

SISD board talks discipline for vaping students

MADelyn EDWARDS
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In her report to the school board, Springtown ISD Deputy Superintendent Lisa Kirkpatrick updated board members on what the district is doing to address students vaping at school.

Kirkpatrick started her report during the Feb. 27 board meeting by saying that administrators had attended a webinar on disciplining students for vaping.

“They did all learn that we are doing a lot of things right,” Kirkpatrick said during the meeting. “We also

learned that we are probably on the lower end of any of our placements. So, we send our kiddos to (in-school suspension) or (disciplinary alternative education program) for three or five days. That’s pretty minimal compared to other districts around us.” Executive Director of

Operations Micheal Chavez said during the meeting that students found with non-THC vapes are sent to in-school suspension for the first and second offenses. Students with THC vapes are sent to the disciplinary alternative education program, which bridges the gap between sus-

pension and expulsion. Springtown High School Principal Melissa Hutchison said during the meeting that only a handful of the students caught vaping are repeat offenders. “We question whether it was the adrenaline rush of not getting caught or if it

truly was addiction, and I do think it’s a blend of both. I think more than not, it’s addiction,” Hutchison said. “I think when we were in school, there was different ways in which students coped, and I think this is just, unfortu-

PLEASE SEE **VAPING** | A4



Springtown honors Black Balloon Day

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA CASTRO

Black balloons were placed at Springtown’s park in honor of Black Balloon Day.

SEE STORY
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Walnut Creek SUD manager says more money needed for improvements

Water rates not expected to increase

MADelyn EDWARDS
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Because of higher costs in construction, Walnut Creek Special Utility District is expected to need more money for water infrastructure improvements than originally estimated.

In July, the SUD board of directors approved two resolutions authorizing applications to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for approval to use certain bond funds. One of those resolutions was to fund water system improvement projects not to exceed \$25 million.

SUD general manager Doug

Carothers said the district was advised to increase the amount on the application to \$40 million because of inflated construction costs. Carothers said the district has educated estimates of how much the projects will cost, but the actual cost won’t be known until the projects attract bids. He also said the district doesn’t have to use the entire amount of the bond funds, but there needs to be enough money to cover the whole cost of the projects.

Obtaining this bond funding does not require an election.

The list of projects to be covered by this bond is ex-

pansive. Carothers named improvements including water treatment plant improvements like ground storage facilities (tanks), water treatment plant expanded disinfection building, rehabilitation on various tanks, larger pumps in some areas, new towers to maintain proper pressures and flows in certain areas, and new water mains in various areas.

Carothers said the district’s infrastructure is aging, and it needs to be upgraded to support the increased growth in the area.

“We may have too small of water mains in certain

PLEASE SEE **WATER** | A4

Reno PD investigates livestock massacre

The slaying was allegedly carried out by two pit bulls

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Reno’s animal control officer is trying to identify two pit bulls that were associated with the slaughter of multiple livestock animals.

During the week of Feb. 27, about 21 goats and lambs were killed allegedly by the pit bulls, Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said.

“Animal Control Officer Joe Harris is working the case. He’s currently talking to people in the area to see if they can identify the dogs,” Stringer said. “We’re getting conflicting stories. Some people tell us that they’re strays. Some people tell us one of them had a collar on.”

If the dogs are owned, Stringer said the owner would be liable for the damages.

Some details of the incident are still unconfirmed by police.

“That seems like an awful

large number of animals to be killed by two dogs. I’m not saying it didn’t happen. I’d say we have to explore other possibilities, too,” Stringer said. “We live in a rural area. It could have been a pack of wild dogs. It could be coyotes. There’s no telling what did it.”

The deputy chief said the pit bulls could’ve been part of a wild dog pack, or they could have come across the livestock after they had already been killed. Stringer added that the livestock’s owner said he saw two pit bulls, and when the owner tried to run them off, they chased him.

“That obviously is an area of concern that we have dogs that are aggressive towards livestock and humans,” he said.

As of March 14, Stringer said Harris had two leads – a pack of about eight dogs that appeared to be un-owned and a pack of coyotes

PLEASE SEE **DOGS** | A3



Student actors-turned-swashbucklers conquer school board meeting

MADelyn EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Styled in pirate-inspired T-shirts with inflatable swords, Springtown Middle School students performed a portion of their one-act play at the Springtown ISD school board meeting on Feb. 27. The students previously competed in the UIL one-act play competition and took home third place. After their performance, the Springtown Middle School one-act play performers posed for a group picture with the SISD school board.



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VOLUME 59, NUMBER 50
Local, zone(s) 3 sections, 24 pages

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Springtown FRC to celebrate first birthday

Event to take place
Thursday, March 30

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The Family Resource Center in Springtown is having a party, and everyone is invited.

The center will celebrate its first year in Springtown with a free event on March 30. People are welcome to visit the center at 314 E. Fifth Terrace that day anytime between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to enjoy refreshments. Activities for children — including a group activity for kids, face painting and spending time on the Fun Bus, a kids' gym — will take place between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. There will also be a raffle for items donated by the community.

The center's Community Alignment Coordinator, Jeanne Stevens, said she wants people — especially children — to have a good time at the event.

"We want to recognize the families in the community," Stevens said. "We've been here right at a year, and it's just exciting to see where we've come from day one to where we're at now."

About a year ago, the Family Resource Center in Springtown opened with a simple goal to support area families with children up to six years old. The center is funded by a grant from the Department of Family and Protective Services under the branch of Prevention

and Early Intervention. It is part of Help Me Grow North Texas, which aims to ensure that early childhood services for young kids in North Texas are high quality and well connected, according to a previous Epigraph article.

The Family Resource Center offers resource navigation, early childhood developmental screenings, basic needs supplies, parenting education classes and groups, parenting books and materials, and parent and child activity groups, among other free services. In addition to Parker County, the center can serve families in Wise, Tarrant, Palo Pinto and other bordering counties.

Stevens wrote in her report to the state for the second quarter of the fiscal year that the center had 30 families enrolled in the center's services, impacted 63 families with one-time navigation services, had 137 kids attend a group at least once and helped 21 families with basic needs, including funding for diapers, wipes, groceries and electric bills.

For the FRC staff, their biggest reward is helping families, Stevens said.

"We have to report the numbers to the state to show where their money is going and what we're doing to impact the community, but to us, it's seeing the results with the families feeling better when they leave than when they came in, in any way," she



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Mieke Brock, who oversees parent education/parent engagement groups at the Family Resource Center, lets every child in the Kindermusik group strike the triangle. Kindermusik is a group for young children that involves music, dancing, stretching and play.

said.

Even though the center's target audience is families with children ages as old as six, Stevens said no one will be turned away from the event on March 30 or the center in general.

"We want everybody to

feel welcome, whether they have kids or not," she said. "Anybody in the community, we want them to feel like they are very much welcome to come."

Stevens said she wants people to know that they don't have to have a specific

need to visit the center, and she would also like to bring awareness of the center to more families.

"We are hearing some of these families coming to us and saying they don't know anybody in the community, so this is a great place

to come and meet people and give us input," she said. "What would they like to see us do in their community? That's important to us. We want to hear what the community has to bring to us, and we try to make it work and make it happen."

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Deadline to apply for Springtown Education Foundation scholarships is April 5

STAFF REPORTS

Springtown High School seniors have until April 5 to turn in applications to be considered for Springtown Education Foundation college scholarships.

The SHS Counseling Department sent information on how to apply via email to the SHS seniors. Students can either print out the ap-

plication and return it to the Counseling Department or fill it out online. For more information, contact the SHS Counseling Department at 817-220-3041.

Last year, the Springtown Education Foundation awarded \$37,600 to 33 seniors.

Springtown Education Foundation awards scholarships to seniors each May fol-

lowing a year of fundraisers and perpetual endowments from local businesses, organizations and individuals. The foundation's main fundraiser is the annual golf tournament in June. Many scholarships are given out from families or individuals who wish to fund memorial scholarships for loved ones or to honor someone in the community.

The money raised is put into an account and held until the following May scholarships.

The funds received are entrusted to the education foundation to select recipients by the foundation's scholarship committee.

The Springtown Education Foundation was organized in 1992 to support Springtown ISD's educational programs.

Along with awarding scholarships each year, the foundation provides funds beyond the normal operating budget for classroom programs and activities for students and staff. It is the mission of the foundation to provide scholarships for academic achievement and leadership opportunities as well as to provide innovative teaching grants to

enhance the quality of education being provided to SISD students.

The Springtown Education Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity, so anyone wanting to fund a scholarship through the foundation or donate can email the foundation at sef@springtown.net, or call the SISD Administration Office at 817-220-1700.

Springtown Middle School students recognized for UIL performance

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Springtown ISD board of trustees recognized Springtown Middle School students for their UIL academic performance at the school board meeting on Feb. 27. The UIL team won first place overall at a meet in Azle.



Sudoku

MARCH 16, 2023

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

DOGS

FROM PAGE A1

have been reported in the area.

Stringer said the options

for Reno-area residents to dispose of dead livestock are to bury the bodies or take them to a Parker County disposal site.

"As far as a place in the city to dispose of them, we don't

have a place to dispose of any number of animals that large," he said.

Stringer recommended that anyone who comes across aggressive dogs should call 911.

