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POSTAL PATRON



VOLUME 28 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2025

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#### Editor, Publisher Cyle Elizabeth Johnson Cover

#### "Cold Front Sundown" by Mary Owens

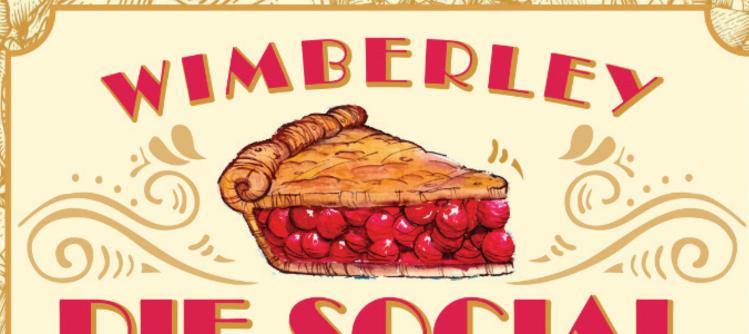
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- Every 1st Mon. Wimberley Apron Society meets at Emily Ann Annex Bldg. Set-up at 5:30, program 6-8pm. Exchange ideas on healthy sustainable lifestyles, gardening, cooking, homesteading. See Facebook page for more.
- Every 2nd Mon. Wimberley Valley 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. April 14, 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. & Fri. 9am-noon, 42 Dominoes at Wimberley Senior Center (inside Community Center). Contact joan1950@gmail.com.
- Every Tues. Gentle Hatha Yoga, 6pm, Wimb. Community Center (\$10)
- Every Tues. 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.CBSClass.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* 9:3010:30am. 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.-May, Hill Country Unit of the *Herb Society of America*, Emily Ann meeting room. Visitors welcome! Refreshments 9:30am, program at 10am. Contact Valentine\_Lisa@msn.com. To learn more and for monthly topics visit HillCountryHerbSociety.org.



#### 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. April 17: Jimmy Davis
- 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
- $\bullet$  Every Fri. Stroller Strides Playdate with Kids Craft Fridays, 10am, Emily Ann Theatre, contact Summer, SMWimberleyDS@fit4mom.com
- Every Fri. Storytime, 10:30-11:30am, Wimb. Village Library
- Every 4th Friday, *Art Crawl*, 5-8pm, 5 Wimberley galleries open late, guest artists, refreshments. GalleryTrail.com/ArtCrawl
- 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, April 19, Wimberley Gumbo Fest, noon, adults \$15, kids \$5. Visit Wimberley Gumbo Fest.com for tickets and more information.



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#### Pass It On

A couple of decades ago, my wife and I sent in vials of saliva to a DNA ancestry company to find out exactly where and when our forebears came to this country. The results confirmed much of what we had learned from our families during our lives, but they added several previously unknown facts that probably have good stories that go with them.

The tales of our genealogies are but one of the things we have selected as worthy of being passed on to our progeny. Favorite recipes, practices of every imaginable holiday, religious traditions, and even the routines of daily work, meals, bedtimes, and beverages are all part and parcel of the rich tapestry of our personal cultures.

Indeed, our priorities are defined by the things that command our time and our money, whether unconsciously or deliberately, and we want to share the most important things with each other.

My dad and his father were both lovers of gardening. Grandpa might spend all day farming strawberries, then lovingly tend to the flower garden that stretched along the road in front of the house he had built, so he could bring flowers to Grandma. He would take us grandchildren there with him, but only one at a time, to allow for the conversations and lessons that could only happen there.

Dad saw to it the gardens around our house were always expanding – fencing for the vegetable garden, a truckload of sand for a bed of cactus, cutting down a mesquite to allow more sun for the bougainvilleas and hibiscus. For a man



by Tim Thompson

of letters, who took his weekly sermon notes in koine Greek and had four college degrees, he spent considerable time washing the dirt from under his fingernails.

We all owe much to the people who made the effort to pass on the things they considered valuable. For me, those included service to my community, the wonder of Nature, faith, music, art, science, family, education, democracy.

