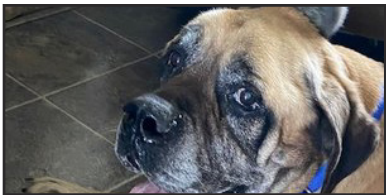




MAGICAL
MOMENTS
OF ART
PAGE 3



PETS OF
THE WEEK
PAGE 7



CHAMPIONS
TO BE
HONORED
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

34th Year, No. 33 August 14, 2025 drippingspringsnews.com 75 Cents

Community Calendar

Tiki Week at Desert Door Distillery
Aug. 14-17 • 12:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Tiki Week is back, and the distillery will turn into a Texas-style tropical retreat with bold cocktails, good vibes, and coastal flavors. Order a special tiki drink and take home a souvenir cup. On Saturday, Little Moon Oysters will be bringing a fresh oyster bar while supplies last. More info at www.desertdoor.com.
Desert Door Distillery • 211 Darden Hill Rd. • Driftwood, TX 78619

Relax and Restore Wellness Fair
Aug 14 • 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Visit LedgeStone Senior Living on National Relaxation Day for a soothing afternoon dedicated to wellness, calm, and connection. Explore a variety of health and lifestyle offerings from over 20 local vendors and partners, including resources LedgeStone offers to the greater community. Enjoy complimentary giveaways, aromatherapy experiences, nature-inspired art, balance testing and more.

LedgeStone Senior Living - Independent Living Building • 13152 Four Star Blvd. • Austin, TX 76737
Run for Relief: Supporting Kerr

SEE **CALENDAR** ON PAGE 7



THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day
"YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE."
- JENNIFER LOPEZ



Veterans group brings skills, support to flood relief work



Volunteers tackle a debris pile.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Laurie Anderson
Editor
The taproom was a bit fuller than normal on a recent Monday night at 12 Fox Beer Co. In addition to the usual veterans in attendance for the Fireside Chat Support Network, there were a number of new mem-

bers and guests. And on this night, once everyone had finished dinner and the meeting began, talk turned to support of another kind - for the Hill Country communities recovering from the July floods. It's been over a month now since the deadly weather event, which

dumped between 5 and 11 inches of rain over a broad area in a matter of hours. The death toll currently stands at 135 confirmed fatalities, with 116 of those along the Upper Guadalupe in Kerr County. "Let's get the word out. We're not gonna SEE **RELIEF** ON PAGE 6



Dr. Dan belts out a song during a recent Sunday night.

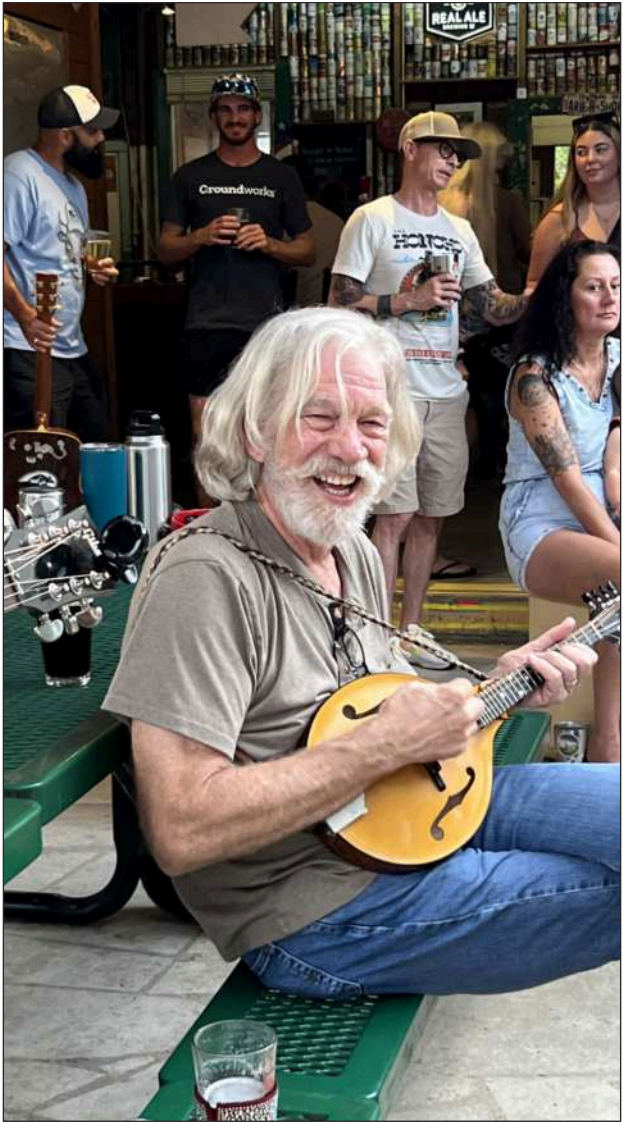
PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

GATHER ROUND

Pickers Circle at Barber Shop welcomes

Laurie Anderson
Editor
Every Sunday for the past 15 years or so, area musicians have gathered at The Barber Shop on Mercer Street for an old-fashioned Pickers Circle. It's a rotating group, and the backgrounds of the participants are as varied as their instruments - from saxophone to standup bass, squeeze box to cajon, and penny whistle to violin. And of course it wouldn't be a Pickers Circle without a variety of guitars, plus a mandolin and a ukelele or two. Longtime participant Jim Hudson, a retired veterinarian who owned Dripping Springs Animal Hospital, has been coming to the Pickers Circle since the beginning, when Brian Byrwa had the idea to start it.

"We started playing here every Sunday, and it's just kind of grown from there," Hudson said. "There are so many different kinds of music that we get to play, and there's a certain acceptance of all levels of players and all kinds of music here that's very engaging and very inspiring to aspiring musicians and to, you know, old farts like myself." Hudson plays with two local bands, the Hill Country Ramblers and the



Longtime member Jim Hudson joins in on mandolin.

