YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1966

**THURSDAY**, June 1, 2023 • **\$1** 



# Walnut Creek SUD manager resigns after being arrested

Carothers arrested in connection with family violence assault

**MADELYN EDWARDS** madelyn@azlenews.net

Walnut Creek Special Utility

District general manager William "Doug" Carothers resigned from his position after being arrested in connection

with the charge of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

According to the arrest report from Parker County Sheriff's Office, a woman called dispatch and spoke in whispers on the phone. Dispatchers determined that she was asking for help and

deployed a deputy to an address in Springtown near Goshen Road during the early hours of May 7. Later on the phone, the woman told dis-

patch, "He hit me!" The deputy noticed upon arrival that the woman's face was covered in blood, and she

was crying. The woman said

the dispute began when she was watching a movie with Carothers. The woman explained that Carothers wanted to go to bed, and she told him that she would finish

PLEASE SEE ARREST | A5



The Parker County Young Marines present the flags at the city of Springtown's Memorial Day ceremony on May 27 at Veteran's Memorial Park. The color guard includes Samara Lajueness, Patrick Richey, Megan Lajueness and Haiden Thompson.

# 'Live a life worthy of all their sacrifices'

Springtown mourns those who died while serving in the military

**MADELYN EDWARDS** 

madelyn@azlenews.net

A local gold star mother recalled the first time someone thanked her for her sacrifice after her son died serving in

the military. Rhonda McRae was one of the speakers at the city of Springtown's annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 27 in Veteran's Memorial Park. She told attendees

about her son Cpl. James Heath McRae, a Springtown High School graduate who died while serving in the Marine Corps.

Though he was studying music in college, James Heath

McRae pivoted to enlisting in the Marines, and in April 2007, he was deployed to Iraq. Rhonda McRae told the audience about how she saw

PLEASE SEE **LIFE** | A9

# Dog saviors

# Parker County ESD 1 rescues dogs from fire

# **MADELYN EDWARDS**

madelyn@azlenews.net

When firefighters answer the call of duty, not all their missions involve saving humans.

Sometimes they find themselves rescuing the human's pets.

Such was the case when Parker County Emergency

Services District 1 firefighters arrived at a singlewide home on Mill Branch Lane - which is south of State Highway 199 between Springtown and Azle - to extinguish a fire during the early hours of April 17. While searching the home, Lt. Kaiden King found two

PLEASE SEE **DOGS** | A6



Parker County ESD 1 firefighter Colten Tibbitts holds one of the dogs rescued from a fire on Mill Branch Lane.



**VOLUME 60, NUMBER 9** 

**INSIDE** 

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# Springtown swears in reelected mayor, council members

MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH



Springtown Mayor Greg Hood is sworn in at the city council meeting on May 25. Hood ran unopposed in the May 6 election.



Springtown City Council member Michele Chandler Kelley takes her oath of office at the city council meeting on May 25. Chandler Kelley won her race against Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Ken Jensen on May 6.



Springtown City Council member Richelle Pruitt is sworn in at the council meeting on May 25. Pruitt ran unopposed in the May 6 election.

# Springtown Council honors new police officer in pinning ceremony



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Siann Dews-Madigan, 11, pins her mother and new Springtown police officer Nicole Dews during a ceremony at the city council meeting on May 25.

# made of money?...You're always a win



# Smile and Share it! Azle's own "DAD" isms

What's your Dad's favorite invaluable piece of wisdom?

Jot it down and you both could win:

win with a smile..

.If 'ifs' and 'buts'

were candy and nuts then we'd all have a

- 2 Rangers Tickets (parking included)
- \$50 Lowes gift card

Write down Dad's dadism on the entry form below. Drop entry off at the **Azle News** office at 321 West Main St. or **Azle Dental Care** at 912 Boyd Rd. (across from Subway). You may also email your entry to **Dadisms@smilegreat.com** or drop us a note on our Azle Dental Care Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook - the Azle News too!

All entries must be received by 5 PM on Monday, June 12
Winner of the drawing will be announced June 14 in the Azle News.

Azle Dental Care Dr. Brooke Porter 912 Boyd Rd. 817-444-1763

You call that noise music?...I'll tell you why, because I said so!... What? Do you

Azle News 321 West Main Street 817-270-3340

Dadaism:	
Your Name	Age:
Dad's Name:	Age:
Contact Number:	

Your presence at drawing is not required to win.

,He $\lambda$ , is tor hors $\epsilon_{m{\hat{c}}}$ 

"Nerry Christmas!...

# Trivol Region PUBLIC MEETING RECREATION MASTER PLAN

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

Tarrant Regional Water District is looking towards the future of recreation and we need your community's input.

In partnership with Dunaway Associates, a landscape architecture and engineering firm, the plan will focus on TRWD trails, trailheads, parks, recreation areas, events and event spaces specific to our assets along the Trinity Trails System, Eagle Mountain and Marine Creek Lakes in Northwest Tarrant County.



**Public meeting location:** 

# **Lighthouse Fellowship**

7200 Robertson Road, Fort Worth, TX 76135

**Meeting date and time:** 

Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 pm

To learn more about the TRWD Recreation Master Plan, visit TRWD.com/MasterPlan



You can also ensure your opinions come into play by scanning this code and filling out our online survey.



<sup>≷</sup>DUNAWAY

# Summerfest to take place June 3

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

madelyn@azlenews.net

The fourth annual Summerfest on the Square in Springtown on Saturday, June 3 is expected to be bigger than 2022's event - more activities, more vendor variety, and more kinds of vehicles in the car show.

"This year, we are adding many more additions to our event, including a Splash Zone and tons of kids' activities, alpaca petting area, increased vendor and food truck variety, and more," according to a statement from the Summerfest team, which includes businesses on the Square that host and organize the event. Summerfest is also co-sponsored by the city of Springtown. "The car show has also been expanded to include trucks and bikes this year."

A significant change to Summerfest compared to last year is the time of the event. Instead of starting in the morning, the festival will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. With this change, Summerfest will be able to use Wells Fargo's parking lot after the bank closes on Saturday to park more cars and bikes for the car show, according to the Summerfest

About 125 vehicles were entered in last year's car show, according to the Summerfest team. Participants will have the chance to win one of the more than 40 Best in Class awards this year as well as one of the four Best in Show trophies. People can preregister for the car show at square. link/u/dfihq7rt?src=sheet online, or they can register the day of the event. Registration is accepted on a

first come, first served basis, and the first 100 entries will get a free T-shirt and dash plaque.

Summerfest attendees will also be able to enjoy live music from 90s, 2000s and today's music artist Derric Merrill. Selena tribute artist Amanda Solis, Texas country and rock 'n' roll artist Mike Valliere and Americana band Ieremiah & BluHaze.

Kids activities include the Splash Zone, alpaca petting area, inflatable bumper cars, free face painting and the disc golf clinic, according to the Summerfest team. People can also look forward to a disc golf tournament and cornhole tournament.

"Summerfest is a yearly family-friendly celebration of the Springtown community," according to the statement from the Summerfest team. "It's always an amazing time



JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Deric Merrill played at Summerfest in 2022 and will return to this year's festival.

for people of all ages to enjoy a wide variety of activities! We hope to see you there!"

For more information, email info@summerfestonthesquare.com or visit the

the Capital Project Reserve

including the 10% match for

fund. The cost to the city

Facebook page at facebook. com/summerfestevents online.

