

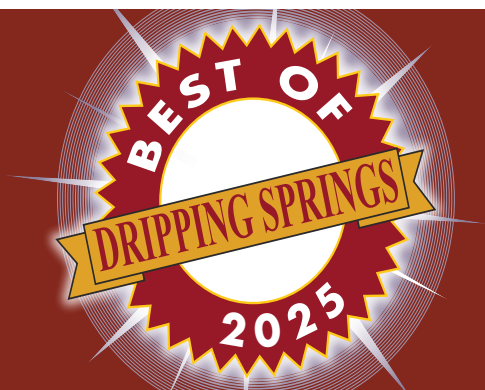
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NEW WELLS FARGO  
BRANCH OPENS  
PAGE 3



DRIPPING SPRINGS  
ART IN BLOOM  
PAGE 5



JUNIORS PLACE IN  
TOP TEN AT CAREER  
CONFERENCE  
PAGE 6

# Dripping Springs Century News

34rd Year No. 19

May 8, 2025

[drippingspringsnews.com](http://drippingspringsnews.com)

75 cents

## Community Calendar

**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

**Festival of Flight May 10**  
This free event celebrates the key role that migrant bird species play in our ecosystem and the economy. It is one of the events being held worldwide as part of World Migratory Bird Day, a global annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



**Thank you veterans  
for your service!**

**INSPIRATIONAL  
QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

DO NOT LET  
YOUR HEARTS BE  
TROUBLED.  
- JOHN 14:1



PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

## Bond passes with 70% of votes

Barnard, Quintero re-elected as school board trustees

### Staff Reports

In the May 3 election, Dripping Springs ISD voters overwhelmingly supported the \$402.3 million bond referendum with more

than 70% voting to approve Propositions A and B, according to unofficial election results. Just over 6,500 district residents cast a ballot.

In addition, Olivia

Barnard and Tricia Quintero were re-elected to three-year terms on the DSISD Board of Trustees.

The May 2025 bond

SEE BOND PAGE 9

## Former DSMS teacher sentenced to 60 years in prison for possession of child pornography

### Staff Reports

On April 29, Kevin McLean, a 33-year-old former teacher and coach at Dripping Springs Middle School, was sentenced to 60 years in prison by Hays County District Judge Sherri K. Tibbe. McLean entered a plea of “guilty” to six counts of possession of child pornography and was sentenced to 10 years on each count. Judge Tibbe ordered that the sentences run consecutively, commonly referred to as stacked sentences.

McLean was arrested in 2022. His wife had called the police to report finding inappropriate



KEVIN MCLEAN

communications with several female middle school students on his phone. Law enforcement seized McLean’s phone and interviewed the students he had communicated with. Through the investigation, it was determined that McLean had been

SEE SENTENCED PAGE 2

## Centennial Time Capsule visits Blanco State Park

### Staff Reports

The Centennial Time Capsule, which encompasses 100 years of Texas State Parks history, is on a 50-year road trip to visit every state park in Texas. It recently arrived at Blanco State Park, and there will be a welcoming party for the time capsule at the park pavilion on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors will be granted free entry, and the park will be providing hot dogs, chips and snow cones at noon. Attendees will also be able to enjoy interpretive events and booths hosted by volunteers and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff. The event is made possible thanks in part to a donation from H-E-B and the Friends of Blanco State Park.

“The staff at Blanco State Park are very

excited and proud to host the Time Capsule,” said Mark Pearson, Blanco State Park Superintendent. “It has already been interesting to see visitors’ reactions to it as we explain its origin and that it is just beginning its 50-year trip around our great state and its beautiful parks.”

The time capsule, which houses one object from every state park and support program, went on display at Abilene State Park in November.

“Staff at Abilene State Park were honored to host the Centennial Time Capsule,” said Craig Simpson, Abilene State Park Superintendent. “The park saw many folks travel to Abilene from all corners of Texas and beyond to view this remarkable piece of state park history.

SEE CAPSULE PAGE 9



For a \$25 donation, book swap customers could fill a bag with books.

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON

## SWAPPING STORIES

Book club raises funds for new library

Laurie Anderson  
Interim Editor

The Weekly Drip Book Club was out at Jester King Brewery over the weekend to host a book swap benefitting the Dripping Springs Community Library. For a \$25 donation, participants could fill a tote bag with books to take home.

Madison Huerta and Shaina Heller said they learned about the book swap while looking for something fun to do for the weekend.

“We were wanting to enjoy the beautiful weather and come out to the Hill Country,” Huerta said. “We actually looked up Jester King and saw that they had this going on and thought, what a better way to spend our Saturday than to come here.”

Heller said some of their favorite finds of the day were a couple of books by Mitch Albom, an author they both enjoy.

“I’ve always been wanting to go to a book swap, but I haven’t been able to do it yet, so this is my first one,” Heller said. “I brought a couple of books as well. I think it’s a great way to en-



Daniel Nelipovich flips through the pages of a book.



Customers browse the books.

SEE STORIES PAGE 2

# Capital Highlights

## House bill proposes new standardized test



Gary Borders  
Texas Press Association

A Texas House bill would eliminate the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness test and replace it with a test comparing students' performance to one another rather than state-set standards, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House Bill 4 would also create benchmark tests to measure students' academic performance throughout the year.

Superintendents from across the state testified in support of HB4 at a committee hearing last week. The bill was unanimously approved in committee and sent to the House floor.

The bill's sponsor is state Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado. He said testing would require a quick turnaround to give parents and teachers faster feedback about student performance.

"I want that experience and the ability for their teachers to de-

liver that information back to moms and dads so that we can get that type of support, because the teachers can't do it alone," Buckley said.

The existing STAAR test has become a flashpoint for many school districts, prompting numerous lawsuits and complaints that the existing system overpenalizes districts with less than optimal test scores.

### ANTISEMITISM BILL EASILY CLEARS HOUSE

A bill overwhelmingly passed by the House would require school districts to use a common but controversial definition of antisemitism, according to The Texas Tribune. Only two legislators opposed the measure.

The legislation came in response to pro-Palestinian protests held on Texas college campuses after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas, and that country's subsequent – and ongoing – military response.

State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, guided the bill, which has already passed the Senate, through the lower chamber. He assured his colleagues it would not lead to students being punished for

constitutionally-protected speech.

"Students are not going to be punished for voicing their views on Middle East policy or debating the history of Zionism. That is well within their rights," the Southlake Republican said.

