

Thursday, April 29, 2021

# The Springtown Epigraph

## Springtown man killed by intoxicated driver

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Brandi Kay Love, 33, was arrested Friday, April 23 by Tarrant County Sheriff's Office for intoxication manslaughter following an accident that caused the death of another driver.

At approximately 9:22 p.m. on Thursday night, Tarrant County sheriff's deputies responded to a vehicle crash on FM 730 North at Reed Rd., north of Azle. The crash involved a Chevrolet pickup truck and a Toyota passenger car.

It is believed that Love was traveling northbound on FM 730 when she drove into oncoming traffic in an apparent attempt to pass an-

other vehicle. The truck struck the Toyota head-on in the southbound lanes.

Both drivers had to be extricated from the vehicles by emergency personnel. The driver of the Toyota, identified as Douglas Trotter, a 68-year-old Springtown man, was transported by air ambulance to Harris Hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

Love was transported to John Peter Smith Hospital after she was extracted from the pickup. She was treated for her injuries and released into the custody of Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. She was charged with intoxication manslaughter and bail was set at \$15,000.



Brandi Kay Love Photo courtesy of TCSO

Love has a previous conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Parker County.

## Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon



Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier interacts with guests at the Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon April 22. Authier was appointed as the new Parker County Sheriff March 12, taking the role after the loss of Sheriff Larry Fowler. During the luncheon, he shared information about his department and himself (including how to pronounce his name). Photo by Susan McFarland

## Reno residents concerned about Cardinal Road development

BY SUSAN MCFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

Several Reno residents voiced concerns during the Reno City Council meeting April 19 about the preliminary plat for Donna's Place, a development to be located on 78.6 acres at 625 N. Cardinal Road. The development would consist of 41 minimum 1-acre lots.

Resident concerns included potential water issues, flooding, drainage, erosion, traffic congestion and roadway integrity. Residents who own livestock voiced concerns about new people moving to the area who might not appreciate the noise of goats and cows.

Other issues voiced by speakers included the need for more fire and police personnel if more people move into the city, the new residents could be Californians, there could be vandalism and property taxes could increase.

Council members agreed with the developer's engineer to meet and discuss the water issues before the item comes back to council.

Council also approved the mayor to execute the North Central Texas Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. Parker County Fire Marshal Sean Hughes explained details of the program, which would allow Reno to receive free resources for things such as dump trucks, message

boards and barricades during the first 36 hours of an emergency situation. After the 36 hours, items could be negotiated for a longer period.

Other business included a discussion about rezoning FM 1542 from commercial to residential. One speaker told council that most people who live on that road do not realize they are living on property zoned commercial multi-use, which could lead to mixing commercial properties with residential, something he said most homeowners would not appreciate.

Council directed the city administrator to send the item to the Planning and Zoning Commission to start the rezoning process.

## Early voting numbers show low turnout for local elections

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
azlereporter@azlenews.net

Voter turnout for early voting shows a marked lack of enthusiasm for the electoral process in comparison to the November 3 election.

For Parker County voters, 492 had cast their ballots at Azle city hall during the first week of early voting. By Monday, that number had jumped to 639.

There are a total of 81,503 registered voters in Parker County. Only 3,662 had cast their votes during the early voting period April 19-27. Of that number, 622

voted in the Springtown Independent School District bond election, and 115 in the city of Reno.

The final chance to vote is on Election Day, May 1. The Springtown Senior Center will be open for voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Azle City Hall will also be open for Parker County voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may cast their ballots at any polling location within their county of residence.

More information and other voting locations can be found on the Parker County Elections website at [www.parkercountytx.com/118/elections](http://www.parkercountytx.com/118/elections).



## Mandi Thomas Memorial Benefit a success

BY SUSAN MCFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

More than \$15,000 was raised April 24 during the Mandi Thomas Memorial Benefit, with proceeds going to the Springtown Education Foundation (SEF).

Thomas, originally from Pennsylvania, was a Springtown resident and much loved Spanish teacher at Springtown High School. She was also an accomplished horse trainer and barrel racer and taught riding to many local students.

Thomas passed away unexpectedly in December from an undiagnosed brain aneurysm. She was 32.

A memorial scholarship in her name was created to honor her legacy as a teacher who loved her stu-



Ellie Hunter on Classic Sunray during the Mandi Thomas Memorial Benefit.

Photos captured by Springtown resident and barrel racing photographer Whitney Shoop of Shoop Shots Photography

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SEE MANDI THOMAS, PAGE 2A.



**VOTE  
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CITY OF RENO**

**VOTE SAT. MAY 1**

**Early Voting April 19-April 27**

Political ad paid for by Roen Cox

**MANDI THOMAS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A.

dents - both in and out of the saddle. The scholarship will be awarded to a Springtown Independent School District student through the SEF.

Organizer Suzanne Hunter said the benefit will become an annual event with a recurring scholarship.

Hunter met Thomas when her daughter Ellie Hunter started taking lessons with Thomas in 2014.

Since then, Hunter said Thomas became more than just a trainer and was "a very close friend to our family."