Ghost Jam Players. These days, he's usually playing the mandolin. He said he enjoys playing with friends and neighbors at the Pickers Circle. "You cross all kinds of lines with music - political lines, racial lines, socioeconomic lines - everybody just comes together and plays music because it fills you up," Hudson said. "It enriches your soul, no matter what line you're on." Todd Culbert is an-

other musician who has been coming to the Pickers Circle since the beginning. He said originally they used to go around the circle in order, but now it's more of a free-for-all. "Whoever is ready, they play a song and everybody joins in, and it's just amazing. We have sometimes six people, sometimes we'll have up to 13, 14, 15. Any instrument you can think of, SEE **PICKERS** ON PAGE 5



Council member Sherry Parks reads the proclamation, with members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1919.

Laurie Anderson

Dripping Springs honors local Purple Heart heroes

Staff Reports
At its Aug. 5 meeting, the Dripping Springs City Council proclaimed Aug. 7 as Purple Heart Day in Dripping Springs, to pay tribute to the men and women wounded or killed in combat while serving in the United States military. In conjunction with this proclamation, Dripping Springs is also being officially recognized as a Purple Heart City - a national designation that reflects the city's deep respect, gratitude, and ongoing commitment to honoring veterans who have received the Purple Heart Medal.

"To be designated as a Purple Heart City is one of the most meaningful recognitions we can receive," said Mayor Bill Foulds. "It is a public declaration that Dripping Springs will always stand in honor of those who have given so much for our country. We want to thank the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1919, for their help on the proclamation and designation." As part of the city's ongoing commitment, Dripping Springs is launching a Purple Heart Banner Campaign to honor lo- SEE **HEROES** ON PAGE 2

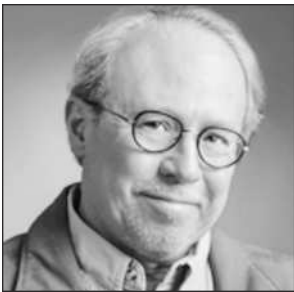
Flood survivors can get crisis counseling, unemployment benefits with FEMA programs

Staff Reports
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has several programs available for survivors of the July storms and flooding that swept through Central Texas. These services include confidential crisis counseling and unemployment assistance. FEMA funds the crisis counseling program, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provides counseling to residents of Burnet, Kerr, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis and Williamson counties. The Disaster Distress Helpline, a toll-free, national crisis support service, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Affected persons can call or text 800-985-5990 to speak to trained staff who can provide confidential counseling and other support services. The staff can also connect callers with professionals at the nearest participating crisis-counseling center for additional support. Access to counselors is available in more than 100 languages via third-party interpretation services. Spanish speakers can press 2. A videophone option for American Sign Language users is also available by calling 800-985-5990 from a videophone-enabled device. For more information, visit samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline. FEMA also funds SEE **FEMA** ON PAGE 8

Capital Highlights

Paxton sues to remove 13 absent Democrat House members



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Attorney General Ken Paxton has asked the Texas Supreme Court to remove 13 of the more than 50 House Democrats who fled the state to break quorum and effectively halt the special session to prevent

a mid-decade redistricting plan, the Austin American-Statesman reported. “These cowards deliberately sabotaged the constitutional process and violated the oath they swore to uphold,” Paxton said in a statement. “Their out-of-state rebellion cannot go unchecked, and the business of Texas must go on.” Gov. Greg Abbott took a similar action against state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, who is chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

Paxton is seeking to remove state Reps. Ron Reynolds; Vikki Goodwin; Gina Hinojosa; James Talarico; Lulu Flores; Mihaela Plesa; Suleman Lalani; Chris Turner; Ana-Maria Ramos; Jessica Gonzalez; John Bucy III; and Christina Morales. Paxton said he targeted those members because they “made incriminating public statements regarding their refusal to return.” U.S. Sen. John Cornyn said the FBI has agreed to help locate the Democrats, who have appeared in Chicago, New York, and Boston, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

The FBI would only assist in finding the Democrats and would not apprehend them, Cornyn said. The members have held several press conferences and aren’t exactly keeping their whereabouts a secret. They left the state via a chartered plane on Aug. 3.

Senate panel advances bill swapping STAAR for three tests While the House is unable to meet with the Democrats out of state, the Senate is still in special session. A Senate panel has unanimously advanced a proposal to swap the end-of-year standardized test, called STAAR, for the three shorter tests administered throughout the school year, according to the Texas Standard. The STAAR test has been widely criticized by parents and teachers for putting enormous pressure on students. Teachers have complained about having to spend too much time preparing students to take the STAAR.

A companion bill has been filed in the House as well. An effort to pass a similar measure during the regular session failed. The tests would be shorter than the current test, which can last three hours. The turnaround for the shorter tests would be much faster than it is for STAAR — just two business days.

River authority pledges \$1.5 million for flood protection The Upper Guadalupe River Authority has pledged to spend at least \$1.5 million on flood protection and mitigation measures after a Houston Chronicle investigation revealed it had delayed upgrading its flood warning system, opting instead to keep at least \$3 million in reserve.

The announcement came at a legislative hearing in Kerrville, at which the UGRA has been roundly criticized for not acting earlier. “It was recognized through studies that you paid for that there was a need for an early warning system,” State Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, told Bill Rector, president of the authority’s board. “And yet you didn’t do anything about it.” The UGRA’s entire board was appointed by Abbott. It is one of the very few river authorities that has the power to levy taxes. That drew the attention of state Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian. “So you’re not accountable to the voters of Kerr County, even though you’re taxing them?” asked King, who chairs the House committee on flood recovery. Rector acknowledged that was the case.

