



The History
of Art
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Pets of
the Week
PAGE 7



Tigers
win over
Panthers
PAGE 8

Dripping Springs Century News

34th Year, No. 47

December 4, 2025

drippingspringsnews.com

75 Cents

Community Calendar

Christmas on Mercer
Dec 6 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hosted by the Dripping Springs Lions Club and the City of Dripping Springs, the downtown festivities will feature an old-fashioned holiday celebration on Mercer Street with live music and entertainment, arts and crafts booths, kid's games and activities, and a festive selection of food and drinks. Santa arrives by fire truck at 10 a.m., and will settle in at Hudson's on Mercers for photos. Visitors can also step inside a giant snow globe outside the warehouse district, enjoy a festive train ride and pet the Red Arena ponies. Visit www.city-of-dripping-springs.com/christ-masonmercer for more details. Historic District • Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Jester King's 15th Anniversary
Dec 6 • 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Jester King is celebrating its 15th anniversary all day with an epic lineup of music, food, drink, fermentation, and fun! It's free and open to all ages. Learn more at www.jesterking-brewery.com. Jester King Brewery • 13187 Fitzhugh Rd • Austin, TX 78736

Seasons of Science
Dec 6 & 7 • 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Seasons of Science, an outreach pro-
CALENDAR
ON PAGE 7



THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE

Inspirational Quote of the Day

FAILURE IS THE CONDIMENT THAT GIVES SUCCESS ITS FLAVOR
- TRUMAN CAPOTE



DSCL to launch new Library on Wheels

Laurie Anderson
Editor

A new Library on Wheels is coming to the area thanks to the Dripping Springs Community Library (DSCL). This outreach vehicle is

designed to bring books, technology, and programs directly into neighborhoods and community spaces.

Library Director Mindy Laird said the Library on Wheels will

help bring the library's programs and resources to more people, so that even those who have obstacles to visiting the library can have access. This could include young people, seniors,

those with disabilities, and those who lack reliable transportation.

"Our region is wide and spread out. The ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) is 110 sq miles," Laird said. "An

outreach vehicle lets us deliver STEM labs, story times, cultural programs, and resources anywhere, meeting patrons where they are."

SEE **DSCL** ON PAGE 5



Dripping Logistics is headed to the state meet.

PHOTO BY RANDY CLARKE

BEST OF THE BUNCH

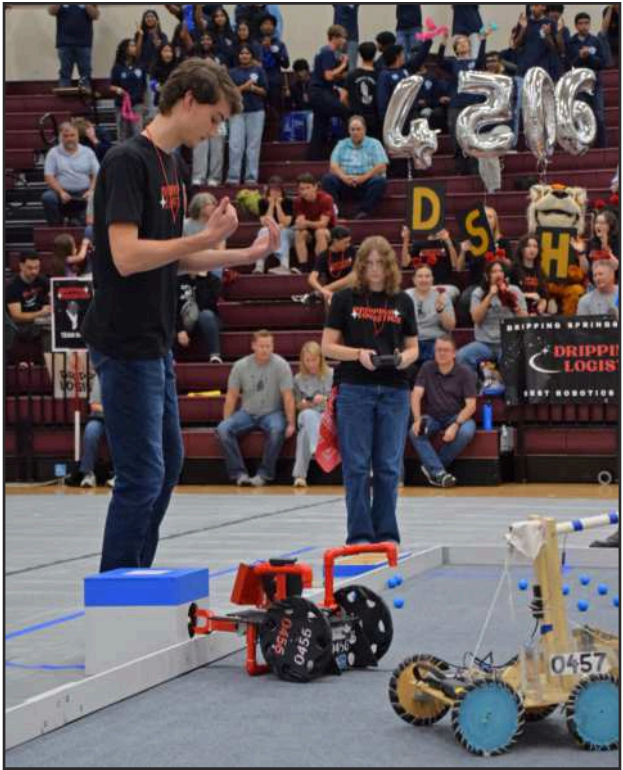
Robotics team headed to state competition

Laurie Anderson
Editor

On Saturday, Nov. 22, Dripping Springs High School's BEST Robotics team, Dripping Logistics, welcomed schools from around the Hill Country region for a full day of head-to-head robot action. At the end of the day, the team rolled away with a ticket to the state competition in Dallas Dec. 11-13.

"The late nights and practices, the crash outs... it was all worth it," said Hansini Agila Ramakrishnan, the team's business lead. "Every single team - business, programming, scribes, manufacturing - gave it their all. And it paid off."

The team won seven awards - Judges Choice award - overall impression; Top Gun award - highest scoring seeding



Members of the team compete in a round.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON

round; Exhibit award - best booth; Most Photogenic award - for the coolest looking robot; 3rd Place Overall - for head-to-head rounds;

and 1st Place for the BEST Award.

The BEST Award in robotics is for the team

SEE **ROBOTICS** ON PAGE 6

Holiday festivities light up the city

Laurie Anderson
Editor

The City of Dripping Springs is kicking off the month of December with lots of activities for Hometown Holidays, including the 21st annual Christmas on Mercer, which is set for this Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To herald the coming of the season, the city also hosted its annual Tree Lighting ceremony at the triangle on Nov. 29. It included performances from local groups. Afterwards, participants were invited to stay for a free screening of the Muppets Christmas Carol.

Dripping Springs

SEE **LIGHT** ON PAGE 2



The city held its tree lighting on Nov. 29. Courtesy of the City of Dripping Springs.

PHOTO BY GOODJAY DESIGN



The PAWS shelter in Dripping Springs has also had improvements thanks to volunteers and donors.

Laurie Anderson

PAWS shelter in Kyle to remain open after community response

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Thanks to an outpouring of community support, the PAWS Shelter of Central Texas has announced that it will no longer be forced to close its Kyle campus.

In the month after the organization announced the closure, which was reportedly due to growing financial and operational challenges, the non-profit received donations equaling \$50,085.60. That

also helped them meet the requirements for a \$25,000 matching pledge from Tito's Handmade Vodka.

Greg Sabatini, one of the members of the PAWS board of directors, said the community response to their request for help with maintenance and repairs for both the Kyle shelter and the Dripping Springs shelter has been great as well.

"There is an ever-increasing number of
SEE **PAWS** ON PAGE 5

Dedication ceremony to honor Jack Hays

Staff Reports

A special dedication ceremony of the John Coffee "Jack" Hays Collection, a tribute to the legendary figure and namesake of the county, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4, in San Marcos at the rotunda of the Government Center, 712 S. Stagecoach Trail.