"We decided to host a memorial barrel race, doing what she loved best - to raise funds. My goal was to have 100 riders and hoped to raise \$5,000," Hunter said.

That goal was surpassed by thousands.

Hunter said there were 240 entries, including Thomas' mom Laura Lee Thomas, who came down from Pennsylvania to enter the race herself.

"Mandi's youngest riding students had a leadline class, and some of her other students entered the main race," Hunter said. "We had a silent auction, a raffle and a bake sale. We raised over \$15,000, bringing the total scholarship fund to over \$20,000."

Originally planned to be held at Thomas' favorite local arena, Salt Creek, the event was moved because of inclement weather.

"Thankfully Northcrest Equestrian Center in Cleburne opened their doors



Mandi Thomas' mom Laura Lee Thomas competes at her daughter's memorial benefit.

Photos captured by Springtown resident and barrel racing photographer Whitney Shoop of Shoop Shots Photography

for us and Tammy Kidd from Wild West Promotions produced the race. We had a silent auction with over 70 items, many donated from local families and businesses," Hunter said. "From gift cards and gift baskets to a full orthodontic treatment from one of the event sponsors, Smile Doctors. The high School Ag mechanics students donated an amazing fire pit/grill amongst other items.

"Thanks to many local

sponsors we were able to present many awards, including buckles and trophy halters. A family friend provided a memorial buckle to be presented to her mom," Hunter said.

Ellie Hunter was one of Thomas' original riding students. She rode under her tuition for more than six years since she was a beginner rider at age 8. The 14-year-old raced in one of Thomas' saddles that Thomas' mom had given to

her and placed second in the Youth 2D class, winning a trophy halter on her horse Dozer, Hunter said.

"We are hoping to make this an annual race to continue supporting local students, and doing what Mandi loved best," Hunter said. "One of her favorite sayings to her students was "canta y no llores" from a song by Cielito Lindo, which means 'sing and do not cry.' We will continue to sing in her memory!"



Mandi Thomas with her dog Reggie. Thomas, a teacher at Springtown High School, passed away unexpectedly in December from an undiagnosed brain aneurysm at age 32.



Ellie Hunter (l) with Mandi Thomas' mom Laura Lee Thomas, showing the memorial buckle that was presented to Laura Lee Thomas.

Photo courtesy Suzanne Hunter

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# SMS choir sweeps UIL competition



Springtown Middle School treble choir.

Photos courtesy Springtown Middle School



Springtown Middle School tenor bass choir.

Photos courtesy Springtown Middle School

## Social Distanc-Sing!

BY SUSAN MCFARLAND  
sptreporter@azlenews.net

The Springtown Middle School treble and tenor-bass choirs earned a sweepstakes earlier this month during the University Interscholastic League competition.

To earn the sweep, the choirs received Superior ratings in Concert

and Sight-Reading performances. SMS Choir Director Aubyn Wood said each group submitted a digital program of three pieces and sight-read an entire song.

“This has been a very challenging year and we are so proud of all the hard work you have done to overcome our obstacles,” Wood said.

## Spotlight on BUSINESS



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## Vintage Vaquera

A passion for fashion

Chelsea Wagner has pursued her passion for the fashion retail industry, and now she is the owner of Vintage Vaquera, a new boutique shop for Texas fashion and home décor in Springtown.

“We specialize in bringing the latest trends in fashion to our small town boutique.”

From purses and jewelry, shirts, dresses, and jeans, furniture and home décor, you are sure to find the perfect fit for your wardrobe and your home.

They carry women's clothing sizes small to 3X. Jewelry starts at just \$5.99.

Chelsea worked in the retail industry for 10 years, and she uses her knowledge and experience to provide quality western-inspired clothing with a modern touch to her shop.

“I handpick everything we sell to ensure that we provide quality and stylish clothing and accessories.”

Whether you're looking for stylish casual tops that can transition from work to date night, or funky graphic tees, Vintage Vaquera offers the variety you can only find at a small boutique shop.

Find the perfect accessories to complete your outfits! Here you will find unique necklaces, bracelets and earrings that will sass and class up any outfit.

Vintage Vaquera is located at 426 E Hwy. 199 in Springtown, in the same shopping center as Higginbotham's. They are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If you have any questions, give them a call at 682-615-7832. You can also shop online at <https://shopvintagevaquera.com/>.

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# Obituaries

## Michael Starkey

1953- 2021

Michael Anthony Starkey passed away Monday, April 26, 2021.

Visitation is from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Biggers Funeral Home.

Michael was born June 17, 1953 in Fort Worth to William and Gertrude Starkey. He proudly served his country in the US Navy. Michael married his wife, Marieta on August 4, 1986 in Springtown. He enjoyed fishing, reading western books, and watching western movies. He was a diehard Rangers fan and loves his Cowboys. Michael also loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Marieta Dake Starkey; children; Micchell Short and husband, Wendell, Trac-



ey Humphries, Margaret Gulbrandsen and husband, Shane, Michael Smith, and Jeffrey Starkey and wife, Tay; 12 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; brothers, William Starkey and wife, Caren, David Starkey and wife, Luann, and Jack Starkey.