Deadline approaching to apply for flood damage aid Property owners, businesses, renters and others affected by the July Hill Country floods have until Sept. 4 to apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to the Express-News.

Heavy rains triggered flooding along the Guadalupe River, killing at least 119 people. Another 16 deaths were reported in separate flooding in Travis, Burnet, Williamson and Tom Green Counties. A total of 10 counties have been designated eligible for federal money: Burnet, Guadalupe, Kerr, Kimble, McCulloch, Menard, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis and Williamson. FEMA encourages applicants to apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or call the agency’s help line at 800-621-3362, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Excluding immigrants from census could be costly for Texas If President Donald Trump is successful in excluding undocumented immigrants from the next U.S. census, Texas could lose seats in Congress and billions of dollars in federal funding, the Chronicle reported. The state has an estimated population of 2 million immigrants living in the country illegally. “(We would lose) what the state has gained over the past two censuses, at least a couple of seats,” said Jeronimo Cortina, a political scientist at the University of Houston. “And then

where do they go? Maybe they go to, I don’t know, North Dakota.” It is unclear whether Trump has the authority to implement the census changes. An effort in 2019 to add a question about citizenship to the decennial census was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

DPS announces creation of new Homeland Security Division The Texas Department of Public Safety has announced the creation of a new Homeland Security Division, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The new office combines the existing Office of Homeland Security with the DPS Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division to oversee border security operations and statewide intelligence efforts. It will also be responsible for overseeing the protection of infrastructure and emergency preparedness. “Our No. 1 priority is to protect Texans — especially against hostile foreign adversaries like China, Iran, and Russia” Abbott said. “Texas will always defend our state from hostile foreign nations and terrorists to create greater safety in our communities.” Texas lawmakers authorized creation of the new division during the last regular session. 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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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Kima, one of our nurse case managers on receiving the Heart and Hope Award from Harrell Funeral Home! This recognition is a beautiful reflection of the compassion and dedication she brings to her patients and their families every day.



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HEROES FROM PG. 1

cal recipients. Residents or businesses can honor a special loved one who is or was a recipient of the Purple Heart with a Mercer Street Banner.

For a \$100 donation, they can sponsor a Purple Heart Veteran Banner to be proudly displayed on Mercer Street from October 27 through November

14, including Veterans Day on November 11. Each banner will feature:

- The Purple Heart recipient’s name
- A photo (if avail-

able and suitable for print) The City will display 10–12 banners on downtown light poles, creating a powerful visual tribute to our local heroes and a heartfelt reminder of their service and sacrifice. A walking tour of the banners will be offered once they are installed. Following the Mercer Street display, the banners will be exhibited on a rotating basis at Patriot’s Hall, continuing the tribute throughout the year. Space for the Mercer Street Banners is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants interested in the program need to complete the reservation form and return it by Aug. 29. The form and more information can be found on the City’s website, cityofdripping Springs.com/purpleheart.

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Dripping Springs
Art League
ART | COMMUNITY | CONNECTION

ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

The Magical Moments of Art

Steve Friedman

One of my favorite experiences as a leader of the Dripping Springs Art League is seeing artists show their art outside the home.

As many creatives (artists, writers, musicians, cooks...you name it) can relate, most develop their craft at home. The only people to experience their art tend to be family and friends. So the feedback is limited and tends to get stale after a while.

With the support of our Clubs and Business of Art series,

so many local artists are mustering the courage to step out. They are showing their art in galleries, at our markets and exhibits, at our Songwriters' DSAL Art Lounge tent. And then... something magical happens.

The Magical Moment

The artists are able to talk about their art with casual shoppers and art lovers. They get valuable feedback. People rave, ask questions, and purchase their art! It can truly be life changing.

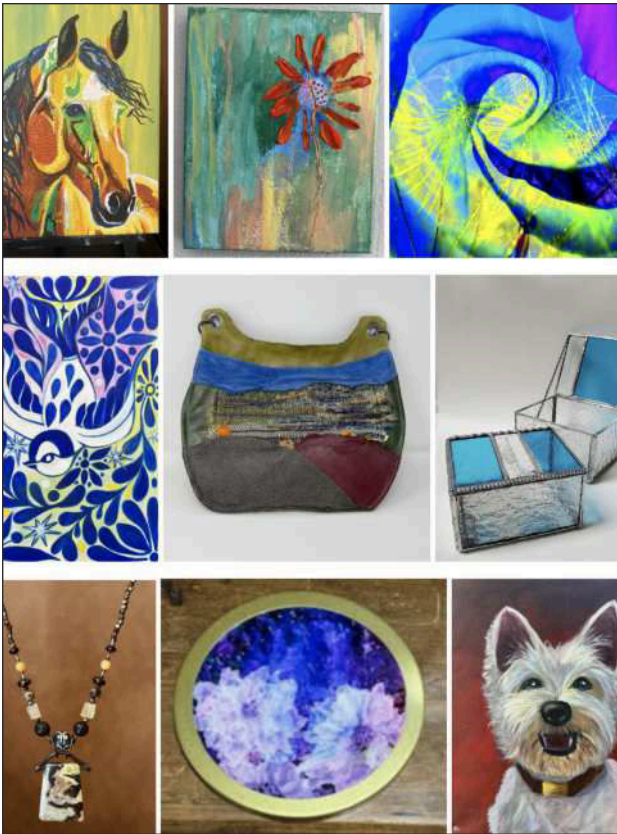
I've had the pleasure of seeing many of our artists experience this at our Art Markets at the Triangle, at our exhibits at the Chamber of Commerce and Songwriters, and certainly at the unveiling of their Star on Mercer Street. They burst with excitement!

They are often then inspired to go home and create with renewed vigor and imagination. Excited that their art is finding new homes across Dripping and the Hill Country and doesn't have to just crawl the walls at home, they make more.

And everyone... the artist and the public... benefits from their passion!

