



ART AS
THERAPY
PAGE 3



VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
PAGE 3



A STAR-TIST
IS BORN
PAGE 6

Dripping Springs Century News

34th Year, No. 45 November 6, 2025 drippingspringsnews.com 75 Cents

Community Calendar

Guided Photography Grotto Hike Nov 8 • 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Participants in the photography hike at Westcave Preserve will capture the majestic beauty of our unique Texas Hill Country nature preserve through a camera lens. Cost is \$30/person (13yrs+), and reservations are required. Visit www.westcave.org for details. Westcave Preserve • 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd. • Round Mountain, TX

DSAL Art Market at the Triangle - Holiday Kickoff Nov 8 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come get a jump on holiday shopping at the Dripping Springs Art League's market. The Triangle • 150 East Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Holiday Market & Bake Sale

Saturday Nov 8 • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday Nov 9 • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Women In Mission organization at Dripping Springs Methodist Church is holding its annual market and bake sale. Drop by for hand-made crafts and delicious baked goods. Proceeds are allocated to local charities and needs. Dripping Springs Methodist Church • 28900 Ranch Road 12 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

SEE **CALENDAR** ON PAGE 9



THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day

THE SUN HIMSELF IS WEAK WHEN HE FIRST RISES, AND GATHERS STRENGTH AND COURAGE AS THE DAY GETS ON.
- CHARLES DICKENS



Local food banks mobilize to help SNAP recipients

Laurie Anderson
Editor

The ongoing government shutdown, which began Oct. 1, is impacting a number of governmental programs and services, including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

With Congress still

unable to agree upon an appropriations bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) stopped SNAP benefits at the beginning of November. This is the first time benefits have been halted since the anti-hunger program began in 1939.

Across the country, local food banks and

other nonprofits have been mobilizing to try and fill the gap for those in need. More than 1 in 8 Americans receive some level of aid from the program, and 39% of the beneficiaries are under the age of 18, according to the USDA.

Dripping Springs

SEE **SNAP** ON PAGE 2



The Empty Bowls Project, which was held Sunday, Nov. 2, raises funds for Dripping Springs Helping Hands, a local food pantry working to fill the gap left by SNAP.

PHOTO BY SILVIA BYERS-DIAZ



Kids enter the inflatable house for a fire safety lesson.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

TRUNK OR TREAT North Hays County Fire Rescue hosts annual Halloween event

Laurie Anderson
Editor

North Hays County Fire and Rescue (NHCFR) held its annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event at Station 74 near Belterra on Oct. 31. A steady stream of families came through to get treats, see the trucks, participate in the costume contest and even learn a little about fire safety.

Jeanine Southall, NHCFR community outreach coordinator, said October is the organization's busiest month. It includes Fire Prevention Week, and so they have activities all month long around fire safety. One of their education programs involves an inflatable house that they take to the area elementary schools.

"We do an all day program that covers pre-K through third grades. We teach them basic fire safety - stop drop and roll, how to call 911, and what's an emergency," Southall said. "We show them what a firefighter looks like in bunker gear, and they go by and high five them. We don't want them to run from us if they see us because we can look kind of scary."

Normally, the students can go through the house and look at the different areas for fire safety lessons. At Trunk or Treat,



Kids get ready to crawl to safety during a demonstration with a fog machine.



North Hays County Fire Rescue staff, including Sparky, greet Trunk or Treat participants.

NHCFR added a fog machine and a smoke alarm to their lesson. When the firefighter turned on the fog and the smoke alarm went off, the kids would crawl through the house and out to

safety.

"We have them go home and talk to their families about questions like, hey, do we have a meeting place?" Southall said. "Do we have smoke alarms in

SEE **EVENT** ON PAGE 7



Chief Financial Officer Randy Rau presents results of the district's financial rating to the board.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

DSISD trustees approve design for 18+ program

Laurie Anderson
Editor

At the Oct. 27 meeting of the Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees, the board lis-

tened to a Learning Spotlight presentation from Rooster Springs Elementary students, recognized AP

SEE **DSISD** ON PAGE 8



Mary Margaret Kyle Dement gets a first look at her dad's banner, which hangs outside Hudson's on Mercer.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Purple Heart banners now on display along Mercer Street

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Bright banners honoring local Purple Heart recipients have gone up along Mercer Street. Each banner features the name and photo of a veteran, and is hung on one of the downtown light poles. The banners are on

display from Oct. 27 through Nov. 14, a period which includes Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Following the Mercer Street display, the banners will be exhibited on a rotating basis at Patriot's Hall, continuing the tribute throughout the year.

Capital Highlights

Premiums rise as ACA open enrollment begins



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

The window for signing up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act is now open through Jan. 15, with most Texans expected to pay considerably higher premiums, The Texas Tribune reported. Federal subsidies that reduced premium rates will expire at year's end without congressional action.

The government shutdown is now entering its second month. Democrats say they will not vote to re-open the government unless the subsidies are extended. Republicans say they will not consider extending the subsidies until the government is reopened.

Nearly 4 million Texans signed up for ACA coverage during the last enrollment period, a number that health experts predict will drop by as much as one million if the subsidies end.

Most people who choose ACA are not able to obtain employer-sponsored insurance – the most common method – or

they make too much money to qualify for Medicaid.

The nonprofit health policy group KFF projects Texans who now receive the ACA subsidies will see their premiums rise by 115%, or \$456 a year, if they are not extended.

TDI offers tips on buying a health plan

With open enrollment underway at HealthCare.gov, the Texas Department of Insurance is offering tips to find a health plan that fits one's needs and budget. TDI notes new plans come out every year, so consider looking at other plans to make sure to get the best coverage for the price.

Other factors to consider:

- Update your income every year to see if you qualify for a premium tax credit.
- Be sure each plan you are considering will allow you to use your current health-care professionals.
- Know what you will have to pay in copays, deductibles and coinsurance.
- Ask the plan if a referral is needed to see a specialist.

You can access TDI's health plan shopping checklist at this address: <https://tinyurl.com/384we9s7>.

Paxton sues Tylenol company over autism claims
Texas Attorney

General Ken Paxton is suing the makers of Tylenol, accusing Johnson and Johnson of failing to warn women about the risk of taking acetaminophen while pregnant, claiming it is a possible cause of autism.

The Texas Standard reported the lawsuit is the first of its kind from a state government. It comes a few weeks after U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. discouraged pregnant women from taking the drug.

Paxton, who is running in the GOP primary against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, said in a statement that "by holding Big Pharma accountable for poisoning our people, we will help Make America Healthy Again."

There are conflicting medical studies concerning the effects of acetaminophen on pregnant women. Dr. Brian Lee, a Drexel University epidemiologist who headed one of the largest studies, said that while more research is needed, "the needle is pointing strongly toward there being no causal effect of acetaminophen use during pregnancy on autism."

Poll: Most Texans oppose sending Texas soldiers to other states
A poll released last

week shows most Texans oppose Gov. Greg Abbott's deployment of National Guard soldiers stationed in Texas to cities outside the state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The University of Texas at Austin's Texas Politics Project found 51% oppose the deployment with 43% strongly opposed. Only 41% support the move, with 24% strongly supporting it.

