

# Man charged in 2020 manslaughter sentenced to 10 years



**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
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Former Boyd High School assistant principal Kevin Scott Evans who was charged with killing Ernest D. Medley while driving in 2020 has been sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Corrections Institutional Division.

Evans, of Springtown, previously pleaded guilty to in-

toxication manslaughter. The 415th District Court found that Evans' vehicle was used as a deadly weapon.

In January 2020, Reno police officers responded to a hit and run in the 4200 block of East State Highway 199 at about 9:30 p.m. Ernest D. Medley, 51, was hit while walking on the shoulder of the road and died at the scene as a result of his injuries.

That same night, Evans was arrested after a Springtown police officer noticed that the truck he was driving on west-bound SH 199 was similar to the description of the vehicle seen fleeing the hit-and-run scene. The officer stopped Evans, and his truck reportedly had front-end damage, a non-working headlight and what appeared to be human tissue on the front of the vehicle, which was later tested

and matched Medley's DNA. According to a news release from the district attorney's office, Evans said he had been drinking at the Azle bar On The Patio after work the day of the hit-and-run. He failed field sobriety tests when he was arrested. A sample of his blood was tested by the Texas Department of Public Safety crime lab, and the results revealed his blood alcohol concentration was 0.134,

which is more than Texas' legal limit. Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission investigated and found that Evans consumed 8 pint-sized Miller Lite beers at the bar that evening.

"Mr. Evans had no criminal record and was, by all accounts, a model citizen prior to this tragedy," District Attorney Jeff Swain said in

PLEASE SEE **EVANS** | A8

# The kids are alright

## SHS principal praises student organizations

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Springtown High School Principal Melissa Hutchison took a few minutes during last week's school board meeting to brag about how well high school students are doing.

The praise started with the high school's girls powerlift-

ing team that won the state championship recently.

"I know that if I was in high school and this was the powerlifting team that was part of my school, there's no doubt I would want to be part of this group," Hutchison said during the meeting.

Girls powerlifting head

PLEASE SEE **KIDS** | A3



**MADelyn EDWARDS** | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Springtown High School girls powerlifting team posed for a photo with the district's school board at the meeting on March 27. The team recently won a state championship.

# Easter is for everyone



**JIM STEVENS** | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

The Easter bunny helps Zoe Moray, 13, look for Easter eggs at the egg hunt for people with special needs at the park in Springtown.

**MORE PHOTOS**  
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# SISD board takes a stand

## SISD board approves resolution opposing education savings accounts, vouchers

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
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The Springtown ISD board of trustees took a stand against vouchers and education savings accounts during the monthly school board meeting last week.

On March 27, trustees approved a resolution calling on Texas lawmakers to "reject any diversion of public dollars to private entities in the form of education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes."

Board President Rick Beall said the resolution was handed down by the Texas Association of School Boards so that school boards may send a unified message "to lawmakers and trustees standing against privatizing our public schools."

Legislation was recently introduced in the state that would make education

savings accounts of up to \$8,000 for families to pay for private school tuition, books and other items, if the bill is passed into law. The money would go to students switching from public school to private school or just starting their education, not those who are already enrolled in private schools or are in home school.

However, the bill would allow for compensation for public school districts with fewer than 20,000 students if those districts have students who leave the district to enroll in private schools. Those small public schools would receive \$10,000 from the state per student who leaves and enrolls in private school.

The difference between vouchers and education savings accounts is vouchers usually send money to the private school or educational institution where the stu-

dent enrolls while the savings accounts give money to families directly.

The resolution approved by the SISD school board argued that education savings accounts and vouchers give the right to choose to private schools, not parents.

"School choice already exists in Texas via public school districts, charter schools, inter- and intra-district transfers, home schools, virtual schools and private schools," the resolution stated.

The resolution also pointed out that Texas public schools are held accountable for meeting academic standards and reporting performance data to the public, while private schools are not. The resolution also claimed that voucher programs would take money

PLEASE SEE **STAND** | A4

**Happy Easter!**

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# Parker County uses tool to test fingerprint sweat for drugs in court

**MADELYN EDWARDS**  
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Before Dec. 6, Kelly Miller never heard of a fingerprint drug test. That is, until she had to use one and failed the test.

Miller, a former resident of Springtown, recalled going to a court hearing in November and passing a urine drug test but failing a fingerprint test at her hearing in December. The test analyzes sweat from a person's fingerprint for drug metabolites.

As a result, Miller said she was arrested, her bond doubled, and she was put on probation where she had to complete weekly urine drug tests.

Later, Miller failed another fingerprint drug test at a court hearing, and she requested to take a different kind of test to prove that she wasn't using drugs. She said her request was granted, and she passed a urine test.

However, a urine test can-

not be compared to a fingerprint test or any other kind, Parker County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Director Michael Stack said. It is possible to have a positive result on one test and a negative result on another test because the cut-off levels - which determine a positive or negative result - are different.

"You can't compare a sweat test to urine test to a hair test," Stack said. "You can only compare sweat test to sweat test if they're exactly the same."

Using the sweat, the test can detect if someone has used drugs in recent days or hours, depending on the drug, Stack said.

The fingerprint sweat drug test is used exclusively in court so that judges can call for drug tests to be done faster and more efficiently, Stack said. If a urine test is called for, the defendants must be tested by a staffer who shares the defendant's gender, but



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Parker County Community Supervision and Corrections Department Director Michael Stack demonstrates how to use the machine that tests a person's finger sweat for drugs.



there is no gender requirement for using the fingerprint sweat test.

"It takes on average 20 to 40 minutes to do a drug test. Well, if I've got a female officer in that court, and I've got 10 males that have to be urine tested, I've got to find other people to go up there. It's just not an efficient use of our time," Stack said. "So being a sweat test, the females

MADELYN EDWARDS  
THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

**To use a fingerprint drug test, a person will press their finger onto the cartridge where sweat samples are collected. The cartridge is then plugged into the DSR-Plus to determine the results of the test.**

can do it on males."

To use it, a person cleans their hands and waits 15 minutes, and then they press their finger on the cartridge. A liquid solution is released to detect the drugs or lack thereof, and the cartridge can be sealed to prevent tampering. Then, the cartridge is plugged into a handheld device to read the results.

The fingerprint drug test screens for opiates, methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis, which is much less than the number of drugs that the urine test screens for.

"It's the smallest panel of drugs we use," Stack said. "That's another reason we don't use it very often. It just hits the major drugs."

Stack said his department have been working on getting the finger drug test ready to be used in court for more than three and a half years. In this time of preparation, the test was checked for reliability and accuracy.

If someone claims their fingerprint sweat drug test produced an incorrect result, it is up to the judge to order any follow up testing, Stack said. Testing positive on the fingerprint sweat test does not mean that person will face a new offense.

Stack said the fingerprint sweat drug test is 97-98% accurate, but any test can bring a false positive result.

"They're just not as common as what people want you to think they are," he said.

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# Reno City Council tables action on resident's water line issues

**MADelyn EDWARDS**  
madelyn@azlenews.net

A Reno resident who has been dealing with her water line breaking often will have to continue waiting for a resolution.

Jamie Cherry said she has about 1,100 feet of water line that runs from her property to the meter on Harris Road, zigzagging a couple of times into her neighbors' properties. The water line, which she said is buried shallowly, breaks about every week or more - sometimes by as little as being run over by a trash or delivery truck.

When the line breaks, Cherry has to dig up parts of the line until she finds the leak, which can be a lengthy process. She has also experi-

enced more expensive water bills because of this problem.

"I work a full-time job, and it's kind of hard to go fix water leaks that you can't find and then spend the money to do that, too, and you have small children to take care of that have disabilities as well," Cherry said during the Reno City Council meeting last month.

To remedy this issue, Cherry wants the water meter moved to her property line instead of down the street.

In a previous article, former city administrator Scott Passmore said the problem with moving the meter is that the street Cherry lives on is a private road, not a city one.

Reno Public Works Director Chris Albright confirmed that the road did not appear to be

a city street during the council meeting. Albright said he looked at records from the city, Parker County and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, and he could not locate the easement where the water line is buried.

"Nobody has a record of this, so where does that lead us to?" Albright said.

Cherry said during the meeting that nobody owns the easement; it was donated to the city years ago.

"Unfortunately, a lot of things were done back in the good old days where we patted everybody on the back and shook everybody's hand that now it's coming back to bite us because we didn't document anything," Council member Jody Works said during the meeting.

The council and city attorney said Cherry and her neighbors would need to find records of the easement and get it donated to the city. This may require the property owners to get new surveys of their land.

"I think the first step is to get the survey out and see if the property owners will donate the land for the city street and then that will get your easement rights to put your utilities in," City Attorney Dottie Palumbo said during the council meeting.

If the city could obtain the easement and make the road a city street, it would cost between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to install a 6-inch water line and fire hydrant on Cherry's street, Albright said. However, the

city's water main on Harris Road, which intersects with Cherry's street, is a 4-inch line. Connecting a 4-inch line with a 6-inch one wouldn't produce the flow needed for a fire hydrant.

The council ultimately tabled action until the neighbors could be brought together to find the easement.

"I think we just are going to have to meet with all the property owners in a separate meeting and start getting easements so that we can get that road wider to get some services properly," Mayor Pro Tem Katie Tucker said before she made her motion to table the agenda item.

Cherry expressed mixed feelings after the meeting. On the one hand, she felt that there is not much more

she can do. She said she discussed this issue with city council members in January, and they came to the same conclusion.

"They just said the same thing they said tonight, so not really anything any different," Cherry said. "So, I don't know what another meeting is going to do."

But Cherry still has faith that if she keeps working toward a solution, one will arise.

"That's all I can do is show up," she said. "I couldn't really influence much tonight but just being here and having them look me in the eye as they're doing it, it's not a 'no.' So, a table is better than 'no.'"

## KIDS

FROM PAGE A1

"This season was a magical season," Castro said. "We won every single meet that we went to, even state, so we were completely undefeated this season. So that is a great testament. This group is full of winners."

After the powerlifting team posed for pictures with the school board on March 27, Hutchison gave a presentation about happenings in other student groups at Springtown High School.

On a one-sheet handout to board members, Hutchison compiled a list of recent achievements of the school's sports teams, career and technical organizations, visual and performing arts groups and academic teams.

"It's always busy at the high school," Hutchison said. "There's ups and downs of everything we do, but there's a lot of ups this year."

Hutchison pointed out that all members of the First Responders Club qualified for the state competition this year. In watching these students practice, the prin-

icipal said they are learning things that "not only help them compete, but also help them just be incredible citizens."

She also said the school is working on partnerships to train law enforcement students in emergency medical technician skills.

Hutchison mentioned the Academic UIL team placed second at district, and 18 of the 33 students who competed will advance to regionals.

"There's this saying that when you're a high school principal, your job is really easy when you're winning,

and my job has been really easy lately," Hutchison said. "I enjoyed my job today. I enjoy my job most days. But when you have kids like this, it makes your job really easy."

SHS's Texas Association of Future Educators group has a student - sophomore Dannaray Strange - who qualified for the national competition, Hutchison said.

"What's really neat about this particular student (is) she wants to be a teacher and she wants to be a teacher in Springtown," the high school principal said. "How cool is

that?"

SHS's health science program is working on building a certified nursing assistant program, Hutchison said. Students have finished certifications in medical assistant and EKG technician.

Hutchison also pointed out the school's welding program, which is growing "exponentially" and was recently praised for the students being able to weld at an advanced level. She praised the welding instructors on what they have done for the program.

