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Love is...

I've always loved the month of February. Perhaps the truest of the Texas winter months, you never know what you're going to get – sunshine or snow, blizzard or barbecue weather, I love it all. The commercialism surrounding Valentine's Day likely annoys us all to some degree, but – yet – there's still something so lovely about the red roses and pink and white candy hearts adorning shelves and counters all over. And you don't have to shell out for any of these to write and send a simple Valentine.

Over the years, I've become less inhibited about telling friends and family just how much I love them. Why wait? What's the use in holding back? With the exception of the culturally infamous "love bomb" (which is, in fact, insincere anyhow) who doesn't love expressions of affections and tenderness? That said, it bears reminding that love is a verb not a noun. The apostle Paul taught me best – "love is patient, love is kind... love doesn't insist on its own way..." What better way to love than with gentleness and patience? Love is a sweet surrender.

Our February issue brings you stories of hope, ideas and resources for physical and mental transformation, opportunity, and more. We love our contributors and what they bring to this amazing community.

Wishing you a happy season filled with love.

Happy February, y'all.

Warmly,



Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

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• Community Calendar of Events •

- Every 2nd Mon. Wimberley Valley Art League meets at the Wimberley Community Center at 6:30-8:30pm. Visit WimberleyArtLeague.org for information.
- Every 2nd Mon. Wimberley 4H meets during the school year at VFW Hall on 401 Jacobs Well Rd. Our next meeting is Monday, April 11, 7pm. 6:30pm Clover Kids Program. April community service: We will be collecting items for the Dell Children's Hospital family room.
- Every 3rd Mon. The Wimberley Area Parkinsons Association meets at the Chapel of The Hills Church, 14601 RR 12 in Wimberley from 9-11am. Caregivers, friends, and relatives are welcome. Guest speakers and general discussion. Parkinson's exercise program. Email Paul, paulwilj99@gmail.com.
- The Wimberley Chapter of Overeaters Anonymous meets every Monday at 7pm. This is a face-to-face only. Please call or text Aida at 512-787-8313 for the meeting location.
- Mon. February 13, Jacob's Well Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, meets at the Emily Ann Theater in Wimberley at 9:40am, for chat time and 10am for our business meeting. Please email jacobswellnsdar@gmail.com for more.
- Mon. Toddler Time, Wimberley Village Library, 10:30-11:30am, beginning January 9.
- Every Tues. 6:30-8pm. Community Bible Study, an interdenominational Bible study. To register contact Karen Bryson at 512 644 8805 or kb17@txstate.edu.
- Every 3rd Tues. The Lions Club meets from 6pm-8pm at the Wimberley Community Center. Call 512-847-0207 for info.
- Every Tues. at noon, Rotary Club of Wimberley meets at the EMS Classroom on Twilight Trail. Carolyn Manning is our President, 512-558-1626, director@wimberleylibrary.org
- Every 1st Tue. The Wimberley Community Center hosts free medical checks 9:30-10:30am. Call 512-847-2510.
- Every 1st Wed. 5:30-7pm, Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance (WVACA) holds a mixer at Middleton Brewing. Opportunity for members and curious non-members to meet and mingle, share ideas, learn about upcoming events and get involved. It's always a lively good time with interesting people! Open to all. All are welcome. For more information visit WimberleyArts.org
- Every Wed. Join Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce for breakfast at the Wimberley Cafe for networking opportunities, 8-9am. Bring lots of business cards.
- Every 3rd Wed. Sept. thru May, 9:30am-12pm. The Hill Country Unit of the Herb Society of America meets at the Wimberley Presbyterian Church. Visitors are always welcome! Refreshments at 9:30am. Program starts at 10am. Visit HillCountry-Herbs.org or email valentine_lisa@msn.com.
- Wed. Bilingual Storytime, 5-6pm Wimberley Village Library
- Every 1st Thur. The Wimberley Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group meets at 1pm at the Presbyterian Church Library on FM 2325. Contact Linda Germain at 512-924-3661.
- Every 2nd Thursday, Hill Country Bead Society meets at 1pm at the Wimberley Community Center. All levels and types of beading and metal work. Marilyn Pierce at 512-722-3549.
- Every 2nd and 4th Thur. 7pm Wimberley Toastmasters Club, First Baptist Church Wimberley, 15951 Winters Mill Parkway, Wimberley. Toastmasters teaches public speaking and leadership. For more info contact Amy O'Neil at amy@texiasllc.com.
- Every 3rd Thur. Live concerts at Susanna's Kitchen Coffeehouse, 7:30pm; \$20-25 adults, \$5 children. Food, coffee, soft drinks available. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (Wimberley United Methodist Church.) WimberleyUMC.org Proceeds benefit Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. Performing Thurs. February 16: Del Castillo
- Thurs. Gentle Yoga 10-11am, Wimberley Village Library
- Every Fri. Celebrate Freedom 6-8pm, pizza, 5:30pm Cypress Creek Church. 512-847-1222 or CypressCreekChurch.com.
- Every Fri. Wimberley VFW Post 6441 hosts bingo nights. Doors at 6:30pm with food concession. Early bird games at 7:00pm. Regular games start at 8pm. Visit vfw6441.com/bingo
- Fri. Storytime, 10:30-11:30am, Wimberley Village Library
- Every 2nd Sat. Wimberley's Second Saturday Gallery Trail. Visit ten galleries for art, food, fun, 4-7pm. Email BentTreeGallery@gmail.com. Have a glass of wine & enjoy art after hours.
- 1st Sat. Wimberley Market Day, 7am-3pm, March thru December, rain or shine
- 1st Sun. of every month, Wimberley Coffee & Cars, 8am-11am, at Blanco Brew located at 14200 Ranch Road 12

