

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #8
WIMBERLEY, TX 78676
ECRWSS

Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

Postal Patron

Volume 27 Issue 2 • Wimberley, Texas • February 2024

Experienced Agents *with* Outstanding Results



Hills of Texas
SKY REALTY

Contact us today and find out how our
experience can work for you!



Angel Laughlin

Broker Associate
512.217.6938



Barbara Latimer

Broker Associate/Mgr.
512.557.5257



Ben Mejia

REALTOR® Associate
512.994.5423



Brittany Bailey

REALTOR® Associate
512.648.0858



Chloe Gatewood

REALTOR® Associate
512.779.7288



Christina Lawson

Broker Associate
512.710.5628



Jackie Hines

REALTOR® Associate
512.968.4167



John (J.D.) Payne

REALTOR® Associate
512.412.0897



Jennifer Kirchner

REALTOR® Associate
512.757.7076



Jonathan Bailey

REALTOR® Associate
512.599.7587



Jordan Carter

REALTOR® Associate
512.842.9032



Josh Harmon-Sanders

REALTOR® Associate
512.689.7556



Karen Boyle

REALTOR® Associate
512.738.0030



Kelbi Kirby

REALTOR® Associate
512.667.0367



Kim Cabler

REALTOR® Associate
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

Love is



EAGLE MOUNTAIN
— Flag & Flagpole —
512-847-0010

Flags & Flagpoles • Flagpole Lighting • Patriotic Gifts • Custom Flags
Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm • Friday 9am - 3pm
www.emflag.com • 333 FM 2325 • Wimberley

Glass Well
— SERVICE & SOFTENERS —

Complete water well service provider.
New Wells | Pump Service | Water Treatment
512-288-1963
www.GlassWellService.com

Locally owned and operated serving Wimberley LIC #61462-KP

Community Calendar:

Sunday, February 4, King Feed Strong, Blanco Brew, 8am-2pm, food, fun, and **community!** Monthly Car Show with Live Music by Island Texas Band, The Market, Silent Auction, and Donation Station ready to support our neighbors. Bring the family and let's show King Feed how much love and support they have from Wimberley!

Wednesday, February 14, Valentino's Day Gala, 7-10pm, Wimberley Community Center, sponsored by Wimberley Parks and Rec. in partnership with It's 5 o'clock Somewhere. Includes a BBQ dinner catered by Rail Road Bar-B-Que. For more information, visit WimberleyArts.com.

Thurs. February 15: Del Castillo, 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.

Let's talk about love. We've heard it said that love is a verb. Love is an active and ever-evolving, ever-adapting action. It's a choice. Love is kindness. Love is gentle and unassuming. Love gives the benefit of the doubt and leaves space for forgiveness and change. Love never ends. And if it does, it wasn't really love.

So often when the topic arises we consider romantic love. But love is so much more than that. Love is everywhere and everything. Love is the answer to every problem. Approach your issue with love and watch how it changes. So often in this world, we approach others, especially strangers – hello, internet trolls! – with borderline hostility and no trace of love. Have you noticed what happens when we do? Smiling at someone we accidentally make eye contact with at the grocery store, asking the gas station clerk about their day, taking a moment to look someone in the eye and have a human moment instead of subscribing to this fast-paced, cut-throat mentality that has become the norm. Love is natural. Love is necessary. Love is all we really have.

Happy February, y'all.



Cyle Elizabeth Johnson
Editor, Publisher

Joey Johnson
Publisher

Ioana Motoc
Cover

Entire contents copyright ©2024. Reproduction of any of this publication requires written permission of publisher. We are not responsible for the products and services advertised or the views contained in this publication.

The changing of things

by Tim Thompson



Nothing stays the same, as they say. Children grow, become adults themselves, meet the love of their lives, and have children of their own. The pattern, with endless variations, repeats several times each century, evolving and moving around the globe as people relocate to escape

wars, or find new opportunities.

The evolution of all things living is often driven by such things, and the ability of DNA to change and reproduce has given us the amazingly complex world in which we live. Our godson Thom authored his doctoral dissertation regarding the adaptation of the nine-spined stickleback fish to adapt from living in a freshwater environment to one where only salt-water is found. Genetic tricks like that have occurred over and over in the development of species.

The beginning of each year is traditionally seen as a time to assess our lives and make decisions about how we might want to change them. I admit that I have never made New Year's resolutions a strict habit, but I do often contemplate the results that might come with changes made in my life. Eat a little less? Less wine? More wine? Lifestyle changes are easy to imagine and harder to fulfill.

Most of us want to do our part to save the planet from the ravages of climate change. At our house, we have recognized the limitations and difficulty of recycling, so we are trying to change our

habits at the source. First on our list is the buying of plastic and products packaged in plastic. Did you know you can buy laundry detergent in sheets packaged in cardboard? The Pyrex glass refrigerator dishes your mom bought in the fifties still work just as well as they did then. Most grocery stores – including HEB – now carry milk in returnable bottles.

Even minor changes in the way we live our lives have the potential to improve the world and make it safer and more comfortable for its inhabitants. Imagine with me the ways we could help change our world for the better!

Horticulturist Tim Thompson managed the garden center at King Feed and Hardware for over 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.



