



Making Springtown history

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Springtown goalkeeper Allison Kimball and the Lady Porcupines prevented Diamond Hill-Jarvis from scoring any goals during the bi-district championship game.

SEE STORY PAGE A11



MADLYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Becky Rodriguez and her dog Bella pose for a photo together in Springtown's park.

One lucky dog

Reno Blue Lacy dog survives gunshot wound

MADLYN EDWARDS
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As with many people and their furry companions, Becky Rodriguez didn't choose her dog Bella at first — Bella chose her.

Rodriguez, who lives in Reno, said she went to the animal shelter in Saginaw to adopt a different dog. Then Bella, a Blue Lacy breed of dog that had previously been timid around Rodriguez, jumped up on her kennel and licked Rodriguez.

"I'm a firm believer they choose you. You don't choose them," Rodriguez said. "She came home with me that day."

That was about six years ago.

Tragedy struck on the anniversary of Bella's rescue in February when Bella escaped from the gate at home and came back with a gunshot wound.

"All my memories were

coming up on Facebook about her freedom ride and all this stuff, and I was just like losing it reading all of this knowing that my dog was in there dying," Rodriguez said.

On Feb. 7, Rodriguez came home at noon and noticed that her dogs had gotten out of the gate, which appeared to have been pushed open prior to her return. Rodriguez saw Bella lying down behind her fence, but the dog wouldn't come to her. At that point, Rodriguez knew something was wrong.

Once Rodriguez and her husband got to Bella, they immediately took her to nearby Thompson Veterinary Services on East State Highway 199, where Bella was given medicine that would help her blood to clot by the wound.

Rodriguez praised her husband's quick acting in taking Bella to the veterinarian.

"At that point, I was kind

of in shock and like, 'Oh my God, my dog is going to die,'" she said. "We just weren't going to let that happen. He picked her up and took her straight to Dr. Thompson."

The veterinarian told Rodriguez to take Bella to The Parc animal hospital in Fort Worth to receive a blood transfusion. There, Bella's X-rays showed that the bullet — a long range .22 — had traveled through Bella underneath her stomach and into her leg, stopping short of hitting bone.

Before the blood transfusion, Rodriguez said Bella was not responsive to her, and Bella wouldn't eat unless Rodriguez was there to feed her. Rodriguez said she thought she would lose her dog.

"When I left, I was just bawling because I knew that she was dying," she said.

After the blood transfu-

PLEASE SEE **DOG** | A4

Parker County deputies arrest man who used red-and-blue lights to scare off armed driver

LUCIANO AMADOR VELAZQUEZ, who lives south of State Highway 199 between Springtown and Azle, was arrested for impersonating a public servant after he flashed red and blue lights at another driver. Amador claims the other driver pointed a gun at him twice.

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The Parker County Grand Jury indicted an Azle-area man on charges of impersonating a public servant during an incident on the night of Feb. 18.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office arrest report states that Luciano Amador Velazquez intended to "induce (the driver of a Ford F-150) to submit to the pretended official authority of the

defendant or to rely on the pretended official acts of the defendant by displaying and operating forward facing red and blue alternating lights mounted in his front windshield, against the laws of the State of Texas."

Officers said in the report that Amador had told them that he flashed the lights because he didn't agree with the F-150 driver's driving and that he used the lights to "make people drive better."

Amador told the Epigraph the

only reason he flashed the red-and-blue lights was because he saw the other driver pull out a gun. He said he has never tried to pass himself off as a police officer.

The F-150 driver, who asked not to be named out of fear of retaliation, said he pulled his pistol out later in his interaction with Amador but denied having his gun out at this time.

Amador said he was driving



MADLYN EDWARDS | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Luciano Amador Velazquez

PLEASE SEE **LIGHTS** | A6



Mayor makes proclamations for Library Week, sexual assault awareness, Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

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Springtown Mayor Greg Hood made a few proclamations at the Springtown City Council meeting on March 23.

First, Hood proclaimed April 9-15 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Springtown and presented the proclamation to Springtown Police Deputy Chief Jamie Oliver.

"Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services," Hood said in his proclamation. "Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers and other emergency personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety."

He continued, "Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Springtown Police Department have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and, whereas each dispatcher has

exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year."

Next, Hood presented a proclamation to Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon for National Library Week from April 23-29. He encouraged locals to visit the public library.

"Libraries serve people of all ages, interests and backgrounds, providing the resources and space to engage in life-long learning," Hood said in his proclamation. "Libraries offer equipment and professional staff support to utilize technology, programs and services; often free or with nominal charges to users; whereas, we recognize librarians as information professionals who provide expertise, services and guidance for patrons to access credible sources and material, making their own informed decisions about the world today."

Finally, Hood proclaimed April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the city. Hood shared some statistics about sexual assault during his proclamation.

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in the community," he said. "(Sexual Assault Awareness Month) aims to raise public awareness about

sexual violence and educate our community about how best to prevent it. Sexual assault's prevalence is based on the widespread devastating abuse of power - one that affects people of every age, race, sex, gender identity, na-

tional origin, socioeconomic background and religion."

Hood presented the proclamation to representatives from Freedom House of Parker County.

"We join Freedom House as they help survivors of sexual

assault by supporting the eradication of sexual assault through improving victim safety and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions against members of our community," he said in the proclamation.



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Springtown Mayor Greg Hood presented a proclamation to Springtown Public Library Director Andie D'Avignon for National Library Week from April 23-29.



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH
Springtown Mayor Greg Hood proclaimed April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the city and presented the proclamation to domestic violence advocate Dalia DeAnda and bilingual advocate Juanita Perez from Freedom House of Parker County.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK HUDGIN
Helicopter lands at Springtown High School to take a woman with burn wounds to the hospital.

Woman transported to Dallas hospital after burn incident at Springtown Tire Center

MADELYN EDWARDS
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Springtown police responded to a situation on the evening of Saturday, March 25, in which a woman was flown to the hospital after being burned by a propane grill at Springtown Tire Center on West State Highway 199. "A propane grill was be-

ing operated, and for an unknown reason (not an explosion, as there was no damage to either grill or the propane tank), a large amount of flames came from the grill and burned the victim," Springtown Director of Administrative Services Christina Derr said.

The victim, 34, is believed to be an employee of

Springtown Tire Center. Derr said the woman was taken to Parkland Hospital in Dallas for treatment of her burns.

Springtown police do not suspect foul play, according to information released on the department's Facebook page. Derr said she is not aware of any pending charges or citations related to this incident.

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What will she sing?

It was the fall semester of 1981, my second year at West Texas State University. Each year the choirs of WTSU and Amarillo College joined with the Amarillo Symphony for a grand concert. The previous year had been Beethoven's 9th Symphony.



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.

Maestro Thomas Conlin, the conductor of the Symphony visited us in the rehearsal of the WTSU Chorale to tell us that this year's concert would be "Carmina Burana." He joked that many people would ask, "Who is this Carmina Burana, and what will she sing?" "Carmina Burana" is actually a cantata composed in 1935 and 1936 by Carl Orff, based on 24 poems from the medieval collection of the

same name. Actually, the full Latin name is "Carmina Burana: *Cantiones profanae cantoribus et choris cantantibus comitantibus instrumentis atque imaginibus magicis.*" (Now you know why it is simply known as "Carmina Burana.")

It was a great experience to sing this cantata in that context (all in Latin and German) both with the Amarillo Symphony and in our spring choir tour where we were a

featured choir at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio.

One other important fact about that fall semester of 1981 in the WT Chorale is that there was a tall, blonde, beautiful freshman alto who entered the picture. I'd like to tell you I was immediately smitten, but it actually took a couple of years for me to REALLY notice. (That's another story for another day).

Back to Carmina ...

That tall, blonde, beautiful freshman alto was involved in the Carmina experience and all the rest of my college choir experiences. And, of course, she's been my Mrs. for almost 39 years now.

Almost 35 years ago, we had a beautiful baby girl who grew up to become a wonderful singer and attended our Alma Mater. She sang in the college choir and we got to go and hear her sing "Carmina Burana" in 2008 or 2009 (I can't remember for sure).

Now, fast forward to fall of 2022 and our baby girl, who has been singing for the past few years with the Amarillo Master Chorale, tells me that they will be doing "Carmina Burana" in the spring with the Amarillo College Choir

and the Amarillo Symphony. I certainly want to put that on my calendar so we can go hear it.

And then she surprises me by asking if I'd be interested in singing with them because the AMC director wants to have a really large choir for Carmina. She checks with him and we negotiate a rehearsal schedule (because I can't drive from Azle to Amarillo for rehearsal every Monday night). He agrees and I'm in.

