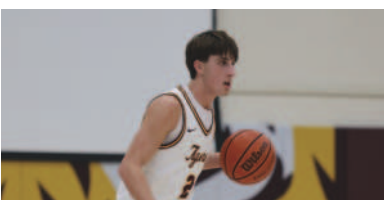


HOW TO BUY ART:
ART BEAT
PAGE 3



14 KIDS RECEIVE
NEW HOMES
PAGE 6



TEAMS LOOKING
TO IMPROVE
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

33rd Year No. 49

December 5, 2024

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75 cents

‘Road rage’ leads to auto-pedestrian fatality

Dalton Sweat
Regional Editor

Charles Allen Rice, 40, of Austin, was arrested for manslaughter, a second degree felony, related to the death of John Paul Ramirez following an alleged road-side confrontation.

Ramirez, 45, was struck by a vehicle near the intersection of Nutty Brown Road and Highway 290 on Nov. 29. The crash occurred just before 11 a.m. “Following a confrontation outside his vehicle with another driver, Ramirez fell into the eastbound lane and

was struck by an on-coming vehicle,” Billy Ray, with the Texas Department of Transportation, said. Ramirez was taken to a hospital in Austin where he was pronounced dead. Next of kin has been notified. The probable cause affidavit issued for Rice’s arrest said the

two were “possibly involved in a ‘road rage’ type incident.” “Rice through his own negligent and reckless action caused the death of John P. Ramirez by striking him on or about his head of face, causing him to fall into a lane of active traffic on HWY 290. As a result, a vehi-

cle struck Mr. Ramirez in the head and killed him,” the affidavit said. The Hays County Sheriff’s Department arrested Rice, who was involved in the confrontation with Ramirez. Rice was charged with manslaughter and released from jail on a \$25,000 bond.



CHARLES RICE

Christmas Cheer

City lights new tree to begin Christmas holiday



The annual tree lighting took place on Nov. 30 at Veterans Memorial Park hosted by the city of Dripping Springs and the Dripping Springs Lions Club. The brand new tree was unveiled with performances from local groups like the Dripping Springs Hi-Steppers, cheerleaders and local church choirs. The tree lighting was followed by a screening of the movie Elf to kick off the holiday season. The annual Christmas on Mercer event will be Saturday in downtown Dripping Springs running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with live music, crafts, children’s activities and holiday cheer. For more information on Christmas on Mercer, visit cityofdrippingsprings.com/christmasonmercer.
PHOTOS BY DALTON SWEAT/CENTURY NEWS



Hays County Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hood has served four terms in Hays County as part of his 45 year law enforcement career.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Constable Hood retirement celebration scheduled

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs and the greater Hays County community will honor Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hood as he retires after a 45-year career in law enforcement. A retirement celebration is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Courtroom at 195 Roger Hanks Parkway, Dripping Springs. Hood has served as Precinct 4 Constable since 2009. Born in West Memphis, Arkansas, Hood grew up in Little Rock as one of seven siblings. He graduated from John L. McClellan High School in 1976 and began his law enforcement journey soon after. Hood’s career began as a police cadet in Little Rock, where he rose to the rank of patrol officer by 1979.

In 1980, he moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he served in multiple roles, including patrol officer, undercover narcotics detective, and bomb squad member, until his retirement from the department in 2001. Following his retirement, Hood relocated with his family to Texas, working as an investigator for the Texas Department of Insurance and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. His election as Hays County Precinct 4 Constable in 2008 marked the beginning of a new chapter, during which he served four terms. During his tenure, Hood was twice appointed by Governors Rick Perry and Greg Abbott to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, serving as a commissioner from 2012 to 2024. He also played an ac-

SEE RETIREMENT PAGE 2

Housing inventory grows, offering buyers more choices in high-rate market

Staff Reports

In October, active listings across the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA increased

9.3% to 11,599 listings bringing the total months of inventory for the region to 5.1 months of inventory, up 0.5 months more compared to October

2023, according to the latest Central Texas Housing Report released by Unlock MLS. The data coupled with the average close-to-list price ratio hover-

ing at 92.7% indicates that buyers have more options to purchase a home they can afford in a high interest-rate environment while sellers still have some

room to negotiate. Clare Losey, Ph.D., housing economist for Unlock MLS and the Austin Board of REALTORS, noted that the biggest factor

affecting home sales continues to be mortgage rates. Mortgage rates averaged 6.4% in October.

SEE HOUSING PAGE 6

Five-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 61 Low: 41 Mostly Cloudy	High: 52 Low: 42 40% Chance of T-Storms	High: 57 Low: 46 40% Chance of T-Storms	High: 67 Low: 51 Partly Sunny	High: 71 Low: 44 Mostly Sunny

Capital Highlights

Deportation vow alarms construction industry



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

The state's construction industry is voicing concern that President-elect Trump's vow to deport millions of undocumented immigrants would cause major labor shortfalls, according to the Texas Standard.