*The Springtown Epigraph  
April 29, 2021 Edition*

## Kevin Campbell

1977- 2021

Kevin Dwayne Campbell, 43, of Weatherford, Texas, promoted to be with Jesus on April 23, 2021. Kevin loved his family dearly, loved life and loved hunting. A heart condition may have taken him from this earth, but his heart of gold and smile leave a legacy like none other.

Kevin was born August 15, 1977, the son of Dan and Diann Campbell. He grew up in Springtown, Texas, where he first met his soulmate, Amanda LeeAnn Lawyer, in the 6th grade. Amanda moved away, but they met again and started dating at age 19. Kevin and Amanda were married August 26, 2000. To this union, they were blessed with a son, Dylan Kaine Campbell on January 20, 2002 and a daughter, Chloe Raine Campbell, December 12, 2006. Kevin was a devoted husband, father and son; a true family man.

Kevin followed in the family trade, working in the electrical field for over 25 years. He was a Journeyman Electrician and worked as a Job Foremen with MSF Electric. If he was not at work, or with family, you would likely find him dressed in camo in a deer stand. He loved to hunt and shared this passion with his wife, son, daughter and friends. His favorite scripture was Genesis 27:3. Now then, get your equipment – your quiver and bow – and go out to the open country to hunt wild game for me.

In true Campbell fashion he loved deeply, never met a stranger, had a magnetic personality and was full of life and energy. Although his time on this earth was not near long enough, we find comfort in knowing we can see him again in Heaven.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Amanda Campbell, son, Dylan Campbell and daughter, Chloe Campbell, of Weatherford, Texas; his



parents, Daniel and Rebecca Diann (Eubanks) Campbell of Bryson, Texas; his brother, Kenneth (and spouse, Alexa) Campbell of Florence, Alabama; his sister, Kristina (and spouse Clinton) Lawyer of Bryson, Texas; father-in-law, Buck Herron of Weatherford, Texas; mother-in-law, Kathy Lawyer of Weatherford, Texas; sister-in-law, Amy (and spouse, Dennis) Stapleton of Fort Worth, Texas; sister-in-law, Shawna Lawyer of Coppell, Texas; brother-in-law, Tony (and spouse, Penni) Lawyer of Weatherford, Texas; and numerous other family and friends.

Kevin was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Reverend Donald and Clea (Smith) Eubanks; his paternal grandmother Margaret (Campbell) Piland; and brother-in-law, Cody Lawyer.

The family visitation will be Friday, April 30, 2021, from 5 to 7 pm at Cool Assembly of God Church, located at US Hwy 180 and FM 113 in Cool, Texas. The funeral service will also be at Cool Assembly of God Church, Saturday, May 1, at 1 pm with graveside services following at Tin Top Cemetery on Old Tin Top Road, Weatherford, Texas, under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home of Granbury, Texas.

A GoFundMe Account has been established to assist the family.

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April 29, 2021 Edition*

## Local Food Pantries

### FOOD PANTRIES OPEN DAILY:

- **Community Caring Center**  
317 Commerce St. Mon, Tues, Weds and Fri 9-11:30 a.m. and Thurs 4 - 6:30 p.m.
- **Our House** (Old Reno Hardware)  
1530 East Reno Road Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Positive Impact Ministries**  
1300 Liberty School Rd., Pelican Bay meals and food boxes Weds and Sat 4 p.m.
- **Blessing Boxes**  
(Take what you need, leave what you can)
- One Azle Building at 412 Commerce Street, Azle
- First Baptist Church of Castle Hills at 401 Beverly Road, Azle
- Neal Legal at 1005 SE Parkway, Azle
- Brace Chiropractic at 237 W. Main Street, Azle
- Azle Christian Church at 117 Church Street, Azle
- The Church at Azle 1801 S. Stewart Street, Azle
- Café 10:31 404 Main Street, Azle
- La Junta Fire Department  
4480 E. Hwy 199, Springtown
- Positive Impact Ministries  
1300 Liberty School Road, Pelican Bay
- Community Ministry at Nine Mile  
7240 Nine Mile Bridge Road, Fort Worth
- Dan's Smokehouse  
2521 Harwell Road, Weatherford
- Alvin Ord's Sandwich Shop at  
400A E. Hwy 199, Springtown
- Rayl Park 3402 Pueblo Trail, Lake Worth

### UPCOMING FOOD PANTRIES

- **Tuesday, May 4**  
Life & Liberty  
133 E. Main Street, Azle  
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- **Tuesday, May 4**  
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## Help is not a four-letter word.

**D**o you know what three-word phrase is one of the hardest in the English language to say out loud?

“I need help.”  
I’m not talking about seeking information or recommendations. I see those requests all the time.

“Hey, anybody know a good, reliable, cheap A/C repair company?”

I’m talking about admitting that I am over my head. I’m lonely. I’m hurting. I’m at my wit’s end. I don’t know if I can continue. This is more than I can handle.

A friend recently polled his Facebook connections with this query:

True confessions. Which is harder for you to say?

I’m sorry.  
I need help.  
I love you.  
One hundred sixty-eight people

responded to his poll. Of those responses, one hundred forty (including yours truly) responded B.

