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NEWS & VIEWS

Postal Patron

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Christina Lawson

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Jackie Hines

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512.667.0367



Kim Cabler

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512.695.8363



Kurt Kimmerle

REALTOR® Associate
512.667.8278



Laura Kilber

Broker Associate
512.376.8098



Lee Pruden

REALTOR® Associate
512.771.9463



Maureen Shanklin

Broker Associate
512.517.5735



Melissa Lemmon

REALTOR® Associate
512.216.8822



Melody Pruden

REALTOR® Associate
512.773.3168



Pam Shultz

Broker Associate
512.923.3608



Sheryl Kelley

REALTOR® Associate
512.557.3851



Steve Hysinger

Broker Associate
512.461.2865

Free thinker

**The Unanimous Declaration
of the Thirteen United States of
America**

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It’s hard to believe many colonists thought the authors of the Declaration of Independence were radicals. Although these colonists had crossed the Atlantic for a new way of living, they still favored a heavy dependence on Great Britain. It wasn’t until the hand that feeds pulled back and attacked, that they realized John Adams and the “radicals” were onto something.

Free thinking has never come easy. Society needs free thinkers, even the radical ones. Without this kind of thinking new ideas, defense against new and imminent threats, and social evolution simply can’t happen. Everyone’s voice needs to be heard so collectively – as a society – we can decide how to move forward together. The red, white, and blue we see should be a constant reminder of sacrifices, bravery, and free thinking that paved the way before us.

Happy July, y’all.

Warmly,

Cyle



Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

Editor, Publisher
Cyle Elizabeth Johnson

Ad designer, Publisher
Joey Johnson

Cover
Aldrich

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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 Road, 7pm, 6:30pm Clover Kids Program.
- 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.
- Every 2nd & 4th Monday, The Wimberley Chapter of Overeaters Anonymous meets at 7pm, at the Wimberley Presbyterian Church, 956 FM 2325, Wimberley, TX 78676. (3rd door from the right). For more info, call or text Aida at 512-787-8313.
- Mon. July 10, 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. 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. All are welcome. 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. Hill Country Unit of the Herb Society of America, Wimberley Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome! Refreshments 9:30am. Program 10am. 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. July 20: Shake Russell
- 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

• June 30- July 23, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, WimberleyPlayers.org for tickets, 512 847 0575

• Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day

• Tuesday, July 4, Wimberley Annual Fourth of July Parade, begins at 10am

• Tuesday, July 4, SummerFest Fireworks, 9:30pm, San Marcos Plaza Park, 206 N C M Allen Pkwy

• Tuesday, July 4, Red, White n' Buda, morning children's parade with decorative bicycles, wagons, and unique kid's floats take route on Main Street. Bounce houses, family fun at City Park. Fireworks at 9:15. Free. City Park, 204 San Antonio St. Buda

• 77th Annual VFW CPRA Rodeo, Friday, June 30, Saturday, July 1, & Sunday, July 2

Gates open at 5:30pm, first mutton bustin' at 7pm, rodeo begins at 8pm

Chester Franklin Arena at Veterans Park Arena, Adults \$15; Children \$10. Children 3 & under free. Fireworks nightly

• Every Thursday, 7:30pm, Summer in the Park Series in San Marcos Plaza Park. 206 C M Allen Parkway

July 6 – Blue Water Highway, July 13 – Hot Club of Cowtown, July 20 – Sue Foley, July 27 – Del Castillo

• Friday, July 14, Juried Gallery Show Champagne Opening Reception, 5-7pm, in the gallery Wimberley Community Center

The joy of being green

by Tim Thompson



A friend challenged a group of gathered folks to think about the personal practices that guide them to find things that are sacred to them. Religious folks among us easily found prayer and meditation were the most certain paths, while others pursued activities like knitting or running that

brought their minds to dwell on things of import in their lives. Besides rocking my grandchildren, I find being in our yard and woods the most certain way to be reminded of my connection to everything that is.

That time allows me to enjoy the wide-ranging shades of the Hill Country and of the elemental bond between us and the path of light energy from our nearby star as it reaches through our planet's atmosphere to bring heat and life to plants and animals.

Plants are solar powered, and they absorb light mostly in the blue and red spectra, reflecting most of the green light where the blue and yellow fields meet. Eons of evolutionary genetics have fine-tuned the perfect match between plants and the sunlight available to them, and that's how we get to enjoy their beautifully varied shades of green.

