

# Man accused of murder in Reno is indicted

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
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A Parker County Grand Jury has indicted Floyd Levi Nunley in the murder of a man in Reno last summer.

Nunley was previously charged with the murder of Rodney Dale Tallant.

Reno police officers found Tallant dead at his home that he was renovating on Shady Lane on July 26. According to a Reno Police Department news release, Tallant died of a gunshot wound to his head. Officers found Nunley in a shed on the Shady Lane property when they were conduct-

ing a sweep of the area.

Upon finding Nunley, Reno police officers detained him but released him at the scene of the crime. In a previous News and Epigraph article, Reno Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said officers didn't feel comfortable arresting Nunley for murder right away

because of the number of people, mostly family members, who were present at the scene.

Stringer said previously that Nunley sold the home on Shady Lane to Tallant, who was his distant relative and friend. Tallant was in the process of renovating the

Reno house so he could move in, and Nunley was helping Tallant with the renovation. Nunley would also occasionally reside on the property.

Nunley is currently detained at the Lon Evans Corrections Center in Fort



PHOTO COURTESY TARRANT COUNTY

Floyd Levi Nunley

PLEASE SEE **MURDER** | A3

# McDonald's employee honored for decades of service



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Longtime McDonald's employee Mildred Roman is embraced by Noemia Urban, the general manager of the Springtown McDonald's. Urban praised Roman's work ethic.

*Mildred Roman has worked at McDonald's in Azle, Springtown for over 30 years*

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
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Responsible, loyal and consistent.

These are the words Springtown McDonald's general manager Noemia Urban used to describe longtime employee Mildred Roman. On March 14, Roman was honored for working at McDonald's for more than 30 years.

Roman's reception was attended by the owners and operators of BaRu Enterprises - which oversees several McDonald's stores in the area - as well as representatives of the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce and

City Administrator David Miller.

When asked what her thoughts were on the reception, Roman joked that she felt old. On a more serious note, she said she was grateful.

"The people I've worked with, they're such beautiful people," she said.

Roman started working at the McDonald's in Azle in the mid-1980s. She said the job was closer to home and was supportive of her as she raised children. She stayed there for about 20 years before transferring to the store in Springtown.

PLEASE SEE **SERVICE** | A2

# Briar-Reno Fire Department board petitions to create emergency services district

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The Briar-Reno Fire Department board of directors is seeking to create a new emergency services district to serve Reno.

This would mean that the district - which would be called ESD 10 - would be a taxing entity separate from the city of Reno and would cover fire services.

"With the uncertainty of what was going to happen

with (Reno's) incorporation, with the situation the city is in financially, we feel that we need to ensure there are dedicated funds to public safety, i.e., the fire department," Briar-Reno Fire Chief Moses Druxman said during last month's Reno City Council meeting.

Druxman said the petition, which has more than 100 signatures from Reno property owners and registered voters, was due to the Parker County Commissioners last month.

A public hearing is expected to take place, and then the county commissioners can choose to create the district if there aren't any issues that arise. The next step after that would be calling an election for voters to decide whether to establish the district.

If the district is created, it would be its own government entity and have a board of five members appointed by the Parker County

PLEASE SEE **PETITION** | A3

# Reno's Our House hosts mobile food pantry at new location

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Reno's nonprofit food pantry, Our House, is still continuing to support area residents even after its location on East Reno Road closed last month.

The nonprofit's founder, Scott Passmore, said the Tarrant Area Food Bank mobile pantry is scheduled to come by from 4-6 p.m. every second Tuesday each month at Community Bible Fellowship, 1405 Reynolds Road.

Passmore said about 50-60 vehicles of people showed

up to the mobile pantry on March 14.

"I'm sure after everybody finds out where we're at, they'll start showing up again," he said.

Our House used to host the mobile pantry at its former location in addition to giving out food weekly. Besides the location change, Passmore said the difference between then and now regarding the mobile pantry is that Tarrant Area Food Bank used to bring the food for free, but now they charge. Starting in April, Passmore is expecting to pay \$400 for about 8,000 pounds of food to be

dropped off.

Our House distributed food at its former location for the last time on Feb. 16. In a previous article, Passmore said that location was closing because the building at 1530 E. Reno Road was being sold.

Passmore said he's keeping the nonprofit food pantry going so the organization can continue to provide meals to people for Thanksgiving and toys for children at Christmastime.

For more information about Our House, visit its Facebook page: [facebook.com/1OurHouse](https://www.facebook.com/1OurHouse) online.



# Springtown Legends Museum celebrates St. Patrick's Day

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Dressed up as a leprechaun, Kaleb Stewart holds up a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow in honor of St. Patrick's Day and the reopening of the Springtown Legends Museum on March 17. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays at 839 N. Main St. For a special tour of the museum, call 817-523-5939.



# Texas libraries launch local author contest

The Texas Center for the Book is joining in the announcement of a local author contest that will accept submissions of adult and young adult fiction, to be recognized as the top indie-published e-books in Texas by the Texas Author Project.

Winners in each category will receive \$1,000, as well as:

- Honors at the 2023 Indie Author Day reception
- Opportunities to promote the winning title at Texas public libraries
- Inclusion in a full-page spread in Library Journal,

one of America's oldest and most renowned trade publications for library news

- Opportunities to earn royalties through the IAP Select collection (ePUB format required for eligibility)

The creation of the Texas Author Project gives librarians not only a chance to engage with a growing group of fresh literary voices, but also an opportunity to play an active role in the discovery and promotion of new works.

For independently published authors, the contest is an opportunity to elevate

their careers and expand their readership. Along with the accolade of the award and its perks, being recognized by librarians creates credibility and visibility in the growing marketplace of digital content and indie-published books. Winning authors will reach hundreds if not thousands of new readers via the library and can also leverage being an award-winning indie author for additional marketing opportunities.

"At the Texas Center for the Book, we seek to celebrate and support the written word,"

commented Rebekah Manley, Coordinator of the Texas Center for the Book. "This contest provides an excellent platform for indie-published authors to showcase their work and receive recognition."

Each book submitted to the contest must be:

- Independently published
- In the category of adult or young adult fiction
- Written by a Texas resident
- Available in either ePUB (strongly encouraged) or PDF format

The contest will accept submissions from April

1 through May 31, 2023. Authors can submit online at [indieauthorproject.libriesshare.com/texas/](http://indieauthorproject.libriesshare.com/texas/).

If you are interested in becoming a judge, you can

learn more and sign up at [indieauthorproject.com/judges/](http://indieauthorproject.com/judges/).

For more information contact, [support@libriesshare.com](mailto:support@libriesshare.com).

## TEXAS CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Established in 1987, the Texas Center for the Book seeks to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries. The Center builds partnerships with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers and booksellers who provide support to the shared mission of promoting a love of literature throughout the Lone Star State. The Texas Center for the Book is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin.

## SERVICE

FROM PAGE A1

Roman didn't picture herself working at McDonald's for so long. She said she stuck around because of the people she's met, both the customers and her coworkers.

Roman described her job as fast paced and hard, but fun.

"It's the people you work with that make it that way," she said. "If you want a job, come to McDonald's. We'll find a place for you."

Since she started at McDonald's, Roman has worked through changes in the fast-food industry as well as the booming growth in Azle and Springtown. She described the area in 1984 as basically farmland before the explosion of growth, especially in Azle.

"You watch everything, and you see everything happening around you. Either you can go and hide, or you can go out and enjoy it," Roman said.

As for the future of her career, Roman plans to take it easy. She'll be 65 years old soon, and she is already partially retired. She's currently working part-time and plans



to keep working as long as she can.

Roman's advice to other people getting into the food service industry is to enjoy

their work.

"Try and enjoy the people around you and your customers, because sometimes people just get overwhelmed,

and then all they want to do is leave," she said. "If they can enjoy working and being around people, then they'll have a great time."

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce recognized McDonald's employee Mildred Roman for more than 30 years of service on March 14.

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# Texas Crossword

MARCH 22, 2023

**ACROSS**

1 1983 UH BB team: "Phi Slama \_\_\_\_\_"  
 5 TXism: "best I ever wrapped \_\_\_\_\_ around"  
 6 a person's head (archaic)  
 7 most young 'uns learn 'em preschool  
 8 a Texas negative  
 9 what the Dallas Stars skate on  
 12 TX Ginger film: "\_\_\_\_\_ We Dance"  
 17 Ralph Waldo  
 19 resident of western city: "El \_\_\_\_\_"  
 21 this Porfirio was a TX landscape artist  
 22 Mexican general at Battle of Palo Alto  
 23 Texas stunt pilot Danaher flew in "\_\_\_\_\_ of the Sun"  
 28 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ of breathing room"  
 29 \_\_\_\_\_ of return  
 30 Texas-based film: "The Ballad of Gregorio \_\_\_\_\_"  
 31 Texas actor, Lee Jones  
 35 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder  
 36 TXism: "he's \_\_\_\_\_ big as Texas" (kind)  
 42 TX A.C. Greene's \_\_\_\_\_ Country"  
 44 SMU alum TV producer, Spelling self-images

**DOWN**

1 non-American carrier planes in WWII (2 wds.)  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
 3 Colorado City is the seat of this county  
 4 primates  
 9 TX John Garner said vice presidency "\_\_\_\_\_ worth a bucket of warm spit"  
 10 type of Texas grass (2 wds.)  
 11 TX Nimitz first naval rank (abbr.)  
 12 pamper place  
 13 UT humanities & arts Center (2 wds.)  
 14 largest continent  
 15 "\_\_\_\_\_ Maples State Natural Area"  
 16 TXism: "she'll be \_\_\_\_\_ to her own funeral"  
 18 "\_\_\_\_\_ Grande"  
 20 USA continent abbr.  
 23 UT Heisman winner Earl (init.)  
 24 wife of JFK sniper (init.)  
 25 org. that runs pro rodeo circuit (abbr.)  
 26 "left \_\_\_\_\_ for future discussion"  
 27 break a promise

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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## PETITION

FROM PAGE A1

Commissioners Court to oversee the ESD, Druxman said. The district would be able to tax up to 10 cents per \$100 valuation, which is less compared to the 13 cents that Reno residents are already paying for the fire service.

"Yes, we would be independent of the city, but our obligations and the things that we do here would not

change," Druxman said. "It is solely for financing purposes."

In the beginning, ESD funding will be comparative to what the fire department receives now, but it will really pay off in the future as Reno grows, Druxman said.

Instead of burdening the city with paying for the fire department's staff and equipment, the ESD board would make those decisions on spending money, Druxman said.

If the ESD 10 is formed, Briar-Reno Fire Department would contract with the dis-

trict to serve Reno, and the department would also continue to contract with and serve Pelican Bay, Briar and Sanctuary. The volunteer fire department would stay intact if an ESD is created, Druxman said.

"We cannot get rid of our volunteer department because of the grants. The majority of grants we get is because of the volunteer department," he said. "I started as a volunteer almost 14 years ago this year. I am not going to stop the volunteer program. It is vital to what we do."

## MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

Worth, and his total bond amount is \$400,000.

During their investigation, Reno police officers connected Nunley to other crimes that allegedly occurred in unincorporated Tarrant County, and that part of the case was turned over to the

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. As a result, Nunley was arrested on three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and he was indicted for that in October.

Nunley's initial appearance in court for the sexual assault case in Tarrant County occurred at the end of August. The next court date for this case is a status conference on March 31.

In an email to news me-

dia, Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain said the two counties will need to have discussions to arrange scheduling for court settings. Nunley's murder case in Parker County has been assigned to the 415th District Court with Judge Graham Quisenberry presiding.

Nunley declined to be interviewed for this article.

# Sudoku

MARCH 22, 2023

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

# Solutions

MARCH 15, 2023

**Last Puzzle Solution**

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

# Correction

The article "SISD board talks discipline for vaping students" that appeared in the March 16 edition of The Springtown Epigraph has been updated online with corrected information. Springtown ISD Communications Coordinator Kendra Hutchison said the district is on the high end of disciplinary action when disciplining students for vaping, not the lower end.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Random musings to make you smile, or say, huh?

Winter is now officially in the books and spring has arrived! The coming of spring brings the fear of tornadoes, hail, damaging winds and the like, but spring also brings us bluebonnets, green grass, warmer temperatures, and the inspiration that the world is coming alive after a long winter.

Every now and then, folks need to stop thinking about local politics, traffic issues, rising housing costs and the price of food. With the coming of spring, I thought it would be fun to review some unusual or little-known facts that I hope will make you smile. Nothing wrong with having a little fun, is there?

- Here they are:
- "Selfies" now cause more deaths per year than shark attacks.
  - There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach on the planet.
  - Without saliva, humans are unable to taste food.



## 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.

- It snowed in the Sahara Desert for 30 minutes on Feb. 18, 1979.
- Humans have been performing dentistry since 7000 B.C., which makes dentistry one of the oldest professions.
- Hawaii is the only state with one school district.
- No "only child" has ever grown up to become U.S. president.
- The king of England reportedly owns all of the country's swans.
- Actress Betty White was technically "older than sliced bread." Sliced breads emerged in 1928 while Betty White was born in 1922.
- You cannot sneeze with your eyes open.
- Fruit Loops, though hav-

- ing individual colors, all taste the same. There are no individual flavors.
- Play-Doh wasn't always a children's plaything. It was first developed as a wallpaper cleaner.
- A banana is a berry, and a strawberry is not.
- The nose and ears are the only two body parts that never stop growing.
- Three presidents, all founding fathers or our nation, died on July 4th — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe.
- Part of Canada is south of Detroit.
- Bats are the only mammal that can fly.
- Elephants can't jump.
- Mosquitos are the deadliest creatures on Earth

because of the diseases they carry.

- German chocolate cake does not come from Germany. It is named for its creator, Sam German.
- There is enough concrete in the Hoover dam to build a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York City.
- Americans eat more than 150 million hot dogs each year on July 4.

I hope everyone gets outside in the days to come and enjoys the mild temperatures, sunshine, and the emergence of all things spring! Spring makes me feel replenished, renewed, and looking forward to the future. I hope it does the same for you.

Thought for the day; The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get us all through the dreariest of winters.

Until next time ... smile, laugh and keep ridin' the storm out.



PHOTO COURTESY

The plaything known as Play-Doh was originally developed as a wallpaper cleaner. In the 1950s, homes transitioned from heating with coal to cleaner oil, gas and electricity. This meant that there was less buildup of soot and smoke on wallpaper and painted walls, thus less demand for Kutol.

Company executive Joseph McVicker's sister in law Kay Zufall, a nursery school teacher, suggested that it be rebranded as a modeling compound for kids, and even came up with the new name - Play Doh.

