

Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

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**“HOW SMARTLY SEPTEMBER COMES
IN, LIKE A RACING GIG, ALL STYLE, NO
CONFUSION.”
— ELEANOR CLARK**

There’s something about September. If August is the gate between summer and autumn, then September is the view on the other side. And we’re beginning to peer out at a beautiful season unfolding before us. So much is happening around town these next few months and we’re here for it.

We hope this issue brings you ideas for health, happiness, and community. And as always, thank you for joining us.

Cyle Elizabeth Johnson, Editor

WIMBERLEY VALLEY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Every 1st Mon. *Wimberley Apron Society* meets at Emily Ann Annex Bldg. Set-up at 5:30, program 6-8pm. Exchange ideas on healthy sustainable lifestyles, gardening, cooking, homesteading. See Facebook page for more.
- 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. September 9, 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
- Mon. *Toddler Time*, Wimberley Village Library, 10:30-11:30am
- Every Mon. *Stroller Strides workout*, 9am, Wimberley First Baptist Church, contact Summer 512 644 4198, SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com
- Every Tues. *Gentle Hatha Yoga*, 6pm, Wimb. 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. Men, women, Co-Ed, Spanish, Youth & Children. Register at SanMarcosEve.CBSCClass.org
- 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, EmilyAnn 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. *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. 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. Pie, pizza, tamales, coffee, soft drinks. Corner of RR 12 & CR 1492 (United Methodist Church.) WimberleyUMC.org Benefits Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. **Thurs. September 19: Two Tons of Steel**
- Every Thurs. *Gentle Yoga* 10-11am, Wimberley Village Library
- Every Thursday, *Master Gardeners* at the Library, 2-5pm
- Every Fri. *Wimberley VFW Post 6441* bingo nights. Doors 6:30pm with food concession. Earlybird 7:00pm. Regular 8pm. 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, *Coffee & Cars*, 8am-11am, at Blanco Brew
- Saturday, September 14, *Wimberley Glassworks Gourdeous Glass Pumpkin Patch*, 10:00-2:30 pm, mimosas and margs, live glassblowing.
- Sunday, September 15, *Wimberley Valley Big Band* at Willow Lake, downtown Wimberley, 3-5pm.

Stories of Our Roots

Long-time readers know well my affinity for trees of note. Trees planted by famous people, trees of remarkable size or age, trees with unique characteristics or growing in unusual circumstances.

I had the chance to visit such a tree this summer where it has survived since sprouting in the early days of the American Revolution. Growing on the south shore of Lake Superior in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the ancient sandstone outcropping on which it rests seems like an impossible location for a tree to find a path to life. Adding to the difficulty of surviving on the windswept pinnacle, the archway that connected it to the mainland collapsed during the last World War, leaving the tree standing isolated on a pedestal. Amazingly, its thick roots extend out from the tree on the rock pinnacle, stretching through the air to the main body of roots on the cliff, hanging like a knotted bridge, continuing to provide the tree with nutrients and water.

The rock isn't the only thing that has proven to be remarkably durable. Writers and tourists have long admiringly described the single pine tree that grows like a spire out of the sparse dirt covering the top of the stone outcropping. Even today, the same resilient pine stands sentinel over what has come to be known as Chapel Rock, connected to the mainland by its extensive root system.

Most of us enjoy more predictable connections to the sources of our food, water, light, and protection, and we rightly defend and nurture those sources of all that keeps us going. Whether we are

protecting the precious natural resources bequeathed to us or learning more about our own role as keepers of the land on which we live and breathe, the responsibility for stewardship is clearly ours.

At least as vital, the sources of inspiration, beauty, and truth that bring meaning to us all must be protected and nurtured. The roots of our lives- individually and collectively- certainly depend on being able to pass on our own stories well into the future.

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.



by *Tim Thompson*



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by *Kern Deschner*

Alpacas Over the Moon

Lately I have been trying to lose some weight. It is desperately needed, and I won't bore you with that. Part of that has involved me exercising, and I found that it takes the least concentration to exercise by walking up the hill at the ranch three or four times in an evening. Because it is so hot, I've been waiting until a little after dark. This week, I have been able to enjoy the full "super" moon to light the path. I haven't really taken a good look at the moon in a long time and it's kind of nice to get reacquainted.

So here comes the nerdy part. I was thinking that it's a little strange that we only have one moon. Astronomers think that our moon was born out of extreme violence, about 4 1/2 billion years. Another planet (science named it Theia), about the size of Mars, slammed into the Earth and splattered a bunch of rock into orbit. Earth had a ring for a little while, but all that material coalesced into the Moon. But why only one? I mean, even Mars has two moons, probably captured asteroids, and Jupiter has, what, 67? And they keep finding new moons for those planets all the time. In Star Wars, the planets may have two suns, which actually turns out to be pretty common. Our nearest stellar neighbor, for example, is three stars, orbiting each other. But we've kept it simple here. We have one sun and one moon.