- Wednesday, February 1, Volunteer Workdays, 8-10am, Looking to get involved in beautifying your Wimberley Parks? Assist in trail repair, invasive species removal, tree and grass plantings, and upkeep of our stunning Wimberley Parks.
- Friday, February 3, 7pm, Kit Holmes in Concert - McWaters Studio Show, 502 Plainview Road, tickets start at \$25
- Saturday, February 4, 3pm, Make Your Own Glass Heart Experience, Wimberley Glassworks. Spread the love of glassblowing and experience the thrill of making your own glass-sculpted heart, with the help of a team of glassblowers.
- On February 24, The Importance of Being Earnest, a comedy by Oscar Wilde, opens on the Wimberley Players stage. The absurdity of Victorian norms is exposed when two gentlemen lead double lives for the sake of living & loving their way. Visit WimberleyPlayers.org for tickets and more information.

Have something to add to the Calendar of Events?

Email us at info@WVNewsViews.com

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Roses by another name

by Tim Thompson



Many years ago, a friend gave me a small tree they had grown by rooting a cutting from their own *Adenium obesum*, a small tree native to the horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. It is distinctive, with a swollen caudex (trunk) and thick, succulent

stems and leaves. It blooms prolifically in warm environments but cannot tolerate even the slightest frost.

One of the common names for it is Desert Rose, which is fitting, though it has no familial link to the rose family. Ours thrived and grew, blooming with gusto and outgrowing pot after larger pot until it got to be a bit difficult to handle. That's the year it made a double seed pod for the first time. My wife rose (ahem) to the challenge, carefully picking out one hundred and five seeds from the pod, carefully planting them in a seed flat and hoping for a few seedlings.

We were rewarded with one hundred tiny desert roses that quickly outgrew their four-inch pots and everyone that visited us that year left with one or two. The mother plant continued to prosper for a couple more years until we failed to prepare for an early freeze and lost it one November night.

Imagine our joy last year when one of our kids' godparents asked if they could bring the *Adenium* we had given them back to us, since it had grown quite large, and they were moving from their large house to an apartment. It stands now in the space outside our door formerly occupied by its mother and just made its own first

seed pod around Christmas.

In a year that has been filled to overflowing by the birth of another fine grandson and overall good health in our larger family, it is uplifting to be reminded of Mother Nature's ability to expand love and life into every corner of every space. Indeed, our capacity to live and love certainly grows with every day that passes when we accept the offer to walk together and fully participate in the human family.

Horticulturist Tim Thompson has managed the garden center at King Feed and Hardware for the past 25 years. They offer everything you need to have the garden of your dreams without stressing your budget. Pick up Tim's Tips, free one page sheets on how to carry out dozens of gardening projects available only at King Feed Nursery. Call Tim at 512 847 2618.



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It made us stronger

by Kern Deschner



I was going through some ledgers from 15 years ago, thinking about disposing of antique files. That year, we sheared 227 alpacas which, for us, was clearly too many. Still, it was amazing times where people had been paying astronomical, ridiculous, speculative prices at auctions for the best alpacas, as though there was no tomorrow. But there was a tomorrow and it hit in 2008. When 2009 dawned, many businesses, not just

alpacas, took a dive. Many alpaca farms, some that had been storied industry leaders, closed. We tightened our belt and cut back breedings to just our best animals in order to keep from having too many mouths to feed, and stuck to our mission to breed the best alpacas possible right here in Texas.

You have heard the old saying about what doesn't kill you just makes you stronger. That is not actually always true. Often, the thing that doesn't kill you may leave you irreparably damaged if it didn't actually kill you in the first place. Either way, it may not be pleasant. But sometimes the saying is true, and adversity is the fire from which the phoenix arises.

