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*Dripping Springs*

# OUTLOOK

Postal Patron

Volume 19 Issue 6 • Dripping Springs, Texas • September 2022





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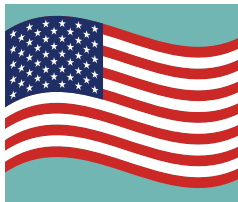


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# Dripping Springs OUTLOOK

Happy September!



I always loved this month as a child. Settling into the school year, the emergence of pumpkin-themed decor, the happy anticipation of cooler weather and with it the sweet beginnings of the holiday season. What's more, in Dripping Springs, we get to start it off with the Songwriters Festival! What a great way to ease into latter months.

When August hits, I always tease that it's time to start getting ready for Christmas. But doesn't it seem like the months really start flying the closer we get to autumn? In the blink of an eye, my son is a year older, we're taking down the tree, and another year has come and gone. I like to check in with myself before the whirlwind really gains momentum — consider my resolutions for the year and contemplate progress. That said, the now classic Ferris Bueller adage applies: *Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.* I am forever seeking that zen balance between savoring the moment and evolution.

You'll notice a few aesthetic changes this September issue. That aside the Outlook remains the same community-driven publication it has been for the past 20 years – dedicated to giving businesses big and small in Dripping Springs a voice and a platform for expounding on the amazing products and services they offer their community. Happy September.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyle".

Editor, Publisher  
Cyle Elizabeth Johnson

Ad Designer, Publisher  
Joey Johnson

Cover  
Songwriter, Clare Cunningham  
Photographer, Cathy P. Jones

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BUY LOCAL BUY DRIPPIN'



# Dripping Springs Outlook

## • Community Calendar of Events •

- Every **Mon.-Fri.** **Hill Country Senior Center** 1310 W. Hwy 290, offers a delicious lunch served at noon. Call in by 10:30 and order it to go, too. For more information or to see menu: [HCSeniorCenter.org](http://HCSeniorCenter.org)
- Every **Mon.** 12pm, **DS Rotary Club** meets at Flores, 2440 E Hwy 290 W. For more information visit [DrippingSpringsRotary.org](http://DrippingSpringsRotary.org).
- Every **Mon.** 9am **All Abilities Chair Exercise**, Dripping Springs Community Library, 501 Sportsplex DR, 512 858 7825 or [DSCL.org](http://DSCL.org)
- Every **Mon.** 6pm **Nar Anon Family Group** at Friendship Creekside Fellowship 14455 Fm 1826. For family and friends of drug addicts.
- Every 1st **Mon.** **DS Ag Boosters** meet in Ag Building behind DS Middle School at 7pm. Visit [DSAgBoosters.org](http://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](mailto:dslionsclub@gmail.com)
- 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 **Tues.** 6:30pm **Toastmasters of Dripping Springs**, Pioneer Bank, 100 Creek Rd. Visitors welcome. [DSToastmasters.com](http://DSToastmasters.com)
- Every **Tues.** 5:30pm **Al Anon**, Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church, 26650 Ranch Road 12. 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. Volunteers needed. Entertainment and special events for the residents of HCC.
- Every **Tuesday** at 7pm, **Boy Scout Troop 101** meets in the Foundry building of DS United Methodist Church. Contact Jen Medlock at [medlock.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:medlock.scouts@gmail.com)
- Every 4th **Tue.** **Artists Alliance of the Hill Country**, The Barn on 4000 Bell Springs Road or artists' studios. [ArtistsAllianceHC.com](http://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 Dr. Pound Farmstead, 3-6pm. For more info [CityofDrippingSprings.com](http://CityofDrippingSprings.com) or 512 858 4725.
- Every **Wed.** at 8:30am. **The Hill Country Christian Business Networking Alliance** meets at El Rey. Visit ([HCCBNA](http://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**, Acopon Brewery. For more information call Michele Ryon 512 299 7455.
- **Thur.** 7pm, **Celebrate Recovery**, people with hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Christ-centered recovery program. [ChurchoftheSprings.org/CR](http://ChurchoftheSprings.org/CR)
- Every 1st **Thur.** 7pm **Vince F. Taylor American Legion Post 290 of Dripping Springs** invites all eligible veterans to 231 Patriots Hall Blvd. For information call 512 858 5637.
- Every 1st **Thurs.** 6-7:30pm, **Nonfiction Addiction Book Club** at Dripping Springs Community Library, [DSCL.org](http://DSCL.org), 512 858 7825. Newcomers welcome. Email [AdultServices@dsc.org](mailto:AdultServices@dsc.org) for details.
- Every 3rd **Thur.** 7pm, **DS VFW Post 2933** invites all eligible veterans with foreign service to 231 Patriots Hall Blvd. Call 858 5637.
- Every 4th **Thur.** 6:30-8:30pm, **Photographers of Dripping Springs** Sententia Vera-Cultural Hub, [PhotographersofDS.us](http://PhotographersofDS.us) or on Facebook.
- Every 3rd **Thur.** **Live concerts, Susanna's Kitchen Coffeehouse** 7:30pm; \$20-25 adults, \$5 children. Food, coffee, and soft drinks. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (Wimberley United Methodist Church.) [WimberleyUMC.org](http://WimberleyUMC.org) Proceeds benefit Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. **Performing August 18: Adam and Chris Carroll**
- 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](mailto:DrippingSpringsMOPS@gmail.com)
- **Mon. September 5, Labor Day**
- **Sun. September 4 & Sun, September 11, 2-5:00pm, Live music at Parmesan Wines**
- **Sat. September 10, Summer Concert Series - Outside the City Limits at Vista Brewing, 6-9pm**
- **September 21, 3-6pm, Afternoon hours return to Farmers Market at Founders Memorial Park**
- **Wed. September 14, Ghost Jam Players at The Barber Shop, 7-9pm**
- **September 24-October 31, Dripping Springs Pumpkin Festival, rain or shine, open daily 10am-7pm, closed on Tuesdays, \$10 weekends, \$5 weekdays.**
- **Sun. September 25, Coffee With Cars Dripping Springs 8-11am, Moxie Gymnastics and Cheerleading**