"It would devastate our industry, we wouldn't finish our highways, we wouldn't finish our schools," said Stan Marek, CEO of Marek, a Houston-based commercial and

residential construction giant. "Housing would disappear. I think they'd lose half their labor."

Many of the state's cities are on lists of the country's fastest growing communities, and companies rely on undocumented labor. A 2022 report by the American Immigration Council and Texans for Economic Growth indicated more than a half million immigrants were working in the construction industry and nearly 60% of that workforce was undocumented.

Economist Ray Perryman notes that the Texas workforce isn't large enough to keep pace with growth. "There are more undocumented people working in Texas right

now than there are unemployed people in Texas," Perryman said.

PROPOSED TARIFFS RAISE CONCERNS ALONG BORDER REGION

Trump's intention to levy a 25% tariff on goods imported from Mexico and Canada is raising concerns, particularly along the southern border.

"The biggest impacts are going to be felt by manufacturing companies, transportation companies and warehousing companies," said Tom Fullerton, an economics professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. "We could end up with a repeat of the 1930s with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act," which created a trade war and contributed to the Great Depression.

Most goods traded across the three countries are considered intermediary goods, The Texas Tribune reported. An example is an American car-maker importing Chinese electrical parts, sending the vehicle to Mexico for a circuit board, then the vehicle being sent back across the border for finishing in an assembly line in Texas. Fullerton said an individual product could pass between the U.S. and Mexico four to eight times.

Some Texas elected officials have expressed support for Trump's tariffs, however. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said tariffs can be an effective negotiating tool to encourage Mexico to shut down the border and said any potential economic impacts would be short-lived.

"We are trying to shut down the flood of

illegal immigration," Miller said. "That factor alone offsets any temporary price increase."

PATRICK CALLS FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUNDING

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wants lawmakers in the upcoming session next month to approve a dementia research fund modeled after the state's \$6 billion Cancer Prevention and Research Institute, called CPRIT, The Tribune reported.

Since it began in 2007, CPRIT has become the country's second-largest funder of cancer research, only exceeded by the federal government. If funded by the Legislature, the dementia counterpart could have a global impact on research into Alzheimer's and dementia.

"Like CPRIT, this investment will draw leading researchers and companies to Texas and require them to be based in Texas, leading to their further investment in our state," Patrick said last week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports that 459,000 Texans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. That is about 12% of the state's over-65 population.

CRYPTO MINING FACILITIES MUST REGISTER WITH PUC

Cryptocurrency mining facilities connected to the state's primary electric grid must register with the Public Utility Commission under a rule passed late last month. The rule was mandat-

ed by a bill passed in 2023 requiring crypto mining facilities using more than 75 megawatts of power to do so.

Crypto mining consumes huge amounts of power. According to the Texas Blockchain Council, there are at least 27 mining operations in Texas and more are planned. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas predicts the growth in crypto mining facilities and data centers could nearly double electric use within six years.

"To ensure the ERCOT grid is reliable and meets the electricity needs of all Texans, the PUCT and ERCOT need to know the location and power needs of virtual currency miners," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

Virtual currency mining facilities are "flexible loads," meaning they can quickly adjust their power consumption in response to certain factors, like changes in the wholesale price of electricity. Facilities that fail to register could be fined \$25,000 a day.

FEDS CAN'T DESTROY RAZOR WIRE, APPEALS COURT RULES

A federal appeals court has stopped the federal government from destroying razor-wire fencing installed by Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border near Eagle Pass, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The state placed more than 29 miles of wire in the Eagle Pass area in the past year or so. The Border Patrol has cut some of the wire in a long-running dispute between the federal government

and the state over who controls the border.

Last week, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 opinion reversing a lower's court's ruling that the federal government could destroy the wire.

"It was shocking to me that the federal government would go out of their way to cut razor wire to allow illegals to cross when we're just trying to protect our own land," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said.

TXDOT PROJECTS SAVE COMMUTERS \$915 MILLION

A historic number of projects underway by the Texas Department of Transportation are easing commute times, according to a new report from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

Despite the number of miles traveled on state roads increasing by 7% in the past five years, traffic delays are down 7% in that same time period, according to TTI. The study also found commuters are saving an estimated \$915 million in time and fuel costs.

"As our population and economy continue to grow, there's a considerable need for more projects, and this report helps guide our work to areas that need it most," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

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



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RETIREMENT FROM PG. 1

tive role in the Fraternal Order of Police and the Central Texas Justice of the Peace and Constables Association.

Hood's training and

certifications include narcotics enforcement from the DEA, financial forensic techniques from the U.S. Department of Treasury, and fire and ex-

plosive investigation by the National Association of Fire Investigators.