So, last week Mrs. Sweetie and I spent the whole week in Amarillo so I could be part of the Monday-Thursday rehearsals and performances on Friday and Saturday.

I got to share an unforgettable musical experience with

my favorite daughter and enjoy revisiting memories of a significant time of life that I now look back on with more amazement than I could possibly experience at the time.

After all, if it hadn't been for the college choir, I might not have met the tall, blonde, beautiful alto. And if I hadn't met the tall, blonde, beautiful alto, last week's experience with my baby girl wouldn't have happened.

God is really amazing like that. This morning I read in Habakkuk 1:5 where God said, "For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it." Ain't it the truth!

Be amazing today, my friend.

Remember to be thankful for the troubles you don't experience in life

I must admit I am having a tough day. You all are probably thinking there is some sort of breaking news causing upheaval in the newsroom, or maybe there is a production problem with the press, or even an employee issue. The truth is the problem is much deeper than all of that. Frankly, all the issues you might guess would probably not rise to the level of the problem that is concerning me.

This morning I got an email from someone who gave me an update on the status of a friend. For purposes of this column, I shall identify the friend as "Mary." (I am using a pseudonym for my friend in order to respect their privacy).

It has been my pleasure to work with "Mary" on various civic projects over the years. As time passed, my wife and I got to know her better and I found her to be personable, energetic, and have the abil-



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.

ity to be a visionary when tackling a problem. She is the kind of person who can tell you "have a great day" and she really means it. Her opinion is valued, and her efforts appreciated.

This past spring, I came to learn "Mary" had been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, which many refer to as Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS. Upon first hearing those words associated with my friend, my knees weakened and my heart sank. It is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control. ALS often begins with muscle twitch-

ing and weakness in a limb or slurred speech. Eventually, ALS affects control of the muscles needed to move, speak, eat and breathe. There is no cure for the disease.

After the diagnosis, a group of friends took "Mary" to eat. We wanted to have the opportunity to take "Mary" out in the public before her condition worsened and she was unable to feed herself, walk or speak. It was a very pleasant evening, though it was obvious the disease was progressing. It was hard to know what to say to "Mary." We did not know if we should address the elephant in the room or ignore it completely.

I think I can speak for ev-

eryone gathered, we watched "Mary" and decided to take her lead. If she wanted to talk about her problems, we would engage the subject. If she merely wanted our evening to be lighthearted and fun, and to forget the symptoms that were ravishing her body if even for just one night, we would do so. It was a very pleasant evening, but the subject of the disease was carefully circumvented.

This morning's email let us know "Mary" wanted to hear from her friends and get the "scoop" on what was going around town. She is now paralyzed from her neck to her toes. For now, she can move her head a little from side to side, but she cannot talk. She has an amazing high-tech wheelchair that fully reclines, and she often sleeps in it. She must take her nourishment from a feeding tube. Though her brain is fully operating, her function level is steadily declining.

You might ask why I am sharing "Mary's" plight. I am deeply in pain to see such a fine woman being decimated by a disease where her personal behavior or habits did not contribute to its onslaught. She is a victim. She is in a condition I would not wish on my worst enemy, and I can only imagine the despair she has in her daily existence, watching herself continue to slide to the conclusion.

I know there are times when we think we have a problem or issue confronting us that is insurmountable. We stress and we strain wondering how we will survive. It might be as small as how to deal with someone in a relationship or how to come up with the money to pay a bill. Frequently, the issues of life seem overwhelming, and we are all susceptible to letting the challenges overcome us.

In the future, when I am confronted with an obstacle, or find myself stressing over

a challenge, I hope I think of "Mary" and appreciate how insignificant my problems are in relation to hers. No matter how bad your life is there is always someone who is suffering from something greater.

Mary is brave, she is strong, and she is terminal. It hurts me to see such a fine woman in peril and there is nothing any of us can do but console her and be "present" during this part of her life. I admire her, am sympathetic to her suffering, and ask God to never place me in such a situation.

We should all be thankful for the problems we do not have.

Thought for the day: We all have a terminal illness called life. Live each day appreciating what we have, and appreciate even more, the problems we don't.

Until next time.... I will be ridin' the storm out.

Sudoku

MARCH 30, 2023

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

MARCH 23, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Shirley O'Donald Houchins, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Shirley O'Donald Houchins, Deceased, were issued to Graham Stafford Compton, III, on March 15, 2023, in Cause No. 23P067, in the County Court, Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Graham Stafford Compton, III, now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be sent to 734 FM 3119, Mexia, Texas 76667, care of Graham Stafford Compton, III, Independent Executor, Estate of Shirley O'Donald Houchins, Deceased.

SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

April 3-7, 2023
PK through 12th Grade

*Menus are subject to change.

BREAKFAST PRICES	
EC-12th Grade	\$1.75
EC-12th Reduced	\$0.30
Adult	\$2.25
LUNCH PRICES	
PK-4th Grade	\$3.00
5th-8th Grade	\$3.25
High School	\$3.00
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$4.25

Students may prepay for their meals.

PK - 12th Breakfast

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

Monday Mini Pancakes, Applesauce **Tuesday** Chicken Biscuit, Pineapple Cup **Wednesday** EggStravaganza, Blueberries **Thursday** Breakfast Pizza, Apple Slices **Friday** No school

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 Mac & Cheese, Steakfingers, Chili Style Beans, Roll, Garden Salad, Blueberries **Tues** Lasagna W/ Garlic Toast, Corn Dogs, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Broccoli, Applesauce, Craisins **Weds** Chicken & Waffles, Fiesta Sticks, Tator, Tots, Strawberries, Craisins, Variety of Milk **Thurs** Pepperoni Pizza, Popcorn **Chicken**, Roll, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Banana, Apple Slices, Variety of Milk **Fri** No school

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 Popcorn Chicken, Steakfingers, Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Blueberries, Spiced Apples **Tues** Chicken Alfredo with a Twist, Roll, Ck Fried Steak Sandwich, Fresh Broccoli, Carrots, Rosey Applesauce, Grapes **Weds** Cheeseburger, Hamburger, Potato Wedges, Broccoli Salad, Orange Smiles, Strawberries **Thurs** Pepperoni Pizza, Crispy Chicken Wings, Baked Potato Basket, Roll, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Baked Beans, Banana, Rosey Applesauce, Apple Slices **Fri** No school

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

Voter registration deadline April 6

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If local voters want to participate in the upcoming elections in Azle, Reno and Springtown, then they'll need to make sure they are registered.

Texans have until Thursday, April 6 to register to vote for the May 6 municipal elections.

A person is eligible for

voter registration if they are a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county where they submitted their application, at least 18 years old on Election Day and not declared by a probate court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote, according to votetexas.gov. People convicted of

felonies are not eligible for voter registration, though they may be able to regain that right after completing their sentence, probation and parole.

Residents who are registering to vote for the first time in Texas would need to complete a voter registration application and return it to their county election office by

April 6. To do this, they can obtain an application online or a paper copy through the Texas Secretary of State's website and then mail it to their county election office. They can also find the local voter registrar to help them complete the process.

Those who register will receive a voter registration certificate mailed to them

within 30 days after submitting their application. Voters should check their certificate to make sure the information listed is correct. Mistakes need to be corrected and returned to the voter registrar promptly.

Voters can also update their current registration online at txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/

SOSACManager?utm_source=child_voter&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=texasgov.

Visit teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do online to check voter registration.

For more information on registering to vote, visit votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/index.html online.

Springtown Hop & Shop set for April 8

MADELYN EDWARDS

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The egg hunt has returned to the city of Springtown's annual Easter event.

The Hop & Shop is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 8.

Springtown started hosting the Hop & Shop in 2021, and before that the city had an annual Easter egg hunt, Administrative Services Director Christina Derr said. This year, the two events will merge as the Easter egg hunt returns.

The egg hunt will take place at Newby Pavilion, which is the part of the Springtown park that's behind Wells Fargo. Kids ages 6 and un-

der can start hunting eggs at 11:30 a.m., and there will be another egg hunt for kids ages 7-12 starting at noon.

"We are adding the hunt back in because it is a traditional Easter activity that the city has had in the past (the last one was in 2019)," Derr said. "The Easter egg hunt is a kid-friendly activity to help make the event more family oriented."

On the Springtown Square, there will be food trucks, bounce houses, pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, an alpaca petting station, animals available for adoption from the Springtown Animal Shelter, a coloring contest, a raffle and more.

