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A NAME IS A
VERY SPECIAL
THING
PAGE 9

Dripping Springs Century News

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School's Back: Smiles, safety take center stage in north Hays County



Kyleigh Sue Schlike, 4, was bright-eyed and eager to learn and make new friends as she started her very first day of pre-kindergarten at Dripping Springs Elementary School August 13. Have photos of your first-day students you want to share? E-mail them to dscenturynews@gmail.com for a photo spread in next week's paper: **PHOTO BY KEN VARGAS**

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

Tuesday marked the first day of school for thousands of students and their families in North Hays County. Students at Dripping Springs Elementary rose at dawn to prepare for the start of the new school year. For Kyleigh Sue Shlike, 4, a pre-K student, her beaming face captured the excitement of a child eager to learn and make new friends. Meanwhile, staff directed traffic and helped guide families from the chaotic parking lot into a semblance of order. Many students were excited to begin school, while others were still a bit sleepy or unsure of what to expect. Teachers and staff provided reassurance with welcoming smiles, signaling hope for a new chapter of learning and self-discovery.

Buses navigated the winding Hill Country roads to pick up students living in rural areas, safely delivering them to their first day of class in the new school year. As flashing school zones remind drivers that school is back in session, local law enforcement officers will also be visible to help the community ease into the change in traffic following the summer break. Hays County Constable Ron Hood, who oversees deputies in North Hays County, confirmed that his deputies will be more visible this week. "Our goal is to create a safe environment for students, staff, and parents. By maintaining a

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 10



San Marcos Academy lower school students sing for J-O-Y during their opening chapel. The school celebrates the start of their 117th school year: **PHOTO SAN MARCOS ACADEMY**

San Marcos Academy begins 117th school year

Staff Reports

San Marcos Academy students returned to campus on Wednesday, Aug. 7, marking the start of the 117th school year. Faculty and staff welcomed 144 lower school students (PreK 3–5th), 78 middle school students (6th–8th), and 112 upper school students (9th–12th) from Central Texas and around the world. Additional students are expected to arrive later this week. Of the 334 students who began classes Wednesday, 90 were new to the school. San Marcos Academy boasts a diverse population, with students from across Texas, the United States, and around the globe. In addition to serving day students from Cen-

tral Texas, the academy hosts boarding students from St. Kitts, South Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Congo, Nigeria, Austin, Houston, and the Texas Valley. Eighteen students from Dripping Springs and Driftwood are currently enrolled. "Our student body is made up of students from our Central Texas backyard, across our great state, and around the world. It is a privilege to welcome our returning students as well as our new families to campus and invite them to join us in abiding with Christ this year as they grow in their academic and spiritual life," said Dr. Brian Guenther, president of San Marcos Academy. "Every one of our students matters

SEE **ACADEMY** PAGE 10

Residents of Gateway Estates ask for more time amid eviction deadline

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

Residents of the Gateway Estates, a mobile home community just east of the Dripping Springs city limits, are seeking more time after receiving 60-day notices to vacate their



Residents of the Gateway Estates mobile home were told by their landlord, Gateway Development LLC, they have 60 days to move their homes and personal property. The residents are pleading for more time and are now in discussion with the owner, and city and county officials to find a solution to their housing crisis. **PHOTO BY KEN VARGAS**

SEE **GATEWAY** PAGE 10

Democratic Party nominates Calvert for District Clerk

Dalton Sweat
Publisher

The Hays County Democratic Party considered four individuals as potential nominations for the open Hays County District Clerk position. Amanda Calvert was nominated by the party. The election of a new district clerk was necessitated by the resignation of Avrey Anderson, who resigned from office amid a lawsuit seeking his removal. The suit accused him of

failing to fulfill the duties of the clerk's office, including issuing jury summons and subpoenas, sending protective orders to law enforcement and processing cases declined for prosecution, among others. "I feel like I have the experience and education to run for this position," Calvert said. "... I think what the office is probably in critical need of is strong leadership and experience with the county, and that's really my main aspect. Making sure we add an additional 10



Amanda Calvert: **PHOTO SUBMITTED**

years of criminal justice experience in the county into that office

SEE **CALVERT** PAGE 9

Republican party nominates Muzzy for District Clerk

John Pacheco
Contributor

After a special committee vetting process of candidates by the Hays County Republican Party, Philip Muzzy was selected as the Republican Party's candidate for Hays County District Clerk. The election of a new district clerk was necessitated by the resignation of Avrey Anderson, who resigned from office amid a lawsuit seeking his removal. The suit ac-

cused him of failing to fulfill the duties of the clerk's office, including issuing jury summons and subpoenas, sending protective orders to law enforcement and processing cases declined for prosecution, among others. "I think Hays County got the short end of the stick for the last two-years," Muzzy said. "I'm not one to shy away from a challenge. I believe that from day one, I can perform and do the job in this office. I can also create pro-



Philip Muzzy: **PHOTO BY JOHN PACHECO**

cesses, procedures and systems that would supplement the Dis-

SEE **MUZZY** PAGE 4



Five-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 99 Low: 76 Sunny	High: 101 Low: 76 Sunny	High: 102 Low: 77 Sunny	High: 103 Low: 77 Sunny	High: 103 Low: 76 Sunny

Obituaries

Norma S Perry



Norma Perry

We are gathered in loving memory of Mrs. Norma Sachtleben Perry, a cherished matriarch, friend, and beacon of warmth, who passed away peacefully on Au-

gust 1, 2024, in Austin, Texas.
Please read the full obituary at Harrellfuneralhomes.com
A Public visitation will be held 10:00AM - 11:00AM Monday August 12th at Harrell Funeral Homes of Dripping springs. A Funeral Service will begin at 11:00AM on August 12th following will be a burial at Fischer Cemetery in Fischer TX.
If you are unable to join in person you can join us virtually here at Harrellfuneralhomes.com



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Judge blocks Texas from releasing this year's school accountability ratings

The ruling marks the fifth consecutive year Texas families have not received a full picture of their schools' ratings, which are used to determine how they are performing.

Sneha Dey
The Texas Tribune

A Travis County judge has blocked the Texas Education Agency from releasing its ratings of the state's school districts and campuses for a second year in a row. Judge Karin Crump on Monday issued a temporary restraining order the same day Texas school districts filed their second lawsuit over the state's changes to the metrics used to measure their performance. Here's what you need to know:

The background: How Texas school districts should be graded for their performance has been a contention point since last year.