As he retires, Hood plans to move back to Arkansas with his wife

Kathi. The Dec. 11 event offers an opportunity for the community to thank him for his contributions and wish him well in his next chapter.



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How to buy art: My 3 best tips

Lyrae Perry
Special to the News

As a professional working artist, and a person who buys art too, I'm offering a unique perspective to consider next time you are buying art for yourself. Why not buy like an artist would? First and foremost, the perfectly imperfect hand-wrought work of human creativity can elevate your space and your life. Buy art that you just can't take your eyes away from and that gives you an emotional blast - not as an investment. Buy originals if you can afford them and prints if you can't get originals.

Take a tour of galleries and shows in your area. Get to know what is hanging on the walls and find out what "speaks to you." Look at everything before you buy... especially if it's an expensive piece. You can find a lot of art online as well, but you can't always see the quality of the work in a photo. Try to look at the originals because some really gorgeous art just doesn't photograph well. I am very aware of that with my own art. There are advantages to buying from local artists or at shows where you can see the

original up close and personal.

If you're looking to hang art on the wall just to decorate, you can find lots of inexpensive "decorator art" (usually canvas or paper prints) at Hobby Lobby and The Painted Tree. Gather some color swatches and go shopping for art that fills your empty spaces and brings color to your walls. Many people I know have done some shopping like this and are pretty successful at getting the job done. They generally have a theme they want to follow and often a particular color scheme they want to match.

However, if you want to buy art that is more than nice wallpaper, you need to tap into your inner self a bit more.

Here are my three very best tips for buying art:

1. Shop for and buy the art pieces that you love. The art itself should make you feel something. It should energize you, bring you peace, be endlessly interesting and/or attractive for you to look at. Ask about the art. Look for quality of workmanship. Talk to the artist who cre-

ated the work if you can. Most artists have a back story on their artworks. They can tell you about their inspiration and experiences in creating the piece. We all like to tap into the story for meaning or details that may not be obvious.

2. The art might match your couch, or not. The art you choose to buy is so personal that it's on a different level than other possessions. You can always change your furniture and wall paint, but the art you buy is really a reflection of your inner being. It can be about your life experience or perhaps you want to create a special mood or atmosphere in your space.

3. Remember that you are going to be living with that artwork every day in your home or office. Art is like a person, almost a member of the family - it has presence and being. If that last statement sounds kooky to you, maybe the art you have on your wall isn't something that you love. Try taking it down and see how you feel when it's gone.

I also rotate my art around the house. I have my own art cre-



ations - new pieces and some older ones moving in and out from galleries, my mother's art and my personal collection of art - way more than what will fit on the walls at once. I love all the art and rotating is a way to enjoy every piece. Art rotation also gives a fresh look to the same old room without a lot of effort.

To see my paintings and art jewelry creations, visit my website:

www.lyraeperry.weebly.com - Nature & Wildlife Art by Lyrae





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Public Notice

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PUBLIC NOTICE OF ORDINANCE 2024-42 AMENDING THE SIGN CODE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE DRIPPING SPRINGS CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING ARTICLE 26.02 SPECIFIC SIGN REGULATIONS BY DISTRICT; ALLOWING NEW BUSINESSES TO PLACE ONE ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY SIGN; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT: AMDNEDMENT; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; CODIFICATION; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING.

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a distiller's & rectifier's permit by Texacello, LLC dba Texacello, LLC located at 171 Springs Ln Bldg 2 Ste 200, Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas 78620. Gary Kelleher – CEO; Susan Kelleher – Treasurer; Angela Jett - Administrator.

Public Notice

RFQ-MD-2024-01 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Wimberley Independent School District ("District") is seeking/accepting proposals in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Occupational Therapist Professional Services. Interested parties must submit their proposals to the WISD Administration Building

c/o Michael Doyle, Chief Financial Officer at 951 FM 2325 Wimberley, TX. 78676, no later than 2:00 pm on January 8, 2025. Proposals may be hand carried or mailed in a sealed envelope/package clearly marked with the interested company's name, return address, the RFQ number and opening date and time. To obtain copies of the RFQ go to WISD's website at www.wimberleyisd.net, select Departments, Business Support Services, Bids and Proposals, Current Bids and Proposals. Email and fax submissions will not be accepted. For any questions, please contact Mr. Doyle at michael.doyle@wimberleyisd.net

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gary Scott Avignon, Deceased, were issued on November 21, 2024 in Cause No. 24-0503-P pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas to Mary Ann Avignon, 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 Mary Ann Avignon at 9308 Canus Drive, Austin, Texas 78748 within the time and in the manner prescribed by Law.

Dated the 25th day of November 2024

Patrick G. Rehmet, Attorney for Mary Ann Avignon

State Bar No: 16738800

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WIMBERLEY ISD'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Wimberley ISD will hold a public meeting in conjunction with the regular board meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2024 in the Board Room at the District's Administration Building located at 951 FM 2325. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Wimberley ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.