For the coloring contest, participants can enter their

coloring sheet to be judged by the city's library staff, and the winners will receive prizes, Derr said.

People can also win prizes by visiting local businesses.

"Beginning April 1, participants can obtain a stamp card from the participating businesses. If they visit each business and get a stamp, the completed cards will be entered into a drawing for raffle prizes," Derr said. "Some of the stops will only be able to be visited at their booth on the Square (i.e. the Animal Shelter will be at the event, but will not be stamping cards at the shelter prior to the event). Participants should visit the businesses during the event or during their normal business hours."

Derr said the Hop & Shop stops are The Springtown Chamber of Commerce, Miriam's Barbershop, Market 76082, Quilting is My Cup of Tea, Springtown Flower Shop, Woody Creek BBQ, NRS Feed, Springtown Animal Shelter, Hilltop Family Church, Springtown Garden Center, Springtown Public Library, Springtown Pharmacy, Highland Furniture, Senshi Grill & Sushi, AV Ranch Western Wear, Maddie Lou's, Pojo Coffee, and Hilltop Christian Academy.

For more information, visit the city of Springtown's Hop & Shop event page: <https://facebook.com/events/s/hop-shop/877935060167316/>



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Adeline Hendricks wore bunny ears for her photo with the Easter Bunny at Springtown's Hop & Shop last year. This year's event will be on April 8.

Reno Events Committee to host Easter egg hunt April 8

MADELYN EDWARDS

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Reno Events Committee's new chairperson wants to bring the community together to have fun and celebrate Easter.

Reno kids and their families are invited to an Easter egg hunt on April 8, hosted by the Reno Events Committee. The event will take place from 1-3 p.m. at Reno Elementary School and may include other activities

for children.

Events Committee Chair Courtney Trevino took over leadership of the committee after Ted Lyon stepped down from the role. She had already been a part of the committee, and has previous experience with events. She found that her involvement with the Reno Elementary School PTA has been an asset in working with the committee.

"I just said, 'OK, let me try it,'" she said.

Being the chair and putting the Easter event together has been challenging, but Trevino said it has been nice to see others step up into active roles in organizing the event.

The Easter egg hunt will happen at the field outside Reno Elementary School, and parking will be at the school as well. Trevino said the school has been a good partner in the event.

"Principal (Jenna) Showers is wonderful with helping us out, and since it's local

for the community anyway, we were able to do the same thing that we did last year," Trevino said. "I like the relationship we're making with the school and the city."

While the committee already has some plastic eggs for the hunt, Trevino said they are asking the community to donate more as well as individually wrapped candies to put inside the eggs. She noted that the candies should preferably not be messy and won't easily melt. All dona-

tions can be brought by Reno City Hall ahead of the event.

Community members are also welcome to volunteer to help at the event or host activities for kids, Trevino said. "Whatever the community would like to give, we will accept," she said.

Trevino expects the Easter egg hunt will provide a fun time for families and will allow kids to be involved in their community.

"I feel like Reno is kind of stuck in between a bunch

of growing cities, and I just don't want our little community to get left behind," she said. "I really think having something that the kids could go to and just kind of have that involvement early on from the elementary level so they get used to it right away is really good. I like that aspect."

For more information about the Easter egg hunt, email reno.events@renotx.gov.

Reno to join Northwest Tarrant County Crisis Intervention Team

MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council unanimously approved an interlocal agreement to allow the city to be a part of the creation of the Northwest Tarrant County Crisis Intervention Team.

The agreement includes six cities as well as MHMR of Tarrant County.

The team unites first responders with MHMR representatives to aid mental health patients. Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said before the law liaison program was created years ago, there was not

much follow-up after a person was committed to a hospital during an emergency.

"It's a team that goes out to service these consumers so we keep them in the system and getting the help they need so they don't backslide down in a mental health crisis again," Stringer said during the City Council meeting.

The deputy chief said the interlocal agreement allows officers from Reno and the other cities on the intervention task force to be deployed on these wellness visits to address mental health concerns in the region, spread resources across sev-

eral cities, and collaborate.

"The whole purpose of the program is jail diversion," Stringer said. "Back in the '50s, '60s, '70s, the only thing the police knew how to do was put them in jail. They didn't know what else to do with them, but now we have a wide variety of social services we can refer them to."

Addressing mental health crisis is a significant part of a police officer's job, Stringer said.

"Mental health crisis is not a crime. It is something that the police have to deal with with a lot of frequency," he said.

No new officers are needed

for this team, Stringer said. How it would work is first responder personnel would be lent out to the team on an as-needed basis. The team — which includes a police officer, emergency medical technician or paramedic, a MHMR representative and other resources if needed — will visit patients.

The team will talk with these patients and find out if they need assistance to proactively address their mental health needs before it becomes a crisis, Stringer said.

Even though the task force is focused in Northwest Tarrant County, it will slide into Parker County a bit to

service residents in the border areas, Briar-Reno Fire Chief Moses Druxman said during the council meeting.

Stringer said it is likely that this service will spread into Parker County.

Being part of this effort doesn't cost anything for Reno to participate, and Stringer said the task force will ultimately save time and money in the future.

"We're keeping our patrol officers on patrol and not going to the hospital," he said. "In the long run, it saves time for patrol officers because we prevent the emergency situations that they would otherwise have to deal with."

This program being available in the Reno area is a positive move, Stringer said.

"Our officers deal with some of our residents who go into crisis with some frequency, so the hope is when we start bringing in other social services into that interaction, that they get the continuous care they need that the police and EMS can't provide," he said. "We deal with emergency situations as they happen. But bringing in other services where they can receive ongoing treatment to prevent them from going into crisis in the first place would give them a better quality of life."

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“Sometimes something happens, and the dogs get out. That doesn’t mean they’re going to attack your livestock ... I know not all dogs are the same, but at least give a warning shot.”

BECKY RODRIGUEZ
Owner of Bella

DOG
FROM PAGE A1

sion occurred, Rodriguez saw Bella sitting up and in much better spirits.

“It looked like a whole different dog than I saw the day before, and I knew then, I was like, ‘She’s good,’” Rodriguez said.

Bella’s medical care did not come cheap. Rodriguez recalled having to pay almost \$4,000 for her dog to receive treatment at The Parc as well as another \$3,000 for the blood transfusion alone.

“I just literally hit my knees when they told me \$3,000, and I was like I don’t know how we’re going to do it,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez and her husband were able to pay the bill using their savings and credit, a choice that she has no regrets about.

“I’d do it all over again,” she said.

Rodriguez has received some charity from others to help pay for Bella’s emergency medical services. Her GoFundMe page — [gofundme.com/f/k8qayu-help-save-bella](https://www.gofundme.com/f/k8qayu-help-save-bella) — has raised more than \$1,300.

Ray Banfield Jr., who owns and operates Rayzor Sharp Chainsaw Art and knows Rodriguez’s husband, heard about Bella’s situation and wanted to help them pay for the medical expenses. He made a chainsaw-carved sculpture of a dog with

wings that he auctioned off for \$500 to benefit Bella.

“I’m a big-time pet person. I’ve always had a big heart for dogs and pets,” Banfield said.

Rodriguez does not know who shot her dog, and she acknowledged that shooting strange dogs is a common practice in rural areas.

In general, people shouldn’t shoot a dog unless it is posing a threat to them or their property, Reno Police Deputy Chief Nathan Stringer said. Residents who see unknown dogs on their property can call Reno Police Department and have the animal control officer dispatched.

“An animal being on your property is not enough to shoot it,” Stringer said. “It has to pose some risks to a person or livestock or something along those lines. So, it’d be like your neighbor’s dog running through your front yard and you just taking a shot at it. That’s not legal. Now if the dog charges you or made (you) feel like it was going to attack your children or your dogs or something along those lines, then you have more



PHOTO COURTESY BECKY RODRIGUEZ VIA FACEBOOK

After being shot, Bella needed to have a blood transfusion.



PHOTO COURTESY RAY BANFIELD JR. VIA FACEBOOK

Ray Banfield Jr. of Rayzor Sharp Chainsaw Art created a sculpture of a dog with wings that he auctioned off to help pay for Bella’s medical expenses.

authorization under the law to protect your property or persons.”

Rodriguez requests her fellow Reno-area residents to deploy a warning shot before firing on unknown dogs.

“Sometimes something

happens, and the dogs get out. That doesn’t mean they’re going to attack your livestock or whatever if they’re running across the field or in your yard,” she said. “(Bella) hates gunshots, fireworks, thunder, noises,

anything like that. She would have ran. I mean, a warning shot or firecracker or something like that — heck, a loud bang with your hand, (and) she would’ve ran. I know not all dogs are the same, but at least give a warning shot.”

