

News of Dripping Springs & Wimberley The News-Dispatch

75¢
©2010



Volume XXVIII No. 42

Serving Western Hays County since 1982

Thursday, August 5, 2010

LAGNIAPPE

MARTIAL ARTS FOR PE CREDIT

The Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD) as an alternate physical education activity provider has approved Dripping Springs Family Martial Arts (DSFMA). DSISD middle and high school students may receive P.E. credit for training at DSFMA. For more information, e-mail SaBum-Nim@dsfmartialarts.com or call 512-858-0619.

MEETING CANCELED

The Woodcreek Vision 2020 meetings scheduled for August 2 and August 9 were cancelled and will be rescheduled. Notices for the new meeting dates will be announced later.

PAINTING DAY AT THE ZOO

The community is invited to join a Kid's Summer Paint-out Day at the Austin Zoo on Saturday, August 7 from 10:00-11:35 a.m. Children and teens must be accompanied by an adult. Regular admission applies. Paints/paper/brushes will be provided. The events include a guided 45-minute walking tour with artist/photographer, Debra Barton, and then back to the picnic table area to paint a picture of the animals.

Debra will also paint along with the children, and has a surprise image she will create during this event. Children should wear comfortable clothes to paint in that are also cool for some summer fun.

LBJ BIRTHDAY PARTY SUNDAY

The Hays County Democrats will hold their annual LBJ Birthday Party Sunday, August 8 in Sage Hall at Texas Old Town in Kyle. The 102nd birthday barbecue will "bring together a group of folks from both sides of the fence and all parts of the county" to meet candidates, eat great barbecue and celebrate LBJ's birthday. Festivities will include barbecue and all the trimmings prepared by former Sheriff Don Montague and Pet. 1 Constable David Peterson. Birthday cake, tea and lemonade will also be served. BYOB. Music, silent auction and meet the candidates. The event is the major fundraiser for the Hays County Democratic Party. Proceeds will support

See Lagniappe pg.2

DSHS, RSE, WSE all "Exemplary"

DSISD gets high marks from TEA

District to appeal "Recognized" rating; expects change to "Exemplary"

DSISD — Dripping Springs Independent School District received high marks on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Academic Accountability Ratings for the 2009-2010 school year, released July 30.

Dripping Springs High School, Rooster Springs Elementary, and Walnut Springs Elementary are rated "Exemplary," and Dripping Springs Middle School and Dripping Springs Elementary

are rated "Recognized." DSISD was rated "Recognized" for the district overall, but the district is appealing the rating and anticipates it will be changed to "Exemplary."

The TAKS tests on which these ratings are based were administered in the spring of 2010 in five subjects — Reading/ELA, Writing, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science. The District was rated in four categories

for each of these subjects, and received the Exemplary designation in 19 of the 20 categories. To earn an Exemplary rating in a subject area, a school district must achieve a passing rate of 90% or better.

TEA also looks at a district's completion rate and annual dropout rate in determining an overall district rating. DSISD's completion rate (the percentage of students entering their fresh-

man year in 2005 who graduated with their class in 2009) for the class of 2009 was 99%, and its annual dropout

rate (the percentage of 7th and 8th graders who left school during the year) for 2009 was 0%.

Greg Jung, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, said, "DSISD is committed to the success of each student, and success on the TAKS is a part of the much

larger goal of making Dripping Springs graduates who are inspired and equipped to be positive contributors to the world. Our teachers and students continually strive to do their best, and are to be commended for their efforts on the TAKS."

Ratings and other information for all Texas schools can be found at: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/>.



Ethiopia bound. These three members of the Rotary Club of Wimberley will leave Saturday for Ethiopia on a mission to deliver 4,000 books and supplies to underprivileged children. Sonja Simmonds, standing, co-founder of the Davis Moon Project beginning its second such mission this year, will be joined by Nora Turner, left, and Marsha Cooper along with 11 others from Wimberley and Austin.

News-Dispatch staff photo

Group headed to Ethiopia with 4,000 books, supplies Davis Moon Project begins second literary mission with local Rotarians, 14 volunteers

AREA — Three Wimberley Rotarians will leave Dallas Saturday bound for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on their second literary mission. Fourteen volunteers will carry more than 4,000 books and supplies that will be donated to local libraries that educate under-served children. Supporters in Wimberley and the extended Hill Country donated all books and supplies.

Founded by Wimberley resident Sonia Simmonds and Haileigh Haggerton of Austin in 2008, the project has collected more than 10,000 books in the past 18 months, giving impover-

ished children the gift of learning in one of the most poverty stricken places on earth.

