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NEWS & VIEWS

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Dog days of summer

Wimberley Valley NEWS & VIEWS

Here we are, friends – the hottest days of the year. The phrase “dog days of summer” has raised a few eyebrows over the decades. Some wondering if the phrase meant it was so hot that even the dogs were going mad. The phrase is actually a reference to the Dog Star – or Sirius – the brightest star seen from any part of Earth.

From July 3 to August 11, Dog Star resides in the same part of the sky as the sun. The star is so bright, Greek poets once philosophized about a portion of summer’s heat emanating from it. Dog Star moves with the sun, rising and setting alongside it.

But with the heat, also comes the excitement of freedom and possibility. As a child, I couldn’t wait for the dog days of summer. Running around in my bare feet, springing from the sidewalk to the grass, grateful for every moment spent in a swimming pool. It was also a time for ideas, for exploration. As an adult, free time doesn’t lend itself as easily as it once did. Opportunity for travel or even just laying around and reading a good book has to be carved out, planned for, or simply seized out of necessity. But the essence of the season is still there. Ripe fruits, long days lending themselves to sticky evenings outside surrounded by the summer song of cicadas. Time spent with friends, grilling outside because it’s too hot to cook inside. The summer forces us out of our comfort zones and into a more primal state. Just like the crisp relief of autumn is inherently necessary, so are the dog days of summer.

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

– F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Happy August, y’all.

Warmly,



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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 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 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 & 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. August 14, Jacob's Well Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, meets at the Emily Ann Theatre 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 Mon. Stroller Strides workout, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, contact Summer 512 644 4198 or email smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com
- 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 Wed. Stroller Barre workout, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, contact Summer, 512 644 4198 or email smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com
- 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. August 17: Adam and Chris Carroll
- 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 Fri. Stroller Strides workout, 9am, Emily Ann Theatre, contact Summer, 512 644 4198 or email smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com
- Every Fri. Stroller Strides Playdate with Kids Craft Fridays, 10am, Emily Ann Theatre, contact Summer, 512 644 4198 or email smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com
- 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

- July 14-August 6, OLIVER! the Musical, Hill Country Community Theatre, Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm, Sunday, 2pm In London's underbelly in Victorian England, young orphaned Oliver is searching for many things, especially love. Purchase tickets online or call the Box Office 830 798 8944
- Saturday, August 12, 8-9am, Wimberley Free Community Workout, Blue Hole Regional Park
- Sunday, August 13, 4-7pm, JT Tuttle at Savage's
- Saturday, August 26, 12-3pm, Richard Watson at Creekhous Kitchen

Roots, branches, and leaves

by Tim Thompson



When I decided to stop climbing trees a few years ago, I realized I would need to hire some agile younger professionals to help care for the arboreal life around our home in the woods. I have always loved shaping and caring for our trees and occasionally helping to save one of them from

a serious injury or infection. Being in a hands-on relationship with trees has given me special appreciation for the specific realities of different parts of trees.

Fully half of most trees is invisible to us. Existing as they do under the earth, a tree's roots explore a part of our environment we can only imagine. Their tissue is specifically designed to extract water and minerals and transmit them to the rest of the tree, although they are generally not involved in photosynthesis.

The superstructure of a tree's trunk and crown are one of its most easily identifiable tissues. Covered in protective bark, the grand shapes and organic variety of trees is defined by the wood that carries the bulk of a tree's weight. We make furniture, build homes, and use its wood for heat even after its useful life of beauty, protection, and productivity is past.

Perhaps the most amazing evolutionary trick of trees is photosynthesis, which takes place primarily in the leaves. Transforming sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water into carbohydrates to feed the entire tree is a nearly magical ability.

A friend of mine who is an Episcopal priest was searching for

an example to help illustrate the concept of the Holy Trinity. Personifying a deity who exists in three coequal persons who are still one being turns out to be a bit complicated, but he used the well-known tree to effectively convey some of the complexities of trinitarian theology.

The way that roots, trunks, branches, and leaves have evolved to work together to achieve one of Nature's most splendid examples of life is a wonderful illustration of a complex spiritual concept that we might struggle to understand. As Arsenio Hall used to say, "Things that make you say, hmmm."

