

Life Stuff

News To Help You Save Time And Money

October 2017

An Entrepreneurial Story

After being a public servant for 30 years with the Department of Water and Power, Tony Dighera retired and bought a small organic farm, which he named Cinagro farms. Cinagro is organic spelled backwards, perhaps a hint that this is an innovative organic farm.

Soon after starting his farm, Dighera read a story about square watermelons coming out of Japan. Intrigued, he devoted a small plot of land to experimenting with shaping produce. He succeeded in growing perfectly square, and then heart-shaped, watermelons. Then he did something truly amazing.

Dighera was turning his attention from watermelons to pumpkins, and gradually an idea took shape. Since he understood the basics of shaping produce, he wanted to take the concept much further. Four years and \$400,000 later, he finally perfected a way to grow molded (not moldy) pumpkins. The result? These crazy Frankenstein-shaped pumpkins, which he calls pumpkinsteins.



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“People never believe it’s real the first time they see it; they all want to touch it to make sure,” Dighera told the LA Times in 2014. “The point was to make something that would get attention.”

During his first full year, he harvested roughly 5,500 pumpkinsteins and sold them at a wholesale price of \$75 each. Retailers charged \$100. Reaction was quick; they were selling, competitors were jealous, and Dighera even had trespassers come in the dark of the night.

In subsequent years, Dighera devoted much of his land to the monstrously profitable pumpkinsteins, harvesting 30K – 40K of them at a time. “It’s easier than watermelons,” he says, “because no one cares how they taste.”

~ Dan

Tripping Over Old Bones

In July this past summer, a 10-year-old boy discovered a million-year-old fossil of a prehistoric creature when he literally fell on it while hiking with his parents in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Jude Sparks says he was running when he tripped on part of a tusk belonging to the Stegomastodon, which is from the Pleistocene era and believed to be an ancestor to the modern-day elephant.

The creature is not a dinosaur. The T-Rex, Triceratops and Velociraptors lived in the Mesozoic era, which ended 66 million years before.

Jude's parents contacted Peter Houde, a professor at New Mexico State University. However, it took several months to commence excavations, as the fossil was found on private land and permission was required from the landowner.

The exact site of the discovery has remained confidential.

The bones were "deceptively delicate", so chemical hardeners were applied to keep them intact during the excavation process.

Once the fossil was removed, it was coated in plaster and transported to its current home, the New Mexico State University's Vertebrate Museum, where Jude will be able to visit whenever he likes.

Why Do Dogs Tilt Their Heads?

Apparently, no one knows exactly why dogs tilt their heads in response to new sounds or sights. That may be why tilting occurs more in puppies than older, wiser dogs who've heard it all before.

According to one survey from *Psychology Today*, it could have to do with vision. When dogs hear something novel, they try to see it from a different angle. According to the survey, shorter muzzled dogs tilt less than longer muzzled dogs.



The Dog Scoop

Buckley has the tooth-brushing routine down. He comes right over, lays down, and rolls over. Pretty soon I'll just hand him his tooth brush and he'll do the rest.

More often, tilting is attributed to hearing. A dog tilts its head to reposition the ears to hear better.

Whatever the reason, it's so cute that some dogs probably do it just for the attention!

October Quiz Question

Q: *What is the sub-title to the book Frankenstein?*

Everyone who emails or calls in the correct answer by October 25th will be entered into a drawing for two free Harkin's movie tickets.

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September Quiz Answer

Q: *September comes from the Latin root for what number?*

A: *From Latin septem, "seven."*

Congratulations to Mike Quinlivan. His name was drawn out of all of the correct quiz entrees, and he won 2 free Harkin's movie tickets!

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

I have been listening to some old Christian music that reminds me of the church retreat where Kim and I met. That was a long time ago back in May of 1992. It was the first retreat I had ever been on, and I'm glad I went. After we met, Kim couldn't stop thinking about me until she finally asked me on our first date which was August 6th (maybe that's not exactly how it went as I can't remember all the details from 25 years ago). We both celebrated our 50th birthday this year. We have now known each other for half of our lives. It's weird to think back to those early days when our big decisions were trying to figure out which movie we should see or what type of blizzard we should get at Dairy Queen. Those decisions are still in the mix today, but they are definitely not the major ones. Today it's more about college preparation for the boys, looking at different schools, and trying to figure out how to best equip them to make good decisions for their future. Soon enough the boys will be off to college, and then Kim and I will be back to trying to figure out which movie to see and what type of blizzard we should get at Dairy Queen. Oh yeah, and the other big decision of when I can mathematically retire so I can go to even more movies and eat more blizzards.