Visit Art Across Dripping

The Art League is honored to partner with two foundations of Dripping Springs, the Chamber of Commerce and Rolling in Thyme & Dough:



A sampling of the art at The Gallery at Rolling in Thyme & Dough.
Top: The Colorful Horse (Lorrie Anson), Lazy Daisy (Lydia Krueger), Happy as I am (Monika Astara Murphy)
Middle: Blue Bird (tiffany Sierras), Enchanted Skies leather bag (Lari Rogge), Trinket Box (Mary Orcutt)
Bottom: African Turquoise Trapezoid Pendant (Michelle Lebovitz), Midnight Whispers (Jennifer Friedman), Sunday Funday: Hanlu Li)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DSAL Gallery at the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce: DSAL is thrilled to continue our outgoing partnership with the Chamber, one of our first exhibits since early 2024. The art is refreshed every 4-6 months so come by and check out the latest! DSAL will be

hosting our next reception on October 2nd at 4pm. We hope to see you there!

The Gallery Room at Rolling in Thyme & Dough presented by the DSAL: We are thrilled to partner with this iconic hometown eatery. The front room now houses DSAL's newest

art gallery and is available for viewing during business hours. DSAL will be hosting an opening reception on August 23rd at 4pm. Come meet the artists, hear their story, and browse their creations. The public is welcome!

Stay Tuned for More Vibrant Art This Fall

In addition to our magnificent exhibits, keep an eye out for more opportunities to meet the artists, draw inspiration from their creativity, and buy local for family and friends, home and heart!

Experts proclaim the benefits of viewing and creating art is great for mental well-being and self-confidence. It is also recognized that art in the public square sparks community bonding, tourism, and increased business around art events.

Learn more about our upcoming events, explore how you can share your art with the community, and discover how you can support the vibrant art scene of Dripping at artindripping.com!

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Springhollow Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at the offices of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300, Austin, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

(Names of all board members and how each voted on the proposed tax rate)

FOR the proposal: Directors Deskins, Philp, and Molak
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Directors Wheat and Crowley

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.00/\$100 Adopted	\$1.00/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$901,492	\$853,952
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	N/A	N/A
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$864,149	\$843,977
Tax on average residence homestead	\$8,641.49	\$8,439.77
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		-\$201.72 -2.33%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Dripping Springs Municipal Utility District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 12:00 noon at the offices of Doucet, a Kleinfelder company, 7401B Highway 71 West, Suite 160, Austin, Texas 78735. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

(Names of all board members and how each voted on the proposed tax rate)

FOR the proposal: Directors Lombard, Carrasquillo, and Chaney
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Directors Arnold and Hubbard

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.7600/\$100 Adopted	\$0.7600/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$0	\$0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0	\$0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0	\$0
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$0.00 0.00%

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PICKERS FROM PG. 1

we'll be here playing," Culbert said. "A lot of the folks are local pseudo celebrities, and a lot of them are not, but everybody is equal on Sundays here."

Culbert said one of his favorite things about the Pickers Circle is the camaraderie.

"To us, it's kind of like church, you know, people come here and it's kind of a fellowship," Culbert said. "We all visit, we all love each other, we all support each other outside of this."

He said musicians of all levels are welcome, from entry level to very advanced.

"Anybody can come here and no one will feel shunned. No one will feel embarrassed," Culbert said. "Even if they only play two or three or four chords on guitar, they can sit and anybody will help them. There are a lot of mentors in this group."

Sheri Kokemoor has been coming to listen to the music at the Pickers Circle for about five years, but just started playing with the group.

"This is my second Pickers Circle with them," Kokemoor said. "I used to play drums with my son, who is a guitarist. Recently I told my husband that I kind of miss playing the drums, and I'd like to have a drum set, but we don't have the room for it."

Her husband suggested a cajon instead, which is a box-shaped percussion instru-



An out-of-town guest takes a turn leading the group.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

ment. That way it would be portable and she could take it places with her.

"So we got a cajon for me, and then brought it here, and he's right, it's awesome," Kokemoor said. "They've been so open and inviting, teaching me and helping me, and it just feels really natural for me. It's like I just kind of fall into it."

Kokemoor said that even if people aren't inclined to play, it's still an awesome group to listen to.

"If you really want to come and see a real true pickers circle, come over here," Kokemoor said. "You're gonna get at least a dozen musicians in there hanging out just for a couple hours, playing good music and enjoying it."

Wesley Riddles is another musician who is somewhat new to the group. He's been coming out for about

a year now.

"I came here nervous. I did not bring a guitar. I was scouting it out with a friend of mine," Riddles said. "I brought a guitar the next week, and I've come nine out of ten Sundays since. It's my group therapy."

Riddles said every week is different, depending on who shows up, which means no song ever sounds the same.

"I guess my favorite part about coming here was I got to play a song I wrote, and hear it as an ensemble of other musicians for the first time," Riddles said. "That was a real magical moment for me."

Another participant who is relatively new to the group is Michael Cutrera, who moved to Dripping Springs from the Dallas area about 15 years ago, when he retired. He's originally from South Louisiana, and has been playing

tenor sax since 1958.

"I do blues, jazz and American Songbook songs," Cutrera said.

His son introduced him to The Barber Shop, and he's been coming somewhat regularly for the last few months.

"It's just really enjoyable music. It relaxes you," Cutrera said.

Jamie Luce, who plays guitar, has been coming to the Pickers Circle since 2008.

"I probably knew three chords when I showed up, and now I know four," Luce said.

He said he enjoys getting to meet a lot of cool people at the event, like Dr. Dan.

"Dr. Dan can play just about anything," Luce said. "He's got a penny whistle flute and then he's got a mandolin he built himself."

Luce said he also likes the variety of music that the group plays.

"If you like music



From standup bass to saxophone and from cajon to accordion, it's not just guitars at the Picker's Circle.