State Rep. Christian Manuel, D-Port Arthur, was one of two who voted against the bill.

"I just think it goes too broad, and I hate to say this, I think it's too un-American," Manuel said.

### HOUSE PASSES BILL BANNING MINORS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

The House easily approved a measure that would penalize social media companies for allowing under-aged youth to use their platforms, The News reported. The bill, which now goes to the Senate for consideration, would require tech companies to verify a user's age when creating a social media account.

"Social media companies don't care about what content they're feeding you and your children," sponsor Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, said. "Rather, they want you hooked on their content."

Users would have to submit government

IDs to verify ages, according to the proposal.

### CLARIFYING ABORTION BILL UNANIMOUSLY PASSES SENATE

A bill that would allow doctors to intervene and provide abortions to pregnant women in medical emergencies has unanimously cleared the Senate, The News reported.

The existing law includes an exception for patients with a "life-threatening physical condition" but requires the doctor performing the procedure to provide "the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive." It has created widespread confusion among medical providers.

However, the bill appears to face an uphill hurdle in the House. A similar bill was filed by state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, but has not received a vote in committee.

### VOTERS LIKELY TO DECIDE FATE OF WATER BILL MEASURE

Voters likely will be asked to approve spending \$1 billion annually to address the state's water shortage, The Tribune reported. A Senate version is more prescriptive than

the House in how that money would be spent, and the two measures will have to be reconciled before it goes to Gov. Greg Abbott for his signature.

According to Texas 2036, the state needs to invest at least \$154 billion over the next half-century on water supply projects and upgrades to existing infrastructure. Perry Fowler, executive director of the Texas Water Infrastructure Network, was pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill.

"We're optimistic that a reasonable and balanced funding approach will prevail," Fowler said. "One that empowers the Texas Water Development Board to support the full range of vital programs eligible."

### MEASLES OUTBREAK RISES TO 683

The measles outbreak in Texas has risen to 683 cases, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Nearly 400 of those cases have been in Gaines County, on the New Mexico border. A total of 89 patients have been hospitalized, with two fatalities reported.

In nearly all the reported cases, the patient was not vaccinated. The two-dose

MMR vaccine is considered to be the most effective prevention tool against measles.

### \$800K IN DIMES SPILL ON STATE HIGHWAY

Brother, can you spare a dime? How about 8 million of them? That is how many ended up on a Texas highway after an 18-wheeler carrying about \$800,000 in freshly minted dimes spilled when the driver rolled his trailer onto its side last week in Wise County, near Alford High School.

U.S. 81/Highway 287 was shut down for several hours while crews recovered the loose change, using shovels, vacuum cleaners, street sweepers, and their hands.

"I saw a truck flipped over, I was like, 'What's going on?'" eyewitness Sebastian Vasquez told WFAA-TV. "I almost came out here with a bucket so I can fill it up with some dimes."

*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*

### STORIES FROM PG. 1

gage with the community."

Ashley Tullis, who co-founded the Weekly Drip Book Club with her friend Amber Pierce, said that the proceeds of the sale will go toward fulfilling a pledge the club made to the library.

"The book club was started at the opening weekend of Sunday Bookshop in Dripping Springs in the

summer of 2023," Tullis said. "We thought that there would be maybe about a dozen of us that would get together sometimes. But now the group has grown, and we have 140 dues paying members."

The club decided to make a \$15,000 pledge to the Dripping Springs Community Library.

"We have three

years to fulfill that pledge. At this time, we're about \$9,000 to goal," Tullis said.

The book swap is one way to help to fulfill that pledge.

"I don't know the amount of money we raised, but we did bring 100 totebags to give out and we're completely out of totebags," Tullis said. "At the end here we had a big mad rush."

Tullis said these kinds of events show that you don't have to be a \$50,000 donor or a \$100,000 donor to make a difference -



Book swap customers Mars and Pol read a book together.  
PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

that just a little bit can go a long way.

The membership dues for the Weekly Drip Book Club, which are \$25 per year,

also go toward fulfilling the club's pledge. Those who'd like to know more about the club can find the group on Facebook.

The whole club reads a book together once a month, but they also have different chapters that are focused on specific genres.

"We meet the third Thursday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. for our book club at large, and we're doing so at different local businesses where they can accommodate 20 to 30 people at a time for get togethers," Tullis said. "When the library is completed, that will become our home base, which is why we're so invested in this mission."

### Drizzling Springs Century News

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### SENTENCED FROM PG. 1

sending the female students nude photos of himself and trying

to convince them to send him pictures. The investigation further

revealed that McLean had sold or provided some students with alcohol and illegal narcotics, including THC vape pens and prescription drugs.

The child pornography was found during the search of McLean's phone. No child pornography involving students from the middle school was located, and there were no reports of sexual contact with a student.

The case was investigated by the Hays County Sheriff's Department and the Aus-

tin Police Department. Assistant District Attorney Courtney Hansen prosecuted the case.

"We hope this verdict provides healing and closure to the families whose lives were impacted by this defendant's abuse of trust as an educator in our community," Hansen said.

District Attorney Higgins added, "Students and their families should be able to trust that school is safe. We will hold anyone who violates that trust accountable."

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**THIS WEEK'S FEATURED LISTINGS**



**22601 RR 12**  
**Dripping Springs, TX 78620**  
**For Sale - \$2,285,000**  
A great Commercial opportunity awaits on this 7.1-acre tract which boasts prominent frontage on Ranch Road 12, is Ag Exempt, and also fully entitled and permitted for a massive 42,000 sq.ft. of flex commercial space, primed and ready for construction.



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



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



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



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## CUTTING EDGE



Wells Fargo hosted a grand opening on April 22 to celebrate its first branch in Belterra. The branch showcases Wells Fargo's newest design, and is built to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



# Come Explore!

**Wimberley Garden Club**  
**26th Spring Garden Tour**

**Saturday, May 10, 9am-2pm**



Two stunning family properties on the water's edge restored after the 2015 flood.



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Find more info and buy your tickets (\$20) now at [WimberleyGardenClub.org](http://WimberleyGardenClub.org) or scan QR code. Purchase tickets in person on tour day at the Wimberley Visitor Center (14100 RR12), 7:30am-1pm.



