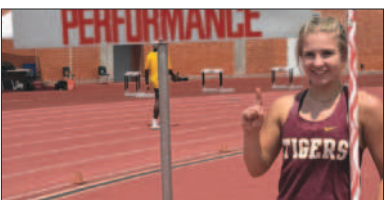




CAREERS IN THE
ARTS - OUR STORY
PAGE 3



RESTROOMS OPEN
ON MERCER STREET
PAGE 6



ADELINE SPIES
VAULTS TO STATE
WITH RECORD JUMP
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

34rd Year No. 17

April 24, 2025

drippingspringsnews.com

75 cents

Community Calendar

Hill Country "Heroes for Hope" Apr 24 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This lunch fundraiser for Burke Center for Youth is raising funds for operational cost increases from inflation and increasing the quality of care for 10-17 year old abused and neglected foster boys. There's a \$100,000 matching donation from Love, Tito's. Sponsorships available, tickets available and donations accepted. Visit www.bcfy.org for info. Addison Grove • 11903 Fitzhugh Rd • Austin TX 78736

Founders Day Festival Apr 25 - Apr 27

This year's festival kicks off at 6:30 p.m. on Friday with the Grand Parade on Mercer Street in downtown Dripping Springs. The three-day jubilee includes a carnival, music, food and shopping. For details visit www.foundersdayfestival.com. Downtown Mercer Street • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market Apr 30 & May 7 • 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Thank you veterans
for your service!

INSPIRATIONAL
QUOTE OF THE DAY:

BE JOYFUL IN
HOPE, PATIENT
IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.
- ROMANS 12:12



Early voting has started in bond, trustee election

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

Early voting has started for the May 3 election, which is open to registered voters who live within the Dripping Springs

ISD boundaries. Participants will be able to vote on candidates for the DSISD board trustees and on the DSISD bond package.

Three candidates are running for the

two open positions on the Board of Trustees.

Olivia Barnard has been serving as a trustee since June 2022. Her background is in construction and real estate, and she is campaign-

ing on her knowledge of legislative finance frameworks and local finance.

Tricia Quintanilla has also been serving as a trustee since 2022. Prior to that, she served on the Spe-

cial Education Parent Committee. She is campaigning as a parent of four kids in the district, and as someone invested in the district's success.

SEE VOTING PAGE 2



PHOTOS BY DAVE WILSON

AN EGG-CELLENT EASTER

City event features family fun

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The City of Dripping Springs held its 3rd Annual Eggstravaganza on April 19 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. This year the event featured two helicopter egg drops. Participants were also able to take photos with the Easter Bunny, go on hayrides, play in the bounce houses, and get their faces painted. There were craft tables, photo booths and a variety of vendors. To see more photos by Dave Wilson, visit www.davewilson.smugmug.com/Editorial/Eggstravaganza-2025.



County votes in support of production fees for HGTCD

Teresa Kendrick
Wimberley View

During their March 25 meeting, Hays County commissioners unanimously approved a resolution in support of "legislative approval that authorizes the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to manage and protect the Trinity Aquifer for all users and allow reasonable production fees."

The language used in the resolution offered the county's support of the major component of Senate Bill 2660, authored by Senator Charles Perry, that allows the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to impose production fees. However, it did not support the bill outright as some com-

missioners had issues with other portions of the bill.

Commissioners also unanimously passed a resolution to support Senate Bill 2661, which increases civil penalties for violations of the district's rules. Under the bill, a district may issue penalties of up to \$25,000 per day per violation, with each day of a continuing violation considered a separate offense.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Morgan Hammer, who introduced both motions, explained this increases the over-pumping violation fine from \$10,000 per day to \$25,000 per day. It allows the district to increase the penalty beyond the maximum if a violator gained an economic benefit ex-

ceeding \$25,000, in order to eliminate any financial advantage they may have gained.

"I was proud to support the objective of Senate Bill 2660 which would ensure the HGTCD has the same authority to manage public utility water as similar groundwater conservation districts in our area," Hammer said in a statement posted on her Facebook page. "I was also proud to support SB 2661 which increases the civil penalties that GCD's may recover for extreme violations of district rules. It's truly not fair to our local utilities that properly manage their systems when other utilities, especially those that operate for profit, ignore district rules, vio-

SEE HAYS PAGE 6

Founders Day Festival set for this weekend

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

Thousands of people will descend on Mercer Street this weekend for the Founders Day Festival, a free, three-day jubilee hosted by the City of Dripping Springs and the Founders Day Commission.

The fun starts at 4 p.m. on Friday, when the carnival opens. Then, at 6:30 p.m., the carnival will temporarily shut down for the Grand Parade. The theme this year is Viva Las Dripping, so observers can expect to see glitzy detail and Vegas-style glamour.

After the parade, the carnival reopens, and there will be music and dancing until 11 p.m.

On Saturday, the festival starts at 10 a.m. with vendor booths and live music. The carnival opens at 11 a.m. Closing time is 11:30 p.m.

On Sunday, there will be church service from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

The carnival and vendor booths open at 11 a.m., and music starts at noon. This is the day when attendees can purchase an all-day ride pass for the carnival, which closes at 7 p.m.

There is free parking at Dripping Springs High School all weekend, and, on Saturday only, there will be a free shuttle from the high school to the carnival. Handicapped parking is available on Old Fitzhugh Road.

Carnival tickets are not included with free admission, and can be purchased on site. There will be lots of food and drink for purchase as well.

The proceeds from the festival are donated back into the community and directly benefit local non-profit organizations, churches, school and park programs, youth groups, and charities.

For more details and a daily schedule of music, go to www.foundersdayfestival.com.



