

A still life photograph of a dining table. In the foreground, a dark wooden table holds a bouquet of red roses in a glass vase, a bowl of fruit including oranges and green grapes, and a small glass vase with more flowers. In the background, a hanging glass chandelier with many vertical glass tubes is visible. The background wall is a deep green color. The title 'Wimberley Valley NEWS & VIEWS' is overlaid on the image in a white serif font.

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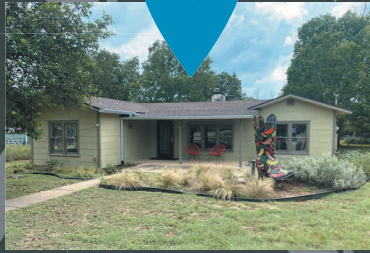
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**“OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS LIES IN GIVING UP.
THE MOST CERTAIN WAY TO SUCCEED IS ALWAYS
TO TRY JUST ONE MORE TIME.” — THOMAS A. EDISON**

I recently read that our calendar starts off in the wrong season. That the beginning of the year should coincide with the beginning of spring as this is a time for renewal and rejuvenation. As the flora slowly begins to emerge again and life abundant is reborn, so are we.

This makes sense to me. I love the springtime – but then again don’t we all? Everything is so fresh, the air is fragrant, the breeze is cool, and that dreadful heat hasn’t settled upon us just yet. It makes me think again about what I would like to accomplish this year.

There are goals that I have reached that at times seemed absolutely unattainable. Things that seemed impossible really aren’t so and dreams that I would love to live are not that far off. All we have to do is try again.

But where is that line between the insanity of trying the same thing over and over again expecting a different result and actually achieving our goal? Is it the fine-tuning that makes the difference? Is it the trial and error that finally gets us across the finish line? Maybe it’s the essence of the dream, the energy fueling it, that gives it life. Whatever it is, I’ll keep trying.

Cyle Elizabeth Johnson, Editor

Valentino
PUBLICATIONS

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. May 12, 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 joani1950@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.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. Ermiias K. Gebremeskel is president, 512 210 6966, Ketema_Ermiias@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.-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 Cyle@ValentinoPublications.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. May 15: Lost Austin Band**
- 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, 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, May 24, *Blue Hole Regional Park*, Wimberley Strong Memorial Concert, \$50. Proceeds will benefit local first responders.

The Importance of Plants

I only need to look out my office window to be reminded of the daily inspiration I get from the Plant Kingdom. From our rare Madrone, grown and gifted by my dear friend Linda, to the first tree I planted on this land, now grown to the tallest tree on our property, the surrounding plants remind me daily of my place in Nature's scheme.

Plants are essential to human survival, providing oxygen, food, medicine, and countless other resources that sustain life. From the air we breathe to the materials we use daily, plants have shaped civilization and continue to play a crucial role in our well-being.

One of the most vital contributions of plants is their role in producing oxygen. Through the process of photosynthesis, plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, ensuring that the atmosphere remains suitable for life. Additionally, they help filter pollutants from the air, improving air quality and reducing respiratory health issues.

Plants are critical to human health. Fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, and legumes provide essential nutrients necessary for a balanced diet. Animals raised for meat depend on vegetation for sustenance, making plants the foundation of the food chain. Modern medicine is rooted in the longtime use of traditional herbal remedies and many plant species have been vital to modern pharmaceutical advancements.



by Kern Deschner

Prologue: Please forgive me that the terms “erectile dysfunction” and “testicles” appear in this article and that this very sentence – if taken out of context – illustrates the point thereof. I am not a weirdo (not much) but misunderstandings can happen with words taken out of context.

So, here we go. My kids can type text on their phones at blinding speed. Not me. Two-thumb typing is very clumsy for these hands. Fortunately, there is a dictation option for texting, which allows me to send long, involved texts to Rhonda, only to get the reply “LOL,” to practically everything I send. Send her a message about my undying love? *LOL* is the reply. Send a message about someone passing away? *LOL*. We have a big tax bill due? *LOL*. She says *LOL* means “lots of love” which is so cute that I don’t want to tell her that *LOL* means “laugh out loud” – which I explain here just in case you are not someone who texts much.