Eighty-one percent of Ethiopians live on less than \$2 per day. Only one in 10 people in rural Ethiopia have access to reading material. Seventy-two percent of Ethiopians cannot read or write and 42% live below the country's poverty level.

The 2010 mission volunteers include both founders plus another 12 participants on a full nine-day itinerary. They will deliver books to children's libraries, volunteer at orphanages, sponsor a "micro-lending"

workshop for local economists and be part of construction and public works projects in rural Ethiopia.

The Davis Moon Project will deliver books to three schools/libraries. One group that will be the recipient of books will be "Ethiopia Reads." The team will partner with Ethiopia Reads to supply books to support donkey mobile libraries (Ethiopia's answer to the Bookmobile) that will serve the rural south of the country.

The Rotary Club of Wimberley

See Mission pg. 6

County seeks comparisons for park funds

By Zach Miller

COUNTY — Tuesday's Commissioners Court set the ball rolling to decide where the remaining \$10.5 million of bond money will be allocated. The court wants the money to go to recreation-focused projects in the county. The Commissioners spoke to members of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Board about gathering all possible projects to be compared to each other at one time.

"I wish we would have done this years ago," Pet. 3 Commissioner Will Conley said.

In the past, the projects that got money from the county were taken one at a time. Pet. 4

Commissioner Karen Ford said as soon as money was given to a project that looked good another better one would come along and be taken on as well.

"This is certainly an opportunity for the board to fix problems it has made in the past," County Judge Liz Sumter said.

This is an attempt to allocate this bond money in a fair, transparent and competitive way, Commissioner Ford said. The first step the court took was to evaluate how they will be compared and make sure the Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Board has all the prospects lined up at once.

Jim Camp, chair of advisory board, spoke about the actions he and the board will make in the following weeks.

"To be quite honest, we have made some mistakes," Camp said. "We want to make sure all of the county is being represented." The Parks and Open Space Advisory Board will meet Wednesday night to discuss changes in criteria and to issue a call out for projects to be considered. The criteria states that to apply for funds a project must at least have as much money as they are asking from the county. The

more money raised the more points a project will get toward qualifying for funds. The advisory board will look at possibly lowering the ratio of money raised to points distributed. There have been no projects that have fit into the highest three-to-one ratio of money raised versus money requested.

Some citizens also attended. A representative came on behalf of Harrison Ranch Park reminding the court of the large amount of support Dripping Springs has for it.

Patty Willis spoke on behalf of the non-profit organization Swimberley. The organization is trying to get funding for an aquatics center to be built in Wimberley. The project has been put on hold because a moratorium on new projects was put in place in the county. The aquatics center would also provide a safe environment for special needs citizens.

"I wish we would have done this years ago,"

—Pet. 3

Commissioner Will Conley

Three leaders tagged for Art Fest 2011

WVA event successful this year; scheduled again for April 30

WIMBERLEY — Next spring's Art Fest 2011 will be held April 30, but the Wimberley Valley Art League is already working on the big event. Three leaders have been appointed and several meetings held.

Ian Green will chair the third annual event along with Vice-Chairs Gina Casarez and Kaye Collins, according to WVAL president Tom Bender. "We are very pleased to have this fine team in place," he said. "All three were actively involved in Arts Fest 2010, so they have the experience as well as the enthusiasm to make this major event another success."

To assure continuity, the trio has held transitional meetings

with the co-chairs of Arts Fest 2010, followed by 2011 team meetings that have already generated new ideas for the event.

Green said, "We want to build on the tremendous success we had this year, using the same basic format for the Arts Fest. We will then make some tweaks and add some things, since the goal is to make the Fest bigger and better each year."

Art displayed in 2011 will be juried to assure that the high quality of fine art will be maintained as the Fest grows. "Details are under discussion, but we have researched many shows in the area and the ones that are most successful are juried," said Casarez.

Artists and merchants were asked for comments and suggestions this year, and many of those will be included. "We're aware that everyone was looking for cold drinks and more food as the restaurants had long lines and we had only a few food vendors," Collins said.

Casarez added that an exciting new arts feature will be announced later. "This festival is about all the arts so we want to add the one missing art form," she said without giving specifics. "It will be a fun surprise," she said.

The last Saturday in April has been selected as the permanent date for Arts Fest.



Arts Fest 2011 leaders are already at work on the April 30 event. Left to right: Vice-Chairman Gina Casarez, Chairman Ian Green, and Vice-Chairman Kaye Collins.

