

Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

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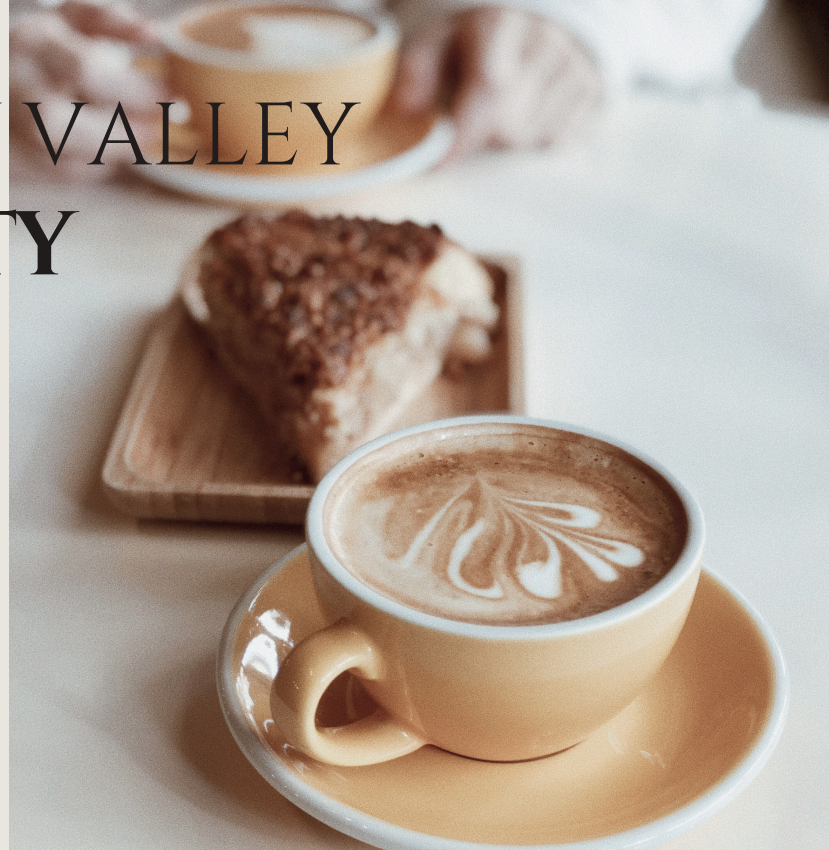
**“SUMMERTIME IS ALWAYS THE BEST
OF WHAT MIGHT BE.”
— CHARLES BOWDEN**

Here we are – that halfway point. Long days and balmy evenings that seem to stretch out endlessly until all at once summer closes its doors and the crisp autumn air begins to reshape our lives again. I like to make time to pause and evaluate the year so far. Resolutions are only as effective as we allow them to be. What do you want to do, change, be this year? There’s still time.

I’m hung up on that anonymous quote I found on Instagram earlier this year, “nothing ever changes, if nothing ever changes.” And the beauty there is that in a moment, a split second, we can in fact change. There are those who say it isn’t likely, but we can. We do. We keep the parts that are pure and genuine and evolve to give space to live out our wildest dreams.

