

December

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*Dripping Springs*

# OUTLOOK

Postal Patron



Volume 20 Issue 8 • Dripping Springs, Texas • December 2023



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**Wishing you and yours a magical holiday season filled with family, friends, joy and laughter.**

**All the best,  
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For Sale/ For Lease  
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699K or \$3400 a month  
5 bedrooms, 3 baths

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*Merry Christmas*

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# Hope

I love to witness this time of year through my son's eyes. The beautiful lights everywhere, the music, and, of course, presents. I have to wonder what he makes out of all of it, especially when he was a baby and a toddler. Sometimes he asks – usually in the summertime – “why can't we have Christmas every day?” And it's a question that almost brings me to tears because every year as Christmas Day fades into night, I wonder the same thing.



There's something more to this season than lights and presents. It's possibly the same reason that Christmas time can make some so happy and others so sad. Hope and anticipation of something wonderful to come hovers in the air. I have experienced joyful Christmas and Christmas that reminds me of something or someone we've lost. They definitely hit differently. However when these sad moments in time are embraced with a spirit of reverence and even gratitude, we can find joy therein. Christmas time is a season of hope. Hope, like truth and love, doesn't require anyone's belief in it to be so. Like David Ben-Gurion said, “Anyone who doesn't believe in miracles is not a realist.”

And so, wherever you are this time of year, I pray this is your best Christmas yet. May the Spirit of the season embrace you and carry you through the new year, so we can make it Christmas every day.

*Happy December, y'all!*

Warmly,

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

## *Dripping Springs* **OUTLOOK**

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- Every Mon.-Fri. **Hill Country Senior Center** 1310 W. Hwy 290, offers a delicious lunch served at noon. Call in by 10:30 and order it to go, too. For more information or to see menu: [HCSeniorCenter.org](http://HCSeniorCenter.org)
- Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm **RED Arena Gift Shop** is open featuring seasonal decor created by & supporting programs for adults with disabilities. 2435 W. Fitzhugh Rd. Visit [REDarena.org](http://REDarena.org) for more information.
- Every Mon. 12pm, **DS Rotary Club** meets at Flores, 2440 E Hwy 290 W. For more information visit [DrippingSpringsRotary.org](http://DrippingSpringsRotary.org).
- Every Mon. 9am **All Abilities Chair Exercise**, Dripping Springs Community Library, 501 Sportsplex DR, 512 858 7825 or [DSCL.org](http://DSCL.org)
- Every Mon. 6pm **Nar Anon Family Group** at Friendship Creekside Fellowship 14455 Fm 1826. For family & friends of addicts.
- Every 1st Mon. **DS Ag Boosters** meet in Ag Building behind DS Middle School at 7pm. Visit [DSAgBoosters.org](http://DSAgBoosters.org) for updates
- Every 1st & 3rd Mon. 6:30pm, **Lions Club** meets at Dripping Springs Ranch Park located at 1042 Ranch Road 12. Across from the DS Elementary School. For information call Sharon Goss at 512 923 8630 or email [dslionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:dslionsclub@gmail.com)
- Every 2nd Mon. Dripping Springs **4-H Club** meets at 6:30pm at the 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 Mon. **Stroller Strides workout**, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, Summer 512 644 4198, [SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com](mailto:SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com)

- Every Tues. 6:30pm **Toastmasters of DS**, courtroom in Hays county office 195 Roger Hanks Pkwy. Visitors welcome. [DSToastmasters.com](http://DSToastmasters.com)
- Every Tues. 5:30pm **Al Anon**, Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church, 26650 Ranch Road 12. Childcare provided.
- Every 2nd Tues. **Bluebonnet Auxiliary** meets at 2pm at Hill Country Care Nursing and Rehab Center, 1505 W. 290. Call Janice Ruyle, 512 264 2538. Volunteers needed. Entertainment and special events for the residents of HCC.
- Every Tuesday at 7pm, **Boy Scout Troop 101** meets in the Foundry building of DS United Methodist Church. Contact Jen Medlock at [medlock.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:medlock.scouts@gmail.com)

