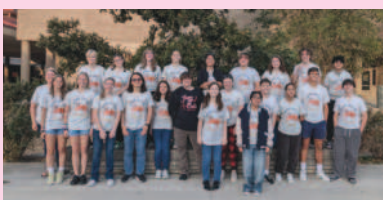




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AUSTIN HIGH
MAROONED
PAGE 12

Dripping Springs Century News



33rd Year No. 41

October 10, 2024

drippingspringsnews.com

75 cents

Lighting the Way: Dripping Springs recognizes local Night Sky stewards

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

Thirteen Dripping Springs area businesses have earned “Be a Star” awards for their efforts in preserving the city’s dark sky initiative. Balancing the need to light their properties while mitigating light pollution, these businesses have demonstrated that development and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand.

The awards were presented by Loren Steffy,

SEE BE A STAR PAGE 4



H Tea O, a specialty tea house, is one of the recipients of the Be A STAR award for 2024. The business was recognized, along with several other Dripping Springs area properties, for their effort to follow the City’s Dark Sky lighting ordinances to reduce light pollution. The business is located at 12680 Hwy 290 W in the LedgeStone development.

PHOTO KEN VARGAS

Hetrick named to Texas Association of School Boards

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick, a long-time trustee of Dripping Springs ISD, has been elected first vice president of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) for the 2024-25 session. Hetrick was elected during TASB’s 2024 Delegate Assembly in San Antonio on Sept. 28. “I’m honored to be asked to serve and grateful for the support and encouragement from trustees across the state,” Het-



DR. MARY JANE HETRICK

rick said. “This role offers a chance to lead TASB’s mission of promoting educational excellence for Texas schoolchildren.”

Hetrick is in her fourth term on the Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees

SEE HETRICK PAGE 8



Above, Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick (right) and Kathryn Chandler share a hug after toasting to the opening of Patriots’ Hall. The two are founding members of Patriots’ Hall’s board of directors.

PHOTO KEN VARGAS

Patriots’ Hall opens its doors with ribbon-cutting

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

More than 100 people joined local officials and Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce ambassadors on Oct. 3 for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at

Patriots’ Hall of Dripping Springs (PHDS), marking a key milestone in providing a home for veterans and their families in North Hays County. Patriots’ Hall is reimagining the traditional veterans’ club, offering a modern,

inclusive environment for veterans of all ages and backgrounds. Unlike aging Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion halls, which have struggled to maintain decades-old meet-

SEE PATRIOTS PAGE 11

City Hall remodel begins, staff relocated during construction

Ken Vargas
Managing Editor

The City of Dripping Springs has begun a remodeling construction project for City Hall. Last week, city staff moved to temporary workspaces at other city buildings and offices as workers began demolishing the interior walls and ceilings of the City Hall building located at 511 Mercer St. During the renovation, all City Hall employees, primarily administrative staff, will work from alternate locations to ensure uninterrupted access to city services. The renovation is in response to the city’s growth, with some offices currently housing two or three employees in spaces designed for one. The project will expand office space and modernize the facility. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2025, and include additional offices, structural upgrades,



Contractors are already at work to remodel the City Hall building at 511 Mercer Street in downtown Dripping Springs. The \$1.1 million project will add offices and upgrades to the building which houses administrative staff and is home to city council meetings. The project is expected to be completed by April 2025.

PHOTO KEN VARGAS

energy-efficient systems, improved audio-visual capabilities for City Council meetings, and enhanced ac-

cessibility features in line with current safety standards.

SEE REMODEL PAGE 8



Five-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 93 Low: 61 Sunny	High: 91 Low: 60 Sunny	High: 90 Low: 62 Mostly Sunny	High: 90 Low: 60 Mostly Sunny	High: 89 Low: 60 Sunny



A Special Memorial Fundraiser for James D. Neill benefitting

James D. Neill (9/19/50-10/16/22) was an avid dog lover, survived by his daughter and grandson, local residents, who continue to support fundraising efforts that benefit rescue dogs in his honor. All Funds donated between September 19th and October 16th will be MATCHED by the family of James D. Neill in his memory

Visit Wimberley Cafe or Marco's for more details or donate directly by scanning the QRcs







Dripping Springs High School named to AP School Honor Roll

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs High School (DSHS) and its students have earned recognition from the College Board based on Advanced Placement (AP) exams administered in spring 2024.

For the first time since the program's inception in 2023, Dripping Springs High School was named to the AP School Honor Roll. To qualify for the honor roll, schools must meet the following criteria: 1) 40% or more of the graduating cohort took at least one AP exam during high school; 2) 25% or more of the graduating cohort scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam; and 3) 2% or more of the graduating cohort took five or more AP exams during high school.

DSHS also received the AP Access Award, which honors schools for their commitment to equitable access to advanced coursework. Schools earn this award if the percentage of AP exam takers who are underrepresented minority and/or low-income students mirrors the school's overall demographics.

Of the 135 current students recognized as AP Scholars, 45 received the highest distinction of AP Scholar with Distinction. Thirty-one students were named AP Scholar with Honor, and 59 students received AP

Scholar accolades. Additionally, more than 100 members of the Class of 2024 earned honors.

AP Scholar Awards are presented at several levels based on students' average scores and the number of exams taken:

- AP Scholar: Awarded to students who score a 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor: Awarded to students who earn an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken, with scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Awarded to students who earn an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams, with scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

The names of current DSHS honorees are listed below.

AP Scholar with Distinction

David Adair
Landon Andrews
Carly Austin
Rebeca Avalos-Oviedo
Ava Azua
Zadock Bisett
Hannah Brack
Aric Bradish
Kirby Brandon
Isaac Caldwell
Drew Clarno
Evelyn Dalton
Caitlyn Dorsey
Nicholas Dudek
John Frankeny
Hannah Gilchrist
Arien Khan
Elliott Kling
Everett Kling
Derek Ko
James Lamb

Alyssa Lantz
Nicholas Maring
William McAdams
Jackson Mills
Katie Newman
Gavin Ordway
Sophia Rahmani
Thomas Rees
Maarete Revill
Tanner Rhodes
Ryan Schindler
Eben Sebastian
Carson Simpson
Audrey Staker
Sanvi Surapaneni
Kalle Thomas
Katerina Thomas
Ryan Tingle
Ryder Trent
Jackie Truesdell
Elizabeth Tullos
Deval Vazir
Alexia Ylinen
William Ziegelman