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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vegetables, herbs, bulbs, seeds, potting soil, soil amendments,
mulch, pots, tools, everything for your garden and pond!

What is wrong with some people?

by Kern Deschner



When we were first buying alpacas 25 years ago, we visited some lovely farms in Washington state, with lots of lush green pastures along the highway. But we didn't see any alpacas until we had driven into the ranch. I wondered why. People ask me now why we don't have alpacas by the fence, out where people could come by and see them over the fence. Why keep them so far down the hill? The answer is because some people

are the way they are.

Last week, my bank called me. Somebody impersonating me who had all my information was trying to make a transfer from my bank account to a fraudulent bank account they had set up in my name. They nearly got away with it, too. The computers were completely falling for the scam. The thing that stopped the thief was that they did not know my voice password when the bank's customer service agent asked them, so she locked the account. That, and the customer service agent thought that the thief's voice sounded too young to be me (great!). They stopped it because a human customer service agent was alert. The computers were about to let them through, and it would've been a catastrophe. I would not have been able to pay my employees, buy feed and hay, pay upcoming tuition, bills, etc. It would've taken years to recover.

Fortunately, none of that happened, but it did shake me up a bit.

It amazes me how many criminals there are trying to steal from all of us. Why do people do stuff like this? I suppose I am glad that I cannot understand what should not be understandable. When I asked the bank if they were going to try to prosecute, they said they couldn't because the thieves didn't get any money. So whoever it was got away, and will probably try it again on somebody else. We have changed everything now; passwords, account numbers, etc. But, *please*, if you don't have one, go to your bank and set up a voice password, something difficult that no one can guess.

Back to my original comment about why we don't put alpacas up next to the road. Our friends in Washington state, 25 years ago, told us that they have people just drive by and shoot at them. Or steal them. I don't know why but some people are just that mean and awful. Most people would never do anything like that, but it only takes one monster, so the rest of us have to bend our lives around to stop thieves and killers.

So, forgive me for writing such a downer of an article, but I implore you to keep you alpacas out of sight and get a voice password on your bank account. At least the criminals will probably move on to another victim.

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.



Is it heat induced hyperpigmentation or something else?

by Jesseca Zollars Smith

We are often asked: *Why am I suddenly getting hyperpigmentation?* First of all, let's address types of hyperpigmentation

Melasma or cloasma... Defined as a skin condition that can affect 50-70% of pregnant women. Also known as *the mask of pregnancy*, and is characterized by sym-

metrical patches of dark skin, commonly seen on the cheeks, upper lip, forehead, and chin, that can resemble a mask pattern, almost like a raccoon. In women, melasma often fades on its own after pregnancy or after an affected woman goes off birth control pills.

Dreaded *age spots* aka liver spots... These are defined as flat tan, brown, or black spots on the skin common with age. Older adults, people with fair skin, and people who have spent lots of time in the sun are most prone to liver spots. The main symptom is a dark spot on the skin. They appear most often on sun-exposed areas, such as the face, hands, shoulders, and arms. Age spots are harmless and don't need treatment. In some cases, prescription creams and procedures can remove them or make them less noticeable.

Causes of hyperpigmentation include:

- Skin inflammation (post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation)
- Use of certain drugs (such as minocycline, certain cancer chemotherapies, and birth control pills)
- Hormone system diseases such as Addison disease
- Exposure to *light*; UVA, UVB, LED overhead lights even the BBQ grill! Have you considered the hairdryer? Yep! What about the oven? That too. If you are exposed repeatedly to any *hot* surface or area or light rays listed above, your skin is at risk of hyperpigmentation.

Your skin therapist will use something called the Fitzpatrick scale to gauge which skin treatment is best for your skins affected area. The Fitzpatrick scale is a valuable resource for laser technicians, estheticians, and aesthetic physicians to determine the effectiveness of cosmetic laser treatments on varying skin types. Skin lasers have multiple modalities that need to be perfected to match each skin type.