- Every Wed.-Sat. Noon-3pm, **Dr. Pound Pioneer Farmstead and Museum** is open for tours. Call 512 858 2030.
- Every Wed. **Farmer's Market** at the Dr. Pound Farmstead, 3-6pm. For more info [CityofDrippingSprings.com](http://CityofDrippingSprings.com) or 512 858 4725.
- Every Wed. at 8:30am. **The Hill Country Christian Business Networking Alliance** meets at El Rey. Visit ([HCCBNA](http://HCCBNA)) on Facebook.
- Every Wed. 5-6pm. **Christ Centered Prayer, meditation, and class**. McArthur Hall Meeting Room #1, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 6000 FM 3237. For more info call 512 847 9956.
- Every 3rd Wed. **Dripping Springs Cook-Off Club**, Acopton Brewery. For more information call Michele Ryon 512 299 7455.
- Every Wed. **Stroller Barre workout**, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, Summer, 512 644 4198 or [SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com](mailto:SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com)

- Thur. **Trivia every Thursday at Acopton Brewing** on Mercer Street 7-9pm
- Thurs. 7pm, **Celebrate Recovery**, hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Christ-centered recovery program. [ChurchoftheSprings.org/CR](http://ChurchoftheSprings.org/CR)
- Every 1st Thur. 7pm **Vince F. Taylor American Legion Post 290 of Dripping Springs** invites all eligible veterans to 231 Patriots Hall Blvd. For information call 512 858 5637.
- Every 1st Thurs. 6-7:30pm, **Nonfiction Addiction Book Club** at Dripping Springs Community Library, [DSCL.org](http://DSCL.org), 512 858 7825. Newcomers welcome. Email [AdultServices@dsccl.org](mailto: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](http://PhotographersofDS.us)
- Every Thur. 12pm, **Al Anon**, Dripping Springs United Methodist Church, 28900 Ranch Road 12. Childcare provided.
- 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, soft drinks available. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (Wimberley United Methodist Church.) [WimberleyUMC.org](http://WimberleyUMC.org) Proceeds benefit Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. Performing **Thurs. December 21: Susan Gibson**
- Every Thursday, **Skate Night** at Dripping Springs Ranch Park from 5-7:30pm, skateboards, roller skates, & scooters

- Every Fri. **Stroller Strides Playdate with Kids Craft Fridays**, 10am, Emily Ann Theatre, contact Summer, 512 644 4198 or email [SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com](mailto:SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com)
- 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](mailto:DrippingSpringsMOPS@gmail.com)
- Every Fri. 12pm, **Al Anon**, Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church, 26650 Ranch Road 12. Childcare provided.

- Every Saturday, **Live music at the Barber Shop**, 4-6pm
- Every 1st Sunday, Dripping Springs Church of Christ, 470 Old Hwy 290 (across from Tractor Supply), **First Sunday Focus**, a meal after Bible study and worship. Bible study at 9:30am, 10:30am worship. Meal provided at 11:30am. For more information visit [DSChurchofChrist.com](http://DSChurchofChrist.com), 512 858 4500.

- Sunday, December 3 through Sunday, December 17 "Mama Won't Fly" Meteor Theatre, 603 US 290, 78620. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at [MeteorTheatre.org](http://MeteorTheatre.org).
- Sunday December 17, Holiday Market, Vista Brewing, noon to dusk. Indoor market, 13551 FM 150 W., 78619
  - Monday, December 25, Christmas Day
  - Sunday, December 31, New Years Eve

# Are you holiday ready?

by Breca Tracy, PhD



Calling all men, gentlemen, dads, husbands, boyfriends – all the above! Women, daughters, wives, girlfriends, daughter-in-laws, and yes, friends too! The holidays are right around the corner. If you need assistance this year, let us help you secure some local gifts ahead of schedule!

Gift cards are a guaranteed slam dunk! Customize your gift card to a specific

service or dollar amount to please almost anyone in the family. At REGENERATE, we have many different services and products. Options range from medical grade skincare products to facial and body services, to bodywork (medical massage), to anti-aging, weight management and acne solutions, to vitamin drips/shots to help you feel your best, look your best, and overall be the best you can be! We have packages and services which 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 hydrafacial 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 aesthetic and body services with IV vitamin services – two treatments, one appointment, one-hour total time commitment!

If you are looking for something other than gifting a dollar amount or service, we have just the right fit for you. Have you seen REGENERATE's featured Liz James custom design, the Evalyn? We guarantee you will not find this necklace anywhere but on the shelves at REGENERATE. This necklace is a timeless, reasonably priced and classically designed dainty necklace for your everyday pleasure. If jewelry isn't at the top of the list, try our limited-edition Cranberry Orange Exfoliating Scrub from Jan Marini which includes a free Age Intervention Cleanser with purchase. Two presents for the price of one, yay! This won't stay on the shelves much longer. Grab this seasonal favorite before it's gone!

