

Dripping Springs Century News

Avian flu reported in wild bird in Hays County

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The Hays County Health Department (HCHD) received notification on Feb. 21 from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that

a dead wild bird from the northwestern area of Hays County tested positive for avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu. “The health department wants to assure the public that the threat and risk continue to remain low for human transmission within the community,” said Hays County Health Department Manager Matthew Gonzales. “Health department staff will continue to monitor the development of bird flu in Hays County in coordination with DSHS and the CDC.” Human infections are uncommon, and at this time there is no known person-to-person spread. However, those who work with wild birds, poultry, or dairy cows – or have direct contact during recreational exposure

to these animals – are at a greater risk for contracting bird flu if exposed to a sick or infected animal. Disease experts indicate avian influenza is circulating among wild birds in Texas as waterbirds and waterfowl visit their wintering grounds. Widespread detections have occurred across Texas, including in Travis county. In early February, bird flu was confirmed in multiple black vultures recovered at

SEE FLU PAGE 2

Volunteers prepare Wild Game Dinner

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

More than 700 guests attended the Wild Game Dinner last Saturday at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, and together they raised around \$115,000 for local charities. But before anyone raised a fork at dinner or a paddle during the auction, a lot of work had to be done behind the scenes. Bill DeWinne is chairman of this year's event, which is the 35th annual Dripping

SEE DINNER PAGE 6



The youngest bidder raises a paddle for Patriot's Hall. Photo by Taila Wade

PHOTO BY TAILA WADE

Amplify Austin Day set for March 5-6

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The 13th annual Amplify Austin Day, a community-wide giving event that benefits nonprofits in seven Central Texas counties, will be held over a 24-hour period during the first week of March. The event will kick off at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5 and conclude at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. During this time, local residents are encour-

aged to make donations to support over 700 local nonprofit organizations, including seven in the Dripping Springs area: Thundering Paws, Lizzy's Animal Hospice, Service Dogs, Inc., SAWA SAWA Collection, Solace and Sage, Hometown Missions and Foster Village.. “Thanks to past Amplify Austin campaigns, Foster Village has equipped caregivers with essential resources, connected families to

SEE AMPLIFY PAGE 5

School board hears annual report, approves design for high school

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

After the student recognitions at the monthly meeting of the Dripping Springs ISD board of trustees on Feb. 18, the board held a public hearing on the District Annual Report for 2023-2024. Dr. Karen Kidd, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Instruction, reviewed the report, which largely covers the STAAR test results. “Our goal is always meets and masters for our level of performance for students,” Kidd said. “You’ll see math has dipped down a little bit. It dipped down across the state in math, it’s not just us.” Kidd said when compared to the region and the state, Dripping Springs is still well above those numbers. “Then for reading we saw a slight uptick, which is great,” Kidd said. “We are still far above where the region and the state end up with those scores.” She also reviewed the attendance rate, which was 94.6.



The winners for the PTA Reflections contest accept their certificates at the board meeting.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

“We have a goal this year of getting up to 96% attendance,” Kidd said. “Currently we did a check and we’re at 95.26% here today, so we’re getting there, getting a little bit better.” The district also got “meets requirements” for their special education program. Kidd said while that may sound underwhelming, it is actually the highest level that can be achieved from TEA. The full annual report is posted on the DSISD website, and paper copies are also available at each campus and at the district’s central office. Next on the agenda were public comments. The first speaker was Ming Chon Ho, who is the father of two young daughters in Dripping Springs. He said he’d been hearing

a lot about electronic devices being used in the lower grades, and wanted to speak to the board on the issue. “I am a computer engineer, so when I say I’m against screens that’s a bit ironic, but I am truly passionate about this, seeing what that does to kids whose minds aren’t fully developed,” Ho said. He proposed that schools should be prohibiting screens for kids under high school age. “It’s really just not suitable for their young minds,” Ho said. “They’re pretty addictive. It’s almost like tobacco for the young minds, and I don’t think anyone here would be handing out cigarettes to kids.” He said that multiple scientific studies, all peer reviewed, have

shown that screen time for children is harmful across all the age bands under 16, with the younger ones being the most susceptible to harm. The next speaker was Sheriff Anthony Hipolito, who was recently sworn in for Hays County. He introduced himself to the board and talked about the county’s role in providing SROs for DSISD schools. “We are going to continue to make sure our deputies that are working in our schools are the most highly trained so that they can serve our kids, and make sure that our staff is also staying safe,” Hipolito said. “I look forward to working with you guys in every capacity possible to make sure that our schools are as safe as possible.” For this month’s Learning Spotlight, trustees heard a presentation from Sycamore Springs Middle School. Principal Kelly Miller introduced teacher Sara Pope and her intro to engineering students. Pope said the class is

SEE BOARD PAGE 8



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Capital Highlights

House unveils its voucher version



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Texas House members filed a bevy of education bills last week, including a proposed \$8 billion investment in public education and a voucher bill that ties the amount of money spent for private schooling to the dollar amount provided to public schools. The Austin American-Statesman reported the bill, filed by Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, would increase the base level of per-student funding by \$220 — from \$6,160 to \$6,380. Additional funds would be provided for special education, bilingual education, transportation and to rural school districts.

The House voucher proposal differs from the version already passed by the Texas Senate in that it sets out a tiered system depend-

ing on a family's income and prioritizes children with special education needs.

"We want kids in Texas to do better," Buckley said. "That's what it's about."

At least two Democratic legislators have pushed back. Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, said she was "disappointed" by the proposed increase in per-student funding. The \$220 proposed increase does not cover increased costs due to inflation.

"Our neighborhood schools are desperate for the funding they need to keep their best teachers in the classroom," Hinojosa said. Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, cast skepticism on Republicans' claim they have enough votes in the House to pass a voucher program. "Voucher proponents have a habit of declaring victory prematurely," Talarico said.

SENATE BILL WOULD CRIMINALIZE HEMP PRODUCTS WITH THC

A bill filed in the Texas Senate would ban all products containing

THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, The Dallas Morning News reported. Thousands of retailers across the state are selling CBD products derived from legally grown hemp but often containing THC. The ban would not affect the sale of nonintoxicating products that contain CBD.

The ban is a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Senate's presiding officer.

"We must take bold action to keep dangerous drugs away from our communities and out of our schools, and SB 3 is a critical step in protecting Texas families from unregulated and mislabeled intoxicating products," Patrick said in December.

Advocates for consumable hemp — gummies, vapes, drinks and other types of products — are advocating a more measured approach that would include limiting the strength, increasing oversight, and banning sales to minors. The proposed ban would not affect the state's medical marijuana program.

Even if passed, the proposed ban faces an uncertain fate in the House, where no companion legislation has been filed.

longtime opponent of fluoridation.

"I don't want big brother telling me what to do," Miller. "Government has forced this on us for too long."

Across Texas, more than 100 public water systems serving nearly 10 million people add fluoride to water. According to the American Dental Association, fluoridation reduces cavities by about 25% in both children and adults. However, critics say the practice is no longer needed because fluoride is already found in toothpaste and other dental products.

