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*Dripping Springs*

# OUTLOOK

POSTAL PATRON

ISSUE 12, VOLUME 20 MAY 2024





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“I know what to do and I do it with ease.”

I recently heard that phrase on a podcast I was listening to while making dinner. One liners like that have always fascinated me. It's amazing how something so simple can plant seeds of inspiration that, when sprinkled regularly but modestly, can have a significant impact on your day to day life. "Brevity is the soul of wit" indeed.



Knowing what to do and performing that function with ease is our biological programming. We were designed for it. Our circadian rhythms, the foods we crave, the thoughts and feelings that land and gently wait for our notice - we weren't dropped here without a guidebook. It's intuitive, inherent, instinctual internal direction. We just have to honor the blueprints.

Motherhood has taught me about these GOD-given blueprints more than anything else has. How you just know when your child needs something or what is best for them. You just know. And again, listening to that intuition and following what we already know despite outside interjection and interference is the real challenge. We are inundated with so much information - and much of it contrasting information - it can be difficult to know with certainty which path to choose. In those moments at the fork in the road, if we come back to what is inherent, built-in, natural, and loving, we often find the answer sitting plainly in front of us. It doesn't have to be complicated.

No matter where this season has brought you, we wish you a happy and healthy month. As always, thank you for joining us.

*Happy May,  
y'all!*

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Editor, Publisher

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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. [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. [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. [DSAgBoosters.org](http://DSAgBoosters.org)
- 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, 6:30pm Dripping Springs Ranch Park, September through May.
- Every 3rd Mon. Eastern Star meets at Rambo Lodge at 7:30pm. Call Kathy Clark, 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, Hays county office 195 Roger Hanks Pkwy. [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 Todd Ashby at [todd.ashby9064@icloud.com](mailto:todd.ashby9064@icloud.com)
- Every Wed.-Sat. Noon-3pm, Dr. Pound Pioneer Farmstead and Museum open for tours. 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](https://www.facebook.com/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. 512 847 9956

- Every 3rd Wed. Dripping Springs Cook-Off Club, Acopon Brewery. 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 Acopon 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. 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. [AdultServices@dscl.org](mailto: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 DS, Holy Spirit Episcopal School, 301 Hays Country Acres, [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; \$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. May 16: Dana Coo**
  - 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, [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. 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, Bible study 9:30am, 10:30am worship. Meal provided 11:30am. Visit [DSChurchofChrist.com](http://DSChurchofChrist.com), 512 858 4500.

**Saturday, May 4 - Cajun Fest, 4-7pm,  
St. Martin de Porres Parish Hall**

**Saturday, May 11 - Dripping Springs Ag Boosters  
Annual Crawfish Boil, 6-9:00pm, 1042 Event Center Drive  
Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day**

**HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD TO THE CALENDAR?  
REACH OUT TO US AT [INFO@DSOUTLOOK.COM](mailto:INFO@DSOUTLOOK.COM)  
OR 512 375 5590.**



## Do you know why a Hydrafacial is beneficial for you, men?



by Breca Tracy, PhD

Whether you happen to be the gentleman on the run or the gentleman that has an amazing skincare routine, we promise you both will love this treatment! At REGENERATE, our Hydrafacial is a non-invasive, multi-step skincare treatment achieved with the assistance of an esthetician and a patented gentle vortex technology. In my opinion, it is the ultimate treatment for deep cleaning and hydrating the skin. If you're looking for something to achieve healthy glowing skin, this is your answer! While the benefits of Hydrafacial are not gender-specific, men particularly appreciate the following advantages:

1. Deep cleansing. Hydrafacial uses a patented Vortex-Fusion technology to cleanse the skin deeply. It helps to remove impurities, dead skin cells, and excess oil, which is beneficial for men who may have larger pores and a higher tendency for oily skin.

2. Improved skin tone & texture. Hydrafacial exfoliates the skin gently, promoting cell turnover and revealing a smoother, more even skin texture.

3. Customized treatment. The customizable nature of Hydrafacial allows for the use of specific serums and boosters to address various skincare concerns.