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The Mystery of Farmer Howe’s Cows

Can you find the two identical cows?

Hot. That was the best word to describe May 1842 in New York.

Strange. Farmer Howe’s cows were standing out in the sun instead of the shade.

Farmer Howe walked over to his cows. When he got there, he felt cool air. Surprised, he looked around and found a hole in the ground. His cows were standing around the hole. Cool air was coming out of the hole in the ground!

Cool! Farmer Howe looked down the hole and discovered it was an opening to an underground cave.

Follow the maze to see what became of Farmer Howe’s cave.

What is a Cave?

A cave is an opening in the Earth that is large enough to hold a person. Most caves are formed in rocks that dissolve, or get eaten away, like limestone.

When water soaks into limestone, the stone dissolves and holes start to form underground. These holes are called caves. Caves grow very, very slowly.

It takes about 100,000 years for a cave to grow large enough for people to fit inside.

A person who explores and studies caves is called a spelunker.

Cave or Cavern?

A cavern is a type of cave. They tend to be larger. Caverns can be made of smaller caves connected by tunnels.

Natural Air Conditioning

Farmer Howe built a hotel over the hole. Cool air from the cave air-conditioned the original hotel. Farmer Howe’s hotel and cave became very famous. Circle every other letter to discover its name.

W H O B W K E J C N A T V S E B R
U N L S K A E N Q D Z H I O N T P E F L

H _ _ _

Extra! Extra!

Shape Search!

How many shapes can you find in the newspaper? Look for triangles, squares, rectangles, circles and more.

Standards Link: Use visual cues to understand points of view.

Standards Link: Display data in graphs.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Waves Make Caves!

Sea caves are created by waves hitting rock cliffs over a long period of time, causing erosion.

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the alphabet to reveal another name for sea caves.

L I _ _ _ _ _
M J U U P S B M
_ _ _ _ _
D B W F T

Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

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

CAVE
CAVERN
COLUMN
COOL
COW
DEEP
EARTH
FORM
HOLE
SLOWLY
STONE
STUDIES
TUNNELS
WATER
YEARS

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

Lookalike Lights

All but one of these flashlights has an identical twin. Can you match each pair and reveal the one unique flashlight? Have a family member try!

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Dress for Spelunking

Find the forecasted high for the day in your newspaper. The temperature in the Howe Caverns are around 52 degrees year-round. Is your local high temperature warmer or cooler? What would you wear to visit Howe Caverns?

Standards Link: Compare and contrast points of view.

Write On!

If I Lived Underground

Imagine that you lived in an underground cave. What would it be like? Write about it!

OBITUARIES

Lavern "Vern" Kloss 1939 – 2023

Lavern "Vern" Raymond Kloss, 83, of Springtown, Texas, passed away on March 12, 2023.

There will not be a funeral service per Vern's wishes. For condolences or questions please contact UnionProud4@gmail.com.

Vern was born in Michigan City, Indiana and was the son of Harold and Bernice Kloss.

Vern grew up in Michigan City, Indiana, spent two years in the U.S. Army, and worked for many years in the Michiana area and was a very proud member of the Bricklayers Union Local #4 IN/KY.

Vern enjoyed fishing, hunting, grilling, country music, and woodworking. He loved spending time with family and especially loved time with his grandchildren.

In his younger days, he loved to be with friends, and enjoyed a cold PBR after a full days' work. Vern was a craftsman and was proud of his work as a brick layer, on many projects around Michiana. He often pointed out small details or signature designs he put into the brickwork around town, as well as others sloppy brickwork that he noticed. Vern was a talented woodworker and made many artistic and functional items for his children and grandchildren. He also made beautiful wooden bird feeders and 3D wood designs.

He is preceded in death by his parents; late wife Judy (Kliss) Kloss; bonus-son Allen Kliss; his grandson Parker Hudson; and also by his brothers Don and Phil Kloss.

Vern is survived by his beloved wife, Margie (Knoll) Kloss; sons, Jeff (Sharon) and Eric (Laura) Kloss; daughter



Heidi (David) Hudson; and the mother of his children, Phyllis (Gust) Colborne; as well as by grandchildren April (Nate) Bateman, Thaddeus (Anne) Kloss, Jerad Kloss, Hunter Hudson, Cheryl Kloss, Ruby Kloss, and Hank Kloss; and great-grandchildren, Caitlynn Bateman, Alex Bateman, and Maximilian Kloss. He is also survived by his bonus-children from late wife Judy Kliss: Dale and Robin Kliss; his bonus-children from Margie Kloss: Terri (Sammie) Peele, Tammi Villanueva, and Kaye Sheets; bonus-grandchildren Brandon (Meghan) Van Buren, Zach Peele, Michael Villanueva, Tiffany (Clint) Thetford and bonus-great-grandchildren: Kaleb and Jordan Berry, Star, Skye, Spencer and Isis Van Buren, and Asher and Eli Thetford. Vern is also survived by his brothers, LeRoy (Shelba) Kloss and Tim Kloss, sister Cathy (Art) Wiley, brother-in-law Stan (Lisa) Knoll, sisters-in-law, Esther Grant, and Diane Reed, and many special nieces and nephews, cousins and friends who loved him dearly.

*The Azle News,
March 30, 2023 Edition*

To place an obituary
Call
817-270-3340

Springtown library to host Spring Book Sale April 1

STAFF REPORTS

Springtown Public Library will host its Spring Book Sale on April Fool's Day, but this fundraiser is no joke.

The library hosts book sales in the fall and spring,

and the proceeds from the sales support children's programming at the library, including activities during the summer.

The Spring Book Sale will take place from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. on April 1 at the Springtown Courthouse Annex, located at 200 N. Main St. Patrons can buy books individually or bring a bag and fill it up with items for \$5 per bag.

More than 100 people came to the library's book sale in December, and the Friends of the Library earned about \$450.

LIGHTS

FROM PAGE A1

home on State Highway 199 when he noticed the F-150 driver was following him. Amador turned onto Newsom Mound Road and saw that the truck was still following him, so he pulled over and let the other driver pass him.

Amador said the driver passed him and was driving in front of him slowly, to which he responded by turning on his bright lights. That's when Amador said he saw the F-150 driver showing him a gun and responded by flashing the red-and-blue lights.

Amador said he mainly uses the red-and-blue lights as a safety precaution in his construction work, though he said he used them once

before in response to a motorist driving the wrong way on a road.

Inside the F-150, the driver threatened or insinuated violence to Amador several times, according to dash camera footage that the driver submitted to the Epigraph. Against the wishes of his family inside the vehicle, the driver refused to let Amador pass and continued to follow him. He justified his actions by saying that he was protecting other drivers from Amador.

Amador said he sped off down Sabathney Road to lose the other driver, but the F-150 driver pursued him to Ice House Road where the conflict came to a head. Amador said he saw that the other driver flashed the gun again, this time pointing it at him.

"The second time that he pointed the gun at me, I got

really scared," Amador said. "I didn't know what was going on with him."

According to the dash camera footage submitted to the Epigraph, the F-150 driver yelled, "I will put you through the windshield. I will (expletive) shoot you."

Parker County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived on the scene and arrested Amador for flashing the red-and-blue lights. The F-150 driver with the alleged gun was not arrested.

When Amador asked the reason for his arrest, he said he was told that he was using the lights like a police officer to pull the other driver over.

"I said, 'I know I'm not a cop, but he pulled on a gun on me. I thought he was going to get scared, and that was the only reason I turned those lights on,'" Amador said, referring to his conversation with the PCSO

officers.

Amador has hired attorney Russell King, who said he is certain that Amador wasn't trying to impersonate a peace officer.

"If they choose to file a charge against him, I'm confident that a jury will acquit him of the charge against him," King said. "And maybe then they'll answer the question of why they would arrest my client but not arrest somebody that pointed a gun at him at least twice."

Impersonating a public servant is a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain said.

Amador's case was assigned to the 43rd District Court with Judge Craig Towson presiding, and the arraignment is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 19.

