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March forth

Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

It seems like March got here rather fast, doesn't it? I'm seeing bright green leaves emerging on bare branches and hearing the birds singing loudly again. At this brisk pace, I heard myself say something beautiful the other day – "I don't know."

I don't know. These words almost don't seem acceptable in a world that demands confidence, a fake-it-'til-you-make-it approach, planning, decisiveness, and a clear vision of the future. But who really has an exact vision of the future? Certainly it can be very beneficial to know where this boat is headed, but there's also beauty in jumping in the car without a particular destination in mind.

I recently conducted an interview with a pair of Hill County musicians who had reached out over Instagram. They sent me an album of their latest songs and that was it. I had no idea I was walking into the home of a world-class drummer and a brilliant songwriter and vocalist. I just showed up and let it unfold. And what a spectacular surprise I experienced.

Certainly, there is value in planning and having a clean idea of what our next steps will be. This can give us peace of mind and allow for more planning to heighten an experience. However, as we march forth into this year, I challenge you to embrace that which you don't know yet. There's beauty in mystery, excitement in the element of surprise, relief when we relinquish control, and sweet surrender in the knowledge that sometimes we simply don't know.

Wishing you a joyful month.

Happy March, y'all.

Warmly,



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• Community Calendar of Events •

- Every Mon. **Celebrate Recovery** 6:30-8:30pm, Cypress Creek Church, in the den. 512-847-1222 or CelebrateRecovery@CypressCreekChurch.com. Potluck at 5:30pm every 2nd Monday.
- 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. March 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 HillCountryHerbs.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.
- Thurs. March 16: **Jeff Plankenhorn & Michael O'Connor**
- Thurs. **Gentle Yoga** 10-11am, Wimberley Village Library
- Every Fri. Wimberley **VFW Post 6441** hosts bingo nights. Doors at 6:30pm with food concession. Earlybird 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

- Saturday, March 4, **Guided Hikes at Blue Hole**, 10-11:30am, 100 Blue Hole Lane
- Saturday, March 4, **The Wilder Blue**, Mercer Dance Hall, 23490 RR 12, 8-11:30pm
- Saturday, March 18, **Fingerpistol**, Mercer Dance Hall, 7-10:30pm
- Saturday, March 25, **Sweet Water Cookies Decorating Class**, Learn to decorate beautiful cookies taught by owner, Cindy of Sweetwater Cookies. \$65 fee includes hands-on class and supplies. 10am-12pm, BellaVida Bed & Breakfast, tickets at BellaVidaBandB.com/events
- **The Importance of Being Earnest**, by Oscar Wilde, Wimberley Players, 450 Old Kyle Road, runs through March 19, Tickets at WimberleyPlayers.org

Have something to add to the Calendar of Events?
Email us at info@WVNewsViews.com

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Heavenly scent

by Tim Thompson



As the orange pollen stamens faded on the big male mountain cedar in our yard this year, I counted myself lucky to have made it through cedar season this year without a trip to the doctor for a steroid injection, because the pollen was heavy this year.

Like most Hill Country folks, I have a relationship with our native Ashe Junipers that can best be summarized as complicated. As the dominant tree species here, it is often denigrated as invasive, non-native, or weed like. In fact, it has populated central Texas for tens of thousands of years and is easily the most well-adapted tree that thrives across a part of Texas known for its poor, calcareous soils, brutally hot summers and long droughts.

By my own admittedly non-scientific observations, female junipers far outnumber the males in our area, but since they make nearly half a million pollen grains in every cone, a single male tree can shed over a quarter billion grains of pollen every year! That's enough pollen to pollinate a whole bunch of female pollen cones.

Braving often freakish Texas weather, like the infamous Snowmageddon of February 2021, which brought extended temperatures as low as seven degrees at our house, the thousands of cedars in our neighborhood seem unscathed except for a couple that broke off at the trunk due to the heavy load of ice. Meanwhile, we have been babying our Mexican White Oaks and Sierra Oaks – both natives – as they recover from the damage they suffered in that storm.

