

HUTTO

MAGAZINE

JUNE EDITION

Hello
Summer!
♡

HELLO
Summer!
♡

EDITOR'S NOTE

■ Summer is Here

June in Hutto just feels different. The kids are out of school, the Texas heat is officially trying to fight everyone in the parking lot, snow cone lines are getting longer, and weekends are suddenly packed with markets, events, splash pads, live music, and every excuse possible to avoid cooking dinner. In other words ... summer has arrived.

And honestly? There's something special happening in Hutto right now. Our community keeps growing, new businesses continue planting roots here, local entrepreneurs are taking chances on their dreams, and families are finding more ways than ever to connect with each other right here in our own backyard. Whether you've lived here for twenty years or just unpacked your moving boxes last weekend, Hutto has a way of making people feel like they belong.

This month's edition of Hutto Magazine is all about celebrating that energy.

One thing we never want to lose as Hutto grows is the heart behind this town. The people here still show up for each other. They support local. They share recommendations. They rally around new businesses. They celebrate wins together. That kind of community can't be manufactured, and it's a huge part of what makes Hutto special.

At iHutto, our mission has always been bigger than just posting on social media. Sure, you may see us motivating you in the mornings, making you laugh during the day, and keeping you updated on what's happening around town, but behind all of that is a much bigger purpose: connecting people to Hutto businesses, events, opportunities, and resources that strengthen this community.

Now go enjoy your summer, and don't forget the sunscreen. Texas isn't playing around this year.

*Love,
Sydney*

HUTTO EVENTS IN JUNE

June Events Roundup

Written by Tara McAdams

Plan your month with all the Hutto activities!

2026 Catfish Derby

Date: Saturday, Jun 06, 2026 (08:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

Location: Adam Orgain Park, 1001 County Road 137, Hutto, TX

With 2,000 catfish stocked in the ponds, there are plenty of opportunities to test your angling skills and enjoy a great day outdoors with family and friends.

Anglers of all ages are welcome (adult supervision is required for children). Grab your gear, your lucky hat, and a comfortable chair!

5th Annual BFOH Juneteenth Freedom March & Festival

Date: Sunday, June 14, 2026 (2:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

Location: Adam Orgain Park, 1001 County Road 137, Hutto, TX

Celebrate Juneteenth at this beloved community festival hosted by Black Families of Hutto. Now in its 5th year, this meaningful and festive event brings together neighbors of all backgrounds for a day of culture, food, and fun.

What to expect:

- Community Freedom March
- Speakers and cultural programming
- Arts & crafts vendors
- Line dancing and live entertainment
- Food and family-friendly activities

Golden Touch Crafts - Seashell Frame

Date: Sunday, June 15, 2026 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location: Hutto Public Library

Guests are invited to enjoy a laid-back creative session in the library meeting room! This month, participants will be crafting Seashell Frames — a simple, enjoyable project that's welcoming to crafters of every experience level.

What to expect:

- A fun and easy crafting session perfect for all skill levels
- Family-friendly, interactive experience
- All supplies included, available on a first-come, first-served basis
- Free, indoor, air-conditioned setting

HUTTO EVENTS IN JUNE

Wildlife On The Move: Cool, Cold-Blooded Critters

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 (11:00 AM)

Location: Hutto Public Library

A perfect indoor summer activity for curious kids! Wildlife On The Move brings live animal encounters to the library, offering an educational and exciting experience that's a great break from the heat.

What to expect:

- Live reptile and cold-blooded animal presentations
- Kid-friendly, interactive experience
- Educational programming
- Free, indoor, air-conditioned setting

Hutto Market Days

Date: June 20 (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)

Location: The Gin at the Hutto Co-Op

Make your Saturday count — browse one-of-a-kind creations, discover hidden gems, and show some love to the talented local makers and small businesses in our community. Whether you're hunting for handcrafted treasures or just craving something delicious, you won't want to miss it.

What to expect:

- Handmade goods and artisan products
- Local produce and treats
- Boutique vendors
- Family-friendly shopping experience

11th Annual Chris Kelley Memorial 5K

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026 (7:00 PM)

Location: 1001 County Road 137, Hutto, TX

Honor a community legacy while getting active at this long-running annual race. The evening start time makes it a great option for beating the Texas summer heat while connecting with fellow fitness enthusiasts.

What to expect:

- 5K run/walk course
- Community atmosphere
- Evening timing to avoid peak heat
- Opportunity to support a meaningful cause

10 Ways to Have Fun on a Budget This Summer

Summer fun does not have to drain your bank account faster than a trip to Target “for one thing.” Between rising prices, vacations that suddenly require a small business loan, and kids who are bored 11 minutes after waking up, affordable fun matters more than ever. The good news? Some of the best summer memories cost little to nothing at all.

1. Become a Tourist in Your Own Town

Most people spend more time researching vacations than exploring their own area. Check out local parks, farmers markets, trails, splash pads, murals, downtown shops, or community events you’ve never visited before. You’d be surprised how many hidden gems are sitting 10 minutes away.

2. Host a Backyard Movie Night

A projector, a white sheet, lawn chairs, popcorn, and dollar-store snacks can turn your backyard into a summer tradition. Bonus points if everyone wears pajamas and pretends they’re at a fancy outdoor theater.

3. Visit the Library Like It’s 1998

Libraries are seriously underrated. Many offer free summer programs, crafts, movie days, workshops, reading challenges, computer access, and even free museum passes. Plus, free air conditioning. That alone deserves respect in Texas.

4. Try a “No-Spend Day” Challenge

Challenge your family or friends to spend absolutely no money for an entire day while still finding ways to have fun. Board games, hiking, cooking together, card tournaments, scavenger hunts, and DIY spa nights suddenly become surprisingly competitive.