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14 kids receive new homes at CASA’s Adoption Day Event

Shannon West
San Marcos Daily Record

There is nothing more beautiful than when a child is welcomed with open arms into a new family, and a ceremony held at Kissing Tree to establish permanent homes for 14 kids — three of which are from Hays County. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Central Texas along with the Department of Family and Protective Services Region 7 and SJRC Texas celebrated Central Texas Adoption Day by honoring the eight families that adopted local children.

According to information provided by SJRC first Central Texas Adoption Day in 2007, which has since grown and evolved into a multi-agency effort.

Joyce Yannuzzi, district director for Texas State Senator Donna Campbell, spoke in Campbell’s stead.

“She sends her heartfelt Texas, President Bill Clinton proclaimed National Adoption Month in 1995 to commemorate the adoption of children into “loving, permanent homes where they can flourish and grow up to become happy, healthy, productive members of our national community.” CASA of Central Texas hosted the appreciation for all that CASA does for families here in the central Texas area,” Yannuzzi said. “She has adopted four daughters of her own, so she is now mother to these four girls. And it’s my pleasure to be here because I am also an adoptee.”

Yanuzzi read Texas Senate proclamation

number 400, which recognized the many organizations involved in Central Texas Adoption Day.

“Court Appointed Special Advocates, together with the courts of Hays, Caldwell, Comal and Guadalupe counties will be celebrating 2024 Adoption Day with their adoption day event, which will be held Nov. 25. ... On this day, courts in each of these counties will open their doors to finalize the adoptions of local foster children who are in need of loving permanent homes, and CASA and area residents will join other organizations nationwide in celebrating all adoptions in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of foster care adoption,” she read. “There are more than 100,000 children



The Sigala family swore to faithfully protect its newest members — Brian, Javier and Brielle.
PHOTO BY SHANNON WEST

in the United States foster care system and thousands of children in our state waiting to be adopted through the dedicated efforts of CASA. This Adoption Day event, along with similar celebrations in all 50 states, provides children in need of a chance to live in stable,

loving homes, and encourages families and individuals to make a powerful difference in the lives of children through foster care adoptions.”

Comal County District Attorney Jennifer Tharp thanked the families that “stepped up” by adopting chil-

dren that day and read a quote about adoption that she said “grabbed her attention.”

“It says, ‘God knew that it mattered little how your child got to your family today but instead matters much that they got there,’”

SEE ADOPTION PAGE 8

HOUSING FROM PG. 1

ber with signs pointing to them remaining in the low-to mid-6% range as we head into 2025, even with the Fed’s second rate cut last week. Buyers waiting on the sidelines for rates to drop significantly may be in for a long wait. In the meantime, sellers must recognize that bringing buyers to the table requires a more aggressive pricing approach. Even in a more balanced market, buyers with limited purchasing power are struggling to meet current price expectations.”

Kent Redding, 2024 Unlock MLS and ABoR president, reinforced the inevitability and longterm positive impact of the Central Texas region’s recent market correction to healthier inventory levels and more balanced conditions.

“News headlines that characterize the Central Texas housing market as ‘ground zero’ are an extreme over-exaggeration,” Redding said. “It’s important to remember where we’ve come from. Austin led the state and nation in record-breaking home price growth and sales activity during the pandemic. For three years, near-zero housing inventory, numerous offers above list price and a rapid-paced market raised home prices and left little negotiating power for buyers. During this record-setting growth, ABoR and Unlock MLS consistently emphasized the unsustainability of the rapid growth, and now, our market is working to balance those extremes.”

Redding added that this area will continue to bring in families and businesses. “Central Texas remains a desirable and sought-after location for families and businesses alike, with real estate remaining as the most powerful longterm investment and the greatest driver of generational wealth,” Redding said. “This is why it’s invaluable to have a trusted REALTOR in your corner to explain

what’s really happening in the market and how you can make the most of those conditions.”

AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK-SAN MARCOS MSA

- 2,248 – Residential homes sold, 1.5% less than October 2023.
- \$430,000 – Median price for residential homes, 3.2% less than October 2023.
- 3,333 – New home listings on the market, 7.4% more than October 2023.
- 11,599 – Active home listings on the market, 9.3% more than October 2023.
- 2,344 – Pending sales, 13.0% more than October 2023.
- 5.1 – Months of inventory, 0.5 months more than October 2023.
- \$1,270,475,501 – Total dollar volume of homes sold, 1.0% less than October 2023.
- 92.7% – Average close to list price, compared to 93.3% in October 2023.

HAYS COUNTY

- 315 – Residential homes sold, 7.8% less than October 2023.
- \$359,000 – Median price for residential homes, 5.5% less than October 2023.
- 534 – New home listings on the market, 20.8% more than October 2023.
- 1,740 – Active home listings on the market, 6.6% more than October 2023.
- 354 – Pending sales, 11.3% more than October 2023.
- 5.4 – Months of inventory, 0.7 months more than October 2023.
- 93.2% – Average close to list price, compared to 93.0% in October 2023.

