



Oakwood Public Market set to open
PAGE 2



DSAL Returns to Songwriters Festival
PAGE 3



Tigers rout Austin High
56-13
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

Community Calendar

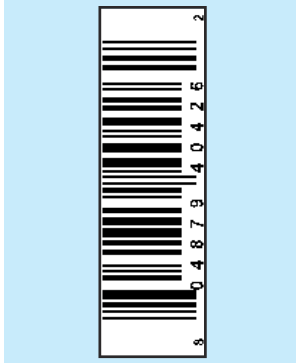
Bye Bye Birdie! Festival of Flight
Oct 11 • 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with guided bird walks in the morning - 7:30 a.m. at Dripping Springs Ranch Park and 8:30 a.m. at Charro Ranch Park. Then head to Founders Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for family fun. Enjoy kids' crafts, activities, vendors, prizes, and more while learning about the beauty of birds and the importance of protecting their habitats. It's a perfect day to connect with nature, celebrate community, and send our feathered friends off in style! Various locations.

2025 Hill Country Harvest Market
Oct 10 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Oct 11 • 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Shop clothing, home and holiday decor, jewelry, gourmet food, Texas hand-made, Scentsy, gifts for the guys, art, accessories, candles, and more. Admission is \$6 or \$5 with a non-perishable food donation to Helping Hands Food Pantry. Admission is good for both days and kids 12 and under are free. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

CALENDAR ON PAGE 7

THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day
ALL OUR DREAMS CAN COME TRUE — IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO PURSUE THEM
- WALT DISNEY



DSISD school board approves tax rate

Laurie Anderson
Editor
The Dripping Springs Board of Trustees met on Sept. 22. The Learning Spotlight for the month was from Sycamore Springs Middle School, and the Peer-Assisted Leadership (PALs) program. Student leaders

attended and spoke to the board about their program. Afterwards, the board heard public comments. A group of DSISD paraprofessionals stood to address the board. Their spokesperson was LaDelle Gowens, a special education instructional aide at the high school. She said the group has come before the board on multiple occasions over the past several years to address the issue of pay for paraprofessionals, and so far, they have not gotten the results they have been seeking. “So what’s the defini-

SEE BOARD ON PAGE 5



LaDelle Gowens gives public comments to the board on behalf of DSISD’s paraprofessionals.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON

A TOAST TO TRADITION

Community celebrates Oktoberfest at local venues

Laurie Anderson
Editor
Residents and visitors of Dripping Springs had two opportunities to raise their steins this weekend. Bell Springs Winery and Ghost Note Brewing both held Oktoberfest celebrations filled with craft beer, live music, and a little German flair.

At Ghost Note, visitors enjoyed pretzels and brats while shopping at the pop-up market. There was also an official U.S. Steinholding Competition. Winners had a chance to advance to State Championship Finals at Wurstfest in November. The evening wrapped up with entertainment from the Taylor Campbell band.

Activities at Bell Springs included steinheists and obstacle courses for adults and kids alike, some traditional German fare, and music from Lizzie Street, out of Taylor, Texas. Back in August, Bell Springs celebrated its 15th anniversary. Owner Nate Pruitt said the venue has become a community space where people enjoy coming to spend a few hours or the whole day.

“15 years is pretty awesome,” Pruitt said. “The community’s been very supportive. We were one of the first wineries to open

SEE TRADITION ON PAGE 5



Brian Thomas and LaDonna Haag of South Austin show their Oktoberfest spirit with their headwear.



Dan and Joellen of Lizzie Street entertain the Bell Springs crowd.



The Taylor Campbell Band plays for Ghost Note visitors.

TxDOT debuts new urban interchange at 290 and 71

Laurie Anderson
Editor
Residents of the Dripping Springs area who drive toward Austin for work or other activities should be aware of a new traffic pattern at the intersection of US 290 and SH 71, known as the “Y”, in Oak Hill. Starting Oct. 9, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will open a new Single-Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) as part of safety and mobility improvements for the Oak Hill Parkway project. The SPUI operates with a single, three-phase traffic signal to facilitate local movements between US 290 and SH 71.

To see an animation of how the SPUI will

work, go to the TxDOT YouTube channel and look for their Sept. 30 video, or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv_z8-YpsKg. Additionally, the William Cannon Drive bypass bridge will close as crews complete connections to the US 290 mainlanes and flyovers between US 290 and SH 71. Eastbound US 290 drivers will detour to the eastbound US 290 frontage road. The William Cannon bypass bridge will reopen for westbound traffic upon completion of the project in 2026. Road signs will be in place to alert drivers of new traffic patterns. TxDOT urges drivers to use caution when driving through the work zone.

Auto theft detectives arrest man for defrauding buyers

Staff Reports
On Sept. 22, Hays County Sheriff’s Office auto theft detectives and patrol deputies arrested Joseph Browning, 49, of unincorporated Kyle following a year-long joint investigation, led by the Texas Department of Public Safety, CID Special Investigations Section - Austin. Browning was under investigation for fraudulent sales and purchases of motor vehicles over a period spanning several years. Browning’s license to operate a motor vehicle dealership has been previously revoked, but investigators found Browning continued conducting business primarily through social media platforms such as Facebook Marketplace. Browning was arrested while leaving his auto repair business on Rohde Road in unincorporated Kyle. The arrest followed indictments issued Sept. 10 by a Hays County Grand Jury. Browning faces the following charges:

- Forgery of a Governmental

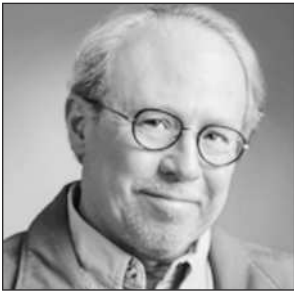


JOSEPH BROWNING Instrument, a third-degree felony (5 counts)
• Forgery of a Financial Instrument, a state-jail felony (3 counts)
• Theft \$300,000 or More, a first-degree felony
• Theft \$30,000 to \$150,000, a third-degree felony
• Injury to a Child Reckless Bodily Injury, a state-jail felony
• Injury to a Child Intentional Bodily Injury, a third-degree felony
Browning remains in custody at the Hays County Jail, on a total bond of \$1,023,000 for these charges and an additional case. This investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may be filed. Hays County residents who believe they

SEE ARREST ON PAGE 5

Capital Highlights

Trio of judges to rule on congressional map



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

The same plaintiffs who are challenging the state’s 2021 congressional map are asking a panel of three federal judges to block using the new GOP-approved districts from being used in the March midterms. The Texas Tribune reported this is the first legal test for the redrawn districts, which are intended to increase the Texas congressional seats held by Republicans by five.