As stationary living things, plants developed relationships with one another and with beings that can move around to increase their own chances of survival. The colors we find so attractive in flowers attract pollinators as well, and the seeds and fruits they bring to our gardens compelled us to take the plants and pollinators with us

as we spread humanity around the globe. Birds, squirrels, gravity, water, and summer breezes have all helped spread them as well.

We have been helping plants flourish for ages simply by saving and spreading seeds and by making genetic pairings that have improved their usefulness to our own species through hybridizing and preserving open pollinated varieties. Come to think of it, evolving in such a way that other creatures will help take care of you isn't such a terrible practice. It has worked quite well for babies for eons.

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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Gone but not forgotten

by Kern Deschner



On May 3, 1900, Rosa Kern Seipmann died at age 30 of tuberculosis in a farmhouse near Monthalia, Texas, outside of Gonzales. She was my great grandmother, and my parents gave me her maiden name, which I have used my entire life. She left behind a grieving husband, a two-year-old, my grandmother, and a three-month-old. It was in May so she had to be buried quickly, and her grave-stone was a concrete block that was made

on site. Now, 123 years later, the cemetery is unused, and hidden way back on a 20 acre grassy plot surrounded by cows and pasture.

A few years ago, I found out her grave stone had been demolished and I had the honor of replacing it with something that should last hundreds of years. Every Memorial Day, Rhonda and I make a trek to Gonzales to put flags and flowers on the graves of many family members. Most of the graves are in well-manicured cemeteries and easy to access. Rosa's is a challenge. It is hard to find and, this year, there were 20 acres of tall wildflowers, spear-grass, grass burrs, and possibly crawly things (fortunately, I didn't see any) between me and the stones. I really didn't need to bring flowers because there are so many wildflowers growing around her grave, but I did. Fortunately, the monument that we placed makes a

good marker, which I suppose is its purpose. When I left, I had to throw my socks away because they were packed full of grass burrs. But I'm glad I made the trip.

People have asked us what do we do when an alpaca dies. First of all, don't think for a minute that alpacas do not mourn. It is particularly painful to watch a mother alpaca who has lost a baby. Rhonda has become expert in reading the mother and knowing when she's ready to let go. Rhonda will walk out and pet her ears to try and help her through. Then it is time to let go. We don't have an alpaca cemetery. We tried that, but the scavengers proved more determined than we were. Now our vet takes care of it, and we don't know where they go. However, they are not forgotten. They live on every time we make a breeding decision. And when their grandchild steps into the spotlight with a championship, they are remembered. Just like Rosa is remembered by generations who never met her.

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.



Deep in the ART of Texas: Juried Gallery Shows

Throughout the year, Wimberley Valley Art League Gallery – located in the Wimberley Community Center – exhibits juried shows of works by talented area artists. Knowing what a juried show is and how it is created can enhance every visit to the gallery. So, what is a juried show?

These shows are opportunities for artists to have their artwork viewed by a juror or panel of jurors in hopes it will be accepted for exhibition. Our jurors represent a wide-range of art professionals including gallery curators, art instructors, and renowned area artists.



For each show we receive over a hundred entries. From these the juror will select about 50 pieces. Artwork in our juried show is judged *blind*; the juror does not know whose work they are selecting for exhibit. The process is designed to provide space and time for the juror to view each work without distraction. After thoughtful consideration, the juror identifies up to 50 works to be included in a show. They also select three award winners and up to six honorable mentions.

To learn more, scan here or visit us online at WimberleyValleyArtLeague.org For the latest news follow Wimberley Valley Art League on Instagram & Facebook.

While judging is taking place in the main hall of the community center, volunteers assist with the careful removal of the current show. The following morning the gallery team begins the last step: creating the final exhibit. Artwork must be arranged, hung, lighted properly, and then labeled with the title, medium used, artist's name, and price.

Although it seems as if this might take days, a juried show takes just a little over 24 hours from the moment we receive the first submission to the moment the show is ready. It's a busy time for our dedicated volunteers and for the artists delivering and retrieving works. It is well worth the effort, but you don't have to take our word for it. Visit!

Stop by our gallery on weekdays during community center hours. You are also invited to our evening Artists' Champagne Receptions in the Gallery as we celebrate each new exhibit and the artists who created them. Our next two opening receptions are 5-7:00 pm Friday, July 14 and Friday, September 8. We would love to see you there!



