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BOA
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Dripping Springs Century News

34th Year, No. 47 November 20, 2025 drippingspringsnews.com 75 Cents

Community Calendar

Hero Park Fall Fest
Nov 21 • 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Hero Park's first annual Fall Fest will feature a pop-up market and trade show in the park to go along with live music on the band stage. The event will also include specials on pizzas (from Fired Pizzas) and drinks (from Hero Circle Taproom) all evening. This event will be dog-friendly, and appropriate for all ages. Hero Park • 11160 Circle Dr • Austin, TX 78736

Central Texas Youth Ballet - The Nutcracker
Nov 22 • 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.
Step into the magic of the holiday season with Central Texas Youth Ballet's The Nutcracker. Get tickets at www.cty-ballet.com/tickets. St. Andrew's Dell Fine Arts Center • 5901 Southwest Pkwy • Austin, TX 78735

Foraging Wild Edible Plants with Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen at Ranch Park
Nov 22 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Join internationally recognized foraging instructor Dr. Mark "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen on a walkabout at Ranch Park to learn how to make your Thanksgiving wild!
SEE **CALENDAR** ON PAGE 6



THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day

THE MIRACLE IS NOT THAT WE DO THIS WORK, BUT THAT WE ARE HAPPY TO DO IT"
- MOTHER THERESA



Christmas at the Pound House will be held on Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

New historical marker unveiled at Pound House Farmstead & Museum

Laurie Anderson
Editor
A new historical marker was unveiled at the Pound House Farmstead in Founders' Memorial Park on Saturday, Nov. 15 in a small ceremony that included local leaders and descendants of the Pound family.
It replaces Historical Marker #10312, which was installed on Mercer St. in 1965, and was moved to the Pound House Farmstead a few years ago. That marker included several inaccuracies.

The Friends of the Pound House Foundation applied to the Texas Historical Commission for a Marker Review in hopes that it would be eligible for replacement due to those errors. Marie Bassett, a former Pound House Farmstead docent, collections committee member, and Hays County Historical Commission Marker Chair, wrote the application. This new marker was granted at no cost by the Texas Historical Commission.

At the unveiling, Brian Sherman, Dripping Springs Methodist Church, gave the prayer, and the colors were posted by VFW Post 2933 of Dripping Springs. Alex Dormont sang the National Anthem.

Zebulon Long, a descendant of Dr. Joseph and Sarah Pound, read the marker text, and Mayor Bill Foulds, Jr. shared some history. Wanda Mauldin, great granddaughter of Dr. Joseph and Sarah Pound, unveiled the new marker.

The Pound House and Farmstead dates back to 1854, when Dr. Joseph McKeaig Pound and his wife Sarah Dunbibben Ward



Wanda Mauldin, Great, great granddaughter of Dr Joseph and Sarah Pound, unveils the marker.

moved to the area, settling on a 700-acre tract of land. They had nine children, and lived in a two-room log cabin on the property.

"Being one of the original families to settle Dripping Springs, the Pounds portrayed the qualities that I feel are important for everyone, namely self-reliance, courage, pragmatism, perseverance and a deep faith in God," Jeanne Polk, President of the Friends of the Pound House Foundation, said. "They not only provided healthcare to the growing community, but they also held church services in their home, educated children, and provided a place for community gatherings."

Four generations occupied the Pound House Farmstead over a period of 130 years, until 1983. The farmstead was restored and opened as a museum in 2003. It is included on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The fact that the

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

town still has an actual place to visit and see that history first hand is invaluable," Polk said.

Polk invited local residents and visitors to attend Christmas at the Pound House on Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to learn more about that important history. She said the Pound House, like many other nonprofits, is really struggling financially, and this event is critical to their operations.

"We continue to rely on the generosity of donors, our admission and rental revenue and any grants we are able to secure," Polk said.

The Pound House Farmstead and Museum is the only farmstead left from the original founding families of Dripping Springs, and it is the only museum in Dripping Springs. For additional information, to make a donation, or to find out more about Christmas at the Pound House, visit www.phfmuseum.org.



At sunset, a flag waves over a gravestone at Phillips Cemetery.
PHOTO BY ERIC ANDERSON

Foundation to clean, reset graves at Phillips Cemetery

Laurie Anderson
Editor
The historic Phillips Cemetery on RR12 has partnered with Warriors Remembrance & Research Foundation (WRRF) to honor the more than 250 veterans buried at the cemetery by cleaning the sites and resetting gravestones that may have shifted.
The WRRF recently placed flags on each

veteran's grave. This Saturday, Nov. 22 from 1 to 3 p.m., WRRF will have a cleaning / resetting event at the cemetery. They said it's a big job, and they would welcome help from volunteers.
WRRF is a non-profit started in February 2024 by then-10 year old Nicholas Aidan. Nicholas was troubled by the condition of the

SEE **CEMETERY** ON PAGE 2

DSHS to host regional BEST Robotics contest

Staff Reports

The Dripping Springs High School BEST Robotics program will welcome schools from around the Hill Country region for a full day of head-to-head robot action on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free to attend anytime during the day and is open to all ages. Spectators are urged to bring their Tiger spirit and cheer loudly for the robots as teams compete on the game field.

BEST stands for Boosting Engineering Science & Technology, and BEST Robotics, bestrobotics.org, is a national program for grades 6-12 that features an eight-week season that includes both on-field performance and judged presentations. The program emphasizes team-

work, communication, and engineering design.

Competition day events feature student-designed and student-built machines tackling an annual themed challenge. Matches are fast paced, the stands get loud, and the atmosphere is family friendly. Expect a mix of engineering problem solving and pep-rally energy as teams test drive strategy, software, and quick repairs between rounds. This year the competition centers around an AI-theme game field called Factoids. Last year, the DSHS team qualified to head to the UIL state-competition in Dallas.