Cyle Elizabeth Johnson, Editor

WIMBERLEY VALLEY COMMUNITY CALENDAR



- Every 2nd Mon. *Wimberley Valley Art League* meets at the Wimberley Community Center at 6:30-8:30pm. Visit WimberleyArtLeague.org
- Every 2nd Mon. *Wimberley 4H* meets during the school year at VFW Hall, 401 Jacobs Well Road, 7pm, 6:30pm Clover Kids
- 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, general discussion. Parkinson's exercise program. Paulwilj99@gmail.com.
- Every 2nd & 4th Monday, The Wimberley Chapter of *Overeaters Anonymous* meets at 7pm, at the Wimberley Presbyterian Church, 956 FM 2325, Wimberley, TX 78676. (3rd door from the right). For more info, call or text Aida at 512-787-8313.
- Mon. July 8, Jacob's Well Chapter, *National Society Daughters of the American Revolution*, Emily Ann Theater in Wimberley at 9:40am, for chat time and 10am for our business meeting. JacobsWellNSDAR@gmail.com for more.
- Mon. *Toddler Time*, Wimberley Village Library, 10:30-11:30am, beginning January 9.
- Every Mon. *Stroller Strides workout*, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, contact Summer 512 644 4198, SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com
- Every Tues. *Gentle Hatha Yoga*, 6pm, Wimberley Community Center (\$10)
- Every Tuesday, 6:30pm, *Celebrate Recovery* with an option for dinner served at 6pm. Calvary Baptist Church, San Marcos. Contact Celebrate Recovery Leadership Team, 512-426-3758.
- Every Tues. *Bilingual Spanish Storytime*, 10:30-11:30am, Library
- 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 & Cultural Alliance* (WVACA) mixer at Middleton Brewing. All are welcome. WimberleyArts.org.
- Every Wed. *Spanish for Homeschool Teens*, 12:30-1:30pm, Wimberley Library, multipurpose room, 7th grade and up
- Every Wed. *Gentle Hatha Yoga*, 3pm, Burdine Theatre, Emily Ann Theatre (\$10)
- Every Wed. Join Wimberley Valley *Chamber of Commerce* for breakfast at the Wimberley Cafe for networking opportunities, 8-9am. Bring 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. Valentine_Lisa@msn.com.

Have something to add to the Calendar?

Reach out to us at info@WVNEWSVIEWS.com

or 512 375 5590.

- Every 1st Thur. The *Wimberley Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group*, 12:30pm at the Presbyterian Church Library FM 2325. Contact Linda at 512-924-3661.
- Every Thurs. *Gentle Hatha Yoga*, 12pm, Community Center (\$10)
- 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. Contact Amy, amy@texiasllc.com.
- Every 3rd Thur. *Live concerts* at Susanna's Kitchen Coffeehouse, 7:30pm; \$25 adults, \$5 children. Food, coffee, soft drinks. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (United Methodist Church.) WimberleyUMC.org Benefits Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. **Thurs. July 18: Shake Russell**
- Every Thurs. *Gentle Yoga* 10-11am, Wimberley Village Library
- Every Thursday, *Master Gardeners* at the Library, 2-5pm
- 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 smwimberleyds@fit4mom.com
- Every Fri. *Stroller Strides Playdate with Kids Craft Fridays*, 10am, Emily Ann Theatre, contact Summer, 512 644 4198 or SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com
- Every Fri. *Storytime*, 10:30-11:30am, Wimb. Village Library
- Every 2nd Sat. *Wimberley's Second Saturday Gallery Trail*. Visit ten galleries for art, food, fun, 4-7pm. Email BentTreeGallery@gmail.com. Have a glass of wine & enjoy art after hours.
- 1st Sat. *Wimberley Market Day*, 7am-3pm, rain or shine
- 1st Sun. of every month, *Wimberley Coffee & Cars*, 8am-11am, at Blanco Brew located at 14200 Ranch Road 12

Adaptation and Life



by *Tim Thompson*

I have been privileged to see first-hand how Mother Nature can resurrect herself after even the most devastating blows. The tools that she has developed over the eons have equipped Nature with multiple abilities to overcome tremendous challenges.

We visited Yellowstone National Park with our kids in 1989 – the year after devastating fires wiped out over one and a half million trees in and around the park. Traveling there in 2022 allowed us to see forests renewed with fifty-foot lodgepole pines and huge wildflower meadows where tree seeds were sterilized by firestorms.

It may be some years before we fully understand the compound effects of a warming climate on our weather in Texas. Steadily warmer weather is often accompanied by some of the most damaging winter weather on record, and harsh droughts have come with terrible floods that swept property and lives downstream. Nearly ten years later, the scars of Wimberley's 2015 Blanco River flood are still evident all along our beloved river.

Part of Nature's plan of redemption is to replace less well-adapted species with some that are better suited to new realities for the area. When pressed, most of us can recall species that have moved or changed even in the relatively short span of our lives. One commonly cited example is the Texas Horned Lizard. While not an endangered species, its range has constricted due to its sensitivity to pesticides and the growth of Imported fire ants as a competitor.

In my childhood, white wing dove habitat was primarily along a thin strip of the lower Rio Grande valley but has expanded many times over to include most of the southern half of Texas and the southwest United States. In this case, intervention in hunting limits as well as the dove's adaptability to new environments seems to have saved this robust bird population.

As we find our way along the future path for human habitation, I expect we will find and follow the demands of evolution to find ways to address the existential threats to long and healthy lives.