Abbott last month agreed to send 200 Texas troops to Chicago at Trump's request. However, a judge blocked that deployment, and the troops remain stationed outside the city. **'Financial literacy' class now required in high school**

Texas is now the 30th state to offer financial literacy classes, with a half-credit to be offered starting with the graduating class of 2029, according to The Dallas Morning News. The Texas Education Agency plans to send school districts a list of companies that will offer free curriculum.

John Pelletier, director of the Center for Financial Literacy in Vermont, says the extra classes address what he terms "financial fragility." He notes lack of proper money management is a key reason only half of Americans

could come up with \$2,000 in an emergency.

He added that the pandemic showed how unemployment levels could jump almost overnight, leaving people who have not saved or are in serious debt at greater risk of financial catastrophe.

Court: Texas judges not required to perform same-sex weddings

In a comment added to the state's judicial conduct code, the Texas Supreme Court said that Texas judges who decline to perform a wedding ceremony based on a "sincerely held religious belief" are not violating the state's rules on judicial impartiality, keranews.org reported.

This could have statewide implications for gay marriage and possibly factor in a federal lawsuit attempting to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage in 2015.

Texas Supreme Court clerk Blake Hawthorne said the court cannot comment on the rule change.

"The order speaks for itself, and the Court cannot comment on its connection to pending litigation," Hawthorne said.

Hundreds of 'zombie' wells found in single Texas county
Researchers at the

University of Houston have identified more than 600 non-operating oil wells in Reeves County that are either actively leaking or are at high risk of doing so, the Chronicle reported.

Two related problems – uncapped orphan wells and plugged wells that leak – pose a serious threat to Texas groundwater, as oil, salty wastewater and other fluids can contaminate aquifers.

With hundreds of thousands of wells across Texas, the potential for leaking wells is high. The researchers hope to pair machine learning – a subfield of artificial intelligence – with satellite imagery, wastewater injection data, and wellbore data to identify which wells pose the highest risks.

The Texas Railroad Commission announced last month that the number of orphaned wells in Texas has increased by almost 1,400 wells this year, topping more than 10,000 for the first time in nearly 20 years.

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.

SNAP FROM PG. 1

Helping Hands is one of the local food banks aiming to help out, according to board president Melissa Reese.

"As news continues to unfold, we know many families in Dripping Springs and throughout Central Texas are feeling anxious about what lies ahead," Reese said. "First and foremost, we encourage everyone in

our community to check in on neighbors who may be affected by the loss of benefits. Make sure those around you are okay and please help connect them with resources such as Helping Hands, where food, care, and support are available to help others during challenging times."

Last week, two fed-

eral judges ruled that the SNAP pause is unlawful. As a result, the Trump administration has said that it will restart benefits, but at a reduced rate, and they warned that there could be a delay of weeks to months for some recipients.

"While we don't yet know exactly what will happen in the coming days, our team at Dripping Springs Helping Hands, along with our incredible volunteers and community partners, is preparing to meet the increased need if these changes take effect," Reese said. "We've already seen an uptick in food pantry visits and assistance, and we will continue to be here to help."

Reese also encouraged the community to help keep the shelves stocked at the local food pantry.

"Every donation, whether food, funds, or time, makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors," Reese said.

Reese offered a few specific ways people can help:

Donate Food

Helping Hands donation bins are located at the pantry and throughout the community. Their most needed items are listed on their website, and donors can use their



Participants in the Empty Bowls Project got to choose from over 1,000 unique bowls.

PHOTO BY SILVIA BYERS-DIAZ

Amazon Wish List to send items directly to Helping Hands.

Donate Funds

Financial gifts allow Helping Hands to purchase the most urgently needed items to have a balanced distribution.

Host a Food or Fund Drive

Helping Hands can offer guidance in setting up a food collec-

tion or virtual PayPal drive, so that neighbors, friends, and co-workers can join in during this season of giving.

Empty Bowls Project Reese also extended a big thanks to everyone in the community who participated in the 28th Annual Empty Bowls Project on Nov. 2, which is the year's biggest fund-

raiser for Dripping Springs Helping Hands.

"It was a wonderful and delicious day filled with fellowship and generosity," Reese said. "We had a great turnout, and it was clear that the Dripping Springs community truly wants to help and stand beside Helping Hands during these uncertain times."

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Art as Therapy

Monika Astara

Formal Art therapy is NOT about creating masterpieces that you'll be analyzed and judged on. And it's not about digging into trauma. It recognizes that when words fail us, the brain can empty its overwhelming and incoherent emotions and thoughts through the most basic creative expressions. Once the brain "dumps" its emotions and tensions, we feel like we can breathe and have access to "normal" thinking again. It has been proven to be highly effective for healing emotional and mental pain and trauma, reducing anxiety, depression and transforming lives.

My Story

This is my personal story, my research and the solutions I found. Even though I have created my whole life and I need it like food and water, when I was catapulted into at times excruciating pain, high anxiety and severe panic attacks after unfavorable reactions to anesthesia, I first researched medical and traditional ways to get out of my situation and back to "normal". It was a dead-end.

Meanwhile, creating digital art was my life line, but I felt like it wasn't the "right" kind of creating. While it provided distraction

and some relief, it didn't solve the problems I had so I started looking into why creating with the hands seemed to impact my brain much deeper. It felt like there was some sort of rewiring going on. Turns out, that the brain does, in fact, build new neurological pathways for calm and joy when we create with the hands. To put it simply, when we create with our hands, the brain shifts into the pleasure giving center. That's why we experience inner calm, joy and satisfaction. I continued my practical research by taking online creative courses. I observed others in those groups, their frustrations and feeling "not good enough". To my amazement I realized that even though most people liked the courses and benefitted from them to a degree, their level of actually HAVING joy and getting maximum, lasting benefit was limited.

I discovered, when we are in pain - physically, emotionally or mentally - "normal" creating can get you even more agitated, anxious and frazzled. You need totally simple ways of creating that bypass and neutralize the inner critic. You can then deeply benefit from creating/doing something artsy.

A Brief History of Art Therapy

Art as formal therapy

emerged in the 1940s. And some studies confirmed its effectiveness. However, it is only in the last decade that more and more extensive studies have proven its wide range of healing. Especially in treating children and adults who have experienced trauma, are undergoing cancer treatments, have ADHD, are autistic or live in nursing homes. Art as therapy has therefore gained recognition.

The Science of Art Therapy

If you haven't had personal experiences of how well making art works to reset the brain, you probably want some proof before considering it. Some years ago I came across a Harvard study that showed the brain scans of two groups of people before and after one group meditated and the other group engaged creatively. Within 20 minutes the brains of those who were creating something, were mostly balanced and relaxed. Whereas - with very few exceptions - the meditators took much longer to achieve comparable, but often lesser, results. That's not surprising. Just imagine your mind is racing like an Indy race car on steroids and your body is vibrating in frozen overload. Then you are supposed to sit still and



Monika Astara.

"empty your thoughts". That might work for some, but sounds like a recipe for further frustration for most of us. On the other hand, for thousands of years, creating has been the most natural and soothing way to deal with stress and trauma.

Creative Joy

Through my own needs and experiences, I developed a series of very simple, playful ways to engage creatively. I call it the 2-minute Golden Key Method. As a result, I regained a foundation for the natural inner calm and joy that we are born with and I can sustain it even during adversity.