The ratings that public schools receive are in large part based on how their students do on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, an annual statewide standardized test that measures students' understanding of state-mandated core curriculum.

Texas legislators required the TEA to redesign the STAAR test by 2023 so it could be administered almost entirely online and wouldn't have so many multiple choice questions. Following the redesign, the TEA moved to use computers to grade students' written answers for

the first time this year.

The state also announced last year that schools would need to meet stricter benchmarks to get a good rating on its accountability system, which grades them on an A-F scale. High schools can now only get an A if 88% of their seniors enrolled in college, pursued a non-college career or entered the military. That benchmark used to be at 60%.

The state says stricter benchmarks will mean schools will be required to better prepare students for life after high school. And while Texas school districts agree they would like to raise the number of students who are ready for life after high school, they argue that the state is moving the needle too fast.

Why Texas schools are suing a second time: Texas school district leaders are questioning the validity of STAAR results since an automated system started scoring them this year. They say low scores on STAAR's reading section are because of the new grading tool, not necessarily because of students' skills or teachers' performance.

As a result, school district leaders contend, the STAAR test cannot be trusted to produce fair grades of school districts' performance. They say

TEA needs to get a third party to review the test.

"The STAAR test itself, the changes were fairly radical this time around," said Nick Maddox, an attorney representing the school districts. "The trend for all school districts is that scores have decreased fairly significantly. We believe that the issue is this test itself."

Why Texas schools sued the first time: The lawsuit filed Monday is the second legal battle over the A-F rating system.

Last fall, a Travis County judge temporarily blocked the release of the 2023-24 ratings, siding with more than 120 school districts who argued that the TEA had not given them enough notice before introducing stricter college readiness standards. The judge still has to make a final ruling on that lawsuit. The TEA has already said it plans to appeal the judge's decision.

Families have had five years without a complete set of school ratings. Texas schools and districts did not get ratings in 2020 or 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And in 2022, a struggling schools set to get a D or an F got extra relief: Senate Bill 1365 directed TEA to forgo official ratings for those schools, sparing them from

any sanctions and giving them time to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why the A-F accountability system matters: Each school district and school is graded on an A-F scale every year based on their students' standardized test scores and academic growth. The TEA also looks at their progress on closing racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps.

Parents rely on the rating system to see how successful school districts are in preparing their children and to decide where to enroll their kids.

For schools, a bad grade could mean big consequences. If a failing score leads to families leaving the district, that means less money for the school since state funding is tied to student attendance. Consecutive years with a failing grade could trigger a state takeover, like the one at Houston ISD.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/08/12/texas-school-accountability-ratings-lawsuit/>. The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).

DISD now accepting applications for community advisory committees

Staff Reports

The Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD) is now accepting applications from citizens to serve on its community advisory committees for the 2024-25 school year. Applications will be accepted through August 30.

The success of Dripping Springs ISD is dependent on its partnership and effective engagement between district administration and the community's stakeholders including parents, taxpayers, businesses and others. The advisory committees want stakeholders to provide valuable

insight, expertise, and feedback

for the district. The district believes that the community advisory committees strengthen the ties between the district, its campuses, and the community and enhance the core educational process. Committees provide input to the district on a variety of subjects, including district and campus planning, academic programming, student health initiatives, and long-range facilities and bond planning, among others.

Stakeholders may apply for as many committees as they like, however, participants are limited to serving on one community

advisory committee per year. A list of committees and their application forms for the 2024-25 school year are as follows:

- DSISD community advisory committees:
- Citizens' Bond Steering Committee
 - Budget Collaboration Committee
 - District Advisory Committee
 - Gifted & Talented Advisory Committee
 - Name Recommendation Committee
 - School Health Advisory Council
 - Special Education Parent Leadership Committee
 - Campus Advisory Committees
- Applications will be reviewed and stake-

holders will be notified no later than October 1 if they have been selected for a committee.

Applicants are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevant areas of expertise and credentials;
- Equitable campus and demographic representation;
- Prior or current membership on district-level or campus-level committees;
- Prior or current membership on community committees;
- Individual interest and rationale for applying to serve on the specified committee.

Information on each of DSISD's committees can be found at dsisdtx.us/committees.



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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Welcome to our first 'ART BEAT' column. We are grateful to the 'Century News' for highlighting art in Dripping Springs and offering the Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL) this community forum.

Dripping needs more art. Our kids need more art.

We all need more creativity, beauty, and thought-provoking art in our lives.

The Dripping Springs Art League initially offered a spring 2023 Gallery Tour which highlighted the tremendous artistic talent collected within Dripping Springs' seven local galleries. Most of the hundreds of attendees said they weren't even aware of galleries in Dripping before the tour. From these words and the energy and passion at a later summer community art forum, we formed our non-profit to raise awareness of the art scene and live our mission – Art | Community | Connection – every day.

ART:

Whether you are an experienced professional artist, a relatively new artist,



Family Art Saturday at Appamada School. PHOTO BY DRIPPING SPRINGS ART LEAGUE

or an aspiring creative, the DSAL offers opportunities to practice your talents and explore new directions. I encourage you to carve out time to explore the power of art in your life.

COMMUNITY:

For the DSAL, 'Community' is our middle name. Whether you are a painter, ceramic artist, sculptor, metal artist, fi-

ber artist, photographer, or jeweler, we have media-specific clubs and socials so local artists can meet their tribe and explore creative paths together.

We also believe art is vital for the general community – our home town! Art helps liven up a room, a wall, a coffee table, an outdoor garden, a building, a street, or a park. It taps our curiosity and ignites our community pride. Art

sparks our inner spirit and attracts visitors to our local establishments. Art complements the traditional while sparking the possibilities of the future. The DSAL is committed to being a vibrant creative catalyst for our community.

We stand tall on the shoulders of our magnificent volunteers and are grateful for the relationships we've forged with

the City and local establishments that support our mission.

CONNECTION:

For those artists who wish to explore opportunities to share the stories and passion behind their art, to display their talent in galleries and businesses, and to sell their creations to art lovers, we welcome you. It is a thrill to see our artists beam with pride celebrating their art displayed at the Chamber, Sunflower Bank, and Ally Medical. It's amazing to see artists setup booths at local art markets for the first time and sell their art to the spellbound public. DSAL supports these ventures with our Business of Art series, Market Mentoring Meetings, and display and market events throughout the community.

