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Beyond the ribbon

by Kellie Raymond

May 17, 2011 is a new "birthday" for me, as this date represents another year that I survived a breast cancer diagnosis. Before this date, I related pink ribbons to breast cancer. Now I see the ribbon as a symbol for awareness but there is so much more to breast cancer than awareness. Beyond the Ribbon is a network

of lifers, survivors and caretakers. There is also the Breast Cancer Resource Center (BCRC) that became a lifeline of support and information during this challenging time of my life.

I was 35 years old and a healthy marathon runner, mother of three and an educator. On May 17, my son's eleventh birthday, I was told I had invasive ductal carcinoma. I was diagnosed with a very aggressive type of breast cancer called Triple Negative. I am sure I can speak for anyone diagnosed, you never forget the feeling of pure disbelief and utter shock when you are told you have cancer.

After my diagnosis things moved quickly; I had several appointments and I needed to make decisions on my treatment, but before May 17, I didn't even know there was more than one type of breast cancer. I quickly learned that there were several different types and differences between survival prognosis and treatments for each. Luckily for me I was introduced to the BCRC and joined the Pink Ribbon Cowgirl Forum. This forum helped ease many of my fears

and answer many of my questions as I was able to communicate with other women sharing the same journey.

My course of treatment included a bilateral mastectomy, four rounds of chemotherapy, 37 radiation treatments, an oophorectomy (ovary removal) and several reconstructive surgeries. Due to my age of diagnosis and family history on my father's side, I went through genetic testing. It was discovered that I am BRCA-1, which is a chromosomal defect. In simpler words, my breast cancer is genetic. My father and my brother also have the gene. So when my children are 18, they too will be tested for the DNA mutation. They have a 50/50 probability of carrying the gene, however, knowledge is power.

With the support of the BCRC, the community of Dripping Springs, my incredible medical team (Dr. Coombs-Skiles, Dr. Piazza and Dr. Kasper), I am now six years cancer free! I now see Beyond the Ribbon. I continue to remain a part of the BCRC by volunteering for one of their largest fundraisers – Art Bra Austin.

Rocco C. Piazza, M.D is a Diplomate of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, as well as a national spokesperson for the ASPS. Piazza Center is located at 7900 FM 1826, Health Plaza II Suite 206, Austin TX 78737. Rocco can be reached at 512-288-8200.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- Every 2nd Sun. at 2pm, Children of the Confederacy, Magnolia Rangers Chapter #927. For more information call 512-858-1085.
- Every Mon. 12pm, DS Rotary Club meets at Flores, 2440 E Hwy 290 W. For more information visit *DrippingSpringsRotary.org*.
- Every Mon. 9am All Abilities Chair Exercise, Dripping Springs Community Library, 501 Sportsplex DR, 512-858-7825 or *DSCL*. *org* for info. No exercise on library holidays.
- Every 1st Mon. DS Ag Boosters meet in Ag Building behind DS Middle School at 7pm. Visit *DSAgBoosters.org* for updates.
- Every 1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30pm, Lions Club meets at Dripping Springs Ranch Park located at 1042 Ranch Road 12. Across from the DS Elementary School. For information call Sharon Goss at 512-923-8630 or email dslionsclub@gmail.com.
- Every 2nd Mon. G.O.D.S. Moms. Free Childcare. Contact Joanne Thomas at 512 \-894-0581 for more details.
- Every 2nd Mon. Dripping Springs 4-H Club meets at 6:30pm at the Ag Booster Building (located behind DS middle school).
- Every 3rd Mon. Eastern Star meets at Rambo Lodge at 7:30pm. Call Kathy Clark for more info, 512-858-7004.
- Every 3rd Mon. 7pm. Hill Country Centering Prayer Community meets at a local residence. Call Myra at 512-496-1531 or Sharon at 512-413-3248.
- Every 4th Mon. 7pm. Gen. Ben McCulloch 2435 Daughters of the Confederacy meets at Veteran's Hall, Dripping Springs. Call 512-858-7177.
- Every Tues. 6:30pm Toastmasters of Dripping Springs meet at Pioneer Bank, 100 Creek Rd. Visitors welcome. For more info visit DSToastmasters.com.
- Every Tues. 5:30pm Al Anon meeting is being held at the Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church, 26650 Ranch Road 12. It is a general discussion meeting. Childcare provided.
- Every 2nd Tues. Bluebonnet Auxiliary meets at 2pm at Hill Country Care Nursing and Rehab Center, 1505 W. 290. Call Janice Ruyle, 512-264-2538 for more information. Volunteers needed. The Bluebonnet Aux provides entertainment and special events for the residents of HCC.
- Every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tues. 7pm, DS Boy Scout Troop 101 meets at the DS United Methodist Church. Call Tim Short at 512-743-2537.
- Every 4th Tue. Artists Alliance of the Hill Country meet alternating between The Barn on 4000 Bell Springs Road in Dripping Springs and Artists studios. For more information visit *ArtistsAllianceHC.com*.
- Every Wed. Sat. Noon-3pm, Dr. Pound Pioneer Farmstead and Museum is open for tours. Call 512-858-2030.
- Every Wed. Farmer's market at the Triangle, 3-6pm. For more info contact *CityofDrippingSprings.com* or 512-858-4725.

