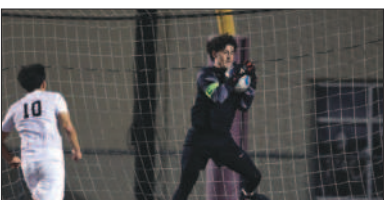




DISCOVER THE
GALLERIES OF
DRIPPING SPRINGS
PAGE 3



JIM HALFPENNY
RELEASES
FOURTH ALBUM
PAGE 5



SOCCER TEAMS
GET SEASON
ROLLING
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

34rd Year No. 7 February 13, 2025 drippingspringsnews.com 75 cents

Fentanyl dealer convicted after teen overdose

Staff Reports

On Feb. 6, a Del Valle man was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for distributing fake oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl. The case stemmed from an incident in the

fall of 2022, when Hays County Sheriff's deputies responded to an overdose with a 17-year-old victim. Fortunately, the victim survived. This incident led to an investigation by the Hays County Sheriff's Office Special Services Division, which iden-

tified Gabriel Cecilio Osorio, 22, as a suspect. Mr. Osorio resided in Austin. Deputies then enlisted the help of the DEA and the investigation continued. Between May and June 2023, Mr. Osorio was investigated for distributing fentanyl-

laced, fake oxycodone pills. As part of the investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration agents orchestrated two controlled purchases of pills from Osorio, resulting in the acquisition of 100 pills in the first transaction and 3,000 pills in the

second. DEA obtained and executed a search warrant, and on June 22, 2023, Osorio was arrested outside of his residence with approximately 5,000 pills. Inside the home, agents found another 3,700 pills, a money counter,

a digital scale, four firearms, and \$45,701 in cash. In addition to the 10-year prison term, Osorio was ordered to forfeit \$45,701.00, four firearms, and assorted jewelry that were seized

SEE CONVICTED PAGE 8

FIRED UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Members of the Fireside Chats group gather round the fire at the end of the night.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Veterans, first responders join forces for support

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

In a video that's been viewed almost 8,000 times, Joe Hogge, wearing a camo shirt and dark sunglasses, speaks into his camera and from his heart. His world has been rocked by the suicide of a local veteran - someone who lived nearby and had visited his 12 Fox brewery on at least a few occasions. "This is just sticking with me, and I can't shake it," Joe says. "Who do we reach out to? We keep it all inside, because that's what we do, we're veterans. We keep it inside, we push it all down, bury that shit until you just can't do it no more. Then it's too late." He told his viewers that he was going to open up his brewery on Monday nights for veterans and first responders to come out for support. He called it Fireside Chats, after an idea he got from

a friend. And he set the inaugural date for Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. "It's open to anyone who wants to come and talk," Joe says in the video. "Right now, I'm here, and you can call me anytime. You can come up here to Fox, and we can have a beer, and we can not have a beer, we can sit in the corner. Whatever. I just can't let this one go, and I need to do something about it." But days before the first event, the weather forecasts turned dire. Stacey Hogge, Joe's wife and business partner at 12 Fox, urged him to cancel due to the incoming storm - an event now locally referred to as the Ice-pocalypse. But Joe refused. "I said, you don't understand, I put the word out to these vets and they don't care about the weather," Joe said, during a recent Monday night at Fireside Chats. "They're gonna drive here anyway."

At that point, the tap room at 12 Fox was not enclosed - it was open to the weather. "I had six patio heaters, two between each table, just to keep that little group area warm," Joe said. "So I opened up and I bought some pizzas and just came in. I'll never forget, because it was 28 degrees that day, and 28 people showed up." One of those was local Justice of the Peace John Burns, who most of the members simply call "Judge." As someone who is a veteran and who currently deals with death as part of his job in the precinct, he sees the need on both sides. "There's a lot of these people, men and women, who've been in horrible places. They have had to live through things that people shouldn't have to look at, or see, or be involved with," Judge said. "First responders see awful nasty stuff too. Those guys and women have to deal

with the suicides, have to deal with the horrible accidents, and that takes a toll on you." He said Fireside Chats routinely has between 30 and 40 people on any given Monday. "We have a great turnout and people really care about each other," Judge said. "Usually people come here once or twice and then they're hooked, they just keep coming back." Judge is retired Navy. He was on active duty for five years, beginning three months after the Vietnam War. Then he went into the reserves. He was never in a combat zone, and he never got shot at. Still, he said he has a selfish reason for being involved. "In a little over six years of being in my job, I've probably responded to 30 suicides," Judge said. "I get called when they give (first responders) give

SEE SUPPORT PAGE 6



Trustee Sherrie Parks, with representatives from Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, reads a proclamation naming February as Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

City Council approves actions on e-bikes, bonds

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The Dripping Springs City Council heard and acted upon several items at the regular meeting on Feb. 4. One was a proposed ordinance from the Parks and Community Services department

regarding e-bikes, which was presented by director Andrew Binz. "As electric bicycles become more and more popular, we're seeing them more often in our parks," Binz said. "The electric bike is a much heavier bike, and going at that rate

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 5

DSISD trustees call for school bond election

Staff Reports

In a special meeting on Feb. 6, the Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call for a school bond election to go on the May 3 election ballot. The work on the May 2025 bond began in the fall of 2023 when the Long-Range Facility Planning Committee (LRFPC) reconvened to plan for the next several years of facility needs for DSISD based on projected student growth. The committee had representation from more than 50 parents, students, staff and community members broadly representing the district. Following the LRFPC recommendation, the District formed a

Citizens' Bond Steering Committee this Fall composed of parents, students and community members, taking the work of the LRFPC to develop a bond package recommendation to be considered by the DSISD Board of Trustees. Over the last month, the Board of Trustees held workshop meetings to develop a bond package to serve the district's high school student enrollment growth and complete capital maintenance and renovations at existing campuses. The May 2025 bond package includes a focus on construction of the district's second comprehensive high school, as well as capital improvements and renovations for current

SEE ELECTION PAGE 8



0 4 8 7 9 1 4 0 4 2 6

Five-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 42 Low: 36 Mostly Cloudy	High: 54 Low: 38 Overcast	High: 69 Low: 55 Overcast	High: 52 Low: 41 Sunny	High: 60 Low: 39 Overcast

Capital Highlights

Voucher bill passes Senate, arrives in House



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

A bill to implement school vouchers in Texas sailed through the Senate largely on party lines last week and now awaits consideration in the House, the Austin American-Statesman reported. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said he believes there are enough votes in that chamber to pass the legislation, which was defeated a half-dozen times in 2023 by a coalition of Democratic and rural Republican members.