Join us at Songwriters Festival this fall and stroll amongst the Stars of Dripping Springs this winter. Participate in our 2025 West of Weird Studio tour and find your tribe through our clubs and socials. Welcome to the DSAL, your hub for art in Dripping!

This article is by the Dripping Springs Art League is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting the art community in Dripping Springs and surrounding area. For more information about the league, visit artindripping.com



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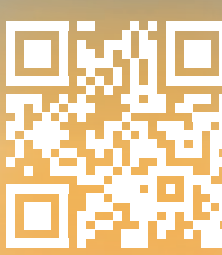
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Capital Highlights

Pandemic relief funds for schools about to end



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Texas public schools received more than \$19 billion in pandemic relief funds over the last four years, but that pipeline of cash will largely end on Sept. 30, The Texas Tribune reported.

That means many Texas schools already struggling with budget deficits will begin the school year with even more serious deficits, especially since the Texas Legislature has not increased base per-student pay since 2019 — a year before the pandemic began.

Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief package in 2020 to help schools deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused enrollment declines, teachers exiting the profession and falling test scores. That funding is about to end, with essentially nothing to take its place for many school districts already at the

maximum allowed property tax rate.

“It’s not about making up ESSER, because we all knew that was one-time funding,” said La Joya ISD Superintendent Marcey Sorensen. “I just would ask, without getting political whatsoever, that everybody just look in the mirror and say, OK, if we really haven’t provided additional funding since 2019, maybe it’s time that we just give school districts a little bit more of what they need, knowing that kids have different needs now.”

A recent survey conducted by the Texas Association of School Business Officials concluded that out of 313 school districts across the state, nearly 80% reported deficit budgets or a lack of resources as one of their top challenges.

ABBOTT ORDERS HOSPITALS TO REPORT IMMIGRANT CARE DATA

All Texas hospitals enrolled in Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program have been ordered by Gov. Greg Abbott to report costs incurred by treating undocumented immigrants, the Austin American-Statesman reported. In a news release out-

lining his executive order, Abbott blamed the Biden administration’s border security policies for health care costs related to those immigrants.

“Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants,” Abbott said.

Some Democratic lawmakers criticized the order.

State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Austin, posted on X: “Texas has the HIGHEST uninsured healthcare in the nation. Texas has the WORST mental health care in the nation. Texas has one of the worst (mortality) and infant mortality rates in America. But these are the Republicans priorities.”

FIVE MORE COUNTIES ADDED TO DISASTER LIST

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, five more Texas counties have been added to the federal disaster list, the governor’s office announced.

The counties of Austin, Bowie, Shelby, Trinity and Waller have been added to the list, which already included Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Mont-

gomery, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker and Wharton counties.

Texans can apply for FEMA disaster assistance online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

Carbon monoxide poisonings spike in wake of storm

Carbon monoxide poisonings rose dramatically in the wake of Hurricane Beryl, with about 400 people ending up in Texas emergency rooms since the storm struck on July 8, the Texas Standard reported. That is the highest number reported since the 2021 winter storm, the Texas Standard reported. Two people died of CO poisoning in Harris County.

CO poisonings caused by widespread power outages are growing more common as climate change causes more extreme weather events, according to scientists.

“Whether you want to blame it on this, that or the other, I don’t care. The world is changing. The climate is changing,” said Dr. David Perse, Houston’s chief medical officer.

SCHOOL ABOUT TO START; WATCH FOR THE KIDDOES

With school about to start, drivers are urged to stay alert and exercise caution in school zones, the Texas Department of Public Transporta-

tion advised. School zones can be chaotic, and 748 crashes were reported inside them last year. In addition, 2,523 collisions involving school buses occurred in Texas last year, killing 11 people and injuring 63.

TxDOT has launched its “Be Safe. Drive Smart. Back-to-School” campaign in hopes of reducing crashes. The most common causes of crashes are preventable, such as speeding, distracted driving and failure to yield the right of way. Among the tips offered by TxDOT:

- Be aware. Traffic patterns around schools may have changed since last school year.

- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.

- Stop and yield the right of way to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or other vulnerable road user in a crosswalk. The Lisa Torrey Smith Act of 2021 enhanced the penalties for failing to follow the law and protect people in crosswalks. Seriously injuring someone who is lawfully in a crosswalk is now a state jail felony.

- Obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.

- Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your

school’s designated areas, not the middle of the street.

- Be on the lookout. Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.

- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

YUP, IT’S HOT IN TEXAS

Exactly how hot is it in the Lone Star State as a heat dome covers much of Texas during these dog days of August? According to the Statesman, our state has the fourth-highest average temperature so far this year, coming in at 65.8 degrees. That might not seem all that hot, but keep in mind it includes temps recorded in January averaged in with that summer heat.

Topping the list of hottest states is Florida, followed by Hawaii and Louisiana, according to data compiled by The Blogger. After Texas comes Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. Surprisingly, Arizona — even with triple-digit temperatures recorded regularly around Phoenix — is tied for ninth place.

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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.031070 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.031070 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.029150 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.029917 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.032520 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year. The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at 111 EMS Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620. The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 adopts the proposed tax rate, North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 is not required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 may not petition North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Staci Dement, Grant Tait, Darrell Debish, Dan O'Brien
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Cristina Nelson

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.030100	\$0.031070	Increase of \$0.000970 per \$100, or 3.22%
Average homestead taxable value	\$851,398.00	\$758,371.00	Decrease of -10.93%
Tax on average homestead	\$256.27	\$235.63	Decrease of -\$20.64, or -8.06%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,040.426.02	\$4,436.338.78	Increase \$395,912.76, or 9.80%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 at (512) 393-5545 or jenifer.okane@co.hays.tx.us, or visit <https://tax.co.hays.tx.us/> for more information.

MUZZY FROM PG. 1

strict Clerk Manual that would help future successions, so that our county doesn’t again face the disorder and commotion of the previous two-years. Our judges, juries, and courts deserve better. Our community deserves better. Hopefully this year, in local positions such as this one, the County will choose candidates that they think will do a good job for them, not necessarily choose a candidate based on political affiliation.”