Take a few minutes today to share something you consider valuable with people who genuinely matter to you.

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.



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



#### **Alpacas Splitting Hairs**

Several years ago, in New York, I bought the most expensive cologne of my life. It was something called Al Fareed Aud and it was by Kern Deschner a Saudi scent made from Sandalwood. I must admit it smells great, but I must be

very careful with this stuff. It is potent. Otherwise, everyone nearby will think that I marinated in my cologne. Honestly, though, I can't smell it a few minutes after I have put it on. Rhonda is my gauge about exactly how much I should use. It has always amazed me, though, that some people in the office seem to have a much better sense of smell than others. I think some people are just more gifted that way.

Wine is another example. I can tell the difference between a \$10 bottle of wine and \$100 bottle of wine but, beyond that, it's out of my league and a waste of my money. As I am writing this, I'm looking at one page from a wine magazine about their recommended wines. There are a lot of comments about pineapple, tangerine, and blackberry flavors. but they also have comments on flavors such as petrol, pipe tobacco, graphite, tar, and, interestingly enough for my cologne, sandalwood. I don't think I would want to drink my cologne. They mention "roasted almond skin" (who roasts their almond skins?) and my favorite, for Central Texas, "singed cedar". Clearly, I am not sophisticated enough.

They say that the women who work with the alpaca fleeces in Peru can tell the difference between a fleece that is 14 µm and one that is 20 µm, just by feel. Considering that human hair is about 60 to 100 µm, those are some pretty sensitive fingers. Such close distinction is also a factor in the alpaca show ring. These days, nobody brings an ugly alpaca to a show so, when they walk in, they all look beautiful to me. But what do I know, right? The difference between first place and sixth place are so subtle, so refined – so splitting hairs – that it reminds me of the Olympic swimming competitions where winners are determined by split seconds. In the alpaca show ring, a humid or dusty day can make the difference between being in first place or being excused from the show ring. I really like the fleece shows which take cedar pollen, sweat stains, and dust out of the equation. When the fleece is off the alpaca, the playing field is level and the judge gets to take the time to thoroughly inspect the product of your breeding laborers. Fortunately, we always come away with a prize or two at the fleece show. The judges there have their own descriptions. Maybe I should share them with the wine tasters.

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.

# What should we call our "yoga" classes?

We started with yoga. And we love it. And over time, we responded more and more to what our students were telling us. They just want to be healthy. And their doctor told them they should get out and get some exercise. And they want to do that and not get hurt.

We've also responded to new research. For example, research that says it is not good to stretch all the strength out of your muscles. There is a more balanced way. Sometimes stretching helps sore muscles but mostly they need to be able to squeeze and let go. So we do that.

Research has also recently showed that fascia is very important! It is responsible for a lot of nutrient transfer as well as providing extra strength. Surgeons would always just cut through it, but not anymore. Fascia is stronger than muscles in that it is harder to rip, and it is rubber-band-like. It is interesting stuff.

So, what we are doing these days is still yoga-like. But really they are flexibility classes as well as strength classes as well as movement classes as well as relaxation and breathing and learning to listen to your body classes and also sometimes weight classes and most times really just working on making the knees or

back or shoulders not hurt classes. They are walk away and have a better day classes. They are *I am getting stronger*, have better stamina, and can do more classes.



by Sarah Geenberg

So I'm trying to think of a new name, because while yoga is great, it is also

limiting. People who cannot imagine themselves doing yoga enjoy our classes. People who enjoy yoga also enjoy the variety we offer. But hard-core yogis will know we have veered off the path. So I'm thinking *wimyostrenfeelbettergetbetter* classes. Ugh. What do you think? Email Geenberg@hotmail.com. Ideas are welcome!

