

The Wimberley View

44th Year No. 28

Thursday, July 9, 2020

\$1.00

A PEEK INSIDE



THE BOOT
WHISPERER

PAGE B1



COMMUNITY
FEEDING THOSE IN
NEED

PAGE B6



WIMBERLEY'S
STATE CHAMPION
BULL RIDER

PAGE B2

Wimberley Springflow

July 6, 2020

Jacob's Well
Max: 6.82 cfs
Min: 5.63 cfs

Blanco River:
41 cfs

- Weather A2
- Features B1
- Classifieds B4
- Crossword B7



Governor Abbott orders Texans to wear masks

Patrick Svitek
Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a statewide mask mandate Thursday as Texas scrambles to get its coronavirus surge under control.

The order requires Texans living in counties with more than 20 coronavirus cases to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while in a business or other building open to

the public, as well as outdoor public spaces, whenever social distancing is not possible. But it provides several exceptions, including for children who are younger than 10 years old, people who have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, people who are eating or drinking, and people who are exercising outdoors.

The mask order goes into effect at 12:01 p.m. Friday.

It immediately applies to all Texas counties, but counties with 20 or fewer active cases can be exempted — if they opt out. County judges must submit an application to be exempted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management. TDEM will list the counties that have opted out on its website.

Later Thursday, in an interview with Univision in Dallas, Abbott also signaled he might be rethinking

plans to open the state's public schools for in-person classes this fall, after state officials said last month that it would be safe.

"If COVID is so serious, it may mean that students are having to learn from home through a distance learning program, something like the use of Zoom or FaceTime or other strategies where a teacher in real time will have the means to speak with a student, a stu-

dent will be able to speak with other students, and it will replicate the class setting as much as possible," he said.

State officials have delayed the release of public health guidelines for in-person instruction as cases have continued to rise. But a draft version last month showed they were planning to leave safety regulations up to individual

See **Masks**, Page A6



PHOTO BY DALTON SWEAT/WIMBERLEY VIEW

Austin and Carson Reynolds sit on the roof of their car to watch the fireworks at the VFW.

Fourth of July shines in Wimberley

Dalton Sweat
Editor

Independence Day is a special time across the nation, but Wimberley has always done the holiday justice with multiple significant events planned throughout the holiday weekend. This year was different, but the Wimberley Valley wouldn't let the restrictions placed upon society for COVID-19

See **Independence**, Page A8



PHOTO BY CLAY E EWING

Judge Tracie Zelhart's truck was named the Best Decorated.

New principal for Jacob's Well



PRINCIPAL SUEANNA THOMAS

From Staff Reports

During the current summer transition time between school years Wimberley ISD is restructuring some administrative per-

sonnel roles. Ms. Andrea Pope was asked by Superintendent Dwain York to serve Wimberley ISD as Student Academic Services Advisor. Replacing her as Principal at Jacob's Well will be current Blue Hole/Scudder Primary Assistant Principal Mrs. Sueanna Thomas.

Mrs. Thomas has served as an administrator at the Scudder campus since 2014. The 2020-21 school year will begin Mrs. Thomas's 30th year in elementary education, including 11 years at neighboring Hays

See **Principal**, Page A6

Three new COVID-19 related deaths in county

Dalton Sweat
Editor

Hays County Local Health Department today reports three new COVID-related fatalities; all three are males from San Marcos. Two of the deceased are a father, in his 70s, and son, in his 50s. The third male was in his 80s. The County now has a total of 10 COVID-related deaths.

The Wimberley Valley now has 46 total confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 35 of those cases still active. There are no confirmed cases within the city limits of Woodcreek.

There were smaller amounts of COVID-19 confirmed cases over the Fourth of July holiday weekend compared to recent reports. It is not clear at this time if a recent backlog in testing is the cause of the lower confirmed cases or if it is the beginning of

a trend in cases dropping in the county. (See *County Searching For New Virus Testing Options* on page 4.) Epidemiologist Eric Schneider said he believes the low confirmed totals this weekend are because of those testing issues, which included local private practices having a limited amount of tests available.

There were 66 cases reported from July 3 through July 5 in Hays County. On Monday, July 6, the county reported 77 additional cases.

Schneider said the County's total of lab-confirmed cases is 3,193; of those, 2,655 are considered active as of Monday, July 6. The total number of individuals considered recovered is 528. The number of negative tests is 10,294. Schneider is awaiting results on 72 tests. Hays County has had 68 total hospitalizations;

See **COVID-19**, Page A4

5 Day Forecast

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High: 100 Low: 74 Rain: 10%	High: 101 Low: 75 Rain: 0%	High: 102 Low: 75 Rain: 0%	High: 103 Low: 74 Rain: 0%	High: 102 Low: 75 Rain: 0%



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County searching for new virus testing options

Stephanie Gates
Staff Reporter

Hays County announced that state supported COVID-19 testing sites will come to an end in July. CPL, the lab supporting these testing efforts, has temporarily closed to catch up processing tests, hoping to reopen next week.

CPL is still processing first responder tests and limiting the number of tests for citizens. Large labs are backlogged across the region, according to Emergency Management Coordinator Alex Villalobos.

“It has really put us in a bind with them being closed down for general public testing. As far as the total number of tests, we have 251 of the 1300 tests remaining. So we will need to replace those for our health department,” said Director of Operations Tammy Crumley.

Last week’s Hays County Commissioners Court meeting largely discussed how the county would allocate the first 20% of the \$4.8 million of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) under the CARES Act and prepare for a potential testing shortage.

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) has been a major provider of COVID-19 testing in Hays County, providing the most tests in the state of Texas. As of right now, their last deployment will be July 16.

Villalobos is looking into potential public private partnerships with Premier ER and others to supplement Hays County’s already strained health department.

“If we are going to see a bottleneck because of either available test kits or the lab’s closure, which it sounds like it’s one of them for sure, could be both,” Precinct 3 Commissioner Lon Shell said “We see the demand for testing and we’re going to have the same demand, if not a greater demand for testing especially once university students arrive here in a week or two. It’s going to hit us at the same time where we don’t have the same testing capabilities we’ve had.”

“We’ve been struggling to handle the demand we have seen. We need to prepare ourselves immediately.”

The commissioners discussed how they might allocate the initial funding deposit of \$966,152 to prepare some solutions.

The funding had to be split with 75% covering medical expenses, public health expenses and payroll expenses for employees dedicated to responding to COVID-19.

For this category, they discussed covering reimbursements or new expenses for staffing expenditures for the health department’s immediate needs, supplies for first responders, sanitizing and disinfecting buildings, previous testing done at Premier Lab and CPL, or their current call center.

They also discussed \$117,000 for mobile testing from Premier ER, \$245,000 for public safety support at testing sites or \$50,000 for more personal protective equipment since the county’s current supply line from the state is shutting down.

See **Testing**, Page A7

Kinder Morgan – Permian Highway Pipeline: Well Owner Resources

From Staff Reports

In an effort to fill the Kinder Morgan Permian Highway Pipeline information gap, The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has developed a list of local and county assets and phone numbers that can help affected well owners.

In a recent GIS project conducted by District Geoscientists; the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District found 738 registered water wells that fall within 5-miles of the pipeline’s path.

“We consider those wells to be the most vulnerable to contamination in the event of a construction or transmission accident,” says HTGCD General Manager Charlie Flatten; “Most pipelines operate safely and without incident, but we must take the threat of accidents seriously and be prepared to act.”

Threats to wells from pipeline construction include silt contamination from right-of-way clearing, pipeline boring, trenching, and/or and construction machinery fuel or hydraulic oil spills. Transmission threats include accidental punctures, pipeline joint failures, and operational accidents that may leak and contaminate land and drinking water sources. If the pipeline catches fire or explodes, fire suppression chemicals may be used to extinguish the flames. Those chemicals could infiltrate Hays County’s highly porous geology and contribute to groundwater contamination.

The District will test the water quality of your well if it shows signs of contamination. If your well water is cloudy or its taste or odor

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS PLEASE Call Before You Dig!: 811

Hays County Emergency Services (Fire, Sheriff, Ambulance): 911

Hays County Groundwater Conservation District: (512) 858-9253. *Anytime your well has a rapid change in water quality, The District will inspect your well, take a water sample and test for contaminants.*

Hays County Natural Resources: (512) 393-2156

Kinder Morgan Pipeline hotline: (866) 762-8442
If you believe that a pipeline leak has occurred, please call this Kinder Morgan Pipeline hotline immediately.

Well Testing Laboratory Contact Information

Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District – HTGCD
Dripping Springs. Tx 78737
512/858.9253

Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center – EARDC
220 E Sessom Dr, San Marcos, TX 78666
512/787.1582

Lower Colorado River Authority – LCRA
LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services
3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744
512/730.5339

Guadalupe Blanco River Authority – GBRA
GBRA Laboratory Analyses
933 East Court Street, Seguin, TX 78155
830-379-5822

Zara Environmental
1707 West FM 1626, Manchaca, TX 78652
512-291-4555

changes suddenly, please call the District and they will come inspect your well and take a water sample for testing.