Open Monday-Friday 8-6, Sat. 8-4:30, Sun. 10-4:30

Free consultation for all your nursery questions
Complete selection of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, bulbs, seeds, potting soil, soil amendments, mulch, pots, tools, everything for your garden and pond!

Alpacas: A,L,P,A,C,A,S

by Kern Deschner



After 27 years of doing this, I still hear acquaintances ask me *so how are the llamas?* I hope that I have always responded politely, but it's kinda like being greeted by somebody who never can quite correctly remember your name. We've been asked about the status of the emus/ostriches/llamas for many years. Even this year. Someone even asked me if we were selling sugar gliders. So I thought it might be time for a refresher on what an alpaca exactly is

Alpacas are mammals which means they are not birds, like ostriches or emus. Sugar gliders are a flying squirrel. Alpacas are closely related to llamas, making the confusion between the two understandable. However, actually they are distinctly different.

The origin of all *camelids* (camels, llamas, alpacas) is originally North America. The proto-camels died out in North America, but migrated to South America and to Africa when there was a land bridge. In Africa, and in the Middle East, they became camels. In South America, the camelids evolved into guanaco and the vicuña, two wild South American camelids that still exist today. Most guanaco and vicuña fiercely resisted domestication, but there were a few that adapted to living with humans. Some guanaco eventually were bred into modern day llamas, while some of the smaller vicuña were gradually domesticated into modern day alpacas.

Llamas are much larger than alpacas, weighing anywhere from 300 to 500 pounds and often being taller than a human. They are powerful pack animals, and are intelligent and strong, but they are not really fleece animals. There is too much coarse hair running through their soft, insulating under-fiber. Even today, llamas – domesticated and refined by generations of breeding – are partners in the hauling of materials and farm products for people that work the land in the Andes.

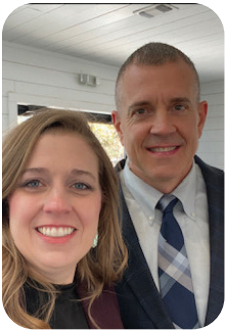
Alpacas are much smaller, averaging 150 pounds as an adult. They have never been pack animals and are the result, instead, of intense selective breeding to produce their incredibly soft, fine, and silky fleeces. They are not expected to defend a herd of anything, or to work as pack animals. Alpacas are purely fleece animals, and their fleece was used to make the clothes of the Aztec kings in pre-Columbian times. Now, alpaca fleece is used by the finest clothing houses and suit makers in the world. Alpaca fleece is prized for its softness, its smooth *handle* without the waxy lanolin or skin prickle of the fleeces from other animals, and its bright shine.

Both llamas and alpacas are intelligent, easy-to-handle, and spit a whole lot less than the rumor mill would claim. Llamas are a lot more animal to love, but they can be loveable. Alpacas are more our size, and we have loved them now for 27 years.

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.

Winter weather hydration

by Rance and Betsy Mosley



Do you drink enough water? Some people might think that since it is colder outside they do not need to hydrate quite as much as they do during the warmer months. During the summer I often hear people say *I sure did sweat a lot today. I need to be sure and drink plenty of water before I get dehydrated.* An individual may also let their hydration levels drop too much, which will cause them to experience headaches and potentially

dizziness. These are late signs of dehydration so it is crucial to hydrate before you experience these symptoms.

Interestingly our bodies also lose fluids during colder temperatures but in different ways. *How*, you ask. I would love to explain. Have you heard of respiratory fluid loss? This is where you lose about 1 cup of water each day just from breathing. When exposed to colder temperatures water loss increases while breathing because it needs to be warmed and moistened before reaching the lungs. The more you exert yourself in colder temperatures the more water you will lose with every breath. Furthermore, you may experience *cold diuresis*, where your body produces more urine as a side effect of conserving heat.

During colder temperatures you may feel less thirsty. When you get cold, your body constricts blood vessels to keep warming blood in your core. This causes your body to think it is properly

hydrated, which reduces your thirst response. This is why most people drink less during colder temperatures even though your daily requirements stay constant year-round.

Let's not forget that when it is colder we tend to dress in layers. Heavy layers of clothing cause the body to work harder and produce more sweat, which contributes to further fluid loss. Sweat also evaporates quicker in colder temperatures. Faster evaporation causes more fluid loss but you can't tell because you are not hot and don't have sweat sticking to your skin.

Now you may be wondering, *how do I know if I am drinking enough water to stay hydrated?* Your daily water requirements depend on many factors; a few include age, gender, weight, and physical activity. A good rule of thumb would be half your body weight in ounces per day. However, if you are working outside or exercising, your water consumption should increase by 12 ounces for every 30 minutes of physical exertion. So let's not forget: after building your snowman outside, it would be a good idea to include a few ounces of water after drinking your hot chocolate!

Rance and Betsy Mosley are the owners of Blue Jug of Wimberley and My Wimberley Office Space. Rance retired from teaching after 28 years and now manages and operates Blue Jug while Betsy teaches at Blue Hole Primary. Stop by and try the best tasting water in the Hill Country. Located at 14201 Ranch Road 12, Ste. 1. Contact us at 512 387 1001 or email Rance@bluejug.com.