Muzzy has resided in Hays County for

28 years. He currently serves on the Hays County Truancy Committee and the Region 13 Charter School Board. His professional experience includes founder of charter school Ki Charter Academy, former teacher (at both charter and public schools), owner of restaurants and several small businesses, and he is a U.S. Army veteran. His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and Administra-

tion from Texas State University.

Muzzy and his wife of ten-years Sylvia Muzzy have three daughters.

Muzzy’s selection by the committee was passed by acclamation (verbal) vote, with no opposition at Monday’s Hays County Executive Committee Meeting. If elected, his term will last two years. Muzzy will face Amanda Calvert, who was nominated by the Hays County Democratic Party, in the November General Election.



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Public Notice

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A VARIANCE APPLICATION CASE #: VAR2024-005 HARDY ROAD SIDEWALK VARIANCE

A public hearing will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024, at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas, to consider a Variance Application for an approximately 3.706-acre tract located on the south side of West Highway 290, across from Farrell Ln., in Dripping Springs, TX 78620, Legal Description: A0222 BENJAMIN F HANNA SURVEY, ACRES 3.706. This variance application is to request to be exempt from constructing sidewalks or paying a sidewalk fee-in-lieu for the proposed road.

When Development Services is open, the proposed application is available for viewing at the Dripping Springs Development Services office, located at 661 West Highway 290, during regular business hours:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If closed to visitors during this period, you can request a review of any documents by emailing: planning@cityofdripping-springs.com. If City Hall is closed to visitors on the day of the meeting, or the meeting is virtual for another reason, the City will post this information on its website at: www.cityofdrippingsprings.com so that the public may have access to the meeting.

Comments regarding this project may be emailed to: planning@cityofdrippingsprings.com or mailed to PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Comments received by August 23, 2024, will be included in agenda packets for the meetings. For more information call City Hall at (512) 858-4725.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sara Louise Pipkin, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2024, in Cause No. 24-0273-P, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Hays County, Texas, to: John Emory Pipkin.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Mary Kathryn Brown

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 727, Wimberley, Texas 78676

DATED August 6, 2024.

/s/ Mary Kathryn Brown

Mary Kathryn Brown

Attorney for John Emory Pipkin

State Bar No.: 24116135

P.O. Box 727, Wimberley, Texas 78676

Telephone: (512) 847-9277

Facsimile: (512) 847-5131

Email: service@stevens-malonelaw.com

Public Notice

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION CASE #: CUP2024-004 MEATY BOYS BBQ CUP

Public hearings will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024, and at the City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 17, 2024, at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas, to consider a Conditional Use Permit for an approximately 1.13-acre tract located at 121 E Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, Legal Description: THE COMMONS AT DRIPPING SPRINGS, LOT 4, ACRES 1.13. This application requests to allow for a mobile food vending unit.

When Development Services is open, the proposed application is available for viewing at the Dripping Springs Development Services office, located at 661 West Highway 290, during regular business hours:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If closed to visitors during this period, you can request a review of any documents by emailing planning@cityofdripping-springs.com. If City Hall is closed to visitors on the day of the meeting, or the meeting is virtual for another reason, the City will post this information on its website at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com so that the public may have access to the meeting.

Comments regarding this project may be emailed to planning@cityofdrippingsprings.com or mailed to PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Comments received by August 23, 2024, will be included in agenda packets for the meetings. For more information call City Hall at (512) 858-4725.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Timothy James Lynam, Deceased, were issued on August 9, 2024 in Cause No. 24-0287-P pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas to Lluvia Margarita Berkley, as Independent Executor of said Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to said Executor by sending notice to Lluvia Margarita Berkley at 1800 Rainbow Ranch Drive, Wimberley, Texas 78676 within the time and in the manner prescribed by Law.

Dated the 12th day of August 2024

Patrick G. Rehmet, Attorney

for Lluvia Margarita Berkley

State Bar No: 16738800

P.O. Box 1916, Wimberley, Texas 78676

Tele: 512-395-7320

E-mail: prehmet@austin.rr.com

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Brewers License (BW) Permit by Driftwood Estate Winery, LLC dba Driftwood Estate Winery to be located at 4001 Elder Hill Rd, Driftwood TX 78619, Hays County, Texas. Managing Member of said company is Gary Elliott, owner.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (ZONING AMENDMENT)

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to consider the following: ZA-24-003 – an application for a Zoning Amendment to amend the Wimberley Planned Development District zoning located at 107 & 111 West Spoke Hill, Wimberley, TX, 78676 (HaysCAD Property ID # 143676 & 143677). The amendment proposed will allow for one additional dwelling unit and detached garage for Spoke Hill Section 1 Lot 5A-1. Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be made in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email: nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

By order of the Hays County Commissioners Court, notice is hereby given that on September 3 rd , 2024 at 9 a.m. in the Hays County Courthouse, 111 E. San Antonio Street, San Marcos, Tx, the Hays County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing to consider: Stagecoach Ranch Section 1, Lot 14, Replat

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION CASE #: CUP2024-005 VERTICAL BRIDGE DRIPPING SPRINGS

Public hearings will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024, and at the City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 17, 2024, at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas, to consider a Conditional Use Permit for an approximately 1.034-acre tract located at 27320 RR 12, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, Legal Description: A0415 PHILIP A SMITH SURVEY, ACRES 1.034. This application requests to allow for a wireless telecom facility.

When Development Services is open, the proposed application is available for viewing at the Dripping Springs Development Services office, located at 661 West Highway 290, during regular business hours:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If closed to visitors during this period, you can request a review of any documents by emailing planning@cityofdripping-springs.com. If City Hall is closed to visitors on the day of the meeting, or the meeting is virtual for another reason, the City will post this information on its website at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com so that the public may have access to the meeting.

Comments regarding this project may be emailed to planning@cityofdrippingsprings.com or mailed to PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Comments received by August 23, 2024, will be included in agenda packets for the meetings. For more information call City Hall at (512) 858-4725.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT)

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to consider the following: CUP-24-005 – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Short-Term Rental 2 (vacation rental) at 13615 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # R18534). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be made in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email: nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Glenda Sue Ballard, Deceased, were issued on August 9, 2024 in Cause No. 24-0323-P pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas to Alexandra Briana Coleman, as Independent Executor of said Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to said Executor by sending notice to Alexandra Briana Coleman at 120 Paloma Trail South, Wimberley, Texas 78676 within the time and in the manner prescribed by Law.

