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ILLUMINATING ART  
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WITH MEAGAN TUBB  
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FARMERS MARKET  
THRIVES WITH  
MOVE INDOORS  
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# Dripping Springs Century News

34rd Year No. 29

July 17, 2025

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## Community Calendar

**Free Dance Lessons**  
July 18 • 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Every Friday, Mercer Dance Hall opens 5-11 pm with free dance lessons with John Luper and Z.Z. Mercer Dance Hall • 23490 Ranch Road 12 • Driftwood, TX 78619

**Acopon 8th Anniversary Party**  
July 19 • 12 p.m.  
Residents and visitors are invited to stop by the tap room for a full day of special anniversary casks and beers, live music, and delicious bites from The White Hart food truck. Live music by Janky from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Acopon Brewing Co. • 211 W. Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX

**Bass Classic 2**  
July 19 • 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Hog Heaven Sporting Club is hosting the Bass Classic 2, a casual fishing tournament on their 15 acre stocked lake. This tournament is open to the public and tickets include lunch from a local food truck, cold beer from Twisted X brewing, and a shot at the cash pot for biggest bass of the day. Details at <https://sfhogheaven.com/event/bass-classic-tournament>. Hog Heaven Sporting Club • 24905 Ranch Rd 12 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

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**Thank you veterans for your service!**

**INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

THIS COUNTRY WILL NOT BE A GOOD PLACE FOR ANY OF US TO LIVE IN UNLESS WE MAKE IT A GOOD PLACE FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE IN.

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT



## Texas Hill Country floods: What we know so far

María Méndez  
The Texas Tribune

A week after heavy rains pummeled the Texas Hill Country and the flooded Guadalupe River swept hundreds of people

overnight, Texans have come together to mourn, search for the many people missing and begin to rebuild.

Many questions remain about how storms caught off guard an area prone to

flooding and led to the second deadliest flood in Texas history.

The floods swept away local residents, summer campers along the river and many visitors who were in the scenic area

for the Fourth of July weekend.

At least 128 people died across Texas due to flooding. Authorities in Kerr County added seven more casualties to its death toll Friday, bringing the

confirmed total to at least 103 in the county alone. On Friday, Travis County added one more casualty, bringing the death toll for the other five counties

SEE FLOODS PAGE 6



Foster Village founder Chrystal Smith sits with a child in the sensory play area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## GROWING STRONG

Foster Village celebrates ninth year of service

Laurie Anderson  
Interim Editor

Under the shade of a lovely oak tree on Fitzhugh road sits an unassuming pale yellow house. Other than the sign out front, it doesn't look much different than other homes in the area. But what's going on inside is anything but ordinary.

This is Foster Village. Founded by Chrystal Smith in 2016, this nonprofit organization provides support to children and families that are experiencing foster care. They provide them with critical supplies such as car-seats, beds and clothing, as well as with skills for coping with some of the issues that can arise in foster care situations.

"A lot of these caregivers just don't know how to navigate some really tough stuff that can be complex," Smith said. "That's something that's really unique about Foster Village - our expertise is trauma-informed care."

Smith said that in most cases, foster care placements happen without much warning. Even families that have signed up to foster don't know when they might get a call, or what age their foster child might be. And sometimes it is relatives, rather than a foster family, that are getting the call.

"A lot of single grandmothers get the call from CPS one day, like, hey, we have your four grandkids in the office, can you take them?" Smith said. "And so things like beds, car seats, clothing are a determining



Foster Village provides clothing and other necessities for foster children.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

factor in their ability to take their grandkids. But she doesn't have the resources to go out and buy those on a whim."

Foster Village can help those foster families and relatives get basic necessities in place quickly - often within 24 hours. While most of the supplies can be delivered directly to the home, a lot of times the children and family will come to the resource hub at Foster Village.

"When they come here, kids can pick out their own items or the caregivers can pick out for them. They get a week's worth of new clothes," Smith said. "Everything's brand new. We have a variety intentionally, so that they can pick things that they like."

They also receive toiletries and get to pick out bedding.

"They'll be here for

a couple hours getting this stuff, but really it's also about the relational connection and support that they're met with," Smith said.

The house has a lot of cozy spaces for kids, and an inviting outdoor area. Its centerpiece is a tree that Smith calls the Wishing Tree - an oak wrapped in colorful knitting with a perfect spot for sitting. She said a lot of times the kids just want to hang out while the caregivers shop.

"It's just a place to decompress that's not real utilitarian or sterile," Smith said. "It's designed for them, and I think kids pick up on that and it means a lot."

Most of Foster Village's staff members are former or current foster parents, so they understand the struggles that families face. In fact, it

SEE VILLAGE PAGE 6



PHOTO BY LISA SULLIVAN

## City Council proclaims July Parks & Recreation Month

Laurie Anderson  
Interim Editor

The Dripping Springs City Council has returned to its meeting location in the newly renovated City Hall. For those who wish to watch the proceedings from home or while on the go, the city said it has upgraded their streaming technology to provide a clearer, more reliable experience.

The council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at 511 Mer-

cer Street. Those who wish to view the meetings remotely can go to [www.cityofdripping-springs.com](http://www.cityofdripping-springs.com) and look for the link.

