

Wimberley Valley
NEWS & VIEWS

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“I DON'T HAVE TO CHASE EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS TO FIND HAPPINESS – IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME IF I'M PAYING ATTENTION AND PRACTICING GRATITUDE.”
– BRENE BROWN

Ladies and gentlemen, our slow descent into autumnal temperatures has begun. The cool breeze fills me with so much hope and joy. Drafts of Thanksgiving menus, early Christmas shopping, carving pumpkins on the porch and filling them with the sweet aroma of vanilla-scented candles, long afternoons at the park, and the return of the after dinner promenade – this is fall for me.

This month's cover features another one of my favorite fall happenings, the newest collection of glass pumpkins and gourds at Wimberley Glassworks. I love taking my family to choose a pumpkin to add to our collection and staying to watch the glassblowing demonstration. Another colorful, magical aspect of this enchanted community for which I am so very grateful.

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, Wimberley Presbyterian Church, 956 FM 2325 (3rd door from the right). For more info, call or text Aida, 512-787-8313.
- Mon. November 11, 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* meets at Wimberley Library. Ermias K. Gebremeskel is president, 512 210 6966, Ketema_Ermias@yahoo.com
- Every 1st Tue. The Wimberley Community Center hosts *free medical checks* 9:30-10:30am. Call 512-847-2510.
- Every 1st Wed. *Transforming Stress: Unique Approach to Calm Body, Mind, Emotions*, Friends Meeting Room, 6-7:30pm, contact Dr. Marianne Calvanese, ND for more information, 512 663 1820.
- 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* 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 (\$10)
- Every 1st Thurs. *Wimberley Chamber of Commerce* breakfast, Wimberley Cafe for networking opportunities, 8-9am. Bring business cards.
- Every 3rd Wed. Sept. thru May, Hill Country Unit of the *Herb Society of America*, Wimberley Library. Visitors welcome! Refreshments 9:00am, program at 10am. Contact Valentine_Lisa@msn.com.
- Every first Thursday, Art Crawl, 5-8pm, 5 Wimberley galleries open late, guest artists, refreshments. WimberleyArts.org/programs/Art Crawl



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. *Concerts* at Susanna's Kitchen Coffeehouse, 7:30pm; \$25 adults, \$5 kids. Pie, pizza, tamales, coffee, soft drinks. RR 12 & CR 1492 (United Methodist Church.) WimberleyUMC.org Barnabas Connection & Mother's Day Out scholarships. **Thurs. Nov 21: Adam & Chris Carroll**
- 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
- 1st Sat. *Wimberley Market Day*, 7am-3pm, rain or shine
- 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.
- Every 3rd Sat. *Art Bazaar*, Wimberley Valley Winery noon-6pm
- 1st Sun. of every month, *Coffee & Cars*, 8am-11am, at Blanco Brew
- Saturday, November 9, 7-9pm, **Wimberley Valley Big Band, free concert at VFW Hall, 401 Jacobs Well Road**
- Thursday, November 28, **Thanksgiving Day**

Together

Over the last few months, rainfall at our house has barely registered in our rain gauge. Grasses are brown and dormant. Healthy live oaks and mountain cedars are festooned with leaves grey with caliche dust. Potted plants thrive only with daily attention from our garden hose. Extreme, but not at all unusual in most of Texas. What is unusual is how often periods of unusual weather are occurring now.

Dig beneath the surface of the soil, and you will find only dry earth, baked dry by summer temperatures that have extended well into October. Dig deeper, though, and find plump roots, earthworms, and millions of unseen microbes, living out their part in the circle of life, waiting to rebuild the soil sterilized by drought and heat.

The building blocks of life are amazingly persistent, coming together to support the species that have persevered, surviving through summer challenges, winter threats, predation, fire, and every kind of natural disaster.

The floods, wind, and storm surges of our recent tropical storms have wreaked destruction, both manmade and natural, bringing neighbors from near and far to help bring communities back together. A Texas arborist firm has sent sixty teams to the affected areas to help clear roads, driveways, and clear the way for restoration of utilities. Americans can come together for the right reasons when it is needed.

It seems, well, poetic that these recovery efforts should take place

in the midst of an amazingly divided presidential race. All the qualities needed for a successful culture and government are found here. The wealth, security, and raw materials to forge a continued successful economy are at hand. We have the knowledge and resources to address the needs of every citizen and ways to address world problems that find their way to our shores. Americans can come together for the right reasons when it is needed.

