

AUSTIN

Volunteers gather for 26th annual San Marcos River cleanup

By **Jordan Gass-Pooré** | 6:00 AM Mar. 5, 2012
CST



Volunteers from around the state joined forces March 3 in San Marcos for the 26th Annual Great Texas River Clean-Up.

Overcast skies and high winds did not prevent participants from canoeing, kayaking, scuba diving, snorkeling and walking alongside the 90-mile stretch of the San Marcos River to pick up recyclables and trash.

Jon Cradit, former San Marcos River Foundation director, said he has participated in the world's longest river cleanup off and on for 20 years because of his love for the San Marcos River.

"I grew up here. I was born here," Cradit said. "I think the river needs some attention."

Cradit said he collected recycling and trash from City Park to Thomson's Island. He said the most common items he found were plastic bags and aluminum cans.

However, Cradit said a traffic cone, part of a refrigerator, a large plastic chair and trash bins were also found along a 2-mile stretch of the river.

A variety of disposable containers were found in and along the stretch of river behind the San Marcos Nature Center by members of the Texas State University WaterAid chapter who volunteered in support of their mission to protect and conserve water resources.

Nathan Hartman, Texas State University junior and water studies student, said this was his second year participating in the cleanup with the university's WaterAid chapter.

Hartman said he and other members kayaked and bagged trash and recyclables along the organization's Adopt-a-Spot. In addition to disposable containers, members found large amounts of plastic foam.

"Styrofoam, when it breaks down, it creates this floating island of sludge," he said.

Cradit said it did not seem as though there was as much trash this year. He said the large amount of trash collected in 2011 may be attributable to the drought, which prevented the flow of trash through storm drains.

Dianne Wassenich, San Marcos River Foundation program director, said the cleanups help make the San Marcos River safer and more attractive.

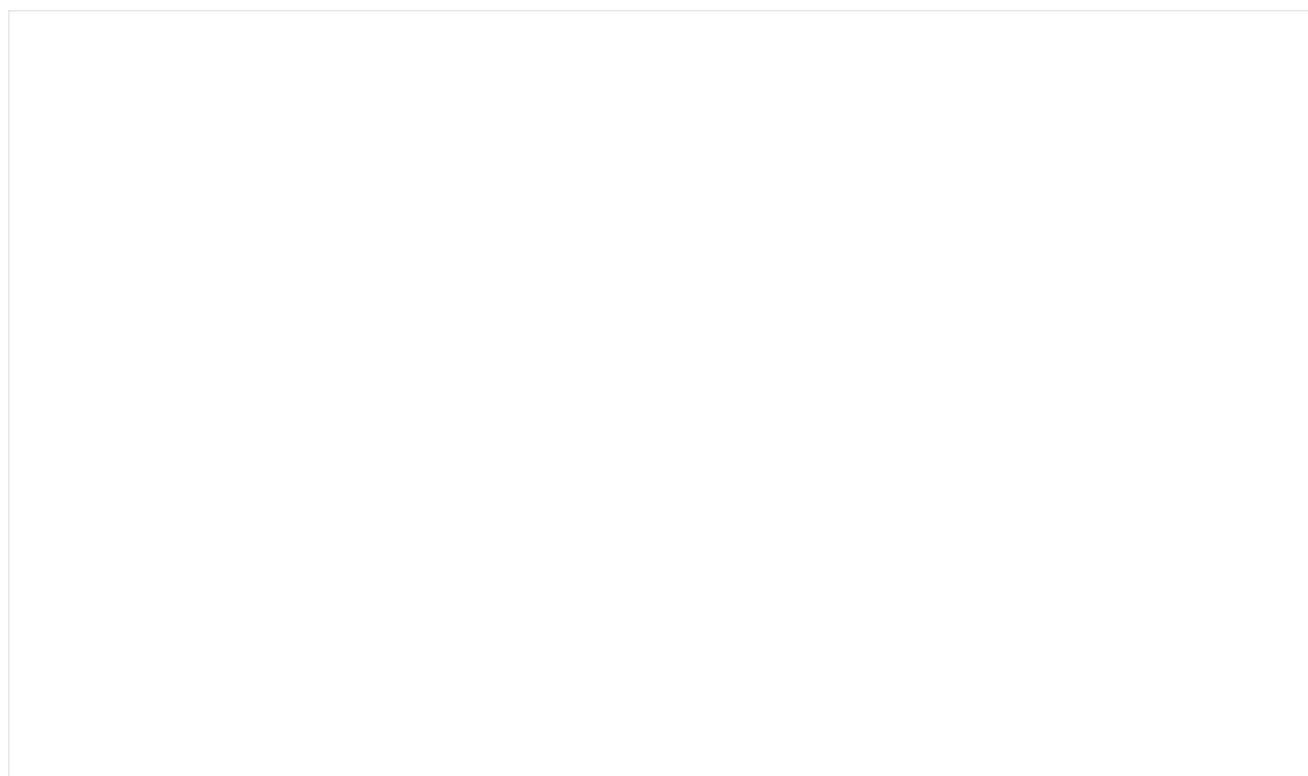
"It's good, healthy outdoor exercise," Wassenich said. "It's a wonderful time to get to know community members who care about the river."

