% FREE Report Top 10 Burning Questions for Back Pain and Sciatica**. Or if you want the report right now, just scan the QR code and you can download it instantly.

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The author, Dr. Robert Moss PT, ScD is the owner of MOSS Rehabilitation Center in Springtown, TX. He is happy to help you with your back pain and sciatica problems either by phone or email.

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robert@springtownphysicaltherapy.com.

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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Springtown will receive bids for Springtown CDBG - Avenue C Reconstruction until 10:00 AM 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 approximate quantities of work are as follows:

- 1. 820 LF of 6" PVC Water Main**
- 2. 2,155 SY of 6" Concrete Pavement**
- 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 City of Springtown 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 of race, 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 City of Springtown reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Springtown 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.

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

Texas again leads state in new corporate projects

TEXAS AGAIN LEADS STATE IN NEW CORPORATE PROJECTS

Texas once again has topped the list for new and expanded corporate facilities added in a year, according to Site Selection Magazine. With 1,028 new projects in 2022, the state had more than the next two states combined - Illinois and Ohio.

"Texas truly is America's economic engine, and we stand apart as a model for the nation," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, according to The Dallas Morning News. "When choosing where to relocate or expand their businesses, more and more innovative industry leaders find themselves at home in our state."

Two projects valued at \$8.5 billion each helped snare the state's top spot: a chemical plant in Orange and a liquified natural gas plant in Corpus Christi. They were followed by a \$5 billion silicon wafer plant in Sherman.

"The Lone Star State's economy is larger than that of Canada, South Korea and Australia," Site Selection said in its March issue.

NEW COURT SYSTEM FOR BUSINESSES PROPOSED

A new court system devoted solely to settling business disputes is being proposed by the state's top three elected officials, though it has its share of critics as well. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott, House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in separate announcements proposed the creation of a specialty business court, modeled after the Chancery Court of



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

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

Delaware. The court has been in existence for more than two centuries and has been emulated by a few dozen states. The specialty business court has been listed as a top priority of legislators during this session.

Abbott said the court would provide consistency in applying state law when businesses end up court disputes. A high-powered lobby group, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, is backing the plan.

"Businesses today know the same case with the same facts can produce wildly varying outcomes simply based on which part of the state it's filed in and which judge is hearing it, and we know attorneys are telling their clients not to litigate in Texas because of this unpredictability," TLR spokeswoman Lucy Nashed Cafrelli said in the Statesman story.

The judges for the business court would be appointed by the governor, according to House bill 19, filed last week. The president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association called that problematic.

"The bottom line is that Texans value electing their judges," San Antonio attorney Laura Tamez said.

CHILD FATALITIES DROP IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

The number of children in Texas who died due to accidents, maltreatment and unsafe sleep declined by 27% in the last fiscal year. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported 182 children died due to abuse and neglect in the state during fiscal year 2022. The most common causes of fatalities involving neglect were drowning, unsafe sleep, physical neglect and medical neglect, DFPS reported.

Children 3 years of age and younger comprised almost 80% of all confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities over the past 10 fiscal years. However, in the past three years, there has been a marked increase in fatalities involving older children. In all confirmed cases of abuse and neglect, parents were the most common perpetrators.

COLLEGE STUDENTS JOIN FIGHT TO END DUI DEATHS

With spring break approaching, the Texas Department of Transportation is joining with students at Texas A&M in a peer-to-peer program focused on highlighting the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

One person in the state dies every 7 hours and 41 min-

utes in a DUI-related crash, according to TxDOT. During spring break of 2021, Texas had 874 alcohol-related traffic crashes with 31 deaths and 107 serious injuries. TxDOT is partnering with U in the Driver Seat, a peer-to-peer program led by A&M students that is focused on saving lives by preventing DUI-related crashes. Student leaders from around the state are joining the campaign and urging fellow students to always find a sober ride.

"Our message to students is this: Help keep yourself and others safe by finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a rideshare, or simply staying put," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

TPWD CELEBRATES PARK CENTENNIAL WITH GRANTS

As Texas state parks mark their 100th anniversary, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is awarding the largest sum of grants in the program's history. The agency is distributing more than \$2.8 million to create 55 new grant-funded partnerships across the state to promote conservation and recreation.

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) was established in 1996 to introduce under-represented audiences to outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education. Among the projects approved are students monitoring water quality along the Rio Grande, communities of color learning about the cultural history of the Buffalo Soldiers while hiking at Davis Mountains State Park, and breast cancer

survivors learning to fly fish in the state's rivers.

The grants are funded through a portion of Texas' sporting goods sales tax.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS SUNDAY

Spring is approaching, and so is daylight saving time, which starts at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12. Clocks jump ahead

an hour, so if you forget to adjust the time you are liable to show up for church an hour late and miss the service.

The first two countries to use daylight saving time were Germany and Austria in 1916. They did so to save fuel used for artificial lights during World War I. The United States followed suit in 1918.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nestled in the foothills of Texas' most extensive mountain range, Davis Mountains State Park sits in an unusual landscape. Volcanic activity formed the mountains 25 to 30 million years ago.

Spotlight on

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If you are looking for a particular cigar that Cigar Plus doesn't have in stock, they will immediately place an order to get that cigar in stock. They can typically get a special order in store within two days.

Right now, Cigar Plus is offering a special promotion of 10% off storewide — no exclusions — through April 30.

Cigar Plus is located at 332 W. 1st St., Springtown. They are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For questions, call 682-615-7800.



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Trolling — an effective way to locate fish

As the water warms and the fish get more active, trolling live or artificial baits can help you locate active fish. You can cover a lot of water in a short period of time. This is also extremely effective when the bite is slow and you have to search for those few fish that will bite.

Many anglers all over the country use trolling techniques to catch fish. Many different species can be caught in this fashion. In fact, it can be so effective it is generally against the rules in black bass tournaments. I never really totally understood why it is not allowed, but it has something to do with covering more water than the other guy who is casting and chunking baits. Trolling is typically allowed in striped bass tournaments.

The types of artificial baits that are normally trolled include jigs, crankbaits, and spinners. Sand bass and striped bass are the most



ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

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

popular fish caught trolling on our area lakes.

The simplest form of trolling and most widely used is to drag your bait behind the boat and go as slow as the big motor will allow. The fish will essentially catch themselves when they hit the bait.

When using crankbaits, try a variety of baits that dive to different depths. Some of the largest lipped crankbaits will get you down near 20 feet. Standard lipless crank baits such as the popular rattle-trap will go between 2 to 4 feet. For colors that work on our area lakes, I prefer chartreuse-colored baits with an orange belly especially in murky water and/or over-

cast days. On clear days, I prefer a chrome, white, bone, or blue/chrome, or black back/chrome combinations. Bomber Long A's, Fat Free shad, rattle traps, shad raps and redfins are some consistent producing baits.

The line size you use will also affect how deep your baits will dive. The lighter the line, the farther the dive. Boat speed can be crucial. When using your big motor, you may be moving your bait too fast depending on the season. Other fishermen in specialized boats control their speed accurately. Most of us here just go as slow as we can. Early in the year, I will troll on occasion with my

trolling motor to slow down the presentation. Other boats utilize kicker motors to get those slow trolling speeds, which is very effective and is desired if you can afford it.

Downrigging, as you all know, is an effective way to get your baits to the desired depths. This is generally a summer pattern but will work at other times of the year. I have used a downrigger in the winter with my trolling motor to cover more water when the fish are scattered. You can use virtually all types of artificial baits on the downrigger. If you don't have a downrigger, they sell several types of diving rigs that I call "pink ladies" that will get your bait down to a certain depth, depending on how it's connected and how much line you let out. These devices are inexpensive and do work. They work well with jigs and swimming soft plastics, but are not recommend-

ed for use with crank baits. You can also troll live bait, but not with the big motor. This is more like a controlled drift with a trolling motor. Just let out enough line while

moving to ensure you have the bait at the desired depth. You may have to use a heavy weight to keep the bait in the strike zone.

FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are rebounding around the 60-degree mark. Some parts of the lake are reporting a golden algae bloom based on the evidence of dead or dying fish. Fishing is slow in these areas. Other parts of the lake are not experiencing the bloom (the lower end, and in the river near Tin Top). Fishing for sand bass is good in the river near Tin Top on road runners and live minnows. Best striped bass action is on the lower ends on soft plastics and live shad. Largemouth bass continue to be caught near major creek entrances and near laydowns in the river. Catfish continue to be good on cut bait on several areas of the lake. Best crappie action continues near deeper structure.

OTHER AREAS

Comanche Creek reservoir continues to boast on great catches of largemouth bass and limits of channel catfish. I do not have a tilapia report for Comanche Creek.

Lake Whitney striped bass continue to be good on trolled Alabama rigs and live shad. Best action is from McCown Valley north. Largemouth bass are good on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near main lake points and near The Bluffs.

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Mothers and Fathers of Texas Education

"The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy..."

These are the wise words of Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas from 1838-1841. This phrase helped inspire the Texas Legislature to do something great for future generations. Even as a proud Texas Aggie, I appreciate, as Texas Longhorns may recognize, the motto and Latin version of this quote, *Disciplina Praesidium Civitatis*. Lamar knew how to fortify Texas for years to come: Teach our children. He advocated to endow public lands in order to create a public education system in every county; an endeavor that came to fruition well after his death and earned him



DISTRICT 60

By Glenn Rogers

Representative Glenn Rogers is a sixth generation Texas rancher, where 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.

the title "The Father of Texas Education."