“As Speaker, I’m committed to ensuring the agenda of the Texas House remains truly member-driven this session,” Burrows said in a statement. “I support empowering parents to decide the best educational option for their children.”

The bill’s supporters, which include Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and other top elected officials, say it would give students access to more school choices. Opponents fear the \$1 billion program will siphon funding and students away from public schools already facing budget deficits.

The political director of the Texas Freedom Network said legislators should focus on funding public schools instead.

“Voucher schemes steal vital funds from kids in our neighborhood schools, all so megadonors and the politicians in their pockets can subsidize private and religious schools for the wealthy at our expense,” Rocio Fierro-Pérez said.

ABBOTT OUTLINES HIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Abbott outlined his legislative priorities in a speech last Sunday. Besides school vouchers, he wants state lawmakers to cut property taxes by \$10 billion, launch a massive water project

to ensure adequate supplies, and restrict bail for a number of crimes, the Houston Chronicle reported. Other priorities include pay raises for teachers and investment in nuclear energy as a way to “fortify” the state’s electric grid.

Abbott is backing a plan by state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Amarillo, which would invest in several large projects to increase the state’s water supply. Among the projects are desalination plants and a network of pipelines to distribute water.

“We will make the largest investment in water in the history of Texas,” Abbott said. “We will tap into new water supplies and repair pipes to save billions of gallons of water each year.”

The Democratic response to Abbott’s State of the State address blasted the governor for being too friendly with President Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, who is leading an effort to eliminate federal government waste and inefficiency.

“The fact is people are struggling after 30 years of Republican rule,” Gilberto Hinojosa, the former Democratic Party chair, said in the response.

DAIRY, POULTRY PRODUCERS GRAPPLE WITH BIRD FLU

By now, most everyone has noticed the steep rise in the price of eggs, which is being blamed on the spread of avian flu, first detected in a flock of pheasants in Erath County

nearly three years ago, the Texas Standard reported.

“It’s a supply-and-demand issue,” said J.C. Essler, executive vice president of the Texas Poultry Federation. “When we’re putting multiple flocks down, and our layer operations can be up to a million birds, you’re taking a substantial supply out of the market.”

Thus far in Texas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed 14 cases of bird flu at poultry farms, only one of which was at a large-scale farm with 2 million chickens. There have been 27 confirmed cases at Texas dairy farms.

The potential economic impact could be huge if bird flu continues to spread in the state. The poultry industry contributes more than \$5 billion to the state economy annually, while dairy operations add \$53.8 billion.

One longtime researcher of bird flu at Texas A&M University said he didn’t expect the virus to spread from human to human; 67 cases of it being transmitted to humans from poultry or cattle have been recorded, including one in Texas. One death has been reported.

“If we ever start seeing human-to-human transmission, that tells us the virus is adapting to humans,” said Gerald Parker, associate dean for Global One Health at A&M. “That would not be a good sign.”

STATE STRUGGLING TO FIX LEAKY ABANDONED OIL WELLS

Abandoned oil wells turned into water sources are threatening aquifers that supply water to cities, farms and ranches, the Statesman reported, particularly in rural West Texas where oil exploration began nearly a century ago. The leaky wells are called P-13 wells after a Texas Railroad Commission form that allowed them to be repurposed to provide water.

The state has recorded 1,915 P-13 wells, though many more likely exist undetected and undocumented. They have the potential to become environmental disasters. One example is the 60-acre Lake Boehmer in Pecos County, formed by a leaky well. It emits high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, a potentially fatal gas.

The state committed \$10 million to plugging the leaky wells in 2023, but two years later none of that money has been distributed. Even that amount, whenever it is actually spent, is likely inadequate to solve the problem, since plugging a single well can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“We do not know how much it will cost to plug each well, so we cannot determine how many wells could be plugged under this program,” said Ricky Richter, a spokesperson for TCEQ. Federal funds that are being used to plug orphan gas and oil

wells can’t be used for P-13 wells, since they are no longer considered oil wells.

ABBOTT BACKS LEGALIZING SPORTS GAMBLING IN TEXAS

Abbott recently said on the Texas Take Podcast that he has no objection to Texas joining 39 other states that have legalized sports betting, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

“I don’t have a problem with online sports betting,” Abbott said in the interview. “The reality is that I’d be shocked if there were not some Texans that do it already.”

A coalition of major sports franchises including the Dallas Cowboys, San Antonio Spurs and Houston Astros have teamed up with several sports gaming companies to push for legalized sports gambling. They have hired more than a dozen lobbyists and have tapped former Gov. Rick Perry and Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta to help make their pitch to legislators to pass such a measure. The issue ultimately would require voters to approve a constitutional amendment.

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: gborderstexaspress.com



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Dripping Springs Century News

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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Discover the Galleries of Dripping Springs

It might come as a surprise to many new and long-time residents of Dripping Springs that we have many amazing art galleries in our very midst.

Many feature local artists who live in our neighborhoods, create in their home studios, and offer artwork ranging from acrylics/oil/watercolor painting to jewelry, as well as sculptures, metal, stained glass and much more.

Whether you are looking for a \$50 gift, ceramic bowls, yard art, a \$2000 collectible, or an affordable feature painting for your blank wall, you can find it at Dripping Springs' galleries.

Next time you have a spare hour or an afternoon, treat yourself to a gallery visit. Each gallery has knowledgeable curators happy to share artwork background and the artists' stories.

Today we are proud to feature six fantastic local galleries:

Blue Sky Art on Wheels is a mobile trailer that pops up at local markets, breweries, wineries, and more. Blue Sky showcases original unique art created by Central Texas artists. Multiple mediums can be found including acrylic, alcohol ink, photography, collage, and more.

Owner: Amy Nelipovich
Website: www.BlueSkyArtonWheels.com

Instagram: [blueskyartonwheels](https://www.instagram.com/blueskyartonwheels)
Location: Checkout the website to see where Blue Sky is popping up next

Brenham House Collection carries original art, ceramics, sculptures, prints, and collectibles including some of the wildest art in town. World-renown calligraphy is also a must see!.

Owner: June Levy

Website: www.BrenhamHouseCollection.com

Instagram: [kittymryth](https://www.instagram.com/kittymryth), [brody_neuenschwander](https://www.instagram.com/brody_neuenschwander), and [marushka1969](https://www.instagram.com/marushka1969)

Location: 12737 Silver Creek Rd

Hours: By appointment 832-260-2526

Hand Made at Nutty Brown is a remarkable women-owned artisan cooperative nestled on a scenic 5-acre property. Artists are passionate about designing unique, handcrafted goods that showcase the creativity and skills of our talented artisans.

