



WITH HELP FROM LOCAL VOLUNTEERS, SANDY CREEK FLOOD SURVIVORS REBUILD
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PATRIOTS' HALL OF DRIPPING SPRINGS RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
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TRACK TEAM COMPETES IN DISTRICT 26-6A MEET
PAGE 6

Dripping Springs Century News

35th Year No. 16

April 16, 2026

drippingspringsnews.com

75 cents

Community Calendar

2nd Annual Kite Fest Apr 11 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The City of Dripping Springs is hosting its 2nd Annual Kite Fest. Participants can bring their own kite or just come enjoy the view at this free event for all ages. Founders Memorial Park • 419b Founders Park Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dinner by the Bite Apr 16 • 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

It's time for the 21st annual Dinner By The Bite - an evening of gourmet food, drinks and auction items all to benefit the homeless pets at PAWS Shelter of Central Texas. This casual event is held at Wilson AC & Appliance in Dripping Springs. There you will find a beautiful showroom with unique, fully functioning kitchens bustling with chefs hard at work preparing their most popular dishes in bite sized form. Guests are free to roam from station to station picking their favorite bites while socializing with like-minded animal lovers. Visit www.pawshelter.org for tickets. Wilson AC & Appliance • 4205 US-290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Night to Inspire - Color Our World Apr 16 • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Dripping Springs Art League invites the community to step inside its dazzling Kaleidoscope Gallery

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Thank you veterans for your service!

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE DAY:

SUCCESS IS GETTING WHAT YOU WANT; HAPPINESS IS WANTING WHAT YOU GET.

- INGRID BERGMAN



Hays County property values rise 9.7% in 2026, driven by commercial growth

Dalton Sweat
Regional Editor

Preliminary property values in Hays County increased by 9.69% in 2026, reaching \$76.75 billion, as commercial development drove most of the growth, according to data released by the Hays Central Appraisal District. The district also stated that the growth “aligns with the growth in population to over 300,000.”

The increase is largely driven by commercial and multifamily housing growth, while residential property values have generally remained flat.

There were \$1.27 billion in new improvements added as of Jan. 1, including 3,294 new residential structures, 84 new commercial buildings and 373 enhancements to existing properties.

Commercial and industrial property values saw the largest gains, increasing 24% year over year to \$7.47 billion. Multifamily residential properties also saw significant growth, rising 17% from \$4.05

billion in 2025 to \$4.76 billion in 2026.

Most single-family residential market areas remained relatively flat compared to the previous year, with slightly higher increases in rural and higher-value markets.

Market value reflects what a home would likely sell for on the open market, while taxable value is the portion used to calculate a property owner's tax bill after exemptions and state limits are applied.

In Texas, taxable value increases for homesteaded properties are generally capped at 10% per year, meaning taxable values can continue to rise even when market values remain flat or decline.

The most notable shift in the data is the decrease in residential market value in Kyle. The city's average residential market value decreased from \$314,965 to \$306,952, a drop of about 2.5%. Taxable values also declined, falling from \$275,930 to \$269,850.

In San Marcos, the average residential market value increased from

Taxing Unit	2025 Residential Market Value	2026 Residential Market Value	2025 Residential Taxable Value	2026 Residential Taxable Value
Hays County	\$464,110	\$469,572	\$413,758	\$424,408
City of Buda	\$411,978	\$416,142	\$381,730	\$387,457
City of Dripping Springs	\$594,294	\$613,247	\$538,424	\$575,471
City of Kyle	\$314,965	\$306,952	\$275,930	\$269,850
City of San Marcos	\$349,223	\$352,399	\$312,314	\$317,191
Dripping Springs ISD	\$757,709	\$778,871	\$560,086	\$598,650
Hays CISD	\$368,704	\$365,528	\$243,821	\$249,035
San Marcos CISD	\$370,331	\$382,049	\$236,743	\$249,871
Wimberley ISD	\$612,543	\$642,127	\$416,240	\$462,328

\$349,223 in 2025 to \$352,399 in 2026, a gain of approximately 0.9%. Taxable values rose 1.6%, increasing from \$312,314 to \$317,191.

Within San Marcos CISD, average residential market values increased 3.2%, from \$370,331 to \$382,049. Taxable values rose about 5.5%, increasing from \$236,743 to \$249,871.

In Dripping Springs, average residential market values increased 3.2%, rising from \$594,294 to \$613,247. Taxable values saw a larger increase of 6.9%, climbing from \$538,424 to \$575,471.

Wimberley ISD recorded one of the largest increases among local taxing units. Average residential market values rose 4.8%, from

\$612,543 to \$642,127, while taxable values increased approximately 11%, from \$416,240 to \$462,328.

Hays CISD saw a slight decline in market values, decreasing about 0.9% from \$368,704 to \$365,528. Despite that, taxable values increased approximately 2.1%, rising from \$243,821 to \$249,035.

An increase in appraised value does not necessarily mean an increase in taxes. Local taxing units, such as cities, counties and emergency service districts, set tax rates using appraised values to determine whether they will collect more or less total tax revenue.

Information regarding the tax rate setting

CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

process for each taxing unit will be available beginning Aug. 7 at hays.countytaxrates.com.

Hays Central Appraisal District scheduled the mailing of 2026 appraisal notices to most property owners for April 1. Property owners have the right to protest their property appraisals to the Hays County Appraisal Review Board by the filing deadline of May 15, or 30 days from the date a notice is mailed.

To file a protest, the district recommends the online filing portal available at www.hayscad.com. A protest can also be mailed to Hays Central Appraisal District, 21001 N I-35, Kyle, TX 78640 or dropped off in person at the same address.



Team members from ULTIMATE Robotics #7521 in Laredo, Texas, work on their robot.

PHOTO BY DAVE WILSON.

DSHS hosts FIRST Robotics competition

Laurie Anderson
Editor

High school students from across Texas and New Mexico brought industrial-sized robots of their own design to Dripping Springs High

School on April 3-4 for the FIRST Robotics Competition Dripping Springs district event.