Texas' annual Sales Tax Holiday will help outfit kids with tax-free clothes, shoes and school supplies they need for the new school year August 20-22.

National Gold Star Family Registry

Fallen heroes, family network registry available online

By Brian Wise
Executive Director, Families United

Families United has launched the first National Gold Star Family Registry. This public, online platform is the first, comprehensive record of fallen heroes and family network ever developed. Whether they gave their life in WWII, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq or Afghanistan or another conflict, the registry is a place to ensure their memory will live on. (www.GoldStarFamilyRegistry.com)

not been one place where all heroes who gave their lives can be found either in print or online," said Families United's Executive Director Brian Wise. "There has not been a national registry or public database that serves as a perpetual memorial to all those who paid the ultimate price for this nation. The aim of the registry is to create the first 'virtual memorial,' ensuring that Americans from all over the country can learn about the heroic sacrifice of service members firsthand and allow their families

to connect." The National Gold Star Family Registry is not just a searchable database of the fallen, but a new community of America's Gold Star Families. Family members have the opportunity to create a tribute page for their hero as well as their own online profile as part of a private Gold Star network. The registry provides them with new avenues to communicate, support one another and most of all, honor the fallen. As the registry grows, Families United will add new functions that will

further develop the largest online community of Gold Star Family members ever created, helping families support each other across the years and miles. Amy Dozier, Gold Star Wife from Durham, NC, said "This registry means so much to me. It's a chance for me to create memories with my little girl. Most importantly, it's a way for families to come together to support each other in the grieving process, while remembering those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us."

"We can never repay the debt of honor that our fallen heroes gave to the cause of freedom," said Wise. "However, with National Gold Star Registry, we can ensure that their effort and bravery will be acknowledged for years to come." About the author: Brian Wise is the Executive Director of Families United, www.FamiliesUnitedUSA.org, the nation's largest military family support organization, celebrating America's fallen Heroes from WWII, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan and

other conflicts. Brian works on behalf of military families in honor of his friends the first two brothers, LCPL Jared Hubbard, and US Army CPL Nathan Hubbard who that were killed fighting for our Freedom in Iraq. His credentials as a former Network News Producer for ABC News, Fox News Channel and CBS News and in the national security policy world allows him to be an effective voice for the interests and values of America's military families.

Now is time to be energy smart

Now is the time to "SaveOnEnergy"! In addition to promoting energy efficiency and electric market innovation and technology, TexasIsHot has partnered with SaveOnEnergy.com to help consumers take advantage of the competitive electric market in Texas. Your Electric Bill is Simple... Kilowatts Used X Kilowatt Cost. Other than government mandated taxes and fees, consumption and rate are the only two inputs in your electric bill. This

means there are only two ways to lower your electric bill - use less electricity and buy the electricity you do use at a lower price. July and August are the hottest months of the year. Now is the time to do your part to be energy smart and save money on your electric bill: Audit your home energy use. Make a commitment to change at least 5 energy habits (see May newsletter for a checklist of energy saving options). Check with your electric pro-

vider about available energy efficiency discounts and smart grid technologies. Bill Gates recently said that energy is the next big innovation. Take advantage of existing technologies such as smart meters, home energy monitors and smart phone apps to better track and analyze your energy usage. Examine your kilowatt cost. TexasIsHot has partnered with SaveOnEnergy.com to help Texans in competitive markets easily find, compare and order competitive energy services.

Mission.....from page one

ley has joined with the Rotary Club of Seattle, Washington to make the delivery of 500 lbs. of books possible to the Ethiopia Reads organization. The Seattle Rotary secured the grant from Rotary International that initially purchased the books and the Wimberley Rotarians will transport the books. The three Rotarians from

Wimberley are part of this mission. Sonja Simmons, co-founder of the Davis Moon Project; Marsha Cooper, Manager of Broadway Bank of Wimberley, and Nora Turner, owner and manager of Curves of Wimberley. Tess Allen, a recent graduate of Wimberley High School also will be on the trip along with

several Austinites. The Davis Moon Project express heartfelt thanks to the community for supporting the mission with books, supplies volunteers and funds," Simmons said. For more information, please go to www.davismoonproject.org/mission.php.



LOCALS AID MEXICAN FLOOD VICTIMS

Several local persons were involved in a Help for Mexico project last week. They gathered clothes and supplies to be ferried from San Marcos to the border to be distributed to victims of the recent flood on the Rio Grand River.