- Every Wed. at 8:30am. The Hill Country Christian Business Networking Alliance meets at El Rey. For more info visit Hill Country Christian Business Networking Alliance (HCCBNA) on Facebook.
- Every Wed. 5-6pm. Christ Centered Prayer, meditation and class. McArthur Hall Meeting Room #1, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 6000 FM 3237. For more info call 512-847-9956
- Every 3rd Wed. Dripping Springs Cook-Off club meetings in the VFW hall in Dripping Springs. For more information call Michele Ryon 512-299-7455.
- Every 1st Thur. 7pm Vince F. Taylor American Legion Post 290 of Dripping Springs invites all eligible veterans to 101 Old Fitzhugh Rd. For information call 512-858-5637.
- Every 1st Thurs. 6-7:30pm, Nonfiction Addiction Book Club at the Dripping Springs Community Library, *DSCL.org*, 512-858-7825. Newcomers welcome. Email *AdultServices@dscl.org* for details.
- Every 1st Thur. Apr.-Dec. First Thursday Dripping Springs, merchants extend their hours until later in the evening and have a variety of specials which might include one-day sales, special activities, food, music and art. For more info visit FirstThursdayDrippingSprings.org.
- Every 3rd Thur. at 7pm, Thirsty Thursday is co-sponsored by the City of Dripping Springs and New Life Lutheran Church at City Hall, 511 W. Mercer St. Area poets, musicians, songwriters and storytellers share work. For details call 512-858-2024.
- Every 3rd Thur. 7pm, DS VFW Post 2933 invites all eligible veterans with foreign service to 101 Old Fitzhugh Rd. Call 858-5637.
- Every 4th Thur. 6pm, Photographers of Dripping Springs meets at the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 301 Hays Country Acres. Visit *Photographersofds.us* or on Facebook.
- Every 2nd Fri. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group meets at 9am at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit (301 Hays Country Acres at Hwy 290W). Childcare available. For information call 512 858-4924 or email *DrippingSpringsMOPS@gmail.com*.
- Every 1st Sat. On or after the full moon, 7:30pm, Rambo Masonic Lodge 426 meets. Dinner at 6:30pm. Call 512-858-7177.
- Fri. Apr. 20 9:15-10:15am. Coffee With a Counselor: Milena Christopher, J.D., Family Law Attorney and Virginia "Ginny" Renfroe, MA, LPC. Topic: Breaking Up Is Hard to Do...Well. At the Dripping Springs Community Library. Please RSVP: AdultServices@dscl.org.
- Sat. Apr 28-29. 2018 Wimberley Arts Fest. For more info see ad (pg.20).
- Thur. May 10, The Piazza Center hosts Cocktails & Curiosity. For more info see ad (pg.5).

CityOfDrippingSprings.com or 512-858-4725 • (Chamber) DrippingSpringsTx.org or 512-858-4740 (DSISD) Dripping-Springs.K12.tx.us • (DSISD Sports) Dripping-Springs.txed.net/AthleticNews (DS youth Sports) DSYSA.org • DrippingSpringsTx.com



... with a twist

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The Piazza Center's 5th Annual Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas (BCRC)

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M., hosted at Headwaters Central 2600 East Highway 290, Dripping Springs, Texas

Your \$40 ticket* and donation to the BCRC includes event registration, 2 complimentary cocktails, hors'd'oeuvres, and a chance to win over \$10,000 in prizes with raffle tickets to purchase.

* Ticket prices will increase after Thursday, April 26th.

bring a friend

new to The Piazza Center and you will receive additional tickets for our drawings!

Follow The Piazza Center on Facebook for exciting event updates.











Your attendance supports the BCRC of Texas, an organization that educates, supports, and empowers those affected by breast cancer to navigate through diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. Learn more about BCRC by visiting www.bcrc.org





I was standing in line to check out at a store and in front of me were a mom and her toddler son. Near the register, at kideye level (clever, clever marketing people), was a toy ball dispenser. Immediately he *had* to have a ball. The whining began. But Mom was firm. She said, "You don't need

a toy. What's that in your hand?" He looked down the length of his short arm to discover his pudgy fingers grasping a sticky green ball, the toy he had obviously brought into the store.

You could see the wheels were turning in his two-year-old mind. Sure, he had this green ball, the same one he had been stuck with for an eternity these past weeks. But right in front of him was a display of bright, far superior, *new* balls. His gaze traveled to the ball in his hand, then to the display and back to the worthless one. A solution hit him. He pivoted, spied me and then thrust the ball at me. Problem solved.

Humans learn the art of decision-making from an early age. As we get older, problems grow more complicated and we learn to be circumspect and cautious. Finding solutions can be nuanced and indecision more prevalent allowing doubt to eat at our confidence. Here are some ways to get unstuck.

