

DREAMING OF THE
FUTURE OF ART IN
DRIPPING SPRINGS
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SCORE AT STATE,
REGIONALS
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DRIP LACROSSE
SURVIVES
HOUSTON STORMS
PAGE 10

Dripping Springs Century News

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City Council takes steps to facilitate new H-E-B

Other actions include updates to special events rules, cancellation of municipal election

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The city council approved two measures at its March 4 meeting that bring Dripping Springs a few steps closer to getting a bigger H-E-B. One of those measures was the rezoning of the current H-E-B property and the adjacent property that was recently purchased by the company.

"The properties are zoned to two different categories of commercial zoning, and we need them to be the same so that we can build a unified development," H-E-B senior engineer Kathy Strimple said. The city staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission both gave reports on the zoning amendment request, and recommended that both properties be zoned as Commercial Services. After some discussion, the council voted unanimously to approve the rezoning. The other measure was to approve a variance allowing for a

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 8



The current H-E-B in Dripping Springs is 68,000 square feet. PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

DSISD honors campus Teachers of the Year

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs ISD announced its 2024-25 Campus Teachers of the Year on Monday, March 3 with surprise visits to each school. Campus winners were selected through a nomination and voting process of all staff at each school. They are now eligible for the DSISD Elementary Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year awards, which will be announced at the April 28 board meeting.

Each winner was posted on the DSISD Facebook page, where former students, community members and fellow teachers took to the comment sections to congratulate the teachers and share special memories. The Elementary Campus Teachers of the Year are Molly McFee, art teacher at Cypress Springs Elementary; Lisa O'Banan, second grade teacher at Dripping Springs



DSISD Superintendent Holly Morris-Kuentz and DSHS Principal Angela Gamez recognize history teacher Nick Overmyer as Campus Teacher of the Year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hays County appoints Gonzales as new Health Department Director

Staff Reports

The Hays County Commissioners Court has appointed Matthew Gonzales as the new Health Department Director. The decision was made on Feb. 25, and Gonzales officially assumed the position on Mar. 1. This appointment follows the Commissioners Court's decision to separate the Health Department from Countywide Operations during the

drafting of the fiscal year 2025 budget. The change aligns Hays County with other county health departments in Texas, ensuring dedicated leadership and resources to address infectious disease prevention, emergency preparedness and community health needs like mental health services. A Central Texas native, Gonzales grew up in Caldwell County and graduated from SEE GONZALES PAGE 2

Star Awards recognize local individuals, organizations



Hometown Hero – Joe Hogge, I2 Fox Beer Co./Fireside Chats PHOTOS BY LANCE WINTER

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The annual Star Awards, sponsored by the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce, were announced at their ceremony on March 6. The event was held at Dripping Springs Distilling for the third year, and honored local individuals, organizations and businesses for their contributions to the Dripping Springs community.

Nominations are made by members of the Dripping Springs community, and then the finalists are voted on by the community as well. The winner for Business of the Year was Hays City Store, which is currently celebrating its ten year anniversary. The Business Person of the Year went to Fabienne Bollom, of Rolling in Thyme and Dough. Both businesses are local restaurants that have been in the area

for years. For Up & Coming Business, the winner was Driftwood Axe House, which opened 22 months ago, and is about 10 minutes from Mercer Street. It's a full access axe throwing facility and sports bar. Owner Orit Mann said both she and her husband were completely surprised by the win. She didn't even plan to attend the ceremony originally, because she wanted to be at work. "I don't want to miss

people coming into my business, and I'm not there," Mann said. "I want to be the one to greet them and make them feel like they are welcome. I really get such enjoyment out of it." Mann said one of the reasons she was surprised at the win was because there were so many other great businesses in her category. She said her goal is to be known for being an event venue for SEE AWARDS PAGE 6



Five-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High: 83 Low: 59 Mostly cloudy	High: 80 Low: 63 Partly cloudy	High: 77 Low: 57 Mostly cloudy	High: 70 Low: 56 Sunny	High: 72 Low: 49 Mostly cloudy

BALLOT OPENS 2/22/25

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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Spencer Grubbs
Texas Comptroller's Office

"The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven's sake."

— Kurt Vonnegut

Fortunately, the arts are alive and well in Dripping Springs. The Dripping Springs Art League formed in the fall of 2023, but we didn't "create" art in Dripping. We just helped highlight the many amazing galleries and home/studio artists already in our midst. Now, we provide an art community to support these artists, help them grow their skills, collaborate with others, and bring their art to public exhibits and markets.

"After school... I came back home where I got to see this flourishing art community that was not there before I left." — London Farris, DSAL member

"I never ever would have had the courage to do [art markets] if it weren't for the Art League." — Kyn-dall Womack, DSAL member

Every week we see

artists expanding their craft, stretching out of their studios and into exhibits, markets, and galleries. We see artists growing and with that growth, our community is growing with the Stars on Mercer Street, the Art Lounge at Songwriters, Art Scholarships for graduating seniors, and with our upcoming West of Weird Art Tour in May.

While the DSAL continues to expand programming in 2025, we are inspired to dream of a future where more artists are engaged, where more of the community seeks local art, and where Dripping Springs becomes a vibrant Hill Country art destination

"It's a great privilege to be involved with the Dripping Springs Art League and their ambitious efforts to pull together our local artists." — Melissa Young, DSAL member

"I felt connected to our community in a whole new way. I feel like I'm part of something bigger." — Leighanne Croft, DSAL member

The Dripping Springs Art League and its members are dreaming...dreaming of what art will become in our town and how we can best be

the catalyst for that growth.

We are committed to creating an art space, a makerspace for artists to thrive, collaborate, teach, show, and sell their art.

As we grow today, a brick & mortar establishment will catapult these efforts to a new level.

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality." — John Lennon

DSAL Leadership has established the Creative Horizons initiative to begin to further this dream into reality by sharing our vision and inviting the community to help develop this vision.

What

We imagine a vibrant space that includes:

Permanent gallery space for showcasing local talent.