Texas is blessed to have free schools statewide and it is the duty of the Legislature to ensure education is effective. As Texans, we expect our children's learning experiences to be safe, fair, and of high quality. On the local level, education should be a partnership between students, teachers, school administrators, and most importantly,

parents.

An educational partnership can only be successful if parents are afforded certain rights. Parents deserve access to scholastic material their children are provided. Parents deserve the ability to meet with teachers and principals about their child. Parents deserve to be heard by local school boards. Parents should be allowed to request a change

of class or teacher. A parent is entitled to every written document concerning their student. Parents should be allowed to observe learning sessions involving their children. Fundamentally, schools should never prevent a parent from exercising any of these rights.

In the media, discussions of Parental Rights are more prevalent than ever before. Politicians seek to win the approval of parents by pledging to fight for these rights. The topic is on the minds of many conservatives, and rightfully so.

Yet, there is good news that the media is not reporting and is conveniently overlooked. In Texas, these rights are lawfully afford-

ed to every parent. In the "Texas Election Code, Title 2. Public Education, Subtitle E. Students and Parents, Chapter 26. Parental Rights and Responsibilities," each and every one of these wonderful rights mentioned above are protected. Numerous Parental Rights have been secured for decades. Throughout the years, the Legislature has amended the Code and continuously improved these rights.

In the Code, it states "Parents shall be encouraged to actively participate in creating and implementing educational programs for their children." Our students deserve the best education, which means parents and schools must take advantage

of the partnership and rights the Great State of Texas has given us all.

Significant Parental Rights are in the Texas education code; but what about "School Choice"? Texas already has one of the most robust "school choice" systems for parents in the nation. Between open-enrollment public schools, private schools, charter schools, homeschools, and online learning, parents have plenty of available options to place their child wherever they see fit.

A hundred-and-eighty-five years after Mirabeau B. Lamar earned his title, parents should also lay claim to their title: "MOTHERS and FATHERS of Texas Education."

It may not always be the easy way, but it is the 'cowboy way'

Some of my earliest memories are of cowboys. Growing up in the time period that I did, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, John Wayne and Gene Autry were all icons I looked up to. I wanted to emulate everything about them. I wore jeans and cowboy hats, and the cowboy scarf I wore to kindergarten now hangs in a frame in my home office as a glowing memory, aged but not forgotten.

Though I have had a variety of occupations in my adult life, perhaps the best was when I was a cowboy. Time was spent riding and showing horses, fixing fences, working cattle and even riding an occasional bull. For a portion of my life, I got to live the cowboy lifestyle. It is a good way.



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.

Roy Rogers had a tremendous demeanor and persona, which made him capable of influencing young people and reaching out to children in a positive way. He created a "cowboy creed." It was a set of commitments young cowpokes were expected to fulfill if they were to become "real cowboys."

- Be neat and clean.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Always obey your parents.
- Protect the weak and help them.

- Be brave but never take chances.
- Study hard and learn all you can.
- Be kind to animals and care for them.
- Eat all your feed and never waste any.
- Love God and go to Sunday School regularly.
- Always respect our flag and country.

As an adult looking back, "the creed" was a pretty good way for a young man or woman to live their life. It set

a tone and tenor for young people to live by and blazed the trail for them to grow into productive adults. It set a standard by which young people could establish their character.

As an adult cowboy, there are many unwritten rules about how to behave. These are a few of them I learned.

- Never criticize a man's horse, dog or wife. Be kind and protective of women.
- Always leave a gate the way you find it.
- Hats off to eat or when you enter a home or office, and either remove or tip your hat when you meet a lady.
- Ride for the brand. Loyalty to one's employer and per-

sonal integrity are sources of pride. Give 100% in any situation. Cowboys never complain about a job, they just get it done.

- Do what is right, every time, no matter the situation or the personal consequences.
- Never go back on your word. Once given it is sacred.
- Always tell the truth.
- Talk less and say more.
- Remember some things aren't for sale.
- Know where to draw the line.

From where I stand, living life like a cowboy and existing by those rules is a pretty good thing. It forces a man to refrain from crossing the line into "loose behavior" or acts

that would degrade himself and those around him. I wish more people in our current world had grown up living by and learning Roy's creed and practiced the "cowboy way." Life is simple; we make it more difficult by trying to bend the rules or circumvent them.

Anytime I find myself getting near to crossing the line, I tell myself that whatever action I was getting ready to commit might be the easy way, but it isn't the cowboy way. Good thought to live by.

Thought for the day: If more men were cowboys, there would be a lot fewer difficulties in the world.

Until next time, I will keep ridin' the storm out.

Quilter's Guild of Parker County to meet March 16

STAFF REPORTS

The Quilter's Guild of Parker County will meet in-person and via Zoom on Thursday, March 16 at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, which is located at 200 S. Lakeshore Drive in Hudson Oaks.

Speakers Laurie and Mark Cohen from Sew Much Love quilt store in Granbury will

lead this month's program, which will include showing some of their latest kits, fabric favorites and quilting tools. They will also bring kits, precuts and more.

The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m., but attendees are encouraged to come earlier to socialize. Visitors are welcome in-person and online. To join online, email your

name and telephone number to qgpc2000@gmail.com. To learn more about the guild, visit the website quilters-guildofparkercounty.org or find the guild on Facebook.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Belle Isle Barn Star Quilt Kit 61" x 61", available from Sew Much Love.



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HARMS

FROM PAGE A1

Young Women in Business Scholarship to be awarded to a Springtown graduate female towards trade school, towards a certification or a license or realtor school or college, what path she chooses, if she intends to go into business," Wilkerson said during her speech at the gala.

Upon hearing this announcement, gala attendees gave a standing ovation while Harms was presented with a plaque.

Harms had no idea that the scholarship would be named after her. She said she felt shocked and honored to receive the recognition.

"I'm very pleased that this opportunity has come up to further these young ladies" by helping them go to college and start their own businesses, she said.

Harms owned Springtown Flower Shop for 33 years, and

she met a young Wilkerson there many years ago. Wilkerson wanted to buy a gift for her mother but didn't have the money, so Harms let her buy it on credit with Wilkerson paying off the debt in small increments.

"She just was kind of taken aback that I would take the time to allow her to do that for her mother," Harms said.

Wilkerson said her take-away from that experience is that care can create lifelong customers.

"Just in my family alone, the florist did thousands and thousands of dollars in business because she was kind to that 14-year-old," Wilkerson said. "I learned from that day that connection and care is how you create a customer for life."

Harms said she and Wilkerson bonded throughout the years, though Harms isn't exactly sure why the scholarship was named after her. In addition to being a former Springtown business-

woman, Harms has been involved with the chamber and the community.

"I guess I just made some impact with Carrie that she felt that as a business person, that's whom she wanted to name her scholarship after," Harms said.

Wilkerson said Harms taught her that "care creates customers for life and eventually friends, that connection is greater than cash, and a business can absolutely be beautiful."

"Because of Mary Harms who opened a credit account for a 14-year-old kid, her legacy will now be passed on every year to a proud female Porcupine like me," Wilkerson said.

Harms pointed out that a lot of businesses in Springtown are run by women.

"The door is open," she said about women starting businesses in Springtown. "You can do just about anything that you think you are able to do and get started. I don't



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

At the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala, Cpl. Victoria Thomas was awarded Public Safety Employee of the Year in the city of Springtown. She was also recognized for this honor at the city council's February meeting, where she stood for a picture with Deputy Chief of Police Jamie Oliver.



think there's a hindrance at all to start a business here in town."

The following individuals and groups received awards at the gala:

- Andie D'Avignon, City of Springtown Extra Mile Award
- Cpl. Victoria Thomas, City of Springtown Public Safety Employee of the Year
- Covered Bridge Venue, Business of the Year
- Dene Berry and Bill Hughes, Chamber Members

of the Year
· Center of Hope, Organization of the Year

· Andrew Alvis, Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown

For more information about this year's winners, stay tuned for the Epigraph's special section that will be published in the March 16 edition of the newspaper. This special section will include articles about the awardees and photos from the event.

JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Attendees of the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala and silent auction dressed up for the occasion. Pictured are ladies from the Covered Bridge Venue: from left, Bre Akers, Lindy Mercante, Katie Sherrill and Jazz Whitney. Covered Bridge won Business of the Year at the gala.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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The Cost of a Decision

These kids are facing a decision about spending money. What would you do?

Kevin's Dilemma: These ZING sneakers are super popular with the kids at my school. But they cost \$69 a pair!

Kevin's Dilemma: These generic sneakers cost \$29. They're not nearly as fancy as the ZING sneakers, though.

Emma's Dilemma: A lot of young movie stars wear the jeans at left. They are \$80. The generic ones in the middle are \$30. And the used pair at right is \$8 at the thrift store.

Which pair of sneakers should Kevin choose? Give at least two reasons to explain your choice.

Which pair of jeans should Emma choose? Give at least two reasons for your choice.

Which is the best deal? The small can of fruit juice or the 64 ounce size?

BOTTLE: \$3.50

The 64 ounce bottle contains 16 4 ounce cups of juice. The 12 ounce can contains three 4 ounce cups of juice.

CAN: \$1.25

MONEY PUZZLES

PUZZLE 1
How much money would you save if you put a nickel in a jar every day for a year?

PUZZLE 2
How much money would you save in four weeks if you saved 5c a day the first week, 10c a day the second week, 15c a day the third week and 20c a day the fourth week?

PUZZLE 3
How much money would you save using the plan in Puzzle 2 and kept increasing the savings amount by 5c each week for 12 weeks?

PUZZLE 4
How much money would you save using the plan in Puzzle 3 and kept increasing the savings amount by 5c each week for 26 weeks?