- Focus immediately on the No-Lose Model. Affirm to yourself, "I can't lose regardless of the outcome of the decision I make. The world is a place for opportunity and I look forward to the opportunities for learning and growing that either pathway gives me." Push out thoughts of what you can lose and allow only thoughts of what can be gained.
- Do your homework. There is much to learn about the alternatives that lie before you. It is most helpful to talk to as many people as will listen. Don't be afraid to approach professionals relative to the decision to be made. It is important that you talk to the *right* people. They are those who support your learning and growing.
- Trust your impulses. Even after you've done your homework, talked to many people and come up with a logical choice, it is possible that your impulse is telling you to go with the other choice. Don't be afraid to trust it. Very often your subconscious mind sends knowing messages as to which choice is better at a particular time. As you start paying attention to your impulses, you will be surprised at the good advice you are giving yourself.

Leslie Tourish, LPC, is a Dripping Springs psychotherapist in private practice. To contact Leslie, please go to LeslieTourish.com or DSPsychotherapy.org.



Ingestible collagen: Is it right for you? Part 2

by Karen Laine, Para-Medical Aesthetician

The fact that collagen plays an important role in maintaining healthy, youthful skin, makes it no surprise that the popularity of collagen supplements have skyrocketed in recent years. With the movement toward a more holistic approach to beauty gaining momentum, it's likely that many will be receptive to

adding a collagen supplement to their daily intake of organic meats, fresh juices, fruits and leafy green vegetables.

While there are topical skincare products known to increase collagen production, like retinoids and peptides, their benefits are limited only to the areas of application. It's understandable why the prospect of rebuilding collagen from the inside out is so compelling. The question is *does it really work? How does it work?*

In China, the tradition of consuming certain foods to rejuvenate the complexion has been practiced for centuries. There, it's widely accepted those with extremely collagen-dense diets will also have beautiful skin. Conversely, in the U.S., many of our diets are virtually devoid of collagen.

In the past, our diet included foods that may have helped stem this decline, such as homemade broth or stock. When you boil a whole chicken or simmer beef bones, the jellylike substance that rises to the top is collagen. It's even been suggested that our current predilection for boneless, skinless chicken breasts could be part of the reason we need these supplements in the first place – we've ef-

fectively created a collagen deficiency in our diets.

Researchers theorize that it's the mincing of collagen into very particular, small chains of amino acids and peptides that holds the secret to youthful skin. When the fragments are the right size, they are absorbed into the bloodstream, the researchers assert, and trigger the production of collagen in the skin's matrix. This mincing is also why collagen-supplement researchers argue that all the bone broth in the world won't help – the enzymes the lab uses to get collagen to the target size aren't naturally present in the body. What's exciting is that we can directly influence the *dermis*, the deepest layer of the skin, by supplementation. It's stimulating our own body cells by a natural pathway.

Karen Laine is a para-medical aesthetician and makeup artist with 23 years experience. Contact her at 512-847-8052. Her office is located at 14500 Ranch Road 12, suite 20, in Wimberley.





What do we first think of these days when we think about staying connected? Did social media or some other technology come to mind? Certainly that is what the Silicon Valley billionaires want us to think. But most of us probably realize that too much time spent behind a screen leads

to a less deeply connected state with those of we care the most about. Even if we happen to know *the latest* from their posts and pictures.

One of the best ways to think about staying connected, in real life, with those you share time, space and place with is to pay attention to what John Gottman, in his decades of research on couples that rate as *masters* or *disasters* calls *bids*. A bid, in Gottman's lexicon, is paying attention to what someone said and then responding to it.

What surprised me about this concept when I first learned about it years ago was that there is no *non-response* to a bid. They rate somewhere on the scale from *enthusiastic* to *ignored* and every tick in between creates either a better or worse relationship compared to the moment before the bid.

Consider sharing an article you read. Or a book. Or a talk you had on the phone with your friend. Or what you did just before your husband or wife came in the room. The sharing itself, is a bid. It is a request for some kind of connection. We can jump up and down with eager excitement when someone shares or we can roll our eyes

in disgust (I would recommend closer to the former response) but we will live with the multiple of the result, which usually becomes a habit, for decades to come.

When people quit sharing with each other, they often say, "we don't have anything in common anymore." We each have an opportunity to keep the fires burning at home by creating connection, warmth and togetherness by simply responding to our partners bids with a *Really? Tell me more*, instead of a huff, a sigh and a walk away into the next room. Pay attention, it pays.

John Williamson, MA is a Pastoral Counselor who specializes in couples work in Dripping Springs and can be reached at DrippingSpringsTherapy.net

John Williamson, MA Specializing in Marriage/Couples

> 28465 Ranch Road 12, Dripping Springs • 512-730-1730

> johnw90100@gmail.com www.drippingspringstherapy.net

Canine influenza

by Frank Shuman, DVM



Canine influenza or *dog flu* is an emerging pathogen for dogs that is being closely monitored since its identification over 10 years ago. Since then it has been identified in many states including Texas.

Influenza viruses are able to quickly change and give rise to new strains that can infect different species. Both strains of canine influenza identified in the U.S.

can be traced to influenza strains known to infect species other than dogs.

Canine H3N8 influenza was first identified in Florida in 2004 in racing greyhounds. It is thought this strain developed from an equine H3N8 influenza strain that jumped from horses to dogs. Canine H3N2 influenza was first identified in the United States in March 2015 following an outbreak of respiratory illness in dogs in the Chicago area. Prior to this reports of canine H3N2 influenza virus were restricted to South Korea, China and Thailand and likely arose through the direct transfer of an avian influenza virus, possibly from among viruses circulating in live bird markets to dogs.