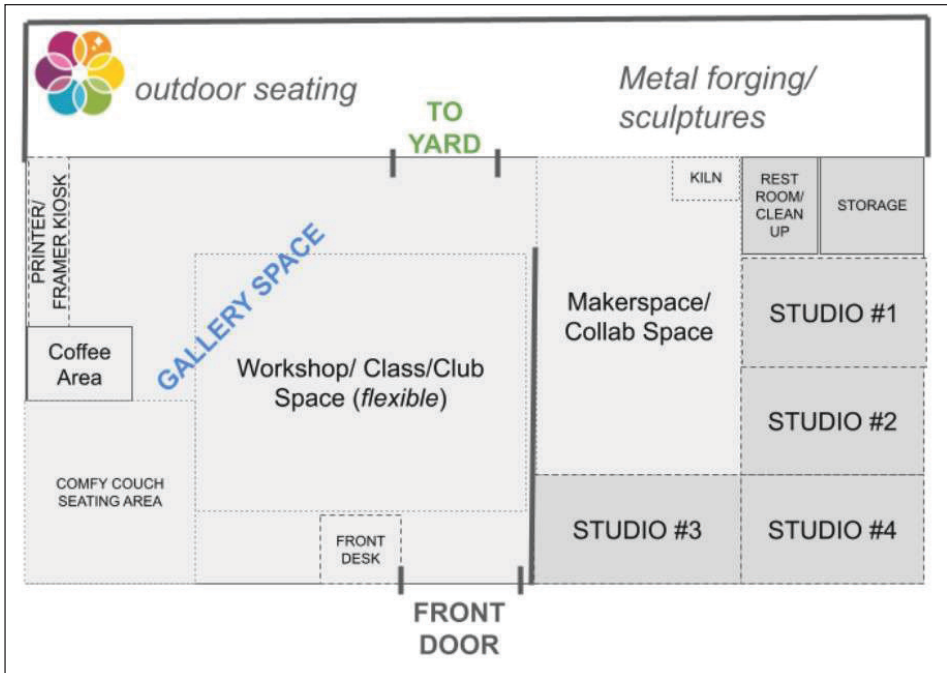
Club meeting space for over 12 groups to learn and collaborate.

Classroom and workshop areas for hands-on learning and creativity.

Artist studios and makerspaces for collaboration and innovation.

Kiosks for supplies/printing/framing vendors to support creative endeavors.

All nestled at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

heart of an active and inviting Dripping Springs Art District.

Why

A permanent home will:

Expand our programming and outreach.

Showcase and market local art more effectively.

Provide a hub for collaboration among artists and creatives.

This space will enrich our community and attract art lovers to Dripping Springs.

Where

Located in Dripping Springs, ideally as part of a developing Art District.

When

The vision begins now but achieving it

may require years of planning and resources.

How

We will bring this vision to life through six key steps:

Raising awareness of the DSAL and its mission:

Art | Community | Connection.

Engaging with our members to understand their needs.

Partnering with City officials to gain support.

Building relationships with stakeholders and contributors.

Assembling a dedicated Grant Team to secure funding.

Exploring available conventional and unconventional spaces.

This is more than

a building; it's the foundation for a creative heartland. Together, we can create a vibrant space where art, community, and connection thrive.

"Public art is an expression of civic life, it makes the invisible visible, and it gives a voice to the people of a community."

— Unknown

Our vision may be realized in an existing building, a center, a renovated house, or on an empty piece of land.

To learn more, share your ideas and feedback, or to offer your help, visit us at www.artindripping.com/CreativeHorizons



"Inner Vision" by Audrey Avery.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Art students advance to state competition

Staff Reports

Nine art pieces designed by Dripping Springs High School students have advanced to the State Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) after earning top honors at the Region 13 South competition at Canyon Lake High

School.

Advancing to state are Raine Anderson ("Capture the Sea"), Audrey Avery ("Inner Vision"), Leela Bertram ("In the Name of Progress"), Dakota Brink ("Moss Grove Amphitheater"), Bristol Clark ("Golden Sky"), Lauren Jennings ("Amazing Musicians"), Jo Ryz

("Fate is my Tragedy"), London Snyder ("Mother Nature") and Lucy Timmins ("And Many More!").

Avery, Jennings and Timmins also advanced to the state competition in 2024.

The State Visual Arts Scholastic Event will be held Saturday, April 26 at San Marcos High School.

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Public Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR ENGINEERING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES - COVER LETTER

2025 – 2030 FMA, BRIC, HMGP GRANT PROGRAMS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE TWDB FMA AND TXDEM BRIC/HMGP PROGRAMS (2025 – 2030)

The City of Wimberley is submitting a Request for Qualifications for engineering and grant administration services. These services are being solicited to assist the City in its application and project implementation of a contract, if awarded, from the FMA, BRIC, and/or HMGP grant programs. The City is considering applying for such funding to support activities in the City's jurisdiction.

The complete submission requirements for this proposal can be found on the City's website: <https://www.cityofwimberley.com/bids.aspx>

Please submit a statement of qualifications to: theller@cityofwimberley.com and cityadministrator@cityofwimberley.com

The deadline for submission of proposals is **3:00 P.M. on March 24, 2025**. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all persons or firms submitting proposals.

The City is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Section 3 Residents, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals.

Public Notice

Public Notice

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IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

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Steven
512-858-9999 Bob



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rex M. Fordyce, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2025, in Cause No. 25-0013-P, pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas, to: Cindy F. Klentzman and Seth Thomasson.

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.

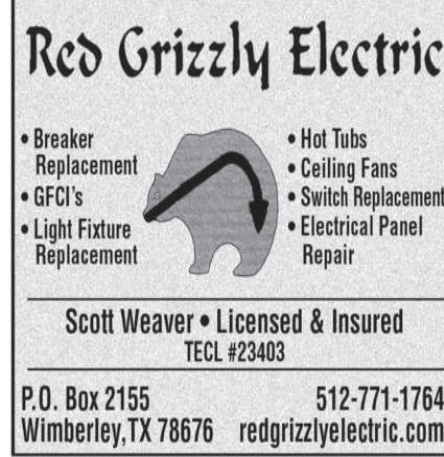
c/o: **Joseph J. Malone**
Attorney at Law
Stevens & Malone, PLLC
P.O. Box 727
Wimberley, Texas 78676

DATED the 4th day of March 2025.

Joseph J. Malone
Joseph J. Malone
State Bar No.: 24050982
STEVENS & MALONE, PLLC
P.O. Box 727
Wimberley, Texas 78676
Telephone: (512) 847-9277
Facsimile: (512) 847-5131
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Developers, nonprofits, agency staff gather to discuss water-wise growth in Hill Country

Staff Reports

More than 90 non-profit staff, developers, engineers, architects, and government officials came together in Wimberley on Feb. 26 to discuss the future of water-resilient development in the increasingly water-constrained region of the Texas Hill Country.