AP Scholar with Honor

Keegan Ballard
Danica Best
Zachary Betzing
Margaret Blackmon
Spence Braden
Walter Bristol
Gage Fields
Grant Gillum
Allison Gorchs
Elodie Griffin
Aubrey Hall
Jenna Hall
Whittier Hassell
Brett Hudson
Graham Hutton
Niamh Jacobs
Rachel Key
Josephine Krajecki
Alana Murphy
Addison Murray
Cadence Owens
Lawrence Pannes
Austin Rutherford
Shiloh Satterfield
Madeleine Sheppard
Claire Unger
Sofia Vences
Logan Vick
Kamiily Visser
John Watson
Jacob Wilhelm

AP Scholar

Arabella Allen

Haven Andrews
Isabelle Bertram
Greyson Billodeau
Parker Braymen
Connor Caffrey
Nivedita Chandrani
Sophie Chapo
Micaela Contreras
Morgan Crain
Ansley Dennis
Lucy Donahoe
Brady Donahue
Layne Fields
Charline Flores
Quinn Foley
Jeremy Frost
Beatrice Furlow
Sophie Gammill
Lillian Garcia
Vivian Gomez
Dillon Helsley
Diego Hoyos
Sophia Johnson
Jocelyn Juarez
Anthony Keithly
Van Anh Kerr
Abir Kulkarni
Allan Lawrence
Guadalupe Martinez
Ethan Martini
Macie McCurry
Coby Migl
William Mitchell
Aiden Morton
Evan Murphy
Ashley Murphy
Aubrey Neff
Austin Olivas
Mia Pleasant
Annie Reale
Donovan Reece
Jack Robbennolt
Bella Rose
Cooper Rummel
Mihira Sarabu
Caroline Sihler
Elijah Slater
Sydney Smith
Kosmo Sondgeroth
Kylie Spence
William Stockton
Isaac Surface
Garret Swannack
Gwynna Swor
Wylie Taylor
Samuel Timmins
Orion Tyree
Shaun Woertink

Pedophile sentenced to life without parole

Staff Reports

Hays County Criminal District Attorney Kelly Higgins announced today that 36-year-old Christopher Lee Head, formerly of San Marcos, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole by visiting Judge Glenn Devlin on Oct. 4, 2024.

On Oct. 3, 2024, a Hays County jury found Head guilty of continuous sexual abuse of a child younger than 14 years of age. The evidence showed that the defendant had sexually abused his victim from the age of five years old until the age of eight. The evidence also showed that the defendant would show the victim pornography, including videos of himself and another family member, and he would ask the victim to “copy” the sexual acts portrayed in them. One of the witnesses, formerly the best friend of the defendant, testified that the defendant made admissions to him shortly after the victim outcried.

Head was released on bond before the trial. Following his conviction, Head's bond was revoked, and he was taken into custody for a sentencing hearing in front of the judge. During the sentencing phase of the trial, evidence was presented that the defendant was a



CHRISTOPHER LEE HEAD
PHOTO HCSCO

drug dealer, inappropriately touched an other child in 2014 and that he physically abused romantic partners. The victim testified again as the last witness for the State as to how she has been affected by the ongoing abuse and how she feared that the defendant would continue to abuse other children in the future should he be given the opportunity. One of the jurors returned to the courthouse to hear the defendant's sentence, and he later embraced the victim, commending her for her bravery.

This case was investigated by Hays County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Mike Andrews and Det. Nelson Wray and prosecuted by Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Cassidy Story and Daniel Sakaida. “We would like to thank the victim and her family and friends for their courage and for putting their faith in Hays County jurors,” Story said. “The judge's sentence ensured that no other child will be victimized by Head during his lifetime.”

Guide offers info on local healthcare, housing, and food assistance

Staff Reports

Hays County residents seeking assistance with healthcare, housing, food, and mental health services can now find help through the Hays County Resource Guide.

The Hays County Health Department recently released the

2024 Hays County Resource Guide, a comprehensive directory aimed at helping community partners, organizations, and residents easily access essential services.

The guide provides information on a variety of resources specific to Hays County, including healthcare, housing, food assistance, mental health

services, and more.

The 2024 Hays County Resource Guide is part of the department's ongoing efforts to connect the community with critical services. It is available online at hayscountytexas.gov/resource-directory.

The guide will be updated quarterly to ensure accurate and current information.

Paper copies are available at the health department.

“This resource guide reflects our commitment to ensuring every resident can navigate available resources, fostering a stronger, more connected community,” said Peyton Wagner, Hays County Health Department behavioral health coordinator. “Empow-

ering communities begins with access to information.”

“The guide fills a crucial need, providing a comprehensive, accessible tool for all county residents to find the help they need and deserve,” said Matthew Gonzales, Hays County Health Department manager. Gonzales encour-

ages users to provide feedback to improve the guide. Suggestions for new resources, updates to existing listings, or feedback on the guide's format and usability are welcome. Visit hayscountytexas.gov/resource-directory or contact Peyton Wagner at Peyton.Wagner@hayscountytexas.gov with suggestions.

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The Dripping Springs Century News (USPS 18035 ISSN Number 1047-0301), is published weekly on Thursdays in Hays County by San Marcos Publishing L.P., 101 FM 3237, Suite A, Wimberley, Texas 78676. Periodicals Postage Paid at Wimberley, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: PO Box 732, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

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Hays County to host open house Oct 9 on Fitzhugh Road safety study

Staff Reports

located at 1042 Event Center Drive in Dripping Springs.

A safety study for the project in April 2024 identified potential mobility and safety enhancements, including new signage, pavement markings, and intersection upgrades.

Materials presented at the open house will be available online starting Wednesday, Oct. 9, with public comments accepted through Friday, Oct. 25.

Coordination with local community members, stakeholders, Travis County, and the Texas Department of Transportation is a key part of the analysis, with feedback being gathered throughout the study.

The study is funded by the 2016 Hays County Bond Program. Additional funding for the design and construction of the proposed safety improvements is included in the 2024 Hays County Road Bond Program.



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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Art meets music at the Dripping Springs 10th annual Songwriters Festival



Megan Burt by Erin Hounsels

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Tanner Bingham by London Farris

This summer many of our artists paired up with artists who will be performing at the Songwriters Festival to capture their image in celebration of the Festival next weekend. Many of these works will be showcased at Mercer Dance Hall starting October 12 and be available for purchase during Festival weekend at the DSAL Art Lounge.

The Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival is one of the gems of our community. Enjoy free live music from 35+ songwriters assembling from across the country to perform for you at seven downtown Dripping stages. Songwriters Festival has always been such an uplifting community weekend. This year's 10th anniversary Songwriters Festival October 18-20 is sure to top them all! Check out the lineup and weekend events at drippingsprings-songwriterfestival.com.

A Partnership for the People
The Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL) is thrilled and honored to partner with Destination Dripping Springs and the City of Dripping Springs to share the creativity and inspiration of local artwork to downtown Dripping! Such collaboration not only brings music and art together, but also supports hundreds of local artists while providing shopping opportunities to all the festival goers during the weekend.