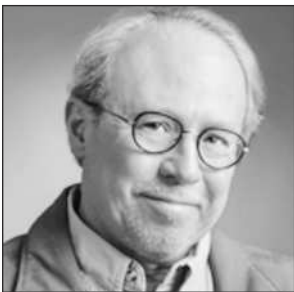
The event is intended to celebrate the life and legacy of Jack Hays, whose contributions have shaped the spirit and identity of the Hays County community. Historical pieces such as a 30-

inch-tall cast of John Coffee Hays, an archival pigmented print of the Matthew Brady portrait and two collectible badges will be on display. The collection has been generously donated by Kate Johnson, former Chair of the Hays County Historical Commission from 1993-2023.

This ceremony is open to all community members and Hays County staff. Light refreshments will be available starting at 10 a.m., and the ceremony starts at 11 a.m.

Capital Highlights

Older Texans face steep ACA price hikes



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

About 1 million Texans over the age of 45 who receive health insurance coverage through the federal Affordable Care Act will likely face monthly premiums of more than \$1,000, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That accounts for one-fourth of the state's 4 million ACA enrollees.

The Republican-led Congress has thus far refused to extend pandemic-era subsidies that reduced ACA premiums, a factor in the recent government shutdown. Part of the deal to reopen the government includes a promise to hold a vote on the issue in December, but it appears unlikely to pass.

Texas insurers have raised ACA premiums by an average of 35%, but the hikes have been even higher for older enrollees.

"So price impacts tend to hit older folks the hardest," said Laura Dague, who is the James M. Griffin professor of health policy at Texas A&M University. That is because insurance

companies consider them higher risk, she added.

Abbott demands action on Mexico's violation of water treaty

Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have demanded Mexico address its failure to meet the minimum requirements to deliver water to the United States under a 1944 water treaty.

"Mexico must be held accountable for (its) continued breaches of our long-standing water agreement," Abbott said. "Because of their pattern of neglect, Texas farmers are enduring preventable hardship and an erosion of the agricultural viability of the Rio Grande Valley."

Abbott said Mexico has failed to supply more than two years' worth of water — almost 2 million acre-feet. He said that has had a severe negative impact on the state's agricultural industry.

"Economic losses from delayed water deliveries cannot be recovered," said TCEQ Commissioner Tonya Miller. "Texas communities across the lower Rio Grande Valley will continue to suffer unless Mexico starts meeting their treaty obligations."

Under the treaty, the United States has consistently met its delivery obligations on the Colorado River, while

Mexico has significantly breached its commitments on the Rio Grande River, Abbott said.

The state's two U.S. senators, Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, have proposed a bill that would hold Mexico accountable for failing to provide water to South Texas under the 1944 treaty.

Final rules on state's voucher program are released

The comptroller's office has finalized rules for the state's \$1 billion school voucher program, the Houston Chronicle reported. Applications for families are scheduled to open in February. Among the features:

-Families seeking pre-kindergarten services will be able to access accounts worth \$10,500, which can be spent at private pre-K schools or childcare centers that have pre-K classes.

-A clarification in the rules means that private schools or charter school networks already established in other states can open new campuses in Texas. The law says private schools must have been accredited for at least two years. The new rules mean this includes operating a campus in another state.

-The application window opens on Feb. 4 and will last around six weeks.

-Students approved for vouchers will not need to reapply in the following years.

Power plant loan program making progress

After a rocky start, a state plan to boost the construction of natural gas plants has begun loaning money two years after the \$7 billion Texas Energy Fund was created, The Dallas Morning News reported. That comes after one of the original loan applicants chosen for the program possibly committed fraud in their application and was selected despite the company's head having been convicted of a federal crime. Other companies pulled their applications, citing supply chain issues in procuring the large turbines needed to produce electricity.

However, since June, the Public Utility Commission of Texas has approved about \$1.5 billion in loans for six power plant projects. When completed, they will have the capacity to power at least 875,000 homes.

The Legislature created the Texas Energy Fund after the February 2021 blackouts killed more than 200 people. The fund was created to build power plants that can produce electricity on demand. One of the companies receiving a loan is Houston-based Calpine.

"This 460-megawatt, state-of-the-art facility is designed to start within minutes and will deliver safe, reliable power exactly when Texans need it most," Caleb Stephenson of Calpine said in a news release.

\$1.2 billion headed to Texas broadband access

Federal funding included in the 2021 infrastructure law passed during the Biden administration has been slow to reach states, The News reported. But the Trump administration announced recently that it has approved a plan to spend more than \$1.2 billion in federal funds to improve broadband access in Texas, delivering high-speed internet to rural areas.

That amount is considerably less than the \$3.3 billion allocated to Texas under the original infrastructure law passed in 2021. Texas is the 19th state to win approval of a final plan.

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said the approved plan will make it possible for nearly every Texas location to connect to high-speed internet.

"The Texas broadband plan reflects our state's commitment to responsible stewardship and to creating an environment where families, students and businesses can continue to thrive for generations to come," Hancock said.

PUC provides money-saving tips as winter nears

The Public Utility Commission of Texas has launched a new website, Ways to Save, to help Texans conserve energy and save money during frigid weather.

"Small changes at your home or business can make a big impact on your electric and water bills," PUCT Executive Director Connie Corona said. "It's important to prepare ahead of the cold winter months, especially ensuring you are enrolled in the electricity plan that is right for your home and family."

The page includes tips on how consumers can prepare their home or business for cold weather and reduce energy and water use to save money on utility bills. Tips range from small lifestyle changes to physical updates consumers can make to prepare their homes for winter.

You can find the site at puc.texas.gov/waysto-save.

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, San Augustine, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

LIGHT FROM PG. 1

Ranch Park has also kicked off the festivities with their second annual Winter Wonderland event. The ice rink officially opened the day after Thanksgiving, and then they had a ribbon cutting for the Trail of Lights on Sunday, Nov. 30.

This Saturday's Christmas on Mercer celebration begins at 10

a.m., when Santa will be arriving by fire truck. Then he'll set up shop at Hudson's on Mercer, where he'll be available to greet families and take holiday photos with the kids. Across the street, there will be a giant inflatable snow globe that visitors can step inside for another photo opportunity.

As usual, Christmas

on Mercer also features plenty of arts and crafts, shopping, food booths and musical performances throughout the day. Red Arena will be on hand with their miniature ponies, and there will be a holiday train ride in the old post office parking lot.

And while Christmas on Mercer is just a one day event, the city is keeping the fun going all season at DSRP's Winter Wonderland. At the heart of the party is the giant ice-skating rink, which is the largest outdoor ice-skating rink in Central Texas. It's also covered, in case of in-

clement weather.

At rinkside, visitors can shop at the Holiday Market, which will include a variety of rotating vendors, so that guests can find something new and fresh every day. That will include food, beverages and holiday gifts.

Finally, guests can walk through the free Trail of Lights, which features a variety of holiday displays.