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FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS
401 Beverly Rd., Azle
817-797-4706
FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH
700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary
817-237-2624
FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside
817-237-8113
FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE
1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale
940-433-5539
FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville
817-594-3916
FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN
5th & Main Street, Springtown
817-523-7011
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
5th & Main in Springtown
817-523-5477
GRACE BAPTIST
3 miles N. of Springtown on Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower
GRACE POINTE CHURCH
4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown
817-221-5683
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford
817-564-3946
IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Nueva Jerusalem
6640 Midway Rd., Springtown
817-694-0444
INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth
817-237-8441
LAKE WORTH BAPTIST
4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth
817-237-4163
METROPOLITAN BAPTIST
6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-2201
NEW HOPE BAPTIST
782 New Hope Rd., Reno area
817-221-2184
NORTHWEST BAPTIST
5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476
SILVER CREEK BAPTIST
730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle
817-444-2325
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-707-2741
PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST
FM 2048 and CR 4677, Boyd
940-433-5477
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA
300 S. Stewart, Azle
817-500-3641
SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown
817-523-0376
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown
682-333-1645
WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno
817-221-2110
BIBLE COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno
817-521-4510
NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth
817-624-2111
SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown
817-221-3444
CATHOLIC
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC
800 High Crest Dr., Azle
817-444-3063
CHRISTIAN
THE CHURCH AT AZLE
1801 S. Stewart, Azle
817-444-9973
AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
35 West Forty Estates., Azle
817-688-3339
GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle
817-825-0485
THE ABBEY CHURCH
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle
817-238-1404
CROSSING FELLOWSHIP
120 E. Main St., Azle
817-406-4577
CHURCH OF CHRIST
AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
336 NW Parkway
817-444-3268
BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST
109 W.N. Woody Rd.
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)
817-444-7102
MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
6400 Midway Rd.
817-221-2107
NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.
817-677-3290
NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1205
POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
West of FM 920 in Poolville
817-594-4182
SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown
817-221-2799
SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
Just west of Hwy. 51 North
817-523-4419
TRI-COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
525 Hwy. 199 W., Springtown
817-980-8156
CHURCH OF GOD
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH OF GOD
4800 East Hwy. 199, Suite 7
Springtown, 817-677-3208
LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD
THE WORD@LAKESIDE
9396 Confederate Park Rd. (FM 1886)
817-237-5500
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
AZLE CHRISTIAN
117 Church St., Azle
817-444-3527
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN
1602 S. Main St., Weatherford
817-594-3043
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4th & Main, Paradise
EPISCOPAL
ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL
6055 Azle Ave., Fort Worth
817-237-1888
PROVIDENCE REFORMED EPISCOPAL
405 Bowie Dr., Weatherford
817-596-7476
ST. ELISABETH EPISCOPAL
5910 Black Oak Lane, River Oaks
817-739-0504
GOSPEL
CENTRAL FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
3009 Delaware Tr., Lake Worth
817-237-7919
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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kimmy@azlenews.net

Ad Classifications

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

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

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Asphalt Paving
 • Driveways • Parking Lots
 • Asphalt Repairs & Sealcoating
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 Azle, Texas **817-690-2429**

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

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

034 Garage & Estate Sales

Garage Sale
 April 1st 8-noon. 604 Rolling Ridge Ct, Azle. Bunches and bunches of stuff.

Garage Sale
 March 31st-April 2nd 7am-5pm. 1200 Edgewater Dr, Azle. Furniture, kid's & adult clothes. Everything must go.

039 Help Wanted

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

039 Help Wanted

GROWING COMPANY NEEDS YOU!

Hershey's Ice Cream

Seeking to hire Route Drivers for Klement Distribution, Inc.

UP TO \$2,500.00 HIRING BONUS

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

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

009 Auto Repair Service

Rainwater's

Transmission & Auto Repair
COMPETITIVE PRICING

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

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

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.

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.



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

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

035 Garden/Mowing Service

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

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.

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

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

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Expert take downs
 Stump Grinding
 Residential/Commercial
 Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
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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

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

2 Bed 2 Ba, little over 1 secluded acre, in ground pool, remodeled 2022 new roof 2023. 20% down and owner will carry for 2 years at 6%. Azle Below Market at \$245,000 Call for appointment 817-443-2204.

1930-31 Model A Fenders-Fiberglass, cheap-new. 817-270-0647.

Civil War Military items for sale. North and South. 817-458-2349.



Chad's Tree Service

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

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024 Electrician

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 All types of electrical services and MH hook-ups.
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 TECL#25253.

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

IRRIGATION REPAIR

Residential/Commercial
 License# LI007825
 \$85 Service Call

039 Help Wanted

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

OUTDOOR SCENE

682-553-1560



Find Your New Best Friend in the Classifieds!

STUMP GRINDING

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

Service, Remodel, New Construction
 Insured/BBB Accredited

817-615-7164

Customer Satisfaction is our Goal!
 C/C ACCEPTED TECL20470

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
 EOE

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Correctional Officers • Assistant Foodservice Manager
 Education Counselor • Academic Instructor
 Human Resource Supervisor
 Assistant Maintenance Supervisor - Electrician

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

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

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Advertising Works!

SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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

Deadline:
 1:00 PM FRIDAY

Classifieds

039 Help Wanted



Lube Tech

Experience a plus, but willing to train the right person. Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday thru Friday work week
***** \$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS*****

Service Technicians

HIRING BONUS available for all skill levels! Seeking **ALL LEVEL** of Service Technicians; Lube Tech's to Master! Be part of our **GROWING TEAM** and advance within our Service Department as we offer a Competitive Salary with a full line of Benefits, including 401K. Mon-Fri, 5-day work week with paid vacation, training & holidays!
*****Up To \$5,000 Hiring Bonus for Skilled Technicians!*****

Service Porter

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

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

052 Movers 066 Roofing

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.

HORSE SALE
 April 7th, 2023
Tack Sale Begins at 6:00 PM
Horses Follow
 Stephenville Cattle Co.
 Highway 281 North • Stephenville, TX
 Troy 254-967-1950 • Barn 254-968-4844

062 Plumbing



Bill Blankenship Contracting Inc.

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

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LANDERS Plumbing Co.
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M-10078

GRAHAM PLUMBING CO.



Commercial-Residential
 Serving Springtown, Azle, Boyd, Weatherford Area
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817-220-2469
 grahamplumbingco.com

Miles Roofing

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

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 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.



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 6A-2P SHIFT
 New Pay Scale, Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. 401k and PTO.
 Come by and apply in person: 113 Denver Trail Azle.

040 Home Improvement
Devin's Handyman Service
 • Carpentry • Insulation
 • Cement • Kitchen/Bath
 • Rock • Roof & Gutters
 • Granite • Powerwashing
 • Tile • Decks
 • Painting
 • Siding
SPRING SPECIAL 20% OFF with this ad!
Call Devin at 817-629-9608