# What is truth? Seriously.

"Truth" (noun): 1. the true or actual state of a matter; 2. conformity with fact or reality; 3. a verified or indisputable fact, proposition, principle, or the like; 4. the state or character of being true; 5. actuality or actual existence; 6. an obvious or accepted fact; 7. ideal or fundamental reality apart from and transcending perceived experience; 8. agreement with a standard or original; 9. accuracy as of position or adjustment. (From dictionary.com)

Have you noticed that "truth" - like "beauty" - is often in the eye of the beholder?

I'm not talking about real truth. I'm talking about what



## 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](http://www.discoveryouramazing.com).

we accept as truth.

Here's how it seems to work:

If a person I really like and respect says it's true, I will give it a hearing. That doesn't mean I accept it as fact. It just means that I won't dismiss it out of hand.

I need to run it through a few more tests.

Like this one: If the person I like and respect says it's

true and it affirms what I already believe, then it is more likely to be true. After all, I've believed this for a long time, and I've spent hours googling and finding quite a few experts who also agree with me. Of course, if they do not agree with me, they are no longer experts, and their "facts" are suspect.

I probably need to add one more test.

If the person I like and respect says it's true AND it affirms what I already believe AND it helps to accomplish my agenda and defeat any alternate agenda, then it definitely has the ring of truth to it. In fact, it seems obvious. Anyone who can't see it is probably deceived because of their gullibility. In that case, they need to be corrected.

Unless they are not gullible. In that case, they need to be shamed and identified as enemies of the truth.

But what if a person I have always liked and respected says it's true, but it doesn't affirm what I believe, and it doesn't help accomplish my agenda?

Can it possibly be true? Should I reconsider my position?

Heck, no! That person has obviously caved and lost their way. Or maybe they were never really trustworthy, and I just missed it. Either way, they've lost my respect, and I'm disappointed in them.

In case you were wondering, the previous paragraphs were dripping with sarcasm.

Truth is not in the eye of the beholder. Truth is true no matter who says it. And I believe that all truth has God as its source.

Here's the kicker: if all truth does indeed have God as its source, whether I believe it or not does not

change the truth of it. Truth is true regardless of how I respond.

This exchange recorded in John 18:37-38 prompted my thinking today:

Jesus: "In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Pilate: "What is truth?"

Isn't that our question? Here's my conclusion: Truth is not something we create or choose; it is something we seek to discover and live.

Even if we have to change our minds to do it.

Be amazing today, my friend.

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

**Monday** Dutch Waffle, Strawberries **Tuesday** Bacon Scramble Pizza, Blueberries **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Apple **Thursday** Cinnamon Roll, Applesauce **Friday** Strawberry & Vanilla Yogurt, Blueberry Muffin

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

**Mon** Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Roll, Fresh Carrots, Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges **Tues** Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Roll, Crispy Chicken Sandwich Green Beans, Fresh Carrots, Rosey Applesauce **Weds** Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, French Fries, Blueberries **Thurs** Tostadas (Chicken or Beef), Refried Beans, Corn, Apple Slices **Fri** Cheese 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** General Tso's Chicken, Tangerine Chicken, Protein Box, Broccoli, Fried Rice, Roll, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Baby Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Apple Slices, Banana **Tues** Lasagna w/ Garlic Toast, Crispy chicken Sandwich, Chef Salad, Glazed Carrots, Garden Salad **Weds** Reg or Spicy Chicken and Waffles, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Broccoli Salad, Tator Tots **Thurs** Tostada or Nachos (Beef or Chicken) Refried Beans, Blueberries **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Catfish Po'Boy, Baked Potato (Ham), Roll, Baked Beans, Pear Cup

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **WILLIAM CLIFFORD ZEILLER**, Deceased, were issued on March 25, 2023, in Cause No. 23P069, pending in the County Court of Parker County, Texas to: **CONNIE SUE ZEILLER**. The address of the Resident Agent to accept service of process is in Parker County, Texas, and the name of the Resident Agent and the post office address are: Soraya Joslin Attorney At Law P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 15 day of March, 2023. **SORAYA JOSLIN, P.C.** By: S/Soraya Joslin Soraya Joslin State Bar No. 00792408 P.O. Box 1267 Weatherford, Texas 76086 Telephone: (817) 386-8500 Facsimile: (817) 599-7005 ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE.

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# Bill would require fentanyl education; lawmakers want to legalize Sunday liquor sales

## BILL WOULD REQUIRE FENTANYL EDUCATION

The death of a Leander High School graduate from a fentanyl overdose has prompted state Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown, to file a bill that would require 10 hours of education annually concerning the dangers of the drug to students in sixth grade and up, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Tucker Roe, 19, bought what he thought was a Percocet pill on Instagram, according to his mother, Stefanie Turner. It turned out to be laced with a deadly amount of fentanyl, a powerful opioid responsible for more than 5,000 deaths in Texas last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"He was struggling with sleeping and stress, and he purchased a pill to help him sleep, and that pill took his life," Turner told the Statesman. Wilson's bill would allow a number of different types of organizations to provide the education, including public health agencies.



## 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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

## MORE ARRESTS MADE IN AUSTIN 'STREET TAKEOVER'

More than three dozen charges against 17 people were made last week in the takeover of several Austin intersections on Feb. 18 and 19. The Statesman reported those arrested face charges including evading arrest, obstructing a highway, reckless driving and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Video footage shot during the incidents showed cars spinning through intersections, fireworks exploding, and dozens of people running through the streets.

"The events that occurred disrupted our community, they garnered much of our attention, and they were clearly not good for our community," Austin Police Chief Joe Chacon said.

## PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST FATALITIES ON THE RISE

Pedestrian fatalities resulting from traffic crashes increased 34% from 2017 to 2021, while bicyclist deaths increased 58% during the same period. The Texas Department of Transportation has kicked off a pedestrian and bicyclist campaign this month to urge all Texans to follow the state's traffic laws and reduce those fatalities.

"We have a shared responsibility to every member of our community - to every family and every individual - to help reverse these trends and reduce traffic fatalities in Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

Texas law requires drivers to stop and yield for pedestrian and bicyclists in crosswalks, to yield while turning, and to pass bikes at a safe distance. Pedestrians, in turn,

are urged to cross only at intersections and crosswalks, to obey all traffic signs and signals, and to use sidewalks when possible.

Bicyclists are required to stop at red lights and stop signs, to ride in the same direction as traffic, and to use bike lanes when available.

## NELSON CONFIRMED AS TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

Former state Sen. Jane Nelson was confirmed last week by the Texas Senate as secretary of state. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed her to the position two months ago.

Nelson served in that chamber for 30 years.

"I will work to safeguard honest and accurate elections in all 254 counties across our great state, while continuing to support business owners by ensuring that government moves at the speed of Texas business, not the other way around," Nelson said in a statement after her confirmation.

## ADJUSTER INDICTED AFTER TDI INVESTIGATION

A Texas public insurance adjuster has been indicted by a Kimble County grand jury after being accused of steal-

ing more than \$268,000 in insurance claims. An investigation by the Texas Department of Insurance alleges Andrew Joseph Mitchell signed the names of clients on their insurance claim checks and kept the money.

Mitchell, based in Clear Lake Shores, Texas, solicited clients across the country using the internet, according to authorities.

"We have other victims here in Texas we're referring to prosecutors, but Mitchell is currently in jail in Louisiana, and we know of investigations in at least two other states," TDI fraud investigator Mark Pardeen said.

## LAWMAKERS WANT TO LEGALIZE SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES

A pair of bills introduced in the Legislature would legalize the sales of ready-to-drink cocktails seven days a week, the Houston Chronicle reported. Under current law, liquor stores are closed on Sunday, and grocery and corner stores can only sell beer and wine.

State Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, filed his version of the bill

recently.

"As industries innovate and new products become staples in the marketplace, it only makes sense for us to take a look at ways government can reduce regulatory red tape," Hancock said. A twin version of the bill was filed in the House by state Rep. Justin Holland, R-Rockwall.

Liquor stores would still be required to be closed on Sunday under the bills.

## TPWD SEEKS INPUT ON LAND AND WATER PLAN

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is seeking public input to help the agency make future management decisions.

"In fulfilling our mission, TPWD is committed to delivering effective natural resources stewardship and outdoor recreation programs that exemplify the highest standards of quality, service and professionalism," said David Yoskowitz, executive director of TPWD.

Public input can be made through April 14 by completing a survey being conducted by Texas A&M University. The survey can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/nhkcmxw>.

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Mauldin expresses, "You can expect unique and creative design options and superior customer care."

Rising Creek Custom Homes is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and available by appointment if necessary.

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# Texas Coalition for Affordable Power offers possible stability of electricity rates for members

**STAFF REPORTS**

The largest nonprofit aggregator of electric power for political subdivisions in Texas has found a way to offer rate stability to its members, resulting in a lower total price for electricity.

The Texas Coalition for Affordable Power will be obtaining its ancillary services from Broad Reach Power, the leading utility-scale battery storage platform in the United States.

After a significant review of market prices and reliability, the coalition entered into an agreement with Broad Reach Power to provide ancillary services to the coalition for a fixed price over a five-year period. With its strong base of energy storage resources across the Electric Reliability Council of Texas system, Broad Reach Power collaborated with the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power to come up with an innovative approach of providing risk management services to help increase its coalition of members and protect their governmental budgets.

The contract fixes the price to coalition members — which includes the city of Springtown and Walnut Creek Special Utility District — at an overall level that is often lower than what the coalition has been paying in recent months and provides rate stability to members to avoid future potential price spikes. Additionally, the contract is designed to provide in-

creased savings to members over the term of the agreement and is flexible enough to accommodate future potential changes in ancillary services procurements.

After Winter Storm Uri hit Texas in February 2021, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas implemented a new approach for procuring ancillary services, which are reliability products designed to keep the grid stable and operational.

ERCOT purchased more ancillary services starting in 2021 and continues to do so. A load entity, which provides electric service to customers, can either procure its share of ancillary services directly and provide these to ERCOT, or ERCOT will procure the services directly and assign cost responsibilities to loads. This higher procurement amount changed the supply and demand balance of ancillary services, resulting in higher and more volatile ancillary services prices. Over time, ERCOT ancillary services needs will increase because of:

- Load increases beyond current supply growth, i.e., cryptocurrency. The cryptocurrency market is putting strains on the ERCOT grid. Miners are using about 2 gigawatts (GW) of energy, enough to power 1.5 million homes. It is estimated that by 2026, Texas miners will draw as much as 29 GW, which would be four times as much as the whole of

New York City.

- Increased renewable penetration, which is the percentage of electricity generated by renewable energy like solar energy or wind energy, leading to more volatility and more ancillary service procurements. More ancillaries will be needed because the wind can stop, and the sun isn't always out.
- Extreme weather uncertainty leading to increased reliability requirements.

In response to these changes, the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power determined it was best for its 162 political subdivision members to move to procuring their own ancillary services at a fixed price instead of relying on the more volatile and higher priced ERCOT market procurements.

The Texas Coalition for Affordable Power is a nonprofit political subdivision corporation that aggregates its 162 members (cities, counties, special districts, transit authorities, housing authorities) electric use for the benefit of all to acquire a low rate for the member's own governmental use. The coalition offers additional energy services and is governed by its 15-member board. For more information about the coalition, visit [www.tcaptx.com](http://www.tcaptx.com).

Broad Reach Power is the leading utility-scale battery storage platform in the United States. Based in Houston, Broad Reach is backed by leading en-

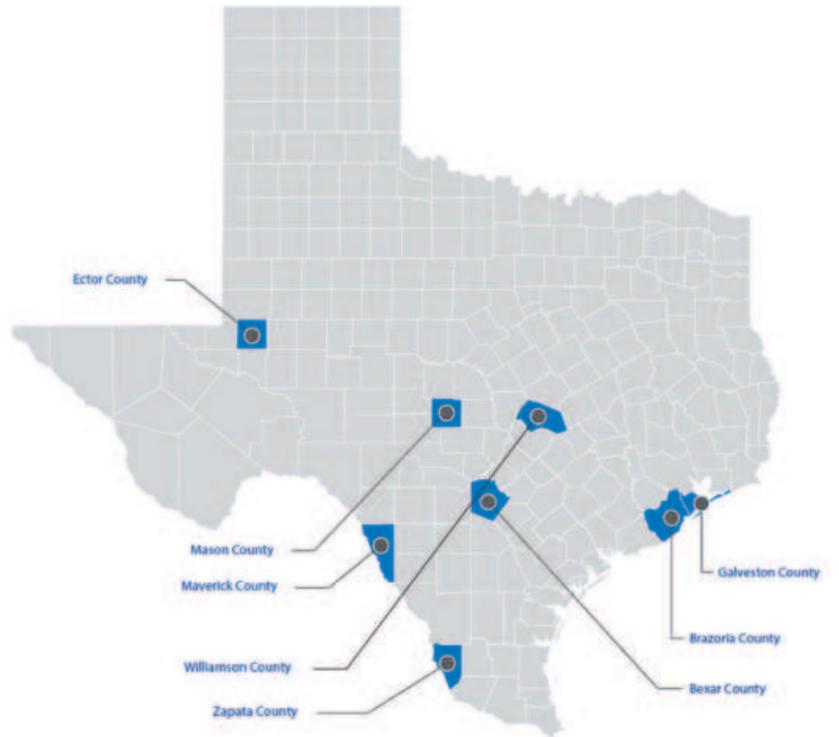


PHOTO COURTESY BROAD REACH POWER

**Broad Reach Power operates 17 Battery Energy Storage resources across Texas, providing energy reliability services to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), electric cooperatives, retail electric providers, and municipal utilities. This portfolio in operation represents nearly \$200 million investment. The company is presently actively developing, designing and building an additional 800 MW of transmission-level battery projects in ERCOT territory.**

ergy transition investors, EnCap Investments L.P., Apollo Global Management, Yorktown Partners and Mercuria Energy. The company owns a 21 GW portfolio of

utility-scale battery storage and renewable power projects across the U.S., which gives utilities, generators and customers access to technological insight and tools for

managing merchant power risk so they can better match supply and demand. For more information about the company, visit [www.broad-reachpower.com](http://www.broad-reachpower.com).

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# Cadets Day and Hull Promoted to Officer Ranks

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Grant Day of Springtown and Jacob Hull of Azle, both members of the Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), have been awarded the official cadet rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant, the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award.

Distinguished guests in attendance from CAP were the Texas Wing Commander, Colonel William Schroder and Texas Group VI Commander, Major Jason Quick.

Squadron Commander, Major Brian Kilian, proudly swore in the cadet officers and explained to the audience how these cadets along with the other cadet officers, are an integral part of the cadet program. Kilian shared, "Cadet Grant Day and Jacob Hull are shining examples of well-rounded youth preparing for bright futures as America's next generation of leaders. They exemplify servant leadership in their roles, unselfishly teaching and mentoring younger cadets."