Concessions will be available. For more information on the DSHS Team, Dripping Logistics, visit www.bit.ly/dshsbest.

Second mosquito trap tests positive for West Nile Virus in Hays County

Staff Reports

Hays County Development Services (HCDS) received confirmation from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on Nov. 6 that

a mosquito trap sample collected in the 78676 ZIP code tested positive for West Nile Virus. The positive sample was collected from a site in the unincorporated area of Wimberly on Nov. 4.

This is the second 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 sea-

son. 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 1,243 positive mosquito traps for

West Nile Virus. Symptoms of West Nile Virus infection can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, a skin rash on

SEE **VIRUS** ON PAGE 5

DSISD holds ground-breaking for new Adult Transition Services Center

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs ISD held a ground-breaking ceremony for its new Adult Transition Services (18+ Program) Center on Nov. 13. The new facility will be located next to the Sycamore Springs campus.

Funded through DSISD's 2023 Bond, the facility will serve 18- to 22-year-old special education students who have met graduation requirements but require continued services for job, self-help, and/or independent living skills.

Through this federally-required program, students are able to participate in internships, apprenticeships, and paid employment, to prepare them for competitive jobs after

graduation.

Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2026 and be completed before the 2026-27 school year. The program was previously housed in 40-year-old portables behind Dripping Springs High School and is temporarily located at Wildwood Springs Elementary for the 2025-26 school year.

The groundbreaking ceremony included a brief program with remarks from Superintendent Dr. Holly Morris-Kuentz, Board President Dr. Stefani Reinold and Director of Special Services Brook Roberts. Several students also spoke.

"It was a great day. I think my favorite part was the speeches by the



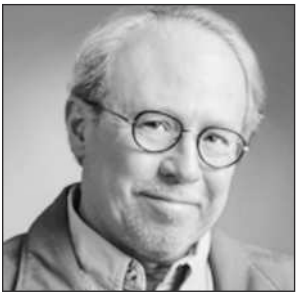
DSISD trustees and students who will attend the new 18+ school break ground on the site.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS ISD

students who will help us open that building and that program," trustee Kim Cousins said. "They made it very personal. To see the opportunities that these students are going to have when this building is finished is just absolutely remarkable."

Capital Highlights

TEA releases financial accountability ratings



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

More than four-fifths of Texas public schools received an 'A' rating for their financial practices, according to the Texas Education Agency, which released the final financial accountability ratings for the latest school year last week.

A total of 969 school districts and charter schools, or 81%, re-

ceived the top rating for their financial management practices.

"By maintaining strong financial practices, these school systems are building brighter futures for the students and communities they serve," a news release stated.

Ten percent of school districts got 'B' ratings, while 6% received 'C' ratings. Failing grades were given to 18 school districts and eight charter schools.

All Texas public school systems are required to share their financial accountability ratings with parents and taxpayers at public meetings. Individual results for a

school district can be found at txschools.gov.

Federal ban on THC products signed into law

A spending deal signed into law last week to end the federal government shutdown includes a ban on nearly all THC products that could devastate the Texas hemp industry, the Houston Chronicle reported. The restrictions will not take effect for another year.

The legislation caps the amount of THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in both marijuana and hemp products, at 0.4 milligrams per package. That would force the removal of nearly all currently available hemp products found in stores across the state, including edibles, beverages and smokable versions of hemp.

An earlier attempt at the state level to ban hemp products was vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott. After state legislators failed in two special sessions to produce ways to regulate hemp, Abbott issued an executive order banning its purchase by anyone under 21 years of age.

The hemp industry plans to fight the law, saying it jeopardizes U.S. farmers and threatens more than 300,000 jobs nationwide.

"The next year will be critical in determining the future of hemp," Art Massolo, U.S. Hemp Roundtable President, said in a statement. "As a significant American industry, we are committed to sharing with Congress the real story about hemp."

Approximately 8,000 retailers in Texas sell products derived from hemp, though a ban on electronic vapes that went into effect Sept. 1

wiped out an estimated 30% of their income.

Trump backs Abbott in reelection bid; Bell enters race

President Donald Trump endorsed Abbott's unprecedented bid for a fourth term, praising his efforts to redraw congressional maps last summer, The Texas Tribune reported. Abbott responded to the early endorsement, saying he would work with Trump to "build a stronger, safer, more prosperous Texas and America."

As the governor enters the race with almost \$90 million in his campaign war chest, former U.S. Rep. Chris Bell of Houston has entered the race on the Democratic side. Bell ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2006, finishing second in a crowded race to then-Gov. Rick Perry.

Also running in the Democratic primary to date are state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, businessman Andrew White, and rancher Bobby Cole.

Abbott proposes wiping out local school property taxes

Abbott is proposing a state constitutional amendment to eliminate local school property taxes, which provides most of public school funding in Texas, the Chronicle reported.

"It's time that we drive a stake through the heart of the ability of local property tax hikes in the future," he said.

In the current biennial state budget, legislators allocated \$51 billion for property tax relief, representing a fourth of the state's total spending. Texas gets about one-third of its revenue from sales tax. The comptroller's office last year concluded that to replace

the \$81 billion of property taxes collected in 2023, the state would have to increase the sales tax rate to 22%.

The state has had historic budget surpluses for the past several years, but some experts are warning that this could come to an end.

"The big carryover balances that we've had the last couple sessions are very, very, unusual," said Shannon Halbrook, the director of Invest Texas at Every Texan. "If we have an economic downturn, how do we keep paying for the tax cuts that we've committed to?"

TxDOT says more public transit needed

A draft report from the Texas Department of Transportation says the state needs to boost public transportation in rural and smaller urban areas and add rail between the state's major urban areas if Texas is going to continue to grow, the Texas Standard reported.