The Spring Konstant, Team 6357 from Dripping Springs High School, received the Autonomous Award

sponsored by Google.org. The award recognizes the team that demonstrates the most consistent and reliable robot performance during the autonomous

SEE FIRST PAGE 3

Hays County Commissioners Court

Hays County approves contract renewal for flood warning system

John Clark
San Marcos Record

The Hays County Commissioners Court has approved more than \$200,000 in annual funding for repairs and maintenance to the county's flood warning system. The system records data from devices near low water crossings and other areas prone to flooding throughout the county to provide web-based alerts of dangerous flooding conditions to drivers and residents.

The court voted unanimously on March 10 to approve a contract with Water and Earth Technologies for \$225,900 per year. The agenda item was introduced by Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra; Mike Jones, Director of the Hays County Office of Emergency Services; and purchasing agent Stephanie Hunt.

Rob Niedenzu, Water & Earth Technologies Field Services and GIS Manager, said the company was first hired by Hays County in 2016, following the catastrophic flooding in the Wimberley area in 2015. Installation of the current county-wide Flood Early Warning system began in 2017, at a cost of “around \$2,000,000,” according to Niedenzu. “The total system has been in operation since then.”

The system consists of a central database to collect and display live data, data reception stations, automated Low Water Crossings (LWX), stream-level gauges, weather stations and rain gauges, he said.

Similar systems can be found in Bexar County, Harris County and in Dallas, as well as Bernardino

SEE FLOOD WARNING PAGE 5

DSISD opens transfer applications to families outside district

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs ISD began accepting transfer applications in April from Texas families whose children are in kindergarten through sixth grade but live outside the district's attendance boundaries.

The district said acceptance is subject to

available space, staffing considerations, and a review of each applicant's attendance, discipline, and academic history. Applicants must submit the district's Out-of-District General Transfer Application and pay a \$150 administrative fee. Accepted students are required to reapply and pay the fee each

school year. The district says it reviews applications in the order they are received.

DSISD attributed the decision in part to a slowdown in student enrollment. Texas public school funding is based on Average Daily Attendance, and the district said it currently has unfilled seats in lower grade levels.

Filling those seats with transfer students, the district noted, would generate additional state funding without a corresponding increase in operating costs.

In 2025, three DSISD campuses received an “A” rating in the Texas Education Agency's annual accountability system, and all campuses

scored at least 87. The education ranking site Niche ranked the district in the top 25 statewide that year.

Further details on eligibility and the application process are available on the DSISD Student Transfer webpage. The district recommends submitting complete applications as early as possible.

Capital Highlights

Patrick warns GOP could lose state House majority

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week that the GOP risks losing its majority in the state House this November and urged party unity behind the winner of the May runoff between U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Without that unity, Patrick said that state Rep. James Talarico, the Democratic nominee, could win, The Dallas Morning News reported.

House Speaker Justin Burrows said he believes the GOP will keep its majority in the chamber but agreed unity is critical.

“We’ve got to be on the same page,” Burrows said. “We’ve got to be working and rowing in the same direction.”

Democrats, who have not held a majority in either chamber in more than 20 years, would have to flip 14 Republican seats to achieve a majority in the 150-member House.

Data centers set to get billions in tax breaks

An exemption for the state’s booming data center industry means Texas will lose \$3.2 billion in sales tax revenue over the next two years, The Texas Tribune reported.

Lawmakers say they will consider proposals to either limit the tax break or eliminate it altogether when they meet in January for the next legislative session.

“These new num-



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

bers are extremely concerning, and I will say they’re unsustainable,” said state Sen. Joan Huffman, chair of the Senate Committee on Finance. “I plan to look at filing legislation to either repeal the exemption or take a very close look at it and see.”

The tax break was approved by lawmakers in 2014, when there were far fewer data centers and they were much smaller. If nothing changes, exemptions could reach \$1.75 billion annually by 2030.

The state already has more than 300 active data centers, with more than 100 additional projects either under development or planned.

TEXAS COULD FACE \$700 MILLION IN SNAP PENALTIES

New federal rules designed to cut waste in the nation’s food stamp program means Texas taxpayers will have to pay \$700 million more each year to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program, or SNAP, The Tribune reported. Officials with Texas Health and Human Services disclosed this to lawmakers at a recent committee hearing.

Almost 9% of the state’s SNAP payments had an error, slightly better than the national rate of 11%. Texas has until October 2027 to bring the error rate down below 6%. The error rate is based on unintentional mistakes by either the agency or the client receiving the benefits that result in an overpayment or underpayment

Nearly one-fourth of the state’s population gets some type of assistance from Texas Health and Human Services.

“We are dealing today with a health care epidemic, but not from a disease or virus,” said Sen Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, the committee chair. “With scandals in places like Minnesota and California drawing national attention, we, as Texans, must examine our own system and see how we measure up to other states.”

COURT PAUSES SMOKABLE CANNABIS BAN, HIGHER FEES

A Travis County district judge has temporarily lifted a statewide ban on the sale of smokeable hemp products, The Texas Tribune

reported. The temporary restraining order is in effect until at least April 23, when another hearing is scheduled.

Texas hemp companies sued to block new state rules that have wiped out a huge portion of the legal cannabis market, the Texas Standard reported. The rules took effect March 31 and prevented stores from selling smokable hemp products and vastly increased licensing fees. Smokable products make up the vast majority of hemp sales in the state.

“I estimated that flower is about half the market and smokable products put together including vapes are about two-thirds of the market,” said Robin Goldstein, a University of California economist who researches cannabis markets. He said the Texas market had about \$4 billion in retail sales annually.

The plaintiffs are also suing over a jump in annual licensing fees for manufacturers from \$250 to \$10,000. Retailers must now pay \$5,000 per store, up from \$150.

“These provisions function not merely as regulatory tools, but as significant economic barriers not authorized by statute,” the lawsuit contends.

The suit was filed by the Texas Hemp Business Council, the Hemp Industry and

Farmers of America, and eight Texas-based hemp companies.

STATE TO LAUNCH STATEWIDE FOOD PERMIT JULY 1

The Department of State Health Services will begin offering statewide operating permits for food trucks in Texas beginning July 1, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Food truck owners currently must pay each city’s permitting fees to operate there, which discourages them from traveling to other places to sell their food.

“It’s a hassle to take time off to go and do that where we have to stop what we’re doing and lose money that day,” food truck owner Eloisa Schessler, of Dallas, said.