Arm swing: Part 2

by Sarah Geenberg



I have spent a lot more time with the idea that arm swing can make a huge difference. And the more I get into it, the better it is getting. Slightly exaggerating my arm swing while walking has done me – and now others – wonders. So far it seems that the musculoskeletal system, the organs, and the psyche all benefit.

When we swing our arms, we are loosening our necks, allowing more blood flow (oxygen) to our heads. Headaches and allergies are reduced or eliminated by allowing movement in stuck areas. I think of little dams being released.

Shoulders benefit by loosening movement, too. Lymph nodes get moving, which helps cleanse the whole body. Did you know that our blood system has a pump, but our lymph system does not? Lymph cleans things out, so moving literally is required to cleanse.

The shoulders rotate and the hips counter-rotate. The upper back releases and the excess curvature along with the head forward position can be corrected. This creates a lot of beneficial movement in the torso. The ribs and lungs get more movement and thus we get more air. The guts like the twisting, for they get cleansed by the constant but slight squeeze and release. They are like a sponge squeezing dirty water out and sucking in the new.

The hips free up, too. The swing itself literally pulls us forward, reducing stress on the hips and legs. The rotation of the shoulders and counter rotation of the hips connects the hips to other muscles

up the torso. The psoas (hip flexors) is put in a better position to be able to contract correctly.

When our hips are working and have propulsion help from our upper torso and the swing itself, pressure comes off of our knees and ankles. The Achilles tendons don't have to work as hard. I have found that the rotation is forcing my feet straighter.

Psychologically, freeing tension in the neck and literally feeling the tension fly out of my fingertips also gives room for new thoughts.

You really don't need any tips on how to do this right. But pulling your heart forward and slightly up and keeping an eye on your immediate horizon might make you feel the effects, faster.

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

501 Old Kyle Road
Wimberley, TX 78676

wimberleykarateyoga.com



Deep in the ART of Texas:

Sculpture Part 1:

Bronze

by Theresa Vincent



Warren Cullar

As the story goes, it was in 1978 that Swedish sculptor Kent Ullberg walked into a piano shop, placed one of his bronze sculptures atop a piano, and put forth a challenge to Rob Pitzer: “See if you can sell this!” Pitzer did sell that piece – followed by several more. Then Ullberg proposed an even bolder challenge, issued in a distinctive Swedish accent, “Why don’t you turn this into a proper art gallery?”

Pitzer took the gamble and quickly discovered that art speaks to people in a special way, and that sculptures are an important part of that language. Today, Pitzer’s Fine Arts represents the work of 45 artists, including the amazing work of 12 sculptors. A delightful array of works is displayed outdoors, including a life-sized figure of Thomas Jefferson. Inside, figurative, floral, and wildlife pieces exude a tangible energy and sense of life. “I’ve seen people literally moved to tears when looking at sculptures,” said curator Pamela Rudd. “There’s often a powerful emotional language that connects the artist to the viewer.”

To get a better understanding of what’s involved in creating bronze works, I visited sculptor Warren Cullar at his studio in Woodcreek. “Bronze is very heavy, very expensive, and very time-consuming,” he said with a laugh. Although the steps may vary somewhat between artists, the first step usually involves sculpting a model or pattern out of clay. In what is referred to as the *lost wax method* of bronze casting, liquid rubber is then applied to create a mold for wax, which in turn is used to create a porcelain mold. After a series of interim steps, the wax inside the porcelain is heated and replaced with molten bronze at a toasty 2,100 degrees.

Although a mold can be used to make multiple castings, each finished piece is a unique, one-of-a-kind work of art because of the artistry involved in the final step: the application of specific colors or finishes, called the *patina*. After re-heating the piece to a “bacon-sizzling hot!” temperature and keeping it hot, paints or chemicals may be used to give the piece a specific finish.

Sculptures can provide a special role in enhancing the ambience of both outdoor and indoor spaces, in that they can be displayed even in areas that may not have the wall space for two-dimensional art. Smaller, table-top pieces can provide a surprisingly affordable alternative to mass-produced home décor items.

Below are highlights of just a few of the artists creating or exhibiting bronze sculptures in Wimberley (note that only the respective Wimberley gallery is referenced for each artist, if applicable, even though their works may also be exhibited elsewhere).

Gerald Balciar (Pitzer’s Fine Arts) – Growing up in Wisconsin in 1942, Balciar would fill up the blackboard of a one-room school house with chalk drawings of animals. His teacher later remarked how much it bothered her to have to erase his drawings at the end of the day. Balciar portrays the gentler side of nature in his marble and bronze sculptures, with works ranging from small-scale creations to monumental installations. His largest bronze sculpture to date is a 20’ bronze moose, which was installed in Mooseheart, Illinois, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Loyal Order of Moose in 1988.



Warren Cullar



Gerald Balciar

Warren Cullar (Art on 12) is a professional author, painter, and bronze sculptor who creates a variety of contemporary sculptures. Stacked (bronze) stones represent his *Balance* series, including whimsical pieces like “Rock Paper Scissors.” The pieces in this series feature carefully stacked (cast bronze) “stones” with a human touch, which he describes as “projecting the balance between our spiritual, our physical, and our checkbook.”