Throughout its history, our country has been able to creatively find solutions when we work together to effect changes necessary to solving our national problems. Americans can come together for the right reasons when it is needed.

Horticulturist Tim Thompson managed the garden center at King Feed 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*



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



by *Kern Deschner*

Shining Some Light

My son, Mark has become quite a bird photographer. Recently we took a family trip to Galveston, a city some of you know that I love. Mark wanted to visit a bird sanctuary nearby on the tip of the Bolivar Peninsula, just a short ferry ride away. Bird photography may mean getting muddy, but it certainly means getting out of bed early.

We arrived at the traffic barrier on the Bolivar Peninsula beach bird sanctuary at about 5:30 in the morning and turned off the headlights. We had to walk from there. It was quite dark and we knew to stay between the dunes and the water. The only light was from the ships rolling up the ship channel. Even in the dark, I could tell there was a lot of driftwood on this rarely-visited side of the barrier.

Soon the sky began to glow red in the east, and vision improved. Then was when I realized there were countless shells on this section of beach, not seen on the public beach. This was probably how the beaches looked before people picked up all the shells. Sadly, the increasing sunrise then revealed something ugly that we did not see on the manicured beaches along the Galveston seawall. In this untouched bird sanctuary, the beach had a tremendous amount of washed-up trash and plastic. It was really appalling. I managed to round up two trash bags and haul off as much plastic as I could carry but it made just a small dent. I

think if I lived nearby, I would be out there every day picking up plastic. Perhaps I would eventually remove it all. The morning light showed beautiful water, lots of birds, a lovely marsh, lots of driftwood and shells, but the light also revealed the trash.

In the alpaca business, there is a condition called *barn blindness*. It refers to a situation where you fail to see the faults in your alpacas. Recently, Rhonda asked a Peruvian expert to look at our herd. He shed a lot of light on our program. He found that we had put some alpacas into retirement that have rare and valuable genetics that should be brought back into the breeding program. He also, however, found several animals that we thought were rather good, that, on further review, had problems that should not be bred into the herd. These alpacas will have to be taken out of the breeding line up. They are healthy and have beautiful fleeces, but they are not going to take us towards our breeding goals. We needed someone to shine a bright light on our herd to overcome our barn blindness. Like a remoted beach on the Gulf, shining a light can show beauty, but can also reveal a mess. That light is needed, though, if things are going to change.

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.

Our Yoga

Have you been told by a physician or a family member that you need to get moving? Have you been told that yoga might help? Ugh, maybe? It might not be as bad as you think.

Yoga can make you feel better and make you want to move more, no matter how much you move, now. It can prep you for a surgery so you have an easier recovery and better success. It puts you in touch with what your body is telling you. Then, you naturally take better care.

Our yoga is generally geared towards the senior citizen. It is a fundamentally strengthening system. It allows people to do more, no matter what age they are. It is not for people who want to go to extremes. It is a building block to be able to do more in life.

When starting yoga, the teacher and the type of yoga are important. Many people need to try a few teachers and schools to find which one aligns the best.

We have teachers with a variety of personalities and special focuses. They can be goofy, calm, or sometimes even a little pushy. They can also go from more woowoo-ey yoga (which we make fun of, but is also eye-opening) to almost more of a yoga-based exercise class.

Our yoga is good for anybody, no matter your physical ability. Most physical limitations can be accommodated for, too. That is why we are here – to work on those.

All classes are good for beginners, but those who want to go

at it easier might want to start with the 10:15 classes. Those are sometimes good simply because they are only 45 minutes with a good bit of rest.

The most important thing is to ease into it. And have fun!



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
Wimberley, TX 78676

WimberleyKarateYoga.com



by Robert Donnelly,
DDS

Dental implants

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

Dental implants are artificial replacements for natural tooth roots and can be used for both upper and lower teeth. They are even an option for replacing multiple missing teeth or can be added to dentures for a more stable fit. Dental implants have been used for decades by patients of all ages.

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

Implants are a seamless process from start to finish. The first

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

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



J. ROBERT DONNELLY, D.D.S.

Master of the Academy of General Dentistry

1337 THORPE LANE

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512 396 5225

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SANMARCOSDENTAL.COM

Life sustained without water?



by *Betsy & Rance
Mosley*

I think we can all agree that water conservation is becoming increasingly important. Here in the Hill Country we see and experience the effects of living with water shortages on a daily basis. About 71% of the Earth's surface is covered with water and the oceans hold about 96.5% of all the Earth's water. Now that seems like a lot of water, but only 3% of the water is freshwater. Of this 3% only 1.2% can be used as drinking water. We need freshwater for a variety of purposes such as drinking, agriculture, recreation, and industrial uses. Have you ever wondered how much water it takes to make your favorite foods?