Here are some treatments and products that combat melanocytes and strengthen the skin:

- **Mandelic Acid Peels...** Mandelic acid is a type of gentle alpha hydroxy acid (AHA). It may help reduce acne, fine lines, and wrinkles and improve the appearance of uneven skin. As a person ages, skin renewal slows down, causing the skin to lose elasticity, discolor, and develop fine lines and wrinkles.

- **Nano Needling with Vitamin C Infusion...** Nano needling helps with deeper product penetration of pure medical grade vitamin C – crystal encapsulated L-Ascorbic Acid. The skin is strengthened and pore size visibly smaller with after care in 12 days.

- **Look for reef friendly sunscreens.** What does *reef-safe* or *reef-friendly* sunscreen mean? Terms like *reef-safe* or *reef-friendly* are typically used to identify sunscreens that do not contain oxybenzone and octinoxate, two common UV-blocking chemicals, that studies have shown can cause coral bleaching.

- **Physical sun blocks.** Big hats! Long sleeves! Cover up! There is great gear out there these days that's cool to wear, breathable and will protect your skin.

- **Laser treatments** to permanently remove and/or lighten the affected area.

Whatever the mode of treatment, there are many reputable licensed clinicians in the Wimberley area available to help and treat your hyperpigmentation. Reach out and you're sure to find one to suit your needs.

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



Let's get moving, mama!

by Summer Britt



Motherhood... it's hands down the most magical, wonderful experience in the world. But let's be honest, it's also the hardest. As mothers we pour into our children and family all day everyday. With all the hustle and bustle – and often running on little sleep – we sometimes forget how important it is to practice self care. You can't pour from an empty cup.

If you aren't filling yours daily you may feel that mom burnout.

Exercise is one of the best ways to fill your cup. Moving our bodies, especially as mothers, has so many benefits. It gives us an endorphin boost which improves our mood and reduces stress leaving us more patient, calmer, and happier as we move through our hectic days. When we exercise we sleep better, wake up more refreshed. It also models healthy habits for our kids. As we know, our kids are always watching us and mimicking what we do. Learning the importance of healthy habits at a young age is something they can take with them into adulthood.

The thing about exercise is, it can be really hard to get back into a routine, especially after having kids. Endurance and fitness levels can be totally different postpartum, and it can be daunting just thinking about working out. It can also be tough to find the time to get a workout in. That's why we love our workouts at FIT4MOM

Wimberley! You have the option to bring younger kids in a stroller, and older kids can tag along too. We make the workouts fun and interactive so the kids don't get bored. Plus you get to meet other mamas in the same phase of life as you and your kids meet friends too!

FIT4MOM Wimberley is so much more than a workout. We know how important having a mama village is and we are passionate about creating that space for our community. We have weekly playdates, field trips, and monthly Mom Night/Days Out, all open to the community! Your first workout is always free. Come find your village! You won't regret it, mama.

Summer is a mother to two amazing toddlers and five fur babies, and a wife to the love of her life. She graduated from Texas State University with a BBA, majoring in marketing. She loves working out, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Contact Summer at 512 644 4198 or smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com. Learn more at SanMarcosWimberleyDS.Fit4Mom.com



You can

by Sarah Geenberg



Whatever you try to do you will succeed, if you break it down enough and don't let your ego get in the way.

In my last article, I said that failure is just a sign to break whatever you are trying to do down into even smaller bites. And success means it is time to take bigger bites.

People are sometimes afraid to start karate. They see what the students are doing and have no idea that they started from nothing, just like everyone else. This is true in many cases outside of karate, too. We see others succeeding and think it is magic and therefore impossible.

In the case of karate, it is my job to break things down for the students into digestible pieces. It is up to me to help them see success – through which they start to believe they can do it. Then they learn how to break things down for themselves. Then they learn to break things down for others. No matter what age they are, they can do this. They just have to try.

People looking at yoga and Tai Chi also sometimes have the same fears. I know I told everybody I was going to start yoga for months before I actually did. Same problem. But there, it is also the teacher's job to help you chunk things into manageable pieces. The success is feeling better, and bigger chunks can be taken over time.