In the event that well owners desire baseline water quality testing, the following Laboratories are equipped to handle an array of water quality tests; some have dedicated staff to do on-site sample gathering.

The Texas Railroad Commission is the regulatory agency in charge of Oil and Gas transmission. The Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District has no authority to regulate pipeline routing or construction, however it is mandated to protect the resource that most of Hays County relies on for clean drinking water. In the interest of public safety, the District has developed an information packet that local well owners may refer in

the event of a construction, transmission, or operations accidents.

Please report well contamination to the District at (512) 858-9253. It will notify neighboring registered well owners and ask them to report changes in the quality or quantity of their well water. If you have an unregistered well, please fill out an online registration form on the Forms page of the District’s website (<http://haysgroundwater.com/forms/well-registration-req-exist>). And, if you are unsure if your contact information is current, please email the District and staff will update you in its well database – free of charge.

Please report pipeline accidents to the Hays County Sheriff’s Department, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, and Kinder Morgan’s Hotline at (866) 762-8442.

The Kinder Morgan Pipeline Company is constructing a large natural gas pipeline from west to east through central Hays County that will convey 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from the Permian Basin to the Houston area. The new pipeline will be buried 15-feet below grade which requires disturbing a wide swath of natural landscape across the county. The pipeline will pass directly over terrain that is highly porous and vulnerable to surface contamination. District geologists have spent 20-years surveying faults and recharge features that can act as direct conduits into the same Trinity Aquifer from which residents may get their drinking water. The Kinder Morgan FAQ Sheet address is <https://phpproject.com/faqs/>.

Wimberley Area Church Listing

Baptist Church of Driftwood
13540 West Ranch Road 150, Driftwood • 512-497-9914

Chapel in the Hills
Sunday Worship Services 9 & 11 a.m./Sunday School 10 a.m.
14601 Ranch Road 12 • 512-847-9762

Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. • Tuesday Ladies Class 10 a.m.
Minister Tim Moore • 15500 Ranch Road 12
512-847-9357 • www.wimberleychurchofchrist.org

Hill Country Cowboy Church
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. • Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Pastor John & Brenda Guillory • 120 Green Acres Dr. 512-847-9526
www.hillcountrycowboychurch.com

Cypress Creek Church
Sunday Celebration 9 & 10:55 a.m. • 512-847-1222
211 Stillwater Dr. • www.cypresscreekchurch.com

First Baptist Church
Sunday Gatherings at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Senior Pastor Scott Weatherford • 512-847-9035
15951 Winters Mill Parkway • www.fbcwimberley.com

Freedom Valley Fellowship
10691 Ranch Road 12 • 10:30 a.m. Sunday service
Pastor Michael Hogan • www.freedom14camp.org.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Sunday 10 a.m.
101W. Spoke Hill Dr. • 512-847-3386
www.welcometonewlife.org

St. Mary Catholic Church
Sat 5:30 p.m. Vigil, Sun 8 & 10 a.m. (English), Sun noon (Spanish)
Tuesday Mass at 6 p.m., Wednesday - Friday 9 a.m.
Pastor Jason Bonifazi • 14711 Ranch Road 12
512-847-9181

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
Sunday Services - Traditional 8 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15-10:10 a.m.
6000 FM 3237 • 512-847-9956 • www.ststeve.org

Unity of Wimberley
Sunday Service 11a.m. • Rev. Jill Carey • 512-847-6587
455 White Wings Rd. • www.unityofwimberley.com

Touched by Grace Community Church
Sundays 10 a.m.
For new location please call Pastor Dirk Bauer at 512-749-2655

Wimberley Christian Church
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. • Pastor Gary Fine • 512-847-3853
13706 Ranch Road 12 • www.wimberleychristianchurch.com

Wimberley Presbyterian Church
Sunday Service 11a.m. • 956 FM 2325 • 512-847-5292
Pastor Clint Regen • www.wimbpres.org

Wimberley United Methodist Church
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11 am
Fifth Sundays: One Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sun.School 9:15 a.m.
Pastor Wes Cain • 512-847-3109 • Ranch Road 12 & CR 1492
www.wimberleyumc.org

By Raymond Schiflett, III WIMBERLEY WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Rainfall
6/29- Monday	89	77	0
6/30- Tuesday	92	78	0
7/1- Wednesday	94	79	0
7/2- Thursday	96	74	0
7/3- Friday	99	72	0
7/4- Saturday	101	72	0
7/5- Sunday	100	74	0

Rainfall to date: 23.58” • Normal Rainfall: 19.08” • Difference: + 4.50”
Notes: Another dry week with temps being seasonally warm. Rain possible in about a week+.

The Wimberley View

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Family Justice Center aids Domestic Abuse victims

Lance Winter
Publisher

Statistics reveal an alarming trend exacerbated by the Coronavirus pandemic leaving crisis centers scrambling.

In Texas, domestic violence calls have skyrocketed. Just down the road, in nearby San Antonio, domestic violence calls have gone up almost 20% compared to when the virus first reared its ugly head in March, to the same time in 2019.

That's why the Family Justice Center (FJC) in San Marcos is reaching out more now than ever to victims of domestic abuse and other violent crimes.

"The goal of the FJC is to provide a location where victims can receive a variety of legal and social services designed to help them get back on their feet after surviving the trauma of abuse," said Cynthia Fowler, FJC board president. "This involves a multidisciplinary team of professionals working under one roof to coordinate and provide these services. This concept is known as "co-location."

Fowler knows about surviving trauma. She comes to work with firsthand experience.

"In 1999, I survived a beating and strangulation attack from my husband, when our baby was three months old," she said. "I was a waitress and musician who had not yet finished school. I escaped with nothing but the baby and a diaper bag ... and could have really used our services."



PHOTO BY LANCE WINTER/WIMBERLEY VIEW

The Family Justice Center, located at 215 S. Reimer, works to aid victims of domestic violence. Above, FJC Board President Cynthia Fowler and FJC Executive Director Gabriela Lara stand in front of their road sign.

ished school. I escaped with nothing but the baby and a diaper bag ... and could have really used our services."

She later went back to school and got her degree in communications, and started her career.

"I'm very passionate about empowering victims, to let them know you can start over, and we can help," Fowler added.

The first FJC located in San Diego opened in 2002. Since then, more than 120 have been built across the country and abroad. The San Marcos location opened a little more than a year ago at 215 S. Reimer in the Village Main Building.

"The FJC, with its partners, can provide an array of services that used to require victims to visit multiple agencies at multiple physical locations," Fowler said. "Many times, victims have transportation problems and feel re-traumatized by having to tell their story over, and over again."

Fowler said the purpose of the FJC is to empower survivors of violent crimes to live free from the abuse and hold offenders accountable by providing victims easily accessible, coordinated and comprehensive services at a single location.

"The intake process is designed to streamline the information provided by victims, and coordinate partner agencies to provide a tailored response based on need," Fowler added. "We partner — on-site — with agencies like the: Hays-Caldwell County Women's Center, Hays County District Attorney, Hays County Sheriff's Department, San Marcos Police Department, Buda Police Department, Kyle Police Department, Texas State University Police Department, and the Texas

See **Justice**, Page A7

WCCC: So Much More than the Home Tour

From Staff Reports

If you've ever traversed a Home Tour, thrilled to theatre at the Wimberley Players, scanned new releases at the library, adopted a chum from WAG, or fancied a fugue at a Starlight Symphony performance, give a thought to the Wimberley Community Civic Club. If family or friends have called on the services of Meals on Wheels, the Hays Caldwell Women's Center, the Barnabas Connection or the Crisis Bread Basket, give another thought to the Wimberley Community Civic Club (WCCC).

WCCC supports more than 25 of Wimberley's cultural, crisis and senior nonprofits. The annual Home Tour and Spring Events lineup are all WCCC fundraising creations. Throughout 2019 and 2020, Civic



SUBMITTED PHOTO

WCCC Care bags for HCWC children.

Club members gave more than \$2,400 to the Hays Caldwell Women's Center as the focus of their Benevolent Fund. Students also benefit from Civic Club fundraising. In 2020, the Club awarded \$20,000 in

student scholarships to nine students: Nicholas Basinger, Ben Bowen, Jada Bustamante, Kira Greer, Cooper McCollum, Shelby Morris, Hannah Peterson, Ethan Surdy, and Lauren

See **Civic**, Page A6

We help bring the world into focus



The Wimberley Village Library puts an enormous amount of time and energy into programs and books that help children of all ages learn about the world around them and the world beyond — the world of imagination and creativity and curiosity. Did you know you can help us do all this by donating any amount? Help us help you!