I put it all into the "Doodle Magic and

Creative Joy" virtual retreat so others can gain the same freedom. It consists of short, simple, PLAYFUL methods of creating which bypass the inner critic and are highly effective in bringing you home to yourself again and restoring your natural inner calm and joy.

I encourage you to create, create, create. Give yourself permission to just PLAY, without judgment and with the curiosity and passion of a child that is let loose with some paper, pens, colors and paints. Don't have any agenda of producing art as a result. Let yourself experience creating as a process, as an experiment, as PLAY. That's when you get the most

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

benefits. I invite you to read the comments from people who have taken the course and check it out.

Doodle Magic and Creative Joy Virtual Retreat:

<https://monikaastarastudio.newzenler.com/courses/doodle-magic-retreat>

Happy Art, Clothes and Jewelry website:

<https://www.monikaastara.com/>

You can find all these FREE creative ways here: <https://monikaastarastudio.newzenler.com/freebies>

Contact Monika to go shopping or take a class:

Monika@MonikaAstara.com

Text or Call: 512-470-2553

Volunteers needed for Project Feeder Watch

Tina Adkins
Special to the News

A flicker of vivid colors purple, yellow, green, and red flash before my eyes as I scan through the trees and bushes for more flutters and swoops. No binoculars needed with such brilliant colorations. My eyes finally spot this treasured songbird, a Painted Bunting, as he briefly stopped to hunt for seeds from a nearby cup grass clump. Whether you are specifically searching for a unique bird or simply casually watching a multitude of birds that visit your yard, it is spectacular when you are fortunate enough to glimpse any rare species or observe unusual wildlife interactions of our feathered friends.

More often than not little brown birds dominate your view who may be difficult to easily identify because of their many similarities. Did you see a Bewick Wren or was it a Carolina Wren? Or perhaps was it a Lark Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow or a Harris's Sparrow?

Many folks have a tough time distinguishing one bird from the next unless their feathers are truly out-



standing such as a Red Northern Cardinal or a flashy Blue Jay. Maybe the size of a bird is a telltale sign of it's species such as a small Ruby-throated Hummingbird verses a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A binoculars now becomes essential in order to classify birds by color, size and shape of body, wings, beak, tail and feet to determine and correctly identify each species. The actual songs of each bird can help to identify a species especially with limited visibility. Once you become more familiar with viewing a diverse number of birds identification becomes significantly easier. Watching birds in their natural habitat (brown, gray & green colors disguise them) and especially observing them while feeding on seeds, snatching bugs, territorial, mating or simply grooming behaviors can be fascinating to observe.

Feeder Watch is a wonderful opportu-

nity for both the inexperienced and well tuned birder to observe a myriad of songbirds. This Citizen Science project begins November 1st continuing through Winter and the early Spring season until April 30th. Numerous feeding and watering stations are specifically set up near bird blinds throughout Hays County. Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Charro Ranch Park both have bird blinds with bird identification signs to assist a novice or occasional visitor. Driftwood Nature Preserve, Patsy Glen Refuge in Wimberley and West Cave Preserve in Travis County also have similar features available within a short drive from Dripping Springs.

Project Feeder Watch actually started in Ontario Canada with the first survey in 1976. After a ten year stint and hundreds of participants it was decided that a much broader scope to monitor migrating birds was needed. So Birds Canada paired up with Cornell Lab of Ornithology in the U.S. connecting 2 countries and thou-



Harris's Sparrow.

PHOTO BY TOM HAUSLER



Painted Bunting.

PHOTO BY ALICE LE DUC

sands of passionate individuals willing to observe the winter bird populations over a much wider geographic range. Enormous amounts of data have been collected and have been

analyzed to determine trends relating to the declining bird populations and perhaps stemming the tide.

Individual and ongoing efforts to monitor bird species in Hays County can continue

to provide information and inspire solutions to protect our "canaries in a coal mine." If you are interested in getting outdoors during the upcoming winter months which in Texas is predicted to be fairly mild, consider spending a minimum of one hour in the mornings on Friday and Saturday at Charro Ranch Park or Sunday and Monday at Dripping Springs Ranch Park observing and recording (completing a user friendly Tally Sheet) a bird count at the bird blinds. You can sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/pqVksL>

Training Sessions will be held at 9am on:

- November 9th at Dripping Springs Ranch Park - 1042 Event Center Dr.
- November 14th at Charro Ranch Park - 22690 W. FM 150
- November 15th at Driftwood Nature Preserve - 15090 FM W. 150

An online resource for Project Feeder Watch: <https://feeder-watch.org/about/detailed-instructions/#count-your-birds>

The Hays County Master Naturalists hope to see you there!

Dripping Springs CLASSIFIEDS

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

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I. ADVERTISEMENT TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS addressed to the Hays County Municipal Utility District (M.U.D.) No. 5 for construction of the proposed improvements, in accordance with the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents prepared by LJA Engineering, Inc. (Engineer), will be received at the Engineer's office, 7500 Rialto Boulevard Building II, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78735, until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud. Any Proposal received after this time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with the name and address of the Bidder and the following words:

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

The Project consists of: Paving, Drainage, Water, Wastewater, Erosion and Sedimentation Improvements. All work must conform to Federal, State and local governmental rules and criteria. Copies of the Plans and Specifications are on file at the Engineer's office where they may be examined without charge. The contractor qualifications section of the Contract Documents (Bidder's Statement of Qualifications) are available as paper copies or may be acquired electronically if desired by contacting the Engineer. Copies of the Plans and Specifications may be obtained from the Engineer for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set. Checks for the Plans and Specifications shall be made payable to LJA Engineering, Inc. A bid bond or cashier's check payable to the Hays County M.U.D. No 5 in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid Proposal submitted (Bid Security), must accompany each Bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the Bidder will, within seven (7) days of award of Contract, enter into a contract and execute bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive

any and all formalities in bidding. The Owner reserves the right to determine which Bids are lowest and are in the best interest of the Owner, and to award the Contract on this basis. The Bid Security of successful Bidder will be retained until such Bidder has executed the Agreement, furnished the required Contract security and met the other conditions of the Notice of Award, whereupon the Bid Security will be returned. If the successful Bidder fails to execute and deliver the Agreement and furnish the required Contract security within seven (7) days after the Notice of Award, Owner may annul the Notice of Award and the Bid Security of that Bidder will be forfeited. The Bid Security of the other Bidders whom Owner believes to have a reasonable chance of receiving the award may be retained by Owner until the earlier of the seventh day after the Effective Date of the Agreement or the sixtieth (60th) day after the Bid opening, whereupon Bid Security furnished by such Bidders will be returned. Bid Security with Bids which are not competitive will be returned within seven days after Bid opening. The Advertisement for Bids includes a required Statement of Qualifications with specific minimum qualifications that must be met in order for the Bid to be considered. Hays County M.U.D. No. 5 will hold a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at the Engineer's office, 7500 Rialto Boulevard Building II, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78735, at 2:00 p.m., November 11, 2025 to discuss the process and the required qualifications statement. The Statement of Qualifications with notarized signatures must be submitted to the Engineer no later than 2:00 p.m., November 14, 2025, from each interested Bidder.



