

ELAINE IRELAND

LOCAL PREDICTIONS

2015

The next Mayor of Austin is on the new City Counsel. Feels like a female and will surprise many when she wins a close election. She will hold office for two terms, possibly stepping down early in the second term due to health reasons.

The new City Counsel will work surprisingly well considering the difference in personalities.

I hesitate to call it an earthquake, but underground activity in west central Austin will cause roadway damage along Barton Skyway and MoPac. The quake will damage buildings. With that in mind, we will see more quake activity in Central to South Texas in 2015.

Dell Children's Hospital will create another research wing. Mostly private donors will support the needed land and money. They will also use their political influence to make it happen quickly. There will be Nobel Prize winners working on the research teams.

There is an IRS financial scandal in the making. Money will appear to disappear locally and will be investigated. But after major damage has been done to careers and lives, it will be proven that nothing happened as accused.

It will take much longer and more money to complete the teaching hospital being built on Red River. No surprise there, but who is responsible and why this happens will be the real surprise. Do I hear lots of political mud slinging going on?

Property values (and taxes) will continue to increase over the next 2 years, not only in Austin, but for a fair amount of Central Texas. Banks and other financial institutions will be made to answer for their part of the problems. And, because of the continued court cases, we will see even more laws intended to protect homeowners and buyers. The laws will vary from state to state, but new tight federal laws will be in place by 2017. This may seem like "old news" but investigations and lawsuits will continue to happen even if it is not center stage in the media.

STATE PREDICTIONS

2015

No matter how hard he tries, or new Governor will not be able to avoid negative feedback after about 6 months in office. His "mouth runneth over" and away from his advisors. His comments will continue to follow him while in office.

Engineering students attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas have partnered with a European medical research group to study spinal cord repair. They will make a major announcement concerning their successes in later summer or early fall.

Women will win more rights around abortions, as well as other medical procedures for women in 2015. This is interesting to me because there is more money, and political and religious influence than ever being contributed to prevent these wins than ever before. Perhaps these wins are a result of federal laws moving into place.

Texas based, homegrown musicians will pick up major awards in 2016, but we'll be enjoying their music in 2015 as they head to the award shows.

Thanks to the financial support and professional association with the Kennedy Foundation, a Houston medical facility will announce major breakthroughs in understanding and treating autism.

NATIONAL PREDICTIONS

2015

No surprise that the weather will continue to be extreme. Here in Austin, Texas we might even need snow shoes by 2018 on a regular basis during the winter months. Expect hotter summers and cooler winters.

Women will dominate the political scene and public conversation for the next two years, like they never have in the past. Even if they do not hold office, their influence will be seen and heard. This will also be evident in the International arena as well.

Florida will lose landmass to the ocean. Yes, I know this has been happening slowly over the past 50+ years, but for the next 3 years it will continue in a big way.

The VA will be under investigation again. This time it will instigate immediate and major improvements. New leaders will take office in what seems like lightning speed.

The Metropolitan Opera will lose one of its finest and longest performing singers in 2015. This is an unexpected death and one that will be mourned around the world.

However, there are two male singers that are beginning their long and wonderful careers on opera's world stage. One of them is barely over 20.

Wall Street will continue its roller coaster ride, but by the end of 2015 it will show profit and improvement for investors.

Laws will be created in 2015 as to when, how and why drones can be used outside of their military potential. Yes, a drone falls into the home of the wrong person. Or is it the right person?

INTERNATIONAL PREDICTIONS 2015

Expect tighter control for travel all over the world. Pack your patience! If you don't already have a passport, get one. I have been saying that for many years and this year the need for passports will be evident in ways never before experienced. Americans must be more aware than ever. If you are traveling abroad, know where the American Consulates are and how to reach them should you need their services.

You may find it harder to cross European borders. Land transportation may be difficult at times.

Travel by trains will take more time because of troubles with the tracks. Be prepared to take alternate transportation and allow for more needed time to get to your destination.

Reminder: Women will dominate the political scene in Europe, especially in Germany, France, England and Sweden.

The Royal House is just beginning with embarrassing revelations. The teen to early 20's age group is the next target for negative exposure. This gossip, regardless of its true base, could be the cause of one suicide of one young person of royal heritage.

Russia will DEMAND our involvement and support because of an issue between China and Russia. Ugly words will be spoken in private between Russian and American leaders. Harsh words will be spoken publicly. America will agree to be involved in small ways.

There will be a major health scare in India in the fall of 2015. It will look like a new and deadly flu, but it will be found to be a bio-chemical released into the general population. The world will be shocked when it is revealed by who and why the release happened.

Major art museums will finally support the return or purchase of art and sculptures taken from Jewish families during WWII. The foreign press will play an enormous part in keep the situation in the public eye, beginning in the summer of 2015. Families will finally have the option of being paid for their pieces, return them to public display, or retain private ownership. Works of art will begin to come out of private collections and be surrendered to museums for return to families, or be given directly to the rightful owners.

Thank you for joining us this evening.

May your year be blessed with more than you need. And may you be given the opportunity to share all that you can with those that have less than you.

Most sincerely, Elaine Ireland
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