Wesley Riddles sings a tune.

and you like anything from an Irish tune to a classic rock tune to a country tune - we play everything," Luce

said. "You may even hear 'Play That Funky Music White Boy' one time. You never know what's gonna happen."

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Tree Services Ogden's Tree Service • Consult • Prune • Remove • Fertilize • Selective Land Clearing • Insured ISA Certified Arborist TX0111 Texas Master Naturalist Jon Ogden, 512.452.3987 Ogdenstreeservice.com	Landscaping Services O'Kane Lawn & Landscape "settlin' roots in our community" Time for Fall & Winter Tree Trimming • Tree Trimming • Irrigation Repair • Landscaping • Fertilizing • Lawn Maintenance LI 00021068 FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED 512.738.2185 okanetawnscapes@gmail.com member Voted Best of Hays Again Ben O'Kane Owner/Operator	Electrical Services Red Grizzly Electric • Breaker Replacement • GFCI's • Light Fixture Replacement • Hot Tubs • Ceiling Fans • Switch Replacement • Electrical Panel Repair Scott Weaver • Licensed & Insured TECL #23403 P.O. Box 2155 512-771-1764 Wimberley, TX 78676 redgrizzlyelectric.com	Home Renovation PINNACLE HOME RENOVATIONS The quest ends here... ▷ Commercial ▷ Painting ▷ Residential ▷ Decks ▷ New Construction ▷ Carpentry ▷ Additions ▷ Ranch Services BRAD JONES • 512-804-6500 bsjphr@gmail.com • 30 years of practice
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Renovations & Repairs Decks by Bob Remodels by Bob Complete interior & exterior renovations & repairs photos on Facebook/Bobby Nombrena Serving San Marcos & Tri County area Locally owned 25+ years 512 757 7201	Painting Services TEXAS STAR PAINTING WE PROVIDE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PAINTING SERVICES 512-699-0441	Tree Services De Leon's Professional Tree Service Tree Trimming & Removals Brush Grinding Material Hauling Lawn Grooming Stump Grinding Free Estimates • Fully Insured Carlos De Leon • Owner 512-844-7055	Service Directory \$100/Month Put your ad in the Service Directory Call for deadlines and availability! (512) 847-2202

RELIEF FROM PG. 6

stop,” Joe Hogge, who owns 12 Fox with his wife Stacey, told the assembled group. “We’ve got a good base of people and we just need to keep bringing in new ones and spreading the word. Even though a lot of people in this town know about us, there’s still people that don’t.”

The nonprofit Fireside Chat veterans group has been focused on flood recovery in two ways - through shipments of supplies, and through hands-on work in the affected areas. Members have been volunteering with chainsaws and heavy machinery to clear the river and the surrounding land of debris.

“I don’t wanna give up on going downrange and helping with this stuff because it’s gonna take months to recover,” Hogge said during the meeting. “For the next few weeks, our main focus is making sure that we can get a move out every weekend to a specific place with a task list, with the stuff they need to get the job done. Right? So that we’re not counting on other people to come and tell us what to do or supply us with whatever we need before we go do the job.”

Dusty Drake, owner of Dynamo Dusty’s Tree Service, has been taking his chainsaw crew to Kerr County on weekends. And Judge John Burns, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4, has been coordinating crews in Leander’s Sandy Creek. They say both areas are still in need of lots of help, including volunteers with heavy machinery like skid steers.

“I had people that I never met before come work for a couple hours or a whole day and thank me afterwards for organizing this and leading this effort,” Burns said. “I think there are people who need someplace to go and they want to help. They just don’t know what to do or where to go.”

That’s where Fireside Chat comes in. They are coordinating directly with people in the affected areas, so that they know exactly where help is needed.

“There’s just so much devastation everywhere. You can’t imagine. Words like devastation and destruction don’t describe what we saw,” Burns said. “My concern is that once it stops being on the news and people stop thinking about it... we’re not going to have people to volunteer. But we’ll get across that bridge when we get there.”

Burns said the Sandy Creek crews are working long days up there, but even if people can only volunteer for a half a day, it’s impactful.

“It doesn’t have to be a weekend, if they’re willing. Sandy Creek is an hour and 10 minutes from here,” Burns said. “You can easily drive up, work for four or five hours and drive home.”

He emphasized that it’s not easy work - it’s



Joe Hogge gives an update on relief efforts during a meeting of the Fireside Chat Support Network.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

hot and humid along the riverbank, with gnats and mosquitos to contend with. But there are other jobs besides hauling wood for those who aren’t physically up to the challenge. The group also has current wishlists on Amazon and Home Depot, or people can donate directly to Fireside Chat Support Network.

“We’re a 501c3, so it’s a tax deductible donation, and we’ll find a way to do the best we can to meet people’s needs,” Burns said. “And none of us get paid. We are all absolutely volunteer.”

That includes the crews from Dynamo Dusty’s Tree Service. One of the things his company does is mentor young men, so when the disaster hit, he asked some of them if they would be willing to go help.

“Six or seven of us went down there and we went to Center Point and asked what we could do,” Drake said. “And so the first part of the day we did recovery efforts, looking for bodies and stuff like that along the river.”

Later that day, they ended up at Camp CAMP (Children’s Association for Maximum Potential), which serves individuals with special needs.

“We cut up a lot of wood and helped get the river open down there,” Drake said.

Next they went to Hunt. When the fire chief heard that they were an experienced chainsaw crew, he sent them to work with another crew from Cherry Creek landscaping.

“And so we got put on some large projects down there, just clearing a pretty large field, about 40 acres along the river that really hadn’t been searched yet,” Drake said. “Somehow we ended up running the site and had like 40 or 60 people working with us over the last couple of weekends.”

He said the land owners were overwhelmed and grateful for the help.