Winter Wonderland is open daily until Jan. 4, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. It will be closed on Christmas Day, and will close early at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, New

Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

General admission to the Winter Wonderland ice skating rink is \$15 and includes skate rental. Spectators are free. Discounts are available for larger groups, and there is also a \$100 skate pass that includes 10 visits. Those can be shared among family members and friends.

DSRP also offers ice skating lessons for all ages. They are held on Friday and Saturday mornings before the rink opens to the public, and the cost is \$30.

There are also a number of micro-events planned for kids. Each one includes a story time, craft, hot chocolate, and an hour of skating. The cost is \$35 per child, which includes

skates. These events are held in the mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Parents are required to remain present during the whole experience, and can rent skates upon arrival for an additional fee if desired.

For micro-event details and registration information, or for other Western Wonderland details, visit www.dripping-springs-ranchpark.com and click "Western Wonderland."

For more information about Christmas on Mercer, visit www.city-of-dripping-springs.com/christmas-mercer.

For the latest updates, follow the social media pages for DSRP and City of Dripping Springs.

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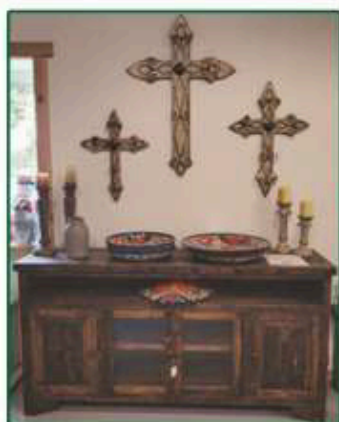
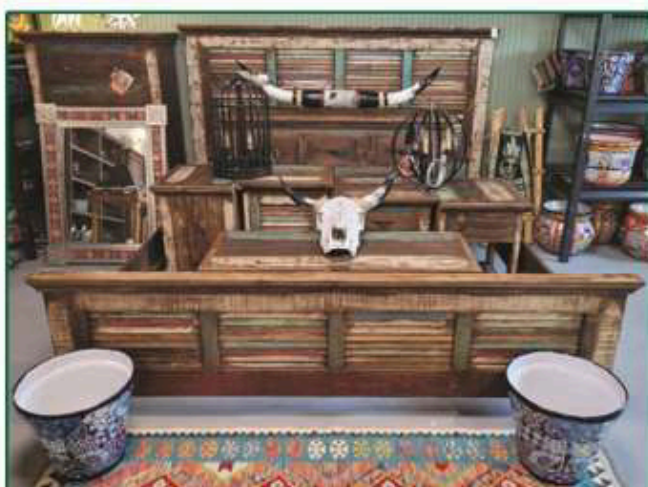
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Registration Deadline: December 29th
Program Start Date: January 5th

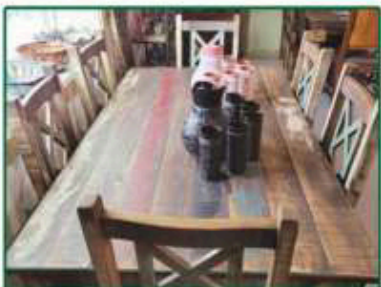
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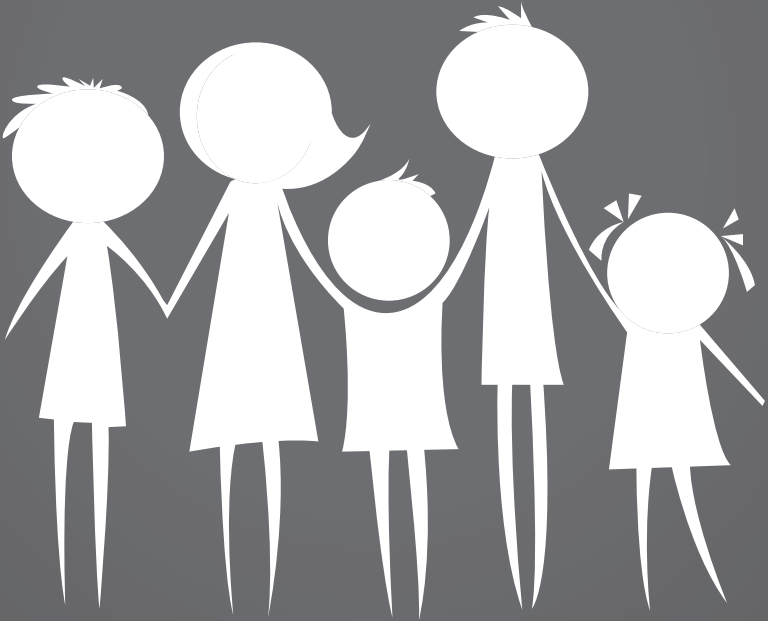


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Public Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

FOR ENGINEER, BOND COUNSEL, AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

The City of Dripping Springs, Texas (“City”) requests the submission of qualifications statements, which we’ll lead to the possible award of contracts to provide services for various projects involving the city’s wastewater systems. Scope of Work. Services to be provided by Engineer: professional engineering services associated with designing, constructing, planning, acquiring, extending, upgrading, renovating, rehabilitating, replacing and improving the City’s wastewater system, including(i) expanding the South Regional Wastewater System Facilities and (ii)purchasing property, including necessary rights-of -way and easements. Services to be provided by Bond Counsel: assist in obtaining loan and/or grant funding and to provide legal opinion with respect to the validity of financial assistance received by the City from the Texas Water Development Board (“TWDB”) for capital financing; preparation of ordinances/orders/resolutions authorizing and securing the debt and/or authorizing and grant agreements as necessary. Services to be provided by Financial Advisor; assist in strategic financial planning; analysis of market conditions: recommended investments of bond proceeds;provide recommendations to the City for financing through programs established by the TWDB including loan and grant funding. Guidelines for Content of Qualification Statements.

DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION with the qualification statement. Responses that include cost or pricing information will be rejected and will not be considered by the City. Detailed instructions on preparation of the qualifications statement must be obtained from the City and are available on the City’s website at <https://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com/requestforbids>, For more information on preparing and submitting the qualification statement, contact Ginger Faught at (512)858-4725 or gfaught@cityofdrippingsprings.com. This information should be requested as soon as possible in order to allow time to prepare the document and comply with the procedures. Submittal Deadline. One(1) original, (5) copies, and one (1)Electronic copy (in PDF format on a flash drive) of the qualifications statement must be filed with the City by 2:00 PM (Central) on Monday, December 22, 2025, at City Hall, 511 Mercer St, Dripping Springs, TX 78620 Minimum Qualifications and Selection Criteria The City will evaluate the proposals to determine which firm has the best qualifications. Contract Terms and Negotiation Schedule. Consultants for Bond Counsel, Financial Advisor, and Engineering services are expected to negotiate an agreement for services which is acceptable to the City. If an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated the City may formally end negotiations and begin negotiating with the next highest qualified person or firm.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

Contracts are subject to the TWDB and the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE”) Program, which includes and offers procurement opportunities to all businesses during solicitations. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements in a nondiscriminatory manner through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe. Prime contractors are required to comply with EPS’s good faith effort policy when awarding sub-agreements for construction, supplies, equipment, and services. A complete version of TWDB document, “Guidance for Utilization of Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses in Procurement”, is available at: www.twdb.texas.gov/financial-instructions/doc/TWDB-0210.pdf The City is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Small, minority, and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

Public Notice



Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

HAYS COUNTY MUNICIPAL
UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 4

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
AMENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Hays County Municipal Utility District No. 4 (the “District”) at a meeting held on November 19, 2025, has adopted amended rules and regulations (the “Rules”). The purposes of the Rules are to: (1) secure and maintain safe, sanitary and adequate plumbing installations, connections and appurtenances; (2) preserve the sanitary condition of water controlled by the District; (3) prevent waste or the unauthorized use of water controlled by the District; (4) regulate privileges on land and easements of the District, including District parks; (5) provide for adequate drainage and/or flood control; and (6) establish reasonable civil penalties or fines for breach of the Rules.

The Rules were adopted for the purposes of safeguarding and improving the efficiency of the District’s facilities, preventing overloading of wastewater treatment plant and facilities, preventing increased plumbing and wastewater treatment costs, preventing line failures and service disruptions, setting forth connection and modification parameters for the District’s reclaimed water irrigation system, minimizing future maintenance and operation costs, controlling erosion and trash removal, and protecting District property, including District water quality facilities, recreational facilities and irrigation areas. The District has adopted new Rule 3.08 prohibiting the discharge of foreign materials into, or obstruction of, its drainage and water quality facilities.

The Rules establish standards for the District’s wastewater facilities, adopt a plumbing code, set forth types of pipe and fitting materials approved for the installation of wastewater taps, set out plumbing material prohibitions, proper installation procedures, a customer service inspection certification process, and customer service agreement requirements, set out requirements related to sanitary sewer line installation, sanitary service line materials allowed, size and grade of sanitary sewer service lines, connection of building sewer outlets, fittings and cleanouts, prohibited flow and waste, and connections and modifications to the reclaimed water system, establish rules and regulate privileges as to District real property and recreational facilities, provide for protection of District property and systems, set out platting requirements and other requirements for development and construction within the District, including regulations for erosion control and trash removal, and establish a process for enforcement of the Rules.

Failure to adhere to said Rules may result in the disconnection of water service, disconnection and sealing of sanitary sewer connection, and imposition of fines for violation of any rule or regulation of the District in an amount to be determined by the Board of the District or as set forth in the fine schedule adopted by the Board, such fines being in addition to any other penalty provided by the laws of this State. In addition, a customer found in violation of the Rules shall be liable to the District for all expenses borne by the District including laboratory fees, legal fees, engineering fees and other costs incurred by the District in establishing the violation and resolving the cause of the violation. In addition, a customer found in violation of the Rules who causes or contributes to a violation of applicable wastewater collection system effluent parameters shall be liable to the District for all expenses borne by the District, including legal and engineering fees related to any lawsuit filed by federal, state or local authorities regarding violations by the District of effluent parameters applicable to the District’s wastewater collection system. In connection with violations of rules related to erosion and sedimentation control, failure to adhere to such requirements will result in a fine of \$500 for the first violation and \$750 for the second and subsequent violations per lot per day to be paid by the developer, builder, corporation or other entity or individual who violates said Rules. In connection with violations of rules related to unauthorized entry or use of District property involving project access or staging, storage of equipment or materials, or any activities involving heavy equipment, a motor vehicle or any other vehicle, failure to adhere to such requirements will result in a fine of \$5,000 for the violation and \$1,000 per day for continuing violations. Violations of new Rule 3.08 will result in a fine of \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation and \$1,500 for the third violation. Other fines are as set forth in the “District Fine Schedule” adopted by the District. In addition to any fines, the District may also invoice a person or entity in violation of the Rules for the costs incurred by the District in curing or abating such violation, and all costs necessary to restore any District facilities or other property of the District damaged as a result of a violation.

A full copy of the Rules is on file at the District’s office outside the District, 600 W. 5th Street, Suite 900, Austin, Texas 78701, with the District Manager at 151 Trinity Hills Drive, Austin, Texas 78737, and will be available on the District website at www.hcmud4.org.

The Rules are and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

By: /s/ Craig McColloch, President
Hays County Municipal Utility District No. 4

Community invited to participate in free science activities at two local breweries

Staff Reports

Hands-on science activities are coming to two local breweries this weekend, Dec. 6-7.

These free events are sponsored by Seasons of Science, an outreach program from Texas State University's Department of Biology, and the Hays County Master Naturalists. Community members of all ages are invited to explore seasonal changes, winter wildlife, and hands-on nature

learning in an outdoor setting.

Hosted at two local partners — The Shady Llama and Roughhouse Brewing — this winter's "Sensing Nature" events are designed to connect families with their natural surroundings.

Event Highlights

- Engage with winter-themed science activities
- Learn about local plants and wildlife at interactive education tables
- Try hands-on seasonal crafts and games

- Join guided nature explorations
- Enjoy time outdoors with family, friends, and local small businesses

In addition, participants can receive \$5 off their tab for completing a short on-site survey.

These events are part of an ongoing effort to make science enjoyable, accessible, and community-centered. Families can participate at their own pace through drop-in stations, crafts, and guided ac-

tivities held throughout the afternoon.

The first event will be Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shady Llama, 18325 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX 78676.

The second event is Sunday, Dec. 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Roughhouse Brewing, 680 Oakwood Loop, San Marcos, TX 78666.

To learn more about Seasons of Science, visit <https://seasonsofscience.wp.txstate.edu>.

Downtown offers great holiday outing options

Laurie Anderson
Editor

Throughout this holiday season, consider supporting your local small businesses to contribute to the vibrancy of our community! Here are a few recommendations to get you started.

SHOP: Starrs on Mercer

Melissa Starr and her sister Sarah opened Starrs on Mercer in 2015. They were one of the very first businesses in the historic district on Mercer Street.

"We are a modern day department store with a little bit of everything," Starr said.

That includes clothes and accessories for men and women, plus jewelry and gifts. They carry Consuela handbags, Howler men's wear, and Z Supply.

"We participate in many local events and charities," Starr said. "We are locally owned and we love Drippin!"

DINE: The Great British Baking Co.

Across the street from Starrs and tucked into a cute little shopping center on Mercer Street is one of the only British to-go food establishments in the USA - The Great British Baking Company.