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 King Feed at 512 847 2618.



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by *Kern Deschner*

The Promised Land

When we first began with our ranch, we named it Tierra Prometida Alpacas, or "promised land". It's been up and down for a long time trying to live up to that name.

Last weekend, though, as I was sitting in the air-conditioning, looking out over the green hills with the alpacas grazing, I thought we may have come pretty close.

I was feeling quite satisfied until Rhonda calls to me that the water is off. No water. Great. So I'm up the hill to the water well where the tank is empty and I can't get the pump to turn back on. That night, it is a cold hose-shower over at the ranch. But, the next morning, the water well service guys showed up early. They spent all day, pulling 700 feet of pipe, changing the 20 year old pump, and replacing the corroded pipe. They were done by the end of the day and we had water again. And a \$10,000 bill. Ouch, but I must have water. Life is still good, but this is painful. And just when I thought things were almost perfect.

When we built our first house 30 years ago, I remember walking in the first time. No paint scratches, everything perfect, and it's going to always be this way. Right? Then the scorpions show up, we find the electric switch that doesn't work, two skunks decide to fight under the pool deck, and found out I was foolish enough to put white carpet in a house where children are drinking, Kool-Aid. Life turns out to be that way. Over the years, your skin

wrinkles, your knees begin to hurt, and the kids grow, initially, into annoying teenagers but then become decent people again ... right about the time they move away. Things can be pretty good, but never quite perfect.

We have been seeking perfection in alpacas, but that is elusive. The perfect alpaca would be exactly the color that you want, with perfect confirmation. It would be in great health, with good breeding capabilities, and a perfect fleece, which is quite a complicated goal in itself. As breeders are learning more about fleece genetics, we see that there are positive genes that can be enhanced by selected breeding, but may be genetically linked to genes that work against the fleece quality. We don't know how to separate the good genes from those that may work against us. If you want an exceptional crimp curly fiber, which is highly desired, the length of that fiber is going to be shorter, which is not desired. If you want a lot of fineness to the fiber, you're going to have a fleece that looks droopy because it's so fine that it does not seem as dense. It seems like the universe has programmed that we will never having the perfect alpaca. But we keep trying to find a way, and time will tell.

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.



Chef Jan here... welcome to my kitchen!

It's truly a gift to live in this beautiful place, to be inspired by the scenery, wildlife, history here.

As a little one I remember standing on a step to peer into the pans on the stove, capturing every new aroma. I recall asking mama how to make gravy and studiously watching the process. Later grandma taught me how to make biscuits. I began baking cakes and pies from scratch and, of course, my dad's favorite chocolate pie. I was disappointed with most dining out experiences and knew I could do better.

I obtained a degree from Culinary Institute of America and had my own café just out of school. As my own young family grew, I enjoyed trying innumerable recipes to discover what my children would eat.

I have always enjoyed preparing holiday feasts and entertaining. I was continually being called to cook, lead, or teach and that shaped my career. I am the chef at Blair House Inn in Wimberley and teach cooking classes in various global cuisines. Always continuing my education through CIA and Institute of Culinary Education, I remain well-versed in traditional *l'art culinaire*. I also work with local wine makers to provide pairings for the dishes I cook.

I would love to create a memorable dining experience or cooking class for you and yours.



JAN CARLSON
PERSONAL CHEF
512 227 6277
CARLSON.JAN@GMAIL.COM

SILKY ZUCCHINI SOUP

45 minutes, makes 4 servings

- 1½ lb. fresh zucchini, half & cut into slices
- 2-3 cups vegetable broth
- 2T extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small, sweet onion finely chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic thinly sliced

Sauté onion & garlic in oil. Add a little salt & pepper. Before onion starts to brown, add zucchini & cook until soft on low heat. Add 2 cups broth & simmer until zucchini falls apart. Add more broth if you want to thin it. Taste for salt and pepper. Cool down for 10 minutes before blending. Serve cold or hot.

NOTE: There's no need to peel since zucchini skin is so tender. You can peel but your soup will be white. Zucchini flowers are edible so if you have some, float one on top of each bowl of soup.



What's hiding in your water bottle?



by *Betsy & Rance Mosley*

In the January article we discussed what it means to be a Water Snob. Then of course to be a true Water Snob you must carry a water bottle around with you with the best tasting alkaline water possible at all times. However, did you know that your reusable water bottle may be susceptible to biofilm and bacteria growth? How often and how well are you cleaning your water bottle?