Relax and shop the DSAL Art Lounge
The Dripping Springs Art League will be the exclusive art vendor of the Songwriters Festival. The DSAL Art Lounge will have a huge offering of local artwork including paintings, jewelry, sculptures, fiber art with special sections featuring music- and Hill Country-related art. Don't want to schlep your purchases all day? No problem, we'll hold them for you until you are ready to take them home. The Art Lounge also includes a comfy seating area for a little rest and relaxation. We will be located at the Stephenson Field Stage near the corner of Mercer & Old Fitzhugh Rd.

Join in the Fun
In addition to a wide variety of local art, you can paint a patch of our interactive art project outside the Art Lounge and also visit our Live Artists at the Community Impact Stage at the Warehouse District, the Tejas Tonic Stage at Haus of Jayne and the Hill Country Ranch Dining and Tavern Stage at Sidecar Tasting Room as they capture your favorite artists throughout the weekend. Watch their talents unfold before your eyes!

Summer Art shines this Fall
Earlier this summer many of our artists paired up with Festival songwriters to capture their image to share with you this October. Many will be on display at the Headliner Showcase at Mercer Dance Hall on October 12th and all will be available for purchase during Festival weekend at the DSAL Art Lounge. What a great opportunity to take home a lasting memento of your Songwriters experience!

Join your Art League
The Dripping Springs Art League invites you to check out all the offerings of our local art league. Learn new skills, elevate your art, find your tribe at www.artindripping.com.

We offer amazing Clubs, Art socials, and Family & Teen Art each month for FREE. Members also get discounts for Art Markets and other limited space events. Explore how you can invite fun, friends, and focus of art into your life!

ART BEAT spotlights local artists, techniques, and upcoming Art League events. In the meantime, we invite you to discover your Dripping Springs Art League and how you can make art a greater part of your creative journey. To learn more, visit: our website: artindripping.com.

A Special Memorial Fundraiser for James D. Neill benefitting

James D. Neill (9/19/50-10/16/22) was an avid dog lover, survived by his daughter and grandson, local residents, who continue to support fundraising efforts that benefit rescue dogs in his honor. All Funds donated between September 19th and October 16th will be MATCHED by the family of James D. Neill in his memory

Visit Wimberley Cafe or Marco's for more details or donate directly below

Capital Highlights

Lawmakers to tackle soaring home insurance rates



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Top state lawmakers plan to address soaring homeowners insurance premiums when they return to Austin in January for the next legislative session, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The state's insurance commissioner, Cassie Brown, told a Senate committee that home insurance rates increased last year by more than 21% statewide, twice the average increase in 2022.

More severe and frequent disasters are blamed for the spike in rates. In addition to more severe and more frequent storms, higher home values and higher costs for construction and labor are also factors. The median home price in Texas has risen 40% in the past five years.

"All this new value needs coverage, which results in bigger bills for consumers," Brown said.

Lawmakers reportedly will consider changes to the state's file-and-use system, which allows insurance companies to

raise rates and then seek regulatory approval. Brown said the Texas Department of Insurance reviews all rate filings but "rarely" disapproves any of them.

"If we tighten up the criteria that you have to look at in order to approve their rates — I would expect that if it's harder to get a rate increase approval, that would help Texans with their premiums on their insurance," state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, said.

ALARM SOUNDED OVER LAUNGUISHING FARM BILL

Texas farmers, ranchers and lawmakers are voicing concerns that an economic catastrophe is in the works if Congress doesn't approve a new farm bill by the end of the year. The 2018 version — good for five years — has finally expired, The Texas Tribune reported, after being extended until Sept. 30.

In a letter to the House Republican leadership signed by 140 members of Congress, the signers warned that waiting until next year to pass a bill will have a nationwide effect.

"The negative impacts of failing to act will not just stop at the farm gate," the letter said, "but will (affect) Main Street businesses, rural communities, and the national economy."

The Farm, Food, and

National Security act is considered a "must-pass" piece of federal legislation. The bill supports more than 230,000 farmers and ranchers in Texas, and the state's food and agriculture sectors reportedly contribute more than \$860.8 billion in economic activity while employing more than 4.5 million people.

The farm bill also funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides more than 3.4 million low-income Texans with food benefits.

"We need our members of Congress and leadership in Congress to recognize there's no room for delay anymore," said Laramie Adams of the Texas Farm Bureau, said. "It's time to actually work together to get something done."

TEXAS HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS

Texas has hit a high-water mark with more than 18 million registered voters. The voter registration rolls are growing at a faster pace than the population's growth, indicating increased interest in signing up to vote. The Chronicle reported the state has added nearly 2.6 million voters since 2018.

Most of the growth has come in Harris County and along the

I-35 corridor, areas that tend to vote more Democratic. While Republicans have not lost a statewide race in 30 years, results are getting tighter.

"We are in a competitive state and we are not going to win just sitting on our laurels," said Dave Carney, a veteran Republican strategist who has been a key political adviser to Gov. Greg Abbott and former Gov. Rick Perry.

JUDGE ENDS PROBE INTO ALLEGED VOTE HARVESTING

A federal judge has stopped the state's ability to investigate alleged cases of vote harvesting, such as the probe into the League of United Latin American Citizens by Attorney General Ken Paxton, The Tribune reported.

The probe was being conducted under a provision of a law passed in 2021 that targeted voter outreach groups suspected of offering vote-harvesting services. Voter outreach groups have complained of overreach by Paxton's office and widespread confusion over the law's implications.

Paxton last week vowed to appeal.

"A ruling — weeks prior to an election — preventing my office from investigating potential election violations is deeply troubling and risks undermining public trust in our po-

litical process," he said.

Voter outreach groups hailed the ruling, saying the restrictions violated the U.S. Constitution by being vague and restricting free speech.

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN ROAD RAGE SHOOTINGS

A newsroom dedicated to reporting on gun violence reports Texas is leading the country in road rage shootings, according to data from 2014 through 2023.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on the findings by The Trace, which concluded the number of people shot in road rage incidents surged over 400% during that time period, with 456 shooting incidents reported last year.

Two Texas cities topped the list of road rage shootings during that 10-year period. Houston reported 215 total incidents with 192 shootings and 207 victims shot, while San Antonio reported 107 total incidents with 83 shootings and 94 victims shot.

During that 10-year period in Texas, 146 people were shot and killed in road rage incidents, while 435 were wounded. In addition, 26 suspects were killed and 14 wounded.