Some cities opposed the new law, fearing they may lose control of how mobile food trucks operate in their jurisdictions. They will still be able to control where and when food trucks operate, but they will not be able to collect permit and inspection fees.

TEXAS’ JOB

GROWTH CONTINUES TO OUTPACE NATIONAL RATE

Texas added 40,100 nonfarm jobs in January to reach 14,379,500 positions, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.6 percentage points, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

“Texas employers continue to spur our state’s economic momentum, adding more than 40,000 jobs across a wide range of major industries,” said TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. “TWC remains committed to supporting Texas’ pro-growth policies and world-class talent pipeline that make Texas the best place to do business.”

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the state remained at 4.3%, which is below the national jobless rate of 4.7%.

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: gboards@texaspress.com.

With help from local volunteers, Sandy Creek flood survivors rebuild

Laurie Anderson
Editor

The land where Gregg and Brandy Gerstner’s family farm once stood is mostly barren dirt now. In a matter of hours, their home, gardens and livestock were washed away during the Sandy Creek floods that occurred last summer. Along with it, they also lost their small home brewery and their bee hive operation, which they shared with neighbor Ron Wheeler.

But on March 23, the trio was invited out to a meeting at 12 Fox Beer Co. in Dripping Springs, where the Fireside Chat Support Network surprised them with a trailer full of beehives, brewing equipment, and a reminder that strangers can show up in unexpected ways.

That truth was never more apparent than in the immediate aftermath of the flood. The Gerstners said official help was slow to come - instead, the volunteers began to show up. People who had never met the Gerstners or the other residents of Sandy Creek heard what happened

and came to offer assistance.

“I’ve shed a lot of tears over this thing, but most of it is for the people and the organizations that have come out and done so much for us,” Gregg said. “We wouldn’t be here without them.”

The Gerstners had flood insurance, but getting the insurance company to pay out for them has been a struggle, even though they were paying \$1200 a month. Coming into month ten, the company keeps requesting more information, more quotes, more proof of the value of what was lost. Meanwhile, the Gerstners are living in travel trailers on their property.

“My sister has a home, my daughter has a home and we have a home, and it’s like a half circle around the slab that used to be our business,” Gregg said.

Some patio furniture that was recovered after the flood sits on the slab, and basically functions as their living room. The Fireside Chat Support Network - a nonprofit organization created to

SEE PROPERTY VALUES PAGE 8



Stephanie Read, who helped coordinate volunteer efforts at 12 Fox Beer Co., hugs Gregg Gerstner after the gift. Also pictured is Ron Wheeler.

PHOTO BY LAURIE ANDERSON.

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CORRECTIONS

Texas Local Media asks readers to make us aware of mistakes we may have made.

Email dsweat@texaslocalmedia.com if you notice a possible error you would like us to take a look at.

DRIPPING SPRINGS

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Week at a Glance

Week of: April 20-25

MONDAY

T'ai Chi Chih: Joy Thru Movement Beginning Series

11:00 AM

Hip Hop Dance Class

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

ESL Chapter Book Club

6:00-7:00 PM

TUESDAY

Senior Tech Help at LedgeStone

1:00-3:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Art Together: Happy Watercolors! A Watercolor Painting Workshop (Ages 18+)

12:00 PM

Founder's Day Special: Sarah's Trunk Presentation

4:30 PM

Mahjong at Solaro Estate Winery

5:00 PM

THURSDAY

In the Garden: Vermicomposting 101

12:30 PM

closing EARLY

4:30 PM

FRIDAY

Manga Meet Up

5:00-6:00 PM

SATURDAY

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Friday's Storytime at 10:30 AM

Master Gardeners on the Porch every Thursday from 3 - 6 PM

Read with Ruby the Therapy Dog on Saturdays at 10:30 AM

Register Now

at DSCL.ORG

Page 2 — DRIPPING SPRINGS CENTURY NEWS, DRIPPING SPRINGS, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026



**Dripping Springs
Art League**
ART | COMMUNITY | CONNECTION

ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

Write On! How to Get Started

By Steve Friedman

They say, “Every-one has a story to tell.” Many writers dream of publishing to share their past (memoirs), educate others (nonfiction), help others (self-help), take others on a journey (fiction and sci-fi), or titillate their senses (poetry). Now in the 21st Century, technology has caught up with aspiration.

In the past, over 70% of all published books were through traditional New York publishing houses like Simon & Shuster and Penguin Random House. However, the advent of user-friendly tools, direct access to readers through Ama-

zon and others, and the print-on-demand convenience of self-publishing has re-moved most barriers.

Today, over 80% of all books are self-published and, more astoundingly, the number published has leaped from 75,000 in 2000 to over 3 Million per year in 2025! So if you are ready to share your story, join the crowd and get started!

GETTING STARTED

Getting started is perhaps the hardest part.

What to Write About?

There are so many genres to write about. How to choose? Jot down the kinds of

books you read or movies you watch. What do you feel you know well or have a unique angle on? What are you curious about? Pick a topic or style that comes natu-rally to you.

What Tools Do You Need?

You really don't need any tools to start. You can just start with a pencil and paper. However, you will find it much more convenient to migrate to Word or Google Doc on a laptop for ease in writing and editing.

How Much Time is Required?

This is another fal-lacy. You may hear of authors that crank out several books a year. Don't be intimidated. If you write just one page or about 250 words a day, you would still finish a typical 60,000 word book in 8 months. Sure, it is hard to find time amongst family, work, and other leisure time, but if you dream of writing a book, you can do it!

STAYING FOCUSED

The biggest chal-lenge in writing is not really the quality of the writing or the time it takes. It is you!

Imposter's Syn-drome

Okay, so you have a topic and your lap-top is ready. But you just aren't convinced you can or should be doing this. With so many people writing books and well known authors like Stephen King and Danielle Steel, many of us suffer from Imposter's Syn-

drome. Why should we feel we can be part of this prestigious au-thor community?

Writing is not a competition about who can write fastest or sell more books. Writing is more of a personal journey of self-expression. If you pick a topic which you are passionate about, you will be driven to explore and share this with others through your writing. Through practice you will devel-op your own style and others will sense this and want to read what you have to say.