MEASLES OUTBREAK SPREADING IN SOUTH PLAINS REGION

The number of people identified as having contracted measles has risen to 90 since late January, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Of that number, 16 have been hospitalized.

"Due to the highly contagious nature of this disease, additional cases are likely to occur in the outbreak area and the surrounding communities," a DSHS news release stated.

Gaines County, between Lubbock and Midland, has reported the largest number of cases: 57 as of last Friday. Five of the people contracting measles said they had been vaccinated against the virus.

Most of the cases have been reported in

children from infancy to age 17. DSHS said the best way to prevent getting sick is to be immunized with two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

A COOLER, WETTER JANUARY REPORTED

Texas weather was wetter and cooler in January than in past years, resulting in a slight drop in the percentage of the state in drought, now at 42%, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

Wentzel said he expects drought conditions to expand modestly in the next few months.

"A big factor in this outlook is an ongoing La Niña event, cooler-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the eastern Equatorial Pacific, that typically bring warmer and drier conditions to the southern U.S., including Texas, during the winter," he wrote. "Farther out, we're still hopeful for more drought relief."

La Niña is expected to be less of a factor after April, meaning that May — historically the wettest month in Texas — could bring added drought relief.

COALITION PRESSING TRANSPARENCY LEGISLATION THIS SESSION

The Texas Sunshine Coalition, which consists of 16 organizations (including Texas Press Association, the

Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas and the Texas Association of Broadcasters), is working to pass legislation to improve citizens' access to public information.

Seven measures have already been introduced, including a bill that would require governments to produce public records in their original format instead of converting them into PDF images that are impossible to search and sort.

Other proposals would require governments to respond to Public Information Act requests. The bills resulted from complaints that some government officials simply ignore requests in spite of state laws. The legislation provides for a complaint process when officials fail to respond. Other measures call for resuming access to dates of birth in public records to ensure accuracy when reporting on people with common names; requiring an open government hotline in the Texas Attorney General's office; and establishing a complaint process when public information is withheld.

More transparency bills are expected to be filed soon.

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: gborder@texaspress.com



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FLU FROM PG. 1

Landa Park in New Braunfels.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) said the public can assist in interrupting bird flu transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds, including the discontinuation of feeding and other activities that cause waterfowl to congregate in parks.

In addition, taking down all bird feeders and bird baths is recommended, as these allow birds to congregate, increasing the chance of disease exposure if present. People who choose to leave

bird feeders and bird baths out are asked to clean them several times each week with a ten percent bleach solution and watch for signs of disease.

TPWD also advises wildlife rehabilitators to exercise caution when admitting wild animals showing clinical signs of bird flu and to refrain from admitting any birds exhibiting such symptoms.

People are encouraged to contact a local TPWD wildlife biologist if they encounter a wild animal with signs consistent with avian influenza. This can include sudden death

without any warning signs, respiratory distress, tremors, seizures, and swelling, discoloration or discharge from the eyes.

The CDC recommends avoiding sources of exposure as the best way to protect yourself and others from bird flu. That means avoiding direct contact with wild birds and other animals. Wild animals could potentially be infected with bird flu or other pathogens. Tips to avoid exposure include:

- Do not touch sick or dead animals or their droppings,

and do not bring sick wild animals into your home.

- Keep your pets away from sick or dead animals and their feces.
- Avoid uncooked food products such as unpasteurized raw milk or cheeses.
- If you experience illness after contact with sick or dead birds, please contact your healthcare provider for evaluation.

More information about avian influenza in humans can be found from the Texas Department of State Health Services at www.dshs.texas.gov.



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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Reconnecting with your Artistic Passion

I know you're out there. We spoke the other day. You haven't dabbled in _____ (painting/ceramics/photography/metals/fiber art/enter your passion here) since _____ (high school graduation/getting married/having kids/enter your life milestone) but you've often thought about getting back into it. Of course, you have your family and career, so it is hard to carve out creative time for yourself...

Perhaps I saw you at the Art Market in the Triangle in Dripping Springs. It was easy to spot you because you lingered for a while in front of the art. You were silent but your brain was pinging away analyzing what you saw. Eventually we spoke and before long, I learned about your artistic leanings.

Finding the Time
It's never a good time. Sometimes, it's not even possible due to financial constraints, time constraints, health issues, you name it. But a lot of the time, it's inertia that stops us. Turns out that some of the hurdles to getting back into it are not as high as you think.

In my case, it was meeting members of the Dripping Springs Art League that gave me the impetus I needed. My big leap was selling art at markets.

- Is this the kind of thing people would buy?
- What do I say to the shoppers?
- How do I price my art?
- How do I process a transaction on my

phone?
Chances are, if you like what you make, someone else will too! And the feedback and sales are certainly a confidence booster! Fortunately, with today's technology to back you up, handling a purchase electronically is made simple. Well, well, not as hard as it seems!

Finding Your Tribe
For you, it may simply be meeting other like-minded artists that share your passion. Or perhaps you prefer to volunteer and share your expertise with kids in a workshop. Reaching out and joining the art league (\$35/year) is an easy way to kick start the process.

You are aware of the benefits of joining a community with shared interests, because you've already been a part of a _____ (Church/sports team/band/you get the idea). You'll reap benefits from joining the art league which you can not anticipate, such as gaining friendships, confidence, and a new skip in your step.

Contributing to a Vibrant Art Community
There's power in numbers, too. Art can influence the culture of a town. We are proud of being a dark sky community, but we are so much more! Wimberley and Bee Cave have established art presences, and as Dripping grows ours, we will become a virtual art corridor of the Hill Country! Haha, is that too grandiose?



No, let's do it!
Do it for yourself!
We're waiting for you!

The Dripping Springs Art League offers Clubs, Socials, Art Markets, and even tutorials for first-time Marketers. The DSAL is partnering with the City of Dripping Springs to present Second Saturday Art Markets in the Triangle (US290 & RR12) in March, April, and May along with autumn dates. Our next Market is March 8th. Sign up for a Market at www.artindripping.com or just put it on your calendar and come browse the many artist booths at the heart of Dripping Springs. We'll see you out there!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Kids wait in line to get their basketballs signed.



The Dripping Springs Stars take a team photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



One of the Wizards talks to an audience member.

Harlem Wizards draw huge crowd for PTSA event

Staff Reports

Almost 800 attendees turned out on Feb. 23 to witness the Harlem Wizards, a professional show basketball team, play against the Dripping Springs Stars, a team of local teachers, staff and the Hays County Sheriff. The event was hosted by the Dripping Springs High School Parent Teacher

Student Association (PTSA). The Stars were coached by the DSHS JV Basketball Coach Jeremy Gamez. The team included 18 members, including several of the Dripping Springs ISD principals (like DSHS Principal Gamez) and many beloved DSISD teachers, some with college playing experience. The game was planned and coordinated by the PTSA

with a large team of DSHS parent, student and staff volunteers on hand to make sure it was a great and engaging community event. The PTSA thanked sponsors Sleep Inn & Suites, who hosted the Wizards, and MaxLiving Chiropractic for their support. Funding earned through ticket, souvenir and concession sales will support programming for DSHS students.