Hutchison said these op-

portunities are what attracts new students to SHS.

"What I love about our school, specifically, and our district is that we are still that small town mindset, but not as far as our opportunities," she said. "We're not going to ask a student who enrolls at the high school to fit this box or this mold and say, 'Hey, here's how you need to be as a Springtown high school student.' We're going to say, 'Hey, what are you interested in?'"

## Sudoku

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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

## Solution to last week's puzzle

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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### LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF CLAIM AND PUBLIC SALE**

Storage unit contents to be sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from the sale. Unit items to be sold to the highest bidder. Sale to be held ONLINE at <https://www.storagetreasures.com/>. Location of Units for Public Sale: Longhorn State Storage Springtown at 1905 E Hwy 199, Springtown TX 76082. Auction to be held on Monday April 24th, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the following tenants: Dakota Young, Pressy Renois, Wanda Dawson, Dena Crowe

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Storage Bright will hold a public auction to satisfy Storage Bright's lien (pursuant to Title 5, Liens, Chapter 59, Sec. 59.044), by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the locations indicated: All spaces contain household goods unless otherwise noted. Storage Bright Springtown East, 104 Adalida LN, Springtown, TX. 76082. (817) 409-8634. Danny Himes. Storage Bright Springtown North, 1715 N Hwy 51, Springtown, TX. 76082 (817) 409-8886. Meg Smith. April 24, 2023, 10:00AM. The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com). Purchases must be made with card and paid to the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Storage Bright may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

## SPRINGTOWN SCHOOL MENU

**April 10-13, 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** No school **Tuesday** Bacon Scramble Pizza, Blueberries **Wednesday** Scramble Eggs, Apple **Thursday** Cinnamon Roll, Rosey 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** No school **Tues** Salisbury Steak, Chicken Tenders, Roll, Mashed potatoes, Garden Salad, Apple **Weds** Hamburger or Cheeseburger, French Fries, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Blueberries **Thurs** Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Green Beans, Fresh Carrots, Pineapple Cup, Craisins **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Corn Dog, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Broccoli, Apple Slices, 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** No school **Tues** Pasta Bar (Meat Sauce or Alfredo with Chicken), Garlic Bread, Garden Salad, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Broccoli **Weds** Catfish Po'Boy, Ck Fried Steak Sandwich, Potato Wedges, Broccoli Salad, Coleslaw, Strawberries **Thurs** General Tso's Chicken, Tangerine Chicken, Fried Rice, Broccoli, Roll, Cucumber & Tomato Cup, Mandarin Oranges, Apple Slices **Fri** Cheese Pizza, Chicken Wings (Reg & Spicy), Baked Potato Basket, Roll, Green Beans, Baked Beans., Celery & Carrot Cup, Banana, Peaches

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BOOK REVIEW

# “Who We Are Now” explores how we are doing after trauma of COVID-19 pandemic

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Check in. Let everybody know you're OK, so they don't worry. Make a phone call, send an email or a text, just let them know you're upright and taking nourishment and you hope they're the same. Don't make them wonder; go ahead and reach out. As in the new book “Who We Are Now” by Michelle Fishburne, it's important today more than ever.

In many ways, 2020 was a massive year of change. It sure was for Michelle Fishburne.

Late in the summer of that year, she “found myself without a house, a spouse, a job, or a kid to take care of....” She was in her late 50s, and “everything was upside down,” so she moved into an elderly motor home with her dog and waited to see what was next.

And one day, it hit her: we all went through a certain amount of trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic. How are we all doing now?

To find out, Fishburne turned her home around and headed across America to ask.

In Washington, a response researcher pointed out that most of us figured a “global pandemic was likely to come in our lifetime,” assuming that time would be far

away. A mayor in small-town Arkansas watched as the citizens in his town pulled together tightly; others reported fierce support for local small businesses. People checked on their neighbors and “did a lot of talking about masks.”

Many Americans, though warned, were “stunned” at the speed at which things were shut down, canceled or indefinitely postponed, and how weird it all seemed. Some people caught COVID-19 and survived. Others didn't. Some escaped it – they still wonder how – and some thrived during that time, with better opportunities, more business, new lives, stronger ties.

We were uneasy, if not downright afraid. We were watchful. And we changed.

Said a senior living exec in Georgia, “You can't go through something like that and not be changed.”

For three years now, we've divided our lives as B.C. (before COVID) and A.D. (after disease). You're ready to go back to the way life was, you're ready to move on. But just wait: first, let “Who We Are Now” show you a different side of the pandemic.

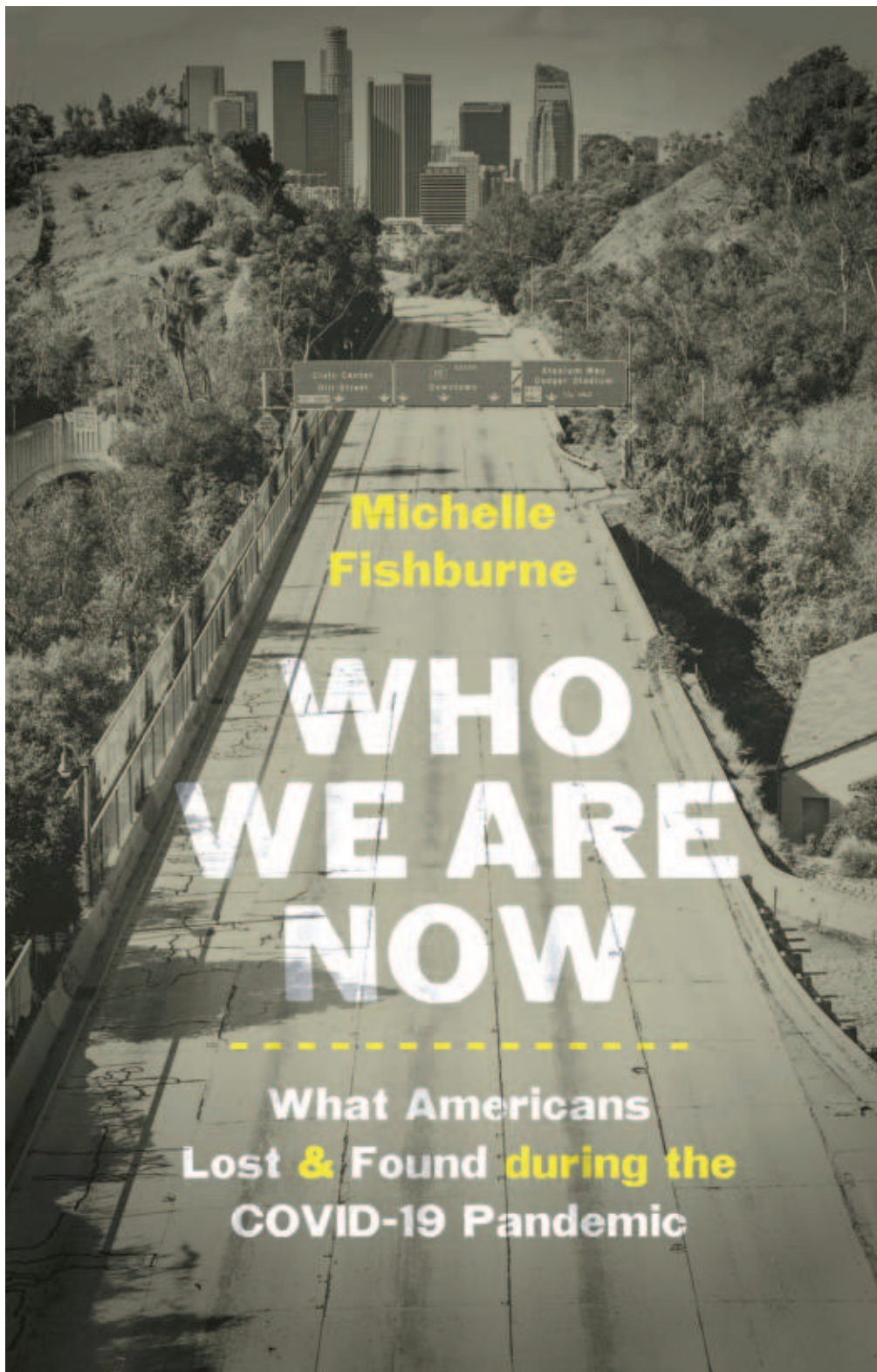
Absent are high-level explanations and technical terms here. Gone is the shouting, mistrust and argu-



Michelle Fishburne

ing. Instead, author Michelle Fishburne lets people just talk in her book. She allows stories to be told, recorded and heard, accounts filled with relief, heartbreakers, gratitude and happy tales that are shared with what seems to be a bit of sheepishness. Reading them – seeing such a wide collection in one browsable place – is like swanning through a new-normal-style social gathering, catching fragments of conversation from people just like you, eavesdropping on the most interesting before moving on to the next story.

Readers who believe they'll never forget the last three years may find “Who We Are Now” comforting in its ordinariness and everyday-people feel, and its lack of divisiveness. This is a book about you and everyone you know. Check it out.



STAND FROM PAGE A1

away from all schools.

“Education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars,” the resolution stated. “Using tax dollars to pay for tuition at private and religious schools would grow into a costly entitlement program; whereas, a taxpay-

er-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming many rural Texas communities where families have few, if any, private school options; and whereas, Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in Texas state education code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education

services.” The board's vote to approve the resolution was unanimous. Before the vote, Beall urged the board to approve.

“It absolutely hurts public schools,” Beall said, while claiming that the education savings account amount of up to \$8,000 would not be enough to cover costs of private school. “This wouldn't help the people that we traditionally serve here in Springtown ISD.”

# EASTER

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## PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT



Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the General/Special Election held on May 6, 2023 will be tested on April 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Parker County Courthouse Annex, 1112 Santa Fe Drive, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller  
Parker County Elections Administrator

## AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Elección general/especial celebradas el 6 de mayo de 2023 se probará el 12 de abril de 2023 a las 9:00 am en el anexo de la corte del condado del Parker, 1112 Santa Fe Dr, para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Jenise 'Crickett' Miller  
Firma del/dela Oficial

@springtownepi



# Texas leads nation in jobs added

## TEXAS LEADS NATION IN JOBS ADDED

The Lone Star State continues to lead the nation in jobs added with 58,200 new positions in February, bringing the state to nearly 14 million total nonfarm jobs, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. February also marked two full years of uninterrupted job growth in the state.

"The past 24 months of uninterrupted job growth show the strength of the Texas economy and ongoing economic opportunities for Texans," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

The state's jobless rate in February was 4.5%, which is higher than the national rate of 3.9%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The highest jobless rate in a Texas metropolitan statistical area is 6.8% in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission. The lowest rate in an MSA is 3.0% in Midland.

## RAINY DAY FUND HITS CAP FOR FIRST TIME

The state's piggy bank is nearly full.

Comptroller Glenn Hegar predicts the state's so-called Rainy Day Fund, officially the Economic Stabilization Fund, will reach its statutory limit by 2025, which is 10% of what



## 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.

is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. Rising revenues fueled by spikes in energy prices and inflation have filled the state's coffers, Hegar said.

"The revenue increases that we have seen truly have been historical and unprecedented. We have never seen anything like this in the past, and I don't think we'll see anything like this in the future," he said.

The state experienced record growth in tax collections in 2022 of 25.6% from the previous year, filling the state's coffers with a surplus of \$32.7 billion.

