



DSHS WINTER GUARD
EARNS FIFTH AT STATE
PAGE 2



LADY TIGERS SWEEP
B-DISTRICT
PAGE 6

Dripping Springs Century News

Community Calendar

Dripping Springs Farmers Market
Apr 29 & May 6 • 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

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

Healing Heroes Film Screening
May 2 • 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
The community is invited to come together for a screening of “Healing Heroes: No Mind Left Behind,” a 2026 documentary directed by Dr. Charles Powell that follows six veterans and first responders seeking innovative, non-traditional treatments for PTSD. The film features a local veteran from Dripping Springs. Doors open at 5 p.m. At 6 p.m., guests will meet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Thank you veterans for your service!

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE DAY:

ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES.
- WILLIAM JAMES



City approves Rathgeber Natural Resource Park access agreements with DSISD

Shannon West
Staff Reporter

Dripping Springs is one step closer to making Rathgeber Natural Resources Park accessible to the public.

The city of Dripping Springs approved an interlocal road and easement agreement for park access and a development regulations agreement with Dripping Springs Independent School District, with the latter executed following both parties’ approval of the related road and easement agreement for Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. The agreement represents a key step in opening the roughly 300-acre park, which was donated to the city in 2020.

The council approved both the Interlocal Development

Agreement and the easement agreement with the school district three to two.

The proposed agreement centers on granting the city a right-of-way easement through school district property. This would allow construction of a roadway connecting existing infrastructure near Wildwood Elementary School to the park. The project is divided into two phases: Phase One, already built by the district as a secondary access road, and Phase Two, which the city would design, fund and construct to extend access to the park.

Under the terms, the district would provide the easement at no cost while retaining the ability to set conditions, including safety restrictions such as prohibiting roadside parking. The city would be responsible for building and maintaining the roadway, as well as coordinating closely with the district during design to address topographical challenges and future campus needs.

Council discussion highlighted some uncertainty about the exact road alignment and easement boundaries, which will be finalized after further engineering and surveys. Officials emphasized that the agreement allows flexibility while ensuring cooperation between both parties.

The agreement is tied to a separate development-related interlocal agreement, with both

requiring approval from the school district. If approved, city staff said the project would mark a significant milestone toward making Rathgeber Natural Resources Park accessible to the public.

During the work session, the council reviewed an updated Fiscal Year 2026 water and wastewater rate study. According to staff, the update builds on a March 3 presentation and focuses on revisions to the rate model developed with HDR.

The updated scenarios assume a 30-day utility fund balance, or about 8.3% of annual expenditures, with the goal of maintaining that level without dropping below it. Staff also examined how general fund contributions affect rates. The city currently contributes about 20% of sales tax revenue, but scenarios were modeled at 25% and 30%, with higher contributions reducing the need for larger rate increases.

Three scenarios were presented. According to staff, Scenario One includes the highest general fund contribution and lowest base fee, while Scenario Three maintains current contributions and results in higher base fees. All scenarios are structured to cover operating costs and debt obligations.

Council discussed concerns about rate impacts and requested additional options with more gradual increases.

Dripping Springs leads to preserve dark skies in Texas Hill Country

Dalton Sweat
Regional Editor

If you instinctively clap four times after hearing “The stars at night are big and bright,” the mission behind DarkSky Texas may resonate. But across Texas and the Hill Country, those stars are becoming harder to see.

As communities across Central Texas continue to grow, preserving the region’s dark, star-filled skies is becoming an increasing challenge. In Dripping Springs, that effort has been in place for decades, shaping both policy and community culture.

International Dark Sky Week, traditionally observed in April, highlights those efforts and encourages residents to take simple steps to reduce unnecessary light.

Dripping Springs was the first community in Texas to receive designation as an International



Shielded, downward-facing light fixtures help direct light where it is needed and prevent it from spilling into the night sky or neighboring properties.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DARK SKY TEXAS

Dark Sky Community, helping establish a model that other Hill Country cities have since followed. At the time, there were only a handful of such communities worldwide.

Dawn Davies, Night Sky Program Manager for the Hill Country Alliance, said Dripping

Springs helped bring early attention to night sky preservation in Texas.

“They were the first Dark Sky community in the state of Texas to get their designation,” Davies said. “They really got the ball rolling and

SEE DARK SKY PAGE 6

PIT Count data reflects concerns about unsheltered homeless

John Clark
San Marcos Record

The 2026 Hays County Point In Time count, which measures the population experiencing homelessness, was presented to the Hays County Commissioners Court on April 14 by Nancy Heintz, board member of the Homeless Coalition for Hays County.

The PIT Count is a nationwide effort mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that collects data for a one-day snapshot of homelessness. This census plays an important role in the planning of future programs and the allocation of resources for individuals experiencing homelessness in Hays County.

For this year’s count, 70 volunteers traveled throughout the county on three-hour shifts on January 22. These volunteers included members of the Texas Homeless

Network (THN), the Hays County Health Department and local agencies as well as people from throughout Hays County.

Data from the count is divided into two categories, based on where the volunteers gathered data from the people who are counted. Unsheltered locations are areas such as streets, outdoor encampments, or other environments “not intended for human habitation.” Sheltered locations are places “intended for temporary habitation,” such as emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or other facilities that provide short-term housing support.

Heintz said that in 2026, the survey counted 57 sheltered and 94 unsheltered people. In 2025, there were 132 sheltered and 55 unsheltered people.

The 2025 survey was conducted on a

SEE PIT PAGE 5

DSISD to celebrate 150 years with community event

Staff Reports

Dripping Springs Independent School District will host a community-wide Sesquicentennial Celebration on Thursday, May 7, marking 150 years of education in the district.

The event is scheduled from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Center for Learning & Leadership Board Room, 300 Sportsplex Drive in Dripping Springs.

District officials said the evening will highlight the history and legacy of DSISD through a mix of speakers, student involvement and historical exhibits. Guest speakers are expected to include

district graduates and long-time staff members, offering reflections on the evolution of local education.

Student performances and a historical presentation led by the district’s Student Lighthouse Team are also planned. Attendees will have the opportunity to view student art displays, browse historic memorabilia and senior class photos, and take part in family-friendly activities including food and face painting.

The celebration will conclude with a time capsule ceremony on the south side of the building.

The event is open to the public.

Pound House Farmstead Museum to host Pioneer Day



Visitors take part in hands-on activities, historical demonstrations and live entertainment during Pioneer Day on May 16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pound House Farmstead.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Staff Reports

The Pound House Farmstead Museum will host its annual Pioneer Day event

on Saturday, May 16, offering a full day of hands-on activities, historical demonstrations and live entertainment celebrating

early Texas Hill Country life.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SEE PIONEER DAY PAGE 8

Capital Highlights

Texas awards first \$400 million in school vouchers



Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

State officials began sending out the first notices to families awarded education vouchers last week, the Houston Chronicle reported. In the first round, 42,644 qualified, mostly students with special needs who are considered the highest priority.