Using a reusable water bottle is beneficial because it is easier to keep track of how many ounces of water you consume in a day. It is also better for the environment because it reduces plastic waste. However, there could be some negative side effects if your water bottle is not properly cleaned. You would be surprised what can grow on the surface, inside your bottle, and underneath the rubber gaskets.

The conditions are perfect in the typical water bottle to foster bacterial growth: moisture, contamination, and at times warm temperatures. Dr. Yuriko Fukuta, Assistant Professor of Medicine-Infectious Diseases at Baylor College of Medicine states that in their studies, "bacteria found in water bottles not properly cleaned could include staph or strep and more than 20% of our samples had coliform bacteria, which is fecal matter."

Here are some ways to help decrease the chance of bacterial growth:

- Use only water in your bottle. Other beverages or powders will only increase the chances of bacterial growth.
- Do not leave your water bottle inside your car. Warmer temperatures will accelerate the growth of bacteria.

- Wash your bottle once or twice a week and leave it upside down to dry completely
- Take any rubber gaskets off the top of your bottle and wash them thoroughly.
- You can use extra strength white vinegar and water to soak your bottles for at least 30 minutes.
- You can also use ¼ cup of hydrogen peroxide to clean your water bottle. Make sure the solution remains in contact with the cleaning surface for at least 10 minutes. Then wash thoroughly with warm soapy water and allow it to air dry.
- I am not a huge fan of using bleach, but you can use a bleach and water solution of 4 teaspoons to 1 quart of water. Make sure the solution is in contact with the cleaning surface for at least 1 minute. Wash thoroughly with warm soapy water and air dry.
- Remember to never combine vinegar with bleach or hydrogen peroxide because toxic vapors can result.

These steps will help you keep your water bottle free of creepy crawlies so you can be the healthiest Water Snob possible. The weather is beginning to get warmer so stay hydrated!

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



by *Julie Gosh*

How is your Water of Life flowing?

Ayurveda, the 5,000-year-old traditional Hindu system of medicine, considers the lymphatic system to be the most important

system in the body, referring to lymph as *Rasa* or *water of life*. It is the primary focus when treating any condition.

This corresponds with the latest thinking in western medicine that has identified a range of symptoms that can be indications that our lymph is not flowing freely or working effectively:

- Decreased immune function
- Blocked sinuses
- Skin outbreaks including rashes
- Stiff joints
- Bloating, gas, and constipation
- Acid reflux or indigestion
- Difficulty losing weight
- Lack of concentration
- Frequent mood swings, including anxiety, and depression
- Headaches
- Disturbed sleep
- Fatigue, low energy, and/or exhaustion

I run a small boutique wellness center from my home in Driftwood, Texas. One of my main tools for helping myself and

my clients work towards harmony in all ways is The Flowpresso. I have come to see that there is a huge missing piece in our understanding of how important the lymphatic system is and how it needs our partnership to ensure proper functioning. I am seeing amazing results occur when we simply get "The Water of Life" flowing again. Better sleep, less anxiety, deeper calm, pain subsiding, emotional release, and much more.

The lymphatic system doesn't have a pump like the circulatory system so it needs us to help it do its job. The simplest starting place is the Big 6 Lymph Reset: This is super easy to do and can be done in just a few minutes. Visit [Youtube.com/watch?v=IT_wW5pNH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT_wW5pNH4) to try it.

I hope you will come see me for a 40 minute Flowpresso session. This "suit" mimics the lymphatic system with deep pressure, compression, infrared heat, and PEMF technology. A powerful by-product is a very deep reset of the nervous system.

Julie Gosh lives in Driftwood and operates Tolmao Wellness, a boutique wellness company that focuses on resilient living in the face of life's challenges. She holds various certifications that represent a multi-faceted approach to health, well-being, and joy. For more information visit TolmaoWellness.com

Training with Others

I like to have big classes and small classes. In a big class, horizons are quickly expanded. People learn from each other. They look around and watch others, choose what they like, and copy. This is much better than anything I alone could offer. Grandmaster Kim Soo had big classes at the University of Houston for years, and at the end of the semester, he always saw that the people in the big class were far ahead of the ones who weren't.