REGENERATE also offers cosmetic injections, custom facials, IPL, laser resurfacing, laser hair and tattoo removal, RF Microneedling, and chemical peels! It's the season for giving and for self-care. Set up a consultation with one of our medical or aesthetic experts to see what type of plan would achieve your 2024 goals.

For more information, 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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## Overcoming problem acne: Clearskin Acne Programs at The Piazza Center



by Rocco C. Piazza, M.D

It's important to understand the complexities of acne and why it can be a challenge to manage. Acne is a common skin condition that can affect individuals of all ages. It arises when hair follicles become clogged with oil and dead skin cells, resulting in the formation of pimples, blackheads, and whiteheads.

Genetics, hormonal changes, and lifestyle choices can contribute to the development of acne.

The Piazza Center's Clearskin Acne Programs are designed to improve even the most stubborn, treatment-resistant acne. Our approach is a harmonious blend of therapies, which include hydra-facials, blue light therapies, laser therapies, extractions, and peels.

We understand that no two individuals are alike and neither is their acne. That's why our treatment plans are personalized to meet your specific needs and tailored to the severity of your acne. We offer three distinct Clearskin Acne Programs, each designed to cater to different acne types and severities.

- 3-Month Clearskin Protocol: Ideal for patients experiencing mild acne breakouts, with a focus on treating blackheads and whiteheads. Each treatment includes a premium hydrafacial with blue light LED therapy to reduce bacteria, extractions, and a Skin-Better Peel. Best of all, there's no downtime involved.

- 6-Month Clearskin Protocol: This protocol is perfect for pa-

tients dealing with mild to moderate acne breakouts, often accompanied by inflammation. Patients receive one treatment per month for six months, including three Clearskin Acne Facials and three ZO 3-Step Peels, which stimulate collagen production and help address scarring. These treatments alternate monthly.

- 6-Month Advanced Clearskin Protocol: Designed for patients with aggressive acne, typically cystic with red and irritated bumps. You'll receive three Clearskin Acne Facials, three BBL Forever Clear Laser Treatments with a specialized acne filter to target acne bacteria and reduce redness, and one ZO 3-Step Peel.

Say goodbye to acne-related worries and hello to a brighter, more confident version of yourself. We are committed to helping you achieve clear and healthy skin. Start your journey to clearer skin by scheduling a consultation with our team of expert dermatologists to assess your skin, discuss your concerns, and create a treatment plan tailored to your needs and the severity of your acne.

*Rocco C. Piazza, M.D is a Diplomate of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, as well as a national spokesperson for the ASPS. Call 512 288 8200 and visit the website [ThePiazzaCenter.com](http://ThePiazzaCenter.com).*



## A year-end celebration of hemp: Texas' positive outlook for 2023 and beyond



by Heidi Pousson

As we bid adieu to 2023, it's time to reflect on the triumphs of the hemp market in Dripping Springs, Texas, and set our sights on the promising horizon of 2024. The Lone Star State's hemp industry has experienced significant growth this year, with numerous positives to celebrate.

Texas lawmakers have continued to show their support for the hemp industry, passing legislation that streamlines regulations and opens up new opportunities for local farmers and businesses. This includes measures that ease licensing requirements and promote research and development in hemp cultivation. As a result, we can expect to see even more Texas farmers entering the hemp market in 2024.

One of the most exciting aspects of the hemp market in Texas is the promise of competitive pricing and higher-quality products in the coming year. As the industry matures, economies of scale and increased competition are likely to drive down prices while encouraging producers to improve the quality of their offerings. This means consumers can look forward to accessing premium hemp products right here in Dripping Springs.

2023 saw Texas farmers making their mark in the hemp market and this trend is set to continue into 2024. As our local agricultural

community gains more experience and expertise in hemp cultivation, we can anticipate a surge in Texas-grown hemp products, showcasing the talent and dedication of our homegrown farmers.

The hemp market's evolution is not limited to traditional hemp products. In 2024, we anticipate an exciting wave of innovative infused products, with a particular focus on the beverage market. Hemp-infused drinks are expected to gain popularity, offering consumers a refreshing and health-conscious way to enjoy the benefits of hemp.