Mostly our stops are ego, even when we are not aware of it. For example, why don't as many men take yoga? Their bodies are

naturally stronger and therefore tighter. So when they do yoga, it looks different. They then interpret the difference to be less than. Yoga is still great for them, but ego stops them. Sound familiar? Feeling uncomfortable and different is just ego. Nobody cares how you do in class. They are just glad you are there, getting the benefits like they are.

No matter what you want to do, you can do it! Just break it down and don't let ego get in the way.

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.

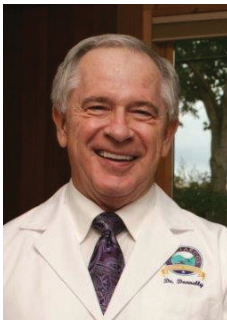
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Dental implants

by Robert Donnelly, DDS

If you lose a tooth, a dental implant may be the best option for restoring your smile. A dental implant offers comfort and stability and, by virtue of the artificial tooth it supports, is a restoration that is the closest thing to a natural tooth. Dental implants are artificial replacements for natural tooth roots and can be

used for both upper and lower teeth. They are even an option for replacing multiple missing teeth or can be added to dentures for a more stable fit.

Dental implants have been used for decades by patients of all ages. Dental implants are a great option for all patients who are missing teeth due to decay, disease, injury or medical conditions. You also may be a candidate for a dental implant if you find your dentures uncomfortable or loose or need a replacement option for multiple teeth. You are a good candidate for dental implants if you are in good health and have healthy gums and adequate bone to support an implant. You must be committed to thorough oral hygiene to keep your mouth healthy and scheduling routine visits with your dentist to keep your teeth and gums clean and free of infection. We encourage you to speak with Dr. Donnelly about your specific concerns to see if implants would be the best option for you.

Implants are a seamless process from start to finish. The first appointment generally involves the placement of the titanium implant which will serve as the root of the new tooth structure. This provides strength to the restoration and the ability to act as a natural tooth. The final step is when the crown which is the actual tooth structure is attached and has the same size, shape, color, and fit as your other teeth.

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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Buyer beware

by Randy Lawrence



It seems like everywhere we turn today there is land being cleared for construction of a new neighborhood. If you've ever moved into a new development, you know that there is constantly someone ringing your doorbell and attempting to sell you something for your new home. Unfortunately, the water treatment industry is full of companies who choose to employ this door-to-door tactic. Here are some things you should know before you open the door.

There is a very good chance that the *water specialist* who comes to your house is not actually a licensed Water Treatment Specialist. Some companies choose to ignore the fact that the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality regulates our industry and requires some level of licensing in order to test water for the purpose of making treatment recommendations. The salesman who comes to your home is simply there to convince you to say yes and open your wallet. If you're not aware of your options, it can be tempting to let that happen.

Many neighborhoods have taken to posting No Soliciting signs at the entrances. In some of these cases, certain companies have struck a mutually beneficial deal with the homebuilder to allow them to place advertising on the softener loop and at the kitchen sink. This often contains misleading wording which indicates that the home is set up for their specific equipment and that damage will occur if you don't choose their system. This is absolutely not

the case. This often leads to homeowners paying far more for the system than necessary since they are unaware that there were other choices.

The water softener loop in a new home is capable of accepting any brand of water softener. Don't be fooled by high pressure sales tactics or misleading literature. A licensed professional can perform a couple of simple tests to determine exactly what size system would best fit your needs. A quick search of TCEQ's occupational licensing database, as well as a review of the company's Better Business Bureau standing will let you know whether you're dealing with a legitimate, reputable dealer.

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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Deep in the ART of Texas: *Art in Public Places*



Theresa Vincent

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



“It’s definitely more fun than looking at the white walls!” Kali Page, of the Wimberley Village Library, was enthusiastic as we watched the latest installation of artwork go up around the rows of books and tables. On this particular summer morning, large, elaborate paintings, smaller sketches, and even hand-created textile works were among the new items being installed.

As part of the Art in Public Places Program (AiPP), local artists are able to offer their works for sale directly to the public. Every three months, local AiPP coordinator Nancy Elliott ensures that new pieces are brought into the mix and rotated between various locations in town, including not only the library but also the Wimberley Medical Plaza and Christus Medical Group. Other participating organizations include the Visitor Center, Ozona Bank, Wimberley Valley Dental, Pak Medical Group, Mission Day Spa, and Aloe Day Spa.