Owner: Cooperative
Website: <https://HandMade-at-Nutty-Brown.square.site>

Instagram: [handmadeatnuttybrown](https://www.instagram.com/handmadeatnuttybrown)

Location: 12919 Nutty Brown Rd

Hours: 10-5 Sat; otherwise call 512-270-0435

Mercer Street Chic Boutique & Art Gallery is located in the heart of Dripping and features paintings and collage by local artists, along with a boutique of trendy clothes for the women and men.

Owner: Deb Vincent
Website: www.MercerStreetChicBoutique.com

Instagram: [mercerstreetchic](https://www.instagram.com/mercerstreetchic)
Location: 332 W. Mercer Street, Suite 6

Hours: 10-5 Wed-Sat, 11-3 Sun

Primal Gallery is the largest gallery in the area, featuring over 80 local artists with art of all kinds. Primal also sells estate items at a discount.

Owner: Joe Lednický
Website: www.PrimalGallery.com

Instagram: [primalgalleryllc](https://www.instagram.com/primalgalleryllc)



Location: 246 American Way
Hours: 1-4 Tue, Wed, Sun; 1-5 Fri; 11-5 Sat

The Shops at Mars Beads (formerly 2 Moons Art Loft) is not just a place to find unique jewelry - it's also home to an innovative art loft showcasing the talents of painters, sculptors, and mixed media artists. Each exhibit tells a story, blending unconventional styles with raw, authentic expression. The Shops also offer a wide selection of beads and tools along with an extensive vinyl record collection.

Owner: Carolyn Roach
Website: www.ShopsatMarsBeads.com

Instagram: [marsbeads](https://www.instagram.com/marsbeads)
Location: 400 W. Hwy 290

Hours: 11-6 Tue-Sat

Additional local galleries for your shopping pleasure:

Arte Land: Multidimensional art from the land

<https://arte.art/AustinArteLand.html>; visit website for appointment

Dead End Art Studio: Collective of artists working in traditional and unusual media

<https://www.deadendartstudio.com>; visit website for appointment

Gallery at Salon Mystique: Featuring a wide variety of paintings amidst a full service salon

<https://www.salon-mystique.com/art-gallery>; Belterra Village 166

Shabby Wick: Candle and artisan gift store offering candle making classes

<https://theshabbywick.com/>; 31560 RR 12, Suite 205

These galleries offer a fun time for the family, visitors, wedding parties, and more.

Learn more about Dripping's galleries at www.artindripping.com/artgalleries

ALSO: Circle your calendar as many of these galleries and over a dozen local art studios will open their doors for the Dripping Springs Art League's first annual West of Weird Art Tour this May 17-18! Learn more at www.artindripping.com.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
ISSUE CITY OF DRIPPING
SPRINGS, TEXAS
COMBINATION TAX
AND LIMITED REVENUE
CERTIFICATES OF
OBLIGATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas, to issue interest bearing Certificates of Obligation of the City (the “Certificates”) for the purpose of paying contractual obligations incurred or to be incurred by the City for: (1) designing, constructing, improving, extending, expanding, upgrading and/or developing City streets, roads, intersections and traffic signalization, including related signage, landscaping, purchasing property, including necessary rights-of-way, drainage easements, and other related transportation costs, including, but not limited to, for Old Fitzhugh Road; (2) constructing a public parking structure in the City’s downtown area; (3) constructing a city public works facility to support the City’s utility system and city streets, including a building for maintenance staff and a holding yard for related materials and equipment; (4) constructing, improving, renovating, upgrading, expanding, and/or equipping the Stephenson Building to be used as part of the City’s park system, including ADA and restroom improvements, with such facility to include meeting spaces that will be generally accessible to the public; (5) acquiring, constructing, improving, expanding, and equipping park and recreational facilities; (6) purchasing materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, buildings, land, and rights-of-way for authorized needs and purposes in relation to the aforementioned capital improvements, including acquiring land for park and recreational purposes; and (7) professional services including fiscal, engineering, architectural and legal fees and other such costs incurred in connection therewith including the costs of issuing the Certificates.

The City Council tentatively proposes to consider for first and final reading at a meeting to commence at 6:00 p.m., on the 1st day of April 2025 in the Board Room located at 300 Sportsplex Drive Dripping Springs, Texas 78620, the passage of an ordinance authorizing the Certificates. The maximum amount of the Certificates that may be authorized for such purpose is \$14,500,000. The City Council presently proposes to provide for the payment of the Certificates from the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the City as provided by law and from a limited pledge of the surplus revenues derived from the operation of the City’s wastewater system, after payment of all operation and maintenance expenses and all debt service, reserve and other requirements in connection with all of the City’s revenue bonds or other obligations (now or hereafter outstanding) which are payable from all or any part of the revenues of the City’s wastewater system, which amount shall not exceed \$5,000.

The following information is required pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Section 271.049: As of February 4, 2025, the aggregate principal amount of all outstanding debt obligations of the City secured by and payable from ad valorem taxes is \$42,125,000. As of February 4, 2025, the combined principal and interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations of the City secured by and payable from

Public Notice

ad valorem taxes on time and in full is \$46,699,183. The estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the Certificates on time and in full is \$20,091,812.50. The estimated interest rate for the Certificates is 4.22%. Such estimates take into account a number of factors, including the issuance schedule, maturity schedule and the expected ratings of the proposed Certificates. Such estimated interest rate is provided as a matter of information but is not a limitation on the interest rate at which the Certificates may be sold. The maximum maturity date of the Certificates is June 1, 2044.