But I also like small classes. There, people go inward and we can focus on details. Self-realization is evident and expansion is from within. This is important, too, albeit it is a slow process.

I think we need a little of both. Others help us advance, but we also need to dig within. With kids, this is even more important. Kids quickly learn by looking around and copying what they see. This is the main reason why I love to train families. Kids simply do a lot better when their parents are involved. It is important that the parents understand what is being taught.

I tell the parent not to worry about the kids in class, for I am there to correct them. At home, the parent practices and the kid may join, but the kid is also will naturally practice through play. Everybody learns at different rates, and everybody has different strengths and weaknesses. Families who train together begin to appreciate this in each other. Because of the nature of the art, nobody is always the slow one.



by Sarah Geenberg

When parents are involved, they naturally emphasize the lessons at home. Things like having patience, confidence, and endurance are learned from the parent. When things are hard, the kids get to see how their parents react to the challenge. This learning happens naturally and without effort.

Consistency is the most important aspect of the training. Without it, nothing is accomplished. Having people around who are also training automatically helps. The time spent is nurturing the family unit instead of fracturing it.

Sarah 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



by Robert Donnelly,
DDS

The Effects of Acid Erosion

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

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

You can reduce sensitivity at home by using specially formulated toothpaste or over-the-counter enamel-building products. These products are designed to reharder (remineralize) tooth enamel to make it more resistant to acid. However, there

are no products that can reverse the damage caused by erosion. At the dental office, if the enamel loss is minimal, we may apply a bonding material that will protect your tooth and improve its appearance. If the enamel loss is significant, we may recommend covering it with a crown.

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

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Five Symptoms You Should Not Ignore

You know there are health symptoms people should not overlook. Well, it's the same for trees. They often display key symptoms indicating that serious problems exist or could develop if ignored.

Here are five symptoms that merit a call to a certified arborist for a professional assessment.

1. Obscured root collars: Most trees, even young ones, exhibit a distinct, visible flare where the stem (trunk) joins the root system. If this flare is covered by soil or mulch, then disease, girdling roots and insect infestations are more likely to occur. If this condition is allowed to continue untreated and disorders develop, the interruption of water flow from the roots to the branches will lead to the crown's decline. Once the crown is affected, remedial treatments may be unsuccessful in arresting the failure. So, inspecting this critical region for disorders is important. Excavation of the buried root collar is a priority.
2. "Bleeding" on stems and branches: Wet spots on branches and stems indicate sap flow from wounds that could have been created by insect borers, disease pathogens or environmental disorders. The sap may be colonized by bacteria and other microorganisms resulting in a discolored flux that may have a sour odor.
3. Delayed budbreak: Trees initiate new growth in spring depending on species, weather conditions and the health status of the individual plant. If a plant seemed later than usual breaking

bud and if the resulting new growth appears sparser than normal, this could indicate a root or vascular disorder. Delayed bud-break and a sparse crown are expected on newly planted trees.

4. Yellowing and premature loss of leaves in summer on the interior portions of the crown may be indications of water stress (too little or too much) soil moisture; commonly occur on birch, maple, tulip tree, and other shallow rooted plants. Can be an early indication of a root or soil disorder inhibiting water uptake.
5. Premature autumn color and leaf drop: Trees under stress will frequently develop autumn coloration early and cast their leaves prematurely. Commonly associated with serious root and soil disorders; also caused by vascular diseases and boring insects.

Contact a certified arborist today for a consultation and full health assessment.

A Wimberley resident, Steven Austin is a member of the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and is an ISA Certified 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 & Texas Oak Wilt Certified by the Texas Forest Service. Steven can be reached at 512-392-1089 or toll-free at 800-443-8733.



by Steven Austin



by AJ Harwood

Eight Reasons You Need a Real Estate Pro to Sell Your Home

If you're thinking about selling your home, don't do it alone. Although some sellers may initially try to sell their home themselves, they soon realize they need an

experienced professional on their side through the process.