The event was organized by a coalition of nonprofits that included the Hill Country Alliance, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, Comal Conservation, and the Headwaters at the Comal.

“The development community has an outsized impact on – and therefore responsibility to protect—the future of the Hill Country as we know it,” said Marisa Bruno, Water Program Manager with the Hill Country Alliance. “It is so inspiring to see the overwhelming response from that community to learn more about our water challenges and opportunities and to engage in meaningful conversation about how we can grow in ways that protect all that we love most about the Hill Country.”

Dr. Robert Mace, Executive Director at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, delivered the keynote address of the day, titled “The Future of Water in the Hill Country.” Dr. Mace’s presentation highlighted the increasingly dramatic water challenges we face as a region, as many rivers in the Hill Country face their worst drought conditions on record.

“The Hill Country is critically important - to rural towns and ranches, to big cities like Austin, New Braunfels and San Antonio, to downstream coastal communities and to all the species that depend on the water resources in our region and beyond,” Mace said.

The new statewide water plan, as drafted, shows a significant increase in water demand projections in the Hill Country over the 2022 water plan. Meeting this demand will require creative thinking about new water supply opportunities, including rainwater harvesting and other technologies that can be used in new developments.

In subsequent presentations, Robin Gary, One Water Coordinator at New Braunfels Utilities, and Justin Kathan, Founder of the Sanctuary Development in Dripping Springs, each spoke about projects underway in the Hill Country that prove we can grow in ways that conserve and even enhance water resources.



Ben Wolff and JB Chisum welcome attendees to the February workshop, hosted at Onera in Wimberley, Texas.

“The Hill Country is critically important - to rural towns and ranches, to big cities like Austin, New Braunfels and San Antonio, to downstream coastal communities and to all the species that depend on the water resources in our region and beyond.”

— *Dr. Robert Mace*
Executive Director at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

As a planning and implementation tool, One Water is actively being incorporated in public sector projects to protect water quality, extend water supplies, and enhance quality of life in New Braunfels. Sanctuary - a new development just east of Dripping Springs - plans to build a subdivision entirely reliant on rainwater for water supply. Homesites are also being designed to re-use greywater at each home and capture and utilize air conditioning condensate.

“Sharing information and lessons learned about innovative, water-wise projects helps everyone get better at designing,

building, and maintaining them,” said Gary.

The day closed with breakout groups and discussion about the barriers developers face when it comes to building water-wise developments and the opportunities to remedy some of those barriers.

The event took place at Onera, a hotel development outside of the community of Wimberley. The hotel development went to great lengths to reduce impervious cover, maintain native landscapes and the plant community onsite, incorporate sustainable design practices including green roofs, and recycle grey water.

“We first and foremost wanted to do right by our neighbors,” said Ben Wolff, the owner and operator of Onera. “We thought hard about protecting viewsheds, the plants and soil on the site, and the water before we moved a single rock.”

Banks Chisum, founder of JB Chisum Construction, was one of the developers of the hotel and a host of the event, which he said he hopes is a first of many.

“It is clear more of these conversations are needed to bridge the gap between environmentalists and the development community,” Chisum said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lakota Water Company honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Staff Reports

On Feb. 27, Lakota Water Company was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2025 Pioneer Water Tanks Conference in Wimberley.

The award was presented to founders and owners, Amy and Alan Rossing. This recognition highlights Lakota’s longstanding commitment to providing top-tier water storage solutions and exceptional customer service.

Lakota Water Company installed its first rainwater collection system in 2000 and officially incorporated

in 2002. Founded in Dripping Springs, the company has since expanded, with an additional warehouse and offices in Blanco. Lakota’s mission is to ensure reliable water access for homes, businesses, and agricultural operations.

“It’s been fun working with everyone over the years—from our great suppliers, to tank manufacturers, to all our colleagues in the industry, who also pride themselves on delivering quality rainwater collection services, both here in Central Texas and all around the world,” Alan Rossing said. “I feel very grateful and humbled.”

TPWD seeks public input on digital licenses, tags

Staff Reports

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is taking public comment until March 26 on changes to digital licensing and tagging requirements for recreational hunting and fishing.

The proposed amendments would expand digital license and tag options to all recreational hunting, fishing, combo license and tag types.

TPWD introduced digital licensing and tagging in 2022 for harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum.

Options have since expanded to allow resident hunters and anglers to purchase a fully digital license for the super combo (Items 111, 117), youth hunting (Item 169) or lifetime combo (Item 990), Hunting (Item 991), or Fishing tags (Item 992). Custom-

ers can also purchase other products such as the exempt angler tag (Item 257), bonus red drum (Item 599) and spotted seatrout tags (Item 596).

Additional details on the proposed regulation changes can be found on the public comment page and in the Texas Register.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioners will take public comment on the proposed changes at its March 27 meeting in Austin before taking action. Those wishing to provide public testimony must pre-register to speak. Public testimony is normally limited to three minutes per person.

Comments on each of the changes can also be provided on the TPWD public comment page through 5 p.m. March 26, or by contacting Chris Cerny at (512) 389-4594 or Chris.Cerny@tpwd.texas.gov.

Lone Star Capital Bank to merge with Rio Bank

Staff Reports

Rio Financial Services, Inc., and Lone Star Capital Bank have jointly announced the signing of an agreement providing for the merger of Lone Star with Rio Bank. Under the deal, Lone Star will

become a part of Rio Bank.

“We are excited to be expanding our footprint in the San Antonio and Texas Hill Country,” said Ford Sasser, Rio’s Chief Executive Officer. “Lone Star has offices in San Antonio, Blanco, Johnson City,

Dripping Springs and Marble Falls. These are markets we have not been servicing in the past and we look forward to becoming a part of these communities.”

Following the close of the transaction, the combined market presence is expected

to total approximately \$780 million in loans, approximately \$1.2 billion in deposits, and approximately \$1.4 billion in total assets. There will be twenty two full-service branches from Brownsville in the lower Rio Grande Valley to Marble Falls in the

Texas Hill Country.

“Our customers and employees will like the idea of merging with another locally owned community bank,” said Danny Buck, Lonestar’s President and CEO. “Rio shares the same values and culture as Lone Star.”

The boards of di-

rectors of Rio Bank and Lone Star have unanimously approved the transaction. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of regulatory approval. Shareholders of Lone Star have already approved the merger.

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news.