*Have something to add to the Calendar of Events?*

Contact the Outlook at [info@DSOutlook.com](mailto:info@DSOutlook.com) or 512 375 5590.

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# Treat your body right. Support your immune system.

## What can High Dose Vitamin C do for you?

by Breca Tracy, PhD



Fall is just around the corner and allergies are on the rise. With fall comes all of the viruses, coughs, and colds – and all the things we cannot control. But, one thing we can control is how we treat our bodies. Are you giving your body the nutrients and vitamins it needs to be its best?

Let's not take our health for granted. Let's be proactive and treat ourselves and families to something great!

Have you heard of immune supporting intravenous (IV) therapies? We, at REGENERATE, are the biggest fans of IV therapies; including High-Dose Vitamin C. Vitamin C (or Ascorbic Acid) is an antioxidant that fights against oxidative stress. Fun fact, it also plays an important role in making collagen in our body. Vitamin C is essential to life itself! We can't live without it and our bodies can't produce it. Our bodies absorb a very small percentage of the vitamin C when consumed orally. However, when it's delivered via an IV therapy, vitamin C is much more *bioavailable* to your body (meaning more available for the body to absorb).

When are higher doses of vitamin C relevant? High dose vitamin C can be especially useful any time you are under greater than usual amounts of stress, feeling excessive fatigue, or when your immune system needs strengthening. Providing vitamins and nutrients intravenously (IV) is the most effective way of correct-

ing the essential vitamin and mineral intracellular deficits because they will be delivered directly to the bloodstream, bypassing any obstacles in our digestive system that would block direct absorption. Intravenous treatments are exceptionally powerful because they bypass issues with oral administration, including upset stomach, absorption issues, and potency loss. In addition, very large doses can be administered via IV without gastrointestinal side effects, which can limit dosing.

REGENERATE works with a PCAB certified compounding pharmacy and meets the highest standard for compounding pharmacies. They are diligent in providing the best quality and consistent medications for our patients. At REGENERATE, we are passionate about serving our local communities. We are doing this by providing quality products and services to help support the body's immunity. Let's be healthy together – what do you guys think? For more information, please contact us! We would love to further educate you on the therapies we offer here in Dripping Springs.

*We have a very unique team of experts. Come see us, call us, or email us! Dr. Breca Tracy currently serves as Director of Science & Operations at REGENERATE Dripping Springs. Breca has resided in Dripping since 2007 after obtaining her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Contact us at 512-368-4548, 800 Hwy 290 W, Building F, Suite 200. NaturalHealingTX.com.*

## Limitless

by Heidi Pousson



As a school teacher, I am constantly multitasking and thinking on my feet. Wait... I do that as a parent too. On those days when I'm feeling less than optimal, I tend to drink more coffee or energy drinks, which creates some unwanted side effects. These things are okay every now and then, but I don't like the way I feel when I rely on them too heavily.

Obviously, I'm not the only one in this boat. Everywhere you look there is something advertised to help with lack of focus, concentration, or energy. I was just talking to Hayley, owner of Haus of Jayne, about my lack of energy and concentration, especially during the school year and mentioned that my kids struggle with ADHD. She had me try a product by Highvibe Mushrooms called Limitless.