Cadet 2nd Lt. Day has been in CAP just over 2 years. He joined CAP after attending the Cadet Great Start Class thinking it was a fun weekly activity to attend, but found it was so much more. His favorite aspect of CAP has been learning more about himself and how to be a leader. He is currently a freshman in high school and plans to continue working to achieve higher ranks in CAP and is considering a career in public service as a firefighter and paramedic after graduation.

When asked about earning the Mitchell, Day stated, "It feels really good! When I joined, I had no expectations to reach Mitchell. It means a lot to me because I dedicated myself from the point of joining, and continue to apply myself."

Cadet Day's parents, 1st Lt.



Grant Day of Springtown, left, with Major Brian Kilian has been awarded the official cadet rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant, the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award



Jacob Hull of Azle, left, with Major Brian Kilian has been awarded the official cadet rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant, the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award

Tracy and Adrian Day, both members of CAP, reflected upon the occasion with, "We are incredibly proud of Grant. He has worked very hard to achieve his Mitchell, to see his success in two difficult exams and graduating from Encampment, this was no walk in the park. We have seen him change and grow in so many ways. He has a pride/confidence in the way he carries himself, in his appearance both in and out of uniform and has become more of an instructor/leader with his sifers (and sometimes us). There have been so many positive changes. He has learned so much and keeps him room so organized. He takes the time to not just learn new things but to really understand them. He has made great friends and has become a great friend. We cannot put into words how great CAP has been for him. We are so thankful for this

program." Cadet 2nd Lt. Hull has been in CAP almost 2 years. He was inspired to join CAP to pursue his pilot's license. He enjoys the discipline and structure of the program and as his next step, has his sights set on earning the rank of Cadet Captain which is the Amelia Earhart Award. Ultimately, he intends to pursue the rank of Cadet Colonel, the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, the highest cadet rank in CAP. Cadet Hull is currently in the 10th grade and is working to attend the United States Air Force Academy after graduation. In earning this award, Hull stated, "Receiving the Mitchell and becoming an officer means you have a higher responsibility and it requires you demonstrate a higher level of core values." His advice to others, "Never do just the minimum required - always Dare Mighty

Things!. In CAP, you learn valuable leadership skills that will help you for the rest of your life." Cadet Hull's father, 2nd Lt Joe Hull, also a member of CAP, added, "We are proud of the effort that Jake has made to earn the Mitchell Award. He has earned this on his own with support from CAP leadership. We have watched him take ownership of his progression through the ranks, identifying next steps, making goals, and following through on his plan for completing the requirements. Working toward this goal has helped to focus his time and energy toward preparation and training for his desired future. Along the way he has learned valuable skills including: mature communication with peers and leaders, time management, and a servant leadership mindset for those under his stewardship. We look forward to his contin-

ued development as he works toward his goal of earning the Spaatz award." Capt Remy Range, Deputy Commander for Cadets, leads the cadet program for the squadron and works closely with each cadet. He expressed, "Cadet Day is excellent at focusing on cadets within his command with individual attention and mentorship. Cadets under his leadership witness firsthand what it is to be a servant leader. Cadet Hull is excellent at maintaining a positive spirit throughout all evolutions within the squadron, he finds the positives in all leadership opportunities. Cadets under his leadership witness what it means to maintain a positive leadership spirit." The Gen. Billy Mitchell Award became part of CAP in 1964. The award honors the late Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, an aviation pioneer and advocate for military

airpower. Only about 15% of CAP cadets earn this award. To earn this award, a cadet must complete not only the first eight achievements of the cadet program, but also pass an intensive examination of leadership theory and aerospace topics. In addition, to achieve this award, a cadet must also possess a positive attitude, be an encouragement to others, display the CAP Core Values, be proficient in informal speaking, and trustworthy in supervising and leading a team of cadets, and guide/coach junior cadets. This award is a noteworthy achievement that earns a recipient eligibility for a variety of scholarships and CAP special activities. The military also looks favorably on Mitchell Award recipients when evaluating AFROTC and Academy applicants and if they choose to enlist in the Air Force, they enter at the grade of E-3.

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# Springtown competes at academic UIL

*Springtown intermediate, elementary school students succeed in academic UIL meet*

**STAFF REPORTS**

Springtown elementary and intermediate school students brought home some hardware from last month's academic UIL meet.

Students from Springtown Elementary School, Reno Elementary School, Goshen Creek Elementary School and Springtown Intermediate School participated in the meet on Feb. 17 at Acton Elementary School in Granbury. The Springtown competitors won 76 top six places, including 14 first place medals.

The young Porcupines competed with students from four Granbury ISD elementary schools and two Mineral Wells ISD elementary schools. According to Acton

Elementary School's Facebook page, about 500 students participated in competitive events such as ready writing, number sense, and chess, among other categories.

The elementary teams were led by campus directors Cynthia Litke at Springtown Elementary School, Elizabeth Wilson at Reno Elementary School, Marsha Adams at Goshen Creek Elementary School, and Wendy Kennedy at Springtown Intermediate School.

"We want to thank the Board, district and campus administrators, teachers, and parents for supporting Springtown academics," Springtown ISD District Academic UIL Director Andrea Hungerford said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY KENNEDY

Top right: Springtown Intermediate School fifth grade academic UIL competitors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY KENNEDY

Middle right: Springtown Intermediate School sixth grade academic UIL competitors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRINGTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Bottom right: Springtown Elementary School's academic UIL team.





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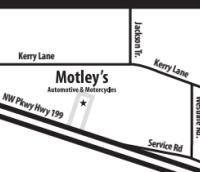
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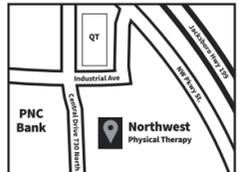
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## Every point counts

Jocelyn Diaz and the Springtown Lady Pines will begin soccer playoff action on Friday, March 24.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

### Lady Porcupines to open soccer playoffs against Diamond Hill-Jarvis

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Lady Porcupines enter the bi-district soccer playoffs as the third seed and will face Diamond Hill-Jarvis at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, at

Lake Worth High School. Diamond Hill-Jarvis (7-3) finished in second place in District 7-4A behind the undefeated district champ Benbrook (10-0).

On Jan. 6, the Lady Pines and Diamond Hill-Jarvis played each other in a pre-

season tournament, and Springtown won 2-1.

“Beating Diamond Hill-Jarvis 2-1 earlier in the season has helped us know that we can beat them but also know that it will potentially be a close game,” said head coach Katherine

Kummerfeld. “This is beneficial going into this week of practice because we know we have to train extra hard to maintain that competitive mindset so we can bring it into the game on Friday.”

The coach considers the two teams as evenly matched

but said “we feel like if we play our best, we can succeed in a victory.”

Springtown finished 5-4-1 in district behind Decatur (10-0) and second-place Bridgeport (8-2).

PLEASE SEE **SOCCER** | B4

## Lady Porcupine powerlifters win state championship

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

For three years, the Lady Porcupines had been trying to reclaim the Texas High School Women’s Powerlifting Association’s state Class 4A Division I championship it held most recently in 2019.

Bingo. On March 18, the Springtown girls powerlifting team was crowned champion at the state meet in Frisco, and four Lady Pines earned individual titles.

Springtown toppled defending champion Port Lavaca Calhoun by a whopping 10 points. Last year, Springtown finished four points behind Calhoun and finished as runners-up.

This year, Springtown dominated the competition.

Springtown finished with 33 points compared to 23 points by Calhoun and 17 points by third place La Feria.

More than 50 schools competed, and most scored no points.

Earning individual state titles were Angela Chavez, Brianna Graham, Abigail Rodgers, and Kylie Wear.

Chavez set state records in squat (570 pounds), bench press (350), and total (1,325) in the 259-pound class.

Graham set state records in bench press (200) and total (830) at 105 pounds.

Wear set the state record for squat (430) in the 148-pound class.

Reaghan Fortner earned third place in the 259-pound class, and Anaie Rodriguez earned fourth place at 148 pounds.

#### PREPARING FOR BIG DAY

On the morning of March 16, the Springtown powerlifters met at Springtown High School, loaded their over-



Anaie Rodriguez signs her name outside the bus window.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

PLEASE SEE **POWER** | B2



## Porcupines stick it to Bullfrogs in baseball district opener

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The district portion of the baseball schedule had arrived, and the Springtown Porcupines felt confident as they prepared to play a home game against Lake Worth on March 22.

The Pines appeared loose after warmups, physically and mentally. They laughed and joked. Most of the teammates stood in a circle near

the dugout, playing a game where they try to keep tossed baseballs from touching the ground.

“We’re excited,” said shortstop Carson Cox. “We’ve been preparing all season for this. We’ve had a couple of ups and downs through it, but we’re ready to dominate through district.”

Early in the preseason, Springtown won four of its first five games. Wins and losses would follow as the team prepared itself for district. Springtown went 1-3 at a Glen Rose tournament. A week later, the Pines went 3-1 at a Bowie tourney before losing their final preseason game 7-1 against Godley.

**JEFF PRINCE** | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH  
Keegan Martinez earned his first district win of the season as the Porcupines walloped Lake Worth 11-1 on March 21. The two teams play again on Friday, March 24.

PLEASE SEE **BALL** | B4

# POWER

FROM PAGE B1

night bags into SUVs and a small bus, chatted excitedly, wrapped themselves with blankets to stay warm, and used colorful felt markers to write their names and “State Bound” on vehicle windows.

Not far away, residents stood alongside Texas 199, holding hand-painted signs. They were waiting to cheer the team as it rolled by in a caravan led by police and fire vehicles.

“Our convoy is almost ready,” head coach Missy Castro told her team.

Thirteen Lady Porcupines would compete at the 2023 THSWPA State Powerlifting Championship at Comerica Center in Frisco: Zoey Adams, Angela Chavez, Macy Chavez, Marie Cook, A’shiana Elam, Fortner, Graham, Jessica Montgomery, Emily Plumlee, Abigail Stoner, Skyler Tyree, Rodgers, Rodriguez and Wear.

“We’re very excited,” said Rodriguez, a senior. “It’s tradition. Springtown has always been big about going to state and taking as many people as we can. Our main goal this year is to win it all. We’ve worked so hard for this, just going at it. I just hope we go in and win this whole thing.”

The first to arrive that morning was team manager Lyndsey Shotwell. The sophomore sat in an SUV with her



Thirteen Lady Pines prepare to head to the state tournament.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

mother in the school parking lot and waited for team members to show up. Shotwell powerlifts for the junior varsity squad and helps manage

the varsity team.

Next year, Shotwell plans to make the varsity team and lift at the state meet. This year, she is happy helping the

older girls.

“I keep track of everyone’s lift numbers, what they’re doing next, making sure everyone goes on time and gets wrapped on time,” she said. “You have to make sure that they don’t miss their lifts.”

Being a manager has helped teach her about time management and “how to be a good teammate,” she said. “We’re all kind of family.”

Another early arrival was Graham, a team standout. The senior had won every powerlifting meet she had competed in during the past three years. The two-time state champion was determined to earn her third consecutive state title.

All she had to do was beat out 50 of the best lifters in Texas.

“It’s pretty exciting, but it’s also a lot of pressure to keep the streak going,” Graham said. “I think it’ll be OK. I’m excited for it. I’m trying not to be nervous.”

She trains hard and eats well, but a strong mindset propels her to the winner’s circle more than anything, she said.

“Everything about lifting is in your head,” she said. “If you’re not thinking you can

do it, then you’re not going to be able to do it.”

She has a thin build physically, and surprises people with her strength and mental fortitude.

“If you look at me, I don’t look like I can lift what I lift,” she said. “I believe I can, so I do it. It takes some practice but also being surrounded by people like this. We’re like a family. And we have an amazing coach.”

### COACH CASTRO BELIEVES

Head coach Missy Castro has overseen Porcupines girls powerlifting for 11 years and, in recent years, has seen the team win a state title, place second twice, and place third. The Porcupines have been closing the point gap on Port Lavaca Calhoun during that time.

Calhoun is a powerlifting dynasty that had earned state titles a dozen years in a row.

Castro predicted Springtown and Calhoun would be the top contenders for this year’s title.

“It’s going to be close,” she said. “Probably a couple of points are going to separate the champion and second place this year.”

Last year, four points separated the two teams,

and Calhoun took home the trophy.

“I feel like we have a really good shot this year compared to the other years,” Castro said. “The last two years, we were definite underdogs. I feel like we’re still the underdogs just because (Calhoun) is so dominant, but I believe that we can do it.”

She would rely on a strong core of seniors — seven in all — who knew what to expect at the state meet.

“Hopefully, this is our year,” Castro said.

Losing to Calhoun in 2022 had gnawed at the team for the past year, said Rodriguez, a senior who won numerous meets leading up to state.

“It was definitely our motivation to work harder this year,” she said.

Castro urged her team to work hard but to have fun building memories. Rodriguez is glad to have a coach who pushes them to succeed while enjoying themselves.

“We always want to have a good time and make the best of every moment,” Rodriguez said. “If we win, we praise God. If we lose, we praise God.”