CITY OF AUSTIN

- 716 – Residential homes sold, 0.8% less than October 2023.
- \$565,000 – Median price for residential homes, 0.5% less than October 2023.
- 1,170 – New home listings on the market,

- 1.7% more than October 2023.
- 4,249 – Active home listings on the market, 10.4% more than October 2023.
- 764 – Pending sales, 22.0% more than October 2023.
- 5.9 – Months of inventory, 0.6 months more than October 2023.
- \$553,060,088 – Total dollar volume of homes sold, 1.8% more than October 2023.
- 91.4% – Average close to list price, compared to 92.1% in October 2023.

TRAVIS COUNTY

- 979 – Residential homes sold, 2.5% more than October 2023.
- \$510,000 – Median price for residential homes, flat to October 2023.
- 1,579 – New home listings on the market, 4.5% more than October 2023.
- 5,702 – Active home listings on the market, 9.4% more than October 2023.
- 1,006 – Pending sales, 16.8% more than October 2023.
- 5.8 – Months of inventory, 0.4 months more than October 2023.
- \$691,527,907 – Total dollar volume of homes sold, 4.7% more than October 2023.
- 91.8% – Average close to list price, compared to 92.6% in October 2023.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

- 807 – Residential homes sold, 3.1% less than October 2023.
- \$420,000 – Median price for residential homes, 2.3% less than October 2023.
- 1,028 – New home listings on the market, 7.1% more than October 2023.
- 3,369 – Active home listings on the market, 9.2% more than October 2023.
- 835 – Pending sales, 11.3% more than October 2023.
- 4.2 – Months of inventory, 0.5 months more than October 2023.
- \$384,263,366 –

Total dollar volume of homes sold, 4.2% less than October 2023.

- 93.4% – Average close to list price, compared to 93.8% in October 2023.

BASTROP COUNTY

- 114 – Residential homes sold, 4.4% more than October 2023.
- \$355,000 – Median price for residential homes, 1.1% less than October 2023.
- 152 – New home listings on the market, 1.3% less than October 2023.
- 654 – Active home listings on the market, 23.2% more than October 2023.
- 119 – Pending sales, 8.2% more than October 2023.
- 5.7 – Months of inventory, 0.8 months more than October 2023.
- \$44,790,742 – Total dollar volume of homes sold, 1.5% more than October 2023.
- 92.6% – Average close to list price, compared to 93.5% in October 2023.

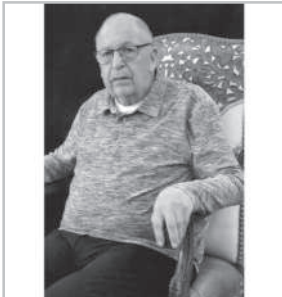
CALDWELL COUNTY

- 33 – Residential homes sold, 13.8% less than October 2023.
- \$262,990 – Median price for residential homes, 13.5% less than October 2023.
- 40 – New home listings on the market, 14.3% more than October 2023.
- 136 – Active home listings on the market, 9.9% less than October 2023.
- 30 – Pending sales, 16.7% less than October 2023.
- 4.1 – Months of inventory, 0.3 months more than October 2023.
- \$9,815,857 – Total dollar volume of homes sold, 20.2% less than October 2023.
- 94.1% – Average close to list price, compared to 97.6% in October 2023.

For more information or to download the October 2024 Central Texas Housing Report, visit ABoR.com/MarketStatistics.

OBITUARIES

James Robert “Jim” Rodgers



JAMES ROBERT RODGERS

James “Jim” Robert Rodgers, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2024, in Wimberley, TX. Born on February 20, 1942, in Arcata, CA, to Robert “Bob” Eldon Rodgers and Barbara Jane (Evans) Rodgers, Jim spent much of his childhood on a farm near Coquille, Oregon, where he developed a deep appreciation for nature and hard work.

From a young age, Jim’s curiosity about the natural world was evident, particularly in his fascination with insects. He amassed such a large insect collection that it was later donated to Oregon State University during his time as a student there. Jim also enjoyed participating in Boy Scout activities. A highlight of his Boy Scout years was traveling by train across the United States in 1957 to attend the Boy Scout Jamboree in Valley Forge, PA, with the added bonus of visiting Washington, D.C.

An Eagle Scout with a passion for education, Jim earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees in Natural Resources in 1967 at Oregon State University. He met Mary in 1961, and they married in a ceremony in Portland, Oregon, in 1962. He began his career with the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Corps of Engineers, where his dedication and expertise left a lasting impact.