Sarah is the owner of Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio near Blue Hole and OnlineSeniorsYoga.com. Their yoga, Tach Chi, and karate classes especially cater to Seniors. The first class is free. Go check them 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 New Dental Visit: It's Pain Free

Nobody loves going to the dentist, but ignoring or even skimping on your oral care can result in far worse complications than cavities! Multiple studies have linked gum disease to heart disease. Oral bacteria may

enter the bloodstream and travel to the arteries, causing inflammation and setting the stage for a heart attack. The inflammatory effects of gum disease also may increase risk for diabetes, stroke, and certain types of cancer.

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

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

Headphones which allow our patients to listen to a wide variety of music helps to create a more soothing atmosphere. Sedation dentistry is another option for patients who have a fear of coming to the dentist. With sedation dentistry the patient receives an anti-anxiety medication that allows them to relax or in many cases fall asleep while under a dentist's care.

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



#### J. ROBERT DONNELLY, D.D.S. Master of the Academy of General Dentistry

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# How about a big glass of... pool water?



by Betsy & Rance Mosley

Municipal water systems are graded by the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure they are compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act standards, which include maximum contaminant levels for various pollutants. However, even if they receive a passing grade contaminants could still be higher than the latest health standards. Municipal water systems are doing the best job they can do within the guidelines that the EPA and the SDWA set for them to follow, but the standards are just not high enough. I believe it's time for the EPA to not only raise the standards but find cleaner and healthier ways to disinfect water sources.

Municipal water systems currently use chlorine, chloramine, or chlorine dioxide as the most common treatment options. When chlorine is added to the water it reacts with naturally occurring organic matter resulting in over 700 types of compounds called disinfection byproducts (DBP's) such as trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. The trihalomethanes include chloroform, bromodichloromethane (BDCM), dibromochloromethane (DBCM), and bromoform. The haloacetic acids include monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid. These compounds are effective at disinfecting the water supply by oxidizing the cell membranes of bacteria and viruses. However,

over the last 40 years, numerous studies have investigated the potential health risks of these compounds and have been classified as probable human carcinogens by the International Agency for Research

on Cancer. Evidence links DBP exposure to increased risk of bladder, colon, and endometrial cancer. Iodoacetic acid is one of the most DNA damaging disinfection by-products known.

Many full scale water treatment plants now use granulated activated carbon filter systems, cutting chlorine use by one-third. Using less chlorine reduces DBP levels, drastically improving the quality of drinking water. A few full scale treatment plants now use a reverse osmosis water purification unit, which is more expensive, but ensures the safest and cleanest water.

Research and improvements in water purification technology is ongoing. As a consumer it would be best to source drinking water that has gone through an extensive filtration process, preferably reverse osmosis with remineralization.

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



by Jesseca Zollars Smith

# The Benefits of NIR and FAR Infrared LED Therapy

Infrared light therapy, particularly near-infrared (NIR) and far-infrared (FAR) LED technology, has gained significant attention in the wellness, medical, and beauty industries. This non-invasive therapy

harnesses infrared wavelengths to penetrate the skin and stimulate cellular activity. From pain relief to improved circulation and skin rejuvenation, NIR and FAR infrared LED therapy provide a holistic approach to wellness. Both have unique properties that contribute to their therapeutic effects.

FAR infrared light stimulates blood flow, helping oxygen and nutrients reach tissues more efficiently, lowering blood pressure, enhancing cardiovascular function, and reducing the risk of circulatory disorders. FAR infrared heat promotes sweating, aiding in the removal of toxins such as heavy metals and environmental pollutants, strengthening the immune system, reducing oxidative stress, and supporting overall well-being.

NIR light stimulates collagen production, reducing fine lines, wrinkles, and scars, while improving skin elasticity, enhanced wound healing, and reducing acne and skin inflammation. NIR therapy increases mitochondrial activity, boosting ATP production, resulting in faster recovery from injuries, increased energy levels, and improved cognitive function.