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS,
TEXAS

Public Notice

RFP-MD-2425-02
REFRIGERATED DELIVERY
VEHICLE

The Wimberley Independent School District (“District”) is seeking/accepting proposals in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Refrigerated Delivery Vehicle. Interested parties must submit their proposals within the WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://www.wimberleyisd.net/departments1/business-support-services/bids-and-proposals>). Submissions are due no later than 2:00 pm on March 6, 2025. Proposals may be hand carried or mailed to WISD’s Central Office in a sealed envelope/package clearly marked with the interested company’s name, return address, the RFP number and opening date and time. To obtain copies of the RFP go to WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://www.wimberleyisd.net/departments1/business-support-services/bids-and-proposals>). For any questions, please contact Mr. Doyle at michael.doyle@wimberleyisd.net.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Texas Property Code Chapter 59, Right Space Storage, Said property 16955 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX 78676 512-996-7868 will hold a Public Sale in order to satisfy a landlord’s lien Monday on 24th day of February, 2025, at 10AM. Property will be sold to the highest bidder online on Lockerfox and must be removed within 48 hours. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid and withdraw property from the sale. Bidding takes place on Lockerfox.com. Unless otherwise noted, all units contain household goods and items. For a more detailed listing, please visit Lockerfox.com 16955 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX 78676: Nancy Guzman, Joshua Poole

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

By order of the Hays County Commissioners Court, notice is hereby given that on February 25th, 2025 at 9 a.m. in the Hays County Courthouse, 111 E. San Antonio Street, the Hays County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing to consider:

Dripping Springs Ranch
Ph 2, Lot 1B, Replat

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer’s On Premise Permit with a Food and Beverage Certificate by ThreeSomm Wine Merchants, LLC dba Winehouse to be located at 501 Old Fitzhugh Road, Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are:
Gerald J Gray, Member
Kristine S Clark, Member
Julio C Llop, Member

Public Notice

DSISD PUBLIC HEARING ON
ANNUAL REPORT

The Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the annual report including the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) in conjunction with the regular board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Center for Learning & Leadership (300 Sportsplex Drive). The report references the most recent data compiled by the state in areas such as student performance, student/staff demographics, graduation rate and student discipline incidents.

Public Notice

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Bob





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KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

When local governments make decisions they are required to publish a newspaper notice to let you know. But that could change. Local governmental entities across the state want to bury their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites. What you don't know will affect you personally! If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.



Jim Halfpenny releases fourth album, History Pays a Visit

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

Jim Halfpenny, a singer / songwriter and former resident of the greater Dripping Springs area, has just released his fourth album, History Pays a Visit. Jim, who now lives abroad, is one of the founding organizers of the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival. “It’s somewhat of a concept album in that most of the songs deal with people, places, and events, either real or imagined, and how they have affected both myself personally and the world throughout our human history,” Halfpenny said. “It might sound a little

heavy, but many of the song lyrics are injected and arranged with bits of humor and irony for good measure.” Halfpenny is a former film composer, and he said that over the years he had had to deliver his music in a wide variety of genres. “This album reflects that, with me bending rock, folk, blues, and traditional styles into a shape that is all my own,” Halfpenny said. From introspective ballads to lively anthems, the album captures mini freeze-frames of the world’s history while still managing to connect with modern listeners. The album also contains three previously unreleased tracks from Jim’s own

songwriting history that have been rearranged specifically for this project. Halfpenny personally performed almost all the instruments on the album, but the drums tracks were played by his former band mate, and current Drippings Springs resident, Brandon Storms. “We performed many years together at various Austin and Hill Country venues with our band, The Jim Halfpenny Band,” he said. “I really miss performing at Founders Day!” Halfpenny was born and raised in Brawley, California, a rural Southern California desert farming community. On evenings and

weekends, he played with his band, Westwind, with which he began writing his first songs. Later he moved to Los Angeles, where he had built a successful career as a film composer, with over 25 feature film scores, countless movie trailers, and television series credits to his name. He also performed with his band, Native Alien, at various venues on and around the famous Sunset Strip. After attending SXSW in Austin one year, Jim and his wife decided to leave LA behind, purchasing land in the Texas Hill Country where they built a recording studio. It was there that he created and released his debut



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

album, First Things First, in 2006. His second album followed in 2010, and the third in 2021. Now, after a recent international move, Jim said he is fully immersed in a new creative chapter of his life. In addition to his music, he’s taken up painting and

begun writing a novel. History Pays a Visit was released Feb. 7 and is available on Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music and other platforms. For more details about Jim Halfpenny, his music, and upcoming projects, visit www.jimhalfpenny.com.

Applications open for Hays County Sheriff’s Office Citizens Academy

Applications are due Feb. 14 for the spring session of the Hays County Sheriff’s Office Citizens Academy. This comprehensive, 12-week program is designed to provide residents with an in-depth

understanding of the Sheriff’s Office and the criminal justice system. The academy is set to begin on Feb. 20, and will run on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. This free, 36-hour course is taught by

Sheriff’s Office staff and guest speakers, offering participants a unique opportunity to engage directly with law enforcement professionals. The program covers a variety of topics,

including patrol operations, jail operations, 9-1-1 dispatch, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), crisis negotiations, mental health, use of force, and criminal investigations. Applicants must be

at least 18 years of age, reside or work in Hays County and successfully pass a background check. Class size is limited to 20 participants, so early application is encouraged. Applications can

be obtained in person at the Public Safety Building or downloaded at www.hayscountytexas.gov. For additional questions, please contact the Hays County Sheriff’s Office Community Outreach Unit.

COUNCIL FROM PG. 1

of speed we feel it is dangerous on some of our trails.” The ordinance proposed that electric bikes not be allowed at Dripping Springs Ranch Park or Charro Ranch Park, where the trails are shared by horses and pedestrians. “We would like to allow electrical bikes, with pedal assist only, at Founders Park and Sports and Rec Park, because we do think it is a good option for many people that need that assistance to ride a bike,” Binz said. Effectively, riders of e-bikes would be able to use pedal assist functions, but not the throttle, on the trails at Founder’s Park and Sports and Rec Park. It also provides that e-

bike speeds cannot exceed 10 miles per hour. After some discussion, the ordinance passed. Next on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the publication of the notice of intention to issue City of Dripping Springs Combination Tax and Limited Revenue Certificates of Obligation in an estimated amount not to exceed \$14.5 million dollars. “For full transparency for everybody sitting here, if we were to approve this, what would our total tax rate be?” Mayor Bill Foulds Jr. asked. Shawn Cox, Deputy City Administrator, responded that it would depend on appraised values. With

new properties coming in, it will shift a little every year. Preliminary calculations show that two cents on the tax rate would cover the cost of the issuance. The tax rate right now is 17.94, so that would bump it to 19.94. “If we chose to keep it at that 17, we would make those adjustments in the operating budget,” Cox said. “The goal is to keep the tax rate as close to what it is now, without having to raise it as part of our budget process.” Presenters then noted that this resolution is only approval of the advertisement to go in the paper, which notifies the public of the intent to sell the bonds. The council