Or *do* we? I saw an article in a magazine about

469219Kamo'oalewa, a 50 meter asteroid that is orbiting us every one year, and 17 minutes. They call it a quasi-Moon because they don't expect this to last. Eventually it will spin off as several others have, so they aren't really moons. Neither are the thousands of man-made objects in orbit. Nor are all the rocks that our planet is dragging behind it like a water skier behind a boat. We don't want to slam on the brakes for those tail-gaiters.

According to Carnegie Science, there are four moons in our solar system, including our own Moon, that are big enough to have their own Moon, what we would call a *moonmoon* if we found one. As far as we know, though, none of our solar systems moons have a moonmoon.

It's kind of a characteristic of the alpaca world that you will have a central farm, a *planet* if you will, surrounded by several smaller *moon* farms. I think we all started out in the orbit of a larger farm with an establish program, and some of those farms were still in the orbit of someone even bigger. Eventually, you're either locked in orbit or, like Kamo'oalewa, break out on your own journey. That's when the real fun starts.

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.

Just Enjoy and Be Grateful

I've recently become aware of how much expectations and arbitrary goals have clouded my experience of joy when exercising. But really, how much does a six pack and being able to run 7 minute miles really matter? They don't. Not when compared to moments of pure joy I remember while running or walking or climbing a boulder or playing with a ball or stick or rock without a care in the world. And by the way, it felt good to just be moving.

I remember hours of playfully exercising. I wasn't thinking of any of my daily worries. I was just messing around and I didn't care about any outcome. I also felt gratitude that I had the time and energy to just get out and do what felt like nothing significant – while totally doing everything that my body needed to be healthy.

Then, I started to realize I also had expectations around eating. I recognize that I can eat, do it all correctly, and take all of the joy out of it. Or, I could remember how it feels to go out and just move around for the sake of moving around, and I can create that experience while eating. Turns out, I cannot eat food that is bad for me and get the same feeling. But, I can joyfully prepare the meal without any hurry and I can eat what I really feel like eating in that moment.

Then, I understood I can do the same thing with people. I have a conversation and have expectation of how things should go, or I

can just be there, enjoying and being grateful for the experience.

It became clear long ago that often people were coming to class – whether they be karate, yoga, or Tai Chi classes – in order to get away and be free of worries for an hour. Now I realize that they can get even more if they get rid of expectations. They can simply come, enjoy, and be grateful.



by Sarah Geenberg

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
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WimberleyKarateYoga.com



by Robert Donnelly,
DDS

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Getting your teeth straightened is not something just for teenagers anymore. Many adults, just like you, who are looking for a straighter, healthier smile have found that Invisalign is the best option for them. You can too! Invisalign clear retainers use

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Throughout your treatment, you will see your smile transform, gradually revealing the person you have always imagined yourself to be. The aligners are so inconspicuous that most people won't be able to tell you are wearing them. You wear the aligners all the time but they can be removed when you are eating, drinking and brushing or flossing your teeth. Since the aligners are removable

you are able to continue to eat your favorite foods and keep your oral hygiene consistent. You will be scheduled every few weeks to track progress and deliver new aligners.

Invisalign clear aligners can treat a wide range of teeth straightening conditions. When your teeth are properly aligned, the health benefits are clear. It is easier to brush and floss around properly aligned teeth and you are less likely to have areas that trap bacteria, it can reduce plaque retention, tooth decay, and the risk of gum disease. Properly aligned teeth can even reduce stress on the jawbone and joints.

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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Water you waiting for? Hydrate!



*by Betsy & Rance
Mosley*

I think we can all agree that we have had some pretty amazing weather in the Hill Country this summer. The temperatures have definitely been more tolerable than the past two summers. However, even with milder temperatures it is still very easy to become dehydrated. Everyone understands that excessive sweating can lead to significant fluid loss and dehydration, but there are other causes of dehydration that we need to be aware of. Let's explore some of these other causes.

The most obvious reason for dehydration is simply not drinking enough water. A good place to begin is half your body weight, so as an example if you weigh 150 lbs. then 75 ounces per day is what you should consume. Then for every 30 minutes of physical activity just add 12 more ounces of water to your daily intake.

Another cause is sickness such as vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. When you are sick your body uses water to fight infection by flushing out toxins. Fever increases your body's temperature causing you to lose more fluids. Staying hydrated while sick is extremely important, and electrolyte solutions are helpful to bring fluids back into balance.