046 Looking to Buy
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 • Motorhomes
 • Farm Equipment
 • Trucks And Trailers
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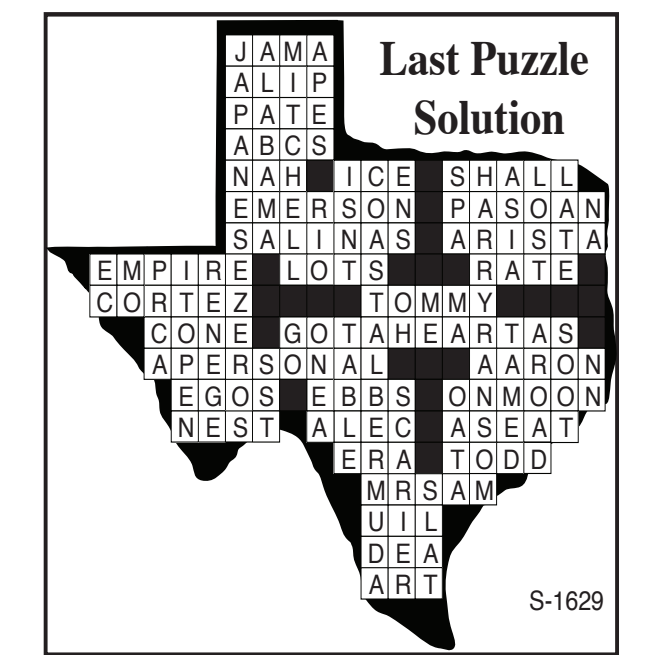
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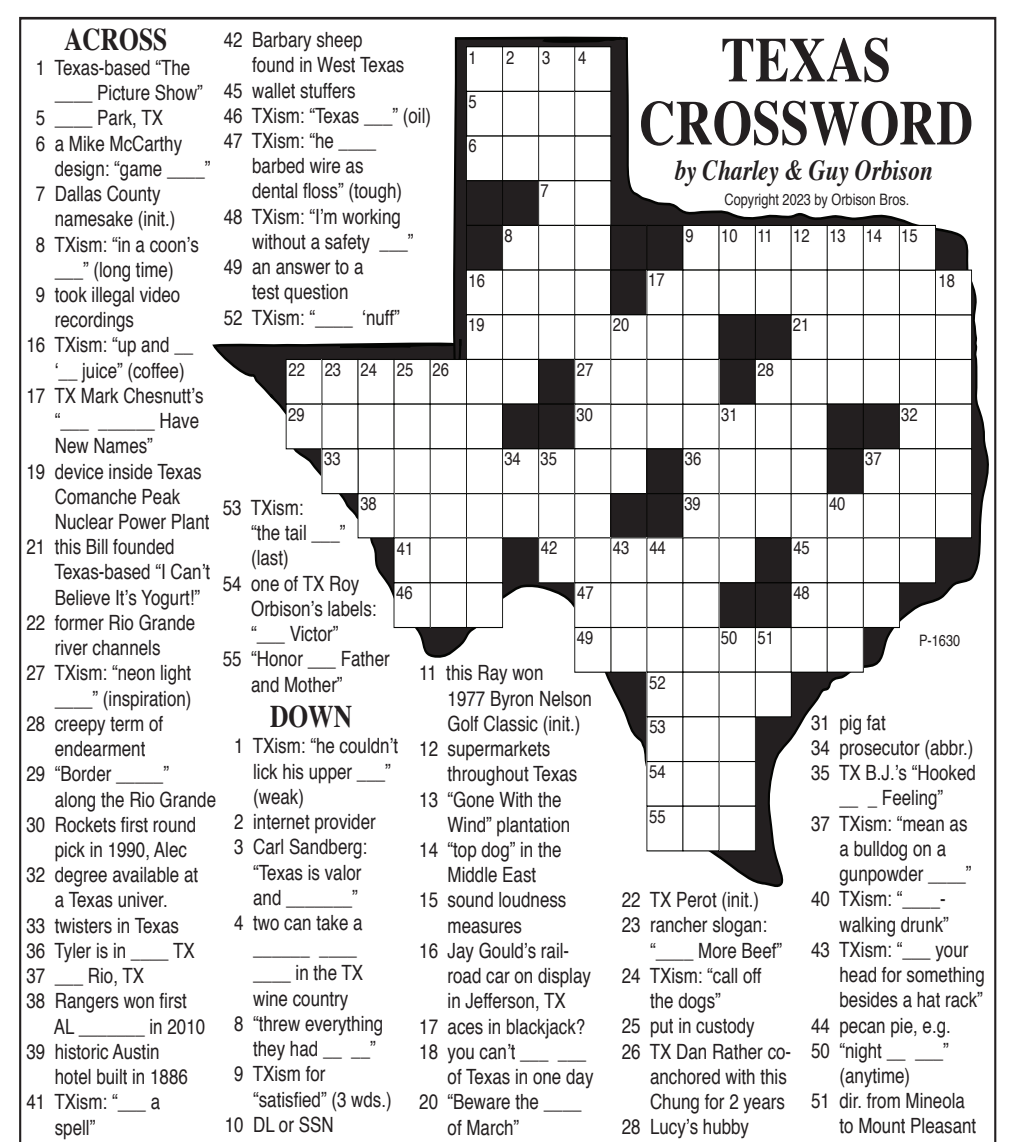
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 5 _____ Park, TX
 6 a Mike McCarthy design: "game _____"
 7 Dallas County namesake (init.)
 8 TXism: "in a coon's _____" (long time)
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 17 TX Mark Chesnut's "_____ Have New Names"
 19 device inside Texas Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant
 21 this Bill founded Texas-based "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt!"
 22 former Rio Grande river channels
 27 TXism: "neon light _____" (inspiration)
 28 creepy term of endearment
 29 "Border _____" along the Rio Grande
 30 Rockets first round pick in 1990, Alec degree available at a Texas univer.
 33 twisters in Texas
 36 Tyler is in _____ TX
 37 _____ Rio, TX
 38 Rangers won first AL _____ in 2010
 39 historic Austin hotel built in 1886
 41 TXism: "_____ a spell"
 42 Barbary sheep found in West Texas
 45 wallet stuffers
 46 TXism: "Texas _____" (oil)
 47 TXism: "he _____ barbed wire as dental floss" (tough)
 48 TXism: "I'm working without a safety _____"
 49 an answer to a test question
 52 TXism: "_____ 'nuff"
 53 TXism: "the tail _____" (last)
 54 one of TX Roy Orbison's labels: "_____ Victor"
 55 "Honor _____ Father and Mother"

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 1 TXism: "he couldn't lick his upper _____" (weak)
 2 internet provider
 3 Carl Sandberg: "Texas is valor and _____"
 4 two can take a _____ in the TX wine country
 8 "threw everything they had _____"
 9 TXism for "satisfied" (3 wds.)
 10 DL or SSN
 11 this Ray won 1977 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)
 12 supermarkets throughout Texas
 13 "Gone With the Wind" plantation
 14 "top dog" in the Middle East
 15 sound loudness measures
 16 Jay Gould's railroad car on display in Jefferson, TX
 17 aces in blackjack?
 18 you can't _____ of Texas in one day
 20 "Beware the _____ of March"
 22 TX Perot (init.)
 23 rancher slogan: "_____ More Beef"
 24 TXism: "call off the dogs"
 25 put in custody
 26 TX Dan Rather co-anchored with this Chung for 2 years
 28 Lucy's hubby
 31 pig fat
 34 prosecutor (abbr.)
 35 TX B.J.'s "Hooked _____ Feeling"
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Springtown soccer girls finish season as bi-district champions

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

"Hey, guess what?" said head coach Katherine Kummerfeld. "Y'all just made Springtown history!"

The Lady Porcupines soccer team erupted into hollers, hugs, and high fives.

On March 24, Springtown defeated Diamond Hill-Jarvis 1-0 to win a bi-district championship and continue further in the playoffs. The victory was the first playoff win for a Springtown soccer team since the program was created almost 20 years ago, the coach said.

Seven years ago, Kummerfeld took over the girls soccer program and began the slow transformation into a winner. In 2017, her first year as coach, the varsity girls went 0-8-2 in district competition. Other tough seasons would follow, until 2021, when Springtown won two district games.

In 2022, the Lady Pines earned a trip to the playoffs for the first time. They won a play-in game to qualify, and almost beat the no. 1 seed in the bi-district game but lost 1-0.

This year, the girls and their head coach became champs for the first



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

PLEASE SEE **SOCCER** | A14 Samantha Orozco and the Lady Pines stayed a step ahead of the competition in the bi-district game.

Springtown softball wins district games



Fernandez sisters bond on, off field

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

After dropping their district opener against Decatur, the Springtown Lady Porcupines rebounded by walloping Castleberry and Lake Worth.

On March 28, the Porcupines gipped the Bullfrogs 10-0 in Lake Worth. Haylee Sanborn knocked in 3 runs, and Karley Haynes, Cheyanne Atchley, Noelle Fernandez, Ava Fernandez, and Blaze Flood knocked in an RBI apiece. Sanborn pitched a complete game, struck out 8 batters and allowed 1 hit.

On March 24, Springtown played Castleberry at Porcupine Stadium and smashed numerous hits by

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

From left, Noelle and Ava Fernandez enjoy time spent together during big sister's final year of high school.

PLEASE SEE **SISTERS** | A12

Porcupine baseball enjoys strong start to district season

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown Porcupine baseball boys lost to Krum on the road but are enjoying a strong start to the new season.

On Tuesday, March 28, the Porcupines traveled to Krum to take on the Bobcats, and both teams were 2-0 and tied for first place in District 8-4A.

Krum won 4-2, dropping Springtown's record to a still impressive 2-1.

Keegan Martinez threw 6 innings on the mound and allowed 6 hits. Springtown held a 1-0 lead in the top of the sixth inning when Krum plated 4 in the bottom half.

The game ended with the bases loaded for Springtown.

"We struggled offensively tonight with making adjustments against their pitcher's slider, which



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

PLEASE SEE **BASEBALL** | A14 Caleb Elmore and the Springtown Porcupines battle Krum on Friday at Porcupine Stadium.



Spring in step

Ashlynn Dickey sets new Springtown school record in girls high jump

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown senior Ashlynn Dickey set a new school record in the high jump.

On March 22, she cleared 5 feet 6 inches at the Pojo Relays. She finished in second place, after a Godley girl jumped the same height but with fewer misses.