then has 45 days to act on it. The bid proposals would be presented for a vote at the April 1 board meeting. “I think I still have a lot of questions and concerns about the number, and the things that we’re doing, but I understand that this isn’t committing us to doing anything yet tonight,” council member Wade King said. “This is just committing to publishing everything that is required in order for us to have a more serious conversation.” In further discussion, presenters noted that the amount is a cap, and if the council wants to go lower, they can. But they cannot exceed that amount. The council then vot-

ed and approved the resolution. In other actions that night, council member Sherrie Parks read a proclamation naming the month of February as Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This proclamation, presented with representatives of the Hays Caldwell Women’s Center (HCWC), is part of a national effort to raise awareness about the impacts of dating abuse. According to HCWC, 1 in 3 young people will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with. The center has resources available to guide discussions at [\[thehurt.org\]\(http://thehurt.org\). “As it said in the proclamation, we did reach an audience of nearly 800,000 with our digital tool kit downloads across the world, but we’re most proud of the work that we do right here in our communities,” Holly Cunningham Kizer, HCWC chief development officer, said. “We’re happy to partner again with Dripping Springs ISD to put on the 10th annual dating violence mock trial, which will be held February 21st at the Hays County Justice Center. It’s a long-standing partnership, working with these excellent young people to bring awareness to dating violence in the communities.”](http://www.stop-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Roofing & Solar	Roofing & Solar	Tree Services	Tree Services	Landscaping Services	Landscaping Services	Electrical Services	Electrical Services
FATHER-DAUGHTER OWNED & OPERATED GOOD NEWS ROOFING & SOLAR SINCE 2009 512-630-1440 \$250 OFF ALL ROOF REPLACEMENTS WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD	Ogden's Tree Service • Consult • Prune • Remove • Fertilize • Selective Land Clearing • Insured ISA Certified Arborist TX0111 Texas Master Naturalist Jon Ogden, 512.452.3987 Ogdenstreeservice.com	O'Kane Lawn & Landscape "Letting roots in our community" Time for Fall & Winter Tree Trimming • Tree Trimming • Irrigation Repair • Landscaping • Fertilizing • Lawn Maintenance LI 00021868 FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED 512.738.2185 okanelawnscapes@gmail.com member Voted Best of Hays Again! Ben O'Kane Owner/Operator	Red Grizzly Electric • Breaker Replacement • GFCI's • Light Fixture Replacement • Hot Tubs • Ceiling Fans • Switch Replacement • Electrical Panel Repair Scott Weaver • Licensed & Insured TECL #23403 P.O. Box 2155 Wimberley, TX 78676 512-771-1764 redgrizzlyelectric.com				
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SUPPORT FROM PG. 1

up, when they stop trying to do CPR. So that's something that I don't ever want to have to deal with."

He said that in the last two years, there have been a couple of people in the group who were on the edge, and got pulled back by calling or contacting somebody and sitting down and working through it.

"So that in itself is just an incredible benefit," Judge said.

With some help from Judge, Joe and Stacey have recently finished the paperwork for Fireside Chats to become a 501 3(c) nonprofit organization. Joe is gearing up to go out and tell people about the group and try to find more support, especially for alternative treatments for PTSD and other health issues. A lot of that started after he had his own medical emergency.

"Two months after I started Fireside Chats, I had a heart attack," Joe said. "I almost died. It was that close."

He spent nearly four months recovering, a period he calls his "Groundhog Days." Every day looked the same - wake up, take medicine, eat, take more medicine, go to bed. During his recovery, he started getting more into holistic medicine, meditation and diet, and he started bringing that to the group.

"I let my hippie out. I know some people don't like that word for it, but I don't know what else to call it. You know I've never had



Dusty Drake, Army veteran, talks to the group.

long hair in my life until I turned 50," Joe said. "But there's alternative ways to do this - learning to meditate, sound therapy, all these different things."

His goal is to have a wellness therapy center, where they offer a variety of different modalities that veterans can learn to use, with a little bit of training.

"And they can come and use it whenever they need to," Joe said. "It's here. No cost. That's the goal."

Lynn Krug is an Army veteran who served six years in the military, including time in Bosnia. Like Joe, she believes that there needs to be more treatment options for vets, especially when it comes to PTSD. Over the last several years, she has had the opportunity to explore psychedelic programs for veterans through a couple of different groups, including one called Heroic Hearts.

"I had just gotten to

a point in my life that I was like, well, I guess this is as good as it gets. I don't have anything to lose. Why not?" Lynn said. "So I signed up, and within two months, I was heading to Peru to go do ayahuasca with a bunch of special forces guys that are all out of the military."

She said nothing could have prepared her for how bad it tasted. Twenty minutes later she was purging, throwing up, and then the hallucinations started. The group repeated the ritual for two more nights.

"It did more for me in three nights than the 11 years of actively working on my mental health with the VA," Lynn said. "It felt like it sent a scud missile in and just took away things that didn't belong to me anymore, like guilt and shame and depression."

It's been about a year since Lynn started attending Fireside Chats.

She said she was very nervous to go to her first 12 Fox meetup, because she expected to find a bunch of old Republican white men.

"I was very happy to see that there were people of color, younger people and females there," Lynn said. "And I wasn't the only gay person."

She said the group has given her community within Dripping Springs.

Robin Rachelson*, who has been an EMT for 10 years, agreed.

"I love my peer group, but there are many things they don't understand," Robin said. "I was looking for a community of people who had similar past traumatic experiences. I have found that and so much more through Fireside Chats."

She said there aren't always a lot of resources available for first responders, even though they have many of the same long-term complications as veterans. With this group, she feels heard and supported, especially at times when she is really struggling.

"On the bad weeks, it's a community that meets you where you are and does everything they can to lift you up," Robin said.

Army veteran Brandon Mendoza said that was put to the test for him one day not long ago, when he had what he now understands was a full blown panic attack.

"I had never experienced that before. I had to leave work," Brandon said. "I put out the SOS, and within minutes, Judge is calling me, 'Hey, where are you? What's going on? Do you need me to come get you?'"

Several other guys

RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

Veterans Crisis Line
Call or text 988, then press 1
www.988lifeline.org

Hays County Veterans Services
www.hayscountytexas.gov/veterans-services

Patriots' Hall
www.patriotshall.org

Heroic Hearts
www.heroicheartsproject.org

VetRecOutdoors
www.vetrecoutdoors.org

were reaching out to check on him as well. Brandon said that kind of support is what keeps him coming back.

"And I can tell you right now, cops, firefighters and EMTs deal with the same issues that we deal with. It's just a slightly different color," Brandon said. "Instead of green, they are blue or red. And they need just the same amount of help that we do."