I have learned that, in dictating texts, you must be careful before you hit *send*. One friend texted me questions, medical ones, about his erectile dysfunction (there it is). Siri translated it as “reptile dysfunction” to which I started asking about what kind of reptile he had that was dysfunctional. That kind of got awkward. Siri can misrepresent your words in ways that may be incomprehensible, hilarious, or terrifying. Not to mention that Siri cannot get it through its processors that, in my house at least, Mark is not spelled with a “c” and Jenny is not spelled with a “G” while Rhonda does include a “h” and Michelle has two “l’s”.

Plants help maintain the balance of ecosystems by preventing soil erosion, maintaining water cycles, and supporting biodiversity. Forests and wetlands act as natural carbon sinks, reducing the impact of climate change by absorbing and storing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



by Tim Thompson

We rely on plants for clothing, housing, fuel, and countless products used in everyday life, and psychologically, plants contribute to mental health and well-being. Green spaces, gardens, and forests offer relaxation and a connection to nature. Their presence in cities enhances urban environments and promotes a healthier lifestyle.

Plants are indispensable to human existence. Their contributions extend beyond survival, enriching our lives in ways that are often taken for granted. Preserving, nurturing, and appreciating plants is crucial for a sustainable future, ensuring their benefits continue for generations to come.

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. Call King Feed at 512 847 2618.



Misunderstood

Overhearing Rhonda's phone conversations can need explanation as well. Here was the scenario; we were on a plane, Rhonda in the window seat, I in the middle, and a third unknown passenger on the aisle. Rhonda received a phone call and exclaimed to her caller, “You have a new bouncing baby boy! 23 pounds?” The aisle lady's eyes go wide and she mutters, “Poor lady! Is that even possible?” Rhonda continues with, “You think he is going to be a breeder?” and the lady's eye begin to widen further. “Does he have two testicles?” Rhonda asks and the lady begins to look sideways at us. When Rhonda says, “Well, take a picture of his testicles and send it to me!” the lady starts to ask the flight attendant for another seat. I quickly explain that we are talking about alpacas and there is a gasp of relief and a long, “Ohhhhhhhhh! Well, that makes some sense now.” She stays in her seat and enjoys seeing the picture of the new alpaca baby, although she declines to see the pictures of the testicles.

See? Kept in the proper context, these comments are quite innocent. Out of context, they might be misunderstood. These days, especially, when we respond to sound bites and click bait on the news and web, we need to keep in mind that we are being told only part of the story.

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.

Karate at All Ages

Our Grandmaster Kim Soo started practicing karate when he was ten years old. He is now over 80 years old, and he is still practicing. Grandmaster says it is his medicine. Karate practice changes over a lifetime and can have an impact at each age.

For kids, it is important to find strength. Finding strength helps build confidence and the ability to handle more responsibility. The ability to care for others becomes natural with an abundance of strength.

For teenagers, being able to handle life's situations becomes more important as one has to enter *the real world*. Strong teenagers exhibit a lot of cockiness and often don't listen when they don't know what they are talking about. This leads to mistakes, but I say that cockiness is a great way to make mistakes and to learn. Being afraid to get out there is worse. I celebrate cockiness in a teen.

For adults, karate helps de-stress. Adults are not only away from their stressors during the precious time that they give to their practice, but they are also preparing themselves to better handle them. They find themselves excited by challenges and not as afraid of them.

Senior citizens find that their karate practice is vital to their continuing safety, health, and independence. Working on their

balance and physical strength is important, and it is a joy to feel able. Since they do not waste time on cockiness and are not stressed, they are free to explore the deeper aspects of karate that others cannot.

I started karate as a kid. Over time, my training changed from a focus on becoming able and strong to a focus on using the training to help me face challenges in life.

Lately, I have focused on energy. I am seeing that energy has to go somewhere, just like water in a river. If I'm not dealing with something the energy is lost and may lead me astray. But when I accept a challenge, that energy becomes a force that helps guide me to a solution.