Matt Donner (220 Fine Art Gallery) – President of the Texas Society of Sculptors, Donner began his sculpting as a ceramist and now works almost exclusively in limited-edition bronzes. His works are representational portrayals of wildlife, portraits, and human figures. While much of his work is scaled for indoor display, some larger pieces are mounted on steel pedestals for outdoor installations. Donner strives to build an emotional connection to his subjects in order to evoke that same sense of connection with the viewer.



Matt Donner

Angela Mia (Pitzer's Fine Arts) – Exalting the human spirit through expressive faces and natural body movement has become the recognized trademark of Mia's sculptures. Her greatest inspiration is the ever-changing individuality of her children. "Freedom of spirit is my work's purpose; to uplift and inspire feelings of pure love and joy... Each sculpture begins as dramatic light and shadows over form. Unique details then deliver a responding body that listens as a live face does."

"Upon signing my works in clay, it is difficult to resist the thrill of creation... I have a strong sense that nothing is finalized; it continues to develop and grow, as do our children."



Angela Mia



Pat Moberley Moore

Pat Moberley Moore (Art on 12) – From the time she was young, Moberley Moore has always enjoyed "putting together" dimensional pieces of various materials at hand.

"My sculpture is figurative, usually of the feminine figure, and is all about exploring emotions, portraying our dreams and our expressions of connections with each other, with the earth and with our spirituality. My vision is not political, nor do I care to look at the darker side of ourselves or our world. I am a people-watcher, a worker of things in the air which can be touched, a creator of memories, of feeling, of thoughts. I want to say, 'Here, see this... isn't it all full of wonderment!'"

Eric Slocombe (Pitzer's Fine Arts) – Growing up in a small town in Colorado, Eric had the majestic Rocky Mountains in his own backyard. Even today, he vividly remembers what it felt like as a boy to hear elk bugling in the distance. Depicting animals in their natural surroundings, he captures their subtle movements and instinctive reactions. Today, his bronze work can be found in private collections throughout the Southwest. Past public exhibitions include the Southeastern Wildlife Expo, the Dallas Safari Club where he was named Outstanding New Artist, and the 2007 Nature Works Show in Tulsa.

Pam Williams – "My favorite sculptures are portraits of real people that tell the individual's story. I find the ways people communicate to be fascinating. They show us so much of who they are through expressions and gestures. I try to capture those subtleties in my art and tell their stories."

"When I am able to manipulate a piece of clay or wax into a figure, and then create a mold of that figure so strong it will hold molten bronze... that invigorates me! And then, when that bronze figure portrays a real person's story... that's magical!"



Eric Slocombe



Pam Williams

Upcoming Events

February 10: Art on 12 – Second Saturday
 February 12: Wimberley Valley Art League
 Artist Presentation: Stephanie Riggs
 February 16: WVAL Members' Show Opening Reception
 February 17: 220 Fine Art Gallery –
 2024 Lover's Soiree: A Toast to The Artists



George Lundeen

FOR ALL YOUR CBD & THC NEEDS



Yes, it's natural & legal weed

14500 Ranch Road 12 Suite #1

8+ STRAINS of Flower

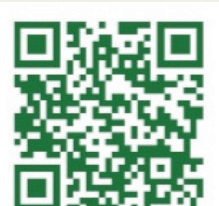
Dispensary style= FRESH hand-picked from our JARS!
Lab Tested • Locally Owned & Operated • Let's be Best Buds
10% DISCOUNT using code "HighFromWTX" (1 per order)



GREENBOX

CANNABIS KIOSKS • NOW SERVING HAYS COUNTY

24/7 • 365 • High 🙌



WWW.GREENBOX.BUZZ



greenery.tx
greenboxatx

Let's heat things up • Visit any of our locations:

- 801 CHESTNUT ST, SAN MARCOS
 - 418 W. 4TH ST, ATX
 - 75 RAINEY ST, ATX
 - 2321 E. CESAR CHAVEZ ST, ATX
 - 1802 S. CONGRESS AVE, ATX
 - 111 N. LOOP BLVD E, ATX
 - 10701 MENCHACA RD, ATX
- 🔍 Search "Green Box" in Google Maps





Natural nail polish?!

by Jessica Zollars Smith

Where does one determine what *natural* really means? Water is a chemical so, by definition, if you truly want chemical free, are you saying you also want water free? Or is it something else entirely?

In the beauty care industry, defining natural beauty has been a largely argued topic defined with broad strokes. Some companies define natural by utilizing an organic

product base. *Organic* meaning, ingredients that have been processed with a minimal carbon footprint, and grown under strict standards and guidelines i.e., no chemical pesticides etc. and an organic beauty product contains ingredients grown on organic farms.

Natural beauty products imply that manufacturers refrain from using synthetically derived ingredients in the formulations. Instead, they opt in to use all natural ingredients for example, vitamin E as a natural preservative as opposed to paraben.