I have long since made peace with the ubiquitous reality of cedar trees here, and I try to appreciate their beauty, especially when frosted with a light dusting of snow, or when they capture raindrops in their coniferous foliage after a warm summer rain. We were treated to an unusual event a couple of years ago when a light hailstorm battered every branch on every cedar tree for a minute or two. The powerful scent of juniper oil, usually hidden in its wood and leaves, filled the canyon with its heavenly fragrance for days.

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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When the dreams keep us up at night

by Leslie Tourish, LPC



Dreams can be excellent snapshots of what we're wrestling with during our waking hours. Of course, not every dream is prophetic. Some may just be white noise our brains are processing. In therapy my clients sometimes bring up their dreams and try to suss out the meanings behind

them. With the stressors from the past two years, I've noticed a significant uptick in people talking about the vividness of their dreams. It can be a literal wake-up call to be startled from a disturbing dream, and think, *thank heavens that wasn't real.*

There are a variety of classic bad dreams, such as hurrying late to a class where the final is being given and you can't find the classroom. Then you realize you haven't even attended a lecture all semester. Or you're walking down the street naked as jay bird, and it slowly dawns on you that you're naked as jay bird. So you wonder if you act cool, will everyone else passing you on the sidewalk also be cool with your breezy bod? I had a bad dream recently where I was asked to guide a museum tour in New York City for a group of experts at an Italian art exhibit, but I didn't know a thing about the mural-sized paintings covering the expansive walls. Was that a Titian to my right? Maybe. Could just as well be a Michelangelo. Who knew? I sure as heck didn't, and I began to panic. As the experts filed into the room and surrounded me with their faces expectant for some serious knowledge to be laid down, I was handed a guide

book. Relieved, I opened it, but the text was all in Latin. I don't read Latin, not even in my dreams. I desperately swam to consciousness, thankful to find myself back in bed, safely in Texas. Even in my befuddled state, I figured out that this was my mind wrestling with imposter syndrome. But, still... *What gives?*

If there is uncertainty, our minds can become hypervigilant to what we perceive as dangerous. Worry is a way for us to stay focused and so we might better handle the problem. However, so many things can't simply be *handled* in the moment because they're too complicated due to shifting moving parts or the time line extends beyond solving an issue in the here-and-now. So ancient parts of our brains continue to crank out the worry lest we become inattentive and forget the problem, allowing danger to overcome us. The rub is, though, our only true power is what we can do or think in the present moment. To focus on possible, negative outcomes robs us our vitality and focus. And have you noticed how the vast majority of the things you worry about don't come true? Or say what you dreaded has landed on your doorstep? Looking back, did you amaze yourself in how you rose to the occasion?

Our trauma can so often be self-induced, a product of our powerful imaginations. Seneca, the Roman philosopher, sums it up best: "There is nothing so certain in our fears that's not yet more certain in the fact that most of what we dread comes to nothing."

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

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It's banned

by Kern Deschner



My mother passed away recently and we have been cleaning out her belongings. I came across a box of old newspapers. These were historic, and were good references in the days before the internet. There was a December 8, 1941 *San Antonio Chronicle* with the news about Pearl Harbor. There was a November 23, 1963 Kennedy assassination story in the *Corpus Christi Caller Times*. And there were newspapers from McAllen in the

1930s decrying the burning of banned books in Nazi Germany. My mother saved those particular newspapers because she – and her mother – were avid readers who despised burning books.

Certainly, there are things that should be banned because they are dangerous. Smoking for children. Probably bringing guns into schools by anyone other than by law-enforcement. These are a couple of examples. In the alpaca world, we have practices that are banned as well. For example, it is not allowed to bring a baby alpaca to an alpaca show because they will be exposed to many unfamiliar alpacas, and routinely get sick and die. It is banned to intentionally bottle-feed a baby alpaca for any reason other than to save its life. Some unscrupulous people have intentionally bottle-fed infant alpacas because it makes them very friendly. However, that becomes a problem when that baby becomes a 180-pound adult and has trouble distinguishing between people and alpacas.