Don't freak out. *Mushrooms?* I know the negative stigma. Don't worry. These are not psychedelic mushrooms. This 10 medicinal mushroom blend has 29 health benefits including *focused energy, expanded clarity, heightened dopamine activation, and immune defense*. I feel like I know the benefits of dopamine to our bodies, but according to Wedmd, "Dopamine plays a role in how we feel pleasure. It's a big part of our unique human ability to think and plan. It helps us strive, focus, and find things interesting."

I could definitely use some help in that area, not only to be a better teacher, but to be a better parent, wife, or friend. So I tried it. It has a pretty strong taste. In fact, I had to mix it with some juice or even with applesauce, but I did feel great! I really want to continue taking this daily rather than just here and there to really get a sense of the impact. Stop by Haus of Jayne and tell them that you heard about this product in the *Dripping Springs Outlook* to get your discounted Highvibe Limitless Mushroom product!

*Wife, mother, friend, 8th-grade teacher, member of Haus of Jayne. Follow Haus of Jayne on social media: [hausofjayne\\_official](#) on Instagram and [Facebook.com/HausofJayne](#). Visit Haus of Jayne at 766 Old Fitzhugh Road, Dripping Springs, 78620. They can be reached at 512 648 7420.*



HAUS OF JAYNE

(512) 648-7420

[hello@hausofjayne.com](mailto:hello@hausofjayne.com)

766 Old Fitzhugh Rd, Dripping Springs, TX 78620





## Protect your smile: Wear a mouthguard!

by Ron S. White, DDS

With fall right around the corner, sports teams will resume and the stress of the school year will again begin. I recommend wearing a mouth guard for both adults and children to help protect the mouth from injury due to grinding during sports and/or at night.

Anyone who plays contact sports such as football, boxing, soccer, ice hockey, basketball, lacrosse, and field hockey should be wearing some type of mouthguard. However, even those participating in non-contact sports (for example, gymnastics) and any recreational activity (for example, skateboarding, mountain biking) that might pose a risk of injury to the mouth would benefit from wearing a protective mouth guard.

There are three types of mouth guards:

1. Stock mouth protectors are preformed and come ready to wear. They are inexpensive and can be bought at most sporting goods stores and department stores. However, little can be done to adjust their fit.

2. Boil and bite mouth protectors can be bought at many sporting goods stores and may offer a better fit than stock mouth protectors. The *boil and bite* mouth guard is made from thermoplastic material. It is placed in hot water to soften, placed in the mouth, and shaped around the teeth using finger and tongue pressure.

3. Custom-fitted mouth protectors are individually designed and made in a dental office or a professional laboratory based on your

dentist's instructions. First, your dentist will make an impression of your teeth and a mouth guard is then molded over the model using a special material. Due to the use of the special material and because of the extra time and work involved, this custom-made mouth guard is more expensive than the other types, but it provides the most comfort and best fit and protection.

Accidents happen during any physical activity. Wearing a mouth guard not only prevents chipped or broken teeth, nerve damage, and even tooth loss but ultimately it will save you money from emergency dental treatment!

*Dr. Ron White is located at 4189 E. Hwy 290. He has served Dripping Springs Smiles for over 20 years. He and his team strive to provide comfortable, compassionate care in a calm and luxurious office. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 512 858 LOVE Your Smile (5683).*

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## Welcome Dr. Sunjae Jung



Dr. Sunjae Jung completed her undergraduate at University of the Pacific with a bachelor's degree in biology and continued into dental school at the Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco.

Dr Jung grew up watching her mother work as a dentist and followed in her footsteps. She is committed to providing exceptional dental care in a gentle manner.

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## What on Earth is a sound bath?

by Cassandra Usener



As ever-increasing stress builds up in our busy lives, people are looking more and more for alternative ways to help with stress and anxiety. I'm sure many of you have already heard the terms *sound bath* or *sound therapy*, but what does it mean?

Sound therapy is a technique in which calming musical instruments, such as gongs and flutes, are used to induce a deep state of meditation. Most often singing bowls are used. They are usually either Tibetan or a quartz crystal.

Each bowl resonates at a different frequency designed to help put your brain into *delta* mode – the mode your brainwaves go into naturally when you are sleeping. It's the same wavelength your brain is at when in deep meditation. This is where we heal and regenerate. The term *bath* is used because participants are bathing in the sound as well as the vibrations the sound waves put off.

These vibrations are incredibly calming as well, with the goal being to help stimulate your body into restoration as well as clearing out any negative emotions or energies that serve you no purpose. While sound therapy seems relatively new in the western world, the practice of sound therapy has been used for over a millennia. Sound healing has been used for over a millennia. Greek philosopher Aristotle was a fan, believing it could “achieve optimal mental and physical well-being.” Aborigines used the didgeridoo, believing the sound would help to heal anything from depression to even a broken bone. *Wild!* Human beings have always

been fascinated and intrigued with the sound of music and its healing, meditative properties.