Dated the 12th day of August 2024

Patrick G. Rehmet, Attorney

for Alexandra Briana Coleman

State Bar No: 16738800

P.O. Box 1916, Wimberley, Texas 78676

Tele: 512-395-7320

E-mail: prehmet@austin.rr.com

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SUBDIVIDE

An application has been submitted with HAYS COUNTY to subdivide 1.355 acre of property located at 14823 Fitzhugh Road, Austin, Texas 78737. Information regarding the application may be obtained from Hays County Development Services (512) 393-2150. Tracking number: PLN-2462-NP. E-mail: prehmet@austin.rr.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Dripping Springs ISD is requesting for proposals for RFP #24-25-002 Telecommunication Services District-Wide. Proposals will be accepted until 09-06- 2024 at 2:00 p.m. local time. Specifications are available in the DSISD Purchasing Office (512-858-3039) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Proposal responses must be returned to the DSISD Purchasing Department, Attn: Valerie Littrell, 300 Sportsplex Dr, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620, by the date and time indicated above. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted. Late bids will be returned unopened. Dripping Springs ISD reserves the right to reject any/or all submissions and waive all formalities in the bid process.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR
2025 BUDGET

The City of Wimberley City Council will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 City of Wimberley Budget on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas, 78676. Copies of the proposed FY 2025 Budget are available for review at Wimberley City Hall and on the City's website at:

www.cityofwimberley.com. Call 512-847-0025 for more information.

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR A VARIANCE APPLICATION
CASE #: VAR2024-006
HARDY SUBDIVISION
SIDEWALK VARIANCE

A public hearing will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2024 at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas, to consider a Variance Application for an approximately 78.021-acre tract located at 2901 W US 290, Dripping Springs, TX, 78620, Legal Description: A0222 BENJAMIN F HANNA SURVEY, TRACT 1, ACRES 78.021, (1.00 AC HS). This variance application requests to be exempt from constructing sidewalks or paying a sidewalk fee-in-lieu in the proposed subdivision.

When Development Services is open, the proposed application is available for viewing at the Dripping Springs Development Services office, located at 661 West Highway 290, during regular business hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If closed to visitors during this period, you can request a review of any documents by emailing planning@city-ofdrippingsprings.com. If City Hall is closed to visitors on the day of the meeting, or the meeting is virtual for another reason, the City will post this information on its website at www.cityofdrippingsprings.com so that the public may have access to the meeting.

Comments regarding this project may be emailed to planning@city-ofdrippingsprings.com or mailed to PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Comments received by August 23, 2024, will be included in agenda packets for the meetings. For more information call City Hall at (512) 858-4725.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT)

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to consider the following: CUP-24-004 – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Short-Term Rental 2 (vacation rental) at 108 Little Ranches Rd, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # R88236). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be made in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email:

(nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com) prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.

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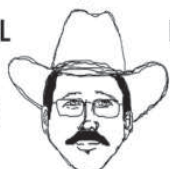
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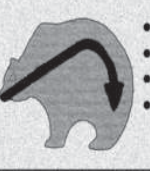
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Lizzy's Animal Hospice
Sweetie
Female
12 years old
Chihuahua

Hi there! I'm Sweetie! I'm as playful and loving as my name suggests. I'm a big fan of cuddling in the lap and snuggling up to watch rom coms, split a bowl of snacks and have a good time! I'm a champ on the leash and enjoy car rides but I haven't learned how to navigate a GPS yet, so I might lead us to ice cream or the park. I'm house trained and would love to not pee on anything in your, ahem, our, new home. I'm fully vaccinated, heartworm negative, and ready to bring joy to a new family. I'm excited to meet you and find my forever home! Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



How to Foster/Adopt a Lizzy's Animal Hospice Pup

Lizzy's desperately needs foster families and forever families for their sweet pups. Lizzy's is a 501c3 non-profit elder care / hospice for dogs 10+ years, large and small - most of which are healthy. Lizzy's also has healthy pups under 10 years. Please go to lizzyshospice.com/adopt-or-foster and click on the Apply Here button to submit an application. Lizzy's is quick to process applications and to respond to emails. Email lizzyshospice@gmail.com with any questions.

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DRIPPING SPRINGS
Century-News

Universal Crossword

08/11/24

Themeless Sunday 97 By Brian Callahan

ACROSS

- 1 Sweetie
4 Moves like a happy puppy's tail
8 Goes for a drive?
13 Team USA gymnast named 2021 Sports Illustrated Female Athlete of the Year
15 Look forward to
16 "Don't worry about me"
17 Inventor Nikola
18 "No" vote
19 Cheerful response to "How ya feeling?"
21 Hole-making tool
22 "King Kong" (1933) studio
23 ____ and shaker (influential person)
26 Parisian pal
28 U.S. health org.
31 Milky gem
32 One who works a lot?

35 Delay in

- speaking at the starts of videos by folks of a certain age
37 Not to be repeated
38 Gamer's spelling of "wrecked"
39 Harden
40 Suffix for "Jumbo"
41 Crew
42 "____ You Afraid of the Dark?" ('90s Nickelodeon series)
43 Decorate
46 Head over heels, say
50 Munched brunch
53 Cool and distant
54 "This is BEYOND perfect!"
56 QB chasers
57 Five-time English Premier League champs
58 Cosmetics mogul Lauder
59 Zap with light
60 "Bullet" insect