The aftermath of 2008 nearly killed several exotic livestock industries, including emus, ostriches, and alpacas. Happily, some of these, notably the ostrich breeders, have made a comeback. As for

the alpaca industry, it has come roaring back, stronger now than it ever was. It is a different industry, though, with more sense and reason. Buyers are better informed, though, with more sense and reason. Sellers are less arrogant, more educating, and less pushy. There still are expensive alpacas at auction – to be sure – but the bidding is discriminating, not the wild competitive *I'm-not-gonna-be-outbid* contests of 20 years ago. Newer technologies, better understanding of genetics, and vastly increasing public awareness of alpacas makes raising alpacas much more predictable.

Farms that were able to survive 2008, now thrive. We are smarter and stronger. There have been 15 subsequent years to perfect how to raise alpacas. Our herd size remains under 100 nowadays, but our alpacas are exponentially better than our alpacas were 15 years ago. After 2008, we went through a couple of years with almost no sales, but now sales are such that Rhonda is having trouble keeping enough stock to meet demand. Rhonda is one of the resilient fraternity of survivors and is positioned to access the best alpacas in the country. 2008 did not kill us and did make us stronger indeed.

Rhonda and Kern Deschner are experienced alpaca ranchers raising alpacas through all kinds of Texas weather since 1997. Tierra Prometida Alpaca Ranch can be visited by calling Rhonda at 512 753 9962, or at tierra@alpacausa.com.

Starting over

by Sarah Geenberg



Things feel like we're starting over. It's time to re-build the school. It's time to not only get back to where we were, but also to do things better.

There really is no such thing as going backwards. We may repeat things, but every repetition is different. We learned things the first time, and we will learn different things the next time. And we are different, so even though there is repeating, we bring different things to the table each time. We shouldn't expect to be where we were because we are who we are – now. Change is good and we can't not change.

A lot of people don't want to start something due to a discomfort around it. Either they weren't where they were before they quit, or they aren't sure they can do it. But if we get that every repetition is different, things get so easy. And if it isn't easy, you can count on the next one to be. Things always get better with repetition.

For us, there are a lot of things different on this repetition of growth. Our teachers have new ideas. In some cases, there are more of them, all giving a different perspective. We had to fight to

keep our school during Covid, so we have a huge appreciation for it and what we are doing. I have changed a lot, and I look forward to what that will bring. All of us have.

Sarah Geenberg is the owner of Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio, near Blue Hole, and OnlineSeniorsYoga.com. The yoga, Tai Chi, and karate classes are building again. Classes are offered indoors, outdoors, and online. Feel free to come check us out.

Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio



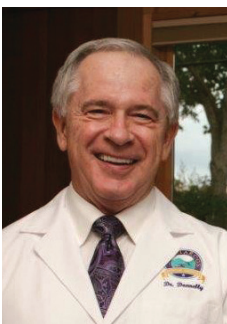
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Achieve a natural smile with tooth-colored fillings

by Robert Donnelly, DDS



In many cases, when people have any work on themselves done they would like for the results to look as natural as possible. Whether it's our hair, nails or some sort of cosmetic procedure, we may not want to look completely different but simply a better version of ourselves. Many people have that same

mentality when it comes to their dental work. In cases such as teeth whitening, porcelain veneers and the like our patients like to look as natural as possible.

When it comes to fillings, you may find it difficult to feel secure in your smile if you have metal in it. Dr. Donnelly understands the importance of wanting to have a beautiful smile and is able to give his patients what they want using tooth-colored fillings. With tooth-colored fillings, your smile is able to look brand new, natural and beautiful. Metal fillings, or *amalgam fillings*, can be toxic to our bodies as well as unappealing to the eye. Tooth-colored fillings are more durable than amalgam fillings and they are able to match your existing smile exactly.

Amalgam fillings can change shape depending on the temperature of your mouth, which leaves the possibility of expansion, cracking your tooth and inviting bacteria to make your smile its new home. The composite resin we use to make your tooth-colored fillings are more flexible and effectively adhere to your tooth.

These are only a few of the many benefits of tooth-colored fillings. Investigate all the reasons with a dentist you trust knows how to bring out the best in your smile. It can make all the difference.

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about maintaining oral hygiene, Dr. Donnelly is here to help you. You can contact San Marcos Gentle Dental by calling 512 396 5225 where we will be happy to get you scheduled. Come see why Dr. Donnelly was voted a Texas Super Dentist by Texas Monthly Magazine and Best Dentist in Hays County!



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Eye of the storm

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



The entertainer Jack Benny was being presented with an award for his lifelong achievements in comedy. After he accepted his reward and the applause died down, he turned to the audience and said, “I don’t deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don’t deserve that either.”

I’ve been thinking of that line lately because it seems I’ve been encountering many people who are overwhelmed and, like arthritis, feel it is undeserved. One client said that recently her stress level shot up into the stratosphere due to life changes. She was overwhelmed and her energies were scattered to the four winds. “I’ve so many problems facing me at once that I’ve started to shut down and not work on any of them,” she said.