It is also important to know the effect of some medications on your hydration levels. Some of these include diuretics, chemotherapy treatments, laxatives, some antipsychotics or antidepressants.

Everyone should be careful of excessive alcohol and caffeine consumption especially if you are already mildly dehydrated because they are both diuretics. Drinking these in

moderation while continuing to drink plenty of water is key to remaining hydrated.

Challenging environments such as climate and altitude can increase the risk of dehydration. Everyone should pay closer attention to your body's signals of thirst and dehydration while in hot humid conditions along with higher altitudes.

Certain diet choices, like high protein diets, fasting, or diets high in processed foods, can increase your body's need for water. Water is necessary for processing the extra proteins, flushing out toxins that are released during a fast, or digesting sugary foods. Increasing your water intake and including plenty of water-rich fruits and vegetables can help you stay hydrated.

So if you begin to feel thirsty, your skin is dry even though you should be sweating, have a headache, become dizzy, or have a decrease in urine, it's time to hydrate. In extreme cases you may have brain fog or confusion, fast heartbeat, and unconsciousness.

Now, if you'll excuse me I think it's time for some watermelon.

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.

The Value of A Home Inspection

Good news: A seller has accepted your offer, and you're one step closer to owning your dream home. You've now entered the option period, your time to scrutinize the property – and cancel the transaction if you choose. This is the time to consider hiring an inspector to take a closer look at what you're buying. Here's why:

- Inspectors are thorough. Inspectors must take extensive training to be licensed in Texas. They follow strict rules and are required to use the Property Inspection Report Form promulgated by the Texas Real Estate Commission. Though there are some limitations to what inspectors can evaluate, they will assess the home's structure, electrical systems, AC and heating, plumbing, appliances, and many other aspects.
- Inspectors find things you might overlook. Inspectors will always find issues, even in brand-new construction. But at least you know about the problems and can choose how you want to deal with them. For certain deficiencies an inspector discovers, you may want to hire a specialist such as a structural engineer, plumber, or electrician to further evaluate the condition.
- Inspections help you make decisions. If the inspection uncovers big surprises, you may want to ask the seller to

make repairs or lower the sales price. The seller may agree or refuse – or continue to negotiate. If things aren't going the way you want, you could decide to walk away – if the option period hasn't expired.

- There's something worse than finding problems. No one likes it when an inspector finds deficiencies in a home. As a buyer, you want a home in the best condition possible. Sellers also don't like news of problems with the home. But everyone benefits from this knowledge. An inspection reduces the likelihood of surprises down the road. A happy and informed buyer is less likely to complain or sue the seller after the sale.

If you have questions about home inspections, the termination option, or other parts of your real estate transaction, feel free to give me a call.

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 Alice Lebkuecher



by AJ Harwood

Building Wealth with Real Estate

For nearly a decade, many Americans have felt real estate is the best long-term investment. Single-family homes, condos, townhouses, multi-family homes, ADUs (accessory dwelling units), or vacant land

are all options to consider if you decide to invest.

- 1. Tax incentives. You may be eligible for certain tax breaks and deductions.
- 2. Extra income. After your monthly expenses are deducted from the rental payment, there may be additional income left.
- 3. Leverage funds. Real estate investments can be financed through mortgages and other financing options, allowing you to leverage your capital and amplify returns.
- 4. Hedge against inflation. Real estate historically keeps pace with inflation.
- 5. Equity and appreciation. Real estate properties tend to appreciate in value over time, allowing investors to build equity and accumulate wealth.
- 6. Portfolio diversification. Adding real estate to a portfolio of diversified assets can lower portfolio volatility and provide a higher return per unit of risk. It is also not affected by fluctuations in the stock market.

As with any investment, thorough research, careful planning, and professional guidance are crucial to maximize returns and minimize risks. Consult a tax professional or financial advisor.

Terms to know... *Fair market value* (FMV): The price that a willing buyer would pay a willing seller for a home in an open market. The FMV is agreed upon by both parties, who are knowledgeable about the property. *Investment value*: The amount an investor is willing to pay to obtain an asset or investment. It is based on their subjective goals, criteria, and opinions about the asset. *Return on investment* (ROI): Measures the profit you have made (or could make if you were to sell) on an investment. It is calculated by comparing the amount you have invested in the property, including the initial purchase price plus any further costs, to its current value.

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!

Tree Lightning Protection Systems

Storms in Central Texas remind us of a related issue regarding trees and safety: lightning damage. Our business has installed a number of tree lightning protection systems in Central Texas, but how do you know if you need one, and how exactly to those systems work? The following information provides answers to these questions.