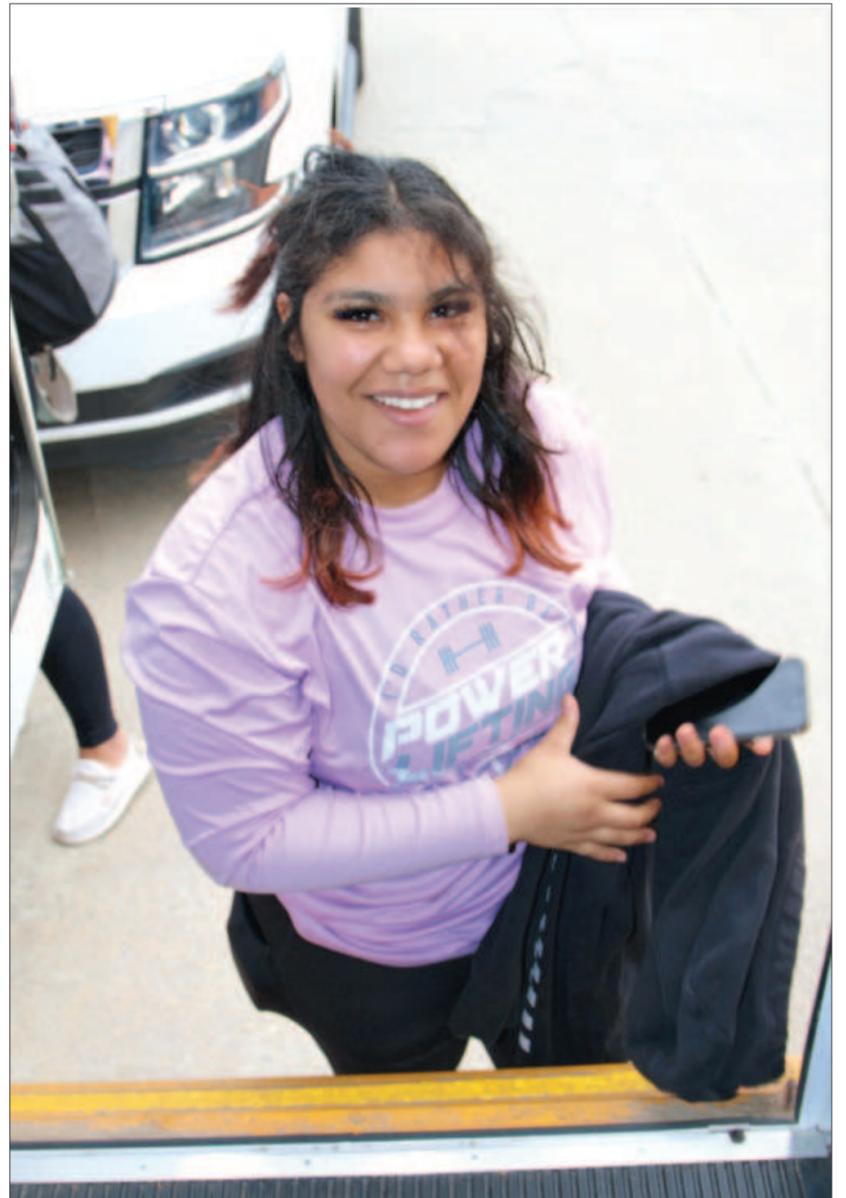
Macy Chavez helps decorate the bus.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Marie Cook writes on a window before heading to the state powerlifting meet.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Abigail Rodgers loads her personals onto a bus before heading to Frisco.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Sophomore Mason Coleman, pictured preventing a goal, will help protect the net next year.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



## Springtown soccer boys look to future

JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupines missed the boys soccer playoffs but won more games than in recent years and appear poised to excel in 2023.

The team won two district games and five games overall, posting its best record in almost a decade.

The last time the Porcupines won two district games was in 2015.

This year, Springtown barely missed the playoffs. The Pines finished in fifth place, one game behind Lake Worth. Springtown had lost to Lake Worth 2-1 in February but beat the Bull Frogs 2-1 in the next-to-last game of the season on March 7.

Seniors who have played their final soccer game as a Porcupine were Ricardo Arias, Cameron Cockrell,

Ashton Day, Jose Espinoza, Cameron Gaston, Angel Martinez and Hedrickson Perdomo.

Despite losing those seniors, next year's Porcupines will retain numerous talented players with experience and should be considered a contender for the playoffs.

Some of the players expected to return include junior Josue Anaya and sophomores Angel Benitez-Aguillar, Mason Coleman, Jamie Mueller, Brody Phifer and Bryce Smith. Also, freshmen Brayden Arnold, Dylan McCallister, Rolando Salas, Brennan Smith and Caden White could return to the mix as well.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH  
**Josue Anaya, a junior, is expected to shine in his senior year on the soccer field.**

## Lady Porcupines fall to Decatur in district opener

JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

Weeks and months of preparation had culminated in the district opener for the Lady Porcupines softball team on March 21.

The girls were excited, the coaches were pumped, and the fans were in abundance.

Sometimes, games don't go as planned.

Springtown started slowly. By the time the Pines began finding hits and scoring runs, the game ended.

Final score: Decatur 12, Springtown 2.

"We came out a little flat," said head coach Scott Mann. "We talked yesterday about what we wanted to do, and we kind of came out and went the opposite direction for a while, and then kind of settled in."

Springtown faced a top 25 team in Decatur. The Eagles had won 15 games already this season.

"That's a good team over there," Mann said, nodding toward the visitor dugout. "They are 15-7 and play some pretty good teams this year. Their pitcher moved the ball really well on us."

One blip on the radar, however, does not a disaster make.

"I still feel comfortable with where we're at," Mann said. "Toward the end, we made some adjustments and got

some things going, so it's a positive going the rest of the way."

Catcher Cheyanne Atchley was back to her old self, showing the form at the plate that helped the Lady Pines score runs and win games last season. She went 2 for 3 against Decatur with a double and a triple, and she threw out a runner trying to steal second base.

"There is definitely a lot we need to work on mentally, but once we get that part down, we're going to be good," she said. "We just need to work together as a team like we did last year."

Last year, the team chemistry was harmonious and exciting and helped the girls prevail in close games, she said.

This year's team needs to find that happy place, Atchley said.

"We just got to come together and make sure we're thinking positive," she said. "Team bonding. Having a positive mind set. Not letting the little things get to you. Things like that."

Springtown plays at 5:30 p.m. Friday at home against Castleberry.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH  
**Haylee Sanborn eyes a pop fly while playing first base in the district opener against Decatur.**



# BALL

FROM PAGE B1

Last year's team went 7-7 in district and plowed three rounds deep into the playoffs.

"This year, we're hoping to have a winning season," Cox said. "We're all living the experience. Living in the moment. Playing as hard as we can. Winning as much as we can."

The teammates are closer than ever, and that unity should surface in the win-loss column, he said.

"This program has a lot of guys that are that are very close," he said. "We're all bonded together. We're bonded with that love of baseball. Everybody loves game. Everybody wants to be here."

Springtown held Lake Worth scoreless in the top of the first inning. Then, the Porcupines put 2 runs on the scoreboard in the bottom of the first. They left runners stranded and could have inflicted more damage.

Not to worry. The Pines had plenty more gigs for the Bullfrogs.

In the top of the second, Springtown's defense turned a double play that included freshman catcher Layton Murrell, who was starting in his first varsity game. Murrell went 4 for 4 at the plate, including knocking in the run that ended the game due to the 10-point rule.

Final score: Springtown 11, Lake Worth 1.

Afterward, even a grizzled veteran of various athletic battlefields such as Aaron Tidwell was impressed by

the Porcupines' newest teammate.

"Layton did his job," Tidwell said. "Layton is one of our best players. I'm proud of him."

Tidwell was happy to see his team perform like he knew they could.

"We knew what we had to do," he said. "Lake Worth is a pretty decent baseball team, and we went out there, we hit good. Keegan did his job on the mound."

Keegan Martinez handled pitching duties, and his strong outing had much to do with Lake Worth's string of zeroes on the scoreboard.

Porcupine batters played a large role in the shellacking, as well.

"Before district, we were struggling to put the bat on the ball," Tidwell said.

The team had focused on batting practice in recent weeks, and "we transferred that to the game," he said.

Head coach Colin Crawford liked what he saw.

"It was good to get a win against a team that's been playing really well lately," he said. "They do a good job over there (in Lake Worth), so it's good for us to come out and be able to get some on the board early."

He praised the team's hitting.

"We've talked a lot lately about approach and what we're trying to do at the plate," he said. "We did a better job than we have recently in executing that plan."

"All the guys did a good job," the coach said. "We're excited about Friday."

Springtown plays the Bullfrogs again at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Lake Worth.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Layton Murrell went 4 for 4 at the plate and played stout defense behind the plate in his district debut on varsity.

# SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

The Lady Porcupines began the season with a three-game win streak, controlling their destiny and first place.

A mid-season losing streak threatened their playoff chances until the girls rebounded in March and won district contests against Lake Worth and Castleberry.

Springtown lost its final district game against Decatur, but even that defeat

was something of a victory. Decatur, the district champ, had beaten Springtown 6-1 in their first matchup, Feb. 17.

On March 10, the two teams met again, and Decatur won, 1-0.

Locking down the third seed spot was an improve-

ment over last season, when the Lady Pines finished fourth in district and played top-seeded Gainesville. The Porcupines lost, 1-0.

Heading into this season, Kummerfeld wanted to finish no lower than third place.

"I knew that one, we had

the ability to make it to the playoffs, and two, we wanted to get that higher seed to play a lower ranked team," she said. "Since the beginning of the season, I have been stressing to my girls that our goal for the season was not only to make it to (the) play-

offs, but to get a higher seed in them, and we achieved that. Trying your best to beat every team is important because every point counts in district play."

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### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### The Cutest Bee on Earth

These bees, with scientific name *Amegilla bombiformis*, look cute and cuddly. If you want to snuggle up with one of these bees, you're in for a treat because the male bees don't sting. These bees live in Australia. Circle every other letter to reveal the nickname for this bee.

C T R E L D N D W  
Y K B C E H A J  
R V B U E F E

T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

### Kid Scoop Together

#### World's Smallest Bee

Unscramble the letters to find the missing words.

One bee is teeny tiny. Scientists call it the Perdita minima. Many people call it the       .

**YRIAF EBE**

The fairy bee lives in the American southwest. It lives alone and makes a tiny nest in sandy desert.

**LISO**

The fairy bee grows to be less than two millimeters long. Its entire body can easily fit on the head of an averaged-size bee.

People who look for this tiny bee look for its shadow on the ground. It is easier to find its shadow than the bee.

This bee is so small that it can easily pass through the mesh of insect       .

**TENS**

Standards Link: Spell grade appropriate words correctly.

### World's Biggest Bee

The world's biggest bee, called **Wallace's giant bee**, disappeared almost 40 years ago. Scientists thought it was gone forever, or **extinct**.

In 2019, scientists traveled into the forests of Indonesia. There, they discovered a living Wallace's giant bee!

### Giant Jaws

The giant bee has enormous jaws called **mandibles**. It uses the mandibles to scrape sticky **resin** off trees. They use the resin to build burrows within termite nests, where females raise their young.

### Does it sting?

Wallace's giant bee **does** sting. But, unlike the honeybee, it does not die when it stings.

### What does a giant bee eat?

Like other bees, they feed on nectar and pollen but they don't make honey. Follow the maze and write down the letters along the correct path to discover how much larger Wallace's giant bee is than a typical honeybee.

How much larger is Wallace's giant bee than a typical honeybee?  
F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

### How Big?

Use the code to discover why the giant bee causes such buzz in the scientific community!

Wingspan: \_\_\_\_\_ inches ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

About as long as an adult human thumb: \_\_\_\_\_ inches long ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

### The Big Bee with Many Names

Use the code to discover different names this big bee is called.

Indonesians call it *Raja Ofu* which means: \_\_\_\_\_

The scientists who found it called it: \_\_\_\_\_

CODE	Letter
26 =	A
25 =	B
24 =	C
23 =	D
22 =	E
9 =	R
8 =	S
7 =	T
6 =	U
5 =	V
4 =	W
3 =	X
2 =	Y
1 =	Z

How many bees can you find on this page?

### Double Double Word Search

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

S	E	E	R	T	G	R	G	P	V
O	E	T	V	S	R	I	T	Y	A
U	Q	E	T	J	A	W	S	S	L
T	R	S	B	N	M	V	H	T	L
C	E	S	T	G	M	O	I	E	
N	S	R	A	T	C	E	N	N	Y
I	I	R	E	N	I	M	E	G	F
T	N	E	B	U	Z	Z	Y	A	J
X	C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R
E	B	T	H	U	M	B	F	L	E

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Endangered Species

Look for articles about animals that are endangered. What is causing each animal's endangerment? What can be done to prevent the loss?

Standards Link: Use evidence from text to support a position.

### Write On!

#### Buzzy Day

One day I woke up and I was a bee. Then ...  
*Finish this story.*

Standards Link: Understand comparative and superlative forms.

### What bees are these?

Do the math to label each of these bees!

26 + 17 = Pigmented Miner Bee  
17 + 11 = Western Bumble Bee  
18 + 18 = Valley Carpenter Bee  
13 + 13 = Western Honeybee

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
36 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 \_\_\_\_\_

### World's Smallest Bee

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. *Oops!* All but one petal, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the number in the center.

Standards Link: Calculate sums and differences.

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1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241  
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817-444-3752  
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7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes  
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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC  
800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
817-444-3063  
**CHRISTIAN**  
THE CHURCH AT AZLE  
1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-444-9973  
**AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
817-688-3339  
**GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**  
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
817-825-0485  
**THE ABBEY CHURCH**  
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-238-1404  
**CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**  
120 E. Main St., Azle  
817-406-4577  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
336 NW Parkway  
817-444-3268  
**BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
817-444-7102  
**MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6400 Midway Rd.  
817-221-2107  
**NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
817-677-3290  
**NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1205  
**POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
West of FM 920 in Poolville  
817-594-4182  
**SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
817-221-2799  
**SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Just west of Hwy. 51 North  
817-523-4419  
**TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown  
817-980-8156  
**CHURCH OF GOD**  
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD  
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7 Springtown, 817-677-3208  
**LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD**  
THE WORD@LAKESIDE  
9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886)  
817-237-5500  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**  
AZLE CHRISTIAN  
117 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3527  
**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN**  
1602 S. Main St., Weatherford  
817-594-3043  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
4th & Main, Paradise  
**EPISCOPAL**  
ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL  
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1888  
**PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL**  
405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford  
817-596-7476  
**ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL**  
5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks  
817-739-0504  
**GOSPEL**  
CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP  
3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth  
817-237-7919  
**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
212 Pearson Lane, Azle  
817-221-2242  
**LUTHERAN**  
THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE  
1313 SE Parkway, Azle  
817-237-4822  
**HOPE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
4795 Hwy. 199, Reno  
817-221-HOPE  
**METHODIST**  
BOYD UNITED METHODIST  
FM 730 North in Boyd  
940-433-5334  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
200 Church St., Azle  
817-444-3323  
LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP  
7200 Robertson Rd., Fort Worth  
817-237-2758  
SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST  
2200 Church Rd., Azle  
817-444-1382  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
Hwy. 51 N & 3rd Street, Springtown  
817-523-7874  
GARVIN UNITED METHODIST  
3 miles West of Boyd on C.R. 4699  
POOLVILLE UNITED METHODIST  
1 block W. of FM 920 (behind Poolville Post Office)  
817-599-3601  
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (THE MORMONS)**  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
1010 Timberbrooks, Azle  
817-237-5075  
**PENTECOSTAL**  
GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH  
3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-4844  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford  
817-594-2744  
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH  
Meeting at Northwest YMCA  
5315 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth  
817-989-9800  
**ORTHODOX**  
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1157 S. E. Parkway (Jacksboro Highway), Azle  
817-752-8255  
**OTHER**  
ALIENTO DE DIOS  
2233 E. Hwy 199, Springtown  
817-521-4694  
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

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CPMT  
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www.clarksmachine.com bjc@clarksmachine.com

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Subscribe today to keep up-to-date  
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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!  
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**TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Actively Supporting our Communities!