FAR infrared's gentle heat promotes relaxation by reducing cortisol levels, encouraging melatonin production, and alleviating symptoms of anxiety and depression. These therapies are available in various forms, including:

- Infrared Saunas: Ideal for full-body detox and relaxation
- LED Panels and Devices: Targeted therapy for pain relief and skin benefits
- Wearable Infrared Products: Such as heating pads or infrared wraps for localized treatments

NIR and FAR infrared LED therapy offer a natural, non-invasive way to promote healing, enhance well-being, and support overall health. Whether used for pain relief, skin rejuvenation, detoxification, or relaxation, infrared light therapy is a valuable addition to any wellness routine.

Would you like help choosing an infrared device for your specific needs? Give us a call to uplevel your wellness routine.

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!

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by AJ Harwood

#### Clear the Chaos

Overwhelmed by too much stuff? You're not alone – most Americans feel the same. Quick facts:

- 1 in 4 Americans can't use the second car garage space
- 50% have a room unsalvageable with clutter
- 16 minutes per day are spent looking for lost stuff

Clear space, clear mind! Reduce stress and chaos with these tips to bring more calm into your life:

- Commit to weekly decluttering, even if it's just a single drawer or closet.
- Start by tossing easy, obvious items (e.g., mystery cords, old takeout menus, expired products, orphan storage lids)
- Take photos of sentimental items you don't have room for then sell, donate, or toss.
- Call a local nonprofit (The Salvation Army or AMVETS) to come pick up items for donation.
- Be honest with yourself. Does an item still fit into your lifestyle? Or do you feel *obligated* to keep it?

Don't forget to do a digital detox. Put on a favorite show or music and then:

- Clean out your inbox. Set a timer for 15 minutes.
- Unsubscribe from newsletters, promotions, etc.
- Delete apps you don't use.

If you have any questions, I'm here to offer clear, concise information you can trust. I can also connect you with a reliable home cleaner or professional organizer from my network if you need extra help with home maintenance or organization.

Spring is here and is anticipated to be a competitive time – you don't want to get left behind! Real estate is local, and 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 Wimberley and Texas Hill Country area. If you're thinking of selling your home, call me today! Experience matters, especially in the current changing market!

This information is designed to provide a brief overview of the subject matter covered and is offered for general educational and informational purposes only. 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 a Top Producing Agent in the Texas Hill Country areas. 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!

#### Prepare for Inspection Surprises

Keep transactions on track by helping clients plan for the unpredictable. A home inspection gone awry can spell double trouble in a real estate transaction. Sellers who believe they've kept their house in pristine condition might hit the roof when costly problems with the property are uncovered. And buyers, especially first-timers with no experience in the market, may be scared away by the prospect of daunting repairs.

How do you keep this common scenario from devolving into acrimony? Before the inspection, talk with your clients about their expectation and about how they might handle certain results, says Daniel L Alden, broker-associate.

Listing agents can be proactive by doing a visual inspection of their client's home, looking for obvious areas that need repair. Rich Wolnik Jr., a sales associate with Riklin Realty in Niles, Illinois, advises reviewing the age of the seller's furnace, water heater, and air conditioning unit and finding out what major repairs or upgrades have been done. Make sure sellers are aware of issues that are common in your market, and let them know that whatever issues you find in a visual inspection will very likely arise in an official inspection.

Sellers may want to pay for a pre-listing inspection. This gives them an opportunity to collect cost estimates for repairs and determine whether they want to pay for fixes or lower their asking price. Either way, it can prevent last-minute setbacks.



by Jim & Debbie Donaldson

If buyers' first reaction to inspection problems is to walk away, remind them of why they were moved to make an offer in the first place. They may rue letting inspection issues derail their dream. If this is the only property you've seen that meets your requirements, let's talk it through and make it work.

This article was first published in the NAR Realtor Magazine, Nov/Dec 2017 Issue

Jim and Debbie Donaldson are Sales Agents with Keller Williams, Partners in Real Estate Group, in Wimberley. They moved to Wimberley in 1993 and enjoy helping sellers and buyers have an awesome real estate experience. You can reach Jim at 830-857-3371 or Jim.Donaldson78@gmail.com or Debbie 512-665-9588 or Debbie.Donaldson79@gmail.com.