The hearing began Wednesday in El Paso and is expected to last nine days. Voting rights lawsuits are initially heard by two district judges and one circuit judge. Their ruling can only be appealed directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Several lawsuits were filed after Texas legislators redrew voting maps in 2021 following the decennial census. Those suits were consolidated into one case, League of United Latin American Citizens versus Abbott. As with the 2021 lawsuit, the latest complaint claims the new map harms the voting rights of Latino and Black vot-

ers.

Time is running short, with the filing deadline for candidates on Dec. 8.

“All of this, every part of this, is about the clock right now,” said Justin Levitt, a voting rights expert at Loyola Law School. “The plaintiffs want an answer as soon as possible. Texas wants to stall like crazy. All of this is about what’s going to get a court to deliver an answer before the next election.”

Texas Stock Exchange gets SEC approval

The Dallas-based Texas Stock Exchange has received approval to operate as a national securities exchange from the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, KERANews reported. The announcement came exactly a year after Gov. Greg Abbott celebrated the exchange’s creation.

TXSE is the first exchange to receive SEC approval in decades. It will launch trading and corporate listings in 2026.

“Today’s approval marks a pivotal moment in our effort to build a world-class exchange rooted in alignment, transparency, and partnership with issuers and investors,” said James H Lee, founder and CEO of TXSE.

Its mission, according to a news release, is

to “reverse the decades-long decline in the number of U.S. public companies by reducing the burden of going and staying public.”

How federal shutdown is affecting Texas

The federal shutdown that began last Wednesday is stopping, for now, a chunk of the hundreds of billions of dollars that flow from Washington to Texas each year, the Houston Chronicle reported. Also affected are the more than 230,000 Texans who work for the federal government and will not receive a paycheck until the shutdown ends. That includes members of the military.

Texas is home to 14 military bases operated by more than 100,000 enlisted men and women, as well as large numbers of civilians working in support industries such as food service and construction.

Medicare and Social Security payments will continue, and military bases and other operations considered essential to national security will continue to operate.

Air traffic controllers and employees of the Transportation Security Administration are considered essential employees and are required to continue working without a paycheck until the

shutdown ends. Staffing shortages are expected at major Texas airports, as cash-strapped workers either stay home or look for new jobs.

In addition, most federal courts will be forced to close if the shutdown lasts very long, as their funding reserves run out. National parks likely will remain open, just without anyone staffing them.

Talarico raises \$6.2 million in first three weeks of Senate bid

State Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, raised \$6.2 million in the first three weeks of his bid for U.S. Senate, kut.org reported. That far outpaces his main rival for the Democratic nomination, former U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, who announced raising \$4.1 million over three months since launching his campaign on July 1.

Talarico’s donations came from more than 125,000 individual contributors across 230 Texas counties and all 50 states, according to his campaign. It is the most a Senate candidate of either party has raised in the first quarter of their campaign in Texas history.

“We’re underdogs in this fight against billionaire mega-donors and their puppet politicians, but more than one hundred thousand people have answered the call to build a new

kind of politics,” Talarico, a former public-school teacher, said in a statement.

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination for the Senate will face either Republican incumbent John Cornyn or Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is challenging him. Neither has announced their third-quarter fundraising totals.

Regulatory efficiency office is now open

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office is now open for business, under the office of Gov. Greg Abbott. Its mission is reviewing agency rules and procedures to cut red tape and to eliminate waste, fraud and unnecessary rules while increasing transparency for Texas taxpayers.

A news release states, “TREO will guide state agencies in finding outdated and redundant regulations and create best practices to make agencies’ rule making processes more efficient.” It will also house a website that will assist Texans in understanding what rules need to be followed when starting a new career or business, as well as the Regulation Evaluation Portal to submit feedback or report potential government over-regulation.

“The State of Texas operates at the speed of business, and this new

Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office will ensure we continue to foster economic opportunity and protect individual liberty,” Abbott said.

Hot and dry conditions expected in October

It might be autumn on paper, but for much of Texas, hot and dry weather is expected to continue through October. The return of the La Niña weather pattern makes it more likely much of the state will see dry weather and temperatures above average, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

La Niña forces the polar jet stream farther north, resulting in drier weather for the southern portion of the United States and colder, wetter weather in the upper Midwest and Northwest.

Meteorologist Anthony Franza with the San Antonio Express-News notes that the incoming La Niña likely will be relatively weak compared to previous years. So perhaps we will catch a break from the heat, even if briefly.

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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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oakwood Public Market set to open in October

Staff Reports

Oakwood Public Market, a food and community hub located in Headwaters in Dripping Springs, recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to count down to its planned October opening.

Perched on a hilltop with sweeping views of Dripping Springs and beyond, Oakwood Public Market was built as a space for neighbors and visitors alike. Guests are encouraged to relax and enjoy the various experiences the Market has to offer - from all-day

dining options to specialty shopping, community events and more.

“We designed Oakwood to feel like it’s always been part of this community – a place where people can eat well, kick back and connect,” said Ryan Schibi, Director of Operations. “From morning coffee to family dinners, we hope Oakwood becomes part of your daily rhythm.”

The ribbon cutting was co-hosted by the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce, and included a tour of the site, which will in-

clude a coffee shop, a pizza kitchen, the Oakwood Bar & Restaurant, and The Soda Shop. It also features a retail shop allied Over Yonder that offers home goods and gifts, and the Oakwood Market itself, which will carry pantry staples along with local and international foods, wines and beers.

In addition, there are indoor and outdoor seating areas, a playscape for all ages, a private event space, and a music stage.

“We built this space to host life’s best moments, from rehearsal dinners to Sunday

brunches and everything in between,” said Blake Rue, Headwaters developer and co-founder of Oakwood.

“Dripping Springs has become a destination for events and celebrations — and we’re proud to be an inclusive space where visitors from near and far can join in the festivities and feel like they belong.”

Area residents can follow along at exploreoakwood.com or @exploreoakwood on Instagram and Facebook to stay updated on opening events, music on the patio and more.



ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Art Meets Music: DSAL Returns to Songwriters Festival

Steve Friedman

It's that time again — Songwriters Festival is returning to Dripping Springs! Every October, our town becomes a stage for 40 incredible songwriters from across the country. For three days, the streets and venues of Dripping Springs fill with music, stories, and community spirit - and it's all free.

This year, the Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL) is thrilled to once again bring the visual arts into the mix, adding brushstrokes and color to the rhythms and lyrics that make this festival so special. After debuting at the festival's tenth anniversary last year, DSAL is back October 17-19 with an even bigger presence. More than 20 volunteers have been working since May to prepare art experiences that celebrate creativity in every form.



Jessi Bostad capturing the vibe at the Warehouse District Stage at Songwriters 2024

Live Art!