DOWN

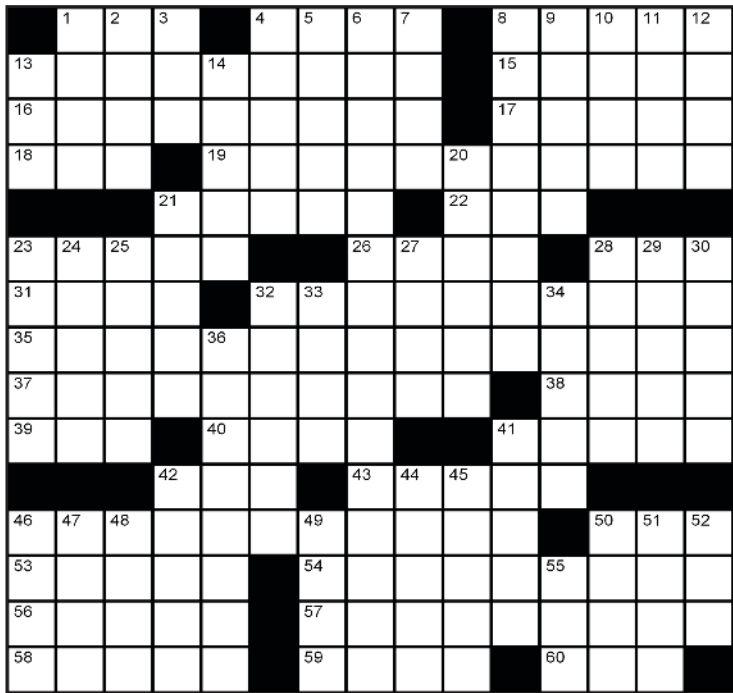
- 1 Dance with kahiko and 'auana substyles
2 Sole
3 Pen tip
4 Thin cookie
5 Full of energy
6 Cohort following Zoomers
7 Oracle
8 Control access to, informally
9 Have because of
10 Final
11 Email attachment
12 Mazzy ____ ("Fade Into You" band)
13 Moral wrong
14 Mister, in Tijuana
20 Piece of head-gear worn by a horse
21 Baby ____ mushrooms
23 Tibetan

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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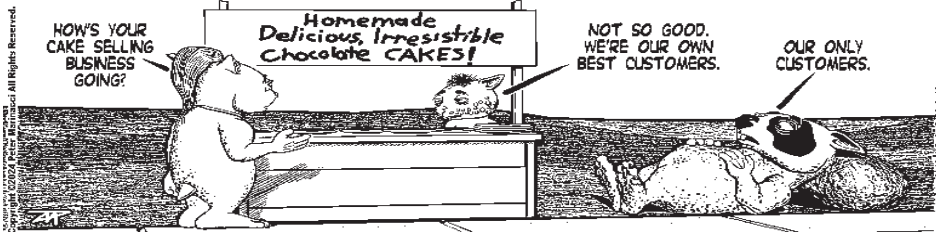
- dumplings
24 Give one's take
25 Apt occupation for someone named Parker?
27 Whine
28 This puzzle has 72 of them
29 Office or classroom furniture
30 Largest Greek island
32 2004 NBA All-Star Kirilenko
33 Ctrl+Z
34 "Kick-Ass" actor Taylor-Johnson
36 Cover at a concert
41 News media
42 Survival competition series in which contestants participate solo
44 Metes (out)
45 Immature egg
46 Constructed
47 Cure-____ (panaceas)
48 "This Is How We ____" (1995 hip-hop hit)
49 Salt, chemically
50 Ruck of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"
51 Clump of hair
52 Key near F1
55 Samosa veggie



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Community Calendar

Painting Workshop

August 16
6:30 - 8:30

Art teacher Suzanne King is back teaching her painting workshops. The class teaches painting techniques with fun and different modalities each week. \$50 includes supplies. 12 FOX Beer Company • 4700 W Fitzhugh Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Mini Succulent Garden Workshop

August 23
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Come and let the Leaf Lover's Club guide you to create your own succulent arrangement in a fun, relaxed space. Make new plant friends and learn to care for your new plant babies. Tickets (\$55) at: eventbrite.com/e/mini-succulent-garden. Jester King Brewery • 13187 Fitzhugh Rd. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Coffee & Beer Workshop

August 25
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

The experts from Greater Goods' Hill Country roastery and Vista's brewery lead an educational and tasty workshop exploring coffees and beers from around the world. You'll learn about the similarities between these two industries, both rooted in agriculture and craft producers. Tickets \$30 per person, includes the workshop, 4 coffee tastings and 4 beer tastings plus an entry into the swag raffle! Vista Brewery • 13551 FM 150 • Driftwood, TX 78620 Tickets: eventbrite.com/e/coffee-beer-workshop-tickets.

2024 Lucha Dwarfknators

Wrestling
August 17
8 - 10 p.m.

Dwarf wrestling at Ranch Park Event Center. Come see 'Los Mini Enmascarados' perform the unique Mexican cultural art form of Lucha Libre where they perform their flying aerials and scissor kicks. Tickets \$25- \$40. Go to dwarfknators.com for more information and to purchase tickets. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Musical Theatre

Dance Series
August 13 - December 17
8 - 9 p.m.

Dance class series for high school musical theatre performers. Ballet, tap and musical theatre dance. \$86 per month. For more information email: dance@cityballet.com. Central Texas Youth Ballet • 707 HWY 290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Wine Class

All about Sweet Wines
August 24
4 p.m.

Join us in the tasting room and learn all about sweet wines. Class is \$20 and includes four tastings. Tickets must be purchased at hamiltonpoolvineyards.com in advance. Hamilton Pool Vineyards • 25711 Hamilton Pool Rd. • Dripping Springs, TX 78663.

We Are Blood

Blood Drive
August 14
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Save a life by becoming a blood donor. Donors will earn a Blue Bell ice cream voucher. Remember to eat a full meal and bring your

photo ID. Schedule at weareblood.org/ donor with group code D983. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Dripping Springs Farmers Market

August 21
Wednesdays
9 a.m. - Noon

Local producers offer produce, meats, and artisanal foods for purchase along with flowers, plants and hand-made crafts. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

Pickleball Camp for Kids

August 20 - September 2

Tuesdays 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Six-week program, taking place every Tuesday from 6-7 pm, offers children an opportunity to learn the basics of pickleball in a fun and supportive environment. \$150 per student. Registration is limited, so be sure to secure your child's spot today by emailing Jennifer Terry at jennperryterry@gmail.com. Camp David Retreat • 4451 McGregor Ln • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

City of Dripping Springs

Public Meetings

The City of Dripping Springs welcomes residents and others doing business with the city to attend any of the public meetings below. For streaming options and meeting packets (agendas, staff presentations) visit cityofdrippingssprings.com. Meetings are held at City Hall Council Chambers • 511 Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

August 20 6 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

August 21 6 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

August 26 3:30 p.m.

Transportation Committee Meeting

August 27 6 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

Hays County

Commissioners Court

Regular Meeting

August 20 • 9 a.m.

This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytexas.com

DRIPPING SPRINGS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

DISTRICT

DSISD Board of Trustees

Monthly Meeting

August 26 • 6 p.m.