# Springtown Council awards contract for Avenue C improvements

**MADELYN EDWARDS** 

madelyn@azlenews.net

Springtown City Council approved awarding a grant and city funded contract for utility and paving improvements on Avenue C between Seventh Street and Fifth Terrace.

Apple Pavement Services, LLC was chosen by the council to receive the \$367,630 contract at the meeting on May 25.

Springtown received a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture for \$350,000 with a 10% match from the city, which amounts to a budget total of \$385,000, according to the council's agenda background information.

The project to improve Avenue C was put out for bids three times, and the city received no responsive bids during the first time in February. During the sec-

ond time the city solicited bids for the project in March, the bids came in more than \$250,000 over the budget for construction.

The city received two responsive bids during the third and final time the project was put out for bids, and the lowest one was Apple

Pavement Services' bid. After subtracting the cost of grant administrators and engineering services, Apple's bid is \$57,630 over budget. The city is expected to supplement this project with money from

this project is expected to be a total of \$92,630.

In this project, the undersized and aging water line on Avenue C will be replaced with about 820 linear feet of 6-inch water line. The pavement on Avenue C will be reconstructed as well.

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# Solution to last week's puzzle

MAY 25, 2023

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

Puzzle by websudoku.co

# **LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Scott Alan Terry, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Scott Alan Terry, Deceased, were issued to Gay L. Slocum Pope Terry (aka Gay Lynne Pope), on May 24, 2023, in Cause No. 23P182, in the County Court, Parker County, Texas, which is still pending, and that Gay L. Slocum Pope Terry (aka Gay Lynne Pope), now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present the same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be sent to Ruelas Law Firm, 1020 Fort Worth Highway, Suite 500, Weatherford, Texas 76086, care of Gay L. Slocum Pope Terry, Independent Executor, Estate of Scott Alan Terry, Deceased.

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enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

# Reno Council discusses recognizing neighborhood block captains

#### **MADELYN EDWARDS**

madelvn@azlenews.net

Reno City Council discussed encouraging residents to organize and select block captains to represent their neighborhoods at council meetings.

At the meeting on May 22, council member Jennifer Vogle — who was selected by the council to be deputy mayor pro tem — brought up the idea to connect the city to neighbors.

"It would just mainly give these people a chance to

# Initiative to enhance communication between city, residents

choose who they wanted to speak on their behalf because not everybody can be here (at council meetings) on Monday nights to come speak their concerns," she said during the meeting. "It would be nice to have somebody come represent your own neighborhood and keep just a constant open door at all times."

Vogle clarified that the initiative does not create home-

owner associations or inspire community policing. She suggested that information about block captains could be posted on the city's website.

No formal action on the topic was taken at the meeting.

"I think if neighborhoods want to do it on their own and appoint someone, I think that's the way it should be," Vogle said before discussion

was closed.

After the meeting, Vogle said the initiative can also help the city get feedback — not just negative, but positive input as well — from residents.

"We just kept hearing while knocking on doors and talking to citizens that they want their neighborhoods taken care of," she said. "They're worried about their neighborhoods and want them seen, and they feel like they're not

Reno resident Joy Jenkins spoke during the meeting and indicated that the initiative could be used as a communication tool between the city and its constituents as far as making city officials aware of neighborhood needs and dispersing citywide messages.

"We have found that a lot

of people have just been frustrated because they would have an issue, it wouldn't get resolved, and they just would either quit or just be very frustrated." Jenkins said after the meeting. "We want everybody to feel like that they can call city hall or feel like they're heard."

In contrast, another resident was concerned that recognizing block captains could give some people authority to bully their neighbors. After the meeting, Vogle said that this initiative won't encourage bullying.

# One Little Word

I love you, but you're wrong more often than you think.

If you're wondering to whom that sentence is addressed ... keep wondering. If you think it might be you, it probably isn't ... unless you think it really applies to you.

I actually didn't have anyone in mind. I used that sentence as an illustration to make a point about the art of healthy conversations. This is the fourth post of this series.

What I hope to show you in this post is the power of one little word and how exchanging that one little word for another can make all the difference in encouraging real dialogue.

Can you guess the one little word to which I'm referring in that first sentence?

If you guessed BUT you are



**BE AMAZING** By Gerry Lewis

Azle resident Dr. Gerry Lewis guides explorers to discover a coach-sultant for individuals, churches, and organizations. More at www.discoveryouramazing.com.

absolutely right.

Here's the interesting thing about BUT: It has a negating effect on every word that precedes it. If I say," I love you, but ...," what you are most likely to remember is not my expression of affection. You are most likely to remember the expression of disagreement. So, in that first sentence, you're probably not convinced that I love you. You are, however, convinced that I think you are most often wrong.

Let's try another one:

"Wow! You look great! But you might want to rethink that shirt.'

Or how about this one: "Nice catch in the outfield! But if you had been paying closer attention the runner wouldn't have scored."

One more:

"Your passion for this cause is admirable, but you're backing the wrong candidate."

So, to summarize—you are questioning my clothing choices, my game awareness, and my point of view.

BUT carries a lot of weight. (I'm resisting the temptation to make a BIG BUT joke).

A little over a dozen years ago, I started training as a life/leadership coach. One of the lessons that stuck out in my early training was learning the difference between "YES, BUT" AND "YES, AND" in conversation.

The point of the exercise is learning to set a tone based on common concern—where one person's statement builds on the other's — rather than adversarial posturing where each person's statement seeks to negate the previous one.

Or—to use a phrase from previous posts — we are talking WITH one another rather than AT or OVER one another.

So, here's how it might look (using the previous examples):

Me: Wow! You look great! And that shirt is an eye-catcher.

You: Yeah, it's one of my favorites.

Me: It's really you. (If it's really you, does it re-

ally matter if it's not me?) Me: You played great today. And that catch in the outfield was amazing.

You: Thanks. I wish I had seen the runner tagging. I might have been able to keep him from scoring.

Me: Sure. And I'm sure you'll really be watching the next time.

(You didn't need me to point out your weakness). Me: I really admire your

passion for this cause. It's

obvious you care deeply and have some firm convictions.

You: I really do care. I think \_\_ (your candidate of choice) is the best choice.

Me: Tell me what you like the most about her ideas. What appeals most to you?

(I've invited you to share your opinions and to go deeper into conversation. We may not come to the same conclusions, but we can draw out the best in each other if we will use more AND and less

Let me be clear: This is not the easiest approach. AND because it's not, we may actually gain more from it.

Next week I'm going to talk about a rousing game of PING.

Until then, be amazing, my friend.



# Main Street Veterinary **Ribbon Cutting**

PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Main Street Veterinary on Thursday, April 20. Dr. Gieb and his staff at Main Street Veterinary offer pet exams, vaccines, x-rays, lab work, and pet products. Call or visit them at 524 N. Main Street Springtown. For more information 817-220-0002.

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# Women In Ag conference set for Sept in Fort Worth



PHOTO BY LAVENDER PATHWAYS PHOTOGRAPHY - BY LOLA

The inaugural Women in Agriculture conference will be held in the historic Foret Worth Stockyards.

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The inaugural Women in Agriculture Conference will be held on Sept. 12 and 13 in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards, Fort Worth, Texas.

The two-day event is designed to assist farm and ranch women with problem solving, record keeping and decision-making skills. The conference will cover topics designed to help them

with financial sustainability, management resources, risk management, legal and liability issues, family financial planning and ranch management.

In addition, there will be an evening event designed to facilitate networking, while having fun in the historic setting.