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Daniela Kim Farris Standridge, Deceased, were issued on October 29, 2025, in Cause No. 25-0331-P, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: Three, Hays County, Texas, to: Alan Gail Standridge. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Alan Gail Standridge
600 Terrace Canyon Drive
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620
DATED: October 29, 2025.



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Sheriff’s Office requests public’s aid in sexual assault investigation

Staff Reports

In October 2025, child crimes investigators with the Hays County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division arrested Franklin Jovel Tabora-Dias, 24, of Kyle, following a yearlong sexual assault investigation.

Tabora-Dias is a suspect in multiple ongoing sexual offense investigations, with additional charges anticipated. Investigators determined that Tabora-Dias repeatedly misrepresented his age to appear younger than he was to his victims, to people he engaged in business with, and to law enforcement during unrelated interactions.

The investigation found that Tabora-Dias contacted high school-aged girls through social media and met them in neighboring communities, sometimes



Franklin Jovel Tabora-Dias, 24, of Kyle, is a suspect in multiple sexual assault cases.

outside Hays County. He then drove them to his residence in unincorporated Kyle, where he sexually assaulted the girls. Several victims spoke only Spanish.

Tabora-Dias faces the following charges: Sexual Assault, a second-degree felony; Trafficking of Child, a first-degree felony (2 counts)

Tabora-Dias remains in custody at the Hays County Jail, on a total bond of \$275,000.

Tabora-Dias is known to have driven a silver 2009 Honda Accord sedan with



Tabora Dias has distinct tattoos on his neck and both forearms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

blue striping, and a 2010 silver Honda Civic with right front damage. He often misrepresented himself as being as young as 19 years old and used the first name “Frank” as well as the

alternative last name spelling “Diaz.” On Instagram, Tabora Dias used the Instagram handle @atx_frank444. He has distinct tattoos on his neck and both forearms.

Anyone who may have had contact with Tabora-Dias, or who possesses information relevant to these investigations, is urged to contact the Hays County Sheriff’s Office. 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



Juan Pablo Acosta.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hays County assists in arrest of fugitive wanted for sexual assault

Staff Reports

In April of 2021, the Buda Police Department conducted a Sexual Assault investigation involving Juan Pablo Acosta, 45 years of age, who resided in Buda. As a result, Acosta was arrested on July 13, 2021, for the following charges:

- Sexual Assault- 2nd Degree Felony (2 counts)
- Bond Forfeiture-Discharge of Firearm (originally a Travis Co. case)

Acosta bonded out of the Hays County Jail on July 15, 2021 on a \$103,500 total bond.

On Nov. 8, 2021, Buda Police Department’s investigation resulted in approximately 30 Sexual Assault warrants issued for Acosta out of Justice of the Peace Precinct 5.

In December of 2021, the Hays County Sheriff’s Office Special Services Division was requested in an attempt to locate Acosta who had become a fugitive from justice. The Special Services Division began working to determine his whereabouts.

During the investigation information was discovered Acosta was residing in Toronto, Canada. Due to Acosta’s legal status, he could not be arrested and extradited to Texas. An extradition required Federal court approval from United States, Mexican, and Canadian authorities. The Special Services Division worked with the United States Marshals Service and the Hays County District Attorney’s office to obtain federal approval for his arrest and capture. On June 27, 2025, Acosta was arrested by Canadian authorities on unrelated charges and held without bond during the legal process.

On Oct. 29, 2025, Acosta was extradited by the United States Marshals Service for the Texas charges and booked into the Hays County Jail.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to thank the Buda Police Department, the Hays County District Attorney’s Office, and the United States Marshals Service for their collaboration and teamwork to bring Acosta into custody.

DSHS students recognized for performance on AP exams

Staff Reports

Nearly 200 current Dripping Springs High School students have been recognized by College Board for their outstanding performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams administered in the spring of 2025.

AP Scholar Awards are granted at various levels, based on students’ average scores and the total number of exams taken.

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Of the 190 recognized students, 55 earned the highest honor — AP Scholar with Distinction. An additional 41 students were named AP Scholar with Honor, and 94 students received the AP Scholar award.

More than 150 members of the Class of 2025 also

received honors. A list of honorees who are current DSHS students is included below.

AP Scholar with Distinction
Arabella Allen
Wes Anderson
Ava Ashe
Christian Barradas
Grace Bertram
Greyson Billodeau
Caleb Collins
Brady Donahue
Quintus Dracon
Kathleen Evans
Ayush Ghody
Nathaniel Gibbs
Grant Gillum
Allison Gorchs
Elodie Griffin
Trinabh Gupta
Aubrey Hall
Jenna Hall
Georgia Howe
Colton English
Aisling Jennings
Lauren Jennings
Peyton Johnson
Anthony Keithly
Aaniya Khan
Abir Kulkarni
Trudy Lagarde
Gavin Lewis
Asher Lucas
Gavin MacAlpine
Shreya Manojkumar
Jackson McClure
Caleb McIntosh
Kennedy Miller
Morgan Mitchell
Alexa Miyamoto
Evan Murphy
Kaleb Oliphant
Zoey Parks
Devansh Parwal
Sarah Pickett
Annie Reale
Caroline Rhodes
Stella Rios

Bella Rose
Matthew Roske
Madeleine Sheppard
Elijah Slater
Adeline Spies
Sanvi Surapaneni
Wylie Taylor
Sean Tiernan
Lucy Timmins
Luke Voss
Luke Wilson
AP Scholar with Honor
Zachary Adams
Sofia Ardila
Martinez Ella Beatty
Makaylee Cluver
Ruby Cushman
Kolby Dennison
Isaac Duhaney
Olivia Eggleston
Charles Evans
Adrian Fisher
Luciana Gomez
Maggie Greenville
Allie Hamm
Josie Hardin
Camila Hinojosa
Alexandra Hinsley
Brooke Holmes
Kadence Ibarra
Conde Malachi Igharo
Allie Jenkins
Jackson Kinley
Jack Kroll
Connor Kurpiewski
Guadalupe Martinez
Dru McIntyre
Ewan McTiernan
Madeleine Nance
Caleb Nelson
Cadence Owens
Kaya Ramos
Evan Robin
Josephine Ryza
Benjamin Seshan
Canyon Shaw
Jackson Silcox
Antoine Soson
Jaspar Stetson
Jacob Stockton
Harper Teague

Isabella Verhulst
Houston White
AP Scholar
Liyana Ahmed
Vincent Albini
Grace Alexander
David Allsbrook
Nixon Badilla
Mia Bastone
Ava Belusar
Katharine Blakesley
Dylan Brasher
Molly Breland
Reese Brown
Laurel Carley
Isabella Carreno
Brandon Carter
Andres Chiang
Erin Clarke
McKinzey Cleveland
Blake Cox
McKenzie Culberson
Cameron Cureton
Kyle Daniel
Rachel Darilek
Haleigh Darlington
Gage De Los Santos
Halle Dunn
Paul DuPuy
Harper Ela
James Engel
Ava Fox
Audrey Funk
Nareese Gibbs
Annika Gillella
Piper Granberry
Etta Grushkin
Adan Guerrero
Avery Hahnel
Morgan Hall
Leah Hendricks
Ally Hunsicker
Liam Ianiro
Alexander Johnson
Madeleine Johnson
Robert Jones
Sophia Jones
Daisy Kaner
Hima Katta
Elise Kellogg
Addison Knapp
Kyle Kreuz