"It was such a fun event. I couldn't stop smiling the whole time and was just so happy to see the smiles on all the families that came out to watch," PTSA President Amanda Miyamoto said. "I love seeing our Dripping Springs community come out and have a great time while supporting a great cause. I hope this becomes an annual event for years to come."



Dripping Springs CLASSIFIEDS

P.O. Box 732 Dripping Springs, TX 78620 512-858-4163

Public Notice

NO. 25-0011-P

IN THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY MALONE GUMBERT DECEASED \$ IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dorothy Malone Gumbert, Deceased, were issued on February 18, 2025, in Cause No. 25-0011-P, pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas, to: Harry E. Gumbert, Jr.

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

c/o: Joseph J. Malone
Attorney at Law
Stevens & Malone, PLLC
P.O. Box 727
Wimberley, Texas 78676

DATED the 20th day of February 2025.

Joseph J. Malone
Joseph J. Malone
State Bar No.: 24050982

STEVENS & MALONE, PLLC
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Wimberley, Texas 78676
Telephone: (512) 847-9277
Facsimile: (512) 847-5131
E-mail: service@stevensmalone-law.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dripping Springs ISD is requesting for proposals for RFP #24-25-004 Depository Services. Proposals will be accepted until 03-31-2025 at 2:00 p.m. local time.

Specifications are available in the DSISD Purchasing Office (512-858-3039) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Proposal responses must be returned to the DSISD Purchasing Department, Attn: Valerie Littrell, 300 Sportsplex Dr, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620, by the date and time indicated above. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted. Late bids will be returned unopened. Dripping Springs ISD reserves the right to reject any/or all submissions and waive all formalities in the bid process.

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 Thursday on 20th day of March 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:

Gerardo Martinez, Norman Hemby

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT CITY OF WIMBERLEY ORDINANCE NO 2025-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2.04.005, HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SUBSECTION (b) MEMBERSHIP OF THE WIMBERLEY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, REPEALERS, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING.

REQUEST FOR BID/PROPOSAL (RFP):

Contract Services Photographer for the City of Woodcreek *Candidates can apply for this position through Monday March 31st, 2025, at 5:00P (CST)*

The City of Woodcreek seeks an experienced professional to work as a contracted photographer for the period of one year to provide legally released photography products for city use.

Complete RFP can be found on the city website Woodcreektx.gov

Please send bid/proposals to manager@woodcreektx.gov

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT)

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following: **CUP-25-004** – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Short-Term Rental 2 (vacation rental) at 110 Malone Dr, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # 29773). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be made in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email (nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com) prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.

Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Mixed Beverage Permit with Brew Pub License and Food and Beverage Certificate by Vespa Rossa LLC, dba Vespa Rossa, to be located at 3799 E Hwy 290, Dripping Springs, Hays County, TX 78620. The Officers are Ryan Samson- Manager and Daniel Brooks- Manager.

Public Notice

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Dripping Springs ISD is requesting for proposals for **RFP #24-25-008 Property Insurance Program. Proposals will be accepted until 04-22-2025 at 2:00 p.m. local time.** Specifications are available in the DSISD Purchasing Office (512-858-3039) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Proposal responses must be returned to the DSISD Purchasing Department, Attn: Valerie Littrell, 300 Sportsplex Dr, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620, by the date and time indicated above. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted. Late bids will be returned unopened. Dripping Springs ISD reserves the right to reject any/or all submissions and waive all formalities in the bid process.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on **Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following: **REPLAT OF LOT 38, PARADISE HILLS, SECTION 2, AND 10.79 ACRES IN THE THOMAS CAROTHERS SURVEY, A-106, ESTABLISHING PARADISE HILLS, SECTION 2, LOT 38 REPLAT.** This property is zoned Single-Family Residential 2 (R-2) and is located at 300 Sunrise Dr, Wimberley, Texas 78676. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be presented in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email (nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com) prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Please call 512-648-2411 for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT)

Notice is hereby given that the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Wimberley will hold a public hearing at the Wimberley City Hall on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following: **CUP-25-004** – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for administrative and professional office use at 45 La Buena Vista Dr, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # 46074). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall. Comments on this request from any member of the public may be made in person at City Hall, by mail (221 Stillwater, Wimberley, TX), or by email (nglaiser@cityofwimberley.com) prior to the hearing. The public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the hearings. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.

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DSISD School Board Trustees Rob McClellan, Kim Cousins, Superintendent Dr. Holly Morris-Kuentz, Shanda DeLeon, Dr. Stephanie Reinold, Tricia Quintero, Olivia Barnard, Dr. MaryJane Hetrick.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dripping Springs Education Foundation’s ‘Heart of a Tiger’ gala raises \$211,000 to support DSISD students and teachers

Staff Reports

The Dripping Springs community showed its true spirit at the Dripping Springs Education Foundation’s (DSEF) annual Heart of a Tiger Gala on Feb. 13. The event, held at Can-

yonwood Ridge, raised \$211,000, all of which will directly support innovative teaching grants, student leadership programs, mental health initiatives, and campus and classroom resources for Dripping Springs ISD (DSISD). Every element of the evening - from the

décor to the live music and the featured speaker - was brought to life by individuals with deep ties to DSISD. Alumni, former students, new community members, and longtime supporters all came together to create a night that truly showcased the

heart, pride, and unity of Dripping Springs. Chad Hudson, a DSISD graduate, was the evening’s keynote speaker. His message reminded attendees that among the many roles they hold, one that unites everyone in the room is being a Tiger.

AMPLIFY FROM PG. 1

sustaining support, and advocated for systemic change to break generational cycles of adversity,” Director of Communications Christina Hite said.

In 2024 alone, Foster Village served 1,700 children. With this year’s funds, the group hopes to create more space to meet the 33% increase in requests, and to increase trauma-informed training.

“Together, this community beyond the system can amplify what it means to belong - ensuring no child or caregiver navigates foster care alone,” Hite said.

Solace and Sage is another participating nonprofit. It was created in 2021 by three local women dedicated to providing the structure and support for helping adults 60 years and older in Central Texas age in place with dignity and quality of life.

“As healthcare providers, we understand the challenges and barriers older adults and their loved ones face when managing and navigating a medical crisis or chronic and/or progressive illness,” Executive Director Michelle McCarty said.

The organization has a team of occupational therapy practitioners and nurses who offer in-home consultative and medical services.

“Without our critical interventions, this vulnerable population is at risk of unnecessary hospitalization and displacement from their

home,” McCarty said.

This will be the second year for Hometown Missions to participate in Amplify Austin.

“Our participation and focus for the event this year will be on our next frame and foundation Home in a Month project,” said Operations Manager Chris Kelker-Newla. “The donations received go toward that project, which begins in late April and concludes in late May.”

Hometown Missions is a local faith based non-profit and community of individuals, churches, and businesses who are dedicated to ensuring all Dripping Springs residents live in safe, healthy housing. It helps neighbors in need with home repairs, home maintenance, ADA access inside and outside, and even tears downs and rebuilds housing.

“Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to bring the local community together to build and repair homes, inspiring hope,” Kelker-Newla said.