Influenza viruses are well known for their ability to *morph* into new forms of virus. These two strains of influenza don't appear to infect humans, unlike the now famous *swine flu* of *avian flu*. However, it is highly contagious to dogs, infecting and causing disease in at least 80% of dogs exposed. The disease causes death in about 1-5% of cases, often in animals that are debilitated in some way and develop severe forms of the disease.

The virus is transmitted via aerosolized respiratory secretions (coughs and sneezes) and by contact with objects and people contaminated with the virus. It is relatively easily killed by common disinfectants, though transmission of airborne viruses is difficult to control. It commonly occurs wherever groups of dogs are brought together such as boarding kennels, dog parks, dog shows, etc. Roughly 20% of infected dogs will show little or no symptoms while shedding virus. Of those that become symptomatic, 80% will have the mild form of the disease which mimics kennel cough with mild coughing that is unresponsive to antibiotics and cough suppressants that persists for 10-21 days. The disease may easily be mistaken for kennel cough in the mild form. More severely effected animals will develop nasal discharge with secondary bacterial infection and pneumonia.

Diagnosis can only be confirmed with serologic tests that confirm the presence of antibodies specific to the virus or throat swabs for PCR testing. There are vaccines that are available for both strains of influenza. As the virus becomes more widespread, as it is very likely to do, vaccination may become recommended as part of the core series. It would be used in our area and used similar to the way we use kennel cough vaccine. That is, the vaccine will be given before boarding and puppy classes or if they will frequent dog parks, dog shows, etc.

Frank Shuman IV is the Medical Director at Drippings Springs Animal Hospital, serving the area for over 30+ years. Located at 1520 E. HWY 290. He can be reached at 512-858-4787.

Let your feedback be known



by Mark Sewell, MBA

In today's day and age it is easy to leave anonymous feedback about your last experience at a business. Sites like Yelp, Google Places and others have made ranking a business and leaving feedback quick, easy and painless. It is difficult, however, to manage improvements from

the majority of reviews because they don't provide enough specific information to identify the person who can be retrained or the process that can be tweaked. Here are some points to consider before you post your next review online.

- Do you want the business to succeed? If so, call the business and ask to speak to the owner or manager. Give the person a chance to ask questions and get all of the details they need to follow-up on your concerns. While talking to someone is more uncomfortable than posting your comments online, you do have the opportunity to see just how sincere the person is about your satisfaction and about fixing the problem.
- Check your anger level. It is usually anger and/or frustration that lead us to comment about an experience. Sometimes that emotion spills out in the conversation. If you want businesses to hear what you are telling them, either in person or in writing, make sure they walk away thinking about their behaviors and not your's. Yelling, cursing, causing a seen or trashing a business can overshadow your real message. You may feel better but nothing improves.

- Let people know about improvements. If you do post online, but see an improvement over time, consider updating your original post or posting again about the improvements. Our anger tends to fade relatively quickly but an angry post lives forever and may not represent the current customer experience.
- Let businesses know what you like. If there are things about a business you really like, take a moment to let the business know. Businesses love to hear compliments but they also need to hear why people visit them regularly so they know how to continue to operate and retain valuable customers like you.

Mark Sewell is the founder and operating partner of Hill Country Ranch Pizzeria. He has taught food safety for Chili's Restaurants and Islands Fine Burgers & Drinks. 512-858-9697





Aging gracefully cheerfully? by Deborah Carter Mastelotto

Tuesday morning is always a favorite time for me - I'm happy to be back in my little salon again after an interesting weekend, with a cup of coffee in my hand and a new, interesting conversation to anticipate.

This morning the conversation turned to aging and a person's reaction and

relationship to it. My first client was a realtor, a people-intensive profession like mine. She confided some interesting observations to me. "I've noticed something about older people" she said. "They seem to be either lively older people or cranky old people. I haven't met many people in the middle." This prompted an energetic salon discussion, with everyone in the room weighing in.

"I watched both sets of grandparents age," said my blonde assistant. "When my paternal grandfather retired, we couldn't get him out of the house. He just sat on the couch watching TV and complaining about the world, and my grandmother. He seemed to get grayer and smaller, shrinking in on himself, not really living. Then he died. On the other hand, my maternal grandparents were exactly the opposite. They have more friends than I do. They're always going to dinner parties and on cruises, really living their life. They both still drive and they're in their eighties. And they always seem to be smiling."

Aha. Smiles. The big secret to aging well. Forget aging gracefully – we all fight aging a little (or a lot) and we don't necessarily do it with grace. What really gets us through this life is consistent and inexhaustible cheerfulness. We need to make smiling part of our daily spiritual practice. We need to stay cheerful in spite of the lines on our face and the pain in our joints. If you've ever had the honor of meeting real Tibetan monks, their consistent cheerfulness is a defining feature of their persona. Standing in their presence, you get the feeling they know something we don't.

Oscar Wilde once said, "Don't complain about getting older – it's a privilege denied to many." We're alive right now, this minute. That in itself is a joyous miracle. But also, there is a physics principle: The observer affects the experiment, always. In other words, your cheerfulness creates a life to be cheerful about. And conversely, crankiness creates things to be cranky about. This has nothing to do with what actually happens to us – it's more our attitude about what happens to us that determines our quality of life. And best of all, smiling is contagious.