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.



by Sarah Geenber

Wimberley Karate and Yoga Studio



Sarah Geenber
512 971 8528

501 Old Kyle Road
WimberleyKarateYoga.com



by Robert Donnelly,
DDS

Smile All Summer Long with a Brighter Smile

As the summer season approaches and once again we are preparing for weddings and summer gatherings, we want to look and feel our best. So, you may want to consider the benefits of whitening your smile.

It's not uncommon for enamel to darken over the years, which can create an aged look overall. Many beverages, like red wine, coffee, and tea, have been proven to leave long-lasting stains on the surface of teeth. While there are many choices out there – both over-the-counter and through your dentist – you should know that not all methods will work for everyone.

You shouldn't have to wait months or weeks to get the smile you desire. If you want instant results in a professional setting, you should consider Zoom whitening. The Zoom process helps you achieve a smile eight to ten shades whiter in a little over an hour and all at one appointment while you rest comfortably. With professional in-office whitening, Dr. Donnelly will make sure that the teeth whitening treatment will be effective at getting you the whitening results that you desire. Our talented cosmetic dentistry team are excellent at performing teeth whitening, so you can ask us any questions related to the process before or after your appointment.

If you prefer at home whitening, Dr. Donnelly can also provide you with custom whitening trays along with prescription strength

bleach that you can take home. You will still get professional whitening results but you will be using your trays and bleach over a period of days. This allows you to easily do touch-up bleaching throughout the year so that your smile stays bright.

It's important to mention that crowns, bridges, and fillings will not respond to teeth whitening gel. If you would like to brighten your enamel but have a visible dental restoration, ask Dr. Donnelly what the best course of action is for your unique smile. Teeth whitening are often recommended before restorative procedures so that the restoration is made to match the proper shade.

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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The Clock is Ticking

Yesterday was Moving Day for my baby chicks. I had housed them in one of my barely used bathrooms since the end of February. They outgrew that space inside my home and rubbed their wings a bit too close to each other. It was time to move them to their next habitat — an expanded space outside with access to more abundant food and water sources and more area to explore and learn, and a place to stretch their wings and grow into their full potential.

The Wildflower Music Studio is more than a place to learn how to play violin, piano, or guitar. We have a bigger mission and purpose: to change the world — one child, one family, and one community at a time. We believe in Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's philosophy that talent is not inborn and that ability can be developed through encouragement and a nurturing learning environment. We help parents and families cultivate family relationships that are supportive, respectful, and joyful through the medium of music education. We teach our students life skills and abilities, such as listening, watching, imitating, memorizing, concentrating (and focusing), performing, being disciplined, and persevering.

Author Anne-Laure Le Cunff writes, "Life and learning is a continuous opportunity." As the clock ticked for my little chickens, it also ticks for young children or students of all ages. The Wildflower Music Studio seeks to expand our students' potential for growth and learning. Contact us to learn more and become part of our learning community.

Along with our usual summer lessons for violin, piano, guitar, and early childhood music education program, we offer two special class sessions in June and July for young 3-4-year-olds to begin learning the violin. Text (512) 694-7687 to find out more information.



by Paula E. Bird

Paula E. Bird has taught in the Wimberley area for over 20 years. Recently retired from Texas State University and the Austin Symphony, she has performed at Carnegie Hall as a founding member of the Artisan String Quartet. Joined by her business partner, musician Ian Lee, the pair serves over 100 students in the Central Texas area. Contact her at birdtull@prodigy.net or 512 694 7687.

The Reading Brain & Dyslexia: What Parents Need to Know



by Casey Harrison,
LDT, CSLDS,
CALT-QIT

Learning to read is a remarkably intricate and deliberate process that the human brain must undertake. Unlike spoken language, which most children acquire naturally through exposure and interaction, reading is a learned skill. It is not something the human brain is biologically wired to do without instruction. Instead, it requires the

brain to develop a *reading circuit* — a specialized network that connects different regions responsible for recognizing letters and words, processing sounds, and understanding meaning. This complex network doesn't form automatically; it takes explicit teaching, practice, and support, especially for children who struggle with reading, such as those with dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a common language-based learning difference that affects between 10-20% of the population. Children with dyslexia often have difficulty connecting letters to their corresponding sounds, a skill known as phonemic awareness. This difficulty can hinder decoding (sounding out words), spelling, fluency, and word recognition. Importantly, dyslexia has no relation to intelligence — many individuals with dyslexia have strong verbal reasoning and problem-solving skills. The primary challenge lies in how their brains process written language, making reading tasks more effortful and time-consuming.

