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ECRWS

Dripping Springs
OUTLOOK

Postal Patron

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Looking for a new home for the new year?
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Freedom

As one year ends and new one begins, reflection and planning seem inevitable. What is a year but a small collection of time, a series of months and seasons gathered into one unit, identifiable by the highs and lows, ebb and flow, the changes and the constants. When we look ahead to plan or even as we approach the current moment, there is freedom in how we show up.

Most of us have standards for how we behave. Values, beliefs, and morality act as guides to help us gauge what we value and what is worth pursuing. That said, therein lies a vast field of freedom in the way that we approach our lives. For instance, love. Act with love. To act with love can mean a great many things. And the way one acts with love can have a great deal to do with who they are and how they were designed to be. Love can be a big gesture or sometimes love is simply silence. Criteria and boundaries offer us a framework to build upon, but freedom – true freedom – gifts us the opportunity to shape and color the fruits of our labor.

Our contributors this month offer you wisdom, humor, wonderful stories, and opportunity. Wishing you your best year yet.

Happy January, y'all.

Warmly,



Dripping Springs **OUTLOOK**

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BUY LOCAL BUY DRIPPIN'

Dripping Springs
OUTLOOK
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
- 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
- Every Mon. 6pm **Nar Anon Family Group** at Friendship Creekside Fellowship 14455 Fm 1826. For family & friends of addicts.
- 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. Dripping Springs **4-H Club** meets at 6:30pm at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park, September through May.
- 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. Call Myra at 512 496 1531 or Sharon at 512 413 3248
- Every Tues. 6:30pm **Toastmasters of Dripping Springs**, Pioneer Bank, 100 Creek Rd. Visitors welcome. 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
- Every 4th Tue. **Artists Alliance of the Hill Country**, The Barn on 4000 Bell Springs Road or artists' studios. 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 or 512 858 4725.
- Every Wed. at 8:30am. **The Hill Country Christian Business Networking Alliance** meets at El Rey. Visit (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. **Trivia every Thursday at Acopon Brewing** on Mercer Street 7-9pm
- Thurs. 7pm, **Celebrate Recovery**, hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Christ-centered recovery program. 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, 512 858 7825. Newcomers welcome. Email AdultServices@dsccl.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 or on Facebook.
- Every 3rd Thur. Live concerts, best music in the Hill Country at **Susanna's Kitchen Coffeehouse**, 7:30pm; \$20-25 for adults, \$5 for children. Food, coffee, and soft drinks available. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (Wimberley United Methodist Church.) WimberleyUMC.org Proceeds benefit Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. Performing **January 19**: Warren Hood
- Every Thursday, **skate night** at Dripping Springs Ranch Park from 5-7:30pm.
- 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 DrippingSpringsMOPS@gmail.com

- Sunday, January 1, 1st Day Hike at Los Madrones, 1-3pm, \$20, family-friendly hike, easy to moderate-level hike, guests are invited to Family Business for refreshments after the hike.
- Saturday, January 7, Sip, See and Experience the world of Camp Lucy. Annual open tour date to explore all venues, get a sneak peek of offerings, and discover what's new at Camp Lucy in 2023. CampLucy.com for tickets.
- Sunday, January 8, Free Toddler Music Class, (12 months - 5 years), Dripping Springs Montessori School, 27008 RR 12.
- Saturday, January 21, Austin Ridge Riders Annual Cranks-giving, 9:30am-3:30pm, Learn how to build mountain bike trails from our trail stewards, hit some hot laps on the singletrack, and try your hand at trail maintenance at Reimers Ranch! \$25, AustinRidgeRiders.com
- Sunday, January 29, 10am-4pm, Wedding Capital of Texas Winter Showcase, photographers, venues, catering, entertainment, music. Free to attend RSVP requested. Hosted by Dripping Springs Vodka, 5330 Bell Springs Rd.

Have something to add to the Calendar of Events? Contact the Outlook at info@DSOutlook.com or 512 375 5590.

What does your body need to function properly?

by Breca Tracy, PhD



At REGENERATE we have several programs and protocols to get you to total wellness. Depending on what your wellness goals are or in general your 2023 goals, have you put thought into what your body needs to function properly on a daily basis? Have you had your blood work analyzed? Do you know what your deficiencies are? Whether you have the

answers or are looking for them, we'd love an opportunity to walk you through what might help you reach those goals. Are you ready to start taking care of your skin, your whole body wellness, or maybe just performance in general?

REGENERATE has plenty of options for you. Did you know a simple vitamin program could help you regain your energy, help kick start weight loss, help you get through those seasonal allergies, or simply kick that cold to the curb? A healthy immune system can make all the difference.