In February, Dickey began the track season by clearing 5 feet 4 inches to set a personal record and win first place at the Brock Relays.

"She has been jumping really well the last couple of weeks," said Tye Adams, athletic coordinator. "Ashlynn is a tremendous competitor both as an individual jumper and a runner on our 4x200 and 4x400 relays. We look forward to the next few weeks as we get closer to district competition."

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Ashlynn Dickey set a new school record by high jumping 5 feet 6 inches at the Pojo Relays.

HEAD 'EM UP

Springtown rodeo back in saddle after spring break

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown's rodeo team put on their cowboy boots and hats, made their way back to the dirt-floored arena in Saginaw, and loaded up on more medals and team points.

On March 24-25, Springtown competed at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association event after teams took a few weeks off for spring break.

In walkup goats, Delaney Harris earned sixth place,

Shaye Winford took seventh, Nevaeh Gambrell earned 21st, and Kallie Gray was 23rd.

Winford also earned 11th place in ride-up goats.

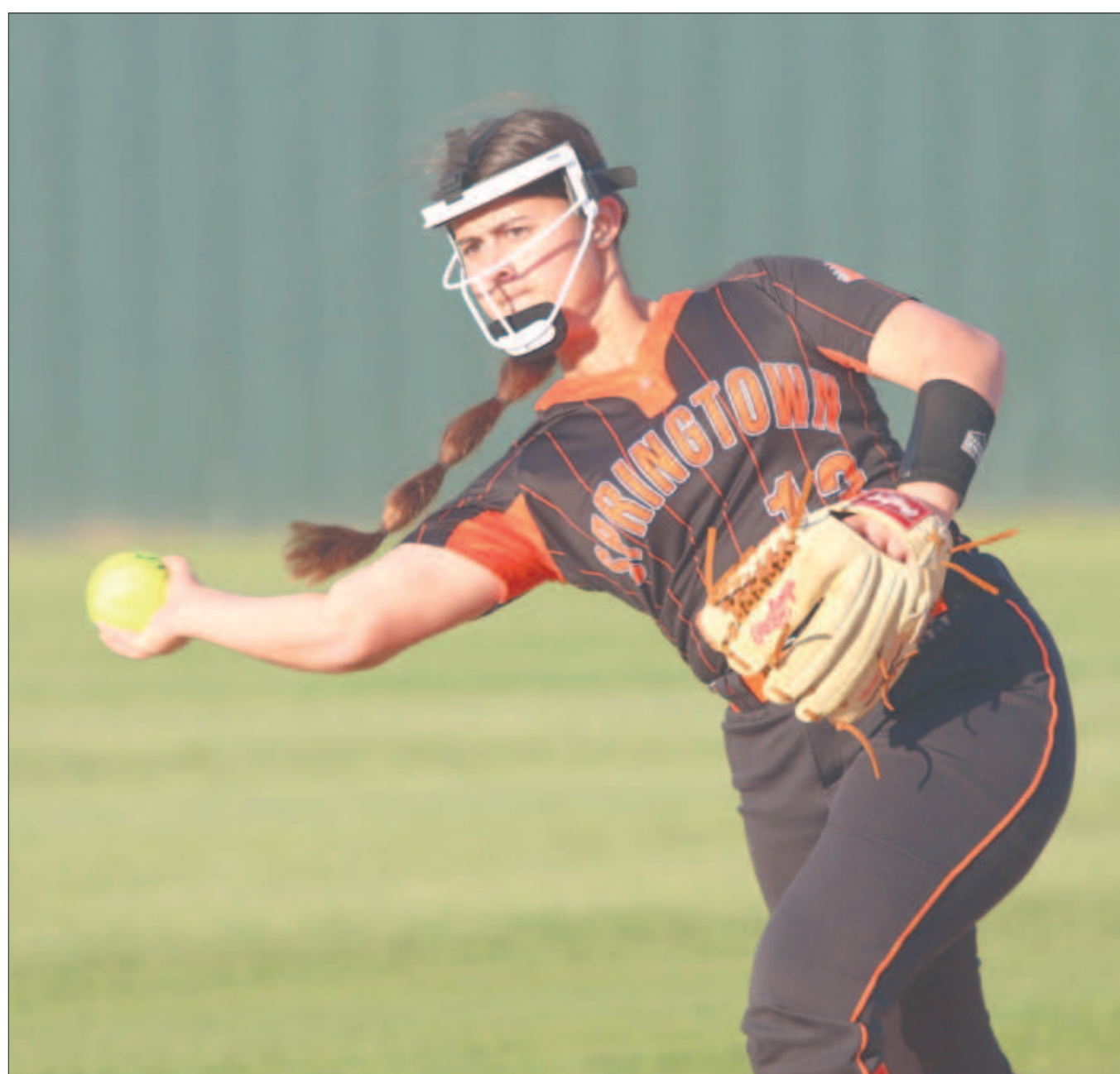
In barrels, Kaylee Buchanan (23rd), Gray (27), Winford (31), Faith Styles (39), Addyson Norris (43), and Kendall Gallaher (48) competed.

Styles finished 15th in poles.

Springtown maintained its position in ninth place in the association, where more than 70 teams compete.

PHOTO COURTESY JO H PHOTOGRAPHY

Kendall Gallaher and her Springtown teammates remain in ninth place among the more than 70 teams competing in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association events.



SISTERS

FROM PAGE A11

multiple batters to power a 15-2 victory.

Noelle Fernandez, a senior, pitched her 100th strikeout of the season against the Lady Lions.

DIAMOND DAYS WITH SIS

Fernandez is in her final season at SHS and wants to go out big. She is set to play softball on a scholarship at Hawaii Pacific University.

The bond between Fernandez and her teammates is thick. In the case of the third baseman, it's blood. Kid sister Ava Fernandez made varsity as a freshman in 2022. This year, she starts at third base, watching big sister's back on the pitching mound.

The team's bright prospects are beckoning.

"I'm really excited," little sister Ava said. "I think we're going to do really good. We've been improving over the last couple of weeks through a lot of hard tournaments."

She has watched Noelle play softball her whole life and found inspiration.

"She was the one who really got me into softball,"

Ava said. "I just saw my big sister doing it, and I thought I should do it, too. It's fun. I get to spend time with her a lot, and I get to grow with her as a teammate and as a sister."

Their age difference kept them from playing on the same team before high school. Ava, always shy, has become more self-assured as part of a tight-knit team led by her sister.

Noelle is thankful to spend so much time with her sibling.

"I love playing with my sister, especially having her as one of my hot corners," Noelle said. "I know I can trust her there. I know she'll work for me, and I'll work for her. It's easy to trust each other and work together because we work together in life."

The regular season runs to late April. If the Lady Porcupines make the playoffs, their season could reach into May.

Noelle looks forward to every day with her sister now. Every moment, really.

"We have grown closer," Noelle said. "It's been a lot of fun being able to play together and seeing her grow on the field, off the field, just everywhere."

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Ava Fernandez plays third base and supports Noelle on the pitching mound.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Springtown's powerlifting state qualifiers.