Solution to last week's puzzle

MARCH 9, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

March 20-24, 2023
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

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

PK - 12th Breakfast **BREAKFAST: Everyday** - Various Juices & Cereals, Toast, Milk Variety, Fruit, Jelly Assortment, Buttermilk Biscuit, Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Monday Mini Pancakes, Applesauce **Tuesday** Chicken Biscuit, Pineapple **Wednesday** EggStravaganza, Blueberries **Thursday** Breakfast Pizza, Apple Slices **Friday** Breakfast Pizza, Apple Slices

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

Monday Popcorn Chicken, Steakfingers, Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Craisins **Tuesday** Beef Tamales, Hot Dog, Black beans, Broccoli, Rosey, Applesauce **Wednesday** Chicken & Waffles, Tator Tots, Green Beans, Blueberries **Thursday** Open Chicken Pot Pie, Ck Fried Steak Sandwich, Fresh Carrots, Fiesta Sticks, Cinnamon Apples **Friday** Pepperoni Pizza, Crunchy Fish Sticks, Roll, Fresh Broccoli, Banana

5th - 12th Lunch **Lunch: Everyday** - Choice of one meat, two vegetables, and one grain/bread with milk. Variety of milk is offered every day for breakfast and lunch.

Mon EggStravaganza, Sausage or Chicken Patty, Biscuit Hashbrown, Broccoli, Blueberries **Tues** Mac & Cheese, Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Glazed Carrots, Craisins, Applesauce **Weds** Reg or Spicy or Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Tator Tots, Green Beans, Strawberries, Pineapple **Thurs** Beef Enchilada Bank, Corn Dog, Ranchero Beans, Fresh Broccoli, Spanish Rice, Apple Slices, Applesauce, Blueberries **Fri** Pepperoni Pizza, Catfish Po'Boy, Baked Potato (Ham), Baked Beans, Rosey Applesauce, Banana

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Walk Across Texas! Parker County kicking off 2023 Challenge

STAFF REPORTS

Walk Across Texas! Parker County 2023 wellness and fitness challenge will kick off on March 27. The program hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Parker County will run from March 27-May 21. It is a free eight-week program to help people of all ages establish the habit of regular physical activity.

The challenge is for teams of up to eight people to walk 832 miles, the distance from Orange, Texas to El Paso. Walk Across Texas is a fun, free and flexible way for our county to get active. A team can have up to eight people and can include family, co-workers, friends, church members, organizations, neighbors or anyone.

Participants can log miles walking or other ways with an equivalency chart including: walking, jogging, biking, lawn mowing, even aerobics and other activities. To begin Across Texas, here are the steps: 1. Form a team with a team captain. Go to howdyhealth.org. Use league code: for adult teams: watl-230303-78539. For youth: watLY-230221-34554.

2. Once your team is created a team code will be generated for your team members to us to join your team. The team must be created first. 3. Teams of up to eight members register individually in Howdy Health and join the team using a team code given by the team captain.

4. Youth teams may have any number of members. However it is encouraged that schools and youth groups have several teams, either by class or grade. 5. Members report individually their mileage for total team distance. 6. Members will receive weekly e-newsletter with health tips and recipes as well as weekly challenges and events throughout the eight-week challenge.

7. Join Facebook: Walk Across Texas Parker County. There will be weekly updates. For more information, contact the Parker County Extension office at 817-598-6168.

VAPING

FROM PAGE A1

nately, the way they're currently coping." Hutchison also said administrators are working on informing students that if they are caught vaping a substance with THC, law enforcement will be involved. "Not every student understands that when they're in possession of THC, it's not just a school-related matter. Now, it's a police-related matter as well," she said. "We've talked about ways we can make sure that the students are truly aware, not just at

the high school but at the lower levels prior to, of just exactly how difficult life will become when that encounter happens as well." Detectors have been installed at SHS to catch students in the act of vaping. At the SISD board meeting in November, former superintendent Mike Kelley said installing vaping detectors had resulted in more students enrolled in the disciplinary alternative education program. Kirkpatrick said the alternative education program is becoming full, and the district needs a plan moving forward. The high school and middle school principals

have helped by sharing staff with the disciplinary alternative education program. "(Assistant principals have) done a really, really good job of trying to get these things out our kids' hands, and so we don't want to tell them that they can't send their kids to DAEP, but we know that there has to be a solution, too," she said. Kirkpatrick said the district is also working on implementing the curriculum "CATCH My Breath" during in-school suspension. She reported that Counseling and Behavioral Health Services Coordinator Tiffany Millsap is training high school and middle

school counselors to begin using "CATCH My Breath" curriculum for students who are in in-school suspension because of vaping. "We've been missing that component," Kirkpatrick said about the curriculum. She added that those in in-school suspension are "going on with their day-to-day procedures and classwork, not anything to deal with addressing the issue." Kirkpatrick said the district is exploring other vaping intervention programs to implement in the disciplinary alternative education program. "That program will be implemented in addition to

group counseling with (secondary behavior specialist Rebecca) Zbyski and a referral to THRIVE (systems of care program through Pecan Valley) that will provide additional counseling and support to students once they return to campus," Kirkpatrick wrote in her report to the school board. Hutchison reminded the board that SISD isn't the only school district dealing with students vaping. "I talk to other principals, and they're having the same issues," she said. "It's just figuring out how to connect ourselves to networks of support to make sure that our

students have the best support necessary as well." During Kirkpatrick's report, school board members asked questions and offered suggestions. Board member Gary Veazey praised the district's efforts to add curriculum to in-school suspension. "I think the idea of adding curriculum during that time so you're not just coming in with their other stuff but tackling the issue, I just think that's a great part of this whole thing," he said. Queuing laughter, board member Tootie Hall added, "If you make it boring enough, they won't want to come back."

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

areas that won't be able to handle future growth or it's really struggling to handle the increased growth we currently have," he said. "The pump stations or the towers

that need to be put in place so that we make sure people have good, sound, reliable potable water at proper pressures and flows. The same goes back all the way to the water treatment plant, making sure that we're able to treat the water that's needed to be provided."

Carothers said it will take several years to complete the projects. He also said the district is expected to complete the bond projects without raising rates for customers. The way the bond process works is that engineers and financial advisers come up with a resolution

for the board to sign, and once it has been signed, the resolution is sent to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for approval. "Part of the approval process is can we afford it. We believe we can without raising any rates on this particu-

lar project, which is really cool that the public has had a board that stayed on top of their finances rate as it's really rare in the nation how good of a job this board has done," the general manager said. "This board has done an incredible job. It's impressive."

Carothers said the board approved of the concept of the resolution, but it still needs to be signed sometime in the future. It is unclear when the SUD will hear back from TCEQ. Once TCEQ approves the resolution, the district can move forward with the bond sale.

Kid Scoop

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POINTS OF VIEW

Viewpoints

A balanced news report provides different points of view about the news.

There is a highway that starts in Alaska and ends at the southern tip of Argentina in South America. Or does it start in Argentina and end in Alaska? It depends on your point of view.

This silly news article is about Popcorn declaring itself the best movie snack. This is Popcorn's viewpoint. Clearly not everyone has the same opinion, so the reporter interviewed a couple of other snacks to get their point of view.

Which movie snack does Red Licorice think is the best?

Why?

Which movie snack does Chocolate Mints think is best?

Why?

If you were interviewed for this article, what would you say?

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Reporting: It's all about BALANCE!

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This is not real news. It's just for fun!

SNACK STARS DAILY

IS POPCORN REALLY THE BEST MOVIE SNACK?

By Reed Enwright
STAFF REPORTER

HOLLYWOOD — In an interview Tuesday, Popcorn declared itself the best movie snack in the world.

"Not to brag, but I'm the best-selling movie snack of all time. Obviously, people really love me!"

While signing autographs for fans, Popcorn added, "I'm crispy, buttery, salty and delicious. I've been a movie tradition for generations!"

Red Licorice was asked to comment on Popcorn's statement. "It's true that movies wouldn't be the same without Popcorn," Red Licorice said. "But with all that crunching, Popcorn can be kind of noisy. I'm sweet, tasty and quiet, which is good in a movie theater."

After hearing Red Licorice's comments, Chocolate Mints said, "I'm quiet, too. And I'm in a box that you can close and

take home if you don't finish during the movie. I'm delicious and convenient."

Dismissing concerns about noise, a confident Popcorn replied that "people with good manners know how to eat popcorn quietly in a movie theater."

"Besides," Popcorn added with a grin, "Chocolate Mints can melt in a warm car ride home. Popcorn never melts."

Graph It!

Ask some friends which movie snack they like the best and why. Then write a short article explaining which movie snack is the favorite among your friends. Make a graph to show your results.

POPCORN	RED LICORICE	CHOCOLATE MINTS

What's Outside the Picture?

Look at a photo in the newspaper. Cut it out and glue it in the center of a blank piece of paper. Think about what is outside the edges of the photo. Draw or list what you think is outside what you see in the photo.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Choose a Photo

The photos that go with a news article can give more information and create a feeling about a news event. Which photo would you choose for the above article? Cut it out and glue it into the box in the article above.

Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

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

BALANCE	G N K G R A P H S V
BOX	S O J Q S T E Q D L
FRIENDS	T I S T B N C M N X
GRAPH	L N N E A I I T E P
HOME	E I A I L O R R I O
LICORICE	M P C U A P O U R P
MELTS	N O K Q N W C E F C
MINTS	A E S M C E I M X O
NEWS	U O W X E I L O J R
OPINION	I R M S L V B H D N
POPCORN	
QUIET	
SNACKS	
TRUE	
VIEWPOINT	

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Advertising Points of View

Look at three ads in today's newspaper. Write down the name of the company advertising, what they are selling and why they think people should spend money with them.

Standards Link: Compare and contrast points of view.

Write On!

I'm a Mosquito!

Write about a mosquito from a mosquito's point of view.