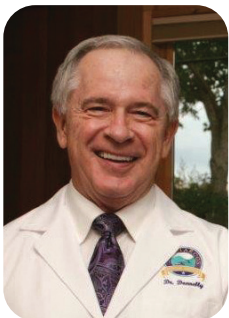
Regardless of the ingredient source, cosmetics are all formulated using chemical ingredients. Remember, *water*. Having been in natural skin care manufacturing myself, I've had quite the time explaining such things to customers over the years. The FDA does *not* regulate the manufacturing of cosmetics and beauty products, there is a general list of approved ingredients and chemicals called the GRAS (generally regarded as safe), that most manufacturers refer to. This is a list of commonly known chemicals, compounds, preservation systems, and so on that are regarded safe to use for public use. There are a bunch on the *safe* list that are now known as harmful, toxic, carcinogenic, and can cause allergic reactions – yet still remain there. Because of the growing public knowledge of known toxins in skincare – and beauty industry products alone

– *natural* alternatives have become wildly popular and successful. One used at MISSION Day Spa in our Natural Nail Bar is called Ella + Mila natural nail polish. *Yes!* You read that correctly: a *tox-in-free* nail polish. Made without 17 harmful chemicals, including formaldehyde, toluene, and phthalates – commonly found in traditional nail polishes. They even have a Mommy & Me polish line. Quickly becoming one of the most sought-after nail polishes, this line of lacquer was born from the simple idea of creating an eco-friendly yet high-end product. Initially inspired by twin daughters (darlingly named Ella and Mila) of one of the founders, the luxury brand took sail. A perfectly matched line with MISSION Day Spa.

Our calling at MISSION Day Spa is to create a cozy, luxurious environment with real, holistic skincare and treatments given by highly knowledgeable practitioners. Enjoy low odor, toxin-free nail bar services at our award-winning spa at the Junction. Although we host many who are looking for a luxury environment to relax or to get away, often we have those who are autoimmune compromised or are in treatment for cancer. Our staff are trained to care for all individuals and have products with the integrity to support for take home use. How wonderful and fortunate we are to finally have some alternatives for skin, body – and now – our nails!

Jessica 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, Jessica apprentices Wimberley ISD students at her spa. With 30 years in the spa industry and a background in cosmetics chemistry, Jessica holds CE classes Monday evenings and online.

"We only make it if we all do." MissionDaySpa.com



The new dental visit: It's pain free

by Robert Donnelly, DDS

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

The inflammatory effects of gum disease also may increase risk for diabetes, stroke and certain types of cancer.

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

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

Headphones which allow our patients to listen to a wide variety of music helps to create a more soothing atmosphere.

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

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

J. ROBERT DONNELLY, D.D.S.
MASTER OF THE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



1337 THORPE LANE
SAN MARCOS, TX 78666
512-396-5225
FAX: 512-396-7022
SANMARCOSDENTAL.COM



The power of local

by Jim and Debbie Donaldson

Between the big flood, Covid, and Snowvid we all experienced the importance of local connections. Our local business community played a great role in building and sustaining these connections. Small businesses are the heartbeat of the Wimberley Valley and are a large part of what makes our village so unique.

Michael Shuman in his book *Going Local* says, "Going local does not mean walling off the outside world. It means nurturing locally owned businesses which use local resources sustainably, employ local workers at decent wages, and serve primarily local consumers. It means becoming more self-sufficient and less dependent on imports. Control moves from the boardroom of distant corporations and back to the community where it belongs."

Here are a few reasons to support local businesses:

1. Creating new jobs. Small businesses are the largest employers nationally and create two out of every three new jobs. Small businesses employ 52% of the nation's employees.
2. Keeping your money in the community. When dollars are spent locally they are re-spent locally, raising the overall level of economic activity. With every \$100 spent locally, \$73 remains in the community. A 100/43 ratio for non-locally owned businesses.
3. Community investment and charitable giving. Locally owned

businesses contribute more to local charities and fundraisers than do national chains. These local businesses support, volunteer, and give in ways that are hard to measure but seen and appreciated throughout the community.

4. Keeping Wimberley unique. When we spend our money locally we play a role in keeping the community alive and well and it contributes to making the Wimberley Valley feel like home.

5. Nurturing community. When we shop locally we become friends with *one of a kind* business owners who help build the distinctive character of the Wimberley Valley. Tourists come and go but locals supporting locals is the key to longevity and vitality for local businesses.

We all have a choice when we look for goods and services. I would like to challenge the great folks in the Wimberley Valley to think local first! I would also like to remind you that there are many great realtors in the Valley and encourage you to choose a local realtor when you are buying or selling real estate.

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.

Well water storage systems

by Randy Lawrence



During times of drought, there is a great deal of concern with the possibility of wells going dry in the area. Many people are forced to take action when they no longer have a constant supply of water to their home. Some have to replace well pumps, only to find that the old pump failed due to low water conditions. Others must drill new wells in order to access a larger supply of water. In most cases, these repairs are unexpected, and time-consuming. During severe drought, many well service companies are over-

whelmed with calls, causing some families to endure days without a supply of fresh water. A water storage tank would be helpful to many of these homeowners.