One of last year's crowd favorites is back—live art at the outdoor stages. Five local artists will set up their easels at the outdoor stages on Mercer Friday and Saturday, painting in real time as musicians perform. What begins as a blank canvas transforms over the course of the afternoon into a vibrant expression of sound and energy.

Festivalgoers can watch the process unfold brushstroke by brushstroke, then find the completed works available for purchase inside the DSAL Art Lounge. It's a rare chance to witness music and art collide in the moment.

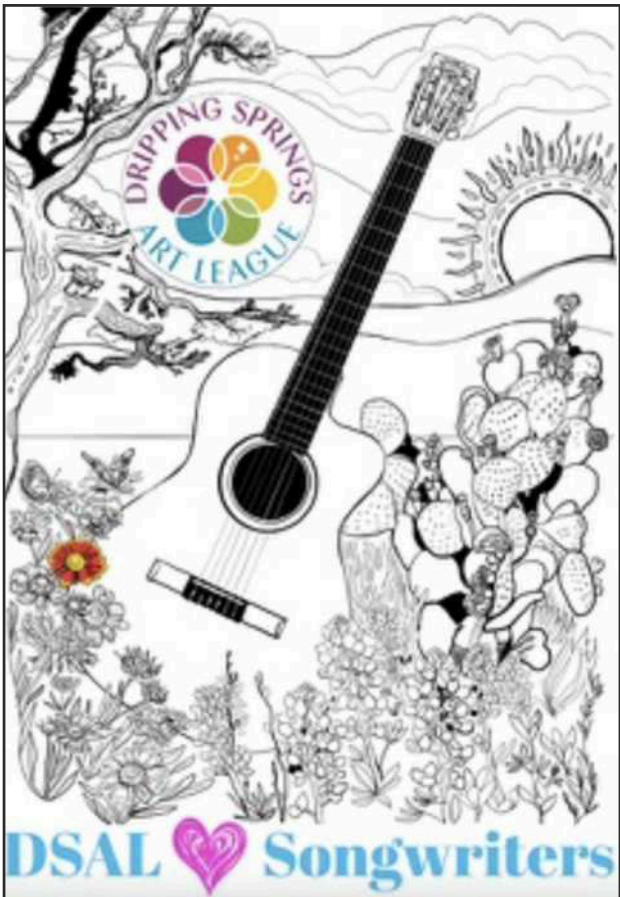


Songwriter S.J. McDonald celebrates the inspiring art of Artist Erin Hounsell.

Artists Supporting Artists

DSAL's "Artists Supporting Artists" program also returns for a second year. Over the summer, several local artists paired with performing songwriters, creating new works inspired by their lyrics, voices, and stories. These pieces will be on display in the Art Lounge throughout the weekend. A portion of all proceeds go to the songwriter.

On Saturday, many of the songwriter-artist pairs will share the stories behind their collaborations. As one participant said last year, "Seeing my story reflected in a painting gave me chills—I felt truly seen." This cross-disciplinary exchange is what the Songwriters Festival is all about: artists inspiring one another and deepening connections with audiences.



DSAL's Songwriters Shirts for Sale in the Lounge

Step Inside the Art Lounge

The heart of DSAL's presence is the Art Lounge, a 60'x20' tent on the field next to the Songbird Stage. Step inside and you'll discover more than 600 works of art—paintings, glass, ceramics, photography, fiber art, hats, metal art, and more—created by the talented artists of Dripping Springs.



Image from the DSAL's Art Lounge at Songwriters Festival 2024

The Art Lounge is part gallery, part gathering place. It's the perfect spot to browse, relax be-

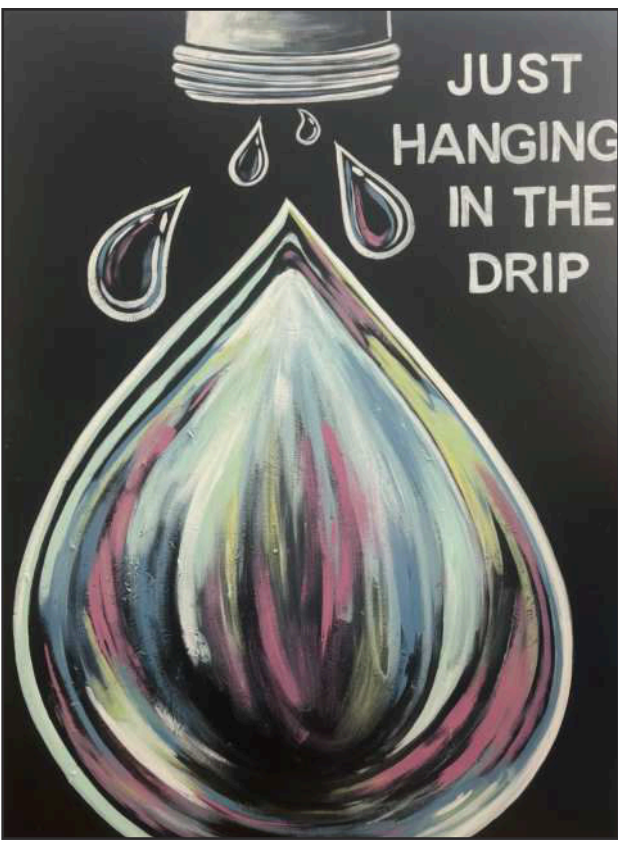


Image from the DSAL's Art Lounge at Songwriters Festival 2024



Image from the DSAL's Art Lounge at Songwriters Festival 2024

tween sets, or find that one-of-a-kind piece to take home. Commemorative Songwriters Festival turret tiles and DSAL's popular songwriter shirts will also be available for purchase inside.

Interactive Fun

Just outside the lounge, festivalgoers can add their voices to DSAL's "Community Music Wall," leaving behind favorite song lyric or cherished musical memory and hang it on the wall. It's a chance to celebrate the power of music, connect with neighbors, and discover the songs and stories that inspire our community.

And for a lighthearted keepsake, don't miss the playful, life-sized "Just Hanging in the Drip" photo backdrop. Both interactive experiences offer creative ways to mark the weekend and carry it forward.

Join the Celebration

Whether you're a longtime Songwriters Festival fan or a first-timer, make sure October 17-19 is circled on your calendar. Wander Mercer Street and Old Fitzhugh, soak up the sounds, and step into the Art Lounge to discover the visual side of our creative community.

Music and art belong together, and in Dripping Springs, they do. Come celebrate with us, meet the artists, and take home a piece of the weekend. We can't wait to say "Howdy!"