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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

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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

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

**CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle -  
817-220-7217 - Springtown -**

**kimmy@azlenews.net**

**Ad Classifications**

- |                            |                                 |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1... Air Condition/Heating | 24..... Electrician             | 46..... Looking to Buy                 |
| 2..... Antiques            | 25..... Equipment & Tool Rental | 47..... Lost & Found                   |
| 3..... Appliances          | 26..... Excavating              | 48... Maintenance/Repairs              |
| 4..... Appliance Repair    | 27..... Exterminating           | 49..... Masonry/Stonework              |
| 5..... Arts/Crafts         | 28..... Farm Equipment          | 50... Mobile Home Service              |
| 6..... Asphalt Paving      | 29..... Fencing                 | 51..... Motorcycles                    |
| 7..... Auctions            | 30..... Firewood                | 52..... Movers                         |
| 8..... Autos, Trucks       | 31..... Free                    | 53..... Musical Instruments            |
| 9..... Auto Repair Service | 32..... For Sale                | 54..... Music Lessons                  |
| 10..... Backhoe Service    | 33..... Furniture               | 55..... Miscellaneous                  |
| 11..... Boats, Motors      | 34..... Garage & Estate Sales   | 56 Party Planning/Events               |
| 12..... Bookkeeping        | 35 ...Garden/Mowing Svc         | 57..... Pets/Livestock                 |
| 13..... Business           | 36..... Hauling                 | 58..... Piano Service                  |
| Opportunity                | 37..... Hay                     | 59..... Pool Service                   |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers   | 38..... Health/Fitness          | 60..... Professional Services          |
| 15..... Carports/Patios    | 39..... Help Wanted             | 61..... Personal                       |
| 16..... Equipment Repair   | 40 ....Home Improvement         | 62..... Plumbing                       |
| 17..... Carpet Service     | 41 .....House Leveling          | 63..... Public Notice                  |
| 18 .....Catering           | 42..... House Cleaning          | 64..... Photography                    |
| 19..... Cement Work        | 43..... Hunting                 | 65..... Printing                       |
| 20..... Demolition         | 44..... Janitorial Service      | 66..... Roofing                        |
| 21..... Child Care         | 45..... Job Wanted              | 67..... Recycling                      |
| 22..... Cosmetics          |                                 | 68..... Storage                        |
| 23..... Computers/Services |                                 | 69..... Sand/Gravel                    |
|                            |                                 | 70..... Septic Tanks                   |
|                            |                                 | 71..... Sewing/Alterations             |
|                            |                                 | 72..... Sewer Service                  |
|                            |                                 | 73..... TV/Radio                       |
|                            |                                 | 74..... Tractor Service                |
|                            |                                 | 75..... Upholstery                     |
|                            |                                 | 76..... Vacuum Cleaners                |
|                            |                                 | 77..... Wanted                         |
|                            |                                 | 78..... Well Drilling                  |
|                            |                                 | 79..... Welding                        |
|                            |                                 | 80..... Lots/Acreage                   |
|                            |                                 | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
|                            |                                 | 82..... RV's for Rent                  |
|                            |                                 | 83..... Houses for Sale                |
|                            |                                 | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent          |
|                            |                                 | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale          |
|                            |                                 | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots            |
|                            |                                 | 87..... Rent Furnished                 |
|                            |                                 | 88..... Rent Unfurnished               |
|                            |                                 | 89..... Wanted to Rent                 |

**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**

**029 Fencing**

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

**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  
*Insured for your protection*

**039 Help Wanted**

**HIRING Ranch Hand**

Seeking 2 honest and dependable cowboys, with horse. Must be knowledgeable in farm & ranch and able to work a full time (40+ hrs.), permanent position based in Decatur, TX. The right candidates will be responsible for tending to livestock, pasture land, equipment, and other misc. duties, as needed.

We offer competitive pay and full benefits package.

**Apply to 605 N. Bus. 287, Ste. 102, Decatur - or call Lara at 940-627-6362**

**019 Cement Work**

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

**032 For Sale**

Spacious Log Home for sale, .78 acres with metal shop, HWY 51. Rustic, versatile floor plan, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 living areas & 3 baths. \$450,000. Moriah Properties 817-821-9914.

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

**039 Help Wanted**

Hiring Caregivers, Locations: Azle, Saginaw, Lake Country, Keller, and surrounding counties. Texas Angels are seeking energetic, compassionate, and dedicated Certified Nurse Aides, experienced Home Health Aides, Nursing Students, or Caregivers. Our Caregivers are focused on caring for our clients, driven by the desire to exceed the standards of care and the expectations of the client. Texas Angels caregivers are part of our family and we are dedicated to their personal growth. www.texasangelshomecare.com/careers or call 817-727-4525.

**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



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

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

**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

**034 Garage & Estate Sales**

Moving Sale  
Friday-Saturday March 24th-25th  
8-5. 1100 Woodridge Dr, Azle. Oak desk, portable bar w/stools, couch, chair, curio cabinet, dolls, scrubs and misc.

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

**ADS Steel Services**  
Now Hiring  
Experienced Fitters,  
Installers & Shop Labor  
Competitive Wages  
Health Insurance  
Paid Holidays & Vacations  
apply in person at  
7461 W Vickery Blvd  
Ft Worth, TX 76116  
817-763-8223

**024 Electrician**

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

**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.

**037 Hay**

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

Azle Chiropractic is seeking a P/T position for a Chiropractic Assistant, health care experience not required, apply at office. 817-444-4357.

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

**039 Help Wanted**

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

**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.

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.

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.

**E-Conn Electric**  
Service, Remodel, New Construction  
Insured/BBB Accredited  
**817-615-7164**  
Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!  
C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

**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



**WEATHERFORD Healthcare Center**

Sign on Bonus offered -  
2-10PM RN/LVN  
Double Weekend & 10P-6A CNAs  
Apply in person at 521 W. 7th St.  
Or call 817-594-8713 or  
Email resume to [HR.Weatherford@Summittc.com](mailto:HR.Weatherford@Summittc.com)  
EOE

**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](http://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

**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**

**035 Garden/Mowing Service**

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

**029 Fencing**

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

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

**OUTDOOR SCENE**  
**682-553-1560**

[www.azlenews.net](http://www.azlenews.net)  
[www.springtown-epigraph.net](http://www.springtown-epigraph.net)

Save a Shelter Animal.  
Find your forever Friend



**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.

### 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.

### KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

#### Route Driver

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

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

### 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**

051 Motorcycles 066 Roofing



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

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

**AT HOME**  
**ROOFING & METAL BUILDINGS**  
**817-304-4224**

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

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.

Pigs for sale, all kinds. Call or text 817-368-4615.

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**

**LANDERS Plumbing Co.**  
**940-233-2862**  
M-10078

### GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.

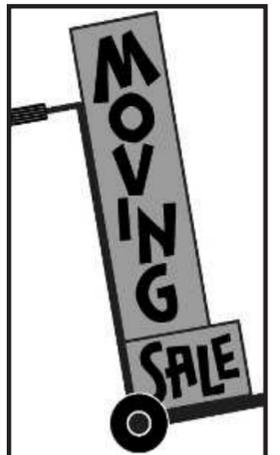


Commercial-Residential Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area M#15899  
**817-220-2469**  
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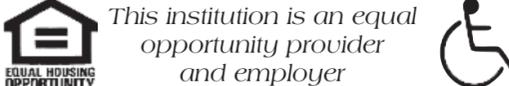
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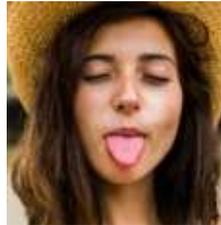
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Haley Carter (third from left) values time with her family and wants to create as many memories as she can with them.

# 20 YEARS AS A 'GOOD NEIGHBOR'

By Jessica McKinney

**H**aley Carter has been a part of the State Farm family since she was 10 years old, when her mother became a State Farm agent. From that time, she knew that she wanted to follow that same career path. “I loved seeing how she was able to help people” she said. “I can’t remember ever wanting to be anything else!” Carter started her own journey with State Farm in 1998 right out of college. She worked on the operations side. “I was an auto underwriter first then supervisor,” said Carter. “After a couple years in underwriting, I transitioned to agency resources to help train agents and their teams on bank and health products. In 2002, I opened my own agency.” At the end of 2022, Carter celebrated her 20th anniversary as an agent with State Farm.

But the entrepreneurial spirit has been a part of her life even before she opened her agency. In high school and college, Carter and her brother owned a few shaved ice stands. The experience she gained made a big impact on her future as a businesswoman. “I’m grateful my parents helped encourage us in this direction,” she said. “We were in charge of everything from staffing, stocking, managing, operating, marketing, etc. this opportunity really helped me be a better business owner, once I started my own agency.” Carter loves that she works in a career that is all about helping people. “State Farm’s mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. Whenever we help in someone in that capacity, it’s the most rewarding aspect of what we do.” Since opening her agency 20 years ago, Carter has been

diligent about becoming an active member of the Azle community and the local Azle Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I love being a part of this community and feel it's very important to be involved in as many areas as possible. Whether it's supporting other local businesses, participating in Chamber of Commerce events, or giving back to our community through our non-profits/schools; I feel like they are all equally important in order for our community to thrive."

Haley Carter State Farm Agency maintains a presence at community events like Sting Fling and Christmas on Main, as well as any Azle sporting events.

What are some of her favorite things about Azle?

"There are too many favorites to list them all! Azle welcomed me, my family, and my business with open arms in 2005. We're proud to say we raised our family here. Everything about this town was good to us and continues to bless us. I think the wonderful people of Azle make it so great. I also love the small-town feel of Azle, even though we're so close to the big city."

Carter grew up in Arkansas and still has a lot of family and friends back home. She attended Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, earning her Bachelor of Business Management/Marketing. She and her husband met in college and got married shortly after graduation. Then, they moved to Texas to set down their roots.

Today, her children are 24 and 23, and the family welcomed the start of a new generation when Carter's granddaughter, Kollyns, was born.

"I love spending time with my family and friends, doing anything and everything" Carter said. "We especially enjoy our time on the lake and travelling. Life is even sweeter this last year with the addition of our first grandbaby. My husband and I try to spend every possible moment with her. They grow up too fast!"

Today, Carter's agency is thriving and has become as much a part of the Azle community as Buzzy, with the same level of recognition too.

"One of my favorite memories are the kids that would recognize me from my billboard on 199," she said. "I'm definitely not famous but it was always cute that they thought I was."

To any new agents getting their start in insurance, or new business owners in general, Carter says: "Take a chance and bet on yourself. The hard work is the reward. Surround yourself with good people; my team is my biggest asset. Never be satisfied, we can always learn and get better."



**ABOVE:** Carter enjoys every minute with the newest member of the Carter clan, Kollyns.

**BELOW:** Haley Carter's State Farm team can be found at almost every community event around Azle throughout the year, from Christmas on Main Street to Sting Fling.



# When You Need Help STAT

Medical personnel take team approach in treating patients

BY DON MUNSCH



Eagle Mountain Fire Department EMT Jolene Hermosillo and paramedic Ivan Basco said their jobs require a team approach when treating a traumatic situation with patients. Photo by Don Munsch

**E**mergency medical responders must know how to react to medical matters every day, whether they are trauma or routine cases.

They never know what each day will bring. Training kicks in for emergency situations.

The work of first responders in treating trauma patients drew national scrutiny and praise when a Buffalo Bills player, Damar Hamlin, collapsed from a cardiac arrest during a Monday Night Football game in early January and needed immediate intervention from medical staff and trainers. He survived and is still in recovery.

Azle Fire Department Chief Will Scott outlined how local paramedics and EMTs handle traumatic situations when a life is on the line.

Scott was given an example: A person calls 911 to say someone is not breathing.

When people call 911, dispatchers will ask whether the person is breathing and whether the caller can check for breathing or a pulse, Scott said.

“That way, it sort of-kind of helps us know what kind of response model we need and what we’re sort of expecting when we’re there,” Scott said. “So a lot of times when those cardiac arrest-type situations come in, their mindset already

**“ We all try to keep each other on top of our game. ”**

**~EMT Jolene Hermosillo**



changes to things they need to do.”

Emergency responders each have a specific duty when they enter a person’s house to treat the patient, as one person would take care of the patient’s airway, one person checks pulses, another person initiates CPR and another person will put the cardiac monitor and defibrillator pads on the patient.

“There’s always one person that’s always calling the shots,” Scott said. “Usually, that’s the primary medic that’s in charge for that call. And he or she sets the tone, the pace, for everything.”

That medic will ensure everything is established to help the patient, and that patient will be worked on for an amount of time and then a decision will be made to transport the patient or make the call that the patient has died.

Scott described the myriad ways that emergency medical responders react to trauma and how they treat patients. Responders must know the differences between heart failure, heart attack and cardiac arrest. Heart failure means a person’s heart cannot properly function anymore to sustain the body without assistance.

“There are people that can live two to 10 years with heart failure, depending on the medical treatment that they’re receiving,” Scott said.

The American Heart Association’s website explained the difference between a heart attack and cardiac arrest: A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and suddenly stops beating.

“A heart attack is a ‘circulation’ problem and sudden cardiac arrest is an ‘electrical’ problem,” the website states.

A heart attack is usually brought on by coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure or heart failure, Scott said.

In addition to understanding heart issues, medical personnel also must be knowledgeable about stroke patients, and the training that EMTs and paramedics receive about patient care is constant throughout their careers.

EMTs and paramedics make assessments on the scene with a patient and the reality of the job requires these professionals to diagnose a problem based on a hypothesis until the patient reaches the hospital and then a doctor runs tests and then makes definite determine of the medical condition, Scott said.

### **READY WHEN CALLED**

EMT Jolene Hermosillo and paramedic Ivan Basco discussed their jobs at Eagle Mountain Fire Department.

She has been an EMT for 12 years and has worked at EMFD for two years. Basco has been a paramedic for about two years and has been at EMFD for about four years; he works full time for Bedford Fire Department. Paramedics have more training and skills than EMTs.

“I want to basically advance my knowledge,” Basco said. “Being around other paramedics as an EMT, you become very intrigued and interested in what you can do on the job.”

His school was only six months long as paramedic, as it was fast-track program, but he said that is not the typical time frame, as the schooling can be several months longer than six months.

Hermosillo said she wanted to be EMT because she always had an interest in medicine. When she was little, she thought about a career as a veterinarian. She worked in the vet industry for 20 years, but she decided to move





on to another career after her father had an accident.

"I got to interact with EMS then, and I thought that was really cool," she said. "And my husband was also a firefighter so I knew a little about EMS and soon after my dad's accident I looked into it and here I am."

Both emergency responders said they enjoy their jobs.

"Can't see doing anything else," Hermosillo said.