As we raise our glasses to bid farewell to 2023, let's toast to a prosperous and exciting 2024 for the hemp market in our beautiful town. And finally, hats off to you, our loyal customers. This last year has been an amazing ride and we owe it all to you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*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. They can be reached at 512 648 7420.*



HAUS OF JAYNE

Dripping Springs Outlook | December 2023

# Three gifts we can give ourselves

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



The day after Thanksgiving I went to the mailbox, opened the door, peered inside, and (no surprise there) found it stuffed with holiday catalogs. Thick, glossy wads of pages selling clothes and smoked meats and candy and electronics and hiking essentials. I considered closing the door back up, but there would only be more mailers stuffed in the mailbox the next day, so I lugged them into the house

and tossed them into the mail basket where they could commune with the other catalogs. It's an old saw to gripe about the commercialization of Christmas, so I won't even go there. Besides, you've heard it all before. But I will say this one thing: *Really? Christmas promotions put up in the stores the day after Halloween?* Okay, got that out of my system.

While I like clothes, smoked meats, candy, electronics, and cool hiking boots as much as the next person, the dopamine hit from purchasing such objects can fade pretty fast. Yet I believe what engenders the most positive emotions in people tends to be engagement in activities meaningful to them.

A gift of meaning you can give to yourself is to be kind. Kind to yourself and kind to others. Self-compassion is a self-directed choice; however anger and impatience can be an unconscious habit that eats away at your peace of mind. If you find yourself angry at the driver who cuts you off in traffic or impatient in a long line at the store, stop and notice those feelings. What automatic thoughts

are firing them? Probably thoughts involving negative labels you adhere to others. And who's absorbing all that negativity the most? You.

A gift of meaning you can give yourself is to be fierce. To stand up for others when you see an injustice or find a way to reduce someone's suffering. Take the risk, rather than turning away, telling yourself someone else will handle it. This also goes for yourself. If you feel someone has crossed a personal boundary, you have it within your powers to tell them you have value and it doesn't work for you to be disrespected. To be fierce means to be vulnerable by getting out of your comfort zone and advocating what you believe is right. While anything might happen by standing up, it's also where magic and a deeper sense of satisfaction often lives.

A gift of meaning you can give yourself is to be curious and work hard. To set out on an adventure and not wait for your future self to explore the place you've always wanted to experience. Take the class, start a new business, or create a piece of art that wasn't there before until you focused on it. To be curious is to lean into our amazing world one step at a time. To not wait for the *right* time or permission from others. Let your curiosity be the candle lighting the path before you.

In a line from Antoine de Saint-Exupery's book, *The Little Prince*, the author wrote, "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eyes."

*Leslie Tourish, LPC, is a Dripping Springs psychotherapist in private practice. To contact Leslie, visit [LeslieTourish.com](http://LeslieTourish.com) or [LATourish.com](http://LATourish.com)*

## Slow down

by Sarah Geenberg



Have you heard that old story about the 1,000 pots? A professor was teaching ceramics. He split his class in two and told one half that in order to get an A, they had to come up with one great pot. He told the other half that to get an A, they had to make 1,000 pots.

In the end, which had a better pot: the students who worked hard to get one wonderful pot or the ones who had – without caring about the outcome – gone through 1,000 mess-ups and 1,000 opportunities to figure it out? Who do you think had more confidence that they could produce another great pot and knew they could do it even better?

We say in karate – *Great kick! Now practice it 10,000 times.* We all know that the world is full of instant gratification that did not exist before. We've had 150 years and more things that have quickly become even more instantaneous. Think of someone born in 1850 and living 25 miles outside of town. He went from it taking two days to get into town by oxen and covered wagon to horses pulling the wagons to seeing his first train to later in life going by car and getting home in 30 minutes. And we just keep getting faster and faster.

In karate, we say there are two ways of learning. The first is the fast way. Here, learning does not go very deep. It is easily

forgotten due to it not being connected to other experiences and problems. There is also a slow way to learn that goes into such a deep understanding that it connects to similar situations and challenges that then connect to more situations. This continues to the point that seemingly different areas of life connect. In the case of karate or even yoga or Tai Chi, the learning takes place in muscle memory and becomes a part of how we move as well as how we think.

The art of practice is so important, no matter what we are practicing. Brain health is going away, because we are simply going too fast.