SHORTER DAYS BRING HIGHER RISKS FOR PEDESTRIANS

The change in seasons

brings fewer daylight hours and higher risks for pedestrian safety, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Last October was the deadliest month for pedestrians, with 80 dying in Texas traffic crashes.

"As the fall and winter months usher in shorter days and less light, pedestrians are at increased risk on our roads," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Drivers may struggle to see pedestrians in lower-light conditions and must stay alert to avoid preventable collisions."

Motorists are urged to stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks; yield while turning to pedestrians; put phones away; and observe the posted speed limit. Pedestrians are reminded to cross streets only at intersections and crosswalks; make eye contact with drivers before crossing; wear reflective material at night; and also put away all electronic devices.

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@texas-press.com

BE A STAR FROM PG. 1

on behalf of the Hays County Friends of the Night Sky, at the Dripping Springs City Council meeting on Oct. 1.

The Be a Star award recognizes landowners who contribute to conservation efforts by protecting the night sky. Their properties were nominated for the award by complying with the criteria and for setting an example of adherence to the City of Dripping Springs lighting ordinance.

"Dripping Springs, as you probably know, is an internationally recognized Dark Sky City," Steffy said. "That's something that takes a lot of work to achieve,

and it's also something that takes a lot of work to maintain."

Be a Star award recipients receive a 9-by-12-inch decal to display at their businesses, showing their commitment to maintaining dark skies in the community.

"This is a way to recognize businesses and property owners that take special steps to reduce light pollution," Steffy said. "You may not think of light as a pollutant, but increasingly, in areas with significant development, that's what happens. Central Texas is greatly affected by this."

The Be a Star Awards program is administered by the Interna-

tional Dark-Sky Association Texas Chapter and the Texas Night Sky Festival, in partnership with the Hays County Friends of the Night Sky.

This year's Be a Star recipients are:

- Big Sky Ranch Amenity Center
- Drip Dental
- Fairlane
- Heritage
- LedgeStone Dental Care
- MI Model Home
- Meritage Model Home
- Parten Ranch Amenity Center
- Tri Point Model Home
- Sawyer Crossing
- H Tea O
- Natkhat Flavors

• Sawyer Crossing 7
A Business that could have been a star

Ironically, at the same Oct. 1 meeting, Amer Massood, owner of the Citgo gas station on Highway 290 just across from city hall, learned almost too late how serious the City is about its lighting ordinance.

Massoud had come to the City council meeting to plead for more time to comply with the city's lighting and sign ordinances. Massood's property was cited for violations after a storm damaged his sign earlier this year. City staff was recommending the city council take action to revoke

Mr. Massood's sign use permit.

Massood, who purchased the business in May, told the council he was unaware of the city's expectations for his property's signage and lighting. City officials said he had failed to respond in time to bring the property into compliance.

Mayor Bill Foulds suggested Massood look to the Be a Star award recipients as examples of how businesses can invest in reducing light pollution. After an hour of discussion, the council tabled a decision to revoke Massood's sign use permit and granted him 60 days to correct the

violations or risk losing his sign permit, which had been grandfathered in 2012.

Dripping Springs became the first city in Texas to be designated as an International Dark Sky Community in 2014, and only the sixth in the world. Since then, the city's residents and businesses have worked to maintain that status.

The International Dark-Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society have developed five principles for responsible outdoor lighting:

Every light should have a clear purpose.

Light should be directed only where it is needed.

Light should be no brighter than necessary.

Light should be turned on only when needed.

Use warmer color lights rated under 3,000 Kelvin when possible.

In addition and to prevent interior lighting from contributing to light pollution, property owners can:

Draw blinds or curtains to reduce light spill;

Turn off interior lights when not in use, especially on higher floors;

Use task lighting for workers during hours of darkness; and

Reduce atrium lighting when possible.

For more information on the Be a Star program, visit the city's website at cityofdripping-springs.com.



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Early fall is a busy time deer hunters, archery and MLD seasons underway

Matt Williams
Outdoors Writer

Texas big game hunting's version of the fall classic is here. And so are the signs of the times.

Sept. 28 marked the opening of Texas' Archery Only and Managed Lands Deer season for whitetails statewide. The start of the general season is just around the corner, Nov. 2. Deer camps are bustling.

Never mind the shaky economy, price of groceries and upcoming presidential election that have plenty of folks on edge these days. Let's talk a little about deer hunting to ease the nerves and set the stage for what has been forecast to be a very promising hunting season, thanks to banner habitat conditions and plenty of mature bucks in the field across most of the state.

Campfire discussions are sure to go just about anywhere these days. Here are 6 common topics that could surface anytime whitetails are in the mix:

* Mast Crop: When Texas deer hunters talk about mast crops, they are typically referring to hard mast like acorns. The nutritious little nuts are a heavily preferred food source. While they do provide some protein, acorns are particularly high in carbohydrates and fats to keep the animals fat and sassy through winter.

Acorn abundance can vary from one year to the next. Bumper crop years can make hunting around corn feeders and food plots painfully slow. Just the opposite can happen when acorns are scarce.

* Rut: It's the be-

witching time for whitetail hunters. Most serious hunters prefer to hunt during the breeding season, when bucks are high on testosterone and preoccupied with chasing the ladies. Mature bucks in rut are prone to make serious mistakes they normally would not make.

Timing of the rut varies with the ecological region. According to TPWD research:

* Pineywoods: Nov. 22 in northern counties, and Nov. 12 in the southern counties

* Gulf Prairies and Marshes: South, Sept. 30 and North, October 31

* Rolling Plains: North, Dec. 3 and South, Nov. 20

* Edwards Plateau: East, Nov. 7; Central, Nov. 24; West, Dec. 5

* Cross Timbers: North, Nov. 15; South, Nov. 17

* Trans-Pecos: Dec. 8

* South Texas: East, Dec. 16; West, Dec. 24

* Antler Restrictions: The restriction limits hunters in 117 Texas counties to two bucks, but only one of the bucks may have an inside spread of 13 inches or more. The second legal buck must have at least one unbranched antler.

Bucks with two branched antlers and an inside spread less than 13 inches are protected from harvest in antler restriction counties. The purpose of antler restrictions is to allow more bucks to reach 3 1/2 years of age before they are legal for harvest.

* Capes: A cape is the skin that has been removed from the head, neck and shoulders of a deer for mounting. If you kill a good buck but don't intend to mount



HUNTING AROUND FEEDERS AND FOOD PLOTS TENDS TO BE BEST WHEN NATURAL MAST IS SCARCE. GAM CAM PHOTO BY MATT WILLIAMS



BUMPER ACORN CROPS CAN LEAD TO SLOW HUNTING AROUND FEEDERS. WHITETAILS ARE ESPECIALLY FOND OF THE WHITE OAK NUGGETS. PHOTO BY MATT WILLIAMS

it, many taxidermists will be happy to have the cape.