Kid Scoop Together

Fastest Snack

Who will reach the movie theater snack bar first? Race against a family member!

It's "Bluebonnets in Bloom"; send us your photo and win!

It is my favorite time of year, and I don't think I am the only person who feels that way. We live in Texas, and it is time for the bluebonnets to bloom! This means thousands, if not millions of people will seek out bluebonnets which have bloomed and take photos. Over the years I have seen a great many bluebonnet photos. Some are of whole families, some of children, occasionally of the family pet in a patch of bluebonnets, and sometimes simply a beautiful Texas landscape photo which includes bluebonnets.



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.

The bluebonnet is our state flower, and other than a cowboy hat and the "lone star", I know of no other symbol which says "Texas", more than bluebonnets.

With this important rite of spring upon us and in order to celebrate the event, we decided to have a contest at each one of our newspaper

outlets. All our staff believed readers would be as excited about "Bluebonnets in Bloom", as we are. Starting the week of March 20, we are asking folks to send us their favorite bluebonnet photo. It does not have to be taken this year, so you can use an older photograph as well as those taken this year. Go

to your newspaper's website and click on the link to the "Bluebonnets in Bloom". You can upload your photo and will then be entered in our "Bluebonnets in Bloom" contest.

When you submit your entry, it will appear as part of the "bluebonnets gallery" on the newspapers website, making all entries available for viewing to the public. Beginning the week of March 20, the newspaper will select a weekly winner, and will select additional weekly winners for a period of 5 weeks. Each weekly winner will

receive a "Bluebonnets in Bloom" t shirt, recognition on the newspaper's social media sites and website and a free years subscription to the newspaper. At the end of the 5 weeks of weekly winners, a Grand Prize will be awarded and the winner shall receive \$100 cash, a Bluebonnet t-shirt, and a years long subscription to the newspaper. The winning photo will adorn the front page of your newspaper!

We hope you have a great time seeing some tremendous entries. I am sure some will make you smile because

of their jocularly, and others will take your breath away because of their beauty. I am looking forward to seeing them all and eventually announcing the grand prize winner. Tell your friends, dig out those old photos, go and take new photos but let's have some fun and show how Texans feel about their beloved bluebonnets.

Thought for the day: If heaven does not have a large blooming field of bluebonnets, not sure I want to go.

Until next time I will keep ridin' the storm out.
sam@hcnews.com

We will understand it better by and by

"We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time; somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine; in that land of perfect day, when the mists are rolled away, we will understand it better by and by."

I was today years old when I found out that verse existed — in a song I have sung for as long as I can remember.

Every version of the song I have ever sung started with this verse:

"Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand all the ways of God would lead us to that blessed promised land; but he guides us with



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.

his eye, and we'll follow till we die, for we'll understand it better by and by."

At least the refrain was familiar: "By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home, we will tell the story how we've overcome, for we'll understand it better by and by." (Hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, 1905).

I thought of that song this morning when I read John 13:7.

"Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'"

There is a particular context to this verse in the Bible narrative, but it got my ponderer going.

How many times in my life

has that been the case!

I don't have a clue what God is doing, but I'm trusting that I "will understand it better by and by."

There are so many things that happen in our lives that we chalk up to coincidence or chance. We think, "Well, how about that! I never imagined things would go that way."

Sometimes those things are great and we celebrate them.

Sometimes those things are not-so-great and we wonder what went wrong.

And sometimes it just absolutely makes no sense — and that can make us a little uncomfortable, so we start

trying to figure it out.

Sometimes we get answers; sometimes we don't. That's life.

But there is something within us that really wants there to be more to life than chance.

Here's what I choose to believe: God is always at work behind the scenes. He's always up to something. And often — in fact, more often than not — I really don't realize what He's doing. I'm just trusting that one of two things will happen:

Either I will understand it later or I will reach a point that I no longer have a need

to understand it.

God is under no obligation to let me know what He's doing. That's what faith is for.

Trusting in the dark. Resting in the silence. Leaning forward into the unknown. Taking the next step.

There's something amazingly exhilarating about that kind of trust and so far I've survived every time I've had to exercise it.

If you're reading this, you have also survived every step into the unknown. It's a lot easier when you trust His unseen hand.

Be amazing today, my friend.

Spotlight on BUSINESS MARCH

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Marcia Garcia, left, with Amy Walker

Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce

Support Local, Shop Local

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce is a place for community and businesses to come together.

The Chamber partners with the City of Springtown and Springtown ISD to build a strong, quality community and workforce for future generations.

The Chamber is comprised of businesses and individuals in and around Springtown. Together, they get involved with projects and events that support the local community.

Amy Walker is the Chamber's executive director, with Marcia Garcia and Terri Toone as administrative assistants. Together, with many volunteers, Walker and team assist Chamber members out of their office located at 112 South Main St., on the west side of the Square.

The Chamber is a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization and raises money through membership fees and fundraising events.

The next big fundraiser for the Chamber is the 12th Annual Clay Shoot happening Friday, April 14th. Registration is now open for teams and individual shooters. The entry fee is \$500 for a team of five, or \$100 per

person. This includes 100 clays per shooter, earplugs and lunch. Sponsorship opportunities for the Clay Shoot are also open.

Another major event for the Chamber — the biggest of the year! — is the annual Wild West Festival, taking place Saturday, Sept. 16. This will be the 39th year for the event. The Wild West Festival is a day of family fun and a chance for locals to support their community and businesses. This event draws thousands of visitors each year with a variety of fun events, including gun-fighters, a parade, and children's area with games and rides. It's also a great chance to check out hundreds of vendor booths with a variety of goods for sale.

The Chamber is an excellent partner with Springtown area businesses and individuals who have the goal of supporting local and shopping local throughout the year.

For more information about sponsorships, upcoming events, and memberships, call the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce at 817-220-7828. They're right on the square and ready to visit with you Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Helen Robinson 1943-2023

Helen Kathleen Martin Robinson 79, of Peaster, departed from this life on Friday, March 10, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2023, from 5-8pm at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Home, followed by a private burial service at a later date.

Born on November 19, 1943, to Oliver Windle Martin and Clairis Auvenshine Martin in Veal Station, Texas, Helen was raised on the family dairy farm. She was a graduate of Springtown High School class of 1962.

After high school, Helen worked at Howards Café in Springtown, where she met her husband David Mastin Robinson. David served in the United States Air Force. They were stationed in Austin, Texas when they welcomed their firstborn son Larry Martin Robinson. They later returned to Parker County, living on Shadle Hill Road where their daughter Valynda Kathleen Robinson was born. David and Helen built their family home in the Lago Lindo community of Peaster, Texas. Helen and David were active members and devout supporters of their local community. Helen was a founding member of the Peaster Athletic Booster Club, and they were awarded with the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree for their support of the Peaster Agriculture program and the Peaster FFA Livestock show.

Over the years Helen worked at various companies including the Weatherford Democrat, Perry Equipment Company in Mineral Wells, and she retired from CD Hartnett in Weatherford after several years of service.

Helen and David enjoyed many years of memories with their family and grandchildren at their home in Peaster. Helen spent her years in retirement doing what she loved, caring for her grandchildren, and cheering them on at their various school and extracurricular activities. She was a matriarch, mother, and Grannie to not only her family, but anyone that needed



her love and support, including the players and families of the softball community. She offered encouragement and advice to all that she met, whether they asked for it or not.

Helen was preceded in death by her mother Clairice Auvenshine Martin, father Oliver Windle Martin; step-mother Ruth Thompson Martin; nephew Rodney Windle Martin, and step-brothers Johnnie and Lonnie Thompson.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 59 years, David Robinson; son Larry Robinson and wife Carlie of Valley Mills; daughter Valynda Hartgraves and husband Jon of Lipan; Helen's pride and joy - her beloved grandchildren Miranda McKinzie and partner Malik Garza, Bailey McKinzie, Daniel McKinzie, Sydney Swearingin, Cash Swearingin, Eric Hartgraves, John Hartgraves, and dearest great-grandson Kai Garza; brother Buddy Martin and wife Diane of Springtown; sister Barbara Williams and husband Charles of Poolville; sister Wanda Parris of Fort Worth; brother-in-law Bill Robinson and wife Nancy of Comanche; sister-in-law Luan Jennings and husband Darrell of Poolville; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made in honor of Helen to the The AUsome Allen Foundation, Peaster Athletic Booster Club, or Peaster FFA Alumni Association.

The Springtown Epigraph, March 16, 2023 Edition

Pauline "Lou" Woolsey 1931-2023

Pauline Louise "Lou" Pappas Woolsey, 91, went to be with the Lord Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Funeral is 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 18, 2023, in Greenwood Chapel. Entombment Greenwood Mausoleum. Visitation 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Greenwood.

Lou was born in Fort Worth to Theodore and Katherine Tesar Pappas on July 23, 1931.

She worked for Dr. Leon Smith for over 20 years. She was a licensed massage therapist with her own business, Azle Massage Therapy, for 45 years, until she retired at the age of 90.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 58 years, Michael D. Woolsey; sons, Terry Michael, Michael James Reed and Thomas Allen Reed; sisters, Helene, Irene, Stella, Christine and Alice; and brother, Ted



Pappas. Survivors are children, Larry C. Reed and wife, Diane, Russell D. Reed and wife, Patti, and Kenneth W. Reed and wife, Regina; sister, Sophia Garbin and husband, Tom; brother, Tony Pappas; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

The Springtown Epigraph, March 16, 2023 Edition

James "Mike" Blevins 1958-2023

James Michael Blevins went to be with his Lord on March 5, 2023.