Moore sentenced to life for domestic violence

Staff Reports

The Office of Hays County Criminal District Attorney Kelly Higgins announced on Sept. 19 that 44-year-old Cameron Moore, formerly of Bexar County, Texas, was convicted of burglary of a habitation with felonious intent, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, tampering with a witness and endangering a child by Hays County District Court Judge Sherri Tibbe on September 19, 2025. Judge Tibbe assessed a sentence of life in prison.

In May of 2019, Moore was prosecuted for violence against the same victim for offenses of aggravated kidnapping, attempted capital murder, stalking, and violation of a protective order. Evidence was presented to a Hays County jury in the 2019 trial that showed that Moore had installed a GPS device on the victim's vehicle and followed her to the police station, where he proceeded to strangle her in the parking lot. He had a zip tie and a pocket-knife on his person. Moore had also stalked

the victim multiple times and continuously abused her throughout the course of their eight-year relationship. The jury in that trial returned a verdict convicting Moore of lesser-included offenses and assessed a 10-year sentence. While incarcerated following the 2019 conviction, Moore made ongoing threats of violence against another victim. The state had concerns that Moore would continue to pose a threat to the community generally and to the victims specifically. He

was prosecuted for the additional offenses to ensure the protection of the community. Assistant District Attorneys Katie Arnold and Courtney Hanson prosecuted this case. "We'd like to thank the survivor in this case. Without her ongoing determination and bravery, we would not be able to ensure that such a violent criminal was behind bars. It's been a long journey for her, and we're pleased that she will be safe from him, as well as any other women that cross his path," said Arnold.



CAMERON MOORE

Dripping Springs CLASSIFIEDS

P.O. Box 732 Dripping Springs, TX 78620 512-858-4163

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SALE

SPRINGHOLLOW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX BONDS, SERIES 2025 (A political subdivision of the State of Texas located in Hays County, Texas) \$7,500,000

Selling: Thursday, October 23, 2025
Bids Due: 9:30 AM, C.D.T.
Place and Time of Award: The District will consider the award of the sale of the Bonds on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 12:30PM, C.D.T. The meeting will be held outside the boundaries of the District at the office of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300, Austin, TX 78701. Action will be taken immediately by the Board of Directors of the District to accept or reject the best bid. Each bidder must deliver a Bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$150,000 payable to the order of Springhollow Municipal Utility District as a good faith deposit to Specialized Public Finance, 248 Addie Roy Road, Suite B-103, Austin, Texas 78746, by 9:30 AM C.D.T. on the date of the sale. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. are not responsible if such electronic mail is malfunctioning which prevents a bid or bids from being submitted on a timely basis. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. will not be responsible for submitting any bids received after the above deadlines. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. assume no responsibility or liability with respect to any irregularities associated with the submission of bids if the electronic mail bid option is exercised.

Address of the Bids/Bids Delivered in Person: Written bids, plainly marked "Bid for Bonds" should be addressed to the Board of Directors of Springhollow Municipal Utility District, and if delivered in person, delivered to Garry Kimball, Specialized Public Finance Inc. at 248 Addie Roy Road, Suite B-103, Austin, Texas 78746, by 9:30 AM. C.D.T., on Thursday, October 23, 2025. All bids must be signed and submitted on the "Official Bid Form".
Electronic Bidding Procedures: Any prospective bidder that intends to submit an electronic bid must submit its electronic bid through the facilities of PARITY between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM, C.D.T., on Thursday, October 23, 2025, as described in the "Official Notice of Sale" described below. Subscription to the i-Deal LLC's BIDCOMP Competitive Bidding System is required in order to submit an electronic bid through PARITY. Further information about PARITY, including any fee charged, may be obtained from Dalcomp/Parity, 1359 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10018, (212) 849-5021. An electronic bid made through the facilities of PARITY shall be deemed a sealed irrevocable offer to purchase the Bonds on the terms provided in this Official Notice of Sale, and shall be binding upon the bidder as if made by a signed, sealed bid delivered to the District. Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the "Official Notice of Sale"; "Official Bid Form", and the "Preliminary Official Statement", which may be obtained from Specialized Public Finance Inc., 248 Addie Roy Road, Suite B-103, Austin, Texas 78746, Financial Advisor to the District. The bidder whose bid is the lowest bid in accordance with the "Official Notice of Sale" will be notified immediately by Specialized Public

Public Notice

Public Notice

Finance Inc. and must submit a fax of the SIGNED Official Bid Form in connection with the sale by 10:00AM, C.D.T. on Thursday, October 23, 2025 to Monica Melvin, Specialized Public Finance Inc. at monica@spfmuni.com. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids for the Bonds and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the "Official Notice of Sale", the "Preliminary Official Statement" and the "Official Bid Form".

Board of Directors
Springhollow Municipal Utility District

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
– RFP #25-26-09 FOR CONSTRUCTION

MANAGER-AT-RISK SERVICES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING & HVAC RENOVATIONS MULTIPLE PROJECTS

Dripping Springs Independent School District (the "District") is soliciting proposals from qualified companies to serve as Construction Manager at Risk for New Construction, Building & HVAC Renovations Multiple Projects. This is a one-step selection process pursuant to Texas Government Code Sect. 2269.253. Responses must be submitted in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals. Sealed responses must be received by October 10, 2025 at 2:00 P.M., in envelopes plainly marked, "RFP #25-26-09 Construction Manager-at-Risk". Faxed or electronic proposals are not acceptable and will be disqualified.

Sealed responses should be delivered to the District Office: Dripping Springs ISD

Attn: Valerie Littrell, Purchasing Coordinator 300 Sportsplex Drive Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

A copy of the Request for Proposal and related information may be obtained at the District's website at <https://www.dsisdtx.us/o/dsisd/page/purchasing> or by contacting Valerie Littrell, Purchasing Coordinator, at valerie.littrell@dsisdtx.us Dripping Springs ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals/qualifications.



Public Notice

NOTICE OF SALE

SPRINGHOLLOW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX ROAD BONDS, SERIES 2025A (A political subdivision of the State of Texas located in Hays County, Texas) \$2,000,000 Selling: Thursday, October 23, 2025 Bids Due: 10:00 AM, C.D.T.