4. Hydration & moisturization. Hydrafacial simultaneously cleanses and hydrates the skin, providing essential moisture to combat dryness and improve skin elasticity. This benefit is particularly helpful for men who may experience dry or flaky skin due to environmental factors or shaving.

5. Reduction of fine lines and wrinkles. Hydrafacial can help to minimize the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles

by promoting collagen production and improving skin elasticity. This can be beneficial for men who are concerned about signs of aging or wish to maintain a youthful appearance.

6. Quick & convenient. Hydrafacial treatments are relatively quick, typically taking around 30 minutes to an hour. They require no downtime, allowing men to resume their daily activities immediately after the treatment.

7. Relaxation & stress relief. In addition to the skincare benefits, Hydrafacial treatments provide a soothing and relaxing experience. The process involves gentle massage techniques, which can help reduce stress and promote overall well-being.

Call us! We would love to further educate you on Hydrafacial and other therapies we offer here in Dripping Springs.

**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](http://NaturalHealingTX.com).**

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# The road back to homeostasis

“ This is all about the autonomic nervous system, we’re definitely working on its ability to regulate in a new way. When it’s taking somebody into such a deep rest and restore state, parts of the body are coming online and the connections are happening and healing is happening where maybe it wasn’t happening before because the limbic system is coming online.” – Julie Gosh

*If you joined us last month, you likely read the column about Julie Gosh’s revolutionary Flowpresso treatment. Julie invited me to come experience the Flowpresso myself to experience my own road back to homeostasis.*



BY CYLE JOHNSON



It’s funny how many times I’ve driven past the turn for Julie Gosh’s office off of Elder Hill Road without ever knowing what was waiting there for me. My first Flowpresso session with Julie was everything I had hoped it would be. You should know, I can be pretty wound up. I’m a wife, a mother, a home educator, a business owner. I’m always going. If you read the Tolmao Wellness article in the April issue, perhaps you remember what Julie said about the Flowpresso – it kind of forces you to relax. I took this idea with me as I lay down on the table and prepared to be wrapped in the Flowpresso compression suit. To be honest, I was the slightest bit nauseated, noticeably but not uncomfortably so. I knew I was going to relax and my body wasn’t quite ready to relinquish control. As Julie wrapped my left arm I started to think, perhaps I would ask her to leave out the right arm. But as she gently picked up my right arm I decided to surrender fully to the treatment.

Then she gave me an eyemask and headphones and put a little button in my hand to press if I wanted her to come back in and remove anything. And that was it. 40 minutes of this, I thought to myself. It would be nice if I could just relax and get it over with. But as I gave in more and more to the moment and the treatment, fully appreciating the warmth of the infrared and the firm but fluid compression moving from my feet up to my arms, at some point I was in the flow and allowing myself to fully soak it in. Thoughts and questions I’d been chewing on the last few weeks came forward and resolved themselves with ease and moved on. I felt fully myself in the most wonderful way. And then came the moment I only remember experiencing at a meditation retreat, I felt fully enveloped in love, divine pure love. These feelings and sensations didn’t translate as overtly as done here. It was subtle and yet profound. And I can’t wait to go back next week.

Driving home I felt the world coming back in. Traffic, an urgent business matter that needed immediate attention. And I just handled it – in the way I usually do but different. There was no rush of cortisol, no panic, it was just a thing in my day that I could and would attend to. A shift has taken place. I feel surprisingly able to move on and move through my day the same and yet profoundly different.

*For Flowpresso sessions it’s \$120 for your first session, \$100 a session after that. To learn more or book online, visit [TolmaoWellness.com](http://TolmaoWellness.com) or call Julie at 512 517 3682 to schedule a treatment.*



# Does attitude determine altitude?



by Leslie Tourish, LPC

It's been said that eighty percent of our actions and thoughts are somehow tied up into looking good to others. At first, I disregarded that statistic out of hand because, after all, that's a huge chunk of effort. But when looking at our existence, from the cars we drive, to the clothes we wear, and the mates we marry, some element of social status is involved.