On the other hand, there were practices that were once banned in the alpaca world not because they were harmful, but because those opposed were afraid of enlightenment. Things like embryo transfer to enhance the breeding potential of a particularly great

female, or developing an alpaca breed standard so everyone would know what we are striving towards, or the use of Expected Progeny Differences calculations that cut through the advertising hype and let us know what we are really buying with a particular breeding, are all things that were loudly resisted and banned until the alpaca community came to realize that these things made the national alpaca herd better.

When my daughter was little, we used to have foot races. I would hold back enough to let her win, until the day came that she would subsequently beat me fair and square. That same girl is now in her third year of law school and going to be a decisive lawyer. Her political opinions are to the left of mine, and she is tough to out-debate. Though I may disagree with her on some points, I am proud of the fact that she is passionate, educated, well-researched, logical, and cares very much for her causes. That is exactly the way a good lawyer should be.

One way that she reminds me of her Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother, is that she is appalled that books bringing enlightenment and worldview expansion to young people are increasingly being banned by school libraries. So, for Christmas, I got her every book on the list of the 10 most banned books at school libraries. Those books now hold a position of pride on her shelf, and she says that they are the best present she ever received. Her Grandmother is smiling somewhere.

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.



Senior and adult students

by Sarah Geenberg



As you may know, we have many adult and senior students in our karate, yoga, and Tai Chi classes. I love the fact that we teach these styles in such a way that does not abuse the body. Seniors and adults simply cannot get away with that. But really, no matter your age, it is good

to create a solid foundation of respect for body and mind.

I love our senior and adult karate class. But watch out. These people are experienced! If not in karate, they definitely have life lessons that they apply. And they have patience. They love to really study what they are learning and dig into the philosophy behind it. Because of this, they are the most likely to get the whole martial arts experience. They get that self-defense is going to look different depending on body and personality type, and they are okay with being themselves around that. This applies to students who are parents, too. I love watching them regain the ability to balance and from there their confidence grows.

I like being in a senior yoga class, because I know that the instructor is not going to do something that is not functionally okay for my body. We really prep the body in our classes instead of throwing it into something it may not be able to handle. We start easy and slowly go deep. The students learn their level and how deep to go. They are instructed to respect their body and ignore

their ego. And our instructors avoid the positions that are generally not comfortable for most. We start with total beginner classes and have people who have been doing yoga for a very long time. It is great to see the health and vitality!

I have heard from senior students in all disciplines that they dislike seeing their friends deteriorate while they are not. They wish their friends would get up and try. They also say that by trying, they find that they are able to do more than they ever thought possible.

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



Sarah Geenberg
(512) 971-8528

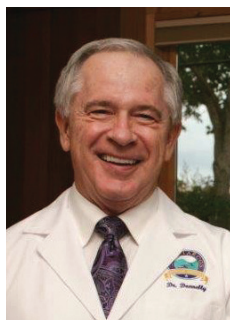
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wimberleykarateyoga.com



The new dental visit: *It's pain free*

by Robert Donnelly, DDS



Nobody loves going to the dentist, but ignoring or even skimping on your oral care can result in far worse complications than cavities! Multiple studies have linked gum disease to heart disease. Oral bacteria may enter the bloodstream and travel to the arteries, causing inflammation and setting the stage for a heart attack. The inflammatory effects of gum

disease also may increase risk for diabetes, stroke, and certain types of cancer.

One problem even health-conscious individuals can have is that they suffer from dental anxiety and the thought of going to the dentist can be downright terrorizing. A solution we have to this is that our office has invested in cutting-edge technology for our patients that make your experience literally pain-free.

Another concern patients often express about coming to the dentist is their phobia or fear of needles. Our fix to this problem is *The Wand*, a slender device that uses a computer to control how quickly an anesthetic is administered through an extremely fine needle. Since the pain associated with most needle-injected anesthetics usually is due to the practitioner injecting a drug too quickly, *The Wand* can eliminate injection pain and you may not even realize that you've been injected.

Many patients dread the whirl of the drill during dental treatment. A laser drill or electric motor hand piece are both quieter

than the traditional drill, which we use both of in Dr. Donnelly's office. Also, headphones which allow our patients to listen to a wide variety of music helps to create a more soothing atmosphere.