You Can Help Us:
www.wimberleylibrary.org



WIMBERLEY VALLEY FOOD & SOCIAL RESOURCES

Wimberley ISD is providing breakfast and lunch for our free and reduced price program students and others in our community through June 30. Beginning July 1, First Baptist Church (FBC), working in collaboration with Wimberley's Ministerial Alliance and the organizations listed below, will continue the meal program through the first day of school (August 19th). FBC will deliver meals to the SAME LOCATIONS as WISD delivered. Meals can also be picked up anytime after 11:30 a.m. at FBC (15951 Winters Mill Parkway). If you have questions or need to make arrangements for delivery, contact Pastor Scott Tidwell at 512-847-9035.

Wimberley ISD proporcionará desayuno y almuerzo para nuestros estudiantes del programa de precio reducido y gratuito y otros en nuestra comunidad hasta el 30 de junio. A partir del 1 de julio, la Primera Iglesia Bautista (FBC), trabajando en colaboración con la Alianza Ministerial de Wimberley y las organizaciones enumeradas a continuación, continuará el programa de comidas hasta el primer día de clases (19 de agosto). FBC entregará comidas a las MISMAS UBICACIONES que WISD entregó. Las comidas también se pueden recoger en cualquier momento después de las 11:30 a.m. en FBC (15951 Winters Mill Parkway). Si tiene preguntas o necesita hacer arreglos para la entrega, comuníquese con el Pastor Scott Tidwell al 512-847-9035.



AMIGOS DE JESUS volunteers distribute food, toiletries and daily essentials to local families through "The Mercado" food pantry, providing Spanish-speaking assistance to those in need. The Mercado is at 100 Melody Way and is open on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our website is <http://wimberleyamigos.org/>.

Amigos de Jesus distribuyen alimentos, artículos de tocador y artículos de uso diario a las familias locales a través de la despensa de alimentos "The Mercado", brindando asistencia en español a los necesitados. El Mercado está en 100 Melody Way y está abierto los lunes, jueves y sábados de 10 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. Nuestro sitio web es <http://wimberleyamigos.org/>.



The BARNABAS CONNECTION provides a volunteer-staffed phone-based resource referral service that connects clients in need with resources. The Barnabas Connection also provides financial assistance with rent, utilities, medical bills, fuel, and transportation to community members who find themselves in immediate need. Please call 512-845-9674 to speak to a volunteer.

Barnabas Connection proporciona un servicio de referencia de recursos por teléfono con personal voluntario que conecta a los clientes que lo necesitan con recursos. Barnabas Connection también brinda asistencia financiera con alquiler, servicios públicos, facturas médicas, combustible y transporte a miembros de la comunidad que se encuentran en necesidad inmediata. Llame al 512-845-9674 para hablar con un voluntario.



14092 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley
(512) 847-5323
www.crisisbreadbasket.com
wimberleycrisisbreadbasket@gmail.com

The WIMBERLEY CRISIS BREAD BASKET is "A Wimberley food bank where neighbors are helping neighbors in need of food and encouragement." CBB is compliant with all current COVID -19 safety regulations.

Wimberley Crisis Bread Basket es "un banco de alimentos de Wimberley donde los vecinos ayudan a los vecinos que necesitan alimentos y aliento." CBB cumple con todas las normas actuales de seguridad COVID -19.

Food Distribution Times	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tiempos de distribución de alimentos	Thursday 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



The WIMBERLEY FIG TREE OUTREACH PROGRAM (<http://www.wimberleyfigtree.org>) will be providing weekend food bags that will be delivered with the lunch deliveries each Friday. If you have any questions, call or text (512) 842-9795.

The Wimberley Fig Tree Outreach Program (<http://www.wimberleyfigtree.org>) proporcionará bolsas de comida de fin de semana que se entregarán con las entregas de almuerzo cada viernes. Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame o envíe un mensaje de texto al 512-842-9795.



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County Commissioners receive update on Public Safety Bond

Dalton Sweat
Editor

The Hays County Commissioners Court received an update Tuesday on its Public Safety Bond Project. The project includes the construction of a new jail, which has recently seen an increased cost with a change order of \$2,853,997.

“Funds are all within the bond or the interest funds we have earned from the bond, so it’s not like we are seeking funds from outside the bond,” said Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, who sponsored the agenda item.

The increase in costs are

from a combination of delays due to COVID-19 and subsequent scarcity of re-sourcing for materials, additional scope related to a smoke evacuation system and cost savings from some items.

Senior Project Manager Codi Newsom explained, “COVID-19 hasn’t helped us. We are seeing reduced manpower throughout, allowing only a certain number of people in the space for social distancing.” Newsom said there have been delays in manufacturing and delivery of some systems and they will have a few systems delivered or installed after substantial completion and after the building is already turned over. There have also been delays of onsite testing for certain systems.

All these delays are affecting completion of renovation in the current jail facility, because current inmates have to be moved into the new space before renovations can begin in the current facility.

For the new jail, the Public Safety Building has 25% of its lights turned on and the Emergency Communications Center is ready for furniture. Move-in for this building will be Aug. 24 after a two week delay due to COVID-19.

“While we are working through complex hurdles on both projects and uncharted waters with COVID 19, we are working together to open the buildings as quickly as possible,” Newsom said.

The housing area, kitchen, laundry, infirmary and training building are in the finishing stages.

They have also completed asphalt in the parking lot. Security fencing and sidewalk installation is underway.

The change order will come from \$1 million in owner contingency funds, and the rest in bond interest earnings.

Newsom indicated it’s too soon to say whether there will be any more change orders as contingency funds have already been exhausted and there are still many contingency items and renovations to be completed.

We are open, wearing masks and asking you to do the same! Please sanitize when you come in!

We also offer online shopping, personal shopping and curbside pickup

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 11-5
Wednesday: 11-8, social crafting with social distancing
Thursday: 11-5
Friday: 10-6, social crafting with social distancing
Saturday: 10-4
Sunday: 11-4

The
Sated
Sheep

www.thesatedsheep.com
www.facebook.com/thesatedsheep

Wimberley Weather

June, 2020

By Raymond Schiflett

Rainfall for the month	1.64”
Normal rainfall for this month	3.68”
Total rainfall for year to date	23.58”
Normal rainfall for year to date	18.59”
Difference for year	+ 4.99”
Difference for month	- 2.04”
Rain days	4
T-Storms this month	2
Highest temperature this month	100 (6/9)
Lowest temperature this month	54 (6/11, 6/ 12)
Average high for the month	88.2
Normal average high for the month	93.1
Difference	- 4.9
Average low for the month	68.3
Normal average low for the month	70.5
Difference	- 2.2
Highest wind gust	19 mph (6/30)

Miscellaneous weather information:

Cooler and drier than normal this month. Several record low temps were recorded from June 10th – 14th, all in the 50s!

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COVID-19...

(From Page A1)
20 people are currently hospitalized.

“Regardless of your age, profession, gender or any other factor, you have the power to help slow the spread of COVID-19,” Schneider said. “We are looking at a virus that may not severely hurt you, but you could pass it along to a loved one or friend who isn’t able to fight the virus.”

He added that there are simple, effective steps we all can take to slow the spread.

“If you don’t need to go out, stay home,” he said.

“If you go out, remain distanced from others, wear a mask and wash your hands often. When we work together for the safety of our community, we can make an impact.”

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Opinion

OP-ED

Permian Highway Pipeline – Stop Work, Move It, and Respect the Texas Hill Country

Patrick Cox, Ph.D.
TESPA Executive Director

The construction of the Permian Highway Pipeline (PHP) by the Kinder Morgan Corporation is a perilous and unprecedented threat to the Texas Hill Country. From the beginning of this project, Kinder Morgan demonstrated a thorough lack of concern and understanding of the ecological sensitivities, the hydrological uniqueness, and the sensitive nature of our region.

And they have also underestimated the people who live here and care so deeply for this area.

The Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA) and the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) have joined forces to hold Kinder Morgan accountable for violations to our land, our people, and the drinking water we rely on.

On June 22, TESP filed a federal suit against Kinder Morgan following the dis-

charge of more than 36,000 gallons of drilling fluid that contaminated area wells near the Blanco River bore site. The drilling fluid was made from a product that contained class 1A carcinogens.

Kinder Morgan has publicly stated, more than once, their project is “constructed in accordance with strict regulatory and environmental standards and industry best practices.”

To the contrary, we believe their decisions and actions on this project have jeopardized the health and well-being of everyone in the Texas Hill Country.

TESPA’s legal action cites violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act that protects “underground sources of drinking water”. The lawsuit is taken on behalf of the homeowners whose sole source of drinking water became undrinkable and on behalf of every citizen and property owner in the region.

The PHP drilling fluid discharged into our aquifer

reveals much about the audacious scheme and miscalculations for a pipeline through this region. However, the litany of mistakes made by Kinder Morgan during planning and construction is ongoing.

Recent spring storms resulted in serious runoff and pollution of pristine Hill Country streams near the PHP pipeline construction sites due to insufficient barriers and protections. Subsequently, a PHP contractor attempted an unsafe river crossing, got stuck, and lost a canister containing radioactive material into the Pedernales River for several days before it was recovered 13 miles downstream.