Coming this Summer
July 14, 5-7:00 pm
Juried Gallery Show Champagne
Opening Reception
at our gallery in the
Wimberley Community Center

Mark your calendar NOW
September 30 - October 1
Our Annual Studio Tour

October 28 - October 29
Our Newest Art Fair: Blue Agave

Anyone can do it

by Sarah Geenberg



I recently visited our Grandmaster Kim Soo in Houston. He is 84-years-old and is still practicing karate daily. He said his karate and his students are his medicine, meditation, and purpose.

He re-emphasized that many people think they cannot do things like karate. I'd add yoga and Tai Chi in there, too.

But really people think they can't do a lot of things, like start a project or learn any new skill.

But in the case of karate, Grandmaster Kim Soo had us naturally swinging our arms, which we then directed into a block or strike. Natural walking movements naturally turned into kicks. What he was doing was taking something familiar and adding to it.

No matter what you are doing, you have to break it down into chunks that are already familiar and do-able. And we know we have to break things down more when we get the gift of failing. And success simply means it is time to add. This works for anything you'd ever want to do.

For example, take hiking and camping. You don't just run out into the wild, right? Or better, you might not even start, thinking of the blistering hiking boots, the uncomfortable sleeping conditions, and all the unknowns about cooking and living outdoors.

Or... you could start with walking a small trail in your comfortable and familiar tennis shoes. Then you explore some more and discover what it takes to have the perfect hiking boots. Or maybe you want to wear no shoes at all! Then you decide to buy a tent and

sleeping bag, decide it is easier to grab dinner from a restaurant than to cook, and go spend the night somewhere. Then you decide that sleeping on the rocks was no fun, so you improve things by picking a spot with no rocks or by buying a cot. Then you think you can add some ways to cook food. Campfires are great! And being in nature is so relaxing! Easy.

You can do anything if you break it down into manageable pieces. The gifts are in the chunks.

We are currently running a karate special for the summer – a kid and a parent training in the same class for the price of one.

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



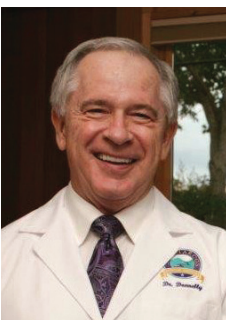
Sarah Geenberg
(512) 971-8528

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Wimberley, TX 78676
wimberleykarateyoga.com



The effects acid erosion

by Robert Donnelly, DDS



The loss of tooth enamel due to acid erosion and acid wear is a growing epidemic. Studies have found that 22% of U.S. adults say they experience acid erosion, which can cause tooth sensitivity, transparency, discoloration, and more.

Acid erosion occurs when acid in the foods and drinks you consume wears away your *enamel* which is the white-looking outer covering of the tooth. Erosion exposes your teeth's inner layers, which increases sensitivity and makes them more susceptible to cavities or decay. It also can leave your teeth looking cracked, transparent, and discolored. Acid erosion also can occur as a result of your teeth's exposure to stomach acids due to some medical conditions, including gastroesophageal reflux disease and bulimia. In addition, environmental factors, including friction (*bruxism*) and abrasion (brushing too hard), can cause erosion. Signs and symptoms of acid erosion include sensitivity, discoloration, rounded teeth, transparency, cracks and cupping, or small dents that may appear on the chewing surface of your teeth.

You can reduce sensitivity at home by using specially formulated toothpaste or over-the-counter enamel-building products. These products are designed to reharder (*remineralize*) tooth enamel to make it more resistant to acid. However, there are no products that

can reverse the damage caused by erosion. At the dental office, if the enamel loss is minimal, we may apply a bonding material that will protect your tooth and improve its appearance. If the enamel loss is significant, we may recommend covering it with a crown.

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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Is it rosacea?

by Jesseca Zollars Smith

We often have guests come in with an array of skin sensitivities and this time of year is no exception. Touting our spa as a haven for those with sensitive skin and having been trained in oncology esthetics, we see all kinds of skin conditions and know how to treat them gently and effectively. Some clients experience seasonal flare ups, rashes, reactions to such an extent that we think it best to refer them out to one of the trusted dermatologists whose contact info we keep here due to their expertise and care. Having been in the field of aesthetics for several decades now, I have accrued enough experience to know how to distinguish a common histamine reaction from actual rosacea. Here are some factors...

