

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 >>>



Dogs!

In honor of 'Be Kind To Animals Week' which is May 5-11, I thought I would show off our girls!

We have 3 Giant Schnauzers (GS), Gracie, Jolene and Sophie.

How did we find out about these awesome dogs?

When we had the ranch in East Texas we would go to Canton Trade Days occasionally. We were walking around there, and a guy had this gorgeous Giant Schnauzer! He was huge, probably 125 lbs, has his ears cropped and was quite handsome. We chatted with him for a little while and thought that dog was super cool!

A few months later, Carrie tells me we have to go to Tyler, TX airport. "Why", I ask. "To pick up our two GS puppies" – Gracie and Jolene, who are full sisters! That was 11 years ago!

Last year for Carrie's 60th birthday, we added a Giant Schnauzer puppy, Sophie to the family. She is a funny, energetic, sweet, and awesome!

Now we have over 250 lbs of Giant Schnauzer on the bed if we let them!

These are big, playful, affectionate, protective dogs that DON'T shed! The ideal dog in my mind!

Talk in June! Tom

Live Your Dreams

Pretty much every month in this newsletter, I add an excerpt from the book 'Live Your Dreams – A 90 Day Dreams & Goals Devotional' by Terri Savelle Foy.

Carrie purchased this book for me a couple of years ago. I added it to my morning 'Renaissance Time' routine, which is coffee, the Bible App (Bible.com -The Daily Refresh and various Bible Plans), read the next day out of this book, write in my Journal the things I am thankful for and other various business and personal thoughts I have, list the 'Victories' I had the previous day, list what is going to make today a great day and the main question I have in my head (allows the sub-conscious work on it!). Then prayer time.

My Renaissance Time is non-negotiable. It happens every day, regardless of where I am. It's been a game changer. Speaking of game changers...

The 90 daily devotionals in this book, include inspirational quotes, a Bible verse, a story, and a practical action step. They have helped me stay motivated even on those tough days. I'm sure we ALL have those.

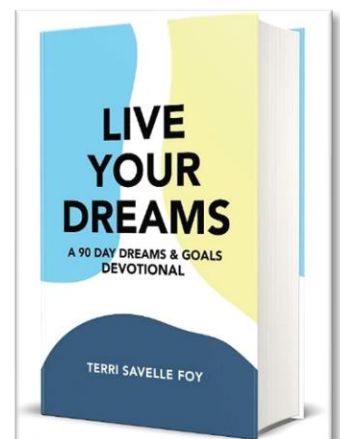
So, I am on my third time through this book. I write the date on the corner of the page and often I will look back in my journal to see what was going on in my life on those previous dates. Always interesting to see what was happening!

I can confidently say that this book has been an incredible source of inspiration and motivation in my life. Each time I go through it, I find something new that speaks directly to what I am going through and helps me stay focused on my goals.

This is very similar to my experience reading the Bible. Some things just really hit home when I read them and that is totally based on what is happening in my life at that moment.

In fact, my bookmark for the book is a beat-up piece of paper with the days that hit home that might be 'Newsletter Worthy'!

I encourage you to check it out on Amazon. If you do, I would love to hear from you!



Work/Life Balance

Tips for Finding the Balance

Time management skills are a **crucial aspect** of being able to find and maintain a **healthy work/life balance**. Managing time effectively is vital to both **productivity** and our **mental health**.

A great tip is determining **first thing** in the morning the tasks that will need to be accomplished that day. The brain generally likes to know what will be expected of it in the coming hours, so having a **game plan**, either in the form of a notebook or to-do list, is a good idea. It may be helpful to make use of a calendar app that is easy to use while providing clarity and structure. I use a **simple daily planner** notebook (old school) and write out my list, often things carry over from one day to the next. But **crossing stuff off my list** is a great feeling of **accomplishment**!

In fact, last fall I changed my daily routine to **NOT look at email** until after 9:30 in the morning. This allows me to stay entirely **focused**, when I am **fresh**, on the **most important tasks** for that day. I also, **shut off my email** when I am working on something that takes concentration, like right now and this newsletter!