Game Night! Can you come up with a family fun game night that costs \$0?

Extra! Extra! It All Adds Up Find four 4-digit numbers in the newspaper. Copy the numbers onto a piece of paper and add them together. Repeat with 5-digit and 6-digit numbers.

Standards Link: Math: Addition.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Newspaper coupons are a great way to save money. Circle the coupon that offers the best deal on each product.

Price: \$4.50

PURPLE PEPPERMINT FOAMING TOOTHPASTE

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Price: \$2.70

DOGIE TREAT

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

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SUBSY SOAP

50¢ OFF

PURPLE PEPPERMINT FOAMING TOOTHPASTE

SAVE 50%

DOGIE TREAT

\$1.50 OFF

SUBSY SOAP

SAVE 50%

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | N | T | H | F | H | D |
| E | C | I | O | H | C | R | A |
| E | M | O | N | E | R | U | C |
| Y | G | E | N | E | R | I | C |
| L | O | J | E | A | N | S | T |
| F | S | E | G | E | N | R | I |
| A | P | I | T | S | N | T | S |
| O | C | I | V | O | O | N | I |
| N | I | M | N | A | M | T | T |
| E | R | E | K | C | I | N | E |

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

Kid Scoop Together Change Maker

With a BLUE crayon, circle the coins that add up to the amount shown on the top coin purse. Then, use a RED crayon to circle the coins that add up to the amount shown on the bottom coin purse. Have a family member check your work. You should have 5¢ left over if you circled the correct coins.

5¢

5¢

5¢

5¢

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25¢

Standards Link: Math: Add money amounts.

Porcupine baseballers learn from losses on path to district



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Springtown Porcupines listen and learn from head coach Colin Crawford.

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown baseball squad members don't enjoy losing games, but coming up short can serve a purpose during the early part of the season.

At a recent tournament in Glen Rose, the Porcupines won one game and lost three. They beat Maypearl but fell to Godley, Glen Rose and Franklin. They weren't blown out in any of the losses despite battling worthy foes.

"It was a good learning experience for the young Pines against competitive teams," said head coach Colin Crawford.

Franklin is ranked second among Class 3A teams in Texas, and 4A Godley is a top 10 team with a 10-0

record. "I knew what we were getting into," Crawford said. "It's good to play quality teams like that before district play."

Maypearl and Glen Rose fielded solid teams, as well. "You don't gain anything

playing lesser opponents," he said. "We had chances to capitalize over the weekend at times."

Caleb Elmore pitched well in the Franklin game. Brayden Fox held Godley scoreless through four innings. Keegan Martinez

pitched for the win against Maypearl and was efficient on the mound.

"We didn't do a good job offensively with runners in scoring position and need to understand what our job is

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | B2

Springtown soccer girls win again by PK shootout

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Lady Porcupines have waited until the last nail-biting moments to pull out victories in their last two games.

On March 7, the Lady Pines played district rival Lake Worth at Kittrell Stadium and won in a penalty kick shootout after a 1-1 tie in regulation. PK shootouts are a method to determine the

winner of tie games and involves shooting at goal from the penalty mark while the opposing team's goalkeeper defends the net.

Four days earlier, Springtown beat Castleberry 3-3 in another PK shootout.

The Porcupines inspired their season with those two district victories. A three-game win streak to start the season segued into a three-game losing streak and a 3-3 record by late February.

If the losses had continued, Springtown might have ruined its playoff chances.

Instead, the girls played with fire and won their next three games. They've clinched a playoff spot with one game remaining in the regular season and will likely earn the third seed.

Springtown (6-3) is scheduled to play district leader Decatur (9-0) at 7:15 p.m. Friday at home.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Tatiana Cabrera and the Lady Porcupines will play district leader Decatur at 7:15 p.m. Friday at home in the final game of the regular season.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Josue Anaya and the Springtown soccer Pines must beat Decatur at 5:15 p.m. Friday to keep alive any playoff hopes. The game will be played at Porcupine Stadium.

Springtown soccer boys beat Lake Worth to keep hope alive

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

On March 3, the Porcupines faced off against Castleberry, the undefeated leader of District 8-4A, at the Springtown football field. The Pines played well but struggled on the scoreboard.

Final score: Castleberry 7, Springtown 0.

"We played a really good Castleberry team," said Brian Maloney, head coach of Springtown. "They are the favorite to win district. They played two good halves. They deserved to win. We fought hard but hats off to them."

The Porcupines are good sports. They're also a talented bunch of athletes despite

their 2-7 district record.

"This team has a lot of good players, and they listen, and they work hard, and I could go on about the positives of this team," he said.

The one thing missing this season was "the good fortune to turn some of those close losses into wins."

PLEASE SEE **SOCCER** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Springtown powerlifting girls win the regional championship on the way to state.

Springtown powerlifting girls will vie for state title

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Lady Porcupine powerlifters are about to barrel into the state meet with fire in their eyes as they try to reclaim the state title they won four years ago. Thirteen Lady Porcupines will travel to Frisco to com-

pete in the 2023 THSWPA State Championship at 1:30 p.m. March 17 at Comerica Center, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, in Frisco.

State qualifiers for Springtown are Zoey Adams, Angela Chavez, Macy Chavez, Marie Cook, A'shiana Elam, Reaghan Fortner, Brianna Graham, Jessica Montgomery,

Emily Plumlee, Abigail Stoner, Skyler Tyree, Abigail Rodgers, Anaie Rodriguez and Kylie Wear.

Seven of the 13 girls are seniors who have competed at the state meet before.

"I am excited we have so much experience going into the meet," head coach Missy Castro said.

On Feb. 25, Springtown scored 64 points at the regional meet to win that team title. It was the ninth time the Lady Porcupines have taken home a THSWPA Region 6 Division 2 championship. Springtown shattered eight regional records at the event, indicating the Lady Pines will be a force at the state meet.

The Lady Pines won the state championship in 2019 and were runners-up in 2022. "Winning a state championship has been on our minds all year," Castro said. "This group has the ability and talent to accomplish this goal." Last year, the Lady Porcupines finished just four points behind state cham-

pion Port Lavaca Calhoun, a powerlifting dynasty that has won Class 4A and 5A state titles for more than a dozen years in a row. Calhoun earned 39 team points, and Springtown scored 35. "There is going to be some really good teams at state, but we are excited for the challenge," Castro said.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Blaize Flood swings at the ball.

Lady Porcupines fight rain for mixed results at Iowa Park tourney

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown softball team competed March 2-4 at the Iowa Park tournament in between the rain and lightning. The first day of games was

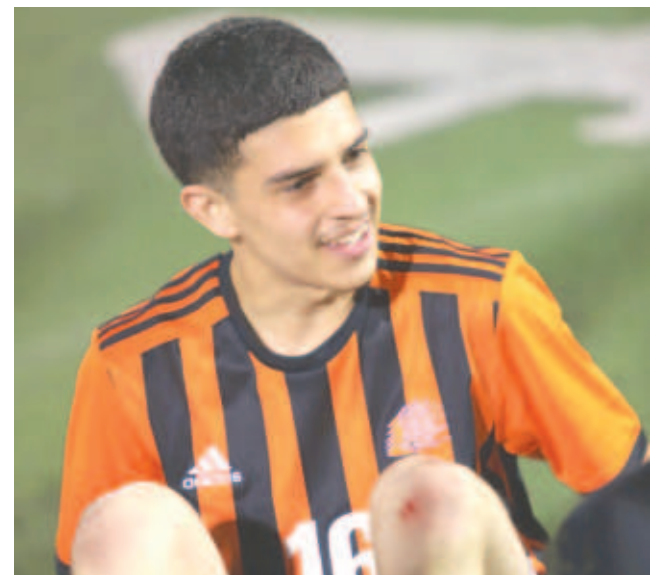
cancelled after lightning strikes were seen. Springtown and Jacksboro were in the third inning when the game was postponed, then cancelled.

On the second day, Springtown played two games and lost both.

"Tough day for the Lady Pines," coach Scott Mann posted on social media afterward. "Proud of our effort as we fought through some adversity. Played some tough competition and we will definitely grow from this and come out stronger."

The Porcupines will play a final tournament March 9-11 at Graham before closing out the preseason on March 17 with a home game against Kennedale.

District competition begins at 5:30 p.m. March 21 in a home game against Decatur.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Ricardo Arias

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

Maloney said.

On Feb. 28, Springtown defeated Collegiate Academy at TCC Northeast 3-1 for its first district win of the season. The two teams had played earlier on Feb. 7, and Springtown lost 2-1 because "we didn't have that little bit of luck," Maloney said.

The pressure was on the Porcupines to win their final two regular season games. The first of those was on March 7 against Lake Worth. "We know that if we win,

there is a good chance we can still make playoffs," Maloney said before the contest.

The action was as fierce as expected, and Springtown prevailed 2-1.

Now, the Porcupines face a final hurdle. They must beat Decatur in the regular season finale.

"Overall, it's been a season where we had to keep fighting, and we had to keep believing in what we what we do as a program," Maloney said. "We're in a position now where we hope it can all pay off in the end."

Springtown will play Decatur at 5:15 p.m. Friday at Porcupine Stadium.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

in situations like that," the coach said. "Defensively, we were better. We'll learn from it and continue working."

Crawford saw much to like and much that needed work.

"I'm not discouraged at all," he said. "We know who we are and what we need to work on. We love our kids and think we can improve in all areas. That's all you can ask for. We definitely need to be more consistent, and our kids agree."

The team will have a chance to nail down victories at a tournament this weekend. On March 9-11,

Springtown will compete at Bowie.