Have an awesome month!

Dan

Short And Sweet

Just a note to let you know how I can help you or anyone you might refer to me.

Melissa was referred to Dan by her sister in law, Angie. Melissa was the executor for her mom's estate and needed to sell her mom's home as she had recently passed away. Dan met with her to take a look at the home, but there was still work to be done before putting it on the market. Dan gave Melissa some suggestions on what she could do to help make the home more appealing and sell faster. As the home was about to go on the market, Dan put up a for sale sign. As the work was being completed in the home, Dan got a call from a real estate agent whose buyer saw the for sale sign. Even though it was not quite ready to be shown yet, Melissa said it would be ok for them to come and take a look. They ended up writing an offer, and the home was sold before officially going on the market. Not only did Melissa get her asking price, but she did not have to worry about potential buyers coming through the home, let alone continuing to pay taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance on a vacant home. It was short and sweet. She could not have hoped for a better outcome, for both the price and timing of the sale were perfect!

If you know someone who might need a few tips on what they can do help make their home sell faster, just have them give me a call at 480-390-5380. I'd be happy to help them just like I helped Melissa.

Password Tips That Work Today

In 2003 Bill Burr, a manager at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), wrote an 8-page password guide that advised people to invent awkward words full of characters, capitals and numbers—and to change them often.

That became the go-to guide for agencies, universities and large companies around the world looking for password-setting rules to follow.

The problem is, according to Mr. Burr, now 72, the advice of the past decade and a half is outdated.

In June this year, NIST Special Publication 800-63 was re-written with new password guidelines. Drop the password-expiration advice and the requirement for special characters. Use long, easy-to-remember phrases rather than crazy characters, and change passwords only if there is a sign of compromise.

Academics who have studied passwords say using a series of four words can be harder for hackers to crack than a shorter mix of strange characters—since having a large number of letters makes things harder than a smaller number of letters, characters, and numbers.

In a popular piece, cartoonist Randall Munroe calculated it would take 550 years to crack the password “correct horse battery staple,” all written as one word. The password Tr0ub4dor&3—a typical example of password using Mr. Burr’s old rules—could be cracked in three days, according to Munroe’s calculations, which have been verified by computer specialists.

~ Adapted from *The Wall Street Journal*

Clients Of The Month

Congratulations to Melissa on the sale of your home.

Thank you for your trust in allowing me to help represent you in your sale.

Thank you, Angie, for referring Melissa to me.

Easy Breakfast That Makes Everyone Happy

Want to make your family Oh-So-Happy in the morning? Make them pancakes! Don't worry, you don't have to stand there flipping flapjacks while watching the clock. Instead you can make pancakes into muffins.

They're a perfect breakfast food...they taste like pancakes, but are done all at the same time, they're portable, and no waiting, flipping, or pouring!

- There's just one secret: You take your favorite usual pancake mix and add an extra egg or two, depending on how fluffy you want them. That's it!
- Spray a muffin pan with nonstick spray, or use liners. Fill 2/3 to the top. Just before putting them in the oven, add extras: chocolate chips, dried fruit, chopped nuts, cinnamon and sugar, or fresh fruit mixed into the batter.
- Pop them in the oven at 350 and they're ready in 15 minutes. Test them with a toothpick. Serve as-is, or with butter and syrup.

Too Much Sleep Causes Nightmares

Apparently, sleeping for more than 9 hours a night can increase your chances of having nightmares, according to a study conducted by the University of Oxford.

During the study, 846 participants answered questions about the frequency and severity of their nightmares (which yielded a score on the 'nightmare severity scale'). They also disclosed how much sleep they got.

The results will terrify you.

There was an increase in the occurrence of nightmares for people who slept more than 9 hours.

Stephanie Rek of Oxford University has a simple explanation. She says that sleeping for longer periods increases the amount of rapid eye movement sleep, which is when nightmares are most likely to occur.

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price or call a high-pressure sales agent who will make you feel obligated. I can send you the information quickly and easily for any house, listed or sold, anywhere in town.

Just ask me! It's all part of my free, no-obligation HomeFinder Service.