At REGENERATE we focus on getting your body – whether internally or externally – back to where it once was; functioning like it once did. Are your goals to increase quality of life? Do you have joint pain? Do you need to lose weight? Are you driven by appearance or performance? At REGENERATE we focus on you!

If we can't help meet your goals, we will help find someone that can! Come chat with our team to discuss how we might be able to get you back to feeling, performing, and looking youthful again.

We have a very unique team of experts. Come see us, call, 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.

REGENERATE

rebuild • rejuvenate • rewind

Breca Tracy, PhD
Director of Science
& Operations
512.368.4548

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Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Eye of the Storm

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



The entertainer Jack Benny was being presented with an award for his lifelong achievements in comedy. After he accepted his reward and the applause died down, he turned to the audience and said, "I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either."

I've been thinking of that line lately because it seems I've been encountering

many people who are overwhelmed and, like arthritis, feel it is undeserved. One client said that recently her stress level shot up into the stratosphere due to life changes. She was overwhelmed and her energies were scattered to the four winds. "I've so many problems facing me at once that I've started to shut down and not work on any of them," she said.

I asked her what types of things she did normally to create serenity and a sense of peace. She listed several activities such as reading, walks in nature, and ceramics. I asked her if such outlets had helped lately. "Oh no! How can I think of doing leisure activities when I'm so upset?" she said.

For many of us, when the pressure is on, being good to ourselves isn't a priority. One of the ways to achieve such serenity is addressed by Dr. Deepak Chopra in his book *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*. One law is the Law of Least Effort, which ad-

dresses our cognitive distortions that amps up stress. He writes that there are three components that activate this principle of *do less and accomplish more*.

The first step is one of acceptance in which "... You make a commitment: *Today I will accept people, situations, circumstances, and events as they occur...* I will know that this moment is as it should be, because the whole universe is as it should be. This moment – the one you're experiencing right now – is the culmination of all the moments you have experienced in the past... You can wish for things in the future to be different, but in this moment you have to accept things as they are."

Step two is responsibility. "... Not blaming anyone or anything for your situation, including yourself... All problems contain the seeds of opportunity. This awareness allows you to take the moment and transform it to a better situation or thing."

The third step is defenselessness. "... You have relinquished the need to convince or persuade others of your point of view. If you just relinquish the need to defend your point of view, you will in that relinquishment, gain access to enormous amounts of energy that have been previously wasted... When you have no point to defend, you do not allow the birth of an argument... Stop fighting and resisting – you will fully experience the present, which is a gift."

Leslie Tourish, LPC, is a Dripping Springs psychotherapist in private practice. To contact Leslie, visit LeslieTourish.com or LATourish.com

Did you know...?

by Heidi Pousson



With the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill, the FDA recognized how significant the hemp plant was for the potential of the nation's agricultural sector. In the passing of this bill, the FDA was able to preserve its authority over hemp products in the advancing of industrial hemp derived products through the FDA's already existing avenues and by establishing additional avenues, which would be regulated to make hemp

products containing cannabidiol (CBD) more available.

This bill removed hemp and its cannabis derivatives from the definition of marijuana in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). The cannabis derivatives of the hemp plant have less than .3% of psychoactive delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC. Up until this point, hemp was in the same classification as regular marijuana even though it does not have the same amount of THC. Now, with the proper license, it can be grown and sold. Any products derived from the hemp plant, also known as *Cannabis sativa L.*, must be regulated just like any other product regulated by the FDA. This allows Americans access to safer products.

The hemp fibers have many uses from fabrics to textiles, insulation to construction materials. The oils from the crushed seeds are even used in beauty products like cosmetics or shampoos. However, one of the biggest markets to explode is products containing

CBD due to the various health benefits currently being studied.

Since the 2018 Farm Bill passing, there has been a recent boom in the amount of new products being produced. Only time will tell what the future holds for this new market. Will we continue to see studies coming out showing the health benefits of CBD and other cannabis-derived products? Will there be even more regulations put in place making it harder for places like Haus of Jayne? Will policy makers make it more difficult for this now booming market? Policy is constantly changing, but Haus of Jayne will continue to keep you in the loop.

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.



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766 Old Fitzhugh Rd, Dripping Springs, TX 78620



What are the most common add-on procedures to consider when having plastic surgery?

by Rocco C. Piazza, M.D

I love this question because this is one of the most-frequently asked questions at my practice. Over the past twelve years of practice, I find that many patients don't realize that they can easily add on a procedure while under an

esthesia for a breast augmentation, tummy tuck, or mommy makeover to improve their overall self-confidence. I have spent years educating our patients on the importance of overall health when considering plastic surgery. These are my top three recommendations when considering your aesthetic goals for the new year.