Springtown will get another crack at Godley soon. The two teams meet again March 17 in the final non-district game.

District competition will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, when the Porcupines battle the Lake Worth Bullfrogs at home. The teams have their rubber match set for Friday, March 24, at Lake Worth.

This year's district schedule is like that throughout. Springtown will play district foes in back-to-back fashion, with the first game held on Tuesday, and the second game held on the subsequent Friday (or Thursday, in one case).

SPRINGTOWN Game Faces

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Icis Iopez, Aubrey Mueller, and Samantha Orozco listen to coach.



Cesar Mendez shakes hands after the game.



Ashton Day likes winning.



Hedrickson Perdomo tries to stay warm.



Grant Butler

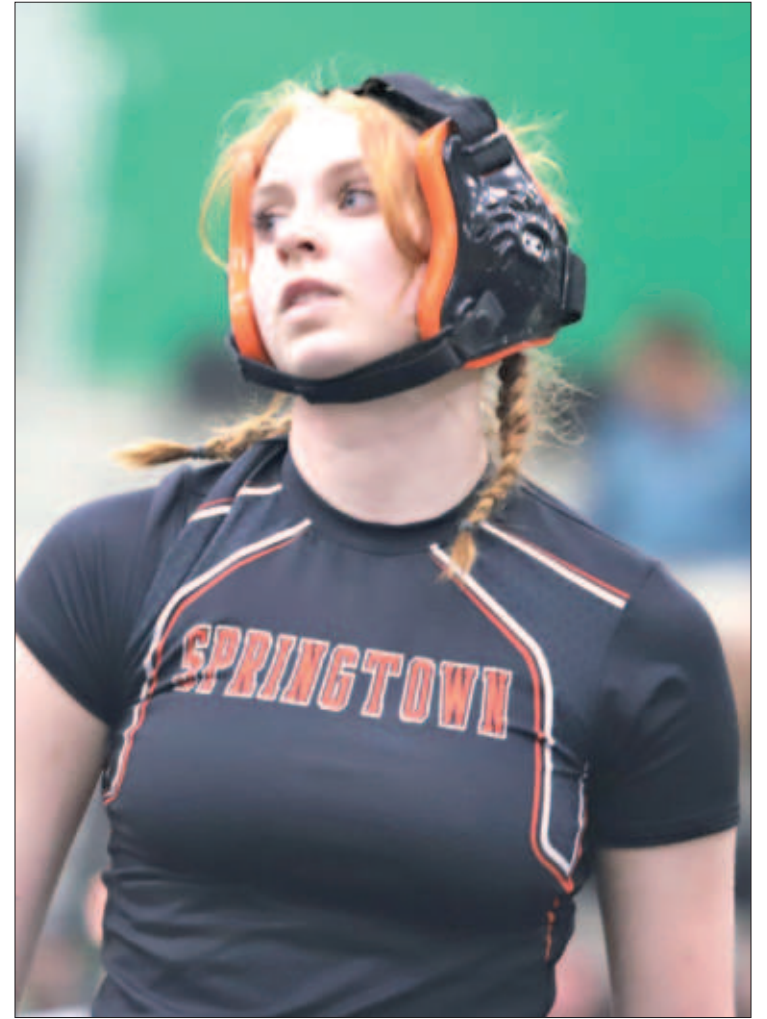
CONGRATULATIONS, SPRINGTOWN WRESTLING!

Springtown High School's wrestlers hit the mat, worked hard, won medals, and sent a team member to the state championship tournament to complete a successful 2023. "I'm proud of the work these athletes have put in this season and look forward to the future," head coach Sawyer Cooper said. The Porcupines finished in fourth place in their district, qualified several wrestlers for the regional meet, and one for state.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Joe Newman



Hayleigh Jenkins



Josue Martinez



Haeden Ollis

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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., 9½ 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.
(½ 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
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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
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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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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
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
PRECIOUS FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH
8601 Hwy. 199 @ Vance Godbey's
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER
1356 Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-2551
THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH
7955 Reed Rd., Azle
682-327-7082
REAL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
202 Pearson Lane, Azle
817-677-5963
SOULS HARBOR
11701 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-726-2065
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6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford
817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087
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kimmy@azlenews.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. For Sale | 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. Campers/Trailers | 37. Hay | 59. Pool Service | 82. RV's for Rent |
| 15. Carports/Patios | 38. Health/Fitness | 60. Professional Services | 83. Houses for Sale |
| 16. Equipment Repair | 39. Help Wanted | 61. Personal | 84. Mobile Homes for Rent |
| 17. Carpet Service | 40. Home Improvement | 62. Plumbing | 85. Mobile Homes for Sale |
| 18. Catering | 41. House Leveling | 63. Public Notice | 86. Mobile Home/RV Lots |
| 19. Cement Work | 42. House Cleaning | 64. Photography | 87. Rent Furnished |
| 20. Demolition | 43. Hunting | 65. Printing | 88. Rent Unfurnished |
| 21. Child Care | 44. Janitorial Service | 66. Roofing | 89. Wanted to Rent |
| 22. Cosmetics | 45. Job Wanted | 67. Recycling | |
| 23. Computers/Services | | 68. Storage | |

RATES

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035 Garden/Mowing Service

Chad's Tree Service
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Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing
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Insured for your protection **FREE ESTIMATES**

039 Help Wanted

GROWING COMPANY NEEDS YOU!
Hershey's Ice Cream
Seeking to hire Route Drivers for Klement Distribution, Inc.
UP TO \$2,500.00 HIRING BONUS

We offer great benefits, Opportunities for additional commission/bonus, Time off or flex-schedule, as well as Growth and development!
Weekends and School Holiday's OFF!
A fun and safe working environment!

Apply in person at Klement Distribution, Inc.
3271 S. Hwy 287, Decatur, TX 76234
OR CALL H/R # 940-627-6362



017 Carpet Service

Alexander Carpet Care
INSURED
817-914-2822
CARPET CLEANING

LEON'S FENCING

Cedar • Iron • Pipe Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

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

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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

032 For Sale



2017 Yamaha drive 2 golf cart, 48 volt. Silver, Has 2 covers, \$4500.00. Call 817-798-0483.

037 Hay

SPRIGGING
5 COUNTIES:
Jack, Wise, Tarrant, Parker, Montague
COASTAL OR TIFTON
52 years Experience
940-229-1045 or 940-229-1046

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

Kiley Chesney Construction
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Driveways • House Slabs • Garages • Add-ons
Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways
Kiley Chesney, Owner
Springtown, TX • Mobile 817-846-6645

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Need your lawn mowed, trimmed or cleaned up? Need your trees trimmed or cut? Any job big or small give Scooter a call. Free Estimates. 817-766-3834.

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

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

LEON'S TREE SERVICE
Expert take downs
Stump Grinding
Residential/Commercial
Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
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039 Help Wanted

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

MAINTREAM 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.

Low vision senior needs PT help w/housekeeping and local errands. Must have transportation. 817-444-2127.

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

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253 Eagles Way, Springtown

024 Electrician

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All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
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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.
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The Azle News or The Springtown Epigraph
321 W. Main Street P.O. Box 557
Azle, Texas 76020 Springtown, Texas 76082

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

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted



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
***** \$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS*****

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!*****

Service Porter

Come join our Growing Team as a Service Porter! Duties included, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands and test-driving vehicles. Monday to 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.

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC.
 (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Client Support Specialist

To oversee a portfolio of assigned clients and serve as the Lead Point in Fulfillment; Support; and Pre & Post Delivery Resolutions. Will liaise with cross-functional internal Teams to ensure company objectives and client satisfaction. Candidate must have the ability to work in a fast-paced environment with the aptitude to plan and prioritize own workload with sharp attention to detail. Previous experience, as an Account Manager or relevant role, preferred. We offer growth opportunities and a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, Short/Long-term Disability, & 401K. Paid Training & Vacation with a flex schedule during off-peak seasons.

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.
*****Up to \$2,500.00 SIGN ON BONUS*****

Parts Warehouse Associate

Seeking to hire an experienced Parts Warehouse Associate for our growing team in Decatur! Assists in maintaining organization of warehouse and inventory. Experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. We Offer, great benefits, competitive pay with a full-time, M-F work week. Must have valid and clear TXDL and be able to pass background screening.

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

Plumber/Plumbers Helper

Ready to hire full-time experienced Plumber and/or Plumber's helper. Must have good working knowledge and troubleshooting skills for Residential or Commercial plumbing; fixture repair/replacement; and competent use of conventional equipment / tools.

Electrician/Electrician Helper

Ready to hire full-time experienced or licensed electrician and electrician helpers. Must be able to Install, Test, and Maintain electrical systems; equipment; fixtures; and/or devices. Ability to diagnose and determine insufficiencies using test equipment and hand tools.

HVAC Technician/Helper

Ready to hire full-time skilled HVAC Technicians & Apprentices. Must be able to perform troubleshooting and routine general maintenance repairs & replacements for residential/commercial heating, ventilation, and A/C equipment and more.

We offer Career Advancement Opportunities with Competitive Pay with full Benefits Package, including 401K and paid vacation, training and holidays!

For consideration of all positions apply in person:
 605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas
OR CALL Human Resources Dept:
 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

057 Pets/Livestock 068 Storage

Full blood Chihuahua puppies 9 weeks old, \$125 female, \$75 male. 817-771-2068 or 817-475-1405.

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

062 Plumbing



Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

- Drain Stoppage
- Water Leaks
- Water Heaters
- Sewers Replaced
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817-831-4000

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 grahamplumbingco.com

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940-233-2862
 M-10078

066 Roofing

AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS

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Tired of always replacing your roof? Call us for a metal roof quote.

