JANUARY 2024

LEGENDARY TIMES

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF KISSING TREE



KISSING TREE

SAN MARCOS ★ TEXAS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director.....3

Featured Events.....5

Micahmendations.....6

Fitness Fanatics.....9

Employee Spotlight.....12

Community Connection.....14

A notice from Perfect Cuts.....16

Out West.....18

Critter Corner.....21

Food & Beverage Updates.....22

Pro Tips.....23

Letter from the Golf General Manager.....24

A Note from the Golf Course Superindent.....26

Upcoming Events.....27

2024 Town Halls.....28

Community Life Team.....29

A LETTER FROM THE E.D.

Dear Community,

December 1, 2023, marked my second year at Kissing Tree. Reflecting on this period, I am most proud of the relationships I have established with my team and in the community with you. We have come a long way together in the past 24 months. Over 150 homes have been added to the development, we have stabilized many of our fixed operating costs, routine communication has improved, service request completion times have been reduced, and we have retained great talent to improve our service to your family.

Executing the fundamentals involved with the daily operations of the community as well as making decisions that positively impact our long-term financial position is at the core of the Community Life Team's mindset in 2024. Our department head leadership team is focused on professional development, training, and mentoring our front-line staff to raise the bar in service to the community. Mark, Rebecca, and Kevin are aiding me in addressing opportunities for improvement and we continue to remind each other that we must help our front-line team be successful and better understand the "Why" behind the work we do every day. Our culture, brand, and Kissing Tree's story help us achieve this mindset every day.

Managing a community association involves mastering six key areas, facilities, communications, leadership, governance, risk management, and finance.

Each member of our department head leadership team has made a personal and professional commitment to master these fundamentals and raise the bar in 2024.

This year will see us continue community engagement programs such as SPARK, we will form an Ad Hoc Committee to revise the Design Guidelines, there are open committee spots residents can apply to, beautification projects and maintenance around the campus will continue, and we will launch our first digital lifestyle journal to highlight lifestyle in the community, fitness class offerings continue to be robust and diverse, and the Community Engagement Team has mapped out another great year of events, trips, and competitions.

To stay well informed about the various initiatives and happenings in the community please be aware of our Monday, and Thursday email blast communication cycle, and events posted on our calendars, and consider attending the monthly Coffee with the Manager Series held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in Independence Hall as well as our quarterly townhalls, the schedule will be announced soon. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. The best is yet to come.

Sincerely,
Matthew Dozier CMCA, AMS, PCAM, LSM

FEATURED EVENTS

COFFEE WITH THE E.D.
Wednesday, Jan. 3

Learn about Kissing Tree happenings by joining Executive Director Matthew Dozier in the Activity Room at 8:30 a.m.

CPR TRAINING
Thursday, Jan. 4

Register through Mindbody for either the 7:45 a.m. or 10 a.m. session of the CPR and first aid classes on Jan. 4 at Independence Hall Activity room.

MLK DAY
Monday, Jan. 15

Community life offices are closed in observance of the holiday.

WEBSITE ORIENTATION
Tuesday, Jan. 23

New to KT or need a refresher? The next website orientation is at 10 a.m. in The Depot. Bring the device you would use to log in.

PET PORTRAIT CLASS
Jan. 23-24 or Jan. 30-31

Learn how to paint a portrait of your pet from your favorite photo using techniques of watercolor. Two-day sessions avaiable.

For more information, navigate to the electronic calendar on our resident website.

Want to Share Event Photos?

Share fun photos of you enjoying the KT campus, events, and more! While we may not be able to fit everything, we'd love to feature more resident photography in Legendary Times. If you're interested, please submit photos to ktmc@coherelife.com.



Micahmendations

MAKE A BETTER 2024

New Year's Resolutions get a bad rap. They are usually something of a joke, and even when they are serious, we treat them less as resolutions (a firm decision to do or not to do something) and more as wishes (a hope for something that probably will not happen). Now, there is nothing wrong with making a New Year's resolution with a touch of humor; for example, a couple of years ago my resolution was to drink more (and I don't mean water). What I really meant by that was that I was resolved to take more downtime and find a way to relax when I wasn't working. At the time I was running two businesses and working 70+ hours a week so it was a great resolution to make...except I didn't do it.

I had decided to relax when I wasn't working but I was always working so I never found the time to relax. This is one of the biggest problems with the whole practice. When making a resolution we often neglect to burrow down and make it specific and achievable which leaves room to create unreachable expectations.

