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Dripping Springs
OUTLOOK

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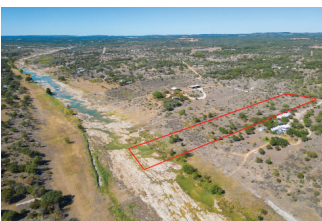
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Amazing views from this 5 acre lot on the Pedernales River. This is a great opportunity to own Texas Hill Country acreage on the water. Spend your days enjoying the peace and quiet on the outskirts of booming Johnson City, fishing in the river, watching the wildlife or just relaxing. MLS 3952682 Listed at \$599,900



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God bless us, everyone

Dripping Springs
OUTLOOK

A few weeks back, my son and I were on a run. As I rounded a corner I saw a yard sign that made me stop in my tracks – **Kindness 2024**. Without even thinking I said aloud, “Thank you!” pointing to the sign and lauding our neighbors.

I don’t need to tell you how worked up people get surrounding politics. I have a good many friends that spend a lot of time researching politicians and issues. These friends fall right, left, and center of the party lines. At the end of the day, we all want what’s best for our families and fellow man. So, shouldn’t that be enough to unite us? Especially this time of the year.

What unites us is more than opinion, more than numbers, more than what we drive or what we do. The spirit of the season moves us all in one way or another. And I believe that spirit is one of love. Love makes us look past our hang-ups and push through to the light on the other side of conflict, be it internal or external. What we find on the other side often-times makes the darkness seem so futile.

I hope this season brings you joy, relief, comfort, and light. As usual, our contributors offer you a little bit of everything – laughter, inspiration, and ways to care for yourself and those you love and those around you living and moving about in the same spaces, frequenting the same places, and seeking all that’s merry and bright.



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Happy December, y'all.

Warmly,

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@dscl.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 **December 15:** Ray Wylie Hubbard

- 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

- Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11, Santa Photos & Kris Kringle Market at 12 Fox Beer Co. Market 12-5pm, Santa 1-4pm
- Sunday, December 18, Cocoa & Cuddles, Suds Monkey Brewing, 2-3:30pm, tickets available online.
- Old West Christmas Light Fest, opens November 24 in Boerne, Friday-Saturday until 16th, open daily December 16-24, 6am-10pm. Lights, food, fun (including laser tag).
- Johnson City Lights Spectacular, November 25-January 8.
- Christmas Wine Affair November 28-December 23, tour over 50 wineries scattered all over the Hill Country. Tickets available at TexasWineTrail.com
- November 18 through December 11, Wimberley Players presents Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some), Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm, Sundays 2:30. Tickets available at WimberleyPlayers.org.
- Sunday, December 18, Hanukkah begins
- Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
- Saturday, December 31, New Years Eve

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

Are you holiday ready?

by Breca Tracy, PhD



Calling all men, gentlemen, dads, husbands, boyfriends – all of the above! Women, daughters, wives, girlfriends, daughter-in-laws, and *yes*, friends too! The holidays are right around the corner. If you want some help this year, let's get you educated on how to secure a gift early for your loved ones! Not sure on what might be the best fit? Let us help.

At REGENERATE, we have many different services and products that anyone would enjoy. From medical grade skincare products to facial services, medical massage to anti-aging solutions, vitamin drips/shots to help people feel their best, look their best, and overall be the best they can be! We have packages and services that can be tailored to meet anyone's needs, wants, and expectations.

Our medical grade skincare products, procedures, and services are top notch and designed to create results. Did you know that your skin needs deep cleaning, exfoliating, and moisturizing on a regular basis? Our custom hydrfacial services are fantastic for deep cleaning, resurfacing, extracting, and providing moisture and nutrients to the skin. They can also be customized to provide personalized results for each client. We can also combine with IV vitamin services – two treatments, one appointment, one hour total time commitment!

REGENERATE offers custom facials and chemical peels also. Our Anti-aging Pumpkin Spice Facial is a fan favorite; focusing

on the use of powerful antioxidants to promote a glowing and refreshed, more youthful complexion. Our chemical peels are customizable to meet each client's needs. Peels are essential to help resurface (by removing top layer(s) of the skin) ridding dead skin cells, producing firmer, brighter, softer, and more even skin tones and texture. Depending on the type of peel, hyperpigmentation and melasma (darkening of the skin) can be addressed.

Call us, text us, or come see us! We would love to further educate you on what we offer here in Dripping Springs to help ease your holiday gift hunting!

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.

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Unwrap new traditions

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



Christmas 'tis the season to engage in insane acts you'd never do in the other eleven months. Such as shopping at a store specializing only in Christmas gear with the goal of buying a new tree skirt.