Every year in the United States, more than a million trees are struck by lightning. Some of those trees sustain little damage, but others are killed immediately, or they sustain enough damage that they eventually die from boring insects and other secondary invaders. Many people are unaware that a lightning strike to a tree can damage nearby structures as well. This can happen when lightning that strikes a tree side-flashes or *jumps* to more conductive materials, such as metal downspouts.

The National Fire Protection Association Standards indicate that candidates for lightning protection systems include trees that are within ten feet of a structure, are taller than the structure, or have limbs over the structure; trees of historic interest or high value; trees in recreational areas (under which people tend to gather during storms); and trees prone to strikes due to their location on a hill, in a pasture, or near water. Trees equipped with lightning protection systems should not be considered safe havens from storms. The likelihood of damage from lightning is greatly reduced for such trees but not guaranteed.

Tree lightning protection systems work by installing conductors and connecting them to a ground rod. This directs the electrical charge to the earth where the energy is dispersed. Properly installed according to ANSI (American National Standards Institute) A300 standards, these systems have proven very effective in protecting trees and reducing risk of side flash.

Annual inspection of tree lightning protection systems by a qualified arborist is advised. As a tree grows, conductors may need to be extended and fasteners replaced.

Jo grew up in Charlotte, Michigan, as a second-generation arborist. In 2004, drawn to the warm weather, Joe found himself in San Marcos where he attend Texas State and became intrigued with the inner workings of the arboricultural industry. He joined Bartlett while he was there. Jo worked five years as an arborist climber and crew leader, recently making the transition to Arborist Representative. He and his family love spending time on the San Marcos river. For more information visit Bartlett.com or call 512 392 1089 to schedule an appointment.



by Jo Harris



Out and About

BY TOM WILEY



Multimedia artist, Peggy Weiss

Do you have a “happy place?” Artists do, too! While we can admire incredible art presented in galleries throughout Wimberley, we seldom have the opportunity to visit studios. Studios can be sacred places where creativity clings to the walls and artists feel energized from the surrounding buzz.

The Wimberley Valley Art League presents its Annual Artist Studio Tour. A mix of mediums and studio settings will be on display on Saturday, September 28, from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday, September 29, from 11am to 4pm.

A map will be available on the Art League website after September 15. Follow the trail at your leisure. The event is free.

Artists include Jim Street, Diane Lunow, Celia Clowe, Kathy Utts, Peggy Weiss, Susan Weems Smith, and Jefferis & Leigh Peterson.

www.WimberleyValleyArtLeague.org

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Wimberley Valley Winery
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What a perfect match – mixing the Hill Country’s popular wine scene with the area’s flourishing art. Wimberley Valley Winery has started a monthly Art Bazaar held every third Saturday at the winery’s grounds from 12 noon until 6pm. The event is free to guests who want to browse artist booths, sample wine, beer, and pizza and enjoy the music.

It’s a party! Artists wishing to display and sell art should contact

Denice Calley at 512-203-2817 or go to the
Wimberley Valley Winery website.

512-847-2592

hello@wimberleyvalleywine.com



www.WimberleyValleyWinery.com/Upcoming-Events



2018 HEMP FARM BILL UPDATE: *AT A STAND-STILL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30TH*

What is the 2018 Hemp Farm Bill Loophole?

The loophole originated in 2018 when the Farm Bill legalized hemp – or cannabis – with less than 0.3% THC, the principal psychoactive component of the plant. Cannabis with more than 0.3% THC, meanwhile, is considered marijuana and remains federally illegal.

What Does a Stalled Bill Mean?

The Legislature is working to close these loopholes. If it's stalled and the federal Farm Bill does not pass by September 30, the regulation of intoxicating hemp products will default to state law until new federal legislation is enacted.

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Low Flow Problems



by Randy Lawrence

Thanks to technological advances, water softeners have certainly become more reliable than ever before. However, even with significant improvements, there are still issues that may arise which technology cannot alert us to. One problem that can happen over time is a breakdown of the resin inside the softener unit. It's important to be able to recognize the symptoms of this issue in order to keep a small problem from turning into a big one.

All water softeners are designed around a quantity of small plastic-looking beads called *ion exchange resin*. When viewed under magnification, these resin beads resemble a ball of yarn. Along the “yarn” are exchange sites which allow the resin to complete the job of removing hardness minerals from the water. If you were to hold these resin beads between your thumb and forefinger, you would find that they resemble tiny ball bearings and are very firm to the touch. However, there is one variable which can significantly shorten the life of this critical component – chlorine.