Instead, one successful way to make resolutions that stick is to treat them less as wishes and more as goals. A goal, to me, is a wish with a plan. If you've spent any time in the self-improvement, management, or military worlds then you've probably heard about SMART goals. If you haven't, SMART is an acronym for creating goals (or in this case resolutions) that stick. There are a few different ways to define it but the first one I heard was that a goal must be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely.

Applying the SMART framework to New Year's resolutions transforms them from vague aspirations into actionable plans. For instance, instead of resolving to 'get in shape,' a SMART goal would be 'to attend three fitness classes per week at Kissing Tree for the next three months.' This goal is specific (attending fitness classes), measurable (three classes per week), achievable (a realistic number of classes), relevant (aligns with the broader goal of getting in shape), and timely (set for the next three months).

One of my personally most successful goals was to never go three days without a workout. This one is very simple but very effective.

Another great way to increase your likelihood of following through is with some type of accountability. Accountability plays a crucial role in adhering to these resolutions. Sharing your goals with a friend, family member, or a community group like ours at Kissing Tree will significantly increase your chances of success. It's not just about having someone to remind you of your commitment, but also about building a support system that encourages and celebrates your progress. This is one of the reasons I recommend everyone join a class or hire a trainer. This communal aspect can turn a solitary pursuit into a shared journey, making the process more enjoyable and sustainable.

So, let’s approach New Year's resolutions with a fresh perspective this year. By crafting SMART goals and embracing community support, we can shift from making resolutions as mere wishes to creating meaningful, achievable objectives. As we head into the New Year, remember that each small step counts, and with the right plan and support, what starts as a resolution can evolve into a lasting, positive change in our lives. Here’s to a year of setting goals, breaking barriers, and celebrating every success, no matter how small, within our vibrant Kissing Tree community.

CERTIFICATION CPR/FIRST AID CLASS OFFERING

To attend the Red CPR and First Aid classes on Jan. 4 in the Independence Hall Activity Room, you must register through Mindbody for either the 7:45 a.m. or 10 a.m. session. Payment of $15 per person can be made in cash or check at the time of class check-in. Please note that registration is required and spaces are available on a first come, first serve basis.

FINANCIAL FITNESS WELLNESS MONTH

January marks Financial Fitness Wellness Month, a time dedicated to helping individuals review their 2023 financial standings and chart a course for their 2024 financial goals. As a Registered Investment Adviser, we love engaging with people and understanding their financial landscapes and aspirations for the future.

Having a well-thought-out financial plan not only secures the future but also brings immediate peace of mind—a true "sleep well" factor. IAS Wealth Management, Inc., is excited to host Four Fridays of Fabulous Fit Financial Strategies in February at Kissing Tree. Join us on February 2, 9, 16, and 23 for quick, no-obligation sessions covering investment insights, tax strategies, RMD/QCDs, Estate and Legacy Planning, and more! Plus, we'll throw in some activities to boost your physical fitness—working on your core, cardio, flexibility, and strength!

Join us at the Fitness Center on any or all Fridays for an enlightening yet relaxed check-up, ensuring both your financial and physical wellness are thriving. Wishing you joyous holidays and a flourishing New Year ahead!

FITNESS FANATIC

Jan Sheppard

In my early years (pre-20s), I was very involved in dance (ballet, tap, jazz, modern). I dreamt of being a professional ballerina when I grew up but not only was I probably not talented enough but, also, I didn't have the right body type. I was around 15 when I figured this out but I didn't fret about it too much, I just decided not to waste any more time on it and started focusing more on team sports (softball, volleyball, swim team). I didn't really think about it as a means of staying fit. It was all about having fun and hanging out with my friends.

In my 20s, I realized it was important to work out, mostly because I wanted to look good and fit in my clothes. I never really liked going to fitness classes or a gym. All they did was make me feel bad about myself, so I used exercise videos at home, Jane Fonda, Kathy Smith, and even Richard Simmons. When I was pregnant, I loved doing Jane Fonda's Pregnancy, Birth, and Recovery Workout every day.

In my 30s, I was obsessed with PBS's Body Electric with Margaret Richard. I would record her classes every morning and do the workout every day when I got home from work. Her workouts were great and the best part was that, because PBS was a non-profit, she was able to play popular music instead of that awful studio music used by the for-profit fitness instructors.

In my 40s and 50s, I had a lot less time and energy because of my job so I slacked off a little. I usually worked out at least a few times a week but not the 5-6 days I had in prior years. I remember feeling really guilty and longing for the day that I could retire so that I would be able to make fitness a part of my daily routine again.

Before we moved to KT, I was pretty anxious about making such a drastic change. My husband and I are both born and raised Houstonians and have lived in the Houston area our entire lives.