"We have almost 32 million Texans, millions of (jobs), thousands of companies locating to Texas in droves, headquarters, etc.," said Caroline Mays, TxDOT's director of planning and modal programs. "The fundamental need is, how do we address mobility needs for this growing Texas?"

While the state plans to spend \$146 billion over the next decade to maintain and expand the state's highway system, public transit funding has largely languished. The state spends nothing on public transit in major urban areas, reserving its limited funding for rural and smaller urban transit agencies.

"What I would tell

you is that it's foolish, shortsighted and moronic not to start making comprehensive plans when you know unquestionably that the population growth is going to double in the next 25 years," state Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburgh, said.

Opportunities for kinship foster families boosted

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has eliminated 195 rules viewed as obstacles to Texas families fostering family members, the agency announced last week. A total of 75% of all administrative requirements have been eliminated, making it easier for relatives to become foster parents.

"By removing unnecessary barriers, we're helping Texans open their homes to relatives in need," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "These changes will give more children in foster care the opportunity to grow up in a familiar, loving environment."

Regulation changes include:

- Streamline housing inspections to focus on the health and environmental safety of kinship foster homes.
- Eliminate unnecessary training requirements for kinship foster parents.
- Require less documentation for over-the-counter medications.

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: gbor-



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Dripping Springs Century News

STAFF

MANDY FARROW - Publisher/Group Operations Manager
mfarrow@mosercommmedia.com

DALTON SWEAT - Regional Editor
dscenturynews@gmail.com

LAURIE ANDERSON - Editor
landerson@drippingspringsnews.com

SHANNON WEST - Staff Reporter
swest@sanmarcosrecord.com

TERESA KENDRICK - Contributor
tkendrick@wimberleyview.com

JONATHAN LIMA - Designer

Contact
(512) 858-4163 • dscenturynews@gmail.com

P.O. Box 732, Dripping Springs, TX 78620
The Dripping Springs Century News (USPS 18035 ISSN Number 1047-0301), is published weekly on Thursdays in Hays County by San Marcos Publishing L.P., 101 FM 3237, Suite A, Wimberley, Texas 78676. Periodicals Postage Paid at Wimberley, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: PO Box 732, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

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CEMETERY FROM PG. 1

graves of many veterans and believed that he could fix that problem. With the support of his family and volunteers, WRRF now

cares for the graves of more than 600 veterans in 13 cemeteries all over Texas. The Phillips Cemetery is the most recent ceme-

tery to partner with WRRF.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can go to www.remember4veterans.com for more in-

formation and to register. There are also cleaning / resetting events scheduled for Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, weather permitting.

Gratitude in Full Color

Steve Friedman

Gratitude may be invisible, but in the world of art, it takes on color, texture, and form. Each brushstroke, twist of metal, or sculpted curve is a quiet “thank you” - for the beauty we witness, the people who share it, and the community that makes creation possible. At the Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL), gratitude isn’t just a seasonal sentiment. It’s the underpainting of everything we do.

The Art of Connection

Artists often work alone, but they never create in isolation. DSAL’s mission has always been to nurture those connections: artist to artist, artist to audience, and art to community. When we pause to be grateful, we see how intertwined those relationships really are.

Thank You to the Dreamers and Doers

If you’ve strolled through a DSAL market, you’ve seen gratitude in motion. It’s the adventurer artist sharing her art beyond her studio for the first time, the woodworker explaining how he carved local wood into a cup, bowl, or cherished keepsake, or the painter who donates their time to teach a class with kids and adults aching for more art time. Those moments remind us that generosity and creativity share the same DNA. This year, our gratitude extends especially to the dozens of volunteers who power our programs — the ones

who carry tables before dawn, who design posters late at night, who turn “someone should” into “we did.” DSAL’s story is a patchwork quilt of their efforts. Without them, there would be no “Night to Inspire,” no public art installations, no socials and Clubs that foster the art community of Dripping.

Art as an Expression of Thanks

Art itself is an act of thanksgiving. When a sculptor molds clay, she honors the earth that gave it. When a painter captures a sunset, he thanks the light for pausing just long enough. And when a glass artist hangs their sun catcher just so, she captures the beauty of the sun shining through. Gratitude also reminds us to celebrate progress, not perfection; to find beauty in the journey not merely the destination.

The Gift of Community

Dripping Springs has always been more than a backdrop for our work - it’s a partner. We’re grateful for the spaces that welcome our work - from Rolling in Thyme & Dough and the Chamber of Commerce to the dedicated Dripping Springs’ galleries. We’re grateful to the City for inviting our partnership with the Stars of Dripping Springs, the Art Lounge at Songwriters, and the Art Markets at the Triangle. We’re grateful for a town that understands that art isn’t a luxury - it’s a language that deepens belonging.



The DSAL Woo Woo Club sharing their creations.



DSAL Artist Brenda Gibbs introduces her art to curious onlookers.



Member art on display at the DSAL Gallery Room at Rolling in Thyme & Dough

pression of gratitude - large or small - adds a new hue to our shared canvas.

Our Thanks to You

On behalf of all of us at the Dripping Springs Art League, thank you for believing that art has the power to connect and to inspire. Thank you for supporting local makers, attending events, and cheering us on as we grow. We are honored to serve a community that understands that art, like gratitude, multiplies when shared.

May your season be filled with beauty, belonging, and the colors of appreciation.