Allen Kundukulangara
Cijo John LeBas
Alli Lightfoot
Caitlyn Lightfoot
Enrique Lizarraga
Mark McAfee
Charlotte McDaniel
Ruby McDaniel
Madison Mitchell
Diego Montesinos
Anthony Nesheiwat
Peyton Nichols
Luke Pacelli
Colton Papp
Logan Papp
Cristian Perez
Sreenitya Ponipireddy
Hansini Ramakrishnan
William Reale
Jonah Rees
Trevor Riley
Bailey Rogers
Sahitya Sajjala
Mihira Sarabu
Hayden Scarborough
Callie Schumacher
Shea Sisson
Abram Smith
Johanna Stalvey
Reese Starnes
Tana Steinbach
William Stewart
Rhett Strauss
Mackenzie Sullivan
Caris Thompson
Aiden Vanwalleghem
Sophia Veliz
Lillian Wearden
Kara Wells
Chloe White
Robert Wilkinon
Jackson Williams
Jaden Wobil
Jacob Zara
Colin Ziegelman

A STAR-TIST IS BORN

Local artists bring their visions to life for public art project

Joe Christenson

How did you get into painting?

I was in my mid-forties, coming off a difficult period for my family. I lost both my parents in one fairly compact period of time, and painting was an idea that just popped into my head. I did a quick Internet search, and there happened to be a beginner oil painting class that started the following week. Here's the materials list. Pay your \$90 and show up on a Wednesday night. ... Turned out it worked for me, and so I've been what some call a Sunday painter for the last 20 years.

Why oil painting?

I just always thought it was more interesting, so that's what I gravitated to. I've yet to try any other medium besides oils. In 20 years, it's all I've ever touched. Call me an oil painting snob.

How do you describe your work?

Generally I'm a landscape painter, seascape painter, still life painter. I don't do people or animals. I've found them to be unforgiving subjects for my style of painting. I'm not a realist and I'm not a surrealist. I'm a borderline impressionist, maybe. But in the case of what I did for the star paintings, those are not impressionist. They're closer to illustrative.

What were the challenges of this project?

They had to be turned in on the 15th of September. I barely made it because of the oils and drying and layers and all that stuff. The white, which is mixed in a lot of things, just wouldn't dry. So I cut it really, really close. I add it up to 30 hours of painting time to get from start to finish. And the other challenge was what to do with the sides? You have this outer perimeter to work with, and I agonized over that part.

Have you done something similar in the past?

I do some other things that are not traditional canvases. I've painted on surfboards. They do well in a gallery down in Port Aransas. I've painted on guitars. When my son was younger, I painted one of his skateboards. So I've used other things as a canvas, just nothing as immense as the one we just did.

What's your take on the value that this project provides to the community?

I love it. I think that they were spot on by choosing the star. You know, Wimberley has their boots. In downtown San Antonio, there's an area called the Pearl. They have cows. So this notion of having a three-dimensional symbol of your community that gets decorated by local artists -- I love the idea. I think they picked the right thing. We talk about being a dark skies community. Perhaps the physical stars being out and someone saying, why did they



Joe Christenson with his creation, "Day & Night in the Hill Country."

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

pick stars? Well, that might help with that identity, so the stars are perfect. And I don't know what I would have done with a boot.

Jessie Woodhead

I grew up painting and drawing. It was my thing growing up, and I definitely learned a lot from my grandma. She was my person and she taught me a lot about art and appreciating nature and bringing it to life. I spent my career in ad agencies and corporate roles, and then just over five years ago, I went independent. I own a branding and creative agency. Being on my own allows me to work with people and with causes and companies I care about.

What inspired you to apply for this star project?

I had my idea right away when they announced the call for artists in the last round of stars. My vision was to do giant native wildflowers, like ultra big, and then feature all of our native pollinators. I grew up, like my mom and my grandma, loving monarch butterflies. So it was kind of born out of that.

How does this star reflect your personal style?

This is different than my normal style. Most often my paintings do have some sort of nature, but they can be a little more dark and moody. This style is much more bright and vibrant, and just a true celebration of all the colors of the flowers and the insects. It is a pretty big departure.

How do you think public art projects like this benefit a community?

It's great for helping build commerce and business. Gathering places are incredibly important to small businesses. When you have that vibrancy and energy in any town or city, there's a joy and a celebration that people want to be a part of. But it also is a good indicator of local and public sentiment. If we're able to take the time to embrace public art projects and appreciate the art and the artists, I think it helps break down barriers.

What do you think was the biggest challenge in making such a large piece?

It was much more of a mental game than I was expecting. I knew it would be challenging - the stars are big, and they actually are quite textured. So that was tricky to figure out. But for me, the hardest part was translating the idea on my sample painting to a four-foot star and figuring out the right scale - especially for the flowers. We had check-ins with the Art League just to show our progress. I had my second check-in maybe two weeks before they were due back, and one side had almost nothing on it. It just took me that long to get into my groove and figure it all out. And then it was go time, and I'm off to the races.

Do you have any final thoughts about the experience?

I'm just so excited and grateful, honestly, to be a part of this. The city and the Art League have



Tiffany Sierras with her creation, "Stacks of Belonging."

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

done an amazing job in orchestrating all of it and putting it all together. It's a real eye opener for me, too. It just gave me an even bigger, profound respect for artists and creative people who are putting themselves out there every day.

Tiffany Sierras

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your background as an artist?

I'm a mix media artist, art educator, mom of four. I've talked about wanting to be an artist since I was five years old! It was my focus during all of my schooling. And I started working as an artist right out of high school while I was in college at a flooring company designing rugs, then at a print shop doing graphic work.

How does your personal style or artistic vision come through in your design for the star sculpture?

I love using color and incorporating nature in my work. I also like working with kids and teaching art.

Can you describe the concept behind your star design?

It's about love. Our family decided to move to Dripping after connecting with the Dripping Springs Community Library. It's where we found community. I knew I wanted to tell our story as soon as they announced the

art call. I love connecting with our community through art. I want the star to make people think about our library and how important it is for kids to explore the library and how wonderful it is to read to your children.

How do you think public art projects like this benefit a community?

Public art is an important way for the community to connect with art and their artists, to feel our shared stories are being told.

Have you faced any challenges in creating such a large, 3-D piece?

I love working on big pieces! Transporting and getting the star upstairs to my studio was a bit of a challenge but it was lots of fun.

What's ahead for you, as an artist?

Further involvement with the Dripping Springs Art League, of course! Hopefully more community opportunities. I coordinate the art markets for the Art League and love participating and getting to know the people in Dripping.



Jessie Woodhead with her star, "Pollinators' Dream."

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Melissa Richardson

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your background as an artist?

I've been creating art in an entrepreneurial manner before I can even remember. From kindergarten creating bottle cap necklaces to 5th grade covering composition notebooks, learning graphic design when I was eight, creating a business with my mom in middle school and high school, then attending a creative university to pursue the intersection of fashion and Illustration, my brain is constantly fueled by the concepts of design.

How does your personal style come through in your star design?

I have a very whimsical style, one that uses typography, bold colors, and playing with little patterns throughout my pieces. The way I place shapes in order to create a seamless transition and guide the viewer throughout a piece is always something I try to attain in producing a creative work.