Jonty Scriven and his family have lived in Dripping Springs for six years now, and started the restaurant to give the community a unique option for breakfast and lunch.

The bakery had its soft opening three years ago during Christmas on Mercer. They offer both savory and sweet pas-

tries.

"We make everything in house and take pride in being able to tell people exactly how we prepare our food and what we put into it, which we think is so important," Scriven said.

UNWIND: Hudson's on Mercer

When it comes to live music, locals often think of Hudson's on Mercer. Owned by Natasha and Chad Hudson, this venue is hopping on the weekends.

They recently celebrated their 10 year business anniversary. Music lovers can come out and hear some great bands, and check out the quality sound and lights from the production team. You might even catch a performance of one of their students.

"We are honored to be surrounded by extremely talented, top-notch, professional musicians," Hudson said. "But seeing our students grow and shine on stage as well is extremely fulfilling."

Small Business Saturday, founded by American Express in 2010, is dedicated to promoting small businesses across the country. For every \$1 spent locally, \$0.67 stays within the community. The Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce proudly serves as a Neighborhood Champion for the American Express Shop Small movement. Visit the Chamber's website at dstxchamber.com to find hundreds of small businesses to support and to discover special deals for Small Business Season.

PAWS FROM PG. 1

contractors, vendors, workmen, craftspeople who are willing to donate their time to help us with things that otherwise would be very expensive to handle," Sabatini said. "I cannot tell you how important that is, being a non-profit. That's a big deal."

The drain system at Kyle shelter was jetted and cleared by Savior Service Plumbing, while the Dripping Springs water system maintenance, filters, pump and filters were repaired by Agritek Rain Water. Presidio Fencing has donated significant fence repair and improvement at both facilities.

The Dripping Springs Lacrosse team volunteered to spread 10 cubic yards of mulch in the dog runs at Dripping Springs. And True Construction has committed to do tree

trimming and debris removal from Kyle at a significant discount.

Sabatini said they are still looking for additional funding for foundation work at Kyle, quoted at \$9,500; electrical repair at Kyle of approximately \$2,000; as well as new cameras for both locations at about \$900.

And they continue to explore other fundraising opportunities.

On Dec. 12, there will be a concert fundraiser at Hotel Vegas in Austin with musician Paul Stinson, a PAWS supporter and adopter. The event will feature three bands, including Stinson's, and will celebrate the 5th birthday of Stinson's cat, Olive, who is a PAWS alum. Half of the ticket sales will be donated to PAWS.

And of course, they are planning their annual Dinner by the

Bite fundraiser in April with Wilson's AC & Appliances in Dripping Springs.

"They graciously donate their facility, and we do a significant silent auction during that period," Sabatini said.

At that event, local chefs work in Wilson's showroom, which features several full-scale kitchens, to prepare small plates and other dishes for attendees.

Board member Jorge Valdespino said they are also hoping to increase the number of people who are willing to make small monthly donations to PAWS. Those recurring contributions can play a big role in providing a steady stream of income that keeps the shelters going, the animals fed and housed, and the employees paid, he said.

Sabatini thanked the PAWS employees for bearing with the organization as it worked to come up with a plan to stay open.

"This was a very difficult time for them," Sabatini said. "Each and every person who works at PAWS has given extraordinary effort to keep us moving in the right direction."

Sabatini and Valdespino said PAWS is looking for a couple of new board members as well.

"This is a small board. We want it to be larger, and we are actively soliciting new board members to get us to a total of ten board members," Sabatini said.

They are searching for candidates who have networking and fundraising experience, and who can commit around 20-30 hours per month to PAWS.

"We're specifically looking for folks who have some experience in animal welfare," Sabatini said. "We want folks who really, really feel it and really want to contribute time and effort."

Sabatini said that getting volunteers who are willing to donate their time at the shelters is also critical.

"If we can get volunteers, that means so much," Sabatini said. "And we've had great results as a result of our pleas for that. I want to thank everyone who has donated their time, their money, their efforts and their consideration."

For more information, visit www.paws-shelter.org.

DSCL FROM PG. 1

Laird said this is also a creative way to help the library reach more people without overburdening the current facility.

"Our community has outgrown our current building," Laird said. "Dripping Springs is expanding quickly, and we're at capacity."

The outreach vehicle also reflects the library's belief that innovative programming should travel, Laird said. They are currently raising funds for this effort, and have a \$100,000 challenge match that will match every dollar donated for the Library on Wheels.



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ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

A Brief Journey Through the History of Art

Steve Friedman
Dripping Springs Art League

Art is as old as humanity itself. Long before we learned to write, we painted, carved, and sculpted. From the flickering shadows of cave walls to the luminous pixels of digital screens, art has been the universal language through which people have expressed emotion, belief, and imagination.

The Dawn of Expression

The earliest known artists were not professionals — they were storytellers and spiritual guides. Tens of thousands of years ago, humans used natural pigments to paint scenes of hunts and rituals on cave walls in places like Lascaux, France, and Altamira, Spain. These were not mere decorations. They were reflections of life and mystery, marking the moment when creativity became part of being human.

Art as Civilization's Mirror

As societies grew, so did art's purpose. The Egyptians used art to honor gods and pharaohs, leaving behind striking frescoes and sculptures that told stories of power and the afterlife. In Greece and Rome, art celebrated the human form and



Hall of Bulls, Lascaux Cave (≈ 17,000 BCE). Prehistoric artists painted vivid animals on cave walls like these in Lascaux, France — our earliest known storytelling in color and motion.



Head of Tutankhamun. Statue groups showing a king together with gods had been created since the Old Kingdom.



AI created image of a landscape. From data-driven projections to community murals to AI-generated images, today's art celebrates connection and resourcefulness in every medium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

intellect — idealized bodies, balanced proportions, and perfect geometry that defined the classical aesthetic still admired today.

When empires fell, art didn't disappear — it transformed. During the Middle Ages, art became the servant of faith. Cathedrals glowed with stained glass, and illuminated manuscripts turned words into jewels of devotion. Artists remained anonymous, their work seen as divine inspiration rather than individual achievement.

The Renaissance: Rebirth of the Individual

Then came the Renaissance—the “rebirth” of curiosity, science, and self. Beginning in 14th-century Italy, artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael redefined what art could be. They studied anatomy and perspective, blended

light and shadow, and painted with a realism that made the divine feel human and the human feel divine. The artist was no longer a craftsman, but a visionary.

Revolution and Romanticism

As Europe entered the modern age, art became a tool for revolution and reflection. The 18th and 19th centuries brought Romanticism's passion and emotion, Realism's grit, and Impressionism's shimmering color. Monet's water lilies, Van Gogh's swirling skies, and Degas' dancers captured not just what the eye saw, but what the heart felt. The brushstroke itself became as expressive as the subject.