The Leadership Team of your Dripping Springs Art League

Allison Buckner - Alison Cairns - Gretchen Edelson - Steve Friedman - Jennifer Friedman - Linda Moon - Amy Nelipovich - Starlia Phillips - Ivy Sheppard - Tiffany Sierras - Celeste Perez Smith - Jenny Swannack

Learn more about our art programs and events at www.artindripping.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The ripple effects are everywhere: students discovering confidence through art lessons, seniors finding new purpose after retirement, families spending Saturday mornings exploring markets together. Our gratitude also extends to those who may never pick up a brush or palette knife but believe in what art can do. When someone sponsors an exhibit, attends a gala, or simply tells a friend about an artist they met, they’re helping build a culture that values creativity. And that, in turn, strengthens the heartbeat of Dripping Springs itself.

Looking Ahead with Thanks

As we move toward the holidays, DSAL is already

dreaming forward - expanding exhibits, nurturing young artists, and exploring the long-term vision of a dedicated arts space in Dripping Springs. Each new project begins with appreciation for what’s already been achieved and the trust our community places in us. Gratitude fuels ambition; it reminds us that growth is not about doing more, but about honoring what matters most. So this season, we invite you to practice your own art of gratitude. Attend a local show. Write a thank-you note to an artist who moved you. Share a creative afternoon with a child or friend. Or simply take a walk and notice the palette of colors the Hill Country paints each day. Because every ex-



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Public Notice

CSP-MD-2526-P5 – MULTI-CAMPUS ROOFING AND HVAC PROJECTS

The Wimberley Independent School District (“District”) will be accepting sealed proposals for the subject Multicampus Roofing and HVAC Projects. Scope consists of mechanical and roofing projects at Blue Hole Primary, Jacobs Well Elementary and Texan Academy at Scudder. Construction budget is approx. \$4,500,000. A Non-Mandatory Preproposal Conference will be held on November 20, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the below address: Wimberley ISD Administration Building 951 FM 2325 Wimberley, Texas 78676

Bid Documents will be available on November 12, 2025 within the WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>) and at Virtual Builders Exchange. It is strongly encouraged to submit proposals electronically through the District’s Online Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>)

Submissions are due no later than 2:00 pm on December 9, 2025. Proposals may be hand carried or mailed to WISD’s Central Office in a sealed envelope/package clearly marked with the interested company’s name, return address, the CSP number and opening date and time. To obtain copies of the CSP go to WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>). For any questions, please contact Mike Doyle at michael.doyle@wimberleyisd.net



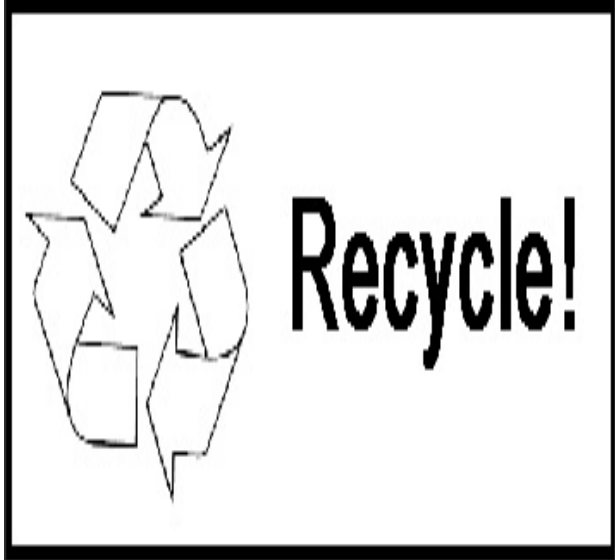
Public Notice

Public Notice

CSP-MD-2526-P1 – BLUE HOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE AND PAVEMENT PROJECT

The Wimberley Independent School District (“District”) will be accepting sealed proposals for the Blue Hole Primary School Site and Pavement Project. Scope consists of an approximate 50 additional parking spots, lighting, curbs and associated drainage. Construction budget is approx. \$140,000. A Non-Mandatory Preproposal Conference will be held on December 2, 2025 at 2:00PM at the below address:Wimberley ISD Administration Building 951 FM 2325 Wimberley, Texas 78676 Bid Documents will be available on November 19, 2025 within the WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>) and at Virtual Builders Exchange. It is strongly encouraged to submit proposals electronically through the District’s Online Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>)

Submissions are due no later than 2:00 pm on December 18, 2025. Proposals may be hand carried or mailed to WISD’s Central Office in a sealed envelope/package clearly marked with the interested company’s name, return address, the CSP number and opening date and time. To obtain copies of the CSP go to WISD’s Procurement Portal (<https://wimberleyisd.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>). For any questions, please contact Mike Doyle at michael.doyle@wimberleyisd.net



Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lonnie Wayne Duke, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2025, in Cause No. 25-0394-P, pending in the County Court at Law of Hays County, Texas, to: Kelly Ann Barclay. 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.

c/o: Joseph J. Malone
Attorney at Law
Stevens & Malone, PLLC

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“A Christmas Affair” celebrates golden year

Staff Reports

The annual “A Christmas Affair” celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, running Nov. 19-23, at the Palmer Events Center in Austin. Hosted by The Junior League of Austin, this fundraising event has expanded into the largest non-profit run holiday market of its kind in the country, drawing more than 200 vendors and 25,000 shoppers each year.

Dripping Springs resident Jennifer Kalinowski, this year’s “A Christmas Affair” Chair-Elect, shares how this iconic Austin tradition continues to shine, inspire, and give back to Central Texas.

Why is this year so special for Austin and nearby communities like Dripping Springs?

Kalinowski: This year marks a full half-century of “A Christmas Affair.” What began with a few booths at the Driskill Hotel in 1976 has evolved into a Central Texas holiday market tradition that supports thousands of families each year. It represents decades of women stepping into leadership, building community, and raising funds that directly impact our neighbors. Seeing how far this event has come makes this golden year truly special.

How has the event evolved into the holiday experience it is today?