“But we couldn’t do that without 12 Fox doing what they do - knowing where to go and then sending supplies down there,” Drake said.

Drake said it was very rewarding to have people show up and within five minutes be working together.

“There was no ‘what do you do for a living,’ no divisiveness. It was just really a lot of unity and people that care for people.”

He said it has been

impressive to see how a community can come together.

“Seeing the young guys that we work with - they were up at 5 in the morning to get on the road, they were super motivated to get down there and help - that was really cool, just seeing how much they wanted to volunteer,” Drake said.

He said recovery is going to be a long effort.

“Your phone doesn’t capture it. When you see the scale of the devastation, it’s kind of a feeling of helplessness,” Drake said. “There were 200-year-old trees that were 100 feet tall, cypresses, that were turned over. It’s a massive amount of destruction that happened in a really short period of time. It shocked me. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

He reiterated that though this will fade out of the spotlight, volunteers are still needed.

“If you’re looking to help, check social media. Facebook seems to be a pretty good way to find places to go and volunteer,” Drake said. “Or reach out to the 12 Fox support community that they have here, because now they’ve got an infrastructure set up here where they’re tracking all that information.”

For Joe and Stacey Hogge, there’s also a personal connection to Kerr County.

“This is our backyard. Stacey’s from Kerrville. She went to high school in Kerrville, but she grew up in Center Point, Comfort as a little kid, lived right downtown in those little bitty towns,” Joe Hogge said. “So that’s home. When we were dating, when I went to visit, I always went to Kerrville.”

They still have a lot of family in Kerr County, so when the news hit, they were immediately calling to check on everyone.

“I just know that area. I’ve seen the floods myself,” Stacey Hogge said. “My dad is a retired fire chief of Kerrville. He was in the force for 37 years. He says the first flood he remembers was the flood of ‘59. And there’s never been anything remotely like this flood.”

She said that it was important to her that the time and energy of the Fireside Chat volunteers, and the community’s donations, were going directly to the places that needed it most. So she leveraged her family ties to get connected to the local leaders and get up-



Judge John Burns (second from right) coordinates with a crew of volunteers at Sandy Creek.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to-date information. Moving forward, she thinks the Fireside Chat efforts may focus more on targeted assistance for families.

“Maybe they were under insured, or nothing’s moving on their property, or they’re too old to be able to actually get out and do the work to clear their own property,” Stacey Hogge said. “We’d like to find those families and figure out how we as a crew can show up and help them specifically.”

One of the people working on that is Stephanie Read, who stepped up to help with donations during the beginning of the influx. “Stephanie has been an amazing coordinator for logistics,” Stacey Hogge said.

Read said she felt called to help the relief efforts when she saw the volume of donations that were coming in. In just a day and a half, they had already filled the smaller building on the 12 Fox property.

“I just knew that for Joe and Stacey to take

this on, which they felt very strongly they wanted to do, that I could offer my skill set and that would be my gift to them,” Read said.

She contacted a company in Austin called Musclemen Elite Moving and Storage to help get things started. They were offering free storage containers for relief groups. The company delivered as promised, and within days, that container was full. Read got on the phone and asked for another, and they came through again.

Meanwhile, Joe Hogge had been contacted by Aaron Negherbon of Troops Direct, who offered to use his contacts to get even more supplies.

“We received a very huge shipment of work gloves from Mechanix, and then pallets and pallets of Prime drinks,” Read said. “It was like running a business and having all this inventory and then trying to meet the needs of all the different locations.”

She said the response

to the recovery efforts has been incredible from day one. As of August 10, they have delivered a total of 35 shipments to about 25 different locations.

“And it continues, which to me just is a testament to our community here - Dripping Springs in particular, but I have people coming from Wimberley and north of us,” Read said.

Read said that her local contacts are pleading for the group to keep going. In the affected areas, a lot of the store shelves are empty of key items due to high demand. And she said she is increasingly concerned about the mental health of people in those communities.

“The folks that have been affected, a lot of them just went into survival mode up until this particular point,” Read said. “Now that enough time has passed, people are starting to say all of a sudden it’s hitting them. It’s a lot of hurt and it’s very heavy.”

Read said she doesn’t know the answer for that, but she doesn’t want people to feel like they’ve been left alone and abandoned. If the Fireside Chat Support Network has anything to say about it, that won’t happen.

“I’m just trying to tread water and keep it going,” Joe Hogge said. “Behind the scenes we’re just kicking and pedaling, making it happen.”

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The Driftwood Economic Development Municipal Management District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. within the boundaries of the District at 18500 FM 1826, Driftwood, Texas 78619. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearing of each entity that taxes your property.

(Names of all board members and how each voted on the proposed tax rate)

FOR the proposal:	Directors Garza, Fought, Roberts and Whisenant
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Director Fischer

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.1500/\$100 Adopted	This year \$0.1500/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	0%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$N/A	\$N/A
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$N/A	\$N/A
Tax on average residence homestead	\$N/A	\$N/A
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$N/A N/A%	

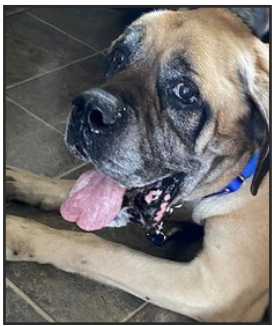
NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



Bastian • Male
10 years old
Bullmastiff



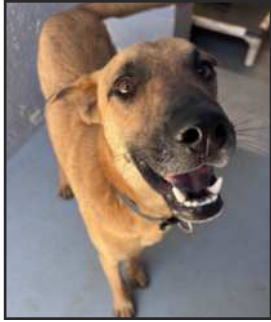
I'm a big ol' sweet-heart! People call me a gentle giant, and I sure live up to that. I'm house trained, no need for a crate since I'm too big for one anyway. I'm dreaming of a foster family or a forever home to call my own. My legs aren't the strongest because of arthritis and muscle atrophy, so I don't 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 to fill out an application.