*Sarah Geenberg is the owner of Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio, near Blue Hole, and [OnlineSeniorsYoga.com](http://OnlineSeniorsYoga.com). The yoga, Tai Chi, and karate classes are building again. Classes are offered indoors, outdoors, and online. Feel free to come check us out.*

### Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio



**Sarah Geenberg**  
**(512) 971-8528**

**501 Old Kyle Road**  
**Wimberley, TX 78676**  
**[wimberleykarateyoga.com](http://wimberleykarateyoga.com)**





# 2024 Book Recommendations

by Deborah Carter Mastelotto

We will all welcome the new energy 2024 brings, especially during the first half of the year. We feel a strong need to establish ourselves, build something solid, and unapologetically embrace comfort and security.

We attract the most good fortune by being steady, charitable, and generous. We can pursue our goals in a more leisurely fashion, watching profits and possessions slowly accumulate but we must guard against being stubborn and too self-focused.

*Capricorn* (December 22 - January 19) 2024 is your year to embrace social media, amp up your marketing skills, and get creative. If this seems like a tall order and a bit frivolous, don't worry. The stars are on your side and will help. Need a little advice? The book you for you is *Followed: The Content Creator's Guide to Being Seen, Facing Judgment, and Building an Authentic Personal Brand* by Amanda Bucci. Read this book then jump right in.

*Aquarius* (January 20 - February 18) Your surroundings have always been a reflection of your personal style and no one really gets that. How your home is decorated and arranged can have an important impact on the quality of your life, so this is the year for you to read Anita Yokota's book *Home Therapy: Interior Design for Increasing Happiness, Boosting Confidence, and Creating Calm: An Interior Design Book*. Time to be aware of what you've been unconsciously doing.

*Pisces* (February 19 - March 20) A lot of important things are happening and will be happening because of you. This is the year, your year, to start writing these things down. You need to be aware that non-fiction has been outselling fiction 3 to 2. Reading the Julia Cameron book *The Right to Write: An Invitation and Initiation into the Writing Life* will give your new writing a jump start.

*Aries* (March 21 - April 19) Learn to think like a *business of one* but, to make remote work satisfying and productive you need a strategy. That's why the book *Remote, Inc: How to Thrive at Work...Wherever You Are* by Alexandra Samuel and Robert C. Posen is the book you need this year. Tap into the unique advantages of working from home.

*Taurus* (April 20 - May 20) This is your year to be social, because the more you socialize (especially with groups and organizations) the more successful you are. To help you do this painlessly, first read Karen Wick's *Taking the Work Out of Networking: Your Guide to Making and Keeping Great Connections*. Make genuine connections that last.

*Gemini* (May 21 - June 20) Life doesn't have to be as complicated as it was last year but your key to success is just a shift in your perspective. Let Vaughn Carter help you see things differently with his book *Help Me, I'm Stuck: Six Proven Methods to Shift Your Mindset From Self-Sabotage to Self-Improvement* and get out of your own way.

*Cancer* (June 21 - July 22) This is your year to sort out your acquaintances and make your friendships and connections deeply meaningful as a grown up. *You Will Find Your People: How to Make Meaningful Friendships as an Adult* by Lane Moore can be your personal guide to healing from past friendships, improving your current ones, and finally having the friendships you know you deserve.

*Leo* (July 23 - August 22) This year your career success depends on sharing your vision and enlisting acolytes to follow it. Going solo won't bring you as much joy (or profit), but you might need a little boost. Read Cameron Herold's *Vivid Vision: A Remarkable Tool For Aligning Your Business Around a Shared Vision of the Future*. This book can be a holistic road map to help get your teammates passionate about your big picture and the one you want to share to make your dream a reality.

*Virgo* (August 23 - September 22) Whether you're on a shoestring budget or in search of a little bit of luxury, this year is going to be fun and full of travel, especially if you're part of a couple. For some great motivation get the book *The Couple's Guide to World Travel* by Rich and Elizabeth Kerian. See how to easily plan extended travel experiences together to take advantages of the year's great energies. Don't have a partner? Then travel just might change that for you.

*Libra* (September 23 - October 22) It's the year for you to explore creating a simple framework for the kind of uncomplicated and non-stressful money life experience you dream of. You might even expect a windfall or inheritance in 2024, so how to manage it? Read the book *Keep It Simple, Make It Big: Money Management for a Meaningful Life* by Michael Lynch. Upgrade your financial home base. It's the time for it.

