

Why We Built Agape
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P.8

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HCV

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Death of the Salesman

by Marvin Willis

Somewhere along the way, business owners started treating salespeople like a threat — something to dodge, block, or avoid at all costs. Phones go unanswered. Emails sit unopened. Gatekeepers are trained to keep anyone with a pitch as far away as possible.

But here's the irony:
Salespeople are often your customers, your advocates, and your unseen supporters.
And ignoring them can cost you far more than a few minutes of your time.

Salespeople Shop at Your Store Too
It's easy to forget that the person calling you isn't just "a salesperson." They're also a consumer. They buy groceries, clothes, hardware, meals, and services — often from the very businesses that refuse to take their call.

When you ignore them, you're not just avoiding a pitch.
You might be insulting a paying customer.

And customers don't forget being dismissed.

Avoidance Isn't a Business Strategy
Many owners justify it by saying they're too busy.

Too many tasks. Too many fires to put out. Too many interruptions.

But being busy doesn't excuse being unreachable.

You don't have to buy anything.
You don't have to schedule a meeting.

You don't have to listen to a long presentation.



All you have to do is communicate.

A simple, honest “No thank you” is more professional than silence.

Gatekeepers Can Do More Harm Than Good

A gatekeeper's job should be to help, not to shield the business from every outside voice. When they block every salesperson automatically, they also block:

- Potential partnerships
- New opportunities
- Community connections
- People who already support your business

A gatekeeper who protects too aggressively doesn't protect the business — they isolate it.

Honesty Beats Excuses Every Time
Salespeople hear every excuse in the book.

They're not fooled by “We're not interested right now” when the tone says “I just don't want to talk to you.”

You don't need excuses.
You don't need a script.
You don't need to pretend.

Just be honest.

Salespeople respect honesty more than anything else.

They deal with rejection every day — it's part of the job.

What they don't respect is being ignored or treated like they don't matter.

Success Is About Citizenship, Not Avoidance

Success isn't just about keeping your doors open.

It's about how you treat people — all people.

Salespeople have a job to do, just like you.

They're trying to earn a living, support

their families, and contribute to the community.

When you answer the phone, reply to the email, or give them a moment of your time, you're not just being polite.

You're being a good citizen.

You're showing respect.

You're building a reputation that people remember.

Quit Hiding — You Might Gain More Than You Expect

When you stop avoiding salespeople, something surprising happens:

- You learn things about your industry
- You discover tools that make your business better
- You build relationships that help you grow
- You earn respect from people who talk to hundreds of businesses a week

And sometimes, you gain a customer for life simply because you treated them like a human being.

Answer your phone.

Reply to your emails.

Respect the people who reach out.

You might just benefit more than you ever imagined.

- Marvin Willis

...And More

Instant Gratification Advertising...Why

What It Is

You can see it happening in real time! A simple, incentive-driven system that turns customers into brand amplifiers via QR-driven sharing and prize entries.

Key Benefits

- **Boost Social Reach:** More shares/comments trigger platform algorithms to show your content to new audiences.
- **Capture Leads:** Collect names, emails, and phones for follow-up campaigns.
- **Cost-Effective Growth:** Leverage existing customers' networks instead of heavy ad spend.



Scan & Enter

Customer scans a branded QR code (placed in-store, on packaging, receipts, etc.) and enters minimal info to join a prize draw.

Share & Amplify

After entry, they click prominent buttons to share your page/post on social platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, messaging). Pre-filled text makes sharing one tap.

Engage & Follow-Up

Their shares/comments boost your algorithmic reach. Automated emails thank them, announce winners, and invite further engagement (follow pages, redeem offers).

Why It Works

- Immediate Impact
- Network Effect
- Build Contact List
- Flexible Incentives
- Fast Deployment
- WE HANDLE EVERYTHING

Next Steps

Brief Discovery: Quick call to choose prizes, QR placements, and goals.

Setup & Test: We build the form, sharing page, and feedback elements; you review.

Launch & Monitor: Deploy QR codes; track scans, shares, and leads daily/weekly.

Optimize & Scale: Refine messaging or incentives; plan next campaign wave.

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There is a quiet ache sitting in a whole lot of homes right now.