At the July 1 meeting, the council proclaimed the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month. This nationwide event is celebrating 40 years. The theme, "Build Together, Play Together," recognizes the contributions of more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation profes-

SEE RECREATION PAGE 6

## Commissioners vote in favor of road bond

Shannon West  
San Marcos Daily Record

Hays County Commissioners court voted unanimously to appeal the final judgement related to the lawsuit that made the Hays County Road bond null and void at the regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday.

Hays County Commissioner Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe said she was supportive of looking at utilizing Certificates of Obligation to try to move forward with funding the road projects initially while pursuing an appeal. According to the Texas Comptroller website, COs are a form of borrowing, "which some local governments can use to fund public works without voter approval. COs provide local governments with important flexibility when they need to finance projects quickly, as with reconstruction after a disaster or as a response to a court decision requiring capital spending."

"We went through the election process. The voters, to me,

spoke clearly [and] voiced their opinion on us moving forward with the bond election and improvements to our roads," Ingalsbe said. "I think we need to move forward with an appeal."

Hays County Commissioner Morgan Hammer said she was only a voting member of the community at the time of the election and voted for the bond.

"I think that a lot of people don't like some of the projects in the bond, and that's okay; you could've said no," Hammer said.

"Unfortunately, the majority voted yes — 64,422 people voted yes. ... That's the way we've got to move forward."

Hays County Commissioner Michelle Cohen said she was also in favor of an appeal in order to uphold the voices of her constituents.

"Clearly they wanted these roads. I wanted these roads. We know how historically undervalued the east side has been over many decades,"

SEE BOND PAGE 2

# Capital Highlights

## Kerr County death toll tops 100, with 161 still missing



Gary Borders  
Texas Press Association

Search teams have recovered 103 bodies in Kerr County after the devastating July 4 floods along the Guadalupe River, with Gov. Greg Abbott saying at least 161 people were still unaccounted for.

President Donald Trump visited the area on Friday to survey the damage, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The president promised the federal government would “fully fund” recovery efforts. The statewide total of flooding deaths stood at 126 as of Sunday, including eight recovered in neighboring Kendall County from the

Guadalupe River flooding, and separate flooding incidents in Travis, Williamson and Burnet counties.

Forecasts by the National Weather Service predicted much less rainfall than actually fell in Kerr County, with early predictions having the storm hit hardest near the Rio Grande. Two days before the flood, the Texas Division of Emergency Management staged rescue equipment and personnel in San Antonio, according to the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Free legal resources are available to low-income individuals affected by the Central Texas counties, according to the State Bar of Texas. That assistance includes assistance in securing government benefits, help with insurance claims, and other issues. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid can be contacted toll-free at 833-329-8752.

### MEXICAN FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST IN FLOOD RECOVERY

A 13-person crew from Mexico joined Texas firefighters in rescue efforts in the Texas Hill Country, the Texas Standard reported. The firefighters are highly trained in search-and-rescue efforts and have volunteered all over the world.

The crew is composed of members from the Rescate Acuático de Protección Civil y Bomberos de Acuña, Coahuila, in coordination with Fundación 911. Ismael Aldaba is president of the foundation.

“Our guys have experienced [missions] worldwide. They’ve been traveling to earthquakes. They’ve been traveling to tsunamis in other parts of the world,” he said. “This is way different. This is the worst we’ve seen.”

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum praised the crew for its work in Texas.

“The sense of solidarity and brotherhood characterizes us and must always characterize us,” she said. “No matter the circumstances, Mexicans lend a hand to those who suffer, to those left behind.”

munications, funding for affected areas and updating state preparedness and recovery procedures, The Dallas Morning News reported.

“We delivered on historic legislation in the 89th Regular Legislative Session that will benefit Texans for generations to come,” Abbott said in a proclamation issued last week. “There is more work to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating floods in the Texas Hill Country. We must ensure better preparation for such events in the future.”

A total of 18 items are on the special session agenda, including congressional redistricting, regulation of hemp-derived products, and further reducing property taxes. Redistricting is sure to spark controversy, as the Republican majority seeks to expand its grip on the state’s congressional seats. Any new redistricting maps almost certainly would face legal challenges.

Only the governor can call a special session, which is limited to 30 days, though he can call as many as he wants between regular biennial sessions.

### ANGELA PAXTON FILES FOR DIVORCE FROM TEXAS AG PAXTON

State Sen. Angela Paxton last Thursday filed for divorce from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The McKinney legislator cited “recent discoveries” and “biblical grounds” in a

statement on the social media site X.

“I believe marriage is a sacred covenant and I have earnestly pursued reconciliation,” she wrote. “But in light of recent discoveries, I do not believe that it honors God or is loving to myself, my children, or Ken to remain in the marriage.”

The announcement came just weeks after Paxton announced he is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next spring’s GOP primary.

The divorce filing accused Paxton of adultery and says the couple stopped living together in June 2024. She is seeking what the petition calls a “disproportionate share” of the couple’s assets because of her husband’s alleged fault in the breakup of the marriage.

The attorney general issued a statement about 20 minutes after his wife.

“After facing the pressures of countless political attacks and public scrutiny, Angela and I have decided to start a new chapter in our lives,” he wrote.

### PERRY WANTS TO BUILD NUCLEAR COMPLEX IN WEST TEXAS

Former Gov. Rick Perry has co-founded a company he says plans to build the country’s largest nuclear complex on nearly 6,000 acres owned by Texas Tech University, according to the Houston Chronicle. Perry, who also served as energy secretary during Trump’s first term, is promoting the Advanced Energy and

Artificial Intelligence Center.