The 20th Century: Breaking the Rules

By the 20th century, artists no longer followed tradition — they challenged it. Picasso's Les Demoiselles d'Avi-

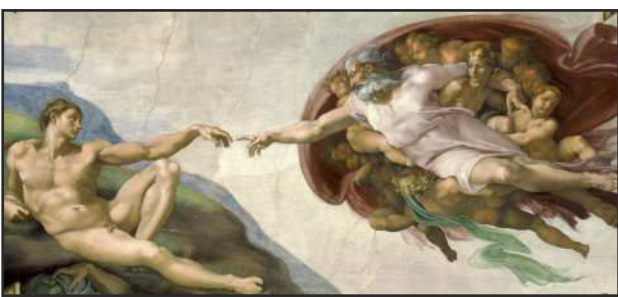
gnon shattered the idea of perspective. Dali melted clocks, Pollock splattered paint, and Warhol turned soup cans into icons. Art became not just a window to the world but a mirror, asking us to question reality, culture, and meaning.

Abstract expressionism, minimalism, pop art, performance art — all blurred the boundaries between life and art. The canvas expanded to include film, photography, installation, and, eventually, digital media. In this era, what art was mattered less than why it was made.

Art Today: Connection in a Digital Age

In the 21st century, art continues to evolve at lightning speed. AI-generated paintings, virtual exhibitions, and street murals coexist with oil portraits and pottery wheels. What ties it all together is not technique, but intention — the desire to connect, to question, to inspire.

Even as technology transforms how we create and share, art remains deeply personal and local. Community art leagues, galleries, and public installations remind us that creativity thrives not only in museums but in neighborhoods—like our own Dripping Springs—where artists gather to learn, exhibit, and bring color to our shared spaces.



Head of Tutankhamun. Statue groups showing a king together with gods had been created since the Old Kingdom.



The Creation of Adam, Michelangelo (1512) – Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo's nearly touching hands capture the Renaissance spirit — divine spark meets human genius.

borhoods—like our own Dripping Springs—where artists gather to learn, exhibit, and bring color to our shared spaces.

The Constant Thread

Across every era, art has been more than decoration. It's a record of who we are, how we feel, and what we value. From the ochre handprints of prehistoric caves to the Stars throughout Dripping Springs, art tells the on-

going story of us — our fears, our hopes, and our endless capacity to create beauty out of life.

Join the DSAL and explore your creativity.

Our Day Trippers Club visits unique museums and galleries, often with behind-the-scenes docent tours. All members are welcome to join our Day Trips, with lunch afterwards. Find out more at <https://artindripping.com/member-clubs>.

ROBOTICS FROM PG. 1

that best embodies the “Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology” (BEST) concept, encompassing multiple aspects beyond just the robot's performance. The award evaluates teams on their functionality and performance of the robot, engineering notebook, marketing presentation, team exhibit and interview, spirit and sportsmanship, and the quality of their project engineering notebook. It is considered the highest honor a team can achieve in the competition.

BEST (Boosting Engineering Science & Technology) Robotics is a national program for grades 6–12 that features an eight-week season that includes both on-field performance and judged presentations. This year the competition centers around an AI-theme game field called Fac-toids.

“We get a box of different consumables and materials that we can use. We're re-

stricted to those with four custom parts,” said Ramakrishnan. “We can use those to make a robot to perform tasks.”

The Dripping Logistics team has 19 members, and is 64% female.

“This year, all the drivers are women, which is pretty cool,” Ramakrishnan said.

Haylee Warren, mechanical / design lead, said it takes dedication to find consistency and top performance.

“Our team has developed exponentially over the past three years and it keeps getting better,” Warren said.

Team members said one of their favorite parts of being part of Dripping Logistics is the sense of community they feel.

“I love the teamwork aspect and the different career fields that join together to make something amazing,” Sarah Clarke, assistant project manager, said. “Meeting so many different people from different backgrounds

and bonding over the love of robotics is the best!”

Guadalupe Martinez Garcia, marketing booth head, agreed.

“Also, anytime I have a hard time finding a solution to something I'm doing, there's always someone willing to help out,” she said.

Cody Kapaczewski, who is on the manufacturing team, said he really enjoys finding out the tasks and completing them.

“It is called BEST for a reason - it is a great group of people,” Kapaczewski said. “We come up with outstanding ideas and we work together to accomplish cool things.”

Lara Gambacorta, project manager, said that finally being able to show off their hard work is one of the best parts of the competition. She encouraged other students to get involved.

“You need no prerequisite to join, all you need is the willingness to make mistakes and learn,” Gambacorta said.

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Free Admission

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 visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



Cowboy • Male
2.5 years old
Great Dane mix

I'm Cowboy, and yeah, I'm a pretty cool guy if I may say so myself! I'm a playful pup who loves zooming around the yard with other dogs, chasing and having a blast. Even though I'm big, I'm not into roughhousing. I prefer to play in a more fun way that doesn't involve wrestling. I love going for walks, and heading out to the park is one of my all-time favorites. I'm crate trained, house trained, and super quiet, just happy to chill with my people. Car rides? I'm a pro, sitting calmly and soaking in the view through the window. Cats? Haven't met one yet, but I bet we could be buddies. I hope I can find a human best friend forever to hang out with, go on adventures, and just have a good time. A fabulous foster home or a fantastic forever family would make my tail wag like crazy. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at Lizzyshospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

11/30 Themeless Sunday 161 by Willa Angel Chen Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Loop in covertly
4 Beemer
7 Unit bigger than a quire
11 Popular succulent
13 Citrusy summer treat
16 Word with "chef" or "vide"
17 "What a sight!"
18 "____ She Lovely"
19 "Thanks soooo much!"
20 Funnyman Rogan
21 Burnable items
22 Cells released between periods
23 Tennis shoes, casually
25 Climber's sup-