Melani Howard, City of San Marcos watershed protection program manager, said 156 pounds of trash, which included tires, clothes, toilet seats, steel and metal were gathered during the 2011 cleanup. She said nearly 200 volunteers worked to collect 50 bags of recycling in 2011.

Totals for the 2012 cleanup were not yet available, though recycling bins placed in the Lions Club Tube Rental parking lot were filled with trash bags.

San Marcos businesses and organizations also showed support for the effort.

Domino's Pizza, the League of United Latin American Citizens and Jo On the Go donated food and drinks for participants, and Green Guy Recycling donated collection bins.



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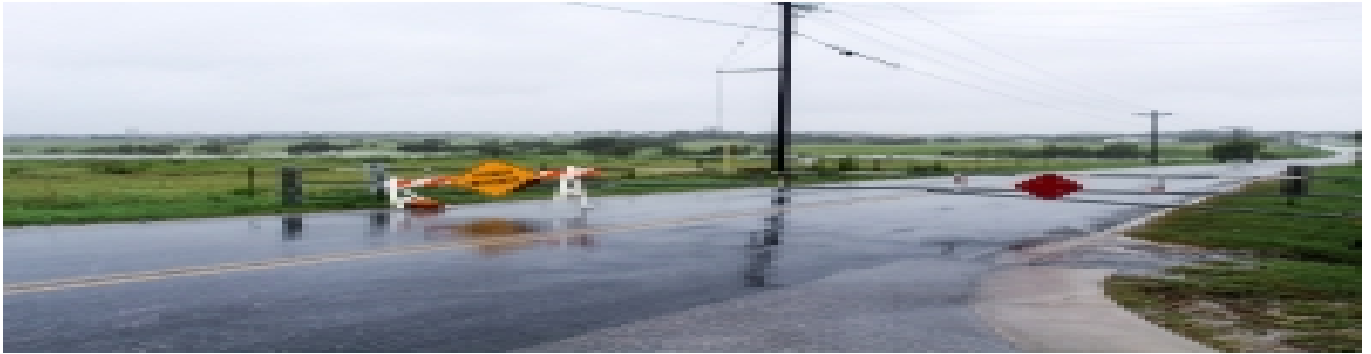
Both establishments have posted signs of closure thanking customers and employees for their support.