Spicewood Elementary teacher Elizabeth Coyle accepts her award in 2024.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nominations for PEC Teacher Spotlight Awards end April 25

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

Pedernales Electric Cooperative is searching for teachers who go above and beyond to support their students in and out of the classroom. The Cooperative is launching its spring round of Teacher Spotlight Awards to celebrate top-notch educators for their hard work and dedication. Anyone who would like to nominate a teacher

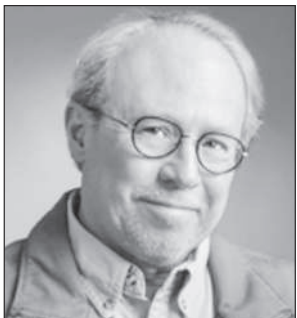
who works within the PEC service area can submit a formal nomination by April 25 through the co-op's online form.

"Teachers devote so much of themselves to lifting their students and bettering our communities," said PEC Community Outreach Specialist Kevyn Packer. "It's important to take a minute to say thanks and show our support for

SEE TEACHERS PAGE 2

Capital Highlights

House passes school voucher bill



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

The Texas House on Thursday passed Gov. Greg Abbott's school voucher bill after a years-long campaign by the governor and his allies, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, announced Friday he recommended that chamber accept the House version, which prioritizes children with special education needs for vouchers.

The Senate version, which is less restrictive, passed in early February.

In addition to passing the voucher legislation, the House passed a \$7.7 billion school finance package, which will increase the base-level funding per student by almost \$400

— to \$6,555 — and pays for teacher raises and increases in special education funding. The Senate's version is considerably different, so the two school finance bills will have to be reconciled.

HOUSE CUTS LOTTERY COMMISSION BUDGET TO ZERO

The budget for the Texas Lottery Commission was reduced to zero in the 2026-2027 budget passed by the House, the Statesman reported.

The commission has been under fire for not aggressively curtailing third-party "courier companies" that broker ticket sales for players online. In one instance, a single player bought enough tickets to guarantee a winning ticket for a \$95 million jackpot, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The Senate has already passed a bill outlawing courier companies. It is uncertain whether the Senate will go along with the House measure to end all lottery commission funding.

The lottery brings about \$2 billion a year to the state treasury.

SENATE BILL WOULD BAN FLUORIDE IN WATER SYSTEMS

A bill filed by state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, would ban adding fluoride to public drinking water, a cause being championed by U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Hall talked about the potential side effects of consuming an "excessive amount" of fluoride. Health officials assert fluoride has protected against tooth decay and resulted in fewer cavities over the decades it has been added to public water systems.

Hall's bill would ban adding "any form of fluoride to any public water supply for the purpose of fluoridation, regardless of the intended concentration."

Kennedy has said he plans to ask the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop recommending fluoridation of public water systems. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has also called for a ban on water fluoridation.

In Texas, nearly three-fourths of the state's population drinks water with fluoride in it, according to

the Texas Department of State Health Services.

HOUSE AGREES TO GIVE PAXTON BACK PAY

Largely along party lines, the House agreed to urge budget writers to give Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton nearly \$64,000 in back pay to cover the period when he was suspended while impeached. The Chronicle reported the measure passed by a margin of 88-56.

Paxton was impeached by the House in 2023, but the Senate acquitted him. He went without pay for about three months.

"If we believe that not only politicians but regular citizens are entitled to the presumption of innocence, we should truly believe that he should have been entitled to his salary during the course of this suspension," said state Rep. Mitch Little, R-Lewisville, the bill's sponsor. "Now that he's been acquitted, if you broke it, you bought it."

The House and Senate versions of the budget still have to be reconciled.

MIDDLETON JUMPS INTO TEXAS AG'S RACE

Republican state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, has jumped into the race to replace Paxton, who is pursuing a primary

challenge to U.S. Sen. John Cornyn. The Chronicle reported that Middleton will self-fund his campaign with \$10 million.

"I am running for Texas Attorney General to continue the fight for our shared conservative values that keep the Texas Miracle alive," Middleton said in a statement. "As Attorney General, I will join President Trump in his efforts to return America and Texas to common sense and to fight to secure the border, ensure law and order, and be tough on crime."

Middleton was elected to the Senate in 2021 after previously serving in the House. Former U.S. Attorney John Bash declared earlier he also was seeking the position.

NATE PAUL FINED \$1 MILLION, CONFINED TO HOME

Real estate developer Nate Paul was fined \$1 million and sentenced to four months of home confinement after pleading guilty to making false financial statements, The News reported. Paul's ties to Paxton in part led to the impeachment charges against the attorney general. The attorney general was accused in a whistleblower suit of using the agency to interfere in Paul's civil and criminal disputes.

While he will not face any prison time, Paul will be a convicted felon.

"That may not mean anything to some people — after all, we have a president who's a convicted felon at the moment," said Senior U.S. District Judge David Ezra, an appointee of former President Ronald Reagan. "But I'm sure it's important to Mr. Paul."

IT'S LOOKING LIKE A WARM SPRING

The departure of the La Niña climate pattern makes it likely much of the state is in for a warm, dry spring, the Statesman reported. As of mid-April, more than 80% of Texas was already abnormally dry or in drought, with little relief in sight.

Drought conditions are especially severe in Far West Texas into the Big Bend area and throughout Central Texas. The eastern part of the state is the only region not facing drought conditions as of yet.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

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TEACHERS FROM PG. 1

their time and commitment."

PEC first launched its Teacher Spotlight Award in 2024 and has awarded 12 Central Texas Educators for their dedication. This round's winners will be announced in May. Upon selecting this round's recipients, PEC will surprise the teachers at their schools with a thank-you basket of supplies and materials for their classrooms.

"We're proud to recognize our incredible teachers for their con-

tributions and look forward to giving back a little something for all they've provided."

Nominations can be made online at mypec.com/teacher-spotlight.