Nipple reduction or correction of inverted nipples.. Many women don't know these procedures even exist. Many times, during puberty, pregnancy, or after breast feeding, the nipples can change and make a woman very self-conscious. These can be easily corrected with a 15-minute procedure to sit the nipple back on itself, reducing the projection. The nipple diameter can be made smaller, reducing the width. Both of which keep sensation intact. Inverted nipples can be corrected as well.

Liposuction of the upper outer breast area, inner thighs, and flanks... These are some of the most common areas that many of my patients complain about when seeking nonsurgical treatment such as EMSCULPT NEO or CoolSculpting. For surgical proce-

dures, performing liposuction of the upper outer area of the breast, also known as the anterior axillary fold, improves the contour of the breast to arm transition at the armpit area. This takes about 15 minutes to perform and helps many women feel more confident about their appearance in certain clothing. The inner thighs are a great place to treat because this enhances the desired thigh gap and takes about 30-45 minutes in surgery. The flank area or muffin-top is an easy to target area that transforms the lower waistline and blends the bra line to lower back transition.

Cellulite Reduction with Avéli... By far the most exciting treatment we utilize eradicates the appearance of cellulite on the buttock and thigh area with a single treatment. This can be easily combined with other surgical procedures under general anesthesia or done in the clinic as a stand-alone procedure with local anesthetic. Avéli is the most advanced technology to truly treat cellulite and was one of the single most desired procedures in 2022.

Contact The Piazza Center at 512 262 4195 and request an in-person or virtual consultation to see how we can help you *live confidently* in 2023!

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.

2023 Book Recommendations

by Deborah Carter Mastelotto



The last couple of years have been confusing and stressful, so I would like to help make our transition into 2023 clear and productive. That's why I have a book recommendation for each Sun Sign. Hopefully, this will give us all a head start.

Happy Birthday Capricorn! (December 22 - January 19) The crucial mindset for you in 2023 is transformation and change in your work, but from a creative home base. That's why I recommend *If You Could Live Anywhere: The Surprising Importance of Place in a Work from Anywhere World* by Melody Warnick. Sound interesting?

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) It's time to stop dreaming of creating a podcast or YouTube channel, or ramping up your social media in general, because this is the year the stars align to do it. We suggest you get *The Art of Social Media* by Guy Kawasaki and Peg Fitzpatrick asap.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Your charm and charisma are off the charts in 2023, so to help channel this personal magic into money-making power, read *The Like Switch: An Ex FBI Agent's Guide to Influencing, Attracting, and Winning People Over* by Jack Schafer PHD.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) This is your lucky year, but you must be willing to radically change the way you think about making money, and you need to be ready to move fast when you see opportunities. Read *Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life* by Susan David.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) You've never really been a joiner, but now is not the year to go it alone – you need a fan base. Look around for organizations to join and groups be part of, maybe even do some public speaking. We suggest reading *Deliver Unforgettable Presentations: How to Speak To Be Remembered and Repeated, In Person, Online, And Onstage* by Patricia Fripp, Darren Lacroix, and Mark Brown, and get ready to wow them.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) You always like to think things through, so the idea of using mostly instinct to make decisions this year might seem crazy. That's why we insist you read *The Power of Intuition: How to Use Your Gut Feelings to Make Better Decisions at Work* by Gary Klein. Let it be your guidebook in 2023.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Everyone loves Brene Brown, but her book *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* should be your personal manual in 2023.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) This year expect an explosive career trajectory if you focus on creating a team. The book to help you with this is *The Partnership Economy: How Modern Businesses Find New Customers, Grow Revenue, and Deliver Exceptional Experiences* by David A Yovanno.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) Your 2023 is about focusing on any *other* who might be significant. To help you, we recommend *The Power of Two: How to Make the Most of Your Partnerships in Work and in Life* by Rodd Wagner.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) *The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need* by Andrew Tobias has been an investors guidebook since 1976, but the newly revised edition was released in 2022, just in time for your powerhouse invest-in-your-future year.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) We are going to suggest a book that might seem counter-intuitive – *That Sounds Fun: The Joys of Being An Amateur, the Power of Falling in Love, and Why You Need a Hobby* by Annie F Downs. Yes, it's going to be that kind of year. You're welcome.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) You should be changing the way you work, make money, and even how you live day-to-day, and the changes need to be radical. That's why we recommend *Pivot: The Art and Science of Reinventing Your Career and Your Life*, by Adam Markel, to ease the way. Be brave – you're going to enjoy this.