Despite these challenges, children with dyslexia can learn to read and write effectively. The key lies in using the right instructional approach — specifically, Structured Literacy. Structured Literacy

is an evidence-based, systematic, and multisensory method of teaching language. It focuses on the building blocks of language, including phonology (sounds), orthography (spelling patterns), morphology (word parts like roots and suffixes), syntax (sentence structure), and semantics (meaning). This method helps students internalize how language works from the ground up.

Students learn to identify and manipulate individual sounds in words, link those sounds to letters or letter patterns, and decode unfamiliar words using learned strategies. They study morphemes — meaningful units of language, such as un- (meaning *not*) or -ed (indicating past tense) — to build vocabulary and comprehension. This enables the brain to form a more efficient reading circuit. Students become more fluent, confident readers.

Parents play an equally vital role. Reading aloud at home, discussing new words, encouraging curiosity about language, and listening to audiobooks can all reinforce the skills taught during instruction. Rewiring the brain for reading takes time, but with consistency, support, and patience, children can thrive.

At Wimberley Dyslexia & Learning Center, we are committed to helping children with dyslexia reach their full potential through expert guidance and compassionate care.

Casey Harrison, founder of The Dyslexia Classroom® and Wimberley Dyslexia and Learning Center, is a Certified Academic Language Therapist (ALTA), Licensed Dyslexia Therapist (TX, ALTA), Certified Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist (IDA), and a Qualified Teacher with over 27 years of experience. She works with parents, teachers, and PK-12th grade students at her private practice.



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by Alice Lebkuecher

7 Ideas to Boost Curb Appeal

Even if you aren't in the market to sell your home, most homeowners want a house they can take pride in. Improving the curb appeal of your home is the first step to ensuring you present the house in the best possible way. Experts weigh in to

help you discover seven budget-friendly projects to add instant curb appeal.

Paint Exterior Finishes: Adding a fresh coat of paint to the siding can immediately freshen up the exterior of your house, but if your budget is too tight to paint the entire home, then you can stick to touching up the trim and shutters. Similarly, painting the front door or mailbox can improve the appearance of the home for the cost of a small can of paint.

Replace House Numbers: Replacing the house numbers can increase the appeal of the property, while also making the home easier to identify from the street with clearly visible house numbers that enhance the existing exterior aesthetic.

Update Landscaping: The lawn and garden are just as important as the home when it comes to improving the overall curb appeal of the property. It's a good idea to invest in attractive seasonal flowers, trim overgrown bushes, and add fresh mulch to the flower beds to enhance the look of the home.

Swap Light Fixtures: Replacing old, worn-out light fixtures with updated porch and garage lighting enhances the aesthetic quality of the home, while contributing to the security of the property.

Replace Deck Boards and Railings: Instead of replacing your whole deck, focus on replacing individual boards and sections of railing that may be more worn for wear than the surrounding area.

Remove Debris From the Yard: Another great way to make the home stand out is to keep up with regular maintenance and to make sure that you remove any leaves, sticks, and other debris from the yard. Raking leaves, mowing the lawn, and clearing debris is essential for maintaining an attractive home exterior.

Updating Hardware on Doors and Shutters: Replacing the old door handle, lock, and window hardware can help to give the house an updated appearance.

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 AJ Harwood

Rest and Recharge this Summer!

Have you been running nonstop this year? Whether it's a getaway or a staycation, hitting the pause button isn't a luxury, it's a must. Let's go!

When we don't recharge:

- Stress and burnout increase
- Fatigue/lack of quality sleep
- Impaired problem solving

Benefits of time off:

- Focus and efficiency improve
- Deeper and more restorative sleep
- Enhanced cognitive abilities and creativity

Start planning – easy as ABC!

- Assess: Check schedules for the best time off.
- Budget: Set spending limits. Consider stay-cations or deals.
- Check: Explore destinations, best travel times, special offers.