Groundwater, drinking water and surface waters – all have suffered from the potential of contamination by this unwelcome, dangerous pipeline intrusion.

What we have witnessed is a worst-case scenario for the people of the Blanco River Valley and Hill Country landowners in the path and near proximity of Kind-

er Morgan’s Permian Highway Pipeline. No company has the right to destroy our aquifers, springs, habitats and threaten our drinking water.

Our message to Kinder Morgan is still this: STOP work on the PHP, FIX the mess you made, PAY for damages, and MOVE this pipeline out of the ultra-sensitive karst region of the Texas Hill Country.

The pristine Texas Hill Country is an integral part of my family’s life, as it is for thousands of others who live and visit here. We understand the unique karst aquifers and the fragile environment we inhabit. We know how to care for it, and we are willing to fight for it.

Patrick Cox, Ph.D., board member and executive director of TESP, has spent nearly five decades living in and loving the Texas Hill Country from his home in Wimberley. TESPwww.tespa.org

OP-ED

Setting the record straight



Aurora LeBrun
Woodcreek City Council

In (last week’s) edition of The View, Ms. Pamela LeCompte writes she is appalled that Council Members Scheel, Pulley, and I made a “proposal” to have Mayor Gloria Whitehead resign. There has never been a proposal to request that Mayor Whitehead resign, at least not one in which I have participated. I was one of three Council Members who requested a Special Council Meeting to address the Mayor’s social media post as it relates to the City’s Social Media Policy, as well as to discuss the City’s Policy on Public Comments. During this meeting I read two statements on the items on the agenda. In my statement, I said: “I will not judge the content of the Mayor’s post as part of this discussion. I have provided a response when asked, and I believe it is well known I disagree with her post and its content. I have said this to the Mayor, and she has explained her reasoning. We still disagree.”

Ms. LeCompte is quite firm in her defense of the Mayor’s right to her opinion. Like her I believe in freedom of expression, but I also believe that when we exercise such right, we must accept the consequences of our words. As I told the Mayor in person, the timing of her post was very unfortunate. I cannot ignore the perception created by the post among many of our citizens. I have read every e-mail received by the City, in addition to those coming to my personal e-mail account, for and against the Mayor. There is passion on both sides of the issue, and it is my belief that we must listen to both sides and respect these opinions, rather than classify them as harassment when they are not in agreement with our own. If there is drama, I have done nothing to create it. I continue to work with

Mayor Whitehead and other members of Council for the benefit of our City and its residents. I have been asked for my opinion by citizens, media, and friends. In every instance, I have measured my answer, but I will not refuse to comment or otherwise withhold my opinion, to which I am entitled as an individual and as a Council Member.

Ms. LeCompte mentions Indivisible as well as my actions being to further my political agenda. I do not have a political agenda. I have held two public offices, School Board and City of Woodcreek, both of which are nonpartisan. In my personal life, am free to support the candidates who represent my values and beliefs, but as a Council Member in the City of Woodcreek, I withhold political discussion or comment and focus on serving those who reside in our City.

Ms. LeCompte states that Council Members Scheel, Pulley, and I are “unprofessional public officials” by “creating protestors,” meaning we had something to do with the protestors at the meeting in Camp Young Judaea or those who protested outside the Mayor’s home. I was completely unaware of the protest outside the Mayor’s home until I saw a photo on social media two days later, and I have no idea who organized it or participated. The same is true for the protestors at Camp Young Judaea. Some of those protesting at Camp Young Judaea are my neighbors in Woodcreek, and I did greet them upon leaving the meeting. At no time did I discuss the Mayor’s conduct, post, or the meeting with any of them either before or after the meeting.

Supporting equal treatment for all is not politics, and I have done so in my career and personal life. I am proud of the programs I managed that guaranteed equal treatment to employees and clients of my agency, and I am proud of my volunteer work with civil rights organizations. Believing in human rights and speaking up when those rights are ignored is not a political issue for me; it is an issue of values and commitment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dealing with race relations in Wimberley

While much of Wimberley was stunned at the prejudice that the Bursell family experienced, those not so few of us who are Black and Brown and live here, are not entirely surprised. Let me say that much of our reception here, as a Black woman and a Latino man, has been warm and positive, as we have woven ourselves into the fabric of this community and some of its people, churches, interest groups, music venues, and the great outdoors. However, we have had our moments of pause with its racist undercurrent as well, like when we are followed though a store on the square we frequent no longer, or witnessed leaders fail to address derogatory remarks.

Perhaps one avenue in trying to become the more inclusive place this city imagines itself to be, is an exploration of Wimberley’s “sundown town” history as a dark and still present leg-

acy. This used to mean that no Black person should be seen or heard once it’s dark here, because no one will be held to account for what might happen to them, very much like happened at 7A Ranch. The “note” was left after dark, referring to some “noise curfew” (of which no one can tell me is an actual law here, especially with rampant fireworks of late). More pointedly, this family was referred to as “you people,” a racist term applied to mean you Black people, implying their presence was not welcome. We Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) still aren’t meant to be here, apparently, for some folks. Wimberley may not a little bit of heaven for everyone.

Maybe you know a few of the dozens of persons, children, families of color and immigrants in this town. Or do you really not see them? Has your southern hospitality extended itself to them? How many times have those

residents of color been excluded, and/or offended in situations you have written off as unintentional slights, done without malice aforethought? Denials, excuses, and invalidations for these incidents make it tiresome work for those who do point out such micro-aggressions. Speaking up, risks drawing negative, defensive, dismissive, and sometimes hateful responses...proving our point, that racist practice is not being acknowledged. So why bother?

Because, we are here, for such a time as this: to raise our voices alongside others who are marginalized. The lives of BIPOC, our lives, are threatened, brutalized, trivialized, and diminished on so many fronts, and have been for so long, the reality is, Black Lives haven’t mattered as much as all lives. Change has to come!

Wimberley, it is time to lean in, listen to the past and present voices amongst us, and enter

into empathetic conversations, privately or publicly, as uncomfortable as they may feel--- for all parties. Anti-racist resources are available everywhere to be experienced in however you listen best---books, online webinars, and podcasts. Dare to be part of thoughtful communities who offer roundtables, zoom discussions, or book clubs---safe spaces willing to tease out your assumptions and privilege, with those who can be present with your discomfort. Familiarize yourselves with your unconscious biases, claim your part in the narrative.

Now is the time to be brave, Wimberley, dig in and do the work of unlearning and relearning, and make ourselves better for all.

Lovingly submitted,

Sandra Organ and Carlos Solis

Community effort to feed those kids and families

I wanted to take a moment to share a bit more regarding one way Wimberley has stepped up to take care of our neighbors. In early May, a small group of organization leaders met to discuss where needs were in the community and what would be needed as the pandemic drags on. Several organization leaders agreed our focus would be in keeping families and especially our school age children, fed. Luckily the state agreed to allow Wimberley ISD to continue to serve our families

through June 30th. Leadership from Amigos de Jesus, Barnabas Connection, Camp Good Sam-Wimberley, Crisis Bread Basket, The Fig Tree, First Baptist Wimberley, Ministerial Alliance and Wimberley ISD worked together to create the plan and work logistics to shift food service to First Baptist which had the facilities and the call to continue serving not only our kiddos and families, but EVERYONE who may have food insecurity in our community. This service began last week and offers deliv-

ery and the ability to pick up meals. We hope any and all will reach out and allow your community to provide meals. At WISD we have a saying which originated in 2015, the year of the flood; ALL OF US! This group immediately stepped up to ensure continued availability of meals. Much may be difficult during these unprecedented times, meals and food is something our community can assist with and show our love to this community. Although many may not be aware, so much has been happening omg

behind the scenes to ensure our neighbors are cared for.

Meals continue to be delivered to the Wimberley ISD stops and pickup may be made at First Baptist Church on Winter’s Mill Pkwy. or if you have questions or need delivery, call Pastor Scott @ 512-847-9035.

*Traci Maxwell
Chairman- Camp Good Sam Wimberley
Wimberley ISD Board Trustee*

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Civic...

(From Page A3)
Walker.
The Club also raised \$39,750 in direct support to. Dedicated to making a strong community stronger, the Civic Club also focuses on building bonds between its members. Many fledgling friendships have been shaped through the group's volunteering. President Karen Thormalen says, "Collaborating with friends to keep our neighbors safe, sound and supported is a powerful reward. Whatever the challenges, we're here to keep Wimberley creative and strong."
June is a good month to join or renew WCCC memberships. Dues are a reasonable \$35 a year. Go to wimberleyccc.org to join and donate. Watch for upcoming news about this year's annual Home Tour. It promises to be unique.

Civic Club Donation Recipients

- Barnabas Connection
- Camp Good Samaritan
- Combined Community Action/Meals on Wheels
- Crisis Bread Basket
- Fig Tree
- Friends of the Library
- Gold Santa
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hill Country Community Band
- Mini Equine 2 U
- PAWS Shelter & Humane Society
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Starlight Symphony
- Water Testing - Pete Anderson
- Wimberley Adoption Group & Rescue - WAG
- Wimberley Band Booster Club
- Wimberley Chamber of Commerce
- Wimberley Community Chorus
- Wimberley EMS
- Wimberley Players
- Wimberley Senior Citizens Activity
- Wimberley Senior Craft Shop
- Wimberley Valley Radio
- Wimberley Valley Big Band
- The Greater Mercy Foundation

Masks...