Rosacea is more common for those with fair skin. Most people develop rosacea over the age of 30. Anyone can develop rosacea and it may be hereditary. While it's best for a dermatology provider to officially diagnose you with rosacea, some common symptoms include facial redness, flushing, acne-like bumps, and visible blood vessels (telangiectasias). Some people with severe cases of rosacea can develop phymatous changes (thickened irregular skin). This most commonly occurs on the nose. It can occur on all skin types, including oily, and is most often misdiagnosed on those with oily skin as acne.

Why are ingredients important? While there is no cure for rosacea, we *can* be proactive. With regular skin treatments, a plan from your dermatologist, and good skin care products like Hale & Hush and HYLUNIA (information on website: MissionDaySpa.com) we can help reduce the symptoms. Make an appointment today. Rosacea may not be curable, but the good news is that it's treatable.

Now, another note: Did you know rosacea usually appears in cycles known as flare-ups? Flare-up variations are determined person to person, so you need to do your own research to find out what your triggers are. Some common triggers include harsh acids like glycolic acid and chemical peels, retin a, tretinoin etc., menthol (often found in cold creams; may feel good on the face initially but not good overall), artificial fragrances, alcohol.

Other triggers can be:

- Stress
- Cold weather or humidity
- Prolonged wind exposure
- Intense workouts
- Alcoholic beverages
- Spicy foods

Your dermatologist may prescribe medications like Metrogel or Azelaic Acid. Use as directed. These are formulated to calm and soothe depending on the type of rosacea you are diagnosed with. Use oil free, gentle cleansers and moisturizers from holistic sources like Hylunia and Hale & Hush (formulated for sensitive skin, available at MISSION Day Spa) and try to reduce stress internally and externally.

Here is a fresh mask recipe to try at home to comfort and soothe your skin in the meantime:

One fresh cucumber

1 tsp honey

1/2 cup water

1/4 cup finely ground oats ground in coffee grinder

1/4 cup aloe gel

1/4 rose water (can get in natural food section at grocer)

Blend together & keep in fridge up to one week. Apply to clean skin for up to 10 minutes.

Ingredients in mask match skin's natural pH and help balance and soften.

- Continue to use your pharmaceuticals.
- Don't use any other harsh ingredients or chemicals.
- Calm your skin from the inside with ginger, turmeric, beet juice.
- (If you can), clean eating and avoid inflammation triggering foods.



Jesseca is the owner of MISSION Day Spa. She is a Licensed Master Aesthetician, Licensed Continuing Education Provider for TDLR, and Licensed Aesthetics Educator, sensitive skin specialist, oncology esthetics trained. Wimberley resident, Jesseca apprentices Wimberley ISD students at her spa. With 30 years in the spa industry and a background in cosmetics chemistry, Jesseca holds CE classes Monday evenings and online. "We only make it if we all do." MissionDaySpa.com

Prepare for inspection surprises

by Jim and Debbie Donaldson



Keep transactions on track by helping clients plan for the unpredictable. A home inspection gone awry can spell double trouble in a real estate transaction. Sellers who believe they've kept their house in pristine condition might hit the roof when costly problems with the property are uncovered. And buyers, especially first-timers with no experience in the market, may be scared away by the prospect of daunting repairs.

How do you keep this common scenario from devolving into acrimony? Before the inspection, talk with your clients about their expectation and about how they might handle certain results, says Daniel L Alden, broker-associate.

Listing agents can be proactive by doing a visual inspection of their client's home, looking for obvious areas that need repair. Rich Wolnik Jr., a sales associate with Riklin Realty in Niles, Ill., advises reviewing the age of the seller's furnace, water heater, and air conditioning unit and finding out what major repairs or upgrades have been done. Make sure sellers are aware of issues that are common in your market, and let them know that whatever issues you find in a visual inspection will very likely arise in an official inspection.

Sellers may want to pay for a prelisting inspection. This gives them an opportunity to collect cost estimates for repairs and determine whether they want to pay for fixes or lower their asking price. Either way, it can prevent last-minute setbacks.

If buyers' first reaction to inspection problems is to walk away, remind them of why they were moved to make an offer in the first place. With inventory as tight as it is in many areas, they may rue letting inspection issues derail their dream. "If this is the only property you've seen that meets your requirements, let's talk it through and make it work."

This article was first published in the NAR Realtor Magazine, Nov/Dec 2017 Issue

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.