The benefits of a properly installed storage tank are numerous. These tanks are normally installed near the well so that the well pump sends the water directly into the storage tank. This removes much of the back pressure from your well pump so that the workload on the pump is greatly reduced. The water can be sprayed into the top of the storage tank, eliminating odors which may be present. The water is then re-pressurized by an external pump which can maintain higher pressure, and is much less costly to repair or replace than a submersible pump. Protection systems are also available for both pumps to ensure longevity.

Even on existing storage tanks, an early warning system, such as a light or alarm, can be installed to activate when the water in

the tank drops to a certain level, indicating the need to check your well for problems. This buys you the time you need to contact a professional. Should you happen to run out of water before the well is operational, there are water delivery services which can bring you a supply of water to replenish your storage tank, thereby maintaining your day-to-day routine while you await repairs. For homes in remote areas, stored water is also a valuable asset for firefighters.

Now is an ideal time to consider adding a storage tank to your well. Then you will be prepared before another Texas summer takes it's toll on your well.

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.

"When you want quality, call a pro."



RANDY LAWRENCE
512-618-1334
(830) 822-3533

A FULL SERVICE WATER TREATMENT COMPANY SPECIALIZING
IN CUSTOMER SERVICE & INTEGRITY
Certified by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
Class III License # WT0002693

www.proqualitywater.com



Accessory dwelling units: Housing & rental options

by AJ Harwood

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

An ADU is a small unit either attached to the main home or a freestanding unit on the main home's property.

Sometimes they are a converted garage or attic space. They are generally 600 to 1,000 square feet and have one or two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. Common occupants include college students or grown children, extended family, senior citizens, and on-site caregivers. Additionally, they make a great way to generate passive income with AirBnB and VRBO (if allowed in your community). Adding an ADU to your home or property is a great way to increase its value.

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

If you are wondering what your home would look like on the market, give me a call! I would be honored to complete a comparative market analysis (CMA) to see what homes in your neighbor-

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

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

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



Planting new trees: *Timing & technique*

by Steven Austin

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

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

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

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

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

Stake trees only if necessary. Trees need movement to develop girth, taper, and healthy roots. A description for proper staking and other great tips on tree care, may be found at TreesAreGood.org.

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

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

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





Investment management versus comprehensive wealth management

by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®

Comprehensive wealth management involves a holistic approach to managing an individual's or family's financial well-being. It goes beyond just investment management and includes various aspects of financial planning. Here are key components often included in comprehensive wealth management:

1. Financial planning. Developing a comprehensive financial plan that considers short-term and long-term goals, budgeting, cash flow management, and risk assessment.
2. Investment management. Creating and managing an investment portfolio tailored to the client's financial goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon.
3. Retirement planning. Helping clients plan for a comfortable retirement by considering factors such as savings, investment strategies, and withdrawal plans.
4. Estate planning. Assisting in the efficient transfer of assets to heirs, minimizing tax implications, and ensuring the client's wishes are carried out.
5. Tax planning. Implementing strategies to optimize tax efficiency, including managing income, deductions, and utilizing tax-advantaged investment accounts.
6. Risk management. Identifying and managing potential risks through insurance solutions, such as life insurance, disability insurance, and liability coverage.

7. Debt management. Helping clients manage and reduce debt, and explore strategies for leveraging debt when appropriate.
8. Education planning. Costs associated with education, including college savings strategies and financial aid considerations.
9. Charitable giving. Strategies for philanthropy and charitable giving aligned with the client's values and financial goals.
10. Business succession planning. For business owners, addressing the transfer of ownership and assets in a way that ensures the continuity of the business.

Comprehensive wealth management is often provided by financial advisors or wealth managers who work closely with clients to understand their unique circumstances and goals. This approach aims to create a customized and integrated financial strategy to help individuals and families achieve desired financial outcomes.

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

INVESTMENTS - FINANCIAL PLANNING - WEALTH MANAGEMENT
840 E. Summit Drive
Wimberley, Texas 78676
www.HackettFinancialGroup.com
Scott@HackettFinancialGroup.com

512.847.0630
 Custodian Services with *charles* SCHWAB INSTITUTIONAL

Federal estate tax exemptions

by Carrie Campbell



While Texas does not have an estate or inheritance tax, we are all subject to the federal estate tax which currently applies only to those persons whose net worth is over \$13.61 million at his or her death, or a combined \$27.22 million for a married couple. Any funds above \$13.61 million or combined \$27.22 million are taxed at 40%. However, so few people have that many assets

that less than 0.1% of the U.S. deaths result in a taxed estate.

However, on January 1, 2026, the tax exemption will rollback to approximately \$7 million per person or \$14 million per married couple unless further legislation is passed by Congress. With land values in Hays County and Central Texas continuing to increase, more people in our area may be impacted. To minimize estate tax exposure, *gifting* options should be considered. First, you can make an annual cash gift up to \$18,000 per family member without reporting it to the IRS. That sum is doubled for a married couple. So, a married couple with 10 grandkids could gift them \$360,000 (2 x 10 x \$18,000) each year without tax liability to the recipients while also reducing the value of the estate to keep it below the \$7 million exemption.

Second, you can establish and prefund 529 accounts for college or educational expenses for any relative. Third, you can pay tuition

directly to a school or university for anyone (does not have to be a relative) and the same with medical expenses paid to a hospital or medical provider. Finally, all gifts to charitable organizations are tax exempt.