The conference is inspired by the very successful Annie's Project, which

is dedicated to providing educational programs to strengthen women's roles in the modern farm/ranch enterprise.

For information visit https://agrilife.org/ urbantarrantag/ or the Facebook page Tarrant Co-Ag & Natural Resources Fort Worth TX. Hotel and registration can be accessed at Women in Ag at www.event-



# Kirchems Furniture Consignment Ribbon Cutting

The Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Kirchem's Furniture Consignment on Thursday, May 5. Kirchems Furniture Consignment is a "Quality Furniture, housewares, and art resale/consignment store. Locally owned and family run." Stop in for your affordable and unique finds at 3001 E. Hwy 199, Springtown. For more information 972-489-2699



## ARREST FROM PAGE A1

the movie. According to the deputy's report, Carothers then insulted the woman before punching her in the face while she was sitting on the

The deputy determined that the blood on the woman's face and hair came from her nose, and her right eyelid was swollen about an inch thick, according to the report.

Carothers was not there when the deputy reached the scene. Another deputy located Carothers and arrested him. His bond was set at \$3,500, and he was released from jail the same day he was arrested.

Walnut Creek SUD Board President Mike Gilley confirmed to the Epigraph that Carothers resigned on May 15. The board heard from members of Quiddity Engineering about interim management services on May

Carothers was hired late last year after former general manager Steve Harris stepped down from the position.

Carothers did not respond to the Epigraph's request for comment.



**MADELYN EDWARDS** William "Doug" Carothers

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\*Entries open May 26 - June 9 @ NOON. Prizes will be added to customer's Rewards account. Employees and their families are not eligible.

Additional prizes will be given away at 1:30 pm, Friday, June 9. Customers 18 and older will recieve a ticket for a chance to win one of the following prizes:



(2 baskets to be given away

Must be present to win. Employees and their families are not eligible.

All drawings are open to anyone age 18 or older. Employees of BW Gas & Convenience Retail, LLC d/b/a Yesway or Allsup's, their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotional agencies, printing and mailing companies, suppliers and vendors, and immediate family, household members, ex-spouses of each, are not eligible to win. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws apply. In the event of a dispute, the decision of BW Gas & Convenience Retail Management Team is final.

# **OBITUARIES**

# Jerry Freeman

Jerry Bob Freeman, 57, passed away on May 4, 2023. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family will notify loved ones when a service is scheduled.

Jerry was born on October 14, 1965, to Bobby Ray Freeman and Bettye Louise Ferguson. Jerry had a keen eye and a steady hand that produced beautiful drawings, and he was a welder by trade, transforming materials into works of art.

While his skills as a welder were unparalleled, Jerry had another passion that fueled his spirit—riding his beloved Harley Davidson. The roar of the engine, and the freedom of the open road brought him immeasurable joy.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Vicki Freeman and Linda Freeman Sanders.

He is survived by his son, Josh Freeman; brother Jimmy



Freeman; sisters Chonda Butcher, Janna Goodson, Rebecca Hanson, and Amber Freeman; half-brother Casey Ferguson; loving partner Jennifer Gatlin; numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

May you ride on, dear Jerry, in the eternal highways of peace and love.

> The Springtown Epigraph, *May* 31, 2023 Edition

# Michael Hay 1956-2023

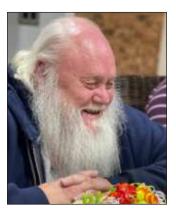
Michael Hay, 67, of Crowley, Texas, passed away on May 25, 2023, with his daughters and family by his side. Michael, fondly known as Daddy, Peepaw, Poppie and Mike, was born to Elizabeth Stone and William Hay on February 4, 1956, in Fort Worth. Mike was a proprietor, buying into and running the family printing business for the past 30 years in Hurst.

Mike loved his beautiful wife Mary, their girls and grandbabies. Mike and Mary were married on June 21, 1980, in Hillsboro, Texas.

When all together, you could find him sharing his love of fishing, hunting and cooking with them. Recently, it was not uncommon to find one of his youngest grandkids curled up in his lap watching tv or catching a nap. He was an amazing man that loved his girls and babies with all his heart. He will be greatly and truly missed by

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Elizabeth, Bill Hay, Bill Stone; brother Gene; and beloved wife Mary.

He is survived by his



sister Becky; three daughters, Marlayna, Mandy and Meeka, along with eight grandchildren, Abigail, Cristiano, Kourtlyn, Maile, Ethan, Easton, Elizabeth and Charlotte. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, in-laws and many friends.

Mike asked there not to be a traditional funeral service. Due to his illness, he asked to have his body donated to the UNT Health Science Center to learn more about his condition in hopes of finding a cure. Celebration arrangements will be made at a later date.

> The Springtown Epigraph, May 31, 2023 Edition



PHOTOS COURTESY PARKER COUNTY ESD 1 FACEBOOK PAGE

Parker County ESD 1 firefighters saved two young boxer-mixed dogs from a fire on Mill Branch Lane.

# DOGS

young boxer-mixed dogs in a room adjacent to the fire. "Both were lethargic and lifeless," Battalion Chief Chris Balough said about the dogs. "Lt. King delivered those to engineer (Dustin) Rowe and firefighter (Colten) Tibbitts, and they administered oxygen

that were donated to us." ESD 1 personnel monitored the dogs and eventually got them to drink water and stand up on their own,

through our pet O2 masks

Balough said. The dogs' owner managed to get out of the burning home on her own and was transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation, Balough said. Parker County Animal Control took care

of the dogs while the owner was in the hospital.

Aside from the stereotype of firefighters rescuing cats from tall trees, the public may be more likely to imagine these public servants as saving people from fires. However, animal rescue comes up "quite often" in firefighting, Balough said. He recalled that sometimes firefighters will give dogs IV therapy to help with the dehydration that comes from being in a burning building.

"Pets are family for a lot of people," the battalion chief

Overall, Balough appreciated how his firefighters handled that fire and followed their training.

"The dogs are saved. The house is still livable on the other side because of how it was constructed," he said. "It was a win-win for us, and I'm proud of my guys."



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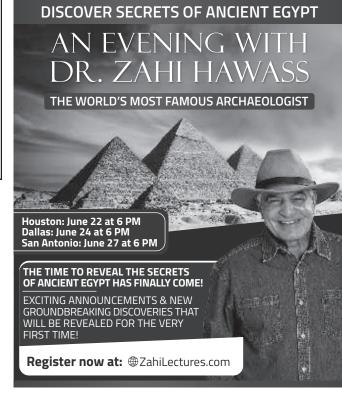
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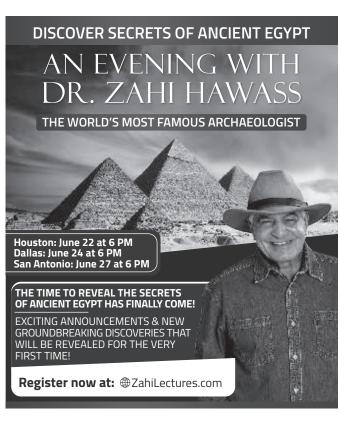
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#### **THE ABBEY CHURCH** Pastor: Paul Brownback 10400 Jacksboro Hwy 817-238-1404 www.TheAbbeyChurch.com Morning Worship......10:30 AM Community Groups ...... Various Times **ASH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor: Dr. G. Wesley Shotwell 300 South Stewart St. 817-444-3219 www.ashcreekbc.org Sunday School......9:30 AM Contemporary Worship-TMP ...... 10:45 AM Traditional Worship ......10:45 AM Evening Worship/Youth Refuge......6:00 PM Wednesday Evening......6:15 PM **AZLE FIRST ASSEMBLY of GOD** Rev. Joshua Lowrance 1020 S.E. Parkway, Azle 817-237-4903 Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Wednesday Evening......7:00 PM **COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** 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 Sunday School......9:45 AM Morning Worship......11:00 AM Sunday Evening ......6:00 PM Wednesday Evening..... A church alive is worth the drive! For more information or rates on listing your church, call Jessica at 817-270-3340

#### ... ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Senior Minister, Ashlev Dargai, Katie Medlin, Worship Minister 117 Church St. • 817-444-3527 Sunday School......10:00 AM Morning Worship......11:00 AM **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH** 2233 Hwy 199 E., Springtown 817-221-LIFE (5433) Sunday Worship Service ......10:00 AM Wednesday......7:00 рм **CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor - Jon Baker Corner FM 730S & FM 1886 817-755-0279 Transportation Available Worship Service......10:30 AM Wed. Prayer Service......7:00 PM THE EDGE CHURCH - AZLE 1313 S.E. Pkwy, Azle 817-237-4822 Missouri Synod "Love God - Serve Others - Share Jesus" Traditional Worship ......9:30 AM Contemporary Worship......11:00 AM FIRST METHODIST CHURCH Interim Pastor: Rev. Tim Thomas 200 Church St., Azle **817-444-3323** Morn. Worship ......8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM Sunday School .......9:45 & 11 AM Wed. Prayer Meeting ......6:30 PM

#### Pastor: Timothy McKeown 817-221-5683 gracepointesbc.org Sunday School.....9:45 am Sunday Service......11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study ......6:00 PM **HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH** 800 Highcrest Dr. - Azle **817-444-3063** 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 **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA** 4795 E. Hwy 199 - Reno 817-221-HOPE

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Follow us on Facebook for streaming services Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Traditional Service ......10:00 AM **SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH** 591 S. Reno Rd, , Springtown, Texas 76082 Pastor - Bill Gay - 817-304-7443 Coffee and Donuts ......9:00 AM Sunday School......9:30 AM Morning Worship......10:30 AM Children's Church After Music Service 

#### **LEGACY CHURCH** Assembly of God Church Pastor: Gary D. Veazey Hwy. 199 & Jaybird Lane 817-221-2983 Morning Worship......9:15 & 11:00 AM Kidz Zone......9:15 & 11:00 AM Weds Evening Legacy Group Legacy Youth, Kids All Services......7:00 PM

THE RANCH CHRISTIAN COWBOY CHURCH Pastor: Greg Slankard 7955 Reed Rd., Azle **682-327-7082** www.TheRanchCCC.org Sunday School 9:30 AM • Worship 10:00 AM Weds 7:00 pm • Thurs Potluck 6:30 pm

> **SILVER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Rev. Sheila Fiorella - Pastor

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Pastor: Jay Ditty Minister of Music: David Musick Corner FM 730 S. & Veal Station Rd. Church 817-444-2325

www.silvercreekbc.org Sunday School......9:45 AM Morning Worship......10:50 AM

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Equip Sunday School at the WORD ...... 9:30 AM Empower Worship Kids at the WORD...... 10:45 AM PreK at the WORD...... 10:45 AM Emanate at the WORD (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 

# Texas House impeaches AG Paxton

# Boaters urged to 'Clean, Drain and Dry'

#### **TEXAS HOUSE IMPEACHES AG PAXTON**

The Texas House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton Saturday, only the third time in the state's history that has occurred.

The Austin American-Statesman and numerous news outlets reported the chamber voted 121-23 to remove Paxton, 60, from office while he awaits a trial in the Senate during a special session yet to be called.

Last week a House investigations committee heard evidence from investigators and sent 20 articles of impeachment against Paxton.

The evidence presented by investigators against Paxton included a 2015 state securities case, an ongoing federal probe into his connection with campaign donor Nate Paul, an Austin real estate developer, and an extramarital affair he tried to conceal from his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-Allen.

Adding to Paxton's legal woes, a \$3.3 million settlement with some of his former employees who were whistleblowers fell apart after the House refused to approve paying it with taxpayer money. The case remains pending.

Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, chair of the investigations committee, in closing remarks Saturday urged House members to vote in favor of impeachment.

"The evidence is substantial. It is alarming, and it is unnerving," he said.

Paxton called the bipartisan vote — 61 Democrats and 60 Republicans voted for impeachment — "politically motivated."

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said in a statement.

#### **BILL ENDING VEHICLE INSPECTIONS HEADS TO ABBOTT**

Vehicles registered in Texas would no longer be required to pass safety inspections under a bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, the Houston Chronicle reported.

House Bill 3297, sponsored by Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, also creates a new annual \$7.50 inspection



**CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS** 

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.

reported.

two measures.

dismissed," the Statesman

the Senate in an effort to

**BUDGET WRITERS STRIKE** 

\$321.3 BILLION TWO-YEAR

Budget writers for the

have come to agreement on a

lion for property tax cuts and

\$321.3 billion two-year bud-

get that includes \$12.3 bil-

provides considerable new

funding for higher educa-

health and broadband, ac-

tion, the energy grid, mental

cording to the Texas Tribune.

The property tax reductions

are dependent on passage of

a constitutional amendment

A \$15 billion supplemental

spending proposal uses some

of the state's record surplus

to provide funding for a high-

er education endowment, en-

hanced retirement for public

school teachers, border secu-

rity, Medicaid costs and state

debt reduction, according to

in November.

the Tribune.

Texas House and Senate

work out differences in the

The bill now goes back to

replacement fee that will be added to annual vehicle registration fees. Thus, owners won't save any money but will not have to take their vehicle to a licensed inspection

The measure passed the Senate along party lines, 20-11, with the Republican majority arguing the annual inspections are a burden to residents without making Texas roads safer.

Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, told his fellow senators that a recent study by the American Society of Civil Engineers found fewer highway fatality deaths in states with an inspection program.

"It found that states that have vehicle safety inspections have 5.5% fewer fatalities per year than states that don't have inspection programs. In Texas, that's 261 dead people every single year," Johnson said.

If Abbott signs the bill or allows it to become law without his signature, it will go into effect Sept. 1.

Texas is currently one of 15 states still requiring regular inspections. Although the statewide inspection rule is on its way out, vehicle emission inspections will still be required in 17 metropolitan

#### **HOUSE APPROVES CHANGES** TO UNIVERSITY TENURE **POLICIES**

The House last week gave approval to a bill changing tenure policies at the state's colleges and universities, the Statesman reported. The lower chamber's measure differs somewhat from the Senate version, which would completely ban public colleges and universities from grant tenure to faculty members beginning in 2024.

The House version "provides a framework to the state's universities about what the Legislature expects regarding tenure, including how tenure is granted to faculty members, how tenured faculty are reviewed and when tenured faculty can be

Both plans were expected to get floor votes in each chamber before session adiournment on Monday night.

#### **BOATERS URGED TO 'CLEAN,** DRAIN AND DRY

Texans have begun heading to state lakes and waterways as Memorial Day weekend kicks off the summer boating season. Officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge boaters and paddlers to protect Texas lakes from invasive aquatic

"Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kick-off to boating season in Texas, and while we want everyone to have a great time, we also want them to avoid giving free rides to invasive species and helping them travel to new lakes," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment - every time."