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**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT  
CITY OF WIMBERLEY  
ORDINANCE NO 2025-12**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 4 – BUILDING REGULATIONS, ARTICLE 4.04 – TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, SECTION 4.04.009 – MOBILE FOOD VENDORS IN CITY CENTER OVERLAY OF THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, REPEALERS, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Woodcreek City Council and The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold Public Hearings on May 14th 2025. Planning & Zoning will meet at 5:00 PM at City Hall, 41 Champions Circle, and City Council will meet at 5:30 PM. The purpose is to consider a proposed re-zoning of “The Triangle”, Hays County Property ID R202190, located at the intersection of Woodcreek Drive and Brookhollow Drive, from a City Right-of-Way to a City Park (P-1).

For Rent

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Wimberley, on Deerfield St, well maintained, large fenced yard, full kitchen. Avail May or June move-in, lease \$1600 w \$1000 deposit, Pet Nego. Incl W/D and paid water. Looking for clean, responsible tenant. 850-855-5438 Steven 512-858-9999 Bob



**I. ADVERTISEMENT TO BIDDERS**

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the Hays County Municipal Utility District (M.U.D.) No. 5 for construction of the proposed improvements, in accordance with the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents prepared by LJA Engineering, Inc. (Engineer), will be received at the Engineer's office, 7500 Rialto Boulevard Building II, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78735, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud. Any Proposal received after this time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with the name and address of the Bidder and the following words:

PROPOSAL FOR  
HAYS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 5  
2025 UPGRADES

The Project consists of: Paving, Drainage, Water, Wastewater, Erosion and Sedimentation Improvements. All work must conform to Federal, State and local governmental rules and criteria.

Copies of the Plans and Specifications are on file at the Engineer's office where they may be examined without charge. The contractor qualifications section of the Contract Documents (Bidder's Statement of Qualifications) are available as paper copies or may be acquired electronically if desired by contacting the Engineer. Copies of the Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Engineer for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set. Checks for the Plans and Specifications shall be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc.

A bid bond or cashier's check payable to the Hays County M.U.D. No 5 in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid Proposal submitted (Bid Security), must accompany each Bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the Bidder will, within seven (7) days of award of Contract, enter into a contract and execute bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any and all formalities in bidding. The Owner reserves the right to determine which Bids are lowest and are in the best interest of the Owner, and to award the Contract on this basis. The Bid Security of successful Bidder will be retained until such Bidder has executed the Agreement, furnished the required Contract security and met the other conditions of the Notice of Award, whereupon the Bid Security will be returned. If the successful Bidder fails to execute and deliver the Agreement and furnish the required Contract security within seven (7) days after the Notice of Award, Owner may annul the Notice of Award and the Bid Security of that Bidder will be forfeited. The Bid Security of the other Bidders whom Owner believes to have a reasonable chance of receiving the award may be retained by Owner until the earlier of the seventh day after the Effective Date of the Agreement or the sixtieth (60th) day after the Bid opening, whereupon Bid Security furnished by such Bidders will be returned. Bid Security with Bids which are not competitive will be returned within seven days after Bid opening.

The Advertisement for Bids includes a required Statement of Qualifications with specific minimum qualifications that must be met in order for the Bid to be considered. Hays County M.U.D. No. 5 will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at the Engineer's office, 7500 Rialto Boulevard Building II, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78735, at 2:00 p.m., May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 to discuss the process and the required qualifications statement. The Statement of Qualifications with notarized signatures must be submitted to the Engineer no later than 2:00 p.m., May 29th, 2025, from each interested Bidder.

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

**NOTICE ESTABLISHING OFFICES OF DISTRICT**

TO THE RESIDENTS OF HAYS COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2 AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

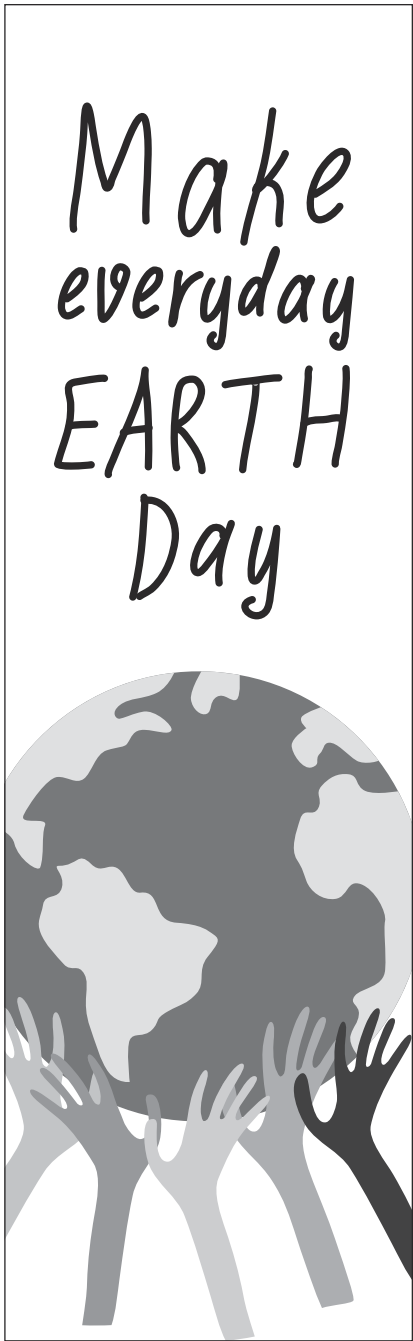
TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Chapter 49.062 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, the Board of Directors of Hays County Water Control & Improvement District No. 2 (the "District") has, on April 10, 2025, established offices and the following meeting places outside the boundaries of the District: (i) Burgess & Niple Engineering, Inc., 235 Ledge Stone Drive, Austin, Texas 78737 was designated as an office and meeting place outside the boundaries of the District and may be used for the storage of District records and the receipt and opening of public bids; (ii) Law Offices of Matthew B. Kutac PLLC, 1715 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., Ste. 105D Austin, TX 78746 was designated as an office and meeting place outside the boundaries of the District and may be used for the storage of district records, for the mailing address of the District, and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District; (iii) Winstead PC, 600 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900, Austin, Texas 78701 was designated as an office outside the boundaries of the District and may be used for the storage of district records, for the mailing address of the District, and for the transaction of such business as is not required to be done within the District; (iv) Belterra Centre, 151 Trinity Hills Drive, Austin, Texas 78737; (v) Belterra Recreation Center, 801 Belterra Drive, Austin, Texas 78737; (vi) Rooster Springs Elementary School, 1001 Belterra Drive, Austin, Texas 78737 was designated as an office and meeting place outside the boundaries of the District; and (vii) Bott & Douthitt, PLLC 1970 Rawhide Drive, Suite 202, Round Rock, Texas 78681 was designated as an office and meeting place outside the boundaries of the District and for the purposes of storage of bookkeeping records. Said offices are hereby declared to be a public place and the public is invited to attend any meeting of the Board held at such locations.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOREGOING FACTS.