Hot Rod • Male
10 years old
Chihuahua



All I really want is to be snuggled up and loved. I'll cozy up against your shoulder and arm when I sleep if you let me. I get along well with other dogs, though I might chase after cats a bit. When I first came to Lizzy's, I had trouble using my back legs, but after some tough times, I had them amputated. Now, I feel fantastic and zoom around in my scooter and wheels! I look very cool when I go fast! My front legs are getting stronger, and I've even learned to lift myself up. I promise to make you smile and show you that two legs work just as well as four! Please visit LizzysHospice.com to fill out an application.

Buster Brown • Male
1 year, 2 months
Shepherd / Carolina Dog



Meet the ultimate fun-loving, happy-go-lucky sweetheart! With a heart full of kindness and a spirit that's as gentle as it is joyful, Brown Buster is the perfect companion for anyone looking for a furry friend who just wants to spread happiness. Whether he's chasing after a ball, playing with squeaky toys, or making new friends, he's always ready for a good time. There's no such thing as a dull moment when he's around! He gets along with other dogs and loves water!

With so much love to give, Buster is the kind of dog who will melt your heart with every wag of his tail. If you're looking for a loyal, fun, and affectionate friend, look no further—Buster Brown is ready to share all the love he's got! Visit www.pawsshelter.org for details.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

8/10

Themeless Sunday 145 by Rafael Musa

ACROSS

- 1 Has a debate
7 Spy org. in "The Americans"
10 Baseball glove
14 Time for ruthless self-prioritization
16 DIY website
17 "That's not clicking for me"
18 Broadway award
19 First word for some kids
20 Engine speed stat
21 Folded part of a suit jacket
22 Gay liberation activist who was close with Marsha P. Johnson
26 Torso muscle, for short
29 First encounters

in rom-coms

- 30 Study of moral principles
32 Plead
33 Easy win
36 Venue for Taylor Swift
37 End of the alphabet, to Brits
38 Space-related prefix
39 "The ____ is history!"
40 Mary Jane
41 Low tie score
42 Way to restrict a user's access to content without their knowledge
45 Steel-cut grain
46 Only woman who's served as chancellor of Germany

49 Runs, as a

- committee
50 Name that sounds like a flying insect
51 Soccer chants
55 "____ Be" (Black Eyed Peas song)
56 "Promise you won't be mad ..."
59 Prophet
60 "This is far from a new occurrence"
61 To-do list item
62 Torso muscles, for short
63 Cooks in the oven

DOWN

- 1 Like a die-hard fan

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K	E	Y	S		E	S	P	N		E	A	S	Y	

- 2 Costa ____
3 Pleased
4 Forearm bones
5 "____, Pray, Love"
6 Certain sib
7 "Don't tell anyone"
8 Reacted to an unexpectedly spicy shishito pepper, say
9 Mammal that sleeps upside down
10 Virtual world
11 "My fingers are also crossed"
12 Printer powder
13 Choreographer
Tharp
15 Spinal cord part
21 On fire
23 Village People
hit
24 Plural French article
25 Throw on the floor?
26 Fruit with a d'Anjou variety
27 To be, in French
28 Faceoffs featuring knights

- 31 Uninformed
34 Modern vaccine molecule
35 Sappho, e.g.
37 Disrupt a certain video call
38 Actress
Hathaway
40 Smartphone predecessor: Abbr.
41 Tree with acorns
43 Ice Bucket Challenge letters
44 Spoiled kids
46 Top-tier celebs
47 Greek home of a mythical lion (hidden in "Jayne Meadows")
48 Bunch of, informally
52 Late July babies
53 Give off
54 Volleyball actions
56 ____ de los Muertos
57 That girl
58 "Much ____ About Nothing"

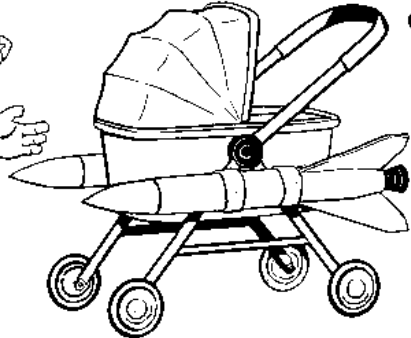
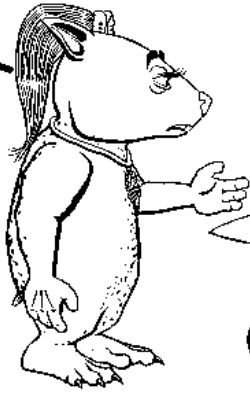
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Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

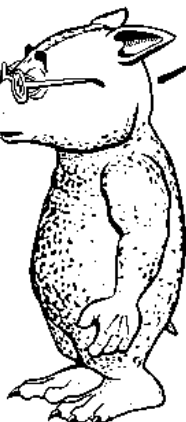
WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINAC

A ROCKET-POWERED BABY STROLLER? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!



THAT BABIES LIKE TO GO FAST?



"Wombania is about a family of Wombies who move in with their human relative and take over his home and his life. An all-ages comic, Wombonia

CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

County Flood Victims
Aug 16 • 9 a.m.