5. Pack a Picnic Instead of Eating Out

Restaurant prices are getting bold these days. Grab sandwiches, snacks, and drinks from home and head to a local park instead. Somehow food tastes better sitting outside pretending you’re in a lifestyle magazine photoshoot.

6. Attend Free Community Events

Summer is packed with free concerts, movie nights, markets, festivals, and outdoor events. Follow local community pages and event calendars to stay updated. There’s usually something happening every weekend if you know where to look.

7. Start a DIY Summer Bucket List

Write down 25 inexpensive things to do before summer ends. Ideas could include:

- Watch a sunrise
- Make homemade ice cream
- Visit a new coffee shop
- Have a water balloon fight
- Try a food truck
- Learn a new skill on YouTube
- Take funny family photos

The goal isn't perfection, it's making memories.

8. Have a "Yes Day", With Rules

Each family member gets to choose one low-cost activity for the day. The catch? It has to stay within budget. Kids suddenly become financial analysts when they realize snacks and arcade games are competing for the same \$20.

9. Explore Nature More

Walking trails, rivers, lakes, fishing spots, and nature preserves are usually inexpensive or free. Plus, after staring at screens all year, touching grass might actually do everyone some good.

10. Learn Something New Together

Summer is the perfect time to pick up a hobby without pressure. Try:

- Gardening
- Baking
- Painting
- Photography
- Geocaching
- Thrifting
- Bird watching
- Starting a tiny side hustle
- Learning a language
- DIY crafts

Worst case scenario? You discover you're terrible at it and laugh about it later.

At the end of the day, most people don't remember the expensive stuff nearly as much as they remember the random summer moments that made them laugh until they cried.

The popsicle melting too fast.

The backyard games.

The late-night ice cream runs.

The cheap adventures that somehow became core memories.

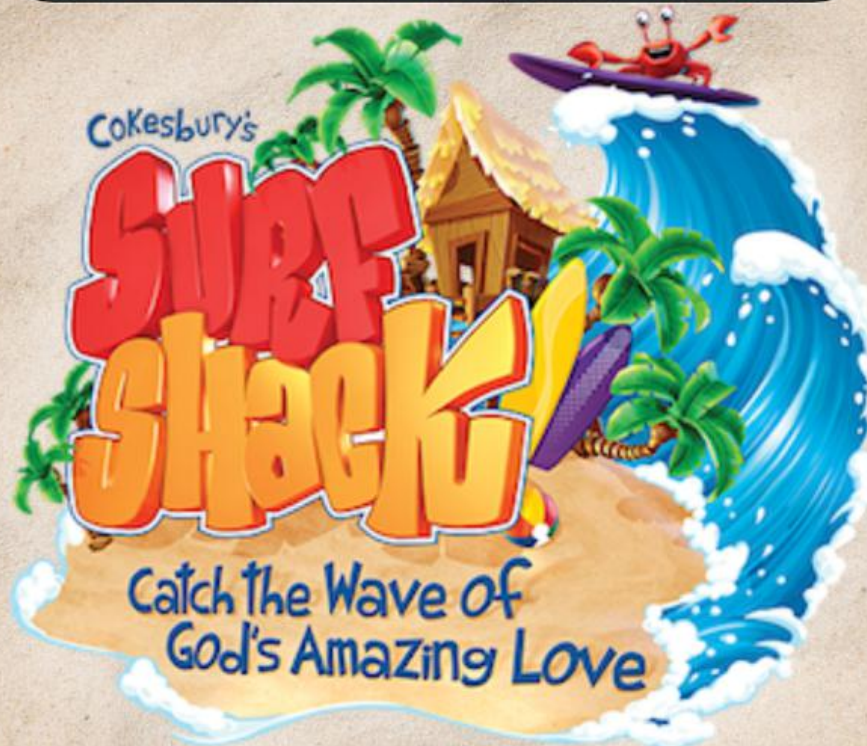
And honestly? Those are usually the best parts anyway.

HUTTODISCOVERY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

PRE-K4 to 5TH GRADE
JUNE 8-11 @ 9 AM-12 PM



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www.huttodiscovery.org/VBS

We're transforming the Discovery Events Center into a summer paradise for **Surf Shack VBS** & your kids are invited to join the ride!

Children will learn that God's amazing love is a true force of nature & enjoy a week of discovery, science & fun!

FAMILY FUN GUIDE

Ultimate Summer Scavenger Hunt

Ready to turn an ordinary summer day into an adventure? Whether you're exploring Hutto, hanging out at the park, road-tripping, or just trying to get the kids off screens for more than seven minutes, this Summer Scavenger Hunt is an easy way to create fun memories together.

Make it competitive, split into teams, or offer a silly prize for the winner. (And yes, bragging rights absolutely count.)

Summer Scavenger Hunt Checklist

Nature Finds

- A butterfly
- A bird you've never noticed before
- A flower brighter than the sun
- A funny-shaped cloud
- A squirrel being dramatic
- A tree big enough to hug
- A ladybug
- A rock shaped like something weird
- A buzzing bee
- A feather on the ground

Around Town

- A food truck
- A mural or cool artwork
- A local business you've never visited
- Someone walking a dog
- A bicycle
- A water tower
- A family taking photos
- Someone wearing sunglasses indoors for no reason
- A Texas flag
- A place serving ice cream

Summer Fun Finds

- Someone swimming
- A sprinkler running
- Flip flops
- A popsicle
- A beach towel
- A watermelon
- Someone grilling outside
- Sidewalk chalk art
- A lemonade stand
- A pool float bigger than a human

Silly Challenges

- Take a goofy family selfie
- Find something shaped like a heart
- Do a silly dance in public
- Tell a terrible dad joke
- Make an animal sound randomly
- Find something in all the colors of the rainbow
- Spell "SUMMER" using objects or signs
- Take a photo pretending you're on a magazine cover
- Compliment a local business worker
- Make everyone laugh at the same time

Bonus Challenge Ideas

- ★ Winner picks dessert
- ★ Loser has to clean up after movie night
- ★ First team to finish gets bragging rights all summer
- ★ Add photo challenges for extra points
- ★ Create a neighborhood version with friends

Don't focus on "winning." The funniest part of scavenger hunts is usually the chaos that happens along the way, the wrong turns, ridiculous photos, arguments over whether a pigeon counts as a bird (it does), and somebody getting way too competitive over sidewalk chalk.