MEMORIALS

ZACH BRYER 1986-2010

Zach Bryer, 24, of Dripping Springs, died Saturday, July 24, 2010. Mr. Bryer was a carpenter. Services were held Thursday at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin. Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, Austin.

JAMES R. KRAHN June 21, 2010

James R. "Bud" Krahn of Wimberley died at home Monday, June 21, 2010 after a brief battle with cancer. Mr. Krahn grew up in Lubbock and was graduated from Texas State Technical College with an expertise in laser technology. Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Connie Krahn; mother, Patricia Krahn Barker of Lubbock;

sisters, Debbie Ohnesorge of Bastrop, Andrea Frabrizio of Aurora, Colorado and Kristie Kupp of Orlando, Florida.

The family requests any memorial donations be made to Hospice Austin, 4107 Spicewood Springs Rd. Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78759, or Zilker Park Plantings for the Future, c/o Austin Parks and Recreation Dept.

A celebration of his life will be held in Wimberley August 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Visit a memorial website and share your memories online at www.memory-of.com.

RICHARD HAFLEY 1945-2010

Richard Hafley, 65, of Niederwald, formerly of Wimberley, died Monday, August 2, 2010. Mr. Hafley was a carpenter. Survivors include his wife, Ginger. Services pending with Superior Funeral Home, Austin.

When it's time to honor the one you love...

Since 1983



Thomason

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY



14700 RR 12 North
Wimberley (512) 847-2226
1-800-201-4923

www.thomasonfuneralhome.com

Edward Jones INVESTMENTS

Susan J. Santamaria, AAMS
Financial Advisor
The Arbor Center
800 Hwy. 290W, Suite 500
Dripping Springs
512-858-2850 • www.edwardjones.com

Michael S. Murphy, CFP®
Financial Advisor
13620 RR 12
Wimberley
512-847-2998
www.edwardjones.com

Send your community events to
The News-Dispatch P.O. Box 227 • Driftwood, Tx 78619
or email: redrob37@aol.com

Worship in a Church of your Choice

Our name says what we are about: sharing the new life God offers us all in Jesus Christ. We believe God never tires of offering us a new day and a new way of living, a way marked by love, joy and peace. If you are ready for a new beginning and for the joy and challenge of the faith journey, come join us.

New Life Lutheran Church
ELCA
Worship: Sunday at 9:30am Christian Education: 10:45am
120 Frog Pond Lane, Building 2, Suite A, Dripping Springs, TX 78620
512-894-0155 www.wearonewlfc.org
It's New Life we've been given. It's New Life we hope to share. Let New Life be our gift to all we meet.

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
Corner of RR 12 and Post Oak,
Dripping Springs, Texas
Mass Schedule
Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sundays - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Fr. Ed Koharchik, CSP, Pastor/Administrator
512-858-5667
www.stmartindp.org

A Family of Faith
Visit www.sunsetcanyonchurch.org for more information on:
Sunday School 9:45 am • SCBC Preschool
Sunday Worship 11:00 am • Children & Youth Ministries
Wed. Fellowship 6:00 pm • Family Ministries

Sunset Canyon Baptist Church
4000 E. HWY 290 DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS 78620
894-0480 www.sunsetcanyonchurch.org

Dripping Springs United Methodist Church
Wife Open Wednesday 5:30pm weekly
Community meal
Weekly men's changes
Visit our website for more information.

Sunday Worship Schedule
8:15am Early worship Service
Communion every Sunday
9:15am Praise Worship Service
Sunday School for all ages
Communion-1st Sunday
11:15am Traditional Worship Serv.
Sunday School for all ages
Communion-1st Sunday

David Skinner - Pastor
Kevin Fowler and Cozy Reeves - Pastoral Assistants
2800 Ranch Road 12, one mile N. Hwy. 290
894-7123 - www.dsusc.org

Community Fellowship
Connecting People to God and to Each Other!

Join us for our Worship Celebration every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Located at:
244 American Way (just behind Boulevard's Powerhouse) 512.858.5056
www.dscfchurch.com

DRIFTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
YESTERDAY... TODAY... & TOMORROW... BY GOD'S GRACE...
SERVING THE LORD IN THE HEART OF DRIFTWOOD RANCH ROAD 150 AT COUNTY ROAD 170
Sunday Services (every Sunday)
9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00A.M. Morning Worship
5th Sun Gospel Hour followed by covered dish luncheon.
Come just as you are... All are welcome! Carl Clark, Pastor (512) 268-1684.