I asked her what types of things she did normally to create serenity and a sense of peace. She listed several activities such as reading, walks in nature, and ceramics. I asked her if such outlets had helped lately. “Oh no! How can I think of doing leisure activities when I’m so upset?” she said.

For many of us, when the pressure is on, being good to ourselves isn’t a priority. One of the ways to achieve such serenity is addressed by Dr. Deepak Chopra in his book *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*. One law is the Law of Least Effort, which addresses our

cognitive distortions that amps up stress. He writes that there are three components that activate this principle of *do less and accomplish more*.

The first step is one of acceptance in which “... You make a commitment: *Today I will accept people, situations, circumstances, and events as they occur...* I will know that this moment is as it should be, because the whole universe is as it should be. This moment – the one you’re experiencing right now – is the culmination of all the moments you have experienced in the past... You can wish for things in the future to be different, but in this moment you have to accept things as they are.”

Step two is responsibility. “... Not blaming anyone or anything for your situation, including yourself... All problems contain the seeds of opportunity. This awareness allows you to take the moment and transform it to a better situation or thing.”

The third step is defenselessness. “... You have relinquished the need to convince or persuade others of your point of view. If you just relinquish the need to defend your point of view, you will in that relinquishment, gain access to enormous amounts of energy that have been previously wasted... When you have no point to defend, you do not allow the birth of an argument... Stop fighting and resisting – you will fully experience the present, which is a gift.”

Leslie Tourish, LPC, is a Dripping Springs psychotherapist in private practice. To contact Leslie, visit LeslieTourish.com or LATourish.com

Did you know..?

by Heidi Pousson



With the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill, the FDA recognized how significant the hemp plant was for the potential of the nation’s agricultural sector. In the passing of this bill, the FDA was able to preserve its authority over hemp products in the advancing of industrial hemp derived products through the FDA’s already existing avenues and by establishing additional avenues, which would be regulated to make hemp products

containing cannabidiol (CBD) more available.

This bill removed hemp and its cannabis derivatives from the definition of marijuana in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). The cannabis derivatives of the hemp plant have less than .3% of psychoactive delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC. Up until this point, hemp was in the same classification as regular marijuana even though it does not have the same amount of THC. Now, with the proper license, it can be grown and sold. Any products derived from the hemp plant, also known as *Cannabis sativa L*, must be regulated just like any other product regulated by the FDA. This allows Americans access to safer products.

The hemp fibers have many uses from fabrics to textiles, insulation to construction materials. The oils from the crushed seeds are even used in beauty products like cosmetics or shampoos. However, one of the biggest markets to explode is products containing CBD

due to the various health benefits currently being studied.

Since the 2018 Farm Bill passing, there has been a recent boom in the amount of new products being produced. Only time will tell what the future holds for this new market. Will we continue to see studies coming out showing the health benefits of CBD and other cannabis-derived products? Will there be even more regulations put in place making it harder for places like Haus of Jayne? Will policy makers make it more difficult for this now booming market? Policy is constantly changing, but Haus of Jayne will continue to keep you in the loop.

Wife, mother, friend, 8th-grade teacher, member of Haus of Jayne. Follow Haus of Jayne on social media: [hausofjayne_official](https://www.instagram.com/hausofjayne_official) on Instagram and [Facebook.com/HausofJayne](https://www.facebook.com/HausofJayne). Visit Haus of Jayne at 766 Old Fitzhugh Road, Dripping Springs, 78620. They can be reached at 512 648 7420.



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2023 Book Recommendations

by Deborah Carter Mastelotto



The last couple of years have been confusing and stressful, so I would like to help make our transition into 2023 clear and productive. That's why I have a book recommendation for each Sun Sign. Hopefully, this will give us all a head start.

Happy Birthday Capricorn! (December 22 - January 19) The crucial mindset for you in 2023 is transformation and change in your work, but from a creative home base. That's why I recommend *If You Could Live Anywhere: The Surprising Importance of Place in a Work from Anywhere World* by Melody Warnick. Sound interesting?