Self-esteem gained from outward possessions and achievements can buoy our spirits for a time. But after a while even such attainments can lose their luster as we normalize them, allowing dissatisfaction and doubt to wiggle back in. Low self-esteem is often the driving force behind many mental illnesses and can snake tentacles of depression, anxiety, and feelings of inadequacy into the hearts of otherwise healthy, capable people.

Professor David D. Burns, a clinical psychiatrist and authority on mood-related disorders, writes in his book, *Ten Days to Self-Esteem*, that most people attempt to assuage their feelings of emptiness with accomplishments and possessions. "However, this conditional self-esteem may leave them vulnerable to future bouts of depression and anxiety when they once again feel unsuccessful or unloved."

His solution is to grow our own unconditional self-esteem. "According to this notion, you do not have to do anything or measure up to any standard in order to be worthwhile," he writes. "You treat yourself with love and respect simply because you are a human being, in much the same way that you might choose to be compassionate to be a beloved friend or child who was troubled and suffering. Your love is not earned but is given unconditionally, because the love is needed."

We are a country of doers and problem solvers, so the concept of: *I am worthwhile simply because I am a human being; self-esteem is a gift I give myself and I don't have to earn it*, may be foreign indeed to many of us. Yet there is so much more power in that statement than one in which we say: *Someday I'll love myself when I achieve this degree or get that promotion or lose weight and fit into that dress size.*

Many years ago, when I was covering a story as a photojournalist for a Santa Fe, New Mexico newspaper, I attended a lecture given by the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, in a packed auditorium. This powerful, yet down-to-earth, man said one thing I'll never forget; it took coming to America for him to understand the concept of low self-esteem. In his isolated, mountain-locked country there wasn't such a word because there wasn't such a concept. Every person, from the most humble field hand to the Dalai Lama himself, was valued for just simply being.

Another American writer, Joan Didion, sums it up beautifully, "To have that sense of one's intrinsic worth which constitutes self-respect is potentially to have everything: the ability to discriminate, to love, and to remain indifferent. To lack it is to be locked within oneself, paradoxically incapable of either love or indifference."

**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)**





## Pamper Mom: Cannabis products for the ultimate Mother's Day self-care



by Heidi Pousson

Mother's Day is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate the incredible moms in our lives than with some well-deserved self-care. This year, let's kick things up a notch and explore the world of cannabis-infused goodies for the ultimate relaxation experience. Whether you're treating your own mom, a friend, or even yourself, these products are sure to make this Mother's Day one to remember.

1. Bath bombs. Picture this – a warm, soothing bath infused with the calming effects of cannabis. Sounds like heaven, right? Well, with cannabis-infused bath bombs, you can make it a reality. These little wonders not only smell amazing but also work wonders for tired muscles and stressed-out minds. Just drop one in the tub and let your worries melt away.

2. CBD massage oil. There's nothing quite like a good massage to melt away tension and stress. Take it up a notch with CBD-infused massage oil. CBD is known for its relaxing properties, making it the perfect addition to any massage session. Whether you're treating mom to a professional massage or giving her one yourself, this stuff is sure to take her relaxation game to the next level.

3. Cannabis-infused skincare. Who says skincare can't be fun? Treat mom to some cannabis-infused skincare products and watch her glow from the inside out. Not only do these products leave skin feeling soft and supple, but they also provide a dose of relaxation that's perfect for winding down after a long day.

4. Edibles. Of course, we can't talk about cannabis products without mentioning edibles. Whether it's delicious chocolates

or some tasty gummies, edibles are a great way to indulge in a little self-care this Mother's Day. Just remember to start low and go slow, especially if mom is new to the world of cannabis. The last thing we want is for her to be too relaxed to enjoy the day!

5. CBD-infused tea. For the mom who loves her morning cup of joe or a cozy cup of tea before bed, why not switch things up with some CBD-infused brews? These beverages offer all the warmth and comfort of your favorite drinks, with the added bonus of a little extra relaxation. Plus, they're the perfect excuse to sit back, relax, and enjoy some quality time with mom.