Can you describe the concept behind your star design?

The star I created was a little different, for I was asked to create the star specifically for our local grocery store. At H-E-B they focus on farm-to-table, using lots of local Texas produce, working a lot with the fisheries, even doing a lot for the community in terms of providing meals for the flood relief in Kerrville. On the front side, you have what is essentially a ta-

ble set up with all different kinds of foods you can find at H-E-B from the Mi Tiendas brand of tortillas, the sushi bars set up in every store, the fresh produce, the barbecue that you'll generally see in Cooking Connections in many H-E-B's, their local ice cream, and things that are meant to be shared. The backside is essentially the farm side. Local farm animals, a river that flows with fish jumping out, the H-E-B truck promoting their mobile food, all the things that generate where the food is coming FROM.

How do you think public art projects like this benefit a community?

Public art projects like this are a great way to give our community some personality. Our community is full of so many talented artists, designers, folks who just need a canvas to create what they believe our wonderful community represents. With the help of the Dripping Springs Art League, and Lisa and Pam from the City of Dripping Springs, this public art project has truly given the creativity of our town its own voice!

What's ahead for you, as an artist?

At the moment, I've been chasing a dream to illustrate children's books in Southeast Asia. For the last few years, I've been obsessed with UNESCO World Heritage Sites - places that promote marine conservation, the preservation of natural wonders around the world, and protecting endangered species endemic to dif-



Melissa Richardson's star, "Here Everything's Better," will be located at the H-E-B.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

ferent regions. Southeast Asia has some of the most remote, least developed, bio diverse places around the world, so my goal is to illustrate children's books for kids and inspire them to be curious about our planet - to protect our planet so that our generation, the next generation and the generations after them can experience how beautiful our world truly is.

Mosquito trap tests positive for West Nile Virus in Hays County

Staff Reports

The Hays County Health Department (HCHD) received confirmation from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on Oct. 31 that a mosquito trap sample collected in the 78737 zip code tested positive for West Nile Virus. The positive sample was collected from a site in the unincorporated area of Austin / Dripping Springs on Oct. 28.

This is the first reported West Nile Virus-positive mosquito trap of the 2025 season in Hays County. There were nine positive West Nile Virus mosquito traps during the 2024 season.

In the state of Texas, DSHS reported 3,314 positive mosquito traps during the 2024 season for West Nile Virus. So far this year, DSHS has reported 1,182 positive mosquito traps for West Nile Virus.

“Rainfall within the Central Texas area leads to an increase in standing water, which provides ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes,” said Eric Vangaasbeek, Chief Environmental Health Specialist at Hays County Development Services (HCDS). “We encourage everyone to take proactive steps to prevent mosquito bites by reducing areas of standing water around their homes and properties.”

While 80% of people will not experience symptoms of an infection, 20% of people may experience some symptoms, which can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, a skin rash on the torso of the body and swollen lymph nodes. While the risk for severe symptoms is low, individuals aged 50 and older and those with compromised immune systems may be at an increased risk for stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, vision loss, paralysis and, in extremely rare cases, death. Anyone experiencing these symptoms is encouraged to seek medical attention.

“The detection of

West Nile virus in our mosquito surveillance program is a reminder that public health is a shared responsibility,” said County Judge and Emergency Services Director Ruben Becerra. “While this finding is not a cause for alarm, it is a call to action. We urge residents to take simple precautions — like using insect repellent and eliminating standing water — to protect themselves and their families.”

Health officials said that mosquitoes can breed in as little as one teaspoon of standing water. Draining all sources of standing water in and around properties reduces the number of places mosquitoes can lay their

eggs and breed. Common examples of sources of standing water include buckets, flowerpots, old tires, and pet bowls.

“While we continue to monitor the situation, please try to avoid mosquito bites by following the three Ds: DEET, Dress and Drain,” said Ian Harris, HCHD Disease Surveillance and Preparedness Manager.

- DEET: Whenever outside, use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA registered repellents, and always follow label instructions.
- DRESS: Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.

- DRAIN: Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs.

Hays County Development Services and the Hays County Health Department will continue to conduct mosquito pool traps and health surveillance to promote the health and safety of residents.

For more information regarding mosquito abatement, contact Hays County Development Services at 512-393-2150. Visit the Texas Department of State and Health Services West Nile website for more information on the disease at txwest-nile.org.

EVENT FROM PG. 1



The Eiserer family takes a group photo by the fire truck.



Bruno and Blanca check out the goodies on the H-E-B table.



A princess, a dinosaur and Sparky the Fire Dog exit the house safely.



Dressed in his Minion costume, Beaux examines his prize skeleton.



William, accompanied by dad Stephen Daem, was the crowd favorite in the first costume contest of the night.



During the final costume contest of the night, “Moana” was the clear favorite.



Jack shows off his very on-theme costume.



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our house? Do they work?”

Southall said they also encourage the kids to learn their parents phone numbers and names.

“Some of the little kids don’t know that,” Southall said. “They just know them as

mom and dad.”

Other organizations that participated in or donated to the event included North Hays EMS, Hays County Sheriff’s Office, Hays County ESD 6 Board of Commissioners, Freedom Canines, Driftwood Volunteer

Fire Department, Beanz Creamz, H-E-B
Henley Volunteer Fire Nutty Brown,
Department, JuiceLand
Schwartz Realtors, and Smiles of Austin.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Week of: Nov 10-15

MONDAY

Chair Yoga 9:00-10:00

Homeschool Crochet for a Cause 10:30

Qigong 1:00

Medicare & Mod Podge Pumpkin decorating

Chess Group 4:30

D&D 4:45

TUESDAY

9:30-10:15 Toddler Storytime with Ms.Olivia

1-4 Mahjong

4:00-6:30 Dungeons and Dragons

3+2 4:00-5:00 Math Power Hour

Surviving the Holidays When You are Grieving 5:45-6:45

WEDNESDAY

9:30-10:15 Toddler Storytime with Ms.Olivia

Homeschool Chess 1:30

Reading Crew 4:45

Open Play at Deep Eddy 5-7

Local Voices: Author Spotlight 5:45

THURSDAY

10:30-11 Baby Time

3-6 Master Gardners on the Porch

4:45-5:45 Bilingual Book Club

6:00 ESL Conversation Circle

Charlotte's Book Club 6:00

FRIDAY

Discovery & Dance Storytime 9:30

Bridge Card Game @ the Library 10:30

"Picture This" Poetry Reading 1:00

Beginner Crochet 3:30

Wicked Watch Party 5:30

SATURDAY

DOMINGO

10:30 Ruby the Therapy Dog

2:30 Kid's Art Class with Sanctuary Studio

1:30 Introvert Book Club @ Sonder in Driftwood

DSISD FROM PG. 1

The board recognizes Dripping Springs High School's AP Scholars.

PHOTOS BY LAURIE ANDERSON

Scholars, held a public hearing on the district’s 2024-2025 FIRST Report, and approved design development for DSISD’S 18+ project. First up on the agenda, students from Rooster Springs Elementary School presented the findings of their gardening experiments in their outdoor Learning Garden and their indoor hydroponic garden. They grew plants under a variety of circumstances, and drew conclusions based on their results.