Entering the store, my senses were ambushed. Music blared, lights twinkled from overly festooned holiday trees, and cinnamon potpourri wafted through the

air in a thick cloud. I contemplated doing an about-face and going home to wrap my tree in the skirt with the tattered fringe I've used for years, but decided to be brave and soldier on.

After roaming through aisles filled with blue pine cone ornaments, gold pine cone ornaments, teal pine cone ornaments, and purple pine cone ornaments, I finally located the tree skirt section. Apparently one rule of tree skirt design is that there can never, ever be colors too gaudy, nor sequins too few. Who knew trees like dressing up in an Elvis getup – the later years. Finally, I locate one skirt sporting a tasteful bit of burgundy-colored brocade. Checking the price tag, it read \$300. I blanched and carefully set it back down.

As I write this column, I am content that in the next room my tree is warm and snug with its simple red-and-green skirt and tattered fringe wrapped around its base. Who knows, perhaps this

humble skirt will eventually become a treasured heirloom, passed down through the generations.

Of all the holidays, Christmas is the one steeped in the richest traditions. People crave treasured continuations from the past. Many of us already have traditions handed down from generations long past, but that doesn't mean we can't begin new ones now.

I have a friend who, along with some of his friends, began going around his neighborhood on Christmas Eve to sing carols. At first his neighbors, who suddenly discovered these off-tune singers on their doorsteps, didn't know how to respond. They often shuffled uncomfortably in their foyers while being treated by the singers to rousing rounds of "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls". Now he says his neighbors call him in advance to find out what time the band of singers will come around so they can have apple cider and holiday cookies ready for them. He said the joy of this activity has made the spirit of Christmas for him come alive, like nothing a shopping mall can provide.

Traditions can begin with you and they can begin now. Creating that special meaning for the holidays takes only your imagination and desire.

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



High blood pressure and the holidays by Ron S. White, DDS

Mother-in-law coming in for Christmas... ornery uncle here for the holidays? The holidays are a time of year when blood pressure can become an issue. However, it's not just special occasions when we realize that our blood pressure should be checked.

At least once a month, I have a patient in for their regular check up and cleaning and for the first time realizes that they have high blood pressure.

- High blood pressure usually has no symptoms. In fact, many people have high blood pressure for years without knowing it. That's why it's called the *silent killer*.

- Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. It doesn't refer to being tense, nervous, or hyperactive. You can be a calm, relaxed person and still have high blood pressure.

- Over 25% of Americans have high blood pressure.

- Hypertension alone is the most important risk factor for heart failure. It is the leading cause of strokes, kidney failure, and blindness. High blood pressure increases stroke risk four to six times!

The medical community, as a whole, is trying to catch high blood pressure before it hurts our patients. Few people have time for a once-a-year physical examination. And if you are not sick with a common cold or flu during the year, your blood pressure most likely does not get checked. This is where dentists and hygienists can play a key role in screening our patients at least twice

a year. Many of my patients have discovered high blood pressure during a regular six month cleaning. This screening has led to subsequent doctor's appointments and preventative medication.

Optimal blood pressure with respect to cardiovascular risk is less than 120/80 mm Hg. The American Dental Association recommends that any patient with a reading of 180/110 or higher be restricted from even urgent treatment without medial consultation. Elective treatment should certainly be avoided.

The cause of 90-95% of the cases of high blood pressure isn't known; however, the good news is that high blood pressure is easily detected and usually controllable. So make sure you are getting your blood pressure checked at least twice a year either during your regular dental cleanings or with your primary care physician.

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).

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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Has stressed out or overwhelmed become your new normal?

by Scott Krippel



With the holidays fast approaching, do you feel a gentle warmth as you anticipate family gatherings or does your already inflated to-do list seem to triple in size? Are you having trouble falling asleep or staying asleep? Do even the smaller decisions seem to cause stress?

It may be that you are out of balance. Not necessarily dizzy or wobbly

but at a deeper level of your brain – the autonomic nervous system.

This critical part of our brain is divided into two sides – on the right, the sympathetic or *fight or flight* side, helps us handle stress, make decisions, and engage. On the left, the parasympathetic or *rest and digest* side, helps us to slow down, recharge, and reset.

Sometimes a serious event, like a concussion, can throw this delicate system out of balance. But you don't have to have a traumatic brain injury to experience autonomic imbalances. We need both sides to navigate the ups and downs life brings our way – and this is where Cereset can help.

Cereset is a relaxing, non-invasive modality, helping the brain restore balance at the autonomic level, which can then help with a variety of issues like anxiety, sleeping issues, brain fog, fatigue, and more.

Cereset borrows from EEG (electroencephalogram) sensors to listen to the brain's electrical energy and determine if you may be leaning to the sympathetic (right) or the parasympathetic (left).

You'll get to see exactly what your brain is doing.