This Mother's Day, treat the special moms in your life to a little self-care with cannabis-infused products. Whether it's a luxurious bath, a soothing massage, or some delicious edibles, these goodies are sure to make her day extra special. After all, she deserves it! Happy Mother's Day from Haus of Jayne!

*Written with the use of ChatGPT.*

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



by George Altgelt

## Repotting tips

Spring is the time to plant while everything is growing. So when is it time to repot a plant? Great question!

In 1971, I started a small plant nursery in the University of Texas area called The Jungle Store. We sold tropical house plants... Rubber Trees (real ones, not made of rubber or plastic), Dracaenas, Begonias, cactus, succulents and more.

When you're in that business, you will wind up doing a lot of repotting. If you're any good with plants, they will grow. When a plant has grown so large that it cannot stay upright, it's time to repot. Most of the time, your best choice is to pick a pot that is the next size up. The exception to that is when the pot won't hold the plant upright because it is so large. Then go up two sizes. Do not pick a pot that is too large, as your plant will do poorly. Sometimes, a plant doesn't need a larger pot at all. It just needs to be fed. Your best bet is to go to a retailer who knows plant fertilizers and will show you a good one. Then simply replenish the fertility of the existing soil.

When you do need to repot a plant, disregard the advice to rip the soil away from the root ball. That will damage the root system, which will take a long time to recover. Instead, place the plant in the new pot with some good potting soil on the bottom.

Next place soil all around the root ball of the plant. Make sure the new soil holds the plant upright in a relatively snug fashion.

Then water thoroughly. Put plant back in the same spot where it was doing well. If it wasn't doing well, find another spot, usually where there is more light. Often plants don't get enough light when they're indoors. They need to be in front of the window, not beside, unless there's too much direct sunlight. Please call us with additional questions you may have about repotting. We love to help you.

**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.**

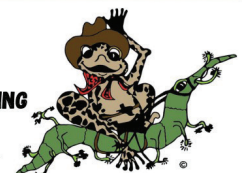
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# To chew or not to chew....



by Diana Ozimek

If you've had a puppy, you know they chew and bite everything! It's very normal for a puppy to have the need to chew and bite anything near their mouth. Let's break this down. You don't want your puppy chewing on anything that isn't theirs inside your home. Puppy proofing your house is an easier way to manage chewing. Put your things away – shoes, socks, books, toys. Your puppy should be supervised at all times and offered appropriate toys and chews. A playpen area when unable to supervise is important so they don't chew baseboards or couches.

What about outside? Puppies love to rip up grass, chew on mulch, branches, rocks. Some of these things are more dangerous than others. Again, your puppy should always be supervised when outside. A harness and leash gives you an easy way to remove your puppy from unwanted areas like flower beds. You can offer appropriate chew toys outside but most likely your puppy will want to explore nature. Pick your battles. I don't want a puppy ripping up my flower beds or chewing something dangerous, like acorns they can swallow, but I'm going to let them chew on a branch that may have fallen in the yard. Also keep in mind an upset tummy.

Moving along to biting. Your puppy is going to bite you. It is how they communicate and play. If you've ever seen dogs play, they play with their mouths. I think puppy teeth must be some of the sharpest things on earth! How do you stop them from biting? Redirect to something more fun like a toy that squeaks,

a tail teaser you (it's like a dog-sized cat toy), change their environment by taking them outside or offer a bully stick – one of my faves! If you have another dog in the house who will play with them or the ability to set up playdates with a nice, experienced dog, this will greatly diminish the biting on you. If you don't have that outlet and they are not taking to an appropriate item, it's time for a nap in the playpen or crate and try again later. Keep up the redirection, nap times and management and eventually they will grow up.