Memorial service is 6 p.m. March 18 at 552 Jaybird Rd.

Born in Silver Springs Maryland, Mike was raised in Warren Ohio with five siblings. He came to Texas in 1979 and met his wife of 36 years; he raised his family in the Springtown/Azle area and worked as a mechanic/ asphalt paver, and loved fishing.

Mike is preceded in death by parents Donald and

Margaret Blevins, and brother Donald Blevins, Jr. of Warren, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife Janet Blevins; daughter Jennifer Hall, and granddaughter Shelbie Steele of Springtown, Texas; siblings John and Dottie Bettiker, Jeff and Mary Rusnak, Buff and Ann Gall of Warren, Ohio, Robert and Lisa Blevins of Vienna, Ohio; many nieces, nephews, and many friends.

The Springtown Epigraph, March 16, 2023 Edition

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Thank You

Sometimes a thank you, even with a hug, is not enough for showing our gratitude and appreciation for the kind, caring, and compassion for our mother you showed her during her final days. We would like to acknowledge Dr. Shirley McMillan and Krista with Texas Health, Diana, Patricia, and Betty with Heart to Heart Hospice, also Lupe, Brenda, Cristina, Beverly, Kenny, Jordan and Joyce with Azle Harris. A special hug with love to Evelyn and Kathy Pappas.

Love, **The Lou Woolsey Family**

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House pushes armed officer at all schools

HOUSE PUSHES ARMED OFFICER AT ALL SCHOOLS

Under legislation prioritized by House Speaker Dade Phelan, every Texas school would have an armed police officer, and aspiring teachers would receive extra support.

The Dallas Morning News reported the bill would also provide \$15,000 in annual funding for safety measures for each school in the state. Another bill would increase the annual allotment per student for safety measures from \$10 to \$100.

Another House measure is aimed at improving teacher retention and recruitment, The Morning News reported. The measure, sponsored by state Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, would create a new grant to help prospective teachers pursuing special education or bilingual certification, and would increase funding for educator mentoring. Special education and bilingual teacher positions are especially hard to fill in Texas.



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.

RIISING CAR INSURANCE RATES CAUSING STICKER SHOCK

Average statewide auto insurance rates are up nearly 24% over last year, according to a report by the Texas Standard. That is the highest increase in at least 20 years, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. That comes on top of increased costs for vehicles both new and used, and higher fuel costs.

Michael Schnurman, a business columnist with The Morning News, was interviewed on the Standard and had this to say, in part:

"There are several elements that play into it. One... is the higher values of cars and used cars in particular

— they really shot up during the pandemic," he said. "But the claims are also up a lot... When driving resumed, the number of accidents and the severity of accidents has really been a lot higher. If you look at fatalities, I think they were up 18%."

Schnurman suggested consumers shop around for auto insurance and look for discounts for bundling it with homeowners' insurance or multiple vehicles on the same account.

PUC RECOMMENDS FINE AGAINST POWER COMPANY

The Public Utility Commission has recommended that the Texas-New Mexico Power Company pay a \$1.74 million fine for inaccurate estimates of its custom-

ers' electric usage.

In a report released last week, The PUC said the power company failed to correct a violation of an order to install new meters that can be read remotely in a timely manner.

The commission said "TNMP's new meter rollout was significantly delayed," resulting in the utility "estimating thousands of meters for months on end."

The investigation found that TNMP was given three-years' notice that the "communication backbone" of its metering system was going to be discontinued by its third-party provider but failed to produce a plan until halfway through that timeframe. It also failed to have a backup plan in case its vendor could not provide the 170,000 new meters on schedule, according to the PUC.

WOMEN SUE STATE OVER ABORTION BAN

Five women are suing the state, saying its near-total abortion ban resulted in them being denied abortions de-

spite complications in their pregnancies that put their lives and fetuses at risk. The Austin American-Statesman reported the Center for Reproductive Rights filed the suit, which asks the courts to clarify what qualifies as a "medical emergency" exception in the law.

"Politicians in Texas are prohibiting health care that they don't understand; they could do something but they're not, and it's killing us," Lauren Miller, one of the plaintiffs, said. "It shouldn't be controversial for an individual to make health care decisions for themselves in consultation with their doctor. But you can't get that in Texas anymore."

The Statesman reported that Miller was pregnant with twins when doctors told her one of the babies had a severe genetic condition and was not going to survive, which threatened her life and the life of the other baby. She ended up traveling to Colorado to have an abortion and is scheduled to give birth

to the healthy remaining twin this month.

DROUGHT MAP SPREADS IN PARTS OF STATE

Drought conditions by the end of February covered 62% of the state, up nine percentage points from a month earlier, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Drought-free areas include all of East Texas up to Dallas County to the west and Jefferson County to the south. The most severe drought conditions are in the far northern edge of the Panhandle, the counties surrounding San Antonio, and nearly all of South Texas.

"The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service is optimistic for East and North Central Texas," Wentzel wrote. "Through the end of May, that part of the state is expected to remain drought-free. Unfortunately, drought is expected to expand in the rest of the state."

WC Academic Support Center awarded top certifications

STAFF REPORTS

The internationally recognized College Reading and Learning Association has awarded certification to Weatherford College's Academic Support Center as a Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 certified tutor training program.

According to a Weatherford College news release, the Academic Support Center is committed to "providing high-quality training to its tutors and ensuring that they are well-equipped to assist students in achieving academic success."

"We are thrilled to receive

this certification from the CRLA," Education Department Chairperson Shannon Stoker said in the press release. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Academic Support Center staff and tutors, who strive to provide the best possible support to our students."

The College Reading and Learning Association has almost 1,300 members and more than 2,000 certified training programs worldwide.

The Academic Support Center created a tutor training program that is in line with the association's rigorous standards and has

finished the International Tutor Training Program Certification peer review process, according to the press release. By virtue of earning the certification, the Academic Support Center has met the College Reading and Learning Association's high standards for tutor selec-

tion, training, direct service and evaluation as an integral part of their overall tutoring program.

Visit wc.edu/current-students/academic/ace/index.php online for more information about the Academic Support Center and its services.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA CASTRO

Joe Castro, one of the founders of the overdose awareness group "We ARE Our Brothers Keeper," hung up a black balloon for Black Balloon Day, which aims to bring attention to overdose deaths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA CASTRO

A black balloon appears at the Springtown Public Library on March 6 for Black Balloon Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA CASTRO

People hang black balloons at Howell's Western Café to bring attention to overdose deaths.

Springtown honors Black Balloon Day

MADelyn EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Black balloons appeared across Springtown on March 6 in honor of Black Balloon Day, a national and international event to bring awareness to overdose deaths.

According to Overdose Lifeline's website, Black Balloon Day aims to shed light on the issue of providing support to people struggling with substance use disorder and their loved ones.

Some people use Black Balloon Day as a chance to memorialize their family members or friends who died of overdose.

Jessica Castro, one of the founders of the overdose awareness group "We ARE Our Brother's Keeper," led the effort in Springtown to hang up black balloons on March 6.

"Let's honor all those lost to addiction and overdose and start conversations," Castro wrote in the "We ARE Our Brother's Keeper" Facebook group. "Hang your balloons high and don't be afraid to share your story. (You) just don't realize how many people are affected by addiction until (you) start that conversation. No one is alone! We are all in this TOGETHER!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA CASTRO

Jessica Castro, one of the founders of the overdose awareness group "We ARE Our Brothers Keeper," led the effort in Springtown to hang up black balloons on March 6. Black balloons were hung at the group's community resource center at 824 E. State Highway 199.

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Springtown soccer boys end season at home

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Defeating Lake Worth in the next-to-last game of the soccer season gave hope to the Springtown boys.

Maybe they'd make the playoffs, after all.

To make it happen, they needed to beat Decatur on March 10 in the final regular-season game. Instead, the Eagles prevailed 6-0, and Springtown's season ended in front of a supportive hometown crowd at Porcupine Stadium.

It was Senior Night, and eight players walked onto the field with relatives to celebrate their final high school soccer game. An emcee's voice resonated across

the stadium, informing fans about the seniors' hopes for the future.

Ricardo Arias plans to open a flooring company. His favorite soccer memories were the "fun times we had at practice." Arias is proud of the "games we won and for all the teammates that worked so hard." His advice to future players is to "always be ready to play soccer" and "pay attention to the coach."

Cameron Cockrell will serve in the United States Navy and "live a successful life." His favorite accomplishment was scoring the game-winning goal against Lake Worth. His advice to future players: "It doesn't matter how many minutes you get, it's what you do with them."

Ashton Day plans to attend college on scholarship, study radiology, and work at a hospital. His favorite memories involved the bus rides home after victories. His advice: "Don't give up when you're down in the game."

Jose Espinoza plans to attend Lincoln College of Technology and study to become a diesel mechanic. He will remember the "games we won and all the hard work we put into this sport." Advice: "Try your best and don't give up."

Cameron Gaston plans to work in the elevator industry. He is proud of winning the district title in cross-country and qualifying for

PLEASE SEE **SOCCER** | B3



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

From left, Ashton Day and assistant coach Stephen Moline celebrate after Senior Night.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Cameron Gaston's advice for future soccer players is to "play for each other and not for yourself; you can't win without your teammates."

Springtown Lady Porcupines enter playoffs as third seed

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown High School's soccer girls lost their final game of the regular season 1-0 to Decatur on March 10.

The Lady Porcupines had locked down a playoff spot already, but they would have loved to knock off big bad Decatur before the playoffs began.