# ART ON THE RIVER

#### by Tom Wiley

Spring has sprung, as evidenced by the number of events appearing on our calendars. One favorite is the annual Wimberley Arts Fest.

Arts Fest was a production of artist-photographer Stan Allen. The event started in 2007 across from Stan's gallery on Henson Road before moving to the Wimberley Square and then Blue Hole Regional Park. It now resides at The Waters Point boutique resort.

The resort is perfect for such a popular festival. Exhibits can number near one-hundred, nestled under tree-lined grounds on the Blanco River. The success of Arts Fest for both artists and visitors is accomplished thanks to volunteers from the Wimberley Valley Art League.

Saturday's event includes a custom car show. Both days include live music. Food and drinks are available. There is a fee to park on grounds, but area parking is available in town for free walk-ins. Golf carts shuttle guests from the entry on Ranch Road 12 and from the Square.

Wimberley Arts Fest Saturday, April 26 10am to 5pm Sunday, April 27 11am to 4pm

The Waters Point 13401 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley TheWatersPoint.com

Annual Student Art Exhibition Wimberley Art League Gallery Wimberley Community Center April 10 through May 5





# 

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#### Drought and Trees

We're all aware of the impact that the drought of the last several years has had on area water supplies and on Central Texas trees. It can take trees a number of years to recover from effects of prolonged drought, so recurring drought conditions continue to be a concern for tree health.

Plant pathologist Dr. Bruce Fraedrich states that, "Moisture stress adversely affects virtually every physiological process in the plant." For example, as a defense mechanism against moisture loss, the leaf stomata (small openings that permit gas exchange) will close, but then carbon dioxide is not absorbed and photosynthesis is inhibited. This limits growth and increases the tree's susceptibility to insect and disease pests. This and other impacts of extended drought often result in yellowing leaves, premature defoliation, crown thinning, and poor shoot growth. And trees can die from the complications caused by drought.

With more Texas communities imposing stricter water restrictions, it's especially important to water wisely and according to community guidelines. I offer a few tips for conservative but effective watering:

Concentrate your efforts on your high-value trees. Spread a two- to three-inch layer of wood-chip mulch out to the tree's dripline, avoiding the trunk. This will help to moderate temperatures, retain moisture, and improve soil structure. Water in the morning or evening hours to reduce

evaporation. Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems. These allow a slow, deep delivery of water and reduce runoff and evaporation. The area to water should be under the canopy over the mulched area. If you water in this manner, your trees will probably only need watering every two to three weeks. Remember that overwatering can also be harmful to landscape plants.



by Joe Harris

With proper moisture delivery, your trees will be more responsive to other treatments or procedures they might need to increase their odds of surviving extreme drought. A Bartlett Tree Experts ISA Certified Arborist can complete an inspection to help ensure your trees are reaching their full health potential.



Joe grew up in Charlotte, Michigan, as a second-generation arborist. He attended Texas State, joining Bartlett while he was there. Joe worked 5 years as an arborist climber and crew leader, transitioning 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 Randy Lawrence

#### Understanding hard water

It's well known that in Central Texas, we have some of the highest water hardness levels in the country. Something you may not know is that those levels can vary greatly from one water source to another. The amount of calcium and other

hardness minerals dissolved in water is expressed using grains per gallon, or GPG. The amount of scale buildup and corrosion you'll experience is directly proportional to the hardness of your water. It's safe to say that, with a test result of 10 GPG or more, the home's plumbing system and water-using appliances would benefit from a water softener.

Unfortunately there are few, if any, available ground or surface water sources in our area which contain less than 12 GPG. Most of our local municipal and community water supplies contain between 20 and 40 GPG. At the lower end of the range, visible issues can be relatively manageable with cleaning chemicals, but calcium scale will definitely accumulate in the pipes, fixtures, and water heater. The news isn't any better with private wells.

Depending on the location and depth of your well, hardness can range from 15 GPG to as much as 160 GPG. At the higher end of the range, the calcium will cause excessive buildup on fixtures and surrounding surfaces, etching of glassware and premature failure of water heaters, dishwashers, and other water-using appliances.