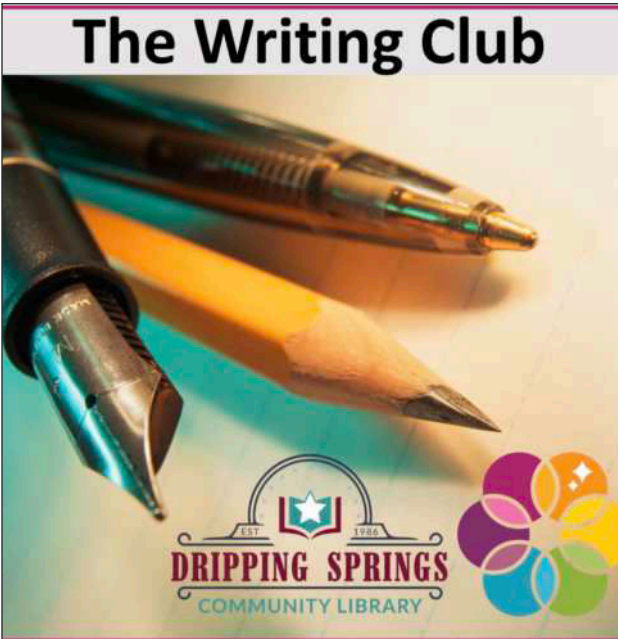
Panters vs. Plot-ters

Oftentimes, writers can be placed into one of these two categories. Panters tend to write “from the seat of their pants.” They might not even know what their characters will do in the chapters ahead or how their story will end. On the other hand, Plotters have an outline, sometimes in great detail, regarding the storyline for each character of their novel or the points and re-search that will be covered in each chapter of their nonfiction book.

If you tend to be a well-organized plan-ner, you are a Plotter so spend some time preparing your project. This can be soothing and motivating while many Panters may just jump in. There is no right or wrong. Follow your intuition and your personal ap-proach to life.

The Pressure is Off

Don't pressure your-self to write “the next great American novel.”



When you start, it is just a draft. You're getting your thoughts out of your head and onto paper. Drafts are meant to be ugly. Let it flow. You will have plenty of time to pol-ish your book through editing much later.

So, when you are ready, just start writing. Write whenever and wherever you'd like. Don't pressure yourself to sit and write for an hour or 500 words or one chapter. There will be days you will “feel it” and may write for hours and other days it just isn't flowing. Feel free to step away. Go about your day. Come back the next day. The best writing happens when we are enjoying it and don't have any pressure.

Seek Support

Writing, like many creative arts, can be a lonely endeavor, but I encourage you to find support. Whether it's a writing coach, a pod-cast or YouTube epi-sode, a writing buddy, or a Writing Club, learning from others, sharing frustrations,

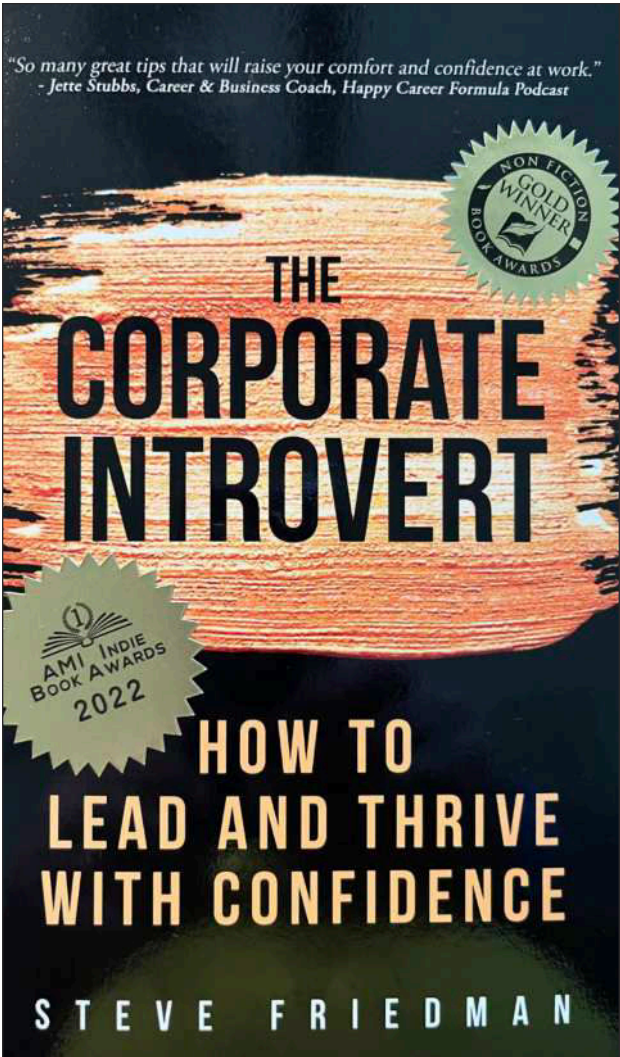
and celebrating suc-cesses can be the icing on the cake

The Dripping Springs Art League, in partnership with the Dripping Springs Community Library, offers a monthly Writ-ing Club for aspiring, new, and experienced writers. Find your tribe. Share your sto-ries. Learn about the writing, publishing, and marketing paths ahead. Everyone is welcome and the Club is free to all.

Join the Club mail-ing list at: <https://art-indripping.com/mem-berclubs/>

Sign up for the April 30th meeting at: <https://dscl.libcal.com/event/16253974>

Steve Friedman serves as the DSAL/DSCL Writing Club lead. After his corporate career, he has published three nonfiction books includ-ing the award winning Corporate Introvert. He invites you to join the Writing Club and ex-plore your many stories within...



FIRST FROM PG. 1

phase of match play, when robots must sense their surroundings, po-sition themselves, and execute tasks without driver input. Judges cit-ed the team's robot for its speed, accuracy, and advanced autonomous system, as well as the team's overall cohesion.

Recoil, Team 9577 from Innovation Tree-house, received the En-gineering Inspiration Award sponsored by SpaceX. The award recog-nizes outstanding ef-forts to promote engi-neering within a team's school, organization, and broader commu-nity. Judges noted that despite the team's small size, it has established a distinct presence in its area and is actively

working to expand STEM education and build lasting commu-nity connections.