That's the good stuff.

Now grab some sunscreen, charge your phone for pictures, and go make some summer memories.



AQUARIUMS IN TEXAS

EXPERIENCE MARINE LIFE WITH MANY AQUARIUMS TO CHOOSE FROM

Texas is home to several aquariums that offer visitors the opportunity to explore marine life and ecosystems from around the world.



These are some of the prominent aquariums in Texas where visitors can immerse themselves in the wonders of the underwater world and learn about marine conservation and biodiversity.

Here are some notable aquariums in Texas:

Texas State Aquarium
2710 N Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78402

Dallas World Aquarium
1801 N Griffin St
Dallas, TX 75202

Houston Aquarium
410 Bagby St
Houston, TX 77002

Austin Aquarium
13530 N Hwy 183 #101
Austin, TX 78750

Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid
1 Hope Blvd
Galveston, TX 77554

Find more at www.iHutto.com/aquariums

TRAVEL GUIDE

Let's Talk About Cruises!

Brought to you by Todd & Katy Robison, Dream Vacations

Summer is just around the corner, and many families are counting the days to their long-awaited vacation!

Some opt for a trip to the beach to soak up the sun and play in the sand and waves. Others want to experience the thrill of hiking adventurous trails or the accomplishment of climbing a mountain. Maybe, for some, it's the lure of a theme park and a famous mouse, where you can visit the "happiest place on earth!" For many, though, one of the most popular ways to vacation is a cruise. Cruises come in a number of shapes and sizes, and they also offer choices when it comes to numbers of days and locations to visit. One size certainly doesn't fit all when it comes to cruises!

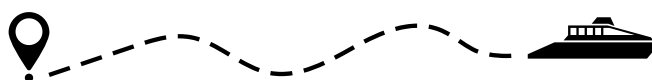
Cruising is on the rise for US vacationers. 2025 set a record for the number of those who opted for a cruise, and 2026 is expected to top 2025, with a predicted 21.7 million American passengers, according to AAA. While there are always first-time cruisers, the percentage of those planning to cruise again is about 91%, proving that those who take a cruise thoroughly enjoy it.



So, what makes cruising such an appealing option for vacationing? For we central Texas folks, let's start with convenience. We are fortunate to have a first-class cruise port in Galveston, which is a short three-and-a-half-hour drive from Hutto. This is important for one main reason ... you can drive down early morning the day your cruise embarks, and you don't have to pay for a hotel room the night before!

Likewise, when your cruise returns to port, you can generally be back home by around noon on your return day. Contrast that with a cruise out of somewhere further, such as Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Seattle, or even New Orleans, where you need to fly in the day before and spend a night. Some believe they can catch an early morning flight to one of those distant ports and still get there early enough to board on time. That's great ...until you have a flight delay or cancelation.

The cruise ships wait for nobody when it's time to set sail!



Another appeal to cruises are the options of ship sizes, durations of cruises, diverse destinations, types of activities on board, and excursions when you are on land. In addition, some cruises are very family oriented, with special kids clubs and water activities, while others cater to an adult crowd. One thing they all have in common is food, food, and more food! For those who enjoy a sip or two of adult beverages, drink packages are a popular add-on. For those who can't cut the connection cord, you can even subscribe to wi-fi packages that allow you to never be away from your email and give you 24/7 access to your social media to post your adventures as they happen!

Cruises are available all over the world.

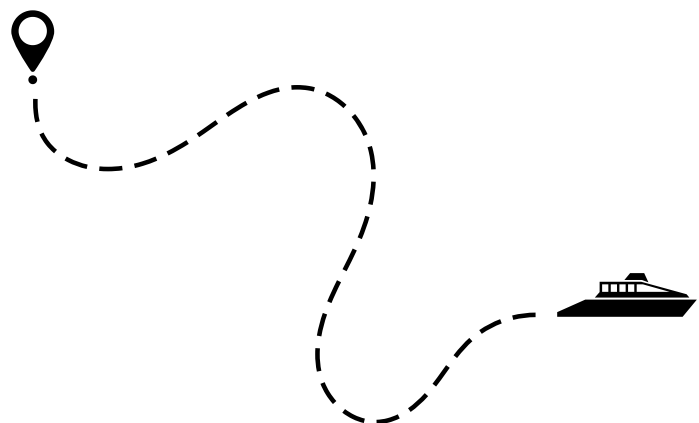
For US passengers, 72% choose the Caribbean, Bahamas, or Bermuda as their destinations. For those going out of Galveston, cruises primarily focus on the Western Caribbean and Mexico, featuring popular ports such as Cozumel and Costa Maya in Mexico, Roatan in Honduras, or Belize.

Most of the major cruise lines also have their own private island in the Caribbean and often include a day stop for amazing beach time, food, and drink. It's a day on an island reserved just for the passengers of that cruise brand, sometimes with only one or two ships porting at a time.