Microbiological safety of your water

by Randy Lawrence



The subject of water quality is widely discussed and certainly becomes a topic of interest to new Hill Country residents who may have relocated from a more urban setting and find themselves faced with water problems.

Paramount among these issues is ensuring that your water supply is free of bacterial contamination and therefore safe to drink. The most common type of bacteria found in untreated household water supplies is *coliform*. Ingesting this type of bacteria typically causes varying

levels of stomach upset and intestinal issues.

If you pay a water bill each month, you can typically rest assured that the water is being disinfected with chlorine, or *chlora-mines*, before being distributed to your neighborhood. However, if your household water is supplied by a rain water system, or a privately owned well on your property, it is very important to be aware of the microbiological safety of your water. Without outside interference, it is fairly uncommon for water pumped directly from a conventional water well to be contaminated with bacteria. Examples of outside sources of contamination can include animal enclosures or septic drain fields in close proximity to the well-head. One common cause for bacterial contamination in household supplies is often a large storage tank which is filled by the well or by a rain water collection system. As beneficial as these storage

tanks are, this water is unavoidably exposed to the possibility of contamination, making it necessary to consider adding a disinfection step to your home water treatment system.

Compared with the maintenance hassles associated with adding chemicals to your water, ultraviolet disinfection is a much more user friendly method of sterilizing your water supply. These wall mounted units are most effectively placed as the last step of treatment in your system. This way the water is already filtered or treated for minerals before entering the UV unit, which helps to minimize ongoing maintenance. UV bulbs should be changed once per year to maintain maximum effectiveness. Contact a licensed water treatment specialist if you have concerns about water quality.

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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Summer plant health care tips

by Steven Austin



Summer is the traditional time to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs to help maintain size and shape of plants. Major pruning performed before flower buds set in late summer will enhance next year's bloom. Light pruning also should be done on broadleaf evergreens, conifers, and plants used as hedges to maintain size and appearance.

As weather turns hot and dry, pay close attention to water requirements of plants. Woody plants benefit from infrequent but deep watering once plants are established. New transplants and plants grown in confined spaces will require more frequent irrigation when regular rainfall does not occur.

Pests that are traditionally active in summer include spider mites, Japanese beetles, insect scale crawlers, lacebugs, and webworms. Powdery mildew begins to become severe as weather turns warm and humid. Deer browse becomes a major concern especially on annuals and perennials. Repellents that are used to deter browse must be applied more frequently to protect new growth as it develops.

Checklist:

1. Have plants inspected for early symptoms of poor health. Trees affected by early stages of stress could display premature fall color in late summer, partial defoliation, and symptoms of moisture stress.
2. Provide supplemental irrigation each week or more often on newly planted trees, shrubs, and older plants stressed with insect or disease problems when rainfall is lacking in summer.
3. Prune flowering trees and shrubs such as dogwood, azaleas, rhododendron, and forsythia. Once flower buds begin to form in late summer, judicious pruning reduces the bloom somewhat but should not impact the display significantly.
4. Inspect for pests that commonly arrive during hot, dry weather and apply treatments as needed.
5. Assess canopies for dead branches and structural weaknesses that can be pruned later in winter.

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
ISA Certified Arborist
#TX-3616AT

bartlett.com
SAustin@bartlett.com
p 512.392.1089
f 512.392.7398

1324 Old Martindale Road,
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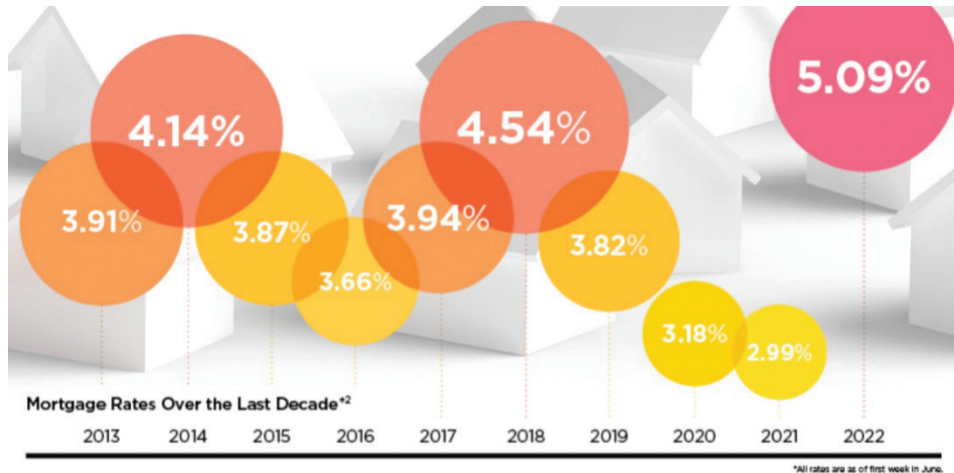
What a normal housing market might look like