**Diana is the owner & 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.**



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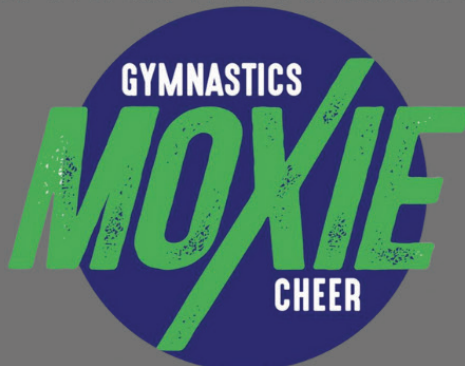
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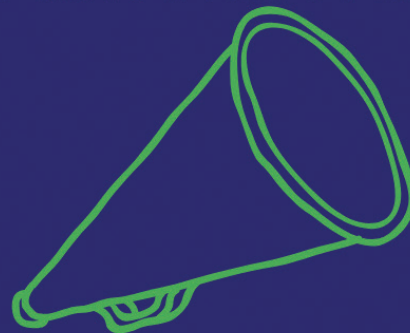




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*\*all levels are welcomed!  
Groups will be made based  
on skill level*

### SUMMER CAMP 2024

CAMP HOURS:  
7:30AM - 3:30PM

PM HOURS:  
3:30PM - 6:00PM  
*\*ADDITIONAL COST*

AGES:  
3-13

*\*MUST BE POTTY TRAINED*

- Activities:
- Arts & Crafts
  - Bounce House
  - Waterslide
  - Weekly Field Trips
  - Playground
  - Games
  - Gymnastics
  - Obstacle Courses

PRICING:  
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M-F RATE \$450  
M/W/F RATE \$325  
T/TH RATE \$225

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*\*all levels are welcomed!  
Groups will be made based  
on skill level*

COST:  
\$300  
PER WEEK

AGES:  
8-18

HOURS:  
9:00-1:00

ATHLETE'S WILL BE COACHED BY TEXAS STATE CHEER COACH AND TEXAS STATE COMP CHEERLEADERS

### Camp Dates:

WK 1-JUNE 17- JUNE 21

WK 2- JULY 8- JULY 12

WK 3- JULY 22- JULY 26



# PERSISTENT INFLATION DAMPENS RATE OUTLOOK

By Cody Johnson



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Last month's release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has stirred speculation in financial markets, particularly impacting projections for Fed futures rates. The CPI report revealed an increase in inflation for the third straight month, surpassing expectations. This surge has led investors to rethink their outlook on future Fed actions, notably delaying the likelihood of rate cuts in 2024 to September and December.

The implications for the residential real estate market are noteworthy. Historically, interest rates and real estate have shared a tight relationship. Mortgage rates are influenced by Fed policy, and any changes in interest rates can have a direct impact on the housing market.

With the likelihood of delayed rate cuts, potential homebuyers may face higher mortgage rates for longer. This could prolong the decrease in affordability and potentially weaken demand in the housing market. First-time buyers and those on the verge of homeownership may find it more challenging to enter the market as borrowing costs increase.

Furthermore, higher interest rates could exert downward pressure on home prices. As borrowing continues to be more expensive, buyers may adjust their budgets, leading to decreased purchasing power.

However, it's important to acknowledge the nuanced nature of the relationship between interest rates and the housing market. While higher rates may deter some buyers, the velocity of transactions in central Texas continues to be strong, with many buyers adjusting to the new normal of increased rates and getting off the sideline. There is enough pent up demand for housing between bidding wars during COVID and hesitation due to heightened interest rates to continue the momentum through the spring and summer buying season, leading to hopefully a strong fall with the hopes of falling interest rates.

*The article is written by Cody Johnson, who is an owner and co-founder of NestHaven Properties, a full service real estate company established in Dripping Springs in 2023. He has spent the last decade entrenched in all facets of the Real Estate industry; Capital Markets, Mortgage, Title Insurance, Brokerage and Technology. Call 512.327.7800 or 512.781.4499.*



## DS Chamber of Commerce focus on Business Knights of Columbus: Help us help others

The Knights of Columbus Council 11695 from St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is dedicated to charitable works in Dripping Springs and surrounding communities. We provide manpower and raise and distribute tens of thousands of dollars annually for Special Olympics, The Burke Center for Youth, Center for the Intrepid, JPII Life Center, Project Connect, Patriots Hall, Hometown Missions, Texas Organ Sharing Alliance, and St. Martin de Porres Parish.