Deborah Carter Mastelotto is a pathological entrepreneur, an obsessive remodeler, a minor student of quantum physics, an unapologetic observer of human nature and an undefatigable advice-giver. And she has a tiny salon called "Pink West" in a hundred-year-old farmhouse in Dripping Springs, Texas. Visit pinkchronicity.com.

Stressed out? We can help

by Radhia Gleis



Stress is our reaction to our external environment as well as our inner thoughts and feelings. Stress is our body's natural response to dangers, the *fight or flight* mechanism – the body's preparedness to do battle or flee from danger. Extreme cold or heat, psychological stress, sleep depriva-

tion, work overload, physical trauma, as well as toxic exposure all can trigger the stress response.

This response involves a complex biochemical/hormonal process. Hormones are chemical messengers that trigger our body's organs to respond, of which there are three stages... *Stage 1*: Alarm; where the body's normal fight-or-flight response to danger elevates cortisol. *Stage 2*: Resistance; where long after the initial fight-or-flight response has dissipated. This stage allows the body to continue buffering extended stress exposure. And finally *Stage 3*: Exhaustion; when long-term stress creates an imbalance in cortisol and DHEA production, which can result in mental and physical fatigue, nervous tension, irritability and poor memory exhaustion.

Everyone has stress in their lives but some of us have more than others and need our help. Our favorite supplement for overall daily stress is Adrene ViveTM by OrhtoMolecular. Adrene ViveTM provides a unique blend of *stress adapting botanicals* known as adaptogens which help increase the body's resistance to fatigue

while helping to maintain balanced cortisol and DHEA levels. AdreneViveTM also includes L-theanine, Phosphatidylserine, Ashwagandha, Rodiola and Eleutherococcus senticosus all of which play a role in stress relief.

Best of health!

Radhia Gleis is a certified Clinical Nutritionist/Holistic Practitioner and Wellness Director at Martin's Compounding & Wellness Pharmacies with three locations in the Austin area (Dripping Springs Pharmacy, Lamar Plaza Drug Store & Lake Hills Pharmacy.) Call her for private consultation at the Lake Hills Pharmacy, M-F, 1:30-6:30pm or Radhialgleis@gmail.com.



Dripping Springs Pharmacy 100 Commons Rd. Ste. 1 512-858-7935 M-F 8am-7pm | Sat. 9am-2pm MartinsWellness.com



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A remire

Plantar fasciitis: Who has heel pain?

by Dr. Jeremy Kethley, PT, DPT

Have you ever experienced nagging heel pain? Well, if so, you are not alone. It is estimated that approximately 10% of the population experiences it at some point in their lives. The most common cause of heel pain is *plantar fasciitis*. The *plantar fascia* is a very thick band of tissue that

runs from your heel bone (calcaneus) to your toes. Plantar fasciitis is caused by irritation of the plantar fascia which is the result of repetitive micro-trauma (small tears). The most common symptoms are pain and stiffness in the heel. The pain is usually worse first thing in the morning when you take your first few steps. It also often worsens after sitting or standing for prolonged periods of time, with climbing stairs and with exercise. Plantar fasciitis is typically more likely to occur if you have high arches or flat feet, excessive pronation (when the foot rolls inward), if you have tight calf muscles, with obesity, if you perform repetitive impact activities (like running/sports), if you perform an occupation that requires long periods of standing on hard surfaces or if you are wearing improper footwear.

So, what can you do to treat plantar fasciitis? As with most conditions, treatment is always faster and easier the quicker you begin. Once the condition becomes chronic, treatment is typically slower and more difficult. Also, left untreated, it could lead to symptoms in the knee, hip and back due to changes in the way

you walk. Treatment typically consists of a stretching program for the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles, Achilles tendon and plantar fascia, inserts or orthotics, ice, temporary rest from any repetitive, aggravating activity, proper footwear and NSAID's if necessary.

Physical therapy is a great tool in the treatment of plantar fasciitis. After a thorough evaluation, we can formulate a comprehensive plan of care and treatment routine that will address the not only symptoms but the causes as well. We will instruct individuals in a safe and effective stretching program, address pain and inflammation with modalities such as ice, kinesiotape, ultrasound, iontophoresis, phonophoresis, etc. and make recommendations for proper footwear and/or orthotics. If you are suffering with this condition and feel like you might need some expert advice and guidance on how to effectively treat it, ask your physician for a referral to physical therapy. Our team at KPT will be happy to help you get back on your feet!

Jeremy has been practicing and serving the Dripping Springs community for the past 17 years in Dripping Springs. Kethley Physical Therapy has two locations at both ends of Dripping Springs and they have eight physical therapists ready to help you or your athlete.

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Unfortunately, close to 42,000 Americans will be diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer this year. It will cause over 8,000 deaths, killing roughly one person per hour, 24 hours per day. Of those 42,000 newly diagnosed individuals, only slightly more than half will be alive in five years, (approximately 57%.)

This is a number which has not significantly improved in decades.