Then, using simple tones, Cereset works via acoustic resonance imaging – the brain listens to its own reflection. It's a bit like holding a mirror up to the brain, allowing it to reassess, relax, and restore. Introductory trial sessions are always available for children and adults.

My wife, Carol, and I moved our family to Dripping Springs in 2018, and we are excited to bring this amazing technology to the community. We've been very encouraged by the people Cereset has already helped and we look forward to helping individuals and families in Dripping and all over Central Texas.

Scott & Carol Krippel are native Texans and graduates of the University of Texas. They feel very blessed to be in Dripping Springs with their 6 children. You can often find them at the DSYSA baseball and softball fields, or may see Scott fronting his band, Buzz & the Blue Cats.



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Grateful

by Heidi Pousson



If someone had told me a year ago that I'd be working at a hemp boutique, I would have said they were crazy. But here I am, working at Haus of Jayne and it is the furthest thing from crazy – it's a blessing.

My mind has been opened to a whole new world and, at this point, I am only just beginning to touch the surface in understanding the medicinal benefits of our products. And yet, there is so much

still to learn. All I know is that there are so many ways we can help our bodies be healthier while also aiding our mental health.

When I offered to help Haley this summer, I had no idea this would turn out to be such a blessing.

Thank you, Haley and Christie, for welcoming me as a member of Haus of Jayne and trusting me to spread your message to others. Since working here, I have had the chance to meet so many amazing people who have opened up and shared their stories – their journeys. I've learned just as much from all of you as I hope you've learned from me.

Thank you for reading my articles and spreading the word to others. It is the coolest thing when new clients come in and tell us they heard about us or about something because of you. All of you play such a significant role in our success here in Dripping

Springs. When I first moved here seven years ago, I had heard that this was a supportive community. That statement has rang true so many times over these past seven years, and I see it working here when you want to share your experiences with your friends or family members.

We're looking forward to the new year and hope you and your families have a safe and blessed holiday season.

Thank you, Dripping Springs. We truly feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

Wife, mother, friend, 8th-grade teacher, member of Haus of Jayne. Follow Haus of Jayne on social media: [hausofjayne_official](https://www.instagram.com/hausofjayne_official) on Instagram and [Facebook.com/HausofJayne](https://www.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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(512) 648-7420

hello@hausofjayne.com

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How can I look my best this holiday season?

by Rocco C. Piazza, M.D

While we're excitedly anticipating this holiday season, we want to look our best when seeing close friends and family, attending holiday parties, and enjoying celebrations.

In our practice, we believe strongly that combination treatments can deliver fantastic results quickly. In fact, most of our Annual Skin Care Treatment plans are created to maximize the effectiveness of your treatment, consolidate downtime, and minimize the frequency of your visits to The Piazza Center to increase efficiency for you!

Our most-popular combination treatments to prepare for the holiday season include BBL HERO and Skin Pen Microneedling with Growth Factors. This is my favorite treatment – a big bang with a small amount of social downtime. This combination procedure starts with a BBL laser skin resurfacing treatment and is followed immediately with a Skin Pen microneedling treatment. Combining these procedures enables us to effectively treat tough pigment problems and maximize the skin's amount of collagen production in a single treatment. This in turn makes it very effective at treating acne scarring and other textural issues. There are approximately one to two days of social downtime associated with this combo treatment.

BBL HERO and MOXI: This combination treatment is one of

the best to reduce stubborn hyperpigmentation and the appearance of melasma on the face, neck, chest, and body. BBL laser skin resurfacing is utilized to break up pigment in the skin, immediately followed by MOXI, a non-ablative laser technology to increase cell turnover in the deep layers of the skin called the *dermis*. This helps to remove unwanted pigment creating a more even skin tone. MOXI is safe on all skin types and has no contraindications. Utilized year-round with social downtime of only three to five days.

BBL HERO and HALO: This treatment combo is the most desired treatment here at our plastic surgery clinic. It starts with a BBL HERO treatment to the face, neck, and décolletage, to break up tough pigment in the skin and stimulate collagen production. Then a HALO laser skin resurfacing treatment to resurface the skin and further stimulate collagen production as the skin heals.

When combining these treatments, we see some of the most effective corrections of fine lines and wrinkles and other skin texture concerns. The social downtime is approximately five to seven days following this treatment. Contact us to request an in-person or virtual consultation to see how we can help you look as good as you feel this holiday season!

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.



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Are you using our online pharmacy yet? *by Ben Fox, DVM*



One of the main reasons reputable veterinary pharmaceutical companies want their drugs distributed by a veterinarian – and not a third party – is to ensure that a proper veterinary-client-patient relationship is maintained. This prevents products from being misused or prescribed inappropriately. When a

medication is prescribed for your pet, it means your veterinarian has made a decision that the medication is indicated to treat your pet's specific health issue. Many prescription drugs are effective only for certain problems and could be harmful for your pet if used without a veterinary examination and diagnosis.

