

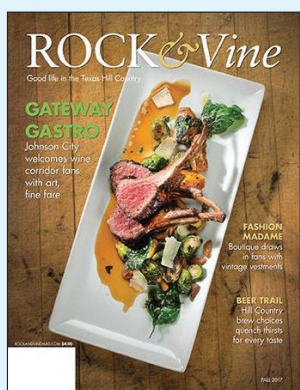
# The Wimberley View

41st Year No. 41

Thursday, October 12, 2017

\$1.00

## A PEEK INSIDE



**A TEXAS HILL COUNTRY MAGAZINE INSIDE!**



**PETERSON BROTHERS AT SUSANNA'S KITCHEN**

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**BARBARA GETS A NEW NOSE**

PAGE 3

## Wimberley Springflow

October 12, 2017

Jacob's Well  
Max: 13.8  
Min: 9.98

Blanco River:  
46 cfs

- Events 2
- Weather Recap 2
- Features 5
- Live Music 6
- Classifieds 10
- Sports 12
- Crossword 15



# County aims for more debris removal

Robin Blackburn  
Staff Reporter

Hays County will be looking for professionals who can help remove and dispose of flood debris in the Blanco River and on private property along the river's edge.

On Tuesday morning, the Hays County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the issuance of a re-

quest for proposals for the debris removal work, which will include removing and disposing of trees, limbs, roots, appliances, vehicles, building materials and other detritus left behind by the May 2015 flood.

"Eighty percent of our landscape was lost along the Blanco River during the 2015 Memorial Day event," Precinct 3 Commissioner Will Conley said, noting

that the county has been working with numerous entities to clear out the debris. Conley said so far, these efforts have been funded largely with federal dollars.

Hays County resident Dan Lyon questioned the commissioners and county officials about who the debris belongs to once it has been washed downstream, why the county did not sell the downed cypress trees

along the river and whether the county should be involved in cleaning up private property.

"I am the one, as the person who pays taxes, who has to pay for this," he said.

The commissioners also approved the selection of LJA Engineering, Inc., to provide plans, specifications and estimates for the Farm Road 110 overpass at State Highway 123.

"FM 110 has been talked about, as many of y'all know, for well over four years," Precinct 1 Commissioner Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe said. "We're getting very close to all the right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation, and this is just another part of this entire project. ... This intersection has gotten extremely busy,

See Debris, Page 8



### It's that time again

PHOTO BY GARY ZUPANCIC/WIMBERLEY VIEW

It is fall, without a doubt and it is official. Wimberley's United Methodist Church just received a huge shipment of pumpkins. The pumpkins are raised in New Mexico on a Navajo Reservation for Pumpkin Patch, USA which sells them only to non-profits and churches. Pumpkin Patch employs over 700 Native Americans September through October. The patch is open 24 hours a day on the honor system. It is staffed 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday and is open through Halloween.

## Sewer system loan closing postponed

Dalton Sweat  
Editor

The target date to close the Texas Water Development Board loan for the Wimberley Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System has been pushed back after the Executive Administrator of TWDB decided to investigate complaints received

about the project. "The (Texas Water Development Board) Executive Administrator requested this extension to investigate complaints we have received about the project," Kimberly Friesen Leggett, Media Relations Specialist for TWDB, said.

The TWDB did not disclose what or how many complaints received

See Sewer, Page 9

## Conley announces he'll run for judge

John Pacheco  
Century News

Hays County Commissioner Will Conley announced that he will be running for County Judge next year.

Sunday night attendees of the North Hays Republican Group (NHRG) re-

ceived a surprised pre-announcement by Conley, the guest speaker.

"On Tuesday [October 10] I'll be announcing my intention to run for County Judge at Historical Hays County Courthouse," Conley said.

The official announcement

See Conley, Page 9

## Barnabas director gets new position

From Staff Reports

Barnabas Connection will be under new leadership for the first time, as Executive Director Vicki McCuiston will be leaving the position to take a new job.

"It is with a mix of grief and gratitude that the Board of Directors announces Vicki McCuiston's departure as Executive Director of The Barnabas Connection October 23, 2017," a press release from Barnabas said. "Since 2004, Vicki has played a critical role in the development and success of the organization, and while

we will miss her and her inspiring leadership."

McCuiston will take over as the Disaster Response Logistics Coordinator for the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She will be coordinating and developing resources to aid in the recovery from hurricane Harvey.