The death rate for oral cancer is higher than that of cancers

The death rate for oral cancer is higher than that of cancers which we hear about routinely such as cervical cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, laryngeal cancer, cancer of the testes and endocrine system cancers such as thyroid or skin cancer (malignant melanoma.) Historically the death rate associated with this cancer is particularly high not because it is hard to discover or diagnose, but due to the cancer being routinely discovered late in its development. Another obstacle to early discovery (and resulting better outcomes) is the advent of a virus, *HPV16*, contributing more to the incidence rate of oral cancers, particularly in the posterior part of the mouth (the oropharynx, the tonsils, the base of tongue areas) which many times does not produce visible lesions or discolorations that have historically been the early warning signs of the disease process.

Often oral cancer is only discovered when the cancer has metastasized to another location, most likely the lymph nodes of the

neck. Prognosis at this stage of discovery is significantly worse than when it is caught in a localized intraoral area. Oral cancer is particularly dangerous because in its early stages it may not be noticed by the patient, as it can frequently prosper without producing pain or symptoms they might readily recognize, and because it has a high risk of producing second, primary tumors. This means that patients who survive a first encounter with the disease, have up to a 20 times higher risk of developing a second cancer. This heightened risk factor can last for five to 10 years after the first occurrence.

So don't delay. Make an appointment with your dentist for an oral cancer check during the month of April and tell your loved ones to do the same. And don't forget to donate to help find a cure for cancer!

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Time to review your mortgage



"How is your 401K doing?" Asked that question, most will have an answer, *right*? That or another securities investment vehicle is often the anchor of our retirement plan. We know where we are because we want to know whether we will be working until 75 or if 65 will find us on a beach or golf course.

The truth is your home is likely the largest investment you will make in your life. As such, a periodic review of where you are and where you're going is financially prudent. Far too often homeowners accept their current monthly mortgage amount as *it is what it is*. Below are a few scenarios that should get your mind ticking. If one describes you, reach out to your trusted mortgage lender and explore it further.

Do you pay private mortgage insurance (PMI) as part of your monthly payment? If so, it is important to keep an eye on your loan balance versus the value of your home. When you have built up 20% equity in your property you can drop that insurance, saving hundreds of dollars each month. PMI is a scenario where you are paying for insurance to protect the lender. Get out of it if you can! If you have lived in Dripping Springs for a few years, I bet a nickel rising home values have you over that 20% threshold.

Likewise, if you have an FHA mortgage and purchased your home in the last five years, you will be paying mortgage insurance for the life of the loan regardless of your percentage equity. On the contrary and as mentioned above, mortgage insurance on a conventional loan can be dropped when your loan balance is less than 80% of your home's value. Even if today's available interest rate is higher than what you currently have, it is very likely that the money saved will far outweigh the higher rate. It screams refinance.

Other scenarios worth a look are... combining your first and second mortgages, dropping from a 30-year note to a 15-year note or cashing out your equity. I'll tackle those next month.

Trey Powers is a licensed mortgage loan officer with City Bank Mortgage, a Texas-owned lender. Trey lives, works and volunteers right here in DS. Call or email for help with anything related to your home loan. Contact 512-203-5869 & trey@treypowers.com. Visit TreyPowers.com.

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What should investors know about recent volatility?

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor



Reagan Smith

What was behind the recent market volatility? A 17-year low in unemployment and solid job growth have begun to push wages upward. These developments have led to fears of rising inflation, which, in turn, led to speculation that the Federal Reserve will tighten the money supply at a faster-than-expected rate. Stocks

reacted negatively to these expectations of higher interest rates.

Another cause of the market volatility appears to be simply a reaction to the long bull market. While rising stock prices lead many people to continue buying more shares, some people actually need to sell their stocks. This pent-up selling demand, combined with short-term profit-taking, helped contribute to the large sell-offs.

You may ask, as an investor, how concerned should I be? Consider these points: *Sell-offs are nothing unusual*. We've often experienced big sell-offs, but they've generally been followed with strong recoveries. History has shown that patient, persistent investors have often been rewarded.

Fundamentals are strong. While short-term market movements can be caused by a variety of factors, economic conditions and corporate earnings typically drive performance in the long-term. Right now, the U.S. economy is near full employment, consumer and business sentiment has risen strongly, manufacturing and service activity is at multi-year highs and GDP growth in 2018 appears to be on track for the best performance since 2015. Furthermore,

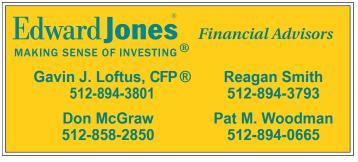
corporate earnings are expected to rise this year.

Review your situation. You may want to work with a financial professional to evaluate your portfolio to determine if it is helping you make the progress you need to achieve your long-term goals.

Reassess your risk tolerance. If you were unusually upset over the loss in value of your investments during the market pullback, you may need to review your risk tolerance to determine if it's still appropriate for your investment mix. If you feel you are taking on too much risk, you may need to rebalance your portfolio.

Look for opportunities. A market pullback such as the one we've experienced, which occurs during a period of economic expansion and rising corporate profits, can give long-term investors a chance to add new shares at attractive prices in an environment that may be conducive to a market rally.

Reagan Smith, Financial Advisor specializes in helping individual investors and business owners reach their financial goals. She can be reached at 512-894-3793.