April 17, 2025

Hays County Water Control & Improvement  
District No. 2

/s/ Samantha Bethke, President



**ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!**





# ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

# ART AROUND EVERY CORNER

## DRIPPING SPRINGS ART IN BLOOM

Steve Friedman  
Dripping Springs Art League

Just as the wildflowers fade away for the year, take heart that art is in full bloom in May across Dripping Springs. The Dripping Springs Art League is thrilled to present several art events throughout our community. There will literally be ‘Art Around Every Corner,’ just in time for Mother’s Day, graduations, and summer fun...and it’s all FREE!



**The Mother of All Art Markets**  
What: Local artists are packing the Triangle with a wide variety of spectacular art. Metal, Glass, Fiber, and Alcohol Ink demos are ongoing throughout the day along with interactive art for kids, an awesome DJ and refreshments too. Bring the family, shop for Mom, and enjoy some time out in the heart of Dripping Springs.  
When: May 10, Saturday, 10am-4pm

Thursday, 10am-4pm  
Where: Dripping Springs Triangle (US 290 & RR12)



**Mercer Street Banner Viewing & West of Weird Tour Kickoff**  
What: Join your local artists for our Kickoff Party for the West of Weird Art Tour at Grawlix. See sample art and plan your weekend visits. Next, we’ll stroll down Mercer to see the new Lamp Post Banners featuring A Splash of Summer by local artists!  
When: May 15, Thursday, 6pm  
Where: Grawlix Cocktail Lounge (332 W. Mercer)

**West of Weird Art Tour**  
What: 36 local artists will be sharing their art throughout the weekend from all corners of Dripping. Meet the artists, see their studios, enjoy their demos, and pick up a special gift along the way.

| Club                        | Date | Time | Place                        |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------------------------------|
| Metal & Sculpture           | 5/09 | 6pm  | Mars Beads                   |
| Fiber                       | 5/10 | 10am | Mother of All Art Markets    |
| Ceramics                    | 5/12 | 10am | 565 Founders Ridge           |
| Watercolor                  | 5/14 | 6pm  | 444 Merion Drive             |
| Photography                 | 5/22 | 6pm  | Holy Spirit Episcopal Church |
| Acrylics                    | 5/24 | 10am | 565 Founders Ridge           |
| Glass                       | 5/27 | 9am  | Patriot's Hall               |
| Oil Painting w/ Pauly Tamaz | 5/28 | 6pm  | Patriot's Hall               |



When: May 17-18, Saturday and Sunday, 11am-6pm  
Where: Dozens of galleries and home studios from west Fitzhugh to Nutty Brown. Maps are available at all locations and online at [www.artindripping.com/wowtour](http://www.artindripping.com/wowtour)

**Stroll the Stars on Mercer**  
What: Check out the amazing local artwork featuring the history and cul-



ture of Dripping Springs as captured in six unique and permanent stars along west Mercer Street. The City, Destination Dripping Springs, and the Dripping Springs Art League are collaborating once again on the next round of stars to adorn the parks of Dripping Springs and more. Submit design by May 23 at [artindripping.com/2025starsinds](http://artindripping.com/2025starsinds) (Star courtesy of Cathy Richardson)

When: Anytime  
Where: Along the side of West Mercer Street.



**Find Your Tribe at the DSAL Club Hub**  
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# New veterinarian to join staff at Sunset Canyon clinic

Ainsley Treesh  
Special to the News

Marco Rivera, a fourth-year veterinary student, didn't always know he wanted to be a veterinarian. Although Rivera had always loved working with animals, it wasn't until he was pursuing his undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University that he decided to turn his passion into a career. Rivera faced challenges on his way to becoming a veterinarian, but with the support of friends, family, and professors, he is one step closer to fulfilling his dream.

## WHEN IT ALL CLICKED

Rivera grew up in McAllen, Texas, where animals were always a major part of his life. "I have an FFA background and I raised pigs for 10 years," Rivera said. "Toward my junior year of high school, I started wanting to learn more about them. I would think, 'Why is their anatomy this way?' or 'Why are we treating this coughing pig with this medicine?' That's where I'd say it all started." When Rivera decided to attend Texas A&M for his undergraduate degree, a major in animal science seemed like the natural choice.

"I didn't find my drive for veterinary medicine until I started my undergrad," Rivera said. "My animal science major was awesome. Then I started putting the pieces together and realized I could have a career in the veterinary field, but I had no clue where to start." With help from his professors, Rivera completed the courses required for veterinary school and gained ample shadowing hours at Sunset Canyon Veterinary Clinic in Dripping Springs, Texas. "I started shadowing there during the summer to gain more hours and experience," Rivera said. "That's when I really found my love for veterinary medicine. I love the complexity of it, but most importantly, I really loved building relationships with clients."

## RESILIENCE IN REJECTION

When deciding where to attend veterinary school, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (VMBS) was the natural choice for Rivera. "A&M has always been the goal," Rivera said. "Every veterinarian I've worked for has been an Aggie vet. After going through my undergrad here and being engulfed in all the traditions, I knew that being part of Texas A&M for another four years would really mean a lot." However, Rivera's dreams didn't come without challenges. The first time he ap-



Marco Rivera will be joining the staff at Sunset Canyon Veterinary Clinic.

plied for the VMBS' Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, Rivera wasn't accepted. "I applied early and got an interview, but I wasn't admitted," Rivera said. "That rejection letter stung. It was humbling in the moment, and I remember talking to my mom, who said, 'It's hard now, but you have to figure out what you can do better for next time.' My family and mentors encouraged me to not give up and continue working toward my dream." "To improve my second application, I really focused on what I considered were the weaker points in my application and found ways to make myself stand out more," he said. "Ultimately, what kept me going was the goal of wanting to be a veterinarian." The extra months spent gaining more experience and refining his application paid off when Rivera received his acceptance. "When I read the first word of the email and saw 'Congratulations,' my jaw dropped," Rivera said. "I was ecstatic and in shock. It was awesome to see the hard work I put in throughout the years pay off."