VOTING FROM PG. 1

Ron Jones has served on the Dripping Springs Education Foundation Board for eight years. He has a degree in Business Administration, and has worked in education technology. He is campaigning on a promise to advocate for all students and provide monetary oversight and planning for growth.

The DSISD bond package includes a focus on construction of the district's second comprehensive high school, as well as capital improvements and renovations for current campuses. Information on proposed projects, district and area growth and tax impact can be found at www.dsisdtx.us/2025bond.

Early voting is being held at two locations in Dripping Springs: Dripping Springs ISD Center For Learning and Leadership, 300 Sportsplex Dr., and Patriots Hall of Dripping Springs, 3400 East US 290. Voting hours are as follows:

April 22-25: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April 26: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
April 28-29: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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CAREERS IN THE ARTS – OUR STORY

BY CATHY & MELISSA RICHARDSON (AS SHARED WITH STEVE FRIEDMAN)

Every creative journey is unique, filled with triumphs, setbacks, valuable lessons, and immeasurable growth. Local artist and graphic illustrator Cathy Richardson and her daughter, recent SCAD graduate Melissa Richardson, offer their personal experiences to provide insight and encouragement for artists.

CATHY'S STORY - A CREATIVE INTUITIVE JOURNEY

Cathy's lifelong love of art took root during her studies at Syracuse University, where she explored fine art and design. A notable early experience was creating a memorial for her fellow students lost in the Pan Am Flight 103 Bombing, which was displayed in Lockerbie, Scotland. After graduating, she moved to NYC, apprenticing with artist Clayton Pond, working in publishing, and with boutique design firm; Kick Design. However, her passion led her to leave the corporate world to create

her own art. To make ends meet, she took on various jobs as a bartender and a messenger on rollerblades. It was behind the bar on the Upper West Side that she had a life-changing encounter with the Disney Consumer Products creative team, leading to a design position and a move across the country to LA. Launching a 20+ year career with Disney. In 1997, she established her own design studio, Cathy B. Design, and has since worked with Disney and a diverse range of clients globally. Now, in Dripping Springs, Cathy enjoys helping clients and other artists bring their visions to life through branding and creative confidence. She has a particular fondness for local projects like those for the Hill Country Galleria and the City of Dripping Springs; while also managing the licensing of her artwork.

Cathy's suggestions for all creatives:

- Trust Your Inner Voice: Follow your intuition and don't be

afraid to try new experiences.

- Embrace Imperfection: Neither life nor art is about perfection. Learning new things is your superpower!
- Parents- Nurture Creativity: Encourage and support your children's passions

Empowering creative confidence is Cathy's passion. She particularly cherishes her collaborations with Melissa, and motherhood for all 3 of her children, is her most fulfilling experience, impacting her creative perspective.

MELISSA'S STORY - BORN TO CREATE

Growing up in a creatively rich environment at home and school, Melissa naturally sought artistic opportunities. Before graduating from Dripping Springs High School, her talent shone through in the design of a vibrant mural in the school's engineering wing. Her mother has always been her greatest inspiration, teaching her graphic design and freelancing before she could read a chapter book.

This passion for art and design led her to the renowned Savannah College of Art and Design. At SCAD, her artistic explorations spanned architecture, fashion, painting, and sculpture. Holding the unique distinction of having a permanent sculpture in SCAD's Lacoste, France campus sculpture garden – a first for an undergraduate, Melissa ultimately found her niche in Illustration. Between working with SCAD's leadership team to empower initiative in her fellow students, winning multiple fashion competitions, designing sneakers for a Sam Edelman collaboration, starting a non-profit, interning at American Eagle and Natural Life, and in Costa Rica there was nothing she didn't do at SCAD to truly grow as much as she could both as an artist and as a person. Currently, Melissa is the marketing director for Lucky Lab Coffee. Her creative spirit thrives on bringing people together through various artistic avenues – entertainment, design, social media, and more. She believes everyone is an artist in their own way and has the power to chase their dreams, for as she always says, "It is only when we believe in ourselves that anything becomes possible."

Melissa's advice for aspiring artists:

- Cultivate Resil-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ience: Embrace the grit to pursue your passions fiercely while also extending yourself grace during challenging moments.

- YOU DO YOU!: Invest in building your brand – it's key to building confidence and charting your career path.
- Travel Often: explore to broaden your perspective and fuel your creativity.

These ladies are great examples of passionate artists who have paved different paths to career success in the arts. Please visit their installations in "Stars of Dripping Springs" on Mercer Street.



A variety of Melissa Richardson's art work.



Dripping Springs Eclipse Glasses on the Triangle created by Cathy Richardson.



Valley View Elementary mural by Cathy Richardson.



Melissa Richardson with her mural at Salacia.

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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 **Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following: **CUP-25-008** – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Short-Term Rental 2 (Vacation Rental) at 219 Lange Rd, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # 24369). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 15, 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.

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 **Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** to consider the following: **CUP-25-007** – an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the operation of a Short-Term Rental 2 (Vacation Rental) at 110 Dobie Lane, Wimberley, TX (HaysCAD # 24368). Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will also hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 15, 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.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David A. Shand, Deceased, were issued on April 15, 2025, in Cause No. 24-0553-P, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: Two, Hays County, Texas, to: David A. Shand, 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: **Mary Kathryn Brown**
Attorney at Law
1760 FM 967, Suite A
Buda, Texas 78610

DATED April 16, 2025.