"I am glad to see that lawmakers are giving careful thought to how this tremendous asset can be best put to work for Texans," Hegar added.

## SENATE PASSES BILL TO LIMIT GOVERNOR'S POWERS

The Texas Senate unanimously passed a bill to rein in the governor's authority during emergencies or disas-

ters, the Austin American-Statesman reported. A matching proposal in the House is awaiting a committee hearing. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, would require the governor to call the Legislature into special session if the executive office wants to extend a disaster or emergency declaration past 30 days. Only the Legislature would be able to put restrictions on businesses such as those imposed during the initial weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We must no longer allow a 19-month legislative interim to be leveraged against the Legislature, especially during times of emergency disasters that affect a significant number of Texans," Birdwell said.

Under current law, disaster declarations last 30 days but can be renewed by the governor. For example, Gov. Greg Abbott has extended a disaster declaration relating to illegal border crossings each month since May 2021,

according to the Statesman.

Abbott expressed support in his State of the State address in January for involving the Legislature in disaster declarations that deal with public health crises.

## SENATE BACKS BOOST FOR RETIRED TEACHERS

The Texas Senate also unanimously approved a package that allocates \$4.7 billion from the budget surplus to increase monthly payments for retired teachers and gives a one-time bump to retirees over 75, the Statesman reported. The bill is now headed to the House for consideration.

The measure calls for a 2% raise for teachers who retired between Sept. 1, 2013, and Jan. 1, 2022, and a 4% raise for those who retired before Sept. 1, 2013. Senate Bill 10 also provides a one-time stipend of \$7,500 for retirees older than 75. The bill affects nearly a half-million retired teachers.

"This is a significant financial commitment from the state," state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, said. "Many TRS retirees have been struggling for so long. We needed to do this."

Retired teachers on average make \$2,100 a month through the Teachers Retirement System.

## BOATERS, ANGLERS URGED TO AVOID COASTAL ROOKERIES

Anglers and boaters along the Texas coast are urged to watch out for nesting birds during this peak breeding and nesting season, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Brown pelicans, roseate spoonbills, black skimmers and reddish egrets are among the birds nesting in dense colonies, called rookeries. TPWD encourages folks to watch out for these nesting birds so they are not disturbed during a sensitive time.

"With too many disturbances, an entire colony of thousands of birds may abandon an island and give up on breeding for the year, which can potentially lead to drastic population declines," said Trey Barron, a diversity biologist with TPWD. "When approached too closely by boaters or people wading nearby, birds are frightened off their nests, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to the summer sun, which can cause them to overheat. The abandoned nests also allow opportunistic predators like gulls and grackles to quickly swoop in and feed on them."

Boaters and anglers are also encouraged to properly dispose of fishing line, tackle and other waste to ensure it

does not harm birds, turtles or other marine life.

"The habitats that waterbirds use are the same habitats in which we — including myself — enjoy fishing, hunting and photographing wildlife," Barron said. "We just have to remember to give them their space, especially during the nesting season, and pick up after ourselves. If you're out on the water, look for the yellow signs that identify rookery islands and keep your distance. We can all enjoy the same places, as long as we do it responsibly."

## HOUSE PASSES DIAPER, PERIOD PRODUCTS BILL

The Texas House last week overwhelmingly passed a bill repealing the state sales tax on diapers, period products, baby wipes and similar items. The measure now heads to the Senate.

Its sponsor, state Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, has tried for several sessions to get the measure passed.

"This bill provides an opportunity to help Texas families at every stage of life," Howard said Tuesday, as reported by The Dallas Morning News. The measure also exempts adult diapers.

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Donna has years of experience handling tax issues for truckers, farmers, and other small businesses, with particular insight into the unique issues and deductions that apply to these fields.

As an Enrolled Agent, Donna is licensed to practice and represent taxpayers before the IRS. She completes at least 30 rigorous continuing education hours each year, staying on top of all the changes in the laws, so her customers get the maximum benefit.

Debi completes at least 18 hours of continuing education each year to maintain her status in the IRS' Annual Filing Season Program (AFSP).

Regardless where you live, anyone needing a tax pro can find one online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). There, you will find Donna and Debi with other tax pros and their levels of education with taxes. People can now check on tax pros at the website and click the side option to see which agents in the area are educated, and others, by zip code.

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Donna and Debi have been doing tax work together in Parker County for 19 years. Together, the Hopwood family can help individuals, business owners, farm operations, and others maximize their profits and make the most of their tax situation.



Donna Hopwood, EA, and her daughter Debi Matthews are here to help you in their 17th tax season in Springtown. Call Hopwood's Tax Service & More at 817-220-7200.

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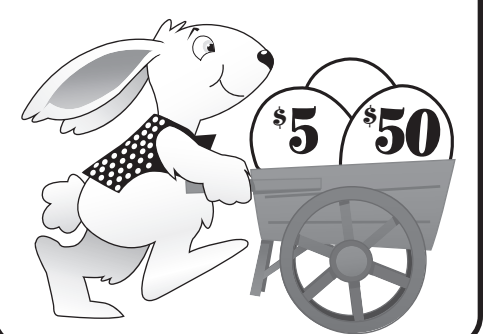
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# NCTCOG Provides Free YouTube Drone Workshops

21 sessions encourage education, awareness, and skills development

## STAFF REPORTS

The introduction of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), commonly called drones, into the commercial market has given many people the opportunity to take up a unique hobby or new career. What was once a technology reserved mostly for the military is now being used by many businesses and governments to help with everything from selling real estate to enhancing accident investigations.

In the Federal Aviation Administration's 2019-2039 Aerospace Forecast, the FAA predicted significant growth of commercial drones. The number of drones registered for recreational use was fore-

cast to reach approximately 1.4 million by this year. Moreover, by next year it is expected that approximately 350,000 UAS pilots will be needed.

Drone operators need to be aware of the latest industry developments, including best practices and even where to safely fly their aircraft. To meet the educational need, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' UAS Safety and Integration Task Force organized and hosted a series of monthly virtual workshops during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 21 workshops conducted over a two-year period are available FREE for anyone interested in learning more about drones,

whether they have been using this technology for a while or they just fly their drones for fun. The Know Before You Fly Your Drone workshops have been posted on the NCTCOG Transportation Department's YouTube page.

"Drone technology continues to evolve, creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to fly their own aircraft, whether as a hobby, for business or to help first responders make our communities safer," said Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG program manager, aviation planning and education. "NCTCOG was pleased to partner with many impressive professionals to help people understand the technology and how to use it



PHOTO COURTESY NCTCOG

The workshops cover a variety of topics, including drone types, use cases, careers, business opportunities and more.

safely and effectively."

The workshops cover a variety of topics, including drone types, use cases, careers, business opportunities and more. There is even a workshop focused on drone

racing. Each workshop is guided by aviation and UAS professionals to provide expertise and career insights.

To learn more about NCTCOG's UAS initiatives, visit [www.northtexasuas.com](http://www.northtexasuas.com). To access any of the 21 workshops, visit NCTCOGtrans - YouTube and find the playlist labeled "UAS Know Before You Fly Your Drone Workshop Series."

# Springtown Public Library closed after flood

## STAFF REPORTS

The Springtown Public Library will be closed for about a month after a recent flood damaged the building. On March 31, an issue in one of the restrooms resulted in a flood, causing damage to the floor, walls and shelving in a large area of the library. None of the books in the library were impacted. Since then, the library has been closed to the public.

According to a statement on the library's Facebook page, staff is working on determining the cause of the flood and will make repairs to prevent floods in the future. The work to repair the library is expected to take place for about 30 days.

Repairs include replacing flooring, re-painting and fixing the sheetrock, and everything in the area of the library being worked on must be

removed while these repairs are taking place, Springtown Administrative Services Director Christina Derr said.

"We will also be making some plumbing repairs but we located the area that was causing the problem and it is actually outside of the building, so all of the work can take place simultaneously," Derr said.

Despite the closure, library staff will be answering

phones, processing returns and preparing for summer programs, by which time the library is expected to be open and fully functional.

Staff hopes to relocate group activities to the city of Springtown Municipal Annex Building at 200 N. Main St, according to the statement on Facebook. As of Tuesday evening, the schedule for these programs has not yet been announced.

"We are very saddened to have to close the facility, but we do appreciate the outpouring of support we have received from the community," read the library's statement.

"We look forward to again being able to provide our full slate of services to our patrons as soon as possible. We will provide updates on our social media pages as well as our website and will communicate our progress

toward reopening over the next several weeks."

Derr said the public can support the library staff by being patient while repairs are made.

For more information about the library, visit its Facebook page at [facebook.com/SpringtownPublicLibrary](https://facebook.com/SpringtownPublicLibrary) online.

## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### Holy Thursday, April 6

7:00pm Foot Washing & Mass of the Lord's Last Supper (Bilingual)

8:30pm-10:30pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

(Altar of Repose in St. Francis Hall)

### Good Friday, April 7

2:30pm Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Passion of the Lord Service

5:30pm Las Estaciones de la Cruz

6:00pm Servicio de la Pasión del Señor

7:00pm Novena of the Divine Mercy

### Holy Saturday, April 8

5:30pm Novena of the Divine Mercy


8:30pm - Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

### Easter Sunday, April 9

9:00am Mass Resurrection of the Lord


10:30am Novena of the Divine Mercy

11:00am Resurrección del Señor Misa



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<p><b>THE ABBEY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Highway 817-238-1404 <a href="http://www.TheAbbeyChurch.com">www.TheAbbeyChurch.com</a></p> <p>Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Community Groups.....Various Times</p> <p><b>ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. • 817-444-3219 <a href="http://www.ashcreekbc.org">www.ashcreekbc.org</a></p> <p>Sunday School.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP.....10:45 AM Traditional Worship.....10:45 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wednesday Youth Refuge.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM</p> <p><b>AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashley Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527</p> <p>Sunday School.....10:00 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM</p> <p><b>AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Pastor - Alton Davis 817-521-4510 1405 Reynolds Rd., Azle 817-444-7117 Directions: 730 N. to 1542 .5 mi. right on Cardinal, left on Reynolds</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....11:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2233 Hwy 199 E. • Springtown 817-755-0279</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 AM Wednesday.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S &amp; FM 1886 817-755-0279</p> <p>Transportation Available</p> <p>Worship Service.....10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE</b> 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod</p> <p>"Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus"</p> <p>Traditional Worship.....9:30 AM Contemporary Worship.....11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastors: Rev. Todd &amp; Jenn Pick 200 Church St., Azle 817-444-3323</p> <p>Morn. Worship.....8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 AM Sunday School.....9:45 &amp; 11 AM Youth (UMYF).....5:00 PM Sun &amp; 6:30 PM Wed</p> <p><b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle 817-444-3063</p> <p>Saturday.....5:00 PM Sunday.....9:00 AM Sunday.....11 AM (Spanish) Daily Mass (M, T, Th, F).....8:00 AM Wednesday Mass Religious ED.....6:30 PM Confessions.....Sat 4 PM</p> <p><b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b> 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE Follow us on Facebook for streaming services</p> <p>Sunday School.....9:00 AM Traditional Service.....10:00 AM</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443</p> <p>Coffee and Donuts.....9:00 AM Sunday School.....9:30 AM Morning Worship.....10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>LEGACY CHURCH</b> Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 &amp; Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983</p> <p>Morning Worship.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Kidz Zone.....9:15 &amp; 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services.....7:00 PM</p> <p><b>THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH</b> Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle 682-327-7082 <a href="http://www.TheRanchCCC.org">www.TheRanchCCC.org</a></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor 2200 Church Rd., Azle 817-444-1382 <a href="http://www.silvercreekumc.org">www.silvercreekumc.org</a></p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p><b>SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. &amp; Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325 <a href="http://www.silvercreekbcb.org">www.silvercreekbcb.org</a></p> <p>Sunday School.....9:45 AM Morning Worship.....10:50 AM Evening Worship.....6:00 PM Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>THE WORD@LAKESIDE CHURCH OF GOD</b> 9396 FM 1886 Fort Worth, TX 76135 817-237-5500 <a href="http://thewordatlakeside.com">thewordatlakeside.com</a></p> <p>Pastors: Brandon and Kelly Bohannon Worship Pastor: Christen Moody Family Life and Young Adult Pastors: Jodie and Mark James, Kids Pastor: Katie Pearson, Student Pastors: Taylor and Sheridan Tomlin, Creative Directors: Logan and Carrie Edwards, Connections Coordinators: Preston and Ashley Larrew</p> <p>Equip Sunday School at the WORD.....9:30 AM Empower Worship at the WORD.....10:45 AM Kids at the WORD.....10:45 AM PreK at the WORD.....10:45 AM (Special Needs Ministry).....10:45 AM Nursery at the WORD.....10:45 AM Young Adults at the WORD.....6:00 PM Wednesdays Adult Bible Class.....7:00 PM The WORD Students (6th-12th grades).....6:30 PM Awana Kids at the WORD.....6:30 PM Life at the WORD Life Groups Various Times</p>
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## ON FISHING