TEACHERS FROM PG. 1

Elementary; Sarah Apple, third grade teacher at Rooster Springs Elementary; Jena Bernhard, special education and pre-K inclusion teacher at Sycamore Springs Elementary; and Stephanie Hendricks, fourth grade teacher at Walnut Springs Elementary. The Secondary

Campus Teachers of the Year are Kathryn Marble, special education - inclusion/resource teacher at Dripping Springs Middle School; Candace Torres, special education - ACC teacher at Sycamore Springs Middle School; and Nicholas Overmyer, history teacher at Dripping Springs High School.



Candace Torres

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Jena Bernhard



Lisa O'Banan



Sarah Apple



Molly McFee



Kathryn Marble



Stephanie Hendricks

AWARDS FROM PG. 1



Business of the Year – Hays City Store.

PHOTOS BY LANCE WINTER



Outstanding Customer Service – Regenerate.



Business Person of the Year – Fabienne Bollom, Rolling in Thyme and Dough.



Up & Coming Business – Driftwood Axe House



Non-Profit of the Year – PAWS Shelter of Central Texas.



Ambassador of the Year – Angie Hendricks, DS Neighbors Magazine - Best Version Media.

birthday parties, graduation parties, corporate events and other gatherings. “I think we have something completely different to offer the community,” Mann said. “And that was the goal when we came here.” Another Star Award went to Joe Hogge of 12 Fox Beer Co. Hogge was named Hometown Hero. He was recognized for various

community initiatives, but notably for founding the veteran support group called Fireside Chats. “I felt the love we give to this group come back to me ten times that night,” Hogge said. “I believe they are voting for more than just me, but for that feeling we all yearn for inside - family, community, and a place of belonging. It was overwhelming to

say the least.” PAWS Shelter of Central Texas was recognized as the Non-profit of the Year. They provide care and love to homeless, abandoned, and abused animals in Central Texas. The Star Award for Outstanding Customer Service went to Regenerate, which provides regenerative medicine, aesthetics, rejuvenation and vitamin/mineral therapies.

The Star Award for Ambassador of the Year went to Angie Hendricks, of Dripping Springs Neighbors Magazine - Best Version Media, which aims to connect businesses to local residents with highly effective branding strategies. Ceremony attendees enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks specially crafted by the venue for the event. KVET radio person-

ality and Dripping Springs resident Bama Brown served as emcee, entertaining the crowd while supporting the successes of finalists and winners in each category. The event also included a silent auction. Photography was provided by Lance Winter and Jerry Moreno. Presenting Sponsor Braun & Gresham helped make the event possible. The other

top sponsors of the event were Ally Medical Emergency Room, Dripping Springs Automotive, Luna Environmental, SouthStar Bank, and FUSE Workplace. Special thanks to top Chamber investors Deep Eddy Vodka Tasting Room, RBFCU, HEB, Belterra Village, Corridor Title, Meaty Boys BBQ, Texas Regional Bank and Wizard Academy.

IN BLOOM

Hays County Master Gardeners to host spring plant and tree sale

Staff Reports

Spring is just around the corner, and next week the Hays County Master Gardeners Association (HCMGA) will begin its annual Spring Plant & Tree Sale. The event will feature a wide variety of spring and summer vegetables, herbs, shrubs, and trees - many propagated from the Master Gardeners' own plantings and seeds.

Customers can shop either online or in person. The in-person sale will be held in Buda on Sunday, Mar. 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be two locations - Buda Downtown Gazebo and Greenbelt at 319 Main Street and the Budaful Farmers Market located at 204 San Antonio Street.

The online sale opens on Sunday, Mar. 16 and goes through Mar. 22 at at haysgardener.square.site. Online shoppers will pick up their purchases at the in-person event at the Buda Gazebo and Greenbelt.

Experts at HCMGA said that there are several benefits to buying from the organization. First, they are locally grown, climate appropriate plants specially propagated for the unique environment of Hays



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

County, ensuring greater success in the garden.

Second, it supports a worthy cause. Proceeds from the sale fund Master Gardener continuing education programs and community training classes.

There will be some exclusive in-person offerings at the Buda locations, featuring plants not available in the online sale.

The Hays County Master Gardeners give

back to the community by logging over 6,000 hours of volunteer service annually. Their efforts include answering public horticulture questions, teaching in schools, libraries, and shelters, and maintaining or renovating public and community gardens.

For more information, find HCMGA at www.hayscountymastergardeners.org. You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram.

TIPS FOR NEW GARDENERS

Those who don't have much experience with gardening, but would like to give it a try this spring, can check out these tips from local soil consultant Laurel Robertson.

- Locate your garden in good sun (southern exposure) - 40%-50% shade cloth can be used in summer, if needed.
- Increase soil organic matter through compost and cover crops.
- Disturb the soil as little as possible (i.e. - don't repeatedly plow or till).
- Keep the soil continually planted, or at least covered with mulch. NO BARE SOIL!
- Use chlorine- and chloramine-free water to irrigate. If you have only chlorinated water, treat it with humic acid to remove the chloramine.
- Buy organic seeds and plant starts. They contain the microorganisms they need to thrive within their seed coats.



Annie Reale and Abir Kulkarni show off their medals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pianists advance to state

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs High School Tiger Orchestra pianists Abir Kulkarni and Annie Reale advanced to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest after memorizing Class I solos and earn-

ing a Division I rating at the Region 18 Solo and Ensemble Contest.

The pair join Christian Johnson (Violin, Solo), Alexander Johnson (Cello, Solo), Sophia Kerr (Violin, Ensemble), William Reale (Violin, Ensemble) and Emilia Trevi-

no-Hernandez (Cello, Solo) as state solo and ensemble qualifiers. Reale also qualified for state on the piano in an ensemble.

The UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held on the University of Texas at Austin campus in late May.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Dance teams score at state, regional competitions

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The dance teams from Dripping Springs High School recently competed at the Crowdpleasers Texas State Showcase, where both teams won state championships.

The Hi-Steppers earned first-place honors in both Team Hip-Hop and Team Pom, while their officers claimed the Overall State Champion title by winning the jazz and open categories.

The Dazzlers triumphed in the Team Contemporary, Team Pom, and Team Jazz categories, and also received the prestigious Academic Award.

This followed up on a strong showing at the Crowdpleasers Regional Showcase,

where both teams walked away with Grand Champion titles in their respective divisions.

The Hi-Steppers dominated by securing first-place finishes in Team Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Jazz, and Pom and recorded the highest-scoring team routine of the day. Additionally, the Hi-Steppers officers earned top honors in the Jazz, Lyrical, Open, and Small Ensemble categories.