Springtown finished 5-4-1 in District 8-4A competition, earning third place behind undefeated Decatur (10-0) and second-place Bridgeport (8-2).

Before the final game, the Lady Pines celebrated Senior Night at Porcupine Stadium to honor the five upperclassmen on the roster.

Areli Araujo plans to earn her cosmetology license and attend college to become a certified medical assistant. Her advice to future soccer players: "Cherish every minute of it."

Amira Neri will tackle an associate degree at Weatherford College, transfer to a larger school to earn a bachelor's degree, and become a bilingual teacher. Her advice: "Buy into the team bonding moments because the season will go by fast."

Aubrey Mueller participated in several sports, including wrestling, cross-country, soccer, and powerlifting. She served as a student trainer on the football team and was a member of the National Honor Society. Her plans include attending Midwestern State University to study athletic training. The accomplishment she appreciated most as a soccer player was hearing opposing coaches tell their teams to "watch out for a number 17." Mueller's advice to future players is, don't



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

From left, seniors Aubrey Mueller and Amira Neri helped the Lady Porcupines qualify for the playoffs.

let anyone stop you from doing what you love and "always keep your head high."

Diana Perez was recently certified as a medical assistant and plans to attend Texas Woman's University

and major in nutrition. Advice: "No matter how many times you fail, never give up, always try your best, always remember who you are and where you came from."

Jocelyn Diaz plans to at-

tend Weatherford College and earn an associate degree. Her favorite memories of soccer were singing during bus rides and laughing with teammates. She is most proud of scoring most of her

goals with her non-dominant foot. Advice: "Always cherish the good and the bad days because you won't realize how much they really mean until you don't have them anymore."

Just before their final regular-season game began, the seniors were reflective on their years as a Lady Pine.

"It's really exciting and also

PLEASE SEE **SEED** | B3

Springtown softballers wrap up final tourney before district

JEFF PRINCE
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In the past three weeks, the Springtown Lady Porcupines competed in softball tournaments at Glen Rose, Iowa Park, and Graham, and played well in all of them.

Much of this week was being spent in repose for spring break. The girls will return to the diamond on Friday, March 17, for a nonconference home game against Kennedale. The game will serve as a final tune-up before district competition

begins.

The girls have been earning plenty of practical experience.

March 9-11, Springtown played six games with six different schools at the Graham tournament, winning three and losing three.

The Lady Pines beat Haskell 7-1, powered past Henrietta 3-1, and dominated Wichita Falls City View 12-0.

Springtown fell to Graham 10-0, were shut out again by Holliday 14-0, and lost to Windthorst 14-7.

“The kids gave it every-

thing the entire weekend,” said head coach Scott Mann. “Proud of these kids as the last three weeks have been rough. Lots of travel and games, and we learned a lot and grew as a team.”

The Lady Pines made it to the regional quarterfinal round of the playoffs last year and have challenged themselves to go even deeper into the postseason this year.

Springtown will begin district play at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at home against Decatur.



Brynlei Taylor and Cheyanne Atchley relax before a game.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Harley Smythe is one of the team's seniors.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Madison Terrell is a talented outfielder and hitter.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Springtown 3-1 in Bowie baseball tournament

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown displayed ample Porcupine power while competing March 9-11 at a baseball tournament at Bowie High School.

The boys played four games against tough teams and prevailed in three of them.

The Bowie tourney was one of the last chances to fine tune the team before district competition begins.

The Porcupines have been enjoying spring break vacation this week, but they will strap on their cleats and slip on their gloves to take on Godley at 1 p.m. Friday,

March 17, in Godley. After that final nonconference game, the Pines will plow into district play.

District competition is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, when the Porcupines battle the Lake Worth Bullfrogs at home. The teams are set to have their rubber match on 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).

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Brayden Fox and the Springtown Porcupines begin district baseball competition on March 21.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

regionals. Advice for future soccer players: "Play for each other and not for yourself. You can't win without your teammates."

Angel Martinez is eyeing trade school. His favorite memory involves "having fun on bus rides." He is most proud of passing all his classes. Advice: "Listen to the coach."

Hedrickson Perdomo plans to continue welding. His memories are "too many to list," but he most enjoyed spending time with friends. He took pride in the Hornets winning more games this year than last. Advice: "Motivate each other and give it all you've got."

After the final game, seniors took time to mingle with coaches, teammates,

fans and family. One of the seniors, Day, appeared melancholy. He had been red-carded in the second half, meaning he was called for a violation and sent to the sidelines, and the Porcupines couldn't replace him on the field.

"I kind of let down the team, getting a red card," he said. "The refs weren't calling much for us, and I just kind of had to say something. That's on me. I let down the team and everybody."

Springtown was losing 3-0 when the red card hit. Ten minutes into the second half, Day had grown tired of what he considered frequent fouling by Decatur. After yet another player slammed into Day, the Porcupine let his feelings slip.

"The ref clearly saw it was a foul," Day said. "He had his whistle in his mouth and everything and didn't blow it.

He saw the ball hit off their player, but he said it was their ball. I wasn't intentionally trying to point it out to (the ref). I just said, 'So stupid,'"

That remark earned him a yellow cautionary flag.

Then, Day compared the ref's vision to that of a small mammal in the Chiroptera order, commonly known as the bat.

That remark earned Day the red flag.

"Then, I was sent off," he said.

Day has played soccer most of his life. It was the first red card he'd ever received.

"I wasn't thinking, or I would have never said it," he said, referring to his "blind as a bat" reference.

He disappointed his coaches, teammates, and himself, but he learned a lesson: "Keep on playing," he said. "Don't let the refs decide the game for you."

Still, did it feel good — just a little bit — to yell at the ref?

"Oh yeah," he said with a smile. "But it came at a hefty price — letting down my team."

Head coach Brian Maloney told the Porcupines he was proud of their effort.

"I let them know I consider them a playoff-caliber team," he said, although the Pines missed the playoffs by finishing in fifth place.

The team's 2-8 district record doesn't take away from all the hard work and sacrifice, he said.

"At the end of the day, we beat two good teams in our district," Maloney said. "We've beaten playoff teams this year. We have a lot to build on for next year."

Maloney became coach last season and took over a young team. In 2022, his goal was to set a foundation. His goal this year was to further stabilize

that foundation.

"The improvement that we saw this year is going to help carry the program forward," the coach said. "I'm happy for them and proud of them, especially the seniors. I know they'll be successful in their lives."

In addition to the eight seniors, the team will lose foreign exchange student Hodei Barrio, a junior who will be returning to Spain soon.

Next year's team will be young again due to the large exodus of starters.

"It will be tough," Maloney said. "A lot of people would consider it a rebuilding year. We had really young depth in our squad. It was good for them to get the experience this year and listen to the leadership of the seniors. They will come in hungry and ready to go next year."

Maloney downplayed Day's red flag, although the penalty

"made it tough in the second half," he said.

He reminded his players to keep their composure.

"Obviously, that wasn't a good example of composure, but we know how much (Day) cares, how hard he works for the team, and how valuable he is," Maloney said. "Hopefully, this will be a lesson in composure for him going forward."

Lessons like this are what high school sports are all about, the coach said.

"It's to get better at life," he said. "At the end of the day, it's to take young men and turn them into good citizens who are prepared for their future and adult life and to shape them in a way to where they are going to be a really good benefit for society. The eight seniors who graduated this year are going to be eight good examples for society. Eight good people."



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Ricardo Arias is one of eight seniors who played their final soccer game as Porcupines.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Hedrickson Perdomo plans to be a successful welder after high school.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Jocelyn Diaz, shown with her parents at Senior Night, is one of five seniors heading into the soccer postseason.

SEED

FROM PAGE B1

really sad because it's my last home game," Perez said. "We've worked really hard this whole season."

Head coach Katherine Kummerfeld will miss Perez.

"I feel like you bloomed this year," Kummerfeld said. "You really came into your position as an outside defender and did awesome work for us."

The coach appreciated Perez's attitude as well as her talent.

"She is such a sweet character, always positive," Kummerfeld said. "Even if she is upset, she is still always kind to everyone."

The playoff picture looks bright for the Porcupines, the coach said. Last season, the team tied for fourth place and had to compete in a "play-in" game to determine who made the playoffs. Springtown lost that game.

"It's cool to be secured at the third-place spot," Kummerfeld said. "Last year, we were fighting for that fourth spot and had to have that play-in game. That was nerve-racking. It's nice to know we're secure in playoffs. We've gotten better and better."



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PORCUPINES AND PLAYOFFS

The Springtown Porcupines fought through adversity on the basketball court to qualify for the boys playoffs after beating Lake Worth in an exciting tiebreaker game that put fans on the edge of their seats. Springtown compiled a 7-4 record in District 8-4A and qualified for the postseason for the first time in several years. Congratulations to the fighting Porcupines for a season well done.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

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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
WESTERN HARVEST FELLOWSHIP CENTER
6577 Old Springtown Rd., Weatherford
817-523-2855 or 817-995-9087
SHEPHERD'S HEART CHURCH
14435 FM 730 N • Azle
817-444-7777
WESTERN STAR COWBOY CHURCH
790 CR 3696 • Paradise 76073
817-688-6887

Clarks Precision Machine & Tool
CPMT
636 Profit St., Azle, Tx

45 Years of Quality

ISO 9001:2001 Compliant Phone 817-444-2533
Check us out on our web site B.J. Clark
www.clarksmachine.com bjc@clarksmachine.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

Subscribe today to keep up-to-date
Azle News: 817-270-3340
Springtown Epigraph: 817-220-7217

Celebrating over 35 years in business

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

Get your business noticed!
817-270-3340
Call Jessica to reserve this space.