# History helps, if you document log records of past fishing experiences

Keeping a fishing log that documents your fishing history or others' successes on a particular day is advantageous to any angler. This log may help you to develop a pattern that will pay off on future fishing trips. It is, however, like anything in fishing, if you rely on it solely it may lead you astray.

I used to keep a log religiously, but at times it can be difficult to keep up with. However after documenting years of data you will start reaping the benefits. Nothing is guaranteed, but if the conditions are similar the fish may be doing the same



### ON FISHING

By Michael Acosta

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all of his life, and has been a licensed guide since 1998. michael.acosta@att.net

thing at certain locations, certain times of the year. You just have to be aware of all the conditions and information and put your best foot forward.

What should you document on your log? Well, I always start with the weather conditions and water levels. You may want to document

the moon phase for the day. Make sure that you document the water temperature and any variation due to the time of the day or the location of warmer or cooler water depending on the season. The clarity of the water is also very important.

Location, location and location. Document where you

located fish, how deep and what time they bit. They may not be at the exact location, but you may be able to focus on a certain area of the reservoir that is more likely to hold fish. Sometimes they will be right where you expected. For example, those of you that chase the striped bass, you will likely find them on the lower ends in the summer. You may not need to document that, but where on the lower end was most productive.

Don't forget to include what presentation or pattern was effective and any small change that made a differ-

ence. For example, fluorocarbon line may have brought in more bites due to clear water conditions or dragging your bait on the bottom drew in active fish to your presentation.

It is also good to document information on the forage available. Certain times of the year the forage such as shad and bream will spawn. Many times these spawns occur during a full moon and may occur more than once in a calendar year. Sizes of the forage vary with the seasons and the spawns and may influence your choices. There is no doubt that locating or

understanding the habits of the forage will also help you catch fish.

If it was a slow day, document this as well. This may be more important than the good day for future decisions on presentation and patterns. Everyone can catch fish when they are active but catching fish when the conditions are tough takes a little more skill.

So, take a few notes either manually or use a good database on your computer after your fishing trip. Before you know it, you will be consulting these notes time and time again to get some ideas on where to go and what to use.

# From one fan's perspective: Just play the game, let the referees officiate

This past week, I watched a little bit of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. One of the most popular sporting events in America, tens of millions of people tune in for the games because of the excitement, the upsets and the competition. It is one of the biggest wagering events of the year, and emotions run high among the viewers and the teams.

Me watching the tournament sort of brought me back to my roots. As a young man, I was a huge college basketball fan. Back then, few games were televised except once a week, NBC broadcast a national game with Dick Enberg and, I think, Billy Packer. We did get the Big 8 games (now Big 12), not aired live but rather the day following the game being played. Eventually, the Big 8 got it together and managed to get sponsorship so the games could be telecast live. I was a die-hard fan of anything college basketball, and lots of my Saturday and Sunday afternoons were spent with my



### 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.

black-and-white TV watching college basketball.

Years later when I moved to the Dallas area, I got attached to the Mavericks. I loved Dirk Nowitzki and the style with which he played. The future Hall of Famer also impressed me with the way he handled himself on and off the court. Dirk was clearly dedicated to the team and winning, and those characteristics made him very appealing to the fan base. I became a diehard fan and had season tickets until I moved from proximity to the arena.

I still watch the Mavs, though I have lost a lot of my "fandom." Dirk has retired. The team currently has a great player named Luka Doncic who can score, rebound, pass, and has a feel

for the game that few players have ever matched. His statistics are remarkable and historic, but I seem to like the game less and less every time I watch. I wondered why I had lost my zest for Mavs basketball, and when I tuned in the NCAA Tournament, I figured it out.

In the old days when I played, the game was very structured and disciplined. As a player, when you committed a foul, you had to raise your hand so the scoring clerk could identify who the foul had been called on. If a player threw his hand down in a display of disgust with the referee's call, shook his head dramatically, or heaven forbid spoke out to the ref, it would draw a technical for poor sportsmanship.

My coach drilled in me that when a foul was called against you, keep a poker face and raise your arm respectfully and look straight at the referee. He advised that in such situations, the call had been made and would not be reversed, so there was no reason to argue with the referee or give him a word or look which could affect the next call. Was I ever the victim of bad calls? Once in college, I got three personal fouls in three minutes, and I didn't think that was possible unless you intentionally tried to foul! Yet, I still raised my hand and kept my mouth shut.

Watching the college game this week was like night and day from watching the pros. In the NBA, it seems like almost every player, on just about every call, must put on a big display and go and lobby with the referee as to why the ref made a mistake. Sometimes calls are so obvious that a blind man would know the call was correct, but still, players and coaches go

to the ref begging to plead their case.

Why has the NBA let this get so out of control? I go to games to watch basketball, not to watch a debate between players and the referees! It makes the game slower, and frankly, I believe it is a little symbolic of our nation as a whole. People seem to want to complain and protest every time authority asserts itself. There seems to be a real breakdown in taking personal responsibility for their actions when authority exerts itself, no matter how warranted that authority might be.

Authority is in place to keep the game orderly and insure fair adherence to the rules. It is the same reason the legal system is in place, the police, and our other units of governmental authority. Makes me wonder about the kids who watch the NBA regularly. Do they think they can debate with their parents and teachers like the NBA players do with the referees?

In this instance, NBA players are not very good examples, and one of the worst must be Luka Doncic of the Mavs. He has one of the highest totals of technical calls levied against him, even to the point of being forced to sit out a game as a suspension. I think Luka would find something to complain about if the game was called to absolute perfection. His behavior is a distraction and limits the fans' enjoyment of the game.

Thank goodness I got to watch a little college basketball this week, where the entertainment was in watching basketball skills instead of debating skills. Now if we could just get the coaches to sit down and coach instead of playing to the crowd and lobbying with the referee!

Thought for the day: A referee is a majority of one, and the sooner players and fans realize the completeness of his authority, the cleaner the game will be.

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

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# Rethinking your life

Which of the following phrases would you rather hear as instruction? Repent and stop it! Rethink and return. It's a no-brainer, right? There's nothing better than to have a sour-faced critic screeching "Repent" in your face (or on your timeline). Oh, wait ... you like the other one. Well guess what? Your preference means nothing! It's what you need, baby! Sorry, the sarcasm is strong with this one. May I tell you a secret? Thanks. "Repent" is something we all need to do on a regular basis, not because we are



## 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).

evil and deserving of wrath (though that's not outside the realm of possibility). No, we need to repent because we've lost our WAY and our WHY. Here's the secret that I didn't learn for a really long time: the word most often translated "repent" in the New Testament doesn't mean that we're supposed to feel guilty and stop doing bad stuff. It doesn't mean—as I've

so often heard—to turn 180 degrees from the way you're going and go the other way. It's not primarily focused on outward actions. The word actually means to "rethink." In other words, to change one's mind or purpose. It's focused on the inward process of decision-making that precedes the outward actions. It may not be a 180 degree turn. It may

only be a 5 degree recalculation that results in a different trajectory that is revealed over time to be more and more effective. I thought about this concept this morning when I read Acts 3:19. The translation I first read says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (New International Version) I was already aware of the word translated "repent" and how it refers to the mind more than the hands. Then I read a paraphrase known as "The Voice." Here's what it said: "So now you need to re-

think everything and turn to God so your sins will be forgiven and a new day can dawn, days of refreshing times flowing from the Lord." "Rethink everything." This is the heart of repentance—not simply a turning away from doing bad things, but a return into the refreshing flow of God's purpose so that He can reshape our way of thinking about everything. God had a purpose in mind for each of us before we ever drew our first breath. I don't mean that He had every step predetermined. I mean that He had a vision in mind of the kind of person He wanted us to be and He's given us opportunity after opportu-

nity to live in the flow of that purpose. But, we've gotten distracted and have made some bad decisions. We need to pause and rethink those decisions and ponder how we might return to the life He created us for. What might each day look like if we were to arise in the morning, take a few deep breaths, spend a few moments in silence just thinking through our day and then asking God to show us how to rethink, return, reboot, and renew? Would you give that a try tomorrow? Be amazing today, my friend.

## EVANS

FROM PAGE A1

the news release. "But, the decisions he made that night cost a man his life and his family the chance to have him in their lives. Our choices have consequences. In our view, that meant that he needed to go to prison." Evans was indicted in June 2020. Medley's family gave statements to the court during the sentencing hearing on the morning of April 3. One of them was Della Mitchusson, Medley's sister, who reminded the court that her family lost a father, grandfather, son, brother and

uncle in Medley. Mitchusson described Medley as being kind, loving and giving. "I hope you always, always remember Ernest Medley, my brother," she said, addressing Evans in court. "We will always remember this. He left behind two underage sons that have to grow up without him. You are a good old boy from around these parts but made bad choices. One day we all have to be judged by our God Almighty, so I forgive and pray for you. I hope you pray and ask for forgiveness as well." Medley's fiancée, Barbara Donnelly, attended the hearing and said she wished that Evans had gotten a longer sentence than 10 years. "He took somebody from

us that we love very much," she said. Donnelly said she and Medley had been partnered for seven years, and she described him as her first love. "He could make his worst enemy into his friend," Donnelly said. "He loved kids. He liked to joke." After the hearing, Mitchusson said though the court process involved in this case is winding down, the emotions over losing Medley will continue. As tears gathered in her eyes, Donnelly said, "My family is broken." Swain said in the press release that Evans can be considered for parole after he serves at least half of his sentence.



Ernest Medley loved animals.

COURTESY PHOTO

*"You are a good old boy from around these parts but made bad choices. One day we all have to be judged by our God Almighty, so I forgive and pray for you. I hope you pray and ask for forgiveness as well."*

**DELLA MITCHUSSON**  
Ernest Medley's sister

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# Family Resource Center celebrates first anniversary



Sofia Macias, 2, shows off the flower painted on her face. The Family Resource Center's birthday celebration on March 30 included refreshments, a raffle and activities for kids, like face painting and spending time on the Fun Bus, a kids' gym.