That’s a whopping 83 percent! Now, I understand that this is not scientific research, but even anecdotal research at 83 percent is significant and we can draw some informed conclusions.

I would like to be able to say that I’m surprised by those results, but I’m not.

What I am is saddened that my suspicions were confirmed.

I think we have culturally created people who know how to be independently polite while resisting the necessary vulnerability that is required to create authentic expressions of community.

We value independence above interdependence because we are afraid of being perceived as dependent.

Another unscientific observation is that the most common answer to an expressed need is “You’ve got



### 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).*

this!”  
We are—in general—much more comfortable telling people “I’m sorry you are struggling” and “I love you” than we are affirming their courage to admit that they are

drowning and offer them a lifeline.

And the inconvenient and uncomfortable truth is that our independence and neglect of a “community” ethic means that we reinforce the idea that admitting our need is a sign of weakness or neediness.

Therefore, in times of legitimate need of mutually beneficial connections, our fear of being seen as weak or needy can lead us to self-isolate and go deeper into the pit of quiet, lonely, desperation.

There is a huge difference between an intentional season of purposeful solitude with God and an extended season of lonely isolation.

One is life giving; the other steals our vitality.

Author and counselor Neil Anderson says, “Temptation is greatest when hunger, fatigue, and loneliness are acute.”

In other words, we are more

likely to engage in activities that are personally harmful when we are physically and relationally depleted.

Genesis 2:18 says, “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’”

This is not simply a description of the creation account, but it is a statement of an eternal principle: We are hard-wired for relationship.

In the New Testament, the phrase “one another” appears more than 140 times. Sometimes it is descriptive—this is what happened. Sometimes it is prescriptive—this is what should happen.

One way to live into the amazing life that God intends for us is to realize that the word “help” has four letters, but it is not a “four-letter” word (that’s a slang term for cussin’).

We need each other—not just in times of crisis, but every day.

Be amazing today, my friend.

## Two-legged and four-legged pardners

**W**e all have pardners in life. Being involved in Agriculture and having pardners is surely not mandatory and not even essential, but real helpful. Many people are probably thinking financial partner, but that is not what I’m really talking about, albeit they are a very important partner.

And no, I didn’t misspell partner/pardner. Various dictionaries define partner as a business associate or friendship with pardner being defined more along the line of friend, chum, buddy, etc. Pardners are my topic today.

In my semi backwoods upbringing a pardner was more about loyalty, the friend who would be there with you until the job was done, the one who would wade the mud with you getting your truck pulled out of a mudhole and the ones who would help you haul full beehives 25 miles late at night; thanks Rod and Clinton.

The lifetime pardner who advises on life and tractor problems; thanks Donald. The lifelong friend who, when you have cows on a

place nine miles from your house calls you on a Sunday evening from 120 miles away to tell you he’s heard through the grapevine that you have cows out.

For those of you who have not experienced this, there are two sentences that will put a knot in your gut if you have livestock. They are (1) “you have cows out” meaning your cows have gotten through the fence and are on somebody else’s place, and (2) you have cows out and they are on the road. The latter of those two will put a double knot in your gut. That’s a pardner; thanks Bill!

Another is a newer friend who calls and says I’ve got your cows hemmed up in my hay patch, I’ll keep them there until you get here. He helps in getting your cows back in and then stays and helps you fix fence late on a Sunday night. This is a pardner; thanks Richard!

And another set of pardners who call and say “hey we had a cow get in with your cows, we got her out and fixed the fence” or “hey you had a couple of cows get onto our place, we put them back in and fixed the fence”. These are pardners; thanks Ted and Ginger!

Now I know it sounds like we have



### AG 101 By Jack DeShazo

*Jack DeShazo has decades of experience in the agriculture field.*

cows constantly out, but if you’re going to have livestock it happens and usually in cycles, that’s just part of it. These pardners can be lifelong friends who you have been together with through thick and thin on many occasions for many years along with their relatives, friends who you have known only for a few years or someone who just stopped to help you out; thanks! I can’t leave out the pardners who feed and take care of our livestock and pets while we are on the road. And of course I’m not going to leave out our most important partners, our spouses, kids and

other family members; thanks y’all!

Let’s visit about a different group of Agricultural pardners, the four-legged ones.

Let’s first mention horses, now I’m not a cowboy, but my Dad was and I do know several who make a living horseback. Without a good horse they couldn’t get their jobs done. They use horses for gathering and working cattle, checking fences, riding the pens at sale barns and feedlots, and of course the rodeo event horses, horse shows and just plain recreational horses. I am envious of the people who make their living horseback.

Let’s now consider our other four-legged pardners, the dog. An amazing creature that God has presented us with. Always trying to please us, they are happiest when they have made us happy along plus their forgiveness for us when we have messed up. The icing on the cake with “man’s best friend” is they’ll work for and with us.

Our hunting pardners, the Pointers, Brittneys, Labs, etc. Our livestock working pardners, the Heelers, Shepherds, Border Collies, Curs, Catahoulas, etc. All dogs

have a job to do.