We'll be here after the storm.

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Don't Break The Poor Little Piggy!
Find the money you need in our Classified Section today!
16 words for \$10

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 40 Years Experience

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

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

040 Home Improvement



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PHOTO COURTESY SALINA GIBSON

Making accounting information user friendly

TRWD receives recognition for financial reporting, accountability

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District leaders want the public to know that they are good stewards of the money entrusted to them.

The recognitions TRWD has won for financial reporting and transparency

shows progress toward that objective.

TRWD announced last fall that the district had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This award was for the district's annual comprehensive

financial report for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2021.

According to TRWD's website, this certificate is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

TRWD Finance Director Jennifer Mitchell said the

PLEASE SEE **TRWD** | C9

Spring Trash Bash April 22



TRWD COURTESY PHOTO

The Spring Trash Bash is a great activity for volunteers of all ages. These cleanups help keep trash from getting into the lakes and rivers that surround our communities.

Bi-annual event is essential to keeping waterways clean

JESSICA MCKINNEY
jessica@azlenews.net

Tarrant Regional Water District has opened registration for the Spring Trash Bash, set to begin at 8 a.m. on April 22. This year, the spring cleanup —happening on Earth Day this year —will focus on the Trinity River and Marine Creek Lake in Fort Worth.

Last fall, TRWD was excited to bring back the after party for volunteers to celebrate the end of a morning spent cleaning up trash from around local waterways. There will be two separate parties from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for each cleanup location featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Trinity River volunteers will join up at Coyote Drive-In,

PLEASE SEE **BASH** | C8

Small but mighty

TRWD Law Enforcement Division acquires handheld sonar

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division acquired a new tool that is allowing the public safety dive team to do its job more efficiently and safely.

TRWD Law Enforcement Division Sgt. Rick Odom described the handheld sonar AquaEye as looking like an "oversized price scanner."

But though it is small, the sonar can take on large jobs, like scanning one acre of water in less than two minutes, according to the website for VodaSafe, which developed

AquaEye. AquaEye uses artificial intelligence and ultrasound to specifically identify human bodies in the water during recovery and rescue missions.

"AquaEye sends a sonar pulse out to 50 meters or

PLEASE SEE **SONAR** | C9

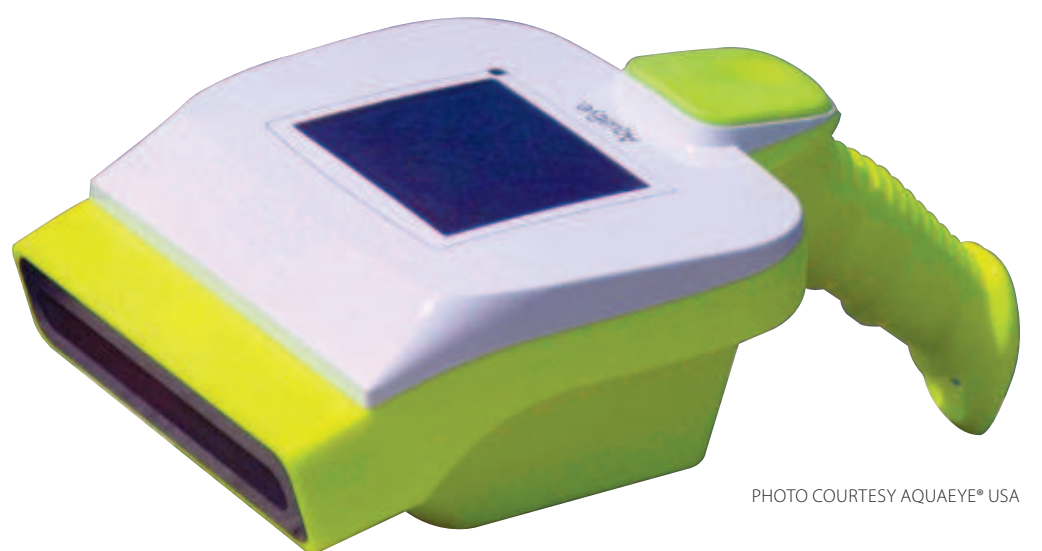


PHOTO COURTESY AQUAEYE® USA

AQUAEYE® - How it works

AquaEye sends a sonar pulse to a depth of 50 meters or 165 feet and evaluates the returning echo. AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes of a human body and displays the position of the missing persons on the screen. AquaEye can search 8000 square meters of water in less than 5 minutes.

Clean water for everyone



PHOTO COURTESY STACY WILBURN

MARK MICHAELS
mark@azlenews.net

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is seeking to ramp up their efforts to bring awareness to Azle citizens and other communities about what they can do to help keep the water clean for themselves and their neighbors.

One of the primary functions of TRWD is to manage the quality of the water in the flood control system in Tarrant County. This system includes 27 miles of floodway levies that were designed by the Army Corp of Engineers. This system also includes a support dam which was constructed in 1931 and the Eagle Mountain dam, constructed a year later in 1932. TRWD is one of the largest freshwater suppliers in

Texas. More than two million people benefit from that water. Aaron Hoff, the watershed programs coordinator, explained that it's his and his team's duty to make sure everything flows smoothly.

"It really behooves us as a water supply company organization to protect that investment and that's really where program kind of birth from was to kind of be proactive about protecting that volume that is available in those water supply reservoirs," Hoff said.

According to Hoff, the board decided to take a leadership role in facilitating watershed planning activities in concession with their major reservoirs and the watersheds that feed them, as well as provide public education for the average citizen.

TRWD has a simple mission: to facilitate responsible watershed planning in management by providing technical assistance and, in some cases, financial assistance to landowners and decision makers.

"We kind of do that through a very extensive education outreach program that my team and I manage," Hoff said. "That's really just a bunch of stuff that planning aspect by increasing public awareness and knowledge and to change those negative behaviors or sometimes lack of good behaviors to build that advocacy network and really promote that idea of responsible watershed stewardship that by being a good student of the land you can improve your water in the water of your neighbors."

TRWD Board of Directors for 2023



LEAH M. KING

President
Term 2021-2025
Mrs. King joined the TRWD Board of Directors in 2017. She is currently the president and chief executive officer for United Way of Tarrant County. Mrs. King is very active in the community and serves on many boards and committees throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Worth 2010 and Leadership North Texas 2011 classes. She and her husband, Barry, have one son.



JAMES HILL

Vice President
Term 2021-2025
Mr. Hill was elected to the TRWD Board in 2017. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of the Business Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he received his MBA in the Accelerated Program at TCU. A banking executive with significant experience in finance and real estate, Mr. Hill is also very active in the community. He and his wife have two kids and live in Fort Worth.



MARY KELLEHER

Secretary
Term 2021-2025
Mrs. Kelleher lives in east Fort Worth along the Trinity River where she and her husband, Larry Langston, operate a cattle ranch. She became interested in TRWD after their farm flooded from the Trinity River. Mary served on TRWD's board from 2013 to 2017 and is passionate about water issues. Mary strives to provide citizens with information and insight into TRWD policies and business practices.



MARTY LEONARD

Director
Term 2019-2023
Ms. Leonard was elected to the TRWD Board in 2006. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she owns Leonard Golf Links Practice/Teaching Facility and owns two buildings occupied by the Nike Golf Center in Fort Worth. Ms. Leonard also is president of Margolf Corporation. She is extremely active in the Fort Worth community, serving on numerous boards and committees.



C.B. TEAM

Director
Term Jan 2023-May 2023
C.B. is a fifth generation and lifelong Fort Worth resident. He joined Ellis & Tinsley, Inc. in 2006 as an associate and was named partner and principal in 2013. He holds both Texas and Colorado Real Estate Brokers Licenses. C.B. has volunteered as a Livestock Department Superintendent at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo every winter and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 2021. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, a Texas Exes Alumnae Association member, and a commercial-rated pilot. C.B. lives in Fort Worth with his wife and their two children.

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Fishing on Eagle Mountain Lake

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tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/eagle_mountain/

Located on the West Fork Trinity River, just north of Fort Worth and Lake Worth in Tarrant County, Eagle Mountain Lake has several species of Texas' most popular sport fishes, including largemouth bass, spotted bass, channel catfish, flat-head catfish, white bass, and white crappie.

FISHING COVER/STRUCTURE

The upper portion of the lake has reed beds. The lower and mid-lake areas have numerous fishing piers and boat houses that act as cover and structure for fish. Rocky points and bluffs in the lower end of the lake can also hold fish.

TIPS & TACTICS

Largemouth bass can be found around private boat docks and reed beds. White crappie also utilize the boat houses a habitat and congregate in the lower end of the lake in the summer. Schooling white bass offer a popular summertime fishing opportunity.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass grow 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) during their first year, 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) in two years, 16 inches (40 cm) in three years. They are usually green with dark blotches that form a horizontal stripe along the middle of the fish on either side. The underside ranges in color from light green to almost white. They have a nearly divided dorsal fin with the anterior portion containing nine spines and the posterior portion containing 12 to 13 soft rays. Their upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margin of the eye.

Adults feed almost exclusively on other fish and large invertebrates such as crayfish. Larger fish prey upon smaller bass. Immature largemouth bass may tend to congregate in schools, but adults are usually solitary. Sometimes several bass will gather in a very small area, but they do not interact. Largemouth bass hide among plants, roots or limbs to strike their prey. Largemouth bass seek protective cover



This is the largest blue catfish caught in Eagle Mountain Lake at 53.07 lbs and 45" long. It also holds the 'catch and release' record. It was caught on March 24, 2021 by Azle native Bob Matteson, left, while fishing with his friend Steve Andognini.

PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

such as logs, rock ledges, vegetation, and man-made structures. They prefer clear quiet water, but will survive quite well in a variety of habitats.

SPOTTED BASS

Despite the fact that spotted bass are not nearly so large and numerous as largemouth bass (in Texas their maximum size is less than one-third that of largemouth bass), they are excellent fighters. Spotted bass are very popular in East Texas, particularly in the Sabine, Neches, and Cypress Rivers. Known maximum size in Texas exceeds 5.5 pounds. Spotted bass seem to be segregated by habitat type from closely related species. They tend to be found in areas with more current than largemouth bass, and they usually inhabit areas that are too warm, tur-

bid, and sluggish for small-mouth bass.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Channel catfish spawn in late spring or early summer when water temperatures reach 75°F. Channel catfish less than 4 inches in length feed primarily on small insects. Adults are largely omnivorous, feeding on insects, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and even some plant material. Sexual maturity is reached in two or three years in captivity, whereas data from natural populations indicates channel catfish in Texas reach sexual maturity in 3-6 years. Most are mature by the time they reach 12 inches in length. Channel catfish are most abundant in large streams with low or moderate current. Today they range throughout Texas, however,

it is believed that the species was not native to the upper Rio Grande and Pecos basins. Channel catfish ranks behind only bass and crappie as the most preferred fish to catch in Texas. Popular with trotliners as well as rod-and-reel anglers, channel cats may be captured on a wide variety of baits including liver, worms, grasshoppers, shrimp, chicken, cheese and stinkbait, among others. Undoubtedly, part of the reason for their popularity is their delicious flavor when cooked. Channel catfish in excess of 36 pounds have been landed in Texas waters. The North American record stands at 58 pounds.

WHITE BASS

Adults are usually found in schools. Gizzard and threadfin shad are the preferred

food items. White bass more than four years of age are rare. In Texas, the species is native to the Red River drainage. They are the fifth most preferred species among licensed Texas anglers. Schools of white bass feeding on shad generate much excitement in the fishing community. Once a school has been located, successful anglers often fish the surface with spoons or spinners. Bottom fishing at night with live bait may also produce great success. White bass are excellent fighters and are considered superb table fare.

WHITE CRAPPIE

Typically, white crappie grow three to five inches in length the first year, and reach seven to eight inches during the second year. Maturity is usually reached

in two to three years. Adults feed on small fish and insects. They are native to the eastern two-thirds of Texas, but the species can now be found statewide except for the upper portions of the Rio Grande and Pecos drainages. Taken together, "crappie" (white and black combined) is the most popular panfish in Texas. The crappie group is the third most preferred group overall, ranking behind only "bass" and "catfish." Crappie are sought after by both bank and boat anglers. Typically, minnows are the preferred bait, often producing monumental results when an aggregation is located, usually around submerged trees, boat docks, or other submerged structures. White crappie in excess of 4.5 pounds have been landed in Texas waters.

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Azle News



The Springtown Epigraph

Small lake, huge fish

The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Fishing Tournament better than ever

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

For more than 20 years, local fishermen have hauled their boats to Eagle Mountain Lake on Tuesday nights from March to August for a popular fishing tournament.

Lately, the fishing lines have been stretched tighter than ever, and this year could be the best yet. Fishing on the lake has been "phenomenal," said Jeremy Lambert, a Boyd resident who has fished the lake for two decades.

"It's the best lake in the state right now," he said.

Fish in Texas lakes run in cycles, he said. A lake will become thick with old, big fish over time, and then, as they die or get caught over the years, the numbers shrink awhile.

"There is a time where (the fish population) goes down because the new ones haven't grown to the biggest size," he said. "We're at the top right now. It's just my opinion."

Evidence appears to back his claim.

The Eagle Mountain Lake record for a largemouth bass - 16 pounds - was set last year, and 16 pounds is "unheard of," Lambert said.

Robert Bandy caught the

whopper in February, 2022, and it stretched 25 inches - too big to fit in his livewell.

The Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament is managed by another longtime local fisherman, Donnie Moore. In 2021, he caught a largemouth bass that weighed 13.08 pounds to shatter the lake record of 11.64 pounds, which had been set in 2003.

Moore loves to land a big fish, but it's not the main draw of the tournament.

"I like the camaraderie," he said. "It's not a real serious event. It's a bunch of friends getting out there and just getting to know everybody. It's a small short three-hour event, and the camaraderie out there is the best thing. Everybody trusts everybody."

Only bass are eligible to be counted in the Tuesday Night tourney, but the lake contains many types of fish.

"We caught a catfish out there yesterday," Lambert said.

He has a buddy who works as a fishing guide on the lake, and he's been hauling in big catfish recently. Another has been landing big crappie.

Eagle Mountain Lake "is as good as you're going to find,"

Lambert said. "That place is unreal, especially for the size of it. It's small."

The tournament season begins on the first Tuesday after Daylight Savings Time in March, and it runs through August. The entry fee is \$40 with an optional \$20 side pot. About 25 boats show up each week, and the payout is about \$1,000 for the winner, with smaller payouts going to the next several placers.

The tournament is also referred to as the Eagle Mountain Working Mens Tournament.

For more information, see the group's Facebook page, Eagle Mountain Tuesday Night Tournament, at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082847816655>

The rules include random livewell checks and no drinking alcohol during tournament hours. Entrants can go out on the water on the day of the tournament begins, but no fishing is allowed until the tourney begins.

"It's been going on for dang near 25 years or more," Lambert said.

Like Moore, his favorite part is the camaraderie.

"I'm not in those things for the money," he said. "There



COURTESY PHOTOS

In March 2021, Donnie Moore caught this 13-pound beast to set the lake record that had stood since 2003. A year later, his record was broken by Robert Brandy, who caught a 16-pounder.

is not a whole lot of money involved. We just go out there to have fun and make new friends or hang out with your friends."

Boats go out around 6 p.m., and the fish are weighed at 9 p.m.

The five biggest fish for each entrant are weighted,

and whomever hauled in the most weight wins the pot. A reward is also given for the biggest fish caught.



PHOTO COURTESY SHAWNA MATTESON

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Shady Grove Park

PHOTO COURTESY JOEY LIDDICK



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Recreation on Eagle Mountain Lake



PHOTO COURTESY CLAYTON WAYNE SMITH



PHOTO COURTESY JIM STEVENS



PHOTO COURTESY LAUREN MILLER

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- Monthly Luncheons
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- Ambassadors Meet 1st
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Promoting Business And Community

For those missing outdoor fun, Twin Points Park prepping for spring opening

MARK MICHAELS
mark@azlenews.net

Twin Points Park is gearing up for another great year.

Days at the lake are a staple in the summer plans for many families across North Fort Worth. It's a place where everyone can enjoy the fun in the sun. After another unusually cold winter, many are counting the minutes until they can soak in the sun, swim in the warm water, and light up a barbecue.

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has been readying the park for its anticipated opening in the spring. While boat ramps around Eagle Mountain Lake are open all year, the Twin Points Park is scheduled to open on Memorial Day.

There will be no significant changes to the park or its amenities this year. The

only notable change this year is that the tickets will only be available online at twinpointspark.com. David Geary, the director of reservoirs, said that COVID lockdown made streamlining the sales process easier and far more convenient.

"A lot of things were modernized and smoothed out to make 2020 work, and we found that selling the tickets online just makes everything much easier," Geary said.

Ticket prices will be \$10 for a single vehicle Monday through Thursday, and \$20 Friday through Sunday. The park will be open on May 27, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until April 28. Tickets prices are per vehicle. While there are only 320 parking spaces at the park's entrance, the park will sell 425 tickets per day. Pavilion rentals are online also. Small



PHOTO COURTESY TWIN POINTS PARK

Twin Points Park has a public beach for swimming, picnic areas with tables, and freestanding grills.



pavilions will be \$25, while the large ones will go for \$50. Loaner child life vests will be available for free.

Like most public parks in North Texas, Twin Points has certain rules that TRWD expect the patrons to follow.

- No glass containers
- No pets
- No smoking
- No disruptive music
- No foul language
- No charcoal grills
- No open fires

• No public consumption of alcohol

While charcoal grills are banned, there are freestanding grills that can be used, and guests can bring their own gas grills. The park will have written surveys beachgoers can fill out to give their thoughts and write out ideas they may have to make the park's experience better for everyone.

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TRASH
FROM PAGE C1

223 NE 4th St., Fort Worth, and Marine Creek volunteers will have their party at the public boat ramp area, 2700 Jim Wright Fwy., Fort Worth.

TRINITY RIVER CLEANUP LOCATIONS

- White Settlement Trailhead
- Panther Island
- Cold Springs Trailhead
- Fourth Street Trailhead
- Hope Church
- Quanah Parker Park
- Crystelle Waggoner
- Trinity Park
- River Park

Sign up to volunteer at TRWD.com/trashbash. Early registration is recommended to receive volunteer shirts and to reserve a spot for the after party.

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

A lone volunteer helps pick up trash during the annual Trash Bash at Eagle Mountain Lake.

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Join us in protecting Eagle Mountain Lake - we welcome new friends on Facebook, and always have opportunities for volunteers to help with projects and events!

You may also reach us via our website **SEML.org** or e-mail at **comments@seml.org**

SONAR

FROM PAGE C1

165 feet and listens for the return echo,” according to VodaSafe’s website. “AquaEye then decides which echoes match the echoes from a human body and indicates the location of the missing persons on the screen.”