(From Page A1)
school districts instead of issuing mandates.
The mask order represents a remarkable turnaround for Abbott, who has long resisted a statewide requirement, even as the coronavirus situation has gotten worse than ever over the past couple of weeks in Texas. When he began allowing Texas businesses to reopen this spring, Abbott prohibited local governments from punishing people who do not wear masks. As cases began to rise earlier this month, he clarified that cities and counties could order businesses to mandate that customers wear masks.
In recent days, Abbott had held firm against going further than that, saying he did not want to impose a statewide requirement that may burden parts of the state that are not as badly affected by the outbreak.

Along with the mask order, Abbott on Thursday also banned certain outdoor gatherings of over 10 people unless local officials approve. He had previously set the threshold at over 100 people. The new prohibition also goes into effect Friday afternoon.
Abbott's latest moves come ahead of Fourth of July weekend, which has raised concerns about larger-than-usual crowds gathering while the state grapples with the virus spike.
Abbott also released a video message Thursday, saying the latest coronavirus numbers in the state "reveal a very stark reality."
"COVID-19 is not going away," he said. "In fact, it's getting worse. Now, more than ever, action by everyone is needed until treatments are available for COVID-19."
In the video, Abbott re-

iterated his resistance to returning the state to the roughly monthlong stay-at-home order he issued in April. He said Texans "must do more to slow the spread without locking Texas back down." He also said his latest announcement is "not a stay-at-home order" but "just recognizes reality: If you don't go out, you are less likely to encounter someone who has COVID-19."
"We are now at a point where the virus is spreading so fast there is little margin for error," Abbott said.
Abbott's announcement came a day after the number of new daily cases in Texas, as well as hospitalizations, reached new highs again. There were 8,076 new cases Wednesday of last week, over 1,000 cases more than the record set the previous day.

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REGAN SHAW PHOTOGRAPHY

Principal...

(From Page A1)
County districts Dripping Springs ISD and Hays CISD. "WISD is lucky to have a professional of SueAnna's caliber already serving in our district, and I'm thrilled to be able to welcome her to this position," WISD Superintendent Dwain York said. "Her familiarity with so many of our Jacob's Well students and families is just one of many reasons why she will be a great fit in this role," he added.
In Ms. Pope's transition to Student Academic Services Advisor, she will be assisting with the coordination of alternative educational opportunities within WISD, assisting with pre-assessment coordination as well as ongoing benchmark assessments throughout the year, and

will assist with data gathering and other compliance pieces. "I'm pleased that Andrea has accepted this role," York said. "Her administrative experience will lend itself well to the duties this position requires."
Additionally Ms. Susan McDorman has announced her retirement as Assistant Principal at Jacob's Well Elementary. Ms. McDorman just completed her 13th year with WISD, beginning her WISD stint at the Bowen campus in 2007. "Susan's contributions to WISD are much appreciated," York said. "She has certainly impacted so many students and helped them to become better versions of themselves. She will be missed by all at WISD."

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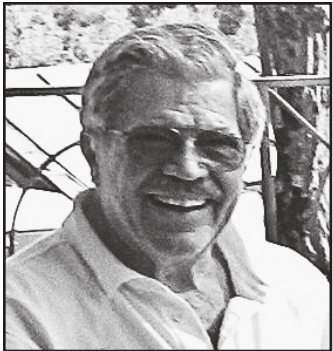


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Obituaries

Samuel Augustus Young
August 23, 1933 – June 12, 2020



SAMUEL AUGUSTUS YOUNG

Samuel Augustus Young passed away on June 12, 2020 in Wimberley, Texas. Sam was born on August 23, 1933 at Fort McIntosh in Laredo, Texas. He graduated from Spring Branch High School in Houston, Texas and The University of Texas at Austin where he received a Bachelor of Business Degree in Accounting. He was a forever “died in the wool” Longhorn fan.

Sam joined the U.S.

Army during the Korean War. After the end of his service in 1956, he attended The University of Texas graduating in 1958 with a BBA in Accounting. He began his working career at Transcontinental Gas Pipeline in the accounting department. Sam then managed the family business, Rocky Mountain Construction Company in New Mexico, raised cattle on Clear Lake Ranch, and was a partner in Gibson Feed Store in Arcadia, Texas. He became a CPA and founded his private accounting practice in Houston which he operated until his retirement and move to Wimberley, Texas in 1997 to “a little slice of heaven”, where he maintained a limited accounting practice until the time of his death.

Sam was a member of Houston and Lakewood Yacht Clubs where he

served on the board in numerous capacities, Houston Rodeo and Livestock Association, The University Club, and Chapel in the Hills Church. He loved hunting, fishing, and sailing which he and his wife, Linda enjoyed together for 20 years.

Sam is preceded in death by his parents, J.L. and Christine Young, his siblings, John Young, Susan Sullivan, Nicolas Young, and his son, James Young.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years and best friend, Linda Young, Beth Young, wife of James, his children John Young, Joe Young, Ann Young, and Jeff Young. His siblings, Debbie Houghtaling and her husband Joe, and sister-in-law DeAnn Young, and his first wife and the mother of his five children, Edwina Rawlins. He leaves grandchildren Jason Young and wife

Jovanna, Russell Young and his wife Katie, Robert Young and his wife Stephanie, Sean Young, Marshall Young, Kevin Young, Travis Young, Justin Young, Kyle Young and his wife Capree, Kirby Young and her fiancé Brian Milner, Kelsey Bedynek and her husband Jarrett, Kent Young and his wife Haylee, Julia Young, and Hannah Young. Sam also leaves 12 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Sam was known by his family and friends as a man of character, strength, and kindness, and lover of great jokes.

In lieu of customary remembrances, please direct donations to the Chapel in the Hills Memorial Fund, Wag Dog Rescue, Emily Ann Theatre and Gardens, all in Wimberley, Texas.

Edith “Edie” Albertson Samuel



EDITH “EDIE” ALBERTSON SAMUEL

Edith “Edie” Albertson Samuel, a retired teacher and resident of Wimberley, died on June 20, 2020, at age 74 in San Marcos.

Edie is survived by her husband of 53 years, Jim; her daughters and sons-in-law Jamie and David Lipsig and Jenny and Brett Guttormson; and her grandchildren Caleb, Collier, Hudson, Adeline, and Amelia. She is preceded in death by her mother Vera Albertson.

Edie was born in Houston on September 1, 1945,

to Vera and James Albertson. She graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a degree in Education and worked as an elementary school teacher in Spring Branch and Beaumont. On December 23, 1966, she married her high school sweetheart, Jim. They welcomed 2 daughters in 1973 and 1976, who were the pride of her life.

Edie was a wonderful mother, grandmother, and an avid traveler. She enjoyed camping in the Col-

orado mountains, traveled to many countries throughout Europe, and explored the USA. A spiritual person with a caring and giving nature, Edie was an active member of Chapel in the Hills, as well as a member of Beta Sigma Phi, Chapel in the Hills Guild, and the Red Hat Society. She will be deeply missed by her friends, family and all who knew her.

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, services for Edie will be scheduled for a later date.

Justice...

(From Page A3)

Department of Family and Protective Services.”

Fowler said the FJC works with its partner agencies to ensure the following services can be coordinated in one location giving victims the ability to achieve the following:

- File a criminal complaint
- Obtained an order of protection
- Receive legal aid for civil matters
- Transportation
- Food and shelter
- Medical care
- Professional counseling
- Spiritual care upon request

“The violence is a community issue that affects our public safety, schools, economy, health care, and criminal justice system,” Fowler said. “According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the economic impact is very real. Victims of intimate partner violence lose a total of 8,000,000 million days of paid work each year. Intimate partner violence is estimated to cost the US economy between \$5.8 billion and \$12.6 billion annually.”

She added that domestic violence affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

“Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and con-

trolling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control,” Fowler said. “Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime. Making a difference now, not only helps those in immediate need but helps to secure a better future for everyone in our community.”

And they are making a difference. The FJC was recently awarded a grant from the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) to fund a Domestic Violence High-Risk Team Coordinator (DVHRT).

“This program is especially important in our community, as Hays County has experienced an alarming increase in domestic violence,” said Gabriela Lara, FJC executive director. “The DVHRT model framework is built on four fundamental strategies: early identification of high-risk cases through the use of risk assessment, engagement of a multidisciplinary team, ongoing monitoring and management of high-risk offenders, and victim services.”

She said the DVHRT creates individualized intervention plans that incorporate the entire domestic violence response system with the goals of increasing

victim safety and holding offenders accountable.