“We currently have about twenty local artists who offer their works through the program,” Nancy said. “It’s wonderful to be able to share these works with a broader part of the community, including people who might not otherwise take time to visit a regular art gallery.”

As I dropped off a whimsical, summery painting at the Visitors Center, I paused to visit with Sara Aragon, Membership and Operations Manager for the Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. She noted that having local art on hand helps connect visitors to the local community in a personal way. “It brings a lot of joy to those of us who work here as well,” she added.

A few blocks away, artist Tim Leibrock was still in the process of hanging two of his pieces, gouache paintings of Texas longhorns, when a business owner approached him about buying them on the spot. Sold!

The next time you are out and about in Wimberley, take the time to stop and enjoy the variety of art on hand, or check out the items online at WimberleyValleyArtLeague.org/Art-in-Public-Places (see QR code). Items can be purchased by contacting the artists directly. Most artists also maintain websites, where you can look at similar works, and some are also available to do commissioned works as well. We love what we do, and we love to bring our work home to you!

Coming this Autumn:

September 8 - WVAL Gallery Juried Show Opening Reception 5-7:00pm in the Art League Gallery, Wimberley Community Center

September 30 - October 1
Our Annual Studio Tour

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

Be aware of heat stress this summer

by Steven Austin



You aren't the only one that dreads the dog days of summer; your plants suffer from the heat too. Did you know that high temperatures alone can cause significant damage to your plants' health?

High temperatures reduce photosynthetic rates faster than they reduce respiration rates. The result – carbohydrates produced by photosynthesis are used faster than they can be replaced – an imbalanced budget! Higher temperatures increase the loss of water through stomates in the leaves, thereby increasing the demands on the root system to take up water in order to cool themselves via transpiration. (Usually high temperatures are also accompanied by low rainfall – insult to injury). Cellular membranes also become unstable and result in ion leakage within the leaf cellular structure.

So how do plants cope with high temperatures? One way is through the formation of heat shock proteins (HSPs). HSPs are found in humans and other animals as well and perform the same function as in plants – maintain the integrity and function of proteins in high heat.

HSPs are formed in response to rising temperatures and help to stabilize proteins to ensure cell functioning. HSPs help to moderate metabolic reactions that would otherwise speed up and cause an imbalance of metabolites and acidification in cellular tissue. Calcium also plays a critical role in temperature stress adaptation by modulating enzyme activity and stabilizing membranes. There

are physical adaptations as well, such as increasing leaf hairs and waxes, changing leaf morphology to reduce light interception, and changing leaf orientation.

Preparing plants for heat stress consists of the horticultural basics: *plant properly in high quality soil, manage soil fertility, and properly irrigate.* Contact your ISA certified arborist for a free consultation and more info.

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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Estate planning 101

by AJ Harwood



For many family members, the decision to disperse their assets, such as the family home, can be filled with diverse emotions. Taking the time to first have a conversation with your family members about their expectations and desires and then creating a clear and legally binding plan will ensure everyone's wishes are respected.

The four primary ways to pass a home down:

- Selling outright to a family member
- Gifting to a family member while you are still living
- Bequeathing to a family member after your passing
- A deed transfer after your passing

Each of these options has pros and cons and can vary by state. Always check with a qualified financial professional and attorney to ensure your rights, as well as those of your family members, are protected and that all the laws are followed.

Last will and testament... This is a legal document that states how your assets should be distributed. It can also name an executor of your estate as well as a guardian for your children. It becomes effective upon your death and must go through probate court.

Living trust... There are two primary types of living trusts – *revocable* and *irrevocable*. The main benefit trusts have over wills

is that trusts do not need to go through probate court; therefore, assets can be distributed faster. Consult your financial planner and your attorney to learn which type is best for you and your family.

I know the new real estate 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. 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 how it applies to you in the Wimberley and Texas Hill Country area. 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.