On non-chlorinated water, this resin can last more than twenty years. On city water, resin life can be reduced to ten years or less. Once the chlorine takes its toll, the resin beads begin to expand and soften. As this process advances, the degraded beads will begin to take on a Vaseline-like consistency and will start to impede the flow of water through the softener. Since it is a slow process, it can be difficult to notice the changes in

water flow into your home. You may notice that you can no longer run multiple faucets without a significant pressure drop or that the flow rate slows while running only a single outlet.

If left unchecked, this problem can lead to physical damage inside the water softener and occasionally can lead to a release of resin beads into your home’s plumbing system. At this point, the best bet is to bypass your water softener. If this solves the pressure issue in the house then it is time to call your water treatment professional for replacement of the resin bed.

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 20 years.

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Benefits of Working with a Fiduciary Financial Planner



by Scott G.

Hackett, CFP®

Trust and Transparency: Fiduciary advisors are legally bound to prioritize your financial well-being above all else – advice and recommendations that are in your best interest, even if it means recommending strategies or products that may not benefit them directly.

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Peace of mind: Working with a fiduciary financial planner can reduce anxiety so you feel confident about your financial future.

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, J.D.

Heirship Determination

Without a will, it is necessary for the court to determine who the deceased's heirs are. To do so, the court will consider affidavits from disinterested family and friends who will not inherit.

The court will also appoint an independent attorney who will report directly to the court on behalf of any unknown heirs. The search for unknown heirs is done through the Bureau of Vital Statistics and websites such as Ancestry.com. The independent attorney (called an *attorney ad litem*) also has the authority to interview various persons and review medical records. Once complete, the attorney ad litem prepares and submits a written report to the court and participates in any initial hearings. The fees for the attorney ad litem are paid by the decedent's estate.

Once the heirs are determined, there are complicated default provisions in the Texas Estates Code that determine their relative interests to the deceased's assets. Factors that affect heirs' interests include the age of the deceased, whether the deceased was married, had children, whether those children are from different relationships, and the type of assets the deceased owned at the time of death. Blended families are the most challenging because the probable co-ownership of assets. For example: a man dies who was married 30+ years with two children by his marriage, plus one child from a previous relationship. For

land/property acquired during the marriage, the surviving spouse will keep her one-half ownership, but the three children of the deceased will equally share the other half with the effect that four people own the property together. This would include the family home. If the home was purchased by the deceased prior to his marriage, then the 3 children would equally own the property with the surviving spouse having a right to live in the home, but without ownership rights.

Having a will makes probate matters much simpler. It allows for a person to name the persons he or she wants to inherit, exactly what they inherit, with results that are much more practical.

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: Begging for Justice?



by Roland Brown

Are folks who file lawsuits beggers? What about the ones who file responses to those suits? Are they somehow particularly religious? If not, why are these folks constantly *pleading* and *praying*? Our justice system has evolved pretty well with the times, but there remain more than a few archaic aspects. Among those are terms we use in court documents. The documents filed by a plaintiff or defendant to institute or respond to a lawsuit in a state court in Texas are referred to as *pleadings*. The Plaintiff typically files a *petition* which concludes with a *prayer* for relief. The Defendant typically files an *answer* which may contain a *plea* to the jurisdiction of the court asserting the court has no power to hear the matter complained of by the plaintiff or a *plea* of privilege asserting that the case should be moved to a different county. The defendant's answer will also contain a *prayer* to the effect that *plaintiff take nothing by reason of his/her suit and that defendant be awarded his/her costs* or similar language.

Other archaic phraseology which still appears in some pleadings includes *defendant prays that plaintiff 'go hence without day'*. The phrase *without day* derives from a Latin phrase *sine die*. When a legislative body adjourns sine die it has not set a date to reassemble. Similarly, the term *without day* reflects a request that there be no further proceedings in the matter or, more literally,

that the plaintiff should depart from the court without a date being set to return. There are many terms that lawyers use without asking why we blindly include them in our pleadings.

Use of more contemporary language is to be preferred and a legal document should not be made difficult for a lay person to understand by the use of non-essential or archaic language. However, old ways die hard so we will continue to see these terms used. The take-away from this short discourse on archaic language is: if you don't understand the document your lawyer prepared, ask what it means. Truly the only bad question is the one you don't ask.

This article appeared in 2010, then, slightly revised to make it shorter in 2016 and with minor revisions in 2024.

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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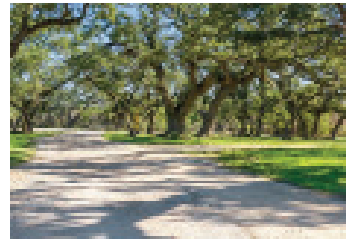
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