You can feel it at the kitchen table. You can hear it in the car rider line. You can see it in the eyes of parents who know something is off, even if they cannot yet put words to it. For a lot of families, school has become something to survive instead of something that helps children truly come alive. The spark is dimmer. The days feel heavier. The learning feels less like formation and more like management.

A growing number of parents are waking up to the same hard truth. Just because something is normal does not mean it is good. Just because everyone else is doing it does not mean it is wise. And just because a system has a building, a schedule, and a polished

brochure does not mean it is actually serving the soul of a child.

That is where a lot of us have found ourselves.

Not always angry. Not always dramatic. Just deeply unsettled.

We want more for our children than test prep, behavior charts, shallow history, watered-down literature, and a view of the world that treats God like an awkward guest who must stay outside the classroom. We want our children to grow in wisdom, not just information. We want them to love what is good, recognize what is true, and learn to stand with courage in a world that seems increasingly confused about all three.

That longing is not strange. It is not overreacting. It is not extremism. It is the very ordi-

nary instinct of a parent who knows deep down that education is never neutral. It is always shaping someone into something.

That conviction is a big part of why Agape Homeschool exists.

We did not start Agape because we wanted to copy what everybody else was doing with a slightly prettier color palette. We started it because many of us were looking for something better. Something more rooted. More human. More joyful. More Christian. More alive.

Agape Homeschool is not just a place where kids complete assignments. It is a place where families gather around a shared vision of education that actually means something. We believe children are not little machines to be programmed or standardized products moving down a conveyor belt. They are image-bearers. They are whole people. They need truth, beauty, goodness, discipline, belonging, wonder, and time to grow.

That shapes everything we do.

At Agape, we believe education should begin with Christ at the center. Not tacked on as a devotional at the start of the day, but woven through the whole fabric of learning. The world makes sense because God made it. History matters because providence is real. Literature matters because stories shape the loves of the heart. Nature matters because creation still speaks, if we are quiet enough to pay attention.

That is one of the reasons Charlotte Mason has such a deep influence on us. Her approach treats children as whole persons. It respects their minds without crushing their spirits. It invites them into living books, narration, habit training, nature study, observation, and genuine attention. It understands something our modern world has mostly forgotten, which is that children do not just need more content. They need better nourishment.

There is a big difference.

A child can sit at a desk for hours and still not be educated in any meaningful sense. A child can memorize facts and still never learn how to wonder. A child can be constantly occupied and still never be formed. But place that same child in a setting where the world is alive, where books are rich, where truth is spoken plainly, where the outdoors is part of the classroom, where adults are present and invested, and something begins to wake up.

That is what we want.

We want children reading things worth remembering. We want them outside, noticing the curl of leaves, the habits of birds, the rhythm of the seasons, the feel of the world God made with His own hands. We want them learning history as the story of real people and real ideas. We want them to speak well, think clearly, write carefully, and recognize when something is false or hollow. We want them to see that faith is not a private hobby tucked into Sunday morning, but the lens through which all of life is understood.

That is where the classical side of Agape comes in too.

We are deeply shaped by the old paths. We believe there is wisdom in the Trivium, in the Great Books, in the long Christian and Western tradition that formed strong minds and strong souls before our culture started chasing every new fad with a logo and a grant behind it. We want our children grounded. Not trendy. Not fragile. Grounded.

That also means we are not embarrassed by words like virtue, discipline, truth, or character. In fact, we think the loss of those words has done real damage. The goal of education is not merely producing a worker who can function in the economy. It is helping form a human being who can live faithfully, love rightly, and carry responsi-

lity well.

Agape is also special because it is not built on the idea that parents should hand off the most important work of formation to strangers and hope for the best. We believe parents are the primary stewards of their children's education. That does not mean they have to do it all alone. It means they should not be pushed to the sidelines.

Our model is collaborative by design. Families learn together. Parents share the load. We teach, pray, serve, and build community side by side. There is something deeply good about that. It feels older than the modern school model. More natural. More honest. More like family life than institutional life.

And in a time when so many people are isolated, that community matters.

A lot of parents are not just looking for a curriculum. They are looking for courage. They are looking for people who will remind them they are not crazy for wanting something different. They are looking for a place where their children can be known, where friendships are real, where conviction is not treated like a liability, and where the grown-ups in the room are rowing in the same direction.

That is part of the beauty of Agape. It is not just educational. It is relational.

