

Cactus Coffee perks up Dell Children’s

Gary Zupancic
Staff Reporter

The pandemic has hit the restaurant businesses hard. So hard that the Texas Restaurant Association decided to help out small local businesses by providing a grant to help keep restaurants alive, a relief fund if you will.

According to their website, the “mission of the Texas restaurant relief fund is: To provide immediate financial relief to Texas’ independent restaurateurs with funds designed to save employee jobs.” Paying bills was a huge worry for all restaurants.

Brooke Burnett of Cactus Coffee had an idea. Why not find a hospital and supply the staff and workers with food and coffee (chai too). She had done that at some area facilities, so she knew

the need. A hot cup of Joe to refresh the workers would be heaven sent.

“When the pandemic hit I offered sponsored meals to feed front-line personnel. The ‘Buy a Box, Get a Mask’ program provided over 202 meals, and made 75 cloth masks for the community,” Brooke said. “And during April and May the 202 sponsored meals went to many local essential workplaces,” These included: Ace Hardware, Wimberley Life Care, three local hospitals, Precinct 3 staff, Alexis Pointe, Live Oak Health Partners, Wimberley Fire Department, IBC Bank and Sage Capital Bank.

Cactus Coffee Shop and Brooke has been a fixture in Wimberley since March 2016. Featured around town, the food trailer is cur-

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Brooke Burnett in front of Dell Children’s Hospital.



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‘Voices at the Table’ Starts Sunday

Lynne Flocke
Special to the View

People interested in discovering how race and ethnicity have played a part in Wimberley’s history and culture are invited to a new community forum that begins Sunday, Jan. 17.

Sandra Organ Solis is asking Wimberley and Hays County residents of all races to come alongside those “Voices at the Table” sharing their stories and to listen to other people bravely talking about their experiences.

“Everyone is invited to the table,” Sandra said, “particularly those people of color whose voices haven’t been afforded that opportunity.”

“Setting aside any partisan politics, and encouraging a listening space, my hope is to explore diverse perspectives within a historical context, while especially giving voice to those on the margins to not only promote understanding in our community, but expand the ways we can do better in including and celebrating them,” Sandra said.

“Here’s an opportunity to hear the voices you haven’t been hearing.”

The forum is a follow-up to community discussions that took place last year surrounding several local events.

Last summer, an African-American family who had been vacationing in Wimberley departed early after they found a racist note left on their cabin door. Many in the community were upset about what happened and some officials reached out to the family.

The Wimberley View then published a letter written by Sandra and her husband, Carlos Solis, that urged Wimberley residents to “lean in, read, discuss, do the work of unlearning and relearning your part of the narrative of who we are, and how we got to this moment of racial reckoning.”

Sandra and Carlos moved to Wimberley from Houston five years ago when he began working as

Associate Vice President of Instructional Technology Services at Texas State University. Sandra, the first African-American ballerina with the Houston Ballet, is busy in the Wimberley community teaching and performing dance, yoga, swimming and choral arts.

“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,” the couple said in their letter. “Familiarize yourselves with your unconscious biases, claim your part in the narrative.”

A full-page advertisement stating “Wimberley is listening” was signed on to by nearly 200 local residents and businesses. Posters supporting the family were printed and displayed throughout Wimberley.

Sandra sees “Voices at the Table” as a way to continue this process. “Let’s start listening to the voices you haven’t been hearing,” Sandra said.

The monthly Zoom panels will start on the weekend prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 17) and end on Juneteenth, the holiday celebrating the emancipation of slaves in the United States. They are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the following Sundays: Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 19 or 20. Attendees should go to register for these free discussions at <https://table.yosoyx.net> for the Zoom panel discussions.

The first “Voices at the Table” this Sunday will explore the historic backdrop of the various races and ethnic groups in Wimberley and Hays County. Sandra has invited several prominent area historians and local residents to lead the discussion and hopes that anyone interested will join and share their own family stories.

Some of the panelists featured on the panels will be Dr. Elvin Holt, of San Marcos’ Calaboose Muse-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sandra Organ Solis.

um, Pastor Jonafa Banbury, of the Dunbar Heritage Association in San Marcos, and Wimberley historians and authors Dr. Patrick Cox, Ana Suarez and Linda Allen, and residents that include Marissa Fehler and MaryGail Jacobsen, among others.

“The plan is to ask each speaker on the panels to share their knowledge of the area’s history and personal stories and suggest ways forward to acknowledge and improve our community to make it more equitable, just, and welcoming,” Sandra said.

In other months, she hopes to cover the experiences of Blacks in the community today, as well as Latinos, Asians, and Indigenous groups.

“I’d like Voices at the Table to nurture and celebrate the resilience of those who call Wimberley home and perhaps suggest reasons why more have not,” Sandra said.

“My hope is that through telling our stories and offering some ways forward, Voices at the Table will help us find a more nuanced narrative of who we are, why we are where we are at this moment, and how we might expand to be a more welcoming and affirming community.”

For more information, please contact Sandra Organ 337SandraOS@gmail.com. To register for the event, please go to <https://table.yosoyx.net>.

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Expansion plan: Let’s save water!

The Wimberley library board wants to near One-Water goal



Besides adding space for more programs and more space for community groups, the library board expansion plan calls for the building to save water, collect power from the sun and have the cleanest, safest air in all of Texas. We are partnering with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment to achieve our goals. You can help make this a reality by going to our website and donating:

www.wimberleylibrary.org



Pipeline...

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lines provides the ability to connect this supply to critical markets along the Gulf Coast.”

Last week, TESPA and the WWSA announced that they had decided to settle the lawsuit.

“We decided to settle be-

cause we believed we had realized all the positive results we could obtain,” a press release from TESPA stated. The press release also highlighted some of the “notable accomplishments” TESPA felt their lawsuit brought on. Those includ-

ed Kinder Morgan re-routing the pipeline around the Blanco River instead of underneath it as well as stating that “Kinder Morgan agreed that only dry boring was allowed along the line, limiting damage to porous limestone geology.”

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