However, many pet owners have begun seeking lower prices for medications needed by their pets through the use of miscellaneous online pet pharmacies. The best way to assure that the medication you purchase is safe, has been stored properly, and is genuine and not expired is to purchase the medication directly from your veterinarian. The products we sell through our online pharmacy, My Vet Store Online, meet all of these criteria and are competitively priced for our clients – eliminating searching out and perhaps being scammed by one of the less than legitimate online pharmacies.

We have found our online pharmacy to be helpful to our rural clients who cannot drive in for every refill. Medications and food can be set up on auto-ship. Another value-added benefit for clients

is in time management, where orders can be placed late at night or after clinic hours. It is important to realize, however, that to maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship your veterinarian must see your pet regularly. If your pet is on a prescription medicine, your veterinarian will need to reexamine, check blood work, or perform other tests to monitor your pet's response to treatment and determine whether the medication or dosing needs to be adjusted.

Purchasing your pet's medications from a reliable source with knowledge of your pet's medical history is an added benefit to maintaining the important veterinarian-client-patient relationship that is critical to your pet's continued well-being.

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

When is stress okay for your dog? *by Diana Ozimek*



I run into many situations when an owner has a very hard time letting their dog experience any sort of stress. Many times, these dogs have a hard time functioning as dogs, exploring new spaces, or finding joy in doing new things. I see an increasing number of dogs showing signs of anxiety. Why should a dog have anxiety? A few reasons; the breeder is not breeding for a

solid temperament, the owner has coddled the dog out of being a dog, or trauma. The last one is the only reason a dog should have anxiety – the other two can be fixed.

When is letting your dog experience stress okay? When your dog is a puppy, everything is new and this can cause stress. They need to experience this stress in a safe way. Take your puppy to new places and make sure the experience is a good one, feed them some treats around new sounds and views, let them meet friendly people and have fun in new areas to build their confidence. I do not let strange dogs approach my puppies; I cannot guarantee that will be a good experience. Find dogs you know and trust. I am also careful around children I don't know, not all children have great manners with puppies and can easily scare them. Your dog may experience stress when learning new things. Training situations are often stressful, there are new rules and the dog is trying to figure out the correct thing to do. If done correctly, your dog will gain

confidence through the training exercises as they learn how to be successful. The goal in training is to build the dog up and achieve new habits, not break the dog down.

When is stress bad? Anytime you force your dog into a situation. There is a difference between motivation and fear. If your dog is nervous with new people, you are not going to make them stay in one spot for a stranger to pet them, this will not help your dog! If your dog fears a new space or something new in the environment you are not going to drag your dog to it. Create a plan to elevate their experience and eventually make it positive. There will be stress in the learning curve but that builds confidence and not fear. *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.*



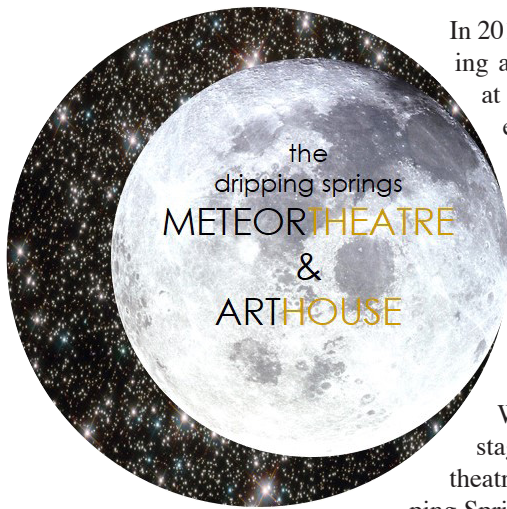
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Diana Ozimek
Owner/Trainer

-  **773.899.1960**
-  **training@gooddoginthemaking.com**
-  **GoodDogintheMaking.com**
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-  **good_dog_in_the_making**

Your community theatre – that little place between the CITGO and the donut shop!

by *Norah Martin*



In 2017, while backstage during a production of *Cabaret* at the Wimberley Players, my friend (and now business partner), Meg Steiner, asked me a thought-provoking question: “Why doesn't Dripping Springs have a community theater?”

At that time Wimberley had three stages available for live theatrical productions. Dripping Springs, just 15 miles away,

was larger and had very robust, quality educational theater programs at the middle and high school levels. But beyond that... nothing.