Celeste Peña, right, shows Abby Shaw, 3, how to make a balloon animal at the Family Resource Center's anniversary party last week. The center is funded by a grant from the Department of Family and Protective Services under the branch of Prevention and Early Intervention. It is part of Help Me Grow North Texas, which aims to ensure that early childhood services for young kids in North Texas are high quality and well connected.



Anthony Phillips, 7, holds up some balloon animals at the Family Resource Center's birthday celebration on March 30. The Family Resource Center offers resource navigation, early childhood developmental screenings, basic needs supplies, parenting education classes and groups, parenting books and materials, and parent and child activity groups, among other free services.



Rhonda Boaz, right, prepares to paint a web on 3-year-old Loriann Greenwood's face at the Family Resource Center's birthday celebration on March 30. The center opened in Springtown at 314 E. Fifth Terrace about a year ago.

MADelyn EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Thursday, March 26, 2023 • Springtown Epigraph

GRADUATION 2022 • 13

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**May 18, 2023**

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# Easter event for special needs kids held in Springtown



**JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH**  
Crystal Childers, organizer of the Easter event for people with special needs, poses for a picture with the Easter bunny, played by Peter Thoune.



**JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH**  
Keith Reno, 10, holds up one of the eggs from his basket during an Easter event for people with special needs on April 1.



**JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH**  
Axel Gilbert, 6, gets his face painted at the Easter event for people with special needs at the park in Springtown on April 1.

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## HELLO SPRING

**April**  
Find words we think of during Spring.

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

april  
spring  
sunshine  
warmer  
wind  
leaves  
rain  
storm  
flowers  
thunder

**Spring** begins when the sun is lined up with the Earth's equator. This is called the *vernal equinox*.

### Did You Know?

THE FIRST SPRING FLOWERS ARE LILACS, IRISES, LILIES, TULIPS, DAFFODILS, AND DANDELIONS.

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Rain  
**SPANISH:** Lluvia  
**ITALIAN:** Pioggia  
**FRENCH:** Pluie  
**GERMAN:** Regen

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

PRLIA OLF SO YDA

Answer: April Fool's Day

### Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4
5				6		
				7		
				8		
9						10

**ACROSS**

- All people
- Sink
- Dull pain
- Incline against
- Atmosphere seen from Earth
- Each year
- Dedicated to a religious purpose
- 24 hours

**DOWN**

- Christian spring holiday
- Laid by a female animal
- Each year
- Unending time
- "Sun" in Spanish

Answers: 1. Everyone 5. Sage 6. Ache 7. Lean 8. Sky  
9. Holy 10. Day  
1. Faster 2. Figs 3. Yearly 4. Firmity 8. Sol  
Down

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## Winning path

Springtown racer Bryce Ford nabs first career victory on ATV pro circuit

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown ATV rider Bryce Ford accomplished a lifelong goal by winning his first title while competing against world-class contenders in the American Motorcyclist Association ATV Pro Class motocross circuit.

On March 18, the 20-year-old traveled to Alachua, Florida, to compete at the ATV Nationals at Gatorback Cycle Park. The race was the second of the season for professional riders, who debuted the season in early March at the Daytona ATV Supercross.

Ford finished in third place at Daytona. After that race, he told a reporter on the Digging Deep ATVMX Podcast that he was determined to win his first pro race.

He didn't wait long.

A week and a half later, Ford finished with the fastest lap time of the weekend at Gatorback, clinching the first

motocross victory of his four-year professional career.

After his third-place finish at Daytona and first place at Gatorback, Ford is the new series points leader in pro ATV motocross racing.

Ford races with older brother, Cody Ford, as part of Ford Brothers Racing in Springtown. Cody Ford has finished in the top 10 during 16 of his last 20 events dating to 2021. He finished in 12th place at Gatorback and is currently ninth in points.

At Daytona, Bryce Ford faced off against defending champion Joel Hetrick and a field of 21 elite racers. Ford established himself as a top contender by securing the hole shot in Heat 1. He fought hard for the lead but finished as runner up to Chad Wiene, a racing legend.

Now, new legends are being established, with a couple of brothers from Springtown hitting the throttle hard.



Bryce Ford celebrates his first pro victory at the ATV Nationals at Gatorback Cycle Park in Florida.

COURTESY PHOTO



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Dawson Doggett, a freshman, earned the All-Parker County Newcomer of the Year Award for her basketball prowess.

## Awesome Dawson

Lady Porcupine Dawson Doggett named Newcomer of Year

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

Dawson Doggett made the Springtown girls basketball varsity roster as a freshman, an impressive feat on its own. Then, she cracked the starting lineup, played wonderfully, led the Lady Porcupines in scoring and steals, and earned All-District recognition.

Now, she has been named the Parker County Newcomer of the Year, an award presented annually by the Weatherford Democrat as part of its All-Parker County athletic awards edition.

Teammates Ashlynn Dickey and Allison Ford earned first-team All-Parker County status. Second-team recognition went to Blanca

Alapont, Kelsey Beaman, Abbey Miller, Brooklyn Quintanilla, and Paige Winstead.

Doggett was one of four freshmen to earn a spot on the Lady Porcupines varsity roster this season. She overcame a major knee injury during her seventh grade year and worked her way back into playing condition through perseverance.

## Porcupine baseball stacking up wins

JEFF PRINCE

jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown baseball boys hammered Castleberry 10-0 at Pojo Stadium in the first game of the series.

Game 2 was scheduled for Thursday, April 6. Games are played on Fridays typically, but schools are closed on April 7 in recognition of Good Friday.

The victory over Castleberry made for two wins in a row over district rivals.

On March 25, the Porcupines traveled to Krum to take on the Bobcats in a battle between second place teams in District 8-4A. Springtown jumped ahead 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth inning but couldn't hold onto the lead.

Krum, with two outs in the bottom of the sixth in-

ning, went on a 4-run rally, took the lead, and held on until the end of the seventh. Springtown had an opportunity to regain the lead in the top of the seventh but didn't push runners across home plate.

Thoughts about that loss continued to linger until March 28, when the two teams met again at Pojo Stadium.

"We're just trying to regroup from Tuesday," head coach Colin Crawford said before the game while his players warmed up. "Hopefully, we will be a little better offensively than we were then."

The team disliked losing that first game to Krum but wasn't going to let disappointment linger. District games keep coming up on the schedule, two a week, until the regular season

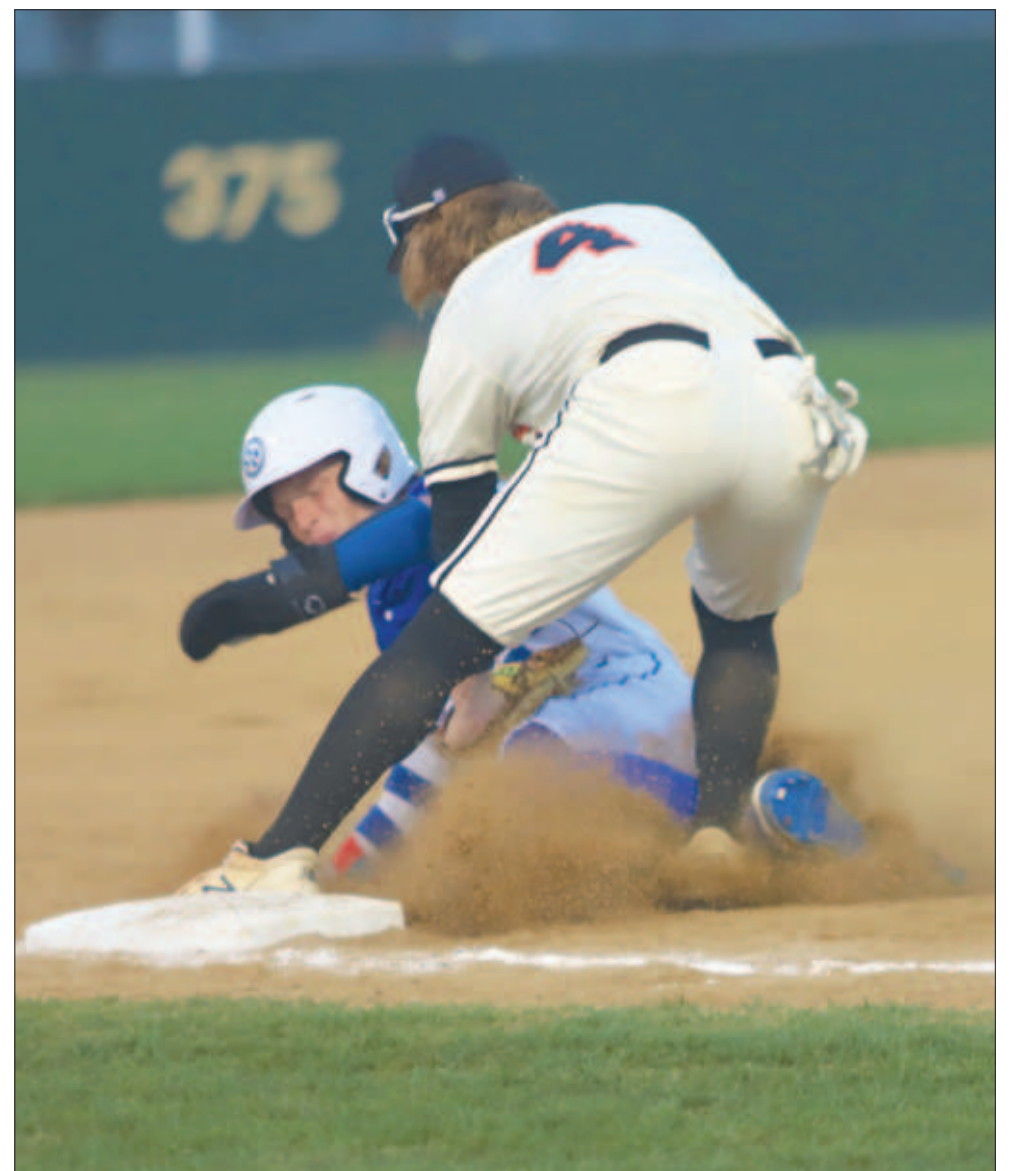
ends April 27. The Pines maintain short memories after losses.

"That's part of it," the coach said. "We're not going to panic. We feel good about the guy we have on the mound tonight, and if we come out and play like we're capable of playing, we will be fine."

Brayden Fox was set to pitch against Krum on March 28, and he had been throwing fire all season.

More fire was on the way. Fox was his usual dominating self, and the Porcupines played with intensity to knock off Krum 6-5.

The Porcupines will play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at Castleberry. The team's next home game is against district-leading Decatur at 7:30 p.m. April 14 at Pojo Stadium.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Third baseman Ryan Kirk tags a Krum runner to complete a double play.





London Smith and the Springtown rodeo team improved from ninth to fifth place in the NTHRA team standings.

# Moving up

*Springtown rodeo improves from ninth to fifth place in team standings*

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

Springtown's rodeo team is making a late-season push, jumping from ninth to fifth place in the team standings after a strong showing at the March 31-April 2 rodeo in Saginaw.

In walkup goats, Delaney Harris earned fourth place, followed by Henley Sears (seventh) and Shaye Winford (ninth). Those three combined for 91 points for the Springtown team.

In rideup goats, Harris earned third place and another 56 points.

Kallie Gray placed 12th in barrels, followed by London Smith (18th), Winford (25th) and Addyson Norris (28th).