Our members are all unpaid volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to those in need. You can be confident that your contributions, which are tax deductible, will go directly to the organizations we support.

Our fund-raising efforts include a wide range of cooking events at St. Martins, annual Fish Fry Fridays, food and beer booths at Founders Day, and our annual Hill Country Heroes Event. Our primary fund raiser each year is the Hill Country Heroes event. This year we are hosting a Cajun Fest on May 4th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Martin de Porres Parish Hall.



This family event features our annual Raffle with 5 \$2,000 Visa Gift Cards. Tickets are \$20. We will be serving Adult Shrimp Plates (pound of shrimp, sausage, corn, and potatoes) and Hot Dogs or Hamburgers for the kiddos. There's also a huge Silent Auction with a value of more than \$100,000, plus corn hole, bounce houses, face painting, and balloons.

Purchase raffle tickets, order food, and bid on silent auction items online at [DSColumbusCharities.org](http://DSColumbusCharities.org) or by scanning the QR code.

## The truth about refrigerator filters



by *Randy Lawrence*

Almost every new refrigerator available today comes with a built-in activated carbon filter designed to improve taste or odor. Most models also have some type of reminder system that tells you when to replace the filter cartridge. Many people have questions about these filters. Is it necessary to have the filter in the first place? If so, how important is it to change that filter as soon as the reminder is activated? Here are a few interesting facts about these filters that may help clear up some confusion and possibly save you some money in the long run.

There are two main types of filter change reminders in today's refrigerator models. The most common is a basic timer system. This system will simply count down a pre-set amount of time (usually six months) and then activate a light which tells you to replace the filter. The main drawback to this method is that it does not take into account the volume of water used. For example, you could go six months without using the ice or water dispenser and the unit will still indicate that it's time to change the filter. It's a fair assumption that the majority of these filters are thrown away far too soon. The other type of reminder system is a little less common. It involves a flow meter which counts gallons as they are used through the dispenser. This is a more efficient method than the timer because it actually measures water usage.

Unfortunately, neither technology knows what your incoming water quality is. This can greatly affect the lifespan of the filter

If you are on a chlorinated water supply, your filter life will be shorter. If you have a whole house treatment system, like a softener or carbon filter, then the life of your filter would be greatly increased. If your refrigerator is fed by a reverse osmosis system, then your built-in filter becomes completely unnecessary and can be removed or bypassed.

Each case is slightly different, but at \$40-\$60 per filter it pays to know the facts so you aren't wasting money on unnecessary replacements.

**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 25 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over 20 years.**

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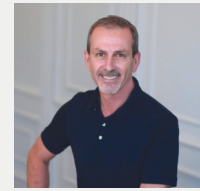


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## Surprise! Agents won't work for free



by Steve Mallett

In typical lockstep fashion the mainstream media has had a heyday with the National Association of Realtors lawsuit settlement and the fallout they wish upon real estate agents. Almost every news outlet has predicted the demise of real estate agents, heralding the destruction of what they call the cartel of real estate brokers.

The reality is that the situation regarding how real estate is bought and sold in this country has not changed. Buyers and sellers still want to use agents to navigate complex real estate transactions and they still value the advice agents are obligated to offer as a fiduciary of the client. The stories of buyers forgoing agents to hire attorneys, or go it alone, are anecdotal. The fact is 90% of people in this country know the value of real estate agents and that trend will continue.

A buyer can always hire an attorney for a real estate transaction and pay them hourly. The attorney can't show homes, offer advice on pricing, inspections, loans, vendors, neighborhoods, schools, or future developments that impact the property. Agents are paid when they do a good job; otherwise, they get nothing.

During the wild wild west days of Covid, many buyers told harrowing tales of writing 20 offers before they got a home. Guess what? The attorney will be paid hourly for each of those offers that went nowhere. Agents sometimes work for months to get a client a home and only get paid when they are successful. There is no other business in this country where someone will work for a client for years and not receive a dime if there isn't a transaction.