## GAINING KNOWLEDGE AND FRIENDSHIPS

Rivera's first day of class at the VMBS is one he will never forget. "The first day was surreal," Rivera said. "I remember showing up really early and sitting in my classroom thinking that, while I wasn't there yet, I was on the right track to reach my goal of becoming a veterinarian, and that felt awesome." In his first three years, Rivera spent countless hours learning the rigorous curriculum. As he began externships, the knowledge he had gained from his coursework helped him feel prepared for the experiences. "The way our curriculum is structured, especially with its focus on communication, has really helped me when interacting

with clients," Rivera said. "I can have a broad conversation with an owner and know how to pick out the important details of the pet's history that will help me figure out my next step." "At some externships, I was sent into a room with a client and told to complete the appointment from start to finish," Rivera said. "Thanks to my DVM classes, I felt prepared in those moments." While Rivera has gained an immense amount of knowledge, he also has found valuable friendships. Through the highs and lows of vet school, his peers have become more than just classmates. "I know that I'll always be able to give them a call if I've had a rough day or I have a question on a difficult case," Rivera said. "This program has really brought me close to people who I know will always be just a phone call away."

## COMING FULL CIRCLE

Following graduation in May, Rivera will begin his veterinary career at Sunset Canyon Veterinary Clinic. As a veterinarian at a mixed animal clinic, Rivera will work with all kinds of animals, including cats, dogs, horses, and cows. "I love mixed animal practice because you never know what's going to come through the door," Rivera said. "At one of my mixed animal externships, we even had a kangaroo with a laceration come in and I remember thinking, 'This is why I am doing mixed animal medicine.'" Rivera is eager to begin his veterinary career at the clinic where it all began for him. "It's where I spent all of my shadowing hours when I was an undergrad, and they have become like a family to me," Rivera said. "The veterinarians at the clinic are all in different stages in their careers. I am excited to hopefully bring some new things I have learned but also to be a sponge and absorb as much from them as I can."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dentists of Belterra and Orthodontics cuts the ribbon on its new location. Kristen Stacy and Cassie Abbott party with the alpacas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Dentists of Belterra and Orthodontics celebrates opening with ribbon cutting

## Staff Reports

Dentists of Belterra and Orthodontics announced the opening of its new state-of-the-art facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 30. Located at 13341 W US 290 Ste 1102, just a mile west of the Belterra Village Shopping Center, the practice aims to provide top-quality dental care to the community. The ribbon cutting featured a liquor tasting, delicious local food and beverages, huge raffle prizes, live music and photo ops with the Texas Party Animals' alpacas.

The clinic offers a comprehensive range of services, including routine check-ups and cleanings, emergency services, crowns, fillings, extractions, veneers, and whitening treatments. Utilizing advanced technologies such as Digital X-Rays and CEREC® CAD/CAM for single-visit crowns, Dentists of Belterra and Orthodontics ensures efficient and effective patient care. The team, led by Dr. Neeharika Bhashyam, DDS, and Operations Manager Lorelei Newman, is committed to personalized, compassionate care.

They focus on maintaining and enhancing patients' oral health, understanding its vital role in overall well-being. To accommodate patients' schedules, the clinic operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They accept most major insurance plans, including Aetna, Ameritas, Anthem Blue Cross, Cigna, Delta, Guardian, MetLife, United Health Care, and UCCI. For more information or to book an appointment, visit their website at [www.dentistsofbelterra.com](http://www.dentistsofbelterra.com) or call 512-957-0079.



Audrey Ward, Jack McClure, Bella Rose, Faith Hyde

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# DSHS juniors place in top ten at career conference

Two juniors from the Dripping Springs High School DECA program, Bella Rose and Jack McClure, earned top-10 finishes at the International Career Development Conference held last week in Orlando, Florida. Rose placed second in the Restaurant & Food Service Management Series while McClure was a sixth-place finisher in School Based Enterprise - Food Service. Making their second trip

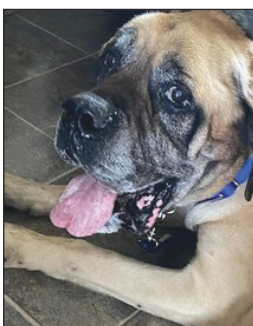
to the international competition, Rose and McClure competed against students from all 50 states as well as representatives from Canada, Mexico, China, Puerto Rico and more. Dripping Springs was also represented by international qualifiers freshman Faith Hyde (Principles of Hospitality & Tourism) and junior Audrey Ward (Human Resources Management Series) in Florida.

The International Career Development Conference concluded another successful year for the DSHS DECA program. In addition to the four international qualifiers, Dripping Springs finished the year with 24 state qualifiers and five state finalists. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.



**Bastian • Male  
10 years old  
Bullmastiff**

I'm a big ol' sweetheart! People call me a gentle giant, and I sure live up to that. I'm house trained, no need for a crate since I'm too big for one anyway. I'm dreaming of a foster family or a forever home to call my own. My legs aren't the strongest because of arthritis and muscle atrophy, so I don't need long walks, just a little stroll around the backyard to keep my joints happy. I love soaking up the sun outside when the weather's nice, but I'm definitely not an outdoor dog. Other dogs are great, though I might give a tiny nip when we first meet, just saying hello in my own way. I'm working hard in physical therapy to build up my leg muscles, and my bloodwork is all clear, so I'm healthy except for my legs. They say swimming might help me move better, and I'm willing to give it a splash. If you love big dogs, I'm your buddy. I'm super easygoing, perfect for chilling by your side, maybe drooling a bit while we watch movies or you tell me all about your day. Just let me snuggle close, and I'll be the best listener you ever had. Please visit [LizzysHospice.com](http://LizzysHospice.com) or email us at [LizzysHospice@gmail.com](mailto:LizzysHospice@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



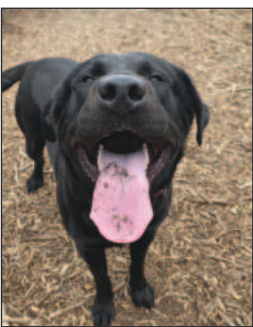
**Zevi • Male  
13 years old  
Yorkie mix**