“Marion McKenzie is the Family Justice Center’s DVHRT coordinator. In her role, she manages the administrative processes of the high-risk cases and serves as the primary contact person with domestic violence survivors who are at the highest risk,” Lara added. “Our hope with the DVHRT model is that more survivors of domestic violence will seek safety before the situation escalates to a lethal or near-lethal one.

The FJC’s highest priority is to provide a safe place for those most vulnerable in our community where offenders are not allowed.”

The Family Justice Center remains committed to the health of its staff, partners, clients, and the community. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village Main Building remains closed. However, the FJC will continue to provide services beginning with phone intake.

“We will continue to implement procedures to maintain social distancing for the safety of all partners,” said Lara. “While our website is currently undergoing maintenance, changes to our process will be posted on our social media page. Face masks are required and will be provided along with hand sanitizer when in-person meetings are required.”

Once the facility reopens, masks and hand sanitizing stations will be provided.

Other “off-site” partners located at the Village Main Building, but in separate offices, include:

•Central Texas WIC (Women and Infant Children) The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a health and nutrition program with a successful record for improving the diet of infants, children, and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women who are at risk for nutrition-related illness.

•Any Baby Can (ABC) With quality services that meet families where they are — at home, work, or school — Any Baby Can help clients address medical, educational, and financial obstacles, and achieve whole family well-being. ABC provides parental support and education, early childhood development, and resources for family health.

•Others: Community Action Inc. of Central Texas; Adult Education; Head Start; Texas Home Visiting; Utility Assistance; Senior Citizens; Primary Health Services; Breast & Cervical Cancer Outreach; Family Planning; HIV/AIDS assistance if you need help, please contact the FJC at 512-753-2124.

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Testing...

(From Page A2)

For the second category, 25% of the funding, they discussed covering \$241,000 for a rent and mortgage assistance program, the \$100,000 already allocated to social service

agencies, \$251,000 of PTO expenses or the \$500,000 allocated to the small business assistance fund.

The commissioners and judge agreed to allocate the initial 20% in the way that

would provide residents with the most impactful and fastest assistance.

Many of these programs and costs will be reimbursed from the \$4.8 million CRF, however, allocation for the

initial \$966,000 has to come first, in order to continue to receive additional deposits.

Independence...

(From Page A1)

concerns prevent the locals from celebrating.

The VFW Rodeo, annually held on the weekend of Independence Day, was canceled this year. But the Wimberley VFW found a way to celebrate also. A community fireworks show, with appropriate social distancing and masks, was still put on display at the rodeo arena. Hundreds attended, in the style of a drive-in movie, and watched the fireworks on the night of July 4.

The annual “Best Little Parade in Texas” was also cancelled.

“When it was announced that the Chamber’s 4th of July Parade was cancelled, we were as disappointed as our community,” MichaelAnne Hurst, executive director of the Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce, said. “However, the Board and Parade Committee worked to come up with a different way to celebrate and decided to produce our first ever Neighborhood Drive Through 4th of July Parade on Saturday, July 4th. It turned out to be a blast. The neighborhoods we drove through were excited to see us come by and the Parade entrants had a really good time!! Overall, it was a huge success for the community.”

It wasn’t the usual thrilling, candy-and-Popsicle giveaway, visitor-and-local-jam-packed event. This year was out of the ordinary, just like the first half of 2020 has been. But the red, white and blue was still celebrated by Wimberley and its residents.

The parade of decorated vehicles, instead of floats, snaked through the neighborhoods of the Wimberley Valley so that residents could enjoy the parade safely from their front yard.

All proceeds from the parade went to supporting the operations of the Wimberley Valley Visitor Center.

This year has been a bit different, but local organizations are finding a way to keep the spirit alive, well and celebrated in the Wimberley Valley.

Parade Winners

Best Decorated Car
1st Place Angels for Elders
2nd Place Council Member Rebecca Minnick
3rd Place HEB

Best Decorated Truck
1st Place Judge Tacie Zelhart,
2nd Place Eagle Mountain Flag & Flagpoles
3rd Place Hill Country Premier Lodging

Best Pet Costume
1st Place Aussie Pet Mobile
2nd Place Angels for Elders
3rd Place Carrie Isaac for Texas

Best Face Mask
Susan Raybuck & Coach with Wimberley Valley Radio

Most Patriotic
VFW 6441 Oldham-Cummings & VFW Auxiliary

Funniest Decorated Vehicle
Nature's Choice CBD & Sups

Best Classic Car
Mayor Gina Fulkerson (Volkswagen Karmann Ghia on loan from Bob Flocke)



PHOTO BY CLAY E EWING
Angels for Elders won the Best Decorated Car.



PHOTO BY DALTON SWEAT/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Wimberley Mayor Gina Fulkerson (in Bob Flocke's Volkswagen Karmann Ghia,) won the Best Classic Car.



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Bev and John Still waiting on the parade



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Heritage Hill had their own neighborhood parade.



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
The Mario Brothers were back in the parade this year and added Princess Peach to the motorcade.

Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Neighborhood Drive Through Parade

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Features

Wimberley's famed 'Boot Whisperer'

Tom Gordon
Special to the View

A woman walks into the Wild West Store on Ranch Road 12.

The owner of the store, Ulli Johnston, asks the customer to take off her shoes.

Ulli ponders the customer's feet for a few moments then disappears to an adjoining room filled with vintage boots. She re-emerges with a pair of 30-year-old black, leather Lucchese cowboy boots made in San Antonio. They look like new.

The customer slips them on and walks around.

"Oh my God," she says. "With all these ornate boots in here how did she know I would want the plain, classic boots. That's what I wear."

That customer has just been "boot whispered."

For 26 years, Ulli and her husband Bill have been selling vintage cowboy boots (and a handful of other items such as hats and belts) at the Wild West Store in Wimberley. It's quite a place. Although the sign out front says there are more than 500 pairs of boots for sale, the actual number is more like 700. Ulli knows where each pair



PHOTO BY CRIS PETERSON

Ulli Johnston is known as "The Boot Whisperer" because she has the uncanny ability to pick the rights boots for a prospective customer.

is located and she knows their histories.

And, she's particular. For the most part, she explains, today's boots aren't made with top-quality leather and the workmanship isn't there. You won't find boots made in China or India in her Wild West Store.

"By the late 80's it started going downhill," she explains, "with the production moving overseas. They wanted to improve the profit margins by using cheaper leather and cheaper labor. Today's boots fall apart

See **Boots**, Page B7



PHOTO BY CRIS PETERSON

The Wild West Store stocks every kind of vintage boot imaginable, but it's tough to find anything made after 2000.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carol Sue Merkin spent 15 years teaching at Danforth.

Danforth Math Teacher Carol Sue Merkin

Gary Zupancic
Staff Reporter

The following is the third in a three part series covering the 2020 retirees of WISD, honoring them for their service to our community's children as dedicated teachers, nurses and other staff members.

After 15 years at Danforth Junior High School, Carol Sue Merkin is going to take time to catch her breath. Life seemed to throw her

a curve when her husband became unemployed and she went to work, something she never expected to do.

Born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, they moved to San Antonio when she was three years old. She graduated college from Oklahoma A&M. "I have four children, all married, and thirteen grandchildren."

"To be perfectly honest,

See **Merkin**, Page B7

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WHS sophomore wins State Bull Rider

From Staff Reports

Canyon Bass, 16-year-old sophomore from Wimberley, has won the title of 2020 Texas High School State Champion Bull Rider and will go on to compete for the National/World title in July.

At the State Finals, Canyon Bass won 1st in Round 1, 2nd in Round 2, 1st in the Short Round, 1st in the Average and took home the high score of the week. Canyon's accomplishments earned him a champion saddle, champion gold buckle, go round buckles and prize money and the title of 2020 State Champion Bull Rider.

Canyon is no stranger to a State & National Championship, Canyon, in 2018, won the Texas Jr. High Rodeo State AND National/World Bull Riding title, as well.

The Texas High School Rodeo Association has 10 Regions across Texas that compete throughout the year with the top 10 from each Region coming together for a week long State competition in June. At the State Finals, there are 2 rounds with the top 15 coming back to the Short Round Finals. At the Short Round, they take the top 4 contestants to Nationals which will be in Guthrie, Oklahoma this year. At the National Jr. High Finals there are roughly 1000 contestants from 43 states, five Canadian provinces, Australia and Mexico. The contestants are competing for more than \$120,000 in prizes and for more than \$200,000 in college scholarships and the title of National Champion.

The National High School Finals will be televised on RFD-TV with live broadcast on <http://www.ride-pass.com>. from July 17th through July 23rd.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Canyon Bass, a 16-year-old sophomore in Wimberley, won the High School State Champion Bull Rider.

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center's annual auction fundraiser goes virtual

Stephanie Gates
Staff Reporter

The Hays Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC) is holding its biggest fundraiser of the year online for the first time ever.

This year its annual live and silent auction is themed "mask-erade," a gentle nod at the reason the event pivoted to online only, and a reminder that COVID-19 has impacted nonprofit's ability to serve its clients just as small businesses have been impacted.