Kalinowski: Over the years, “A Christmas Affair” has grown from an elegant evening gala to a five-day celebration that includes shopping, themed parties, and children’s events. What has never changed is the heart behind it. Every ticket sold and every booth rented helps fund The Junior League of Austin’s signature programs and 20+ community partner programs.

What new experiences will be included in this year’s celebration?

Kalinowski: In honor of our 50th, we’re bringing back something inspired by the early years. The “Golden Ticket” experience includes access to a tea-room-style lunch buffet, a checked item, a VIP entrance line, and an all-day lounge where guests can relax between shopping purchases. Of course, we will also have all the things that make “A Christmas Affair” so fun: including festive décor you can purchase onsite for a cause, a keepsake bag



“A Christmas Affair” will be held Nov. 19-23.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE AUSTIN

and a few special surprises throughout the weekend.

How does the event help carry out the mission of The Junior League of Austin?

Kalinowski: Our mission is to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. “A Christmas Affair” showcases that mission in action. It is planned and executed by women who give their time and talent to make an enormous difference. The funds we raise go directly toward local programs that strengthen families and improve lives across Central Texas, including in the Hill Country.

What can kids and parents look forward to at the children’s events?

Kalinowski: The children’s events are hosted at the Community Impact Center, The Junior League of Austin’s headquarters. There is free parking, a monitored environment, accessible restrooms, and fun photo opportunities. Kids can meet Santa, create crafts, and enjoy a magical setting that brings the holiday spirit. We even partnered with local photographer Michael Barker to capture this year’s beautiful holiday memories.

Where do the proceeds from the event go, and how do they help our community?

Kalinowski: “A Christmas Affair” is The Junior League of Austin’s primary fundraiser. The money raised supports programs like Coats for Kids, which provides more than 35,000 winter coats annually, and Food in Tummies, which delivers weekend meal packs to children facing food inse-

curity. The funds also help us partner with nearly 30 local non-profits. I’ve seen firsthand how a single coat or a weekend meal pack can make an enormous difference. We even have a member who received a coat as a child and is now paying it forward. When a child feels warm and fed, they are able to focus in school and thrive. These programs serve children throughout the Austin area, including communities like Dripping Springs.

As Chair-Elect, what has it meant to you personally to help lead this milestone year?

Kalinowski: It has been such an honor. This role has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader, connect with inspiring women, and give back in a tangible way. Seeing hundreds of volunteers come together to make this event happen fills me with immense gratitude. I love that something so joyful can have such a deep impact not only on our volunteers, but for the merchants who drive in to share their good and for the guests who make this market an annual tradition with their friends, family, coworkers, or even as a solo shopping adventure.

What tips would you share for the best experience at “A Christmas Affair”?

Kalinowski: Follow us on Instagram at @jla_achristmasaffair for the most up to date information, or go to www.AChristmasAffair.com for tickets, event schedules, and details about each experience. You’ll also find information about sponsorships, volunteer opportunities, and ways to donate if you can’t attend. Every dollar goes toward making life better for the Central Texas community.

Hill Country Alliance recognizes photo contest winners in 2026 calendar

Staff Reports

With diverse wildlife, clear springs, sprawling rural landscapes, historic towns, and some of the starriest night skies in the country, the Texas Hill Country has a special place in a lot of hearts.

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) holds a photo contest each year to honor the region, encouraging photographers to capture features of the Texas Hill Country they would like to protect forever.

There were more than 500 entries this year, and the winning photos show the diversity of life and natural beauty that is abundant in the region - brilliantly colored songbirds, flowing rivers, hidden caverns and clear views of a million stars above. The final four winning photographs were selected by a panel of judges and are featured in HCA’s 2026 Texas Hill Country Calendar.

Geary Schindel’s grand prize-winning photo shows a rare view of the Texas Hill Country taken to the west, in Edwards County. “*Into the Depths, Devil’s Sinkhole*” stole the show with a view from within the sinkhole, honoring the hidden world beneath our hills – made up of caves and karst. As Schindel noted in his submission, “The entrance to the Devil’s Sinkhole is a 145-foot rappel into a large chamber. The cave is home to a large colony of Mexican free-tailed bats and swifts.” Devil’s Sinkhole State Natural Area is open to the public and managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Devil’s Sinkhole Society.

The first runner up went to Phil Ort for his entry “*Painted Bunting*”



“Painted Bunting” won first runner-up in the contest.

PHOTO BY PHIL ORT

- a familiar face to many folks across the Hill Country. With vibrant blue, green, and red feathers, male Painted Buntings are a sight to see, especially during their annual spring migrations.

Second runner up is Kim Clendenen’s “*Captured by the Stars*.” Taken on the banks of the Guadalupe River, Clendenen shared, “One of my favorite activities during a photography class at the beautiful Mo-Ranch was gathering at the low water crossing to capture the stars.”

Third runner up, “*Changing Colors*” by Norman Williams, captured not only a season but a moment in time. Taken on the Guadalupe River near Comfort before the floods of this summer, this photo stands out as a reminder of the delicate beauty and rugged balance living in the Hill Country entails.

HCA said these photos help underscore the importance of their work to advance local land stewardship and conservation efforts that directly benefit rivers and streams, wild creatures, and open spaces of the Texas Hill Country.

In addition to these photo contest winners, the HCA would like to recognize the following

contestants whose photography is featured in the 2026 Hill Country Calendar: Airon Mothershed, Alicia Paparo, Allan Boutwell, Amira Van Leeuwen, April Rohlich, Ashley Campbell, Carol Serur, Carolyn Whiteside, Colette Nicholl, Daniel Filipe, Holly Ewing, Jacob Janssen, Jeffrey Newton, Jesus Corona, John Neyland, Karen Roberts, Kathy Locke, Khanh Le, LaRue Roth, Laura Bray, Laura M Levy, Mariela Rodriguez, Mia Havelka, Michael Mallory, Michael Tidwell, Michael Wight, Michelle Graham, Pascual Cervantes, Patrick McKimney, Sergina Flaherty, Sheila Ellwood, Stephanie Saldivar, Steve Kotzur, Susan Hanson, Tracy Costello and Cole Hoffman – *People’s Choice Award Winner*.

