

The Big Sky and Aggieland Report

Tips, Thoughts, Trivia, and Fun

Brought To You by Big Sky Internet Design and Aggieland Website Design

Tom's Thoughts >>>



Go For Walk!

My brother Mike, has a house in Key West, Florida. In fact, I am writing this from there! I visit here each winter for a month or so.

My morning ritual is to get up, sit outside, drink coffee, listen to the roosters (if you have been to KW you know what I am talking about) and doing my morning Bible plan on the Bible App and journaling.

Then Mike and I head out for our morning walk. We may go to Smather's Beach, White Street Pier and Southernmost Point, or wander around Charter Boat row. Our morning walks are usually between 5000 and 7500 steps, around 2-3 miles. Then later we always try to top off to at least 10,000 steps. Luckily, the Rum Bar on Duval is the exact right distance for that goal!

Anyway, I always talk about how productive I am here in KW. You'd think there would be more distractions here, and you are likely right. But I think the key is the morning walk. We see all sorts of people and we make a point to say 'Good Morning' to each of them! It's a great way to start the day and it's fun as most folks are not expecting that.

But that walk is what gets my head in the game for the upcoming day. I am more focused, have a clear plan for the day and get a boat-load of stuff done!

If you need a jumpstart to your day, **Go For A Walk!**

Spammers and Your Online Forms

A few clients have been reporting issues either not receiving their contact form submissions or getting a ton of spam form submissions.

Unfortunately, fighting off Spammers is like the old saying of '**Nailing Jello to the Wall!**'

Years ago, we'd just set up an online form and set up a basic method on the server to email those to you. Piece of cake. Not anymore. Due to so much spam, most email processors have really cracked down on spam getting through their systems. Course looking at your email box, you would never know it! But due to that, it is getting harder and harder to get legit emails through.

This is where we are with form submissions. Spammers are now using technology to automatically submit forms, sometimes even if there is a CAPTCHA (I am not a Robot) check on the form. They are counting on the massive numbers of forms they are submitting that people, just like you and me, will click on a link or reply back to them. And when that happens, bad things happen to us! Hence email processors are really cracking down on form submissions.

Our solution to this is an online form company called Formstack.com. I built our first online form using Formstack.com way back in 2010. That was for a complicated online entry form with payments. Over time, all our payment forms we build use Formstack as well other forms that are more in depth than a simple contact us form. I checked today and we have 174 forms on Formstack.

Why pay to use a service like Formstack? Simple, it is their sole business is to fight off the adverse effects of Spammers. They have the development staff, servers, IT and technology to ensure form submissions are delivered. They are the master of 'Nailing Jello to the Wall!'

What does this mean to you? If you have a contact form on your website, give it a quick test submission to make sure you are receiving the email. If not AND you want to keep the contact form, let Debbie or me know and we will build and embed a Formstack Contact form for your site. It will work and look great.

There is a one-time fee of \$100, reduced from \$150 for the month of March. The other option is to remove the Contact form and just go with an email address or phone number instead. Just let us know and we'll take care of it!

'Slam The Scam Day' – 3/9/23. Stop Social Security Scams

On **National Slam the Scam Day** and throughout the year, Social Security gives you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and **stop scammers** from stealing your money and personal information.

Share this Social Security scam information with your loved one and **Slam the Scam!**

Recognize the **four basic signs** of a scam:

1. Scammers **pretend** to be from a familiar organization or agency, like the Social Security Administration. They may email attachments with **official-looking logos, seals, signatures, or pictures of employee credentials**.
2. Scammers mention a problem or a prize. They may say your **Social Security number** was involved in a crime or ask for **personal information** to process a benefit increase.
3. Scammers **pressure you to act immediately**. They may **threaten you** with arrest or legal action.
4. Scammers tell you to pay using a **gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire or money transfer, or by mailing cash**. They may also tell you to **transfer your money** to a "safe" account.