/s/ **Mary Kathryn Brown**
Mary Kathryn Brown
Attorney for David A. Shand, Jr.
State Bar No.: 24116135
1760 FM 967, Suite A
Buda, Texas 78610
Telephone: (512) 400-2350
Facsimile: (512) 236-5148
Email: service@keylawoffice.com

Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by the **City of Wimberley, by mail or hand delivery to 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676**, until **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th, 2025**, and then publicly opened, read, and taken under advisement at the same address. Bids will be for the furnishing of all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, labor, superintendence, and all other services and appurtenances required for the construction of the “Project” titled **City of Wimberley 2025 Roadway Maintenance Project (#MAINT-2025-01)** and shall include acknowledgement of any addenda submitted, and all other documents included in said bid call. No bids may be withdrawn after the scheduled opening time. Any bids received after scheduled bid opening time will be returned unopened. Said bid shall be marked:

“CITY OF WIMBERLEY 2025 ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROJECT” (#MAINT-2025-01)”

Bids must be submitted on City of Wimberley bid forms and must be accompanied by an acceptable bid security in the form of a cashier’s check or bid bond, payable to the City of Wimberley, Texas, equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked with the name of the project as shown above, and the name and address of the Bidder. When submitted in person or by courier, this envelope shall be placed in another envelope addressed to:

City of Wimberley
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas, 78676

City of Wimberley 2025 Roadway Maintenance Project (#MAINT-2025-01) generally includes: 4,025 square yards of 2” asphalt mill & overlay, 800 square yards of spot pavement repairs, and pavement markings.

Plans, Bid Forms, Specifications, and Instructions to Bidders may be obtained via the City of Wimberley website <https://www.cityofwimberley.com/bids.aspx> beginning **April 17th, 2025**.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and any non-conforming Bid and to award the Contract in a period of time not exceeding **60 days** from the Bid opening date. Bids shall remain firm for that period.

The successful Bidder must furnish a performance bond and payment bond on the forms provided, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

An **Optional Pre-Bid conference** with prospective bidders will be held on **Thursday, April 24th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** at the Wimberley City Hall at **221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676**.



Legal Notice

NOTICE OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY ZONING CODE

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 **Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** on an Ordinance of the City of Wimberley Texas amending Chapter 9 (Planning & Development Regulations) Section 9.03.181(g) (City center overlay parking) of the City of Wimberley Code of Ordinances; and providing for the following: findings of fact, a savings clause, a repealing clause, a severability cause, and effective date, and proper notice and meeting. Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Council will hold a public hearing at its Regular City Council Meeting on **Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at City Hall. 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. Additional information concerning the proposed action is available for review at Wimberley City Hall, 221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas.



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OPINION

Of Lies and Legislation

Commissioner Walt Smith details support, issues with HB 2812, SB 2660

Walt Smith
**Hays County
Commissioner Precinct 4**

Few things are scarier every two years than the state legislature telling you they are here to help and to trust what they believe to be in your best interest. The continual shifts of state law tell us that we should not only listen to those looking out for us, but ensure it is the common citizen who has their representative's ear and not others who may have convinced them otherwise. At no time have I seen a clearer case of cloaking the greater good of our community in a false sense of fear than surrounding water usage and the current competing bills addressing the Hays Trinity Aquifer which is so important to Hays County.

There are a number of pieces of legislation impacting our most precious local water resource but I'll limit my comments to the two causing the most debate and concern amongst those of us here in Hays County. These are SB 2660 by Senator Charles Perry and HB 2812 by Rep. Carrie Issac. Each have their flaws and detractors, and each have their supporters. However, a deeper dive into the possible outcomes of both shows a vast difference in opinion as to who should control the future of water in our aquifer.

The first bill is SB 2660, introduced by Senator Charles Perry, Chairman of the Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. A staunch conservative and veteran of West Texas water fights, he was tapped by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick to lead this committee. Known for protecting private property rights and agriculture, he's undertaken this session to bring order to the future of water in the state. SB 2660 is a bill which would bring the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation

District into the same structure as the Barton Springs/ Edwards Aquifer Authority and the other districts which surround it. As a matter of fact, four districts currently operate in Hays County. The bill, as introduced, would allow for a sustainable funding mechanism for the district where none exists today. Currently, the District is funded through a fee associated with the installation of new wells. Given the massive and every growing population of Hays County, it verges on insane to think the District should be funding itself solely on the development of the very resource it was created to protect. By setting common sense production fees while continuing to exempt both individual domestic wells and agricultural operations certainly seems the viable answer. There are provisions in the bill with which I strongly disagree.

Those include the payment of board members, any changes of open budgetary processes, and any inclusion of domestic wells. It's for these reasons I Co-sponsored and introduced a resolution for the Hays County Commissioners Court which specifically restated the need for these exemptions, along with the explicit prohibition of any taxing authority, and have continued to work on correcting language with the author of the bill to address these issues while maintaining the core value of adequately funding the District. Senator Perry has committed to working with Rep. Carrie Issac to address these concerns and I fully anticipate changes in the coming days. That said however, it became clear that when the bill was heard in the Senate Committee this week, that some of the folks testifying against the bill were those who have chosen to ignore the citizens of our county and who

are the largest violators of our current water restrictions.

In fact, one witness registered on behalf of Aqua, the most flagrant of violators, then introduced himself as representing a different entity entirely, I believe he did so to specifically hide the fact as to whom he was working for, but the Chairman and Committee members were not fooled. Cloaking themselves in the veil of private property rights, at least one of these entities has put the average well owner in Hays County at risk in what they view as a viable legislative and public relations strategy to rob our neighbors of the water they so desperately depend upon. This Pennsylvania-owned corporation (Aqua America) disguises itself as a Texas company under the moniker of Aqua Texas, branding itself as a Lonestar entity while taking direction as to our water future while over pumping our aquifer of over 100 million gallons in 2022 alone, all the while losing over 35% of that water once they pull it from the ground. What may be more concerning is the local water supply corporations which appear to have seemingly aligned themselves with Aqua. I believe most of our citizens have respect for our local water supply corporations which are publicly owned and held accountable by the public. Though the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation over pumped in 2023, I don't believe most people would put them in the same category as Aqua and it is unreasonable to think anyone would expect the District not to treat violations equally, regardless of the utility. At this time, it would make sense for us to agree that the best path forward should be to protect our water resources from those that have repeatedly wasted it and have a history of