The following data was compiled by the Water Footprint Network and it caused me to really think about how important water conservation truly is. I know most everyone loves a hot cup of coffee, but surprisingly it takes approximately 900-1,000 gallons of water to produce a gallon of brewed coffee. A gallon of brewed tea that you find in the grocery store will take approximately 108 gallons of water to produce. It takes about 28 gallons of water to produce 12 fluid ounces of beer and 34 gallons of water to produce 5 fluid ounces of wine.

Next, let's talk about the most important category which is protein. Beef requires the most water at 1,847 gallons per pound to produce, followed by sheep at 1,248 gal./lb. Pork takes 718 gal./lb. while chicken takes the least amount at 518 gal./lb. Then eggs take 395 gal./lb.

Rice requires 299 gal./lb., pasta 222 gal./lb., bread 193 gal./lb., rolled oats 290 gal./lb., unprocessed corn 146 gal./lb., sweet potatoes 46 gal./lb., and white potatoes 34 gal./lb. Milk takes the least amount of water at 122 gal./lb. then cheese is next at 381 gal./lb followed by butter at 665 gal./lb.

Apples, bananas, grapes and kiwi all take less than 100 gal./lb. Strawberries, pineapple, and watermelon require less than 50 gal./lb. Broccoli, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts use 34 gal./lb. Asparagus is high, at 258 gal./lb. Tomatoes win the race at only 26 gal./lb. Almonds and cashews use 1,929 gal./lb. and 1,704 gal./lb. respectively. Astonishingly olive oil requires 1,729 gal./lb.

How can we repurpose the fresh water in parts of the world that receive the most water and utilize it where there is not enough? Is it possible to have rain water collection farms in different parts of the world? I'm just trying to think outside the box.

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 *Jesseca Zollars
Smith*

What is a Sculptural Lifting Facial? And why I need one and you do too!

I discovered the Sculptural Face Lift when I met Lori Satter, a well-studied Holistic Esthetician and Ayurvedic Lifestyle Coach at MISSION Day Spa. She explained to me the secret of this method and why it works.

Focused energy and attention on specific movements of deeper muscles release muscle tension and emotional blockages, transforming the person's inner state and physical appearance. This is completely without the use of machines, strictly her hands. The treatment takes roughly an hour to 75 minutes. For lasting results, treatment is recommended in a series. Just like *exercising* in a gym, results that last are lasting because of repetition. This all makes sense to me. Being a sensitive person to practically anything foreign that touches my skin, including a whiff of artificial anything (i.e. walking down the detergent aisle) a rash ensues, I am fully on board.

Sculptural face lifting (SFL) is a non-surgical facial massage technique that combines lymphatic drainage, muscle stimulation, and massage to lift and relax facial muscles and tissues. It's also known as buccal massage or Japanese facial massage. SFL can help with:

- Improving skin texture and reducing wrinkles
- Firming sagging skin and reducing deep folds and double chin

- Increasing facial contour and lifting drooping corners of lips
- Improving microcirculation and collagen production
- Relieving tension in the fascia and mimicking muscles
- Enhancing tissue health in the face and neck
- Improving the oval of the face, toning the epidermis, and increasing elasticity

SFL can also have physical and emotional benefits, such as leaving you feeling refreshed and energized. It's an alternative to facelifts that doesn't involve needles, botox, or fillers.

Facial sculpting massage may not be suitable for some people, including those with certain skin conditions, diseases, Botox, dermal fillers, injections, or prescription topical retinol products within the last 4-6 weeks, 14 days, or 6 months to 1 year, respectively.

Interested? Schedule at MissionDaySpa.com.

Jesseca is the owner of MISSION Day Spa. She is a Licensed Master Aesthetician, Licensed Continuing Education Provider for TDLR, and Licensed Aesthetics Educator, sensitive skin specialist, oncology esthetics trained. Wimberley resident, Jesseca apprentices Wimberley ISD students at her spa. With 30 years in the spa industry and a background in cosmetics chemistry, Jesseca holds CE classes Monday evenings and online. Call 512 522 6467!



by *AJ Harwood*

The Real Estate Journey

The road to homeownership may seem overwhelming but when you take it step by step, you'll soon reach your destination – your dream home!