Sedation dentistry is another option for patients who have a fear of coming to the dentist. With sedation dentistry the patient receives an anti-anxiety medication that allows them to relax or in many cases fall asleep while under a dentist's care.

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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Top 5 paint colors for 2023

by AJ Harwood



Every year, paint company forecasters review fashion, cultural, and economic trends to determine their picks for “Color of the Year”. For 2023, forecasters are predicting that homeowners will choose deeper, more saturated colors. Here are five paint selections for 2023.

Vining Ivy by Glidden. This deep turquoise is rich, but subdued and classy.

Terra Rosa by Dunn Edwards. This dusty rose adds a bit of blush to a space.

Redend Point by Sherwin Williams. This neutral beige is a great base that makes an ideal starting point to build a rich color palette.

Raspberry Bush by Benjamin Moore. The brightest color on the list; this cheery brick red is desaturated and would be perfect on an accent wall to add warmth and light to a room.

Blank Canvas by BEHR. The ideal jumping off point with its warm ivory tone, with better depth than a pure white.

Color tip: When deciding what color to use, purchase small sample cans of paint and peel-and-stick sample sheets. Paint the sheets and place them on the wall. You can move it around to check the lighting on it at different times of day or night.

I know the market can be confusing, but I am here to offer clear, concise information you can trust. I will answer any questions you have. Texas is still one of the top states people are moving to. Wondering what your home would look like on the market? Give me a call! I would be honored to complete a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) to see what homes in your neighborhood are selling for right now. Real estate is local and I’m here to walk you through with the best information to make the best choices and know how it applies to you. 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.

Where your tree roots are and why it matters

by Steven Austin



This time of year, we often see remodeling, repairs, or renovations taking place on residential and commercial properties. If any of these activities involve excavating in the yard, your trees could be at risk of harm to their health and stability. They could even die prematurely.

A problem for property owners in managing their trees is that what seems logical regarding their care is often incorrect and harmful. A tree’s perceived ability to well withstand substantial wounding and other mistreatments contributes to this notion. For example, a construction crew can cut a trench within five feet of the trunk and deposit fill over the tree’s base, and the tree might still *look good* in five years.

Some logical assumptions are: 1. Tree roots grow downward and deep, so they’re not subject to harm from trenching five feet out from the trunk. 2. Even if you tear some roots, it doesn’t hurt the tree. 3. Fill material over the tree base can only help secure it. 4. The test of time (the five years) proves these assumptions because the tree still looks fine.

All of this is incorrect. Generally, most of a tree’s roots grow within the top foot or so of soil and take a horizontal path that usually extends well outside the tree’s canopy edge. One could easily sever 40% or more of the root system by placing a single trench several feet from the stem. Severing larger roots can compromise stability and invite pathogenic organisms to enter the tree. Far from securing the tree, fill material placed around its base can harm a tree by preventing adequate gas exchange and encouraging

decay. A tree may not display symptoms of damage for several years, leaving property owners bewildered about the reason for its decline.

Before your contractor begins digging trenches, making elevation changes, or excavating for that new pool in the back yard, consult with a qualified arborist. Professional guidelines exist for protecting trees at construction sites, and your arborist can help you with implementing them.

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.



Steven E Austin
Arborist Representative

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Avoiding scams and fraud in real estate

by Jim and Debbie Donaldson



We are seeing a rise in real estate fraud in America. Real estate fraud and scams happen when someone uses deceptive tactics to take money and property from unsuspecting owners. These scams can happen at any point in the buying, selling, or financing process. In most cases the criminals use the internet.

Scammers will target people who lack experience in dealing with challenging or stressful situations. The best way to protect yourself is by learning how to spot real estate scams and watching for the red flags that are usually associated with this type of fraudulent activity:

- Unsolicited offers; beware of unknown people or sources seeking to buy your property or offer unsolicited assistance. They will promise a quick and easy transaction that will *save you money*.
- Pressure to act quickly. The scammer is always in a hurry for you to act so that you will not have time to think or seek advice.
- Promises that are far-fetched. Listen to your gut. If something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- Someone demands that you wire money. When you use a trusted local realtor and title company there is a clear process for buying and selling a property. The costs and time involved are worth it to protect your most valuable asset. In this process funds can be wired or a cashier's check can be used in the process and

deposited with the title company. If a wire is used, you contact the Title Company *directly* for wiring instructions. Do not respond to any email requesting funds be wired to anyone or any account other than the account given to you by the local title company verbally by phone.