Place and Time of Award: The District will consider the award of the sale of the Bonds on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 12:30PM, C.D.T. The meeting will be held outside the boundaries of the District at the office of Armbrust & Brown, PLLC, 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300, Austin, TX 78701. Action will be taken immediately by the Board of Directors of the District to accept or reject the best bid. Each bidder must deliver a Bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$40,000 payable to the order of Springhollow Municipal Utility District as a good faith deposit to Specialized Public Finance Inc., 248 Addie Roy Road, Suite B-103, Austin, Texas 78746, by 10:00 AM C.D.T. on the date of the sale. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. are not responsible if such electronic mail is malfunctioning which prevents a bid or bids from being submitted on a timely basis. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. will not be responsible for submitting any bids received after the above deadlines. The District and Specialized Public Finance Inc. assume no responsibility or liability with respect to any irregularities associated with the submission of bids if the electronic mail bid option is exercised.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

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Board of Directors
Springhollow Municipal Utility District

EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Every child learns at a different pace, but often children need our help in removing obstacles that prevent them from reaching their full potential. Dripping Springs Independent School District provides free referral and information services to help children with learning challenges that may interfere with their ability to do well in school. These can include difficulties with social interactions, playing, talking, seeing, hearing, behavior and movement. This service is available to infants, children and youth beginning at birth to age 21. If you are concerned that your child seems to be learning or playing differently from others, please call the Special Services office at 512-858-3066 for more information. We are here to help you meet the learning needs of your child.

EDUCANDO A NIÑOS CON DESAFÍOS DE APRENDIZAJE

Cada niño aprende a un ritmo diferente; aun así, ocasionalmente los niños necesitan nuestra ayuda para remover esos obstáculos que les previenen alcanzar su máximo potencial. El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Dripping Springs ofrece servicios gratuitos de información y de referencia para ayudar a niños con desafíos de aprendizaje que pudieran interferir en su capacidad de tener éxito en la escuela. Estos pueden incluir dificultades en las interacciones sociales, al jugar, hablar, ver, oír, su conducta, o movimiento. Este servicio está disponible para niños y jóvenes desde su nacimiento hasta los 21 años de edad. Si usted observa que su niño parece estar aprendiendo o jugando de manera distinta a los demás, por favor llame a la Oficina de Educación Especial (Special Services) al 512-858-3066, para obtener más información. Estamos aquí para ayudarlo a mejorar las necesidades de aprendizaje de su niño.



TRADITION FROM PG. 1



Kennedy Landreth and her canine companion enjoy the celebration at Bell Springs Winery, which included several events for the kids.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

out here.” Over the years, as the area has boomed, the venue has also grown, and now also has its own brewery. “Integrating beer was something I decided to do, and we were one of the first wineries in Texas to actually have wine and beer at the same place,” Pruitt said. “And we’re continuing to make things inclusive, so we have mocktails, we have nonalcoholic, and we have a 100 percent gluten free beer on tap, which is one of the first

in Texas to do that.” They’ve also recently partnered with another winery, Graveyard Vineyards, which is now located on the property. Pruitt said he hopes to expand even further, becoming a sort of makerspace for other small businesses. However, his goal is always to be a place where people love to gather. “Even though we’ve expanded, we’ve tried to keep it inviting and welcoming and family friendly and all that good stuff,” Pruitt said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Texas needs a deposit refund system for beverage containers

A new Texas A&M University study confirms what industry leaders are warning: U.S. recycling is too dependent on volatile imports. Even small tariff changes cause wild swings in supply. That leaves families, businesses, and recyclers paying the price. Recent shifts in global trade are sending shockwaves through America’s supply chains. Tariffs on plastics, now including PET resin, the material used to make water and soda bottles, have added uncertainty and cost to an already unstable marketplace. For consumers, that means higher prices at the grocery store. For U.S. manufacturers, it means unpredictable access to the recycled materials they need.

For Texas communities, it means more bottles and cans ending up in rivers, storm drains, and along highways instead of being put back to work in our economy. The good news? Texas can fix this. By adopting a deposit refund system for beverage containers, we can:

- Keep billions of bottles and cans in circulation, not in landfills
- Build a stable, homegrown supply of recycled materials for Texas manufacturers
- Cut litter and protect our rivers and Gulf Coast

Together, we can make Texas a leader in clean water and strong supply chains.

Sincerely,
Joe Trotter
Texans For Clean Water

BOARD FROM PG. 1

tion of a successful employee? It includes but is not limited to, strong work ethic, positive workplace behavior, willingness to learn, teamwork...” Gowens said. “As an adult, our paycheck is our report card. And even when we’re hitting and exceeding all the benchmarks of the successful employee, we receive failing grades from our pay.” She said a lot of the paraprofessionals working for the district cannot afford to live in the area. Many work second jobs, and some have even had to quit to find other employment. Gowens invited the board members to come and visit the paraprofessionals on the job. “Put us first on your list,” Gowens said. “Come see us and what we do every day with our most vulnerable population and our special needs kids.” In other business, the



Members of the Peer-Assisted Leadership (PALs) group from Sycamore Springs Middle School attend the board meeting.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2025 tax rate of \$1.1052 (per \$100 of certified property value). That rate is unchanged from 2024 and has decreased by more than 41 cents since 2018, according to the district. Due to the anticipated increase in the homestead exemption on the November ballot, the average DSISD homeowner is expected to pay approximately

\$6,847 in property taxes - down from \$7,206 last year. The total tax rate of \$1.1052 consists of two parts: \$0.7552 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.35 for Interest and Sinking. The Maintenance and Operations (M&O) portion covers district operating costs, such as salaries and benefits, utility bills, and supplies, and is subject to recapture. The Interest

and Sinking (I&S) rate generates revenue that can only be used to pay off voter-approved debt. Property tax bills are a product of the tax rate and the property value. Therefore, a property owners’ tax bill could increase even when the tax rate remains the same or decreases. The next meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees is set for Oct. 27.

OBITUARIES

Robert Edward Lane

Robert Lane passed away peacefully on September 22, 2025. He is survived by his wife Susan and son Joe, and will be missed forever.

ARREST FROM PG. 1

have been a victim in a similar incident, particularly who have experienced titling issues following a motor vehicle purchase are encouraged to make a report and request that report be forwarded to the Auto Theft Unit. Anonymous reports and tips may also be submitted to Crime Stoppers by calling (800) 324-8477 from anywhere in the U.S. or online at www.P3tips.com.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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 00021868 FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED 512.738.2185 okanelawnscapes@gmail.com member Ben O’Kane Owner/Operator	Landscaping Services TEXAS STAR PAINTING WE PROVIDE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PAINTING SERVICES 512-699-0441	Painting Services Decks by Bob Remodels by Bob Complete interior & exterior renovations & repairs photos on Facebook/Bobby Nombrana Serving San Marcos & Tri County area Locally owned 25+ years 512 757 7201	Painting 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
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	Tree Services KLEEN WINDOWS Hill Country Painting “Windows are a pain, so call the professionals!” (512-554-1401) Pressure Washing • Exterior Painting Deck Restoration www.kleenwindows99.com FREE ESTIMATES	Renovations & Repairs Landscaping Services HEALTHY OAK TREES LAWN SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE Tree Trimming • Tree Removals • 24 Hour Emergency Tree Services • Brush Haul-Off • Lot Clearing Fence Design & Installation • Pergolas • Landscape Xeriscape • Gardening Services • Mulching Locally Owned & Operated 210-317-0034 • 512-800-1161	Renovations & Repairs Painting Services Texas Painting Unlimited LLC Painting the Texas Hill Country for Over 40 Years. Our services include... -Inpaint -Ex-paint -Drywall -Carpentry -Power washing -Deck, door, and cabinet restoration Serving Wimberley & Surrounding areas Free Estimates! CALL (512-557-4371) NOW Texaspaintingunlimited.com
Community Services DRIPPING SPRINGS HELPING HANDS A HELPING HAND WHEN AND WHERE YOU NEED IT Here to help with... • light, local moving assistance, • pickup/delivery from local vendors, • hardware store/grocery store deliveries, • shuttle services including airport and appointments, • handy man jobs indoor and out, ...and many other small tasks! Serving Dripping Springs and the nearby local Hill Country surrounding area CALL ME AT: (757) 604-9382	Service Directory Put your ad in the Service Directory. Call for deadlines and availability! (512) 847-2202		