Your first home:

- Set up a designated down payment savings account.
- Pay down credit card and other debt.
- Look into first-time homebuyer programs.

Need more space:

- Make bigger (or additional) mortgage payments.
- Refinance and shorten your mortgage loan term.
- Reduce expenses to save money.

Time to downsize (or invest in property):

- Talk to your financial professional about tapping into your home's equity
- Think about the type of home and community you want to live in.
- Start organizing now.

Essentials:

- Good credit and low consumer debt
- A professional agent in your corner
- A positive attitude – don't give up!

Home ownership provides stability, security, and the freedom to make the space your own. It also offers financial advantages – not only will you get tax benefits, building equity in your home is

like a ready-made savings plan. Now that mortgage rates are trending down, the real estate market is anticipated to become increasingly competitive, with more people looking to buy or sell a home. Perhaps that includes you or someone you know. Buying or selling a home can be overwhelming but when you have a trusted real estate agent on your side, it takes away the guesswork.

Real estate is local. I'm here to walk you through with the best information so you can make the best choices and know how it applies to you in the Hill Country area. If you're thinking of selling your home, call me today! Experience matters.

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!

Pruning in Winter

Certain types of pruning can be performed on trees any time of year, but winter in Central Texas provides an especially good opportunity. In particular, visibility in deciduous trees is better, and the beetle responsible for vectoring the oak wilt pathogen is less active.

One thing that's easier to spot in winter concerns structural issues in the canopy. These include conditions such as over-extended branches, same-sized branches originating from a common junction, bark that becomes embedded between two stems that have a common junction, cracks, and cavities. Such conditions suggest that structural stability may be compromised, or it could become so over time. Trees that are pruned properly tend to sustain less damage during storms and windy conditions.

Another problem that's easier to spot in winter is the presence of mistletoe. This plant is called a *hemiparasite* because it can produce its own food through photosynthesis, but it takes moisture and nutrients from the tree to do so. Although ball moss is not a parasite, it, too, can be easier to spot in winter. Heavy infestations can be controlled through pruning, topical treatments, or a combination of both. Incidentally, winter provides greater opportunities for the ideal weather conditions that make ball moss control more effective.

Finally, winter offers the last opportunity for pruning oak trees

before spring, the season that increases risk of oak wilt infection from pruning wounds on live branches. The Texas Forest Services recommends avoiding such pruning from February 1 through June 30. Pruning for safety, line clearance, building clearance, storm damage, dead branch removal, and similar situations may still be performed on oak trees in any season, but professional standards should be observed in the process.

Property owners should be aware that too much foliage removed in a pruning session is not good for trees, nor are flush and stub cuts. For your winter pruning this year, contact an ISA Certified Arborist, who should be able to answer your questions about proper practice.

Joe 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 attended Texas State and became intrigued with the inner workings of the arboricultural industry. He joined Bartlett while he was there. Joe worked five years as an arborist climber and crew leader, making the transition to Arborist Representative. He and his family love spending time on the San Marcos river. Visit Bartlett.com or call 512 392 1089 to schedule an appointment.



by *Joe Harris*





Venue

The Bell House Wimberley is a one of a kind space.
We are a private Texas Hill Country home uniquely designed for
rehearsal dinners, bridesmaids luncheons, & weddings.

40 people or less is our sweet spot.

Stay

We offer 2 short-term rental spaces.

4-minute walk to Wimberley square & private access to the Blanco River.

Cook

Thursday, January 9 – Chef Sue Reiter, Lake Austin Resort and Spa

Visit TheBellHouseWimberley.com/Register

for class details and registration.



BELL HOUSE

WIMBERLEY





Creative Gourds

BY TOM WILEY

As a longtime basket weaver and now creating fine gourd art, Jill Robinson accepts the demands of time and effort needed to produce three-dimensional art.

Jill purchases gourds from fields in Arizona and California. She seeks specific shapes, thicknesses, and symmetry. It takes days for her to clean, scrub, and dry each. A rotary tool exposes the inside, which is also cleaned, dried, and sealed.

Even in early days, Jill is already considering design options. Her goal is that each finished gourd should display her attention to texture, technique, and color. Many decisions revolve around a choice of a focal stone or beads.



Jill Robinson sells her fine gourd art at Hill Country Collectables in Wimberley and Assemblage Contemporary Craftsman Gallery in Buda. She participates in the Wimberley Arts Fest, the Austin Studio Tour, and the Arto4 Tour in Austin. Her work has also been featured at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport numerous times.