Ignore scammers and report criminal behavior. Report Social Security-related scams to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for more information and stay up to date on the latest scam tactics.

Source: Social Security Administration Website

Stopping Electronic Spying

Phones can track your movements, your downloads and your browsing habits. Smart TVs, social media apps, and voice assistants can listen and record your speech. It's important to remember that electronic spying can happen to anyone, even children.

Here are some tips to help you stop electronic spying on you:

1. Go into the settings of your phone to restrict phone apps from accessing your location, camera, and microphone.
2. In Windows go to Start, and then click on Settings followed by Privacy & Security. Select an option such as Location under App Permissions and then choose the apps you want to be able to access it. The Recent Activity drop-down menu can also show which apps have been accessing them. Also check out the settings on the microphone and camera.
3. Use strong passwords: Use strong passwords on all of your online accounts and change them regularly. Consider using a password manager to help you remember all of your passwords.
4. Keep your software up to date: Make sure your computer, phones, and other devices are running the latest version of their operating systems and other software.
5. Don't use public Wi-Fi: Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks, as they are often unsecure and can be used to track your online activities.
6. Be wary of emails: Be aware of emails or links from unknown sources as they could be malicious.

According to a 2020 study by the US Department of Homeland Security, about 75% of all cyber attacks are aimed at personal devices. Be vigilant and be safe!

Jump In!

When you have a dream in your heart, you have to cut off any other options and just go for it. That's what Ed Sheeran did when the odds were against him. He battled enormous insecurities due to his lazy eye and a stutter.

He performed his first live concert at age 11. Then he decided to step out of his comfort zone by posting a video of himself playing his music online. He was noticed by influential people which motivated him to move to Los Angeles without place to stay.

One day he was brought on stage by a local radio host. Even petrified he played. And he got the attention of Jamie Foxx's manager! And the rest is history.

In 2009, he was sleeping on the streets in London. By 2011, his album topped the charts in the UK.

Have you ever put your toe into a cold pool? Your first reaction is to pull out it fast, but you have to decide if you're going to slowly get all the way in the water. Or do you just take the plunge, get it over with and jump in? If you want to live your dreams, the answer is jump in all the way! The Latin root for the word decision means "to cut off alternative options". **Jump in and go for it!**

Paraphrased from Day 75, Live Your Dreams,
Terri Savelle Foy



March Useless Trivia

- Every year on March 16th, Greenland celebrates its National Flag Day. Whoop-dee-doo!
- The world's first recorded March Madness basketball tournament was played in 1939. Wow, so cutting-edge.
- The world record for the most number of eggs held in one hand is 34 - set in March 2017. Like anyone needs to know that.
- In March 1876, Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone. Big whoop.
- March is the only month that can pass without a full moon. Who cares?
- The Phoenix Mars Lander first arrived on Mars in March 2004. Like, why does anyone need to know that?

March Useless Trivia brought to you by ExplainLikeImFive.io with Sarcasm turned on!

Someone asked me to name two structures that hold water. I was like well dam.

My son threw a bottle of mayonnaise at me...
...so I yelled, "What the Hellman!"

I hate making spelling mistakes when posting a joke.
Because all you have to do is mix up a few letters and your whole joke is urined.

I've got a job making plastic Draculas. There are only two of us on the production line... I have to make every second count.


Hostess: "Do you have any reservations?"
Me: "Nope, I am 100% confident that I want to eat here."

We all know Albert Einstein was a genius. But we forget his brother Frank was a monster.

 **THE FAR SIDE**
by GARY LARSON
TheFarSide.com



New Clients Spotlight – Welcome!



Who We Are

Having owned and operated Gulling Homes LLC, we are no stranger to the rigorous requirements for building and maintaining quality housing. Having overseen development for numerous home owner associations, we found clients greatly benefited from our experience in kick-starting the other more administrative focused tasks before handing them over to the client. This organized structure and quality of care naturally led to a request of continued support. Thus began Gulling Property Management LLC, an independent, yet sister company. GPM was started in 2013 and continues to serve the needs of its clients; managing all details from the grounds themselves to the very finance that keep the lights on.