Want readers to FIND YOU?
Place your ad here!
Call **817-270-3340**

Place your ad here today!
817-270-3340
or 817-220-7217

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Actively Supporting our Communities!

Call Jessica for details
817-270-3340

Advertise Here
Contact us for details.
817-270-3340
or 817-220-7217

Your Ad Here Newspaper Advertising Works!
Call Jessica for details TODAY
817-270-3340

Advertise Your Business With Us and maximize your visibility!
Contact us about advertising solutions.
817-270-3340
817-220-7217

HILLTOP FAMILY CHURCH
1227 Old Cottondale • 817-220-7177
"Caring about what Jesus cares about... You!"

Compliments of
Rural Gas Supply
PROPANE 140 W. MAIN ST.
817-444-4613
"In business since 1946"

Joe Rider Propane, Inc.
PROPANE TANKS
817-237-3325

White's Funeral Homes
Our family serving your family since 1908

Bob White, Anita White and Zack Bellenger
Full Service Funeral Home
Cremation Services
Pre-Need Plans
Azle • Springtown
Mineral Wells • Weatherford
817-444-3211 • www.whitesfuneral.com

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

Ad Classifications

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating | 24..... Electrician | 46..... Looking to Buy | 69..... Sand/Gravel |
| 2..... Antiques | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found | 70..... Septic Tanks |
| 3..... Appliances | 26..... Excavating | 48... Maintenance/Repairs | 71..... Sewing/Alterations |
| 4..... Appliance Repair | 27..... Exterminating | 49... Masonry/Stonework | 72..... Sewer Service |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts | 28..... Farm Equipment | 50... Mobile Home Service | 73..... TV/Radio |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving | 29..... Fencing | 51..... Motorcycles | 74..... Tractor Service |
| 7..... Auctions | 30..... Firewood | 52..... Movers | 75..... Upholstery |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks | 31..... Free | 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 | 41House 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
16 Words or Less:
Combo (Azle & Springtown)
Only \$10.00 per week!

Over 16 words, add 20 cents per word

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: 1:00 PM FRIDAY

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



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

Nobody does it better!

006 Asphalt Paving

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

Bruce Byrum
 Azle, Texas **817-690-2429**

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

032 For Sale



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

035 Garden/Mowing Service

Chad's Tree Service
 Trimming • Removals • Stump Grinding
 Systemic Feeding • Brush Chipping • Cable Bracing

817-221-2201 • 817-246-5943
817-800-6059 CELL **FREE ESTIMATES**
 Insured for your protection



Need to sell your ATV? Call today and ask about our (\$29.95) 3-MONTH SPECIAL!

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

009 Auto Repair Service

Rainwater's
 Transmission & Auto Repair
COMPETITIVE PRICING

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

201 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
 LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED!
 Accepting all credit cards **682-615-7250**
817-766-3852

Advertising Works!

LEON'S TREE SERVICE
 Expert take downs
 Stump Grinding
 Residential/Commercial
 Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
817-371-8597

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

024 Electrician

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

817-615-7164
 Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

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

YARD SERVICES
 SKID STEER
 SOD INSTALLATION
 FENCING
 STUMP GRINDING
817-371-8597

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

026 Excavating

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

Dump Truck Hauling **817-919-3696**

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Estate Sale Friday (3/17) - Sunday (3/19) Furniture, nickknacks, dishes, movies, christmas decor, pool table, tv's, propane tanks, gas cans, ladders & other tools. 155 Highland Circle Weatherford 76085

039 Help Wanted

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

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

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

029 Fencing

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

GARAGE SALE

Fri-Sat 8am-3pm. Shelves, Stationary Bike, Push Mower, TV, Lots of Books & Clothes and More! 9050 Old Springtown Road, Springtown.

Walnut Creek SUD is accepting job applications for the position of Customer Svc/Utility Billing Clerk. Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00. Min. Requirement: valid Texas DL, HS diploma/GED, strong customer service and clerical background, bilingual preferred. Vac/Hol/Ben. Open until filled. Applications and job description are available at www.walnutcreeksud.org or at 1155 W Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082. E.O.E.

020 Demolition

MCNEELY'S DEMOLITION & CLEAN UP SERVICE
 We Create Vacancy

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

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

LEON'S FENCING
 Cedar • Iron • Pipe
 Barbed Wire
817-371-8597

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.

031 Free

Free dark wood dining room table with 6 chairs, free queen mattress & bed frame. Sale, black chester drawers, 4 drawers \$20.00. 817-773-5631.

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

VACATION TIME?
 Raise some extra money through the Classifieds to help fund your trip.
16 words for only \$10
 What a good deal!

024 Electrician

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

032 For Sale

10 new Side Shaft Engines 176-CC and 3-217-CC. 3 new lawnmower's 56V and 40V. 817-412-0125.

IRRIGATION REPAIR
 Residential/Commercial
 License# LI007825
 \$85 Service Call

Azle News
 817-270-3340 &
Springtown Epigraph
 817-220-7217
 Hometown Papers!

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

Rescue your Ballerina from the Shelter and give her a Furever Home



OUTDOOR SCENE
682-553-1560



Advertising Works!

LINDSEY STATE JAIL CURRENT OPENINGS
 Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
 Education Counselor • Academic Instructor
 Human Resource Supervisor
 Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR JOB QUALIFICATIONS.
 A New Correctional Officer Pay Increase will be as follows - Starting pay will be \$18.00 dollars per hour. After Six months' there will be a pay increase to \$19.00 per hour and at one year there will be another pay increase to \$20.00 per hour. Must have HS Diploma or equivalent, be able to pass a drug screen, have a clean background, and valid driver's license to be considered for a Correctional Officer.

Apply online at www.mtctrains.com or call 940-567-2272 and ask for the HR Department.
 Management & Training Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Veteran/Disabled

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

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted



KARL KLEMENT

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.

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

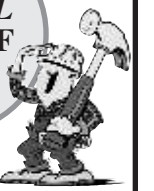
All full-time positions offer growth opportunities & a full benefits package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k) & more. EEOC

040 Home Improvement

Devin's Handyman Service

- Carpentry
- Cement
- Rock
- Granite
- Tile
- Painting
- Siding
- Insulation
- Kitchen/Bath
- Roof & Gutters
- Powerwashing
- Decks

SPRING SPECIAL
 20% OFF
 with this ad!



Call Devin at 817-629-9608

062 Plumbing



Kevin's Handyman Services
 40 Years Experience

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

Springtown and Surrounding Areas
231-445-1221

062 Plumbing

GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.



Commercial-Residential
 Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area
 M#15899

817-220-2469
grahamplumbingco.com

LANDERS Plumbing Co.

940-233-2862
M-10078

046 Looking to Buy

Private family looking to buy a Travel Trailer, RV, or a Pop-Up Camper. Needs to be in decent shape, will pay cash. Please call 940-577-3770.

049 Masonry/Stonework



Landscaping Designs, Outdoor Kitchens
 Patios, Retaining Walls, Mailboxes
 All Types Stone & Brick Work Free
 New Construction • Remodels Estimates
817-308-6512
 email alvarogsilva@verizon.net

066 Roofing

Miles Roofing

- Insurance Claim Specialists;
 - Free Estimates
- 817-797-3420**



AT HOME ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS
817-304-4224


051 Motorcycles



2001 American Iron Horse Ranger. 113 cubic inch S&S Engine. Lots of extras. \$9,500 Negotiable. Call Leslie 682-552-9711 or 817-703-5347

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

Sign on Bonus Offered



Healthcare Center
2-10pm LVNs • 10pm-6am CNAs
Double Weekend CNAs
 Olivia Mendoza, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Phone: 817-594-8713 Fax: 817-594-4654
HR.Weatherford@SummitLTC.com E.O.E.



Find a Job in the Classifieds!
 Azle News
 Springtown Epigraph

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD tollfree at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

052 Movers

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

057 Pets/Livestock

Will pay top dollar for grazing and hay leases. Call 940-389-1936.

062 Plumbing



Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

- Drain Stoppage
- Water Leaks
- Water Heaters
- Sewers Replaced
- Water Repiping
- Camera Sewers
- Faucets Installed
- Gas Lines
- Repair/Replace

A+ BBB Rated
 Se Habla Espanol
 ContractingBlankenship@outlook.com
 Master Plumber M849
817-831-4000



Raise some extra money through the Classifieds.
 Have a Yard Sale.
16 words for only \$10
 Azle News
 817-270-3340
 Springtown Epigraph
 817-220-7217
 Hometown Papers!

040 Home Improvement

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

PYRAMID REMODELING. PAINTING: Interior, Exterior, Tape & Bed, Texture, Popcorn Ceilings. FREE ESTIMATES. 817-944-7658.

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



GARAGE SALE
 16 words for only \$10.
 A great way to raise extra money! Call today for more info.
 Azle News 817-270-3340
 Springtown Epigraph 817-220-7217

040 Home Improvement



BILL BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING INC.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
 Residential/Commercial • Kitchens • Baths
 Showers • Add-Ons • Custom Cabinets

TILE WORK
 Tubs • Showers • Floors • Backsplashes • Etc.

DRAIN CLEANING
 Sewers • Sinks • Camera Locating • Grease Traps

A+ BBB Rated • Se Habla Espanol • M849
 ContractingBlankenship@outlook.com **817-831-4000**



Save a Shelter Animal. Find your furever Friend

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

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

066 Roofing

DIAMOND ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

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

Commercial & Residential

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

Master Elite BBB

084 Mobile Homes For Rent

Totally shaded, nice half acre RV site off Boat Club Rd and Robertson Rd. Includes trash, water, and lot. You must pay electric and weed eat your own half acre. \$900.00/mo \$300.00/dep refundable @ end of lease. 1 year lease. 817-991-2387 Traci.