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) It's time to stop dreaming of creating a podcast or YouTube channel, or ramping up your social media in general, because this is the year the stars align to do it. We suggest you get *The Art of Social Media* by Guy Kawasaki and Peg Fitzpatrick asap.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Your charm and charisma are off the charts in 2023, so to help channel this personal magic into money-making power, read *The Like Switch: An Ex FBI Agent's Guide to Influencing, Attracting, and Winning People Over* by Jack Schafer PHD.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) This is your lucky year, but you must be willing to radically change the way you think about making money, and you need to be ready to move fast when you see opportunities. Read *Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life* by Susan David.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) You've never really been a joiner, but now is not the year to go it alone – you need a fan base. Look around for organizations to join and groups be part of, maybe even do some public speaking. We suggest reading *Deliver Unforgettable Presentations: How to Speak To Be Remembered and Repeated, In Person, Online, And Onstage* by Patricia Fripp, Darren Lacroix, and Mark Brown, and get ready to wow them.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) You always like to think things through, so the idea of using mostly instinct to make decisions this year might seem crazy. That's why we insist you read *The Power of Intuition: How to Use Your Gut Feelings to Make Better Decisions at Work* by Gary Klein. Let it be your guidebook in 2023.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Everyone loves Brene Brown, but her book *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* should be your personal manual in 2023.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) This year expect an explosive career trajectory if you focus on creating a team. The book to help you with this is *The Partnership Economy: How Modern Businesses Find New Customers, Grow Revenue, and Deliver Exceptional Experiences* by David A Yovanno.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) Your 2023 is about focusing on any *other* who might be significant. To help you, we recommend *The Power of Two: How to Make the Most of Your Partnerships in Work and in Life* by Rodd Wagner.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) *The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need* by Andrew Tobias has been an investors guidebook since 1976, but the newly revised edition was released in 2022, just in time for your powerhouse invest-in-your-future year.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) We are going to suggest a book that might seem counter-intuitive – *That Sounds Fun: The Joys of Being An Amateur, the Power of Falling in Love, and Why You Need a Hobby* by Annie F Downs. Yes, it's going to be that kind of year. You're welcome.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) You should be changing the way you work, make money, and even how you live day-to-day, and the changes need to be radical. That's why we recommend *Pivot: The Art and Science of Reinventing Your Career and Your Life*, by Adam Markel, to ease the way. Be brave – you're going to enjoy this.

Deborah Carter Mastelotto is a pathological entrepreneur, a minor student of quantum physics, unapologetic observer of human nature and undefatigable advice-giver. pinkchronicity.com.

Accessory dwelling units: Housing & rental options

by AJ Harwood



Often known as *granny flats*, *in-law apartments*, or *cottages*, these small units have a variety of uses for housing, work, and play.

An ADU is a small unit either attached to the main home or a freestanding unit on the main home's property. Sometimes they are a converted garage or attic space. They are generally 600 to 1,000

square feet and have one or two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. Common occupants include college students or grown children, extended family, senior citizens, and on-site caregivers. Additionally, they make a great way to generate passive income with AirBnB and VRBO (if allowed in your community). Adding an ADU to your home or property is a great way to increase its value.

I know the market can be confusing, but I am here to offer clear, concise information you can trust. Feel free to contact me and I will answer any questions you have. Texas is still one of the top states people are moving to.

If you are wondering what your home would look like on the market, give me a call! I would be honored to complete a compara-

tive market analysis (CMA) to see what homes in your neighborhood are selling for right now – you might be surprised! At the end of the day, real estate is local, and I'm here to walk you through with the best information so you can make the best choices and how it applies to you in the Wimberley and Texas Hill Country area. If you're thinking of selling your home, call me today. Experience matters - especially in the current changing market.

This information is designed to provide a brief overview of the subject matter covered and is offered for general educational and informational purposes only. Used with permission by the Buffini & Company.

Allison "AJ" Harwood, JD, MBA, GRI, is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX REAL PROPERTIES. When Experience matters...Call "AJ" Today! Your Hill Country Luxury Property Expert. Member: Institute for LUXURY HOME MARKETING. He is Wimberley's "Peak Producer" offering Professional Representation for both Buyers and Sellers in Real Estate Transactions. He may be contacted at 512.847."SOLD" 7653 or at AJ@REMAX.net or drop by our office location at 160 South River in the South River Business Park, Wimberley, Texas 78676.

Planting new trees: Timing and technique

by Steven Austin



You may already know that fall and winter are great times to plant trees in Texas. But you might not realize that what your tree looks like out of the pot and how it's planted can make all the difference. The following steps will increase your tree's chances of thriving:

Inspect the root system. Roots may have circled their pots during the growing process, and these can girdle and eventually kill the tree. Loosen and spread out the roots. If some circling roots have become woody, they may need to be cut (not torn).

Locate the root flare, the place where roots begin to spread at the stem base. If too much soil was added to the growing pot at the nursery, roots may have grown up over the root flare, and the root flare should not be buried.

Dig a hole three to five times the diameter of the root ball and not too deep. A narrow hole encourages root circling and inhibits good establishment. Since roots begin establishment within the top foot of soil, planting too deep will deprive roots of adequate oxygen. Positioning the root flare slightly above the soil line will encourage better root health.

Apply a two- to four-inch layer of wood-chip mulch to the drip line away from the trunk. This will help moderate temperatures, retain moisture, improve soil quality, and discourage lawnmower and weed-whacker damage of the trunk and surface roots. Do not build the mulch around the stem *volcano* fashion.

Stake trees only if necessary. Trees need movement to develop girth, taper, and healthy roots. A description for proper staking,

and other tips on tree care, may be found at TreesAreGood.org.