Change is hard for almost everyone but I think it's especially hard as we get older. It can also be hard to make new friends at this stage in our lives. We spent our first month here getting unpacked and settled and then I signed up for my first class. It was Ros's Mix Fit class. I was so intimidated walking into that class because I didn't know a single person. Within a week, I knew that I had found my people. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming and all of my insecurities and anxieties flew out the window.

Fitness for me now is all about quality of life and community. We all need to stay active and keep fit so that we can enjoy this time in our lives that we worked so long and hard for. In other words, move or lose it, people!!
I appreciate the nomination and the opportunity to share my story.





WHAT IS A FITNESS FANATIC?

You have probably noticed that around May of 2023, we began including a piece called Fitness Fanatic in your Legendary Times. We've really enjoyed highlighting a few of the residents and we're going to continue to do so. We thought we should write a brief description of what it really means to be a Kissing Tree "Fitness Fanatic" as well as how we choose who will be highlighted!

Firstly, the name is just a fun and clever way of identifying someone who goes above and beyond in pursuit of their own fitness. It doesn't literally mean to be a fanatic. That would be... well, unhealthy, and that's not exactly what we're about. What it does mean is someone who shows up, maybe not every day, but often enough for the staff to notice when they don't.

When we talk about who will be next month's Fanatic, we never have a problem of not having any good options. There are so many residents who care about their health and fitness here at KT, that it's really a problem narrowing it down from a couple dozen people to one.

In identifying our Fitness Fanatics, we look for those who embody the spirit of Kissing Tree's fitness community. It's not just about the number of hours logged at the gym or the miles run. It's about setting personal goals, trying new classes, and having fun with the community.

Moreover, this recognition serves as a platform to share inspiring stories. Each Fitness Fanatic has a unique journey, filled with challenges, successes, and often, life-changing transformations. By highlighting these stories, we aim to foster a sense of community and encourage others to embark on their own fitness journeys. It's about creating a culture where fitness is not just an individual pursuit but a shared experience that enriches the lives of all our residents.

To conclude, being a Kissing Tree Fitness Fanatic is about more than just fitness; it's about embodying a lifestyle that champions health, community, and personal growth. As we continue to spotlight our amazing residents, we hope their stories will not only inspire but also resonate with others. Remember, everyone's journey is different, and at Kissing Tree, every step towards health and fitness is celebrated. We look forward to discovering and sharing more of these wonderful stories, illustrating how our community thrives through shared goals, mutual support, and a persistent dedication to well-being.

MEET RYAN ANDREWS

KT Golf Course General Manager



I grew up in rural Ohio and I have worked for Troon for 14 years now. I started with the company as an intern at THE Ohio State University and stayed on through graduation. I have managed or worked at courses in Ohio, Florida, Texas, Alabama, Florida a 2nd time, and Texas a 2nd time. I came to Kissing Tree because of all the places I've lived and worked, Central Texas was my favorite. When I came here to interview for the job, I knew it was the place I wanted to be immediately.

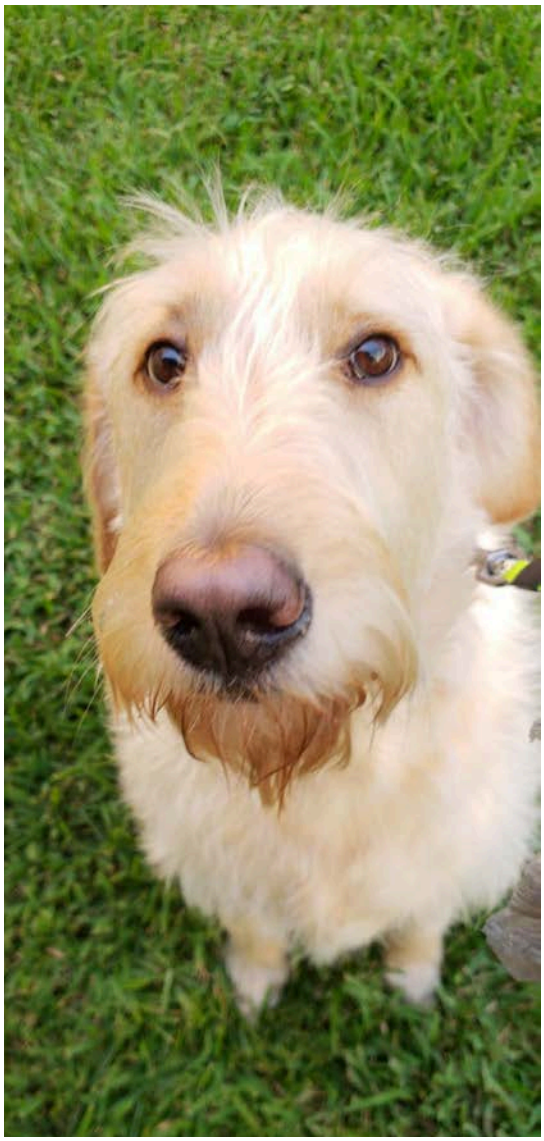
How would you describe your role at KT?
I have an a amazing team around me that helps me operate the golf course and the food & beverage operations here at KT.