Find Your New Best Friend in the Classifieds!

REAL ESTATE
 Real Estate Deadline Monday by 12:00 PM
817-270-3340

Looking for that income producing property?

#AirBNB Lovely lakefront property with private boat ramp and dock. 1-acre lot, large, fenced backyard.

7375 Hickey Rd., Azle

Call Rose Weaver
817-489-4560
 MARIE PIGG REAL ESTATE

NATIONAL HOME BUYERS LLC

Sell or lease your house in 7 days to stop foreclosure. We look at all, any condition.

901-417-9423
 WWW.NHBFORECLOSURE.COM

EXPERIENCED ROOFING SPECIALIST

FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS

Insurance Claims, Licensed Local Business 34 Yrs

ECE CONSTRUCTION LLC
 cell 817-615-7164 | office 817-831-2600

086 Mobile Home/RV Lots

POJO RV PARK

302 Allison Road
 Springtown, TX 76082
817-925-3673

30x60 RV Spaces Available

One small inside pet allowed

NEAR POJO STADIUM

088 Rent Unfurnished

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

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

2 BDRM 1 Bath upstairs Apartment in Boyd. Non-smoking, no pets, 1 year lease. \$850/mo \$850/dep. 940-390-1164 leave a message.

068 Storage

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

079 Welding

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

STORAGE SPECIAL

10X10 \$80/MONTH-NO DEPOSIT
 1350 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD, AZLE
 5X10 \$45/MONTH \$20/DEPOSIT
817-246-4646

R & E Construction

Metal Building Specialist

- Weld Ups/ Bolt Ups
- Pipe Fencing
- Concrete
- Horse Barns
- All Types Fencing
- Metal Roofs

Compare Pricing
 NO JOB TOO SMALL

069 Sand/Gravel

HALL'S SAND, DIRT & GRAVEL

Quality Family Business Since 1938

CALL Cliff Hall
(817) 221-2681

We go the extra mile to ensure you get more for your \$. On House Pads, Driveways, Lot Clearing & Tractor Work, Etc.

081 Business/Commercial

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

082 RV's for Rent

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

Very nice Toy Hauler 5th Wheel, fully furnished W/queen bed, 3 slides, leather sofa & reclining chair, some taxidermy items inside. \$950.00/mo, all bills paid. Totally shaded. First and last, 2 miles from Eagle Mountain Lake, 1 year lease. 817-991-2387 Traci.

079 Welding

Our Business is Metal Buildings - And We're Good!

DESIGN FABRICATION ERECTION

Cozart METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fabrication and erection of quality metal buildings at reasonable prices, any size - any design

Office **817-237-2282**
 Fax 817-237-0904
 Mark Cozart Jeremy Cozart
 817-233-6668 817-237-2028

084 Mobile Homes for Rent

Pelican Bay: 1941 Gale Dr. 2-2 central heat & air, stove only. \$795/mo \$400/dep, owner/broker 817-988-9954.

WDC WELD-DONE CONSTRUCTION LTD.

Metal Building Erectors

- Pre-engineered Weld-up
- Barns/Shops
- Arenas/Hangars
- Fencing

1220 E. Hwy. 199 • Springtown
817-220-2150
 www.weld-done.net

AZLE OAKS APARTMENT

700 JARVIS • AZLE
817-444-1712

1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished

Accepting Applications
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ACROSS

- TX Kris film: "Alice Doesn't Live Anymore" (1974)
- gem found in TX
- "San Jacinto Battleground State Historic "
- state tech. college system (abbr.)
- Mitchell County seat
- TX Benson film: "___ to Billy Joe"
- TXism: "he blazes ___" (big man)
- TX Janis sang "___ and Bobby McGee"
- chunk of dirt
- some East TX areas
- Iraqi dictator Hussein who was caught in 2003
- this was to be channel 19 in Nacogdoches
- TXism: "his axles ___ hot" (active)
- Commemorative Air Force Texas founder, Nolen (init.)
- TXism: "he couldn't drive ___ snow bank" (incompetent)
- snakes or scarves
- TX Jimmy Dean's "Big ___ John"
- plow pullers
- TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of Laura ___" (1978)
- "Cinco de ___" is celebrated in Texas
- TXism: "lost everything ___ under my fingernails" (broke)
- this Sophia was in "Houseboat" with TX Martha Hyer
- TXism: "let sleeping dogs ___"
- Abilene's Dyess Air Force ___
- removed an apple skin
- filmed in Galveston: "Capricorn ___"
- "___ Houston" was sunk in WWII
- "mister" in Mexico
- Alamo book: "___ Days to Glory"
- this Frances was in "War Games" with TX Dabney
- hair products
- Texas Blue Bell ___ cream
- noted TX sculptor Elisabet
- "the echo" in Mexico (2 wds.)
- this TX English sang for Lawrence Welk
- soldier no-no (abbr.)
- "___ It My Way"
- TX Janis died of this (abbr.)
- jai alai wickers
- TXism: "if ___ any better the sheriff wouldn't allow it"
- Luby's transport
- sweet later
- TX Byron's "How ___ the Game"
- "L" of TX LBJ
- TXism: "___ ___ no cigar"
- TXism: "likely as ___"
- TXism: "nekkid" 35 more "nekkid"
- TX rancher Chuck Norris 1984 film: "___ Action"
- brainless
- short, quick race
- former Speaker of Texas House, Pete
- skins an orange
- Joan of "Gunpoint" with TX Audie
- TX Beasley, an NFL defensive back

DOWN

- Houston group for 1992 Republican convention (2 wds.)
- a story in TX Eva Longoria's "Desperate Housewives"
- Texas snake sound
- fire or red insect
- natl. patriot org. in Texas: "Sierra ___ Mountains"
- ___ School in Dallas
- Houston AM
- TXism: "___ of" (kinda)

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Thursday, March 16, 2023

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Covered Bridge Venue wins a biggie

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

The Covered Bridge Venue in western Springtown that opened for business in 2020 has been named the Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year.

The hilltop wedding venue is situated amid the picturesque North Texas landscape. Drive through the gate and cross the namesake bridge and you will feel tucked away in the serene privacy of more than 150 acres. Highlights include a 200-foot four-tier cascading walk-through waterfall.

School superintendent Mike Kelley, who served as master of ceremonies at the chamber banquet, thanked Covered Bridge Venue owners Ricky and Chantal Dauenhauer for hosting the event.

Then, Kelley presented the award.



JIM STEVENS | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Rick Dauenhauer accepted his award with a speech to the banquet, thanking the local community for helping him and his wife establish such a grand event center for the people of Springtown.

PLEASE SEE **BUSINESS** | C7

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Nonprofit that provides food, resources to people in need named Organization of the Year

MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Golden Girls theme song "Thank you for being a friend" played as the Parker County Center of Hope was named Organization of the Year at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala and silent auction.

Parker County Center of Hope has provided resources to families in poverty for 25 years, said Mike Kelley, who presented the award. In 2021, the center collaborated with Texas Health Resources to open a location in Springtown, which has served more than 3,000 families in the city with groceries, hot meals and financial help for



JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

SEE **NONPROFIT** | C7 Center of Hope was named Organization of the Year at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala and silent auction.

A shining achievement

Springtown library director wins Extra Mile Award at Chamber awards gala

MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon took an opportunity to shine at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala by wearing a sparkly black long-sleeved tunic to the event.

"I literally wore this to work," D'Avignon said about her outfit. "I don't get to sparkle very often. I got to take advantage of it."

In a rhetorical sense, D'Avignon may sparkle at her job more often than she thinks.

In honor of her leadership at the library, D'Avignon was awarded the City of Springtown Extra Mile Award at the awards gala on March 3.

"I put my whole heart into what I do," she said after receiving the award.

City Administrator David Miller, who presented the award at the gala, described the Extra Mile Award as for employees who stand out the most during the year and "(go) that extra mile, if you would, to help other employees and be a part of what's going on."

D'Avignon joined the Springtown Public Library staff in November 2013 and was promoted to director in June 2020. Miller said D'Avignon has worked to improve the library's service to its patrons, including looking for new materials, programs and services for the library to provide.

Miller also noted that D'Avignon often helps out at the city's events, such as at the Hop and Shop and Old-Fashioned Christmas.

D'Avignon's smile and personality is a "blessing to her coworkers and her patrons who she values tremendously," Miller said.



JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon breathes in a sigh of relief for not having to make a speech at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce awards gala. D'Avignon was presented with the City of Springtown Extra Mile Award by City Administrator David Miller.

D'Avignon was feeling a mix of emotions after being given the award - "shocked, amazed, grateful, very honored," she said.

"I consider it an honor for

the entire library," D'Avignon said. "It shows just how much everything we do impacts the community, and that's important to me. It is very important to me having community

outreach with the library." Her priority for community outreach is evident through the expansion of youth activities, like the teen book club and teen movie gatherings.

D'Avignon attributed the award to the support she gets from her co-workers and library patrons.

"I wouldn't be able to do the things I do without the

support of everyone in the city, both patrons and everyone that works for the city," she said. "They're amazing, including all of the people up at the library with me."