What buyers should know about short term rentals

by Alice Gumbert Lebkuecher



Read local zoning rules, municipal ordinances, and restrictive covenants concerning STRs. Many local governments require certain conditions be met and may require a permit.

Not every property will be profitable. Consider location, amenities, and appeal

before purchasing a short-term rental. Determine if the area has an oversupply of existing STRs, making it harder to rent out yours.

Disruptive behavior by tenants can lead to complaints and possible revocation of your right to rent your property on a short-term basis. Clearly communicate noise, parking, and other rules, and deal with any problems swiftly. Some owners require a large security deposit to discourage rowdy tenant behavior.

Only your primary residence is eligible for certain property-tax protections, such as a homestead exemption and the 10% appraisal-value cap.

Furnishing a short-term rental is not like outfitting your own residence. Use furniture and fixtures that can withstand rough treatment. Consider Wi-Fi thermostats and smart lighting.

Pay careful attention to the safety and security measures. Local governments and restrictive covenants may have additional requirements for STR properties, including inspection requirements.

Many lenders will not finance short-term rentals or have different requirements to approve a loan. It's important to inform the

lender upfront that the property will be utilized as an STR.

A regular homeowners policy may not cover you for the risks associated with a short-term rental. Speak with an insurance professional to determine if you have the coverage you want.

Give guests what they expect. Skimping on expected items could disappoint people and lead to critical reviews. If your property does have obvious limitations, be upfront about it.

Get the highest return with a 5-star experience. Income from your short-term rental is tied to how often you rent it out and how much you charge – those factors depend in large part on good reviews. You'll get top marks by keeping your property clean, maintained, and respond quickly to requests.

Consult an attorney for legal advice and documentation. If you are not using a listing platform like Airbnb or Vrbo, it is best to hire an attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork and advise on other matters. Realtors are prohibited from providing legal opinions or advice.

Source: TAR

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.

Home energy tax credits

by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®



A couple of federal personal tax credits are available for the installation of certain energy efficient or clean energy property in your home. The energy efficient home improvement credit is available for qualifying expenditures incurred for an existing home or for an addition to or renovation of an existing home, but not for a newly constructed

home. The residential clean energy property credit is available for qualifying expenditures incurred for either an existing home or a newly constructed home. For both credits, the home must be located in the United States and used as a residence by the taxpayer.

The energy efficient home improvement credit is equal to 30% of the sum of amounts paid by the taxpayer for certain qualified expenditures. The maximum annual credit amount may be up to \$3,200.

An annual \$1,200 aggregate credit limit applies to all building envelope components, energy property, and home energy audits (30% of costs up to \$150 for such audits). Building envelope components include exterior doors (30% of costs up to \$250 per door, up to a total of \$500); exterior windows and skylights (30% of costs up to \$600); and insulation materials or systems and air sealing materials or systems (30% of costs). Energy property (30% of costs, including labor, up to \$600 for each item) includes central air conditioners; natural gas, propane, or oil water heaters, furnaces, and hot water boilers; and certain other improvements or

replacements installed in connection with building envelope components or other energy property.

A separate annual \$2,000 aggregate credit limit (30% of costs, including labor) applies to electric or natural gas heat pump water heaters; electric or natural gas heat pumps; and biomass stoves and boilers. The credit is not available after 2032.

A 30% credit is available for certain qualified expenditures made by a taxpayer for residential clean energy property. This includes expenditures for solar panels, solar water heaters, fuel cell property, wind turbines, geothermal heat pump property, battery storage technology, and labor costs allocable to such property. For qualified fuel cell property, there is a general credit limit of \$500 for each half kilowatt of capacity.

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.

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Role of the attorney ad litem in probate

by Carrie Campbell



An applicant to probate a will typically hires an attorney as a guide and advocate during the court processes who will also represent his or her interest and protect them from liability. If a particular heir is missing or name is unknown, then the court will appoint a separate attorney ad litem to act on that person's behalf.