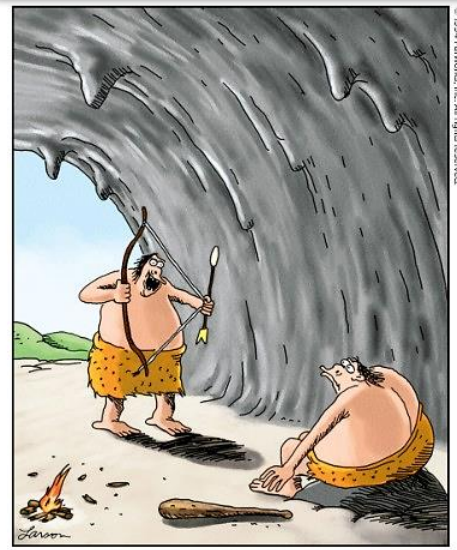
Gulling Property Management
GullingProperty.com
Altoona, Iowa



So Close to Going LIVE!
Many clients are close, but just not quite there yet! Watch this spot next month!

Inspirational Quotes

- "It's kinda fun doing the impossible." ~ Walt Disney
- "I am always doing things I can't do – that's how I get to do them." ~ Pablo Picasso
- "At first, dreams seem impossible, then improbable, and eventually inevitable." ~ Christopher Reeve
- "Regret for wasted time is more wasted time." ~ Mason Cooley
- "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." ~ Thomas Edison
- "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." Jim Rohn
- "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." ~ Frederick Douglas



"Uh, uh, uh—I wouldn't do that, Thorg. I know how to use this thing."

32 Raven Drive - Bryan, Texas 77808



We add \$100 to the Referral Reward each month it is not rewarded.

Thank you Teresa Myers for your Referral!

The Referral Reward for February:

\$100!

**March 'Contact Us' Form
Upgrade Special.**

\$100.00

Ends 3/31/23

(See Online Form Article above for details)

Contact Tom | 979-217-1544

BigSkyInternetDesign.com / AggielandWebsiteDesign.com

2022 – 2023 Stallion Service Auctions

Speed Horse (NEW)	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/2023	Texas Quarter Horse Assn. (Race)	Buy It Now Ends 3/15/23
Colorado Classic Stallion Incentive	Completed	Southwest Desert Classic (NEW)	Buy It Now Ends 3/15/23
Southern Cutting Futurity	Buy It Now Ends 5/1/23	Los Alamos Race Track Chaplaincy	Completed
National Stock Horse Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/23	Cascade Cow Cutters	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/23
Cowboy States Stallion Incentive	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/23	Quarter Horse Racing Assoc of Indiana	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/23
National Reined Cow Horse	Completed	Alberta Reined Cow Horse Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 3/15/23
Oklahoma Quarter Horse Racing Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 3/15/23	Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Assn.	Completed
Texas Quarter Horse Assn. (Barrels)	Buy It Now Ends 4/1/23	Arizona Quarter Racing Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 5/1/23
VGBRA Stallion Incentive	Completed	Triple Crown 100	Buy It Now Ends 3/31/23
Augusta Futurity (NEW)	Completed	Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 4/15/23
Utah Quarter Horse Racing Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 4/15/23	HDC Auction	Buy It Now Ends 3/7/23
National Youth Cutting Horse Assn.	Buy It Now Ends 6/1/23	Women's Pro Rodeo Assn.	Completed

**Going, Going...StallionAuctionsOnline.com
for the complete updated listing!**

Keep it Updated!

Get the most out of your website.
Google and your customers will love
you for it!

Use this QR Code to easily send an
update email to Debbie at
Updates@BigSkyInternetDesign.com.



Newsletter Archives:

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