In 13 years with Barnabas Connection in Wimberley, McCuiston has helped the organization grow considerably from an idea into a nonprofit that helps local children and impacted hundreds during the Memorial

See Barnabas, Page 8

## Creek bacteria test shows human, animal pollution

Dalton Sweat  
Editor

The initial results from the first Bacterial Source Tracking Study were released last week and did show at least some sewage related pollution, but the results are far from conclusive.

The first of three tests was made while it was raining. The next two tests will be during dry weather.

"Lets be cautious at look-

ing at any one sampling event to draw any conclusions," Nick Dornak, an environmental scientist contracted by the Meadows Center to oversee the project, said. "We need to wait until we have all the data and then we will be able to find out if we have any trends that we need to focus on in the future."

The bacteria counts were high, but that is expected during a rain event.

"It is also very important

to understand that bacteria concentrations tend to be greater and come from more diverse sources during a rain event," an email from the Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan Team said. "This is because bacteria and other pollution is picked up and carried by rainfall flowing across the watershed and into the creek. In addition to bacteria that might normally be in the creek, bacteria from

See Creek, Page 9

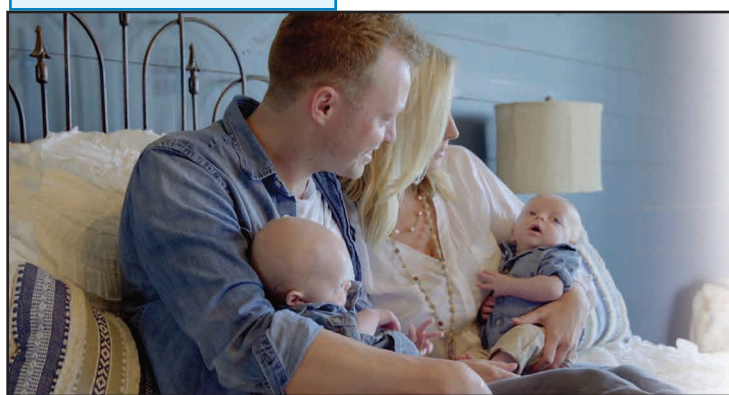
### 5 Day Forecast

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High: 87 Low: 70 Rain: 20%	High: 87 Low: 69 Rain: 0%	High: 85 Low: 64 Rain: 40%	High: 79 Low: 57 Rain: 0%	High: 79 Low: 59 Rain: 0%

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# Creek...

(From Page 1)

the landscape is added to the water column.”

This testing did not show how much a given bacterial source contributed to the e coli levels.

“Let’s say there were maybe 2,000 colonies in the sample of those 2,000 colonies,” Dornak said. “We took four randomly selected colonies and sourced them. So that is the info we have. So of 2,000 colonies we took four and did the genetic testing on those four. It is a very small sample size of that particular event, but it gives us an idea of what are some of the sources.”

The first test included a location upstream from

downtown and below the Ranch Road 12 bridge downtown. The test from the upstream location showed 6,400 colonies of bacteria formed per 100mL of water. The sources were from livestock, domestic animals, non-avian wildlife and feral hogs. The downstream location showed 18,000 CFU/100mL and the pollutants found were raw sewage, cattle and feral hogs.

“These results are not unusual – multiple sources of pollution were likely carried into the creek by rainfall runoff,” the email said. “Human bacteria could be coming from saturated aer-

obic septic systems, leaking tanks (rainfall can leak into tanks) or tanks can collect and release water from saturated substrates, as often is the case during rain events... Another source could be septic leakage directly into the creek.”

While how much a given source contributes to pollution can not be verified by this test, there are some initial takeaways.

“There was more bacteria at the downstream site,” Dornak said. “There was more bacteria coming from downtown...”

The next two events are base-flow (or regular flow) events. We expect bacte-

ria counts to be smaller, so when we pull three or four colonies we will have a greater representation of that sample. When we put all three samples together we will see if there are any trends. If there are, we can say we really need to focus more on wildlife or human contributions or whatever it happens to be. The idea is, don’t take too much from this sampling event. Have some patience and at the end we will try and determine a trend.”

Results from the remaining samples are expected to be released in November and January.

Leah Harlig  
Certified Senior Advisor

Jon Harlig  
Certified Relocation &  
Transition Specialist