First thing about me, I talk sometimes. I'm deaf and have vision issues, which means I might vocalize when I'm confused, so an apartment might not be the best fit for me unless your neighbors would be interested in amateur opera hour. I'm not your typical snuggly pup, but I do love car rides and enjoy wandering outside to soak up the weather. I'm house-trained if you keep to a schedule, especially after meals, but I don't walk on a leash and I prefer being carried if needed. I'd appreciate having another low-key dog for companionship, not for play, just for comfort. If you're looking for a unique, loving friend who's more independent than cuddly, I could be the perfect addition to your family. Please visit [LizzysHospice.com](http://LizzysHospice.com) or email us at [LizzysHospice@gmail.com](mailto:LizzysHospice@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



**Andi • Male  
12 years old  
Lhasa Apso mix**

PAWS' pet of the week is Teddy! He is a 7 year old black lab mix. Attached are some of our favorite photos of him. Meet sweet 7 year old Teddy! His two greatest loves are people and gently playing fetch with his other ball-loving dog friend, Luna. When spending time with his people, he's happy to play or just lounge around at your feet, looking for belly rubs when possible. If you're searching for a mellow fur-ever friend who gives the sweetest kisses and has the winning personality of a proper gentleman, this is your guy! For more info, visit [www.pawshelter.org](http://www.pawshelter.org).



**Universal Crossword**

5/4 Themeless Sunday 132 by Adrian Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 At a loss for words
- 11 "In a way"
- 14 "With luck, it'll happen"
- 15 Certain car roof
- 17 They ebb and flow
- 18 "Star Trek" lieutenant
- 19 Spirited school get-togethers?
- 20 Foot or mile
- 21 HS diploma equivalent
- 22 Give off
- 24 \_\_\_\_ Rabbit (folktale character)
- 26 Combustible building
- 30 Top part of a parka
- 31 Straight shots?
- 32 Trains for a marathon

33 Pokes

- 34 12-month period
- 35 Appalachian music genre
- 37 "You're a \_\_\_\_" ("Thanks, sweetie")
- 38 Jupiter or Neptune, e.g.
- 39 \_\_\_\_-chef
- 40 Hand treatment, informally
- 41 Pull
- 42 Electric fan noise
- 44 Hot places to chill
- 51 Form a metalworking union?
- 52 NBA Hall-of-Famer whose first name rhymes with "pearl"
- 53 Like all public transit in

- Luxembourg, minus first class on trains
- 54 Boxer's injury, perhaps
- 55 Tax form fig.
- 56 Basic book

DOWN

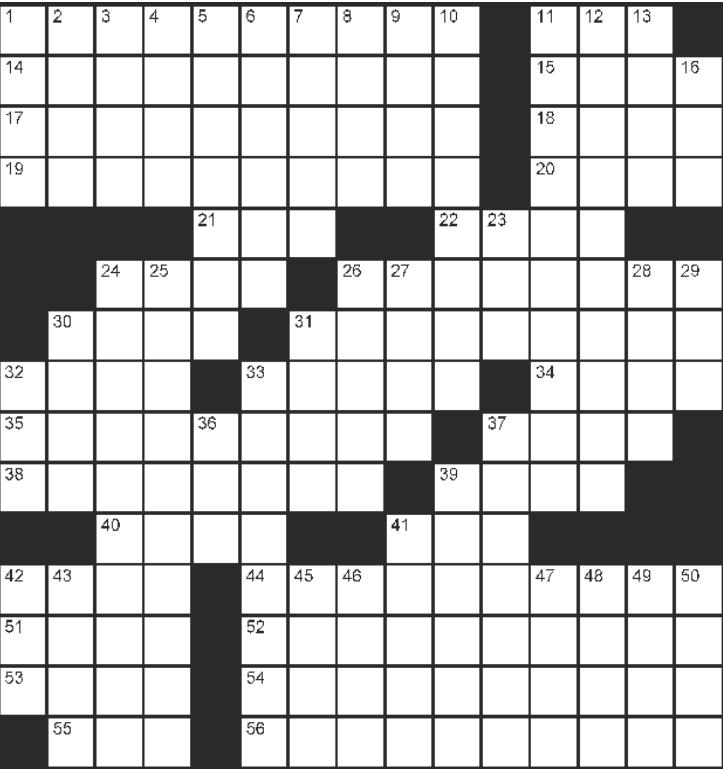
- 1 Sticky substance
- 2 "\_\_\_\_ upon a time ..."
- 3 Alert that your TV dinner has been sufficiently microwaved
- 4 "Souvenir" from surgery
- 5 Got by all right
- 6 One of two for a reindeer
- 7 Car seat user
- 8 \_\_\_\_ Lee, blind

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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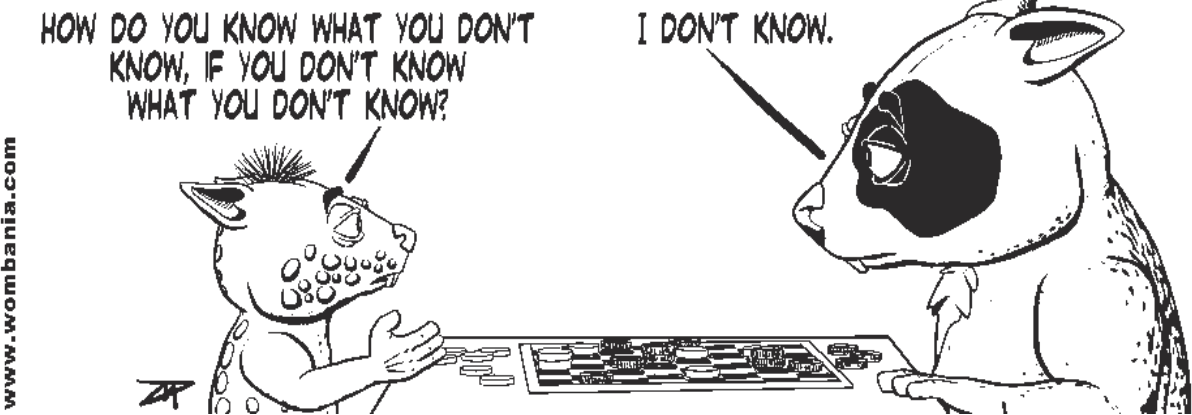
- winner of "America's Got Talent"
- 9 Heaviest fencing sword
- 10 Basbousa and bananas Foster, for two
- 11 "That outfit looks nice"
- 12 Acrobatic video compilations
- 13 Colorful Hindu festival
- 16 "\_\_\_\_ that down!" (exasperated parent's cry)
- 23 Passable at best
- 24 Airline credit card enticement
- 25 Floral White House area
- 26 Finish, as a cupcake
- 27 Some birth control devices, for short
- 28 Shriveling Asian sea
- 29 Mini-golf standard
- 30 Dance with Kahiko
- and 'Auana varieties
- 31 Actress Kelly Marie \_\_\_\_
- 32 Supreme Court inits. from 1993-2020
- 33 "Thank the Lord"
- 36 \_\_\_\_ and tonic
- 37 Target for a canine's canines
- 39 It comes before the fall
- 41 Like a chatterbox
- 42 Org. with a panda logo
- 43 Pronoun on a certain towel
- 45 Gold-medal long jumper \_\_\_\_ Davis-Woodhall
- 46 Greek Cupid
- 47 Actress Kendrick of "Pitch Perfect"
- 48 Walked (on)
- 49 A kinky one doesn't work well
- 50 Prophet