- 1) Understand the local market. The internet gives you access to more information now than ever before. An experienced agent will help you understand it in the context of the local market.
- 2) Price your home competitively. When you list your home, you want it to sell quickly and for top dollar. Having professional assistance will help you do both in competitive markets.
- 3) Get more money for your home. Studies show that enlisting the aid of an agent to sell your home will net you more money than trying to sell it yourself.
- 4) Negotiate in your best interest. Buyers are looking for a deal on a home and they'll hire an experienced agent to negotiate the sale for them. Having a real estate pro on your side will even the playing field and help you negotiate the terms of the sale.
- 5) Spot potential challenges. Every real estate transaction is different. While we hope transactions go smoothly, setbacks and other hiccups often occur. Sellers who have listed their homes themselves may not have the experience to deal with these issues as they arise. A real estate professional can tap into their experiences to handle potential problems such as issues with a

inspection or problems with a title and mitigate their impact.

- 6) Offer tips to improve your home's value and make it more attractive to buyers. Sellers typically update their homes before they list. Some simply paint each room a neutral color and do a thorough cleaning, others may do a kitchen or bathroom remodel. A realtor knows how to boost your home's value.
- 7) Tap into a network of agents. Marketing your home to other agents is another way to help us find a qualified buyer.
- 8) Tap into a network of service professionals. Real estate professionals work with a variety of service and tradespeople. There are an average of 26 services involved in a real estate transaction in the 30 days before and after it has closed.

This information is designed to provide a brief overview of the subject matter covered and is offered for general educational and informational purposes only. Sources: NAR 2015 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers. Used with permission by the Buffini & Company.

Allison "AJ" Harwood, JD, MBA, GRI, is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX REAL PROPERTIES and the #2 Top Producing RE/MAX Agent for Austin and the Central Texas Area for 2023. 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. AJ may be contacted at 512.848-6612 or at AJ@REMAX.net Call AJ Today!



BY TOM WILEY

WEAVING WITH SHINING EYES

Admiring art at a local gallery, you may not know the story behind the artist. Kathleen Utts has a story.

Kathleen is a fiber artist who owns Wimberley Valley Saori, a full-service weaving studio. Saori breaks from conventional weaving by encouraging self-expression and individual creativity over perfection. It was founded by Misao Jo in Japan in 1970.

When Kathleen Utts and her family moved to a 40 acre property in Wimberley, friends delivered a llama and some goats. Later came 15 fluffy alpaca. Shearing and processing the alpaca fleece into yarn inspired her to open 'Ply Yarn, Art & Handwovens' in Wimberley. That business was later sold to a colleague so that Kathleen could focus on weaving. She had become interested in weaving "free-style" and later the internet introduced her to Saori.

Her first hands-on experience in Saori took her to Atlanta, GA. There she learned, if she hoped to actually teach the process, she should study with a Japanese teacher who owned a SAORI studio in Worcester, MA. That period of her journey lasted three years.



Afterwards, she traveled to Japan and spent ten days studying with Misao Jo's son, Kenzo Jo, and his team. In addition to teaching students, Kenzo has developed equipment and techniques for Saori. These accessible looms allow free-form weaving which produces individually inspired results. Simplicity and design are incorporated into looms so even persons with physical disabilities can use them.

Kathleen was later certified to open a studio in 2017, and Wimberley Valley Saori officially opened in February, 2021. These extensive experiences, especially the wonderful opportunity to meet Misao Jo in Japan, allowed Kathleen to be true to the original Saori philosophy.

Misao Jo said, "Consider the difference between a machine and a human being." She knew Saori encourages creative expression of an individual's true self. Breaking from weaving conformity allows weavers to let color, texture, and irregularity to shine in their work.

Wimberley Valley Saori is part workshop and retail shop. Saori looms are surrounded by an incredible variety of colorful yarns, hand-dyed ribbons, and fiber rovings. These selections serve to inspire artistic creativity to produce woven wearables or admired art pieces.

Kathleen's work has been on exhibit in area galleries, including winning a recent juried exhibition at 220 Fine Art Gallery in Wimberley. Her studio has been open on area Studio Tours. She loves to share Saori, and she offers classes and workshops

"Working with groups...it's all about sharing! Students' weavings are uniquely beautiful because each person is different in their creative expression." That's Saori.

WimberleyValleySaori.com



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Don't pack these! Often-forgotten Essentials You'll Need on Moving Day



by Alice Lebkuecher

It's moving day! Make sure you don't pack these essential items in your boxes.