The biggest threat to Texas lakes is zebra mussels and giant salvinia, which continues to spread to new areas of Texas. Other invasive species that can be spread include quagga mussels, crested floating heart, and water hyacinth.

Giant salvinia is now found on 27 East Texas lakes and

numerous creeks, marshes and rivers between Houston and Beaumont, according to TPWD. Zebra mussels are now found in 36 Texas lakes and in rivers downstream of infested lakes.

TPWD urges boaters to follow three simple steps to

reduce the risk of spreading invasive species: 1. Remove mud, plants and debris. 2. Drain all water from the boat and gear. 3. Once home, open all compartments and let everything dry completely for at least a week, if possible.



PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT AND PEST COUNCIL

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



# **INVASIVE MUSSELS HIDE HERE**

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

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# Rogers' bill to create regional utility authority died in Senate

www.springtown-epigraph.net

# The bill may be addressed in a special session

#### MADELYN EDWARDS

madelyn@azlenews.net

State Rep. Glenn Rogers' House Bill 5406 did not pass the state's Senate during the regular legislative session.

Rogers held a press conference on May 25 to address HB 5406, which would have created the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority.

The State House of Representatives passed HB 5406 in May, but the bill didn't make any progress in the Senate. To be considered by the governor, bills had to be passed by both chambers by the end of the session on

Rogers said his team will push for the bill to be considered in a special legislative session. If that doesn't happen, he said the bill will be refiled during the next legislative session in 2025.

After meeting with stakeholders in his district, Rogers realized that efforts to bring water to this area need to be regionalized. He believes that regionalization can help bring funds into the district to support water demands.

"We have 1,000 people a day moving into Texas, and they're not bringing water with them, and our area in particular is affected," Rogers said.

He added, "Tarrant

Regional (Water District) has water that is available to purchase that can be moved. If we can move water, that takes pressure off of groundwater."

The Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority would have covered Parker, Palo Pinto and Stephens counties, and it would have been governed by a board of directors with seven members, according to HB 5406. These directors - who could not hold other elected positions - would be appointed by the three counties' commissioners' courts as well as Mineral Wells City Council. Terms for the directors would last for four years, and directors would not be allowed to serve more than two terms.

Rogers said one of the reasons the directors would be appointed instead of elected is so that people who are specifically knowledgeable about water would be chosen to serve. If the people are unhappy with the directors on the board, they could exercise their power by voting out the elected officials who appointed the directors.

"I generally favor elected positions on everything, but in something like this, that's so critical that whoever is in that position actually knows about water, has experience with water," he said. "It keeps it from being just a political

position."

However, Rogers said rules on composition of the board of directors could change in future iterations of the bill.

"We're willing to listen and take input as much as possible," he said. "We want this to be something that the district will get behind, and if there are some changes in that area, we're willing to listen."

HB 5406 had the support of more than 35 entities, including commissioners' courts and almost every city in Rogers' district.

The utility authority wouldn't have been able to impose a tax. It would have issued revenue bonds, which pay for projects that produce income, to fulfill its powers, obligations, and functions.

This utility authority would have had the power to obtain and use property, to acquire, develop and use rights to groundwater or surface water, to carry out eminent domain - unless the bill was passed by less than twothirds of members in each chamber - and to enter contracts with people or political subdivisions.

To clear up misinformation, Rogers said the power of eminent domain would not have allowed the utility authority to take or impact people's private water wells.



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

we can."

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Rep. Glenn Rogers speaks at the Veterans Day ceremony in Springtown in 2022.

"The reason we need eminent domain authority is if we're able to move water, which is one of the primary purposes of this, we have to have the ability to lay water pipelines from the east to the west," he said.

Rogers hopes to have public hearings to address concerns and clear up misinformation about the bill. He

also said Senate support in the form of a companion bill would also be helpful in getting HB 5406 passed during the next session.

Rogers said he will continue working with local entities in his district as well as making connections in Austin to get funding for water resources in this area.

"There's going to be funds

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available, and we're going to do what we can working with commissioners, working with municipalities to acquire as much of those funds as we can for our area," he said. "Even though we don't have the regionalized approach and we lose some of the clout from that, we still can do that, and I'm confident that

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and Beer Retailer's Permit for SAYABIR CORPORATION, dba KTM Shop N Go, located at 100 E Hwy 199, Springtown, TX 76082 by SURYA AGRAHARI, DIRECTOR. Said application has been made with the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

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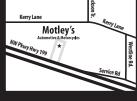
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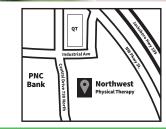






# \*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 5/24/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investory can lose principal value. FDIC insuance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC.) FDI-1867K-A © EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P., ALL RIGHTS RESERVED Northwest **Physical Therapy FREE CONSULTATIONS**

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## LIFE **FROM PAGE A1**

her son one more time before he left for Iraq. That ended up being the last time she saw her son.

On July 24, 2007, James Heath McRae was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq, along with some of his peers. McRae was 22 years

Rhonda McRae has been approached by people who find out about her son's story and wish to express their sympathy or thank her for her sacrifice to the country. She said she didn't know how to respond to those comments the first time she received them.

"Just saying thank you didn't seem like enough for my son's sacrifice," she said at the Memorial Day ceremony. "My response now is, 'You're welcome. Please live a life worthy of his sacrifice.' So today, I challenge you to live a life worthy of all their sacrifices. They thought so much of their family, their God and their country that they were willing to fight and die for it. How can we not honor that?'

She added, "I don't know what your politics or your beliefs are but make no mistake that the United States of



MADELYN EDWARDS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

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Members of the Springtown 4-H Club lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Memorial Day ceremony on May 27 at Veteran's Memorial Park.

free because of the brave."

In his keynote address, Kenneth Jensen - Springtown Planning and Zoning Commission chairman and veteran - reminded the audience of specific individuals who died while serving in

America is still the land of the the military, including those from Springtown, a friend of Jensen's and a soldier who his dad knew while serving.

"The national archives record that there are 1,354,554 men and women who died in defense of our nation," Jensen said. "From the

present, every one of them has a story. These are just four of them. Let us remember those brave soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guard men who have died to help keep America

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Gold star mother Rhonda McRae speaks at Springtown's Memorial Day ceremony on May 27 after placing the wreath with her 15-yearold granddaughter Faith Styles.

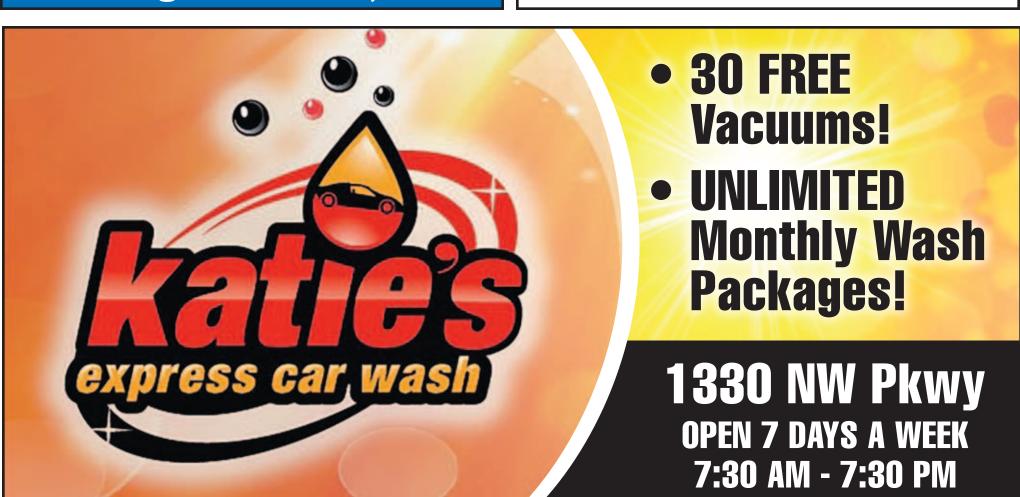


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# Newly graduated **Porcupines**



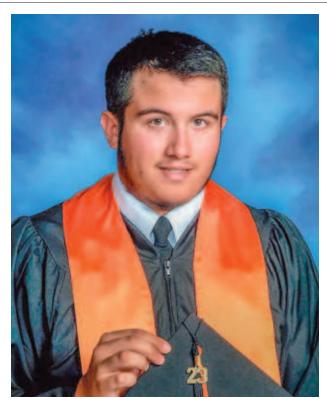
JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Springtown High School honor graduates Emma Whitehead, Ethan Hash and Aubrey Mueller walk to their seats during the commencement ceremony on May 26 at Porcupine Stadium.



JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Class of 2023 Valedictorian Regan Burdick looks out at her class mates who she addressed in a speech at Springtown High School's graduation ceremony on May 26 at Porcupine Stadium.



Correction

# **Springtown** Graduation **Section**

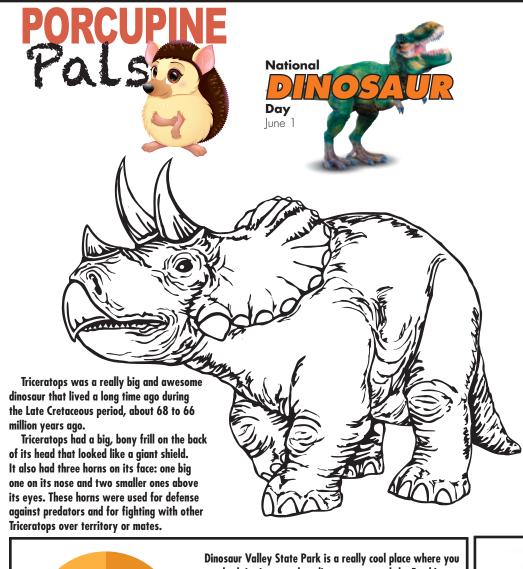
In the May 18 edition of the Springtown Epigraph's Class of 2023 special section, graduating senior Dillon Wilson was listed with the wrong photograph.The Epigraph regrets the error.



JIM STEVENS | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Class of 2023 Salutatorian Chandler King speaks to his fellow Springtown High School graduates at commencement on May 26 at Porcupine Stadium.

# **Dillon Wilson**



## **Dinosaurs**

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank

Lizard Dinosaur Tail Teeth

Dig History Extinct

Jurassic Bones



Dinosaur Valley State Park, Glen Rose, Texas can go back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the Earth!

The park is located in Glen Rose, Texas and has over 1,500 acres of land for you to explore. One of the most exciting things about the park is that you can see real dinosaur footprints! Millions of years ago, when dinosaurs were walking around, some of them left their footprints in the mud. Over time, the mud hardened and turned into rock, and today you can see those footprints in the park.

You can also go hiking, swimming, or camping at the park. There are lots of beautiful trees and plants to see, and you might even see some wildlife like deer or armadillos.

If you want to learn more about the dinosaurs that used to live in the area, there is a museum at the park that has lots of interesting information and exhibits. You can see fossils and learn about what the world was like when dinosaurs

Overall, Dinosaur Valley State Park is a really fun and exciting place to visit, and it's a great way to learn about the incredible creatures that used to call our planet home.



# **PALEONTOLOGY**

Paleontology is the study of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals that lived a long, long time ago, before humans were around.

Paleontologists are scientists who study fossils, which are the remains of these ancient animals that have been preserved in rocks over millions of years. By studying these fossils, paleontologists can learn about what the world was like when these animals were alive, what they looked like, what they ate, and how they lived.



The word "dinosaur" comes from two Greek words: "deinos," meaning "terrible" or "fearfully great," and "sauros," meaning "lizard" or "reptile."

So, the word "dinosaur" literally means "terrible lizard" or "fearfully great reptile."

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# DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY June 1 2023



Kennedy Warren plans to move from college volleyball into the pros.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COURTESY PHOTO

# Warren report

## **JEFF PRINCE**

jeff@azlenews.net

Most of Carol Ann Warren's loved ones showed up last fall when she was inducted into the Springtown Athletic Wall of Honor.

One daughter was missing. Kennedy Warren is a chip off mom's block and was busy playing volleyball at the University of Houston in October when her mother was being inducted.

"I was very sad I couldn't be there to watch it all happen," Kennedy Warren said.

Carol Ann was already enhrined in the Tarleton State University Hall of Fame. She played basketball at McNeese

# Athletic Warrens of Springtown root for volleyball star daughter

State and Tarleton State University.

"From what I hear, she was pretty good at basketball back in the day," Kennedy said of her mom. "I'm very proud of her."

Now it's mom's turn to be

Kennedy completed her college career and is attempting to turn pro. She is putting together a highlight reel and various other information to provide to agents.

"They go out and find you a contract," she said. "You submit to multiple agents. They get to choose if they want to represent you or not."

Playing professional indoor volleyball is a longtime dream that will likely involve moving to Europe, which offers more volleyball leagues and professional opportunities than the United States, she said.

"I thought that if I cou do it, I could travel and just get myself over there to have some amazing opportunities," she said. "Why not go for it?"

She attended Peaster High School and is accustomed to small-town Texas life but isn't intimidated by moving

"It would be exciting to be in a new environment," she said. "I'd get paid to play the sport I love so much. That sounds like an awesome iob



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Clint Hampton and Carol Ann Warren, formerly Carlisle, were PLEASE SEE WARREN | B2 included in the Springtown Athletic Wall of Honor in 2022.



Mackenzie "Mack" Flaugher receives her award from Tye Adams and the Springtown ISD board of

# Mackenzie Flaugher adds another award to growing number

# **JEFF PRINCE**

jeff@azlenews.net

On May 22, the Springtown Independent School District board of trustees recognized Mackenzie "Mack" Flaugher for qualifying to participate in the UIL state track meet. Flaugher was the only

Springtown track member to compete at the UIL State Track & Field Meet in Austin on May 11-13.

Flaugher came within inches of earning a medal,

PLEASE SEE **RUNNERS** | B2



6 inches this year and finished in third place at regionals.

# Springtown summer camps offer fun, skills for kids



JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Summer camps for baseball and many other sports will be available at Springtown High School.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Summer camps are about to begin, and here are things to know before signing up a child.

Participants should bring a water bottle each day, pack personals, keys, and electronics in a bag, wear athletic shoes and apparel, and show up on time. Once the course is finished, participants will be released, and a new session will begin. Coaches will not monitor participants on

or off the property before and after designated course times. Rain or shine, the

At most camps, each sibling after the first one is half price for the same camp. A separate registration must be completed for each participant.

Springtown summer camps is available at www.springtownisd.net/Page/5147 Wrestling camp - For in-

camps will be in session.

Multi-Purpose Facility located at 915 W. Highway 199. Cost is \$50. Softball camp - for third to ninth grades from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 5-7 at the SHS Information about softball field at Porcupine

Stadium located at 495 Pojo Road. Cost is \$50. Baseball camp - for incoming third to ninth grad-

coming third to ninth grad-

ers from 11 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. on June 26-28 at the

Springtown High School

ers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 5-7 at Porcupine Stadium located at 495 Pojo Road. Cost is \$50.