"We've been working on some of these dances since May, and have put in countless practice hours," senior Claire Echard said. "Every single one of us put blood, sweat, and tears (literally) into making those few minutes we get on the floor really count."

Senior Kay Elliott, Hi-Steppers Captain,

said that as a team, the Hi-Steppers danced the best they had ever done for their routines.

"Everyone was so committed to hitting all of their tricks and making sure to hype everyone up before we went out on the floor," Elliott said.

Junior Stella Rios, Hi-Steppers First Lieutenant, said competing at the varsity select level is intense, and takes trust in the team.

"Dances are visual artworks and like a painting, one stray out of place stroke can ruin the illusion," Rios said. "In order to avoid shattering the illusions of our dances, we go through a meticulous cleaning process to perfect timing, dynamics, and details of the shapes made by each motion."

Rios said that this

was the first time ever that their team had won the entire day.

"We were overwhelmed by the trophies, plaques, and banners that we carried proudly back to the bus," Rios said. "What made it all the much better and more meaningful of a win is that Ms. Roper, our incredibly committed and kind, and also very stoic coach was in tears with the announcement of our win. She was proud of us, we were proud of us, and that was what really mattered, more than any trophy."

The Dazzlers, the JV team, also claimed a handful of honors with first-place finishes in Team Contemporary and the Officer Trio and runner-up accolades in Team Jazz and Team Pom.

Hi-Steppers Awards

Overall Grand Champion Select Team
Grand Champion Medium Team
Team Contemporary, 1st Place Select Medium Team
Team Hip Hop, 1st Place Select Medium Team
Team Jazz, 1st Place Select Medium
Team Pom, 1st Place Select Medium
Highest Scoring Team Routine of the Day
Overall Grand Champion Select Officer Group
Officer Jazz, 1st Place Select Medium Officer Group
Officer Lyrical, 1st Place Select Medium Officer Group
Officer Open, 1st Place Select Medium Officer Group
Elite Team, 1st Place Small Ensemble
Solos:
Senior 1st Runner Up - Kay Elliott
Junior 2nd Runner Up - Haleigh Darlington

Dazzlers Awards

Overall Grand Champion JV Team
Grand Champion Large JV Team
Team Contemporary, 1st Place
Team Pom, 1st Runner Up
Team Jazz, 1st Runner Up
Officer Trio, 1st Place
Solos:
Freshman 1st Runner Up - Riley Solberg
Freshman 3rd Runner Up - Brinkley Zenor

Local aerospace company succeeds in moon landing

Staff Reports

Firefly Aerospace, based in the Texas Hill Country, has landed on the moon.

The company announced that on March 2, its Blue Ghost lunar lander softly touched down on the Moon's surface in an upright, stable configuration on the company's first attempt. With this achievement, Firefly became the first commercial company in history to accomplish that feat.

As part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services

(CLPS) initiative, Firefly's Blue Ghost Mission 1, named Ghost Riders in the Sky, sets the tone for the future of exploration across cislunar space.

"Firefly is literally and figuratively over the moon," said Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. "Our Blue Ghost lunar lander now has a permanent home on the lunar surface with 10 NASA payloads and a plaque with every Firefly employee's name."

Carrying 10 NASA instruments, Blue Ghost completed a precision landing in Mare Crisium at 2:34

a.m. CST on March 2 and touched down within its 100-meter landing target next to a volcanic feature called Mons Latreille. Blue Ghost's shock absorbing legs stabilized the lander as it touched down, and Firefly is successfully commanding and communicating with the lander from its Mission Operations Center in Cedar Park, Texas.

Blue Ghost will now begin its surface operations and support several NASA science and technology demonstrations over the next 14 days – equivalent to a full lunar day.

The surface operations include lunar subsurface drilling, sample collection, X-ray imaging, and dust mitigation experiments. On March 14, Firefly expects to capture high-definition imagery of a total eclipse when the Earth blocks the sun above the Moon's horizon. On March 16, Blue Ghost will then capture the lunar sunset, providing data on how lunar dust levitates due to solar influences and creates a lunar horizon glow first documented by Eugene Cernan on Apollo 17. Following

the sunset, Blue Ghost will operate several hours into the lunar night and continue to capture imagery that observes how levitating dust behavior changes after the sunset.

"With the hardest part behind us, Firefly looks forward to completing more than 14 days of surface operations, again raising the bar for commercial cislunar capabilities," said Shea Ferring, Chief Technology Officer at Firefly Aerospace. "We want to thank NASA for entrusting in the Firefly team, and we look forward to delivering even more science data that supports future human missions to the Moon and Mars."

Throughout its 45-day journey to the Moon, Blue Ghost traveled more than 2.8 million miles, down-linked more than 27 GB of data, and supported several payload science operations. Firefly will continue to provide regular updates on the Blue Ghost Mission 1 webpage through the completion of the mission. NASA's Artemis blog will share additional details on payload operations.

COUNCIL FROM PG. 1

bigger store. There was significant discussion on the issue. Strimple started her comments by discussing the growth in the area that the store serves.

"In our trade area, since we've built the store, the population has doubled," Strimple said. "We're also seeing in the next few years a housing growth of another 8,000 homes, which equates to about another 25% population growth."

Strimple presented a draft site plan for the store, while emphasizing that there is not a current timeline for when the project might happen. The new store would be constructed to the left of the existing store, and would be facing Rob Shelton. The old store would remain in

service until the new one is complete.

The requested variance would allow the new store to be a maximum of 150,000 square feet. This could potentially include a mezzanine level for administrative space.

City council members asked for the square footage of nearby stores to get a better idea of the proposed size. Strimple said that the store at Nutty Brown is 103,000 square feet. The store at FM 1826 is 90,000 square feet. The current Dripping Springs store is 68,000 square feet.

Mayor Bill Foulds, Jr. asked if the fuel station would have to be moved, and Strimple said no, it will remain where it is. There was also discussion about

traffic concerns in the area. Some of those are expected to be addressed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) under plans to widen 290.

"TXDOT will reconstruct 290 into 6 lanes and a divided median," Strimple said. "In the process, they are going to widen the approach to Rob Shelton on both sides, northbound and southbound. The tricky part is TXDOT doesn't have a timeline for when that would happen."

Council member Wade King asked about the trees on the new site.

"That acreage that you purchased east of the existing store is loaded with large oak trees and maybe



City council members Geoffrey Tahuahua and Taline Manassian (at left) and Sherrie Parks (second from right) were declared elected for another term, as no one filed to oppose them.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

a handful of heritage trees," King said. "I'm just concerned that with TXDOT's right of way and your new store that every single one of them is going to get bulldozed."