We want families to feel that when they step in. We want them to feel the warmth of a place that still believes children are a blessing, parents matter, and truth is worth building around. We want them to find not just an option, but a home.

And yes, we care about affordability too. Deeply. Christian education should not feel like an impossible luxury reserved for a narrow slice of families with money to burn. Ordinary families deserve access to something beautiful and faithful. That matters

to us because real community is not built by pricing out the very people you say you want to serve.

At the end of the day, Agape Homeschool is our attempt to build something sturdy and alive. Something countercultural in the best sense. Something rooted in Christ, shaped by truth, and full of good things worth passing down.

We are not interested in following the drift. We want to raise children who know how to stand.

If you have been feeling that quiet ache, if you have been looking at the educational landscape and thinking there has to be something better than this, I want you to know you are not alone. A lot of us have been there. That is exactly why Agape exists.

We built it for families who want more than survival.

We built it for children who deserve more than a system.

We built it because truth still matters, wonder still matters, and community still matters.

And around here, we think that is a pretty good place to begin.

View our site by clicking the image below.

Hill Country Events

Howdy, y'all! Spring rolls into the Hill Country like a slow front porch breeze, bringing wildflowers, festival music, and the kind of gatherings that make you linger a little longer. From rodeos and river days to wine trails and hometown celebrations, this stretch of the year is when the region really comes alive. Whether you're chasing bluebonnets, good barbecue, or live music under the stars, here's your roundup of can't-miss events across the Hill Country this season.

Bluebonnet Festival

Dates: April 10–12, 2026

Location: Downtown Burnet, TX

One of the Hill Country's most beloved spring traditions, Burnet's Bluebonnet Festival celebrates peak wildflower season with a parade, live music, carnival rides, and small-town charm. Expect local vendors, classic cars, and a whole lot of Texas pride wrapped in fields of blue.

[<GO>](#)

Poteet Strawberry Festival

Dates: April 24–26, 2026

Location: Poteet, TX

Just south of the Hill Country edge, this iconic festival blends rodeo action, big-name music acts, and all things strawberry. From shortcake to jam, it's a sweet slice of Texas culture with carnival rides and family fun woven in.

[<GO>](#)

Old Blanco County Courthouse Trade Days

Dates: April 18–19, 2026

Location: Blanco, TX

Under the shade of historic oaks, vendors gather around Blanco's courthouse square offering antiques, handmade goods, and local treats. It's part treasure hunt, part community gathering, and a perfect excuse to slow down and wander.

[<GO>](#)

Fredericksburg Crawfish Festival

Dates: May 22–24, 2026

Location: Marktplatz, Fredericksburg, TX

Cajun flavor meets Hill Country charm at this lively festival packed with crawfish boils, zydeco music, and cold drinks. Families spread out on the lawn while bands keep the rhythm going all weekend long in the heart of Fredericksburg.

[<GO>](#)

Boerne Berges Fest

Dates: June 13–14, 2026

Location: Boerne Main Plaza, Boerne, TX

A celebration of Boerne's German roots, Berges Fest features traditional food, live music, dachshund races, and family-friendly fun along Cibolo Creek. It's equal parts heritage and hometown pride, wrapped in a weekend of laughter and music.

[<GO>](#)

Bandera Memorial Day Weekend Stampede

Dates: May 23–24, 2026

Location: Mansfield Park, Bandera, TX

Known as the Cowboy Capital of the World, Bandera leans into its roots with rodeo events, live country music, and a strong sense of tradition. It's a weekend that honors both heritage and community with boots-on-the-ground authenticity.

[<GO>](#)

Llano Earth Art Fest (LEAF)

Dates: April 3–5, 2026

Location: Grenwelle Park, Llano, TX

Artists and nature lovers gather along the Llano River for this unique festival featuring rock stacking competitions, sand sculptures, and interactive art. It's creative, a little wild, and deeply tied to the natural beauty of the Hill Country.

[<GO>](#)

Kerrville Folk Festival (Opening Weeks)

Dates: May 21–June 7, 2026

Location: Quiet Valley Ranch, Kerrville, TX

A legendary gathering of songwriters and music lovers, this festival stretches across weeks of campfire jams, mainstage performances, and late-night storytelling. It's less of an event and more of a community built around music and shared experience.