More than a quarter-million students have applied to the state's voucher program, with a lottery determining who gets a spot. Initial funding for the program is \$1 billion, and it is projected to support 100,000 students in its first year.

The program offers taxpayer money to help pay for private and homeschool education. The amount of each voucher awarded in the initial round varied, from \$2,000 each for the 11,000 children applying for homeschool funding to an average of \$15,585 for parents who documented their children's special educational needs.

SMOKABLE HEMP BAN TEMPORARILY BLOCKED

A ban on the sale of natural smokeable hemp products has been blocked, possibly until the end of April, by a Travis County district judge. A court hearing is set for this week.

The Texas Tribune reported that lawyers for the hemp industry argue that state agencies overstepped their constitutional authority by imposing new testing requirements that created a 0.3% total THC threshold. The industry says that effectively eliminated smokeable products by essentially rewriting the statutory definitions of hemp created by legislators in 2019.

While that 2019 law also limited THC levels to 0.3%, manufacturers got around it by cultivating hemp plants with another type of THC called THCA, which produces a high when ignited. The newly written limits on any type of THC mirror those that will be imposed by the federal government in November.

APPEALS COURT RULES FOR TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CLASSROOMS

A federal appeals court last week ordered public

school districts to place copies of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Parents and a group of faith leaders in nine school districts sued over a 2025 law that requires public schools to post donated posters of the Ten Commandment in classrooms.

By a split vote, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided the law does not violate the U.S. Constitution, overturning a San Antonio federal judge's ruling last year. The case could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Students are neither catechized on the Commandments nor taught to adopt them," the judges wrote. "Nor are teachers commanded to proselytize students who ask about the displays or contradict students who disagree with them."

Six judges on the appeals court dissented, with Judge Leslie H. Southwick writing that "S.B. 10 is facially unconstitutional under the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses."

STAAR ENDS AFTER THIS SPRING

After about 15 years, this spring marks one of the final times Texas students will take the STAAR, according

to the Chronicle. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, that end-of-year assessment will be replaced by three shorter tests.

Backers of the change say it will reduce classroom time spent preparing for the test and be a more accurate measure of students' progress. Critics say the changes will still place too much emphasis and classroom time preparing for the tests.

"The only evidence is that it will create more testing," said state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, Gov. Greg Abbott's Democratic challenger for governor. "We're going from 15 tests to 51 tests by the time a kid's done with eighth grade. It's outrageous."

The new Student Success Tool will provide three tests through the school year, instead of a single high-stakes test at the end of the year. Results will be available within 48 hours of each test, unlike STAAR results, which are usually released in mid-June, months after students take the test.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES DIPPED SLIGHTLY IN 2024

The Texas Department of Insurance has reported that 557 workplace fatalities were reported in 2024, the latest year for which statistics are available. That is

down slightly from the 564 workplace fatalities reported in 2023. More than 90% of the fatalities occurred in the private sector.

The most fatalities were reported in the trade, transportation and utilities sector at 175; construction fatalities, with 128, followed. The most common occupation involving fatalities was motor vehicle operators.

A total of 75 fatalities were due to violent acts in 2024. Men accounted for 92% of the 557 total incidents in 2024.

TEXAS ECONOMY HITS RECORD \$2.9 TRILLION

The Texas economy expanded to \$2.9 trillion in 2025, growing faster than the nation as a whole at a 2.5% rate, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The state maintained its ranks as the world's eighth-largest economy, based on preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

"The Texas economy expanded to a record high of \$2.9 trillion thanks to the productivity of our skilled workforce and the entrepreneurs and businesses investing here with confidence," said Greg Abbott.

The state's economy has grown by 46% over the past 11 years.

WILDFIRE RISKS IN PANHANDLE, WEST TEXAS RISE

Dry windy conditions across West Texas and the Panhandle are rising, the Statesman reported, leading to increased risk of wildfires. The National Weather Service has issued red flag warnings from Canada to Mexico, including those areas in Texas.

"A red flag warning means a combination of warm temperatures, very low humidity, dry vegetation, and strong winds. These conditions can quickly spark and spread wildfires, and in this environment, even a small fire can grow rapidly, so extra caution is critical," Mary Wasson, meteorologist with the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The Texas A&M Forest Service reports that 9 out of 10 wildfires in Texas are human-caused and therefore preventable. Burn bans are now in effect in 102 Texas counties, and wildfire preparedness is at Level 2, with Level 5 being the highest risk.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspres.com.

Dripping Springs Century News

A publication of

Texas

LOCAL MEDIA

TEXAS TRUE. COMMUNITY STRONG.

(512) 858-4163

dscenturynews@gmail.com

texaslocalmedia.com

PO Box 1109, San Marcos, TX 78667-1109.

STEVE STRICKBINE

President

steve@timeslocalmedia.com

NADINE JOHNSON

Vice President

Publishing & Operations

nadine@timeslocalmedia.com

NICK OLIVERI

Director of Sales

nick@timeslocalmedia.com

COURTNEY OLDHAM CALDWELL

Production and Design Director

production@timeslocalmedia.com

ALICIA VENTER

Senior Managing Editor

aventer@timeslocalmedia.com

MANDY FARROW

Senior Group Publisher

mfarrow@texaslocalmedia.com

DALTON SWEAT

Regional Editor

dsweat@texaslocalmedia.com

SHANNON WEST

Staff Reporter

swest@texaslocalmedia.com

CARL WAITS

Sports Writer

HALEY HARP

Graphic Design Manager

The Dripping Springs Century News (USPS 18035 ISSN Number 1047-0301), is published weekly on Thursdays in Hays County by Texas Local Media. Periodicals Postage Paid at Wimberley, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: PO Box 1109, San Marcos, TX 78667-1109.

The Dripping Spring Century News and drittingspringsnews.com, as well as any reasonable derivative of these names, are trademarks of Texas Local Media and use of these trademarks without the express written consent of Texas Local Media is strictly prohibited. The entire contents of each issue of the Dripping Springs Century News and drittingspringsnews.com are protected under the Federal Copyright Act. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without the express permission of Texas Local Media.

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.



DSHS Winter Guard earns fifth at state

Members of the Dripping Springs High School varsity winter guard pose following their performance at the Texas Color Guard Circuit (TCGC) State Championships held April 18, 2026, at Strahan Arena in San Marcos, where the team earned a fifth-place finish in Scholastic National A competition. The DSHS Tiger Band program's winter guard capped the season with the top-five placement among statewide competitors. Senior captain McKenzie Culberson was also recognized individually as a 2026 TCGC Scholarship recipient. **PHOTOS COURTESY OF DSISD**



Announcing the Dripping Springs WOW Awards: The Women Of Worth Awards

Staff Report

There is a powerful story unfolding in Dripping Springs, and it is being written by women. On August 27, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Women of Worth Awards (WOW Awards) will take the stage at the Canyonwood Ridge event venue, honoring the women who lead, lift, and shape this community in ways both visible and unseen.