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Time to think about your water supply?



by Randy Lawrence

With drought conditions and another Texas summer just a few months away, thoughts are turning to alternative water sources and more efficient treatment techniques. Even with forecasts predicting less than average rainfall, more homeowners are looking to the sky in hopes of prevent-

ing interruptions to their water supply. Rainwater collection systems are designed and built into many new homes. Although it can be tricky, it is usually possible to incorporate rain collection into an existing structure. When used in conjunction with treated groundwater, the stored rainwater can ease the burden on our aquifers.

One downside to rainwater collection systems, besides a potentially limited supply, is the cost of installation. Once the system is designed by a professional, you will need gutters, downspouts, collection lines, storage tanks, a booster pump and pressure tank, as well as proper filtration and disinfection equipment. For many homeowners, their budget requires them to consider other means of conserving water. Often, this includes replacing appliances and fixtures with more water-efficient models. One of the most commonly overlooked, and misunderstood, household appliances is the water softener. Without an understanding of how this equipment works, it can be difficult to know whether it is operating at maximum efficiency.

Recently, there has been a flurry of advertising aimed at those who have had a traditional salt-based water softener. Many of these products have existed for years, and are simply repackaged and heavily marketed. Unfortunately, the results produced by these *alternatives* typically fall far short of the claims made by their distributors. This often leaves homeowners with no choice but to scrap their investment and start from scratch. It is important to note that the only proven method of removing calcium and other hardness minerals is traditional ion exchange softening, and that recent technological advances have made softeners far more efficient and user-friendly than ever.

In order to maximize the efficiency of your water treatment system, it is important to ensure that your equipment is up to date, and that the settings accurately reflect your particular water conditions. An experienced technician can test your water quality, check the condition and performance of your system and make any adjustments or upgrades which may be necessary.

Randy Lawrence is the owner of ProQuality Water Systems, a full service water treatment company. He is one of only six Class III Certified Water Treatment Specialists in Hays County (LIC# WT0002693). With over 20 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over a decade.

Litigation: *Investigation – interesting and important*

by Roland Brown



Almost 43 years after being sworn in as a young lawyer, I still get a rush out of practicing law. Because the law touches virtually every aspect of life, a lawyer can become involved with and educated in a vast array of disciplines. As a trial lawyer, I have been privileged to gain and use knowledge in fields of research and investigative techniques, psychology, art, theater,

engineering, medicine, economics and accounting, creative writing and a host of other disciplines. Recently, the investigative aspect of my work has given rise to some exciting moments.

Investigating the facts starts the moment a lawyer begins talking with the potential client and, in some instances, may continue until even after the jury verdict! Let's consider a recent example of a fruitful investigation occurring in between those two points in the case. Beginning early in this particular case, I had tried to locate independent eyewitnesses who saw my client struck by the defendant's vehicle as she crossed at a marked crosswalk. Although I knew from the investigating officer's report that such witnesses existed, the officer had failed to obtain sufficient information to permit locating some of those witnesses. Then, while questioning the officer during his deposition, he identified a document generated by other persons that contained phone

numbers of folks who had called 911 from the scene. Although there were no names attached to the numbers, I was able to simply call the numbers hoping I'd find some of the eyewitnesses. The first person I talked to was not a witness but was able to put me in contact with someone who was a witness and that person in turn provided me information that led to yet another witness. The next call led to the *aha* moment – the moment when the rush came. On the other end of the line was the key witness whom I knew had to exist but about whom I knew only that there was a vehicle in a certain position whose driver had to have seen what happened. This was that person and this witness was entirely ready to testify for my client about what happened. Investigation can be extremely helpful for the client and at the same time *exciting* for the lawyer!

Roland Brown is a litigation attorney with forty-plus years experience handling civil litigation throughout Texas. For more information call 512-847-2500 or visit RolandsLaw.com.



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Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Focus on Business: Law Office of Rachel Crutchfield, PLLC

Rachel Crutchfield is a 19-year attorney who lives near Dripping Springs, Texas. Rachel, her husband, Barry, and three boys moved to the Hill Country in 2010. Like many recent transplants to the area, the amazing school district was the primary motivation for the Crutchfield's move.

Crutchfield's law practice is divided between representing plaintiffs in personal injury litigation and representing businesses in commercial dispute litigation. Her docket includes lawsuits arising out of car, truck and bike accidents, premises liability and slip and

falls, products liability including medical device and pharmaceutical litigation, Deceptive Trade Practice-Consumer Protection Act (DTPA) actions and business torts and fraud claims.

Rachel brings a unique perspective to her plaintiff clients, as her experience includes years on the other side of the docket as an insurance defense lawyer. As a solo practitioner, Rachel is able to devote hands-on, one-on-one attention to her clients that is often missing in the big-box law firms.



A Texas native, Rachel grew up in Beaumont, Texas and attended Baylor University for college. Rachel graduated from Texas Tech School of Law in 1999. Rachel and her family are active members of the Dripping Springs community. Rachel has served on the board of the Dripping Springs Education Foundation, was on the steering committee for the inaugural Leadership Dripping Springs Program and annually volunteers to help with the Dripping Springs High School Dating Violence Mock Trial and the Hays County Bar Association-Bench Bar program.