Another great tip is to remember the benefits of **taking breaks**. Taking brief breaks on a frequent basis allows you to refresh and to have your **brain** and **vision refocused**. Find the pattern that best suits your mind and stick to it. I really struggle with this. Once I am sitting at my desk, I rarely get up, let alone take break. **This is something I am working on!**

Tips on Sending Updates to Debbie!

Tips to ensure your website is updated as quickly as possible!

- **Regular Content Text:** (ie: paragraphs, blog posts, product descriptions, etc.) Please submit this as "plain text" that can be copy and pasted. Please No Screenshots or images! Ex: plain text typed into an email, Word Doc, Google Doc, etc.
- **"Click to Open" Text – pdfs:** (ie: flyers, forms, brochures, instructions, reports, info that will NOT be copied and pasted). Items to be downloaded or opened in a separate window. Preferred Format: pdf Accepted Formats: pdf, doc, jpg.
- **Tables:** (ie: data tables, lists, etc). Info that requires displaying in rows and columns as text on a page, but not in a pdf or "click to open" link. Preferred Format: Excel or Google sheets Accepted Formats: jpg, png
- **Images - Website Design Elements:** (ie: slideshow images, background images, etc). Preferred formats: JPG, JPEG. Acceptable formats: jpg, png. **should be VERY LARGE – at least 1600px wide
- **Content Images:** (ie: horses, trailers, staff, photo galleries, etc). Preferred formats: JPG, JPEG. Acceptable formats: jpg, png. Minimum width should be 600px wide
- **Transparent Images:** (ie: logos, graphics that need to blend with the background). Preferred formats: png. Acceptable formats: png, eps, pdf.
- **iPhones & Images:** iPhones automatically save images as HEIC or HEIF files. WE CANNOT USE HEIC OR HEIF files on your website! Please change your settings prior to sending us images from your phone. <https://tinyurl.com/59dbzjdu> for instructions.
- **Large Images:** If the images are too large to send via email, create a folder on google drive or drop box and send the link to the entire folder. Set the folder share options to "Anyone with the link can edit."
- **Multiple Images:** Send images as one subject per email (ie: one horse or product only). When sending multiple images in the one email, please make sure the IMAGES are labeled/named so no confusion. Often this is easier on a computer than a phone.
- **Multiple Emails w/images:** EACH email's subject or message contains who/what the pictures of and where they go. Always label EVERY email as they may not come in the same order as you sent them.
- **Videos:** All content videos should be uploaded to YouTube. Then send the link to embed the video on your site.

Behind the Scenes

What you do behind the scenes has more significance than what you do in front of a crowd. To live your dreams, it will require doing more than others are willing to do.

"Don't be average, and your life won't be average."

This applies to every area of your life. You don't be average, and your **finances** won't be average. You don't be average and your **opportunities** won't be average. You don't be average in your **body**, your **relationships**, your **career** won't be average.

As you put more demands on your life to grow, improve, and increase, everything around you will begin to **grow, improve, and increase**.

Joyce Meyers says, **"God will change your circumstances, but he'll change you first."**

God never meant for you to be **ignored**, or **blend** into the crowd, or be **average**. He meant for you to distinguish yourself amongst others.

All those mornings when you force yourself to get up early and **exercise** while everyone else sleeps in, you're going above average. At lunch, when you're **reading** an encouraging book, instead of **wasting time** scrolling through Facebook, you're **going above average**.