The livestream auction will begin Thursday, July

16 at 7 p.m. and can be enjoyed via computer, tablet or smart TV although bidding will take place on phones.

Starting July 9, bidding will open for the silent auction and the Golden Ticket Raffle will be available for purchase.

The silent auction will feature a variety of items and gift certificates donated by local businesses and supporters. The Golden Ticket Raffle winner will have their choice of live auction items on the night of the event. For the latest date information and pictures

of auction items, follow the Facebook event page.

Admission to watch and bid is free but requires registration at www.bidpal.net/HCWC.

Last year, HCWC provided face to face services to 2,307 local victims of assault and abuse. They saw an increase in demand for services throughout the year up until HCWC had to quickly modify all services to address safety concerns related to COVID-19.

"Now, more than ever, it is essential that HCWC be available to provide free, confidential, and life chang-

ing services to victims of abuse and assault," said Melissa G Rodriguez, director of community partnerships.

The Hays-Caldwell Women's Center has a 42-year history of serving individuals in Hays and Caldwell counties who are victims of family violence, dating violence, sexual assault and child abuse. All HCWC services are free and confidential. For more information please visit www.hcwc.org or call 512-396-HELP.

Dripping With Taste Trail and Passport

From Staff Reports

Head to the Texas Hill Country this summer and experience the wineries, breweries and distilleries on the Dripping with Taste Passport Trail. The Dripping with Taste Passport is a self-guided event taking place July 1-31 in the scenic Dripping Springs area.

For \$25 per person, enjoy a month-long, booze-y adventure discovering the trifecta of the craft beverage experience in Dripping Springs, TX.

Purchase a DWT Digital

Passport for \$25 and receive up to a 50% discount on drinks or flights during the month of July, plus other offers only available to Passport holders. Tastings at each business are determined by each establishment and will vary from place-to-place. With a Dripping with Taste Passport, visit up to 4 of the participating destinations in one day. Passports will be available for purchase online at www.DrippingWithTaste.com and are mobile exclusive and instantly delivered via text and email. Tickets will go on sale the last week

of June. This is an over \$80 value. Passports are valid until July 31, 2020.

"Dripping Springs and Driftwood venues on The Trail are open and happy to serve customers under the Governor's health and social distancing guidelines," said Pam Owens, president of the Dripping Springs Visitors Bureau. "I don't think anyone will be disappointed with their experience."

Dripping Springs is home to some of the region's most recognizable alcohol brands, yet at the same time offers some of the smallest "craft distill-

ers" in Texas. The sheer variety of wineries, breweries, and distilleries in the Dripping Springs area are to be celebrated and enjoyed. Find cool, downtown hangouts in the historic district of Dripping Springs, hidden gems tucked away in the hills and off-the-beaten-path, and even an eclectic, retro-themed tasting room that permeates mid-century nostalgia. One thing's for sure ... no matter which ones you visit, you'll always be greeted by a smile.

Enjoy a summer full of fun on the Dripping with Taste Trail.



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Grammy Award-winning Brave Combo Presented Online by Wimberley Players



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The musicians of Brave Combo. Top, leader Carl Finch; left to right: Lyle Atkinson, Danny O'Brien, Alan Emert, Robert Hokamp.

From Staff Reports

Scheduled for Aug. 8 as the grand finale of a special series of shows at the Wimberley Playhouse, the Brave Combo band is moving the concert online on the same date.

“Over the past several months, the Players have presented Five Saturday Afternoons of Cultural Sharing,” explained Nick Bradshaw, president of the Wimberley Players. “We wanted to showcase area theaters that could help us learn about cultural traditions from those who actually live them,” he said.

Two Latino shows were bilingual. Others represented black and indigenous cultures. The Brave Combo show is entitled The World of World Music. Acclaimed for an amazingly wide range of musical styles, Brave Combo is eager to bring that ex-

See **Brave**, Page B7

Pet of the Week



Please meet meek and sweet Miley. She is one year old and weighs 54 pounds. She is both people and dog friendly and enjoys a good tummy scratch. Miley loves to end the day with little ice cream from DQ. If you are interested in Miley, fill out a WAG adoption application at www.wimberleywagrescue.org or call 512-847-3200.



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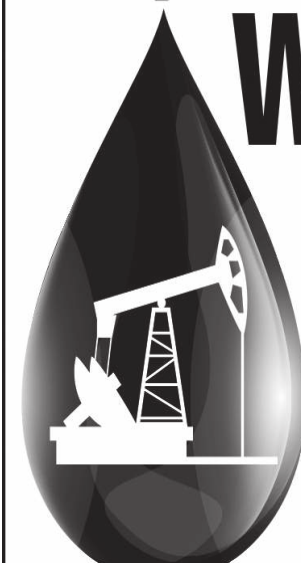


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Wimberley Community pitches in to feed students



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Dean and Laura Murray and Patti Williams stir the pasta in marinara sauce in the commercial cooker

Gary Zupancic
Staff Reporter

WISD makes sure low-income students have daily food during school, and they do a great job. But a new wrinkle happened this year affecting how the school kids would eat this summer. WISD received a grant to continue feeding kids and their families in need even when school was not held in person, but that grant ran out on June 30.

There was a need and the community came together to make sure hungry stomachs would be filled this summer. Under the leadership of Assistant Pastor Scott Tidwell of Wimberley's First Baptist Church, the move was made to find a solution.

"It was the first part of May and I thought 'Hey there's going to be a problem,'" Tidwell said. "...First I called Chef Jay (Bachman). 'How many people can I feed per day?' Two thousand a day, in a week that's ten thousand. I knew the kitchen equipment would work and Ben E. Keith (the food distributor) was being very helpful," Tidwell said. The plan would work. Especially with Mercy Chef's know how.

Scott was a master chef himself, with cooking skills learned while running and owning a few businesses. "I built and ran a steak house for three years. I'm self taught," he said.

The transition would



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Chef Jay Bachman with rising rolls.

happen smoothly with FBC and Mercy Chefs and their disaster experience. Soon others joined on for the project to feed hungry kids in the valley. The Barnabas Connection, the Ministerial Alliance, the town's churches joined up, as did Traci Maxwell of the WISD School Board, the Fig Tree, and the Crisis Bread Basket. Local volunteers picked up the slack to deliver the warm meals to different areas of the valley.

"It is the most ready kitchen to handle meals. It made sense to work out of that," Bachman said. "Mercy Chef's brought in the equipment and plugged into the Baptist kitchen." With the additional serving equipment by Mercy Chefs the kitchen's daily output was increased tenfold.

July 1 was the first day, and the food was prepared for individual meals. The cooks had help with the food using commercial tools and the new equipment donated by Mercy Chefs.

"For sure, it's a community event," Tidwell said. Soon all the pasta and marinara was mixed and stirred with love. Broccoli came next, with warm rolls in the oven. The cooked food smells coming from the FBC's kitchen were heavenly.

It was time to assemble the meals for transport to their destinations. The Fig Tree had already delivered the weekend meals packed in brown paper bags, enough to feed someone through the weekend.

A prayer and a pep talk was given by Chef Jay, and then it was time for volunteers to assemble food into Styrofoam individual servings. Volunteer driv-



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Scott Tidwell checks to see if they are on schedule.



PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW
Lauralee Harris takes a deep breath before diving into the broccoli

ers were on their way after just a few minutes. Then tools and equipment were cleaned and ready to use for the next day.



A problem was discovered, but with the help and

cooperation of the Wimberley Independent School District, local churches, non-profits, and other volunteers made sure the solution would be in gear until school starts in August.


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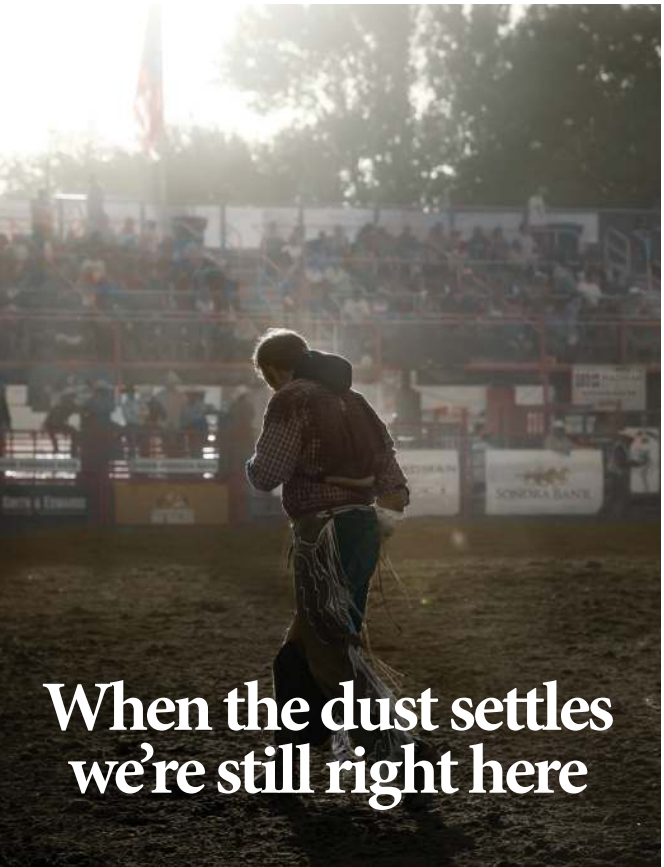
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Boots...