The event was sponsored by Drip-ping Springs ISD and Tokyo Electron. The FIRST Robotics Competition gives stu-dent teams a matter of weeks to design, build, and program robots capable of competing in a structured, alli-ance-based game. The machines can weigh up to 120 pounds and are built for fast-paced head-to-head match play, with volunteers from the STEM indus-try serving as mentors throughout the build season and at competi-tion events.



Robots from The RoboSpartans #4639, Smithville Tiger Lions #5503, and Perseverance #9444 compete during qualification matches. PHOTO BY DAVE WILSON.



Team Jagwire Robotics #8507 from Midlothian, Texas, cheers during match play at a FIRST Robotics Competition event in Dripping Springs, Texas. PHOTO BY RANDY CLARKE.



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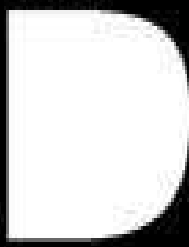
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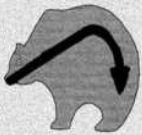


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Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

Track season is fast coming to an end. For most of the competitors, it comes to an end after the district meet. District 26-6A held their two-day meet at Burger stadium in Austin. The top four places in each event earn a spot in the Area meet that competes against an adjacent district. The top four then advance to Regional, then State.

In District 26-6A, track followed the results of almost every other sport with the top four staying in place. This year Lake Travis dominated both divisions followed by Westlake. Dripping Springs was a distant fourth.

Girls standings: LT 217, Westlake 169, Bowie 85, DS 70, Del Valle 53, Austin High 17, Akins 2.

Lady Tigers results: 3200: 4. Callie Schumacher 11.45.27; 5. Quinn Hendrickson 11.52.08. 400 relay: 4. 49.12 (Talia Alvarado, Lily Aleshire, Gabriella DaCunha, Amara Mouton). 800: 2. Morgan Riley 2.19.40. 100H: 5. Meghan McClelland 16.29; 6. Aleshire 16.76. 800R: 4. 1.47.29 (McKenna Riley, DaCunha, Alvarado, Emmy Phillips). 400: 3. Mc. Riley 59.15; 5. M. Riley 59.89. 300H: 5. Aleshire 49.45. 200: 5. Mouton 26.32. 1600: 6. Hendrickson 5.22.63. 1600R: 3. 4.02.37 (Mc Riley, Eliato Amato, Jade Hanko, M. Riley). PV:



Connor Hall executes his jump at the Tiger Relays.



Jana Walsh competes at the Tiger Relays on Feb. 13.

PHOTO BY CORTNI REID



Miles Kennedy races at the Canyon Cougar Relays on Feb. 28.



Jairo Alcaraz leaps over a hurdle at the Canyon Cougar Relays.

1. Adeline Spies 11'0. Disc: 4. Gracelyn Prehar 99'7. Wheelchair: Isabelle Crew: 100: 19.21; 800: 2.13.89*; SP: 18'6.5. Boys standings: LT 202, Westlake 138,

Bowie 91, DS 58, Akins 47, Del Valle 44, Austin 40.

Tigers results: 3200: 3. Wes Anderson 9.19.62; 400R: 5. 5.45.76 (Judah Satterfield, Ben Donohoe,

Grey Magby, Gavin Panska). 800: 4. Bryce Chomko 1.57.47. 110H: 5. Jairo Alcaraz 16.16; 6. Trip Wiese 16.18. 800R: 5. 1.32.32 (Thiago Valles, Harrison Rohrer,

Hayden Fontenot, Frank Accetta); 300H: 4. Alcaraz 41.36; 6. Wiese 16.18. 1600: 4. Anderson 4.18.36. 1600R: 6. 3.35.17 (Alcaraz, Accetta, Valles, Keadrian Barnett). HJ:

Logan Kiem 6'0. LJ: 3. Valles 20'10. TJ: 3. Landon Upchurch 41'0. Disc: 5. Cooper Schmidt 129'10. SP: 1. Major Bettridge 52'1; 5. Cash Falconer 43'4.5.

Tigers shut out Del Valle

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The Official Newspaper
of Dripping Springs

Dripping Springs
Century News

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512.415.2265

FARM AND RANCH SALE

25909 Hamilton Pool Rd, Round Mountain: 53 acres. Beautiful 3,283sf home with custom-built pool that includes both a waterfall and waterslide. 2,000sf four stall horse barn with tack room. 1,250sf workshop. Abundant Oaks, +-7-acre paddock

\$3,500,000
MLS: 9609854

RESIDENTIAL / LAND SALE

16413 Fitzhugh Rd, Dripping Springs: 35-acre tract offering outstanding potential for residential development, family compound, or private estate/gentleman ranch, located just off RR 12 on Fitzhugh Road with frontage on two streets, allowing for easy ingress and egress. 0% Interest Seller Financing Available!

\$2,850,000
MLS: 9315401

343 Pug Rippy Rd, Dripping Springs: Set on two serene acres in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, this exceptional Creek Road Ranch 3,611sqft estate offers refined luxury just minutes from Dripping Springs and within walking distance of Camp Lucy.

\$2,498,000
MLS: 4863591

251 Pioneer Trail, Dripping Springs: 20-acre tract that offers endless possibilities just minutes from Dripping Springs. With no restrictions, it's perfect for a gentleman's ranch, livestock and horses, or even commercial opportunities.

\$1,100,000
MLS: 1233686

COMMERCIAL SALE

31858 Ranch Rd 12, Dripping Springs: 3.15-acre commercial lot with RR 12 frontage, just past Fitzhugh Rd. High-traffic location with excellent visibility for your vision, close proximity to Austin and Bee Cave.

UNDER CONTRACT

000 RR 12, Dripping Springs: Prime 1-acre commercial lot located along RR 12 North, just up from HWY 290 with high-visibility frontage and proximity to Austin. Zoned CS with 2 LUE's attached. Site Plan available.

\$725,000
MLS: 8284894

2550 Bell Springs Rd, Dripping Springs: 22.72-acre with substantial improvements and a gorgeous wedding venue in place, concept plans for luxury villas. Includes 10,000sf venue, 4,200sf chapel, 3,680sf house, and a 912sf casita.