by AJ Harwood



T

The last few years have been anything but *normal* when it comes to real estate. A normal market is balanced between a buyer and seller – one side does not have much of an advantage over the other. Many analysts believe that in a future normal market, 30-year fixed-rate mortgages will be around 5%-6%, slightly higher than in the past 10 years.



- Buyers' perspective
 - More homes to consider
 - Less urgency to act immediately
 - Home inspections are not waived
- Can request concessions from sellers
 - Fewer bidding wars
- Homes are not bought sight-unseen
 - Seller's perspective
 - Homes priced right sell quickly
 - Equity in home built over time
- Homes may stay on the market longer
- Offers received at or close to the asking price
- May need to make repairs and/or concessions

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 Comparative 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 know 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.



As your parents age, help them protect their finances

by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®

It's heartbreaking to hear stories of people losing money as a result of fraud or financial exploitation, especially if they are older and vulnerable. People age 70 and older reported losses of \$567 million in 2022.⁽¹⁾ Your parents could be at risk, and you want to protect them, but how?

Look for warning signs that your parents have been victimized, or are at risk of being influenced, manipulated, or coerced by a stranger or someone they know.

- Unusual bank activity, unexplained withdrawals, or insufficient fund notices
- Missing checks, credit cards, or financial statements
- Lost money or valuables that can't be located
- Relationships with people who have undue influence
- Unexplained changes to legal documents
- Declining memory and decision-making skills

Check in with your parents to help spot issues. If they have fallen victim to a financial scam or are being pressured for money from someone they know, they may be embarrassed or reluctant to tell you. Try to remain objective and non-judgmental, and patiently listen to their views while expressing your concern for their well-being.

Laying some groundwork to help prevent future incidents is also important. Talk to your parents about how to handle common scams. Encourage them to get a second opinion before acting on any request for information or money, even if it appears to come from their financial institution, a government agency like the IRS, Social Security Administration, or even a grandchild in trouble.

Encourage your parents to visit with an elder law attorney or financial professional to address concerns and implement legal and financial safeguards. They might also want to add layers of protection to their financial accounts, such as naming a trusted contact or setting up account alerts.

People are often reluctant to report financial fraud or exploitation, either out of embarrassment or fear of being wrong. If you suspect your parents have been victimized, you can get help from many sources, including the National Elder Fraud Hotline, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. Call 833 372 8311 to connect with case managers.

(1) Federal Trade Commission, 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.

A financial checklist

by Carrie Campbell



When a loved one passes away, it is a time of immense grief and change. It is difficult under such circumstances to consider all the practical steps necessary to protect your financial affairs by notifying the appropriate agencies. A handy checklist prepared in advance makes the process significantly easier.

1. Request claim forms from any life insurance carriers.
2. Learn about your benefits with the Social Security Administration: 800 772 1213
3. If your loved one was still working, contact his or her employer regarding unpaid salary, accrued vacation time, benefits, and health insurance.
4. Ask the credit reporting agencies to put an alert on the decedent's credit report. (Equifax.com, Experian.com, and TransUnion.com)
5. Cancel credit cards.
6. Contact an attorney to determine if probate is necessary to retitle assets, file income tax returns, or pay debts.
7. Contact insurance agencies for health care and autos to update their records.
8. Check if bank, retirement, and/or investment accounts have *pay on death* beneficiary designations; transfer those accounts.

9. Update beneficiary forms if needed.
 10. If your loved one served was active military, then notify the U.S. Office of Personnel Management: 888 767 6738; Veterans' Affairs: 800 827 1000; Defense Finance & Accounting Service: 800 321 1080; and Servicemember's Group Life Insurance: 800 419 1493
 11. Cancel subscriptions or memberships to magazines, gyms, organizations.
- Seek a consultation with an attorney experienced in estate planning to ensure that if probate is necessary, that it is as streamlined as possible to avoid unnecessary delay, stress, and expense.
- 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.*



CARRIE CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW
512-847-1308
carriec1970@gmail.com
www.attorneyscampbell.com

303 Mesa Drive
Wimberley, Texas 78676

Litigation: Vehicle crash investigations

by Roland Brown



A conversation today reminded me of the myriad ways that a fundamental part of my personal injury practice has dramatically changed over the years. We were discussing a crash as to which opinions have differed concerning who was at fault. The person I was talking to recalled it one way while the investigating officer's report had a different ver-

sion of what happened.