*Scorpio* (October 23 - November 21) Fun is action we can take practically anywhere, anytime. Research and science prove we need fun and creativity for our physical and mental well-being. Yet our modern society squeezes the fun from our daily lives and makes us feel guilty for desiring it. Especially you, Scorpio. That needs to change this year. Mike Rucker's book *The Fun Habit: How the Pursuit of Joy and Wonder Can Change Your Life* is your book for 2024. Take this fun thing as a challenge and especially so if you have a partner.

*Sagittarius* (November 22 - December 21) Sagittarius folk need to feel the freedom to move, especially in your work environment. The fact that you can now work anywhere is what's so appealing about remote work – you can take it with you wherever you choose to be. The book *Remote Work Revolution: Succeeding from Anywhere* by Tsedal Neeley was (almost) written just for you this year.

Deborah Carter Mastelotto is a pathological entrepreneur, a minor student of quantum physics, unapologetic observer of human nature and undefatigable advice-giver. [pinkchronicity.com](http://pinkchronicity.com).





# Strawberries

by George Altgelt

In this session, we're going to look at how to grow strawberries in Central Texas. The conventional advice is to plant strawberries in September. I'm not sure who wrote that or even who believes that. Most of us noticed how ridiculously hot it was in September. I would say your strawberries would love it if you planted them in late October, or even now. The cooler weather

is much easier on them. They should not need to be covered during frosts.

Strawberry plants need to be planted in slightly acidic soil. They would prefer a 5.5 pH. However that's very difficult to achieve in Central Texas. Our Thunder Garden soil would be ideal because it has a pH of about 6.7. The strawberry plant will actually manage to change the soil pH to 5.5 around its roots once it starts to mature.

You need to refrain from harvesting fruit in the first few weeks of their growth. Instead, pinch the flowers off, so they do not develop strawberries. The plant will then put its effort into developing its root system and sending out its runners, which are actually clones of itself. The runners can be planted in the ground while still connected to the mother plant. This is a great way to increase how many plants you have and how well the ground is covered with the shade of its leaves.

Strawberries like sandy, well-drained soil with good fertility. Thunder Garden will work very well. Also feed the plants with

Fish Emulsion. Keep on planting the runners from the mama plant. Soon, strawberries will have taken over the whole section of your garden.

In the second year, the plants will be ready to produce fruit. You may need some shade cloth to cover your strawberry patch in summer. Also, the shade cloth will cool the soil and save water. Some of the best strawberries I have ever had were homegrown strawberries. They were exceptionally sweet.

Next time we'll talk about freeze hardiness of plants in general.

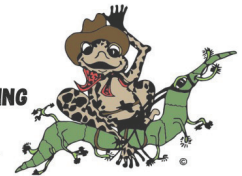
*George Altgelt is the owner of Geo Growers, located on 290 and Bells Springs Road. Geo Growers has been in business since 1995 and sells bulk material as well as bagged gardening products and plants. George believes we need to be producing more of our own food, and each one of us can contribute. His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

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# Will your dog enjoy a new puppy?

by Diana Ozimek



It's that time of year... puppies at Christmas. No doubt your children will be excited but what about the resident dog?

In my experience, senior dogs and puppies aren't a good match. I can't tell you how many clients I have with a senior dog who – at the most – will try to

co-exist. Many times, the senior dog can get aggressive toward the puppy or start disengaging with the family to hide from the crazy puppy. I've had the same experience in my own home. We used to foster puppy after puppy and our old GSD, Zoe, was the best. So good she earned the nickname *mama Zoe*. As she got older, we noticed a point where she was intolerant of puppy nonsense, especially when laying in her bed. She turned from the best leader ever to Cujo.

What if you have a young, adult dog who is still playful? This can be a great situation and your dog may enjoy a new playmate. Your dog loves the new puppy, instant best friends. This doesn't mean your job is done. I often hear people express the idea that the puppy will learn from the adult dog; potty training is easier, learn better manners and rules, all from following the other dog. Sometimes, but not always.

If your dogs are besties, the one thing I can almost guarantee will be better for you – the puppy will bite you less. Dogs play with their mouths, when they have that outlet, it means less puppy bites on your arms. All in all, no matter who your resident dog is, you need to be ready to be prepared if they aren't best friends. Be sure you want a puppy no matter how it plays out.