Smith took 11th place in poles.

The Porcupines have remained among the top 10 teams all season.

"We have been pretty lucky when it comes to injuries," said team sponsor Staci Harris. "None of our kids

have been out of commission for a rodeo due to injury this season."

Harris was thrilled to see her team improve, but she's been proud all season.

"No matter where we place for the season as a team, I could not be prouder of the work each member puts in to improve each week," she said. "With other activities, schoolwork and jobs, I know it's hard to squeeze practice in, but you can definitely tell they are serious about getting better."

Springtown has earned 3,276 points this season and is within catching distance of fourth-place Joshua at 3,615.

Springtown roared past Krum, Millsap, and Boyd to move up to fifth place.

No rodeo will be held this weekend due to the Easter holiday. Three more rodeos will be held in April, with the regular season ending April 28-30 at the NTHSRA Arena in Saginaw.

The rodeo finals will be held May 19-20 in Saginaw.

# EYEBLACK ATCHA

*Carson Cox turns sun retardant into fashion statement*

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

Inside the Porcupines baseball dugout, shortstop Carson Cox sat on a bench applying eyeblack, or dark grease, beneath his eyes. The paint-like grease - sometimes applied as adhesive strips - are designed to reduce glare for athletes.

Cox incorporates elements of tradition, fashion, and superstition.

"Before every game, it's kind of a ritual that I do," he said. "For good luck. It looks cool. You look good, you feel good, you play good."

He applies the grease differently before each game.

"Whatever comes to mind," he said.

Baseball games don't start until around 7:30 p.m. typically, and many players don't use eyeblack since the sun is low.

Cox would blacken his eyes for a midnight game in Alaska.

The grease is more than glare-block. It's ceremonial war paint.

During last season's playoffs, he and several teammates dyed their hair blond. Between the black eyes and blond locks, the players looked memorable.

Maybe the look inspired the Pines or unnerved their opponents. Springtown made it to the area championships. No baseball team in school history had gone farther.

Cox hasn't cut his hair since those playoffs, and his remaining blond tips give him a still-distinctive coif. Metal chain added around his neck, and gobs of eyeblack artfully applied, he's ready to hit the field.

Look good. Feel good. Play good.



Carson Cox applies eyeblack before a recent game.



Carson Cox sans eyeblack.





Haylee Sanborn pitches in relief against Krum.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

# Springtown softball overlooks aberration

**JEFF PRINCE**  
jeff@azlenews.net

The Springtown softball team had been on a roll, knocking off Castleberry 15-2 and Lake Worth 10-0 in late March.

Then, on March 31, the Lady Porcupines played Krum at home, hoping to keep the good times rolling by beating the Lady Bobcats in front of a large hometown crowd.

Instead, the Lady Pines fell behind early, made a couple of errors, lost momentum, and were lit up 19-2.

The game ended by the run rule after the fourth inning, but the Lady Pines had begun showing their disappointment in the third inning. They spoke little to one another in the dugout or on the field. Head coach Scott Mann called the girls into a circle and told them to quit moping around and to focus on making plays and supporting teammates.

The girls responded with more energy and positivity, but they couldn't overcome such a large deficit.

Still, the Lady Pines are doing well this season and are in fourth place currently in

District 8-4A. The top four teams in each district qualify for the playoffs.

Springtown will play at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at Decatur. The Lady Pines return home to play Decatur at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 14, at Pojo Stadium.

## FIRE AND WATER

A Lady Porcupine who brings positivity and talent to the team also happens to have one of the coolest names around.

Blaize Flood, a junior, moved to Springtown from Kennedale as a freshman and has become entrenched on



Blaize Flood has one of the coolest names around.

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



the softball and basketball teams.

She isn't 100% certain how she ended up with her distinctive name, but she likes it.

"Blaize" appears to have come from an aunt who saw the name in a magazine and told Blaize's pregnant mom about it. Add the first and last names, and, voila, you get "fire and water," Flood said with a laugh.

Her name has garnered interesting reactions over the years. Some go, "huh?" Some ooh and ahh. Some tell her it sounds like a guy's name.

Flood listens to the com-

ments and smiles.

She has met people named Blaize or Blaze, but she's never met another Blaize Flood. She likes it that way.

"I love my name," she said. "It's unique and different."

After the 19-2 loss, Flood remained upbeat.

"We just need to compete more and not get down on ourselves after one mistake happens," she said. "We need to play a full game and work together and talk more."

She agreed with Mann's constructive criticism.

"We need to listen to him and take his word and really

just fight for the whole game and not just a couple innings," she said. "Cheering on teammates all the time. Being there for them and working as a team."

She expects her teammates to bounce back and find themselves in the thick of the playoff race as the season winds down later this month.

"We have a really good chance," she said. "We have a good combination of girls, and we really work well together. We all get along. We talk well. We don't really argue. I'm feeling good about the season."

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Left fielder Madison Terrell hauled in this fly ball against Krum.



# Springtown soccer girls make history

Congratulations to this year's Lady Porcupine soccer girls, who went farther than any soccer team in Springtown High School history, earning a bi-district championship by beating Diamond Hill-Jarvis 1-0 on March 24. Springtown finished the season with an 11-10 record and the highest finish since the soccer program was created 17 years ago.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Jocelyn Diaz is one of five seniors on the team who have played their final game with Springtown soccer.



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Aubrey Mueller, a senior, served as team leader.



Reagan Kelley, a junior, will be back next year to try to make history again.

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329 Hwy. 199 W. - Springtown - 817-220-7915

### Moss Rehabilitation Center

407 Old Springtown Rd., Ste. 114  
Springtown - 817-220-6677

### Pinnacle Bank

726 E. Hwy. 199 - Springtown - 817-220-5504

### ProMax Power Sports

123 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-220-2453

### Springtown Family Dental

434 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-523-5963

### Springtown Epigraph

On the Square - Springtown - 817-220-7217

### Springtown Family Health Center

499 E. Hwy. 199 - Springtown - 817-523-5402

### Sutton Printing

418 Hwy. 199 E. - Springtown - 817-220-2101

### The Lube Center

324 Hwy. 199 - Springtown - 817-523-3151

**The merchants on this page support our youth in all their activities. Support them by shopping at home - every chance you get.**



# Azle News DEVOTIONAL PAGE

**Azle News**  
AzleNews.net

The Springtown Epigraph  
Springtown-Epigraph.net

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SECURITY GATE 24 HOUR ACCESS

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1 Block N. FM 2048 in Keeter  
817-433-8220
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817-237-4903
- FELLOWSHIP OF LAKE WORTH**  
4024 Dakota Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-9433
- NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH**  
810 Goshen Rd, Springtown  
817-523-4462
- LEGACY CHURCH**  
Hwy. 199 W. at FM 2257, Azle  
817-221-2983 / 817-221-5760
- VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
737 Boyd Rd., Azle  
817-444-LOVE
- BAPTIST**  
ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH  
300 South Stewart, Azle  
817-444-3219
- AGNES INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
350 Agnes N., Springtown  
817-523-7271
- BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
408 S. Ash St., Springtown  
817-220-4238
- AZLE AVENUE BAPTIST**  
2901 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-626-5556
- BY THE WORD BAPTIST**  
West of FM 730 N. at sign, Briar  
817-444-3484
- CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST**  
1 block off Hwy. 199, east of David's Patio, Springtown, 817-221-2241
- CENTRAL BAPTIST**  
4290 Old Agnes Road  
817-594-5918
- CHURCH ON THE HILL**  
836 NW Parkway, Azle  
817-444-3752
- CHRISTWAY BAPTIST**  
7673 West Hwy. 199, Agnes  
817-220-9133 or 817-220-3581
- CLEAR FORK BAPTIST**  
Corner of FM 730 & Ragle Rd., Weatherford, 817-594-1154
- EAGLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
8780 Eagle Mtn. Circle, Azle  
817-237-4135
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AZLE**  
1017 Boyd Road  
817-444-4828
- FIRST BAPTIST CASTLE HILLS**  
401 Beverly Rd., Azle  
817-797-4706
- FIRST BAPTIST LAKE WORTH**  
700 Charbonneau Tr., west side of Effie Morris Elementary  
817-237-2624
- FIRST BAPTIST LAKESIDE**  
8801 Jacksboro Hwy., Lakeside  
817-237-8113
- FIRST BAPTIST COTTONDALE**  
1 block N. of FM 2123, Cottondale  
940-433-5539
- FIRST BAPTIST POOLVILLE**  
1 block W. of FM 920, Poolville  
817-594-3916
- FIRST BAPTIST SPRINGTOWN**  
5th & Main Street, Springtown  
817-523-7011
- FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST**  
801 Friendship Rd., 9½ miles S. of Springtown off Hwy. 51 S.  
817-594-5940 or 817-599-4917
- FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST**  
5th & Main in Springtown  
817-523-5477
- GRACE BAPTIST**  
3 miles N. of Springtown on Hwy. 51 across from Radio Tower
- GRACE POINTE CHURCH**  
4110 E. Hwy. 199, Springtown  
817-221-5683
- HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3577 FM 51 N., Weatherford  
817-564-3946
- IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
Nueva Jerusalem  
6640 Midway Rd., Springtown  
817-694-0444
- INDIAN OAKS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3229 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-8441
- LAKE WORTH BAPTIST**  
4445 Hodgkins, Lake Worth  
817-237-4163
- METROPOLITAN BAPTIST**  
6051 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-2201
- NEW HOPE BAPTIST**  
782 New Hope Rd., Reno area  
817-221-2184
- NORTHWEST BAPTIST**  
5500 Boat Club Rd., Lake Worth  
817-237-6063 or 817-270-8476
- SILVER CREEK BAPTIST**  
730 S. & Veal Station Rd., Azle  
817-444-2325
- NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3605 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-707-2741
- PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST**  
FM 2048 and CR 4677, Boyd  
940-433-5477
- PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
300 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-500-3641
- SPRINGTOWN BAPTIST TEMPLE**  
201 J. E. Woody Rd., Springtown  
817-523-0376
- UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3451 Sarra Lane, Springtown  
682-333-1645
- WALNUT CREEK BAPTIST**  
220 W. Reno Rd. in Reno  
817-221-2110
- BIBLE COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
1405 Reynolds Rd., Reno  
817-521-4510
- NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**  
5025 Jacksboro Hwy., Fort Worth  
817-624-2111
- SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**  
591 S. Reno Rd., Springtown  
817-221-3444
- CATHOLIC**  
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC  
800 High Crest Dr., Azle  
817-444-3063
- CHRISTIAN**  
THE CHURCH AT AZLE  
1801 S. Stewart, Azle  
817-444-9973
- AZLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
35 West Forty Estates., Azle  
817-688-3339
- GREATER VISION FELLOWSHIP**  
1801 S. Stewart St., Azle  
817-825-0485
- THE ABBEY CHURCH**  
10400 Jacksboro Hwy., Azle  
817-238-1404
- CROSSING FELLOWSHIP**  
120 E. Main St., Azle  
817-406-4577
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
AZLE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
336 NW Parkway  
817-444-3268
- BRIAR CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
109 W.N. Woody Rd.  
(½ block west of FM 730 N. in Briar)  
817-444-7102
- MIDWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6400 Midway Rd.  
817-221-2107
- NEWSOME MOUND ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1460 Newsome Mound Rd.  
817-677-3290
- NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
6059 Azle Ave., Fort Worth  
817-237-1205
- POOLVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
West of FM 920 in Poolville  
817-594-4182
- SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
130 W. Bradshaw Lane, Springtown  
817-221-2799
- SPRINGTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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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)**  
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1010 Timberooks, Azle  
817-237-5075
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GRACE CHAPEL UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH  
3508 Shawnee Trail, Lake Worth  
817-237-4844
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GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford  
817-594-2744
- ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH**  
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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**  
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817-521-4694
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www.thechurchinpeaster.org  
817-596-8805
- CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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817-221-LIFE (5433)
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817-599-7655
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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
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## CLASSIFIED 817-270-3340 - Azle - 817-220-7217 - Springtown -