port

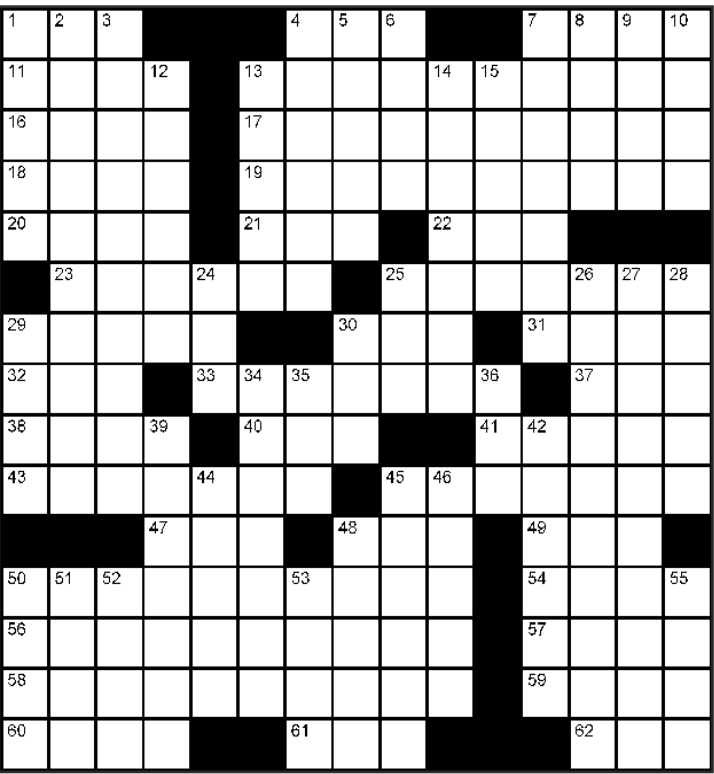
- 29 Something to strum
30 Princess's irritant in a fairy tale
31 Fountain drink
32 Leaders in dorms
33 Blacktop
37 Media site that publishes "explainers"
38 Knievel who holds the world record for most bones broken in a lifetime
40 Car mode that dampens acceleration
41 Bandmate of Seulgi, Wendy, Joy and Yeri
43 Wants
45 Dry spots

- 47 Rep.'s counterpart
48 "Toy Story" character with tiny arms
49 Savory flavor enhancer
50 "We're past the point of no return!"
54 Brewer's creations
56 Something less scary than it seems
57 "At this ____ ..."
58 Ingredient in some homemade
13-Across recipes
59 Create with interlocked loops
60 Tops of two low-ercase letters

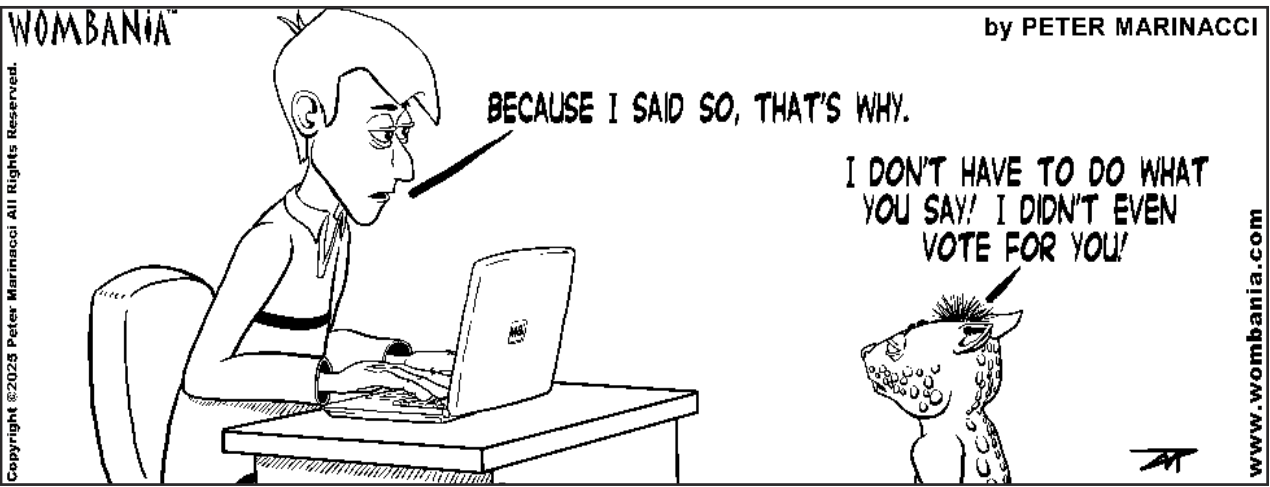
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- 61 Gallery display
62 "Arrival" arrivals: Abbr.
DOWN
1 Foundation
2 Near-catastrophe
3 Take attendance, in a way
4 Doesn't move on
5 Sounds adult cats rarely use to communicate with each other
6 Celebration of a life
7 6-Down and others
8 Repeat
9 Logician Turing
10 Portion (out)
12 Biblical queen
13 Use a mouse
14 Kind of local race
15 What's cooking?
24 Programming language named after the countess of Lovelace
25 Drink in a chawan
26 Private parking

- spot?
27 Flummoxed statement
28 Instruments with an alto variety
29 Street ____
30 Rice noodle soup
34 (Caveat below)
35 Non-Macs
36 "My Country, '____ of Thee"
39 Pays attention
42 It could be off-the-cuff
44 Office mixer?
45 Hate, hate, hate
46 Apply
48 Party that may trigger a noise complaint
50 Former Apple product
51 Root hidden in "root around"
52 Participated in a cherry pit competition, perhaps
53 YouTube star
Koshy
55 { } and { }



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CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

gram from Texas State University's Department of Biology and the Hays County Master Naturalists, is bringing free, family-friendly science activities to The Shady Llama and Roughhouse Brewing this winter. Explore seasonal changes, winter wildlife, and hands-on nature learning in a relaxed outdoor setting.
Dec. 6: The Shady Llama • 18325 Ranch Rd 12, Wimberley, TX
Dec. 7: Roughhouse Brewing • 680 Oakwood Loop • San Marcos, TX

Western Wonderland Open daily until Jan 4 • 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(Closed Christmas, and open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)
This year's event includes an array of festive activities for guests of all ages. At the heart of Western Wonderland is the giant ice-skating rink. Visitors will glide and twirl under the twinkling lights on the largest outdoor ice-skating rink in Central Texas. Guests can also shop in the Holiday Market, which will be set up rinkside, or wander through the free Trail of Lights. Visit <https://www.dripping-springs->

ranchpark.com/western-wonderland for more details. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dripping Springs Farmers Market Dec 10 & Dec 17 • 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

Tri-Chamber Holiday Mixer with Blanco & Wimberley Chambers Dec 11 • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
This is the 14th annual Tri-Chamber Holiday Mixer with Dripping Springs, Blanco and Wimberley Chambers of Commerce. This is a free event for current members. Old Blanco County Courthouse • 300 Main St. • Blanco, TX

Santa's Station Photos Benefitting the Library Dec 13 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free professional photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus

while supporting the Dripping Springs Community Library. Register for your free tickets. The Station on Mercer • 310 Mercer St • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Christmas at the Pound House Dec 13 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fun for all ages. There will be vendors, demonstrations, photos with Santa, Children's Craft Area, Bake Shop, silent auction, a petting zoo, food and drinks. Pre purchase discount tickets and get more vendor and sponsor information at www.phfmuseum.org. Pound House Farmstead • 419B Founders Park Road • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Tis the Season Holiday Market Dec 13 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Join 30+ mostly handmade vendors for a lovely day on 5 acres of hill country land that we share with horses and mules. This will be our 6th annual Tis the Season Holiday market with food, music and fun! Handmade at Nutty Brown • 12919 Nutty Brown Road • Austin, TX 78737

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 cityofdrippingsprings.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

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

TIRZ No. 1 & No. 2 Board Regular Meeting
Dec 8 • 4 p.m.