Check out Jill Robinson's latest products and projects at www.ArtMyWay.biz

Creating different areas of detailed designs comes next. A pencil sketch on each gourd points the way forward. Some areas must be masked off. Some undergo fractal burning – the use of electrical probes to create random pathways. Painted designs may fill narrow bands across the surface, still another example of Jill's artist skills.

Texture is very important. A carving or woodburning tool may be used to develop relief textures or patterns. Jill may fill a section with the inner fibers of a prickly-pear cactus, which she has cleaned and dried. Pieces of eggshell may be applied. All of these receive stain or paint before being sealed.

Larger sections receive Jill's artistic talent using alcohol ink. A colorful focal stone can finally be adhered. With other gourds, a line of beads or woven pine needles may adorn the top.



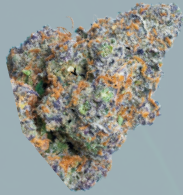
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Should Sellers Have Their Home Pre-Inspected?



by Alice Lebkuecher

If you are thinking about listing your home for sale, you may want to consider having it inspected. Listed below are several reasons why a seller can benefit from a home inspection:

- Price. The cost of an inspection is usually less than the first price reduction asked for by buyers. Also, a home with a clean bill of health can support a higher sales price.
- No surprises. You'll dramatically lessen the chance that a buyer's inspection will reveal surprises about needed repairs or maintenance.
- Stands out. Performing a seller's inspection differentiates a home from others on the market.
- Minimizes concessions. During negotiations, small items found during a buyer's inspection sometimes escalate into demands for larger fixes. Proactively correcting small things helps avoid discussions of repairs.
- Comforts buyers. A home in documented good shape or even one with disclosed conditions offers a comfortable certainty for buyers. Instead of loving a home and wondering about added costs from unknown problems, buyers can focus on closing the deal. Such an open marketing approach can attract buyers and keep them interested.

- Fewer terminations. With more information at their disposal before they make an offer, potential buyers are less likely to use their termination option in the contract. This saves time and money that may have been spent on a deal that dies.

For more information on listing your home for sale, feel free to contact me to discuss.

This article was first published in the February 2009 issue of Texas Realtor magazine.

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

Smelly water?

One major water quality issue shared by many of us is water which emits a rotten egg odor caused by hydrogen sulfide gas. This problem is unique to homes whose water source is a private well, as municipal and community water supplies are required

to treat the water at the source. In the past, getting rid of rotten egg odor has been inconvenient and expensive, but recent advances have made eliminating it a much easier task to accomplish.

One common method of treating well water for hydrogen sulfide was to inject chlorine directly into the water as it is pumped from the ground. These chlorine systems can often be maintenance intensive and prone to breakdown. It is also difficult to maintain a consistent level of chlorine without constant monitoring. The homeowner is responsible for proper dilution rates so as to avoid exposure to high levels of this caustic chemical.

Another way of removing odor is to use a well water storage tank, allowing the release of the gases. This is an effective way to remove the gas without harmful chemicals, but it typically requires a large amount of space, as well as a separate pump to re-pressurize the water. Unfortunately, storing water in a tank subjects it to possible bacterial contamination from outside sources. Ultraviolet disinfection and filtration are usually recommended when water is stored in a holding tank. There are benefits to this type of system, but the need for extra equipment can be cost prohibitive for many.

Many people aren't aware that reliable, user-friendly equipment has been developed which will aerate and filter your water inside a sealed, pressurized tank. This tank takes up very little space and can be used alone or as pre-treatment for a water softener. The result is water that is completely free of hydrogen sulfide, iron, and any sediment that may come from your well – without the need for chemicals or maintenance by the homeowner.

Contact your favorite licensed water treatment specialist to discuss details on how to make your water smell better!

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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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.

Objective advice: Fiduciaries are not incentivized to push specific financial products or services that may earn them higher commissions or fees. This means you're more likely to receive objective advice tailored to your unique situation and goals.

Holistic planning: Fiduciary planners take a comprehensive approach to financial planning. They consider all aspects of your financial life, including investments, retirement planning, estate planning, tax strategies, insurance, and more, to create a well-rounded and customized financial plan.

Risk mitigation: Fiduciary advisors focus on managing risk in your portfolio while helping you achieve your objectives. They aim to align your risk tolerance with your investment strategy to minimize the potential for financial setbacks.

Ongoing monitoring and adjustments: Fiduciaries provide ongoing support and monitoring of your financial plan. Regularly review your portfolio, assess your progress toward your goals, and make adjustments as needed to adapt to changing circumstances.