Emergency medical personnel must balance family life, social life and work and deal with a sleep schedule, Basco said. He said responders have to be on top of their game every day and every call.

Hermosillo said she has small children, and they understand their mom's flexible shift schedules.

### **DEALING WITH DEMANDS OF JOB**

"The cliché is 'some of the calls will get to you,' I mean, most of the calls you can compartmentalize pretty easily," Hermosillo said. Pediatric calls are the worst calls to encounter. While Hermosillo said there's a lack of support system for personnel to deal with calls, Basco said people can find counseling if they need it.

Plus, he said, there's a brotherhood in the fire department and people look out for each other.

"We all try to keep each other on top of our game," he said.

### **ON THE SCENE**

Trying to prioritize tests for patients on the scene is the most difficult part of the job, because "everything has to happen right now," Hermosillo said. Putting tasks together in order and assisting with emotional support with family members who are there also challenge responders at the scene. Having familiarity with co-workers can help emergency responders when they are on scene.

"I like to designate people (for) what I expect them to do because there's multiple things that

need to be done, so if you give someone a job, at least you know the task is going to get done," Basco said.

Emergency medical responders mentally prepare for a situation as they head to a call.

"You kind of know your role and what questions you're going to ask and what are you need to look for, and a lot of times you're going to have calls that are pretty much the same, but every day, you're going to see something different," Basco said. "That's the beauty of the job - you never run into the same thing every day."

Responders can be aided by those who have experience with unusual calls. As Basco said, it's always helpful to have someone at the station with extensive experience who is able to walk others through a call that a responder potentially can't seem to figure out on his or her own.

Hermosillo said there is always some trusted person who can be counted on for support at the station if an EMT or paramedic is upset about something that happened at the scene and he or she is dealing with the emotional aftermath.

If a paramedic or EMT encounters a family member who can't help with a patient at the scene because of the high stress, Hermosillo said responders just "treat the patient with what you see and what they're complaining of." Language barriers at the scene are common, the EMFD responders said, and language lines over the phone are available for a translator to speak in a language to communicate to someone at the scene.

As for an athlete who collapses on the field, emergency personnel at the stadium devise emergency action plans to determine which action to take, such as route taken to the hospital for patient transport, Hermosillo said.

"It was good to see, I think, for all those people to see how medical teams of different levels were working together," she said about the situation Jan. 2 in Cincinnati, where Hamlin collapsed during the game.

"And how quickly they were to respond to it and act upon on it," Basco said.

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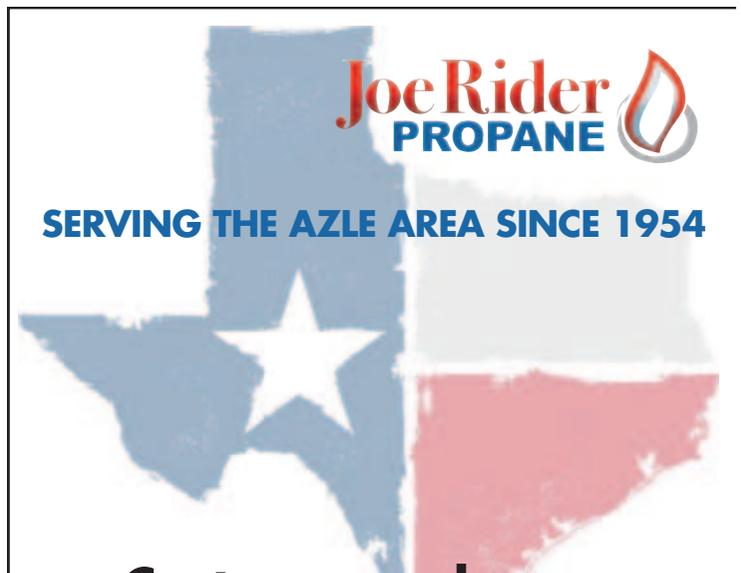


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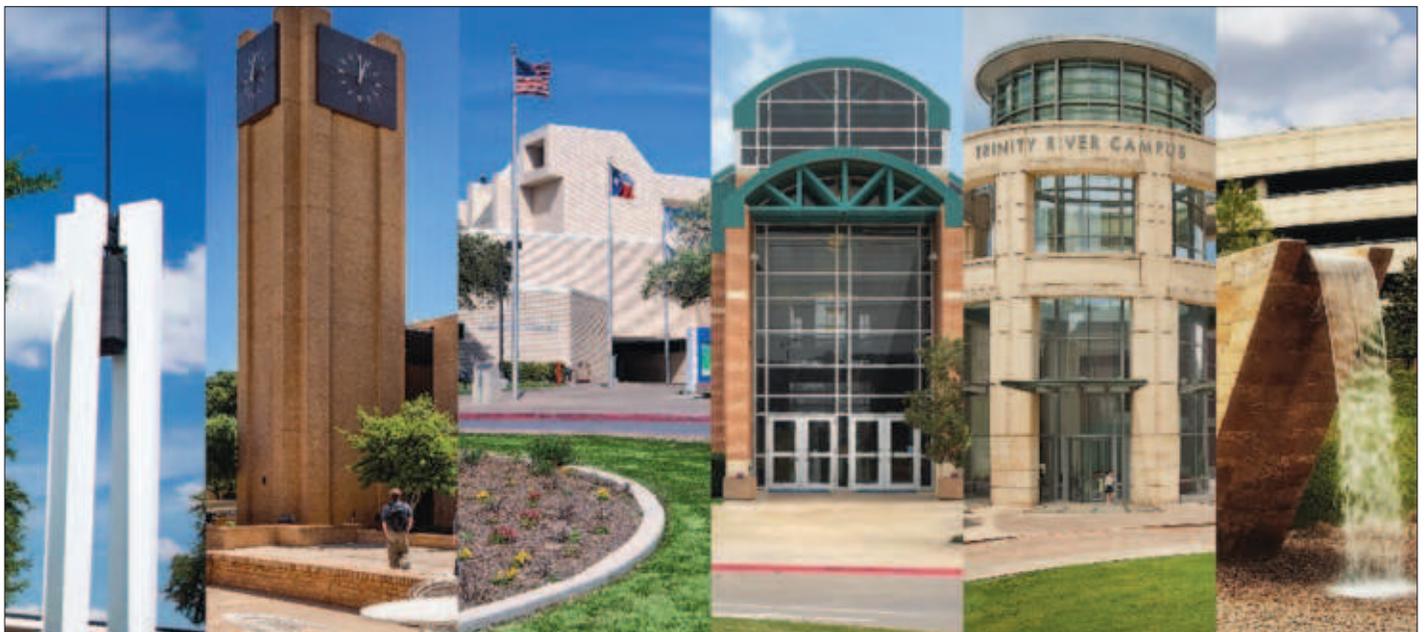
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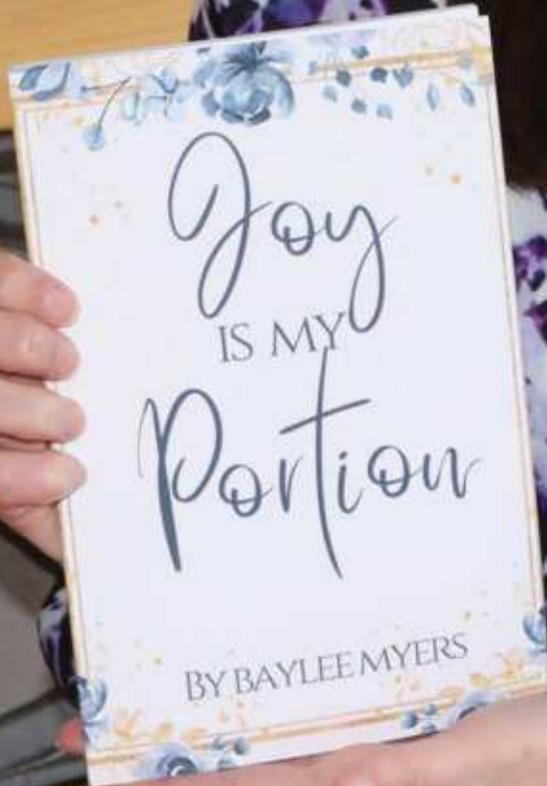
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# Devoted to Joy

**Azle High grad and blogger turns  
experiences into book**

**BY DON MUNSCH**



**B**aylee Myers figured she could take all of her thoughts from her blog and transform them into a book.

“Joy is My Portion” is the result.

She assembled the 58 blog posts and created “Joy,” which is now available on amazon.com.

“The first copy I got, I had tears in my eyes because I couldn’t actually believe it happened,” she said, noting that the “move of God” was present through the words in the book.

An Azle native and a 2012 graduate of Azle High School, Myers earned an associate degree in small business management and entrepreneurship from Tarrant County College. She works as an AVP/junior lender/loan associate at NBT Financial in Azle. She will have worked there for 10 years this April.

“I started a blog back in 2017, just kind of with one post that was a little bit too long for a Facebook post,” she said, explaining the book’s beginning. “It just kind of went from there. Probably, the past year or two, my mom, husband, dad and a couple of other people (said) you just need to compile it into a book. I was like, I’m not going to do that. And then I kind of set that as my New Year’s resolution last year.”

She said “Joy” is “basically like a devotional book and really I’m calling it more of like my journey with Christ.” The book features “daily words from God,” she said, and she explores Scripture and discusses what God is showing her.

“Hopefully, encouraging words for people,” she said, explaining the essence of the book.

She got the book self-published late last year in December. Besides Amazon, where it can be purchased for \$12, Myers has copies of the book that she can sell to people. She doesn’t have the book available at local stores, but she does some copies at her church, Community Bible Fellowship in Reno, where Myers serves as worship leader and she and her husband Kellen are the youth pastors. Kellen is a 2010 graduate of AHS and is a mechanical engineer at Poco Graphite. She and Kellen live in Azle.

Myers said writing a book never crossed her mind, when she started her blog, it was just going to be a compilation of her thoughts. The blog was something she enjoyed doing and saw as “almost therapeutic.” And then with encouragement from people in her life, she decided to create the book. Not all of the blog posts appear in the book, as she chose 58 of the nearly 80 posts.

She said she didn’t change any posts that are in the book.

“They’re pretty raw from when I first wrote them till now,” she said. “So, I’ve just kind of seen the journey that I’ve experienced in my walk with Christ over the past six, seven years.”

Myers is considering writing something in the future, perhaps a second volume to this book. She might write about her experiences with infertility in her blog that would be in a separate book.

**Her blog, Words of Wisdom, can be found through WordPress: Words of Wisdom – The Journey of a Jesus Christ Follower (wordpress.com).**



**An excerpt from “Joy is My Portion” by Baylee Myers**

**Our joy is found in and through Christ and it is not circumstantial. It is not based on what we physically receive, in how God answers our prayers, what people say about us, or the events of the current day. It does not matter if you are in the valley or on the mountaintop, lacking or wanting for nothing, rich or poor, sick or healthy. JOY, the JOY of the Lord, is a gift we receive when we lower ourselves and place God at the forefront of all we say and do. It is a change of perspective from accepting the things we can control and allowing God to do the rest. It is viewing the things of this world as temporary and viewing the things of God as eternal.**

**True joy through Christ CANNOT be contained. It is an involuntary, over-flowing light, it is living life, abundantly thriving in Christ. It makes unbelievers want what you have, through nothing more than you just living JOYFULLY, in all that you do. The best way to be a witness, a walking testimony for the Gospel, is to live JOYFULLY in ALL circumstances.**

**And, if we stay in Christ, JOY IS OUR PORTION, now and forevermore.”**



# WHEELS TURNING

## SPRINGTOWN KIDS RIDE MOTORCYCLES, RUN BUSINESSES

BY JEFF PRINCE

**T**raveling from the West Coast to the Springtown area to compete at a motorcycle race a couple of years ago convinced the Tesene family that Parker County would make a great place to live.

At the time, the family of five was living in Brentwood, California - not the glitzy suburb of Los Angeles made infamous by O.J. Simpson, but the more rural Brentwood about an hour's drive east of San Francisco.

Chris and Cassy Tesene were raising three children there, including two boys who race motorcycles.

That trip to Springtown made them consider a life-changing move to the Lone Star State.

"We met a lot of people, and people were very nice," Chris Tesene said. "We enjoyed it. My wife and I decided to come out here and look."

During a subsequent visit, the couple found a 23-acre property that included a large metal house, several outbuildings, a pond for fishing and swimming - and motorcycle tracks designed to train for motocross and supercross races.

"It's been great," Chris said. "We've loved it."

The two racers in the family are Luciano Tesene, 13, who attends Springtown Middle School, and DiMaggio Tesene, 11, who attends Springtown Intermediate School. Both boys raced in December at the Arizona Open in muddy and challenging conditions, and both finished in the top 10.

On a sunny afternoon in January, Luciano was back in Springtown, practicing on his home supercross track alongside a couple of adult professionals who were training.

"I just think it's fun," Luciano said. "I've been doing it for a while."

The dirt moguls - also known as hills or jumps - are placed high and tight for supercross, making them more difficult for riders. Flying over one hill requires landing with accuracy on the next tightly placed hill. Not an easy task.

Chris began allowing professional supercross racers to train on the property not long ago.