Accordingly, if you have less than \$7 million, you do not need to concern yourself with estate taxes. If you are fortunate to have a more valuable estate, then you should monitor the legislation to learn what exemptions result in the future and whether they will impact your family. If so, you have options which should be discussed with your financial advisor and an attorney experienced with estate planning.

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
carriec1970@gmail.com
www.attorneyscampbell.com

512-847-1308
 303 Mesa Drive
 Wimberley, Texas 78676

Litigation: Does your insurance cover this?

by Roland Brown



Picture yourself sitting in my office, perhaps discussing some civic project we are working on together, when a call comes in for me. Hearing only my side of the conversation, you know that I have responded to a question with an affirmative, “yes, your auto policy will cover your injuries in that situation.” Of course,

you are wondering what the situation was. You assume it involved a motor vehicle crash, because you know that that is the type of case I handle. Since I happen to be in a chatty mood and am not scheduled to be in court that day, I decide to fill you in on a somewhat interesting situation.

The caller has reached out to me from her hospital room where she is being treated for serious injuries suffered in a crash just a day or so before. Fortunately for me, she did not call some dude she saw on TV, but instead, got my name from a friend she trusted. She was struck by a vehicle which forced her off the road where her vehicle then rolled over causing her injuries. The other vehicle did not stop and cannot be identified. Fortunately, this potential client had a capable insurance agent who had wisely encouraged her to purchase increased auto policy limits including uninsured motorist coverage. The hit and run vehicle will be treated as un-

insured, and the injured victim’s uninsured motorist coverage will pay for her injuries up to the limit of her coverage. You find that interesting and ask me, “what if the other vehicle had not actually hit her, but had come close and therefore caused her to swerve and overturn?” I then explain that this is sometimes referred to in insurance claims parlance as *the phantom vehicle scenario*, and there is no coverage.

Since you are interested, I go on to add that if the non-contact vehicle that forced the injured driver off the road stops and is determined not to have insurance, or not enough insurance to pay all the damages, then the injured driver’s uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage will pay even though there was no contact. Determining which policies can be looked to for payment of damages in various motor vehicle collision cases is an important element of making sure our clients are fully compensated for the injuries they suffer, and sometimes it takes a little head-scratching and even some legal research to be sure we’ve identified all the potential sources of recovery.

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, 2021, and 2023 in annual polls of Hays County attorneys. For more information call 512 847 2500.

**SELLING A FAMILY HEIRLOOM
CAN BE DIFFICULT.**

— WE MAKE IT EASY. —

★ ★ ★

INHERIT GUNS?

WE WILL BUY ANY GUN!

512-999-8196

COMBAT VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED
WORLD'S ONLY BESPOKE TAILOR & CUSTOM GUNSHOP

13030 W HWY 290 Austin TX 78737

★ **SUITANDSHOOT.COM** ★



Wimberley Office

150 RR 3237, P.O. Box 727 • Wimberley, TX 78676
Office: 512/847-2278 • Fax: 512/847-5131

CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

Now Offering a Complete line of Custom Draperies!



Beautiful new Window Treatments, Blinds, Shutters, Woven Woods, Cellular Shades and More. Most available in two weeks or less.

Better service & lower prices than the big box stores.



Free estimates
512-847-8970

Superior service before and after the sale

MadeintheShadeofWimberley.com

Partnership

by Tracy Sheffield, RVT



Choosing a partner is something that happens throughout life. Starting in grade school, you choose partners for assigned projects. There are business partnerships and sports partnerships. Romantic partnerships are achieved through all sorts of methods from friends fixing you up to dating apps. Another partnership that is so very important is the one

between you and your pet. But it doesn't stop there. There is one more partnership for your pet that deserves your serious attention. The selection of your veterinarian.

What should you consider when selecting your pet's partner in health care? Online reviews? Recommendations from friends? The one who posts the most videos on Instagram? The things that really matter in this selection process are two things – the experience and background of the team and their ability to communicate with you.

The veterinary team is made up of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. You want to look at the years of experience a veterinarian has and how long they have been out of school. One of the most complete options is when a practice has a mix of doc-

tors some with decades of experience and some recently out of vet school bringing the latest ideas in treatments and techniques with them to the practice.

Also look at the team of technicians. How long have they been in the profession? And, very importantly, how long have they worked together. A team that has been together for years, works smoothly together and that can make a real difference in an emergency situation.

If you are new to the area and looking for a veterinarian or, for a variety of reasons, you may want to change veterinarians, these are important considerations in making the choice. Recommendations from friends is a great clue on how well the practice communicates with clients as well as the quality of care. Doing your research on the veterinary team will lead you to a long and happy partnership for you and your pet.

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.