In 1972, Jim’s entrepreneurial spirit and love of rockhounding led him to start an import business, initially specializing in Brazilian agate and amethyst. Jim was instrumental in introducing many firsts in the importation and cutting/polishing of semi-precious stones. At one time, the company was the largest importer of Brazilian agate in the United States.

The business that he and Mary started was truly a family affair, with their children joining them on cross-country trade show road trips during summers. Mary accompanied him on adventures around the world to find new suppliers. Later, the business expanded to include items from Asia and India. Jim maintained excellent business contacts, and many of these relationships blossomed into lifelong friendships with people from all over the world.

Throughout his life, Jim was a voracious reader, particularly of historical fiction, a love he passed down to his children. Some of Jim’s favorite memories were of birding adventures with Mary across the U.S., India, China, South America, and Africa. He also cherished any opportunity to go fishing with friends in Yellowstone, Brazil, and on Christmas Island in the South Pacific. Until his death, he spoke of going on a cruise with Mary to Australia and New Zealand, returning to Brazil, and hitching a ride on a cargo ship for an around-the-world adventure.

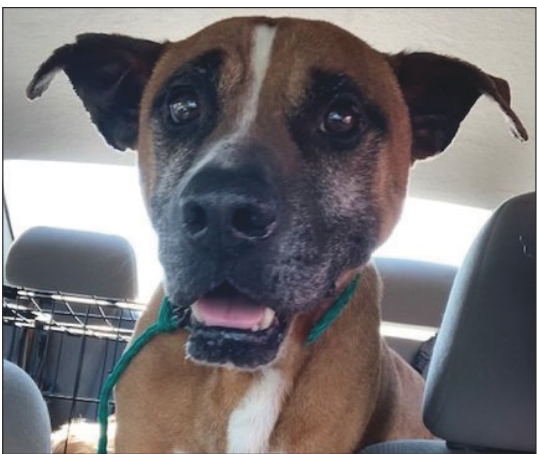
Jim’s legacy lives on through his beloved family. He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise; his children, Michelle Getty, married to Cory Getty, and Robert Shawn Rodgers, married to Kesha Rodgers; and his grandchildren, Nolan Robert Getty, Caden Lawrence Getty, Ozzy Curtis Rodgers, and Jason James Rodgers. He is also survived by his sisters, Mary Lee Meehan, married to Bob Meehan, and Margaret Ann Teruya, married to Tom Teruya.

A celebration of Jim’s life will be held in the spring of 2025, when family and friends will gather to honor the incredible legacy he leaves behind. Jim will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, his boundless work ethic, his generosity, and the pride he had in his children and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider writing down your favorite story about Jim and sending to Mary or Michelle. Donations to The Alzheimer’s Association also appreciated.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Featuring local furry friends eligible for adoption & looking for loving homes!



Eras - Male
13 years old
Terrier mix
Howdy, I'm Eras. Everyone who meets me says I'm a cheerful boy who loves life. I enjoy car rides and walk well on a leash, so I'm great for apartments because I'm quiet and well-behaved. I can get a little excited around small dogs, but I calm down quickly and I love meeting new friends. I'm smart and really good at learning new tricks, so I'm a pretty fun friend to have. I'm neutered, vaccinated, house-trained, and hoping to find a loving foster or forever family who will love me and care for me.



Hot Rod - Male
8 years old
Chihuahua
Hello! They call me Hot Rod. All I really want is to be snuggled up and loved. I'll cozy up against your shoulder and arm when I sleep if you let me. I get along well with other dogs, though I might chase after cats a bit. When I first came to Lizzy's, I had trouble using my back legs, but after some tough times, I had them amputated. Now, I feel fantastic and zoom around in my scoot-suit and wheels! I look very cool when I go fast! My front legs are getting stronger, and I've even learned to lift myself up. I promise to make you smile and show you that two legs work just as well as four!

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

12/1 **THEMELESS SUNDAY 112** by Will Eisenberg

- ACROSS
- 1 "Grey's Anatomy" channel

4 Way off

8 Overalls for the slopes

14 Kanga's kid

15 Wedding pre-invite

17 Rower's blade

18 Its Hall of Fame is in Canton, Ohio

19 Molecule in many COVID vaccines

21 Kingly address

22 Nikola who called X-ray images "shadowgraphs"

23 South Australian host city of the Tour Down Under

25 ____-rock (genre
- for R.E.M.)

26 Hold tight

27 Small, medium or large

29 To the ____ degree

32 Has a little drink?

35 Skin opening

36 Renowned

37 Online workshop

39 Letters with college apps

40 Rhyming beach bar mocktail

42 Seek consent

43 Roman wrap

44 Leader protected by the Swiss Guard

45 Very, in Valencia

46 Top seller?

50 Put restrictions on

53 Volcano output

54 Shell-less gastropod

55 "Pick for me"

58 "!!!!!"

59 "Really, truly, no fooling?"