They also brought bouquets of their herbs to board members. After the report from Rooster Springs, the board recognized the AP scholars from Dripping Springs High School. Nearly 200 current Dripping Springs High School students have been recognized by College Board for their outstanding performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams administered in the spring of 2025. AP Scholar Awards are

granted at various levels, based on students’ average scores and the total number of exams taken. Of the 190 recognized students, 55 earned the highest honor - AP Scholar with Distinction. An additional 41 students were named AP Scholar with Honor, and 94 students received the AP Scholar award. Next up was a presentation on Dripping Springs ISD’s Texas FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating

System of Texas) report for the 2024–25 rating year. The district earned the highest rating of “A: Superior Achievement.” The Texas Education Agency has issued FIRST ratings to public school districts for the past 23 years to assess the quality of their financial management and reporting. Based on financial data from the 2023–24 fiscal year, DSISD’s score of 100 marks an improvement from last year’s 98. The district has received the highest rating in all but one year since the rating system was introduced.

“For 2024-25 Dripping Springs ISD earned a perfect score of 100 out of 100,” said Randy Rau, the district’s Chief Financial Officer. “That’s a rating of superior. It highlights the district’s continued focus on responsible management and strong financial oversight. The district remains financially strong, stable, and transparent in managing taxpayer resources.” Near the end of the meeting, the board heard a presentation from Jessica Molter of PBK Architects on the building design for the

Students from Rooster Springs Elementary School present to the board.

district’s 18+ program, which is for students with disabilities who have completed their high school graduation requirements but need additional support to prepare for adulthood. In Texas, 18+ programs focus on life skills, vocational training, and community integration to promote independence and lifelong success. Molter said the design process began in June and will be wrapping up in early November so that the contractor can start bidding on it. “The goal is to start construction in January, have a very quick construction period, and be done in July, so your program can be in there for the 2026 year,” Molter said. The site is next to Sycamore Springs Elementary and

Sycamore Springs Middle School. It will include learning spaces, a simulated living space, and a life skills classroom. It will also have an outdoor learning area, including a garden and greenhouse. The exterior design will coordinate with the design of the two nearby schools. “I’m super excited about this project,” trustee Tricia Quintero said. “I know that we have a lot of families that are going to be really excited to see the plans and to see everything that’s going to happen and moving in so quickly. It’s just going to be amazing for all the students who participate in our 18 plus program.” Quintero motioned to approve the design development. It was seconded by trustee Kim Cousins. The action item passed 7-0.

Tired of city living?

Want to retire on a small ranch with significant income from tenant housing and a partial wildlife exemption? This is your perfect property: A 49 acre ranch for sale 20 miles West of Austin,Tx near Dripping Springs. The main 2 story home has over 6,000 sf, (5 bedrooms and 5 baths with 2 kitchens and living areas) and a new Generac system. Other improvements include an 800 sf studio, 400 sf office, lighted tennis, pickle ball court, Cabana, 4 car carport, 2 car enclosed garage plus 2 carports, plus several storage sheds and a 4 stall barn with pasture for horses. The big plus are the 5 rental dwellings: each with three bedrooms, 2 baths with a total income of \$6750/month. All of the property is serviced by a 900 foot water well. The acreage includes a scenic creek bed that flows during periods of normal rain. This central Texas property must be seen to be appreciated.

For an appointment to see the property, please contact Trey Bonner at Ranchland Real Estate at 512-877-0990 or Clayton Bonner at 512-696-7988. Online contact Trey@ranchlandrealestate.com.

pet of the week



Armon • Male
2 years old
Wirehaired Terrier

I'm Armon and I am a super happy young man! I love playing with other dogs and making new furry friends. New people might make me duck behind the couch at first, but a treat or two and I'm leaning in for pets. I'm very social with other dogs and I would love, love, love to have a brother or a sister. I'm really good on the leash and happy to go for strolls, jogs, or hikes. In the car, I buckle up in the back (click it or ticket is one of my favorite tricks) and watch the world zoom by. I'm house trained, crate trained, and would love to become an absolute expert at new tricks! Can't wait to meet you and find my own foster or forever family to love with all my heart. Please email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Euliss • Male
8 years old
Terrier mix

My name is Euliss! Everyone who meets me says I'm a happy and playful boy who loves life. I enjoy car rides and walk well on a leash, so I'm great for apartments because I'm quiet and well-behaved. I can get a little excited around small dogs, but I calm down quickly and I love meeting new friends. I'm smart and really good at learning new tricks, so I'm a pretty fun friend to have. I'm neutered, vaccinated, house-trained, and hoping to find a loving foster or forever family who will love me and care for me. Please email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

11/2

Themeless Sunday 157 by August Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Kind of rug
5 Scattered, as seeds
9 Whopper's smaller relative
12 Wood splitter, perhaps
15 Tomato plant, e.g.
16 "Check your phone later"
17 Certain toothed whale
18 Lackey
19 The Fever, for one
21 Satellite ____
23 It may have runners
24 The Devil
27 Stick (out)
29 Snares
32 Ever so slightly

DOWN

- 33 "Mm-mmm!"
35 Actress Vardalos
36 "Stay safe, please!"
39 Cheer at a flamenco performance
40 Bad blood
41 Tennis court dividers
42 Straighten
44 Mathematician
Lovelace whose first name is a palindrome
45 Animal that may become a rescue pet
46 Stretched tight
48 City featured in local ads?
50 Mensch
53 Barrels toward
57 Bad times

- 58 "Everything's fine"
60 "Fine"
61 Dramatic - gas
62 Like some home repairs, briefly
63 Classic slow cooker meal
64 Start to drip, as ice cream
DOWN
1 Pair worn on a lift
2 "Go no farther!"
3 The dinosaur in Pixar's "The Good Dinosaur"
4 Athlete's drink
5 Course covering contraception, for short
6 Birth mo. for

H	E	M	P			W	E	D	S		I	M	D	B
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- many Libras
7 Response to a ludicrous suggestion
8 Midday
9 Performer who lights up the stage?
10 Ancient Quechua speaker
11 Smile radiantly
13 Pop duo ____ and Sara
14 Places to grab a pint
15 Ballot marker
20 "OTOH ..."
22 ____ Oluo, author of "Be a Revolution: How Everyday People Are Fighting Oppression and Changing the World"
24 Polynesian nation whose largest island is Savai'i
25 In the slightest
26 "Over to you!"
28 Mint in the movie "Juno"
30 Michelangelo