Source: Kerrville Folk Festival Official Site

[<GO>](#)

Wimberley Market Days

Dates: April 4, May 2, June 6, 2026

Location: Lions Field, Wimberley, TX

Held the first Saturday of each month, this massive open-air market draws visitors from across the region. With hundreds of vendors, live music, and food stands, it's a Hill Country staple where you can find just about anything under the sun.

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As spring leans into summer, the Hill Country fills with the kind of moments you don't rush through. Music drifts across fields, courthouse squares hum with conversation, and every weekend feels like an open invitation. These events are more than dates on a calendar. They're reminders of who we are out here. So take the drive, stay awhile, and let the season unfold the way it was meant to.

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OPEN LETTER

Families across Texas, including Kerr County are feeling the pressure of inflation, and one of the biggest hidden drains on our local economy is the steady shift toward online spending. In 2025, an estimated 53,000 residents in Kerr County spent more than \$4,000 online each. That represents well over \$212 million leaving the local economy in a single year—money that could have supported local businesses, local workers, and the communities you represent.

My name is Marvin Willis, Founder of the Shop Local First Loyalty Card Program. I created this program to give Texans a practical, measurable way to reduce their cost of living while strengthening the small businesses that keep our towns alive. The program is already delivering real savings and real economic impact, and it can be scaled across your district to help families keep more of their money in Texas.

A key example is just one of our discounts. H-E-B, provides 3%–3.5% savings on digital gift cards purchased through our portal. Families simply show the QR code receipt at the service desk and receive a standard gift card with the savings already applied. At the gas pump, that same card stretches further—3.5% off \$3.50 fuel equals 12 cents off every gallon. With the average family spending more than \$300 a week on groceries and fuel, annual savings easily exceed \$1,000.

This is a direct, immediate way to reduce inflation's impact on Texas households without requiring new legislation, new taxes, or new bureaucracy.

Local businesses benefit as well. Every participating business receives:

- A full-page advertisement
- Free loyalty cards for all employees
- Exposure to a growing network of Texas shoppers
- Increased foot traffic driven by real financial incentives

All a business needs to do is offer a discount to cardholders. The return is immediate and community-wide.

We also donate loyalty cards to those who serve our communities—first responders, teachers, hospital staff, city and county employees, and university

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students and staff. This strengthens local economies from the inside out by supporting the people who support Kerr County every day.

This program aligns directly with those priorities and offers a practical tool your district can benefit from immediately. Oh, and by the way, who else is actually lowering inflation for families right now?

I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you and discuss how this program can help the families and businesses of Kerr County and the surrounding region you represent.

Respectfully,

Marvin Willis/ Publisher Hill Country Visitor Magazine

Founder, Shop Local First Loyalty Card Program

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Cypress Mill and the Water That Built It

Written By Publisher

The little Blanco County community that reminds us the Hill Country was shaped as much by work as by beauty. These days, when folks talk about the Hill Country, they usually reach for the pretty words first. They talk about bluebonnets, wineries, wedding venues, creekside cabins, and sunsets that make a man forgive the electric bill. And fair enough. This country is beautiful. But beauty can make us forget what came first.

Before the Hill Country became a place people came to admire, it was a place people came to survive. And if you want to understand that truth, you could do worse than to look at Cypress Mill.

Cypress Mill sits in northeastern Blanco County, along Cypress Creek, the kind of place that does not holler for attention. It is quiet country now. But in the nineteenth century, this little settlement was built around something more important than scenery. It was built around moving water. The creek was not just lovely to look at. It was power. It was lumber. It was grain turned into meal. It was the difference between isolation and community. [1] [2]

That is the part modern people, myself included, are prone to overlook. We see a spring-fed creek and think leisure. They saw one and thought labor.

Long before Cypress Mill settled into the shape history remembers, Mormon homesteaders had already worked the area near the springs in 1849. They used the water and built a mill below the springs to cut cypress lumber.

That early effort did not last, but it left behind the basic lesson the Hill Country kept learning over and over again: where water flowed steadily, people gathered, worked, and tried to build something that might outlast them. [2]

By the 1850s, William Evans had filed a land claim and established another mill on Cypress Creek. Then, in the late 1860s, a mill at the site helped give rise to the community that first went by the name Fuchs' Mill, after Wilhelm Fuchs and his family, early owners of the operation. Later, when a post office opened in 1874, the name Cypress Mill took hold, and that is the one that stuck. [1][2][3]

There is something wonderfully plain-spoken about that. Not a grand name. Not a puffed-up title. Just a place identified by trees, creek, and work. Cypress. Mill. You can practically hear the waterwheel turning in it.