Live meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees which sets policy, agenda and strategic planning for the Dripping Springs school district. Agendas and live streaming option available at dsisdtexas.com. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

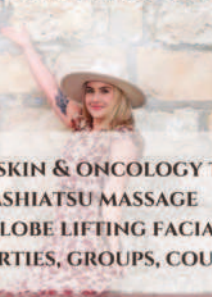


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A name is a 'Very Special Thing'

Carl Waits

Receiving a name is an important life event that usually stays with you for life. At your birth, your parents put a lot of thought into choosing your name. They may have chosen a name unique to you or one that honors someone in their lives. No matter what, it is special. That name should be honored by using it.

Throughout my life, I have tried to honor a person's name by pronouncing it each time I get the opportunity to speak to them. My pet peeve in today's world is that too many people are too lazy to take the time to do this. Instead, they shorten names with poor spelling or abbreviations. So a person's name is relegated to a letter of the alphabet, such as Mr. E. or Mrs.

S. We might as well have been born with a number instead of a name.

You might be wondering why the topic of names has come up. It has to do with another pet peeve: the habit of shortening school names. This is particularly bothersome for me. A school name should be revered by those who fall under its umbrella. Unfortunately, the trend around Dripping Springs is to call the school "Drip" instead of its formal name. I have never considered being called a "Drip" as complimentary. Anytime that name is used in any of my articles, you will know it has been edited by someone else.

My background goes back to 1965 when I arrived at Dripping Springs to begin my coaching career. We played all

the small schools in the area, such as Buda, Kyle, Blanco, Johnson City, Burnet, Marble Falls, and Liberty Hill. Mostly, it occurred in basketball, where it had a more confined area to be heard. It would not be unusual for the student body to break out in a cheer. They would determine what they considered the worst thing a person could be and end the ditty by saying, "I would rather be a [blank] than a 'drip' from Dripping Springs." I never asked but would bet those previous Dripping Springs teams endured the same experience. Thankfully, as schools grew, its popularity waned.

Dripping Springs has a very interesting history to be honored. In 1857, when the area had enough residents to apply for a post office, Indiana Moss, the



wife of John Moss, one of the founding families, was asked to fill out the application. When it came to the name, she could have chosen to name it after any of the three families. Instead, she chose to name it after the beauty of the dripping springs with their melodic tunes played by the action of dripping water down the limestone ledges.

As the school system began, it was honored with the name of the town Dripping Springs, as most small school systems were.

Most do not know exactly how special and unique the name Dripping Springs really is. I could not believe what I read because I thought the name would be common. Instead, Google declared there were only four towns named Dripping Springs in all the world. The other three are in Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. So you can see that we have a name that all should be proud to say in full. We used to have a cheer that went this way: "We're from Dripping Springs and

no one can be prouder. If you cannot hear us, WE WILL YELL A LITTLE LOUDER."

Carl Waits is a longtime sportswriter for the Dripping Springs Century News. He taught history, physical education and driver education in the Dripping Springs Independent School District. He is the author of "The Complete History of Dripping Springs TEXAS" which is the comprehensive history of the town of Dripping Springs, its founders and buildings.

CALVERT FROM PG. 1

to make sure we know what we are doing and have the property training. Ascertaining the status of the office will be done at the time you go into the office to really see what the needs are."

Calvert has lived

in Hays County for around 12 years. She has been employed in the Hays County District Attorney's office for 11 years. She is currently the Administrative Felony Lead Supervisor.

"I have a lot of ex-

perience in the county, and I've developed all the professional relationships necessary with law enforcement, the court, the district clerks and everything around the county over those years."

Calvert graduated

from Texas State University with a Political Science degree before going to graduate school for Legal Studies, where she got her paralegal and mediation certificates.

Calvert previously ran for Justice of the

Peace, Precinct 2 Place 2.

She lives with her wife and son in Kyle.

Calvert was selected by the majority of Hays County Democratic Precinct Chairs over three other candidates including Anita Col-

lins, Nicolas Costilla and Derek Bateman. If elected, her term will last two years. Calvert will face Philip Muzzy, who was nominated by the Hays County Republican Party, in the November General Election.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality.

A tax rate of \$0.0695 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.06950 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$0.05468 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$0.06134 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE \$0.06956 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year. The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON **Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at 111 Green Acres Drive, Wimberley, Texas**. The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 may petition Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 will be the voter-approval tax rate of Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal: Travis Brown, Justin Transeau, Manuel Grafia, Joe Pendleton
AGAINST the proposal: NONE
PRESENT and not voting: NONE
ABSENT: Joseph Malone

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Hays County Emergency Services District No. 4 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0580 / \$100	\$0.0695 / \$100	Increase of \$0.0115 per \$100, or 19.83%
Average homestead taxable value	\$548,448.97	\$578,689.93	Increase of 5.51%
Tax on average homestead	\$318.10	\$402.19	Increase of \$84.09, or 26.43%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,656,814.86	\$3,428,403.51	Increase of \$771,588.65 or 29.04%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the Tax Assessor for Hays County ESD No. 4 at (512) 393-5545 or jenifer.okane@co.hays.tx.us or visit www.hayscountytax.com.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Greenhawe Water Control and Improvement District No. 2 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at the offices of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300, Austin, Texas 78701. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearing of each entity that taxes your property.

(Names of all board members and how each voted on the proposed tax rate)

FOR the proposal: Directors Moeller, Brown, Roberts and Rabun
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.1592/\$100 Adopted	\$0.1543/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$(0.0049)/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		- 3.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$1,068,991	\$900,843
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	N/A	N/A
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$793,336	\$815,358
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,262.99	\$1,258.10
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$(4.89) - 0.39%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Jail outsourcing costs up half a million from previous year

Shannon West
Staff Reporter

Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra reads a report from the Sheriff's Office during Hays County Commissioners Court that outlines the jail population and outsourcing costs for the previous week. The Sheriff's Office provided outsourcing costs for this Fiscal Year and the previous Fiscal year (except for June and July), which shows that outsourcing costs have gone up approximately half a million dollars total compared to the same time period last year.

The most recent report read in commissioners court was for the week of July 28 to August 3.

"The Sheriff's Office sends my office a report of our inmate population," Becerra said. "Our current capacity is 410 inmates. Jail Standards recommends holding approximately 10% of that population open, which lowers our capacity to 368. The jail's daily average was 563, and peak was 566 on July 29. ... The average number of outsourced males is 264 and females are two."