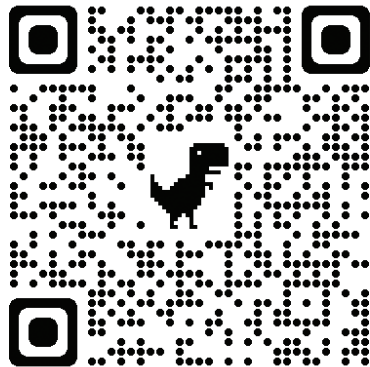
Without really having the slightest idea about how to create a community theater, Meg and I started the process that year. We formed a nonprofit organization called Meteor Theater and began having summer musical camps for children in 2018, to raise funds toward this end. We enjoyed our best summer camp year yet this past summer with five camps and two fully-produced musicals with 165 of your amazing and talented children.

Our collaboration also bore a performing arts school, On Stage Ready. Opened just this past February, we have encountered the simultaneously amazing and terrifying prospect of already having outgrown our leased space. We went on the hunt and found That Little Place between the CITGO and the Donut Shop.

Also known as 603 US 290, it will now be the new, permanent home of On Stage Ready with larger and more rooms for learning, expressing, laughing, and growing. It has a dedicated parent space and buckets of parking. Very importantly, it has a stunning, shade-dappled backyard with tall heritage oaks and a creek bed, setting the scene for the outdoor stage of your community theatre!

While we are getting the plans drawn and checkmarks granted at City Hall, we will very soon offer Movies Under the Stars – family friendly, first-runs, and cult favorites. Once built, the stage will offer community theatre productions to include musicals and straight plays, Shakespeare, and will be financially accessible for playwrights of new works and theatre troupes seeking a venue to display their art.

We are now looking to engage our community for the next steps. We are seeking rock star volunteers for board members, electricians, carpenters, event staff, grant writers, or anyone that has a superpower that is willing to share their time and magic.



Learn more about The Dripping Springs Meteor Theatre and Art House at MeteorTheatre.org and use the contact form on the website if you are interested in volunteering. Donations are also gladly accepted (and much appreciated) on the website as well.

Learn more about our performing arts school at OnStageReady.com – we have just added amazing new instructors, an exciting January class lineup (*ahem*, Glee Club!), as well as a Winter Break day camp.

We hope to see you soon, Drip’!



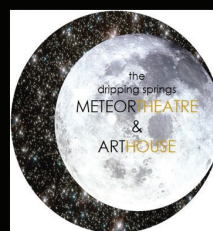
Norah Martin is the co-founder of both Meteor Theatre (a non-profit community theatre in Dripping Springs) and On Stage Ready (a performing arts school in Dripping Springs).

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Kimberly Watson is the Senior Vice President of Lending and Branch Executive at the SouthStar Bank Southwest Austin Branch where she has worked for nine years. Kim specializes residential lending with a focus on land and construction lending. Her ability to build long-term relationships with her community and customers has led her to over 20 years of success in the banking industry. Helping her clients put together a financial plan to build, buy, or refinance their home is Kim's favorite part of her job. She loves being a guide and a connector for her community.

Outside of work, Kim enjoys interacting with the many businesses that make up the Dripping Springs community as a mem-



ber of the Chamber of Commerce. In May of 2022, Kim completed the Leadership Dripping Springs program which gives participants a deeper knowledge and understanding of community challenges and opportunities. Her involvement in

the community has also led to an invite to join the Chamber Ambassadors group.

Kim enjoys spending time her free time at home with her husband, daughter, and extended family. Together they enjoy spending time outside close to any body of water. They also enjoy fishing, boating, and hot rodding with friends.

Kimberly Watson, NMLS #794827



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Healthy nitrogen

by George Altgelt



In the last article, we discussed the need for nitrogen and the ongoing misuse of too much nitrogen. High nitrogen fertilizer programs force the plant to grow simply because plants cannot refuse nitrogen. If it's there, they'll take it up.

The best source of nitrogen is going to come from decomposing organic matter that was once living material. Materials such as alfalfa meal, fish meal, feather meal, and bat guano are the best. These are components which

were once alive, and as such they contain all the trace minerals required for life. When protein compounds are present, small amounts of chemical nitrogen can be very beneficial. As farmers and gardeners, we must select chemical nitrogen that is the least dangerous to microbial life. The consensus has it that ammonium sulfate is that best choice.

At GeoGrowers, I constantly hear feedback about our soils. Most of the time people will say *the first year that soil did great! The second year was pretty good but the third year I didn't get much out of the garden at all.* Such statements are not surprising. As the nutrients are used up, especially the nitrogen, production will diminish. There is a need to put essential nutrients back into the soil. That loss of nutrients is caused from the continuous pro-

duction of fruits and vegetables coming from it. That is from the *cropping* of the produce that you were taking out of that garden that's causing the deficit of nutrients to show up as loss of production. At GeoGrowers, we have many fertilizers that can be added to soil so that your production stays resplendent. I would also recommend that you get a soil analysis just to see what is really missing from that soil. A simple deficiency of zinc can make a huge difference in how well your plans grow and produce.

Next issue: the role of, "Calcium Chief of Minerals".