It's important to know that treatment equipment is not *one size* fits all. Despite misleading claims by some, traditional salt or potassium-based softening is the only method which physically removes hardness from your water. Recent advances in electronic controllers have made the new generation of softeners more reliable, efficient, and user-friendly than ever. A water treatment specialist can test your water in order to determine the necessary softener size for your home.

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.



#### April Flowers & the Art of Wise Investing:

#### Lessons from Nature to Grow Your Financial Garden

Just as April flowers bloom in their time, so can your investments flourish if nurtured with patience, care, and wisdom. Let's explore how gardening principles can guide sound financial investments.

Planting Seeds: Initial Investment In gardening, selecting the right seeds and planting them in fertile soil is the first step. Similarly, a robust portfolio begins with choosing the right assets. Start by conducting thorough research to identify opportunities that align with your financial goals. Scrutinize stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other instruments to ensure growth potential.

Diversification: A Garden of Many Species A well-tended garden boasts a variety of flowers, each contributing to the overall beauty and health of the space. Diversification in investing follows the same principle. Spreading investments across different asset classes and sectors reduces the risk of significant losses. Just as a garden with multiple species can endure pests or diseases, a diversified portfolio better handles market volatility.

Patience and Timing: Letting Nature Take Its Course Gardens don't bloom overnight; they require time and patience. In investments, patience is a virtue. Market fluctuations are inevitable, but a wise investor understands that growth takes time. Stay committed to your strategy, allow assets time to mature for rewards.

Regular Maintenance: Monitoring and Adjusting Gardens need regular attention watering, weeding, and pruning are essential. Similarly, your portfolio



by Scott G. Hackett, CFP®

requires periodic reviews and adjustments. Monitoring investments ensures alignment with your goals and risk tolerance. Regular maintenance prevents small issues from becoming significant problems, keeping your financial garden vibrant and productive.

The Synergy of Nature and Finance Nature offers profound lessons in patience, resilience, and nurturing growth. April flowers remind us that beauty and abundance result from thoughtful planning, consistent effort, and time. By embracing nature's principles, you can nurture your investments to bloom and thrive, ensuring a bright and prosperous future.

Scott G. Hackett, CFP® is the president of the Hackett Financial Group LLC (HFG), a fee-only registered investment advisor. Visit HackettFinancialGroup.com or reach out at 512 847 0630. Email Scott at Scott@HackettFinancialGroup.com.

#### Holographic Wills

Texas accepts holographic (handwritten) wills into probate. Not all states allow holographic wills, so it is important to note that the following information by Carrie Campbell, J.D. applies only in Texas. There are several reasons that a properly prepared and

executed will is preferred over a handwritten will, but it is much better to have a holographic will than no will.

To be valid, a holographic will must be solely in the person's handwriting. It cannot be typed or contain markings or writings of other people. Therefore, it should not be witnessed or notarized. It is best that the holographic will contain the date, who inherits, who should serve as independent executor, whether a bond is required, and a signature. If done properly, the document will serve to name heirs and lessen the probate procedures as compared to a dependent administration wherein the court must determine who inherits.

For a holographic will to be admitted into probate, it will be necessary for two witnesses that are not heirs to appear at a hearing to testify that (1) the handwriting is that of the deceased, and (2) that the deceased was in his or her right mind at the time the will was written. This requirement can sometimes be difficult to meet if the deceased had outlived many of their family or friends who would have knowledge of that information. Another drawback to a holographic will is that it lacks additional information traditionally covered in a will drafted by an experienced attorney. Such coverage would address several contingencies, including: the listing of alternate heirs and executors, survivorship clauses, spend-thrift precautions, as well as provisions for future generations that could possibly inherit.

Gifts to children or grandchildren must be carefully written to avoid the gifts being held by the court registry until the heirs reach adulthood. Therefore, if you have the ability to do so, consider estate planning that includes a proper Last Will and Testament. In the meantime, a holographic will can temporarily cover the gap.