placing profit over what is best for our future. We can work together and make sure the District has what it needs while at the same time ensuring our utilities are able to responsibly meet the needs of our citizens. We shouldn't have to sit beside those who only care about profits while they argue on behalf of shareholders in a Senate committee hearing, we should be able to get together as local leaders that care about our community, and work on solving problems. I was proud to support this legislation as was Commissioner Hammer representing Wimberley and the rest of the Commissioners Court and thus far the Cities of Wimberley and Woodcreek as well. It was passed unanimously by the Senate Committee after consideration this week and I encourage you to watch the video and decide for yourself what should be done. Again, I fully expect the issues surrounding problematic portions of the bill to be addressed and Senator Perry stated he is working with Rep. Issac to do so.

By contrast, HB 2812 by Rep. Issac is a bill which I struggle to find any positive aspects to comment upon. In all fairness, I believe she may have introduced it believing some of her constituents wanted it, and I have no doubt those who would want to take water from the aquifer would love it. The problem is the consequences it would bring upon our county. Given the benefit of doubt, I hope this is just simply one of the thousands of bills introduced each session that were just not well thought out, however, I fear that it's the opposite of the case. This bill would remove ALL volume restrictions on all public water systems in the Hays Trinity Aquifer and thus allow the above-mentioned bad actors the ability to pump the aquifer dry with no oversight. A re-

view of GIS and registration records from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), shows there are 140 public water systems over the Hays/ Trinity aquifer. While some may be known to the public such as Aqua in Wimberley or the Dripping Spring Water Supply Corporation, the vast majority are not. Think of every distillery, many wineries, gas stations, water haulers and dozens of restaurants, all without any restrictions. And contrary to the statements of Rep. Issac, none of those non-utility entities would have to answer or be regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), thus leaving them completely unfettered to pump the aquifer. The state qualifies as public water supplies any entity which draws its water from the ground through a well or distributes it for things such as hand washing, food service and restroom facilities. This may not seem a lot but know that the Groundwater District currently tracks roughly 30 of these entities which used over a half billion, that's billion with a capitol B, gallons last year alone. Now imagine those entities would have the ability to pump uncapped as much as they wished. It's more than scary, its reckless and specifically targets the most vulnerable wells in Hays County. Now imagine that all any entity would have to do in order to pump all the water they wanted was to go to the state without input from local stakeholders and neighboring well owners and apply for a public water permit and have the ability to pump as much as possible. Ironically, Electro-purification, a company set on pumping 5 million gallons a day from the aquifer several years ago between Dripping Springs and Wimberley would be able to do so unimpeded. This is

the same company that former Rep. Jason Issac worked so hard to stop yet would be completely unchained under this legislation. Or consider the proposed concert venue on Fitzhugh Road which by simply applying and receiving a standard permit from the state would be able to pump away without stopping. I again was pleased that the Commissioners Court took a stand against this bill passing a resolution of opposition which I've attached. In all, again, I can find no reason to support HB 2812 and fear its passage would SEVERLY endanger the water security of all Hays County residents.

I feel strongly about these issues as do the other members of the Commissioners Court and the concerned citizens of Hays County, especially when they get a chance to learn of the needs and consequences in our area. I would encourage you to learn more, and I have placed the resolutions passed by the Hays County Commissioners Court and the Cities of Woodcreek and Wimberley pertaining to both pieces of legislation below. I've also attached a link to the Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consideration of SB 2660 below. Furthermore, given that Representative Issac lives in Woodcreek, I've asked to reserve the Wimberley Community Center, convenient to her home, at her availability, to debate both these pieces of legislation. I would welcome a community forum and volunteer to make it work to order to give the public a forum to discuss these important issues.

Link to Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consideration of SB 2660: The consideration begins at the 2:23.19 mark: <https://senate.texas.gov/videooplayer.php?vid=21680&lang=en>

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Restrooms open downtown on Mercer Street

Laurie Anderson
Interim Editor

The city cut the ribbon for its new Mercer Street restrooms on April 17, just in time for Founders Day. It's a project that has been a long time coming.

"About ten years ago, Pam Owen, the past director of the Visitors Center, saw the need and asked, how do we do it? And I told her it should be easy," Mayor Bill Foulds said. "And here we are, ten years later, getting easy done."

One of the big issues was funding, and also finding a place to put the restrooms. Then help came from the city's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) board of directors.

"The restrooms started as a city project," Keenan Smith, TIRZ project manager, said. "Then the TIRZ took an interest in it and adopted it as a priority project, which enabled the TIRZ funding to help pay for the building."

Hays County Commissioner Walt Smith, who serves on the TIRZ

board, was instrumental in the process, according to city council member Sherrie Parks.

"Hays County actually owned this strip of land, and through his work on the TIRZ board and his work as Hays County commissioner, he saw the need downtown," Parks said. "He's just been a really good partner working with the city to try to make this happen."

Mayor Foulds said he was reluctant to start the construction of the restrooms this spring, with Founders Day on the horizon. But crews were able to knock it out and he said they did a great job.

"It came in on budget, came in on time," Foulds said. "That's a big deal nowadays, so I'm very, very thankful for that."

Initially the restrooms will be locked down at about 10 p.m. each night and opened again when the maintenance team starts work each morning. That makes sure they are available during business hours for the area merchants. They will also be open for special events.

"These are handicapped accessible, and should be very nice. We're gonna have a crew here at least twice a day, keeping them clean," Foulds said. "For Founders Day, I think we actually have somebody stationed here to make sure they're kept clean."