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CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

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

Dripping Springs Farmers Market May 14 & May 21 • 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

West of Weird Art Tour May 17 & 18 • 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Whether it's ceramics, mixed media, oils, fabric, paper, metal, wood or all of the above, this tour has something for everyone. Participants are invited to take a driving tour around the Hill Country, visiting gallery collections and home artists who will be displaying their artwork and studio space - some of these are not generally open to the public. There are more than 35 artists and 23 locations. Printed maps and stickers will be available at each stop, and are also available online. Learn more at [www.artindripping.com](http://www.artindripping.com).

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](http://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](http://cityofdrippingsprings.com). Meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers. However, a re-

model has many meetings at Ranch Park or Dripping Springs ISD Center for Learning & Leadership. See [cityofdrippingsprings.com](http://cityofdrippingsprings.com) for more information.

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 20 • 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](http://hayscountytx.com)

DRIPPING SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dripping Springs Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting May 19 • 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](http://dsisdtx.us). Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.



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# Fentanyl dealer arrested for murder following overdose death investigation

Staff Reports

On April 29, Alan Steve Rodriguez, a 28-year-old resident of Kyle, Texas, was charged with Murder, first-degree felony, in connection with an overdose death from December.

Rodriguez remains in custody at the Hays County Jail on a total bond of \$777,000, including \$500,000 for the murder charge, along with a probation violation out of Travis County.



ALAN STEVE RODRIGUEZ

The charge stems from an incident on December 31, 2024, when deputies from the Hays County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) responded

to a call at Belterra Springs apartments, 761 Trinity Hills Dr., Austin, Hays County, regarding an unresponsive 50-year-old male. The individual was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A preliminary investigation conducted by the HCSO Criminal Investigations Division determined that the death was related to the use of fentanyl.

The case was subsequently transferred to the HCSO Repeat Offender Program

(ROP) Unit, which launched a full investigation. Through the ROP Unit's efforts, the suspected fentanyl distributor was identified as Rodriguez.

A parallel narcotics investigation into Rodriguez led to the seizure of fentanyl, cocaine, THC, marijuana and multiple firearms. On March 26, 2025, Rodriguez was arrested and booked into the Hays County Jail on the following charges:

- Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled

- Substance CT I, first-degree felony
- Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance CT II, first-degree felony
- Possession of a Controlled Substance, second-degree felony
- Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon by a Felon, second-degree felony
- Possession of Marijuana, class-B misdemeanor

As a result of continued investigative efforts, on April 29, 2025, the ROP Unit obtained an arrest

warrant for Murder, first-degree felony, in connection with the December 2024 overdose death.

This case reflects the Hays County Sheriff's Office's continued commitment to holding drug dealers accountable for the devastating consequences of fentanyl distribution in our community.

Individuals seeking local support and resources related to fentanyl can visit the Forever 15 Project at [forever15project.org](https://forever15project.org).

CAPSULE FROM PG. 1

Many were especially impressed by its craftsmanship and the use of pecan wood from Mother Neff State Park."

Additionally, several visitors expressed excitement at the prospect of being around in 50 years to view the opening of the time capsule and getting a peek at the historic artifacts placed inside.

The five-foot-tall wooden time capsule

weighs more than 300 pounds and was made from pecan trees harvested at Mother Neff State Park, the site widely accepted as the first Texas State Park opened to the public. It is made from solid wood and bronze and is large enough to hold more than 100 items. Sitting atop the capsule is a sculpture in the shape of Texas with all park locations marked. Additionally,

there are 100 name plates recognizing all contributing parks and programs, six regional bas relief panels and a plaque on the front with a message to the future.

For the contents of the time capsule, park staff had to choose an item that would tell a story about that site, fit in a box the size of a coffee mug, survive 50 years and be strong enough to travel the

roads of Texas.

"Time capsules are usually buried in the ground and forgotten until it's time to open them, but ours will remain on display, so we wanted it to be a work of art

and showcase the excellent craftsmanship of our exhibit team," said Stephen Garrett, Exhibits Manager for Texas State Parks. "This is something totally unique and I don't think anyone's

ever made a time capsule quite like this before. I'm proud of the thought, care and work that went into the capsule's creation and hope park visitors enjoy seeing it as much as we did creating it."

BOND FROM PG. 1

package includes a focus on construction of the district's second comprehensive high school, which will be located off Darden Hill Road and have a capacity for 2,500 students. Proposition A also includes funds to address capital improvements and renovations at Dripping Springs High School and Rooster Springs Elementary, capital maintenance at other existing campuses, seat belts for buses, and more. Proposition B includes a technology device refresh for teachers, staff and students and interactive panels for classrooms. A complete list of bond projects can be found on the DSISD website.

"We are grateful to the Dripping Springs community for passing this bond to serve our growing student population and helping us address key maintenance needs on several

campuses to successfully serve the students in DSISD," said Superintendent Dr. Holly Morris-Kuentz. "I also want to thank the students, parents, and community members who served on the Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee and the Citizens' Bond Steering Committee and helped the district form this bond package. Our top priority is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff and this bond will help DSISD continue to deliver the exceptional education and student experiences for which our district has long been known."

In the Board of Trustees race, Barnard led the way with 3,720 votes followed by Quintero with 3,103 to earn second terms on the school board.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Barnard and

Mrs. Quintero, and all of our trustees to serve the students, staff and taxpayers of DSISD," Morris-Kuentz said.