Back in the dark ages when I began practicing law, we were limited to what we might find on the ground such as skid marks, debris, scrapes in the pavement, eyewitnesses we might be able to locate, and similar information. Today, it is a new world. While in the midst of the conversation, I took a look at the site of the crash which occurred over 100 miles from my office simply by pulling up satellite imagery on Google Earth. I reviewed the investigative report which was obtained almost instantly online rather than after a week or more of mailing a request and then awaiting receipt of the report back by mail. Cell phone photos of the scene and vehicles, often by a client, get emailed or texted to us immediately, whereas *back in the day*, I would grab my 35mm camera and traipse around to the scene and wrecking yards or body shops taking pictures myself. My staff will send out freedom of information requests to the DPS and other entities for bodycam and dashcam footage also showing the scene and, often, onsite realtime inter-

views with involved parties or eyewitnesses.

We will get records of the 911 calls which may lead to key witnesses we might otherwise never locate. The recordings of those calls may contain dramatic comments that can be used as part of a video settlement brochure or be presented to a jury. It is common to find additional video from surveillance cameras at businesses or homes near the scene. Not only are these newer tools helpful as we investigate and develop a case, but they cost little or nothing to acquire and use. Although technology sometimes frustrates me – and I never lose sight of the fact that what it delivers to me is simply information to be woven into a story that must be presented in a compelling manner to insurance adjusters, judges, and juries – I am happy for the way it benefits my clients and make me more effective on their behalf.

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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Greatest of all time

by Tracy Sheffield, RVT



Who is the GOAT of sports? If you are a football fan most people call Tom Brady the GOAT. If you are a tennis fan it can go to Serena Williams, Roger Federer, or Rafa Nadal. If you are an animal lover, the GOAT may be a goat.

Goats are amazing animals. They can do well on scrubby range-land where other animals would struggle

to survive, they make wonderful milk, they come in convenient sizes, and there is nothing cuter than baby goats at play. Apparently, they are good yoga partners as well.

Goats are hardy animals but they require care as all animals do. Perhaps the most important health care note on goats is there susceptibility to diseases caused by the bacterial family *clostridium*. Clostridial diseases include tetanus (C tetani), enterotoxaemia (C perfringens, Type D).

Tetanus is present in the soil. It enters the system through a wound. The wound can be caused from something as ordinary as castration or ear tagging. Tetanus is easy to prevent through vaccination. If tetanus gains entry to an unvaccinated animal, the incubation period ranges from 24 hours to two weeks depending on the strain. Once symptoms appear the prognosis, even with treatment, is poor.

Enterotoxaemia is a common cause of death in goats. It can be brought about by stress and/or a sudden change in diet. Bloody diarrhea and abdominal pain are typical symptoms. The success

of treatment depends on many factors including how long the goat has had symptoms. As with tetanus, prevention is the best medicine and vaccination is the easy way to give your goat the best chance of avoiding this disease.

Other conditions that goat owners need to consider include difficulties giving birth and bladder stones. Goats, much like deer, are really designed to have two smaller offspring rather than one large kid. A large singleton is the usual cause of difficulties in giving birth. If a doe is in labor and does not appear to be making any progress, a call to the veterinarian – sooner rather than later – is in order.

Bladder stones in male goats is a common, painful, and life threatening condition. Symptoms include straining to urinate along with diminished appetite and they may spend more time laying around than usual. Urinary obstruction, whether partial or complete is a medical emergency and needs veterinary attention as soon as possible.

Goats are both wonderful farm animals and wonderful pets. Awareness of the health problems and diseases common to goats will help them lead longer healthier lives.

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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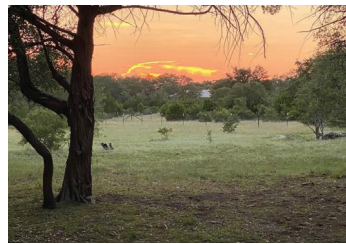


New Price!