Smith, an architect who has worked on several projects in historic districts, came up with the design for the restrooms. He partnered with Kevin Herron, who was the architect of record for the project.

"The idea was just to make it fit into the historic district and elevate the quality of it so that people would be proud of it," Smith said. "The design sort of comes from the Hill Country - the butterfly roof and the native stone masonry, the broad overhangs to give shade. It just creates a comfortable, inviting place facing Mercer Street."

The building also has windows right under the roof line.

"That's sort of a secret sauce - natural light coming in from above," Smith said.



Mayor Bill Foulds cuts the ceremonial toilet paper ribbon.

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON



The restroom design fits into the style of the historical district.

Science Mill to release butterflies at Pollinator Palooza on April 26-27

Staff Reports

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The Science Mill in Johnson City is hosting a live butterfly release on April 26-27.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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HAYS FROM PG. 1

late our property rights and place our natural resources at risk."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Walt Smith seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. In a statement sent to the Dripping Springs Century News, Smith explained his opinion on multiple local groundwater bills.

"By setting common sense production fees while continuing to exempt both individual domestic wells and agricultural operations certainly seems the viable answer," Smith said. "There are provisions in the bill with

which I strongly disagree. Those include the payment of board members, any changes of open budgetary processes, and any inclusion of domestic wells. It's for these reasons I Co-sponsored and introduced a resolution for the Hays County Commissioners Court which specifically restated the need for these exemptions, along with the explicit prohibition of any taxing authority, and have continued to work on correcting language with the author of the bill to address these issues while maintaining

the core value of adequately funding the District."

Smith said that Senator Charles Perry, who authored SB 2660, "committed to working with Rep. Carrie Issac to address these concerns."

Smith's full statement can be found on page 5.

During their March meeting, commissioners did not endorse State Representative Carrie Isaac's House Bill 2812, which seeks an amendment to the district's enabling legislation.

It would eliminate

the district's ability to regulate or permit the withdrawal of groundwater by a public water supply well such as Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation, Wimberley Water Supply Corporation or Aqua Texas.

"By contrast, HB 2812 by Rep. Issac is a bill which I struggle to find any positive aspects to comment upon," Smith said. "In all fairness, I believe she may have introduced it believing some of her constituents wanted it, and I have no doubt those who would want to

take water from the aquifer would love it. The problem is the consequences it would bring upon our county. Given the benefit of doubt, I hope this is just simply one of the thousands of bills introduced each session that were just not well thought out, however, I fear that it's the opposite of the case."

In Hammer's statement, she referred to House Bill 2812 saying, "I am also aware of . . . House Bill 2812, which may pose challenges to our water management initiatives. I look forward to

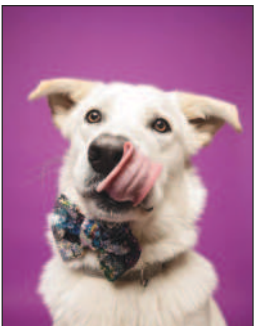
working with our representatives in the legislature to address our concerns.

Finally, Hammer wrote, "We can all remember Electro-Purification and how our community worked together on addressing that extreme threat. Ensuring our groundwater conservation districts have the necessary tools and can enforce reasonable rules to protect our resources is paramount to providing future generations with the opportunity to live and thrive in our beautiful area."



Klondike • Male
1 year old
Great Pyrenees/ Red
Heeler mix

Half dog, half polar bear, this adorable fluff ball is charming his way into everyone's hearts with his joyful spirit and boundless energy! Klondike has already aced basic training classes, so he knows many commands. From sitting politely to shaking a paw, he's a quick learner who thrives on positive reinforcement. His loose leash walking skills are impressive, and he's a master at staying focused on his handler, making walks a joyous adventure for both of you. This sweet boy is 100% housebroken, crate trained, and he gets along sweetly with other dogs who can match his enthusiastic play style. He previously thrived in foster homes where he lived harmoniously with horses, kids, and several other dogs. Klondike enjoyed patrolling the farm and he loved running & playing outside! This lovable pup is so ready to meet and bond with his forever family.



Tanzi • Female
8 years old
Border Collie mix

I'm super sweet and all I want is to be petted and talked to. I'm great in a crate and house trained, so I won't make a mess. I get along well with other dogs, but my favorite is hanging out with my human. I'm all fixed up, vaccinated, and heartworm free, ready for my forever home. I love going on car rides and I walk nicely on a leash. I'm quiet, making me perfect for an apartment. I'm always up



for a good walk or a hike. Whether you need a companion for TV time or a hiking buddy, I'm your gal. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com.

Andi • Male
12 years old
Lhasa Apso mix

Hi there! I'm Andi! People say I'm a pretty chill dog who loves relaxing on the couch next to you, especially if there's a small set of stairs for me to use. I'm not into being picked up, but I'm super good at walking on a leash and would be perfect for apartment living. I get along with other dogs by just doing my own thing. One of my favorite things is going for car rides. I love watching the world zoom past. I might not be the dog for someone who wants a lap pet, but if you need a buddy for lounging



and enjoying life, I'm your guy. I do have this one little quirk where I get super excited for dinner time - it's the highlight of my day! If you're looking for a cool, independent dog like me, I'm ready to be your foster or forever friend. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com for more information.

Universal Crossword

4/20

Themeless Sunday 130 by CJ Tan

ACROSS

- 1 Rock legend Turner
5 Faulty firecracker
8 Unc, big bro, etc.
11 Trade show presentations
12 Do some cardio
15 Most widely spoken native language in the world (with 900+ million speakers)
17 Self-image
18 Hurl snowballs at, say
19 "Despite that ..."
20 What can be visualized or wrangled
22 Boundary
24 Slimy stuff
25 From ____ to riches

- 27 "Hatsune Miku: Colorful Stage!" game company
29 "____ the word!"
32 '50s Ford flops
34 Cry accompanying a big reveal
36 Tree juice
37 Greeting that might include a couple of high fives
40 Singer DiFranco
41 ____ with faint praise
42 Said
43 Like secondhand clothes
45 "To All the ____ I've Loved Before" (Netflix film)
47 Colored eye part
48 Catch red-handed
50 Location

52 (Check this out!)