Created to recognize, celebrate, and elevate the incredible women who shape this community, the WOW Awards shine a spotlight on those who lead, lift, inspire, and quietly change lives every single day.

This is not your typical awards luncheon. From bold business owners and visionary leaders to quiet volunteers, caregivers, and connectors who hold the fabric of the community together, the WOW Awards honor women across all walks of life.

Because in Dripping

Springs, women are not just participating — they are leading.

A woman leads the local school district. A woman serves as City Administrator, with another woman as Deputy City Administrator. A woman leads the Chamber of Commerce. A woman leads the Tourism Bureau. Two women co-lead one of the city's most beloved traditions, Christmas on Mercer, and bring the joy of carnival rides to the city's Founders Day Festival. And there are many more examples.

Beyond titles and roles, countless women are showing up every day — building businesses, being moms, supporting families, volunteering quietly, and creating the kind of community people want to call home.

Created by Lisa Sullivan, founder of The Happiness Element and longtime champion for women's empowerment, the WOW Awards are more than a celebration — they are a reflection of what is already happening here.

"This event was born from something deeply personal," said Sullivan. "I hosted my very first women's retreat right here in Dripping Springs, and I have watched what happens when women are given space to be seen, celebrated, and supported. It changes everything."

She continued, "We are at a time when women need to be celebrated, seen, valued, and lifted up more than ever — not just for what they do, but for who they are and how they show up. And here in Dripping Springs, that story is everywhere you look," Sullivan said. "This event is a way of saying, 'WOW. We see you, we celebrate you, and your impact matters. You matter.'"

The WOW Awards will honor women across a range of categories, including The Pillar of Power Award, The Watch Her Soar Award, The Ripple Effect Award, The Fearless Founder Award, The Boss Lady Energy Award, and the Ador-

able Badass Award, celebrating women who lead with courage, authenticity, and heart.

Each category will feature three finalists, with winners revealed live during the luncheon in a moment designed to celebrate not just achievement, but the ripple effect of women supporting women.

The event will also include a keynote speaker, a curated marketplace highlighting women-owned and women-led businesses, and an "Adorable Badass Bazaar" featuring art and items from local Dripping Springs

artists, all combined to create a vibrant space for connection, discovery, and community celebration.

"This isn't about putting a few women on a stage," Sullivan added. "It's about honoring the collective energy of women who are shaping this town every single day, whether anyone is watching or not."

"When one woman is celebrated, she doesn't rise alone," Sullivan said. "She brings others with her. That is the kind of energy we are creating in this room

SEE **WOW** PAGE 5

De Leon's

Professional Tree Service

Tree Trimming & Removals

Brush Grinding

Material Hauling

Lawn Grooming

Stump Grinding

Free Estimates • Fully Insured

Carlos De Leon • Owner

Serving Texas since 1999

Se habla español!

512-844-7055

Contact-Free

News Delivery

to keep you connected from home



ART BEAT

Presented by the Dripping Springs Art League

A Night to Remember



Guests as seen through the Write On! Exhibit. **CLEA ERDMAN**



Lorrie Anson creating art live! **WARREN CAPPS**

By Steve Friedman

Creative endeavors - painting, writing, music, and such - tend to be solo experiences. The Dripping Springs Art League created socials, Clubs, exhibits, markets, classes, and more to serve the hundreds of local artists and their interests to meet, create, and market their art within their hometown.

CELEBRATING ART IN DRIPPING

In November of 2024 the fledgling Dripping Springs Art League hosted a gala to celebrate our first year and the amazing art and artists who call Dripping Springs home. It was a great time with 130 members, friends, and sponsors joining the lively evening.

However, after the event we felt we needed to raise the bar, expand the scope, and make a statement. Thus, 'Night to Inspire: Color Our World!' was born.

On April 16th, we stepped it up:

- We relocated from a local winery to Dripping Springs Ranch Park Main Event Room
- We welcomed over 260 artists and community members to join the evening
- We featured 9 live art-

- ists and 3 demo artists sharing their talents and inspiration throughout the evening
- We partnered with the artists of the Appamada School, Ledgestone Senior Living, and Marbridge Foundation to ensure a cross-section of local talent was on display
- We showcased nearly 500 pieces of art from 100 local artists

Our modest 2024 celebration transformed into the marquee art event of the year for Dripping Springs and the Hill Country!

The Art League certainly achieved our objective to raise awareness of the arts in Dripping, to highlight the tremendous talent across all art mediums, and to raise funds to support our dynamic programming for the year ahead.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Yet perhaps what is most gratifying, is the mobilization of so many members to dream, plan, create, and execute such a large event.

- About 20 of our members energetically developed our concept of a marquee community art event in the fall of 2025
- Over a dozen of our Club leaders gathered

art from our members for display

- 35 volunteered during the evening to provide customer service at check-in, with guest questions and art purchases, and with wrapping and checkout
- Two dozen artists and family members filled the yeoman's task of moving all the infrastructure - art racks, tables, weights, lights, and more - to DSRP and back within a 24 hour period

By the time the week concluded over 90 people, more than a third of our members, chipped in!

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Why do people mobilize? I believe people want to be a part of a community effort - something big, something transformative, something that feels good!

And those drivers are not just fulfilled for a Night of art and inspiration, and not just for our other large events like the Art Lounge at Songwriters Festival in October or our West of Weird Art Tour in February, but for the dozens of other events - large and small - throughout the year.

WHAT'S NEXT?



Guests enjoying the tapas courses and company in the Oakwood Star Plaza.

CLEA ERDMAN

We welcome the broader Dripping Springs community - artists and art lovers alike - to join us. Explore your creative side. Find

your tribe. Share your vision. Find your cause.

So after we all catch our breath a little, we'll be prepared to raise the bar once

again. To help ensure our community which is filled with history, culture, and stories also has a splash of color year round!