Monitor moisture needs. Moisture deprivation is a common reason for young-tree death. A generous watering delivered quickly won't have time to saturate the root ball. A slow watering with a soaker hose (or similar method) will ensure more effective moisture delivery. Avoid the urge to overwater.

Following these steps and planting now will give your tree a head start as it takes root in its new home.

A Wimberley resident, Steven Austin is a member of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist. His expertise includes integrated pest management of trees and shrubs and state-of-the-art organic treatments. He holds a commercial pesticide license with the Texas Department of Agriculture and is Texas Oak Wilt Certified by the Texas Forest Service. Steven is an Arborist Representative for Bartlett Tree Experts. Call 512 392 1089 or toll-free at 800 443 8733.

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6 Design trends we are leaving in 2022

by Alice Gumbert Lebkuecher



It's beginning to look a lot like 2023, and with the new year comes a whole new design forecast. Out with the old and in with the new? Well, kind of.

1. *Skip grout for slab backsplashes.* Trade hard-to-scrub grout for a slab-style backsplash. "Slabs of quartz or marble are perfect for any design aesthetic and

help to create a clean, seamless look in any kitchen," says April Gandy with Alluring Designs Chicago. But the real clincher is the lack of grout lines, which makes cleanup a cinch.

2. *Replace bulky furniture with custom storage.* Closets will continue to be the heroes of bedrooms in 2023, but this time we're trading large furniture pieces for custom storage. Utilizing organizational elements in our closets – whether luxurious walk-ins or a few shelves tucked behind a sliding door – is key for creating a tranquil bedroom. Consider creating built-in drawers, cabinets, cubbies, and hooks in these tucked-away spaces, so you can free up the floor space in the sleeping quarters.

3. *Ditch perfection for personalization.* No longer will picture-perfect impersonal decor take center stage. "2023 is about breaking the rules, having fun, and creating spaces that are vibrant," says Stark. "Individualism is at the core of design choices."

Stark sees the continued rise in mixing both new and vintage pieces as a sustainable choice, but also one that reflects the true soul of a space – and that's one trend that will (thankfully) be hard to shake.

4. *Trade shades of white for moody hues.* "In 2022, we started to move away from white walls and tonal looks to embrace moodier and bolder colors," says Stark. But in 2023, it's time to put color on blast. As for the colors currently on the trend forecast, Brittany Farinas, creative director of House of One, says dark purples are coming in hot. "I'm loving this dark and sexy color to add moodiness to a space," she says.

5. *Discover new ways to bring in nature.* We'll be finding new and unexpected ways to bring the outside in. Your home's color palette plays a part, and blues and greens certainly had a moment in 2022. But in the year ahead, it's going to be all about natural materials as a way to blur the lines. According to Stark, materials like linen, hemp, cotton, jute, and wool all help create a warm and inviting environment while helping ground us in our spaces. Stark assures houseplants will continue to thrive in the year ahead.

6. *Upgrade home offices.* Offices are moving from simply a space for a desk, power outlet, and Wi-Fi connection to an environment for collaboration and creativity. To upgrade your home office, consider a focal point wall for Zoom meetings and incorporating areas to both brainstorm and recharge.

** Adapted from an article by Patricia Shannon*

Alice Gumbert Lebkuecher is a sales agent with Keller Williams Realty, Partners in Real Estate, in Wimberley. She works with both buyers and sellers in Wimberley and surrounding areas. To contact her, call her cell at 713 253 1311 or by email at AliceinWimberley@gmail.com.

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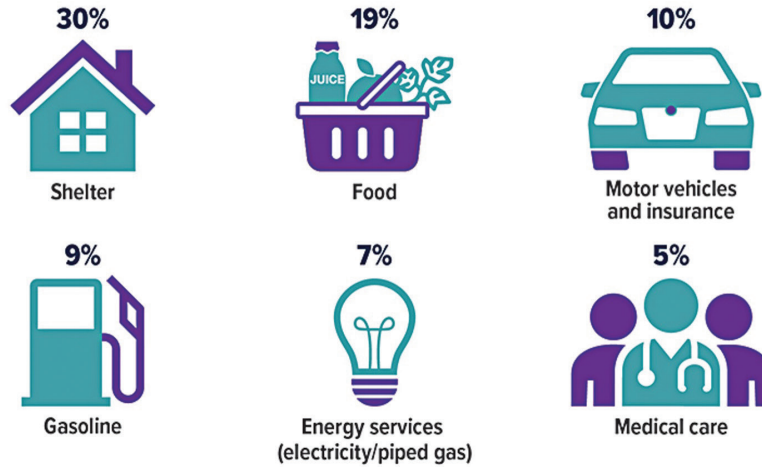


The top six inflation drivers of 2022 by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®



In June 2022, the 12-month rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) peaked at 9.1%, the fastest pace in 40 years, before dropping to 7.7% in October. This bout of inflation has been driven in large part by steep price hikes for essentials, hitting many U.S. households where it hurts the most. In fact, more than three-fourths of the annual increase in the CPI can be attributed to these six categories.