Boys basketball camp - for incoming second to ninth graders from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 13-15 at the SHS gym located at 915 W. Highway 199. Cost is \$50.

Girls basketball camp - for incoming second to ninth graders at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 30 to June 1 at the SHS gym located at 915 W.

Highway 199. Cost is \$50. Boys soccer camp – for incoming second to ninth graders from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on May 30 to June 1 at

Porcupine Stadium located

at 495 Pojo Road. Cost is

Girls soccer camp - for incoming second to ninth graders from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 30 to June 1 at Porcupine Stadium located at

495 Pojo Road. Cost is \$50. Football camp - for incom-

ing second to sixth graders from 10 a.m. to noon on July 10-12 at the SHS Multi-Purpose Facility located at 915 W. Highway 199. Cost is

Volleyball camp - for incoming third to fifth graders from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on July 24-26, and for sixth to ninth graders from 10:30 a.m. to noon on July 24-26 at the SHS gym located at 915 W. Highway 199. Cost is \$50.



**JEFF PRINCE** | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

From left, youngest daughter Keller Warren and mom Ruth Ann Carlisle escort Carol Ann Warren to midfield for her induction into the Springtown Wall of Honor.

# FROM PAGE B1

She knows friends and teammates who have had pleasant times playing

"I've gotten to talk to them and hear about their experi-

ences," she said. "I'm very optimistic that I can hopefully make it come true."

Her parents, Carol Ann and Keith Warren, are Springtown natives. Carol Ann played volleyball, basketball, track and tennis. Keith played basketball and ran track and qualified to compete at the UIL state meet in hurdles. Keith

graduated in 1986, and Carol Ann graduated in 1987.

Keith is an executive pastor at Northside Baptist Church in Weatherford. Carol Ann teaches school and is assistant volleyball coach at Peaster High School.

Kennedy graduated from Peaster in 2018. She was a four-year letterman in volleyball, won three district championships, and compiled a 153-33 record with the Greyhounds. She earned back-to-back regional championships and was named the TAVC 3A Player of the Year in 2016 and TAVC 3A Hitter of the Year in 2017. She also competed on the Greyhound tennis team that qualified for

the state tournament in 2015

and 2017. Kennedy played her first three years of college volleyball for the Idaho Vandals and was named to the Big Sky all-conference team twice, earning first team honors in

2021. During her senior year at the University of Houston,

Kennedy appeared in all 32 matches of the season, terminating double-digit kills in 13 different matches with seven double-doubles. She was among the team leaders in points and kills and made a career-high 17 digs in two different matches.

# Springtown seniors look ahead with excitement, sadness

**JEFF PRINCE** 

jeff@azlenews.net

On May 26, seniors and their families gathered at Porcupine Stadium for graduation ceremonies, and many of the senior athletic stalwarts were feeling equal parts nervous, excited, and sad.

Nervous and excited about what lies ahead, and a bit sad about what was being left behind.

"I've been trying to learn a bit on how to let things end," said Joel Bird, who played football for four years, wrestled for two, and power lifted for one year. "Being a senior, you don't want it to end."

He joked that being "head of the campus" feels good and "gets to your head a little bit"

Bird relishes the valuable lessons learned at high school, and not just the ones absorbed from books and classwork.

"I've learned a lot about life these four years, like who your friends are," he said. "You figure out that sometimes you and your friends don't get to hang out all the time, but they're still your friends, still your buddies."

The graduation ceremony hadn't yet begun, and Bird looked out over the mostly empty football field where he bled and sweated during games and practices. This year's football team went 3-8 and lost their first playoff

game. The team had gone 10-4, 11-3, and 13-2 during its previous three seasons.

"We didn't exactly do too great this year," Bird said. "I feel like I could have done more. It definitely was not the closure I wanted."

He learned from the disappointment.

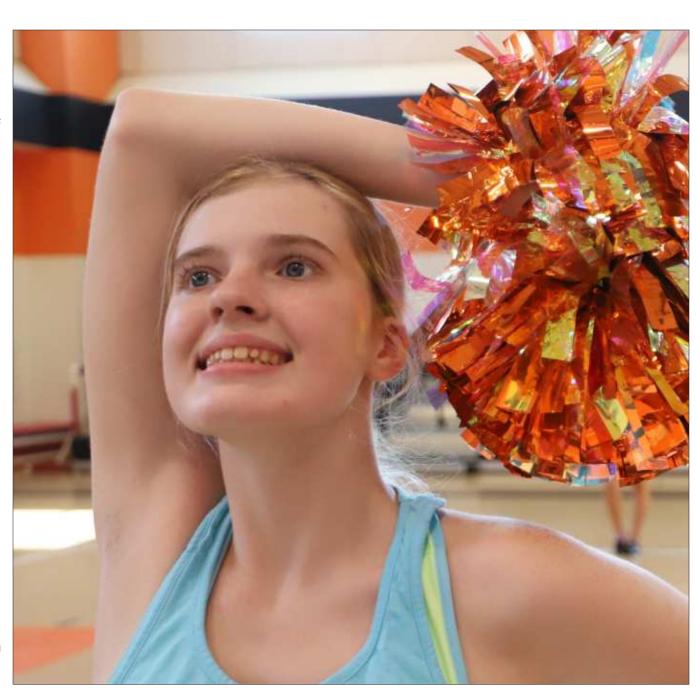
"That kind of taught me how to take a loss," he said. "Even if it is your senior year, you're not owed anything. You just get what you get. Don't throw a fit."

(Dealing with disappointment in oneself is a lesson he might continue learning for years to come. The reporter/ photographer on this story learned the same lesson in high school 45 years ago and is still learning - he failed to put a disk in his digital camera while on assignment for this story. Thus, the photos of Bird and Hailey Hughes taken for this story during their graduation cannot appear in this story. Oops. Lesson learned. Again.)

This month, Bird will leave for basic training and a stint in the U.S. Navy.

"I've been learning a lot of that type stuff, and I'm ready to continue," he said. "I'm ready to go on to bigger and better things. The plan is to use the Navy to help me pay

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Hailey Hughes waves pom poms for the Showstoppers.





for college, even if it may be a trade school. I haven't exactly decided. I figure I'd cross that bridge when I get there."

The stole on his graduation gown held a couple Navy patches, a perfect attendance medal from his freshman year, and a red cord to signify giving blood twice during his senior year.

He will miss SHS.

"I made a lot of good friends," he said. "Also, acquaintances that I've talked to once or twice, but they're still super cool with me. They treat me right. I treat them right. I'm going to miss seeing their faces every day."

Hailey Hughes was also decked out in a graduation gown with bright red Converse on her feet adorned with Red Raiders on the sides. She will attend Texas Tech University and study music education and become a music teacher.

At SHS, she was a member of the International Thespian Society, a four-year member of color guard and choir, and a two-year member of the Showstoppers dance troupe.

"Throughout my four years of high school, I've done a lot of different things," she said. The experiences taught her

she said.
Surviving it all wasn't easy.
"It takes a lot of self-discipline," she said.

"how to be a good person,'

Her stole was heavily adorned with cords for honor guard, student council, blood donations, choir, theater, and other endeavors. She looks forward to moving ahead in life and earning more accomplishment.

Still, she will never forget her alma mater and those four years in high school.