- Sophisticated scammers can hack accounts and copy logos and letterheads and appear as legitimate sources when they ask for funds. Call your agent, title company, or mortgage company to confirm and verify if a request is legitimate.

I recently spoke with a man who lost over \$500,000 by wiring funds to an unverified source. I also know of several examples of people who were convinced to sell properties *off-market* substantially under market. We are local and we are here for you to help guide you through the process of buying and selling real estate. We would appreciate the opportunity to serve you in the journey.

A portion of the information in this article was sourced from an article by Rachel Rose in Money Tips

Jim and Debbie Donaldson are Sales Agents with Keller Williams, Partners in Real Estate Group, in Wimberley. They moved to Wimberley in 1993 and enjoy helping sellers and buyers have an awesome real estate experience. You can reach Jim at 830-857-3371 or Jim.Donaldson78@gmail.com or Debbie 512-665-9588 or Debbie.Donaldson79@gmail.com.

Simplicity is not too much to ask

by Randy Lawrence



Depending upon the quality of your water supply, water treatment systems can range in size from compact units designed to be tucked away in a small closet to multiple pieces of equipment requiring a large area. Often a system will have been modified over time with

plumbing repairs and the addition or replacement of equipment. In many cases, these modifications are done in a way which makes the installer's job as easy as possible. Simply connecting a brand new softener to an existing maze of old pipe or running unsupported pipes at odd angles to connect a new piece of equipment are examples of shortcuts which demonstrate a lack of concern for the finished product. The result is a pieced together system which makes access for service difficult, and typically takes up far more space than necessary.

While the operation of the equipment and the product water quality are the most pressing concerns, it is almost as important that the system be simple and streamlined to eliminate problems when the need arises for maintenance or service. When discussing the work to be performed, you should address any concerns you may have about the current system and clarify the scope of work to be done. If a piece of equipment is to be replaced, ask how the new connections will be made. Also, be sure to ask what will happen to the old unit. Many times, the equipment will be simply left in the immediate area for the homeowner to dispose of. Obviously, it

affects the equipment dealer's bottom line to perform work beyond a simple *cut and paste* installation, but it's reasonable to expect your water system to be carefully planned and installed in a user-friendly and space efficient manner.

It usually takes a little more time, and a few additional fittings, but when the technician puts forth the extra effort to simplify the system, it can make a world of difference. If you're concerned about the treatment equipment you currently have, a trained and licensed professional can suggest ways to improve the layout, performance and overall efficiency of your system.

Randy Lawrence is the owner of ProQuality Water Systems, a full service water treatment company. He is one of only six Class III Certified Water Treatment Specialists in Hays County (LIC# WT0002693). With over 20 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over a decade.