Deborah Carter Mastelotto is a pathological entrepreneur, a minor student of quantum physics, unapologetic observer of human nature and undefatigable advice-giver. pinkchronicity.com.

How to have a stress-free visit to the vet *by Ben Fox, DVM*



Visiting your veterinarian doesn't have to be, and shouldn't be, a frustrating, tug-of-war experience. By taking proactive measures, you can minimize your, and your pet's frustration with this new experience.

It's a good idea to start familiarizing your pet with being handled

at an early age, similar to what the visit to your veterinarian would be like. Begin by frequently touching paws, toes, and especially ears. Run your hands over your pet's body and gently press the abdomen. Open your pet's mouth and rub their gums. Take a look inside their ears and mouth as a practice mini-exam. Reinforce their cooperation with plenty of affection – and healthy treats.

For cats and small dogs, make the pet carrier inviting and comfortable. Add a small blanket or towel and a few favorite toys. To avoid the *panic by association* trap, leave the carrier out from time to time to help your pet understand that going in the carrier is not a punishment.

Prior to a visit to the veterinarian, take your pet on short car rides or errands. This will go a long way to preventing a *car equals visit to the vet* association. Try to remain calm and stress free when preparing for your visit. Pets pick up on our behavior, and when we are nervous or agitated, they often become agitated as well.

When the big day arrives be sure to keep your pet on a leash

or in the carrier while in the waiting room to prevent socializing with other animals who may be sick, contagious, or aggressive. The exam room will be a strange place with strange smells – and new people. Affection, praise, and a soothing voice will help your pet remain calm. Positive experiences are always important, especially during your pet's first visit to the veterinary clinic. When puppies are fearful during an initial visit, they are often more likely to be fearful as adult dogs.

Finally, keep in mind that the more information you can provide your veterinarian with regarding your pet and your pet's health, the shorter your visit will be – and could prevent unnecessary and possibly anxiety-provoking testing.

To schedule an appointment or home visit please call 512 230 1720 or email Dr. Fox at BenFoxDVM@gmail.com. You can also visit our website at FoxVeterinaryServices.com.



Ben Fox, DVM
512-230-1720
Mobile and In-Clinic Visits
27008 Ranch Road 12, Unit C
Dripping Springs, TX 78720

Walking for nothing?

by Diana Ozimek



I take my dog on two to three long walks a day and they are still crazy! Does this sound like you and your dog? It's not uncommon for this to be an issue in many homes with young dogs. Walking is a great activity for you and your dog, it gives you time together, opportunities to work on their skills in public, and can fulfill needed physical activity. If you opted for a breed made

to have endurance and work all day, a walk isn't going to fulfill them to the state of relaxation you are looking for. If you plan to get any type of herding or hunting breed they are engineered to do jobs, not lay on couches. But any breed can have a lot of energy when they are young.

If walking them isn't going to get you the results you want, what can you do? My first suggestion is to add more brain work into their walk. If your dog isn't great at walking on leash add in training work, making turns, stopping, sits, and downs. Try some Urban Agility, if you can find objects on your walk have your dog step up on them, jump over, crawl under... Logs, large boulders, benches are all great for this. Adding enrichment in a dog's day is good for any dog. Treat puzzles, frozen Kongs, snuffle mats, and feeding their meals in a wobbler or monster ball are all great ideas.

Put your dog on a schedule. This will help you as well by scheduling their activities and downtime when you need it. Look at your

week and map out walks, enrichment, yard play, and crate time. Building in nap times in their crate can be very helpful. So many young dogs can't calm themselves and will go and go if wandering the home. Dogs also get used to a schedule, knowing their morning consists of a walk, a puzzle, and then downtime will help both of you. Physical plus mental challenges will help your dogs feel more fulfilled resulting in a calmer dog during downtime.

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, 773 899 1960.



-  **Puppy Boarding School**
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-  **Socialization**

Diana Ozimek
Owner/Trainer

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-  GoodDogintheMaking.com
-  facebook.com/gooddoginmaking
-  [good_dog_in_the_making](https://instagram.com/good_dog_in_the_making)

Support the artist in you

by Meg Steiner, On Stage Ready's Co-Founder and Creative Director



We are born to create. Each of us is gifted with hidden gems buried deep within and uncovering them is among the greatest of life's joys. How we use our gifts determines our personal fulfillment and legacy. During our limited, precious time on earth, it is our responsibility to wholeheartedly work towards developing creative potential so we can grow spiritually, heal a deeply troubled society, turn

pain into power, and cultivate gratitude.