Strimple said that they do expect to be able to save some of those trees.

"This development will come under your new tree preservation ordinance," she said. "There are different ways to comply - there's preservation, there's replanting by way of mitigation. The combination of all those things is how I see us navigating through it."

Tory Carpenter, the city's planning director, gave a report on the variance request and said that the city's finding is that the request does meet the requirements for variance approval.

The Planning and Zoning Commission also recommended approval by a vote of 7-0. They said that they have had several presentations from H-E-B and that all their concerns were satisfied.

Mayor Pro Tem Taline Manassian had several questions about the timing of the variance request.

"I have a worry about approving 150,000 square feet without a plan to put a store there right now," Manassian said. "In five years you might say you've decided to put it somewhere else, and now we've got a variance of 150,000 square feet... in the middle of our town. And that causes me some concern."

Strimple said that while she understands the concern, the company has invested a significant amount in acquiring the new acreage, because they want to build a new

store.

Council member Geoffrey Tahuahua said that he didn't think they would have bought the property if they didn't intend to build.

"I think they share the same concern that we have about the wastewater, and I think that's probably the biggest holdup," Tahuahua said. "I think it's their intent to get some certainty so they can actually figure out what they are going to do."

Strimple agreed that the wastewater issue is the biggest hold up.

The city is facing difficulties with its limited wastewater capacity, and is involved in a court case that has hindered its efforts to alleviate the problem. The Texas Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case in the next few months.

Manassian asked Strimple if the city had wastewater, the store would be moving forward.

"If I had a checkbook, I could answer your question with certainty," Strimple said. "But I don't."

Strimple went on to say that if they had wastewater, the store would be eligible for capital allocation. They are hoping to get the utility service issue resolved so that the new store could be included in H-E-B's 2028 capital allocations, which means it would open in 2028.

"We can always accelerate projects, so nothing is really set in stone," Strimple said. "But it's not a conversation because of the wastewater. I didn't want to throw you under the bus, but there we go."

Discussion concluded and Manassian thanked Strimple for her time.

"I don't want you to

hear me say in any way that we don't support H-E-B expansion," Manassian said. "We are supportive, it's just such a critical location in our community."

With that, Tahuahua motioned to approve the variance, it was seconded by Travis Crow, and it passed unanimously.

Staff reports were next on the agenda. Council heard and approved some minor updates to the tree and landscaping ordinance and the City of Dripping Springs personnel manual. They also heard and approved changes to the city's special events and itinerant vendors rules.

The new rules are intended to balance commercial interests with community needs, and to make expectations clearer. They establish three tiers for special events - small, intermediate and large. The event size is determined by several factors, including the number of attendees, the use of amplified sound, and the selling of alcoholic beverages, to mention a few. The rules also include a new conflict resolution process.

Another order of business was a motion to cancel the 2025 municipal election that had been scheduled for May 3. By the filing deadline, the city had received three applications for the three city council places that were on the ballot. All three applications were from the incumbents. As the candidates were unopposed, state code allows the city to declare the candidates elected and cancel the election. The motion was approved.

City council members Geoffrey Tahuahua, Taline Manassian and Sherrie Parks will continue to serve for another term.

SCOTT DAVES REALTOR®

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512.415.2265

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.



www.stanberry.com 512.894.3488

400 HWY 290 W / BLDG B / SUITE 101 / DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620

PETS OF THE WEEK



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 for more information.



Monty • Male
10 years old
Terrier mix

I could very well be your next best pal! I walk nicely on a leash and know all the basic commands, last I checked. I love meeting other dogs, especially playful puppies, but cats weird me out a little bit and I don't like them too much. Car rides are one of my favorite things, especially the ones leading to the park. I'm happy to get settled in next to you and relax after a good walk and maybe get some belly rubs going

because I was a good boy and walked really well. I'm neutered, fully vaccinated, house and crate trained. I might need a crate when you're not around because I'm a bit of a mischief maker and can get carried away exploring everything in the house and seeing just what all these things really are up close. I'm excited to find my forever family or foster home where I can get all the love and attention I deserve. Can't wait to meet you! Please visit LizzysHospice.com for more information.

Universal Crossword

3/9

ACROSS

- .1 "That's hilarious!"
5 Like a gymnast
10 ____-washed jeans
14 Baseball nickname hidden in "Olivia Rodrigo"
15 Outspoken
16 Bygone bird
17 Indecent
18 Heavy metal band with the song "Run to the Hills"
20 Reactions to an adorable puppy
21 Pasta sauce brand
22 Gardener's nuisances
23 Words of emphasis
27 Rub the wrong way?
28 Gloomy
29 More, in music
32 Narrow openings
33 Cosmetics used in some facial routines
35 Bottled (up)
36 Garden growth
37 Legendary Brazilian soccer player
38 Angrily leaves a "Fortnite" session, e.g.
40 Sports fan's data, for short
41 Twelve-mo. periods
42 Bear in the night sky
43 Boxing champion Ali
44 Annual dessert
47 Be a bad winner
50 Possesses
51 "Have we ____ before?"
52 What a job seeker

hopes to hear

- 55 Fictional bear in a red shirt
56 Valentine's Day flower
57 Pathway to the altar
58 Poet St. Vincent Millay
59 ____ for (selects)
60 Triangular road sign
61 Many a student driver

DOWN

- .1 Islamic equivalent of kosher
2 "Got it?"
3 "What's new?"
4 Put two and two

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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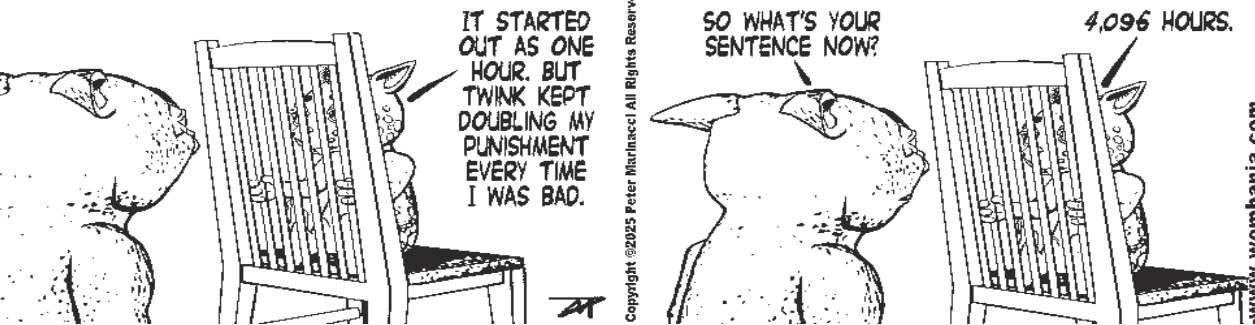
together?