The Crutchfields are gearing up for their annual funnel cake eating extravaganza at the Founder's Day Festival this year.

The Law Office of Rachel Crutchfield, PLLC is located at 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701. Rachel also regularly meets her Hill Country clients at the Star Point Building near Dripping Springs. Rachel may be reached at 512-494-4008 or rachel@rachelcrutchfieldlaw.com.





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All good things



by Lindley Pond

Happy April and spring to you all. We have a lot to be thankful for this year. As the temps are warming, trees budding, grasses turning green, we are thankful for the freezes that graced our areas. We might have lost a few things, but a freeze is nature's way to keep our balances in check and ensure that fruit trees will fruit and bugs won't be near as prolific. Hard year for the cedar pol-

len if it gets you... so goes living in the Hill Country!

Let's be thankful that we have another glorious spring upon us with which to enjoy the fruits of our labor, be it veggies we grew in a green house or with lights or our trusty perennial goodies popping their heads out. We have the chance to see what worked and what didn't from our plan of last year. Landscaping and outdoor living is usually trial and error, hopefully more successes than failures. Moving into late spring, it's still a great time to come up with ideas that can be implemented now or with baby steps.

It's a wonderful time to install some of the bones that give us a pallet to work within. Hard scrapes can be planned out and installed, giving us a master plan to work with, coming up with ideas to take advantage of in the fall. That along with going easy on the pocketbook, make things seem a little less overwhelming. With our ever unpredictable weather, be it freezes, drought or heat, making the right choices can mean the difference between perfection and money flying out the window.

Enjoy the beautiful weather and take your time, all good things. If you need any help, we are here!

We're here to help fulfill your "outside dreams". Call us for a free consultation and design. Lindley Pond is owner of Lindley Pond Landscaping. Don't hesitate to call or email. We'd love to help you design the shady spot you deserve. We've been helping folks in Central Texas for over 15 years. Give us a call for design and installation of your new "lawn." Contact us at 512-775-1629.



Wonderful news at St. Stephen's Episcopal School

by Marsha Acock

I love to listen to the weekly TED Radio Hour on National Public Radio. I am often astounded by the amazing new innovations, creative approaches and new ways of thinking that each TED speaker brings to an always lively presentation. Every educator or administrator hopes that one day a former student will pen a quick note about having been

impacted by having crossed paths with them. Well... how about having a Harvard ME, education innovator and CEO dedicate her TED Talk to what a passionate, innovative and inspiring sixth grade teacher you were? Someone whose creative and innovative assignment taught not only about fractions but the value of hard work. Michelle Skinner was speaking about the recently-named new Head of School for St. Stephen's, Will Webber.

As I move towards my retirement at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, I am so pleased to welcome this dedicated educator with 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator. Will's many talents will serve him well as he takes the reins to lead St. Stephen's School over the next years. Will says that, "Education and the relationship between the teacher and the pupil build a long-term bond. I am a servant, dedicated to helping children learn the things they should learn while guiding them as they grow."

Ms. Skinner's talk confirms that these are not hollow words from Will, but that he is truly "the real deal" and St. Stephen's School looks forward to a bright future under his leadership. Search for Ms. Skinner's TED Talk on YouTube: *How we make innovation work in education: Michelle Skinner at TEDxHGSE*.

Marsha Acock is Head of School at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Wimberley. St. Stephen's is a fully accredited PreK3 through 6th Grade school with individualized instruction in a safe and loving, child-centered community. With small classes and student/teacher ratios, each child is known and loved. St. Stephen's mission is to empower each student to live authentically, think expansively and serve selflessly. Visit StSteveSchool.org.

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Your new home: Just the way you want it

by Homer Whisenant

Dripping Springs is really growing. Families are moving into new homes every day. We are working with clients on small, custom projects at the time of move-in to make their new home fit how their family lives. Taking the time and effort to do this makes the move less stressful and allows the new home to be

fully enjoyed right away.

Below is a set of small projects we are working on with one local family to tailor their new home so it suits them. These small changes will have a big impact.

Pets. The family has four dogs and their new home did not have an enclosed back yard so the dogs could roam and play. The first project we undertook was building a fenced area in the backyard so the dogs could romp to their hearts' content. The result complements the home and makes it more livable for humans and dogs – from the day of move-in.

Outdoor living space. Right away, the family knew they would need additional outdoor living space. We worked together to design a covered stone patio with a ceiling fan to provide the extra space they need. This project is being completed in the first few weeks following their move-in. Taking care of this right at the time of the move allows the family to get past the stress of moving and settle into enjoying their new home.

Well-house/workshop. Our clients needed to cover their well and create a usable storage space and workshop. We designed a custom outbuilding that complements their home, includes built-in shelving for easy storage and a work area for the husband. The storage space is helping them keep organized so they can use the garage for cars and not boxes that need to be unpacked.

You spend a lot of time in your home. Make the extra effort to get it just the way you want it.

Homer Whisenant is the owner of Homer Whisenant Construction, and has been serving Hill Country clients for over 30 years. Homer knows that when homes get better, lives get better and he enjoys helping clients make both of those happen. Please call us at 512-677-1282 for a design consultation and quote. We would like to help you on your next project.

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