The calendar aims to highlight the beauty of the region, provide an informative resource on Hill Country conservation, and inspire people to learn more and become involved in the issues important to keeping the natural resources of this unique region intact. The 2026 Texas Hill Country Calendar is available for purchase on HCA’s website, www.hillcountryalliance.org.

VIRUS FROM PG. I

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. About 80% of people infected will have no symptoms.

Health officials strongly encourage everyone to remain vigilant about protecting themselves from

mosquito bites and preventing mosquito breeding on their properties. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one teaspoon of standing water.

“With a second trap in Hays County testing positive for West Nile Virus, it’s important for all of us to take simple steps to stay safe — use insect repellent, wear long sleeves when outdoors and empty any standing water

around your home,” said Hays County Judge and Director of Emergency Services Ruben Becerra.

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 txwestnile.org.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Week of: Nov 24-29

MONDAY Thanksgiving Family Storytime 9:30 STEAM lab Defying Gravity Gigong 1:00 Charm & Create Bookmarks 2:00 D&D 4:45	TUESDAY 9:30-10:15 Toddler Storytime with Ms. Olivia Baby-sitting CPR Class 10:30 1-4 Mahjong 4:00-6:30 Dungeons and Dragons	WEDNESDAY 9:30-10:15 Toddler Storytime with Ms. Olivia Homeschool Chess 1:30 Open Gaming	THURSDAY <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	FRIDAY
SATURDAY 10:30 Read to Ruby 				

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.

Above and beyond banking now open in your neighborhood

Our newest location is now open in Sawyer Ranch, so you don't have to go out of your way for us to go out of our way. Experience better banking at 13341 W US 290 near Hwy 290 and Sawyer Ranch Rd.



Exactly What You Unexpected®



Tater • Female
3 years old
Boston/Chi

I am the sweetest and happiest little girl you'll ever meet! I love going for walks and am great with other dogs, though I'd really prefer to be by your side. I ride well in the car and am always so excited and love looking at cars and people going past. I'm a big lap girl and I love being held and I will definitely shower you with kisses. I'm a very smart lady and like to follow you around like a little shadow. All in all, I'm a very loving little potato! Please visit LizzysHospice.com for details.



Otto • Male
10 years old
Miniature Pinscher mix

First thing you'll notice with me is that I have the cutest underbite / overbite combo you'll ever see! I absolutely love hanging out with people and I get along well with other dogs, though cats are a bit of a mystery to me. I'm fully crate trained and house trained, but I prefer lounging freely around the house. Walking on a leash is a breeze for me. I'm a big fan of car rides. I love seeing everything zooming past the window. I'd love to join a home where there's another doggy companion for me to hang out with, because I like friends. Ready to bring some extra love and fun into your life? You won't be disappointed once you meet me! Please visit LizzysHospice.com to fill out an application.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

11/16

Themeless Sunday 159 by Amie Walker

Edited by David Steinberg November 16, 2025
Themeless Sunday 159 by Amie Walker
ACROSS
1 Couch
5 Place to do squats
8 "SportsCenter" channel
12 Far from anxiety-inducing
15 Mardi Gras city, casually
16 "So glad to be back from my trip!"
17 "You've Got Mail" star Meg
18 Historical chapter
19 Relax
20 Like some pizza slices
21 "I want proof you're having fun

on your trip!"
26 Alley-____
27 Rubber ducky, for one
28 5K or marathon
30 Good, in Italian
32 Foot part
33 Furniture piece in a home office
34 Have a bite of
35 Fabric edges
36 Poetry tats, e.g.
37 Temporary problem
38 Predicament
39 Marble figures
41 Jelly container
42 "Let's turn down the intensity, yeah?"
48 Caustic substances
49 Island whose flag has its name on it

50 To's opposite
51 ____-Missouria Tribe
52 You can't touch this!
55 Wilbur in "Charlotte's Web" is one
56 Night shift, perhaps?
57 Former partners
58 Toilet paper layer
59 Puts on TV DOWN
1 Shopping spot
2 Suze ____ (financial expert portrayed by Kristen Wiig on "SNL")
3 Payment to a lawyer
4 Cool ____ cucum-