Lizzy’s Animal Hospice has participated in Amplify Austin for the last six years. Lizzy’s rescues senior pups from shelters and provides them with the care they need, including medical, to get them healthy and help them find forever families.

“Funding is very difficult for Lizzy’s since we are a very small, pri-

vately funded rescue, so the opportunity to be a part of Amplify Austin each year is integral to Lizzy’s continued success in placing those pups that others said nobody would want,” Karen Cole said.

Animals who aren’t placed stay with Lizzy’s, which is a foster-home-based rescue. The group also focuses on providing a comfortable quality of life for terminal pups.

“Our medical is around \$60,000 annually,” Cole said. “We hope to increase the donations so we can continue to bring in the pups that others will not, because they are viewed as expensive and not adoptable.”

Service Dogs, Inc. is another participant in Amplify Austin. The group has adopted over 1,000 shelter dogs and trained them as Service Dogs for Texans living with disabilities.

“We train Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Courthouse Facility Dogs, and First Responder Facility Dogs,” Founder and CEO Sheri Soltes said. “We just matched one of our Facility Dogs with Patriots’ Hall in Dripping Springs. Riff, adopted from a local shelter, will support 14,000 military veterans, their families and the staff at Patriots’ Hall.”

Soltes said the organization aims to rescue and train 25% more dogs this year. And thanks to the Second

Chances Matching Campaign, any gift automatically doubles up to \$50,000.

“You also double your impact by saving two lives: an unwanted dog and the person he will eventually help,” Soltes said.

For feline fans, Thundering Paws is a participant in Amplify Austin. Their mission is to offer safe haven for cats who are homeless, neglected, injured, or abused. They do that with a sanctuary and hospice, as well as other programs.

“A cat that’s come into our program but doesn’t get adopted has a forever home at Thundering Paws,” Executive Director Anne Zabolio said.

Through their foster program, they secure adoptions for tame cats and kittens. They are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. They also provide services for community cat colonies, helping with trapping, spaying and neutering, and vaccinating before returning cats to their territory.

“We assist the public in helping cats and other animals by sharing our experience, loaning traps, listening, and validating that all animals are important,” Zabolio said.

Another local group participating in Amplify Austin is SAWA SAWA. Their mission is to create sustainable solutions to poverty for artisan women in Af-

rica. The women create beautiful, one of a kind baskets, accessories and art to make a dignified living.

“We sell the products in the USA to conscious consumers and use the revenue, grants and donations to fund quality of life programs like food, water access, solar lights, education and menstrual health resources,” Co-founder and CEO Anne Drane said.

Through Amplify Austin, SAWA SAWA hopes to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Africa.

“This July, we will bring women from Dripping Springs and Austin to Africa to experience our artisan villages, wildlife, organic food, culture, music and more,” Drane said. “It’s our way of creating meaningful connections for women everywhere.”

Amplify Austin Day aims to increase giving by providing easily accessible giving opportunities via the online Amplify ATX platform. Donors can search for nonprofit organizations by keyword, location and category across seven Central Texas counties: Travis, Hays, Williamson, Burnet, Bastrop, Caldwell and Blanco. Participating nonprofits serve 19 different cause categories, including racial equity, the environment, animals, the arts, basic needs, children and veterans.

I Live Here I Give

Here, the organization that sponsors the event, has also added disability services as a category for the first time, with 27 nonprofits taking part.

“When the world feels big and out of control, one of the ways to really make a difference is to give back locally,” says I Live Here I Give Here Executive Director Piper Stege Nelson. “Amplify Austin Day is the perfect opportunity to make a difference in our local community by being part of a huge generosity movement.”

While Amplify Austin Day officially starts on March 5, early giving is already open for residents who wish to jumpstart donations to their favorite nonprofit. Early donations will count toward the Amplify Austin Day totals and qualify nonprofits for early giving incentives and grand prizes.

Since 2013, Amplify Austin Day has raised \$112.7 million for over 1,500 Central Texas nonprofits, demonstrating the transformative impact of donations big and small, with the minimum donation amount being \$5.

“This one giving day is the perfect chance to show Central Texas not only that we care, but that together, we can make an enormous difference in our community,” Nelson said.

To learn more about Amplify Austin Day 2025, visit Amplify-ATX.org.

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Pouring Over Books raises funds for library programs



Mindy Laird, Library Director, talks about the library programs that have been funded thanks to Pouring Over Books.



Dixie Frechette, of Sunday Bookshop, sells autographed copies of the book.



Brian Hale, Board President, addresses the crowd at the Pouring Over Books fundraiser.

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

On Feb. 23, the Friends of the Dripping Springs Library hosted the 14th Annual Pouring Over Books fundraiser at The Prospect House. This event raises funds for library programs. This year's event included a discussion

and book signing with acclaimed Texas author Lynda Rutledge, author of bestselling book West With Giraffes. Live music was provided by Jerry Kirk, and there was also an online auction and door prizes. Guests enjoyed complimentary fine wines, craft beers and premium teas, as well as delicious bites.



Texas author Lynda Rutledge, author of bestselling book West With Giraffes, speaks to the audience about her work.

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON

DINNER FROM PG. 1

Springs Wild Game Dinner. When we caught up with him at Dripping Springs United Methodist Church the day before the dinner, he emphasized the role of the volunteers who make the event happen.

"Today is prep day, so we probably had 50 volunteers in church this morning prepping - cutting meat, making sausage, seasoning, and getting things ready over at Ranch Park," DeWinne said. "And tomorrow we'll have at least 50, maybe close to 75 volunteers dressing tables and putting up directional signage."

DeWinne has been involved with the event for over 20 years. He said the spirit and camaraderie are a big part of what keeps him coming back. People genuinely want to pitch in and help.

"We started Wednesday night when it was freezing cold," DeWinne said. "We probably had 25 guys here, and we moved 500 pounds of wild game out of the freezer with a bucket brigade. We loaded it into our coolers and on our trailers and then brought it down to Fellowship Hall. Then we unloaded it the same way."

He said the job was done in record time, because people get really motivated when it's that cold out.

Once the meat is all thawed, then it's time for the cooking, which starts at 1 a.m. on the day of the dinner.

"We'll be getting all the warmers and the smokers and the barbecue units fired up," DeWinne said. "So yeah, it's a beehive of activity."

Cody Kidwell, the owner and head chef at Verde's on Hamilton Pool Road, is one of those who helped out with the meal preparations.

"He's new to our group this year, and he's given invaluable assistance with all of his equipment, his knowledge, and his expertise in all manners culinary," DeWinne said.

Another returning volunteer was Brian Sherman.

"I'm a youth director, and so that's how I really got plugged in," Sherman said. "It's an amazing event that brings so many men and women together that just pour into this event. It's the best."

He said the fellowship is one of his favorite things about the event.

"On Friday morning of the day before, everyone is just prepping all of the meat and all the dishes, and you just get to have good conversations," Sherman said. "Then also the amount of funds that it raises. Almost



On Prep Day, volunteers cut and seasoned the meat to get it ready to cook.

PHOTO BY BILL DEWINNE

everything goes back into the community, which is so cool."

Dakota Kinsey, a volunteer and church member who recently moved to San Antonio, was also present on Friday for preparations. He said even though he no longer lives nearby, he keeps coming back.