What makes you most excited about working for KT?
The people. As noted above, my team and the people I get to work with are passionate, intelligent, talented, and all-around incredible people, and it's infectious and motivating to be surrounded by that every day. Our partners are also great folks and are amazing at their jobs. Without those partnerships, we wouldn't be able to accomplish everything that we do here at KT. Lastly, this community is full of so many wonderful people who

have lived incredible lives and have amazing stories. It's very easy to come to work each day knowing that we get to bring fun and joy to so many great people.

What is one interesting fact about you?
I am left-handed in everything that I do except for athletics, in which I'm naturally right-handed. I am not ambidextrous, so whichever my naturally dominant hand is for that activity, it's probably the only one I can do it with. A werid way this manifests is that my natural hand for dribbing a basketball is my left, but I shoot the ball with my right hand.





COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Monroe Hair Studio

Lanna Welch Horton, the proud owner of Monroe Hair Studio situated on the downtown square in San Marcos, Texas, at 109 E Hopkins St., has woven a tale of success and community integration since she opened her doors on June 1, 2009. At just 25 years old, Lanna embarked on a journey that fused her small-town roots with a passion for hairstyling and business acumen.

Lanna's narrative traces back to her beginnings in San Marcos in 2004, where she swiftly built a devoted clientele base while navigating the intricacies of an independent stylist. However, in 2009, when the salon she worked in faced closure, destiny led her to a serendipitous encounter with her current space on the square. Taking a leap of faith, Lanna seized the opportunity, signing the lease within three days and transforming the space from scratch with the help of family and friends, despite the initial challenges presented by a less-than-ideal paint job.

Reflecting on Monroe Hair Studio's journey spanning 14.5 years, Lanna acknowledges the pivotal role played by word-of-mouth advertising in propelling her business forward. By offering a spectrum of hair services encompassing color, highlights, balayage, haircuts, extensions, perms, and blowouts, Lanna fostered an environment where clients not only received top-notch services but also felt embraced in the warmth of the salon's chairs.

What distinguishes Monroe Hair Studio isn't just the expertise in hairstyling but the creation of an inviting atmosphere reminiscent of Lanna's upbringing in a close-knit, small community of Trenton, Texas. Monroe has a wonderful group of stylists that really work as a team continuing the small-town culture. Lanna loves the relationships built with clients and each other.

Her roots in entrepreneurship can be traced back to her father, a jeweler whose craftsmanship and business finesse left an indelible mark on Lanna. Drawing from her childhood experiences observing her father's interactions with customers and business operations, Lanna absorbed this knowledge and applies these invaluable lessons to her salon daily.

Building on Monroe Hair Studio's success, Lanna expanded her entrepreneurial footprint in 2021, introducing Olivia Presley Hair Co., a sister salon named after her husband and cherished daughters, Olivia and Presley. Leveraging the knowledge garnered from Monroe Hair Studio, Lanna's newest venture promises to continue serving the vibrant community of San Marcos with a fusion of expertise, warmth, and a touch of small-town camaraderie.

Through her journey, Lanna Welch Horton has exemplified not only the artistry of hairstyling but also the power of community connections, embodying the essence of bridging neighborhoods like Kissing Tree to the heart of San Marcos's bustling business square.







Columnist bio: Lisa Breaux moved to Kissing Tree in August of 2021. She was born in England and traveled frequently as an Air Force “brat.” Coming from a family of writers and artists, she enjoyed her career as an English/writing instructor for 27 years. She discovered her passion for storytelling while visiting nursing homes. Completing a course with the Texas Folklife Storytellers Institute helped her continue her quest for retelling tales. Lisa believes everyone has an interesting story to tell and she is excited to showcase KT residents.

A notice from Perfect Cuts

Winter 2024

We can't believe how quickly yet another year has gone by. We're so proud of everything our team has accomplished, and we're excited to share it with you in our favorite newsletter of the year! Great strides have been made to enhance the community. We do our best to address every concern that is received to the best of our ability. Plant material, sod, and rock installation have been at the forefront of many concerns to beautify the community. In the upcoming year, we hope to continue this trend as well as move towards the enhancements of common spaces for all to enjoy. Below you will find a short guide of what are the current and foreseeable future focuses of the landscape team.