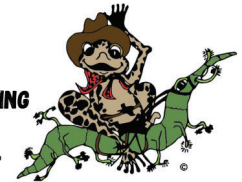
George Altgelt is the owner of Geo Growers, located on 290 and Bells Springs Road. Geo Growers has been in business since 1995 and sells bulk material as well as bagged gardening products and plants. George believes we need to be producing more of our own food, and each one of us can contribute. His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



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Simplicity is not too much to ask

by Randy Lawrence



Depending upon the quality of your water supply, water treatment systems can range in size from compact units designed to be tucked away in a small closet to multiple pieces of equipment requiring a large area. Often a system will have been modified over time with plumbing repairs and the addition or replacement of equipment. In many cases, these modifications are done in a way which makes the installer's job as easy as possible. Simply connecting a brand new softener to an existing maze of old

pipe or running unsupported pipes at odd angles to connect a new piece of equipment are examples of shortcuts which demonstrate a lack of concern for the finished product. The result is a pieced together system which makes access for service difficult, and typically takes up far more space than necessary.

While the operation of the equipment and the product water quality are the most pressing concerns, it is almost as important that the system be simple and streamlined to eliminate problems when the need arises for maintenance or service. When discussing the work to be performed, address any concerns you may have about the current system and clarify the scope of work to be done. If a piece of equipment is to be replaced, ask how the new connections will be made. Also, be sure to ask what will happen to the old

unit. Many times, the equipment will be left for the homeowner to dispose of. Obviously, it affects the equipment dealer's bottom line to perform work beyond a simple *cut and paste* installation, but it's reasonable to expect your water system to be carefully planned and installed in a user-friendly and space efficient manner.

It usually takes a little more time, and a few additional fittings, but when the technician puts forth the extra effort to simplify the system, it can make a world of difference. If you're concerned about the treatment equipment you currently have, a trained and licensed professional can suggest ways to improve the layout, performance and overall efficiency of your system.

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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4 Real estate lessons learned in 2022

by Steve Mallett

This year saw the real estate market go from Mount Everest highs and then avalanche over the course of two weeks into the largest about face since 2007. In early 2022, every economist was saying that any correction would be a pillow soft landing. They could not have been more wrong. Here are the major takeaways you need to know

as we head into 2023:

1. No real estate surge will ever last forever. It was starting to seem like there was no top to the market as each sale just leaptfrogged the previous one in pricing. Large companies bet billions of dollars that the market would never fade. Now those companies are shuttering and laying off thousands of people because a declining market cannot support businesses founded on the premise that real estate prices would rise forever.

2. You cannot time the market. Relying on new reports and economists to predict the top of the market is folly. It can be gone faster than you can say *who wants to buy my house?* Buy or sell when you can afford the payment or need to move. You'll never be able to predict the entirely unpredictable.

3. It's a better time to buy now than it was in late 2021. If you buy now you can have your pick of homes, get a decent price, and negotiate some repairs. Twelve months ago you would have

paid \$200K over asking, on a home you didn't really like, and the seller's agent would have laughed at you if you wanted something repaired prior to closing. Now buyers feel like kings and queens again. Yes, interest rates are higher but you can buy your dream home now and re-finance when rates decline.

4. Real estate is still one of the best paths to wealth creation. With inflation at record highs, real estate has been the most stable place to park your money. If you are sitting on cash, it is worth less and less every day as inflation erodes its buying power. You make money on real estate when you buy it. If you never buy anything, you never make anything. Many homeowners still have massive equity accumulated even after the decline. Home prices are currently at late 2021 levels. Anyone who bought before 2019 has seen massive wealth accumulation.

2022 was as crazy as a Saturday night on 6th Street and 2023 promises more of the same. There are valuable lessons learned this year and the people who learn them will ride high into the next market surge.

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: The power of judges

by Roland Brown



I recently spoke at a conference of lawyers and judges. I shared some of my memorable experiences with judges over the past 47 years, including some rather humorous encounters. I also shared situations in which judges used their considerable power to cut to the chase and get to a just result.


One such instance involved a then well-known federal district judge from Tyler, Texas, William Wayne Justice. Judge Justice's name could not have been more apt as he presided with a no-nonsense approach to holding accountable those who were prone to abusing their positions of power and privilege. He was perhaps best known for bringing about needed changes in the Texas prison system as a result of a case in his court known as *the Ruiz case*. Wikipedia contains this comment about that case: "Ruiz v. Estelle, 503 F. Supp. 1265, filed in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, eventually became the most far-reaching lawsuit on the conditions of prison incarceration in American history."