DENTAL MONTH SPECIAL

\$400

INCLUDES:

- ✔ Dental x-rays
- ✔ Dental Scaling
- ✔ Anesthesia
- ✔ Polishing
- ✔ Monitoring
- ✔ Professional Oral Evaluation



Phone : 512-847-5630

email : info@wimberleyvetclinic.com

Website : www.wimberleyvetclinic.com





1225 Mystic Shores \$125,000
Stunning 1.8 acre in Mystic Shores!
Mickey Brown



5400 FM 2325 MLS 1387557 Amazing
unrestricted 72 acres. Stock tank, views.
\$3,600,000 Mickey Brown & Jeff Hutto



7312 RR 12 70.994 Unrestricted Acres. 4/4
Home. 3 Commercial, 3 Residential Rentals.
\$5,500,000 Mickey Brown & Jeff Hutto



New Price!
350 Summer Hills Dr MLS 7482123 Views
from this 5/5 3939 SqFt home on 15 Acres. Pool,
Pickleball, Barn \$1,550,000 Jim Donaldson



New!
8 Woodview Ct. MLS 3230741
Beautifully landscaped 3/2 Cul-de-Sac
location. \$431,000 Linda Germain



New Price!
215 Blanco Dr MLS 4817932 Paradise Valley
3/2 on 1/2 acre. Blanco River Park. Garage apart-
ment, Studio/workshop. \$950,000 Jeff Hutto



New Price!
52 Acacia MLS 4783472 Modern
farmhouse! 3/2 with an office \$465,045
Debbie Donaldson



New!
4281 Mail Rt Rd MLS 8868603 Charming Main
House and Guest House on 6 acres. Climate con-
trolled storage space. \$1,100,000 Alice Lebkuecher



53 Doolittle Dr Stunning 3/3 Over-
looking golf course. \$525,000 Alice
Lebkuecher



New Price!
210 Cave Springs Rd MLS 9213607
Beautiful 4/2 on 5.4 acres in Lost Springs. Blanco
River access. \$825,000 Jim Donaldson



New!
82 Champions Cir MLS 2997977 Stunning lot
on Double J Golf Course. Community Play-
ground and Gazebo. \$110,000 Jim Donaldson



350 Climbing Way MLS 8873739 Stunning
panoramic views from this 3/3. Private Blanco
River Park access. \$697,000 Debbie Donaldson



New!
14 Cypress Fairway Vlg MLS 9568036
Lovely updated 2/2 Townhome
\$229,000 Linda Germain



New!
400 Arrowhead Pass MLS 7099228
Very nice 3/2 in Saddleridge Sbdv on 2
Acres. \$725,000 Alice Lebkuecher



24 Wildwood Cir Great Lot backs
to Golf Course, wet weather creek.
\$60,000 Alice Lebkuecher



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



Mickey Brown
512-468-4509



Alice Lebkuecher
713-253-1311



Jim Donaldson
830-857-3371



Debbie Donaldson
512-665-9588



Jeff Hutto
936-327-2303



Linda Germain
512-924-3661

RE/MAX REAL PROPERTIES

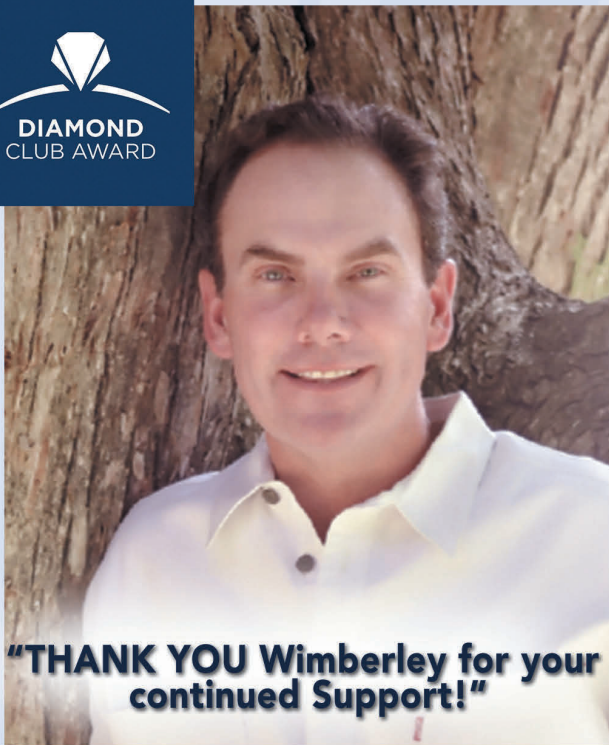
Allison "AJ" Harwood

JD, MBA, GRI Real Estate Broker / Attorney

THE
RE/MAX
COLLECTION®



Allison "AJ" Harwood was just honored with the prestigious REMAX Diamond Club Award and was recognized as the #1 Top Producing REMAX Agent in the Austin/Central Texas Area for 2022 and #3 in Texas.



Reasons my clients refer me to family and friends:

- Extensive Local market Knowledge
- Trusted Advisor of Your Best Interest
- Legal and Finance Background
- Experienced in Contract Negotiations
- Client Focused Approach & Attention to Detail
- Timely & Effective Communicator
- Committed, Full-Time Real Estate Broker

Specializing in Fine Homes, Recreational Ranches, and Luxury Properties

Main Office:

(512)847-SOLD(7653) • 713-668-SOLD(7653)

AJ@REMAX.net • AJ.REMAX.com • @AJHarwoodSold

160 South River, Wimberley TX 78676



Each office independently owned and operated