Maitenance service

• Mowing, weed-eating/edging, and blowing will occur on a bi-weekly basis during the winter months.

• Ant mounds are treated when spotted while servicing the property. Topical treatment only. Ant mounds do travel, and rain/irrigation can cause an uptick in numbers.

Weed Control

• Fall pre and post-emergent weed treatments have been completed throughout the property.

• Weed germination is continuous throughout the year and we will remain vigilant to treat those appearing. Spot treatment of post-emergent weed control is ongoing.

• Slower reaction time to these treatments is expected and normal with colder temperatures.

• Pre-emergent weed treatment will be applied to all landscape beds in the next six weeks.

• Turf applications will begin in the early Spring for fertilizer and pre/post-emergent weed control.

Irrigation

- Green valve lids denotes city governed water.
- Purple valved lids denotes effluent water with no city restrictions.

Please see the website for the city of San Marcos water restrictions.

• The Perfect Cuts irrigation team is available through winter months for needed repairs.

• Irrigation run times have been dramatically reduced at this time. Irrigation will be shut off through the late winter months of January and February.

• Irrigation mains and shut-offs will be prepared for freezing temperatures.

Important notice: leaf drops will continue over the next several months. Different species of trees lose their leaves at different times. Wind, rain, and temperature will all come into play during this time. Leaves will be collected during normal service visits. Some leaf build-up is expected between visits.

Your Landscape Partner,
Perfect Cuts

Out West

When I first started writing these pieces, the idea was that I'd stay close to home and write about easy day trips. Along the way, we've had a few shifts in focus. This piece is the biggest shift yet. We recently returned from a trip to Marfa and Big Bend. When we got back, we discovered how many people in our community, including native Texans like Sarah, had never been there. So, here we go: Marfa and Big Bend.

This is definitely not a day trip. From KT to Marfa you'll be driving for around 6 ½ hours, unless you're like us; then it'll be 7 ½. From KT to Big Bend it's between 7-8 hours. You can make it an interstate trip by starting on I-10, but you can also take the more scenic route by using 90 out of San Antonio. We ended up taking I-10 out and 90 back. 90 took us a lot longer because we had to stop at Langtry to visit Judge Roy Bean, "The Only Law West of the Pecos," and Uvalde.

We started with Marfa. This city appeals to the bohemian artist within. Marfa also appeals to those who just like small Texas towns with character. For us, Marfa struck us as a small Texas town with a lot of sex appeal.

There's no doubt about the art; without it, the town would be attractive but not worth the drive. Donald Judd brought art, and artists, to Marfa and changed the town forever. The Chinati Foundation takes you to an exploration of space and perspective, and it's just plain fun. It also brought at least a dozen galleries and exhibitions to town. We also enjoyed the small Marfa and Presidio County Museum which has a thoughtful collection of items from the city and county's life including posters of all the movies made in the area. The most famous, Giant, still attracts visitors to the edge of town where you can see oversized cutouts Of James Dean, Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor, and the Giant mansion. You can't write about Marfa without mentioning the Hotel Paisano, a 1930's beauty, and the Marfa Lights, mysterious moving lights that appear, to some people, about nine miles outside of town. The courthouse opened in 1866, provides the Icing on this finely decorated town. You can take an elevator to the top which affords you the view of pretty much all of the town.

If all of this isn't enough to justify a trip, take in the McDonald Observatory's Star Party, which takes you on a winding road up Davis Mountain, through Fort Davis, and finally up into the night sky with stunning views of the Milky Way.

From Marfa we headed to Teralingua, at least that's where we thought we were going. As it turns out, Teralingua, the gateway to Big Bend National Park, isn't the real destination. The real action, including the Teralingua Original Chili Cook-Off, takes place in what the sign calls Teralingua Ghost Town, which we think is really downtown Teraligua. Names aside, it's a great place to begin your exploration of the park. You can shop at one-of-a-kind boutiques, have yourself some homemade ice cream, and choose from an interesting array of restaurants. The most well-known stop will find you sitting on the front porch of the Teralingua Trading Company talking with locals and tourists and drinking cold beers you've bought in the store. If you get hungry and hanker for food with a dollop of music, mosey next door to the Starlight Theater. I'm not going to say much about it, although it's great, except to say that the restrooms are in the old city jail. Enough said. Except maybe that the food and music are pretty good and the decor is a hoot. And don't miss the cemetery. It's seen better times, but its sense of history creates a moving connection to people of the past.