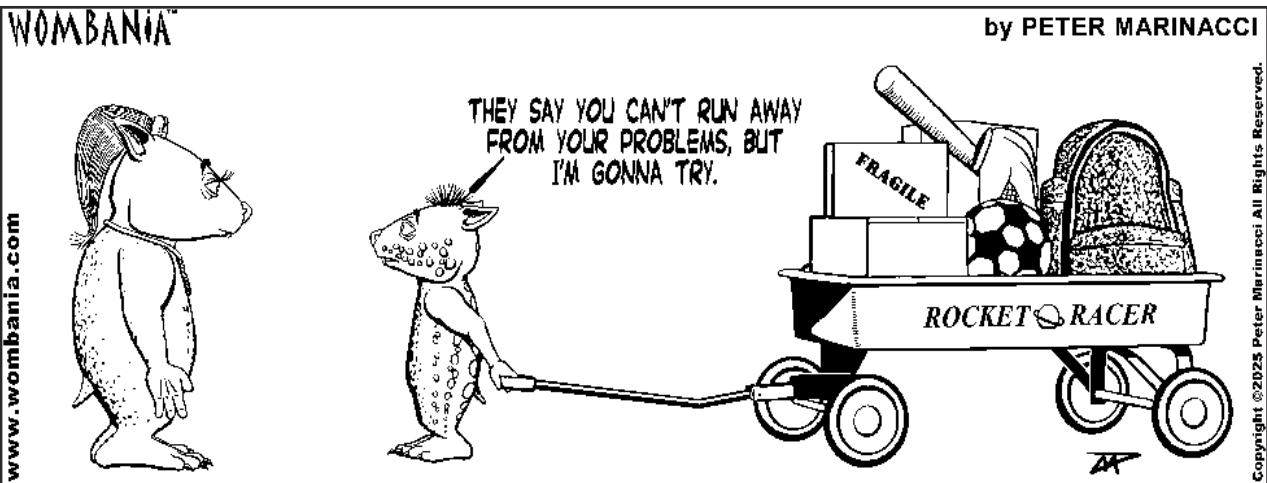
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ber
5 Fully comprehend
6 "I can't choose between those two!"
7 "You haven't ____ the new me yet" (Taylor Swift lyric)
8 Add nutrients to
9 Dairy-free cafe orders
10 Spots for small cars?
11 Granny, in England
12 " ____ All That" ("Am I a bet?" rom-com)
13 Throat bug, for short
14 Pet pest
20 Palindromic German name
22 Charging station
23 Larry and Curly's bud
24 Reasonable
25 Goes blond, say
28 Budget suit, informally
29 "Literally every person would agree

with me"
30 Gotham City communication
31 Trojans' sch.
33 One of eight in a shuffleboard game
34 Dead even
35 Sage, for one
37 Shades
38 Yoga surface
40 Chirps
41 Boy genius
Neutron
43 Super Vintage sneaker brand, or singing cowboy
Gene
44 Milk, in French
45 Last word of many fairy tales
46 Tangy salad green
47 Designer Michael
51 "Minecraft" material
52 iPhone program
53 Mathematician and writer Lovelace
54 Prefix for -certainly

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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

Students will learn how to properly identify and utilize food found growing all around us, coming away with a deeper connection to nature and increased food security. Register at www.dscl.org.
Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

STEAM Lab: Defying Gravity with Mr. L
Nov 24 • 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Something wicked this way comes to the STEAM Lab! Join Mr. L for a magical, science-filled session to explore the forces that keep us grounded - and what it takes to break free! From anti-gravity tricks to mind-bending experiments, students will discover the science behind "defying gravity" through hands-on STEAM activities. Register at www.dscl.org.
Dripping Springs Community Library • 501 Sportsplex Dr •

Dripping Springs, TX 78620
Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Nov 26 & Dec 3 • 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

Western Wonderland
Nov 28 to Jan 4
This year's event includes a spectacular array of festive activities that will delight guests of all ages. Ice Skating: Glide and twirl under the twinkling lights on the largest ice skating rink in Central Texas. Whether you're a pro or a beginner, the rink is perfect for everyone to enjoy the cool, crisp air and holiday tunes. Trail of Lights: Wander through our FREE enchanting Trail of

Lights, a dazzling display that will take your breath away. With sparkling lights, whimsical scenes, and holiday characters, this trail promises to be a highlight of your holiday season. Holiday Market: Browse our festive market filled with unique holiday gifts, delicious treats, and warm beverages. From handmade crafts to gourmet goodies, you'll find the perfect gifts for everyone on your list. This year, we're embracing a dynamic pop-up vendor model, allowing for fresh and diverse offerings everyday! Vendors will be set up rink-side so you can shop and skate all in the same room!

City of Dripping Springs Tree Lighting
Nov 29 • 5:30 p.m.
Join the city for this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony, where they'll be unveiling a brand new tree that promises to bring extra holiday magic! The

festivities will kick off with live performances by local community groups. Participants can stick around after the tree lighting for a holiday movie to get into the spirit of the season. The Triangle
• 150 East Mercer St.
• 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 cityof-drippingsprings.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

Farmers Market Committee Regular Meeting
Nov 20 • 10 a.m.
Emergency Management Committee Regular Meeting
Nov 20 • 12 p.m.

Utility Commission Regular Meeting
Nov 20 • 4 p.m.

Transportation Committee Regular Meeting
Nov 24 • 3:30 p.m.

City Council & Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting
Dec 2 • 6 p.m.

Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
Dec 4 • 4 p.m.

Hays County

Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Dec 2 • 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
Dec 15 • 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.

Lady Tigers basketball splits first two games to open season

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The basketball season has begun for the DS Lady Tigers and they look capable of putting more points on

the board this year. They dropped their opener to NB Canyon 54-45 and then came back with a win over RR McNeil 71-34. A slow start in the

first half with Canyon was the key to the game. It was 29-14 at the half. Scoring: Lily Aleshire 21, Ella Beatty 9, Bailey Rogers 6, Chaela Luelling 5,

Camille Brown 3, Harper Teague 1; Rebs: Brown 8, Aleshire 8, Rogers 7; Assts: Beatty 3, Luelling 2, Brown 2; Blks: Brown 2. The Lady Tigers

scored in double figures each quarter for the win. Scoring: Aleshire 15, Rogers 12, Luelling 11, Chloe Lightfoot 8, Brown 8, Beatty 5, Avery Taylor

4, Avery Ames 4, Caitlyn Lightfoot 2, Veronica Johnson 2. Reb: Luelling 7, Rogers 7, Brown 7; Asst: Ames 3; Stls: Rogers 7, Aleshire 3.