Another cruise destination favorite is Alaska, with about 7% of all US cruise passengers making the trip to the beautiful northwest. Unlike the convenience of driving to Galveston, however, an Alaskan cruise will require you to get to a port city such as Seattle or Vancouver, Canada, the day before your cruise (unless you really like living on the edge and trust your airline to get you there the morning of departure ... not recommended!).

An Alaskan cruise is far different from something in the Caribbean. While the on-board experience might be similar (still great food and limitless drink options, as well as entertainment), the day sights and land excursions are often breathtaking.

Imagine seeing the terminal end of a glacier from a ship, or watching eagles soar and whales breach from your balcony! The beauty of an Alaskan cruise will be etched in your memory forever. The Mediterranean is another popular destination, welcoming about 5% of US cruise passengers each year. While a Mediterranean cruise is logistically and financially a little tougher, the wonder of visiting beautiful European beaches or coastal towns is limitless.



Another segment of cruising that is becoming more and more popular are the European river cruises often seen in advertisements featuring Viking cruises or AmaWaterways, for example. Unlike ocean cruise ships that carry anywhere from 2,000 to 8,000 passengers, river cruises seldom have more than 150 passengers.

These are basically floating hotels that navigate famous rivers and stop daily at historic European cities, such as Amsterdam, Venice, or Budapest, giving passengers a chance to visit charming cathedrals or castles and tour multiple cities in one trip, or to visit legendary Christmas markets on a Christmas river cruise! If a river cruise is more your speed but you don't want to fly to Europe, there are multiple options in the US, too, including the Mississippi River or rivers in the western portion of the US.

If you are one that is intrigued by cruising but a little reluctant to hop in, there are three- and four-night options that allow you to test the waters (pun intended). If you are concerned about sea sickness, there are patches or prescribed pills which reduce the effects.



Cruises allow you to be as active as you want, or to just kick back and truly relax. There's never a dull moment ... unless you want there to be!

Cruises are a very affordable way to enjoy a vacation that fits almost anyone's fancy, from amazing theater-style musicals to energy-filled casinos; from water activities on-board to a day of snorkeling at port; from a fancy steak and seafood dinner to an endless buffet (at every meal). There are late night comedy clubs with up-and-coming comedians or relaxed lounges with talented musicians.

The fun of a cruise ship doesn't end until you leave!

We have been fortunate to experience all of the various cruises mentioned above, and we are always happy to discuss the pros and cons of cruising with first timers. Our service is free to you! We do the work so you can make the memories!



*Brought to you by
Todd & Katy Robison
Dream Vacations
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HUTTO EATS GUIDE



Bites & Basil

BY: PHAVANA SIHARATH

Located in the vibrant Townwest Commons alongside Hooky Entertainment and Amy's Ice Creams, Bites & Basil has quickly become a standout dining destination in Hutto. Following the success of their original Pflugerville location, Broth & Basil, we're thrilled to have their unique Texas-Vietnamese inspired cuisine to Hutto!

Their menu is created by chef and owner, Phен Diep. Each dish is carefully crafted with its unique style and flavors. Favorite starters include the crispy Fried Chicken Skins served with pickled vegetables, the Pork Belly and Charbroiled Chicken Bun Sliders, and the classic Charbroiled Pork Spring Rolls. For a bigger bite, the Wagyu Bo Luc Lac is a must-try and sure to impress.

Don't forget to try their fun Spring Cocktail Menu! A Pink Cosmopolitan was a perfect way to end the night! Whether you're in for a small bite or a big bite, Bites & Basil has gotten you covered!

Bites & Basil
150 Alliance Blvd., Suite
240, Hutto, TX 78634

Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 11:00
am - 8:30 pm
Friday - Saturday: 11:00 am
- 9:00 pm
Sunday: Closed

Menu:
www.bitesandbasil.com

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LIFESTYLE & LIVING

The “Slow Living” Movement

Why Everyone Is Suddenly Romanticizing Simplicity

There was a time when being “busy” felt like a status symbol. If your calendar was packed, your phone never stopped buzzing, and you answered emails at midnight, people assumed you were successful.

Now?

People are proudly canceling plans to water plants, make sourdough bread, and sit on their porch with iced tea.

And honestly ... they may be onto something.

Welcome to the rise of Slow Living, one of the biggest lifestyle trends reshaping how people work, spend money, decorate their homes, and protect their peace.

What Is Slow Living?

Slow living doesn't mean being lazy or unmotivated.

It means intentionally choosing a lifestyle that feels calmer, healthier, and more meaningful instead of constantly rushing through life on autopilot.

It's the idea that:

- not every moment needs to be productive
- rest is important
- quality matters more than quantity
- and your mental health deserves attention too

After years of hustle culture, burnout, and nonstop digital overload, many people are realizing they don't actually want a life that feels like a never-ending to-do list.

Why the Trend Is Exploding

The pandemic changed how many people viewed life.

People began asking:

- “Why am I always stressed?”
- “Why do I feel exhausted all the time?”
- “Do I even enjoy this lifestyle?”

Social media also played a role. Ironically, platforms once known for glamorizing hustle culture are now full of cozy homes, homemade meals, gardening videos, quiet mornings, and peaceful routines.

The aesthetic even has names now:

- Cottagecore
- Soft Living
- Cozy Living
- Underconsumption Core

Translation?

People are tired.

The Shift Away From “More”

For years, success was tied to:

- bigger homes
- more shopping
- more work
- more hustle
- more notifications
- more commitments

Now, many people are moving toward:

- smaller spaces
- lower stress
- fewer possessions
- flexible jobs
- meaningful experiences
- intentional spending

Even younger generations are starting to reject the idea that they need to “grind 24/7” to prove their worth.

Honestly, good for them.

Slow Living Doesn't Have to Be Expensive

One of the biggest misconceptions is that peaceful living requires a luxury lifestyle. It doesn't.