Becerra said the estimated cost for outsourcing inmates the week of July 28 to August 3 was \$171,066.

"This week's inmates were housed in the following coun-

ties: Comal, Haskell and Maverick," Becerra said. "We are holding 51 paper-ready inmates, which are those inmates that have gone through our judicial system, had their day in court and are now state inmates."

The total outsourcing costs for all of July for last year was \$659,468, which means that 25.94% of that was spent for one week in July of this year. Outsourcing costs are similar to the same amount for July in both 2023 and 2024 as the only available data for July 2024 is from July 28 through August 3.

There is comparison data available for all months that have passed this year other than June and July. The County's Fiscal Year, and simultaneously each budget cycle, begins in October. When comparing outsourcing costs from October to May of Fiscal Year 2023 to October to May of Fiscal Year 2024, there has been \$500,381 more spent on outsourcing costs. Outsourcing cost comparisons for the months provided for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 are as follows: Oct. FY 2023 — \$592,217, Oct. FY 2024 — \$753,344, Nov. FY 2023 — \$673,392, Nov. FY 2024 — \$767,339, Dec. FY 2023 — \$717,795, Dec. FY 2024 — \$785,506,

Jan. FY 2023 — \$750,838, Jan. FY 2024 — \$763,108, Feb. FY 2023 — \$707,483, Feb. FY 2024 — \$710,819, March FY 2023 — \$622,097, March FY 2024 — \$691,930, April FY 2023 — \$630,363, April FY 2024 — \$695,997 and May FY 2023 — \$619,978, May FY 2023 — \$646,501.

The Vera Institute of Justice Hays County Jail Dashboard gives information on charge class and length of stay for the inmates in custody. The dashboard was updated on August 10. Of the inmate population charge class, 93.4% are held on felonies. 0.4% are held on misdemeanors and 0.2% are unspecified. 435 people or 78% of the jail population are held pretrial. As for pretrial length of stay, 9.7% have been held for less than a week. 20.2% have been held from one week to under a month. 48% have been held from one month to under six months. 16.1% have been held from six months to under a year. 5.5% have been held from one year to under three years. 0.5% have been held for more than three years.

To learn more about the Hays County Jail inmate population go to hayscountytx.com/vera-institute-of-justice-dashboard.

ACADEMY FROM PG. 1

to us because they matter to God."

Students in upper and middle school began their day with a dance party led by Dr. Guenther and the SMA Cheerleading team in Chapel before hearing a chapel lesson, school rules, and praying. They then headed to class to meet their teachers, reconnect with friends, and

review their syllabi. Lower school students enjoyed a smaller dance party with Dr. Guenther and lower school principal, Mrs. Rebecca Nash, followed by praise and worship, a dining hall tour, and class time to get acquainted with their teachers and classmates.

San Marcos Academy is a fully accredited private Christian school

serving students from PreK 3 through 12th grade, with a boarding program for students in grades 6–12. The academy's curriculum is designed to engage and inspire students, preparing them for success in college and beyond. Since 1907, San Marcos Academy has maintained a tradition of excellence in private Christian education.

SCHOOL FROM PG. 1



Parents and students begin the daily ritual of lining up outside the school entrance at Dripping Springs Elementary school for their first day of classes for the fall semester. PHOTO BY KEN VARGAS

strong presence in the schools, we can deter potential safety issues and respond quickly to any concerns that arise," Hood said.

In addition to the deputy assignments, the Constable's Office has requested assistance from the Texas

Department of Public Safety's motorcycle troopers. These troopers will help manage congestion and traffic safety concerns along the busy U.S. 290 corridor in Dripping Springs, a critical area for ensuring the smooth flow of traf-

fic as families navigate the back-to-school rush.

With students in Dripping Springs and Driftwood now back in class, all drivers are urged to pay extra attention on the roads, especially in school zones.

GATEWAY FROM PG. 1

homes from the park's owner, Gateway Development LLC.

The residents received letters, which they describe as eviction notices, informing them they must move their homes within 60 days. Several residents appealed to the Dripping Springs City Council on Aug. 6, asking for the city's intervention.

Gateway Development LLC, which purchased the property in March 2022, has not yet filed redevelopment plans with the city's development services department. The company says residents have been on month-to-month leases for more than a year, and the 60-day notice is standard practice when terminating leases.

Speaking on behalf of the residents, Chuck Lemmond, of Hometown Ministries, addressed the council.

"All 36 residents in that community have received what amounts to an eviction notice, giving them 60 days to move their mobile homes off the property or face having them destroyed as trespassing," Lemmond said.

Lemmond noted that Hometown Ministries has spent 14 years assisting residents of Gateway Estates, including aid-

ing in recovery efforts after a tornado.

"This letter is shocking and just a terrible thing," Lemmond added. "It may be correct by lease standards, but giving anyone 60 days to vacate a mobile home is nearly impossible, especially in Dripping Springs."

Dripping Springs Mayor Bill Foulds said he was made aware of the issue in late July and thanked Lemmond for bringing it to the city's attention. Although the park is outside the city limits, Foulds confirmed that no redevelopment plans have been submitted.

Council Member Sherry Parks expressed sympathy for the residents.

"You are my neighbors. You're an important part of this community," Parks said. "I don't know what we can do to help, but we're going to give it our best shot."

Jim Luketich, a resident of Gateway Estates for 12 years, also urged the council to intervene, and said, "These folks need more time . . . it would be reasonable to arrange an extension until at least the end of the year."

Luketich added that as a resident who now has to move, he needs more time to relocate his orchard

of nearly 30 fruit trees, which his arborist advised should be moved when they go dormant in December.

Janice Englehart, a board member of Hometown Missions, also spoke on behalf of residents, highlighting the plight of an elderly couple living in the park for 28 years. The couple, both in their late 60s and facing serious health issues, care for their daughter with special needs.

"Sixty days is just ludicrous for them to try and figure this out," Englehart said.

In a follow-up interview, Lemmond said that while it is not typical for Hometown Ministries to intervene in such matters, discussions with Gateway Development have been positive. "We met with the owner of Gateway and the conversation has started," Lemmond said. He added that the company is willing to work with residents but the discussions are early.

A spokesman for the company said they are open to working with residents on relocation assistance but have not established a new timeline.

Gateway Development said the vacate notices are necessary to address aging utilities and infrastructure on the property.

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