(From Page B1)



PHOTO BY CRIS PETERSON

Ulli Johnston’s Wild West Store is open by appointment only these days, but she happy to provide a “boot-whispering” experience to everyone.

quickly.”

With the exception of some custom-made boots, you won’t find many options made after the year 2000 in the Wild West Store.

A functional boot

No one really knows who actually invented the cowboy boot. According to North Carolina-based leather retailer Buffalo Jackson, after the Civil War cowboys wanted a boot that was high enough on the calf to offer protection on the trail, loose enough to pull a foot out if they got trapped someplace and with a pointed toe to easily slip into a stirrup. They were functional boots. Then along came the movie cowboys in the 1940’s and 50’s — Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, John Wayne — and boots with colorful designs caught on. Today, the best cowboys boots are made in the U.S., Mexico and Spain.

Ulli’s interest in boots came naturally. “I grew up in Germany with an interest in fine leather and if you are interested in something you want to learn about it,” she says.

The Wimberley store has been featured in numerous publications and broadcasts, including the Financial Times of London, the BBC, Forbes, Texas Monthly and National Public Radio. Ulli proudly shows a photo of singer Jimmy Buffet shopping in the Wild West Store. He bought a couple pair before leaving.

Long ago, a satisfied customer dubbed her “The Boot Whisperer” and the name stuck. She wears it proudly. “A customer was surprised that I could pick up the perfect boots and said ‘you’re the boot whisperer.’ I loved it. Now it’s official,” she explains.

Ulli takes great satisfaction in quickly determining a customer’s taste, fit and size. She estimates she has

an 80-85 percent success rate. She recalls one time a male customer came in and she told him she knew he hated pointy-toed boots. He looked at her surprised and just said, “uh-huh.”

Many people come into the store just to have the “whispering” experience and that’s fine. There’s no hard sell. “I can have my best day without even selling something,” she says.

“This is so much fun,” she says with a laughs “This (the store) is my happy place and without it I would probably need medication.”

\$12,000 boots

Prices in the store range from a few hundred dollars to thousands. There’s one pair of custom Lucchese boots made from alligator belly that carries a \$12,000 price tag. Every conceivable skin is available — lizard, elephant, ostrich, rattlesnake, sea turtle, alligator. Because of environmental restrictions, many of those skins are no longer available today.

As Ulli’s reputation spread, the offers to buy boots have increased. She buys collections. People email her photos of old boots to see what they are worth. Sometimes people get boots as gifts and they just don’t fit quite right so they end up in the Wild West Store.

“I mostly buy from regular people who have heard about me,” she says. “I like to get them from private people. I prefer it when they just walk in.”

The store used to have regular hours, but because of an illness in the family it is now open by appointment only.

Ulli came to the U.S. from Germany in 1989 to visit a friend. The two attended an auto auction in McAllen and Ulli spotted the handsome auctioneer — “He looked like a young Clint Eastwood.” Ulli and

Bill were married four and a half weeks later. They recently celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary.

The outgoing Ulli, who is never at a loss for words, takes care of the store and the customers while Bill handles the paperwork and the behind-the-scenes duties.

There are boots for men and women, but she tells kids, “your feet are still growing” and that they can’t buy boots.

Unique experience

Customers love the experience. Here’s one Google review: “OMG! I got boot whispered! Ulli is fantastic! If you are in the market for cool vintage boots you must come here!”

Many of the boots are 50 or 60 years old but in pristine condition. There are no scuffed, broken-down boots in this store. After you have been handed a pair of boots, caressed the leather, admired the stitching, Ulli will quickly tell you it still has the original heel. Ulli points out even the slightest flaw.

She makes sure everyone is satisfied and urges customers to walk around as long as they like and take the boots outside in the sun so they can see what the color really looks like. A good fit, she says, should have plenty of room for toes to wiggle around — “We want happy toes.” — should be snug across the top of the foot, and the heel should have a little “slippage.”

The store first opened out on FM 2325 near Market Days but after a few years moved to its current location at 13709 RR 12, just off the Square.

If you want to be “boot whispered” call Ulli at 512-293-4890 for an appointment.

“This store has been a 26-year, overnight success,” Ulli says.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 25, 2020

Previous Answers

L	O	B	O		A	T	L	A	S	T		A	H	H
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7 One-named model from Somalia
8 They’re full of hot air
9 Set up tents
10 Scot’s negative
11 Christmas bloomer
12 Speechify
13 Ebbs
18 Twisted, as rope
22 Computer text code
24 Palindromic hairdo

26 Two-year degs.
27 Flea or tick
28 “How can I ____ repay you?”
29 Get better
30 Actress Ortiz
31 Admit
35 Brown-skinned pear
36 Days gone by
38 Immune system part
40 Sport— (rugged vehicle)
41 Tiny unit of measure
44 Enjoy an eclair, e.g.
46 Reggae relative
49 Ages, like fruit
50 Sheryl Sandberg/ Nell Scovell book subtitled “Women, Work, and the Will to Lead”
51 Looked rudely
52 Apple slice, say?
53 Sentient being
57 Golden Rule preposition
58 Endure
60 Animal fat
61 Part of a plot or lot
62 One with top billing
64 Letter before omega
65 Not yet scheduled: Abbr.

A Separate Peace by Robert Wemischner

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Merkin...

(From Page B1)

I planned to be wife and mother as a stay at home mom. It’s what ladies did,” Merkin said. “My parents had the foresight to send me to college.” She graduated with a B.S. in Home Economic, with a minor in Science.

“The time came and my husband became unemployed. We needed the income. I was qualified for science at the school. I liked it so I stayed,” she said. Teaching in San Antonio for three years, she commuted from Wimberley teaching Science in private schools.

As for Wimberley, she is no stranger to the area, “My husband’s grandparents bought land in 1937 for \$7 an acre. My husband’s parents gave my husband and his two siblings the property.” Her husband Randy died three and a half years ago. He had worked full time at King Feed.

She went to further her

education by getting her Math certification and kept applying to WISD. “Dee Howard, the (Danforth) principal called. It was an afternoon in July. ‘Can you come in for an interview now?’ I happened to be in San Antonio, dressed in blue jeans and a t-shirt. Then, I’m hired.”

She would be teaching Math. “My favorite subject. You figure it out instead of memorization.” First it was 6th grade, and then moved to 8th grade. “The 6th was a better fit.”

“As a teacher a good day is when students enjoy learning, and they actually got it. They learned enough to want to come back and do more.” One of the fun things she was able to do in the classroom, and enjoyed, was playing games with math flash cards, something you really can’t use in other subjects.

Then again as a teacher

you take the good with the bad. “There’s the nightmare students that are rude and disrespectful. But I love them... I just love all the students that I have had over the years. I love running into them in town and having them remember me and say hi to me.”

Discipline and classroom management is not one of her favorite chores and most teachers will agree with that responsibility. But “I enjoyed the relationships I established with the students and the other teachers.” This is something she will miss.

“I love Danforth. The Administration is amazing. Mr. Howard (the current Danforth Principal) was a godsend of a leader. The teachers were supported... everybody had my back. It was a family, a team to make everybody successful. It was the best place to work.”

Brave...

(From Page B3)

pansive title to life.

“It’s really interesting to know what happens to music from various cultures over time, on its way to our national music scene,” said Carl Finch, who continues to lead the group he founded 40 years ago. Headquartered in Denton, Texas, the dance band has rocked many a venue, from private parties to huge festivals, Lincoln Center to Paris, garnering two Grammy awards along the way.

The foot-stomping, hour-long musical performance designed for the Wimberley Players will be suitable for all ages. Expect to hear rollicking polkas, a specialty

of the group, plus conjunto, salsa, zydeco, and other genres popular across the country and especially in Texas. You’ll be invited to round up the family and dance along at home.

“We’re very excited to have this awesome group performing remotely for us,” said Simone Corprew, Players executive manager. Online streaming begins at 5:00 pm August 8, with links available on the Players website and Facebook. The show will also be available on FaceBook and YouTube for later viewing.

Previous cultural events in the Players Five Saturdays series have includ-

ed plays, readings, music, dance, poetry by Glass Half Full Theatre, Teatro Vivo, and Spectrum Theatre, all of Austin, and Indigenous Cultures Institute of San Marcos. Funding for the series has been provided by a Cultural District matching grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, matched by donations from generous individuals and organizations.

The Wimberley Players is a non-profit community theatre organization located at 450 Old Kyle Road. Visit wimberleyplayers.org or call 512-847-0575 for information.

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