The Friedman Family & Chef Keili. **PEACHY KEEN PHOTO BOOTH/AMANDA GRIMM**



A crew of dozens helped setup for the evening. **WARREN CAPPS**



Friends gathered for an evening of art and inspiration. **DAVE BROWN**



Karen & Randy Krumm setting up the Mixed Media & Collage Gallery. **WARREN CAPPS**

Dripping Springs CLASSIFIEDS

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

For Rent

AVAILABLE
MARCH/APRIL
Newly Beautifully
Remodeled
2 Bed 2 Bath
with small yard &
porch quad on
Deerfield Dr.
Woodcreek
water pd, w/d
included, full kitchen.
One year min. lease.
\$1600 w/ \$1200
deposit. Pet Deposit
Nego. Be a great
tenant and apply
512-858-9999
850-855-5438

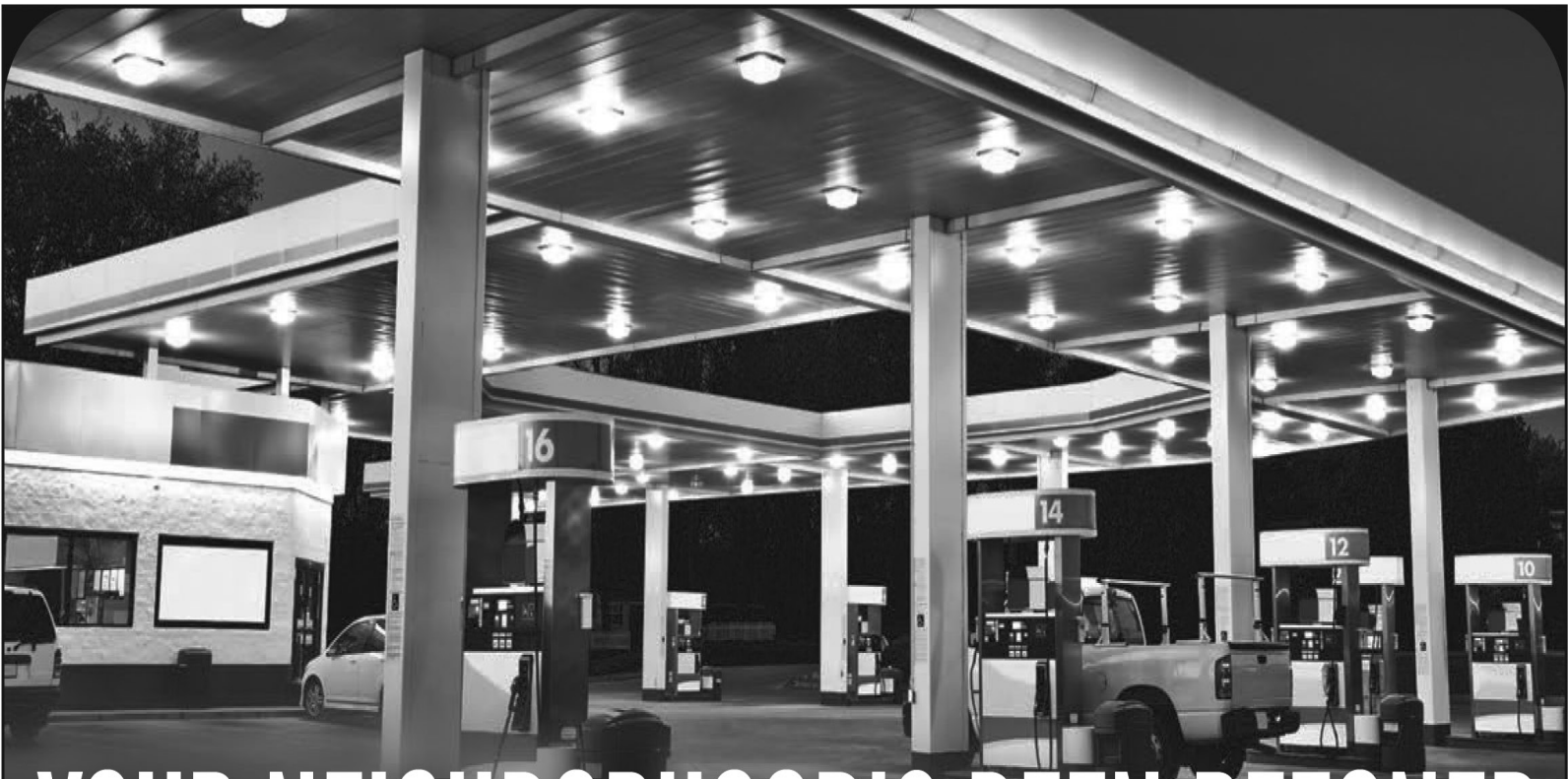
Public Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Lone Star Fuel Group LLC d/b/a Shamrock Tacos & Market to be located at 14410 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley Texas 78676, Hays County. The owner of said company is Rajneet Singh, LLC Managing Member; Paramjit Singh, Managing Member; and Vinay Kumar, Managing Member.

Public Notice

SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE.



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN REZONED
OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?

KEEP THE LIGHT
ON PUBLIC NOTICES



When local governments make decisions they are required to publish a newspaper notice to let you know. But that could change.

Local governmental entities across the state want to bury their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

What you don't know will affect you personally!

If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Electric Services

Red Grizzly Electric

- Breaker Replacement
- GFCI's
- Light Fixture Replacement



- Hot Tubs
- Ceiling Fans
- Switch Replacement
- Electrical Panel Repair

Scott Weaver • Licensed & Insured
TECL #23403

P.O. Box 2155 512-771-1764
Wimberley, TX 78676 redgrizzlyelectric.com

Electric Services

Tree Services

Tree Services

Ogden's Tree Service



- Consult • Prune
- Remove • Fertilize
- Selective Land Clearing
- Insured

ISA Certified Arborist TX0111
Texas Master Naturalist
Jon Ogden, 512.452.3987
Ogdenstreeservice.com

Windows & Painting

Windows & Painting

KLEEN WINDOWS

"Windows are a pain, so call the professionals!"

Hill Country Painting

(512-554-1401)

Pressure Washing • Exterior Painting
Deck Restoration

www.kleenwindows99.com



FREE ESTIMATES

Painting Services

Painting Services

Texas Painting Unlimited LLC

Painting the Texas Hill Country for Over 40 Years.

Our services include...

- Inpaint
- Ex-paint
- Drywall
- Carpentry
- Power washing
- Deck, door, and cabinet restoration

Serving Wimberley & Surrounding areas



Free Estimates!

CALL (512-557-4371) NOW
Texaspaintingunlimited.com

Service Directory

\$100/Month

Put your ad in the Service Directory
Call for deadlines and availability!

(512) 847-2202

Becerra proposal for development review division tabled pending staff review

John Clark
San Marcos Record

Judge Ruben Becerra’s proposal for a High-Intensity Development Review Division was met with questions and concerns from the Commissioners Court on Tuesday, and ultimately delayed pending further input and investigation from Hays County staff.

Becerra’s plan to establish this review division within the Development Services Department was first made public in his press release on Monday, prior to the Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday.

In the press release, Becerra said that his “Clear Water Summit” was “designed to identify next steps and create momentum toward action.”

The invitation-only “Clear Water Summit” on March 27 was organized by Becerra and local water officials to bring together regional stakeholders to address

growing concerns over water availability as development continues across Hays County.

One of the “next steps” according to his press release is the creation of a High Intensity Development Review Division within the Development Services Department to “evaluate projects that place significant demand on water, power, land and infrastructure systems.