- **Toiletries/Medications:** Pack a suitcase like you're going out of town for two days. Don't forget to toss any medications or supplements in your overnight bag. Include a generous supply of toilet paper and hand soap.
- **Important Documents:** Make sure you keep at least one form of identification on you during the move.
- **Small Valuables:** Best to keep anything of importance/value out of moving boxes and off the truck. Money, jewelry, or small family heirlooms can mysteriously disappear.
- **Basic Cleaning Supplies:** The house you move into should (hopefully) be cleaned before you arrive. But movers will be traipsing in and out of your house all day, and that will inevitably create a bit of a mess.
- **Shower Curtain:** If the showers in your new home aren't enclosed with glass doors, make sure to keep a shower curtain with hooks handy for those first couple of nights. Keep towels out of the moving boxes, too.
- **Comforting Items for Children:** That means favorite stuffed animals and blankets or pillows your kids are particularly attached to.

- **Utility Knife:** If you're going to dive into unpacking right away, you'll want a utility knife out; a couple of them, because you'll set them down and get distracted.

- **Phone/Laptop Chargers:** Don't put these in a moving box. No one wants that "oh no" moment when your phone/laptop is dead and you have no idea where you put the charger.

- **Paper plates/Cutlery:** There are only so many nights you can eat pizza while hovering over the box, or Chinese food straight from the containers. Have disposable plates, cups, cutlery, and paper towels on hand from the get-go.

- **Pet Necessities:** Don't pack your pet's food and water bowls.

- **Corkscrew:** Trust me, at the end of moving day, you'll want this handy.

This article was adapted from an article found on the Realtor.com website.

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.



by Randy Lawrence

Microbiological Safety of Your Water

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

Paramount among these issues is ensuring that your water supply is free of bacterial contamination and therefore safe to drink. Coliform is the most common type of bacteria found in untreated household water supplies. Ingesting it typically causes varying levels of stomach upset and intestinal issues.

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

making it necessary to consider adding a disinfection step to your home water treatment system.

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

Randy Lawrence is the owner of ProQuality Water Systems, a full service water treatment company. He is one of only six Class III Certified Water Treatment Specialists in Hays County (LIC# WT0002693). With over 25 years of experience he has serviced Wimberley and surrounding areas for over a decade.

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Mid-Year Financial Review



by *Scott G.*

Hackett, CFP®

A mid-year financial review can help you to:

- Track your progress towards your financial goals, such as saving for retirement, buying a home, or paying off debt.
- Review your budget and spending habits and see if you need to cut back on any unnecessary expenses or increase your income.
- Optimize your savings and investments, and make sure you are earning the best returns and minimizing the fees and taxes.
- Manage your debt and credit, and see if you can lower your interest rates, consolidate your loans, or pay off your balances faster.
- Plan and anticipate any changes in your income, expenses, or life circumstances that may affect your financial situation.

A few simple steps:

- Gather your financial documents, such as bank statements, credit card bills, investment reports, loan statements, and tax returns.
- Review your income and expenses and compare them to your budget. See if you are spending more or less than you planned and identify any categories where you can save or earn more money.
- Review your savings and investments and see if you are on track to meet your goals. Check your asset allocation, diversification, risk tolerance, and performance. Make any adjustments or rebalances as needed.
- Review your debt and credit and see if you are paying off your debt as fast as possible. Check your credit score and report and

look for any errors or fraud. Consider refinancing, consolidating, or negotiating your debt if you can get better terms.

- Review your goals and plan and see if you need to make any changes based on your current situation. Set new goals or milestones for the rest of the year and create a realistic and flexible action plan to achieve them.

A mid-year financial review can help you take control of your money and achieve your financial goals. By doing a regular check-up on your finances, you can stay on track, make smart decisions and avoid any surprises or setbacks. A mid-year financial review.

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

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by *Carrie Campbell*

Starting Your Own Business: Non-profits and Organizations Created to Do Good

A non-profit corporation is any corporation in which no income is shared with members, directors, or officers. It is formed like other corporations by the filing of a Certificate of Formation with the Texas Secretary of State, then the proper preparation and adoption of bylaws. The Texas Business Organizations Code requires that all non-profits have three or more directors, a president, and secretary. Different individuals must fill the role of president and secretary. A non-profit may, at its discretion, have members. Members are often involved with religious or services organizations like Rotary or Lions Club.