Some of the most common slow living habits are actually free or inexpensive:

- cooking at home
- reading books
- gardening
- evening walks
- journaling
- spending time with family
- reducing clutter
- limiting screen time

Turns out, some of the healthiest things for us aren't found in a shopping cart.

The Rise of “Third Spaces”

Another reason slow living is trending?

People are craving community again.

Coffee shops, local bookstores, farmers markets, walking trails, and community events are becoming popular “third spaces”, places outside of home and work where people can simply exist and connect.

This is one reason hyperlocal communities and small-town events are becoming more important than ever.

People want connection.

Not just content.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Missing Piece: Why Your Results Depend on Recovery More Than Your Workouts



Hannah Prince, Owner of Eden Phase

In Hutto, most women I meet are doing the workouts.

- They're showing up consistently.
- They're pushing themselves.
- They're trying to stay disciplined.

But what often gets overlooked is everything that happens after.

Because your results aren't built in the workout. They're built in the hours and days that follow. And for many women, that's the missing piece.

Recovery Isn't Just "Taking a Day Off"

When most people think of recovery, they think:

- Rest day = recovery
- No workout = recovery

But real recovery is more than just stopping. It's how you actively support your body so it can:

- Repair muscle
- Regulate hormones
- Restore energy
- Adapt to the work you're doing

Without that support, your body stays in a constant loop of doing more ... and getting less in return.

What Recovery Actually Looks Like

This is where things start to shift.

Recovery isn't one thing, it's a combination of small, consistent habits that tell your body it's safe to adapt and improve.

1. Sleep That Supports Repair

Sleep is where the majority of your recovery happens.

This is when your body:

- Repairs muscle tissue
- Balances hunger hormones
- Regulates stress

If sleep is inconsistent or cut short, your body never fully catches up.

Start with:

- Consistent sleep and wake times
- A simple wind-down routine (even 15-20 minutes)

This alone can change how your body responds to training.

Recovery Isn't Just "Taking a Day Off"

WOMEN'S HEALTH

2. Eating Enough to Recover From Training

If you're training consistently but not eating enough, your body stays in a depleted state.

Especially for women, under-fueling can lead to:

- Increased fatigue
- Slower recovery
- Stalled fat loss

Recovery nutrition doesn't need to be complicated.

Focus on:

- Protein for muscle repair
- Carbohydrates to restore energy
- Regular meals instead of long gaps

Fueling well supports results, it doesn't take away from them.

3. Training That Allows You to Recover

Not every workout should leave you exhausted.

If every session feels like max effort, your body never gets the chance to rebuild.

A more balanced approach looks like:

- A few higher effort strength days
- A few lower intensity or supportive days

This creates space for your body to actually adapt.

4. Letting Your Nervous System Slow Down

Many women stay in "go mode" all day — work, kids, responsibilities — then jump straight into intense workouts.

Your body doesn't always distinguish between types of stress.

Recovery includes moments where your system can downshift.

This can be simple:

- Walking
- Slowing your pace
- Taking a few minutes to breathe and reset

Small moments of calm can have a big impact on how your body feels.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

What Changes When Recovery Is in Place

When recovery becomes part of your routine, things start to feel different:

- You're not as sore for as long
- Your energy becomes more stable
- Workouts feel more productive
- Your body responds more consistently

Progress stops feeling like something you have to force.

Where Most Women Get Stuck

The challenge isn't knowing recovery matters.

It's trusting that doing less intensity in certain areas won't undo progress.

Inside Eden Phase, this is often the shift that changes everything, helping women build a routine that includes both training and recovery in a way their body can actually sustain.

Because when recovery is in place, everything else works better.

A Simple Place to Start

You don't need to change everything at once.

Start here:

- Go to bed 20–30 minutes earlier
- Add one lower-intensity day this week
- Eat consistently instead of skipping meals

These small shifts are often what your body has been asking for.





One Pot Summer Squash and Tomato Spaghetti



Pamela Rickel
Hutto Resident

My family loves this dish and it's simple and easy. The starch from cooking the spaghetti with the vegetables makes it creamy and delicious. Technically you're using two pots but since you're just boiling water in one you can dry it and only have to clean one pot.

This recipe makes enough for about 6-8 servings. You can adjust the amounts to your needs.

Ingredients:

- 2 Yellow Squash thinly sliced
- 2 zucchini thinly sliced
- 1 pint Cherry tomatoes
- Spaghetti
- Olive Oil
- Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- Boiling water

Instructions:

1. Cover the bottom of a deep skillet or Dutch oven with olive oil on medium high heat.
2. Add squash and zucchini and cherry tomatoes.
3. Add uncooked spaghetti on top.
4. Add enough boiling water to just cover the ingredients.
5. Reduce to simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes stirring occasionally.
6. Add the Parmesan cheese, mix well and serve.

Additional Tips:

- You can add garlic, garlic powder or seasoning of your choice.
- Keep in mind that Parmesan cheese is salty so be careful not to add too much salt.
 - As far as how much Parmesan cheese, measure that with your heart!
- If it still has too much water remove the lid and continue cooking until it's the consistency you want.

CAREER ADVICE

Cover Letters Are a Waste of Time (Except When They're Not)



I've been a hiring manager for far longer than I'd like to disclose, but in that time I've learned there's four types of hiring cycles that HR textbooks won't tell you about. So, here's what you really need to know about the best times of the year to get hired.