Blake Holbrook, an Army infantry veteran and Purple Heart recipient, said when he returned home from Iraq he was a "poster child" for post traumatic stress. He is one of the people who saw Joe's original video and came out for the first night of Fireside Chats.

"I moved to Dripping Springs with my wife in 2022. I didn't know anybody here, and I was isolating a lot," Blake said. "When I saw Joe's post, I was like yeah, I need this, because I'm just regressing at this point."

Blake said he's lost several friends to suicide, and he's been through a lot of struggles himself.

"Between 2008 and 2011 I was on my way to being in a suicide statistic," Blake said. "There were a lot of years there where I should've just asked for help, but I was stuck in that military mindset of not doing so."

Blake is the founder of a nonprofit called VetRecOutdoors, which aims to facilitate peace and purpose for veterans through nature. He said that this newer generation of veterans is looking for something different, and that's what Fireside Chats has provided.

"It's changed my existence in Dripping

Springs," Blake said. "I made lifelong friends out of Fireside Chats pretty much within the first two weeks. It's just made the community home to me."

Another member of the group is Mike Brown, a retired colonel who spent 27 years in the Army. His specialty was dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. He was actually in the Pentagon on 9/11, when the jet hit. He said one of the most valuable parts of Fireside Chats is just meeting others.

"I know we all have issues, and some people have some really major issues that they have to deal with," Mike said. "Sometimes it's just having a phone number to call or knowing somebody that you could talk to."

Mike, who is also involved at Patriots' Hall, said he heard about Fireside Chats from another veteran and decided to come and try it.

"It's just a great group of people," Mike said. "I love their mission, their spirit to help others. For some people it's just all talk, but for Joe and Stacey, it's through their actions."

That's a message that was repeated over and over, by every person interviewed for this story. And that night, as people made their way to their cars, every one of them made a point to stop and say goodbye to Joe.

"What they don't know is that it's good for me. It fills this," Joe said, tapping his heart. "Without these guys I probably wouldn't have made it. I would have given up. They saved me just as much as I saved them."

**not her real name*

35th Annual

Wild Game Dinner Charity Fundraiser

Presented By Austin Area VOLVO Dealers And Elliott Electric Supply

Saturday Feb. 22nd 6-9 PM
(Doors Open At 5 PM)
Dripping Springs Ranch Park
1042 Event Center Drive

Smoked Brisket, Elk, Pork, Turkey, Sausage, Venison, Enchiladas, Tasty Sides And Desserts!

Dinner Tickets, Super Raffle, Live Music, Live & Silent Auctions, Gun Raffles And Auctions, Sponsorships Available!

www.DSWGd.com

Join Us For Fun, Food and Fellowship!

Proudly Supporting Local Charities Since 1991

5TH ANNUAL WIMBERLEY CHILIFEST!

SAVE THE DATE
FEB 22ND
CYPRESS FALLS SWIMMING HOLE
50 MARINA CIRCLE WIMBERLEY, TX

5TH ANNUAL WIMBERLEY CHILIFEST
Sign up your team up today!
link below or on Facebook page

FREE ENTRY
\$15 tasting tickets
VENDORS & DRINKS 12PM
LIVE MUSIC · RANDY CARSON 1-4PM
CHILI TASTING STARTS 1PM

PETS OF THE WEEK

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

Andi
Male
12 years old
Lhasa Apso mix

People say I'm a pretty chill dog who loves relaxing on the couch next to you, especially if there's a small set of stairs for me to use. I'm not into being picked up, but I'm super good at walking on a leash and would be perfect for apartment living. I get along with other dogs by just doing my own thing. One of my favorite things is going for car rides. I love watching the world zoom past. I might not be the dog for someone who wants a lap pet, but if you need a buddy for lounging and enjoying life, I'm your guy. I do have this one little quirk where I get super excited for dinner time - it's the highlight of my day! If you're looking for a cool, independent dog like me, I'm ready to be your foster or forever friend. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Otto
Male
10 years old
Miniature Pinscher mix

First thing you'll notice with me is that I have the cutest underbite/overbite combo you'll ever see! I absolutely adore people and get along well with other dogs, though cats are a bit of a mystery to me. I'm fully crate trained and house trained, but I prefer lounging freely around the house. Walking on a leash is a breeze for me, and car rides? Oh, I love them! I'd love to join a home where there's another doggy companion for me to hang out with, because I like friends. Ready to bring some extra love and fun into your life? Adopt me, and you won't be disappointed! Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Universal Crossword

2/9

THEMELESS SUNDAY 121 by CJ Tan

ACROSS

- 1 Famous ____ cookies
5 Cozy lodging
10 Apple computer that debuted in 1998
14 Couple's night out activity
16 Squish, as potatoes
17 "Could I get another volunteer?"
18 On which Sealy Corp's ticker symbol was ZZ
19 Blend
20 Bespectacled "Scooby-Doo" character
21 Not even tipsy
22 Word after "sleep" or "airplane"

- 23 Clobbers, biblically
25 "____ Road" (Beatles album)
28 Kind of wave or pool
29 Equipment
30 Competition that led to the Apollo 11 moon landing
34 ____ Reader (digital magazine)
35 Clued in
36 Central Plains tribe
37 Epiphany
39 Big Ben, e.g.
40 What's kept to a minimum in the library
41 Computer plug-in spots
42 Where one may find a Mustang or a

Bronco

- 43 Cheeky
45 Done in a rush
46 Digging tool
48 \$\$\$ exec
51 Bruins' sh.
52 Widely known fact that isn't supposed to be widely known
54 "Better Call ____" (AMC series)
55 Period before sunset that provides warm tones for photography
56 Doesn't share
57 Quite the bargain
58 Common hairstyle for a bridesmaid

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

Y	O	S	H	I		E	R	A	S		S	T	A	B
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DOWN

- 1 Scott of "Parks and Recreation"
2 Bite-size
3 Black gem
4 ____ Balls (Hostess cakes)
5 Guiding principle
6 "Easy on Me" singer
7 Soothing ointment
8 "Some progress is better than none"
9 Once known as
10 Human-verifying words on a screen
11 "Perhaps in a bit"
12 Donkeys
13 "Believe" singer
15 Diplomatic agent
21 "A" or "B" for a cassette
22 People, to a god
24 Rats' smaller kin
25 Water, in Spanish
26 "2 Broke Girls" actress Behrs

- 27 Yellow gastropod named for a fruit
30 Perfect place to hit
31 Frying vessel
32 Young male horse
33 Snake-like fish
35 "Are not!" retort
38 Greasy
41 Fuss in front of a mirror
42 Chocolate source
43 Bear in the WWF logo
44 '50s Ford flop
45 "Quiet!"
47 Brazilian soccer legend
48 Trim, as a picture
49 Ongoing quarrel
50 Other, in Oaxaca
52 Hip-hop veterans, slangily
53 "Wicked" director Jon M.