“It will provide technical review, coordination, and accountability before major resource commitments are made. The proposal also includes review of advanced energy generation projects, including nuclear-related proposals, within the division’s scope.”

Becerra did not supply details for the funding of the new division in the initial press release, which stated that “If approved, the agenda item would direct the Hays County Budget Officer and County Administrator

to include funding for the division.”

The description of the agenda on Tuesday provided more funding details, instructing the Director of Development Services and Human Resources Director “to develop job descriptions, salary data, and a proposed divisional structure as needed.”

On Tuesday, the funding of this division was one of the main concerns, with the Commissioners questioning the funding source.

“I need more information about the proposed financial impact,” said Commissioner Michelle Cohen, Pct. 2.

During the court’s discussion of this item, Becerra specified that he intended the High-Intensity Development Review Division to be comprised of current employees in the Division of Development Services, with possible input from the director of the department once that position

has been filled.

“The spirit of this effort is to grab a current employee within the Department of Development services,” Becerra said. “It is intended to be of no cost to the county. We’re only setting up the mechanism to process what we know is coming down the pipe.”

Commissioner Walt Smith raised objections to the plan based on the lack of a working definition for the term “high intensity” as well as what could be perceived as differential treatment for specific developments.

“We don’t have the ability to do codes and ordinances, and under state development regulations, there’s not a clear definition of what would be considered ‘high intensity development,’” Smith said. “We are mandated by the state to treat every development in a similar fashion, whether it’s the mom-and-pop who wants to put a shop in

their garage, or a data center, we have to look up all of them the exact same way.”

Commissioner Morgan Hammer, Pct. 3, said that the High-Intensity Development Review Division could be workable as part of the current structure of Hays County staff. “I don’t think that this would be an entire position, but I do think that there’s a piece in the puzzle where it does, it can exist within our development services.”

Hammer also stressed the importance of groundwater conservation districts to the new role.”My main topic of interest is that we passed a resolution last year stating that the water availability studies would be going to the groundwater conservation district to have their hydrologist review and approve and then send back to us,” Hammer said. “They have not been doing that ... as frequently as

maybe we should.”

“I think water is extremely important to every member on this court,” said. Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Pct. 1., acknowledging the importance of the intent of Becerra’s proposal, but suggested that the Court needed more information before voting on it.

Ingalsbe also noted that Hays County does not currently have a Development Services Officer, suggesting that County Administrator Kandice Boutté look into Becerra’s proposal.

“Can we just direct Candace to work with development services and see how we move forward regarding this effort?” Ingalsbe said.

Boutté acknowledged Ingalsbe’s suggestion, agreeing to work with other county offices to research the proposal. “I hear the court loud and clear, and I will work with our budget office as well as legal and HR to come up with some recommendations,” she said.

PIT FROM PG. 1

cold weather night, which is reflected in the higher numbers of sheltered people last year, Heintz said. “We kind of flipped numbers. In 2025 we had less unsheltered and more sheltered.”

In the 2026 count, adults between the ages of 25-64 made up the majority of the Hays County homeless population with most of these individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, according to Heintz. Adults ages 25-34 were the largest group in this category, with 25 unsheltered and 8 sheltered. Adults ages 35-44 were 20 unsheltered and 7 sheltered. Ages 45-54 were 17 unsheltered and 10 sheltered, ages 55-64, 24 unsheltered and 2 sheltered and 65-older, 3 unsheltered and 2 sheltered.

The under-18 category was the only category in which the percentage of homeless in the survey were mostly sheltered, with 24 of the total of 26 people categorized as sheltered. Adults 18-25 were 3 unsheltered and 4 sheltered.

Men represented the majority of the known homeless population (79%), particularly among those that are unsheltered (50 men to 16 women), though over half of the responses lack gender data, according to the presentation.

“Please be reminded that this is self declaration,” Heintz said. “How they answer the question is the way the

answer goes in. They don’t show any verification of anything. There’s nothing that shows documentation, we rely on them to answer to the best of their knowledge.”

Most of the respondents were Hispanic (27 unsheltered and 2 sheltered) and White (24 unsheltered and 3 sheltered).

Volunteers had more difficulty finding homeless people for this year’s count. The presence of ICE agents in Hays County may have had an impact, Heintz said. “We felt like people were laying low for whatever reason. So it was harder to find people. ... We feel like they were a little reluctant to speak just because of what was going on in the area.”

Of the 151 homeless individuals in the count, 144 were in San Marcos, 6 were in Kyle and 1 was in Buda, with no people documented as experiencing homelessness in Wimberley.

Judge Ruben Becerra said that the concentration of people along the I-35 corridor is easier to survey than the remote parts of the county.

“The difficulty in the rural part of the western county is it’s harder to get into all the nooks and crannies, so it would be harder to count,” he said.

The PIT count indicated a decline in the data for total homelessness from 2025, but an increase in unsheltered individuals, which suggests a

“growing system strain and barriers to accessing shelter, indicating a shift toward more acute and visible forms of homelessness,” according to Heintz.

Following the presentation of the PIT Count, Lisa Young, executive director of the Hays County Food Bank, presented the findings of the 2025 McKinney-Vento Report, which provides data submitted by homeless students under the age of 21.

The information in this report is collected at the beginning of the school year.

“You may recall a question that will ask, ‘Are you living in a home that you own or that you are the leaseholder of? Are you living with a family? Are you living in a shelter? What they’re gathering there is data for the McKinney Vento report,” Young said.

“Every school district is federally mandated to do this, and all the ones in the county have shared their data with us,” she said.

McKinney-Vento data defines homelessness as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.” This category includes children living in shelters, motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds and places “not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”

The MV data for Hays County indicated more homeless-

ness in Wimberley and Dripping Springs than the PIT Count, reporting 35 students in Dripping Springs, 11 in Wimberley and 105 in SMCISD experiencing homelessness.

“San Marcos numbers for children are often higher because the Women’s Center is here,” according to Young.

At the conclusion of their presentation, Heintz and Young asked the court to help them find grants and

funding for their organizations.

“I think the county needs to look and analyze how much it spends per capita on human services compared to other counties in Texas, and to carve this out so that we have something that’s predictable and sustainable,” Young said. “We would like to have a more consistent plan to apply for these federal funds that we would need your assistance to apply for.”

Commissioner Michelle Cohen, Pct. 2, agreed that the court should work to support these groups. “I think it’s an area where I think us as a county need to be more accountable and find avenues of funding.”

“I do think that our community needs to step up for one another,” said Commissioner Morgan Hammer, Pct. 3. “I appreciate what y’all have done and what you guys continue to do. Thank you so much.”

WOW FROM PG. 2

and the kind of impact that lasts long after the awards are over.”