Hit the road this summer! The U.S. has something for everyone – beautiful parks, museums, cultural attractions, great food, and amazing memories! Try these sites: WanderLog.com, TripIt.com, SkyScanner.com, AllTrails.com, PointsGuy.com

My recent personal top picks!

Carmel by the Sea: A gem on California's central coast, known for its charm, natural beauty, and refined character. A must do – drive Highway 1. Big Sur is raw California beauty at its most visceral and cinematic – cliffs that plunge into the Pacific and

redwoods that stretch to the sky. Stop at the Nepenthe restaurant. Go for lunch, stay for a sunset drink.

Big Bend National Park in West Texas: A vast and untamed region where the Chihuahuan Desert, Rio Grande River, and Chisos Mountains collide. As an International Dark Sky Park it has some of the clearest skies in the U.S.

Yellow Stone National Park in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho: Raw wilderness, geologic power, and wildlife all converging in a region larger than some states. My top sight is Old Faithful – dramatic, iconic, surrounded by a complex of geysers.

Enjoy your adventures! Be safe, have fun, and if you find your dream home along the way, I can put you in touch with an agent from my network across North America and beyond!

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, 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 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!

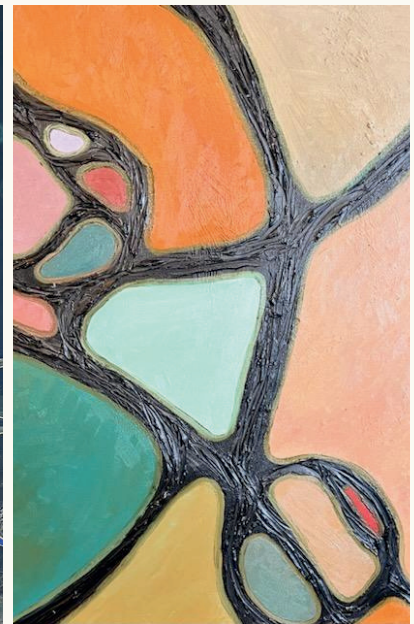
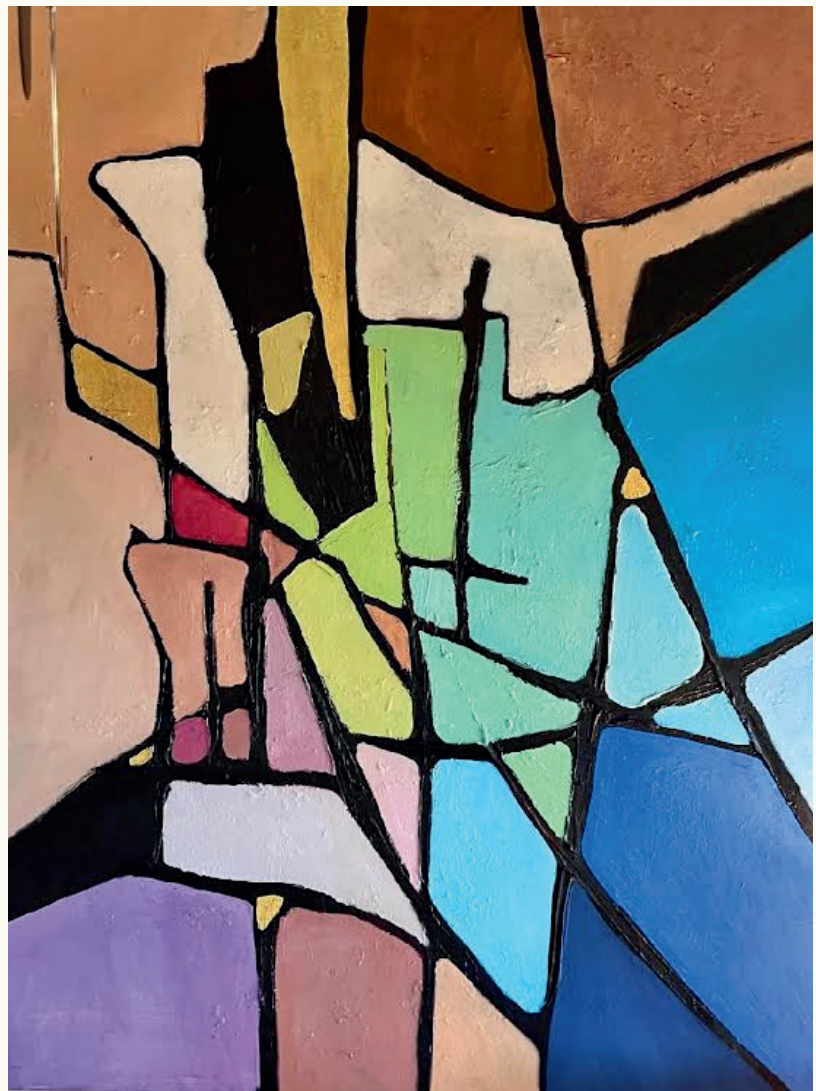
Taking Charge