- 5 Fly a plane
6 Narrow canyon
7 "Starving over here!"
8 PC-to-PC hookup
9 Horror film street
10 Goodbye, in Paris
11 Programmer's creation
12 Named, briefly
13 Mafia bosses
19 "Don't say ____!" ("Shhh!")
21 Sports officials
24 Dull photo finish
25 Gives temporarily
26 Mongolian tent
29 Dessert that's both hot and cold
30 Possible response when offered a breath mint
31 Employs
32 Nimble
33 Second-tier, as celebs

- 34 That's some nerve!
36 Tabby's sound
39 Considerably
40 Utters
43 Touched down
44 Exposes
45 Linger (on)
46 Filmmaker Coen
47 Greek sandwich
48 Downtown Chicago district, with "the"
49 Remove from power
53 Stable staple
54 George ____, British king during the American Revolution
55 Hamster or snake, to some

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



"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

"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.drippingspringsranch-park.com. Also, registration for summer camps opens Mar. 3.

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

Dripping Springs

Farmers Market

Mar 19 & 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

13th Annual Wildflower

Spring Market

Mar 22 • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mar 23 • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop with vendors from around the state who are selling clothing, jewelry, home decor, garden gifts, accessories, art, photography, candles, yard art, soaps, and more. Admission is \$6 or \$5 with a nonperishable food donation to Helping Hands Dripping Springs. Admission is good for both days and kids 12 and under are free. Free parking and hourly door prizes. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Drip-

ping Springs, TX 78620

Chamber of

Commerce Luncheon

Mar 26 • 11:30 a.m.

The March Membership Luncheon includes a "DSISD: State of the District" presentation. Superintendent Holly Morris-Kuentz and other district leaders will provide an important update on the school district, including current facts and figures, updated demographic information on area growth, the latest financial reports, and the remarkable academic, career, and technical programs that are preparing local students for success. Deep Eddy Vodka Tasting Room • 2250 E. Hwy. 290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

4th Annual Brewers Festival

Mar 29 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Brewers Festival celebrates local craft beer, live music, and delicious food in the heart of the Hill Country. Advance online wristband purchases required, and participants must be 21 or older to redeem them. Well-behaved, on-leash dogs are welcome, and while those under 21 can attend, no specific children's activities are planned. Downtown Dripping Springs • 311 Old Fitzhugh Road • 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.

Mar 20 • 4 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission Special Meeting

Mar 24 • 3:30 p.m.

Transportation Committee Regular Meeting

Mar 24 • 6:30 p.m.

Founders Day Commission Regular Meeting

Mar 25 • 6:00 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting Apr 8 • 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 Mar 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 dsisdtexas.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

SPORTS

Tiger track teams shine at Viper Relays

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

In the final weeks leading up to the district track meet, the Tigers entered the Vandegrift Relays. They competed with five other teams: Vandegrift, Lake Travis, Cedar Park, Liberty Hill and St. Andrews

Episcopal. The team totals were not available but is obvious by the results both Tiger teams were near the top in the standings.

Boys results: 100: 2. Merrick Bloomgren 11.88; 4. Miles Kennedy 11.99; 200: 1. Mat-tix Dacunha 23.16; 2. Cooper Reid 23.35; 3. Jackson Mills 23.43;

400: 3. Maddox Ma-her 51.77; 4. Mikel Mendoza 52.77; 800: 6. Landon Andrews 2.07.16; 1600: 3. Wes Anderson 4.30.76; 6. Gus Caddell 4.50.49; 3200: 11. Greyson Hill 11.00.44; 110H: 1. Dacunha 14.89; 5. Malachi Igharo 16.98; 300H: 6. Igharo 44.37; 400 Relay: 1. 43.32;

800 Relay: 1. 1.24.33; 1600 Relay: 1. 3.29.56; HJ: 6. Dacunha 5'10; LJ: 1. Dacunha 22'4; 3. Mills 21'1; TJ: 2. Land-on Upchurch 42'0; Discus: 7. Ty Frankeny 109'7; SP: 7. Frankeny 41'6.

Girls results: 100: 4. Rain Collins 13.50; 5. Ella Castillo 13.57; 200: 1. Talia Alvarado

27.49; 400: 4. Morgan Riley 1.04.09; 800: 3. Riley 2.28.63; 1600: 4. Mia Thompson 5.44.63; 5.Alexa Velas-co 5.47.14; 3200: 3. Thompson 12.22.12; 5. Velasco 12.44.78; 6. Callie Schumacher 12.58.28; 100H: 3. Lily Aleshire 17.47; 5. Tatum Green 18.00; 300H: 2. Green 51.23;

3. Aleshire 51.60; 6. Willa Manske 52.82; 400 Relay: 1. 49.92; 800 Relay: 1. 1.46.77; 1600 Relay: 1.4.1411; HJ: 4. Kinley Richard-son 4'8; 5. Manske 4'6; LJ: 2. Alvarado 16'9; 6. Collins 15'3; PV: 1. Adeline Spies 10'6; SP: 9. Hania Yeargan 28'11; Discus: 11. Gracelyn Prehar 83'9.



Ty Wittenburg and #9 Austin Garza on their way to a sock trick and a hat trick against Katy.

PHOTOS BY BRAD AULT

Drip Lacrosse survives Houston storms

Ben Booth

Dripping Springs Lacrosse hit the road again last week for non-district games against Houston's Woodlands on Friday, Mar. 7, and Katy the following day. They came away with more lessons learned in a 2-24 defeat to the elite Woodlands and some valuable self respect after coming from behind to defeat a feisty Katy for a 15-14 win.

Versus Woodlands

Only days prior to Friday's match against Drip, Woodlands #3 (4-1), one of Texas' finest high school lacrosse programs, was coming off the heel of a heart wrenching loss to #1 Highland Park in double overtime. Even so, Friday's contest was not expected to be competitive - and this proved out.