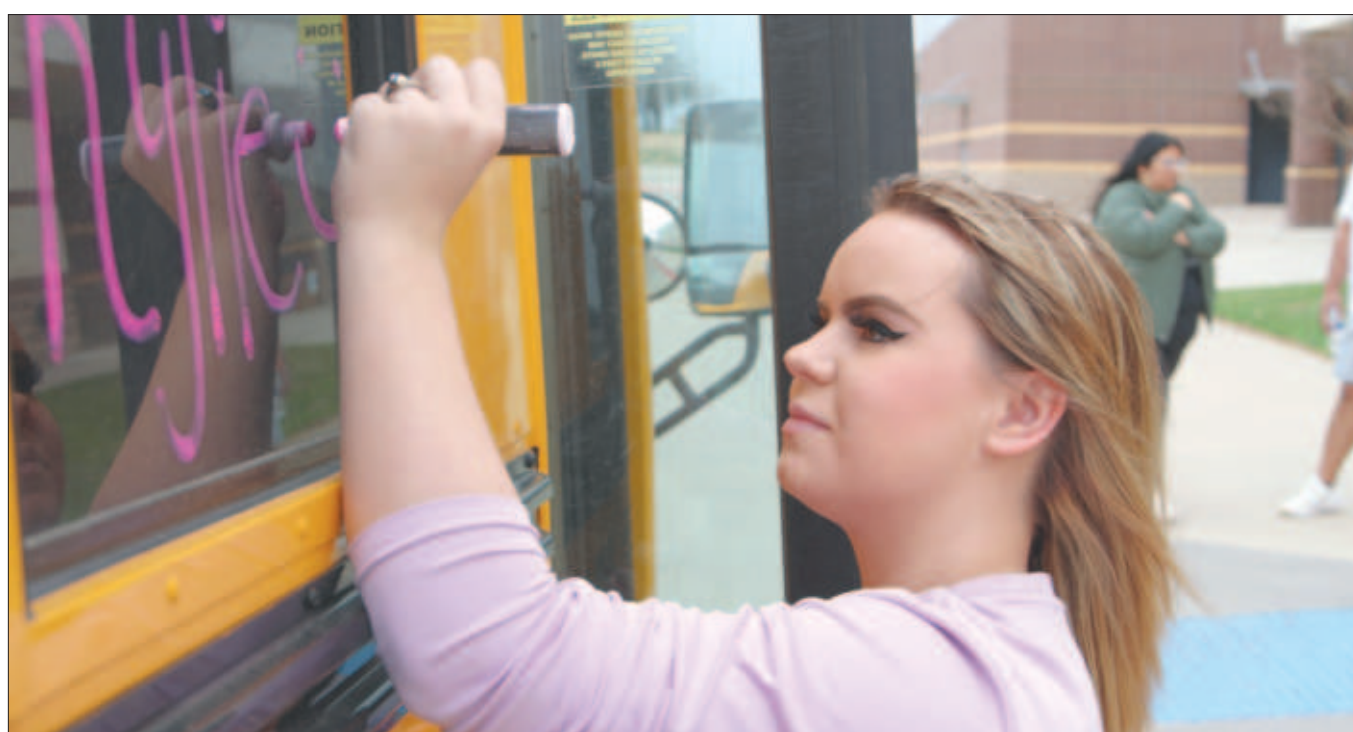
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Springtown's senior powerlifters on their way to state.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brianna Graham won first place at every meet this year.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kylie Wear paints the bus for their trip to state

Power Girls

Congratulations to the Lady Porcupine powerlifting team for reclaiming the state title it held last in 2019. On March 18, Springtown was crowned champion at the state meet in Frisco. Angela Chavez, Brianna Graham, Abigail Rodgers, and Kylie Wear earned individual titles and set state records in their weight classes.

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SOCCER

FROM PAGE A11

time. "Thank you for that," Kummerfeld told her girls afterward. The victory wasn't a sure deal until the final buzzer sounded. The first half remained scoreless despite numerous shots at goal by both sides. "It was a rough start, but we got the hang of it," said Kylie Wiens. "We had good teamwork. We just kept working hard and were bound to get a goal." Nervousness had plagued the Lady Pines at practices leading up to the playoff game, the coach said. Those nerves continued in the early part of the bi-district contest. "The chemistry of the girls finally kicked in during the second half," Kummerfeld said.

Eight minutes into the second half, Wiens took a pass and dribbled the ball toward the Diamond Hill-Jarvis goalkeeper, made a fake, and kicked the ball into the corner of the net to put the Porcupines ahead 1-0. Wiens credited her teammates for setting up the goal, including Icís Lopez, who made a pinpoint pass to set up Wiens' game-winning shot.

Ten minutes later, the Pines offense pushed their way upfield again, and Wiens took another shot. This one sailed wide. Barely.

The miss didn't matter. Springtown's defense, led by goalkeeper Allison Kimball, prevented Diamond Hill from scoring any goals, and the 1-0 score held. With minutes remaining in the game, Diamond Hill came close to scoring, but Kimball made one of her many impressive saves at the net.

Kummerfeld and assistant coach Ryan Byerly were beaming afterward. "I don't think it's quite hit me yet," Kummerfeld said. "It was exciting. That was a big feat."



Kylie Wiens, shown battling Diamond Hill-Jarvis players, scored the game-winning goal to help Springtown win a bi-district championship.

During her seven years, she has seen the girls soccer program grow in numbers and increase in victories. The popularity is spreading, and a middle school program is in the works.

"It is validating and encouraging," she said. Each year, Kummerfeld thinks of ways to improve the program and increase success on the field. This year, she pushed extra hard on physical conditioning. During the second half, when Diamond Hill-Jarvis players appeared weary, the Hornets continued chasing balls and outrunning opponents.

"I've tried to get them to run a lot more this year and make sure we're getting that conditioning in before we even hit soccer," the coach said. "A lot of them play the whole time, and they just keep going."

Physical conditioning

helps, but other elements are at play.

Fortitude, for one. "A lot of that is their mental strength," she said. "They are conditioned, but they are also telling themselves they can keep going."

Team unity is another biggie.

"It's an encouraging team, and that's helped the girls do well," Kummerfeld said. "It's a good team chemistry."

SEASON ENDS AT AREA

After the bi-district title and history were secured, the girls turned their attention to their next challenge. They would face Life Waxahachie in the area championship.

"I'm very proud of us," Wiens said. "I know we can keep working hard and play even better."

On Tuesday, March 28, the Lady Porcupines rode their bus to Herman Clark Stadium

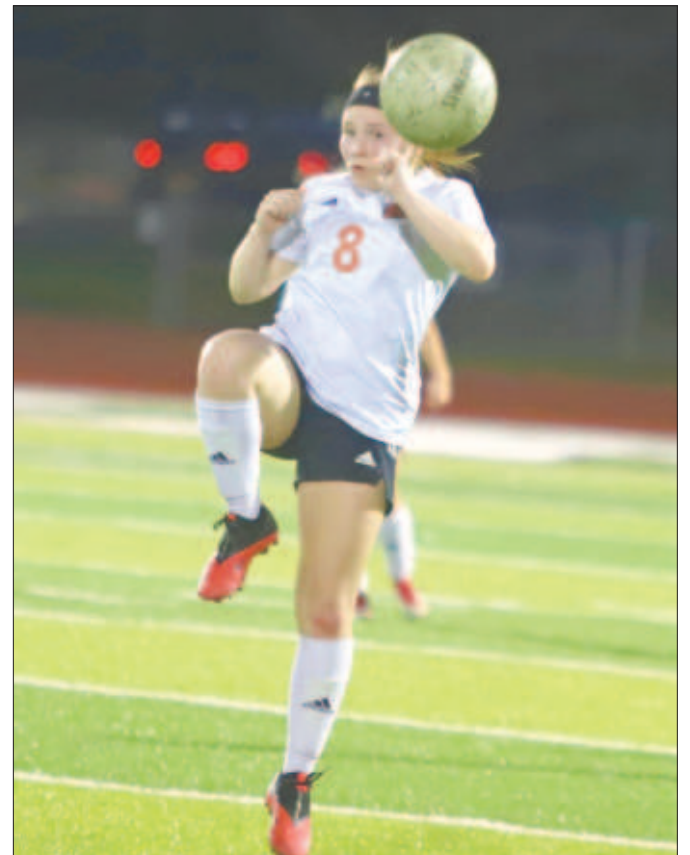
in Fort Worth, took the field against Life Waxahachie, and did play better. They played great, but fell behind 1-0 after a controversial call by a referee.

Springtown fought hard to rebound, find the net, and tie the game, but shots sailed high or wide, time ticked away, and another last-minute by goal by Life ended all hope.

Final score: Life Waxahachie 2, Springtown 0.

Several of the Springtown players cried afterward, but they all knew they had accomplished much this season.

"We got farther than most teams," said sophomore Icís Lopez. "It's sad that we didn't get past the second game, but I think we did really well this season. Next year, we'll probably be better because everyone will be more experienced."



Lilian Duval, a freshman, helped her team win a title.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE A11

is why we couldn't score in the first five innings," said Colin Crawford, Springtown's head coach. "We had some chances, just couldn't string enough quality at-bats together early."

Discipline at the plate is crucial, he said.

"We didn't have good team at-bats in some spots, which is something we work on ev-

ery day, doing your job at the plate based on what the situation is," he said. "There are situations where kids have to be unselfish at the plate and have a certain approach. All at-bats aren't the same, and we need to be more consistent in executing that."

Martinez pitched well, and two errors by the Porcupines allowed runs to score in the bottom half of the sixth inning. The pitcher "gave us every opportunity to win the ball game," Crawford said.

Despite the loss, the coach saw much to like on the field.

"With the exception of those two errors in the sixth, we played great defense and made some really good plays," he said. "Hopefully we will learn from it and be better the next time out against them."

They won't have long to wait. Springtown will play a rematch with Krum at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Porcupine Stadium.

JIM STEVENS PHOTOGRAPHY

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