UNDER CONTRACT

11605 Fitzhugh Rd, Austin: 1.77-acre commercial tract ideally suited for a live/work setup. Perfect for landscaping companies, contractors, or businesses requiring outdoor storage. Easy access to HWY 290 and close to Austin.

\$750,000
MLS: 1752719

000 Sawyer Ranch Rd, Dripping Springs: 12 Acres of unrestricted frontage on the corner of Sawyer Ranch and Darden Hill, right across the road from the new DSISD High School being built in 2028.

UNDER CONTRACT

14787 Fitzhugh Rd, Dripping Springs: Prime 2.72-acre unrestricted tract located along the thriving Fitzhugh Corridor, offering excellent visibility and easy access. Positioned outside of the ETJ with proximity to Austin and Dripping Springs.

\$1,100,000
MLS: 7220964

13100 Fitzhugh Rd, Austin: A rare opportunity to acquire a thriving RV park with approximately 90% occupancy and 35 RV Spots, ideally located just off Fitzhugh Road on +-7 Acres, with convenient access to Austin and Dripping Springs.

UNDER CONTRACT

13127 Fitzhugh Rd, Austin: Unique 4.79-acre unrestricted tract right outside Dripping Springs. Features 4,900+- square feet of improvements which includes 21 beds across three houses, two cabins, and a commercial-grade kitchen/pavilion.

\$1,500,000
MLS: 3926230

000 HWY 290, Dripping Springs: 4-acre commercial property offers exceptional visibility and access with direct frontage on Hwy 290. Ideally located just down the road from the new H-E-B development, the site is positioned for high traffic exposure

\$3,500,000
MLS: 7269294

14707 Fitzhugh Rd Unit #G, Dripping Springs: 5,426 SF flex industrial property offering an ideal blend of warehouse functionality and professional office space. The building consists of approximately 4,472 SF of warehouse space and 954 SF of finished office space; all is HVAC controlled.

For Sale - \$1,390,000
For Lease - \$6,456
MLS: 1664454

COMMERCIAL LEASE

701 US 290 W #101, Dripping Springs: 1,200 square feet of office space located in the heart of Dripping Springs, just 30 minutes away from Austin. This property features a reception area, two private offices, a conference room, and bathroom.

\$2,160
MLS: 4123945

701 US 290 W #103, Dripping Springs: 1,450 square feet of office space located in the heart of Dripping Springs, just 30 minutes away from Austin. This property features a reception area, three private offices, a conference room, and bathroom.

\$2,610
MLS: 4287145

100 S Canyonwood Unit 1-B, Dripping Springs: 1,072 SF of air-conditioned office space available right outside of Dripping Springs, minutes from Austin and is conveniently located just off HWY 290.

\$1,447
MLS: 7096035

10020 Darden Hill Rd, Austin: 3,750-6,020sf of fully climate-controlled Warehouse/Office space right outside of Austin and close to Dripping Springs. Units can be leased separately or together!

\$8,850
MLS: 7676493

www.stanberry.com 512.894.3488

400 HWY 290 W / BLDG B / SUITE 101 / DRIPPING SPRINGS TX 78620

pet of the week



Niko • Male
12 years old
Pomeranian mix

I'm just 15 pounds of fluffy love looking for my forever person (or people!) to adopt me. I really, really love affection. I love to be petted, get scratches behind my ears and being told I'm a good boy, which we all know I am. I'm more of a "sit right next to you" kind of dog than a full-on lap snuggler. I can cuddle for a bit, but then I like my personal space again. That's just how this old Pomeranian rolls! What I love the most is lounging on the couch like I own it and just hanging out while you watch a movie, and maybe letting you have some of the popcorn you made me. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.



XO • Male
11 years old
Terrier mix

Everyone says I'm a very sweet guy. My heart is full of love, and I'm a super happy pup. My black coat and clipped ears might make me look tough, but I'm a total softie. I really like being around people and I love hanging out with smaller dogs too. I'm a quiet guy, hardly ever barking. Zooming around the backyard is my favorite way to burn energy. I'm house trained, crate trained, and I've got an awesome recall and sit. I'm just an all-around awesome dog. I'd love a home where I'm the only pup or with one or two small dogs. When you meet me, I'll make you smile with my sweetness. I'm searching for a wonderful foster or a forever family. Please visit LizzysHospice.com or email us at LizzysHospice@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to fill out an application.

CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

to be surrounded by hundreds of original works by local artists - oil and acrylic paintings, fiber arts, woodworking, writing, stained glass, metal sculpture, jewelry, photography and so on. All displayed art is available for purchase. Guests can watch art come alive as live painters will transform their canvases into vibrant masterpieces, and artists at demonstration booths share their techniques and creative processes. Tickets include tapas courses curated by Austin’s own Chef Keii (as seen on the Food Network). Three drinks tickets are also included. Details at www.artindripping.com. Dripping Springs Ranch Park • 1042 Event Center Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Old Settler's Music Festival
Apr 17 to Apr 19
Old Settler’s Music Festival (OSMF) offers a fun and family-friendly experience for music enthusiasts and fest goers. Ranked in the top five of USA Today’s list of North America’s 10 best festivals, OSMF’s unique atmosphere features a laid-back, community-oriented vibe that keeps music lovers returning year after year. Visit <https://oldsettlersmusicfest.org/> for tickets. Camp Ben McCulloch • J18301 Ranch to Market Rd 1826 • Driftwood, TX 78619

PODS Crawfish and Shrimp Boil
Apr 18 • 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Join Pride of Dripping Springs for the 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil! This year it's bigger and spicier! Come out for an afternoon of great food, music, and neighbors coming together in celebration and community. More information at www.prideofdrippingsprings.org. Beerburg Events • 13476 Fitzhugh Rd • Austin, TX 78736

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Apr 22 & 29 • 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