Decide today that you will gain and maintain **above average habits** that others will admire, that God will promote, and that will lead you to prosperity and success. **Work hard behind the scenes.**

Paraphrased from Day 77, Live Your Dreams

word search puzzle

Mother's Day

B	C	R	C	A	R	D	E	Y	T	M	O	I	L	M	G	T
I	O	Q	U	D	C	M	N	S	T	H	Z	C	C	Y	L	H
V	O	S	U	N	D	A	Y	V	V	S	N	M	O	M	M	Y
E	K	C	X	S	Q	M	U	M	S	C	G	B	I	U	T	I
C	I	N	Q	W	P	Z	B	I	A	A	H	R	Z	B	I	B
F	E	S	M	T	I	K	E	D	Y	A	U	P	O	V	T	
U	S	E	J	B	X	W	J	H	E	A	R	T	G	U	R	V
D	C	O	O	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	E	Q	U	Q
M	E	H	G	U	O	F	C	A	R	G	N	K	I	U	V	D
F	A	M	I	L	Y	J	X	F	E	Q	A	Z	Y	E	X	L
F	J	L	O	V	E	Z	G	N	Z	C	M	K	T	T	O	F
L	F	H	B	U	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L	G	T	T	X
P	Z	C	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	P	P	C	H	R	L	R
R	L	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	W	G	H	K	D	Q

BOUQUET
MAY
CAKE
MOMMY
CARD
SUNDAY
CELEBRATE
TRADITION
COOKIES
LOVE
FLOWERS
HUG
GRATEFUL
FAMILY
HEART
KISS



How to Answer the Age Old Question: "Does This Dress Make Me Look Fat?"

Looking fat? Are you kidding? That dress is working overtime to keep up with your fabulousness!

Honestly, you're making that dress look so good it owes you dinner and a movie.

In that dress? You're not just a snack, you're the whole buffet!"

You look so fantastic in that dress, it's almost not fair to the rest of us mere mortals!

Is it hot in here, or is it just you rocking that dress like a boss?

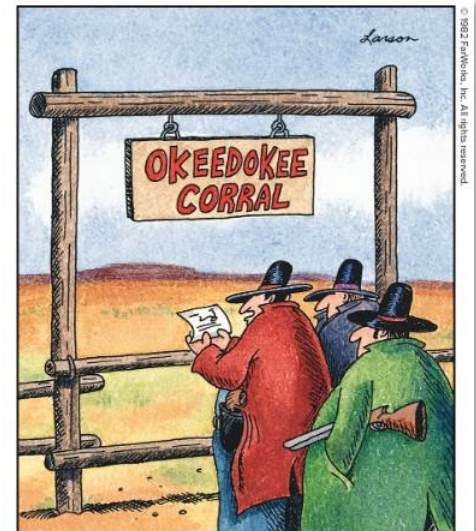
If looking fabulous was a crime, you'd be serving a life sentence in that dress!

↑↑ REAL LIFE USES for ChatGPT: Prompt – "If my wife asked me if she looked fat in her dress, what do I say knowing she has a great sense of humor"

THE FAR SIDE®

by GARY LARSON

TheFarSide.com



"Well, no wonder! ... This ain't the place."



"Well that's how it happened, Sylvia. ... I kissed this frog, he turns into a prince, we get married, and WHAM! ... I'm stuck at home with a bunch of pollywogs."

New Clients Spotlight – Welcome!

Mid South Cutting Club
MidSouthClubCutting.com
Memphis, Tennessee

The Steamery - Waco
TSIWaco.com
Waco, Texas

Hitchcock Quarter Horses
HitchcockQuarterHorses.com
Fort Shaw, Montana

So Close!
Watch here next month!

32 Raven Drive - Bryan, Texas 77808



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

Thank you Cristina Kober for your Referral!

The Referral Reward for May:

\$100!

"Hey AI, make a cartoon of a Union Pacific diesel freight train depicted as an explosion of a nebula."



Contact Tom | 979-217-1544

BigSkyInternetDesign.com / AggielandWebsiteDesign.com

Featured Customer Redesign Southern Cutting Futurity Stallion Auction

SouthernFuturityStallionAuction.com

2016



2023

Gwen Coie and the folks at the Southern Cutting Futurity Stallion Incentive have been stallion auction clients since 2016. They took advantage of our stallion auction **redesign offer** and now they have the best and most proven stallion auction software in the industry!

Looking forward to helping them **raise more money** for their incentive plan for many, many years to come!

Thank you Gwen and the Southern Cutting Futurity Stallion Incentive!

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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