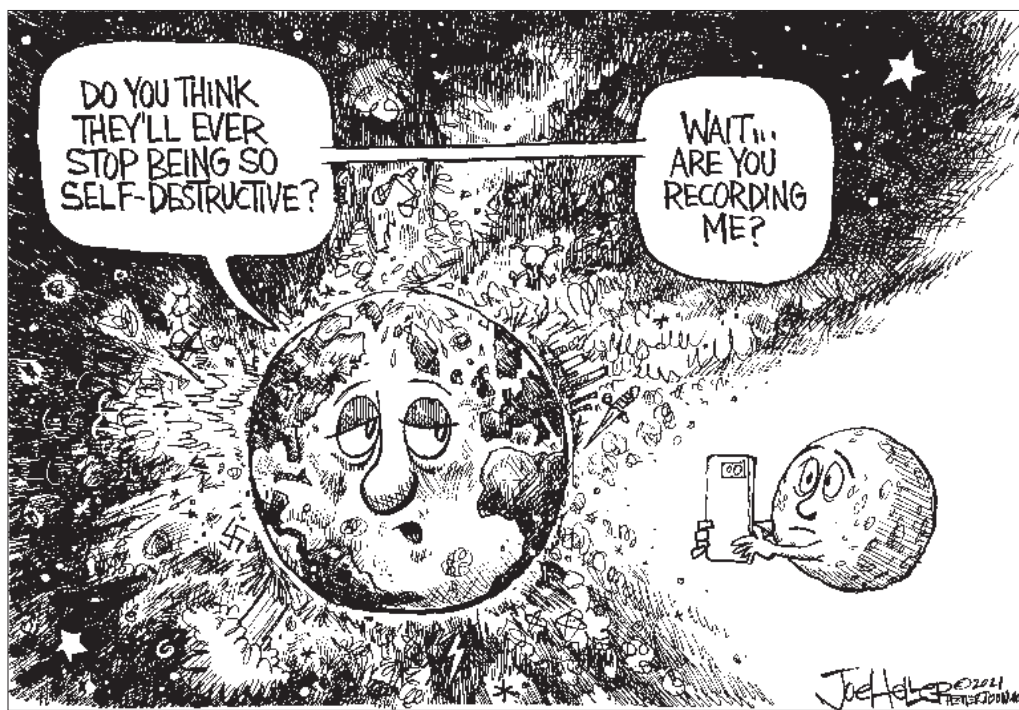
We had a big red dog, Tom John who was a mutt, but when the kids were practicing baseball he was ready, he tried to protect us from ignited fireworks and more especially wherever the kids were, whether roaming the pasture, woods, or wherever, he was with them; that was his job.

Thinking back and calling the names of all the horses and dogs that we’ve had over the years makes me realize what great pardners they were. All of the way from Bob, Gurl, Nick, Babe, and Snoop up through Pudge, Gust, Pink and Mae; thanks y’all for your partnership!

My Mom used to say that if you make it through life with at least as many good solid friends as you have fingers on your hand you’ve done well. I think the same is true for good horses and good dogs, I’ve been blessed!!

Also, I can’t mention our four-legged pardners without expressing thanks to Dr. Fields, Dr. Averhoff, and Dr. Hunter for pardnering up with us in taking care of them over the years.

‘til next week !



<p><b>The Springtown Epigraph</b></p> <p>TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER 2021</p>	<p>Publisher ..... Kim Ware Editor ..... Quinton Lilley Director of operations ..... Johnna Bridges Classified/Circulation manager ..... Terry Thomas Bookkeeper ..... Tonya McDowell Sales ..... Tootie Hall Reporter ..... Susan McFarland Reporter ..... Jessica McKinney Design, graphics ..... Jennifer Harrison</p>	<h3>Letters to the Editor policy</h3> <p>Letters to the editor are welcomed, but are printed on a space-available basis and may be edited for space or style requirements. Letters must be signed and include an address and the writer’s phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should be brief (300 words or less), typewritten or emailed. Letters endorsing political candidates, third-party letters, and letters that have appeared in other newspapers will not be published. Writers are limited to two letters monthly. The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Monday.</p> <p>Mail letters to: Springtown Epigraph, P.O. Box 557, Springtown, TX 76082 Email letters to: <a href="mailto:editor@azlenews.net">editor@azlenews.net</a></p>	<p>109 East First Street P.O. Box 557 Springtown, TX 76082 Phone: 817-220-7217</p> <p><b>STAY CONNECTED ONLINE</b> <a href="https://www.springtown-epigraph.net">@SpringtownEpi</a> <a href="http://www.springtown-epigraph.net">www.springtown-epigraph.net</a></p>
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## SHS softball clinches final playoff spot with huge win at No. 10 Argyle

BY QUINTON LILLEY  
editor@azlenews.net

There's a familiar saying that goes "what a difference a game makes" and that phrase couldn't have been more true to the Springtown softball team this past week.

After being overwhelmed by No. 10 Argyle last Tuesday night losing 17-1, the Lady Porcupines quickly regrouped and earned their biggest win of the season on Saturday. Using some strong defense and timely hitting SHS handed the Lady Eagles just their second loss of the District 7-4A season and are now firmly in the playoffs this coming weekend.