Nominations will open in May, inviting the community to recognize the women who inspire, lead, and make a difference in ways big and small.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses and organizations that want to be part of a meaningful and high-

impact event that celebrates the heart of the community.

Because when women are celebrated, something powerful happens — confidence grows, connections deepen, and possibilities expand.

According to Sullivan, “This is not about creating something new. It is about finally pausing long enough to recognize what is

already here and honoring the women of Dripping Springs who have been holding this community in their hearts and moving it forward all along.”

For more information, sponsorship opportunities, or to stay updated on nominations, visit happinesselement.com/wow-awards.

SCOTT DAVES REALTOR®

SCOTT@STANBERRY.COM / WWW.SCOTTDAVES.NET

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

STANBERRY REALTORS®

STANBERRY REALTORS®

www.stanberry.com

512.894.3488

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



Dripping Springs Tiger Softball swept Round Rock Cedar Ridge with a pair of dominant wins (11-3, 11-1) in the opening round of the state playoffs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DSISD

Lady Tigers Sweep Bi-District

Carl Waits
Sports Writer

It was expected the Dripping Springs softball team would have little trouble with their Bi-District opponent, RR Cedar Ridge. They did not disappoint. Eleven runs was the magic number in their

two games. It was 11-0 in the first and 11-1 in five for the second. This will set the Lady Tigers up for a much tougher match in the Area round. It will be with SA O'Connor (26-4). They are ranked 19th in the state while the Lady Tigers are 18th. It is a

matchup that deserves to be played later in the playoffs but it happens at times that a good team goes out early. In the first game it looked like Cedar Ridge might try to make a game of it when a homerun gave them a 3-1 lead after

two. Sadie Bradford shut them down from that point and the Lady Tigers started piling up the runs for the win. Emma Phillips loved the pitching. She had four hits, a home-run and four RBI's. The next game ended quickly as the Lady Tigers scored eleven runs

in the second and third and that was enough to invoke the ten-run rule after five. Vs CR1: Hits: Phillips 4, Lauren Byrnes 2, Alex Wiatrek 2, Lorelei Gamble 2, McKenna Riley, Lillian Wearden, Bradford. 2B: Gamble. WP: Bradford 7IP, 6H, 3R,

3ER, 3W, 8K, 1HR. Vs CR2: Hits: Tatum Green 3, Brooklyn Reiling 2, Mc Riley 2, Wiatrek 2, Phillips 2, Byrnes, Lyla Dusing, Addie Glenn, Wearden, Gamble. HR: Phillips. WP: Green 5IP, 8H, 1R, 1ER, 2K.

Tigers Split A Pair With Westlake

Carl Waits
Sports Writer

As has been the strategy in district play each team has one ace pitcher and the coaches decide to not pit them against each other and hope to get lucky. Dripping Springs split with Bowie, Lake

Travis and now Westlake to give them a 9-3 record and second in district. Lake Travis took both from Bowie and Westlake. So the Tigers will become the first seed in Division II and will match up with Vista Ridge in Bi-District play. In the first game,

the Tigers would go through seven pitchers without success. The Chaps wasted no time in scoring five runs in their opening inning and matched that again in the fourth. The Tigers battled back with single runs in the third and fourth, plus another pair in

the sixth but it would be too little too late in the 10-4 loss. The second game, at home, was turned over to the Tiger ace, Blake Cox. As has been the case all season, he took care of business by shutting out the Chaps while his teammates gave him plenty of

backing with their bats and gloves to carve out the 10-0 victory. Vs Westlake 1: Team Hits: 7-9; DS Hits: Jason Steele, Ryan Gambin, Anthony Delgado, Nixon Badilla, Cade Sanders, Colby Wilson, Breydan Madeley. Pit: Cruz McBride .2IP, 2H, 5R, 5ER,

3W, 1K; Oscar Johnson 0IP. 1W; Cody McDaniel 2.1IP, 1H, 2W, 2K; Tyler Sanders .2IP, 4H, 5R, 2ER, 1K; Karson Gardner .1IP; Rhett Robinson 1IP, 1H; Rhett Strauss 1IP, 1H, 1W, 1K. Vs Westlake 2: No stats available at press time.

DARK SKY FROM PG. 1

brought that interest not only to the community, but also from a perspective of being at the gateway to the Hill Country," Davies said the city's approach has balanced preservation with growth, particularly along the busy U.S. 290 corridor. "I often cite what they have done with their lighting," she said. "Driving down 290 at night is one of the most pleasant things to do,

as opposed to driving through a major metropolitan area. You can embrace the dark landscape, but you can also still see very decently and consciously lit businesses without it being bright and glaring." That balance has been maintained through a long-standing lighting ordinance and ongoing coordination with developers, landowners and business owners.

"They really won the whole gamut from the application process to carrying it on and maintaining an amazing ordinance," Davies said. Over time, she said, those standards have become part of daily life in the community. "A lot of the work they don't have to do as much anymore with regards to enforcing or helping educate people, because it's become such a normal

part of living in Dripping Springs," Davies said. "If someone new comes in with bright lights, the surrounding neighbors will let them know that this isn't how we operate here." That level of community buy-in, she said, has been key to long-term success. "The community has embraced the change and the improvement it's provided, and they understand the value," Davies said.

Hays County has started a practice of incorporating DarkSky lighting requirements, largely following the city of Dripping Springs' version, into development agreements throughout the county. While they don't have the authority to require properties to comply with such a rule in the vein of a city ordinance, the practice has often gotten new commercial development in the unincorporated areas of the county to start with dark sky lighting practices. The broader impact of those efforts is now becoming measurable. Davies said recent data from Hill Country communities shows that sustained dark sky practices can lead to real improvements in sky quality over time. "We've heard from partners in Blanco and Dripping Springs that, over years of monitoring, they've actually seen the sky improve," she said. "That's huge. It shows what can be done when communities partner

with residents and embrace these efforts." Dark sky monitoring, which involves collecting regular measurements of sky brightness, is a requirement for maintaining designation and allows communities to track long-term trends. The findings come as the Hill Country continues to experience rapid growth, increasing pressure on nighttime conditions. DarkSky Texas, the state chapter of DarkSky International, works to address that challenge through education and advocacy.