by Tom Wiley

Much of Wimberley runs on volunteerism. The success of those efforts relies on individuals who come to the forefront to lead. Nancy Elliott is such a person.

Her interest in art led to an art degree from Auburn University. She was a public school art teacher for 11 years. While living in Bryan/College Station, Nancy worked with a friend to promote local art and make it accessible to the community. Their efforts through art shows and Pop-Up Galleries were very successful.

Nancy and her husband moved to the Wimberley area in 2017. She became involved with the Wimberley Valley Art League when she was tasked to create their Show and Sale event. She later assumed leadership of Art In Public Places, a program where Art League members can exhibit their work in public settings, such as the Wimberley Village Library and the Wimberley Medical Plaza. Over time, she expanded those opportunities to other business locations. Nancy started the annual Blue Agave sale and most recently created Art Crawl, a project which has galleries and local businesses offering a fun evening for tourists and locals the fourth Friday of each month.



Equally important is the fact that Nancy is an incredible artist! The inventiveness of her work is a result of her desire to explore and experiment. She tends to work in series. Once satisfied with a style, it's time to change directions. Nancy finds this creative cycling very liberating. Her works have included assemblage, three-dimensional projects, and various approaches towards paintings.



Past experimentation included designing a room at a local gallery where visitors were immersed in a theme revolving around her work. Known as Installation Art, this experience aims to change viewers' perceptions of the space and environment in which they find themselves. At another gallery, Nancy presented a Barbie event where the iconic dolls were presented in ways Mattel never imagined! A current direction is working with ceramics. It will be fun to witness her inventive skills in this medium.

Nancy feels her drive comes from a personal goal of educating people about art and promoting art within a community. Her efforts focus on opening doors for artists and helping people realize how much art can enrich their lives. The Wimberley art scene should be thankful for her energy!

A sampling of her art and contact information can be found at
www.NancyHamptonElliott.com

New exhibition at the
Art League Gallery
in the Wimberley Community Center
until July 4th.

Controlling Aphids

As the weather warms up this summer, activity of plant pests like aphids also increases. Aphids are small insects that infest a huge range of plants in the central Texas area. When feeding aphids infest plants, they can cause leaf distortion and discoloration. In addition to causing plant damage, feeding aphids exude excess sap called *honeydew* on trees and creates a sticky mess on cars, patios, decks, and anything else below the tree. This sugary honeydew in turn supports the growth of a black fungus called *sooty mold*. Often, the sticky honeydew and the black coating of sooty mold is more of a problem than the actual feeding damage to the plant.

Fortunately, aphids are relatively easy to manage in landscape plants and there are several options available, depending on the level of infestation and damage. The best options for low-level infestations are biological and organic. Many beneficial predator insects feed on aphids, and we can take advantage of this fact. The release of natural aphid predators, such as ladybird beetles, lacewing larvae, or aphid-eating midges, is often the only tool necessary to limit infestations, but results may take some time. If infestations and damage levels warrant immediate control, organic foliar applications of neem oil or horticultural oil work on contact.



by Joe Harris

Finally, for heavy infestations or in areas where foliar applications are not practical, systemic materials can be injected into the base of trees; these materials move throughout the tree tissue and provide lasting control of aphids. As with any insect pest, careful monitoring and treatment using multiple integrated options at the first sign of infestation will help to reduce damage and improve the success of management options.

An inspection with an ISA certified arborist can help you determine the best route for pest management.