His company, Fermi America, claims it would be the world’s largest data center campus. Tech companies would be able to rent space to pursue artificial intelligence efforts. Fermi America’s executive chairman, Toby Neugebauer, said tech companies are desperate for electricity. The company plans to construct four large-scale nuclear reactors, capable of generating sufficient electricity to power approximately 1 million homes.

“Fermi America is in the artificial intelligence creation business. We’re not in the power business,” Neugebauer said. He added that what is missing in artificial intelligence is not chips or algorithms — it’s the power needed to fuel data centers.

The ambitious project faces hurdles. The country’s nuclear energy industry has built just one nuclear plant in the past 35 years, in Burke County, Georgia. That project ended up seven years late and \$17 billion over budget. In contrast, China has built 22 nuclear reactors to power AI, Perry said in a company statement.

“We’re behind, and it’s all hands on deck,” he said.

*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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### FLOOD RESPONSE NOW TOPS SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

The July 21 special session called by Abbott includes addressing the July 4 flood, including improving early warning systems and infrastructure in flood zones, beefing up emergency com-

### BOND FROM PG. 1

Cohen said. “For me, this is beyond a road bond being voided; This is about thousands of voters’ voices being overturned.”

Hays County Commissioner Walt Smith said he met with thousands of people over a multi-year period related to these bonds.

“The thought that one judge — in a process that I understand statute and don’t nec-

essarily agree with, but I understand that’s the process we have to go through — chooses to overturn an election,” Smith said, adding that the lawsuit was filed when some of the voters had already voted but not all. “To throw out an election where it’s very clear in election law that a challenge to an election can’t be filed until 24 hours after the election has been

finalized. I just think it’s a wrong decision, and I think an appeals process is there for a reason.”

Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra agreed that the voters have shown their approval for the road projects, and he said the projects will be funded either way, just from a different source. He said he didn’t see the purpose of an appeal for that reason but

voted in favor of it in the end.

“We’ve been acting on what the voters wanted, and we’ve been told pretty much every project on that bond that was supported, we have a bonafide road map from Dan and Julie on how to do our Certificates of Obligation in every single project with no delays from our very own Carlos from HNTB, which is our GEC, and our transportation director; they’ve devised a road map to make sure we don’t miss a beat,” Becerra said. “Everything is moving along as planned; it’s just going to be a different title on the funding but still executed in a similar fashion of sense of urgency, etc. And throwing — is how I see it — throwing over \$100,000 to fight something that when we are ... victorious didn’t change anything because we are [already] moving on with the projects we said we were going to move on with.”

Ingalsbe, Hammer and Cohen disagreed that there was no purpose in an appeal with Cohen stating “it is about principle.”



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# STAINED GLASS: ILLUMINATING ART

Mary Orcutt  
Dripping Springs Art League

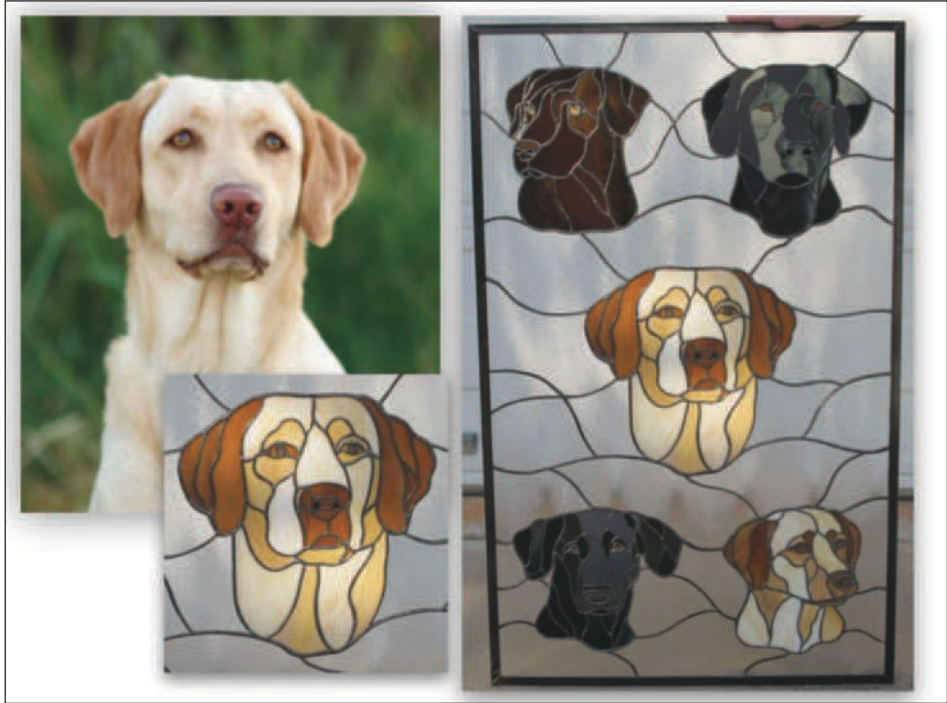
Stained glass has been a revered art since the 1st century AD, often associated with churches, cathedrals, and other historical buildings. However, in recent years, stained glass has found its way into many homes, creating beautiful, colorful works of art that combine both craftsmanship and creativity. Today I'd like to share my passion with you - creating a work of art that is activated by light or the sun to inspire you and brighten up any room.