Board member Soll Sussman said the issue goes beyond stargazing. "We're trying to bring awareness about responsible outdoor lighting to as many people in Texas as we can," Sussman said. "We are losing our view of the night sky at a significant rate, but just as importantly, light pollution affects wildlife, plants and human health." Some estimates suggest visibility of the night sky is declining by as much as 10% per year in some areas, driven largely by increasing artificial light at night. Artificial light can disrupt natural cycles for birds and other wildlife, interfere with plant growth and impact human sleep patterns. While preserving the stars is a visible benefit, Sussman said the broader goal is improving overall environmental and community well-being. The issue is especially pronounced in fast-growing areas like Drip-

ping Springs, where new development continues to expand. "People move out here for the rural beauty and the night skies," Sussman said. "But they often bring habits from the city, like leaving bright lights on all night, and that adds up." DarkSky Texas emphasizes practical steps residents can take to reduce excess lighting without sacrificing safety, including directing light downward, limiting brightness, using timers or motion sensors and choosing warmer-colored bulbs. For residents, that can be as simple as replacing bright white bulbs, adding shields to fixtures or turning off unnecessary lights overnight. "Lighting doesn't automatically make a place safer," Sussman said. "There's little consistent evidence that brighter lighting alone reduces crime, but there is clear evidence that poorly used light creates problems." As Dripping Springs continues to grow, Davies said its long-standing approach shows that development and preservation can coexist. "They've shown that you can grow and still protect the night sky," she said. As development continues across the Hill Country, that balance between growth, tourism and conservation will shape whether future generations still have a chance to enjoy those stars at night that are big and bright deep in the heart of Texas.



Spring Garden Faire

Saturday, May 9, 2026
9am-2pm

Exhibits Experts Inspiration

Our Best-Ever Plant Sale

Art Music Food

Join us for a fun festival dedicated to all things related to successful gardening in today's challenging times.

Rainwater harvesting ... sustainable landscaping ... biological plant and soil nutrition...tips for growing veggies, herbs, succulents, wildflowers ... and much more!



Full details & tickets



wimberleygardenclub.org

pet of the week



Niko • Male
12 years old
Pomeranian mix

My name is Niko! 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.



Otto • Male
10 years old
Miniature Pinscher mix

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

CALENDAR FROM PG. 1

the film producer, participants, and the Fireside Chat board. The film screening begins at 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The event is free, but RSVPs are requested via the EventBrite page. Vista West Ranch • 4505 McGregor Lane • Dripping Springs, Texas

For the Love of Texas Scenic Bike Ride
May 2 • 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (registration 9:30–10:30 a.m.)
The annual Scenic Texas bike ride invites cyclists to enjoy an 11-mile route through the Hill Country while supporting scenic conservation efforts across the state. The event includes a scenic ride followed by community activities such as lunch, live music and prizes. Scenic Texas hosts the fundraiser to celebrate and protect Texas landscapes and communities. Dripping Springs Distilling • 5330 Bell Springs Rd. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Vista’s Barks for Beers Kickoff Party: The Barkerton Social
May 2 • 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Kick off the 2026 Barks for Beers fundraiser with a dog-friendly celebration featuring local vendors, activities and opportunities to purchase a “Pawspport,” which provides access to beer tastings at

participating breweries throughout May. Proceeds support Divine Canines, a nonprofit providing free therapy dog services across Central Texas. Vista Brewing • 13551 Ranch to Market Rd. 150 • Driftwood, TX 78619

Free Community Film Night: Healing Heroes at Vista West Ranch
May 2 • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
This free community film night features a screening of “Healing Heroes: No Mind Left Behind,” a documentary highlighting the experiences of veterans and first responders as they navigate trauma and recovery. The evening includes opportunities for community connection, discussion and support, with food and beverages available for purchase. Vista West Ranch • 4700 W. Fitzhugh Rd. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

RED Arena Round Up
May 15-16
RED Arena, a therapeutic riding organization based in Dripping Springs, is hosting its annual Round-Up - a chance for kids and adults who participate in therapeutic riding to show off their skills. The event is free to attend. It is RED Arena's biggest fundraiser of the year, supporting rider scholarships, programs, and horse care. The event features a silent auction,

drill team performances, horse shows, food vendors, kids' games, and more. Visit www.redarena.org for details. RED Arena • 1601 Bell Springs Rd • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Pioneer Day at The Pound House Farmstead
May 16 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Come celebrate 171 years of Pound House Farmstead history and America’s 250th year anniversary! You can expect children’s games and crafts, wagon rides, historic demonstrations including quilt making, leather working, blacksmithing, candle dipping and needlework. The Sweet Shop will feature assorted old-fashioned candy and home baked goods and you’re sure to find a treasure in the Vintage Rummage Sale. Have fun, learn and support the Pound House Farmstead. For details, visit www.phfmuseum.org. Pound House Farmstead and Museum • 419-B Founders Park Road • Dripping Springs, TX 78620

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION
Dripping Springs Community Library
The Dripping Springs Community Library hosts multiple events every week. Events include Toddler Story Time, Homeschool Chess Club,

Legos @the Library, Mah-Jongg, Master Gardeners on the Porch, Yoga and more. For library events, visit dscl.org/event-calendar.

City of Dripping Springs Public Meetings
The City of Dripping Springs welcomes residents and others doing business with the city to attend any of the public meetings below. City Council meetings are traditionally held at City Hall Council Chambers, 511 W. Mercer St., Dripping Springs, TX 78620. See cityofdrippingsprings.com for streaming options and meeting agendas.

Transportation Committee Regular Meeting
Apr 27 • 3:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting
Apr 28 • 6 p.m.

City Council & Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting
May 5 • 6 p.m.

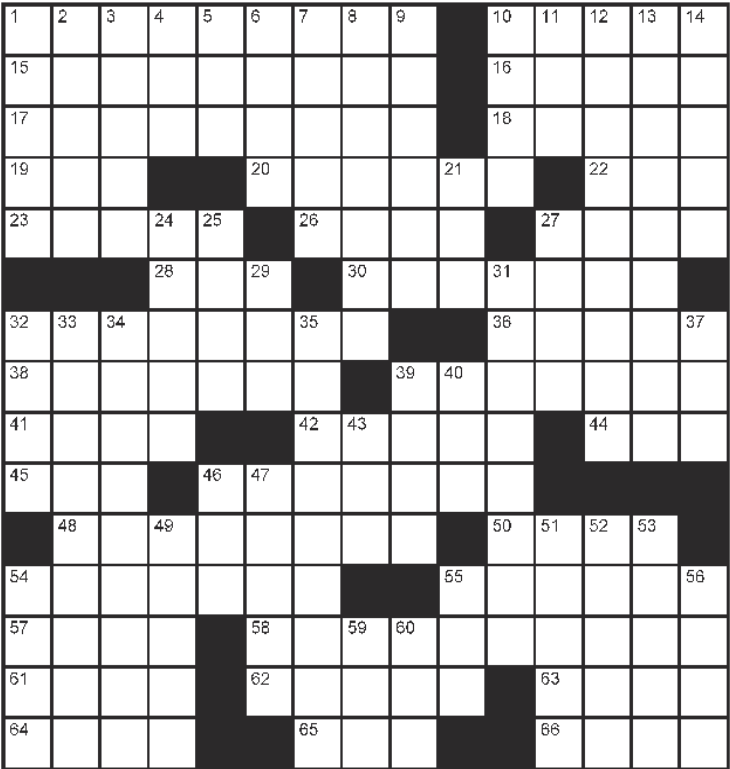
Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting
May 7 • 4 p.m.