It is our responsibility to let our light shine.

While humans are now more technologically connected than ever, we are the least connected in our daily lives, and such isolation leads to despair, sloth, and apathy – all enemies of the creative spirit. Taking action towards health and wellness individually and socially requires us to actively express ourselves and consume art that nourishes our soul, challenges our thinking, and helps us connect to each other and the world.

“To practice any art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow.” – Kurt Vonnegut

“The formula of happiness and success is just being actually yourself, in the most vivid possible way you can.” – Meryl Streep

Take part in the magic and support the artist in you. On Stage Ready is now offering acting, singing, guitar, and drum classes and lessons for adults (as well as a myriad of classes for children ages 4-18). Classes begin January 4. Visit OnStageReady.com for more information.

Meg Steiner, Creative Director of On Stage Ready. On Stage Ready is a new performing arts school in Dripping Springs. We provide vocal, acting, and dance lessons in individual and group settings and school break camps. To contact On Stage Ready, please visit OnStageReady.com. To contact Meteor Theatre, Dripping Springs' Community Theatre, please visit MeteorTheatre.org.



OnStageReady.com

Performing Arts school in Dripping Springs teaching skills in

- * Acting/Drama/Improv
- * Voice/Singing
- * Drum Performance Group/Drums
- * Guitar

for Children and Adults!

Dripping Springs Skatepark: Update and 2023 Upcoming events

by Dennis Baldwin

As 2023 commences, the Dripping Springs Skatepark project moves forward with tremendous momentum. Fundraising comes to a close and we now embark on the next phase of our journey, which is to finalize our skatepark design. In a few months, we will host our second community input meeting to finalize the layout and elements that will exist in our future skatepark.

Through the commitment and generosity of many individuals and organizations in our community we will build a park that will become a destination for riders young and old, near and far. Upon completion, the skatepark will be donated to the City of Dripping Springs and fall under management of the Parks & Community Services Department. This will be the day we've waited for since our project began in 2015!

Our skatepark journey has been long, fruitful, and led to a few noteworthy initiatives that we'd like to share. These initiatives continue to reinforce the amazing skate community that exists here in Dripping Springs and we encourage you to get involved:

- Skate camps: This spring and summer we will host our 2nd



annual all-girls skate camp and 3rd annual coed camp. Look for more details in the upcoming Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services guide.

- Skate club: Dripping Springs High School has a skate club that meets every week during the school year and is sponsored by DSHS graduate, teacher, and local skater Nifa Kaniga.

- Skate night: Every Thursday, we host a skate night at Dripping Springs Ranch Park from 5-7:30pm. We are beginning our 5th year of skate night and are very appreciative of the city and amazing DSRP staff for letting us set

up every week.

As our journey comes to a close we are excited about the prospect of a skatepark in Dripping Springs and know what a tremendous asset this will be for our community. If you would like to learn more please visit DripSkatePark.com and give us a follow on social media @dripskateboarding. We hope to see you at the skatepark soon!

Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Focus on Business: *Happy New Year from Leadership Dripping Springs!*

Leadership Dripping Springs Class 6 is in progress with the largest class in program history.

A group of more than 20 classmates is participating in the Chamber of Commerce's nine-month course. The curriculum consists of business professionals representing various industries and careers; the resulting network of colleagues and associates is a long-term, powerful way to connect and engage with others who share their passion for leadership, philanthropy, and community.

Leadership Dripping Springs arranges presentations and on-site visits to local businesses and organizations for interactive first-hand experiences with key Dripping Springs stakeholders. This



allows participants the chance to gain a deeper understanding of our community's inner workings while enhancing their own personal and professional skills. Graduation for Class 6 will take place in May 2023.

For more information on Leadership Dripping Springs (generously supported by H-E-B) or to express interest in applying for Class 7 (2023-24), please

contact the Dripping Springs Chamber at 512-858-7000 or email Susan Kimball at susan@drippingspringstx.org.

Pictured: A mixer for Leadership Alumni Classes 1-5 and Class 6 participants was held at Deep Eddy Vodka Tasting Room in September 2022.

Bad hair

by Kern Deschner



One of my favorite scenes from the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean* develops in this way – one of the older pirates is telling the younger pirate a tall tale about how Captain Jack Sparrow escaped from being marooned on an island. The storyteller claimed that Captain Jack had lashed together two sea turtles and rode them to escape the island. The incredulous listener replied, “Well, what did he use to lash the turtles together? Where did he get a rope?” The storyteller, knowing his exaggeration had been caught, had no reply, but suddenly Captain Jack, apparently eavesdropping, walks up and interjects that he made the rope from human hair (pause), “from me back!”