### DESIGN

Stained glass art starts with a design, which can be as simple or complex as you want. I've drawn designs on scrap paper and tracing paper, as well as using a drawing program on my computer. A design just needs to outline each piece of glass you will cut. Designs should avoid sharp curves and angles, as glass tends to break in straight lines.

### CUTTING & SHAPING

Once you have a design, to create it you need to cut and shape each piece to fit together. The type and color of glass you use will affect the final appearance of your piece. Not all glass is created equal! There are many different kinds of stained glass, including transparent, opalescent, and textured varieties. Some are thin, some are thick, which comes into play when you are crafting your work. Selecting the colors is an art form because you need to consider differing light patterns at different times of the day in the room where your art will be placed. Trace each piece of your pattern on the color(s) of glass. Using a glass



cutter, score the glass along the lines of your design. When scoring, it's important to make a single, even cut. After scoring, use pliers to snap the glass along the scored line.

### BINDING & SOLDERING

Once you have cut the glass pieces, you need something to hold them together. Traditional stained glass windows use lead came (a type of lead

channel) to hold the glass pieces together; copper foil is a more recent (1800s) technique which is easier for creating smaller, more intricate designs. Some designs use both! I mainly use the copper foil method.

Using the copper foil method, you'll wrap the edges of each piece of glass with copper foil. The foil must be wider than the thickness of the glass so you can fold it over to make a foil edge with which

to bind the pieces together. Solder, a metal alloy usually made up of tin and lead, binds the pieces together. Flux is applied to the copper foil to prepare it for solder and improves the strength of the joint between glass pieces. A soldering iron melts the solder onto the copper foil edges, binding the glass pieces together. Once all the copper foil edges are soldered on both sides, clean the glass thoroughly

to remove any residue left from the soldering process using a mild dish soap and water with a toothbrush or soft sponge. Last, solder a wire ring to the piece to hang it.

### ENJOY

Enjoy your piece's interaction with light when you display it in a window or outdoors. Whether it's sunlight streaming through a window or artificial light illuminating the piece from behind, stained glass art creates a colorful, dynamic ef-

fect that is both stunning and serene.

Making stained glass requires patience and practice, but the reward is a beautiful and lasting work of art that is crafted by hand. For me, the process of making stained glass art is a fulfilling journey that brings color, light, and beauty into the world and I love sharing it with others.

Check out more of Mary's sensational Stain Glass collection at Orcutt Glass Designs and consider a commission piece for the holidays!



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Week of: July 21-26

### MONDAY

9:00-10:00

Chair Yoga



1:00-2:00

Qigong

6-8  
Lego Masters  
Watch Party!



### TUESDAY

9:30-10:15



Toddler Storytime  
with Ms. Olivia

11:30-12:30

Wildlife on the Move



12-3 Open Gaming

1-4 Mahjong

3:30-6:30  
Dungeons and Dragons

### WEDNESDAY

9:30-10:15



Toddler Storytime  
with Ms. Olivia

12-1 Live Bat

Presentation



Austin Bat Refuge



3-4  
4:30-5:30  
Machine Sewing

### THURSDAY

10:30-11 Baby Time



12-2  
Lego Speed  
Building Challenge

3-6 Master Gardeners

6-7:30 Writer's Block

6:30-7:30  
Pages Through the  
Ages Book Club

### FRIDAY

12:30-2:00

In the Garden: Drip  
Irrigation Basics



3:15-4:15

Girl's Who Code

4:30-6:00

Smooth Start: School  
Registration Assistance

### SATURDAY

10:30-12:00

Read with Ruby the Therapy Dog!



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Public Notice

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# MY FAVORITE PART OF TEXAS

## Hill Country Music: A conversation with Meagan Tubb

Joe Christenson  
Special to the News

Our Dripping Springs entertainment options are alive and growing; and it only takes a weekend out and about in the warmer months to realize how broad our live music scene has become. Many of our nearby venues have adopted live music as a staple on their events calendar. Further, being within striking distance of Austin, the live music capital of Texas, we enjoy a steady flow of talent to pick from.

I had the opportunity recently to chat with Meagan Tubb, a talented singer-songwriter who makes her home here in Dripping Springs. I wanted to hear about her journey as a musician, her experience writing and performing in our community, and what's next for her and her art.

Meagan's early story mirrors that of many songwriters, emerging from high school talent shows to weekend band gigs in college, then touring throughout the US and even abroad to support an album release. After an early career launch in San Diego, Meagan travelled to Austin, and that was that; she belonged in central Texas. The formation of her band, Meagan Tubb & Shady People soon followed.

Musically, she describes herself as a songwriter first, a per-

former second. She told me, "You first have to have something to say, then you can find a means to get it out there. Music is definitely an important creative part, but for me, it's there to support the message." It's obvious that Meagan is a creative soul at heart, as best revealed when she explained, "When performing, there's like a movie going on in my head; some complicated picture that's hard to explain. It's even there when I do some guitar solos."

She classifies herself a multi-genre artist, navigating blues, americana and gospel. If you see Meagan performing, you can't help but notice her sparkling blue, Les Paul electric guitar. While it was originally chosen simply to be different from the black, white or red Les Pauls that were common, she appreciates that it has now become something of a trademark for her. She made it clear to me that the electric guitar was her first love, and that acoustic came later.