The Big Bend National Park, which is truly special, begins just outside of town. It's bigger than Rhode Island, with over 1,200 square miles to explore, most of it accessible by your city car but also with opportunities to give that all-wheel drive with high clearance a workout. Accordingly, the park offers way too much to write about in Legendary Times, so I'll just mention some of the highlights.

The number one attraction is right above your head. You don't have to be at McDonald Observatory to enjoy the Milky Way. Just find a hotel on the edge of town, find a seat on your front porch, and look up. We also wanted to get on the Rio Grande, but we missed our chance. The drought severely limited rafting trips so we decided just to take the ferry across to Mexico. Warning! Take your passport. No passport, no ferry.

As a substitute, we decided that we could at least be by the river and maybe get our feet wet. That led us to the Boquillas Canyon Trail. Climb up a moderate incline to find an overlook of the Rio Grande. You'll also find a horse and rider who had forged the river to sell walking sticks, and other more touristy crafts, to the tired hikers. From there you can drop down to the river and walk along until you reach the mouth of Boquillas Canyon, a beautiful harmony of river and rock. Another great river hike leads you to the Santa Elena Canyon and its steep 1.7-mile round trip. This canyon could easily be the Big Bend classic highlight. It's tall and steep. The water is bright and clear. During high water, that means without the drought, you can raft the canyon, the thought of which made me want

CRITTER CORNER: MEET STRYKER





KT Residents Kaaran Thomas and Andy Nielsen have an unusual pet. Here are three clues: 1) it measures 27” in height 2) it eats grass and 3) it loves to nuzzle. Can you guess? It is a miniature two-year-old horse named Stryker. He lives at Little America stables, in Buda, but Kaaran and Andy visit him three to four times a week. They take walks together, train, and share biscuit treats. Kaaran says the best part of owning a miniature horse is it is so much easier than a dog. The best part of Stryker, she adds, “He really likes us and shows it!.”

After a heart-breaking separation from their pet dog, Kaaran and Andy visited the stables on advice from friends. Kaaran had always wanted a horse, and here was her chance. With 100 horses to choose from, their eyes locked on Stryker, and it was meant to be. Miniature horses are shown, just like dogs in dog shows except the horse categories are separated by height, not breed. Kaaran has Stryker trained for halter shows and is considering training him to become a therapy horse. Stryker has won two reserve championships ….These horses make great pets, as they are easy to take care of, do not require horseshoes, are healthy, and can live to be in their 20s.

Kaaran and Andy would love to share their boarding facility and for you to meet all the horses, especially Stryker. If you would like to learn more about the facility or the shows you can check out the links…You can also contact Kaaran on the FB Pioneer page for more information. Who knows, we may all be following their lead!

FOOD & BEVERAGE UPDATES

Frequent users of Troon member accounts at Independence Hall may be familiar with the routine 20% automatic gratuity added to tickets. This is applied to any "open" tickets after a shift, specifically when residents haven't physically signed the ticket. Such instances typically follow events or gatherings, hence the need to sign in on member forms, authorizing charges and gratuities for the account—similar to endorsing a receipt.

At the new restaurant, Tarbox & Brown, especially noticeable at the lunch order counter, there have been several inquiries about the inclusion of automatic gratuity on tickets, assuming it mirrors the process at Independence Hall. However, it's important to note that no automatic gratuity is included on signed receipts. Therefore, if you wish to tip the staff at your discretion, please consider including it on the gratuity line when signing the ticket. We value your attention to these distinctions between the two operations. Thank you.

Looking for the perfect venue for your upcoming special occasion or private event? Consider Tarbox & Brown! We've successfully hosted a diverse range of events, from baby showers and graduation parties to celebrations of life, holiday gatherings, brunches, and much more. For bookings and inquiries about your special event, kindly contact Brooke Roseland, our Director of F&B. We're excited to help you create memorable moments!

TROON®

Pro Tips

Hello folks, this is Gabe's Tips to Play.
With the grass becoming dormant and changing color, people often mistake this for "dead". It is just asleep is all, meaning it is not growing, but still very much alive. That is why grain is always prominent in southern climates. Even in the winter grain still plays a part in dictating how the ball will roll. The grass lays down. Making the golf course become faster and firmer with the colder temperatures even the actual ground gets cold becoming firm. Just making the ball roll out more everywhere.

So, when we have a frost delay it is largely in part to protect the golf course. If you were to walk across a fairway or green or even rough with frost on it, it would leave brown footprints after the frost goes away.