Springtown coach Scott Mann said he's been impressed by his team's resolve and their ability to overcome challenges.

"This team has overcome so much and I couldn't be more proud of how we played

in our season finale at Argyle. After what we went through in district and especially Saturday vs Argyle, I know these girls earned a spot in the playoffs and are prepared for what comes next."

SHS beat Argyle in a grueling defensive game 1-0. While earning a win over Argyle who is now 19-5-2 overall is impressive, the way the Lady Pines defense held them scoreless was the key to victory.

Argyle earned just two hits on the day thanks mostly to some quality pitching from Sara Crews and good fielding behind her.

Springtown did have seven hits in the contest but the one that mattered most came from senior shortstop Camryn Slocum as she had arguably the biggest hit of the year in the top of the sixth inning when she homered to center field when the game was still tied at 0-0.



Springtown High shortstop Camryn Slocum (left) extends for a ball as Jayden Grubis looks on at a recent District 7-4A home game.

Photo by Quinton Lilley



Springtown High softball coach Scott Mann (right) gives instruction between innings at a recent District 7-4A home game.

Photo by Quinton Lilley

Argyle had two more innings to work with but was unable to get a rally going as they fell in a surprise upset.

Argyle did win the district title but a win of that magnitude should help SHS as they move their focus toward the post-season.

With the win, SHS locked up the fourth and final playoff spot from District 7-4A.

When asked what his team has to do to be successful in the first round of the playoffs Mann said, "For us, we just have to focus on what we do. We are a much better team when we just trust ourselves and our abilities. We will continue focusing on our hitting and fielding moving forward."

SHS has had its fair share of up and down moments this year, but Mann said he's not overly concerned that those issues will show up again.

"I feel like we had some ups and downs along the way but this district wasn't a slouch by any means. You had to bring

it each time out. We struggled for a little bit with that but started to find it towards the back end of district. That alone gives us confidence that we're improving and playing better."

SHS will now face another tall task as they face Benbrook High in a best-of-three game series this weekend.

The Lady Cougars come into the series on a 10-game winning streak after dominating District 8-4A.

Benbrook went 16-12-1 overall but had a 10-0 mark in district play.

Games are currently slated to be held Friday (April 30) at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at noon. If a third game is needed it will take place at 2 p.m. All three games will be held at Ponder High School.

Games times may change between press time and first pitch, please check Springtown softball's social pages for game time changes because of rain.

## Lady Porcupines' track & field season ends at UIL Regional Finals

BY QUINTON LILLEY  
editor@azlenews.net

The 2021 season was a strong one for the Springtown High track & field team as they qualified for eight events at the UIL Region I Track and Field Championships.

However, none of SHS' athletes were able to advance to the state championship meet as their top placement in a single event was third place.

Teagan Burdick who has been stellar in jump events this year qualified for the girls' high jump regionals after coming in second place at the Area meet two weeks ago.

Burdick was unable to repeat that performance this past weekend and came in third with her best jump measuring 5-00.

In that same event, Brinklee Dauenhauer finished 12th with her best jump measuring 4-08.

Dauenhauer also competed in the long jump placing 10th with her best leap measuring 15-07.75.

Madysen Fry came in 12th with her best jump measuring 15-01.75. Dauenhauer was

also in the triple jump finals as she came in 12th with her best leap measuring 33-03.50.

In the running events, SHS was led by Alyna Vasquez as she came in 14th in the girls' 800-meter run.

SHS had two relay teams qualify for regionals as Britney Tyree, Dauenhauer, Skyler Tyree, and Fry ran in the 4x100-meter relay finishing 11 in the prelims with a time of 51.46.

The relay team of Megan Hutchison, Sara Crews, Britney Tyree, and Gabby Reynolds competed in the 4x400-meter relay and finished in 10th with a time of 4:18.99.

Fry also ran in the 200-meter dash coming in 15th in the prelims with a time of 28.43.

While boys high jumper William Gleason did qualify to compete, he was unavailable last weekend as he also plays on the SHS baseball team.

With the final results of the regional meet, SHS' season comes to an end and the Porcupines will now look forward to next year as they again try to make it to state.



Springtown High's Brinklee Dauenhauer qualified for four events at this year's UIL Region I Track & Field Championships. Here she is pictured during one of her triple jump attempts during the Area meet.

Photo by Quinton Lilley



# Porcupines drop to 3rd in 7-4A after narrow losses to No. 10 Argyle and Decatur

BY QUINTON LILLEY  
editor@azlenews.net

The last three games have been a difficult pill to swallow for the Springtown baseball team as the team dropped from a tie for first place in District 7-4A to third place.

After a blowout loss last Tuesday (April 20) against No. 10 Argyle, SHS had a chance to get their revenge on the road Friday night but unfortunately, SHS came up short losing 3-0.

Springtown returned to the field Monday for senior night but was unable to give the fans a win in their final regular-season home, game losing 6-5 to Decatur.

On Friday, the game was mostly a defensive battle, but the Porcupines were unable to get their bats going when they needed to.

Argyle scored two runs in the third and another in the fourth inning as SHS was un-

able to threaten the lead in the final three innings.