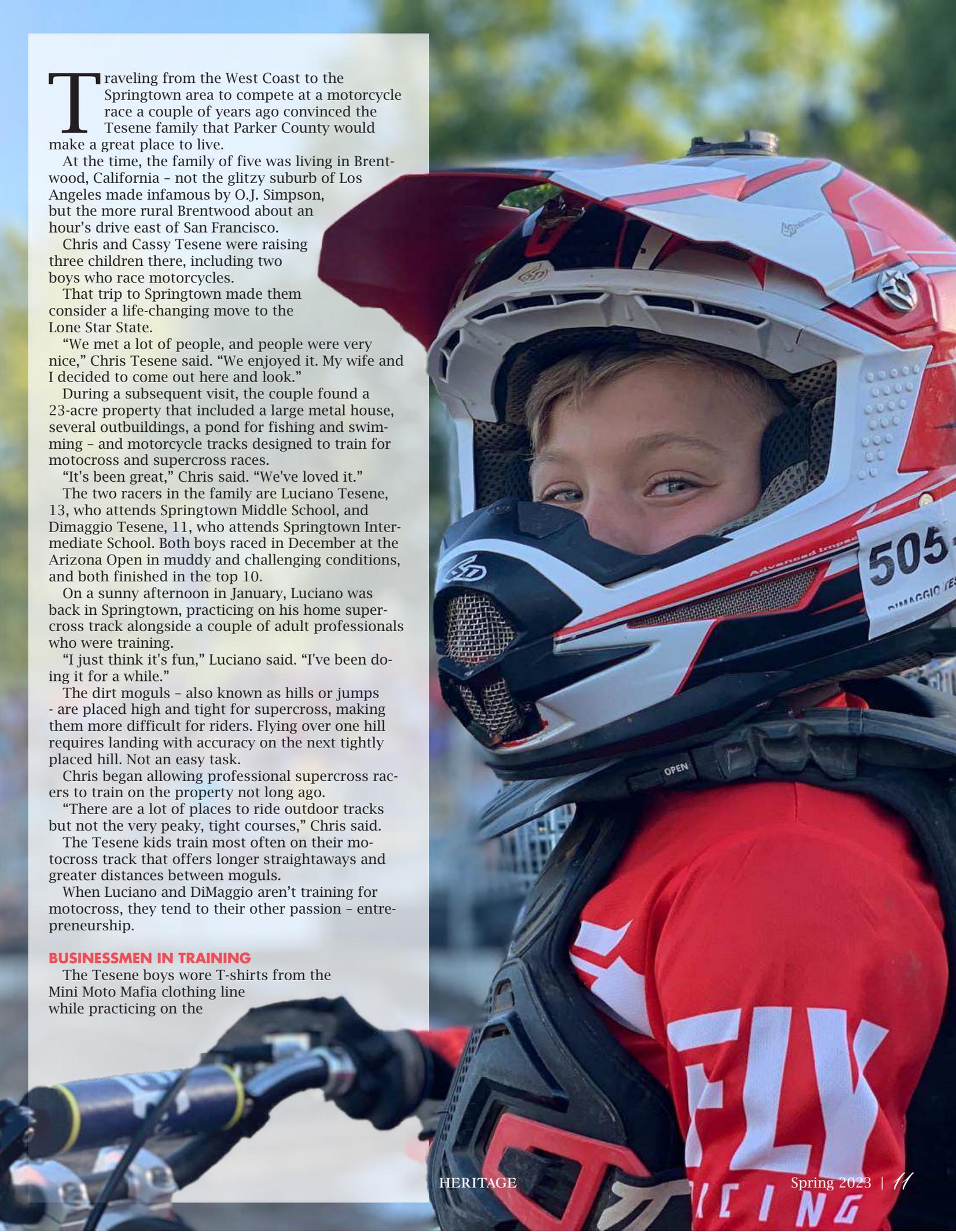
"There are a lot of places to ride outdoor tracks but not the very peaky, tight courses," Chris said.

The Tesene kids train most often on their motocross track that offers longer straightaways and greater distances between moguls.

When Luciano and DiMaggio aren't training for motocross, they tend to their other passion - entrepreneurship.

### **BUSINESSMEN IN TRAINING**

The Tesene boys wore T-shirts from the Mini Moto Mafia clothing line while practicing on the



track. Their clothing came with a discount – the brand is owned by Luciano.

In 2021, he created the company to help pay expenses related to racing motorcycles.

“I started it so I can help pay to go to bigger races,” he said.

Through his website [www.minimotomafia.com](http://www.minimotomafia.com), Luciano sells shirts, hats, sweatshirts, flannels, and jewelry with his logo.

Mini Moto Mafia logos incorporate the familiar marionette strings used in the original Godfather movie. Luciano paid to have several logos created but didn’t like them. He came up with his own logo using palm trees that harken back to his upbringing in California.

“I like the palm tree, and we just put the name around it,” he said.

DiMaggio, noting his older brother’s success as a clothing guru, started a business with little sister Xylina recently. They raise chickens in their backyard and plan to sell the eggs.

Every morning we pick them up, but we haven’t started selling them yet,” DiMaggio said. “We can eat them, or we can sell them.”

Chris is a proud father watching his three kids start businesses and oversee them with energy and passion. Selling T-shirts and eggs teaches them responsibility, he said.

Chris is a computer software engineer who works remotely at home.

“I’m trying to get them ready to become adults and to become business owners,” Chris said. “They wanted to start a business selling chicken eggs, so we bought an incubator. They are going to sell eggs and make babies and do all the things that it takes. It’s a good learning experience for them.”

DiMaggio began riding motorcycles at age 3 just like his



**DiMaggio and Luciano Tesene work on their motorcycles in a shop on their property.**  
*Photo by Jeff Prince, Azle News*



**Luciano Tesene created the Mini Moto Mafia clothing line in 2001.** *Courtesy Photo*



**Xylina Tesene models clothing on her older brother’s website.** *Courtesy Photo*

brother.

"It's fun, the thrill of riding," he said.

He has made new friends in Springtown and appreciates diving into the pond or wetting his fishing line when the weather is nice.

"It was stocked with catfish and a couple other fish," he said.

He's caught a few but turned them loose to grow bigger for another day.

Chris and Cassy take comfort in seeing their kids play, ride bikes, fish, swim, and raise animals, and the couple is pleased their gamble on Springtown has paid off.

"We wanted a better life for our kids," Chris said. "Where we were living in California wasn't the best place to raise kids."

He described Brentwood as suburbia with restrictions.

"You couldn't have dirt bikes riding around," he said.

Most of the tracks they frequented were at least 30 miles from their house. Some were 100 miles away. The family traveled to tracks to practice and spent \$30 to \$40 admission for each kid.

Add in the cost for transportation, motorcycle maintenance, proper gear and racing entry fees, and the dollars added up.

Still, moving to Texas required a leap of faith.

Chris grew up in California and felt "strange" in Texas at first. He wasn't used to all the friendly faces.

"People are very nice," he said. "Where we were, you generally don't have that. People are very rushed. It's not the same. That's what drew us out here."

Living in unincorporated Parker County allows his kids to pursue their hobbies and business endeavors with little interference.

"They just have a ton of fun," he said. "For me, this is what I'm working for. Everything we do is so that they can live a good life. We picked a place that they can have fun."

As for those names, Chris wanted unusual monikers for his kids after growing up with a plain-Jane name himself. Chris recalled attending school in California. When a teacher or someone would call out the name Chris, two or three people would raise their hand.

"I wanted my kids to have unique names," he said.



Luciano Tesene flies over a mogul at his family's track near Springtown. *Courtesy Photo*



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# What Does the Shape of Your Tongue Mean?

By Jessica Brace

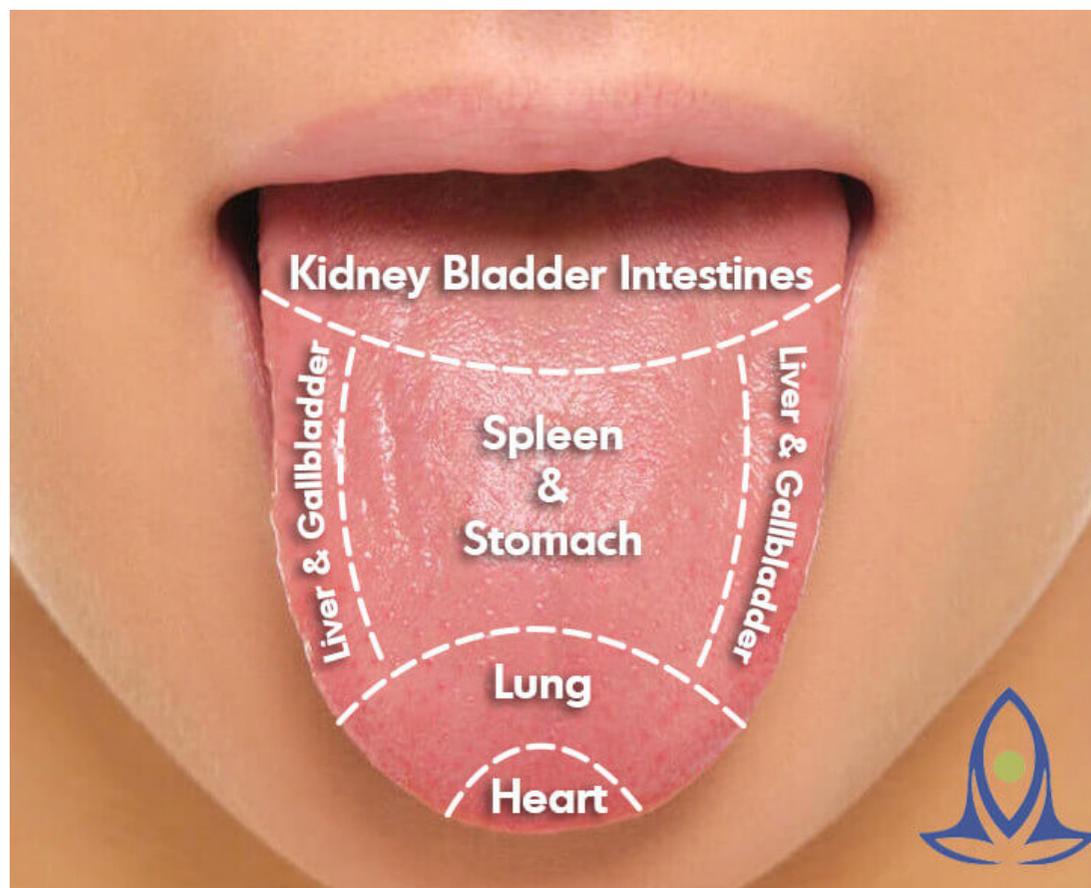


**W**hat is Tongue Mapping? Let's take the shape of our tongue and show how it correlates with different symptoms in the body.

The tongue is a critical accessory organ of the human body. It helps with tasting, chewing, and swallowing food and drink. It is also an aid to speech. In traditional Chinese medicine, the tongue reflects the health condition of the entire body. Examining the tongue is an essential component of Chinese medicine.

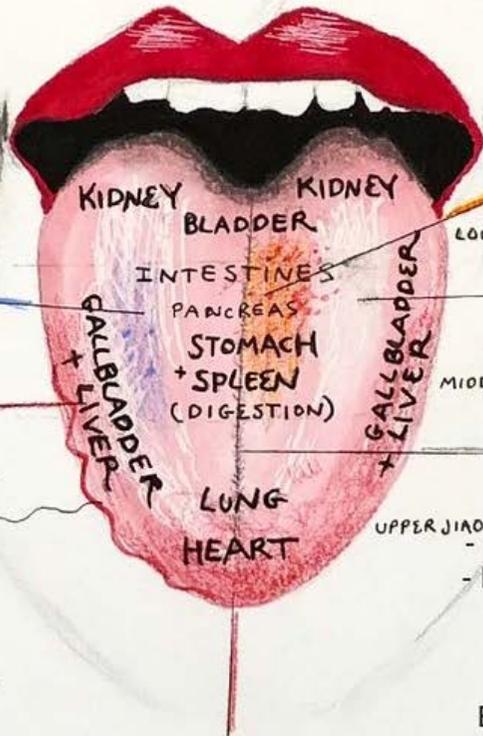
## WHAT IS TONGUE DIAGNOSIS?

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, licensed practitioners often examine the tongue to confirm the diagnosis due to its many relationships and connections in the body, both to the meridians and the internal organs. For example, a pale tongue could be a sign of blood deficiency. No tongue coating or thick tongue coating are signs of digestive system issues.



# Chinese Medicine Tongue Diagnosis

by @hayley\_stobbs



## Red:

- Heat (too much yang or too little yin)
- Prickles: usually on tip: heat
- Geographic: yin deficiency
- With yellow coat: damp-heat (greasy yellow) or heat with pathogen, Ex's, skin disorders, bronchitis
- With no coat: yin deficiency

## Pale:

- Blood deficiency, Ex. anemia, dizziness, absorption imbalance
- Internal cold
- Thick white pale coat: cold pathogen such as cold virus, food retention
- Greasy (mucousy): damp, phlegm, food retention

## Midline Crack:

- Can be constitutional/normal
- Red: Stomach yin deficiency
- Pale: Qi/blood deficiency
- From back to front: Kidney heart disharmony: Ex's, Menopause, insomnia, trauma, panic, congenital heart disorder.
- Horizontal cracks: yin deficiency

Small thin tongue = Yin/blood xu  
 Large puffy tongue = Yang/qi xu  
 Deviated (crooked) & Quivering = Internal wind

## Purple:

- Blood stasis: Ex's, blood circulation disorder, sharp pain.
- Dusky purple: Liver qi stagnation or Internal cold.
- Blue: Severe internal cold, blood stasis

## Liver Imbalance

- Red sides (often raised): Qi stagnation: stress, emotional imbalance, depression, anger, migraines, PMS, dull pain.
- Pale sides: Liver blood deficiency.

## Scalloped:

- Dampness: Ex's, water retention, metabolic disorders such as hypothyroidism, diabetes, dwelling and ruminating, aching pain.
- Qi deficiency: Ex's, fatigue, shortness of breath, overthinking and worrying.

## Heart Heat (red tip):

- Chronic stress
- Anxiety and obsessions
- Mania
- Rage
- Repressed emotions
- Over-working
- Excess joy or passion

## TONGUE ANALYSIS

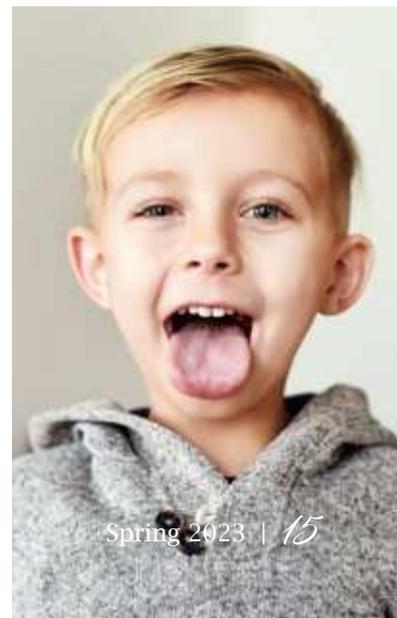
- A healthy tongue should be firm and fits proportionately into the bottom of the mouth.
- Movement of the tongue should be fluid and easy.
- It should be a solid (one color) fleshy pink and have a thin clear-looking coating over the tongue.