- 54 Eerie storage rooms
57 ENTs or PDFs
59 Convenience charge
60 Regimen that often involves exfoliation
63 Petered out
64 Attire
65 Pigpen
66 Greek goddess of dawn
67 ____ hustle

DOWN

- 1 Outdoor spots for a spot
2 Lead-in to a potentially unsubstantiated observation

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

I	F	S	O		O	R	E	O		I	S	L	A	M
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E	R	R	S		C	A	L	L	I	T	E	V	E	N
R	E	I		S	O	L	E	I	L		D	E	N	S
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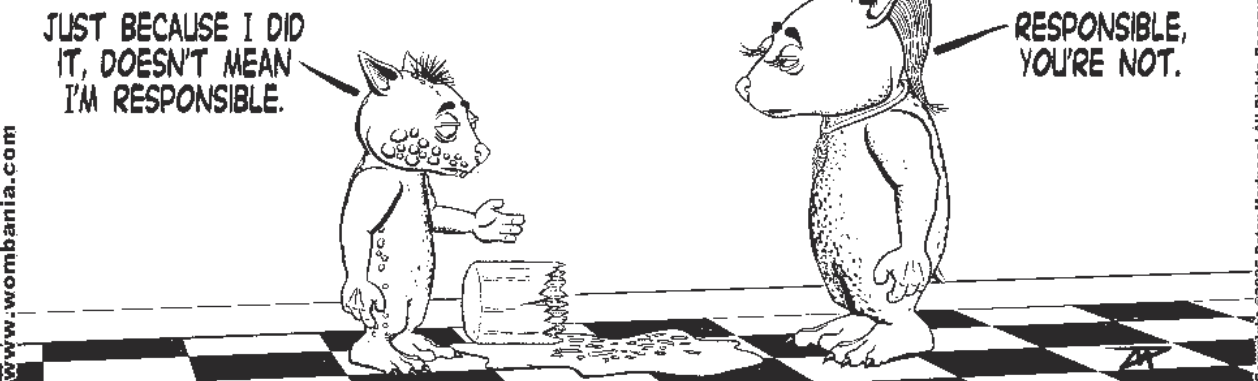
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- 3 Affirming gesture hidden in
4 "Stat!" "chocolate sauce"
5 "I know what you're thinking ... stop!"
6 Mixed martial arts org.
7 Qatari capital
8 Group of enthusiasts
9 "Happy?"
10 Calliope, e.g.
11 Contacted on Insta
12 Covers in shiny leaves
13 Dial up
14 Badminton barrier
16 Food Network chef Drummond
21 Golden-____ (senior)
23 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
26 Winter ride
28 Does sum arithmetic
30 "Sounds right!"
31 Did 80 in a 55 zone, say
32 Biblical name
33 Wild guess
35 Italian wine province
38 Some med. insurance plans
39 Laser ____ (instrument played by "plucking" on light beams)
44 Small and delicate
46 It may be brewing on the horizon
49 Privately includes on an email
51 Prefix for "friendly"
53 Common merch items
54 Visual lang.
55 Some bout results, for short
56 Quench
58 Soap bubbles
61 ____ Speedwagon
62 Penta- minus two

Want more puzzles? Check out the “Just Right Crossword Puzzles” books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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.”

CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

Election Day
May 3 • 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone who is a registered voter and lives within the Dripping Springs ISD boundaries is eligible to vote in the May 3 election. Items on the ballot include a bond package and a school board trustee election. Voting locations include Dripping Springs ISD Center for Learning and Leadership, Patriots Hall and Precinct 4 Office, Hays County.

Books, Brews & Goats
May 3 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This family-friendly event at Jester King aims to raise awareness and funds for the new Dripping Springs Community Library. There will be local author readings, live music, local vendors, and goat tours. Plus, the Weekly Drip Book Club will host a Book Swap at 11a.m. For a \$25 donation to the new library, participants can fill a bag with books to take home. Jester King Brewery • 13126 Fitzhugh Rd • Austin, TX 78736

DSRP Riding Series
Hunter Jumper Show
May 3 & 4 • 8 a.m. to 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

Shorty Scott Memorial Event
May 9 & 10

This is the 13th annual event. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund. Goat Roping will be Friday, May 9th. Books open at 6:30pm, rope at 7:00. Team Roping will be Saturday, May 10th. Books open at 9:00am, close at 10:00am. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Art at the Triangle
May 10 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dripping Springs Art League, in partnership with Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services, will be hosting several art markets at the Triangle this year. Local artists will be selling a variety of quality and original works. Mercer Street Triangle • 150 Mercer Street • 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, Home-school 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: cityofdripping-springs.com. Meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers. However, a remodel has many meetings at Ranch Park or Dripping Springs ISD Center for Learning & Leadership. See cityofdripping-springs.com for more information.

Transportation Committee Regular Meeting
Apr 28 • 3:30 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
May 1 • 4 p.m.

City Council & Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting
May 6 • 6 p.m.

Founders Day Commission Regular Meeting
May 12 • 6:30 p.m.

TIRZ No. 1 & No. 2 Board Regular Meeting
May 12 • 4 p.m.

DSRP Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 14 • 11 a.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
May 6 • 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 hayscountytx.com

DRIPPING SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dripping Springs Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Apr 28 • 6 p.m.