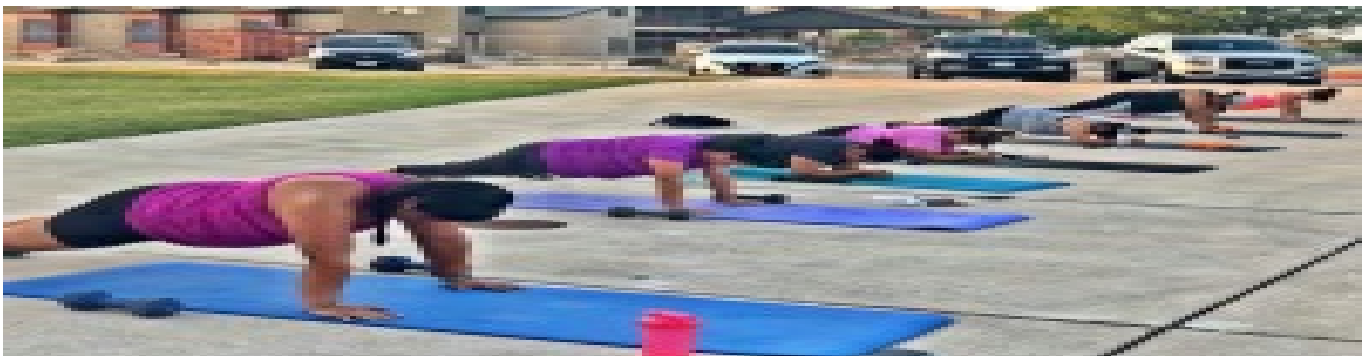
Boozy Bark to celebrate one-year anniversary in San Marcos

The dog day care offers indoor and outdoor play and a BYOB off-leash dog park.



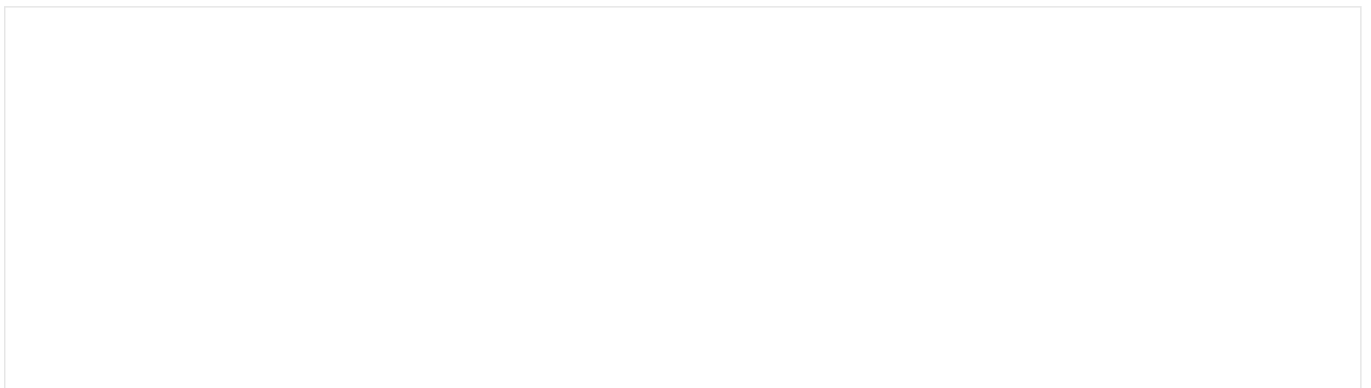
San Marcos City Council weighs allocation of \$24 million in disaster mitigation funding

The city received the grant to aid primarily in preventing flood damage.



Pink Velvet Training opens in Buda

Trainer Jessica Garcia offers a group-style workout for women in Buda.



