


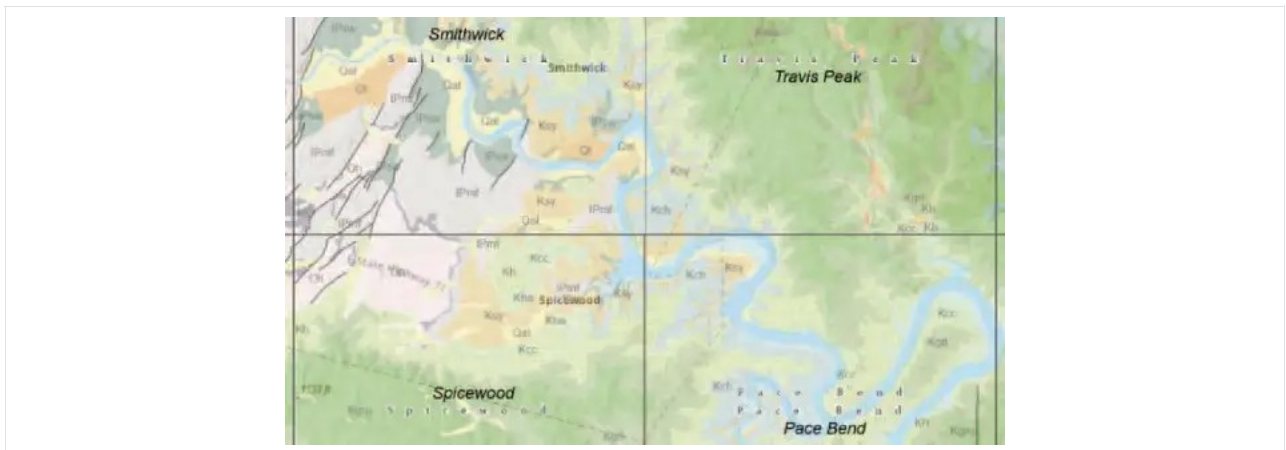
# The Official 2026 Reader's Choice **Best** of the **E**

## Groundwater study to map springs, creeks

News

Main

Special to The Highlander  03/17/2026 05:00 AM



Three conservation-minded groups will partner to better understand interconnected groundwater sources in southern Burnet County.

The partners will host a public meeting at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, at Iron Wolf Ranch & Distillery (101 Co Rd 409, Spicewood, TX 78669) to share results from earlier phases of the study and invite community participation in this next stage of research. It is free and open to the public.

“Groundwater doesn’t move in straight lines, and in the Hill Country, it can be especially complex,” said Jenna Walker, Meadows Center director of Watershed Studies. “This study is helping us map those connections and understand how groundwater contributes to springs and creeks people care about.”

The study focuses on the Sycamore layer of the Trinity Aquifer in and around Spicewood, an important groundwater source that contributes flow to Little Cypress Creek and nearby springs, including Krause Springs. Researchers are working to uncover how groundwater moves through the aquifer, how it interacts with nearby surface waters and where recharge enters the system.

Earlier phases of the study included longterm monitoring of groundwater, surface water and precipitation using monitoring wells, weather stations and synoptic streamflow measurements led by the Meadows Center. These efforts revealed that multiple aquifers contribute flows to Little Cypress Creek and nearby springs, underscoring the need for further research to more accurately identify the contributing and recharge zones that influence spring and creek flows.

The third phase of the project will further characterize the structure, hydrogeologic behavior and waterlevel dynamics of the Sycamore layer of the Trinity Aquifer. Researchers will integrate new data and refine conceptual hydrogeologic models to advance a more comprehensive understanding of the Trinity Aquifer system in the Spicewood area.

Community participation will play an important role in the study’s success. Well owners in the study area are invited to volunteer their wells to participate in an upcoming synoptic groundwater-level measurement event.

These measurements will help map groundwater levels across the region and better understand how water moves through the aquifer over time.

“Local well owners will play an important role in helping us understand what’s happening underground,” Walker said. “Each private well we’re able to measure adds valuable information that helps us build a clearer picture of how the aquifer works and helps improve the scientific information that informs groundwater management decisions in Burnet County.”

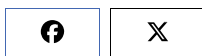
Residents interested in learning more about the study or volunteering their wells for the study’s measurement event are encouraged to attend the meeting. Coffee, water and light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance at <https://events.humanitix.com/tapm>. About the Groups The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University was named following a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation in August 2012. The Meadows Center inspires research, innovation and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity.

The Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin conducts scientific research to advance understanding of Texas geology and natural resources, including groundwater systems critical to communities across the state.

The Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District manages and protects the groundwater resources of Burnet County to ensure a sustainable, high-quality water supply for current and future generations.

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Let's Be Brief

GraniteFest The City of Granite Shoals is hosting Granite Fest, starting Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, at Quarry Park, 221 N. Phillips Ranch Road. Activities include The Mighty Thomas Carnival, vendors, food booths and a car show. There are free evening concerts and a fireworks display. Visit www.granitefest.com.

Quarry Meeting Sandbar.com invites all residents to a community strategy session on Tuesday, May 5, at the Burnet County AgLife Building, 607 N. Vandevier, to discuss Asphalt Inc.'s planned rock crushing operation in Hoover Valley. The featured speaker is Craig Clark, a Burnet County rancher and Texas A&M Mechanical & Petroleum Engineering graduate who will discuss his experience living next to a quarry and the projected 130-foot drop in the local water table.

Park Worship The Highland Lakes Worship Initiative is hosting an outdoor worship event on Friday, May 8 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Johnson Park, 230 Ave. J in Marble Falls. Prone to Wonder will sing timeless hymns, followed by contemporary praise and worship led by musicians and worship leaders.

Theater Show Hill Country Community Theatre hosts the first annual Act Like a Gaffer Golf Tournament Saturday, May 9, at Hidden Falls Golf Course in Mexico Lakes. Proceeds benefit HCCT's live theatre productions and arts education programming. The fundraiser will feature a four-person scramble with chances for hole-in-one and costume prizes. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. with shotgun start at 9 a.m. Entry fees are \$100 per player or \$375 per team of four. Visit events.cplstexas.com.

Quilt scholarships The Highland Lakes Quilt Guild is accepting scholarship applications from

Briefs Page 2



Thank a Veteran for their service

Inspirational quote: "Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality." — Malala Yousafzai



Martelle Luedicke/Luedicke Photography Joenanno Johnson, Donna Shaw and Dennis Frederickson studied the alerts for the silent auction items during the 2026 Chuck Wagon Chow Down.

Auction items thrill Chow Down bidders

Special to The Highlander Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including raffles featuring items such as a mahjong package and an adventure package with skydiving and hunting experiences. A silent auction stretched the length of the YMCA of the Highland Lakes site, dotted lined with an array of items for guests to bid on, while live auction offerings ranged from two-bed cabins to a trip to Dublin. The evening also featured a barbecue dinner.

Texas Local Media stays under longtime leadership

By Dalton Sweet Regional Editor Texas Local Media's network of 32 community newspapers remains under longtime Texas-based leadership following a recent ownership transition, with senior leaders emphasizing continuity in local operations across the state. The company, formerly known as Moser Community Media, includes weekly and small daily newspapers serving communities throughout Texas. It has built its footprint over decades of local ownership.



Mandy Farrow Senior Group Publisher



Mark Henry Group Manager

TLM Page 7

Rhodes, Mayfield win Marble Falls council seats



Rhodes



Mayfield

By Connie Sweeney Managing Editor Saturday, May 2, municipal elections. According to unofficial results from the Burnet County Registrar, Rhodes and Mayfield won their respective council seats.

MFISD to replace buses due to seat belt law

By Connie Sweeney Managing Editor One local school district is on track to replace more than a dozen school buses to adhere to a new state seat belt law and aims to use bond money to pay for it. Transportation Director Gina Solizmao detailed the district's fleet and what it would like to either replace or equip vehicles to meet an upcoming deadline.



Contributed/Marble Falls Fire Rescue A new law reinforces and details seat belt requirements on public school buses. BUSES Page 2



In Your Nature Contributed/City of Marble Falls Marble Falls city leaders welcomed the public to the grand opening of a new park just off Mormon Mill Road. Find the story on Page 4.

Council to eye city park, trails

By Raymond K. Whelan Staff Writer Also, the plans will support continued eligibility for grant funding, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department programs. During the consent agenda, the council is expected to approve without debate. Approval of an Underground Electric Agreement and Utility Easement with Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) associated with the Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation (MFEDC) Lakeside Park Improvements Phase 1B and Renewal of a license agreement between Marble Falls and Mitch McManus Holdings to allow privately-maintained patios within the public right-of-way of the east side of the Main Street 300 block. rwhelan@texastlocalmedia.com



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