Collectively SHS had just two hits on the night and committed four fielding errors.

Springtown then played Decatur at home on Monday night in what turned out to be a fairly even matchup.

SHS struck first in the second inning with two runs thanks to a single from Tristian Pressley that brought in Seth Lopez and Scout Richards.

However, Decatur responded quickly with two runs of their own in the top of the third frame to tie things back up at 2-2.

Decatur then stole the game's momentum with a three-run fourth inning giving them a 5-2 advantage.

SHS added a run in the bottom of the fourth after Richards stole home plate.

Both teams went scoreless in the fifth and sixth innings before Decatur added another



Springtown High shortstop William Gleason (left) reeling in a throw from catcher Cade Jordan as Tristian Pressley (right) looks on.

Photo by Quinton Lilley



Springtown High first baseman Aiden Vickers (right) fields a ground ball during a recent district home game last week.

Photo by Quinton Lilley

run in the seventh making it a 6-3 deficit.

Springtown mounted a comeback in the bottom of the seventh thanks to a scored run by Lockard and Pressley on a Gleason groundout.

But that's as close as they would get losing 6-5.

Pressley led the way with three hits and two RBIs, Christian Hernandez added two hits and Gleason had two RBIs.

Hernandez also pitched six full innings, allowing four hits, five runs, and five walks while striking out seven batters.

With the loss, SHS is now in third place in District 7-4A at 7-4 behind Decatur (8-3) and Argyle (11-1).

SHS won't have a chance to win the district title anymore but they still have a shot at the second seed from their district.

SHS will need to win this coming Friday night in Deca-

tur to do so, and if successful they'll be in a tie for second place.

At that point, both the Decatur coach, and Springtown coach Josh Ward will negotiate whether to play a one-game tie breaker, or simply flip a coin for the second and third seeds.

Springtown will now likely face either Fort Worth Diamond Hill-Jarvis or Western Hills in the first round of the playoffs.

The Porcupines have not played either Diamond Hill-Jarvis or Western Hills this season. Diamond Hill-Jarvis

Each round is a best-of-three game series. The first round is expected to be completed by May 7.

Game times, opponent, and game location will be announced in next week's article.

There's a strong likelihood that SHS' playoff series will be at a neutral site

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- 1 newspaper: "Hood County"
- 5 "on an keel"
- 6 TXism: "hook"
- 7 what Texans do best
- 8 what a TX soldier was called in 1861
- 9 TX-filmed "Middle Crazy" (1980)
- 12 TX Myriads once had "Sack" food stores
- 17 TXism: "mad as snake"
- 19 TX Freddy Fender hit: "Living"
- 21 inhabitants of "The Morman State"
- 22 talked tediously
- 23 "Goat Gland" man Brinkley lived in Del Rio
- 28 first call sign for Austin's KAMX
- 29 they're "upon you" in Texas
- 30 TXism: "opened worms"
- 31 TX-filmed "The of Heaven"
- 35 lessen
- 36 near Fort Davis: "McDonald"
- 42 TXism: "fits like fish"
- 44 TX Blue Bell ice
- 46 Conway & Loretta's
- Hang Up the Phone"