Cycle type 1 – the PROACTIVE cycle - the BEST time of year to get hired – July – October. Yes, that's a HUGE range, but hear me out. The companies that are hiring mid-year are doing so for a reason – they're GROWING.

by Stephanie Welt, Vast HR

Any company hiring mid-year has sat down and looked at their financials and said "We're on track to exceed our goals and/or have already met them – it's time to grow." These are the companies that are stable and taking calculated risks to grow and scale while knowing this is the safest time to secure and develop talent. Training a new employee takes time and when you invest mid-year, they're ready for Q4, statistically the highest revenue quarter for most businesses and even stronger when they have to help drive the new agenda in Q1. In addition, these types of companies are also a much lower risk when it comes to layoffs and reduction in force. This cycle can last all the way into the end of December, but most hiring is done before December. However, that's not your cue to stop applying during the holidays. I've both made and received offers on December 24th.

2) Cycle type 2 – the REACTIVE cycle – mid-January through March. These are the companies that make those posts right at the beginning of the year – the second two weeks of January through the end of March. Why those times? Reactive companies tend to review their financials once a year and address needs and growth once a company finishes a full fiscal year. So while they may have been able to forecast towards the end of the fiscal year, they likely waited until early January when all of the numbers are in to make their decisions on how, when and where to invest in people and strategize on how to scale. They tend to be more conservative with their hiring, but are also known for over projecting and not taking training time into consideration, putting them at a slightly higher risk of layoffs.

CAREER ADVICE

Cover Letters Are a Waste of Time (Except When They're Not)

The other risk for this cycle is the slew of “New Year, New Me” applicants where during the initial 6-8 weeks of the year make every applicant pool more saturated. I love the motivation at the New Year for people who use it to get moving towards a goal, but know it does increase the amount of competition you face.

3) Cycle type 3 – Seasonal – timing varies based on location and industry.

This is exactly what it sounds like – seasonal work. Be it in retail for the holidays, construction during peak seasons, weather dependent companies – these positions tend to not be permanent. Some industries, for example, specific types of construction, pay have permanent year-round positions, but you'll make 70% of your income during a key 5-6 month period while spending the rest of your time trying to get whatever you can.

There's no downside to seasonal, just make sure you verify if it's a contract, seasonal or full-time and plan your finances accordingly.

4) Cycle type 4 – Natural Attrition – timing is sporadic.

This is the catch all for those who just naturally change jobs and/or retire throughout the year. The only catch here is depending on what the role is, is whether or not they will backfill it immediately. With companies trying to cut costs left and right and labor being one of the most expensive costs at any company, unless it's a high volume, constantly needed role or a position that's a crucial requirement for company operation, many may hold off for a few weeks to see how they operate at a labor deficit before deciding on reposting the role.

So whether you're employed and looking for a change, or unemployed and looking for a new role, hopefully this information will help you plan and strategize your job search and understand the ebbs and flows when it comes down to the availability of jobs as a whole.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Three Ways Kids Can Raise Capital to Start Their Own Business



Terry Robinson, Author's Easel

Previously, we looked at the motivations behind kids and teens starting their own business and some resources that help young entrepreneurs learn about doing business.

You might be ready to start making money but faced with the reality “that it takes money to make money!” We’ll look at three ways you can raise capital to get started.

“Capital” means money used to start a business. Kids can raise capital in smart and simple ways without needing lots of money first.

1. Use your savings such as Gift and Allowance Money

Birthday money, holiday gifts, and weekly allowance can become business capital if you save instead of spending it right away. According to [Kidpreneurs](#), “This approach not only teaches kids the value of money and financial planning but also encourages them to take responsibility for their own venture.”

Don’t have much savings? Kids can earn startup money by doing small jobs like:

- Mowing lawns
- Washing cars
- Babysitting
- Walking dogs
- Helping neighbors with chores

Money from small jobs can add up quickly when you save your earnings.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

2. Ask family to invest in your business startup

Parents, grandparents, or relatives may help if they believe in your idea. Parents can help in creating a compelling pitch for their business idea and help them present it to potential family (and non-family) investors. The pitch should emphasize that their support will go a long way in helping the child learn and grow.

You can explain:

- What your business will do
- What you need money for
- How you plan to earn money back

This teaches important business skills like planning and presenting ideas.

3. Crowdfunding or raising money from people through the internet

In the article entitled, "[10 Solid Ways to Fund Your Kidpreneur Venture](#)", "Crowdfunding has become an increasingly popular method for raising funds for various projects, including Kidpreneur ventures.

Websites such as Kickstarter (<https://kickstarter.com>) and Indiegogo (<https://indiegogo.com>) provide platforms for entrepreneurs to share their business ideas with the world and collect donations from interested supporters. Creating a compelling crowdfunding campaign, complete with engaging visuals and a clear explanation of the business, can help attract the necessary funds to get the venture off the ground."

This source may be worth exploring especially if you have a compelling story to tell and can demonstrate the need.

The foregoing was three possible ways to find funding to fulfill your dream to start

your business. Also consider taking out a bank loan, tapping into opportunities provided by local business organizations, and researching and applying for business grants.

I wish you much success!

MONTHLY HUTTO MAGAZINE

CALLING ALL YOUNG BUSINESS OWNERS

iHutto has partnered with Author's Easel
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Email Terry@AuthorsEasel.com



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Finding Balance Yoga



If you're looking for a place to breathe, stretch, and grow, both mentally and physically, you'll want to step into the calming space of Finding Balance Yoga. As the only dedicated yoga studio in Hutto, this small business is on a big mission: to make wellness more accessible, approachable, and part of everyday life for the people who live right here in our own backyard.

Tell us a little about your business. What do you offer, and what makes it unique?

We are Hutto's only dedicated yoga studio. We offer a variety of classes from energetic/power to all levels flow classes to guided meditation. We have 6:15am classes for those who like to start early, 9am, mid day break at noon, after work at 5:45 and 7:00 plus weekends.

How did your journey as a business owner begin? What inspired you to get started?