Contribution to the 12-month, 7.7% increase in consumer prices, October 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022

Scott G. Hackett, CFP® is the president of the Hackett Financial Group LLC (HFG), a fee-only registered investment advisor. Contact Scott at 512-847-0630.

Selfless gift

by Carrie Campbell



It is hard to contemplate our own fragilities and mortality. Living in the moment is more comfortable and less thorny. Therefore, it is truly a selfless gift to plan for our aging and eventual passing. It is of the greatest benefit to ease the burden, stress, and legal entanglements for those who care for us and future generations. To make your own decisions now to appoint the people acting on

As it is that time of the year when we reflect upon what we would like to do differently or do better, please consider the generous bequest of putting your affairs in order. While it may be awkward to think about, there are those professionals who can make it kinder than you might expect. It is a process, once complete, that will bring you comfort. It is a timeless and selfless gift.

Carrie Campbell has lived and practiced law in Wimberley since 1997. She is the managing partner of Mounger & Campbell law firm. Carrie is an active member of the Rotary Club of Wimberley and president of the Wimberley Village Library Foundation. She proudly has three wonderful daughters and two lively grandsons.

your behalf later, to give them guidance, protection, and resources during a time of great loss and unknown, is to quiet their anxieties and allow our final days to be sacred times of togetherness.

Planning should include the proper preparation of a last will and testament, the execution of powers of attorney to avoid a guardianship, and arranging access to bank accounts for expenses. But it is more than that. It is also the organization of and access to vital information and documents that will be needed, such as bank records, identification of professional advisors, insurance policies, car titles, deeds, etc. It is instructions for family heirlooms, pet care, artificial life support, and charitable donations. It is love letters, life lessons, and words of encouragement that will be your legacy.



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Litigation: Like a yo-yo

by Roland Brown




Up and down, and up and down goes the case. You might think that the progress of a lawsuit through the courts would occur in a linear fashion – first the trial in the trial court, then a possible appeal to the first level of appellate courts, and then a final decision following an appeal to the highest court. Not so much.

The appellate process often has a yo-yo like progression. Some cases find their way into the appellate courts even before there has been a trial. This usually commences with an application for writ of mandamus when the trial judge has made a critical pre-trial decision about something such as whether a party must disclose certain information to the other party or, even more significantly, as a regular appeal where the trial judge grants a summary judgment in favor of a party on all or some portion of the lawsuit. (For a short discussion of summary judgments, see *That's Sum Judgment* in Roland's Blog at Your-Personal-Injury-Lawyer.law). The appellate court's ruling on mandamus or appeal will most often result in the case being returned to the trial court for further action and, generally, for a trial.

Following a trial, either party may file an appeal, generally to the first level of appellate courts which, in Texas, would be one of the fourteen Courts of Appeals for cases filed in state courts or the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for federal court cases. That court could *reverse and remand* sending the case back to the trial


court for a new trial or for some modification in the judgment. There could then be another appeal from that new trial or modification back to the first appellate level. That process could actually be repeated more than once, and it could also be interrupted by a party appealing the court of appeals' decision to either the Texas Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court. That court then might remand the case back to the court of appeals for further consideration which might remand it back to the trial court for another trial. This dizzying process can sometimes go on indefinitely. Perhaps in a future article, we'll discuss what happens along the way in more detail, but for now, hopefully this information may help some understand news reports of the cases that bounce up and down in our court systems.

Attorney Roland Brown handles exclusively personal injury claims. Roland, who offices in Wimberley, has been voted HAYS COUNTY'S BEST PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY for 2020 and for 2021 in annual polls of Hays County attorneys. For more information call 512 847 2500.



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Puzzle feeders

by Tracy Sheffield, RVT

It's trivia night! A lot of people respond with enthusiasm for trivia night. It's fun, you get to figure stuff out and you might even win a prize. How about trivia night for cats? Your cat will love it, it will help your cat maintain a healthy weight and will allow the cat to feel intellectually dominant over the dog.

What is cat trivia? It is the use of puzzle feeders. Before we discuss puzzle feeders let's look at how cats are usually fed.

The method of feeding cats most of us use is to dump some kibble in a bowl a couple of times a day. The alternative is to have a dispensing feeder that refills the dish as the kibble is eaten.

There are several problems with these methods. Some cats bolt their food down when they are fed and that can lead to regurgitation. Other bored indoor cats with a dispensing feeder can find that eating is the only activity worth their time and this leads to obesity and all the health problems that goes with overeating. Diabetes is often a function of overeating.