WOMBANIA™

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THAT'S AN IMPORTANT LETTER. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT.



by PETER MARINACCI

I'LL MAKE SURE TO PUT IT IN A SAFE PLACE SO THAT WE'LL NEVER FIND IT AGAIN.

www.wombania.com

"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

FDSEF Fundraising Gala
Feb 13 • 6 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Education Foundation will hold its annual fundraising gala at Canyonwood Ridge. The theme is "Heart of a Tiger," and the gala blends fun, philanthropy, and purpose - all to support Dripping Springs ISD students and teachers. Visit dseducationfoundation.org for sponsorship options. Canyonwood Ridge • 250 S Canyonwood Dr • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

1000 Books Bonanza
Feb 15 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is getting a makeover! Come to the library as we kick off the new and improved reading challenge. You'll be able to sign up, take home some goodies, and learn more about this program for families with children under 5. Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Landscaping for the
Zombie Apocalypse
Feb 20 • 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Community Library is sponsoring a Zoom workshop with edible & medicinal plant expert Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen, Ph.D. chemist, herbalist, and for-

aging instructor. He humorously teaches you how to replace your non-functional landscaping with 10 plants that'll help you survive and thrive in a zombie apocalypse or any other "End of the World as We Know It" situation. Register at www.dscl.org. Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Happy Trails Race
Feb 23 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Happy Trails is a women's trail race for seasoned and newbie trail runners. The course will be well marked so runners can relax and simply follow the flags. Register by Feb. 21. Link is available from the Dripping Springs Ranch Park calendar at www.drippingsspringsranchpark.com. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Feb 19 & Feb 26 • 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Farmer's Market is held on Wednesdays at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Visitors can gather and shop for fresh agricultural and related products. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Chamber Mixer
Feb 19 • 5:30 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce invites members to an after hours business mixer hosted by Gardien Wine Storage. Please email us at info@dstxchamber.com for more information. Gardien Wine Storage • 14510 Fitzhugh Rd Ste 600 • Austin, TX 78736

Comedy Night Fund-raiser
Feb 22 • 7 p.m.

12 Fox Beer Co is excited to announce that Shilo Harris and Maggie Peterson will be performing at Vista West Ranch to help raise money for local non-profit Fireside Chats, which is focused on helping veterans and first responders find support. To learn more about Shilo Harris, comedian, inspirational speaker and wounded warrior, go to www.shiloharris.com. To learn more about Maggie Peterson's non-profit that is helping women who served their country, visit www.campshield.org. Tickets for this event are \$40 at the door. Vista West Ranch • 4505 McGregor Lane • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Wild Game Dinner
Feb 22 • 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

For the 35th annual Wild Game Dinner, the chosen charity is Patriots' Hall. Tickets and details available at www.dswgd.com. Dripping

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

Harlem Wizards Game
at DSHS
Feb 23 • 2 p.m.

The Dripping Springs High School PTSA is excited to host the Harlem Wizards. They'll take on the teachers, staff and community members from Dripping Springs Independent School District in a fun-filled community event and fundraiser. Tickets at www.harlemwizards.com. Dripping Springs High School Competition Gym • 940 W Hwy 290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Pouring Over Books
Feb 23 • 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Friends of the Dripping Springs Community Library invites you to join us for our 14th annual fundraiser, Pouring Over Books. Our featured guest speaker is Lynda Rutledge, bestselling author of "West With Giraffes" and "Mockingbird Summer." Attendees will be served fine wines, craft beer and delectable appetizers. Tickets and details at www.fodscl.org. Prospect House • 12745 Silver Creek Road • Dripping Springs, Texas

Chamber Luncheon
Feb 26 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce invites members to the Febru-

ary membership luncheon with Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area. Heather Thomas will be sharing practical tools and strategies to help businesses engage with schools in meaningful ways. Deep Eddy Tasting Room • 2250 E. Hwy. 290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND EDUCATION

Dripping Springs
Community Library

The Dripping Springs Community Library hosts multiple events every week day. Events include Toddler Story Time, Homeschool Chess Club, Legos at the Library, Mah-Jongg, Master Gardeners on the Porch, Everyday Yoga, Graphic Lit Lounge and many more. For library events, visit dscl.org/event-calendar.

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 traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers. However, a remodel has many meetings at Ranch Park or Dripping Springs ISD Center for Learning & Leadership. See cityofdrippingssprings.com for more information. 78620.

Feb 18 • 6 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting

Feb 19 • 6 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Feb 20 • 4 p.m.
Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Hays County
Commissioners Court
Regular Meeting
Feb. 25 • 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
Feb 18 • 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

Lady Tigers celebrate senior night with a win

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The final home game of a season is traditionally reserved to honor the seniors on the team. Del Valle was the Lady Tigers opponent. The Cardinals had a good team with some height and good athletic ability. Winning a game would not be a cakewalk. Being feted on this night were Katie Newman, Rain Collins, Layne Fields, Gracie Embry and Abigail Robinson. They were introduced with their parents in a pregame ceremony.

In the last two games, the Lady Tigers have really stepped up their effort and that effort has earned them two wins. They have finished the season at 10-21, but the finish is one that coaches have to face all the time. They wish they could start the season all over and be playing like they finished, which could have upped their total to 20, or hope they can start next year as they finished. There are ten letter-winners and a JV squad that won some big games in district to build on. The main thing is to hang onto all for next year and more people that

are unafraid to shoot like Rain during her career. Del Valle with their talent made it tough on DS for the first half as they led 12-5 after one and 22-14 at the half. Rain's shots started falling and they closed the gap to 30-35 after three. DV was aggressive and started piling up the fouls to the point that five fouled out. If the Lady Tigers could have capitalized on free throws the win would have been much easier. DS held a 50-47 lead with only seconds left but DV hit a three to tie the game. DS controlled OT to pull out

the 57-54 win. The other three games played were losses to Bowie (32-63), Lake Travis (34-65) and Westlake 22-69). Scoring vs Bowie: Bailey Rogers 9, Chae-la Luelling 8, Collins 7, Ella Beatty 4, Chloe Lightfoot 3, Robinson 2. Vs Lake Travis: Luelling 7, Beatty 7, Rogers 6, Collins 5, Carys Lloyd 3, Ainsley Coleman 2, Lightfoot 2, Robinson 2. Vs Del Valle: Collins 22, Beatty 8, Rogers 7, Robinson 6, Luelling 4, Coleman 3, Lightfoot 3, Harper Teague 1.