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



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# Big changes coming to the real estate industry?

by Steve Mallett



A recent anti-trust lawsuit verdict has dominated news headlines recently like Kim Kardashian anywhere near a camera. A jury ruled that the National Association of Realtors, and some large (read: deep pocketed) real estate brokerages, colluded to overcharge sellers when selling their homes. The plaintiff argued that real estate brokerages are a cartel forcing sellers to pay commissions to buyers agents to bring a qualified buyer to purchase their home. The verdict will more than likely be appealed but the decision shows a lack of understanding about what drives the healthy real estate market in this country.

Sellers have always been able to decide if they want to pay a commission to an agent representing a buyer. To earn a commission buyers agents cultivate and qualify a buyer, and then negotiate on the buyers behalf so that they are successful in the purchase of a property. Forcing a buyer to pay a commission directly to a buyers agent will force many less well-financed buyers to forgo the benefit of representation. The system has encouraged a level playing field.

Prices in the U.S. have always had a commission built into the price. Many studies show that people who sell their home themselves, or don't pay an agent commission, net less for a sale. Represented sellers benefit from knowing that they were protected from making any large mistakes that could cost them large amounts of money or come back to haunt them in the future. An unrepresented

seller is going to give away more than they want and possibly give away more than they know. In the words of Donald Rumsfeld, "If we know anything, it is that weakness is provocative."

Real estate is an industry that has made more millionaires than any other investment available to the average citizen. Part of the reason is the ethics and guidelines followed by the thousands of agents who have chosen to help clients realize their real estate goals in exchange for a fee that is baked into the price. The media would have you believe that the plaintiff rode in on a white steed to save the village poor. Hopefully they won't kill the golden goose that has provided a way for the average villager to have their own golden egg.

*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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# Chamber of Commerce Focus on Business: Rollo Insurance: A legacy of expertise and understanding in Dripping Springs

In the heart of Dripping Springs, Texas, a town known for its natural beauty and strong community spirit, stands Rollo Insurance, an embodiment of trust and dedication. At the helm of this esteemed agency is Anne Archambeault, a past educator turned insurance agent, whose journey is as inspiring as it is impactful.

Anne's transition from the world of education to insurance is not just a career shift; it's a continuation of her lifelong commitment to serving others. Her background as an educator brings a unique perspective to the insurance industry – one that is rooted in patience, understanding, and an innate desire to help others. This blend of qualities has made Rollo Insurance not just a business, but a community asset in Dripping Springs.

Under Anne and her guidance, Rollo Insurance offers a comprehensive range of services, including home, auto, life, and commercial insurance. But what truly sets the agency apart is Anne and her team's approach to client relationships. She understands that every individual and business in Dripping Springs has its own story and specific needs. With her educator's knack for explaining complex concepts in simple terms, Anne ensures that her clients



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are not just purchasing a policy but gaining an understanding and peace of mind.

Anne's impact extends beyond the walls of her agency. Her involvement in the community, driven by her passion for education and wellbeing, resonates throughout Dripping Springs. Whether it's participating in local events, supporting educational initiatives, or simply being

ing a friendly, knowledgeable presence, Anne's contribution to the community is invaluable.

Rollo Insurance, under Anne's leadership, is more than an insurance provider; it's a pillar of support and guidance in Dripping Springs. For those seeking an insurance partner who truly cares and understands, Anne Archambeault and Rollo Insurance are the go-to choice, where clients are treated like family and their needs are met with expertise and a warm heart.

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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, you should 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 simply left in the immediate area 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 20 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over a decade.*

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## Routine tree care now may prevent storm damage later

by Steven Austin



A certified arborist, like those from Bartlett Tree Experts, can inspect for defects and conditions that could predispose your trees to failure. A skilled arborist will look for:

- Dead, dying, and weakly attached branches and dead trees
- Decayed or split stems and branches
- Root disease or disturbances
- Exceptionally dense canopies
- Trees with poor architecture
- Species with weak wood

In many cases these hazards are not always obvious to the untrained eye and correcting them can be a dangerous job. That's why before remedial treatments are recommended or any work is performed, an arborist should fully inspect trees and conduct a more detailed assessment if needed. This could even include a climbing inspection or an analysis of decay.

Based on the outcome of an inspection, an arborist will recommend appropriate treatments such as pruning, installation of supportive cables or braces, and even lightning protection systems. Removal should only be considered where high-risk conditions exist that cannot be effectively mitigated.