Meagan moved to Dripping Springs in 2011, so knows our community well. She started a family around that same time and recalled for me how she once introduced herself to the head distiller at Treaty Oak one afternoon with a baby in a carrier in one hand and a business card in the other. That encounter led to a back-

up gig on mother's day, and frequent shows there in later years.

These days, being a mom is Meagan's main job, so there are fewer shows with her full band, and solo gigs make up the majority of her performances. When asked about her approach to collaboration with band members, she explained how she usually writes and records on her own, then sends the band a rough recording with the musical elements, i.e. key, chords and signature. Then the group does "woodshed," meaning intensive practice, before a song is performed for the public. She's quick to recognize the longevity of key members of her band, and the importance of that chemistry in her musical ecosystem.

Meagan plans for her newest music to be released this upcoming fall, a body of work by her full band, as a non-traditional gospel album. She relishes her most important job in life by referencing, "the momma in me", when talking about the album. Meagan wants this release to reflect on her faith, and provide a counter balance to the often negative imagery coming at young people through popular music today. She's excited about one song titled Rise Like Butterflies, a lullaby of sorts, sparked by a moment that many parents have experienced, when her four year old asked her a question



about death. Watch for it this fall.

All in, my conversation with Meagan was downright fun. She's a smart and engaging individual who seems to have cracked the code on balancing motherhood with a music career. We're lucky to have her as one of our regulars.

Meagan has upcoming performances scheduled in our area.

She'll be at Fitzhugh brewery on August 17th, 2-5PM and at Desert Door, on August 24th, 1-4PM. But to top those, she was also selected for this year's Songwriters Festival, and will be performing on multiple stages in and around Mercer Street October 18-19.

You can learn more about Meagan Tubb at <https://www.reverbna->

[tion.com/meagantubb](https://www.reverbna-tion.com/meagantubb)

*My Favorite Part of Texas is a recurring column celebrating hill country lifestyle highlighting music, culinary and day trip excursions. Joe Christenson is a native Texan and Dripping Springs resident, having lived and travelled throughout the great state of Texas.*

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VILLAGE FROM PG. 1

was Smith’s experience as a foster parent, as well as her childhood experiences, that led her to found Foster Village.

“I came from a really adverse childhood - domestic violence and a lot of things,” Smith said. “It was just like a driving factor in my desire to learn about child development and how to change things for the next generation.”

Smith pursued a degree in child development. From there, she went on to become a parent educator to court mandated parents - the parents who had their children in state custody.

She felt like that experience gave her insight on what it would be like to foster a child. She and her husband, who have three biological sons, decided to become a licensed foster home as a way to help out. They ended up adopting their youngest daughter from foster care, and also developed a relationship with her birth mom, who is a former foster youth.

“During our time fostering, our eyes just opened to the realities of it and how hard it is to be a foster parent and to be really in the thick of it with the kids, but also the families,” Smith said.

With that in mind, Smith started Foster Village from a storage unit in Dripping Springs. Her vision for Foster Village was to engage people who wanted to be involved with foster care and with supporting foster families. She said Dripping Springs answered the call, and set the gold standard of what it looks like for neighbors to come alongside kids and families experiencing foster care.

“Everything’s donated by the community, which is really meaningful - just knowing that they’re not doing it alone and that the community cares and is showing up to provide the resources,” Smith

said.

Over the last nine years Foster Village has grown not just into the house on Fitzhugh, but also into a second location in North Austin. The nonprofit also gained nationwide attention, which led to the development of an affiliate program. Now there are 13 locations throughout the U.S., each one separately governed and separately funded.

“All of our affiliates come here for their training. They see what Dripping has built and then take it back to their respective communities throughout the U.S. and replicate it,” Smith said. “It’s been really, really awesome and humbling to see how people are taking what we have created here back to their communities. It’s probably close to 20,000 children nationwide that have been served, which is really cool.”

Smith said that while becoming a foster family can be a whirlwind on the front end, it’s the ongoing support that is often most critical.

“From there, it’s caring for kids who’ve been through a lot of trauma, and we have the expertise and tools to equip the caregivers with how to navigate that,” Smith said. “We’re giving caregivers tools on how to navigate behavioral challenges and mental health challenges related to trauma. And that’s really the heart of where caregivers are getting the most out of our programs is that ongoing therapeutic and relational support.”

Foster Village hosts seven support gatherings a month for caregivers. They also do parents night out once a month. A key aspect of these events is providing childcare.

“Childcare for children who are in state custody is really complicated,” Smith said. “There’s certain requirements that we are able to meet, and so it just alleviates another



Chrystal Smith sits in the Wishing Tree, a centerpiece of the outdoor area at Foster Village.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON



The Canyon Kids lemonade stand sells treats for Foster Village.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

barrier that these families have in getting a break.”

Ultimately, the goal of Foster Village is to sustain the caregivers and create stability and permanency for the kids.

“A lot of the statistics around kids in foster care are really troubling,” Smith said. “Over half of our homeless population are former foster youth, same with our prison population. Sex trafficking victims in the US, the majority are former foster youth. So that pipeline, if you trace it back, the common theme is the trauma that kids experienced from bouncing from home to home.”

Volunteers are a key part of the effort. Foster Village has about 300 active volunteers

who help out each year.

“Our volunteers do all of the sorting and organizing, they basically run the place,” Smith said. “It takes the village. Literally.”

There are volunteers who deliver welcome packs, there are volunteers who provide childcare, and there are volunteers who serve on the hospitality team.