Education and empowerment: Fiduciary advisors often prioritize financial education to empower their clients. They explain complex financial concepts and strategies in a way that clients can understand.

Customized solutions: Fiduciary advisors tailor their recommendations to your specific financial situation, goals, and risk tolerance. No one-size-fits-all advice but rather a financial plan that aligns with your unique circumstances.

Peace of mind: Reduce anxiety and feel more 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.**

Preparing to Meet with an Estate Planning Attorney

When I initially meet with an estate planning client, I expect to spend 1.5 to 2 hours. My agenda is to gather asset information, discuss heirs, consider the potential decision-makers (executor, trustee, guardians for minor children,

and agents under powers of attorney), develop a strategy, and create contingency plans. Most of the estate planning process occurs organically through conversation and brainstorming. However, regardless of the attorney, the gathering of information prior to the meeting can help get it started efficiently.

First, collect and provide the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses for all persons you might want to include in your estate planning as heirs, beneficiaries, executors, trustees, guardians and/or agents. The individuals can be family, but don't have to be. Possible successors should be included in case your first choice dies, resigns, or becomes ill. Couples do not need to name the same people for the same roles.

Next, create a list of your assets and debts. Assets include bank accounts, investment accounts, real estate, vehicles, retirement plans, life insurance, royalty interests, and items of significant value. Pull out deeds and motor vehicle titles if you can. Are there beneficiaries named or "pay on death" provisions listed with the various accounts/policies, and if so, who? A review of each of the assets is important to make sure that the beneficiaries and

heirs are properly named to fit with the developed strategy. Debts should include any tax liabilities for previous years, mortgages, car notes, student loans, child support, and credit cards. Certain classes of debt are prioritized during the probate process and must be paid before any inheritances can be distributed. Options for the payment of debts must be carefully considered.

It is also helpful to write down any questions you may have so that nothing is accidentally left out of the discussion. You should expect to have all your concerns heard and addressed during any 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.



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Litigation: Injustice in Real Time



by Roland Brown

“400 words or less”; too few. Dear reader, please Google “Robert Roberson execution”, dig a bit and draw your own conclusions. Disclosure: I have been opposed to the death penalty for more than three decades, primarily for pragmatic reasons.

Yesterday an unprecedented series of last-minute maneuvers postponed a Texas execution. Early on this Friday morning with my deadline looming, I have not yet read the court orders and opinions, but I will be doing so. Bare facts: A Palestine man was convicted some 23 years ago of causing the death of his two-year old daughter in a *shaken-baby syndrome* case. Even the lead detective in the case now agrees that the facts and science applied are no longer supportable and he believes that Mr. Roberson is innocent. The child’s death most likely resulted from a serious illness, and perhaps from what I understand to be a then accepted but since discredited treatment by her physicians. All appeals based upon the fact that advances in medical science now show the medical testimony used to convict Roberson to be insupportable have been denied.

Roberson’s cause is supported by a bipartisan majority of the members of the Texas House of Representatives, author John Grisham, thousands of petition signers, a Texas Republican megadonor, and at least one US Supreme Court justice who urged, but could not order, the governor to grant a 30-day reprieve. Turning to the past 48 hours – the Board of Pardons

and Paroles, which routinely denies requests for clemency, denied Roberson’s request. In a last-ditch effort to avoid the injustice of an execution, the Texas House Committee on Jurisprudence hastily subpoenaed Mr. Roberson to testify before them next week. A state judge ruled the execution could not proceed as scheduled due to the subpoena. The Texas attorney general appealed that ruling to the Court of Criminal Appeals which ruled the execution could proceed. The Texas Supreme Court then stayed the execution based upon a separation of powers issue and ordered the state court judge to determine whether the legislative subpoena could override the judicial determination of the Criminal Appeals Court.

Legally, in the absence of reconsideration by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the only hope to avoid a state sanctioned killing of what appears to be a likely innocent citizen is an unlikely pardon from the governor. As a lawyer and a human being, I find this hard to accept.

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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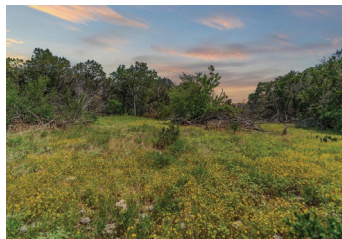
162 Jasmine Ct. MLS 1198588 Sierra West 3/2+Office. 2,596 sq ft, 1.5 acres, Arroyo view. \$729,000 Linda Germain



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