Progress on the 2025 Bond projects will be posted on [dsisdtx.us/2025bond](https://dsisdtx.us/2025bond) and on the district's social media channels.

**BOND ELECTION RESULTS (Unofficial)**

Prop A  
For: 4,667 (71%)  
Against: 1,918 (29%)  
6,585 total votes

Prop B  
For: 4,727 (72%)  
Against: 1,843 (28%)  
6,570 total votes

**TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS (Unofficial)**

Olivia Barnard: 3,720 votes (39%)  
Tricia Quintero: 3,103 votes (32%)  
Ron Jones: 2,781 votes (29%)

## AROUND TOWN



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Duke and Fay Waldrop show off their finery after watching the Kentucky Derby at Twisted X. "The race was great. Sovereignty was the favored horse and it won," Duke Waldrop said. "This is the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby. We've been to a number of parties before, so we just decided we'd dress the part and have a good time."

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# SPORTS



The DSHS baseball team celebrates its bi-district championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Playoff teams going strong

Carl Waits  
Sports Reporter

Both the Dripping Springs' ball teams are breezing down the playoff trail. The Lady Tigers have reached the Regional Quarterfinals and the Tigers are at the Area level.

The Lady Tigers did not buckle to the strong team of San Antonio O'Connor. They held strong with a 3-2 edge in the first game and then shut them out 2-0 to clinch Area. Now, the 27-8-1 Lady Tigers will take on Eagle Pass (23-2) at 7 p.m. on Friday at Jourdan. They will return the next day for a 12 p.m. second game. If a third game is necessary, it will begin 30 minutes following the end of the second.

Vs O'C1: This game started off with O'Connor getting two runs in their half of the first. That would be it for them as Sadie Bradford shut them down. The Lady Tigers tied it up in the third and scored the winning run in the fourth. Dripping Springs was able to accomplish this with three hits against their four. Getting the hits were Bradford with a 2B and RBI, Lorelei Gamble 3B and Taylor Crain, a single and run. Bradford tossed a complete seven-inning game, allowing 4H, 2R, 2ER, 0W, 3K.

Vs O'C2: This game was moved up to get ahead of the predicted storms. O'Connor got their four hits again but DS got six. They got single runs in the

third and fourth coming on solo homeruns by Gamble and Jai-Lynn Flores. The other four hits came from Lillian Wearden, Emma Phillips, Bradford and Tatum Green. Green pitched the shutout with 7IP, 4H, 0R, 1W, 2K.

Tiger Baseball: After sharing the district title with Lake Travis, the Tigers are now on their playoff journey in Division 2. Their Bi-district opponent was Round Rock McNeil. The Tigers shutdown McNeil 3-0 in the first game and then blew them away 12-1 in the second. This pushed the Tigers (22-8) to play San Antonio Clark (14-15) for the Area title. At press time the playoff times were not available.

## Crew takes home three medals at state track meet

Carl Waits  
Sports Reporter

Isabel "Izzy" Crew, a freshman wheel-chair competitor from Dripping Springs took the state track meet by storm. She would take home a gold medal and two silver along with the title "UIL Athlete Of The Meet". She became a state champion in the 400 with a time of 1.05.51. Her silvers came in the 100 (18.20) and shot put (18'3.25).

Adeline Spies, a pole vaulter, was unable to make the opening height. The state meet standards are to start at a higher height than general meets to get those events over quicker and therefore vaulters are unable to warm up to and get in the groove to make



Izzy Crew sports her three state medals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

those best heights. She holds the school record of 12'6 and is a junior with one more year to improve on that.



Photo (L-R): Cash Brunson, Gavin Hoel, Reid Russell, Trey Pleasant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Four DSHS athletes sign letters of intent for college

### Staff Reports

In April, four Dripping Springs High School student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent to continue their athletic and academic careers at the collegiate level. Combined with the 28 seniors who signed earlier this school year, a total of 32 student-athletes in the Class of 2025 have signed to play at the next level.

Below is information on each of the April 2025 signees.

**Cash Brunson, Football, Angelo State University**

Cash Brunson was a three-year letterman for the Tiger football team where he played linebacker and defensive end. As a senior, he earned Second Team All-District Defensive honors in his first year at defensive end. During his career, Brunson was named an Academic All-District honoree three times and helped the Tigers to a 31-9 record with three state playoff appearances in their first years as a 6A program. Brunson also competed for the Tiger basketball and track and field team and was

a Young Life student leader where he completed over 150 community service hours. He is the son of Sonja and Blaine Brunson. Coach: Galen Zimmerman.

**Gavin Hoel, Baseball, Ranger Junior College**

Gavin Hoel is a three-year letterman for the Tiger baseball program. As a junior, he earned All-District Honorable Mention accolades at catcher to help lead the Tigers to a 26-11 record and their first trip to the 6A state playoffs with an area appearance. In 2024, he tied for the team lead with 107 at bats while registering a .290 batting average with 31 hits, 14 RBIs and eight runs scored. He also recorded 7.2 innings on the mound with a 2.74 ERA and 11 strikeouts. He is the son of Brian Hoel. Coach: Chris Payne.

**Trey Pleasant, Tennis, Merrimack College (Massachusetts)**

Trey Pleasant is a four-year varsity letterman for the Tiger Tennis program and has held the No. 1 singles position all four years. He is ranked No. 31 in Texas and is among the top 300 players nation-

ally. Pleasant currently holds a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) of 9.8 in both singles and doubles. As a freshman, he captured the District 26-5A Boys Singles Championship. His sophomore season was cut short due to injury, but he returned to place third in mixed doubles at the district tournament last season with his sister, Mia. He has trained at Grey Rock Tennis Academy for the past 10 years under his father and coach, Darin. He is the son of Shannon and Darin Pleasant. Club Coach: Darin Pleasant. DSHS Coach: Carly Norment.

**Reid Russell, Soccer, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor**

Reid Russell was a four-year letterman for the Tiger soccer team, earning state runner-up accolades in 2022 and 2023. As a senior, he earned First Team All-District honors as well as Academic All-State recognition. Russell played club soccer for Lonestar ECNL, one of the top teams in the Austin area and a nationally-ranked program. He is the son of Mindy and Eric Russell. Coach: Josh Hill.

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**~A WEEKEND TEXAS ROAD TRIP~**