[kimmy@azlenews.net](mailto: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 Opportunity | 36..... Hauling                 | 58..... Piano Service         | 81..... Business & Commercial Property |
| 14..... Campers/Trailers     | 37..... Hay                     | 59..... Pool Service          | 82..... RV's for Rent                  |
| 15..... Carports/Patios      | 38..... Health/Fitness          | 60..... Professional Services | 83..... Houses for Sale                |
| 16..... Equipment Repair     | 39..... Help Wanted             | 61..... Personal              | 84..... Mobile Homes for Rent          |
| 17..... Carpet Service       | 40 .... Home Improvement        | 62..... Plumbing              | 85..... Mobile Homes for Sale          |
| 18..... Catering             | 41 ..... House Leveling         | 63..... Public Notice         | 86..... Mobile Home/RV Lots            |
| 19..... Cement Work          | 42..... House Cleaning          | 64..... Photography           | 87..... Rent Furnished                 |
| 20..... Demolition           | 43..... Hunting                 | 65..... Printing              | 88..... Rent Unfurnished               |
| 21..... Child Care           | 44..... Janitorial Service      | 66..... Roofing               | 89..... Wanted to Rent                 |
| 22..... Cosmetics            | 45..... Job Wanted              | 67..... Recycling             |  |
| 23..... Computers/Services   |                                 | 68..... Storage               |  |

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Or call 817-594-8713 or  
Email resume to [HR.Weatherford@Summitlhc.com](mailto:HR.Weatherford@Summitlhc.com)  
EOE

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Small Land Clean-ups • Gravel Driveways  
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# EASTER

## 2023



THURSDAY, April 6, 2023

## Plan ahead for an 'eggceptional' Easter egg hunt

Easter is steeped in both religious and secular traditions. Each year on Easter Sunday, many families feast on ham or lamb. Hot cross buns may be served as morning treats. And faithful Christians may dress up in their Sunday best to attend religious services.

Easter egg hunts are another time-honored component of this festive occasion. According to History.com, the Easter bunny and his eggs may initially have been derived from stories about an egg-laying hare introduced to Americans by German settlers during the 1700s. Children would make nests and the hare would leave behind colored eggs.

Children often relish in the idea of scouring their homes and yards in search of brightly-hued plastic or hard-boiled eggs. A little planning on the part of Easter egg hunt organizers can make this festive tradition even more fun.

Set the date: If Easter egg hunts are more than just family affairs and involve neighborhood searches or hunts with a close knit group of friends, it may be smart to schedule in the days before Easter. This helps ensure that a good crowd will be avail-

PLEASE SEE **HUNT** | C5



## Chocolate Bunnies

**REV. TIM THOMAS**

*Rev. Tim Thomas, has been on the Staff of Azle United Methodist Church since January 2019 and is currently serving as interim pastor. Pastor Thomas and his wife Cindy live in Fort Worth with their cats, Greystone and Bashful. First United Methodist Church Azle, 200 Church Street, Azle, TX 76020*

Chocolate bunnies, brightly colored and decorated eggs, plastic eggs filled with goodies, and the young and young at heart in search of the "golden egg". These are all the trappings of Easter. Please don't take me for an Easter Scrooge. I love all the

fun and frivolity of the Easter season, remembering the days when my children and I would sit around the table dunking hard boiled eggs in pastel colors and using "magic" pens to add some unique

PLEASE SEE **BUNNIES** | C2



## Have you seen him?

**GERRY LEWIS**

We knew he was dead. "It is finished," he said. We had watched as his life ebbed away. Then we all stood around till the guards took him down. Joseph begged for his body that day.

It was late afternoon when we got to the tomb, wrapped his body and sealed up the grave. So I know how you feel; his death was so real. But please listen and hear what I say.

It was his voice she first heard—those kind gentle words asking what was her reason for tears. And I

sobbed in despair, "My Lord is not there." He said, "Child! It is I, I am here!"

I've just seen Jesus! I tell you he's alive. I've just seen Jesus, our precious Lord, alive. And I knew he really saw me too; as if till now, I'd never lived. All that I'd done before won't matter anymore. I've just seen Jesus and I'll never be the same again. I've just seen Jesus!

The above lyrics are from "I've Just Seen Jesus" written by Danny Daniels/Gloria Gaither/William J.

PLEASE SEE **SEEN** | C2



# THE EASTER MESSAGE *What Makes Easter Worth Celebrating?*

**DAVID SHAFFER**

*Dr. David Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, are Azle-area residents. David is director of Son Shine Ministries (equipfamilies.org) and has been a member of the Azle Area Ministerial Alliance since 1985 (azlema.com). david@equipfamilies.org | 817-444-3777*

It was a humble birth in an off-the-beaten-path village. Like many in his area, he worked as a tradesman. Beginning at age 30, he spent three years as a traveling religious teacher, though he never journeyed more than 200 miles from where he was born. He did not own a home or get married. At one point a large group turned against him, and his friends scattered. One of his closest friends denied knowing him several times. The intensity

of the situation increased as this innocent man in his thirties was seized by his enemies and put through unjust trials. He was sentenced to die in a manner reserved for the worst criminals. He was mounted on a beam, literally nailed to a cross to suffer agonizingly before witnesses. At this point, his clothes were his sole possession, and his executioners callously threw dice to see who would get them. There was no last-min-

ute rescue. This person died a horrible death and was placed in a friend's grave thanks to a hasty arrangement. Life goes by quickly. A few people impact society enough to make history and are remembered. Amazingly, such is the case with this worker, preacher and "convicted" man. The late James A. Francis made similar points about this man in a sermon he preached decades ago and then added, "... centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, and

all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life." To make such an impact, there must be more to this man than his simple upbringing and brief period of ministry. In fact, his story transcends time. Christians believe in a triune God, a Trinity, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are distinct yet one and have always existed in perfect harmony with one another. When God created the heavens and earth, he also created mankind. The story took a detour, however, as man chose to go in a direction that turned away from

God. This decision impacted man's relationship with God because sin separates us from God. At just the right time, God the Son "took on humanity," meaning that he became human. God the Son's name is Jesus. While he was 100% human, he also remained 100% God - God with us, setting an earthly example for us to follow. Jesus was like us, a human, but, unlike us, he never turned away from God the Father. He was without sin. When he finally told people who he truly was, many could not accept it because of his humble origins on earth. Even though he performed miracles, some still sought to kill him. What they did not know was that Jesus was on a mission to willingly give his

life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, to reconnect us with God. His motivation was love. What makes Easter worth celebrating is that the dead man who was placed in the borrowed grave about 2,000 years ago was bodily resurrected. The massive stone sealing the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus walked out and appeared to hundreds before ascending to heaven. This is the story of Easter, and it provides hope to us all. He is risen! He is risen indeed! God loves you, and his Son's death and resurrection make possible a relationship with him that lasts forever. No wonder we call the message of Jesus Christ the Good News!

**SEEN**  
FROM PAGE C1

Gaither. The recording by Sandy Patti and Larnell Harris was released in 1984 and won the first ever Grammy for Best Best Gospel Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group, Choir or Chorus. It is amazing to me that it's been 39 years since I was first blown away by that incredible vocal performance. But what's even more amazing is the story it is based on. No event in the history of the world has been more impactful. Or controversial. Just think about it. A Jewish carpenter who spends three decades of his life in relative obscurity shows up for a three year ministry as an uncredentialed rabbi with

the most scandalous teaching imaginable—he's the son of God. More than that, he claims to be able to do things that only God can. He heals the sick. He forgives sin. He raises the dead. He claims to have existed before He was born. He claims to be equal with God. He predicts his own death. And then says, by the way, that he won't remain dead. So, who is this guy? There are really only three options: (1) He's completely off his rocker. (2) He's a scam artist. (3) He really is who he says. If he's either of the first two, he doesn't deserve to be admired or quoted. If he's the third, then it makes no sense to not believe everything he said. But, how do we know? Because of what happened on that first Easter morning.

He rose from the dead. He appeared first to a group of women in the garden near the place where he had been buried. He told them to go and tell his disciples. Don't miss the scandal even of this—he entrusted the message of his resurrection first to women! Their message was "we've just seen Jesus!" And his followers have been telling the story for 2000 years. After his resurrection he said to one of his disciples (Thomas), "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That's us. We see through the eyes of faith. And we are forever changed. Have you seen him?

## Deviled Eggs

Something to do with your dyed Easter eggs after the egg hunt. Easter eggs should always be gathered within 15 minutes after hiding them and then refrigerated if you intend to turn them into deviled eggs.



- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- Smoked Paprika

Crack egg shells and carefully peel under cool running water. Gently dry with paper towels. Slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and mix well.

Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika.

**Kick it up a notch:** Add bacon bits, horseradish, green onion, and more! Chop the bacon and the green onion finely, then mix into your deviled egg filling.

**BUNNIES**  
FROM PAGE C1

designs. I love the Holy Holidays and the secular ways we celebrate. The special times with friends and family, wonderful meals and the sharing of times and gifts.

But, as a pastor I also love where the Holy Days bring us. Where the stories of Jesus' life jump out at us through the word, telling us of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for us all. But the best part is where we hear the words, "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed." These words of Faith, Hope,

and Love, especially in these days of uncertainty are the bedrock of our faith. I love the fun side of the Holidays, but I rejoice in hearing the stories of that first Easter, and the Risen Christ and what it means to each of us. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen!

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# The "Way of the Cross"

**A. DAVID BENNETT**

*Preaching Minister, Springtown Church of Christ*

The "way of the cross" is a complex phrase.

The "way of the cross" is the action of Jesus as He suffers and dies and is raised to defeat Satan and extend salvation to believers.

The "way of the cross" becomes the means of accomplishing God's saving work.

The "way of the cross" is

the path chosen by the leaders of the Jews to get rid of the radical rabbi Jesus.

The "way of the cross" is the method the Romans used to quell a riot, garner favor and exercise authority.

The "way of the cross" is the path believers tread as they accept Jesus as King in a spiritual kingdom.

Easter is the story of all mankind needing the "way of the cross". All failed to submit to the king. All squandered God's blessings like the prodigal son. God provided the needed way back. Sinful man could not build the bridge home. Only a holy, just and gracious God could provide access once again. God crafted the "way of the cross".

In 1906 Jessie B. Pounds used the "way of the cross"

as the basis for the lyrics to a great song that speaks of the cross as the way home to God. She declares, "I must needs go home by the way of the cross, There's no other way but this." The refrain is beautiful to the one that walks in the "way of the cross".

"The way of the cross leads home, The way of the cross leads home; It is sweet to know, as I on-

ward go,

The way of the cross leads home."

She reminds of the blood-sprinkled way the Savior trod. She speaks of Him now waiting to receive those that walk by the "way of the cross".