“We have committees for our gala, for our fundraisers and different ways for folks to plug in their skill sets to keep this running,” Smith said.

In June, Foster Village held their annual “Growing the Village is Sweet” campaign, which gave members of the community an opportunity to help raise money for the cause by hosting lemonade stands.



A family hosts a Foster Village lemonade stand.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A child serves up a glass of lemonade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“That’s the beauty of the campaign that I love, is it’s completely open to the community, anyone, the more the merrier,” Smith said.

Families could sign up on the website and receive a kit full of goodies to help them run their lemonade stand. It included lemonade mix as well as a kid-friendly business plan and tips for talking about foster care.

“It is always so impressive what these kids pull off. I mean, we have kids who raise a thousand dollars with a lemonade stand,” Smith said. “They are out there just like pushing the mission and get really excited about it.”

Local businesses get involved as well. This year, Mazama Coffee sold a lemon cookie,

and all the proceeds for the month of June went to Foster Village. And Hat Creek Burger Company donated \$1 from every lemonade slushie to the organization.

“It’s just a fun awareness campaign that’s really low barrier for anyone and everyone to get involved, and obviously the fundraising is a huge help,” Smith said. “So it’s been sweet.”

The next big opportunity to get involved is with the annual gala in October.

“It sells out every year,” Smith said. “People really care about it as a way to support the mission, but also to learn more and stay involved.”

To learn more about Foster Village, visit their website at [www.fostervillageaustin.org](http://www.fostervillageaustin.org).

RECREATION FROM PG. 1

sionals — along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers — who maintain the country’s local parks.

The council heard updates on the city’s proposed budget and the timeline for the

budget and tax rate adoption. The proposed tax rate will be set at the Aug. 5 meeting, and then there will be a public hearing at the Sept. 2 meeting. At the Sept. 16 meeting, there will be another public hearing, and the tax rate and budget

will be adopted at that time.

The council also heard updates on the city’s transition to Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) for waste collection and recycling. There were a few bumps in the process due to a printing glitch

and to the limitations of the data that was received from the previous provider, but Shawn Cox, deputy city administrator, said that TDS was working hard to address any issues.

City attorney Laura Mueller provided

council members with a case law update. The Texas Legislature passed over 1,200 bills in this session, and Mueller said that included a lot of open government bills that may affect city operations. They are currently working to

adjust for those new requirements.

Mueller also reported that the Texas Legislature did designate Dripping Springs as Wedding Capital of Texas once again, a recognition that is good for another ten years.

FLOODS FROM PG. 1

in Central Texas affected by flooding to 25.

Earlier this week, the nearly century-old girls’ Camp Mys-

tic confirmed that 27 campers and counselors were among the dead.

With an estimated 166 people still miss-

ing across the region, search operations by law enforcement, fire departments and volunteers continue.

The tragedy has left families like that of Tanya Powell mourning. Her 21-year-old daughter Ella Rose Cahill was found dead Tuesday.

“It was like a relieved, happy, sad, horrible, wonderful news. I mean, I can’t even describe it, because you’re so happy that she’s still not out there somewhere,” Powell said. “But at the same time, it’s like this final moment.”

Others, like the father of Ella’s boyfriend

Aidan Heartfield, continue searching through debris and muddy waters, even as hopes to find anyone alive have dimmed. Local authorities have said they haven’t made a live rescue since last week.

Aidan’s dad, Thad Heartfield, has been channeling all of his energy into leading volunteer search efforts since the afternoon of July 4. A sliver of hope follows him that Aidan — his kind, smart and gentle 22-year-old son — will rest easy soon.

“I always think today’s the day I’ll get a call from a DNA

match,” Heartfield said Wednesday. “I’m answering a lot of calls from numbers I don’t know. Every one of those calls, I think this could be that call.”

Roughly 2,100 emergency responders from 10 states have descended on Kerr County to assist with the recovery and cleanup efforts, according to officials. But the Hill Country’s rough terrain and the flood’s devastation — huge debris piles of trees snapped like toothpicks, pieces of broken buildings and mangled cars — have slowed search efforts.

“Texas Hill Country

floods: What we know so far” was first published by The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues.

*This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/11/texas-hill-country-floods-what-we-know/>.*

*The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org).*

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Adonis • Male  
2.5 years old  
Great Dane mix



I'm Adonis, and yeah, I'm as handsome as my name suggests! I'm a playful pup who loves zooming around the yard with other dogs, chasing and having a blast. Even though I'm big, I'm not into roughhousing. I prefer to play in a more fun way that doesn't involve wrestling. I love going for walks and I'm pretty sure I could learn to bring you the leash to tell you it's time to go to the park! I'm crate trained, house trained, and super quiet, just happy to chill with my pals. Car rides? I'm a pro, sitting calmly and soaking in the view through the window. Cats? Haven't met one yet, but I bet we could be buddies. I hope I can find a human best friend forever to hang out with, go on adventures, and just have a good time. A fabulous foster home or a fantastic forever family would make my tail wag like crazy. Visit [LizzysHospice.com](https://LizzysHospice.com) for more details.