* Co-op: A group of adjoining hunting clubs operating under similar management/harvest plans.

* Score: Shoot a good

buck nowadays and everyone likes to hear the score. Boone and Crockett (B&C) is the most widely accepted system for evaluating North American big game animals.

B&C penalizes for a

lack of symmetry between the left and right antler. When someone says a buck "gross" scores 142, that means its antlers total 142 inches before deducting for lack of symmetry. The "net" score is mi-

nus deducts. There are categories for typical and non-typical antlers.

Matt Williams is a freelance writer based in Nacogdoches. He can be reached by email, mattwillwrite4u@yahoo.com.

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Shannon Robinson, a driver for Texas Disposal Systems shows Cesar Miguel and his son Fede, age 3, what it's like to climb aboard a TDS trash pickup truck. Kids young and old got a chance to explore more than two dozen trucks and work rigs at the Burke Center for Youth's Touch A Truck event October 5 in Driftwood.

PHOTO KEN VARGAS

HETRICK FROM PG. 1

and is currently serving her second year as vice president after two years as president. She is a 2017 Leadership TASB graduate and a Master Trustee.

She said her experience with DSISD will allow her to share insights from serving a fast-growth district and a "Robin Hood" recapture district. "These lessons are crucial at the state level, as Texas continues to grow and rely on property taxes to fund school districts," Hetrick said. "We are a community with a high cost of living, working to retain our teachers and staff. I've also learned the importance of uniting as a team focused on what's best for students, regardless of election outcomes."

Hetrick believes her state-level experience will benefit Dripping Springs ISD by providing ongoing education and keeping her updated on national and state developments that affect students, teachers, and staff.

"As an officer, I have direct access to trustees across the state and nation, allowing me to consult with fast-growth districts like ours about lessons learned and best practices that DSISD can consider," she said.

Looking ahead, Hetrick expects school board leaders to face significant challenges in the 2025 state legislative session, especially regarding funding.

"State leaders boast about attracting business and industry to Texas, but with that come children who enter our school districts," she said. "We must build schools and hire teachers to serve them while keeping up with inflation so that programs our communities value aren't cut and teachers are encouraged to stay in the profession. TASB's grassroots process al-

lows local trustees to direct policy positions, and a key theme for the coming year will be ensuring public schools are properly funded."

Dr. Hetrick holds a bachelor's in business administration from The University of Texas-Pan American (now UT-Rio Grande Valley), a master's in public administration and a certificate in nonprofit management from Auburn University at Montgomery, and a doctorate in public administration and public policy from Auburn University.

Her professional experience includes teaching as an adjunct professor at Auburn University at Montgomery, TROY University, and Austin Community College. In 2014, she founded a nonprofit consulting business. As an active leader in her community, Hetrick was honored as the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Hometown Hero in 2020. She serves on the Dripping Springs Education Foundation board, as president of the Foster Village board, and as co-founder and vice president of Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs.

Hetrick recently announced she will step down as vice president of the board of Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs, where she was a founding member alongside Kathryn Chandler. The two, along with other board members, worked to bring the vision of Patriots' Hall to life, providing a home for veterans and their families.

Patriots' Hall celebrated its ribbon-cutting last week and is now delivering programs to serve the local veteran community.



19 Dripping Springs High School students were named to the Region 18 Choir following their performances in the opening round of the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir audition process on Oct. 5 at Bowie High School in Austin.

PHOTO DSISD

Harmonizing Success: 19 DSHS students make Region 18 Choir

Staff Reports

Nineteen Dripping Springs High School students were named to the Region 18 Choir following their performances in the opening round of the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Choir audition process on Oct. 5 at Bowie High School in Austin.

Among the 19 students, 17 advanced to the pre-Area round of auditions, which will take place Saturday, Nov. 16 in Austin at Anderson High School.

The Region 18 Choir will hold a performance on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 5:00 p.m. at the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public.

The DSHS students, who made the Region 18 Choir, include: (*students also advanced to the pre-Area round of auditions Nov 16).

Soprano 1

- *Ava Azua, 4th Chair
- Taylor Heenan, 5th Chair
- Teresa Grant, 7th Chair
- Madeline Johanningsmeier, 13th Chair
- Vita Tardel, 20th Chair

Soprano 2

- Vanessa Owens, 11th Chair
- Alaina Atkins, 13th Chair

Alto 1

- Isabella Eleazar, 2nd Chair
- Ainsley Ash, 6th Chair
- Katie Terry, 17th Chair
- Reese Starnes, 19th Chair

Alto 2

- Megan Aldridge, 11th Chair

Tenor 1

- Preston LeBas, 2nd Chair
- Emiliano Arroyo Corona, 6th Chair

Tenor 2

- Luke Voss, 2nd Chair
- Cody Ritchey, 5th Chair

Bass 1

- Grover Bendall, 6th Chair
- Ian Firkser, 19th Chair

Bass 2

- Charles Schubert, 4th Chair

REMODEL FROM PG. 1

City employees have been relocated to the following sites:

Dripping Springs Development Services, 661 W. Hwy 290, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Visitor Center, 509 Mercer St., Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Phone services remain unchanged, and residents can reach employees at (512) 858-4725. All mail should be sent to P.O. Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Packages should be directed to the Dripping Springs Development Services building at 661 W. Hwy 290.

City Council and Board Meetings

All public City Council and board meetings will continue to be held in person and virtually but at a new location. Starting Oct. 15, City Council meetings will move to the Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD) Center for Learning and Leadership at 300 Sportsplex Dr., Dripping Springs. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Commission meetings will also relocate to the DSISD Center for Learning and Leadership. These meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. All other commission and board meetings will be held at the DSISD Center for Learning

and Leadership, Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center, or virtually. The City Calendar at cityofdrippingssprings.com will have the most up-to-date information.

Residents are encouraged to visit the city's website for details on city services during the renovation, including hours of operation, contact information, and any potential changes to services. City officials are committed to providing uninterrupted services and will work closely with the public to ensure a smooth transition during the temporary relocation.

City staffing growing to keep pace with City growth

The city employs 61 full-time and one part-time staff now. Additionally, new positions have been created to accommodate the city's growth, including an HR director, lead utility director, assistant parks and community services director, and assistant park manager. The city will also fill vacancies for a senior planner, building inspector, and a full-time code enforcement inspector, which is currently a part-time role.

Staff will continue to work out of the Visitor's Center, Ranch Park Event Center, Development Services building, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Parks & Community Services staff are based at Ranch Park.

Some specialized work is handled by contractors who advise the city or manage spe-



cial projects. These include the city engineer, historic preservation consultants, exterior design and architectural standards consultant, TIRZ manager, commercial lighting consultant, landscape architect, and transportation engineer.