"I haven't been in Springtown all my life, but high school definitely brought me closer to pretty much everyone that I know," she said. "I've met my hopeto-be lifetime friends here. I'm really excited to see what the future holds for me."

JEFF PRINCE | SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH Joel Bird powerlifts during a meet in 2022.

> "I've been trying to learn a bit on how to let things end...Being a senior, you don't want it to end."

**JOEL BIRD**Senior at SHS

"I haven't been in Springtown all my life, but high school definitely brought me closer to pretty much everyone that I know... I've met my hope-to-be lifetime friends here. I'm really excited to see what the future holds for me."

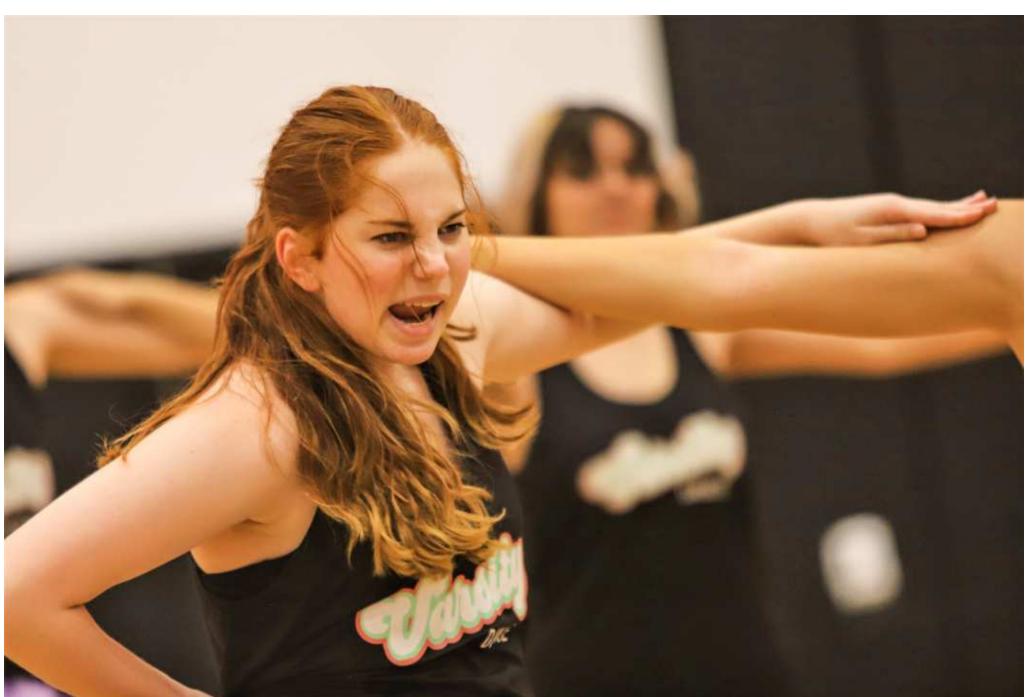
# HAILEY HUGHES

Senior at SHS

# **GAME FACES**

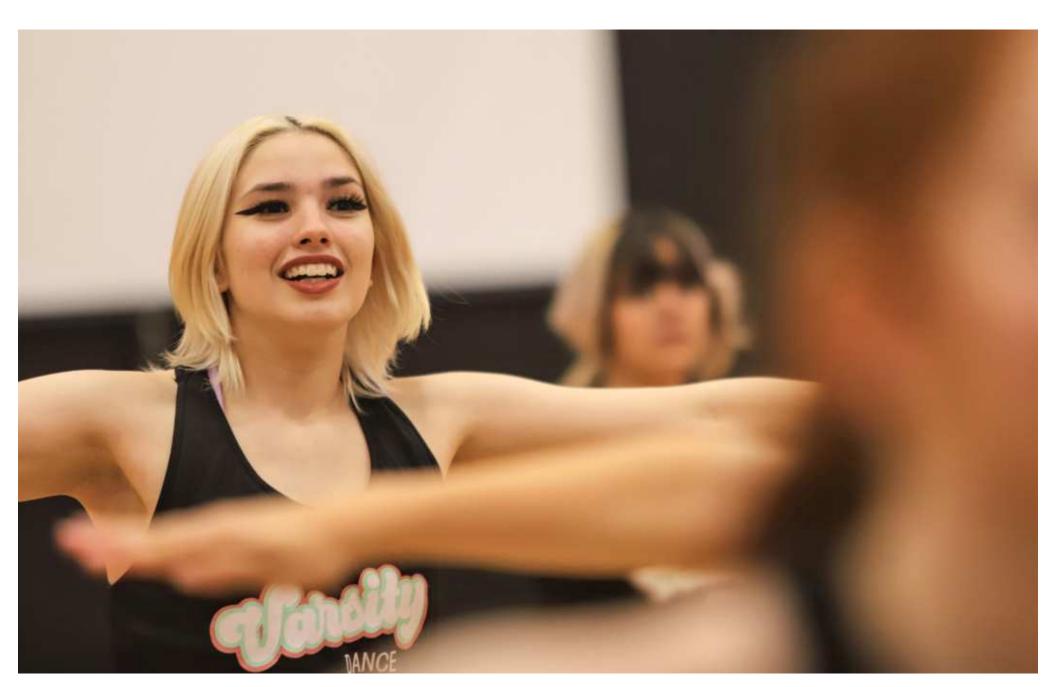
# Springtown Showstoppers

Says goodbye to their recent graduates and wish them good luck in their future endeavors.



JEFF PRINCE | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Graduating senior Molly Worthington



JEFF PRINCE | THE SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

Phone 817-444-2533

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Big Barn Sale

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Huge yard/estate sales. Community sale. June 2,3 and 4. Eagle Mountion View estates/ addition. Off of Sandy Beach Road. Opens 8 am June 2. 160 Rhoades St, Azle.

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

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for the supervision of all

Start \$9.00/hr with quick

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advancement possible. Call

paid to sleep, and have a full-

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**Help Wanted** 

039

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#### 039 **Help Wanted**

The non-profit rural Community Water Supply Corporation near Azle Briar, Texas is seeking a General Manager to lead, motivate, manage and supervise the corporation. Please email a

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**Azle News** Springtown Epigraph

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Deadline: 1:00 PM FRIDAY

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039 **Help Wanted** 



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

## Porter/Make-Ready Associate

Seeking to hire a Porter/Make-Ready Associate for our growing team!

Duties include, but are not limited to cleaning vehicles, running errands, test driving vehicles, receiving, arranging and maintaining the appearance of vehicles and ensuring the orderliness of the lot.

Pay is based on experience. Paid Holidays, Vacation, & Training

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Manage the group benefits program [health; dental; life; S/L disb.; w/comp; and more] by providing support to employees and external sources and ensure accuracy in benefits administration and reporting. Effectively maintain data in the HR database adhering to company policy and legal compliance. M-F/8AM-5PM

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040 Home Improvement

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068

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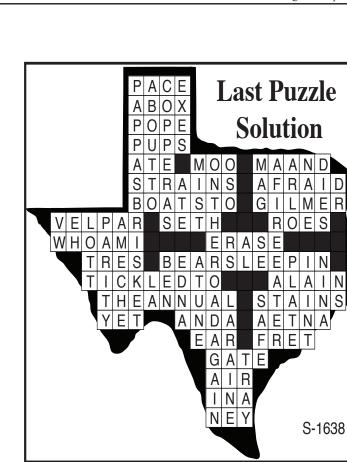
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cooked in a pot

33 fish-eating duck

Romans