Each step on frosted-over grass puts additional stress on the grass. Frost freezes water stored in each blade of grass. That crunch noise we hear when we walk on frozen grass in the winter is damaging the grass. It will recover, it just takes longer to recover is all.

Try and stay underneath the hole this winter, don't shortside yourself. (don't hit the ball to the side of the green closest to the pin). That is commonly known as short-sided. I try to always leave myself the easiest shot to access the hole with the least amount of risk possible. Therefore, gaining confidence and momentum throughout my round. This will usually happen from the front of the green. Not over the green or to the sides of it. I have never liked chipping downhill or putting downhill. I usually prefer to chip and putt uphill. That way I can then be more aggressive when attacking the hole from shorter distances.

Putting and chipping uphill is easier, and the golf ball doesn't get away from you, making attacking confidently, easier. During the winter months, be mindful of that. Carry some hot chocolate or your favorite winter adult beverage. Grab some hand warmers and keep you and your body warm.

Best of Luck out there,
Gabe Ross, Head Golf Professional



It's official, 2023 is in the rearview mirror and 2024 is in front of us. This time of year, I always like to reflect on how the previous year went and what was accomplished. In retrospect, 2023 might have been one of the biggest years of change that the Kissing Tree Golf Club has ever seen or any golf club for that matter. We started the year operating out of our golf shop down at Grand Central, my office was located in a model home, and our food & beverage options consisted of two snack bars that were limited in what they could produce due to the limitations of those temporary facilities.

We also spent a difficult summer with blazing heat and drought that led to a long season of repairing dozens of leaks on the front 9 as we worked to keep the golf course healthy and happy. Lastly, our golf course maintenance facility was located in a yard with a few shipping containers and a temporary rented office trailer.

All those things changed or are in the process of changing as we move into 2024. As I'm sure you all have figured out by this point, we successfully completed and transitioned into our new clubhouse building. We're able to offer a much better check-in experience and the logistics around parking, checking in, and getting to the first tee have all improved drastically. Located inside our new clubhouse, our brand new full restaurant, Tarbox & Brown, also opened.

We have been so blessed to get that operation up and running and we have already had so many fun experiences bringing our community together and sharing in good food and good fun. Our whole team is also now located under one roof (excluding the golf course maintenance team). This has improved our communication and allowed us to be more in tune with the day-to-day operations and also be more readily available for the residents and our guests.

If you play golf, you have surely also noticed the remaining two projects that are ongoing out there. Our maintenance building is under construction and is scheduled to finish early in 2024. This will allow us to better maintain our equipment through better storage and a better place for the mechanic it keeps everything in tip-top shape. It will also boost our team morale as they have a much better location for meetings and to utilize in their day-to-day activities.

The second project is one we have needed and have been working towards for a long time. Our irrigation replacements to the front 9 are well underway and have been successful thus far. We anticipate those to finish at roughly the same time as the golf course maintenance building. Those projects align just in time with the onset of the growing season and will leave us in a great place to be successful in taking care of the golf course in 2024.

Overall, I would say there aren't very many years on record that encapsulate so many major changes, all for the betterment of the golf course and community. I very much appreciate the support that this wonderful community has provided, the patience that you have all demonstrated, and the excitement and joy that you have allowed us to share as we have worked through all of this in 2023.

I am so excited for another wonderful year at Kissing Tree. We have so many fun things planned. Spring will be here before we know it and the good golf weather is right around the corner. Happy New Year, Kissing Tree! Cheers to a wonderful 2023 and on to an even more exciting 2024!

Best wishes,
Ryan Andrews, Golf Course General Manager –January 2024

UPDATES FROM THE GREEN

Now that the grass has slowed its growing, we can focus on the detail work that we have not been able to complete during the summer. I'm sure many of you have noticed the work on the tee sign beds has begun, as well as mowing down many of the native areas.

We cleaned up the drive from 5 green to 6 tee and are now focusing on creek beds. The irrigation work is progressing well, and we appreciate your patience through this process. The result will be a better golf course for you to enjoy and will free up manhours so our staff can get other work done instead of digging holes every day.

On behalf of myself and the golf course maintenance staff, we thank you for all the generosity you showed us in 2023 and look forward to a much better 2024.

John Mckay
Golf Course Superintendent

Upcoming events

CASINO NIGHT

Take chances and and make amazing memories at KT's Casino Night on Feb. 3 includes blackjack, roulette and craps tables. At the end ofthe night, cash in your chips and get raffle tickets for lots of great prizes.