"Everything brings me back here in a sense, because this event itself was a pivotal moment in my walk of faith and my experience with God," Kinsey said. "After my first Wild Game Dinner, I went ahead and joined the church as a full member, and I got baptized because of the fellowship and the community that was shown to me here."

Last year's event chairman was Mike Milliken. He said he was surprised when he was asked to be the chair, because he still felt like a newcomer to the group, having only started attending in 2021. But from that moment, the Wild Game Dinner took on a whole new meaning for him.

"This event has become so much more to me than I ever imagined," Milliken said. "It's not just a dinner; it's a reflection of God's work in my life and in our church. I'm honored to be a part of it."

For those who have never been to the Wild Game Dinner, Milliken said he tries to explain that it's not just about the food or the auction.

"It's about the community coming together, the fellowship, the chance to do something good for others.

You get to enjoy great food, sure, but you also get to be part of something bigger than yourself."

The auction is one of the highlights of the evening for many. It's run by professional auctioneer Kent Crank.

"Kent is worth the price of admission," DeWinne said. "He is very funny. He's not a young man, but he is the energizer bunny. He is moving around that stage getting people engaged. He runs the best live auction that I've seen in many years."

This year, the "Paddles Up" beneficiary for the auction was Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs. However, that's not the only group that benefits. Event sponsors also review requests for financial assistance from charities, ministries and missions throughout the community. They identify immediate needs where they can have the highest level of impact, and put the funds to work as quickly as possible. Funding requests can be submitted at www.dswgd.com by March 1. The committee meets March 4 to review the requests.

The Wild Game Dinner started in 1991, when a group of men came together and decided that they could combine their love of God, family, friends, and cooking to bring people together to make the Dripping Springs area a better place. Over the years, the organization has distributed nearly \$1 million to organizations in the area.



Kent Crank looks for a bid during the Live Auction.

PHOTO BY TAILA WADE



Event chairman Dave DeWinne and his granddaughter enjoy the festivities.

PHOTO BY TAILA WADE



The Wednesday before the dinner, volunteers made a bucket brigade to move all the frozen meat from the freezer to the Fellowship Hall.

PHOTO BY MIKE MILLIKEN



Jillian Hudson provides some entertainment during the dinner.

PHOTO BY TAILA WADE

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When it comes to cardiac arrest, seconds count

Staff Reports

February is American Heart Month, and Austin Public Health (APH) and Austin-Travis County EMS (ATCEMS) are raising awareness of heart disease and cardiac arrest in the community.

In severe cases, a heart attack can cause the victim to go into cardiac arrest — a life-threatening condition in which the heart stops beating. When someone suffers a cardiac

arrest, their chances of survival go down every second. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) carried out by trained bystanders can dramatically improve those odds and give people the best possible chance of recovering.

Knowing how to recognize when a cardiac event is happening plays a major role in helping someone survive a heart attack. The earlier that symptoms are recognized and EMS is activated, the higher the likelihood

of survival for those patients.

A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is obstructed. The signs and symptoms of a heart attack include:

- Chest pain or pressure
- Pain or discomfort that spreads to the shoulder, arm, back, neck, or jaw
- Cold sweats
- Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath

Heart attacks are time-sensitive, life-

threatening events — every second counts. If you or someone you are with experiences any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately. ATCEMS paramedics are experts at recognizing these conditions and can help you begin life-saving treatment from the moment you call 9-1-1.

ATCEMS also regularly teaches CPR and first aid classes at several certification levels. You can learn more on the website at www.austintx.gov.



PEC scholarship deadline is March 12

Staff Reports

For the 26th year, Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) is proud to support continued education in Central Texas through our scholarship program. This year PEC will award \$100,000 in scholarships.

High school students who are graduating through public, private, or homeschooled education, and are looking to pursue a college, technical school, or

trade school degree can apply. PEC encourages the lifelong journey of learning, which is why they also offer this opportunity to adults seeking to further their education.

Applicants must either be PEC members in good standing or graduating seniors with a parent or guardian who is a PEC member in good standing.

“Receiving a scholarship from PEC has been a life-changing gift, helping to lift the financial burden of my education and

allowing me to focus wholeheartedly on my studies and personal growth,” said 2024 PEC scholarship recipient Kambell Stewart of Marble Falls. She is currently studying at Texas A&M.

The scholarships PEC provides to students in its service area are funded by unclaimed property returned to PEC by the state. The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. on March 12.

Learn more and apply at myPEC.com/scholarships.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Recently Hays County constructed an emergency response building at the entrance to our subdivision, 1 Heritage Oaks. The building became operational in October 2024.

Concrete and buildings cover almost the total lot except for a section by the street. It is basically 95% percent impervious cover. The facility has two large drain pipes flowing to the street. The remaining 5% of the lot is between the facility and the street.

The county has done basically nothing to improve the rocky 5%. The area is a mess. It looks like a moonscape, and it is eroding every time it rains. It will be a big problem when it really rains hard. Where is the water going to go?

I wrote Hays County Commis-

sioner Smith an email about this situation on December 11, 2024 and received no response. I sent a second email and I received a short response from Carol Bedrich, executive assistant, Precinct 4. She said she was waiting on a response from Smith. As of this date I have not received any meaningful response.

One of my neighbors went to the facility and she spoke to an employee there about the problem. The employee told her the county ran out of money on the project and there was nothing left for landscaping.

I think the county should do a better job of protecting the environment and our neighborhood, and fix this area before it erodes further.

Manuel Pena
Dripping Springs, TX



A beekeeper demonstrates how to raise bees in a Top Bar Hive.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bee school set for March 2

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

Interest in bee keeping has grown tremendously over the past ten years. Central Texas Beekeepers Association has been part of that movement, and is once again hosting its annual beekeeping school to help people of all ages learn more.

The 15th Annual Beginning Beekeeping School will be held Mar. 1 in Brenham, Texas. It will include sessions on Beginning Beekeeping, Apitherapy (the use of bee products in medicine), how to extract honey, where to get your bees and many more interesting topics.

There is even the opportunity to “suit up” and visit a live bee hive while a beekeeper opens the hive and shows the queen and honey inside.

Ninety-eight percent of the instruction is in the classroom. Here are some high-

lights:

Dennis Herbert drafted the original legislation that allows small acreage land owners to receive their agricultural valuation by raising bees on their property. He has been a beekeeper in Bell County for 27 years. He will host several sessions that will discuss this law and how you can use beekeeping to qualify for property tax savings.

Ferhat Ozturk teaches Biomedical Sciences at the School of Science and Technology in San Antonio. He will be sharing his research into the use of bee products in medicine. For example, Bee Sting Therapy has been used to treat MS and Lyme disease. Honey is an anti-bacterial that can treat wounds and can help with allergies. Propolis, which is tree sap that bees gather to seal their hives, can make a tincture that has microbial and anti-septic properties. And bees wax can be used to make lip balm and

in salves.

Brandon Fehrenkamp, the owner of Austin Bees, will teach a class on Top Bar Hives, bee removals, and bee consulting. Top Bar Hives are a natural way of raising bees without all the traditional equipment and without lifting heavy honey supers. They allow the beekeeper to harvest comb honey and eliminate the need to purchase additional equipment.