What do you need for a sound bath? Wear comfortable clothing and use pillows and blankets to get you into the most relaxing reclined position. Most sound baths are 45 minutes to an hour long.

We invite you to join us virtually or in person at our studio located on the stunning grounds of the Austin Venue, next to RR12 and Hamilton Intersection. Please check our website for schedules and upcoming events [Cloud9WellnessATX.Com](http://Cloud9WellnessATX.Com).

*Cassandra Usener went to Texas State McCoy Business College with a diploma in Sound Therapy from the Centre of Excellence. She and childhood friend, Jessica Dixon, own Cloud 9 Wellness at 18619 Hamilton Pool Road. Jessica & Cassandra are born and raised locals who dreamt of a safe space, open to all, where we can broaden our mental, physical, & spiritual well-being. Cloud 9 Wellness offers yoga classes, sound baths, full moon experiences, cacao ceremonies and much more. See you on Cloud 9!*

18619 Hamilton Pool Rd  
Austin, TX 78738

[www.cloud9wellnessatx.com](http://www.cloud9wellnessatx.com)

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## Is lymphatic massage therapy helpful in surgical recovery?

by Rocco C. Piazza, M.D



Lymphatic massage can be performed prior to and after your surgical procedure. Pre-treatment helps to make sure that your lymphatic system is working well at the surgical site even prior to surgery. This can often reduce the severity of postoperative swelling.

Having a lymphatic massage after surgery helps to re-open lymphatic channels at the surgical site and can reduce post-surgical pain. In addition, at The Piazza Center in Austin, we have noticed that by decreasing the swelling at the surgical site, patients feel like they gain flexibility and have improved mobility as they recover from surgery.

*Does lymphatic massage hurt?* There may be mild discomfort with the treatment, but most patients report that they feel significant relief of pain and tightness in the surgical area after a massage.

*What does lymphatic massage feel like?* It feels like light pressure with the fingertips to re-open lymphatic channels and to move the fluid (swelling) back into these re-opened channels. It is a gentle experience and very different from traditional Swedish or sports-style massage therapy.

*When do you recommend starting lymphatic massage?* For patients who have had liposuction or body contouring procedures in the past and are having revision surgery in that area, we recommend starting lymphatic massage therapy several weeks prior to surgery. This helps to make sure that the lymphatic system is working properly.

Oftentimes, scar tissue can cause prolonged post-surgical swelling in the treatment area from previous scar tissue formation in the tissue. Also, for tummy tuck and liposuction patients, we recommend starting lymphatic massage 7-14 days after surgery. This significantly decreases post-surgical swelling and speeds up the recovery process.

*How frequently should I have a lymphatic massage?* This depends largely on your responsiveness to the therapy. We recommend that you follow the guidance of your therapist with regard to the treatment frequency.

*Are there any supplements that I can take to decrease post-surgical swelling?* Yes! We recommend Arnica and Bromelain.

*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. Call 512 288 8200 and visit the website [ThePiazzaCenter.com](http://ThePiazzaCenter.com).*



It's all about the song

by Pam Owens

Located in Historic Downtown Dripping Springs each October, the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival is an up close and personal chance for music lovers to experience the art of song. Fifty talented songwriters from across the U.S. and Europe perform in an in-the-round *Nashville style* song swap format on eight "listening room" stages. Stroll down Mercer Street and Old Fitzhugh Road on October 14-16 and get to know some very talented performers who have a deep passion for songwriting. This year the Saturday night Headliner Concert returns at Mercer Dancehall featuring David Lee, Leslie Satcher, and Aaron Barker – major songwriters who've been recorded by some of the biggest names in music. Saturday night concert tickets are being sold on the website.

Hear music *free* Friday – Saturday at stage venues including Mazama Coffee Co., The Barber Shop, Acopon Brewing, Hudson's on Mercer Street, the courtyard at the Warehouse District; all on Mercer Street. Sidecar Tasting Room, Dog 'N' Bone, and Haus of Jayne stage venues are on Old Fitzhugh Road. Six stages



are in the open air outdoors while two are inside. All stages are within a safe, easy walking distance or a golf car ride of each other. Parking is plentiful and food and drinks are available at each venue as well as food trucks. Sunday morning starts with a Gospel Brunch Showcase at Hudson's on Mercer Street at 10am, sponsored by Cunningham Orthodontics and followed by the beloved Festival Wrap-Party on Mercer Street at 2pm.