It is the duty of the attorney ad litem to defend the rights of the missing or unknown as if he or she were employed by them. If a person has no will, the court must determine heirship. In such circumstances, an attorney ad litem is appointed by a judge to verify that there are no unknown heirs. To determine if there are unknown heirs, the attorney ad litem must (1) review all the paperwork filed in the case; (2) review the records from the bureau of vital statistics; (3) obtain official documentation affecting inheritance; (4) personally interview the applicant, family members, and other knowledgeable witnesses who do not stand to inherit. Some attorney ad litem also use genealogy websites such as Ancestry.com to check DNA databases.

Once all information is gathered, the attorney ad litem must then make an independent decision as to whether anyone has been omitted. The attorney ad litem is expected to prepare a written report that details what information was gathered, the ad litem's find-

ings, and conclusions. The attorney ad litem must also present his or her report during a hearing in open court. The attorney ad litem is paid in the range of \$450, but may earn more based upon the complexity of the case. The time to determine heirship typically adds weeks to months to a probate case. The delay and additional expense can be easily avoided by having a will. Nevertheless, the Texas Estates Code establishes these procedures, in the absence of a will, to protect heirs and permit inheritance.

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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Litigation: : Frustration at the courthouse

by Roland Brown



It has happened to you. A wedding, little league championship game, or family event gets postponed or interrupted due to illness, weather, or other unexpected interruption. For litigants and lawyers, delay is a constant reality and frustration. The adoption hearing gets postponed because the social worker who needs to testify is ill, or the criminal defendant's lawyer can't be available for the scheduled plea because her trial in another county ran longer than expected. Lawyers tend to have Type A traits, if not full-blown Type A personalities. We're often OCD. (A friend referred to someone as being "CDO" which he explained as being OCD except that the letters are in correct alphabetical order!). That's us; we want order, definition, consistency. Our clients want their matters over and done with. What we often get, despite the best intentions of most judges, is delay or unexpected detours.

To begin with, court dockets are typically overloaded which can mean that even though a case is set for hearing on a given date and everyone is in the courtroom or outside in the hallway waiting, other matters may take up so much time that around 3:45 the judge may say, "It doesn't look like we can get to your case today. Please talk to the court coordinator to get a new setting." It doesn't matter that the client may have taken time from work or traveled a great distance for the hearing. Or something that is common in my per-

sonal injury practice is getting set for jury trial on a particular date, sometimes months in advance, but when the date arrives, there are more cases set ahead of us than can be tried at that setting meaning we have to reschedule. This may mean waiting many more months before we get to trial. Sometimes we begin a trial only to have a witness or juror become ill requiring either a complete postponement or some delay. Occasionally, something happens that causes the judge to declare a mistrial, so the process must start anew. The takeaway for you is that whether you are a litigant, witness, or just a person interested in the outcome, be prepared for "the game to be called on account of rain."

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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COMBAT VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED

Let's eat

by Tracy Sheffield, RVT



In some households, a can opener can have magical properties. It can summon your pet from any corner of the house. They hear the can opener and immediately they are in the kitchen with the eager anticipation of a meal. The same can be true for simply opening the cupboard where the pet food is kept. It's meal time and they are ready! Except

when they aren't.

Mealtime is normally a favorite part of the day for your pet. When there is a sudden disinterest in food, it can be very concerning. *Inappetence* (as lack of interest in eating is called) can be divided into three types. True inappetence, pseudo-inappetence, and secondary inappetence.

True inappetence is when they just don't want to eat and there is no underlying medical cause. This is often seen when pet's are stressed, such as in a boarding facility or there is a dramatic change in their home life.

Pseudo-inappetence occurs when the pet has a desire to eat, but is physically unable to eat. This can happen when there are dental or jaw issues. Sometimes there is a foreign object stuck in the mouth making eating uncomfortable or impossible.

Secondary inappetence is, as the name implies, secondary to a medical condition. Realizing that secondary inappetence is due to medical issues as opposed to nutritional issue is important. Simply changing the food is not going to address the problem.

The most common presentation of secondary inappetence is the pet approaching the food dish as if it would like to eat, then walking away. May types of cancer are associated with secondary inappetence so a medical work-up is essential to treating the underlying cause.

If your pet shows any reluctance towards their food, a discussion with your veterinarian is in order. There are many options to help your pet improve their appetite once the cause of the problem has been identified.

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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