Reggie • Male  
10 years old  
Chihuahua



I'm a little pup with a big personality - small in size, but packed with awesomeness! I'm super friendly with people and other dogs. I haven't met cats so I don't know what they are or how I'd act around them. I love hanging out in my crate. If I'm missing, that's where you'll find me napping. I'm house-trained and crate-trained, plus I'm the perfect car buddy, ready to be your co-pilot and help with directions, with minimal detours for ice cream. I'd be an awesome apartment dog since I'm so social and fit in anywhere you take me. Best of all, I love being held and snuggling up close - seriously, I'm a cuddle pro! So, how about it? Visit [LizzysHospice.com](https://LizzysHospice.com) for more details.

Rodeo • Male  
5 years old  
Bull terrier / Blue heeler mix



Rodeo is living his best foster life with a bunch of dogs half his size — and somehow they're the ones keeping up with him. He's potty trained, sleeps like a prince in the big bed with his foster dad and canine sisters, and hasn't destroyed a single shoe (heroic, really). He loves water, snuggles like it's a full-time job, and walks beautifully on a leash. Rodeo does think cats are furry little track stars, so a kitty-free home is best. If you're looking for a lovable hunk who gives A+ hugs and lives for cuddle puddles, Rodeo's your guy. Visit [www.pawsshelter.org](https://www.pawsshelter.org) for details.

Universal Crossword

7/13

Themeless Sunday 141 by August Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Geode, for one
- 5 Bursting at the
- 10 Lingerie purchase
- 13 Guy with a goth-adjacent aesthetic online
- 14 Collection of songs
- 15 Kind of muffin
- 16 Slightly open?
- 18 Part of the water cycle
- 19 "I can't pick just one of these two!"
- 20 Pretense
- 21 Tic-tac-toe victory
- 22 You might apply extra sunscreen when it's high
- 24 A percentage of car ads?
- 26 Judo school
- 30 Broad road, briefly
- 31 "I'm on it"
- 37 First contact events
- 38 One who might show you the ropes
- 39 California's Big
- 40 Slangy word after "jam" or "cram"
- 41 Four letters in "nonagenarian"
- 42 Where you can work out without a membership
- 46 "Yuck!"
- 48 Low-tech religious sect
- 49 Scout gatherings with tents
- 55 Competitor of Prego
- 56 Smiling face at

breakfast, say?

- 57 Boutique
- 58 Speak
- 59 Opera house highlight
- 60 "What \_\_\_\_\_ gotten into you?"
- 61 Lesser-known track, maybe
- 62 Intent (on)

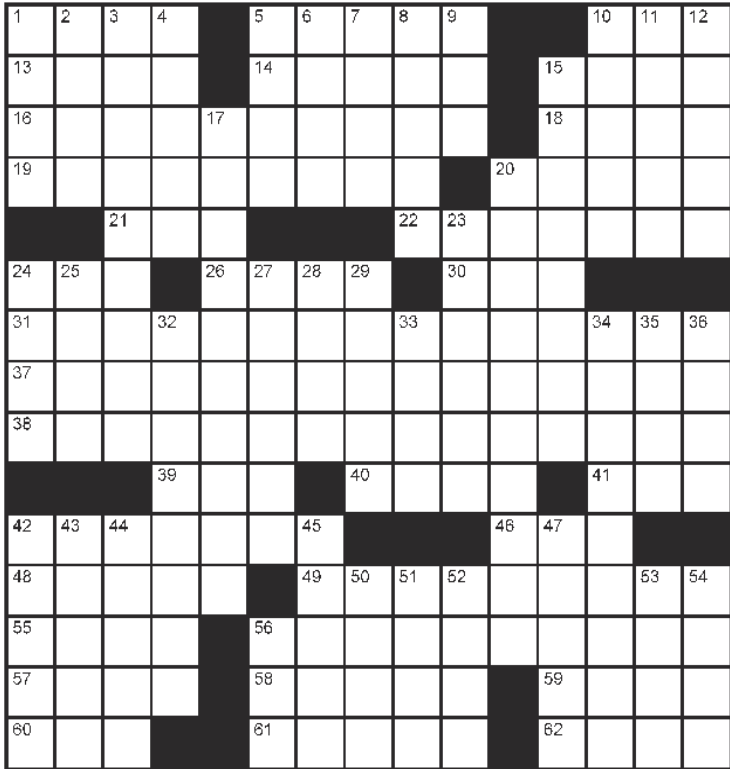
DOWN

- 1 Pixar's "Little Chef"
- 2 Vowel-heavy woodwind
- 3 Business associations
- 4 Japanese city that's an anagram of "Tokyo"
- 5 Swedish aerospace

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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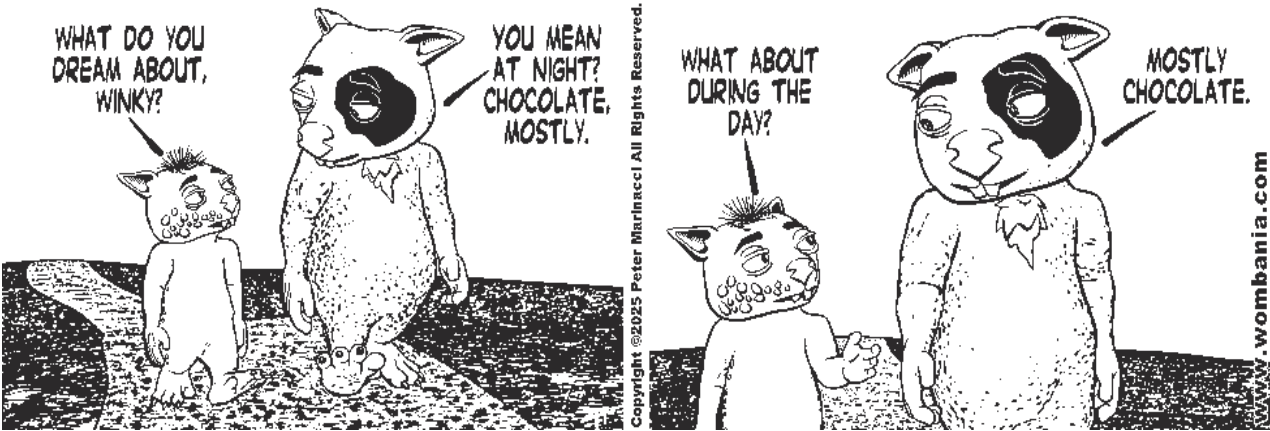