Back in the day, when I was still handling criminal defense cases, I had the pleasure of being the recipient of that same sense of justice when one of my clients was charged with illegally selling mortgaged cattle. My client explained that the FBI had taken all of his paperwork relative to the cattle, and that without that paperwork, he could not trace the transactions in order to show

that he had not violated the law. The FBI claimed that they could not locate his files, leaving our hands tied as we sought to defend the case. In response to a motion which I filed, Judge Justice made it abundantly clear (I can still picture him glaring at the federal prosecutor at the hearing) that those files were to be located and brought to him promptly. Magically, the files appeared. He then turned his large chambers over to us to sort through the files which led to the case being dismissed by the prosecutors.


I just discovered that there is a book about Judge Justice published by The University of Texas Press. I invite you to order a copy and join me in learning more about a judge who used his power for good.

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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Resolutions

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



Reagan Rentschler,
CFP®

It's that time of year when many of us promise ourselves we'll go to the gym more, or learn a new language, or take up a musical instrument, or any number of other worthy goals. But this year, when making New Year's resolutions, why not also consider some financial ones?

Don't let inflation derail your investment strategy. Inflation was the big financial story of 2022, hitting a 40-year high. While it may moderate

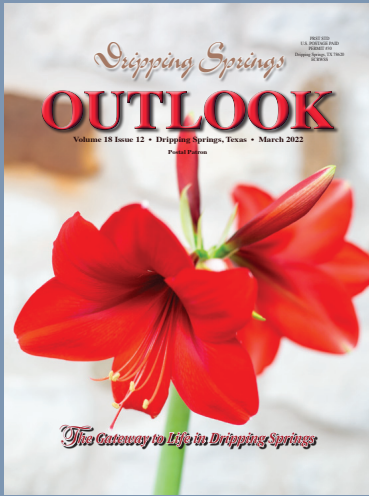
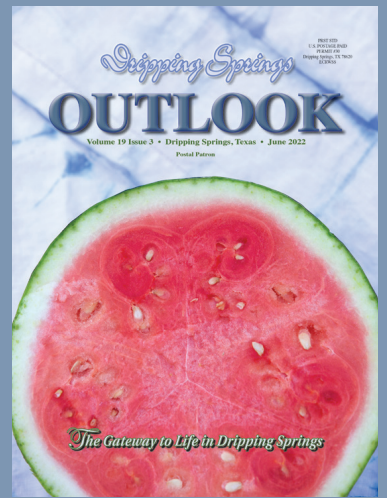
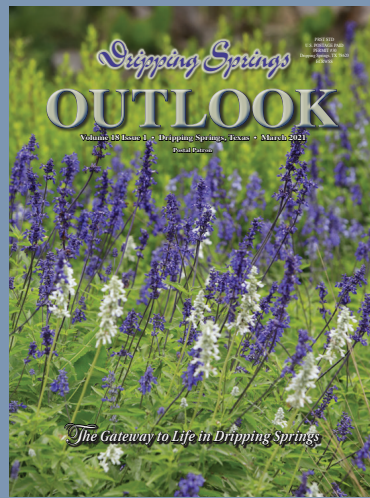
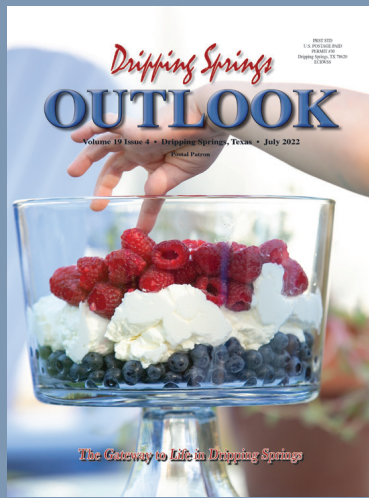
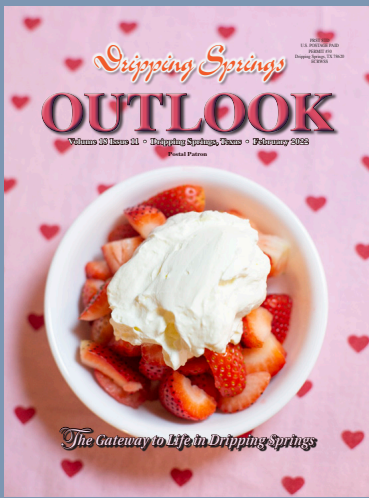
somewhat this year, it will likely still be higher than what we experienced the past decade or so. Try not to let today's inflation harm your investment strategy for the future. That happened last year: More than half of American workers either reduced their contributions to their 401(k)s and other retirement plans or stopped contributing completely during the third quarter of 2022, according to a survey by Allianz Life Insurance of North America. Are there other ways you can free up money – lowering spending perhaps – so you can continue contributing to your retirement accounts?