Eduar Miranda avoids a defender on his way down the field.
PHOTO BY VINCENT CURLETTA

Tigers continue streak of close games

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Close decisions seems to be a way of life for the Tigers of late but not favorably. They defeated Del Valle 46-44 before heading home to face Westlake (46-51 and Akins (43-47). This gives them a 5-6 record with one to play. They need to win it to clinch fourth place and a date with Round Rock Stony Point in Bi-district. Westlake never showed panic in a very fast-paced game

even when DS was pressing them in the first half. 14-10; 20-23. The Chaps began stretching the lead in the third to eleven (27-38). It was thirteen early in the fourth and even when Judson Loe got hot in the fourth, they seemed to be cruising and never in danger of losing. As "old school," it was nice to watch a team that used all the court in their offense, taking the win without a three and points coming in the paint. The Akins game was also senior night

for the Tigers where seven were honored. Those were David Adair, Loe, Stone Patterson, Brandon Froidcoeur, Brady Coleman, Brayden Spencer. This game was a very aggressive one with bodies flying all over the place. It was typical of today's games. Fundamental skills played within the rules seldom seen. It is rare you hear a whistle for traveling, double-dribble, carrying or offensive fouls. The dribbler can push off the defender with a free arm, lower a

shoulder and put it in the chest of the defender to clear the area. Meanwhile, the defense emulates a pass defender in the NFL. A game reminds me of lunchtime make-up games or free-for-all PE games. No rules. The Tigers took control of the first quarter 14-6. Akins began to close the gap as DS held on to a 24-23 lead at half. It was back and forth from there. It was 30-32 after three. It was 37-37 late and free throws gave Akins the lead at 39-37. DS got a chance to tie on a foul with two seconds left. When the first FT was missed, a deliberate miss somehow fell into Rushton Budge's hands and he put it back to send the game to OT. 6-8 from the line gave Akins the edge in the OT win. Vs DV: Budge 16, Loe 15, Spencer 9, Grant Reagan 3, Patterson 3. Vs WL: Loe 27, Reagan 8, Patterson 5, Budge 4, Spencer 2. Vs Ak: Loe 17, Budge 17, Reagan 5, Patterson 4.

Soccer teams get season rolling

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Tigers and Lady Tigers are knee deep in the district race. The Tigers had a 6-game win streak going before running up against Lake Travis. The Lake Travis program is strong this year in both divisions. The Tigers defeated Akins 3-0, Austin High 2-1 and Bowie 1-0 before Lake Travis subdued the Tigers 5-1. Akins stats: Goals: Parker Johnson; Logan Kraham and Joey Svoboda with an assist by Aiden Burgess. Austin: G/A: Kraham/Johnson; Johnson/Svoboda. Bowie: Dylan Zahn/Svoboda, Lake Travis: Vance Krutikov/Johnson. The Lady Tigers have been fighting the good fight against illness and injuries that has hampered success in the win total and drained their reserves. They are hoping to get back to

full strength and be in the hunt. They are 1-2-1 in district by tying Austin 1-1 and losing to Bowie 1-2 and Lake Travis 1-4. Vs Austin: It was a very foggy night to deal with. DS had momentum in the scoreless half and finally Lilly Ruff scored in the 75th minute with an assist from Adley Accetta but a PK tied it up with two minutes left. No stats available for the Bowie game. Meanwhile LT was controlling the game. Bailey Stephenson got the lone goal with an assist from Carson Thompson. JV defeated Austin 2-0. Goals/Asst: Brook Greenville had both goals. Malaika Stevenson and Evan Witherspoon assists. JVB won 4-0 scoring all in the second half. Goals: Kinley Clark, Lian Pham, Emery Laielli, Clara Ellis. Assts: Bristol Hardin, Lucy Mackie, Mia Hannen 2. JV lost to LT 0-5. JVB 0-3.

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED LISTINGS



301 W Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$2,500,000
6,000sf of charming retail space located in the heart of Dripping Springs! Currently leased out with 2 NNN tenants, perfectly situated for an owner/user or investor!



2201 W Hwy 290 Suite #B
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Lease - \$2.00 + NNN
2,175sf historical farmhouse that has been renovated for office, retail, hospitality, and other mixed uses. Includes separate 400sf private office/showroom with HVAC and water connected.



133 Glosson Ranch Rd Unit #A
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$1,799,000
For Lease - \$1.00 + NNN
14,000sf across two versatile buildings with no zoning restrictions. Utilities are in place, with power, septic, and water connected, making this site move-in ready.



133 Glosson Ranch Rd Unit #C
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$1,125,000
For Lease - \$1.00 + NNN
5,000sf fully HVAC warehouse, with 1,000sf of Office Space. This property is equipped adequately for efficient loading, there is both a loading dock and regular ground-level loading.



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CONVICTED FROM PG. 1

during the search. "Gabriel Osorio's sentencing today continues this office's work to stem the tide in the greater Austin area of the illegal drug distribution of fake pharmaceutical pills containing fentanyl," said U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza for the Western District

of Texas. "Fentanyl poses a significant threat to communities across this district and the United States, and I am grateful to the many federal, state and local law enforcement agencies who join us in prioritizing these very serious drug crimes." The Hays County

Sheriff's Office, DEA, Texas Department of Public Safety, Bastrop County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, and the Georgetown Police Department investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Castillo prosecuted the case.

ELECTION FROM PG. 1

campuses. Any registered voter who resides within the DSISD attendance boundary is eligible to vote in the bond election. The deadline to register to vote is Thursday, April 3. The first day of early voting is Tuesday, April 22 and Election Day is Saturday, May 3. More information about the proposed bond package will be shared on the DSISD

website and the district's social media channels over the next three months. An overview of the bond package is shown below. **Prop A - \$399.7 Million** Includes Construction of High School #2 (2,500 Student Capacity); Capital Improvements & Renovations for Dripping Springs High School and Rooster Springs

Elementary; Capital Maintenance Across District Facilities; Technology Infrastructure and Equipment; Portables; and Transportation: Seat Belts for Buses, Replacement and Growth Buses and Vehicles. **Prop B - \$2.6 Million** Includes Technology Device Refresh for Teachers, Staff and Students; Interactive Panels for Classrooms.