- company that used to make cars
- 6 Red Muppet
- 7 Kinda
- 8 "Mulan" dragon voiced by Eddie Murphy
- 9 Text whose last letter stands for "head"
- 10 Feature of challah or some hair
- 11 Elevate
- 12 Wing that's not used for flight
- 15 Brown-haired girl
- 17 "That'll do"
- 20 Already green-lighted
- 23 Guiding principles
- 24 "Unfortunately ..."
- 25 Brazilian soccer great
- 27 Namesake of an annual short fiction prize
- 28 "\_\_\_\_\_ the Virgin"
- 29 How some audiobooks are stored
- 32 Errs
- 33 "Mourning" bird
- 34 Arrival announcement
- 35 Persia, today
- 36 IDs sought by scammers
- 42 Severe
- 43 Nebraska's biggest city
- 44 "Bad and Boujee" hip-hop group
- 45 Exams for med school applicants
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ havoc on
- 50 Against
- 51 Hosted, briefly
- 52 Peel with a knife
- 53 Iroquoian people, or a Great Lake
- 54 Laurel of Laurel and Hardy
- 56 Place to grab a pint

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CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

**Concert Series for Flood Relief at Vista Brewing July 19 • 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
Join Vista Brewing every third Saturday this summer for the Outside the City Limits (OCL) Summer Concert Series in Driftwood. This year, Vista is donating a portion of sales during the concert to July 4th Flood Relief. Also, while this is typically a free concert series, they are asking for a \$5 donation which goes directly to flood relief. The goal is to continue to assist with donations over the coming months as our neighbors rebuild. Donations will be made to the Kerr County Flood Relief Fund. Family & dog friendly. Vista Brewing • 13551 FM 150 W • Driftwood, TX 78619

**National Ice Cream Day with Flight Ice Creams July 20 • 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
This event will include ice cream sales and a raffle, a community ice cream flavor idea content, plus a variety

of activities and contests. Details are TBD, but the event will help fundraise for those affected by the recent Central Texas floods.

**Corporate Events & Wedding Expo July 20 • 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
Beerburg Events is hosting an events expo at their venue to showcase the space. People are invited to come out, sip some beer, have some food and meet a lineup of event professionals, from planners and photographers to caterers and musicians. Beerburg Events • 13476 Fitzhugh Rd. • Austin, TX 78736

**Dripping Springs Farmers Market July 23 & 30 • 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. For the summer, the market will

keep its afternoon schedule, but will move inside into the air conditioning. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

**Dripping Springs Community Library**  
The Dripping Springs Community Library hosts multiple events every week. Events include Toddler Story Time, Homeschool Chess Club, Legos @ the Library, Mah-Jongg, Master Gardeners on the Porch, Yoga and more. For library events, visit [dscl.org/event-calendar](https://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](https://cityofdrippingsprings.com). Meetings are traditionally

held at City Hall Council Chambers. However, a remodel has many meetings at Ranch Park or Dripping Springs ISD Center for Learning & Leadership. See [cityofdrippingsprings.com](https://cityofdrippingsprings.com) for more information.

**Farmers Market Committee Regular Meeting July 17 • 10 a.m.**

**Emergency Management Committee Regular Meeting July 17 • 12 p.m.**

**Utility Commission Regular Meeting July 17 • 4 p.m.**

**Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting**

July 22 • 6:00pm

**Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting July 23 • 6:00pm**

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

**Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting July 29 • 9 a.m.**  
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at [hayscountytexas.com](https://hayscountytexas.com).

**Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting**  
No meeting for July-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](https://dsisdtx.us). Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS AND SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

# Farmers Market thrives with move indoors

Laurie Anderson  
Interim Editor

This summer, the Dripping Springs Farmers Market made the switch to indoors at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, and kept its usual hours on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Market Manager Charlie Reed said that so far, the decision to move into the air conditioned space has been positive.

“We’ve gotten so much good feedback from both customers and vendors about it being cooler in there,” Reed said. “They don’t feel the need to just rush in and rush out of market.”

Reed said that having a cooler space allows customers to take their time, walk around and talk to the vendors.

“That’s really the best part of being at a farmer’s market, is that ability to have a relationship with vendors, and know where your food comes from,” Reed said.



Songland Farms displays their fresh produce.



Customers visit the Shipp's Lake Ranch booth.



Big Nicks serves up fresh pizza.



Petit Cafe serves up French pastries.



A customer purchases organic produce from Hope Full Farms.



Stanley Albert of Guitaura entertains the crowd.

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON

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