Obviously, it's funnier if you watch the movie. But it does illustrate that there may be a use for hair we normally would not value. We have definitely found that to be true in the alpaca business. We realize that the best part of an alpaca's fleece, the part that you just want to roll in, the *filet mignon*, the *caviar* of the fleece, is the blanket. In animals, like alpacas, that are raised for their fleeces, it's important that most of their fleece is this level of quality. However, there is a lot of fleece on the legs and the belly that is not the same quality as the blanket. It may still be very soft and quite warm, but it's not the quality of fleece that you would want next to your skin. Many alpaca owners just throw away this part of the fleece but we

have found value even here – by making rugs!

We are about to receive a shipment of rugs that range in size from 2x5 to 9x12 feet in size. Alpacas come in 16 shades and the rugs are generally a combination of the many earth tones that alpacas display. They especially look good in Southwest decor. Except for the webbing that holds them together, which is cotton, they are 100% alpaca, manufactured in Paint Rock, Texas, from fleeces grown right here in Wimberley on our ranch. They are soft, warm, durable, and the grandchildren – and the cat – love to roll on them. These rugs generally sell out within a few months, so, if you'd like to look at them, give Rhonda a call. She can set up a showing. While you are at it, you can check out the rest of the farm store and even get a quick look at the new babies. We had six of them just over Thanksgiving weekend!

If you want, something made from human hair, though, you'll probably have to ask Captain Jack Sparrow.

Rhonda and Kern Deschner are experienced alpaca ranchers raising alpacas through all kinds of Texas weather since 1997. Tierra Prometida Alpaca Ranch can be visited by calling Rhonda at 512 753 9962, or at tierra@alpacausa.com.

Joy

by George Altgelt



Greetings fellow earth travelers on the path of renewal! I thought this article would reflect on what brings us joy in the season. I remember my grandfather saying, "When the work's all done there's fall." That's right, the hay is in the barn, the corn is in the crib, the summer heat is gone, and the winter grass is up and thick. The harvest has been gathered. In those days it was the time of ease for farm folk.

As I look about the new location for Geo Growers I feel happy that the move from the old location is done. The winter garden is definitely growing and becoming robust. There is one plant in my garden that brings me great joy. It is a heirloom garlic that was gifted to me by a customer in the very early days of Geo Growers. She rescued those particular garlic plants from the old homestead in North Texas. Her family had emigrated from Russia and they brought with them a strain of garlic that to me is the best tasting garlic ever anywhere in the world! Through thick and thin I have raised that garlic only rarely eating any of it.

I have always saved whatever I have harvested to grow next year's crop and have given away the bulbs to people I know will appreciate it. That garlic not only tastes good it has a very odd adaption that makes it a treasure. On the side of the bulb as it grows underground it will develop a small, almost black, half clove. When the gardener pulls up the bulb it will shed the small dark clone of itself. That seemingly inconsequential fragment of

its total self is left behind to grow again into a full mature bulb. To me such an adaption is a marvel of plant evolution.

Most garlic is meant to be planted in early November. I was late getting mine planted. It was almost December before I got the divided cloves into the ground. As I strolled about the new Geo Growers location what did I see? I saw a second clove pushing its small green shoot up into the sky in my earthbound garden. That is my source of joy. To see the alliance between myself and this most wonderful garlic not only brings me joy but also a sense of being an ally of nature.

I hope that all of us find that wholeness in all our doings. Keep safe, stay warm, and Happy New Year!

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.

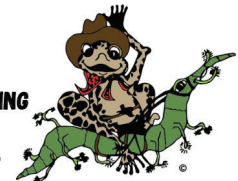
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Pruning in winter

by Steven Austin



Certain types of pruning can be performed on trees any time of year, but winter in Central Texas provides an especially good opportunity. In particular, visibility in deciduous trees is better, and the beetle responsible for vectoring the oak wilt pathogen is less active.

One thing that's easier to spot in winter concerns structural issues in the canopy. These include conditions such as over-extended branches, same-sized branches originating from a common junction, bark that becomes embedded between two stems that have a common junction, cracks, and cavities. Such conditions suggest that structural stability may be compromised, or it could become so over time. Trees that are pruned properly tend to sustain less damage during storms and windy conditions.

Another problem that's easier to spot in winter is the presence of mistletoe. This plant is called a *hemiparasite* because it can produce its own food through photosynthesis, but it takes moisture and nutrients from the tree to do so. Although ball moss is not a parasite, it, too, can be easier to spot in winter. Heavy infestations can be controlled through pruning, topical treatments, or a combination of both. Incidentally, winter provides greater opportunities

for the ideal weather conditions that make ball moss control more effective.