Before acquiring AquaEye in late November, Odom said the regional water district’s Law Enforcement Division didn’t have a sonar option for small bodies of water, like rivers and ponds.

“We had to get in the water and do search patterns if we felt that there was something in the water that we needed to go try to find,” Odom said.

To use AquaEye, the operator submerges it in water and then pulls a trigger to scan the area, Odom said. Divers can also use the sonar underwater. Odom described

the tool as being simple to operate.

Not long after receiving the sonar, the public safety dive team was called to use the tool, Odom said.

“We’d already been called to use it. We only had it for a day,” he said.

The fact that the TRWD Law Enforcement Division is using AquaEye makes the department unique compared to others in the state. Odom said the division is one of seven agencies in Texas that have the sonar, and the next closest agency that has it is in Waco.

The division budgeted for the \$6,000 AquaEye sonar and has plans to purchase a second one in the future, Odom said.

Ultimately, Odom said having the AquaEye sonar makes the public safety rescue team’s job safer. Oftentimes, divers are navigating water that is impossible to see through.

“The visibility in any lake

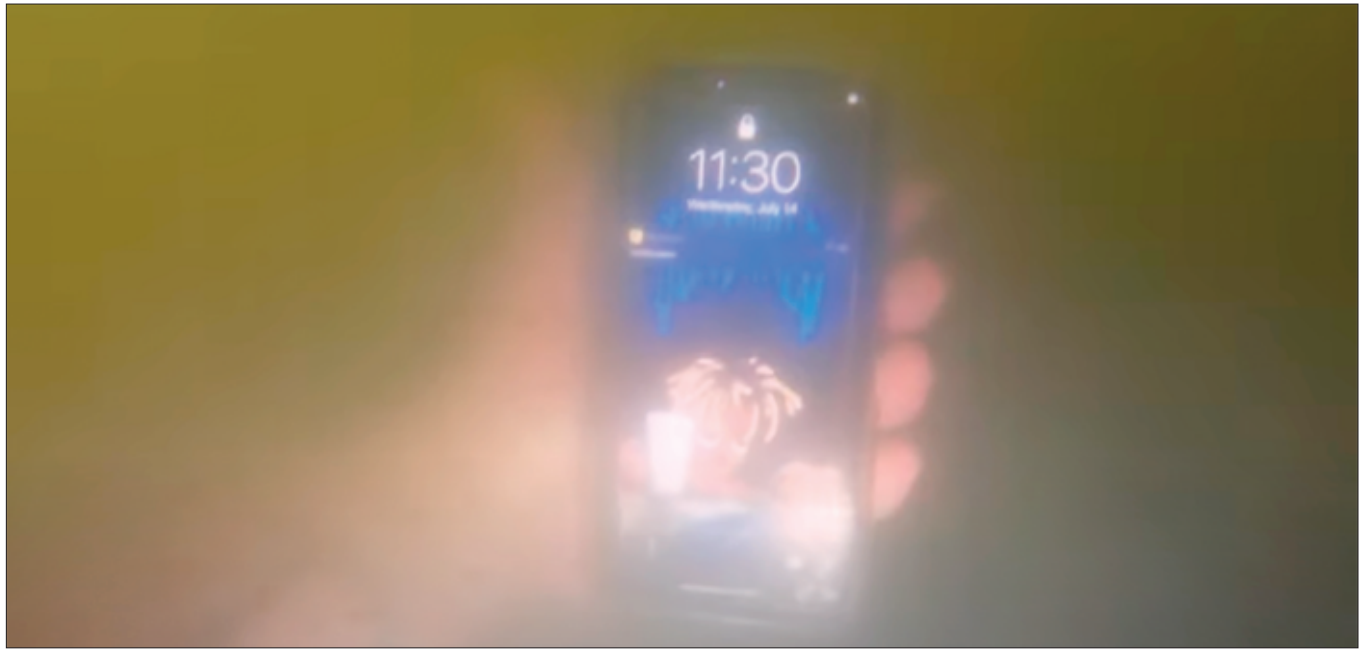


PHOTO COURTESY BLUE DIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE

Eagle Mountain Lake is considered a ‘low visibility’ body of water. Murky water and silt make it very difficult to see more than a few inches in any direction. This underwater photo from blackwater diver Ryan Prigmore, of Blue Diver Search and Rescue, shows a cell phone that was recovered from the lake. Prigmore retrieves lost items at night after boaters have lost items overboard while on the lake.

anywhere in Central Texas pretty much is you can’t see your hand in front of your

face. It’s what we call ‘black water diving.’ It’s zero visibility, so you cannot see

anything. It’s strictly by feel,” he said. “Anytime we can reduce the amount of time of a

diver is in the water actively searching for something, obviously it’s a lot more safe.”

TRWD

FROM PAGE C1

district has earned this annual award multiple times during the past several years. The goal is to make accounting information user friendly so that the public can understand it and get an idea of how the district is doing financially.

TRWD was also recognized for financial transparency and governmental accountability in the form of receiving Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller’s office. The district was awarded its first star in October 2021, the second in December 2021, the third star in early 2022, the fourth star in June

2022 and the fifth star in December 2022.

“It’s a nice thing to be recognized for,” Mitchell said about the honors. “Obviously, the biggest win is that the information is out there, and people are using it. But it was really exciting to get recognized for the work that our team and the district put in.”

According to TRWD’s website, the Transparency Stars honored the district in the areas of:

- Traditional finances: outstanding efforts in making spending and revenue information available.
- Debt obligations: having websites that show visual and narrative detail on outstanding debt, tax-supported debt obligations and historical bond elections.

- Contracts and procurement: having websites that show efforts in creating financial transparency around public spending in this area.
- Economic development: providing information about efforts to support economic development in Tarrant County.
- Public Pensions: providing information about public pensions.

The district is one of 15 cities, counties, school districts and special districts in Texas to obtain all five Transparency Stars. More uniquely, TRWD is the only special utility district in the state to have all five stars, Mitchell said.

“Receiving all five Transparency Stars from the Texas Comptroller of Public

Accounts indicates that the Tarrant Regional Water District is among the most financially accountable and fiscally transparent governmental agencies in the state,” TRWD’s Board Vice President James Hill said in a district news release. “This award is the gold standard in the state of Texas and is a direct reflection of the hard work performed by staff and my colleagues on the board to ensure the public receives the accountability it expects and deserves.”

Financial reporting and transparency are important to TRWD and the board, Mitchell said.

“A lot of times, we would get open records requests for that kind of information, and now it’s out there for them,”


Mitchell said. “They don’t have to put a request in and go through the process. We already have the information there for them to see and download and sort in any way they want to use the information. So, I think that’s been very exciting for us to be able to show people that we do care. We want them to know that we understand we’re stewards of their resources, and we’re using it for the best.”

Mitchell attributed these honors to the hard work of the TRWD staff that strived for excellence. Specifically, she bragged on how the information technology team was able to present check run information for when the district pays its vendors each week.


“If you go to our site, our check run information is sortable, and it is uploaded directly after every check run. So, by the next week, it’s almost real time that you’re getting the information of what we’re paying instead of updating at the end of the year or even each month,” she said. “I think the way that they did it makes it just so much easier for the public to come in and know right now what did we spend our money on, who are we spending it with, and that seems to be a lot of the questions that we get.”

For more information about TRWD’s financial reporting and transparency, visit its website at trwd.com or call 817-335-2491.

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WHAT ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

Zebra and Quagga mussels are a small, destructive invasive species that can spread across Texas by hitching a ride on boats and trailers. They grow to only about 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

WHERE ARE INVASIVE MUSSELS?

The following Texas lakes are classified as “infested” with zebra mussels: Austin, Belton, Bridgeport, Brownwood, Buchanan, Canyon, Dean Gilbert (a 45-acre Community Fishing Lake in Sherman), Diversion (private lake downstream of Medina Lake), Eagle Mountain, Georgetown, Granger, Grapevine, Inks, Lady Bird, Lewisville, Livingston, Lyndon B. Johnson, Marble Falls, Medina, O.H. Ivie, Pflugerville, Placid, Randell (local Denison access only), Ray Roberts, Richland Chambers, Stillhouse Hollow, Texoma, Travis, Walter E. Long, and Worth. Invasive mussels or their larvae have been detected on multiple occasions in several lakes, which are designated as “positive.” Lakes Dunlap, Fishing Hole, Lavon, and McQueeney, as well as river reaches downstream on the Colorado, Guadalupe, Lampasas, Leon, Little, Red, and Trinity rivers, are classified as “positive” for zebra mussels and Lake Amistad is classified as “positive” for quagga mussels. Lake Ray Hubbard is classified as “suspect” for zebra mussels.

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

· Clean your boat, trailer and gear by removing all

plants, animals and foreign objects.

- Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets, before leaving the lake.
- Dry the boat and trailer for a week or more before entering another water body. If unable to let it dry for at least a week, wash it with a high-pressure washer and hot (at least 140-degree), soapy water.

TRANSPORTING INVASIVE MUSSELS IS ILLEGAL

Possession or transportation of zebra or quagga mussels in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500. Repeat offenses can be elevated to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, jail time up to 180 days, or both.

Boaters are required to drain all water from their vessel, including live wells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles, before approaching or leaving a water body. This applies to all types and sizes of boats used on fresh waters, effective July 1.