Stage sponsors include Estes Audiology, 6 String Ranch, Pilot Moon Films, Destination Dripping Springs, Sun Radio, Bucker Ranch, Community Impact, and Ghost Note Brewing. Performances will run continuously on Friday and Saturday from afternoon to evening. Admission to the festival is free due to our generous sponsors. Since being founded in 2014, the

Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival has been one of the most successful events in Central Texas. Visitors and locals alike join to hear great music and meet the amazing musicians in a listening room atmosphere. Don't miss a single note of the 8th Annual Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival... it's all about the song!

Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Focus on Business: *Local Nonprofit Service Dogs, Inc. has paws on the ground in Uvalde*

"We help Texas communities in trouble," says Pam Traylor, retired Victims Services Coordinator for the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Pam drove six hours to Uvalde from Conroe with SDI Courthouse Facility Dog Sumi at the request of the Bluebonnet Children's Assessment Center (CAC).

"They heard about us from the FBI and the Texas CAC," says Pam. For 8 hours a day, families of victims of the May 24 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School spend time with Pam and Sumi as they work through the grieving process.

"Sumi keys in on people in extreme need," explains Pam. "When they walk in, they are pretty distant. The children don't want to let go of their parents' hands or even play with any of the toys. Then they see Sumi and they light up. They get down on the floor with her and start petting her. One little girl whose mother said she was afraid of dogs spent an hour cuddling with Sumi. Her



mother was astounded."

Pam and Sumi were trained by local nonprofit Service Dogs, Inc. (SDI) founded by former attorney Sheri Soltes.

"We mainly train Hearing and Service Dogs to assist people living with disabilities," she explains. "Then professionals who work with abused children and first responders asked us for help. I created training programs tailored for them."

SDI provides its dogs free of charge. Their biggest fund-

raiser is the Mighty Texas Dog Walk, winner of 10 Guinness World Records since 1999.

"It's the Doggiest Day in Texas," laughs Sheri. "Thousands of dogs plus dozens of dog food companies, veterinarians, and trainers with freebies for the walkers." The dog walk is Sunday, November 13 at Camp Mabry.

Learn more about Service Dogs, Inc. and register for the Mighty Texas Dog Walk at [ServiceDogs.org](http://ServiceDogs.org).



JOIN US IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DRIPPING SPRINGS

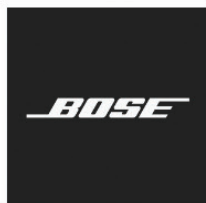


# DRIPPING SPRINGS SONGWriters FESTIVAL

## October 14-16, 2022

Find out more information  
[DrippingSpringsSongwritersFestival.com](http://DrippingSpringsSongwritersFestival.com)

- 50 Songwriters
- 8 Stages
- 70 + Showcases
- 3 Days of Music
- Free to Attend





# Practicing random acts of kindness

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



Man, it had been a Monday all day long. Finally, a break in the action and I slipped out of the office for the local convenience store to get a soft drink. The August sun blasted rays bathed in humidity, and then radiated the heat back up from the baking asphalt. Entering the store, I felt waves of icy air conditioning beat back the sauna called summer, as I headed

toward the coolers. Grabbing a soda, I turned and noticed for the first time the line in front of the cash register sans the store clerk.

Ten more paces brought me nearer to the counter before I saw the cause of the delay, a random act of kindness. A man, twisted and bent from either a medical condition or accident, sat rigidly folded in his wheelchair at the front of the line. Kneeling at the handicapped man's feet, the store clerk was slowly and patiently tying the man's shoes. The clerk made direct eye contact with the man, smiling and talking with him while tying first the dingy, white left shoe, and then the mismatched right shoe, scuffed-up black and held together with tape. Almost all of the customers in line were holding cool drinks, yet none made a single impatient gesture. We simply waited in respectful silence until the clerk gave the man's shoe one last friendly pat before standing up and going behind the counter to begin ringing up purchases. Mother Teresa once said, "We cannot do great things on this earth. We can only do small things with great love." When I witnessed that clerk help

the man tie his shoes, it transcended the moment from mundane to profound. Sometimes the simplest acts of kindness create the most powerful auras of grace. Helping others has long been known to also help the one extending the love. I've seen clients who are so profoundly depressed that the promise of a new day fills them with fresh dread. Sometimes though, there's an inward shift when they begin to focus less on themselves and instead relieve the pain of others. The very act of creating human contact and extending compassion may heal the heart better than pharmaceuticals.

Psychologist Richard Carlson writes about the healing power of kindness, "There is no prescription for how to practice random kindness. It comes from the heart. The point is, giving is fun and it doesn't have to be expensive. Perhaps the greatest reason to practice random kindness is that it brings great contentment into your life. Each act of kindness rewards you with positive feelings and reminds you of the important aspects of life – service, kindness, and love."