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Income tax key numbers

by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®

Alternative minimum tax (AMT)		2022	2023
Maximum AMT exemption amount		\$118,100 (MFJ), \$75,900 (Single/HOH), \$59,050 (MFS)	\$126,500 (MFJ), \$81,300 (Single/HOH), \$63,250 (MFS)
Exemption phaseout threshold		\$1,079,800 (MFJ), \$539,900 (Single/HOH/MFS)	\$1,156,300 (MFJ), \$578,150 (Single/HOH/MFS)
26% rate applies to AMT income (AMTI) at or below this amount (28% rate applies to AMTI above this amount)		206,100 (MFJ/Single/HOH), \$103,050 (MFS)	\$220,700 (MFJ/Single/HOH), \$110,350 (MFS)
Standard deduction		2022	2023
Standard deduction amount		\$25,900 (MFJ), \$19,400 (HOH), \$12,950 (Single), \$12,950 (MFS)	\$27,700 (MFJ), \$20,800 (HOH), \$13,850 (Single), \$13,850 (MFS)
Standard deduction for dependent		Can't exceed the greater of \$1,150 or \$400 + earned income	Can't exceed the greater of \$1,250 or \$400 + earned income
Additional deduction for aged/blind		\$1,750 (Single/HOH), \$1,400 (MFJ/MFS)	\$1,850 (Single/HOH), \$1,500 (MFJ/MFS)
Top tax brackets		2022	2023
Single		37% of taxable income exceeding \$539,900 + \$162,718	37% of taxable income exceeding \$578,125 + \$174,238.25
MFJ		37% of taxable income exceeding \$647,850 + \$174,253.50	37% of taxable income exceeding \$693,750 + \$186,601.50
MFS		37% of taxable income exceeding \$323,925 + \$87,126.75	37% of taxable income exceeding \$346,875 + \$93,300.75
HOH		37% of taxable income exceeding \$539,900 + \$161,218.50	37% of taxable income exceeding \$578,100 + \$172,623.50
Top capital gain tax rate (20%) thresholds		2022	2023
Single		\$459,750	\$492,300
MFJ		\$517,200	\$553,800
MFS		\$258,600	\$276,900
HOH		\$488,500	\$523,050
Unearned income Medicare contribution tax (Net investment income tax)		2022	2023
Amount of tax		3.80%	3.80%
Applies to lesser of (a) net investment income or (b) modified adjusted gross income exceeding:			
Individuals		\$200,000	\$200,000
Married filing jointly		\$250,000	\$250,000
Married filing separately		\$125,000	\$125,000
Standard mileage rates		2022	2023
Use of auto for business purposes (cents per mile)		\$0.585 or \$0.625*	\$0.655
Use of auto for medical purposes (cents per mile)		\$0.18 or \$0.22*	\$0.22
Use of auto for moving purposes (cents per mile)		\$0.18 or \$0.22*	\$0.22
Use of auto for charitable purposes (cents per mile)		\$0.14	\$0.14

* The IRS raised mileage rates for the final 6 months of 2022, so the higher rates noted above are effective as of July 1, 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.

Litigation: Behind the scenes

by Roland Brown



Let's spend a little time getting ready for trial. It's just weeks away and I can use some help. Buckle up and hang on, we trial lawyers tend to be adrenaline junkies and even the behind-the-scenes stuff races our engines.

We'll be in an unfamiliar courtroom, so I'd like for you to contact the court coordinator and ask if we

can meet with the bailiff to see where the jury panel will be seated for voir dire so that we can create a seating chart that will help us keep up with who we think are good potential jurors and who we need to strike.

We'd also like a little demonstration of how the audio/visual system in the courtroom works, so we'll be ready to show videos of depositions and documents or other evidence. We'll also be using that system for our PowerPoint presentations in voir dire, opening statements, and closing arguments. Oh, and while you're up, please call these witnesses and make sure they know when we think we'll need them at the courthouse. If any of them have *situations*, figure out how to help them. Do they need a subpoena so their boss will let them take off from work? A babysitter? An Uber? Just handle it, okay!?

Would you ask my paralegal if we have courtesy copies of all our exhibits and the pre-trial motions for the judge and opposing counsel? Please remind me in the morning to be sure I can ac-

cess the digital copies of our exhibits on my laptop – oh, and did the court coordinator happen to tell you what type of computer connections will be required for their audio/visual system? You're kidding, right? She didn't really say their system is being replaced and we'll need our own stuff? Ask Kris if he can dig out our digital projector, visual presenter, and large projector screen. Remind him we'll need extension cords and it's a good idea to take an adapter because a few of these older courthouses still don't have grounded outlets in their courtrooms.

Okay, Cyle doesn't like for my articles to run this long so you'll have to imagine all the other stuff we didn't get to. You want a beer?! Well okay, we'll meet out at Savages; I think they are open this late. 'Preciate the help.