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.





#### Litigation: Injunctions in the News



by Roland Brown

Let's consider the role of injunctions in litigation in light of the flood of current litigation seeking to define the constitutional boundaries and relative responsibilities of the three branches of government. Obtaining an injunction can be challenging and it should be. The court is asked to alter or prohibit conduct of a person or entity without a full trial at which the facts and law can be fully developed. If the harm sought to be prohibited can be repaired or reasonably compensated for with a money judgment, then an injunction is unlikely to be granted and the party seeking the injunction will be relegated to suing only for damages. The requesting party must show that if the conduct complained of is not prohibited by the court, irreparable harm will result and there will be no adequate remedy for that harm once it has occurred. They must also show that they are likely to prevail once the case is heard on its merits. Injunctions can provide quick help to avoid future harm that cannot be repaired or compensated for, but injunctions are not handed out by the courts like candy.

Frequently, an injunction is obtained by filing a petition asking the court to enter a temporary restraining order (TRO) without advance notice to the opposing party. A TRO is only good for a few days, so the court sets a prompt hearing date and time for a contested hearing. The enjoined party is then served with the TRO and notice of the hearing and can argue at that hearing that the TRO should not be extended as a temporary injunction. If the court decides that it should be extended, then it remains in effect, usually until the end of the lawsuit when the court may

continue it as a permanent injunction. An example of current use of injunctions in the realm of constitutional boundaries would be a court enjoining mass terminations of

governmental employees or defunding agencies or departments by the executive branch without legislative action.

Hopefully this little primer on injunctions will shed light on the reports of current judicial actions addressing separation of powers issues in our country. A personal plea to you: whatever your political leanings and no matter how frustrated you may be with our current political wrangling, please do not shy away from staying tuned to what is going on out there and asking the tough questions that cut through the spin.

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.









# Specializing in Wimberley & LERWILLIAMS. The Surrounding Hill Country





191 Flat Creek Trl \$2,000,000 MLS 2075546 Stunning 4/5 on 6 Acres. Built 2023, pool, AG exempt Alice Lebkuecher



5400 FM 2325 B MLS 1524032 Amazing unrestricted 36 acres. Stock tank, Views. \$2,000,000 Mickey Brown & Jeff Hutto



7312 RR 12 MLS 6659766 70+ Unrestricted Acres. 4/4 Home. 3 Commercial, 3 Residential Rentals. \$4,500,000 Mickey Brown, Jeff Hutto



17 Tanglewood Trl \$585,000 Stunning low maintenance 4/3 home.

Mickey Brown



1800 S Rainbow Ranch Rd \$650,000 MLS 3333364 11.22 Beautiful tree covered acres. \$650,000 Jim Donaldson



301 Camino De Rancho MLS5029608 4/2 on 5 AG Exempt acres where exotic wildlife roams. \$799,000 Debbie Donaldson



160 Wimberley Ranch Dr MLS 5995047 \$2,300,000. 10 Ag Exempt acres, resort style pool, cabana. Jim Donaldson



321 Tulley Ct MLS 46116132 \$987,000 New, Exquisite, Contemporary 3/4 on Greenbelt and cul-de-sac. Alice Lebkuecher



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1001 Bluff View Rd. MLS 3930355 Beautiful tree covered 5 acre lot in coveted River Mtn Ranch \$475,000 Jim Donaldson



1401 Mt. Sharp MLS 1251683 Beautiful 12.5 Acres on Cypress Creek with 5/4.5 home and guest house. \$1,395,000 Alice Lebkuecher



MLS 2645506 \$995,000 502 Wayside 4.2-acre property offers two income-producing manufactured homes. Jeff Hutto



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2120 Sandy Point Rd MLS 9545185 \$395,000 3.7+/- acre lot overlooking Blanco River. River in this section underground. Alice Lebkuecher



Mickey Brown 512-468-4509



Alice Lebkuecher 713-253-1311



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