The "way of the cross" leads home and teaches that this world is not our end goal. The cross leads us home. The cross brings us hope and joy and power. The resurrection of the one that traveled

the way of the cross is the hope of all history. One from among mankind made it through our greatest obstacle. Easter is the declaration that the "way of the cross" remains abundantly open to those that will follow the Savior. Jesus is the resurrected LORD! And the "way of the cross" takes us to the exact place we long to be. For certainly, the "way of the cross" leads home.

# Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help tell the story of the resur-

rection of Jesus.

*Matthew 28: 1-10*

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see

the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.' So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

*Mark 16: 2-7*

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre

at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, 'Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?' And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, 'Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said

unto you.'

*Luke 24: 1-12*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

# The significance of various symbols of Easter

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given

that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

**EGGS**

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for

kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

**CRUCIFIX**

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

**THE LAMB**

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the 'Lamb of God'

(Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians. In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'

**EASTER BUNNY**

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate

from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

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# Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not

exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, 'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.' Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, indicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be 'dead.' In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, 'Jesus would be a failed religious leader. He would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us.'

According to Christianity,

com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they will have the same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as 'his body' and the wine as 'his blood.' This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.



# Answering questions about Lent

Before the joyous Easter celebration comes the solemn and prayerful Lenten season. Even the devoutly religious may not know all there is to know about this penitential season. The following are some questions and answers about Lent.

### WHEN DOES LENT OCCUR?

Lent is a period of 40 days preceding Easter Sunday. Since 1969, Lent has begun on Ash Wednesday and has ended on the evening of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Since Sundays are not calculated in that time frame, Lent actually

lasts 46 days.

### WHEN DID LENT BEGIN?

The first Christians approached each Sunday as a celebration of Easter, and each day of the week was considered a time to prepare for the Sunday celebration. Beginning in the fourth century in Europe, dates began to be established for Christmas and other religious dates of significance. The pattern of 40 days of preparation and penance started to emerge around this time. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the first mention of the term 'tessarakoste,' meaning '40' in Greek, could be found in

the early years of the fourth century. As Greek gave way to Latin in liturgies, tessarakoste was replaced with 'quadragesima,' meaning 40 days. Christians started the tradition of Lent around the year 325 during the Council of Nicea.

### WHY 40 DAYS?

The Compass News says the 40 days of Lent refer to Christ's 40 days spent in the desert after His baptism. Just as Jesus prayed and fasted, so, too, did the church and its faithful.

### WHY IS IT CALLED LENT?

Scholars suggest the word

'Lent' is derived from 'lengten,' an Anglo-Saxon word for spring, which also is related to the German word 'lenz,' meaning spring. By the 11th century, the Oxford English Dictionary notes that 'Lent' had taken on the Christian usage it has today, and the generic term for springtime disappeared.

### WHERE DO ASH WEDNESDAY'S ASHES COME FROM?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when ashes are spread on the foreheads of followers in the sign of the cross to signal their repentance to God. The ashes are

derived from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

### WHY ARE PRIESTS' GARMENTS PURPLE DURING LENT?

Purple long has been considered a royal color, and purple garb, along with a crown made from thorns, was placed on Jesus to mock him as the 'King of the Jews.' Purple/violet became a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ and also was associated with repentance from sin. That is why violet is worn by clergy during Lent, as well as during Advent, the season that precedes Christmas.

### HOW IS LENT CONNECTED TO PASSOVER?

Religious scholars contend that the 'Last Supper' took place on what is now known as Holy Thursday. The meal was a seder, a ritual meal held in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Passover. According to the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, Jesus prepared for the Last Supper on the 'first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb.'

Lent is a powerful time on the Christian calendar during which the faithful prepare for the glory of Jesus Christ's life after death.

# How did Easter get its name?

Christians and even many non-Christians likely know that Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Less widely known may be the origins of the name of this significant holiday. Historians are not certain about the precise origins of the name 'Easter.' Some believe the name can be traced to the English monk Bede, often referred to as 'St. Bede the

Venerable' or 'The Venerable Bede.' According to History.com, in his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Bede asserts that the English word 'Easter' can be traced to 'Eostre' or 'Eostrae,' which is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Many historians past and present echo this sentiment and believe Eostre is the namesake of Easter.

However, others believe 'Easter' comes from the Latin phrase 'in albis,' which is plural for 'alba' (dawn). That phrase became 'eostarum' in Old High German, a language that historians have connected to Old English. Though which camp is correct may never be resolved, there's no denying that the word 'Easter' represents the same spirit of rebirth that Christians celebrate each spring.

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Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors.

# 6 Easter egg coloring tips

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross,

according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

1. Prevent cracked eggs.

Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

2. Boil eggs and cool completely. It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a

slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environ-

ment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of

the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers.

## HUNT FROM PAGE C1

able. Hunts on Easter itself may not get as many participants because celebrants could be at church or celebrating privately.

· Gather supplies early. Easter decorations and plastic eggs sell out rather quickly, so it's wise to stock up on items as soon as they reach store shelves. If you'll be using real eggs, consider boiling and coloring the eggs a week before the egg hunt so you won't feel a time crunch. Simply store the dyed eggs in the refrigerator until ready for use. Color around six to

12 eggs per participant.

· Designate a search area. Aim for a relatively private spot for the egg hunt. A park may seem like a good idea, but people who were not included in the egg count could wander in. If you use a public space, rope off an area where the eggs will be hidden. In addition, have a backup plan if the weather will not cooperate. School gymnasiums, libraries or church recreational centers are some potential indoor options.

· Have pails at the ready. Some children will forget to bring a basket. Therefore, have extra, inexpensive pails or buckets on hand. Sturdy gift bags also work in a pinch.

· Keep ages in mind when

hiding eggs. Avoid choosing hiding spots that can be dangerous or prove too difficult for kids to find the eggs. Prior to hiding eggs, count how many you have, which will help to ensure all eggs were actually collected later on. Next, identify hiding spots that will work for various ages. For example, toddlers will need conspicuous spots and older children more challenging nooks and crannies. A map of where every egg is hidden can help as well. Real eggs may not matter outdoors since wildlife could simply dine on any undiscovered eggs. However, plastic eggs are not good for the environment and every attempt should be made to

collect them all.

· Send children out in stages. Let the youngest kids go first, and then group each search team by ascending age. This helps make sure the older kids won't simply snatch up the more easily found eggs.

· Reward with prizes. Be sure each child has some sort of takeaway prize. However, it's fine to reward the best egg hunter with a more substantial prize.

· Gather and celebrate. Encourage guests to bring a small dish to contribute. After the hunt, everyone can gather to enjoy some refreshments.

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## Cheerful dessert brings smiles to Easter celebrations

Lemon essence seems ripe for spring and summer entertaining, and can feature prominently in Easter desserts. Such is the case with this recipe for 'Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake' from 'The Pampered Chef - Stoneware Inspirations' by The Pampered Chef Test Kitchens.

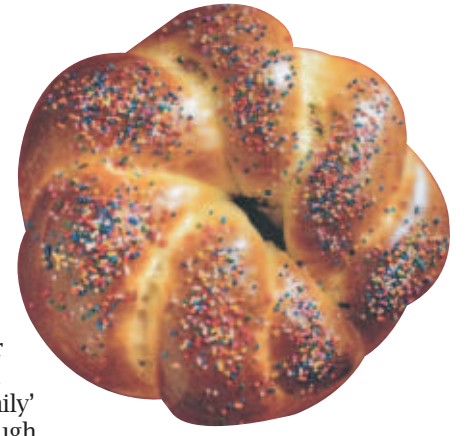
### Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake

Yield: 16 servings

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened (do not substitute margarine)
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Spray Stoneware Fluted Pan (or any bundt cake pan) with nonstick cooking spray. Combine flour, granulated sugar, lemon zest, poppy seeds, baking powder, and salt in a 2-quart mixing bowl; mix well. In a 4-quart mixing bowl, beat butter and cream cheese on high speed of hand-held electric mixer 1 minute. Add flour mixture; beat on low speed 1 minute or until blended (mixture will form a stiff paste).
2. In a small bowl, whisk eggs, milk and vanilla just until blended. Add egg mixture to cream cheese mixture in four additions, beating 2 minutes after each addition. (Do not undermix.)
3. Pour batter into pan. Bake 55 to 60 minutes or until a cake tester inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan 10 minutes. Loosen cake from sides of pan; carefully invert onto a cooling rack, keeping pan over cake. Cool completely.
4. Place cake on serving platter. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or prepare a glaze, if desired.

## Traditional Easter bread



Easter Bread is a ring of sweet bread that can be adorned with candy sprinkles. Traditionally, Pane di Pasqua is made on Good Friday to help break the Lenten fast for Easter. The following recipe for 'Pane di Pasqua' from 'Feast of the Seven Fishes: A Brooklyn Italian's Recipes Celebrating Food & Family' (Powerhouse Books) by Daniel Paterna makes enough to share the bread with friends and family.

### Pane di Pasqua

Yields 7 to 8 loaves

#### Dough

- 5 packages of dry yeast (11¼ teaspoons proof yeast in a 4-cup container)
- 5 pounds unbleached all-purpose flour (approximately 17 cups)
- 1 additional pound flour for adding to dough if needed, cleaning hands, and dusting boards and pans
- 3½ cups sugar
- Pinch of salt

- 1 pound salted butter, softened, plus a bit more for coating rising dough
- 24 medium to large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons anisette extract

- 24 medium to large eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons anisette extract

#### Decorating

- 6 ounces rainbow-colored nonpareil
- 3 egg yolks
- 3 tablespoons water

Combine the flour, sugar and salt in a 16-quart pot. Add the butter and mix by hand, squeezing and merging butter with the flour mixture. Add proofed yeast to the flour mixture; continue mixing ingredients.

Slowly stir in all the beaten eggs and anisette using a fork. Continue to mix until ingredients are combined and loose until dough begins to form.

Knead the dough with floured hands for approximately 45 minutes, or until it becomes smooth and elastic. Add flour to the dough if needed, or to scrape the dough off your hands and the bottom of the pot.

Once the dough is fully kneaded, leave it in the pot, lightly spread some butter over the top to keep it moist, and cover with a cloth. Leave at room temperature to rise for 8 hours or overnight. The dough is ready when it rises about 5 times its size.

When the dough has fully risen, punch it down, turn it out onto a floured surface, and form it into a ball. Cut the dough into 7 or 8 smaller dough balls using a sharp knife. Then cut each ball in half. Roll each half into strands approximately 16-inches long. To form a loaf, lay the strands side by side and cross them over at one end, offset by 3 inches.

Continue crossing one strand over the other while working the braid into a circle. The tie off can be challenging. Join the circle by tucking one end under the other, pinch the dough firmly together to seal, maintaining the twist and thickness of the loaf. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Butter and flour one 9-inch baking pan for each loaf. Place the braided loaves in individual pans and set aside, covered in a warm, draft-free place to rise for another hour until the dough rises about 30 percent more.

At this point, preheat the oven to 250 F.

When the dough has risen, place the pans into the oven for about 10 minutes, then raise the temperature to 325 F. Bake until the bread is a dark golden brown and makes a hollow sound when lightly tapped on the bottom.

Prepare the egg wash for decorating. In a small bowl, beat the 3 egg yolks with 3 tablespoons of water and set aside.

When the breads are fully baked, remove them from the oven and pan using oven mitts, then decorate immediately. Brush the egg wash onto the hot surface of each loaf and sprinkle with the colored confetti. Set the loaves to cool the racks. Slice a wedge and spread with butter.



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