Random acts of kindness may involve visiting an elderly person weekly at a nursing home, taking a lonely child to a concert or a movie, or volunteering at an animal shelter. Perhaps giving to others may be the universal balm that continues through the generations, as observed hundreds of years ago by philosopher, Lao-tzu. He wrote, "Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." Leslie Tourish, LPC, is a Dripping Springs psychotherapist in private practice. To contact Leslie, visit [LeslieTourish.com](http://LeslieTourish.com) or [LATourish.com](http://LATourish.com)

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## First aid tips for pet owners

by Ben Fox, DVM



Helping provide your pet with a long, healthy life is our goal at Fox Veterinary Services. Yet, if you find yourself in a pet medical emergency and can't get immediate help, knowing a few basics may make the difference between a scare and a tragedy. Here are a few tips for common emergencies and *first step*

actions to take until you can get in touch with your veterinarian.

**Heatstroke...** In Texas heatstroke is a common pet emergency. If you cannot get your pet to a veterinarian immediately, move it to a shaded area. Mist your pet with cool or room temperature water and place them in front of a fan. Do *not* use ice packs or ice baths. Ideally, take your pet's temperature rectally every three to four minutes. Once their temperature gets down to 103 degrees Fahrenheit, stop the active cooling (i.e. misting and fanning). Get your pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

**Choking...** If you think your pet is choking on an object and you can't see it, you can try the Heimlich Maneuver for cats and dogs. Hold your pet's back against your stomach head up with paws down. With one hand find the soft hollow under the ribs. With your closed fist, use the hand on your pet's stomach to pull up and in two or three times toward your own stomach in a sharp thrusting motion. Fortunately, true choking is rare. Many owners will seek vet care because they think their pet is choking and has something stuck in its throat, when in reality it is much more likely the pet has something mild and infectious such as kennel cough.

**Poisoning...** Some common household items can poison your pet if ingested. If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic substance, call your veterinarian immediately. Collect any material your pet may have ingested and place it in a plastic bag to take with you. Take photos of the suspected product container. If you can't reach your veterinarian or it is after hours, call the Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline. Common items poisonous to dogs include chocolate, grapes/raisins, xylitol (artificial sweetener), sago palm, and NSAIDs like Ibuprofen. Common cat poisons include certain species of lilies, NSAIDs, and Tylenol.

The idea of experiencing a pet-related emergency is scary, but being prepared with a little knowledge and a few skills could save your pet's life. No matter what happens, follow up with your vet.

To schedule an appointment or home visit please call 512 230 1720 or email Dr. Fox at [BenFoxDVM@gmail.com](mailto:BenFoxDVM@gmail.com). You can also visit our website at [FoxVeterinaryServices.com](http://FoxVeterinaryServices.com).



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## Avoid these common unwanted behaviors by Diana Ozimek



Are you waiting for your puppy to grow out of some of their unwanted behaviors? Let's discuss three common areas that become a nuisance as your puppy grows – jumping on people, chewing on items around the house, and struggling in the crate.

Set yourself up for success; harness, leash, and treat pouch are your best communication tools while raising your puppy.

**Polite greetings.** Everyone wants to pet your puppy but you don't want them jumping. Always have your treat pouch with you and be ready to ask for your puppy's attention or a sit before being pet. If they jump on the person instruct the person to stop petting the puppy until they have their paws on the ground then they can pet them again. If this is done consistently, your puppy will get the idea on how to earn the attention.

**Chewing inappropriate items.** The easiest thing to do is put things away. If there are items that have to be out, you will need to keep an eye on your puppy. If they start to chew on something, move them away from the item and redirect them to something appropriate. If you don't have time to watch them, make sure they are in their crate or playpen. One of the biggest reasons puppies pick up bad habits is due to lack of supervision.

**Whining or barking from their crate or pen area.** It's very im-

portant that dogs learn to use a crate. Even if you don't feel you need it at home, it's a life skill. You never know what may come up in life when they need to be crated, vet visit, travel, new home... Feed puppies all of their meals in these areas. You can also save high value items like a bully stick or stuffed Kong for crate time only. Place the crate in a quiet area where they can't see you and leave them alone. It's very important for puppies to learn to self soothe and be alone for a while. Unless your puppy is at risk of hurting itself in the crate wait until they are quiet and more relaxed to let them out.

*Diana Ozimek is the owner and lead trainer at Good Dog in the Making. She is excited to bring her puppy training expertise to her new community and help families raise a confident, well-mannered dog. [GoodDogintheMaking.com](http://GoodDogintheMaking.com), 773 899 1960.*



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# The magic of roots

by George Altgelt



In our last article, we discussed the function of mulch. The mulch keeps the soil cool. That in turn preserves the moisture and the nutrient nitrogen.

So what are the roots doing in all of this? We know that the roots provide stability by anchoring the plant in the soil so that the plant does not fall over. Somehow we know that the roots take up water and the raw materials for growth. That produces tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, onions, etc. for us,

the human caretakers. So we ask ourselves what is a more complete list of what roots are doing? What is their magic?