Live meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees which sets policy, agenda and strategic planning for the Dripping Springs school district. Agendas and live streaming option available at dsisdtx.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

SPORTS

Adeline Spies vaults to state with record jump

Junior will join Izzy Crews at UIL track competition in Austin on May 2-3

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Region IV track meet held at Heroes Stadium in San Antonio was not very kind to the Dripping Springs track qualifiers. Only one individual was able to reach their goal of earning the right to compete in their event at the State Meet in Austin on May 2,3.

Adeline Spies continued to improve her skills at pole vaulting. The junior extended her school

record to 12'0 to win first place and a berth at the state meet. There were actually four people that reached that height but those types of events have tie-breaking rules. In this case it has to do with misses along the way. Adeline made the height on her first attempt and none of the others did.

Joining Adeline at Austin will be freshman Izzy Crew in the wheelchair division, competing in the 100, 400 and shot put. During the season she had already

qualified in her events for state without having to qualify at the regional meet, although she competed for the experience.

The Tigers competed in four events. Here are those results. 110 hurdles: 6. Matix Dacunha 14.35; 800 relay: 5. 1.27.27 (Cooper Reid, Jackson Mills, Nick Tyndall, Merrick Bloomgren); 1600 relay: 7. 3.23.27 (Mikel Mendoza, Reid, Maddox Maher, Mills); Long Jump: 4. Mills 22'11.5; 9. Dacunha 21'9.75.



Adeline Spies, a junior pole vaulter, shattered her school record mark in the event with a height of 12 feet to finish in first place.



Izzy Crew, a freshman competing in the Wheelchair Division, captured the regional title in all three events to qualify for the state meet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lady Tigers win district championship, begin playoff journey

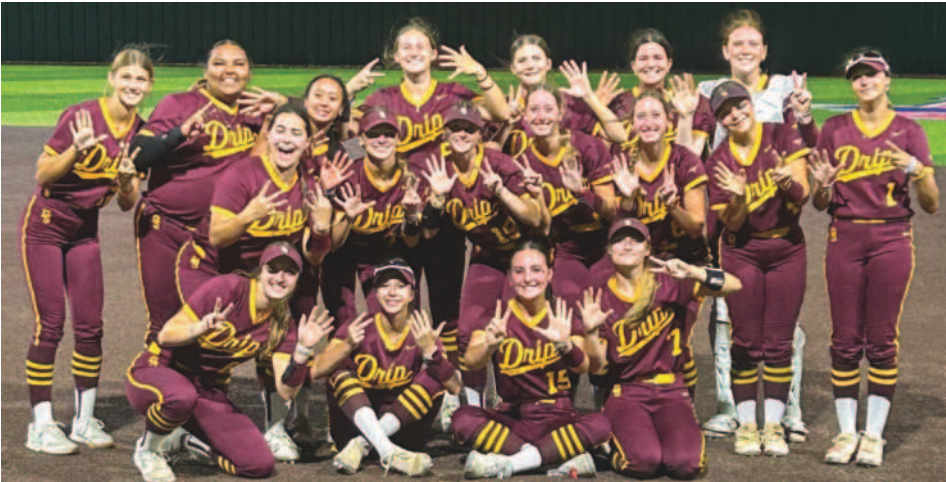
Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Dripping Springs softball team has successfully negotiated the season and district play to win District 26-6A and looks forward to extending their season deep into the playoffs. They have carved out a season record of 23-7-1 and 11-1 in district play. Next on the list is Round Rock Stony Point, the District 25-6A runnerup in Div 2. The first game will be tonight at DS beginning at 7 p.m. Friday night they will travel to Stony Point for a 7 p.m. game. If a third game is necessary it will

be played Saturday. Site and time to be determined.

In the final week of the regular season, the Lady Tigers got in a practice game with Georgetown before finishing up district with Westlake. Georgetown was able to get more firepower that produced runs to outlast the Lady Tigers 10-4. Westlake, having a poor season, succumbed to DS 12-2 in a run-rule five-inning game.

Vs G-town: The Lady Eagles are a strong 5A team and their strength showed. Sadie Bradford opened the scoring in the third with a 3-run homerun. In their half, Georgetown tied the game.



The Lady Tigers softball team clenched the district championship for the seventh year in a row. Lorelei Gamble is ranked #1 in the state for home runs.

PHOTO BY CELESTE GAMBLE

Tatum Green had a rbi double in the fourth but once again G-town would go one up. The Lady Tigers could not cross the plate again while G-town would add five more. The

Lady Tigers would be outhit 11-5. Getting the other hits for DS were Lauren Byrnes, Addy Knapp and Jai-Lynn Flores.

The DS pitchers had difficulty holding the

G-town batters at bay. Green started the game and took the loss as she lasted 3.1 innings, giving up 6H, 5R, 3ER, 1W, 0K. Bradford relieved 2.1, 5H, 5R, 5ER, 2W, 2K. Knapp

got the only batter she faced out.

Vs Westlake: DS had active bats as they collected 13 hits, including four extra-bases. The result was ten runs in the first three innings. Getting those hits were Bradford 3, Lorelei Gamble 2HRs, Morgan Riley, Byrnes 2B, Taylor Crain, Kira Preslar 2B, Lillian Wearden, Emma Phillips, Green and Flores. Bradford pitched the complete game, allowing 3H, 2R, 2ER, 4W, 5K.

Final District Standings: Dripping Springs 11-1, Lake Travis 10-2, Bowie 8-4, Del Valle 7-5, Westlake 3-9, Akins 2-10, Austin High 0-12.



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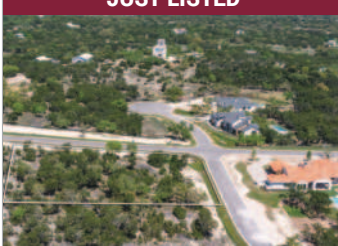


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