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

Pre-Plumbing Requires Pre-Planning

When building or remodeling a home, there are plenty of details to keep track of. One item that is often overlooked is preparing your home for the installation of water treatment equipment. This pre-plumbing is referred to as a softener

loop. As a side note to our wonderful local builders, if you don't already include a softener loop in every home you build, you should consider doing this. Even if you don't install a softener, the individual purchasing the home may want one and completing it during construction will make a huge difference in the ease of system installation and overall cost.

The purpose for a loop is to separate the inside water from that used outside for irrigation, so that only the water entering the house is treated. In most cases, a loop will be located in a garage, closet, or mechanical room. There will be a water line exiting the wall, then turning 180 degrees before re-entering the wall. This will provide the inlet and outlet lines for the softener or filter. There should also be a drain which will handle the water discharged during a regeneration cycle. If there is a concern about this water entering the septic tank, a French drain, or gravel pit, could be an alternative. If your water treatment equipment is to be installed in a well enclosure, the house should be fed by two lines. One for treated water and the other for untreated irrigation water.

A 110 volt electrical outlet should be placed near the loop in order to power the water treatment equipment. A standard GFCI outlet will suffice, but a four-way outlet will ensure that you have additional plug space for heat lamps or for additional equipment. It is also a good idea to have this outlet on a dedicated circuit.

Planning ahead for a water treatment system can save you a great deal of money and frustration when you do decide to treat your incoming water. A licensed water treatment specialist can work with your builder to make certain that all of these components come together smoothly.

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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Structured Banknotes

Structured banknotes are debt securities issued by financial institutions, typically large banks, which combine traditional fixed-income elements with derivatives. These notes are designed to deliver returns based on the performance of underlying assets, which can range from equities and indices to commodities and currencies. The unique structure of these notes allows investors to tailor their exposure to various market conditions, offering a blend of capital protection and income or growth potential.

Components of Structured Banknotes Structured banknotes generally consist of two primary components: a bond element and a derivative component. The bond element provides principal protection, ensuring that the investor receives the initial investment amount upon maturity. The derivative component, on the other hand, is linked to the performance of the underlying assets, dictating the returns generated by the note.

Advantages of Structured Banknotes One of the key advantages of structured banknotes is their ability to offer partial or full capital protection. This feature is particularly appealing to risk-averse investors who seek to preserve their capital while still participating in market growth.

Additionally, structured banknotes offer customizable exposure to various asset classes. This flexibility allows for a diversified portfolio, mitigating the impact of adverse market conditions on a single asset class.

Incorporating Structured Banknotes

- **Income Generation:** Structured banknotes can be used to generate regular income through coupon payments. This is

particularly beneficial for income-focused investors seeking stable returns.

- **Diversification:** By including structured banknotes linked to various asset classes, investors can achieve diversification, reducing the impact of poor performance in any single asset.
- **Hedging:** Structured banknotes can act as hedging instruments, offsetting potential losses in other parts of the portfolio.
- **Capital Growth:** For investors seeking capital appreciation, structured banknotes linked to high-growth assets such as equities can provide exposure to potential upside while mitigating downside risk.

Risks and Considerations

- **Credit Risk:** Structured banknotes are subject to the credit risk of the issuing institution.
- **Complexity:** The intricate structure of these notes can be challenging for some investors to understand. Seek professional advice.
- **Liquidity:** Structured banknotes may have limited liquidity, making it difficult to sell them before maturity.



by *Scott G. Hackett, CFP®*

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.



by *Carrie Campbell, J.D.*

Deadline for Probating a Will

The Texas Estates Code requires that a will be filed for probate within four years of the date of death. If more than four years have passed since a person has passed away, the court may allow a will to be probated if all of the decedent's

legal next of kin are served notice of the proceedings and given the opportunity to object. The Application to Probate a Will after four years must include a chart of all people who would inherit if there were no will. This list must include decedent's spouse, children, and parents. Certain circumstances may also require the listing of grandchildren and siblings. For each relative listed, their address, relationship with the decedent, and percentage of their interest in both community and separate property must be provided. The laws of inheritance are complex when there is no will, so the percentages must be carefully calculated and listed whether or not the potential heirs are willing to waive their interest. It is further complicated if any of the heirs are minors whose parents or guardians must act on their behalf.