Control your debts. Inflation can also be a factor in debt management. Your credit card debt could rise due to rising prices and variable credit card interest rate increases. By paying your bill

each month, you can avoid the effects of rising interest rates. If you do carry a balance, you might be able to transfer it to a lower-rate card, depending on your credit score. If you're carrying multiple credit cards, you might benefit by getting a fixed-rate debt consolidation loan. The lower your debt payments, the more you can invest for your long-term goals.

Review your investment portfolio. At least once a year, review your investment portfolio to determine if it's still appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Don't make changes just because you feel your recent performance is not what it should have been. When the financial markets are down, even quality investments, such as stocks of companies with solid business fundamentals and strong prospects, can see declines in value. If these investments are still suitable, consider keeping them.

Prepare for the unexpected. If you encountered an unexpected expense, how would you pay for it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might dip into your long-term investments or retirement accounts. Build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses – or a year's worth, if you're retired – with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. These resolutions can be useful, so try to put them to work in 2023. *Reagan Smith, Financial Advisor specializes in helping individual investors and business owners reach their financial goals. She can be reached at 512 894 3793.*

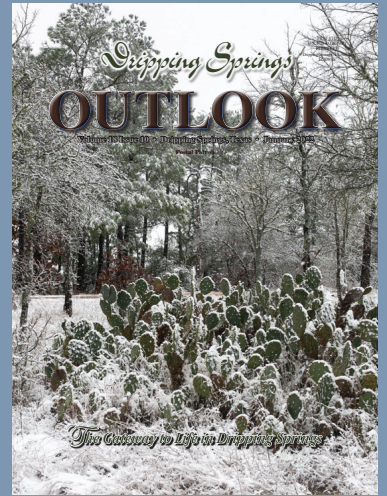


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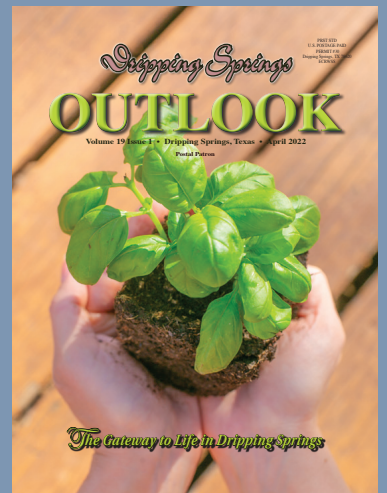
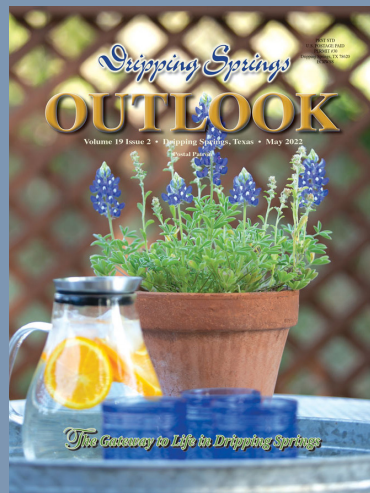
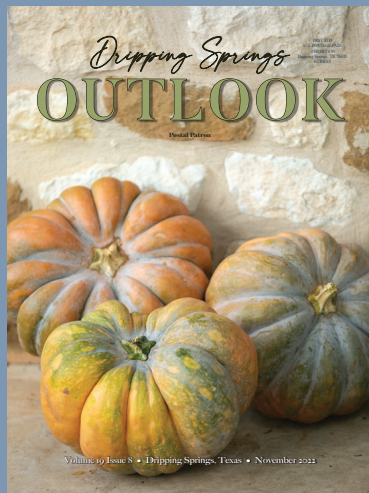
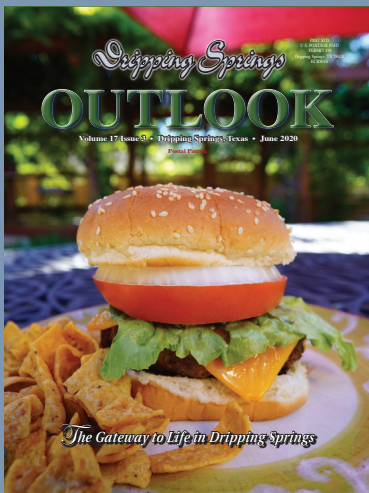
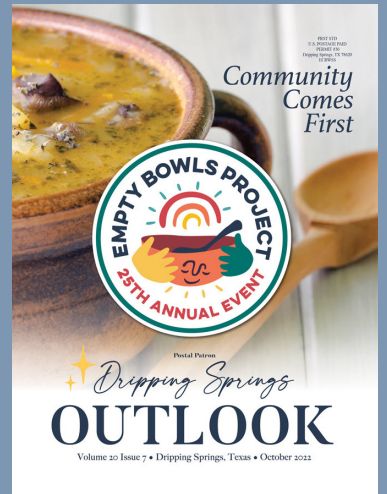
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