239 Tulley Ct MLS 3302420 Custom Somerset 3/2 with flex room. \$775,000 Alice Lebkuecher



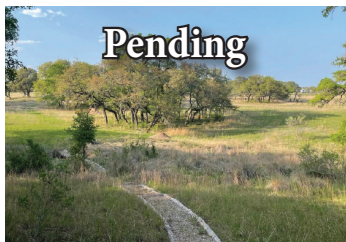
5400 FM 2325 MLS 1387557 Amazing unrestricted 72 acres. Stock tank, views. \$4,488,000 Mickey Brown & Jeff Hutto



920 Elder Hill Rd MLS 8934001 \$545,000 Create your STR! 5 acres, resort ready RV. Debbie Donaldson



000 W. Cambridge Rd MLS 2434595 45 acres of heavily wooded land i between Wimberley and Blanco. \$890,000 Jim Donaldson



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000 Tract 16 Heaton Hollow MLS254532 Incredibly beautiful 45 acre ranch with electricity, water & fenced. \$2,800,000 Jim Donaldson



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111 GW Haschke Ln Waterfront jewel on the Blanco! 3/2 on .989 acres \$1,500,000 Alice Lebkuecher



171 River Bend Rd MLS 8201806 3/2 on Breathtaking Blanco riverfront! 7.48 acres. \$3,250,000 Jim Donaldson



6 Cypress PT MLS 1506589 3/2 Overlooking seasonal lake in quiet community. \$388,000 Jim Donaldson



13 Country PL MLS 4384083 Great lot with Oaks, Elms, & Cedars. \$66,000 Alice Lebkuecher



22 Pebblebrook Ln MLS 9617582 Lovely 2 story 4/4 on golf course. \$675,000 Debbie Donaldson



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801 Mtn Crest MLS5457690 Amazing 4/2 with office on 1.182 acres in Mtn Crest! \$745,000 Debbie Donaldson



New!

110 Curva Bonita MLS 6323661 Custom rock 3/2 on 5 acres in Las Lomas! Horses OK! \$880,000 Alice Lebkuecher



15 Cripple Creek MLS3262952 Great Somerset 3/2 with flex room, deck and views. \$575,000 Alice Lebkuecher



120 Patriotic MLS 8913032 \$172,000 2 acres, Hill country views! Jeff Hutto



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230 Dobie Dr Cute 2/2 treehouse with great location! Zoned R3. Walk to square. \$325,000 Jeff Hutto



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1203 Lost River Rd MLS 1799443 Beautiful ranch style on 14 unrestricted, ag exempt acres. Workshop & apartment \$1,350,000 Jeff Hutto



Mickey Brown
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Jim Donaldson
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Debbie Donaldson
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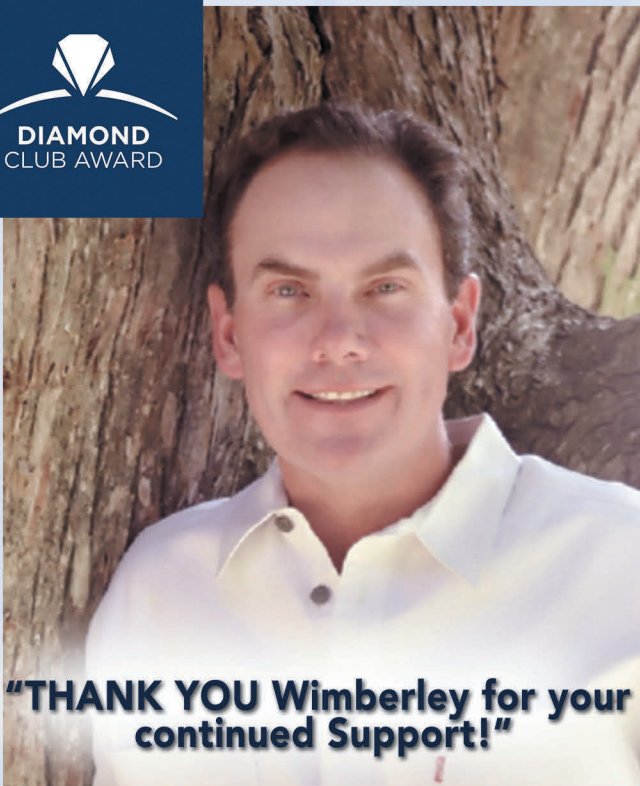
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