Finally, winter offers the last opportunity for pruning oak trees before spring, the season that increases risk of oak wilt infection from pruning wounds on live branches. The Texas Forest Services recommends avoiding such pruning from February 1 through June 30. Pruning for safety, line clearance, building clearance, storm damage, dead branch removal, and similar situations may still be performed on oak trees in any season, but professional standards should be observed in the process. Property owners should be aware that too much foliage removed in a pruning session is not good for trees, nor are flush and stub cuts. For your winter pruning this year, contact an ISA Certified Arborist, who should be able to answer your questions about proper practice.

A Wimberley resident, Steven Austin is a member of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist. His expertise includes integrated pest management of trees and shrubs and state-of-the-art organic treatments. He holds a commercial pesticide license with the Texas Department of Agriculture and is Texas Oak Wilt Certified by the Texas Forest Service. Steven is an Arborist Representative for Bartlett Tree Experts. Call 512 392 1089 or toll-free at 800 443 8733.

Well water storage systems

by Randy Lawrence



During times of drought, there is a great deal of concern with the possibility of wells going dry in the area. Many people are forced to take action when they no longer have a constant supply of water to their home. Some have to replace well pumps, only to find that the old pump failed due to low water conditions. Others must drill new wells in order to access a larger supply of water. In most cases, these repairs are unexpected, and time-consuming. During severe drought, many well service companies

are overwhelmed with calls, causing some families to endure days without a supply of fresh water. A water storage tank would be helpful to many of these homeowners.

The benefits of a properly installed storage tank are numerous. These tanks are normally installed near the well so that the well pump sends the water directly into the storage tank. This removes much of the back pressure from your well pump so that the workload on the pump is greatly reduced. The water can be sprayed into the top of the storage tank, eliminating odors which may be present. The water is then re-pressurized by an external pump which can maintain higher pressure, and is much less costly to repair

or replace than a submersible pump. Protection systems are also available for both pumps to ensure longevity.

Even on existing storage tanks, an early warning system, such as a light or alarm, can be installed to activate when the water in the tank drops to a certain level, indicating the need to check your well for problems. This buys you the time you need to contact a professional. Should you happen to run out of water before the well is operational, there are water delivery services which can bring you a supply of water to replenish your storage tank, thereby maintaining your day-to-day routine while you await repairs. For homes in remote areas, stored water is also a valuable asset for firefighters.

Now is an ideal time to consider adding a storage tank to your well. Then you will be prepared before another Texas summer takes it's toll on your well.

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 27 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over a decade.



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My real estate predictions for 2023

by Steve Mallett

Real estate agents get asked more about the future than crystal ball gazing fortune tellers. No one ever really knows what the future holds, but we sift through clues to see if the past can help us forecast what tomorrow will bring. Here are my 2023 predictions:

1. The Austin market will return to a more normal market where there are plenty of homes available for sale at any given time, and average days to sell hovers in the 90-100 day range. There are still plenty of people moving here and the poorly run states continue to come up with idiotic policies that chase people to Texas and Florida.
2. The FED will realize that they have been too aggressive on interest rate hikes and they will start to soften their stance. They have been actively damaging peoples' real estate values in the pursuit of controlling (government caused and fed) inflation and people will become more vocal about wanting it to stop.
3. Mortgage interest rates will continue to settle and buyers will start to be comfortable purchasing homes even as interest rates remain higher than 2021. Currently home buyers waiting think rates will fall and home prices will plummet. Once it becomes evident that is not going to happen, people will act. When the average home buyer wakes up to an improving market the upward trend is months in the making. Don't wait too long to buy something.
4. More than half of the real estate agents will quit and go back to being baristas and lifeguards. The barriers to entry for a real estate agent is so low that anyone can get a license and create an

Instagram with a *Top Producer* slogan.

This has always hurt professional agents that are full time business owners. Every few years a boom produces a glut of part time agents that take 2-3 deals a year out of the pipeline. Working with these agents is a nightmare and we have needed a correction on agent numbers for quite some time. The exodus will help make professional agents stronger and busier. Expect less emails in your inbox from your agent neighbor telling you that *your referral is the greatest compliment you can give me*. I guess *nice car* doesn't fly anymore.