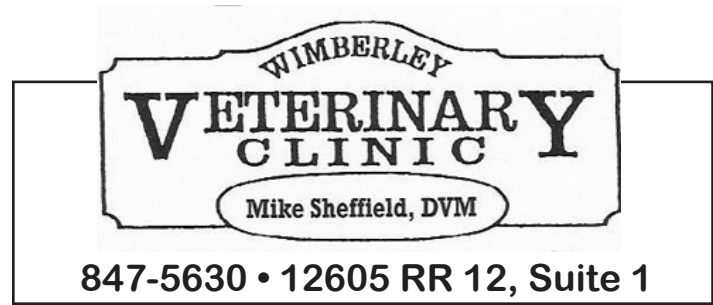
A puzzle feeder presents a problem to the cat that the cat must solve to get the kibble. Some feeders need to be batted around for the kibble to come out. Others require the cat to use a paw to scoop the kibble out. Many are designed to be hidden around the house, the cat must hunt for them to find their food.

Puzzle feeders have been shown to reduce the incidences of obesity and they allow a house cat to engage in the natural activity of hunting for food. Cats that can engage in natural behaviors show fewer behaviors that owners don't want.

Another great thing about puzzle feeders is that you can make them yourself. There are many types that are available for purchase but it is a simple craft project to make them yourself.

Talk with your veterinarian about puzzle feeders and how to introduce your cat to them. You and your cat will be very happy that you did.

Tracy Sheffield, RVT works with her husband, Dr. Mike Sheffield, at Wimberley Veterinary Clinic. Wimberley Veterinary Clinic sees all kinds of animals, dogs, cats, horses, birds, pocket pets, reptiles and other exotic animals. Make your boarding reservations online at WimberleyVetClinic.com or call us at 512 847 5630.



Walking for nothing?

by Diana Ozimek



I take my dog on two to three long walks a day and they are still crazy! Does this sound like you and your dog? It's not uncommon for this to be an issue in many homes with young dogs. Walking is a great activity for you and your dog, it gives you time together, opportunities to work on their skills in public, and can fulfill needed physical activity. If you opted for a breed made

to have endurance and work all day, a walk isn't going to fulfill them to the state of relaxation you are looking for. If you plan to get any type of herding or hunting breed they are engineered to do jobs, not lay on couches. But any breed can have a lot of energy when they are young.

If walking them isn't going to get you the results you want, what can you do? My first suggestion is to add more brain work into their walk. If your dog isn't great at walking on leash add in training work, making turns, stopping, sits, and downs. Try some Urban Agility, if you can find objects on your walk have your dog step up on them, jump over, crawl under... Logs, large boulders, benches are all great for this. Adding enrichment in a dog's day is good for any dog. Treat puzzles, frozen Kongs, snuffle mats, and feeding their meals in a wobbler or monster ball are all great ideas.

Put your dog on a schedule. This will help you as well by scheduling their activities and downtime when you need it. Look at your

week and map out walks, enrichment, yard play, and crate time. Building in nap times in their crate can be very helpful. So many young dogs can't calm themselves and will go and go if wandering the home. Dogs also get used to a schedule, knowing their morning consists of a walk, a puzzle, and then downtime will help both of you. Physical plus mental challenges will help your dogs feel more fulfilled resulting in a calmer dog during downtime.

Diana Ozimek is the owner and lead trainer at Good Dog in the Making. She is excited to bring her puppy training expertise to her new community and help families raise a confident, well-mannered dog. GoodDogintheMaking.com, 773 899 1960.



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\$648,000 Create your STR! 5 acres,
resort ready RV. Debbie Donaldson



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of heavily wooded land i between Wimberley
and Blanco. \$990,000 Jim Donaldson



12 Saddle Rock Ridge MLS 4017449
Great lot ready for your dream home!
\$65,000 Alice Lebkuecher



501 Rancho Grande Dr MLS3482009 Home
tucked away on 2.6 acres. Studio, green-
house, workshop. \$850,000 Alice lebkuecher



New

171 River Bend Rd MLS 8201806 3/2
on Breathtaking Blanco riverfront! 7.48
acres. \$3,950,000 Jim Donaldson



949 Spoke Hollow Rd MLS 2414600
Beautiful 3/4 on 4 acres. Pool and
Views. \$895,000 Jim Donaldson



TBD Sierra Loma MLS 5008273 5 acre
tract, expansive views. Well and electricity.
Gated community. \$428,000 Jim Donaldson



New Price

460 Lloyd Ln MLS 9395690
Beautiful 5/3.5 on 2.75 acres in
Butler Ranch Estates. \$1,325,000



118 Camino De Roble Great 3/2 in
Las Lomas Sbdv. Pool, Barn, Views!
\$850,000 Alice Lebkuecher



Pending

431 Summer Dr MLS 3074816 Charm-
ing 3/2 in Four Seasons community, Kyle.
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