Tigers topple Vista Ridge 38-14

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

The score did not indicate the possible difficulty of the win over the Vista Ridge Rangers. Many are getting used to one-sided games by the Tigers, but we are in the playoff season and opponents cannot be taken lightly. Vista Ridge was one of those teams. The game was indicative as to what makes the difference in how a game turns out. The Rangers had to be limping around after the game due to the many times they shot themselves in the foot. The Tiger defense caused four turnovers and the Rangers added nine penalties that usually nullified big plays. The Tigers were error-free and again dominated the fourth quarter.

The Tiger defense showed the Rangers it was going to be a long night after the kickoff. They forced a three and out. The Tigers made it look easy as they moved 67 yards in three plays on a 58 run by Jaceton Gotta. Ian French again perfect on PATs. 7-0 with 9:45 remaining. There would be no more scoring until late in the



The Tiger defense stood strong and held Vista Ridge to only two touchdowns, only one in each half.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CORTNI REID

half. On the Tigers last drive of the half, they marched 83 yards in eight plays to score on a 36 pass from Chase Ames to James Montgomery. They left only 1:05 on the clock but it was enough as Vista Ridge scored on a pass in nine plays with five seconds to spare. 14-7 at half.

The Tigers could not move the ball starting the second half and were forced to punt. The ball hit a Ranger and Nate Martinez was there to collect it on the 29. Gotta ran the ball in from the three to score. 21-7. Only score in the third.

Early in the fourth, the Tigers were stopped and French drilled the 35 FG. Later the Ames to Cooper Reid combo was good for two TDs from 12 and 56. Vista Ridge managed a late score.

The win put the Tigers in the Area game with SA Harlan. The undefeated Harlan team is a rematch of last year's area game in which Harlan eliminated the Tigers 55-14.

Game stats (DS first): First downs 22-21; Rushing 24-119, 27-105; Passing 306-312; Passes 24-36-0; 24-45-3; Punts 5-32.8, 3-32.7; Penalties 5-65, 9-95; Turnovers 0, 4.

Tiger stats: Rushing: Gotta 11-91 2TD; Lawson Attaway 4-44; Ryder Frost 1-4; Pete Fredenburg 3-(-) 3; Ames 5-(-)17. Passing: Ames 23-308 3TD; Logan Keim 1-1 (-) 2; Fredenburg 0-1. Receiving: Montgomery 8-114TD; Merrick Bloomgren 7-52; Reid 5-119 2TD; Gotta 4-21. Int: Malachi Igharo 2; Liam Lawson. KOR: Frost 1-21.



The band performs their show, WALALA: Taking Joy Seriously.

PHOTO BY RANDY CLARK

Tiger Band competes at BOA Grand Nationals

The Dripping Springs Tiger Band officially wrapped up its marching season last weekend with an appearance at the Band of American (BOA) Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their show, WALALA: Taking Joy Seriously kept making history at every turn, starting with advancing to the BOA Super Regional Finals in San Antonio. The competition started with 71 bands, and just 14 of those advanced to finals. That earned the band a trip to Lucas Oil Stadium for the BOA Grand National Championships.

In Indianapolis, 108 bands from across the country competed in prelims, and only 36 advanced to Semi Finals. Dripping Springs made that cut for only the second time in history, and their performance earned them a spot in the top 12.

The band performed in the Finals on the evening of Nov. 15, and brought home 9th place, making school history.



The band waits for results at the BOA Grand Nationals.

PHOTO BY KIM DEL ANGEL



The band marches at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

PHOTO BY RANDY CLARKE



The band's colorful performance earned 9th place at BOA Grand Nationals.

PHOTO BY RANDY CLARKE

Third time is not the charm for Lady Tigers

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Austin High has a very good volleyball team, and that is evidenced by the fact they won a very strong district and on the season defeated the Lady Tigers all three times they played. It is very rare that other teams can sweep. The Lady Tigers got off to a 25-22 win of the first set and almost took the second one before dropping it 29-27. Austin parlayed the momentum into an easier 25-18 verdict.

The Lady Tigers still had plans to make one of their patented comebacks. Instead, Austin quickly jumped out to an 8-0 advantage and went on to sink the Lady Tigers 25-22 and



The Lady Tigers celebrate a score.

PHOTO BY DANIELA CABELA

move on to the state semifinals. The Lady Tigers finished their season with a 29-19 record. Kills (48): Henley Anderson 21, Madison Sestak 19; Aces (14): Anderson 6, Sydney

Lund 4; Blks (8): Anderson 3, Lund 3; Digs (64): Emerson Robbins 19, Lund 11, Anderson 10; Assts (43): Lund 40; Receiving (76): Anderson 39, Robbins 24, Alexa Sandoval 12.

SCOTT DAVES REALTOR®
SCOTT@STANBERRY.COM / WWW.SCOTTDAVES.NET

512.415.2265

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED LISTINGS

22601 RR 12
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$1,950,000
A great Commercial opportunity awaits on this 7.1-acre tract which boasts prominent frontage on Ranch Road 12, is Ag Exempt, and also fully entitled and permitted for a massive 42,000 sq.ft. of flex commercial space, primed and ready for construction.

2201 W Hwy 290 Suite #B
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
Just Leased!
2,175sf historical farmhouse that has been renovated for office, retail, hospitality, and other mixed uses. Includes separate 400sf private office/showroom with HVAC and water connected.

133 Glosson Ranch Rd Unit #A
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
For Sale - \$1,550,000
For Lease - \$1.00 + NNN
14,000sf across two versatile buildings with no zoning restrictions. Utilities are in place, with power, septic, and water connected, making this site move-in ready.

133 Glosson Ranch Rd Unit #C
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
Just Leased!
5,000sf fully HVAC warehouse, with 1,000sf of Office Space. This property is equipped adequately for efficient loading, there is both a loading dock and regular ground-level loading.

www.stanberry.com 512.894.3488
400 HWY 290 W / BLDG B / SUITE 101 / DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620