This event will raise money for The Kerr County Flood Relief Fund, which supports both urgent needs and long-term recovery after the catastrophic July 4 floods. Every dollar raised will go directly to the fund. Entry is \$10 per person. QR codes for online donations and cash accepted at the entrance. There will be three lap challenges: 2 laps - walk, run, or stroll; 4 laps - walk or run; and 8 laps - run only. There will be awards for first place finishers, plus raffle drawings after each lap. All ages welcome. Contact Raechel Tabereaux at runforrelief@yahoo.com for more info, to donate items, or to sponsor the event. Sycamore Springs Middle School • 14451 Sawyer Ranch Rd. • Austin, TX

Concert Series for Flood Relief at Vista Brewing
Aug 16 • 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Join Vista Brewing 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

Kidpreneur Fair
Aug 16 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Young makers, crafters, and budding business minds ages 8 or older are invited to this special event, where they can showcase their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit by becoming vendors for a day. All items sold must be handmade by the child artist, and might include art, jewelry, slime, bookmarks, crafts, or baked goods. Visit www.dscl.org to register. Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX, 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Aug 20 & 27 • 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

Supper Club Dinner
Aug. 21 • 6:30 p.m.
Come and enjoy dinner at Bell Springs Winery. Prix fixe three-course meal prepared by Chef Mike, using farm-to-table ingredients. Dinner will be served either on the patio under the bistro lights or in the party room if the weather is hot or rainy. Tickets \$35 per person, alcohol not included. Open to the public, reservations required. Details at www.bellspringswinery.com. Bell Springs Winery • 3700 Bell Springs Rd. • Dripping Springs, TX 7862

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.

City of Dripping Springs Public Meetings
The City of Dripping Springs welcomes residents and others doing business with the city to attend any of the public meetings below. Streaming options and meeting packets at: cityofdrippingsprings.com. Meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers, 511 W. Mercer St., Dripping Springs, TX 78620. See cityofdrippingsprings.com for more information.

City Council Special Meeting
Aug 19 • 5:30 p.m.
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Aug 20 • 6 p.m.
Emergency Management Committee Regular Meeting
Aug 21 • 12 p.m.
Utility Commission Regular Meeting
Aug 21 • 4 p.m.
Transportation Committee Regular

Meeting
Aug 25 • 3:30 p.m.
Founders Day Committee Special Meeting
Aug 25 • 6:30 p.m.
Hays County

Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Aug 19 • 9 a.m.
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytexas.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Aug 25 • 6 p.m.
Live meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees which sets policy, agenda and strategic planning for the Dripping Springs school district. Agendas and live streaming option available at dsisdtx.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

1975 Tiger Football Champions to be honored

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Fifty years ago the 1975 Tiger football squad was confidently looking forward to a successful football season. After all, it was a predominately senior class that had won the JV title as sophomores and started as juniors. The crystal ball did not predict the trying times this group would face in quest of the title and season. What it would show was the perseverance and resoluteness qualities they possessed. They simply would not give up on their goals and only the rules of the day and poor luck prevented advancement in the playoffs.

The non-district schedule was stacked with opponents who were in the middle of strong programs. Schools had to depend on gate receipts to finance their sports budgets and had to split the gate, so you tried to schedule schools with a good following. The other factor that is always present popped up. Injuries to key personnel. So after facing the gambit of Manor, Pflugerville, Hays, Burnet and Marble Falls, the Tigers found themselves 0-5.

The team realized this situation was not a detriment to their



The 1975 Dripping Springs football team.

final goal and refused to quit the season. They began digging themselves out of the hole. They opened district play with 34-12 and 42-0 wins over Blanco and Marion. Once again, the injury bug hit in the key game with a strong TSD team. That and a three-TD fourth doomed the Tigers to a 34-6 loss. Back came the Tigers with an 18-14 win over Comfort to set up the season finale with the undefeated Stockdale Brahmas. It was a must-win. A Comfort win over TSD and a Tiger win

would put them in the playoffs. The home game was an epic slugfest. Each titan would make their push toward the goal but be stopped by the other's defense. The game was played between the 30's. Early in the opening stanza, the Tigers were tackled in the endzone to give the Brahmas a 2-0 lead that would last into the second when a Tem McCutchen to Val Sanchez pass for 49 yards gave the Tigers an 8-2 lead. The tense battle continued until the final minutes of play.

Stockdale had been running a halfback sweep all night. This time he pulled up and completed a 23 yard pass for the tying score. A tie would be a loss. Once again the team responded. The KO was returned to the 40. Three plays netted four yards, leaving a fourth and six. McCutchen dropped back and let fly a pass toward a streaking Sanchez who snatched the ball above a defender and no one was about to catch the speedy receiver in the 56-yard play. It was bedlam in the endzone. The de-

fense sacked the QB and it was time for the WAIT. Word came from Comfort they had lost to TSD after fumbling twice on the goalline. This meant a three-way tie and a coin toss for the district representative. The Stockdale coach sent his bus home while we waited in the foyer for the TSD bus to make the two-hour trip. The bus arrived and the coach came inside. Three coins hit the floor. Stockdale's was tails and the other two heads, giving

Stockdale the win. The TSD coach turned around, got back on the bus and continued his trip to Austin. The Stockdale coach got into his friend's car for the long trip home but made shorter by the result. I was left with an empty feeling of disappointment for the kids who had done all they could without getting to really appreciate their super effort until later. Their efforts will be honored at the Austin Bowie game on Oct. 10. Ceremonies will commence at 7 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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512.415.2265

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED LISTINGS



22601 RR 12
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$1,950,000

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 - \$1,550,000
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 - \$998,500
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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400 HWY 290 W / BLDG B / SUITE 101 / DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620

FEMA FROM PG. 1

the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program managed by the Texas Workforce Commission. Those who lost a job or income as a direct result of the July 2-18 flooding may be eligible for financial assistance. Unemployment benefits may be available to those who lived, worked or were

scheduled to work in the six counties designated for assistance. Disaster Unemployment Assistance is also available to business owners and those who are self-employed. Those affected have until Thursday, Sept. 4, to apply online at the Unemployment Benefit Services portal at

<https://apps.twc.texas.gov/UBS/security/logon.do> or by phone at 800-939-6631. For more information, visit the Texas Workforce Commission webpage: twc.texas.gov. For the latest information about the Texas recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4879.

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