I was teaching in Round Rock and wanted to offer classes closer to home and decided to take the leap.

How long have you been in business, and why did you choose Hutto as your home base?

March 28th is/was our 3 year anniversary. I chose Hutto because it was where I've lived since 2000.

What's been one of your most memorable moments as a business owner?

There are so many!



What do you think makes the Hutto community special?

The people! Most of them are thoughtful, caring and supportive.

What advice would you give to someone just starting a business here?

It's hard, have patience, find support, believe in yourself.

When you're not working, where can we find you around town? (Favorite coffee, food, or hangout spots)

There are several local places I enjoy! Lamppost, Happy Panini, I get our branded shirts from Procraftination, and there are lots of places I'm in and out of when I have time.

Anything exciting coming up you'd like the community to know about?

We have some workshops and events that can be found on our website and we offer a deep discount on your first 4 weeks of unlimited classes and have no commitment, so give us a try!



REAL ESTATE TIPS

7 Ways a Realtor Can Help You Buy Smarter



Brought to you by William and Justine Griffith, Sky Realty

If you've been thinking about buying, you've probably already gone down the rabbit hole of zillow, realtor.com and random home sites. It's always fun to day dream, looking at homes, checking payments, maybe even saving a few favorites...

At some point though, it starts to feel like there's a lot of moving pieces and not a clear next step.

Once you decide to make a move, we'll help you get started! Our goal is to help educate, advocate and negotiate. Not to take over, but to help you make sense of it and move forward with a plan that actually fits you and your long term goals.

1. Connect You With a Lender Who Can Show You the Full Picture

Online estimates only get you so far.

We'll connect you with one of our trusted lending partners who can break down:

- What you're actually approved for
- What your monthly payment really looks like
- How taxes, insurance, and rates affect that number

So you're not guessing... and not falling in love with something that doesn't make sense financially.

2. Start With You, Not Just the House

Realtors go beyond just finding a home and writing an offer.

It starts with learning what you're actually looking for. Not just bedrooms and bathrooms, but your lifestyle, your routines, and your plans over the next 5-7 years.

What works for you today should still make sense down the road.

Sometimes that means realizing what you thought you wanted isn't actually the priority.

Maybe you thought you needed a guest room, but a bigger backyard fits your life better.

3. Narrow Down Your Search So You're Not Spinning Your Wheels

Scrolling gets old quickly.

A focused search should:

- Match your real budget
- Fit your day-to-day life
- Cut out homes that don't make sense

There's a difference between what's available and what's actually worth your time.

4. Guide You on When to Move (and When to Wait)

Timing trips a lot of buyers up.

Wait too long → you miss out

Move too fast → you second guess it later

Some homes sit. Some don't.

Knowing the difference matters.

5. Structure a Strong, Realistic Offer

Our job isn't just writing an offer, it's writing one that actually works.

That means understanding the market, positioning your offer to get accepted, and keeping it fair and reasonable so the deal can move forward.

Your offer includes:

- Price
- Option period
- Earnest money
- Closing timeline
- Repair requests
- Possible concessions

Two offers can look similar on paper, but one is clearly stronger.

6. Keep Everything on Track Once You're Under Contract

Finding the home is the easy part. This is where a Realtor really gets to work.

Any agent can pull homes from the MLS.

Navigating everything that comes after is where experience matters.

This is where we help you:

- Work through inspections and understand what's minor vs. a bigger issue
- Negotiate repairs and next steps
- Make sense of the appraisal and what it means for your deal
- Spot potential red flags before they become expensive problems

We're helping you figure out if something is an easy fix... or a future money pit.

At the same time, we're coordinating with everyone involved and keeping things moving.

There are a lot of moving parts and a lot of deadlines.

We help you stay on track, understand your options, and make informed decisions along the way.

7. Help You Navigate the Final Steps

As you get closer to closing, things can feel a little more technical.

You'll start hearing terms like underwriting, addendum deadlines, amendments, and HOA documents.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes, and a lot of it is time-sensitive.

This is where your Realtor and lender are working together to keep everything on track and get you to the finish line.

We're making sure things are handled, questions get answered, and nothing important gets missed.

BONUS: We Don't Disappear After Closing

We're your real estate advocate long after the keys are in your hand.

- Need a contractor?
- Questions about your home later on?
- Thinking about your next move down the road?

We're still here.

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NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

A Legacy of Service: Chris Kelley Foundation



Written by Sydney Johnson, iHutto

In every community, there are individuals whose impact extends far beyond their years. In Hutto, one such individual is Detective Sergeant Chris Kelley, a respected officer, husband, father, friend, and public servant whose legacy continues to inspire countless lives through the work of the Chris Kelley Foundation.

More than a decade after his tragic line-of-duty death on June 24, 2015, Chris Kelley's commitment to service remains woven into the fabric of the Hutto community.

Through the foundation established in his honor, his family, friends, and supporters have transformed loss into purpose, creating an organization that provides hope and assistance to those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Honoring a Hero

Detective Sergeant Chris Kelley served with the Hutto Police Department and was known for his leadership, dedication, and servant's heart. Following his passing, his wife Michele Kelley founded the Chris Kelley Foundation to ensure that his sacrifice would never be forgotten and that his passion for helping others would continue for generations to come.

Today, the foundation stands as a living tribute to Chris's life and values while supporting first responders, military families, and students pursuing their educational goals.

Supporting Those Who Serve

The mission of the Chris Kelley Foundation extends far beyond remembrance. As an all-volunteer Texas nonprofit, the organization provides financial assistance to families of fallen or injured first responders and military personnel during some of life's most difficult moments.