Library on Wheels Ribbon Cutting
April 23 • 5 p.m.
The Dripping Springs Community Library will celebrate a ribbon cutting for its new Library on Wheels! RSVP requested to general.admin@dscl.org. Deep Eddy Vodka Tasting Room • 2250 US-290 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Founders Day Festival
April 24-26
Dripping Springs will host its

annual Founders Day Festival, including a parade, live music, a carnival, food vendors, cook-off competitions, and more than 150 arts, crafts, and business booths. The weekend opens Friday, April 24, with the Grand Parade at 6:30 p.m., followed by live music from 7:15 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Mighty Thomas Carnival opens at 4 p.m. and runs until 11:30 p.m., with a pause during the parade. On Saturday, vendor booths open at 10 a.m., with music and carnival rides running through 11 p.m. Sunday’s schedule includes a community church service at 10 a.m., vendor booths from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and live music from noon to 3 p.m. The carnival runs until 7 p.m. For details, visit www.foundersdayfestival.com. Downtown Mercer St. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Westcave Golden Bloom Festival
May 2 • 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2026 marks the 50th Anniversary of Westcave Preserve! Come celebrate at our nature festival with self-guided hikes, face painting, archery, live music, arts & crafts, and wildlife show! \$5/vehicle. Reservations required. Limited space available. Visit www.westcave.org for details. Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center •

24814 Hamilton Pool Rd. • Round Mountain, TX 78663

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.

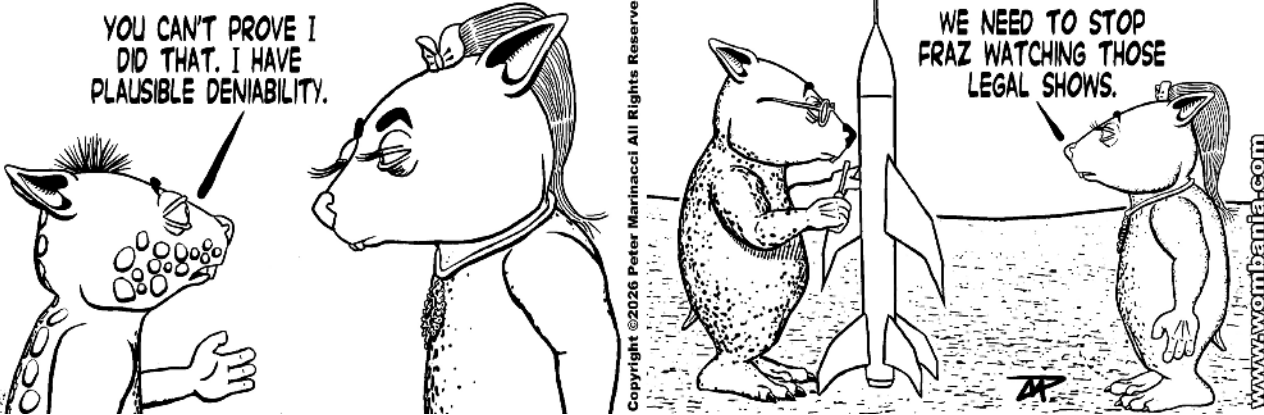
Founders Day Committee Workday
Apr 18 • 9 a.m.

City Council Workshop - Special Meeting
Apr 21 • 5 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting

by PETER MARINACCI

WOMBANIA™



“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.”

Universal Crossword

4/12 Themeless Sunday 179 by Adrian Johnson and Alexandra Doumani

ACROSS

- 1 Like skilled negotiators
7 Chats in a chat room, for short
10 Black Friday attraction
14 Deliver sweet satisfaction
16 Stinky smell
17 "If only ..."
18 TiVo products
19 NFL six-pointers
20 Art colony in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
21 Romanced
23 Angelic ring of light
24 Leaps
26 Pair of points in an ellipse

27 Plumbing

- obstruction
28 Madre's sister
29 Short word for a long car
30 Tightly stretched
31 Brand of disposable diapers
32 Melodious temptations
34 Minerals in Catan
35 Abandoned urban center
36 ____ Martin cognac
37 Like an escapee
40 Ram's mate
41 Parks and Rec, e.g.
42 Home of Snow Canyon State Park
44 Genre for GloRilla or Flo Milli

46 Layered South

- Asian street food
48 Astral, licorice-flavored pod
50 Arial or Comic Sans
51 "You're mistaken"
52 Start of a fairy tale
53 Irritate
54 Bottom-of-the-barrel bits
55 Visionary
56 Himalayan bovines
57 Stringy cat toy
DOWN
1 Liquor serving
2 Rear
3 GPS suggestions
4 And so on: Abbr.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	K	S		T	I	M	E	S	A	V	E	R	S	
W	O	A	H		I	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	I	T	
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- 5 "Brilliant idea," sarcastically
6 Alaskan national park
7 NYSE events
8 Unruly head of hair
9 Cooking vessels such as tagines
10 "Same here"
11 Jules Verne or Jon Krakauer
12 Appeal to the Supreme Being
13 Hosp. areas known for long wait times
15 "Get lost"
22 www.unrwa.org
23 Room that might have recliners and surround sound
24 Slimy garden denizen
25 Pert
26 Wedding tradition featuring a special song
27 "Busy right now?"
29 Feline visitor to the Emerald City
30 Canine visitor to the Emerald City
31 Traditional cultural knowledge
32 What can precede -mo or -pitch
33 Waterway deposit
38 Declares
39 Units of corn
43 Useful and available
45 Nonhuman family members
46 Corp. money minders
47 Sharpen
48 Predominant Islamic sect of Iran and Iraq
49 "A Doll's House" protagonist
51 Have a go