Springtown Chamber of Commerce Awards

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: **Covered Bridge Venue**

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: **Parker County Center of Hope**

EXTRA MILE AWARD: **Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon**

CITY OF SPRINGTOWN'S PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: **Cpl. Victoria Thomas**

JUDY SMERUD SPIRIT OF SPRINGTOWN AWARD: **Andrew Alvis**

SPRINGTOWN CHAMBER MEMBERS OF THE YEAR: **Dene Berry, Bill Hughes**

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SHS alumna recognized as Public Safety Employee of the Year

MADELYN EDWARDS
madelyn@azlenews.net

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Cpl. Victoria Thomas as the city of Springtown's Public Safety Employee of the Year at the annual awards gala and silent auction on March 3.

This award is voted on by all employees of the Springtown Police Department, Springtown Administrative Services Director Christina Derr said.

Victoria Thomas started her career with the Springtown Police Department as a telecommunications officer in 2017 after she graduated from Springtown High School, City Administrator David Miller said at the chamber gala.

Thomas left the department in 2020 to attend the police academy, and after she

graduated from the academy, she started working at the Hudson Oaks Police Department as a patrol officer, Miller said.

Thomas returned to the Springtown Police Department as a school resource officer in September 2021. Earlier this year, she returned to being a patrol officer and was promoted to corporal in February, Miller said. She currently lives in Springtown with her husband who is also a peace officer.

"Cpl. Thomas is known by her co-workers and the public to be a dedicated officer who is always willing to go above and beyond to provide an excellent level of service to her community," Miller said. "Cpl. Thomas can be relied upon to assist her agency with any need when asked and is an asset to the department and the community as a whole."



Cpl. Victoria Thomas poses for a picture with Springtown City Administrator David Miller at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala. Thomas won City of Springtown Public Safety Employee of the Year.

JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

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CDC Reports: Household Falls Are The Leading Cause of Injuries In Seniors

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CHAMBER MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Two local stalwarts tie for award

JEFF PRINCE
jeff@azlenews.net

KAYLEE PIPPINS
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Dene Berry has sold everything from “lipstick to whiskey” and knows plenty about public relations, and Bill Hughes owns and operates a local air conditioning company and impresses people regularly with his strong work ethic.

Say hello to this year’s co-winners of the Chamber Member of the Year.

Chamber banquet host Mike Kelley laughed when recalling how Berry described her lipstick-to-whiskey sales experience.

“That’s a pretty good spectrum,” he said.

Kelley described Berry as a “terrific ambassador for the chamber” and an important board member.

“She has great insight,” he said. “We are very happy that she is a member of the chamber, and we are happy to honor her as one of our chamber members of the year.”

Kelley recalled how Hughes, who services heating



COURTESY PHOTO

PLEASE SEE **MEMBERS** | C5 Dene Berry was named co-recipient of the 2023 Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award.

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"He helps the chamber on a moment's notice, and I was fortunate enough that he helped me on a moment's notice."

- MIKE KELLEY
Superintendent, Springtown ISD

MEMBERS
FROM PAGE C4

and air conditioning units, saved his hide one summer. Kelley's unit had gone kaput, and he called Hughes' J&E Air Conditioning in Springtown.

"I knew immediately I could count on Bill because I had been involved in the chamber, and I knew about Bill's work ethic and what a stand-up guy he is," Kelley said. "He helps the chamber on a moment's notice, and I was fortunate enough that he helped me on a moment's notice."

Hughes moved to Springtown in 1989 and began working for J&E. He bought the business in 2000 and now employs six people.

Hughes raised his family here with wife Janice Hughes, a retired teacher.

Originally from Oklahoma, Berry moved to Springtown

17 years ago.

"Years ago, when I married Dan Berry, I didn't know a soul" in Springtown, she said. "My sister recently started doing our genealogy. Come to find out, my great-great uncle is buried in Springtown Cemetery, the oldest person ever buried there at 114 years old. So, Springtown, if genealogy and DNA holds true, you've got another 30 or 40 years of me."

Berry has extensive experience in local business. Previously, she worked as the office manager in Dallas and has had real estate licenses in Texas and Colorado. In Springtown, Berry worked with Still Waters Retreat Texas for eight years and is currently working in sales and marketing for RnR Event Center.

Hughes thanked the crowd for "letting me be a part of the chamber and a part of Springtown."



JIM STEVENS | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

At left, Bill Hughes was a co-winner of 2023 Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year.

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KAYLEE PIPPINS
azlereporter@azlenews.net

At the 2023 Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce Gala, and following thunderous applause from the audience, Andrew Alvis was honored as the Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown award recipient on March 3, 2023.

A true hometown Porcupine, Andrew Alvis has lived in Springtown for most of his life. A Springtown High School alum, Alvis lived in Fort Worth for about year before returning to Springtown.

Over the years, Alvis has worked in various positions: buffing and washing cars, loading feed at the feed store, overseeing a warehouse, and

driving a school bus. There is one thing that all these jobs have in common—helping Springtown thrive. Alvis found it most rewarding to serve the people of his community which led him to Legacy Church.

Alvis has served a few churches, but currently serves as Associate Pastor at Legacy Church in Springtown. Alvis and his wife, Kourtlynn, have been with Legacy Church for more than seven years.

Announcer Mike Kelley, who was previously Andrew's principal in Springtown ISD, said, "He is constantly available to help the chamber...he loves his community and is a terrific

example for young people and adults alike."

Alvis currently serves the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce on the Board of Directors and volunteers at chamber events like luncheons and Wild West Fest.


"There are so many other people that could be in this position," Alvis said after being awarded. "This award to me is not something you win, it is something you earn."

Alvis continued, "My greatest ambition is not to make a name for myself, but to make a difference in the world around me. That's what this (award) means to me that somehow, some way, for someone I have made some sort of difference."

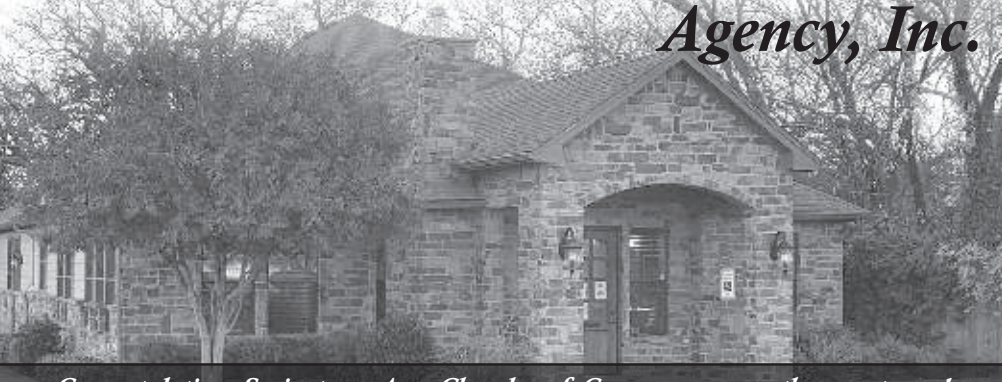


JIM STEVENS | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Legacy Church Associate Pastor and Chamber Board of Directors member Andrew Alvis was honored as the 2023 Judy Smerud Spirit of Springtown award recipient.




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Congratulations Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce on another great year!

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BUSINESS

FROM PAGE C1

Covered Bridge Venue opened in 2020 but has "been a plan for longer than that - a dream, for longer than that," he said.

The first event held at the venue was a wedding that Kelley attended.

"It was a terrific wedding," he said. "It's a terrific venue. Great view. You can see Porcupine Stadium from the back. It's a great place."

The venue holds about 400 people.

The Dauenhauers have spent many years in the area, oversee a magnificent event space and earned the award, Kelly said.

"They've shared this facility with the school district, with the chamber, lots of community events," he said. "It's been a great addition to the Springtown community and brought a lot of people out that might not have ever known what was going on west of town."

Chantal Dauenhauer was out of town watching daughter Brinklee play at a volleyball tournament and couldn't attend the award ceremony. Rick Dauenhauer accepted the award and thanked supporters and mentors.

"This is great," he said. "Our family homesteaded here, and I was born and



Rick Dauenhauer, third from right, accepts the Business of the Year Award with friends and supporters.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

raised and grown up here."

He worked in construction and started his first business in Springtown in 1999.

"It's always just been a neighborly, friendly commu-

nity," he said. "It was because of the community that supported me and allowed me to flourish and to grow."

He thanked a long list of locals who helped him and his

wife establish such a grand event center for the people of Springtown.

"It's a pretty building, but without these great people, it couldn't be what it is today,"

he said. "I want to thank the community for allowing this to be possible. It's my hope and prayer that as our once tiny community grows, we don't lose what is so special

about it that truly impacts lives."

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NONPROFIT

FROM PAGE C1

utilities as well as medical, dental and counseling needs.

"In Parker County, this organization has been serving for a very long time, and it's made an incredible impact," Kelley said. "Their reach is very significant."

In addition, Springtown residents participated in 250 class sessions and more than 1,400 life coaching and

advising appointments provided by Center of Hope.

"The Center of Hope's vision is to instill hope in the community by exemplifying God's expectations expressed in Micah 6:8, 'to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God,'" Kelley said.

Center of Hope Chief Executive Officer Staci Markwardt accepted the award with other staffers at the gala. In her speech, Markwardt recognized

the staff members at the Springtown location, Texas Health resources and the Springtown community.

"Springtown has good people who really want to be the hands and feet of Christ," Markwardt said. "We can't do it without you, so thank you to the churches and the businesses and the donors and our partners and our volunteers who all make this possible."



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Springtown Chamber Banquet



Attendees at the Springtown Chamber of Commerce annual banquet stood during the playing of the National Anthem with their hands over their hearts.

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