Before the renovation, City Hall's main room was primarily used for city council meetings and other city board and commission meetings. A smaller public meeting space will be included in the new design, as it will remain a public building. The remodel-

eled meeting room will accommodate 40-50 people and feature state-of-the-art audio-visual and streaming capabilities for public meetings.

The project is budgeted to cost \$1.1 million. Jonestar Construction LLC is the project contractor. Herron Design Studio Architecture, PLLC is the design firm. The renovation is expected to be completed before Founder's Day on April 25-27, 2025.

For more information on the renovation, call the city at (512) 858-4725.



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Monty
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Terrier mix

Howdy! I’m Monty
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Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Aggie
Female
6 years old
Boxer

Hello, my name is Aggie
I’m so excited to meet you! Whenever people see me they say I’ve got the sweetest little face ever, and I like to think it matches my personality. I love everyone I meet, whether they’re human or furry, and I like to think I’d fit right in with any family. I’m a pro at lounging on the couch and I’m a really good snacker who can eat cheese really fast. I’m both house and crate trained and as quiet as a Boxer sized mouse. I pretty much just need my own family and I’ll be all set!
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.

Universal Crossword

10/06

THEMELESS SUNDAY 104 by Rafael Musa

ACROSS

- 1 Charitable ad
4 Shul leader
9 Genre related to reggae
12 Active people
14 Cookie spinoffs with less creme
16 Seal the deal
17 Webs of non monogamous people
18 What's up?
19 Regretted
21 Dance with the arabesque position
22 Org chart head
23 Black ____ (secret missions)
24 Rely (on)
25 Features of warthogs and walruses

- 27 "That's a bad idea"
28 Deg. for a photographer, perhaps
31 Milky coffee drink
32 Collage compiled for inspo
34 Sound before "Bless you"
35 Firefighter's tool
36 Finished
37 Like tempura and churros
39 Interest rate increases
40 XXX-XX-XXXX ID
41 Metal with the symbol Au
42 Mythical apelike Himalayans
43 Model Holiday

- 44 Seasoning paired with pimienta
45 Relaxation spot
47 Compassionate
50 Bedside table item
51 Knight's title
52 Goal of some activists in the 19th and 21st centuries
54 Film critic Roger
56 Pet that finds a home via a "distribution system"
57 Basketball analyst Burke
58 Some One Medical employees: Abbr.
59 Relaxation spot
60 "Spring forward" setting, for short

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	A	R	T	S	L	O	W		T	A	R	P
S	H	A	B	U	S	H	A	B	U		A	L	O
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D	E	B	T	S		M	E	S	H		T	I	E
S	K	Y	E		T	A	R		U	P	O	N	
				D	I	N	E	S		L	O	O	M
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N	O	U	N		S	C	R	E	E	N	T	I	M
O	H	M	Y		T	O	Y	T	R	A	I	N	S

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DOWN

- 1 Best starting hand in Texas Hold'em
2 "Looking forward to our hangout!"
3 Singer Lennox
4 Learn the ____
5 Longtime Yankee's nickname
6 ____-Air (L.A. neighborhood)
7 NSYNC or BTS
8 "This is unavoidable"
9 Sun-drenched spot for a houseplant
10 ACL's joint
11 Aide, for short
12 Spongy cushion between vertebrae
13 Brilliant idea
15 Muscular superhero
20 DHL competitor
24 Reacted to a terrible performance
26 "No more"
27 Maliciously exposed

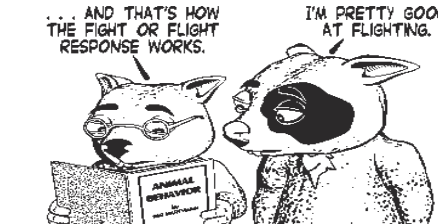
on the internet

- 28 Sorts who struggle with smooching
29 Person unlikely to conform to the status quo
30 Contributes
31 Young blokes
32 Sends via USPS
33 "I got this"
38 Floral brew
42 Thanksgiving tuber
43 Moisture-absorbing mineral
44 ____ Clara, California
46 Kabuki, origami, etc.
47 Like spiked lemonade
48 ____ Black (luxury rideshare)
49 Slippery hazard for a hiker
50 Credit union offering
53 Post-op locale
55 Physique, informally

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by PETER MARINACCI



Community Calendar

Hill Country Harvest Market
October 12 • 10 a.m - 5 p.m.
October 13 • 11a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop the best in clothing, home and holiday decor, jewelry, gourmet food, and Texas made gifts, art, accessories and more. Admission is \$6 or \$5 with your non-perishable food donation to Helping Hands Food Pantry. Admission is good for both days. Children 12 and under are FREE.
Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Pound House Farmstead
Community Mondays
October 14
8 - 11 a.m.

NEW Every Monday Sept. 16-Nov. 18, 2024, from 8am until 11am, Come walk, sit, play, read and just enjoy the peaceful and beautiful historic farmstead grounds. Tours are not available during this time. It's a great place for friends and family.
Pound House Farmstead • 419B Founders Park Road • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs
Songwriters Festival
October 18-21
Various hours

This 3-day music festival treats music lovers to a wide variety of amazing songs and the people and stories behind the finely crafted tunes. Visit destination-drippingsprings.com for lineup and concert locations and times. Downtown Dripping Springs along Mercer Street.

Eddie Durham Jazz Festival
October 19
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Calaboose African American History Museum is celebrating the musical contributions and legacy of San Marcos native, Eddie Durham, with a free concert. This year’s lineup includes: The Blues Revue, featuring New York Blues Hall of Famer, Michael Powers; Morris Nelms & The Calaboose Players; Indigo Soul featuring Sonia Love; Ace Pepper; The Jamie Krueger Group; Blue Mist; and big band sounds from the Texas State Jazz Ensemble. Eddie Durham Park • 205 Martin Luther King Drive • San Marcos TX 78666

Dripping Springs Farmers
Market*
October 9 & 16
Wednesdays
3 - 6 p.m.

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. *Please note the new hours for Fall.

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. Streaming option and meeting packets at: cityofdrippingsprings.com. Meetings are held at City Hall Council Chambers • 511 Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

October 15 • 6 p.m.
City Council Meeting

October 16 • 6 p.m.
Parks & Recreation
Commission Meeting

October 17 • 10 a.m.
Emergency Management
Commission Meeting

October 17 • 12 p.m.
Farmers Market
Committee Meeting
DSRP Ranch House • 1042
Event Center Dr • Dripping
Springs,
TX 78620

October 17 • 4 p.m.
Utility Commission Meeting

DRIPPING SPRINGS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Dripping Springs
Board of Trustees
Monthly Meeting
Oct 28 • 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 dsisdtx.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.