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

Track team competes in District 26-6A meet

Carl Waits
Sports Reporter

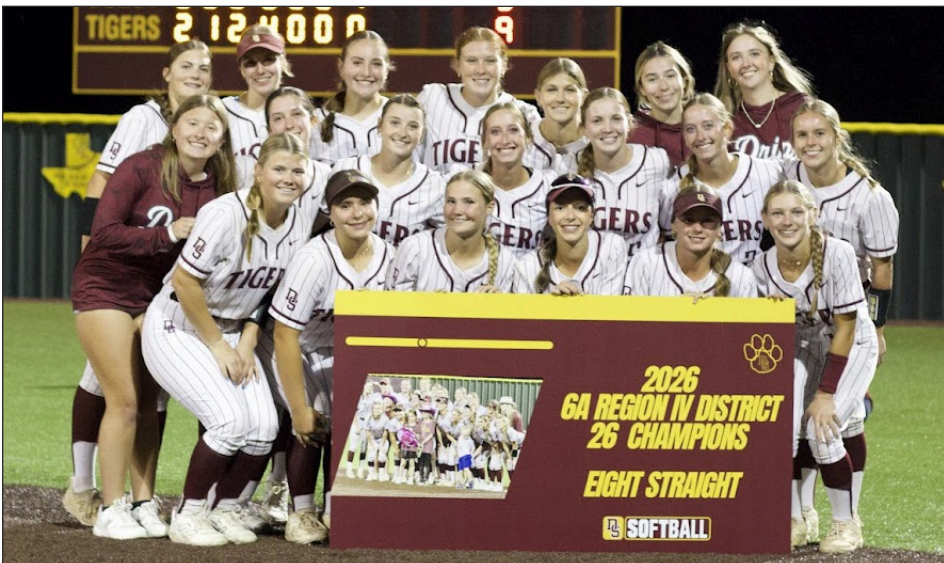
Even though it was a foregone conclusion, the Lady Tigers made it official. Their 9-5 win over Lake Travis gave Dripping Springs the 26-6A district championship. The 11-6 win over Del Valle only leaves the

final game with Westlake as the obstacle to an undefeated district season. Regardless, the Lady Tigers will open the Bi-district playoffs with Round Rock Cedar Ridge.

Vs LT: Team hits: 14-10; DS Hits: Lauren Byrnes 3, Sadie Bradford 3, Lorelei Gamble 2, Tatam

Green 2. 2B: Bradford 2, Alex Wiatrek; HR: Gamble. WP: Bradford 6IP, 9H, 5R, 5ER, 4W, 4K. Green 1IP, 1H.

Vs DV: TH: 10-7; DH: McKenna Riley 4, Gamble 2. 2B: Bradford, Gamble; HR: Gamble. WP: Green 4IP, 7H, 6R, 4ER, 1W. Bradford 3IP, 2K.



The Lady Tigers celebrate their district title in softball.

PHOTO BY CELESTE GAMBLE

FLOOD WARNING FROM PG. 1

support veterans, first responders, and their families - donated a shelter for them to put over the area.

"All of a sudden it felt like home. A carport made it home, and this group did that," Gregg said. "This group provided a heater for that area, so late into the fall we were warm."

The Fireside Chat Support Network also provided some tools that the Gerstners have used to work around their property. Before the flood the Gerstners had 11 goats, three pigs, and 25 chickens. The day after the flood, two of the pigs returned. To their knowledge, none of the other animals survived. All that they had built over 36 years was simply gone.

"When you lose a hundred percent of everything, you have no idea where to start. It's so big that you almost end up frozen in time," Brandy said.

The Gerstner farm was the kind of place

people came back to for decades. There was a pool with an ever-expanding deck - it started at 12 by 20 feet and kept growing - a bar, and plenty of space for family and friends to gather.

"Our property was Eden for them," Brandy said. "Having to call all of them to let them know that the farm was gone was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done."

The brewing partnership between Gregg and Wheeler grew the same way the deck did. At first, they ran five-gallon batches. Then, they just kept improving the process, making it a little easier, a little more efficient, a little bit bigger. Two weeks before the flood, they had just finished a batch.

"We made 70 gallons of Scottish Ale, got it all kegged up in five-gallon kegs," Gregg said. "We were very excited, ready for summer."

They lost that in the flood.

"The bass in Lake Travis, they're probably driving a little tipsy," Gregg said.

Wheeler is realistic about what comes next. The new equipment is a start, not a restoration.

"It'll be putting a five-gallon pot on the stove and cooking it on that stove, I guarantee you that," Wheeler said. "We've got a long ways to go to actually get back, but it's all coming along."

Wheeler's property sustained damage in the flood as well. They lost a greenhouse and two sheds, and their barn walls blew out. There were vehicles piled against each other and against an electric pole, and even one on top of his boat. The bee hives that washed away were also on his property.

"It's still been a long journey even for us, even though we didn't lose our garage, we didn't lose our vehicles, we didn't lose our house," Wheeler said. "We lost ten neigh-

bors to this. There's a lot of people who are real traumatized, and it will take them years to get over, I'm sure."

Brandy said that there are no words grand enough to describe how grateful they are to the volunteers and organizations that have kept coming back, offering to help in ways they could never have imagined.

"People are genuinely good," Brandy said. "The harshness and the division going on in society is not reality."

Gregg said that seeing so many people come together, regardless of background, regardless of politics, has been truly touching.

"There are so many things that people have done for us, how they've helped us out. It's truly, truly incredible," Gregg said. "I didn't see us brewing beer for a while. The bees was not gonna happen. But we're taking small steps."

Wheeler agreed. "The volunteer re-

sponse restored our faith in humanity, which was at a very low point actually," Wheeler said.

However, Brandy said that the response from local, state and federal officials definitely left room for improvement. She has channeled her frustration with that response into organizing to improve future disaster response efforts.

She and her daughter joined with other area residents, volunteers and local groups to establish the Travis County Recovery Alliance (TCRA) - a nonprofit group that is leading long-term

recovery efforts and assistance to disaster survivors.

Brandy said she is also working with a group called Organizing Resilience to pursue policy changes at the state and federal levels. That advocacy has included testimony at state legislative hearings and a press event in Washington, D.C.

More information on these efforts can be found at www.tcrecoveryalliance.org and at www.organizingresilience.org. More information on the Fireside Chat Support Network can be found at www.firesidechatsupportnetwork.org.



A footbridge on the Gestner farm is shown before and after the flood. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREGG GESTNER.

LIMITED TIME
MEMBERSHIP DEAL:
From now until May 1st:
50% OFF
The first 4 MONTHS
of our
Top Dog Unlimited
Wash Plan!

610 Highway 290 | Dripping Springs, TX 78620

GRAND OPENING

Suds
BROTHERS

Express Car Wash in Dripping Springs, TX!

Saturday, April 11th
& Sunday, April 12th

Come celebrate with us
and get your ride
looking its best - on us!

(512) 831-1193 | 7:30am-7:30pm

FREE
TOP DOG
WASHES
ALL WEEKEND