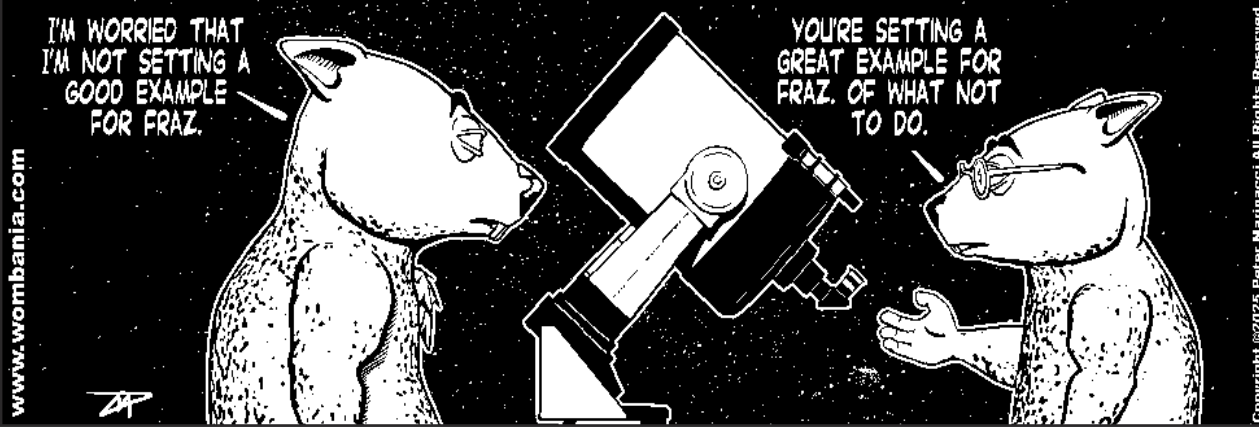
- sculpture in St. Peter's Basilica
31 Full of attitude
33 Slip into
34 "Don't be ____!" ("Step right up!")
37 Part of the family?
38 As a twosome
43 Like Jupiter
45 Unproductive period
47 Sunbathes
49 "Time flies like an ____; fruit flies like a banana"
50 Lump of dirt
51 Trickster in Norse mythology
52 Speaks lovingly
54 Achy
55 Persnickety
56 Essay or essay, perhaps
59 "Great" primate

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

2025 Veteran's Day Dinner and Dance
Nov 11 • 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
The Rotary Club of Dripping Springs will be honoring local veterans and their families with a free dinner and dance. Alex Dormont and the Hot Texas Swing Band will be providing dance music at the event. Dripping Springs Distillery • 5330 Bell Springs Road • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Nov 12 & 19 • 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

Mahjong at Deep Eddy
Nov 12 • 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Come sip, shuffle, and play at the Deep Eddy Tasting Room with the Girly Birds and Dripping Springs Community Library as they host Open Play Mahjong. There will be 4 tables ready, including beginner tables with a volunteer available to answer questions and guide new players. Sets, cards, and tiles will all be provided. Register at www.dscl.org.

Deep Eddy Tasting Room • 2250 US-290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Desert Door's 8th Anniversary Weekend
Nov 13 - 15 • 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Nov 16 • 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Desert Door Distillery is raising a glass to eight years since they first opened their distillery doors. Guests are invited to celebrate with live music, good food, rare releases, trivia, and a cocktail class! Desert Door Distillery • 211 Darden Hill Road • Driftwood, TX 78619

Wicked Watch Party: After-Hours at the Library
Nov 14 • 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
The library is hosting a Wicked Watch Party filled with themed crafts, a sing-along, and plenty of fun. Come cozy - wear your PJs and bring a blanket or pillow, make yourself comfortable and watch Wicked before Wicked 2 hits theaters. Register at www.dscl.org. Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Visible & Invisible Fungi Workshop
Nov 15 • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In this Hope Full Farms workshop, participants will explore the vital role fungi play in healthy soil and food systems with Central Texas Mycological Society. Cost is \$35. Visit <http://hopefull-farm.org> for details. Hope Full Farms • 2406 W Fitzhugh Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Texas Historical Commission Marker Dedication
Nov 15 • 2 p.m.
The Texas Historical Commission has recognized the Joseph and Sarah Pound House and Farmstead as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an official Texas historical Marker. The designation honors the Farmstead as an important and educational part of local history. Join the THC marker dedication for a public program for friends and family. The Pound House Farmstead • 419 B Founder's Park 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.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Nov 6 • 4 p.m.

TIRZ No. 1 & No. 2 Board Regular Meeting
Nov 10 • 4 p.m.

Founders Day Committee Regular Meeting
Nov 10 • 6:30 p.m.

DSRP Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Nov 12 • 11 a.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting
Nov 17 • 6 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting
Nov 18 • 6 p.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Nov 18 • 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 available at hayscountytexas.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Nov 17 • 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.



Coach Morales, Coach Puryear, Callie Schumacher, Wes Anderson, and Coach Sandahl.
PHOTO BY GREG SCHUMACHER

Cross Country runners compete at region, state

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Dripping Springs had two Cross Country individuals qualify for the Regional meet held in Corpus Christi. Callie Schumacher represented the Lady Tigers, while Wes Anderson, the Tigers. Schumacher would finish 26th with a time of 19.58.33.

Anderson would finish 16th at regional with a time of 16.22.23. Only the top ten individuals that have not already qualified as a team get to advance to state. The State meet was held at the Old Settler's course in Round Rock. Anderson finished his Dripping Springs career with a 55th place finish with a time of 15.58.0.



Callie Schumacher races at regionals.
PHOTO BY MICHELLE ANDERSON



Wes Anderson (right) competes at regionals, where he qualified for state.
PHOTO BY GREG SCHUMACHER

Lady Tigers dominate in Bi-District contest

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The Dripping Springs Lady Tigers volleyball team continued their domination over the Vandegrift Lady Vipers with a crisp 3-0 Bi-District win. It has been many years since Vandegrift has come away with a victory over the Lady Tigers. This moved Dripping Springs to the Area round. It matched Dripping Springs (27-18) with SA Clark (24-17).

The game was set for Nov. 4. The winner of that game takes on the NB Canyon (32-13) and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (30-9) winner in the Regional Semis game. Here are the results of their last two games.
Vs Del Valle (3-0): Kills (47): Madison Sestak 11, Emily Varnell 9; Aces (6) Livvy Stancik 2, Kara Caldwell 2; Blks (4) Rihanna Rogers 2; Dig (52) Emerson Robbins 16, Sydney Lund 9; Asst (47)

Lund 23, Allie Jenkins 15; Receive (49) Robbins 18, Cameron Cureton 11.
Vs Vandegrift (25-14, 25-19, 26-24): Kills (45) Henley Anderson 23, Sestak 10; Ace (6) Alexa Sandoval 2, Lund 2; Blk (12) Lund 8, Rogers 5, Ava Lyle 3; Dig (49) Lund 11, Robbins 8, Cureton 8, Anderson 8, Sandoval 7; Asst (40) Lund 35, Robbins 3; Rec (50) Anderson 33, Robbins 11.

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The Guessing Game Is On

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Every two years, the UIL reclassifies every school under their jurisdiction. This is the year it happens for the next two years. The format is this. On Oct. 31, every school must turn in their enrollment to the UIL. These numbers will hold up until the next count in two years.

That first step has occurred and now interested individuals are busy guessing who will be in who's district and what classification each will be in. One good change is that instead of districts being assigned

by enrollment that puts them in Division 1 or 2 only, districts will be assigned and then teams will be put in the proper division after district play is complete as is presently done in class 6A. Many of the smaller schools were put in districts that caused them to travel long distances. For example, my hometown of Rogers was put in districts that included Johnson City, Comfort and Randolph with Rogers being 95 miles from Dripping Springs.

Sometime in late November or early December, the UIL will announce the lim-

its of the enrollment in each classification. That will heighten the guessing game as to what teams will be in each district. The guessing game will be over early in February when the UIL announces the teams in each district and the schedules are completed.

Although the UIL is known to throw curve balls on common sense decisions in that area, the probability is Dripping Springs will be in the same district. A team could be added if Anderson moves up or they choose to add Hays Johnson to make an even number.

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