SSMS hosts largest eSports tournament in city history

The cafeteria at Sycamore Springs Middle School (SSMS) was transformed into a gaming epicenter on Friday, Oct. 3 as the eSports club and the SSMS PTA hosted a Mario Kart Tournament for the students.

Adam Santos, math teacher and eSports club sponsor, said over 60 students and volunteers signed up to participate, making this the largest eSports tournament event ever held in Dripping Springs.

“We’re trying to host events for students that normally don’t stay after school for the typical extracurriculars like band, choir, athletics, and UIL,” Santos said.

Last spring, the school hosted a Smash Bros Ultimate tournament for students, but this tournament drew double the number of participants.

“We know that gaming is a huge part of students’ lives,” Santos said. “One of our major goals with hosting eSports tournaments is to give another competitive outlet for students who don’t normally get to showcase their talents.”

The event also enabled students from different interest areas to mingle and interact with students from other social circles than their own, Santos said.

“My personal favorite part of the event is just hearing students cheer, encourage, and give



The tournament was held in the cafeteria and displayed on multiple screens.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON



The winners celebrate on stage with their awards.

tips to each other during the competition,” Santos said. “We know that there is so much negativity and toxicity that can occur in online spaces around gaming. I think it’s important to have kids partake in something that they normally do in isolation, in a structured and competitive environment. It becomes a great way to showcase the unique ways that video games can bring communities together for fun and fellowship.”



Students compete in the Mario Kart tournament.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON



A group of boys challenge each other in a round.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Adam Santos, eSports sponsor, looks over the brackets.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Donna Lee to headline local comedy showcase on Oct. 17

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Balancing family life and a comedy career is no joke - which is why local comedian Donna Lee stepped off the stage twelve years ago to focus on raising her boys. But last year, she decided it was time to return to the limelight - and is now doing full-time comedy.

“I started out doing mostly Texas cities and clubs,” Lee said. “Now I’m branching out, and doing nationwide touring. So that’s kind of new. I’m already getting really big feature gigs and headline gigs, so I’m traveling everywhere.”

On Oct. 17, she’ll be headlining a Comedy Showcase at 12 Fox Beer Co. It will be hosted by Michael Dennis, and will feature comedians Andrew Quintana, Demi Chang and Michael Morgan. The show starts at 8 p.m. Her show will be family friendly - for the most part.

“I think that what sets me apart is the mom comedy. I’m fairly clean. I talk a few edgy things, but I don’t drop F bombs

on stage,” Lee said. “It’s really hard to be a clean comedian. Even clean-ish.”

Lee, who lives in Bee Cave and has worked in Dripping Springs, said her son was her inspiration for being a clean comedian.

“I didn’t want him to grow up and see something on the Internet that was going to embarrass him,” Lee said. “He’s very proud of me today. He comes to my shows, and he tells me all the time he’s so proud that I got back into it.”

Lee’s husband and two stepsons have also been supportive of her comedy career. Another one of her inspirations was Leanne Morgan, who she worked with back in her early days of comedy.

“I opened for her three times, and she was just so inspiring and fun,” Lee said.

Lee got her start in comedy in 2006, after applying for a spot on Nick@Nite’s Search for the Funniest Mom in America. Leanne Morgan was on Season 1, and Lee was on Season 2, which is

how they ended up meeting.

Lee said when she saw the casting call for the show, she thought to herself, “Well, I’m pretty funny.” So her friend came over with a camcorder and they videotaped her set and sent it in. Not long after, she got the call that she was accepted. She said she’s still not sure why. Lee said that being on a reality show was a great but humbling experience.

“Every comedian, even though we’re all kind of weird introverts for the most part, we’re all ego driven, right? So I thought, I’m gonna make the show, and I’m gonna win the show, because I got goals,” Lee said. “Well, I get to the episode where I’m doing a contest... and I bombed, and it was awful, and I thought, I am going to die. Of embarrassment. I’m on national TV, and I’m horrifically unfunny.”

But Lee has no regrets. She even has the links to the show on her YouTube channel.

“That was one of

the most exciting things I’ve ever done, and the most humbling thing that’s ever happened to me,” Lee said. “But I would do it again. I would absolutely do it again.”

Speaking of humbling, Lee has also appeared twice on Kill Tony, which is one of the most watched podcasts in the world. For her first appearance, she didn’t just tell jokes, she was also the butt of one. But that still didn’t stop her. Her most recent Kill Tony appearance aired on Monday, Oct. 6.

“I’m a middle-aged mom lady who gave up on her dreams. So that’s my big comeback story,” Lee said. “And I am so emotional. It’s just been such a blessing, I can’t believe how far I’ve come in such a short time. My passion is to make people laugh. What makes me feel good is just to make people forget something for a moment and laugh.”

To learn more about Donna Lee, you can find her on YouTube, social media or on her website at www.donnaleecomedy.com.