Whatever treatments are required, the arborist should provide a detailed proposal that describes the work to be performed and the reasons that it is needed. Tree work proposals should always include a firm price for these services and should address issues of debris and stump removal when appropriate.

Do not use an arborist who proposes topping trees as a solution to storm damage prevention. Topping leads to problems later in the life of the tree and is expressly prohibited by industry standards.

Schedule a consultation with an ISA certified arborist to ensure your trees are prepared for the season.

*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.*



# Litigation: Who changed the rules?

by Roland Brown



Imagine a game in which the referees can change the rules and the result after the final whistle. Now imagine that you are a coach and must anticipate how the rules might be changed and then must devise a game plan knowing that a win may be ripped from you by an arbitrary rule change made by referees who may be sympathetic to the other

team. What if it's not a game; what if it is a critical legal matter that is of supreme importance to you or someone you love? It can happen. In fact, it did happen to some of your fellow citizens recently.

The referees were six justices on the Texas Supreme Court. The game was a suit brought by the widow and three children of a man killed by the negligence of an 18-wheeler. The family won when a jury assessed sixteen million dollars in wrongful death damages (for a bit of perspective, that's about 20% of what a Texas university recently agreed to pay their football coach not to coach there anymore). The defense appealed the verdict claiming it was excessive. The court of appeals that heard the initial appeal determined that it was not excessive. The defense then appealed that decision and that's when the rules changed.

Simply stated, the next court ruled that valuing human life by comparing it to inanimate objects such as a work of art or an airplane, which has been a traditional approach, was suddenly not allowed. The judges couldn't get a majority to agree on the reasoning, but they agreed on the result. The case was sent back to the trial court for a new trial, but the Supreme Court couldn't explain what a jury would be allowed to analogize to in valuing a life. What that means for this bereaved family and their lawyers is that they will be unclear as to what they can and cannot suggest to the jury in terms of evaluating the loss. The decision is troublesome on many levels and is too complex to fully digest in this article, but it illustrates the difficulties trial lawyers face when courts change the rules of the game. A fuller discussion appears in Roland's Blog at [www>Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.Law](http://www>Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.Law).

*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.*



## Time: A key element of investing

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



Gavin J. Loftus

Who knows where the time goes? As an investor, time can be your greatest ally. If you hold some investments for the long term, you could achieve an impressive cumulative growth in value. Furthermore, if you keep adding shares to these investments, possibly through a dividend reinvestment plan, you could attain *growth on growth* through the power of compounding. Of course, when you own equity investments,

you will experience market fluctuations, but in general, the longer you hold these investments, the more you can reduce the effects of market volatility. Consider aspects of time in these contexts:

- Checking progress on achieving goals. When you establish a goal, such as saving for a child's education or retirement, you know the end date of when you'll need the money, but it's also important to mark your progress. Yearly, see how far along you are in meeting your goal; you may need to adjust your investment mix.
- Choosing an appropriate strategy. The time needed to achieve a goal should drive your investment strategy for that goal. For example, when you are saving for a retirement that won't happen for three or four decades, you will need to invest for growth by placing a reasonable percentage of equities and equity-based investments in your portfolio, based on your comfort with the various types of risk, including interest rate risk, credit risk, and market risk. Keep

in mind that the value of investments will fluctuate and the loss of some or all principal is possible – but you likely have time to overcome the *down* periods. On the other hand, when you are saving for a short-term goal, such as a vacation or a new car or a wedding, you'll want a set amount of money available precisely when you need it. In this case, you may need to sacrifice some growth potential for investments whose principal value won't fluctuate, such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and bonds.

Keep in mind, though, that when you're investing for long and short-term goals, it doesn't have to be just one strategy or the other. You can save for retirement with primarily growth vehicles but still have room in your portfolio for shorter-term instruments. And even when you're specifically investing for some short-term goal, you can't forget about your need to save and invest for retirement.

And here's one final point about the relationship between time and investing: *Your risk tolerance can, and probably will, change over the years.* As you near retirement, you may feel the need to adjust your portfolio toward a more conservative approach. That's because you may want to consolidate any gains you might have achieved while also recognizing that you simply have less time to bounce back from down markets. Even in retirement, you'll need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation. When you invest, one of your biggest considerations is time – so use it wisely.

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



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