60 Slimy stuff

61 Laughs too hard, perhaps

62 Wooden pins

63 Soph. and jr.
-
- © 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.upuzzles.com
-
- 6 Steer clear of

7 Load again in a browser

8 HBO rival, briefly

9 Morning whistler?

10 "Wouldn't shock me"

11 Barnyard bleats

12 "____ be OK"

13 Banjoist Fleck

16 Low digit?

20 UFO crewmates

24 Vaulted part of a church

25 Like Moctezuma II

28 State home to Maquoketa and Council Bluffs

29 "Sorry you got offended," e.g.

30 Buzz surrounding an unhappy star athlete, say

31 Wife and sister of Zeus

32 Prefix larger than giga-

33 Pester

34 Alone at a party

35 Airline employees

38 Conks on the noggin

41 Internet use maximum

43 "For shame!"

45 One with a fake ID, say

47 Sheepish?

48 "Get me?"

49 Some waffles

50 Container tops

51 Revered person

52 Deli spread

53 Gymnast Suni

56 Private online chats, for short

57 UFO crewmates
- Want more puzzles? Check out the “Just Right Crossword Puzzles” books at QuillDriverBooks.com
- WOMBANIA™
- I DEMAND TO BE PAID AN ALLOWANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT I'M WORTH!
-
-
- Copyright ©2024 Peter Marinacci All Rights Reserved.
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-
- “Wombania is about a family of Wombies who move in with their human relative and take over his home and his life. An all-ages comic, Wombania is a unique look at life, relationships, food, and technology, and how we struggle to cope with the fast-paced, ever-changing world in which we live.”
- Community Calendar
- Western Wonderland Nov 27- Jan 5
- Now in its 2nd wonderful year, visitors will have fun joining events and activities, strolling the Trail of Lights and so much more. At the heart of Western Wonderland is the giant ice-skating rink. Visitors will glide and twirl under the twinkling lights on the largest outdoor ice-skating rink in Central Texas. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
- Lucky Arrow Holiday Market
- December 5**
3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Santa is coming to Lucky Arrow. Join them at the Holiday Market. Enjoy an afternoon of local art and vendors, delicious food, live music, holiday cocktails and a special visit from Santa from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 3600 Bell Springs Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
- Holiday Sip & Shop December 5
- 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**
Get ready for a festive evening of holiday cheer! Enjoy 20% off purchases, a complimentary beverage upon arrival, giveaways, free gift wrapping for purchases, and more! Texas Hill Country Olive Co. • 2530 West Fitzhugh Road • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
- Vintage Market December 6-8
- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
Vintage market is a shopping experience in time for your holiday gift-giving season. Live music, and food and drinks. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.
- Christmas on Mercer December 7
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
Christmas on Mercer will take over downtown Dripping Springs on Dec. 7. This is the 20th anniversary of this wonderful and magical holiday event. From shopping to food vendors to Santa Claus
- and more, everyone loves the Lions Club's Christmas on Mercer. Downtown Dripping Springs • Mercer Street • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
- Toys for Tots Toy Drive & Vintage Scout Meetup
- December 7**
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Vista Brewing is hosting a Toys for Tots Toy Drive and vintage International Scout meetup from 12 to 3 pm. There will also be vintage Scout trucks for viewing. Toy and monetary donations benefit Marine Toys for Tots organization serving joy to underprivileged children in the area. Vista Brewing • 13551 FM 150 W • Driftwood, TX 78619
- Vista Brewing Movie Under the Stars: Home Alone
- December 7**
6:30 p.m.
Bring the whole family to kick off the holiday season with a free outdoor screening of the classic Christmas comedy Elf! Saturday, November 30. Entry is free, RSVP via
- Eventbrite. Movie begins at 6:30 p.m. Family and dog friendly. Vista Brewing • 13551 FM 150 W • Driftwood, TX 78619
- Art Market at the Triangle December 14
- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
Local artists selling a variety of art on Mercer Street. Sponsored by the Dripping Springs Art League and the Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services. Veterans Park • 140 E. Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
- Caliterra Hill Country Holiday Bazaar
- December 14-15**
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Grab your friends and shopping lists for this fun shopping experience. Local artists and vendors, live music, food & drink. Caliterra Community Hall • 505 Wynnpag Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620. (Next to LeMuse coffee shop)
- 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 options and meeting packets at: cityofdripping-springs.com. Meetings are held at City Hall Council Chambers • 511 Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.
- Dec. 9 • 4 p.m.**
TIRZ Board Meeting
- Dec. 9 • 6:30 p.m.**
Founders Day Commission Meeting
- Dec. 10 • 6 p.m.**
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- Dec. 11 • 11 a.m.**
DSRP Board Meeting
- Dec. 17 • 6 p.m.**
City Council Meeting
- Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
- December 17 • 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
- Dripping Springs Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
- December 16 • 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.