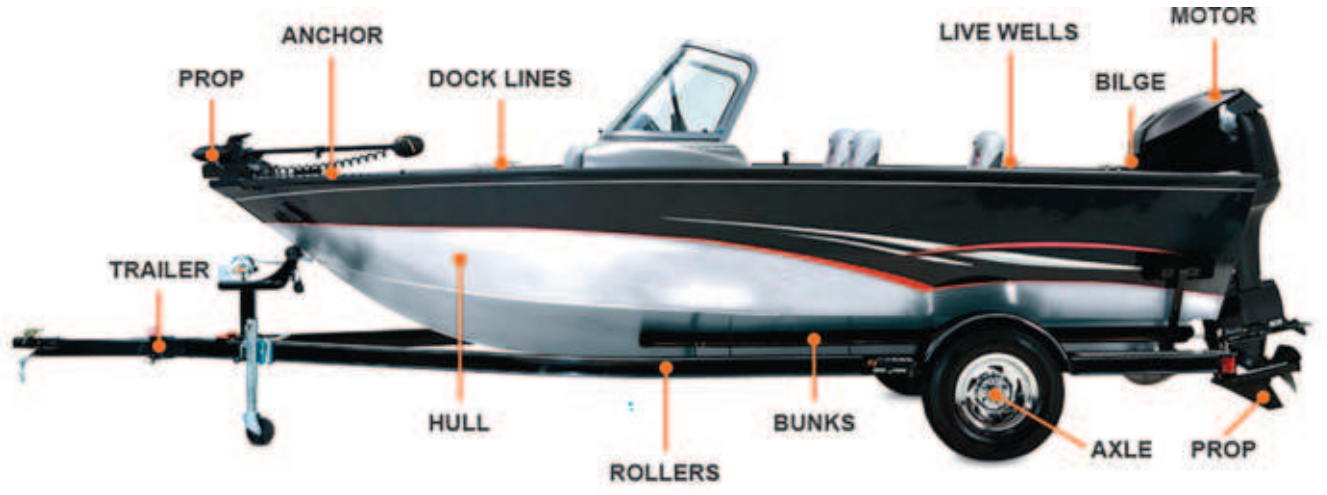
Learn more about regulations related to zebra and quagga mussels.

REPORT A SIGHTING

We need your help to stop the spread of invasive mussels! Please report any new sightings, and if possible, take a picture of the zebra or quagga mussel and record its GPS location.

FACTS ABOUT INVASIVE MUSSELS

Zebra mussels are known to have caused alarming declines in populations of fish, birds and native mussel species and can disrupt a city’s entire water supply system by colonizing the insides of pipelines and restricting the flow of water. Zebra mussels also damage boat hulls, plug water systems used in boat motors, air conditioners and heads and cause naviga-



INVASIVE MUSSELS HIDE HERE

You can’t always see invasive mussels because their larvae are invisible to the naked eye. They can survive for days in water trapped in a boat. The only way to be sure you’re not carrying invasive mussels to another body of water is to always clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer, and gear.

tion buoys to sink. Millions of dollars are spent each year controlling, cleaning and monitoring zebra mussels in other states.

Zebra mussels have a high rate of filtration (especially at high populations) which has led to increased water clarity and sunlight penetration by decreasing the amount of beneficial phytoplankton like diatoms and green algae. Increased sunlight penetration leads to increased water temperature as well as an increased Secchi depths (the depth that light penetrates underwater). This may be deleterious, in that different organisms live within various strata of the water column. Once those strata disappear, so may the organisms. Zebra mussels also feed on zooplankton, and have been associated with their declines as well. Zebra mussels pose a real threat to native mussels by competing for food and attaching to their shells. A zebra mussel colony can eventually smother a native mussel colony.

In addition to their ecological effects, zebra mussels have a negative impact on the economy. Zebra mussels have the ability to adhere to just about any substrate. Due to their sessile nature, once



PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST COUNCIL

Zebra mussels only grow to 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra or quagga mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae per year. Invasive mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging your boat, hindering water recreation and even threatening your water supply.

the veliger larvae has bound to its substrate of choice, mussels develop into adults and are permanently secured via anchors known as byssal threads. These byssal threads allow many zebra mussels to cluster together on various

types of substrates including pipes, boats, boat trailers, buoys and dinghys. High cost has been associated with removing zebra mussels from intake pipes to power plants, piping associated with air conditioning, fire hoses, and

many others as they constrict water flow. The mussels may also sink buoys, destroy fishing equipment, and take over objects left in the water for a long period of time.

Spread the word, not invasive mussels!

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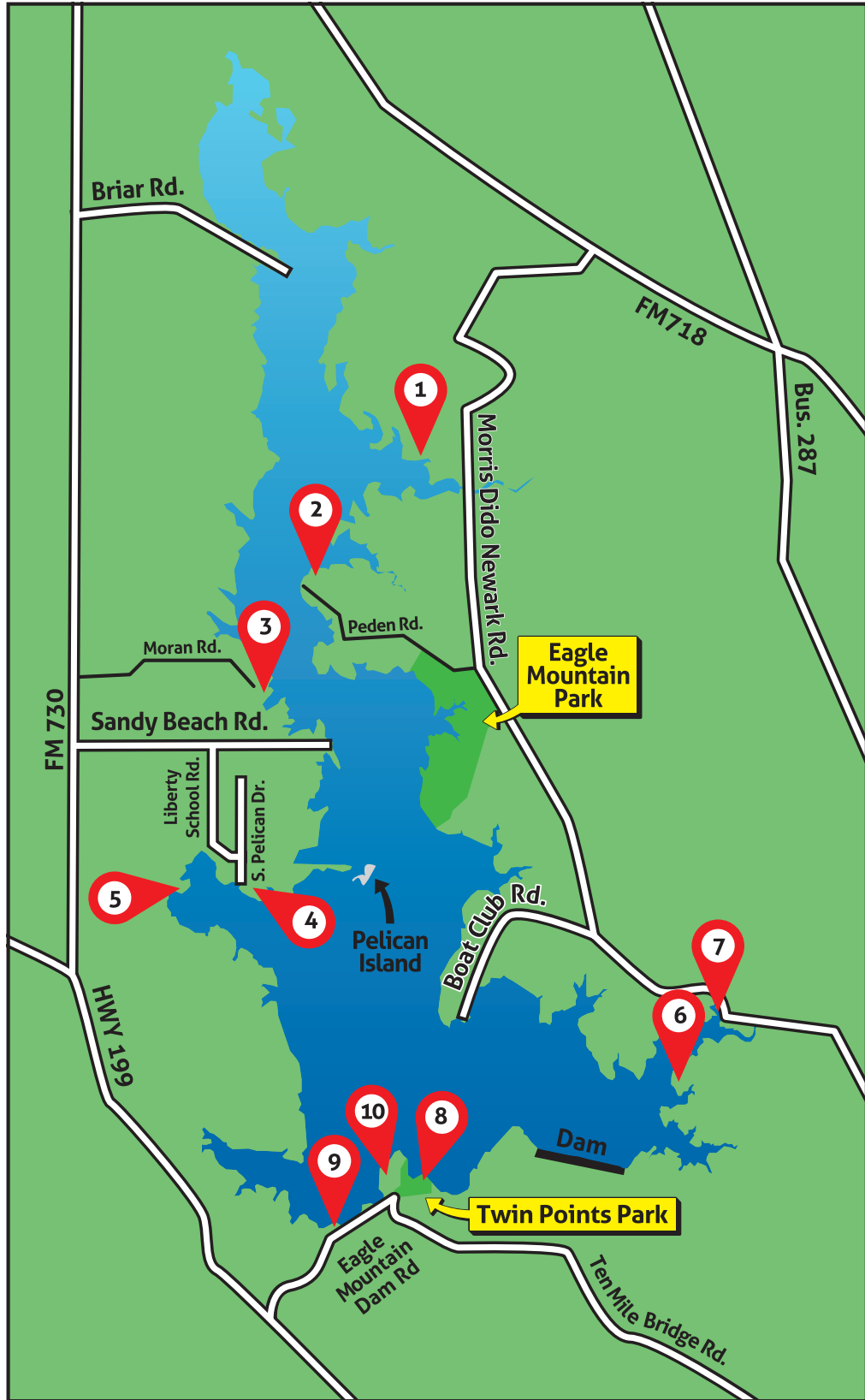
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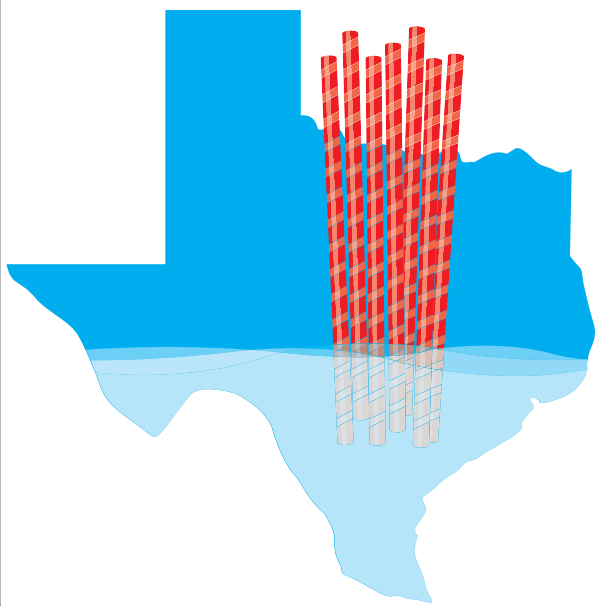


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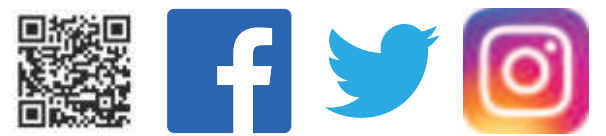


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