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Sat: 10am - 3pm

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Downtown San Marcos

@SMTXPRICECENTER

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BUSINESS

IRS Tax deadline October 15

Staff Reports

Taxpayers who requested an extension to file their 2023 federal income tax return are reminded by the IRS that the deadline to file is Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Returns filed after that date may incur late-filing penalties. The IRS also encourages taxpayers to file electronically.

It's important to note that an extension to file is not an extension to pay. Those who owe taxes should

pay as much as possible to minimize interest and penalties. Taxpayers who have not yet filed or paid their 2023 tax return and did not request an extension are urged to file and pay any taxes owed as soon as possible to avoid additional penalties and interest.

Additional time for certain groups

Taxpayers in federally declared disaster areas, as well as certain military service members and eligible support personnel in combat zones, may

qualify for extended deadlines. Service members and their families should consult their tax advisor or visit irs.gov for more information on these exceptions.

Accessing your tax account

Individual taxpayers can log into their IRS Online Account to access key information, such as their adjusted gross income (AGI), payment history, amounts owed, payment plan details, and digital copies of certain notices. Visit [line-account-for-individuals to view your personal tax account online.

Payment options

Those who owe taxes can use IRS Direct Pay, a free service, or make payments using a debit card, credit card, or digital wallet. To pay online, visit \[irs.gov/payments\]\(https://irs.gov/payments\).

If taxpayers are unable to pay their balance in full, they can apply for a payment plan online at \[irs.gov/payments/online-payment-agreement-application\]\(https://irs.gov/payments/online-payment-agreement-application\).](https://irs.gov/payments/on-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Business Calendar of Events

Coffee Connector Business Networking
October 2 • 8:15 a.m.
Morning business networking with the Chamber of Commerce. Bring plenty of business cards and make new business connections. No Registration required for members. Non-member guests may attend once before joining and must register by contacting amanda@dstxchamber.com. Dripping Springs Distilling • 5330 Bell Springs Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Rotary Club of Dripping Springs Regular Meeting
October 2 • Noon
From the earliest days of the organization Rotarians have been concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives and serving the community. Come visit to learn more. Flores Mexican Restaurant • 2440 E HWY 290 • Dripping Springs TX 78620

Patriots' Hall Dripping Springs Ribbon Cutting
October 3 • 10:30 a.m.
Please join the business community for a Ribbon Cutting celebrating the opening of Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs' new state-of-the-art facilities and take a tour of this marvelous campus serving our veterans and their families. 31 Patriots' Hall Blvd • Dripping Springs TX 78620

Gardien Wine Storage Ribbon Cutting
October 9 • 5 p.m.
Join us for a ribbon cutting and tour of the newly opened Gardien Wine Storage & tasting room and meet the owners Eric and Kris LaBrie. Gardien Wine Storage • 14510 Fitzhugh Rd Unit #600 • Austin, TX 78736

Have a business networking meeting or event to share? Send your listing in 50 words or less to dscenturynews@gmail.com using the subject line "Business Calendar Notice" at least 10 days before your event date.

PATRIOTS FROM PG. 1



Members from the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce joined the founding leadership of Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs for the official ribbon-cutting outside its entrance Oct.3.The celebration marked a key milestone in the organization's mission to provide a home for veterans and their families in North Hays County.

PHOTO KEN VARGAS

ing spaces and attract younger veterans, PHDS aims to engage veterans from more recent conflicts, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as their families.

After the ribbon-cutting, guests gathered in the main hall to raise a glass of champagne and toast the opening.

"Patriots' Hall is a place to enable veterans and their families to connect, grow, and thrive," said retired Gen. Scott McKean, the first executive director of Patriots' Hall. "We have so many veterans living here in Dripping Springs and the surrounding area who don't even know their neighbor is a veteran. Sometimes, you just need to talk to someone with a shared experience."

McKean credited Patriots' Hall founders Kathryn Chandler and Mary Jane Hetrick, saying, "This is their vision. They had a lot of people tell them 'no' along the way, but they remained steadfast. Let's raise a glass to their accomplishment."

Located in Dripping Springs, Patriots' Hall offers mental health support, job training, social activities, and

wellness programs to its area veterans. The 10-acre campus features a 7,100-square-foot main hall with a kitchen, administrative space, and a library. A wellness center provides consultations with physicians and VA benefits specialists, with further amenities in development.

And while the focus of its mission is to support veterans, the families of those who served in the nation's armed forces are also included in its core constituency.

Patriots' Hall was founded in response to one local veterans' need and search for a permanent meeting space for local veterans. For years, Dripping Springs VFW members moved between borrowed spaces like school buildings and fire halls but this group did not have a permanent home.

The effort gained momentum in 2016 when Vietnam veteran Ronnie "Shorty" Barnett circulated a flier at the town's Founders Day festival, asking for help securing a veterans' meeting place. The flier reached Kathryn Chandler, whose father was also a Vietnam veteran.

Chandler, who is

married to actor Kyle Chandler of "Friday Night Lights" fame, began rallying support for a permanent home for veterans. Initially, the Chandlers envisioned a small plot of land with a basic steel building. But when they shared their idea with local software entrepreneur Hank Seale and his wife, Lyssa, the vision expanded.

"They said this is way too small. This could be much bigger, much more important," Kyle Chandler recalled. From there, the concept grew exponentially.

A core team, including Kathryn Chandler, Hetrick, and Amy Doucet, began surveying veterans from Fort Hood to San Antonio. The vision evolved into a "one-stop shop" for veterans' services, including programs for families.

Patriots' Hall formed a nonprofit organization, set a \$10 million fundraising goal, and began turning the vision into reality. The first project was a meeting room shared by VFW Post 2933 and American Legion Post 290. Over time, the plan expanded to create a comprehensive facility offering support for

veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

Inclusivity remains central to Patriots' Hall, which serves veterans of all eras, including women and younger veterans with families.

After years of planning and fundraising, Patriots' Hall opened on Sept. 4, 2024, with an open house for veterans and their families. As it transitions from start-up mode, the board of directors will focus on delivering programs and services.

McKean now leads as executive director, while Marty Markgraf was hired this summer as administrative manager to oversee daily operations and volunteers.

The ribbon-cutting was a bittersweet moment for the founders. Barnett, whose request sparked the project, passed away in 2023. He is honored as Patriots' Hall's Director Emeritus, and Chandler and Hetrick paused to reflect on how much sweeter the day would have been if he could have seen it.

Patriots' Hall is located at 231 Patriots Hall Blvd. in Dripping Springs. For more information, visit patriotshall.org.