Once an accurate and complete list is filed with the court, each of those individuals listed must either be served notice of the probate proceeding or execute a Waiver of Service which is filed with the probate clerk prior to any hearing. If all known heirs agree to the use of the will to determine who inherits and who is

named executor, then the court may allow the probate to proceed pursuant to the terms of the will. The judge will expect testimony from the executor named in the will about why they failed to file the will within the required four years.

Accordingly, it is extremely important that, following a person's death, that the named executor consult with an experienced probate attorney to learn if probate is necessary, and if so, the specific deadlines that are applicable for probate. The timely probate of a will is far simpler and less expensive.

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: Let's Make a Deal



by Roland Brown

Imagine that you have suffered a disappointing loss at trial, but the judge has chosen to grant you a new trial "in the interest of justice." The trial judge has the option to do that, provided that the judge articulates a good reason for doing so. The good news – you get another bite at the apple; the bad news – you have to go through another trial and might lose again. Nevertheless, your opponent is now faced with trying the case again and the possibility of losing the second trial after having won the first one. In addition, no matter which side wins the retrial, one or the other might appeal the results of that retrial. Even when a new trial is not granted, you, as the losing party, may threaten to file an appeal. Either way, this is a prime opportunity for the parties to see if the dispute can be settled thereby avoiding a second trial or an appeal or both.

The possibility of settling a lawsuit exists from beginning to end, but the point in the proceedings described above is a particularly good opportunity for the parties to reconsider their respective settlement positions and strike a deal. At this point, each party has most likely seen the other party testify in front of a jury; they have seen their respective lawyers make their presentations to the jury; they have heard the comments of probably sixty to eighty jury panel members express their feelings about the positions of the parties during the jury selection process; they know what one jury thought of the case. All of this information should allow the parties to reassess their previous settlement negotiation postures with a view to increasing or decreasing their demands or offers.

Trials can be grueling and often daunting events and the parties may be weary of the fight. In almost every case, at least one, and often all, of the parties are paying their legal counsel and experts by the hour, so costs will continue to rise if the case goes on. If the losing party is uninsured and lacks assets, the collectability of the judgment may be in doubt. For many reasons, it is not surprising that lawsuits which make it as far as a jury verdict often settle at this juncture.

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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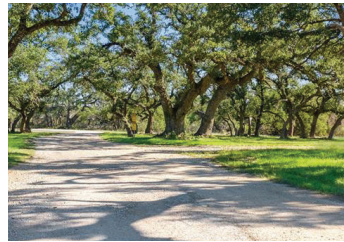
17801 RR 12 #201 in Olde Towne Plaza



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



New!
1601 S Rainbow Ranch MLS 1070042 Outstanding Horse lover's dream! 6 bed 5 bath ranchette, \$1,675,000 Jim Donaldson



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



New Price!
301 Camino De Rancho MLS5029608 4/2 on 5 AG Exempt acres where exotic wildlife roams. \$750,000 Debbie Donaldson



New Price!
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



13100 RR 12 MLS3389117 \$4,250,000 Heritage property, 28+/- acres along river. Minutes to downtown Wimberley! Alice Lebkuecher



Sold!
201 Summit Loop MLS 6265233 \$1,350,000 Breathtaking long distance views from stunning 3/3 home. Alice Lebkuecher



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



New!
Sonata Circle MLS1949916 Another beautiful 3/2 Somerset home on cul de sac Alice Lebkuecher



New!
308 Canna Lily MLS 2305007 Beautiful 4/3 two story home on 1.63 acres. \$715,000 Jeff Hutto



2 Stepping Stone Ct MLS 9900818 Great 3/2 New Build on cul-de-sac. Luxurious Amenities. \$449,900 Alice Lebkuecher



400 Water Park \$525,000 MLS 6849824 Stunning 5 Acre View lot with Blanco River Access in River Mtn Ranch. Alice Lebkuecher



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



Jim Donaldson
830-857-3371



Debbie Donaldson
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Jeff Hutto
936-327-2303



Linda Germain
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