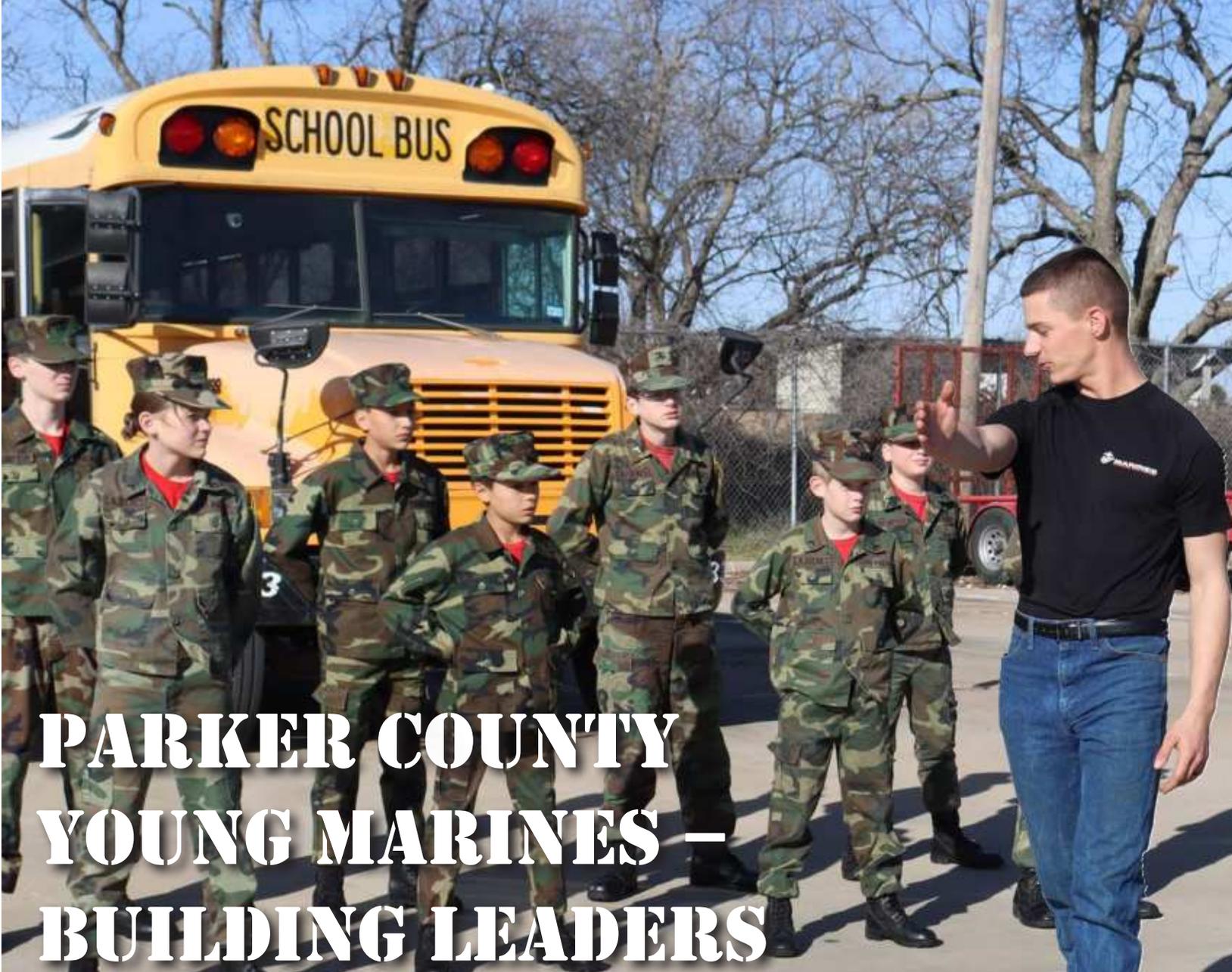
These methods are not intended to make medical diagnosis of any of the indications listed below, but they can give much insight to what is going on in the body.

## WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT VARIATIONS MEAN?

Tip of the tongue is dark/red - Indicates possibility of heart disease

- Scalloping on the sides of the tongue - Indicates pulmonary involvement and poor digestion (specifically gall bladder)
- Star shaped spotting on the tongue - Indicates various hormonal imbalances
- No vitality or no saliva with a dry tongue - Indicated low energy, poor digestion and poor vitamin absorption from foods
- Teeth marks along the tongue on both sides - Indicates problems with the spleen and poor digestion along with lower immunity
- Cyst on the frenula (Lip connection to the gum) - Indicates liver involvement.





# PARKER COUNTY YOUNG MARINES – BUILDING LEADERS

Story and Photos By Madelyn Edwards

**A**t a January Parker County Young Marines drill, a graduate returned to his old stomping grounds. Pfc. Jared Rountree, 19, a Springtown native, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and started boot camp last fall. Before that, he was part of the Parker County Young Marines, which he said helped him prepare for boot camp. Thanks to Young Marines, he was already physically fit, could march and knew the jargon, among other advantages.

"I was climbing ropes faster, jumping obstacles, yelling louder because I was motivated," Rountree said. "This prepped me for boot camp, and when I got there, I was able to get promoted to squad leader and hold it from the beginning of boot camp to the end whenever everyone else was getting fired around me."

Rountree was raised with a military mindset by his father who used to be a Marine.

"Our dad taught us like we were recruits," he said.

Rountree found out about the Young Marines at the Wild West Festival, but his father didn't let him join until he could run three miles. Rountree rose to the challenge and joined the Young Marines about five years ago.

Young Marines taught Rountree to be a better person, be a

leader and to stay away from drugs, he said. His favorite part of the experience was bonding with the Young Marines.

"We all trained together. We all worked together. We live and die as a team," Rountree said. "These Young Marines – I know a lot of them, some of them are new – they were my family, my small little family. I loved coming here and seeing them every Saturday that we came down to drill."

The Parker County Young Marines usually has 10-15 kids in the group, coming from all across the region as far as Decatur, Granbury and Glen Rose, Gunnery Sgt. Verne Bell said.

In fact, a teenager from Mineral Wells was signing up for the Parker County Young Marines during the drill meeting on Jan. 14. Alex Arzate said he wanted to get involved with the Young Marines, and he eventually plans to enlist in the Marine Corps.

The unofficial goal of Young Marines is for the kids to eventually enlist, but Bell said the group is more about teaching the kids to be leaders.

"What we do is try to teach them everything the Marine Corps teaches except for combat arms," Bell said. "This is not

a paramilitary organization. It just preps them for leadership, for teamwork, self-discipline, disciplining others.”

Executive officer and Gunnery Sgt. Weldon Richey said while several graduating seniors in the group have enlisted in the Marines recently, the kids aren't pressured.

“I just want to make sure these kids have a shot at whatever they want to do,” Richey said. “We don't try to push them in any direction.”

Richey also said that helping the kids get into the Marine Corps or serving at all is “the best thing (he) can do for them.”

Leigh Ward, Parker County Young Marine's paymaster, adjutant and female adviser, said she started volunteering with Young Marines when her nephew and daughter were involved in the group. After they quit, she decided to stick around.

“I love the kids,” Ward said. “The kids are great.”

On Jan. 14, Rountree helped lead the Young Marines in various exercises and instruction during the drill meeting. This was in collaboration with Parker County Young Marines Sgt. Patrick Richey. Richey, a high school junior, said he has been able to make long-lasting friendships because of Young Marines, including with Rountree.

“He's pretty much my brother now,” Patrick Richey said about Rountree. “(I'm) glad I met him.”

Originally, Patrick Richey didn't want to lead the Young Marines because he wanted to learn more before the promotion.

“No one's ever ready to take it,” he said. “I think I am the right fit for right now until I find someone better.”

Through his role as sergeant, Patrick Richey hopes the Young Marines will step up into leadership themselves, especially in terms of public speaking and leading classes. He also said Young Marines are taught things like dressing appropriately and being able to speak to people, which can help make them more employable in job interviews.



**Parker County Young Marines run laps during the Jan. 14 drill meeting at the Springtown ISD transportation department.**



**With the addition of Marine Corps Pfc. Jared Rountree, left, the Parker County Young Marines do push-ups together during the physical training part of the drill meeting on Jan. 14.**



**Young Marines Lance Cpl. Megan Lajueness, left, works with recruit Jamie McMillan, right, during drill on Jan. 14 at the Springtown ISD transportation department.**



**Parker County Young Marines present the flags at Springtown's Memorial Day program.**

“School prepares you in some ways, but this prepares you in other ways that school can't,” Patrick Richey said.

During the physical exercise part of drill, Patrick Richey asked Rountree what exercise the Young Marines should do next. Rountree suggested bicycle crunches or flutter kicks, prompting one of the kids to exclaim, “Oh, flutter kicks suck!”

“Oh perfect, that's what we're doing,” Patrick Richey said in response.

Young Marines Lance Cpl. Megan Lajueness, 16, chimed in to point out an important lesson.

“That's why you don't say anything about PT,” Lajueness said to the kid.

Lajueness said she has learned to keep quiet during physical training to avoid that exact scenario.

“You can moan and groan after it's been chosen, but before it's chosen, do not say a thing, otherwise it will get chosen, and it will be a nightmare,” she said with a laugh.

Generally, Lajueness said she enjoys coming to drills, but those meetings are not as fun when there are kids in the group who aren't as invested in Young Marines.

“Once you get a group of people who actually want to be here and actually want to enjoy it and not being forced to by their parents, you actually get a pretty good environment because you don't have the toxic, annoying ones,” she said.

Lajueness's favorite part about being in Young Marines is when the group gets to help people, such as passing out gifts for Toys for Tots.

“I like helping people,” she said. “That's just who I am.”

# READY, AIM, *FIRE*

Aurora Blackpowder Club brings enthusiasts together for camaraderie

BY MADELYN EDWARDS



Larry Howard shows how to load his late 1700s flintlock black powder rifle replica.  
*Photo by Madelyn Edwards*

**B**efore firing off his late 1700s flintlock black powder rifle replica, Larry Howard stared down the target and paused. When he was ready, Howard raised the rifle up to his face and squeezed the trigger.

POW!

Puffs of smoke erupted from Howard's rifle, and the strong smell of sulfur suddenly filled the air.

Howard examined his shot on the target board before turning away from the shooting line to refill his rifle with black powder and a roundball for the next shot.

Howard wasn't alone. A group of other black powder shooting enthusiasts joined him for the Aurora Blackpowder Club's monthly shoot and meeting. This took place around midday on Sunday, Jan. 15 on a range in a private wooded area that the club uses often for their events.

The club, of which Howard is currently the president, was started up by Howard's oldest brother and two others in 1982 and was nationally recognized in 1984. Howard's brother owned a gun store in Aurora - which is nestled in between Boyd and Rhome - and interest grew from those who visited the shop. A sign was put up outside the shop advertising the club's first shoot, and about a dozen people attended.

The club brings people together for fellowship and camaraderie in a way that's different than groups that shoot the more modern guns, Howard said.

"When you're loading these guns, it's not something that you just walk up the line, you put a cartridge in there and shoot, and you put another cartridge in there and shoot and so on



**Bobby Langston in his primitive rendezvous attire.** *Courtesy of Bobby Langston*

like that," he said. "No, you got to walk away from the line, put some powder down the barrel of the gun, then a patched round ball on top of that, pack it and all this time you're talking to your next-

door neighbor, and you're having a good time.”

Bobby Langston joined the club in 2006 because it was the only place where he could shoot a black powder rifle.

“We’ve got the modern ranges - Fort Worth, places like that - but they don’t want you shooting black powder,” Langston said. “Too much smoke.”

The group that attended the Aurora Blackpowder Club meeting and shoot on Jan. 15 was made up of men of varying ages, with one exception. Sandie Barker was there serving as the club’s treasurer, and she keeps track of the dues and fees that the club charges. She hasn’t been shooting in a while and has since taken to the administrative parts of the club and helping with kids’ competitions.

Despite the lack of women attendees on Jan. 15, Barker declared that the club is for women, too.

“There have been lots of women, and let me tell you, women are just as good or better than the men,” she said with a laugh.

Barker said she joined the club when her daughter, who is now a teenager, was still wearing diapers.

“This is like a second family to me,” she said.

The club is also about remembering history, Howard said. The members get together in the spring and fall for rendezvous, where they reenact the fur trade era of 1820-1840. This was when people would trap beavers for their pelts.

“During the fur trade, the trappers did go back to civilization to get their supplies. The people that owned the company that these trappers worked for would bring supplies out to the trappers, and they met at a previously designated spot in the mountains, and it was called a rendezvous,” Howard said. “We

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*“and let me tell you, women are just as good or better than the men,” ~Sandie Barker*

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reenact these rendezvous, and we have competition.”

For the Aurora Blackpowder Club, there are two kinds of rendezvous, during which attendees can camp overnight or come for a day. One is a primitive kind in the fall where the rules about dressing in attire no later than 1840s are strictly upheld, Howard said. The club also offers “fun-dezvous” where people can attend in modern clothing. The next “fun-dezvous” is later this Spring, and the general public is invited to attend.

Part of the reasoning behind the “fun-dezvous” is to encourage people to participate in the club. Howard said the club’s membership plummeted because of shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, the club has not recovered the membership numbers of the pre-COVID days.

The kinds of rifles and pistols as well as knives and tomahawks, which are used in throwing competitions, are the same at both the primitive rendezvous and “fun-dezvous,” Howard said. There are shooting competitions as well as ones for fire starting and primitive archery. Winners can receive prizes, both primitive and modern kinds of gear and gifts.

Barker’s favorite part about going to rendezvous is visiting with people, especially those who she may not have seen in a while.

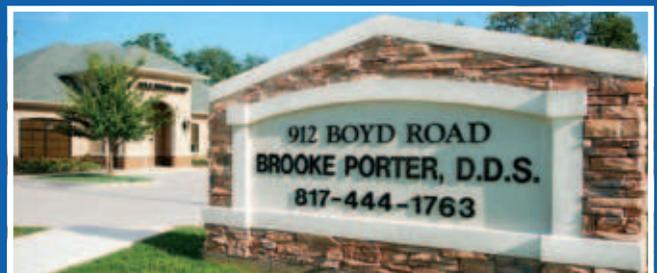
“My favorite part is at the end of the day after everything is said and done, you had a good meal. You cooked it on the campfire. And then you go to a friend’s camp, and you sit for hours and talk and just visit,” she said.

The only limitations of the club are that those who don’t have experience with blackpowder guns or with guns at all

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Roundballs, shown in Larry Howard's hand, are used to load black powder rifles. Photo by Madelyn Edwards



Larry Howard pours black powder into his hand before he loads his rifle. Photo by Madelyn Edwards

must be monitored to ensure safety, Howard said. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Barker's daughter has participated in the competitions and campouts. She recalled a time when her daughter was still very young and was playing with other children at the camp. When she came back to camp, she had a biscuit.

"Everybody looked after her," Barker said. "I never ever had to worry about something happening."

For those who want to get into blackpowder shooting, Howard suggested attending the monthly club shoots where the club members shoot on their range. Newcomers can receive instructions from people at those meetings on how to load, aim and shoot a blackpowder gun.

"This is the epitome of big boys' toys," club member Johnny Maddox said. "We're still kids at heart. Our toys have just changed, and we've added a purpose to the toys, the purpose being preserving history and the knowledge of the history and how tough it really was."



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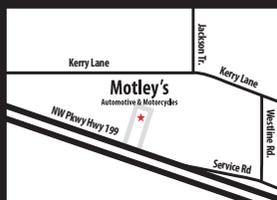
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