Hays County Master Gardeners Fall Plant & Tree Sale Oct. 16-22

Fall is here, and with it the Hays County Master Gardener Association's annual Fall Plant & Tree Sale.

Fall is the best time to plant perennials, ground covers, vines, succulents, and especially trees. Cooler evenings allow roots to establish, while warm, sunny days help promote growth and carbohydrate storage without draining energy from root systems.

The plant sale will offer on-line and in-person shopping options.

The online sale will be open and live from Oct. 16 through Oct. 22. Purchases can be picked up at the in-person shopping location on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dripping Springs Farmers Market, located at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas. You can find a sale link and more information about the Master Gardeners group by visiting hayscountymastergardeners.org.

Most of the plants in the sale are propagated by Hays County Master Gardeners from their own gardens. The selection includes Texas Superstars®, native and adapted perennials, ornamental grasses, and succulents that are well-suited for the Hill Country climate. Native ornamental and shade trees in five-gallon containers, provided by a local Texas native tree supplier, are propagated and raised in the same environment in which they will thrive on your property.

Plants are specifically selected for Central Texas environments and are ideal for xeriscape, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, ground cover, and other landscape projects.

Proceeds benefit HCGA's continuing education programs and training classes in the Hays County community.

Texas Master Gardeners is a volunteer program through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension that promotes horticultural best practices across the state. To become a certified Master Gardener, trainees complete a minimum of 50 hours of instruction and donate 50 hours of volunteer service to the community.

Master Gardener volunteers support various initiatives, including school garden projects, horticultural therapy, community and demonstration gardens, as well as offering educational programs and answering gardening questions.

You can follow the Hays Master Gardeners on social media on facebook.com/HaysCountyGardeners or on Instagram at instagram.com/hayscountymastergardeners.

SPORTS



Tigers leave Austin High marooned 49-7

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

It was homecoming and a game expected to be won by the Tigers. However, the Maroons started off as though they were capable of giving the Tigers a good game. Before the night was over it was back to a one-sided 49-7 win and reserves getting to play the second half.

Austin would actually strike paydirt first with a 68 run by their back. Unfortunately, someone was caught holding and it was brought back. Maddox Maher would loosen up his throwing arm and hit Nick

Tyndall for a 29 score and later 25 to Merrick Bloomgren. Aidan Burgess hit those two EP and the other five later. This left the Tigers up 14-0 after one. A QB burst up the middle for 80 yards got Austin back in the game early in the second but that only spurred the Tigers to answer with 28 points the rest of the half to lead 42-7. Jack Tyndall would get it started with a 33 run that put him in the endzone. Maher would then hit Cooper Reid for a neat 30 pass. Maher gave his arm a short rest and put his legs in action with a 2 run. Jack Tyndall would power in from the one for the

final score of the half. Maher took the rest of the night off while Mateo Perez and Logan Keim smoothly took charge of the offense. The only score of the second half came in the third when Perez hit Nick Tyndall for a 15 pass. The defense gave up some good yards from time to time but the Tiger defense made some timely plays including three interceptions and a fumble recovery. With it being homecoming, Jackson Mills was able to check off several boxes. He not only got his first interception but was voted by the students as the Homecoming King. The Queen selected

was Mia Pleasant. Friday night the Tigers will be returning to Burger Center to take on the Bowie Bulldogs. Bowie is considered the fourth best team in the district. Kickoff at 7:30PM.

Game stats (DS first): First downs 23-12; Rushing 235-241; Passing 269-72; Passes 20-34-0, 6-22-3. Tiger stats: Rushing: J. Tyndall 15-131 2TD, Maher 7-72 TD, Lawson Attaway 7-31, Jaceton Gotta 3-7. Passing: Maher 11-20-155 3TD, Perez 5-8-73 TD, Keim 4-6-41. Receiving: Reid 6-84 TD, N. Tyndall 5-78 2TD, Bloomgren 4-47 TD, James Montgomery 2-39, Liam Lawson 1-8, Gotta 1-4. Tackling: Clive Wahl 7-4, Case Hubbard 4-4, Gavin Badger 4-1, Miles Kennedy 3-2, Malachi Igharo 3-1, Ty Frankeny 2-0, Patrick Lopez 2-0, Chris Gustafson 1-2, Dylan Brasher 1-2.

Lady Tigers cruising In District play

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Dripping Springs Volleyball team (38-2, 6-0) went through the first half easily undefeated and are set to be the new

District Champions and ready to play the road to the state championship. The last three games were with Akins 3-0 (25-8, 25-9, 25-11), Del Valle 3-0 (25-13, 25-22, 25-14) and Austin 3-0 (25-19, 25-19, 25-15).

1970 DS Tiger football champions to be honored

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

At the October 18 game against Lake Travis, the 1970 District 29A Dripping Springs Tigers will be honored in ceremonies at mid-field beginning at 7:00 p.m. The usual 50-year anniversary reunion was postponed by Covid-19, so this represents the 54th year reunion.

The 1970 team was a record-breaking squad. The 26 lettermen carved out a 9-1 regular season record which was the most regular season wins for any previous Tiger eleven-man football team. This 9-1 record stood the test of time until the 2008 and 2016 teams tied it and the 2021 team had a perfect 10-0 record.

Seven members are no longer with us. Expected to attend the ceremony are Cole Bonnett, Howard Bryant, Teddy Draper, Kevin Farrell, Bill Garnett, Terry Garnett, Monte Glosson, James "Sandy" Hall, Pat Lyle, Robert Mauck, Cecil McIntyre, John "Meatball" Murray, Ray Nevarez, Joe

Ramirez, Billy Simpson (trainer), Randy Spence, Joe Williamson, Ronnie Wright.

There were some very good athletes on this team that set other standards with a high bar. Besides the usual All-District and All-Centex honors that come with good teams, Pat Lyle was named a unanimous First Team All-State middle guard and Joe Williamson earned Third Team All State offensive end. In addition, John Murray was the first running back in Dripping Springs history to rush for 1000 yards (1,395).

The season's stats can be found on the DSISD athletic website under the title Athletic Records. Wayne Grohman, the defensive coordinator and basketball coach will be unable to attend but also coached the 70-71 team to a district championship as well.

After the ceremonies, the honorees and their families will be seated in the east side north end zone bleachers. Friends and others are invited to drop by and join in on the visiting and reminiscing.



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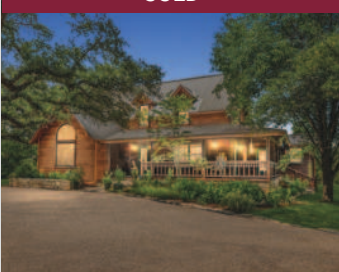
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