The one day Beginning Beekeeping School is open to the public and families are welcome to attend. The cost of the school is \$100 for the first adult in a household and \$90 for additional household members over 18. Active and retired Military will be \$80. Students, including college, are \$40 each. Children under the age of 12 are \$25. Admission includes lunch.

Learn more about the school at www.centraltexasbeekeepers.org.

Amy Kristin Sanders
Special to the News

Imagine being the target of a vexatious lawsuit completely without merit in which you ultimately prevail—only to find out that you not only have to pay your attorney’s fees but also the other side’s. That’s the likely outcome if the Texas Legislature passes HB 2988 this session.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mano DeAyala, R-Houston, would gut the Texas Citizens Participation Act, leaving it basically toothless.

Right now, if Texans speak out on an issue of public importance and are sued because of that criticism, they have strong legal protections under the TCPA to help them head off meritless lawsuits designed to punish them for their speech.

The TCPA and laws like it protect both conservatives and liberals from being targeted by their political opponents.

In 2018, adult entertainment star Stormy Daniels was ordered to pay Donald Trump’s legal team nearly \$300,000 under the TCPA while a Texas appeals court relied on the law in 2024 to dismiss a famed Houston heart surgeon’s lawsuit against the Houston Chronicle and ProPublica for their coverage of allegations of potential wrongdoing.

More importantly, once Texans succeed in fending off the frivolous lawsuit, the law requires the plaintiff to pay the

defendants’ legal fees. Because of this, the TCPA’s ultimate effect is to deter meritless lawsuits.

A 2023 Report by the Institute for Free Speech estimated the median cost of defending a meritless defamation lawsuit at around \$39,000, but the report noted costs could run into the millions.

But Rep. DeAyala’s bill would change that by making the award of attorney’s fees discretionary rather than mandatory. Even worse, it could allow plaintiffs to try to force defendants to pay the plaintiffs’ legal costs or give courts a mechanism to punish speakers with whom they disagree, dramatically chilling free speech.

Texas isn’t alone in having this mandatory ‘fee-shifting’ provision, as it’s called. Right now, 35 U.S. states have laws similar to the TCPA, and the Institute for Free Speech found the majority of them—certainly the ones that provide the most protection for free speech—also require unsuccessful plaintiffs to pay the defendant’s attorney’s fees.

The sole purpose of these vexatious lawsuits is to chill free expression and punish Texans who speak out by forcing them to endure the massive legal costs associated with defending themselves in court. Plain and simple, if HB 2988 becomes law, everyday Texans who choose to exercise their free speech rights will do so at their peril and will surely face more lawsuits.

Removing the mandatory fee-shifting provision takes away the most critical aspect of the law—the part that serves to deter these meritless and anti-democratic attempts to silence Texans and punishes those plaintiffs who insist on filing them.

“It is this mandatory award that provides the TCPA its teeth for the benefit of the successful movant,” wrote Houston trial attorney James Walker in a Texas Bar opinion column.

This doesn’t mean that attorneys can submit astronomical bills and expect a windfall under the fee-shifting provision. Instead, the law limits the defendant’s recovery to “reasonable” fees only after the court has dismissed the frivolous lawsuit.

The Texas Supreme Court affirmed this position in *Sullivan v. Abraham* (2016) when it ruled that the courts have the sole discretion to determine whether fees are reasonable.

All Texans deserve the right to freely criticize their government and speak out on issues of importance in their communities without the fear of being dragged into court.

It’s not too late to let Rep. DeAyala and your state lawmakers know that HB2988 would undermine the TCPA and chill free speech in the Lone Star state.

Amy Kristin Sanders is the John and Ann Curley Chair in First Amendment at Penn State as well as a licensed attorney and former journalist.

Brewery visitors enjoy art market

On Sunday, Feb. 24, the Dripping Springs Art League held an Art Market at Jester King Brewery. Vendors set up inside the pole barn

and on the grounds to showcase and sell their work. The market provided artists an opportunity to share their talents with the world

and engage with art lovers throughout the community. In addition to the market, brewery visitors enjoyed live music

by the Bluegrass Pals. Some also participated in the popular Goat Experience with the brewery's herd of Nigerian dwarf goats.



A customer talks to Michelle with Indra's Jewel Net. PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON



Sora H. tries to feed a leaf to one of the goats.



Liam Lundquist grooves to the tunes of the Bluegrass Pals.



The goats enjoy some pets from a visitor.



Sheetal Kulkarni of On the Fence Arts talks with a customer about her pottery.



Lori Nelson talks with stained glass artist Mary Orcutt.



DimDuck Studios artist Aislin Berger visits with a guest.



The Bluegrass Pals entertain the crowd.

BOARD FROM PG. 1

largely project-based. "I give them a little bit of science, a little bit of instruction, and they really take these projects and run with them," Pope said. "I'm having more fun this year as a teacher than I have had in a really long time."

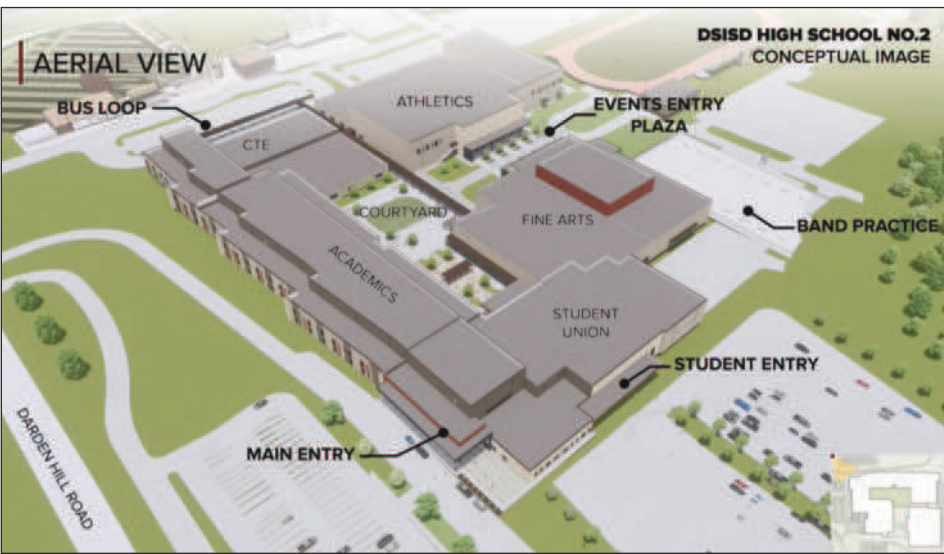
The students introduced themselves and talked about some of the projects they've been working on. Those included projects such as air skimmers, playground designs, bridge builds and tower construction.

The next order of business was board highlights and liaison reports. Olivia Bernard reported on Taxpayer Tuesday, which featured a presentation from the board's committee for legislative advocacy.

"We had a really, really good turnout," Bernard said. "The attendees were so engaged and everyone said that they learned something new."