**DOWN**

- 1 seat of Comal County (2 wds.)
- 2 this Adam was an Astro SS (2001-07)
- 3 TXism for "drink" (3 wds.)
- 4 "hit a"
- 9 do it now! (abbr.)
- 10 TXism: "merry-go-round"
- 11 the company that TX Perot started
- 12 TXism: "it in the bud"
- 13 Dallas mule-drawn mass transit in 1873
- 14 TX Meat Loaf: Marvin Lee
- 15 " of confidence"
- 16 female sheep
- 18 TX Dale Evans' "San Antonio"
- 20 where Heisman winner TX Tim Brown played in college (abbr.)
- 23 elected county prosecutor (abbr.)
- 24 late TX Charley Pride's label
- 25 pokes
- 26 TXism: "covered like fur"
- 27 TXism: "Cadillac bumper"
- 32 neighbor state no. of LA
- 33 TX-born Carol Burnett had a long career on this med.
- 34 laugh word in a text message
- 36 Spanish "bear"
- 37 "fide (genuine)"
- 38 coat fasteners
- 39 TXism: "it's root hog (you're on your own) former TX air force base in Lubbock"
- 41 sweet tater
- 43 " Sietek State Forest"
- 45 TX Bob Willis' "Take Back to Tulsa"
- 47 imprecise
- 48 primary street in many Texas cities
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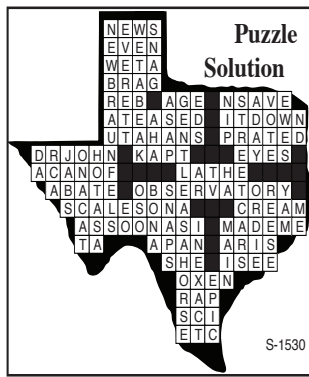
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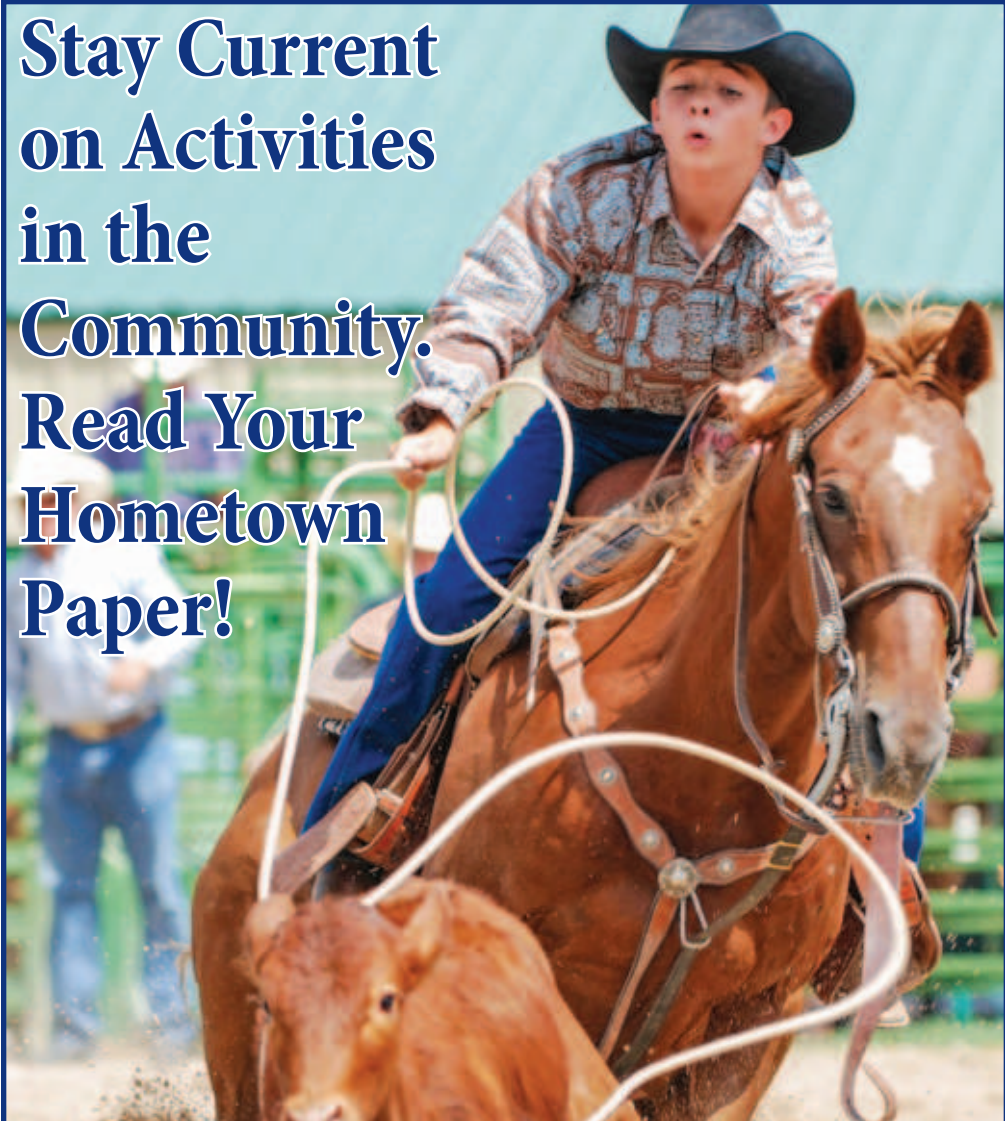
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# Stowaway

I guess you never know where life's going to take you.

"Stowaway" is written by Joe Penna and Ryan Morrison ("Arctic"); Penna also directs. This film is a familiar premise – a space crew encounters a life-or-death challenge – but focuses heavily on the characters and the emotion they experience through their ordeal.

It stars Toni Collette ("The Sixth Sense"), Anna Kendrick ("Pitch Perfect"), Daniel Dae Kim ("Hawaii 5-0"), and Shamier Anderson ("Wynonna Earp").

### THE PLOT

The crew of Hyperion spent three years preparing for a research mission to the colony on Mars.

Shortly after docking at the space station, a surprise drops out of the ceiling, throwing a major wrench in the plans for a successful voyage.

When an unexpected passenger joins the three-person

**Stowaway**

2021  
TV-MA  
1 hour 56 minutes  
Starring: Toni Collette, Anna Kendrick, Daniel Dae Kim, Shamier Anderson  
*Streaming on Netflix*

8

★★★★☆  
★★★★★

crew, they must find a way to survive, no matter the cost.

### WHAT WORKED

The cast works together so well. The story is told through expression and minimal dialog. The tension is built quietly, but you will feel it from hopeful start to the devastating end.

### WHAT DIDN'T WORK

The explanation for the extra passenger wasn't well developed and will leave

many in the audience questioning why there isn't more to the story.

### SUMMING IT UP

This is a great story, told through the character interactions with one another. There are few big moments of action, but the slowly building tension will keep you on the edge of your seat through to the end.

"Stowaway" is currently streaming on Netflix.



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