Founders Day Committee Regular Meeting
Dec 8 • 6:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting
Dec 9 • 6 p.m.

DSRP Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Dec 10 • 11 a.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting Dec 16 • 9 a.m.
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytexas.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting 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.



The Tigers run onto the field for Game 3.

PHOTO BY CORTNI REID

Tigers pass the test for 45-14 win over Panthers

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Anytime you are a one-dimensional team against the Tigers defense, you will be in for a long night. The Medina Valley Panthers were a run-oriented team that only threw three passes all night. It was their strategy to slow play the clock and keep the Tiger offense off the field. Example. MV started their first drive of the second quarter on their 13 with 11.17

showing on the clock and proceeded to march down the field for 17 plays to the Tiger 28 before missing the FG with 1.40 left in the half. Time on the clock was not a worry for the Tigers as they also became a one-dimensional team but by the pass. The Tigers only had the ball for 14 plays in the first half, ten of which were passes and three were for TDs. The Dripping Springs starters would score on all

seven possessions and six by pass. Medina Valley took possession on the opening KO at the 25 after Ian French's usual endzone kick. The Panthers were forced to punt and Judah Satterfield had a good return to the 43. Four plays later Chase Ames hit Merrik Bloomgren for a 21TD. French had another perfect PAT night. 7-0. MV put together an 85 drive to score thanks to a 48 run to the one. 7-7.

The Tigers answered with a 65 Ames to James Montgomery pass on the third play. 14-7. 11.17. With .14 seconds left it was Ames to Cooper Reid for five. 21-7. Half. It was more of the same by the Tigers in the second half. They took the second half KO and decided to use some clock themselves and drove 75 yards in 12 plays to score on a 3 pass to Reid. 28-7. 6.47. Next drive Jaceton Gotta started the

drive with a 35 run and finished it with a 2 pass. 35-7 after three. First play of the fourth Ames hit Bloomgren for a 64 TD. After Major Bettridge recovered a fumble, French closed out the scoring with a 30FG. MV broke a 79 TD run against the Tiger reserves. Ames had a perfect 18-18 night (a school record) for 310 yards. His six TD passes gave him the school record for total TD passes in a season. His receivers

were Reid 7-93 2TD, Montgomery 5-112 TD and Bloomgren 4-105 2TD. Gotta rushed 10-84. The victory put the Tigers in the Regional Finals against a familiar foe in the form of the Vandegrift Vipers. The Tigers will get another chance to prove their 41-14 victory in the first game of the season was no fluke. This matchup will be played Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Alamodome in San Antonio. Kick-off will be 3 p.m.



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Lady Tigers basketball team showing great improvement

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Got to see the Dripping Springs Lady Tigers basketball team play Legacy Ranch, a new school from the Liberty Hill ISD, last week. Was very impressed with what I saw. It was obvious these young ladies had been willing to spend extra time in gyms honing their overall skills and fundamentals. Scoring accuracy and a willingness to take the shots when they had them were much improved. Ball-handling was excellent in finding the open person. Defense was impressive as the players hawked the rebounds and went after loose balls. Even though Legacy is a fairly new school, a team

has to use these games to make it a habit when you are playing the better teams ahead. Kudos to new coach, Lauren Perez for her efforts. Their trademark at this point of the season has been fast starts. True in this game as they quickly moved out to a 12-2 lead enroute to a 26-10 first quarter and 41-29 at half. They went on to take the win 77-49. This puts them at 5-3 on the season. Prior to this game, the Lady Tigers competed in the Cornerstone Christian tourney where they lost to Godley 53-44 before taking Belton in OT 71-64 and Los Fresnos 58-46. Vs Godley: No stats avail. Vs Belton: Scoring: Ella Beatty 25, Lily Ale-

shire 21, Chaela Luelling 10, Bailey Rogers 5, Avery Taylor 4, Camille Brown 3, Harper Teague 2, Chloe Lightfoot 1. Rebs: Rogers 11, Luelling 8, Aleshire 7. Asst: Luelling 5. Stls: Brown 5, Luelling 4. Vs Los Fresnos: Score: Beatty 18, Aleshire 15, Rogers 10, Luelling 8, Taylor 4, Ch. Lightfoot 3. Reb: Rogers 8, Aleshire 7, Luelling 5. Asst: Luelling 5, Avery Ames 4, Rogers 3. Stls: Taylor 2, Aleshire 2. Vs Legacy: Score: Aleshire 20, Rogers 20, Beatty 14, Luelling 12, Ames 4, Brown 3, Sloan Geck 2, Taylor 2. Reb: Aleshire 14, Rogers 7. Asst: Luelling 4, Rogers 3. Stls: Aleshire 5, Caitlyn Lightfoot 3, Rogers 3.

Tigers basketball team keeps it close

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Prior to Thanksgiving the Tigers played in the Maroon Classic where they broke even in four games with new teams. They opened with losses to Klein 52-45 and Cinco Ranch 57-53. Finished strong with wins over Jacksonville 52-40 and Alvin 50-45. They lost another close one with RR McNeil 53-50 during the break. Rushton Budge continues to top the scorers.

Vs Klein: Score: Budge 27, Isaac Terry 6, Will Gardiner 5, Grant Reagan 4, Grant Gilliam 2, David Allsbrook 1. Rebs: Budge 9, Gardiner 5. Asst: Reagan 2. Stls: Reagan 5, Terry 3. Vs Cinco: Budge 21, Reagan 14, Gillum 7, Gardiner 4, Terry 3, Amyron Hurst 2, Allsbrook 2. Reb: Terry 3. Asst: Hurst 3. Stls: Reagan 1. Vs Jacksonville: Budge 16, Terry 10, Gillum 8, Hurst 7, Reagan

3, Harrison Hight 3, Gardiner 3, Allsbrook 2. Reb: Budge 9, Terry 7, Hurst 6. Asst: Reagan 2, Allsbrook 2. Stls: Reagan 2. Vs Alvin: Reagan 14, Terry 13, Budge 11, Gardiner 6, Allsbrook 6. Reb: Budge 12, Terry 5. Asst: Budge 2, Terry 2. Stls: Terry 3. Vs McNeil: Budge 21, Reagan 15, Terry 7, Hight 5, Gillum 2. Reb: Budge 8, Reagan 5, Hight 5. Asst: Terry 5, Budge 3.