Email me or leave the address on my voicemail, anytime, 24 hours a day, and I'll mail or email all the information on that listing within 24 hours.

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Usain Bolt Stops Running

Usain Bolt, the fastest man in the world, has run his last official race. Retiring in August of this year, Bolt was distinct, not only for his speed, but also for the quality of his character.

Of the 30 fastest men's 100m sprint times ever, only nine have been run by an athlete not banned for drugs. All nine of those times were run by Jamaica's Usain Bolt. He holds the record for the three fastest 100m sprints in history.

The 30-year-old Bolt will pull in \$34.2 million this year, according to Forbes, making him the 23rd-highest-paid athlete in the world. His latest ranking puts him ahead of any baseball player, and just behind golfer Jordan Spieth and basketball player Derrick Rose.

There is no other track star in the top 100, and there is not likely to be another. Track stars seldom break into big money, and much of Bolt's stardom seems to come as much from his strong personality as his amazing success.



"One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half." — Winston Churchill

Free Reports

- ❑ How to beat other buyers to the best listings
- ❑ Five powerful buying strategies
- ❑ Seven different reasons to own your own home
- ❑ Ten simple steps to ensure your home sells at top dollar
- ❑ The nine most deadly mistakes you can make when selling your home
- ❑ How sellers price their homes
- ❑ Making the move easy on the kids
- ❑ Protect your home from burglars
- ❑ How to show your home
- ❑ Things you should know about moving

How To Order:

- Fax to Dan Kilde at 480-821-4926
- Call/Text Dan at 480-390-5380
- Go to Dan's website at www.PlanYourArizonaMove.com
- E-mail Dan at danazhomes4sale@hotmail.com

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Minecraft Goes Corporate

Minecraft, in case you haven't heard, is a video game that was originally developed by Markus Persson of Sweden. It offers players the chance to build a 3-D world out of "blocks." Since its release in 2009, Minecraft has sold more than 121 million copies, making it the best-selling game of all time after another blocky favorite, Tetris.

Kids love this game, which allows them to construct digital castles, power plants, amusement parks, and homes, as well as to chop down trees for wood, feed animals, fight dragons, and most important, band together with other players to create huge open-ended worlds, like an infinite Lego set of electronic blocks.

It's no wonder that progressive teachers grabbed hold of the game and started using it in the classroom to teach all sorts of concepts, such as building a 3D model of an archeological dig, retelling stories, and testing bridge designs. The best part is that teachers can set up servers, which are single versions of the game that players can join from home and add to using "mods."



That ability to band together made it possible for kids to work from home to collaborate on school projects, while having fun together. But that may be coming to an end.

Microsoft purchased Minecraft in 2014, and in 2017 created an offshoot called Minecraft: Education Edition. While Microsoft is doing great things with the platform to help teachers integrate it into the classroom, including adding testing modules, progressive teachers have two big problems: one is the fee structure, and the other is a loss of collaboration.

Microsoft will be charging a license fee of \$5 per pupil, and students won't own their accounts outside of the school's computers. The fee creates pressure on teachers and schools that can't afford it, but worse, it removes one of the greatest features of the game: the ability of kids to collaborate at home, turning it into just another teaching tool.

However, many other teachers feel that Microsoft's classroom enhancements are worth the loss of freedom and flexibility, because they provide so many positive enhancements. These teachers also feel that Microsoft has taken great pains to keep the game fun while making it more accessible to less technologically savvy teachers. Things change, so maybe this change will be worthwhile once it goes mainstream.

The Kid Scoop

Brandon (15) has been going to open gym at school and playing some basketball.

Ryan (17) at times has been kitchen captain at work. He is leaning towards a business degree for college. Maybe he'll own his own restaurant one day. If so, I know where I'm going to eat lots of free food. It will then be my turn to leave dirty dishes laying around 😊

Catherine says...

"I wanted to thank you for your excellent, excellent help in the sale of my house in Chandler. From the moment I contacted you, you were helpful, informative, and responsive. Most of all I appreciate your very positive and upbeat attitude. I also appreciated getting regular updates. I would be very happy to talk to any prospective clients to let them know that they could not find a better agent! You are the best!"

See over 100 more rave reviews from actual clients at www.PlanYourArizonaMove.com. Just click the "True Stories" link at the top of the page. You can call Dan directly at 480-390-5380 or email at danazhomes4sale@hotmail.com

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