SPORTS

Girls, boys basketball looking to improve

Carl Waits
Sports Writer

The two Dripping Springs basketball teams are struggling at the time to keep their heads above water but are expecting to improve enough to have a voice in the district wars. The Tigers are 5-5 and Lady Tigers 1-9.

It is the general consensus of coaches that the first five minutes of each half of a game is the most important in a game played. The reason is it sets the tone for how your team is going to perform for the total game. The Tigers certainly adhered to this in their game with Smithson Valley. They came out ready to play and quickly bolted out to a 9-0 lead. It was needed. SV warmed up a few minutes later and stayed within that range for the remainder of the



Judson Loe scored 35 points for the Tigers against Smithson Valley.

PHOTO BY RONNIE ADAIR

game as the Tigers prevailed 69-59. They pressured the Tigers from early at 9-5 to 15-10 to 20-15 after one. From that point on the air was filled with threes and intensity. DS never lost the lead during the barrage. It

was 34-21 at the half and 53-45 after three. It was Judson Loe with the big night scoring 35 points. In addition Rushton Budge added 18, Grant Reagan 6, Brady Coleman 5, Brayden 4 and Grant Gillum 1.

On the other hand, the Lady Tigers had an opposite game with Hays Johnson. They came out playing like it was the first day of holiday at noon (which it was). They were careless and lackadaisical unlike the energy they usually display in their games. It was a game they were capable of winning but lost 60-41. Most of the game was spent in scoring spurts. Johnson jumped out to a 10-0 lead. DS got it back to 13-8 after one. They kept it to five through the second until a three made it 28-20 at the half. DS could not get shots to fall and therefore could not close the gap. It was 44-34 after three. An 8-0 finish spread the margin to its final. Rain Collins led the attack with 20. Others were Ella Beatty 6, Ainsley Coleman 5, Layney Fields 4, Bailey Rogers 4, Chloe Lightfoot 2.

Wrestlers shine at Capital Classic

Carl Waits
Sports Writer

For the second straight big tourney, the DS wrestling teams showed their overall strength at the Capital Classic held at the Delco Center in Austin where more than 40 teams competed. The Tigers were first among 46 teams and the Lady Tigers took fourth among 43. In wrestling every participant on the team is important because you don't have to place to contribute points to the total.

Boys standings: DS 162, Vandegrift 156.5, Lake Travis 154.5, Cedar Park 150.5.

DS results: 113: Isaac Quevedo 5-2 (4th); 126: Cole Sides

3-1 (2nd); 132: Charlie Lundin 3-2 (6th); 135: Abel Silverman 5-0 (1st); 144: Tucker Lundin 4-2; 150: Isaiah Ellis 3-2; 157: Drew Clarno 4-2 (4th); 165: Jaden Patterson 0-2; 175: John Kaczmariski 2-2; 190: Gavin Scott 0-2; 315: Mikkel Bushee 4-2 (4th); 285: Davis Tejada 2-2.

Girls standings: Comal Pieper 195.5, Cibolo Steele 147.0, Leander Glenn 110.0, DS 103.0.

DS Results: 107: Evelina Cardinal 5-2 (4th); 114: Alexa Salazar 2-2; 126: Lucy Clarno 4-0 (1st); 132: Leslie Flores 0-2; 138: Audrey Orr 1-2; 145: Rasanie Ly 1-2; 165: Amy Ellis 3-2; 185: Kinsey Belote 3-2; 235: Layla Drummond 2-2.

ADOPTION FROM PG. 6

Phenix Reign was ecstatic about officially becoming a Wolfe-Schacter.

PHOTOS BY SHANNON WEST



Tharp said. “And I can’t think of a better or a more true statement than that. Today is just the beginning of a new journey. It’s the beginning of a family that’s not made from blood, but it’s made from love.”

CASA of Central Texas CEO Norma Castilla-Blackwell wanted to thank SJRC Texas and the Department of Government protected services for their contributions to this event.

“We work very closely with them and are blessed to work together. I know sometimes it’s not easy, but we’re always friends,” Castilla-Blackwell said. “We do it for the best interest of all the kids in our community.”

Mark Wilson, a representative of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, wanted to recognize the families in attendance and their strength.

“Today is about the choices that they made in a time of hardship and a time of uncertainty to be that one thing that a child needed to change their life forever,” Wilson said. “It means more than you can ever know,



Mr and Mrs. Klaus were in attendance.

and [it’s important] to recognize today that family, whether blood or not, is about who shows up for you. It’s about who you show up for over and over again, even when it hurts, even when it’s scary, even though you didn’t have to, and everyone in this room has shown that they are those people for each other.”

SJRC Texas | Belong is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that has

provided a safe and nurturing home for vulnerable youth. CASA provides high quality, best interest advocacy for children and youth in the child welfare system. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services works with communities to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation.



Javier and Brielle were excited about becoming part of the Sigala family.

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