Bernard said a lot of those in attendance are regularly serving through PTA or in other ways, and will go out and share this information with other community members.

Bernard also gave an update on the activities of the legislative com-



mittee. She said they have been very busy, with their number one focus being Senate Bill 2, funding student allotment.

"Both of our state reps came and met with the committee, and then today we were at the capitol for the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) legislative conference, which was very insightful," Bernard said.

In the next couple weeks they are planning to meet with senators and other state leaders to share the importance of per student funding.

Among the other reports, Kim Cousins discussed the Dripping Springs Education Foundation's gala. She highlighted that the band, one of the



Teacher Sara Pope, of Sycamore Springs Middle School, presents the Learning Spotlight, which features students from her Intro to Engineering class.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

speakers and the balloon decorations were all provided by DSHS alumni.

"We are excited to announce that the event raised over \$200,000 dollars," Cousins said. "That was a record for us."

There were several action items on the

agenda for the evening, but topping the list was a presentation on design progress for the second high school from VLK Architects.

"We are grateful to be here tonight, really excited to talk about the progress this team has made," Tim Kunz said. "We're going to

be presenting a design update tonight and asking for your approval for design development."

Kunz said the team has had many in depth discussions with teachers, with campus administration and with district administration about the design.

"So the next process is construction documents, where we really get into the nuts and bolts of putting together a set of documents that a contractor can then build from," Kunz said.

He emphasized that the team has worked hard to adhere to the community voice. The design emphasizes safety and efficiency, while making the building modern and effective for the future generations.

The presentation, which included a site plan and floor plans, as well as some interior and exterior design concepts, was well received by the trustees.

"I really appreciate that you listened, that it is a modest design, it is high function, and it has everything we need, but you're not looking to be on the cover of Architectural Digest," Bernard said.

Board members questioned Kunz

about the budget and where there might be areas to save on costs. He said while it was a little early to tell, that is something the team will be on the lookout for throughout the process.

"We're going to be working collectively to ensure that the district gets the best value," Kunz said. "At the end of the day that's our goal."

After the discussion concluded, Cousins motioned to approve the design development, Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

After several other action items, which all passed after brief discussion, the board heard a brief update on the 2023 bond project from James Conkle, DSISD Director of Construction & Planning.

"The subs, contractors, architects are doing a phenomenal job," Conkle said. "This is the best talent I've ever worked with in 20 years of doing school construction. We hired great, the guys are doing great, everything's on budget, everything is on time and everything's phenomenal."

More details on the meeting can be found on the DSISD website.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Hot Rod • Male
9 years old •
Chihuahua

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 scooter 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! Visit [LizzysHospice.com](#) for more information.



Tater • Female
3 years old •
Boston/Chi

I'm the sweetest and happiest little girl you'll ever meet! I love going for walks and am great with other dogs, though I'd really prefer to be by your side. I ride well in the car and am always so joyful and love look-

ing at cars and people going past. I'm a big lap girl and I love being held and will shower you with kisses. I'm a very smart lady and like to follow you around like a little shadow. All in all, I'm a very loving little potato! Visit [LizzysHospice.com](#) for more information.

Universal Crossword

2/23

THEMELESS SUNDAY 123 BY QUINN GEORGE

ACROSS

- 1 Research area at Quantico
- 7 Japanese sashes hidden in "no job is too small"
- 11 Fuel additive brand
- 14 Bearlike
- 15 Kind of IRA
- 16 Howe'er
- 17 "The Art of ____" (2019 martial arts movie starring Jesse Eisenberg)
- 19 Biblical animal vessel
- 20 Thwack, as a fly
- 21 Overindulge
- 23 Brain scan: Abbr.
- 24 Stick (to)
- 25 Edutainment show

featuring Muppets

- 30 Be real
- 31 Highway menace
- 34 "I guess that's that!"
- 35 Thread bearer
- 37 Literary captain who hunted a whale
- 39 Childish retort
- 41 Retirement home game
- 42 "Good Luck, Babe!" artist
- 45 Stage set?
- 47 Orange tuber
- 48 Spiritual successor to "BuzzFeed Unsolved: Supernatural"
- 50 Social grace
- 54 Casual affirmative

55 Simple salsa

- made with cilantro
- 57 Issa who played President Barbie
- 58 They may start with http://
- 59 Tattle on
- 60 Weird
- 61 Short-sleeved shirts
- 62 Roofing tiles

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	H	A	R	T		T	S	K		E	H	O	W	
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DOWN

- 1 No muss, no ____
- 2 Coffee or beer
- 3 Bit of land in el oceano
- 4 Pick up
- 5 Again ____ again
- 6 Member of the band

that performed "Stayin' Alive"

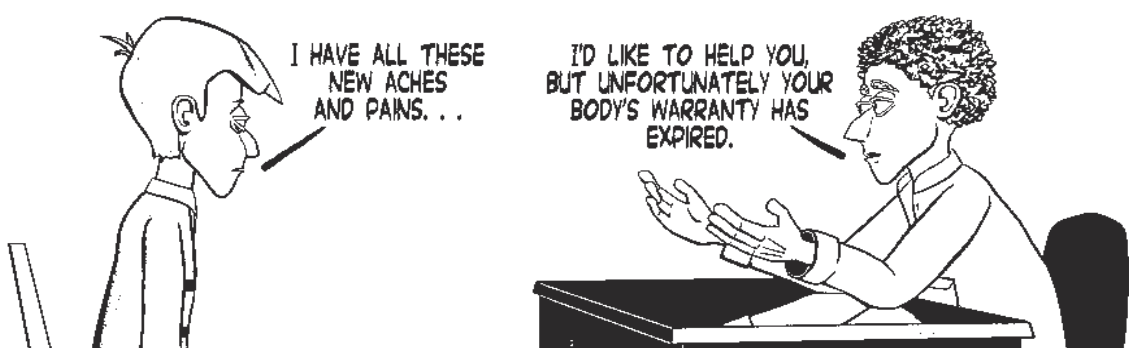
- 7 Cookie with a Coca-Cola variety
- 8 Annual music festival held on a farm in Tennessee
- 9 "I'm ready to sign!"
- 10 Man cave alternative
- 11 Beatles drummer Ringo
- 12 Number of bears at Goldilocks' expense
- 13 Facebook nudge
- 18 Steams (up)
- 22 Evidence of a furry friend
- 23 911 responder
- 25 Stitch
- 26 Crossed (out)
- 27 Farm structure
- 28 Parts
- 29 Military group
- 32 "This can't be good!"
- 33 Excessively

enthusiastic

- 35 Alien member of the Teen Titans
- 36 Icy summer treat
- 38 Good, in Lille
- 40 Track-and-field event that involves throwing
- 41 Civil rights movement, for short
- 43 Looked over
- 44 Sci-fi weapons
- 45 In the future
- 46 Dealt with hardship
- 48 Greek wrap served with tzatziki sauce
- 49 L
- 50 "Au revoir," to a Brit
- 51 Oodles
- 52 '80s mystery flick with three different endings
- 53 Tater ____
- 56 ____ pal

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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