A non-profit organization is not automatically exempt from federal and state taxes. To become exempt, the non-profit must comply with the requirements established by the IRS and the Texas Comptroller. While it is relatively easy to process tax-exempt status, it is an additional and much more arduous bureaucratic activity to apply for and receive 501(c)(3) status with the IRS which permits gifts to the non-profit to be tax deductible for donors.

There are restrictions on political contributions by non-profits. The IRS can revoke tax exempt status for violations of federal law. Moreover, the Texas Attorney General has the legal

authority to examine all corporate records and investigate dealings by non-profit charities. Greater scrutiny is given to non-profits organizations than your typical small business holdings, including periodic reports required by the Secretary of State.

Similar requirements and details apply to other business structures that are organized to do good, such as cooperatives used by educational institutions, farmers, and utility providers. It is important to consult with professionals in determining which structure works best for your purposes.

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: Is federal court scary?



by Roland Brown

A client, upon being told by her lawyer that her personal injury lawsuit is being transferred to federal court, might ask, "Is that bad?" The lawyer's answer could be "yes" or "no" depending on a variety of circumstances. Some lawyers just prefer to avoid federal courts altogether. Others find that there are desirable aspects of having a case in federal court.

The vast majority of personal injury cases, and civil cases in general, are filed in state courts and are resolved there. A few personal injury cases are filed by the plaintiff initially in federal court, but most such cases that end up in federal court start out in a state court but are "removed", or, in common language, are transferred, to the federal court. Generally, the transfer is sought by a defendant whose residence is in a different state. Such defendants often believe they are less likely to be affected by the perceived "hometown" nature of a state court, and therefore utilize an available procedure to assert "diversity jurisdiction" and force the state court to transfer the case to the federal court.

Federal courts generally apply the same law to personal injury suits as the state court would have, but they have different procedural and evidentiary rules as well as some variations on issues such as how damages are computed or awarded. Although the procedural and evidentiary rules are not vastly different from those applied by the state courts, it can be challenging for attorneys who do not practice regularly in federal court to be sure they are complying with the different rules.

On the plus side, some advantages of being in federal court include the comparative efficiency and speed with which cases are handled. Federal judges are able to refer some, or, with consent of the parties, all of the proceedings to magistrate judges for determination. This tends to speed the process. Federal judges typically have briefing clerks that can assist in locating applicable law, reviewing pleadings and motions, and communicating with lawyers on procedural or substantive matters in the case. Relatively few state court trial judges have those advantages.

The client's attorney will weigh the attorney's preferences and the advantages and disadvantages in answering the client's question. Ultimately though, when that is where the case lands, the attorney will seek to maximize the benefits of being in federal court and minimize any perceived disadvantages while seeking the best outcome for the client.

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.

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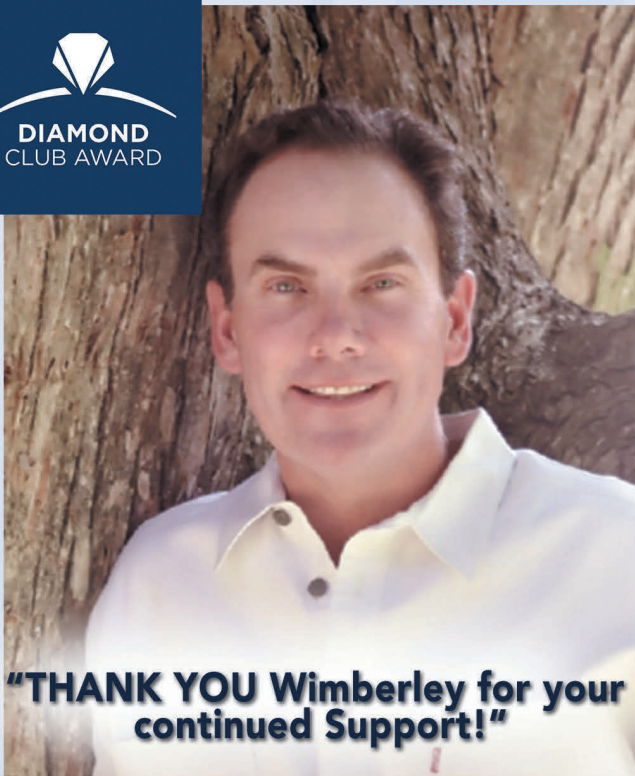
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