Donna Lee performs at Cap City Comedy Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pet of the week



Bastian • Male
10 years old
Bullmastiff

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



Puddin • Female
7 years old
Yorkie

My name's just as cute as I am! You can call me Cutie Patootie, Puddin Pie, or Puddin Pop because I love silly nicknames. I'm a happy, waggy lady who loves the cozy life. I love snoozing the day away, except when it's chow time, then I'm wide awake and ready for treats! I'm a super happy pup, and since I'm such a sleepyhead, I get along great with other dogs and cats. No drama here! After a quick trip outside, I just find my favorite spot to curl up and chill. I'm house-trained as long as you take me out on a schedule. I won't bark to remind you, though, so keep an eye on the clock for me. What I really crave is being held and cuddled. I love when you pick me up, carry me around, and spoil me rotten! I'm already spayed and up to date on all my shots, so I'm ready to be your perfect little companion. If you're dreaming of a tiny furball to love and dote on, please adopt me! I'm hoping for a foster or forever home where I can snuggle up with you every day. Won't you be my human? Please visit LizzysHospice.com to fill out an application.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

10/9 Themeless Sunday 153 by Geoffrey Schorkopf and Rafael Musa

ACROSS

- 1 Stars late in life
10 "Otherwise ..."
15 Claim from someone who's not not hungry
16 Words next to an F
17 Lurk ominously
18 Large concert venue
19 Stately trees
20 ____ Jones
Industrial Average
21 "Feel me?"
22 Jo, to Meg March
23 Autographed
26 ____ cake (gooey dessert)
27 Tech journalist Swisher
28 Largest govt. agency

30 That woman

- 31 "It's best left unanswered"
35 Komodo dragon, e.g.
37 "Help! This is breaking my brain!"
39 Certain tattoo, or the shirt part that covers it
40 Hostile place, metaphorically
41 Low island
42 '80s TV extra-terrestrial
44 Piece for a couple, e.g.
45 Frees (of)
47 Like the smell of dough
49 Navy rank below capt.
52 Corn often

- topped with chile powder and cotija cheese
54 Limb where tefillin or brace-lets are worn
55 "Truth or ____?"
56 Rouses from sleep
57 Takes something to the next level
60 Become acquainted with on Tinder, say
61 In vain
62 Model Haddon who wrote "Ageless Beauty"
63 Lip-puckering treat
DOWN
1 Aggravates

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A	L	O	E		O	V	E	R		K	A	R	L	A
R	E	N	T		T	E	N	S		S	W	E	A	T

- 2 Bacteria whose strains are mostly harmless
3 Condemns to failure
4 Tooth holders
5 Not feeling 100%
6 Poet laureate Limon
7 Geeky thrill of excitement
8 Add as a bonus
9 Worried and worried
10 "My word!"
11 Untamed
12 "Can I help you?"
13 Set of all realities, in science fiction
14 Where to enjoy a scenic spot?
23 Stimulating cannabis variety
24 How a door might be slammed
25 Apportion
27 Get down on one ____
29 "Toy Story" studio

- 31 "My goose is cooked"
32 Buddhist spiritual leader
33 "Sounds good"
34 "How I Met Your Mother" actor Penn
36 Lemon peel shavings
38 List with small courses
43 Meals with big courses
46 Stainless ____ appliances
48 "Star Wars" droid, familiarly
49 Board game with a Longest Road card
50 Dungeons & Dragons class wielding nature-themed magic
51 Answer
53 Spanish direction hidden in "Achilles tendon"
55 Opera star
58 ____ favor
59 Cul-de-____

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



"Wombania is about a family of Wombies who move in with their human relative and take over his home and his life. An all-ages comic, Wombania is a unique look at life, relationships, food, and technology, and how we struggle to cope with the fast-paced, ever-changing world in which we live."

CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

INVASION Haunted House and Hayride
Oct 10 & 11 • 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
The year is 2030, and two alien species are in a war for control of the Earth, while the few remaining humans try to mount a resistance! Proceeds from this haunted house and hayride are going to Burke Center for Youth. Visit <https://hellcountry-haunt.com> for tickets.
Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Oct 11 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Friends of the Dripping Springs Community Library is having a book sale to benefit the Dripping Springs Community Library. Proceeds will supplement library programming, special events and extra-budgetary items. Children's books, cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, old and collectible, Western/Texana, coffee table books and some videos and DVDs will be available. Flight Ice Creams will be on hand. The Hall, Caliterra • 505 Wynnpag Drive • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Creepy Crawlers, Wrigglers, and Fliers!
Oct 15 • 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Enjoy a free night of guided nature fun! Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center
• 1042 Event Center Drive
• Dripping Springs, 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Oct 15 & 22 • 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Dripping Springs Farmer's Market is held on Wednesdays at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Visitors can gather and shop for fresh agricultural and related products. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Songwriters Fest - Oct 17-19
Oct 17 • 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Oct 18 • 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Oct 19 • 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
This 3-day music festival treats music lovers to a wide variety of amazing songs and the people and stories behind the finely crafted tunes. The songwriting showcases give attendees the op-

portunity to experience tomorrow's headliners in small-stage "listening room" performances at unique venues in historic downtown Dripping Springs. On 7 stages, featuring 70 shows, 35+ songwriters will perform in an "in the round" Nashville-style song-swap format. All shows downtown are FREE. For details visit drippingspringssongwriters-festival.com. Various locations.

Denim & Disco Gala
Oct. 18 • 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Hill Country Rally for Kids is hosting its annual gala to raise money for children's causes. Enjoy a delicious dinner with friends and supporters, sip on signature drinks, compete in table-to-table Mash Up challenges, and enjoy the 360° Video Booth. Dress to the T's or come casual, and get the low down on what the Rally's goals are. Reserve a table at www.hcrally.com. Hog Heaven • 491 Hog Hollow Road • 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.

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. City Council meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers, 511 W. Mercer St., Dripping Springs, TX 78620. See cityofdripping-springs.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Oct 15 • 6 p.m.

Farmers Market Committee Regular Meeting
Oct 16 • 10 a.m.

Emergency Management Committee Regular Meeting

Oct 16 • 12 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting
Oct. 21 • 6 p.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Oct 14 • 9 a.m.
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytx.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Oct 27 • 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.

Tigers rout Austin High 56-13

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The football district with the Austin teams in it is definitely a have and have not district. Dripping Springs, Lake Travis and Westlake only have to go through the three to find out where they will land in the play-offs. Otherwise their other games are non-competitive. Bowie is usually the best of the rest.

That was the situation as the Tigers took on the Austin Maroons. Just like the Akins game, the Tigers took it to the Maroons and scored on almost every possession to put the game away early.

The Tigers would score twice in the first quarter. First Chase

Ames would hook up with Cooper Reid for a 36 TD and Ian French added the EP. Following an interception by Major Bettridge, the same combination was good from the 25. Colten Tripp swiped his pass but the 48FG attempt by French was wide right. Gage De Los Santos also intercepted a pass that led to the first TD in the second.

Two more scores in the second. The Ames-Reid combo was good for a 27TD. Merrick Bloomgren got in on the feast with a two yard toss by Ames. The final drive of the half was thwarted by a fumble at the 11.

The third quarter was productive as well. Ames would hit James

Montgomery for 82 and 48 scores, Ames would get in on the opposite way to score as he took it in from the three. 49-0.

The fourth quarter showed our second team was almost as good as their first team. Logan Keim would hit Dodge Reid on a short pass and let Dodge use his speed and skills do the rest on the 59 journey to separate their two late scores. 56-13.