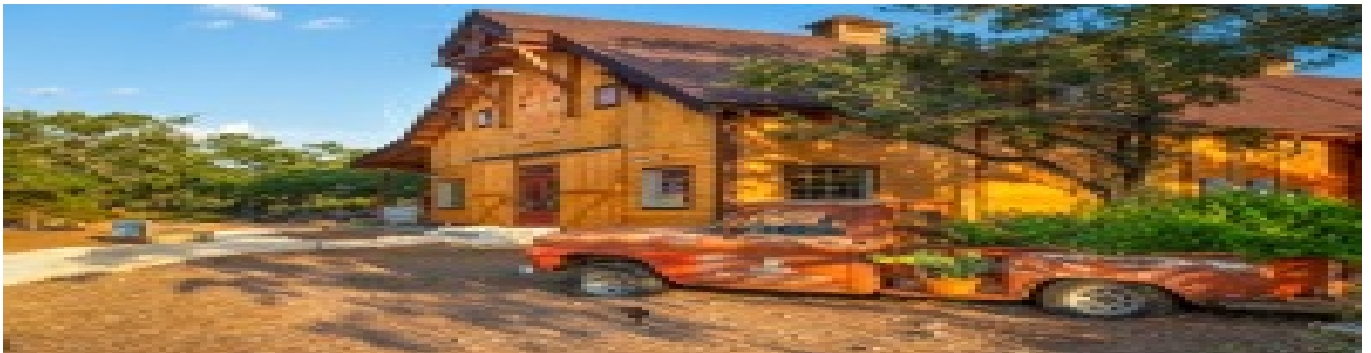
Hawaii Poke now open at The Lyndon in San Marcos

The poke bar offers 18 toppings.



Buda plans to address transportation and mobility challenges with new master plan

The city will offer a chance for more public participation in early 2020.



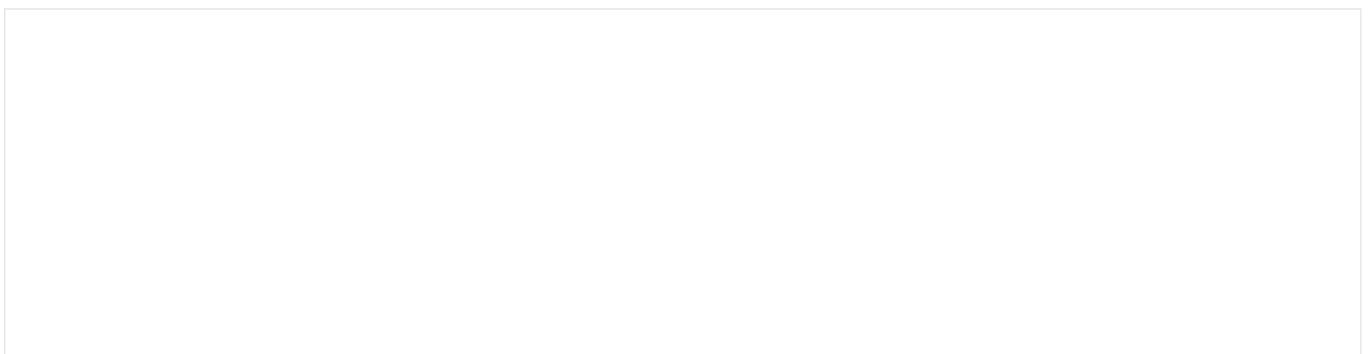
Roughhouse Brewing to celebrate first anniversary in San Marcos with Jan. 18 event

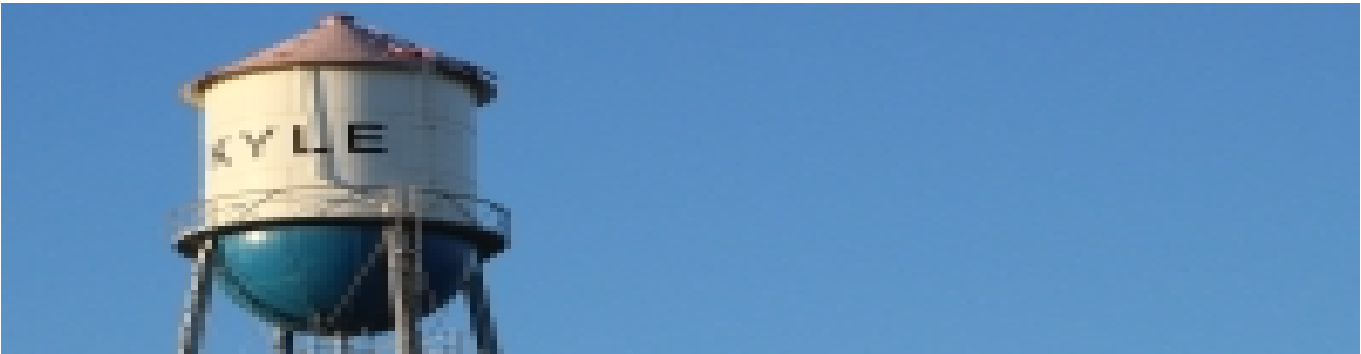
The family-operated brewery features beer, food, an outdoor stage and a playscape for children.