BINGO NIGHT

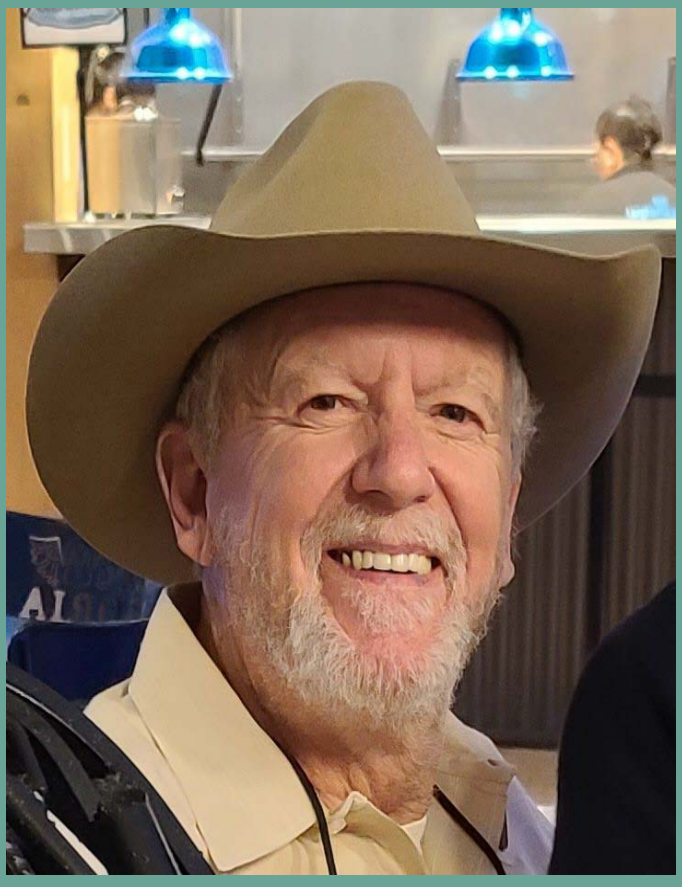
Join us for a mix of challenging games and lots of BINGO in the Independence Hall for a chance to win big on Feb. 4!

SAN ANTONIO RODEO

Get ready for a fun-filled event, featuring carnival games, tasty treats, livestock shows, and a variety of retail vendors. To top it off, you have two chances to see either amazing performances by Brooks & Dunn or STYX.

even more for some rain. If hiking isn't your thing and you just want great scenery, take the 30-mile Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive for some of the most beautiful terrain in the park, from desert to mountain pine.

What about the weather? In Marfa, you can generally count on pleasant days with correspondingly cooler nights. In June and July, you can expect highs in the low 90's; in the winter you can expect days in the 60's and near freezing at night. In Big Bend, you can expect more extremes. In the winter, you can enjoy mild days in the 70's with near-freezing temperatures at night. Summer presents a bigger challenge. Although you can enjoy pleasant evenings, daytime temperatures are often around 100 or over on the desert floor, so be prepared. Dress appropriately, drink lots of water, and visit McDonald Observatory for a Star Party. And keep your eyes open for all those things I left out!



Michael Vivion is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and a current resident of Kissing Tree. His first university tenure-track position was in the English Department at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos in the early 80's where he met his wife, Sarah, who was also teaching in the English Department. Originally from Kansas, he's lived in Arizona, California, Germany, Wisconsin, Italy, Missouri, Switzerland, and New Jersey. After he left academics, he worked as a communication consultant in Switzerland and New York City. He continues consulting but at a snail's pace. He'd much rather travel and write short pieces on the wonders of Texas for KT.

2024 TOWN HALLS

Overview

On the following dates, join your Community Life team and board of directors to discuss important issues in the community, including amenities, construction, golf, maintenance, and more.

KTMC

TBD

Cottages

TBD

Villas

TBD

Community Life Team

Matthew Dozier - Executive Director
Elizabeth Enriquez - Director of Community Assets
Kevin Wilson - Director of Community Engagement
Rebecca Rounds - Director of Community Operations
Micah Ross - Fitness manager

Rae Lynn Wilson - Community Operations Coordinator
Anitra Martinez - Community Standards Coordinator
Andy Pina - Senior Maintenance Technician
Konnor McMahon - Lead Custodial Engineer
Sandee Miller - Community Care Coordinator
Austin Rounds - Fitness Coordinator
Linda Mott - Community Engagement Coordinator
Ashlyn Wilson - Communications Coordinator
Jeremy Mott - Custodial Engineer
Gerald Hayward - Custodial Engineer
Richard Salinas - Custodial Engineer

Katherine Dodd - Fitness Attendant
Michael Martin - Fitness Attendant
Trent Rodgers - Fitness Attendant
Elise Salinas - Front Desk Ambassador