Plants offer a hospitable environment for the microbes because they facilitate the uptake of nutrients. Many microbes are even fed secretions of sugar from the roots. Many different species of microbes offer many different functions for the plant.

The roots of the plant also shape and change the chemical environment of the soil around the roots. The most interesting function of roots is an exhalation of carbon dioxide around the roots to change the pH of the soil so that the soil becomes acidic enough for the uptake of trace minerals. Small plants do not excrete or exhale very much carbon dioxide in the beginning of their life cycle. In an alkaline soil small plants develop slowly. Their uptake of trace minerals is minuscule.

A well-formulated garden soil will have a pH of 6.5. With that

acidic pH your garden plants can immediately take up trace minerals and *build frame* – that is, it can build roots, stems, and leaves and ultimately, tomatoes and peppers and cucumbers.

Remember, the soil must be moist. Plants can exhale carbon dioxide. However, unless the carbon dioxide can dissolve into the wetness around the roots, it will not become carbonic acid. Carbonic acid changes the pH around the roots.

Yes, there is a lot going on below ground. As gardeners, we provide all that we can to allow this magic. The relationship between plants and people is as much a symbiosis as the relationship between the roots and the microbes they shelter.

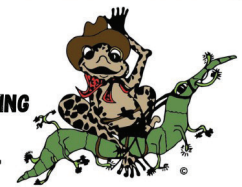
*George Altgelt is the owner of Geo Growers, located on 290 and Bells Springs Road. Geo Growers has been in business since 1995 and sells bulk material as well as bagged gardening products and plants. George believes we need to be producing more of our own food, and each one of us can contribute. His goal is to make that as easy and effective as possible.*



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# Getting soft water doesn't have to be hard

by Randy Lawrence



Considering all of the different water-related products currently being advertised, deciding which technology is right for your water can be confusing for homeowners. Most are aware that a water softener is necessary, yet many will admit that these systems are a mystery.

A softener is considered *point of entry* treatment, meaning that all of the water

entering your home is treated as it flows through the unit. Water softeners are a proven method of eliminating scale and salt-based ion exchange and the only technology that physically removes the calcium from your water. Salt-free alternatives leave hardness minerals in your water – continuing to cause scaling and corrosion. Many current marketing campaigns for alternatives make unsubstantiated claims regarding the efficacy of these products and seek to capitalize on myths surrounding salt-based softening by using outdated facts or overstating figures. Many of these technologies are not new, but simply being re-introduced with catchy new names. Advances in the water treatment industry have resulted in softening systems far more salt-efficient and user-friendly.

Water softener pricing and quality can vary greatly. There are units available from \$500 all the way up to \$5,000. The lower priced units do not include installation, which can significantly change the final cost. Then there's the question of who will make

repairs when they become necessary. On the other end, the highest priced units are often so proprietary that parts and service come at a premium. The goal is to find a reliable treatment system that can last for many years without paying too much.

Unless you are a serious do-it-yourselfer, it's probably in your best interest to purchase a unit from a licensed independent dealer who can properly size and install the best unit for your home and remain available after installation to make any necessary adjustments to the equipment. A simple water analysis and a few simple questions will determine the proper softener for your home.

*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.*

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# Predatory iBuyer’s day of reckoning

by Steve Mallett

Wall Street recently decided that they wanted in on real estate commissions paid to agents. Like a 4-year-old left alone with a candy jar, they can’t stop gorging themselves on new ideas designed to destroy established business models.

One of the ways they came after commissions was with the introduction of iBuyer programs. These simple programs offered a quick, no frill sale, for less than market value but with none of the complexities of a traditional sale. That in itself is a decent business model, but Wall Street having a never satiated thirst for increased profits, thought they could dupe enough people to change how homes are sold. iBuyers started to bash agents and lie that you would get more money if you sold directly to them. Many people fell for this during the hottest part of the Covid market. Why have Typhoid Mary touching your home with her Covid covered hands when you could quickly sell it for more to an eager iBuyer? Then the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) discovered that iBuyers paid 17% less for a home compared to a sale through the traditional model. *Oops.*

The FTC has rules against praying on unsuspecting people by making claims with no basis in fact. They came down hard on the biggest iBuyer in the country to the tune of a \$62 million dollar settlement. Wall Street can trip itself up on its bags of money once

in awhile.

A recent study by Bright MLS (Bright MLS is the second largest MLS in the country with over 18% of the total listings for sale in the country) showed that on average *off market* sales – meaning iBuyer sales – sold for 17% less than comparable homes sold with an agent. The study looked at 442,829 comparable home sales spanning the Bright region, over a two year span.