The media stretched the truth about how much lower commissions are in Europe for real estate agents, where buyers and sellers are left to navigate the real estate transactions on their own and agents are only permitted to perform minimal tasks for them. The lower commissions also doesn't reflect that in Europe much of the transaction expense is paid to an attorney. It's not any cheaper in Europe to buy or sell, the fees are just paid to different parties.

The NAR lawsuit settlement will change the way incentives to buyers are advertised. What hasn't changed is that buyers and sellers want to use agents and the best agents are worth every penny they are paid. No lawsuit is changing that.

**Steve has been selling real estate in DS & 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.**



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## Litigation: Courts in conflict



by Roland Brown

Recent events lead to this article, one of a number I have published over the past few years regarding the increasingly important and contentious role of our courts as they grapple with a flood of cases resulting from the current political polarization.

Literally, as I finished the previous sentence, a news flash reported a man setting himself ablaze outside the courthouse where a former president of the United States is on trial! To say that conflict now surrounds our judicial system is to state the obvious. That particular trial is one of two recent events which prompted me to write on this topic once again. The other was the recent death of O.J. Simpson whose trial captivated the American public in the mid-90s. The point I return to in discussing our court system is that it is a bedrock of our social order and, with all its frailties, has been the only branch of the federal government that has been able to function generally as intended in a time when the legislative and executive branches have been hamstrung and often completely stymied by political maneuvering.

The courts are imperfect, but we have relied upon them to secure justice and order in our society. While many questioned the outcome of the O.J. Simpson trial and others such as the trial of the officers accused in the Rodney King beating (some

younger readers may have to Google that), the consensus remained that, despite its imperfections, the courts were the place where conflicts were resolved,

not the creators or accomplices of conflicts. We are now barraged with suggestions made in the midst of political turmoil that our courts cannot be trusted.

Within the past few days, jurors have been excused out of fear that they will be retaliated against for serving in the high-profile case first mentioned above. Judges have had to take personal security measures due to decisions made that have angered people from various political persuasions. Personally, I have strongly disagreed with some recent high-profile court decisions, but I fear that if we are poisoned against the judicial system, we will have nowhere to turn. We should work to better that system as we should work to see our other branches of government function more effectively, but we must not abandon fundamental trust in the court system. The alternative is anarchy.

**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, 2021, and 2023 in annual polls of Hays County attorneys. For more information call 512 847 2500.**



by Reagan  
Rentschler, CFP®

## Don't let investments take a vacation

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

Summertime is almost here and for many people that means it's time to hit the road. But even if you decide to take a vacation, you'll want other areas of your life to keep working, especially your investments.

So, how can you prevent your investments, and your overall financial strategy, from going on vacation? Here are a few suggestions:

- Check your progress but be careful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. Use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate.
- Invest with a purpose. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on hot tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life – how

long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

- Be strategic with your investments. Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

Be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

**Reagan Rentschler, 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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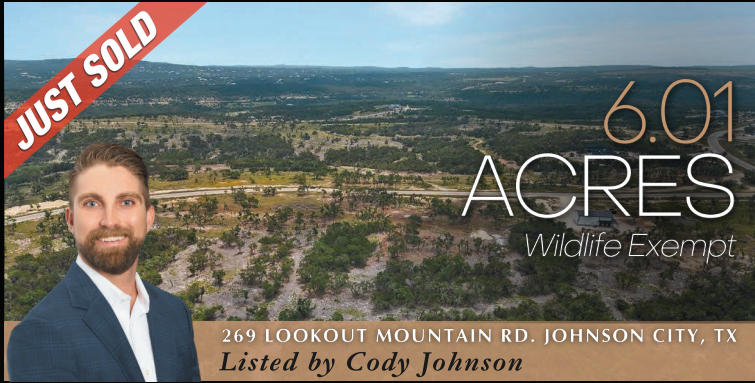
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