TIRZ No. 1 & No. 2 Board Regular Meeting

Universal Crossword

4/26 Themeless Sunday 181 by Matthew Stock

- ACROSS
- 1 In uncharted territory
- 10 ____ ray (large fish)
- 15 Game night modification
- 16 Oak-to-be
- 17 Cantaloupe, for instance
- 18 Contradict in a debate
- 19 ____-rock
- 20 Careless
- 22 Hi-____ image
- 23 "It's Gonna Be Me" group
- 26 Practice boxing
- 27 Simple
- 28 Mo. of National Watermelon Day and National Eat Outside Day
- 30 Excuse for missing homework
- 32 Competition that you have in the bag?
- 36 Author's collected works
- 38 "What a nice surprise!"
- 39 Plant manager's employer?
- 41 Deck or desk material
- 42 "Family," to Lilo
- 44 Sandwich bread selection
- 45 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade location: Abbr.
- 46 Sweet sphere on a stick
- 48 Painting with a trademark smile
- 50 Researcher's "and others": Abbr.
- 54 Burn unit?
- 55 Curve-billed waders
- 57 Not much
- 58 Odorous night market fare
- 61 Politician Buttigieg who was played by his college dommate on "SNL"
- 62 Baking show clock
- 63 Contrarian's prefix
- 64 Peepers
- 65 "Immediately!"
- 66 Sticks together for raising chicks?
- DOWN
- 1 "Whew, that's rough"
- 2 Basketball no-nos
- 3 Stuffy-smelling



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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

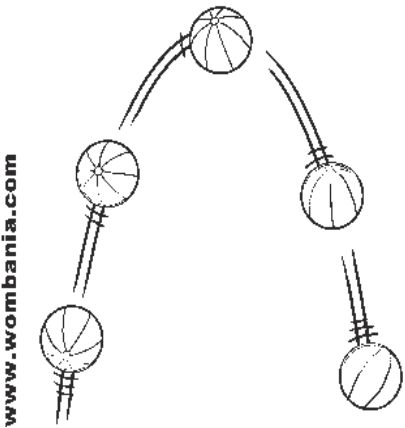


© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.upuzzles.com

- 4 Judgmental click
- 5 Edge of a skirt
- 6 Spanish for "you are"
- 7 Prepares, as apple cider
- 8 Fried, potato-filled pastry
- 9 Write-minded friend?
- 10 Tennis commentator ____ Joe Fernandez
- 11 Outstanding service?
- 12 Obvious choice
- 13 "That happened!"
- 14 On edge
- 21 Word in some iPhone model names
- 24 Barely there?
- 25 Biceps exercise
- 27 Flights' landing stats
- 29 Young lady
- 31 Barely make it
- 32 Like a seedy area?
- 33 Greeting to a fellow sailor
- 34 Brown ice cream flavor
- 35 Container for snicker-doodles
- 37 Scientist Bill
- 39 California wine valley
- 40 Card game with four colors
- 43 "____ got a point, you know"
- 46 Pilot without a cockpit, e.g.?
- 47 Group of stars in Hollywood
- 49 Connection points
- 51 Tennessee NFLer
- 52 United
- 53 Three make a right
- 54 ____ Canaveral
- 55 "ur telling me!"
- 56 Hearts or clubs
- 59 "since u asked ..."
- 60 Like a board game that's still "in shrink"

by PETER MARINACCI

WOMBANIA™



Copyright ©2026 Peter Marinacci All Rights Reserved.



“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.”

May 11 • 4 p.m.

Founders Day Committee Regular Meeting
May 11 • 6:30 p.m.

DSRP Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 13 • 11 a.m.

Hays County Commissioners Court Regular Meeting
Apr 28 • 9 a.m.
This is a regular meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court, the governing body of the county. This group of elected officials and staff oversees the functions and budget for all county-related business. Hays County Historic Courthouse • 111 E. San Antonio St. • San Marcos, Texas. Streaming option available at hayscountytx.com.

Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Apr 27 • 6 p.m.
Live meeting of the DSISD Board of Trustees which sets policy, agenda and strategic planning for the Dripping Springs school district. Agendas and live streaming option available at dsisdtx.us. Live meeting at the Center for Learning & Leadership • 300 Sportsplex Dr. • Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

PIONEER FROM PG. 1



at the Pound House Farmstead, 419B Founders Park Road, and will commemorate 171 years of the historic site along with the nation's 250th anniversary.

Jeanne Polk, president of the Pound House Farmstead Board of Trustees, said the return of the

event has been highly anticipated by past attendees.

"I cannot be happier to host the Pioneer Day event once again at the Pound House Farmstead," Polk said. "Those who have attended in the past have frequently asked me when can I add back a Pound House Pio-

neer Day to the spring calendar. Come join the PHF Board members, volunteers, and the Dripping Springs community.

Visitors will be able to explore the historic property, which includes a restored farmhouse, smokehouse, arbor, windmill, rock walls and

garden areas. The site offers a living depiction of 19th-century rural life, including the well-known "Heritage Oak," estimated to be more than 500 years old, and antique roses dating back to 1853.

The event will feature a wide range of activities for all ages. A dedicated children's

area will include crafts and experiences such as candle dipping, corn husk dolls, musical instrument demonstrations, leather stitching, archaeology activities, corn shelling and grinding, and butter churning. Traditional games like dominoes, checkers, chess, stilts, hoop and stick, gunny sack races and corn cob toss will also be available.

Demonstrations throughout the day will include Dutch oven cooking, soap making, blacksmithing, quilting, weaving and spinning, as well as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Buffalo Soldier program and Native American hoop dancing. A one-room schoolhouse exhibit will also be open, along with historic home tours.

Additional attractions include hayrides, live music performances by Alex Dormont, Ryker Pantano and Randall McKinney, food vendors, nonprofit booths and a variety of shop-

ping opportunities.

Fundraising efforts tied to the event will include a vintage rummage sale, silent auction, sweet shop, provisions store, quilt sale and handmade jewelry.

Brenda DeWitt, the museum's farmstead manager, encouraged residents and visitors to attend.

"Join us in celebrating 171 years of Pound House Farmstead history and America's 250th year anniversary," DeWitt said.

Advanced discount tickets are available at phfmuseum.org. For more information, call 512-858-2030.

The Pound House Farmstead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been a Texas State Historical Landmark since 1965. It has operated as a museum since opening to the public in 2003 and continues to serve as a center for historical education and community gatherings.



COME AND JOIN US AT THE

San Marcos Metaphysical and Holistic Fair

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

..and discover healers, readers, crystals & more!



Free Admission



11AM - 5PM

HOLIDAY INN

105 BINTU DR. SAN MARCOS, TX 78666

heavenpathwaysearth.com