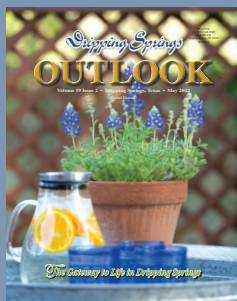
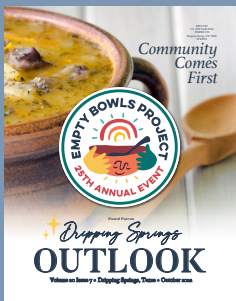
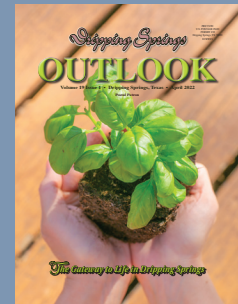
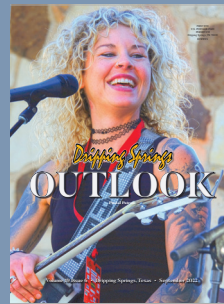
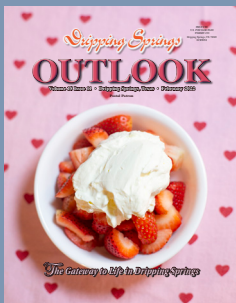
2022 was a tough year all around. This year promises an improving market and more stability. The question is when will that change happen? Anyone know a good fortune teller?

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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Wishing you a very happy & healthy New Year!



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Litigation: A Christmas in court

by Roland Brown



I've got another story about a judge for you this month. It comes from one of the most interesting, unusual, and satisfying trials I was ever involved with. Very early in my career I assisted my dad, one of the most passionate and persuasive trial lawyers you can imagine, in an intense murder trial. Space is too limited to cover all of the unusual things


about this trial here. You can read about them in an expanded version in Roland's Blog at Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.law (the url is "law" not "com"). Our client was accused of the murder of his wife. He was found not guilty by the jury which realized he had acted in self-defense.

Trial began the week of Christmas. This judge was prosecution oriented and was not fond of me or of my dad. He did not allow us sufficient time to question the jury panel members or to determine which panel members we wished to strike. He pushed us throughout the trial and was generally difficult to deal with most of the time. We simply had to fight throughout the trial to get the evidence before the jury that we knew would show that our client was an exemplary individual caught in an unimaginably horrible situation. It didn't help that our client was a young black man in a very conservative county.

We presented numerous witnesses, white working men and women, who worked with and knew both our client and his vola-

tile wife. They helped the jury understand how abusive she could be and how she could wind up dead as a result of the fight in which she attacked our client with a hammer and butcher knife. I believe those witnesses, as well as a surprise witness who is discussed in the expanded version of this article, affected the judge as well. I will never forget how, on the evening of December 23, as the jury returned its not guilty verdict, the judge addressed our client and sincerely said, "Young man, this jury has given you the greatest Christmas gift you will ever receive – your freedom. You are free to go!"

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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Worried about inflation? Consider these moves

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



Reagan Rentschler,
CFP®

As you know, inflation was big news throughout 2022. But will it continue in 2023? Looking even further ahead, how should you account for inflation in your long-term plans?

Many experts predict that inflation will cool off this year, though there are no guarantees. The high inflation of last year is thought to have been caused by some unusual factors, such as a spike in the demand for consumer goods as the world

came out of the Covid pandemic, which led to supply chain issues. Also, the war in Ukraine drove up oil prices, increasing the cost of manufacturing and shipping and driving up the price of wheat and other commodities. In any case, last year reminded us that inflation needs to be reckoned with as you work toward your financial goals. But how you respond to inflation will depend somewhat on your stage of life. So, here are some suggestions to consider:

If you're still working... Contribute more to your retirement plans. If you can put more money away in your IRA and 401(k), consider it. The more resources available in retirement, the better protected you are against the rising cost of living.

Adjust your portfolio objectives with your financial profes-

sional. Using tools such as *hypothetical* illustrations, a financial professional can show you some different paths you might take with your investments, given different rates of inflation.

If you're already retired... Consider part-time work or consulting. Once you retire, it doesn't mean you can never do any paid work again. Use your skills as a consultant. Many part-time jobs are available for retirees. You may be able to delay taking withdrawals from your retirement accounts and other investments, extending their longevity. (Once you turn 72, though, you will need to begin taking money from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.)

Delay taking Social Security. You can begin taking Social Security when you're 62, but monthly checks will be substantially bigger if you wait until full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (You could even wait until 70, at which point your monthly benefits will max out.) Delaying taking Social Security may be possible if you work longer than you once planned or work part time in retirement. If you do need to take Social Security before your full retirement age, your payments will be adjusted annually for inflation – in fact, for 2023, benefit checks will rise 8.7% over 2022.

We'll always have to deal with some level of inflation – so it's a good idea to be prepared.

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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