Two lessons come to mind about the current situation in the real estate market. The first is that if something sounds too good to be true it usually isn’t true. Why do we have to keep learning this lesson over and over? The second lesson is that no matter how many new ideas and models come out of Wall Street, the best way for you to get every penny you should from the sale of your home is to hire a good local agent. Technology companies have a tendency to want to introduce complex computer programs into a situation where the best way is still the traditional way. In this case, hiring a realtor is *still* the best way to sell your home and get the most money for it.

*Steve Mallett has been selling real estate in Dripping Springs and Austin since 2003. His team can help with all of your real estate needs. Residential, commercial, farm and ranch. Co-Host of the Mallett and Michelle on Dripping Springs Podcast. Call 512 829 2062 or 512 627 7018.*



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## Litigation: *Is indemnity your enemy?*

by Roland Brown




We all sign contracts – credit card apps, loan agreements, website disclosures. These sometimes contain provisions that I and my clients encounter in settlements of personal injury or wrongful death cases. These may provide that my clients, or you, agree to protect the company or person you are contracting with from any claims that might be made

against them as a result of the transaction or incident involved. That agreement to protect is called *indemnity*. Should signing such an agreement concern you? Perhaps.

You may have assigned some interest in your claim or your property to someone who is not a party to the contract, for instance your home mortgage lender. If your home is damaged and your insurance company pays you for that damage, your insurance company may ask you to sign a release containing indemnity language, or that indemnity language may already be in your insurance policy. You are then agreeing to indemnify your insurance company if someone tries to collect money from them as a result of the storm damage. Your mortgage documents likely contain a provision that the lender can claim any insurance proceeds payable due to damage to the home which they have a lien on. If your insurance company doesn't make the insurance settlement check payable to both you and your lender or doesn't obtain a release from the lender permitting payment directly to you, the lender might discover


the settlement and demand that the insurance company pay the amount of the settlement to them to be applied on the mortgage, even though you've already gotten the money. That's when your insurance company can point to the indemnity provision in your release or your policy and demand you pay them back the money which should have gone to the lender in the first place. This is not unfair, but you need to be aware of these indemnity provisions. For reasons explained in an expanded version of this article found on my blog at [Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.law](http://Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.law), before I allow a client to sign a release containing indemnity language, I add, "provided that indemnitee gives notice to the indemnitor upon receipt of any claim asserted against such indemnitee and cooperates with indemnitor in the resolution, denial, and/or defense against such claim."

*Attorney Roland Brown handles exclusively personal injury claims. Roland, who offices in Wimberley, has been voted HAYS COUNTY'S BEST PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY for 2020 and for 2021 in annual polls of Hays County attorneys. For more information call 512 847 2500.*



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## When should you adjust your investment mix?

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



Gavin J. Loftus

There are no shortcuts to investment success – establish a long-term strategy and stick with it. Create an investment mix based on your goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon – then regularly review it to ensure it's still meeting your needs. But investing for the long term doesn't necessarily mean you should lock your investments in forever. Throughout life, you'll likely need changes.

Everyone's situation is different – there's no prescribed formula of when and how you should adjust your investments. But some possibilities may be worth considering. For example, a few years before you retire, reevaluate your risk exposure and consider moving part of your portfolio into a more conservative position. When you were decades away from retiring, you may have felt more comfortable with a more aggressive positioning because you had time to bounce back from any market downturns. But as you near retirement, it may make sense to lower your risk level. You also may want to evaluate the cash positions in your portfolio. When the market has gone through a decline, as has been the case in 2022, you may not want to tap into your portfolio to meet short-term and emergency needs, so having

sufficient cash on hand is important. Keep in mind, too much cash on the sidelines may affect your ability to reach long-term goals.

Even if you decide to adopt a more conservative investment position before you retire, though, you may still benefit from some growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to keep ahead of – or at least keep pace with – inflation. Even when it's relatively mild, it can still significantly erode purchasing power over time.

Changes in your own goals or circumstances may also lead you to modify your investment mix. Retiring earlier or later than originally planned, changing your plans for the type of retirement you want, choosing to work part time for a few years, or having another child to save and invest for can lead you to review your portfolio for new opportunities or to adjust your risk level.

Should you consider changing your investment mix in response to external forces – higher interest rates or a rise in inflation? These types of events can affect parts of your portfolio, but it may not be advisable to react by shuffling your investment mix. Nobody can really predict how long these forces will keep their momentum – inflation may subside noticeably within a year. Make investment moves based on the factors we've already discussed: your goals, risk tolerance, time horizon, and individual circumstances.

*Gavin J. Loftus, CFP, AAMS, Financial Advisor specializes in helping individual investors and business owners reach their financial goals. He can be reached at 512 894 3801.*





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