Friday night the Tigers will host the Bowie Bulldogs. The kickoff will be at 7:30. Prior to it, at 7:00, the 1975 Tiger championship team will be introduced and honored for their accomplishment.

Game stats (DS first): First downs 17-18; Rushing 17-47, 35-68;



The Tigers head onto the field for the game against Austin High School.

PHOTO BY CORTNI REID

Passing 487-178; Passes 20-28-0, 15-30-3; Punts 1-10, 6-30; Penalties 7-50, 5-43; Turnovers 1-3.

Tigers stats: Rushing: Lawson Attaway 3-17; Ryder Frost 2-16;

Jaceton Gotta 6-13; Frank Accetta 1-8; Ames 1-3TD; Keim -2; C. Reid -4; Pete Fredenburg 2(-)4. Passing: Ames 16-22-395(6TD); Keim 1-1-59TD; Fredenburg 3-

5-33. Receiving: C. Reid 6-119(3TD); Montgomery 4-181; Bloomgren 4-51TD; Harrison Rohrer 2-44; Will Foreman 2-7; D. Reid 1-59TD; Accetta 1-6.

DS swim team hits the water

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Dripping Springs swim team recently competed in the District 26-6A Sprint Meet sponsored by Westlake to open the swim season. Here are the results.

Girls: 200 Medley Relay: 2. 1.15.19 (Izzy Boldrick, Aubrey McLean, Maddie Hovatter, Fairlane Bynam). 3. 1.54.29 (Sidney Blake, Kylie May, Charlotte Riffel, Eva Alford). 100 Free: 2. Riffel 54.77; 3. Lexi

Landrum 56.06; 8.Hovatter 56.91. 50 Fly: 2. Laurel Hoskovec 26.96; 10. Bynum 28.92. 50 Free: 1. Hoskovec 24.99; 4. Landrum 25.61; 5. Boldrick 25.68. 100 IM: 5. Riffel 1.04.71; 8. Bynum 1.07.47; 9. May 1.17.58. 200 Free Relay: 1. 1.40.66 (Bynum, Landrum, Hovatter, Hoskovec); 2. 1.43.19 (Riffel, Boldrick, Alford, Blake). 50 Back: 5. Black 29.15. 50 Breast: 2. McLean 32.71.

Boys: 200 Med Relay: 5. 1.46.04

(Zachary Collins, Noah Beers, Cooper Hamby, Harrison Woolard). 100 Free: 12. Woolard 52.23. 50 Fly: 6. Collins 24.78. 50 Free: 2. Collins 22.13. 100 IM: 9. Jones 58.97. 200 Free Relay: 9. 1.40.09 (Hamby, Roan Gorychka, Wyatt Lintz, Beers). 50 Back: 5. Jones 27.87.

Mixed: 400 Medley Relay: 3. 3.57.73 (Collins, McLean, Hoskovec, Woolard); 7. 4.12.21 (Chasyn Jones, Gorychka, Kay Ibarra, Landrum.

Dripping Springs Volleyball cannot solve Austin High

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Dripping Springs is well into the final half of district play and both times the Lady Tigers have come up against Austin High the result has been the same. They are three games back with five to play.

Vs Akins (25-7,25-7, 25-17): Kills (27): Berkeley Dean 6, Gabby Lowe 5; Ace (15): Cameron

Cureton 6, Sydney Lund 4; Blks (1) Raya Page; Dig (30): Cureton 7, Lund 5; Asst (26): Lund 17, Dean Fuguay 4, Allie Jenkins 4; Rec (21): Lowe 5, Alexa Sandoval 4, Livvy Stancik 4.

Vs Del Valle (25-8, 25-19, 25-11): K (39): Emily Varnell 9, Lowe 7; A (10): Emerson Robbins 5; Blk (4): Lowe 2; Dig (61):

Sandoval 13, Cureton 12: Asst (37): Lund 20, Fuguay 12; Rec (29): Cureton 9, Stancik 5.

Vs Austin (25-16, 25-27, 18-25, 16-25): K (43) Henley Anderson 22, Lund 9; Ace (6) Sandoval 2, Anderson, 2; Blk (5) Anderson 2; Dig (44) Robbins 15, Lund 8; Asst (38) Lund 23, Jenkins 13; Rec (69) Anderson 35, Sandoval 13, Robbins 13.

OPINION

Local newspapers keep communities strong

Dean Ridings
America's Newspapers

Strong communities don't just happen. They rely on connection—residents knowing what's going on, businesses reaching the customers who keep them open, and citizens having the facts to make good decisions. Local newspapers provide that connection in ways no other source can. In today's fractured media environment, trust is the rarest commodity. Confidence in "the media" is low. Only 18% of Americans say they trust news on social platforms, and fewer than one in four trust cable networks. But nearly two-thirds say they trust their local newspaper—more than double the confidence placed in most other outlets.

In an era when anyone can post anything online, that clarity makes newspapers stand apart. Newspapers provide the facts that keep civic life running: city budgets, school board debates, and local elections that rarely make national headlines but matter most to daily life. They also highlight the stories that make a community feel connected: high school sports, neigh-

borhood events, new restaurants, and profiles of people who make a difference.

Your local newspaper has evolved to meet readers where they are—on websites, mobile apps, and email newsletters. What hasn't changed are the standards. Accuracy, ethics, and accountability still guide the work. That combination of modern delivery and traditional integrity is why people continue to turn to their local paper.

The same trust strengthens the local economy. Research shows consumers act on newspaper ads more than on ads delivered by TV, radio, or digital platforms. People see local business advertising as part of the same reliable package as the news. For a small business competing with national chains and online platforms, no other channel delivers the same impact. When residents trust the paper, they trust the businesses that support it. The absence of a local paper leaves a mark. Voter turnout declines. Fewer residents attend public meetings. Government oversight weakens and borrowing costs rise. Small businesses lose

their most effective way to reach local customers. And without a trusted source tying things together, misinformation and partisan spin spread faster, fueling confusion and division.

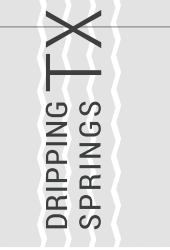
The opposite is true when newspapers are strong. Residents are better informed, more engaged, and more connected to each other. Businesses grow because they can reach customers in a trusted environment. Communities share a common set of facts that helps debate happen on the issues—not on whether the information is real.

But this role depends on support. Subscriptions, advertising, and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning the trust that communities depend on. A strong local newspaper doesn't solve every challenge a town faces, but it makes civic life, local culture, and the local economy all work better. Healthy communities are stronger when their local newspaper is strong. Supporting the paper is one of the most direct ways residents and businesses can invest in their own future.



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