Whether helping a family facing unexpected hardship or contributing to organizations that directly support first responders and military members, the foundation's work reflects a simple but powerful belief: those who serve our communities deserve support when they need it most.

Because the organization is volunteer-run, a significant portion of the funds raised can be directed toward its mission rather than administrative overhead.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

A Legacy of Service: Chris Kelley Foundation

Investing in Hutto's Future

One of the foundation's most meaningful initiatives is its scholarship program. Each year, scholarships are awarded to eligible Hutto-area students, helping young people pursue higher education and career opportunities. Students from Hutto High School, Gateway College Preparatory School, and qualifying Hutto residents have had the opportunity to benefit from these educational awards.

These scholarships not only honor Chris Kelley's memory but also invest directly in the future of the community he loved.

The Annual Chris Kelley Memorial 5K

Ask many Hutto residents about the Chris Kelley Foundation, and they'll immediately think of the annual Chris Kelley Memorial 5K.

What began as a way to honor a fallen officer has grown into one of the community's most anticipated events. The annual race brings together families, runners, first responders, military members, local businesses, and community supporters for an evening of remembrance, celebration, and unity. Funds raised through the event support scholarships and financial assistance programs throughout the year.

The event has become much more than a race, it serves as a reminder of the strength of the Hutto community and the power of people coming together for a common cause.

In 2025 alone, the foundation reported donating more than \$42,000 to support its mission.

A Community That Never Forgets

What makes the Chris Kelley Foundation special is not simply the money it raises or the programs it supports. Its true impact lies in its ability to unite people around service, gratitude, and community. In a rapidly growing city, the foundation serves as a reminder of the values that have always defined Hutto: neighbors helping neighbors, honoring sacrifice, and supporting those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Through scholarships, financial assistance, community events, and acts of generosity, the Chris Kelley Foundation ensures that Chris's legacy continues to make a difference every day.

And perhaps that is the greatest tribute of all, not simply remembering a hero, but continuing the work he cared about most.

As Hutto grows and changes, the Chris Kelley Foundation remains a shining example of how one life, lived in service to others, can continue to inspire an entire community for generations to come.

WELLNESS TIPS

The “Micro Habits” Movement That’s Actually Working



Leeya Yates, Healing Rabbit

If you’ve ever said, “I’m going to completely change my life starting Monday,” and then... didn’t, congratulations, you’re human.

That’s exactly why one of the biggest healthy living trends right now is micro habits. Not dramatic overhauls. Not 5 a.m. wakeups and green juice diets. Just small, simple actions that actually stick. And honestly? This trend is winning because it doesn’t require you to become a different person overnight.

What Are Micro Habits?

Micro habits are tiny, easy actions you can do every day without overthinking.

We’re talking:

- Drinking one glass of water when you wake up
- Walking for 5–10 minutes
- Stretching while your coffee brews
- Taking 3 deep breaths before opening your phone

That’s it. No pressure. No perfection.

The idea is simple: small actions repeated daily = real results over time.

Why This Trend Is Blowing Up

Let’s be real, most “healthy lifestyle” advice is exhausting.

People are tired of:

- All-or-nothing thinking
- Strict diets that last 6 days
- Workout plans that feel like punishment

Micro habits flip the script. Instead of asking, “How do I change everything?” you ask:

“What’s the smallest thing I can do today?”
And that question? Way easier to answer.

The Science (Without the Boring Lecture)

Your brain loves easy wins.

When you complete a small task, your brain releases a little boost of feel-good chemicals. That makes you more likely to do it again.

Over time:

- Small habits become automatic
- Automatic habits become routines
- Routines become your lifestyle

No burnout required.

1. The “One-Minute Start”

Don't want to work out? Do one minute.

Most people keep going once they start.

2. The Water Rule

Drink water before coffee. Not instead of – let's not get crazy.

3. Phone Delay

Wait 5–10 minutes before checking your phone in the morning.

Your brain will thank you.

4. Add, Don't Remove

Instead of cutting junk food, just add one healthy food a day.

5. Move a Little

A 10-minute walk after meals helps digestion and energy levels.

This is where things get interesting.

You attach a new habit to something you already do:

- Brush teeth → stretch for 30 seconds
- Make coffee → write one sentence in a journal
- Watch TV → do light stretching

No extra time needed. You're just upgrading what you already do.

How to Start (Without Overthinking It)

Pick ONE:

- Drink a glass of water in the morning
- Take a short walk
- Stretch for 1 minute
- Eat one healthy snack


Do it daily for a week.

Then (and only then), add another.

Healthy living doesn't come from extreme changes. It comes from tiny decisions repeated over time. Micro habits may look small, but they're quietly powerful. They don't burn you out, and they don't disappear after a week. They build something better: A lifestyle you can actually keep.

So no, you don't need to “start over” next Monday.

You just need to start small, today.

BUMBLEBEE PEDIATRICS	TIFF'S TREATS	EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS	CASA JALISCO	CHICK FIL A
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIPPO	<h1>Hippos to See</h1> <p>ROLL YOUR DICE AND MOVE TO THE SQUARE TO FIND OUT WHICH HIPPO YOU SHOULD GO SEE IN HUTTO, TX</p> 			HUTTO FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL HIPPO				HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL
HENRIETTA IN DOWNTOWN HUTTO				HUTTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
START				DAIRY QUEEN
				HOOKY'S ENTERTAINMENT
FINISH!	START AGAIN	HEB	LA PARRILLA LAC IN DOWNTOWN HUTTO	AMY'S ICE CREAM





SEE HIPPOS

Throwback to when Hutto Memorial Stadium had this hippo at the home entrance gate!

AROUND HUTTO

Take a selfie with this cutie at Oh My Tea! Hutto located at 722 U.S. 79 W Suite 120, Hutto, TX 78634





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