Of note, newly installed 2025 Drip head coach Michael Staub was a key assistant to Woodlands' head coach Anthony DeMaio for several years before accepting the Drip head coaching position. Coach Staub oversaw DeMaio's developmental program for Woodlands' youth and was widely respected as the high school Class B coach. DeMaio and Staub also co-own the lacrosse summer travel team, Texas Lonestars.

Woodlands was dominant from the outset with Drip defenders always two or

three steps behind. Despite the lopsided affair, Drip's junior FOGO Hudson Ela was able to win a majority of his face-offs against the reserve Woodlands FOGO. This allowed Drip to execute successful offensive sequences and put up goals, including a beautiful double move-dodge by junior attackman Austin Garza, initiated about 15 feet from the goal. Senior midfielder Brady Taylor contributed the other goal after a dodge from nearly the same point.

Starting junior goalie John Ault finished his evening against Woodlands early, with 10 saves. Giving Ault a break, sophomore Tom Sihler stepped into the cage, notching four saves of his own.

Versus Katy

The following day, about 20 miles due west on Interstate 10, Drip squared off against the Katy Cavaliers. Sunny and humid mid-70s weather just hours earlier began to give way to stiff breezes forming along the edge of an imposing evening thunderstorm, darkening the landscape mere miles to the north. Dramatically cooler winds gusted from west to east as the sun set in the minutes leading up to gametime.

Katy's fast and dominant FOGO kicked off the first of many nearly guaranteed offensive opportunities all night long. However, the

first goal of the evening was a beautiful assist from junior midfielder Max Kort (1A) to junior attackmen Coyt Packer (2G). Minutes later, junior midfielder Ty Wittenburg (6G) contributed his first of what would become an avalanche of scoring. In early action, Drip's defense was doing their job and the offense was delivering.

But early points from Drip didn't phase Katy. They fought back to close out the first quarter with three quick goals of their own, taking the lead by one.

Minutes into the second, senior attackman Noah Booth (2A, 1G) hit junior attackman Austin Garza (3G) for a beautiful step down shot for the tie, one of many ties throughout the back-and-forth match.

Cold, wet, and gusting winds seemed like a cruel metaphor as Katy again answered with two more goals in quick succession, prompting the first Drip timeout. To no avail, Katy would follow Drip's timeout with three more quick succession goals, leaving the Drip D repeatedly huddled, looking for answers.

The answer was more Drip offense.

To close the half, Drip ripped off four goals, including an assist by junior midfielder Jake Stockton (2A) to junior midfielder Jackson Kinley (2G), a face-off fast break from Ela (2FO, 1A) to

Garza, and more goals from Wittenburg and Kinley to bring the game to a 7-7 tie.

In the second half, the back and forth would continue. Booth scored first with 11:16 in the third, only to be clapped back at with two more by Katy.

With 9:25 in the third, Wittenburg would then kick off a 6-0 Drip scoring run, including four more seemingly unstoppable goals for the evening. Wittenburg ended the night with six goals, the first 'sock trick' of the year. Also contributing to Drip's scoring run was another Booth-Garza combo and another unassisted goal from Garza for his first hat trick of the year.

With 8:04 remaining in the fourth, Drip was up 14-9, but Katy would not go gentle into that good night. Once again, the Cavs stormed back with another incredible 4-0 run of their own, nearly tying the game.

In defiance of Katy's last tempest, a final Stockton-to-Coyt dagger would prove Drip the ultimate denier of mortality and creator of a truly 'good' night. Some anxiety-ridden long possessions by Drip, another Katy score and a final run-out of the clock by Wittenburg sealed the deal with a final score of 15-14 for the win.

Drip (3-4) will take to the road once more, facing Austin area's Anderson (3-4) on Mar. 13 at 8:15 p.m.

Softball district play underway

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

District 26-6A is two weeks underway for the softball Lady Tigers. During this week of play they incurred their first district loss. In their first match with Austin High, the Lady Tigers won a good game 7-3. Next, was a battle with Bowie, a school with a very good softball program. The Lady Bulldogs took the game 10-6.

Vs Austin: Austin scored one in the first to take an early lead but DS scored in each of the other innings. Austin out-hit DS 9-8. Getting hits were Taylor Crain 3 (3B), Emma Phillips 2 (2rbi), Elianna Amato, Kenna Riley, Lorelei Gamble, Tatum Green. Addy Knapp tossed 4.2 for the win. Sadie Bradford relieved 2.1.

Vs Bowie: DS

scored twice in the first but Bowie would answer with four and six through second. A 3-run fifth was too tough to overcome. Gamble had the big offensive night. She collected 3 hr's, 3 runs, 4 rbis. The ones garnering the other five hits were Morgan Riley 2b, Lauren Byrnes 2b, Amato, Crain, Green. Sometimes things just do not go right. It happens in pitching. Bradford took the loss 1.1, Knapp .2, Green 4.0.

Brittany Tuck Tourney has been rescheduled to this week. It was postponed by the weather. It will be a slightly smaller version. Games will be played at Dripping Springs, Lake Travis and Vista Ridge on March 13 and 15. There will be four games played on Thursday at DS beginning at 10 a.m. and five games on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

Soccer season winds down for DSHS

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

One game remains for the boys and girls soccer teams. That game, with Westlake, has everything to do with making the playoffs. A win for girls keeps them in third place while the boys need a win to clinch fourth.

This year the playoff format has changed. Whether a team is in Div 1 or Div 2 is determined solely by the school's enrollment. That means Dripping Springs will be in Div 2 regardless of the standings. Bi-District will be a game with District 25-6A.

Girls soccer: Due to injury and illness, the Lady Tigers have had to work from behind the 8-ball. In the last weeks they have worked their way back to a third place tie with Bowie 6-4-1. Their last game

was with Del Valle and they overran the Cardinals 7-0. Adley Accetta led the scoring with three goals, called a hat trick. Getting two each were Bailey Stephenson and Carson Thompson. Nailing down assists were Stephenson 2, Shea Sisson, Josie Hardin, Daisy Kaner, Evan Witherspoon and Lily Ruff.

JVA: won 3-0. Goals: Chloe Sprockett 2; Peyton Ramirez; Assists: Rylan Dennison, Brooke Greenville.

JVB: won 5-0. Goals: Clara Ellis 3, McKenna Nauert, Kinley Clark.

Boys soccer: The Tigers lost their last two games, dropping them from second into fourth place. They now have a 5-4-2 record with Westlake trailing 4-4-3. The Tigers first loss was to Lake Travis 1-2 and then 0-2 to Del Valle. Trent Trotter scored the lone goal with an assist by Parker Johnson.

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