2025 NADAC
Agility Trials
Feb 28 - Mar 2

The Austin K9 Xpress Agility Club will be hosting this dog agility trial at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit <http://www.k9x.org>. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs
Farmers Market
Mar 5 & 12 • 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

Create with Paracord
Mar 6 • 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

This is a class at the library for middle school students. Participants will learn how to make a paracord bracelet and key chain. Front Meeting Room • Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX, 78620

Chamber of
Commerce
Star Awards

Mar 6 • 6 p.m.
The Star Awards honor individuals and businesses who have greatly impacted the Dripping Springs community over the last year. Proceeds benefit programs such as professional development, community outreach, business development, and advocacy. Dripping Springs Distillers Hall • 5330 Bell Springs Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

DSRP Riding Series
Hunter Jumper Show
Mar 8 • 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Ranch Park Riding Series currently hosts 15 Schooling Shows per year with a focus in Hunter Jumpers, Classical and Western Dressage, and Ranch Horse Shows. The series welcomes riders of any age and skill level by including divisions for Juniors, Seniors and even an Open division. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Plant Swap at
Vista Brewing
Mar 9 • 1 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join fellow plant nerds at Vista Brewing for a plant swap. Vista co-founder, Karen, is a bit of a houseplant and succulent addict herself, and she wanted to provide a space to invite other fellow plant people to share their rootings, cuttings, seeds or excess plants. FREE event, no selling permitted. Just bring your plants. Anything goes: houseplants, veggies, seeds, cuttings, flowers and succulents. If possible, label the plant with its name and care instructions. Healthy plants only please. Vista Brewing • 13551 FM 150 W • Driftwood, TX 78619

"Picture This"
Poetry Readings
Mar 14 • 1 p.m.

Join Nancy Fierstien and others from the Hill Country Poets to share or just listen to participants' poems and other forms of verse! All are welcome and encouraged to share imaginative works on a wide variety of subjects each month geared towards poetry, but songsters and storytellers may find it a good place

to share what they are writing too! Back Meeting Room • Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX, 78620

Night Hike at
Westcave Preserve
Mar 14

Experience the magic of Westcave's Grotto at night. Learn about the animals that call Westcave home from a local naturalist as you listen and hike for 1.5-2 hours. \$25/person. Reservations required. Westcave Preserve • 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd. • Round Mountain, TX 78663

Coyote Kids
Nature Camp
Mar 17-21 • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This city program takes place over spring break, and offers children ages 6-11 the chance to build lifelong skills while enjoying a range of nature-inspired activities both indoors and outdoors. Registration is open now at www.drippingspringsranchpark.com. Also, registration for summer camps opens Mar. 3. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • 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 @ 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: cityofdrippingsprings.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 cityofdrippingsprings.com for more information. 78620.

Mar 4 • 6 p.m.
City Council Regular
Meeting

Mar 6 • 4 p.m.
Historic Preservation
Commission Regular
Meeting

Hays County
Commissioners Court
Regular Meeting
March 4 • 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
March 31 • 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



State Champ Jackson Shipley.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



State Champ Lucy Clarno.

Dripping Springs wrestlers earn state championships

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Four Dripping Springs wrestlers earned the right to compete at the state meet with good results. Two became state champions and one a fifth place medal. Jackson Shipley won the 113 division and Lucy Clarno became the first Lady Tiger to become a state champion. She competed in the 120 division. Cole Sides

was fifth competing in the 126 div. Caleb Collins hit some stiff competition and did not place. At the Region 4-6A meet, the boys placed third and girls ninth. Here are the results. Boys: 113 – Jackson Shipley 4-0, 1st; 126 – Cole Sides 4-0, 1st; 132 – Tucker Lundin 3-3, 6th; 138 – Charlie Lundin 4-3; 144 – Drew Clarno 2-2; 157 – Gabe Morales 2-2; 165 – Noah Williams 2-2; 175 – Ca-

leb Collins – 4-3, 4th; 190 – Daniel Krauss-Thompson 1-2; 215 – Mikkell Bushee 1-2; 285 – Davis Tejada 0-2. Girls: 107 – Evelina Cardinal 3-3 5th; 114 – Brandilynne Lobash 0-2; 120 – Lucy Clarno 4-1, 3rd; 126 – Elsa Delaney 2-2; 132 – Audrey Orr 0-2; 138 – Rasanie Ly 2-2; 145 – Hania Yeargen 1-2; 152 – Audrina Flores 1-2; 185 – Kinsey Belote 1-2; 235 – Layla Drummond 1-2.

Grace Rabb leads productive state swim performances

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

It might have been cold outside but at the state meet swimming pool, the Lady Tigers were scalding hot as they placed sixth with 110 points, set seven school records, one state meet record and two state champion events.

Grace Rabb became a state champion in the 200 IM and 100 Back, setting the state meet record in the 200 IM. She also swam on the 400 Free Relay, was named Swimmer of the Year and All-American.

The 200 Medley Relay was DQ'd in the prelims or the final standings would have been higher. The boys were not able to reach the finals in their two events. The boys time in the 200 free relay at regional was good enough for All-American consideration. Likewise the girls 500 Free and 200 Free Relay received All-American consideration. The 400 Free Relay also earned All-American honors. Girls results: 100



Coach Michael Hoskovec and State Champion Grace Rabb.

PHOTO BY ROAN GORYCHKA

Back: 1. Rabb 53.01*; 200 IM: 1. Rabb 1.56.46*; 500 Free: 7. Laurel Hoskovec 4.58.19*; 200 Free Relay: 5. 1.35.81* (Macie McCurry, Fairlane Bynum, Lexi Landrum, Hoskovec); 400 Free Relay: 4. 3.26.59* (McCurry, Hoskovec, Landrum, Rabb). Mc-

Curry set two school records from being leadoff in both relays. 50 Free 23.82*; 100 Free 51.57.* Boys results: (Prelims): 100 Back: 18. Zachary Collins 51.64; 200 Free Relay: 20. 1.26.67 (Collins, Nathan Nolan, Connor Caffrey, Landon Bucher).

Soccer teams hitting their stride

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Inclement weather caused scheduled sports to be canceled or rescheduled but the two scheduled soccer games were able to maneuver their schedules and get the games in. Both teams are making their push to improve their standings. The boys are 5-2-1 in

district to be second in the standings with four to play. The girls are beginning to hit their peak after some early season problems. They are 4-3-1 in district, good for fourth. Girls results: Vs Akins (6-0): Goals: Bailey Stephenson 2, Emerson Barefoot 2, Daisy Kaner, Abbie Novosad. Asstists: Adley Accetta 2, Stephenson, Novosad,

Lily Ruff. Vs Austin: (3-1): Goals: Accetta, Stephenson, Ruff. Assts: Stephenson, Novosad, Ruff. Boys results: Vs Westlake: (1-1): Goal/Asst: Joey Svoboda/Parker Johnson. Vs Akins: (3-2): G/A: Canyon Shaw/Johnson; Johnson/Svoboda; Johnson. Vs Austin: (3-2): NA.



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Senior Stone Patterson guards his opponent in the bi-district game against Round Rock's Stony Point High School. The Tigers lost by a score of 50-78. They ended the year 18-16.

PHOTO BY VINCENT CURLETTA