Vue Dental celebrates one year in Kyle

Vue Dental, a practice run by Dr. Keshavi Patel, celebrated its first anniversary Dec. 8 at 22510 I-35, Ste. ...





Q&A: Get to know Michael Tobias and Brandy Heindl, candidates for Kyle's Jan. 25 special City Council election

The election was called after Council Member Daphne Tenorio resigned.



Over the Moon Popcorn to hold January opening in San Marcos

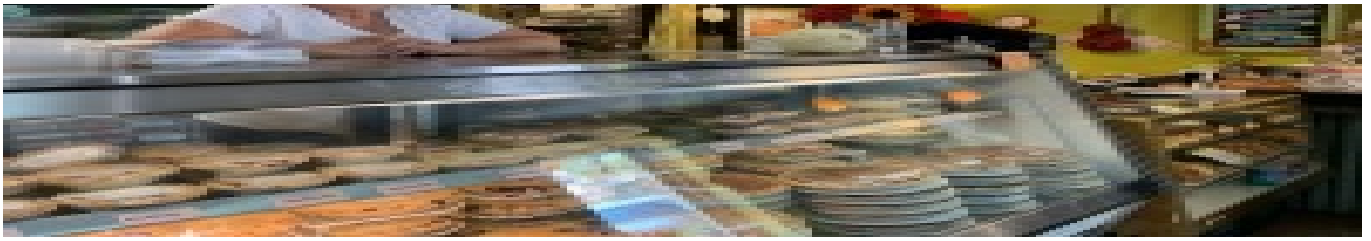
The shop will offer more than 50 flavors.



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW: 11 business profiles from San Marcos, Buda and Kyle

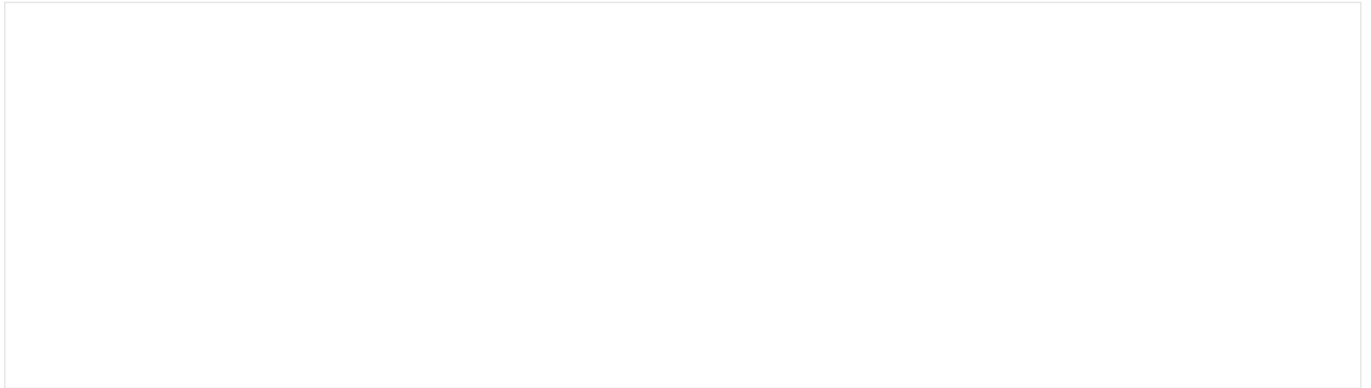
Read all the 2019 business features from Community Impact Newspaper.





2019 YEAR IN REVIEW: 11 restaurant profiles from San Marcos, Buda and Kyle

Here are some great places to grab a meal in San Marcos, Buda and Kyle.



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