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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Bequests of real property

by Carrie Campbell



A home is the most common asset to be included in a last will and testament. If the person executing the will is married with children, they will likely leave the home to the surviving spouse. If the spouse is deceased, then the home is usually bequeathed to the children in equal shares. In circumstances where children are to inherit the family home, it may be preferable to give discre-

tion to the executor of the estate as to how to make the bequest.

The executor would have the options of 1. selling the property on behalf of the estate and dividing the proceeds between the heirs pursuant to the terms of the will 2. deeding the home and land to one of the heirs who wants to buy it from the other heirs at fair market value, then deducting their share of the estate from the purchase price or 3. deeding the home to all the heirs as co-owners. It is, however, rare for siblings to share ownership without conflict.

To minimize the chance for disputes, hard feelings, or even litigation, it is advisable that a property management agreement be prepared outlining the management conditions, expectations, and duties, such as the use of the property, payment of repairs, taxes, insurance, and utilities. It is also important to anticipate what will

happen in the event someone cannot pay their share of expenses or some other form of dispute develops. If agreement cannot be reached on co-ownership terms, then the executor should consider selling the home.

One option is to place the home in a trust, but this option has it challenges. Placing the property in a trust could result in the unfortunate loss of homestead or senior exemptions to property taxes, or in missing out on the step up in value that occurs at death so that the heirs can avoid the payment of capital gains taxes.

In the event one owns multiple pieces of property, it might be preferable to give specific properties to specific heirs to avoid co-ownership arrangements. Any difference in values can be addressed by adjusting gifts of cash or investment assets.

To review your specific options, you should consult with an attorney experienced in estate planning and probate.

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.



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Hind legs

by Tracy Sheffield, RVT



It's a pretty common circus sight; animals from dogs to cats to elephants walking on their hind legs. Other than the trick of walking on hind legs, front legs get to do all the glamour work. Dogs and cats can be taught to shake hands, high five, count by tapping, and more. Nobody seems to pay much attention to the hind legs... Until they stop working.


Loss of function of the hind legs is serious and can have a bewildering number of possible causes. Any loss of function of the hind legs is reason to call your veterinarian. Very roughly the causes of hind leg problems can be divided into three areas; neurological, physical trauma, and circulatory.

Physical trauma can be something as simple as a torn toenail to something more serious. Physical trauma can be subdivided into skeletal issues including broken bones and congenital issues like hip dysplasia and soft tissue problems. One of the more common soft tissues problems is a partially or fully torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). Arthritis can be a cause of poor hind leg function. Problems with the kneecap can create difficulty in moving the hind legs.

Neurological problems can be harder to pin down. Long dog breeds, notably dachshunds, by virtue of their conformation are subject to spinal issues. Sometimes brain tumors or head trauma can cause neurological signs. In cats, circulatory issues can cause a sudden loss of hind limb mobility. Blood clots can cause a lack of circulation to the hind limbs. This is an urgent medical condition and immediate veterinary care is necessary.

With such a wide variety of causes, the number of treatment options is just as large. What is suitable for treating a neurological cause is not going to be suitable for a soft tissue problem. This is why it is so important to get an accurate diagnosis before embarking on any treatment or surgical plan. The best prevention an owner can put in place is maintaining an appropriate weight for your pet. Good muscle tone is important as well. If you notice your pet not using their back legs appropriately, it is time to give your veterinarian a call.

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.



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tucked away on 2.6 acres. Studio, green-
house, workshop. \$800,000 Alice Lebkuecher



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acres. \$3,950,000 Jim Donaldson



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Beautiful 3/4 on 4 acres. Pool and
Views. \$850,000 Jim Donaldson



TBD Sierra Loma MLS 5008273 5 acre
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1231 Heritage Hill MLS 489266
Great 2 story 3/1 Canyon Lake views
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118 Camino De Roble Great 3/2 in
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\$850,000 Alice Lebkuecher



Pending
431 Summer Dr MLS 3074816 Charm-
ing 3/2 in Four Seasons community, Kyle.
\$260,000 Debbie Donaldson



TBD Lone Man Mountain Rd MLS 6447362
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High fenced! \$750,000 Alice Lebkuecher



120 Patriotic MLS 8913032
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