By the mid-1880s, Cypress Mill had grown into a real working settlement. It had grist and saw mills, a cotton gin, and around 130 residents. That may not sound like much now, but out in the Hill Country, where distance could wear a man down like sand on limestone, that was no small thing. A mill community was not just a dot on a map. It was an anchor. It gave nearby families a reason to come together. Grain got ground. Lumber got cut. Cotton got processed. News traveled. Trade happened. A place with work became a place with people. [1][3]

That is one of the old Hill Country truths we tend to polish over today. Community did not just rise out of friendliness or shared heritage. It rose



out of shared necessity. If you needed the mill, you needed the people around it too.

And in a place like Cypress Mill, the land itself set the terms. The springs in the creek bed and the steady flow of water made industry possible in country that could otherwise be rough, rocky, and unforgiving. This was not prosperity falling from the sky. This was local people learning how to take what the land offered and turn it into a life. [2][4]

There is also a little humility tucked in that history, which is good for the soul. We modern Hill Country folks can get to feeling proud of our towns, and maybe a little too charmed by our own charm. But the old mill communities remind us that this region was not built by branding. It was built by sweat, timber, creek water, stubbornness, and probably a fair amount of muttering under somebody's breath.

Cypress Mill never became some booming city, and maybe that is part of why it matters. It stands as a reminder that not every important place grows big

enough to get glossy treatment. Some places do their work quietly. They feed people. They steady a region. They help shape the pattern of life, then they fade into the background while the country around them keeps going.

That, to me, is part of the roots of modern Hill Country identity. We still gather where the land gives. We still build community around the practical gifts of a place. Water, work, roads, shade, fellowship, trade. The scenery is real, but so is the labor under it.

Cypress Mill whispers that truth instead of shouting it. And maybe that is fitting. Around here, the deepest things usually do.

Sources

[1] Texas State Historical Association, "Cypress Mill, TX." (Texas State Historical Association)

[2] Texas State Historical Association, "Cypress Creek (Blanco County)." (Texas State Historical Association)

[3] Texas Almanac, "Cypress Mill." (TX Almanac)

[4] Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, A History of the Pedernales Falls Area, 1850–1970. (tpwd.texas.gov)



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A Simple Look At America's Debt!

America's national debt is one of those topics that gets tossed around in political conversations, news headlines, and campaign speeches—but rarely explained in a way that feels real to the average person. Big numbers like \$39 trillion sound terrifying, almost abstract. It's easy to imagine the country teetering on the edge of collapse.

But what if we compared the national debt to something every family understands—a home mortgage? Suddenly, the picture becomes clearer, calmer, and far more grounded in reality. A Household Example We All Recognize. Let's say a family earns \$100,000 a year. They buy a home for \$300,000. That means their “debt” is three times their annual income.

And guess what? That's normal. Banks approve it every day. Families manage it every day. Communities thrive despite it every day. Now let's look at the United States:

Annual federal revenue: roughly \$18–19 trillion. National debt: roughly \$39 trillion.

That's a debt a little over twice the annual income of the country.

In other words: America's debt-to-income ratio is actually better than the average homeowner's.

Why the Numbers Feel Scariest Than They Are
When we hear “trillions,” our brains shut down. It feels catastrophic. But the U.S. government isn't a household—it's the world's largest economy with unique tools:

- It can tax
- It can grow the economy
- It can refinance
- It can issue bonds
- It can borrow at lower rates than any household ever could

And unlike a family, the United States doesn't retire, doesn't die, and doesn't sell the house. It continues indefinitely. Debt, for a nation, is not a moral failure. It's a management challenge.

So What Does a \$39 Trillion Debt Actually Mean? It means:

The government has borrowed money over time to fund wars, infrastructure, healthcare, Social Security, tax cuts, and economic stimulus.

The interest payments grow as the debt grows. Future leaders will have to make choices—raise revenue, slow spending growth, or both.

The economy must keep growing to make the debt manageable.

But it does not mean the country is about to collapse. It does not mean the government is bankrupt. It does not mean the United States is in the same position as a household drowning in credit cards. The U.S. is more like a homeowner with a big mortgage on a valuable property—one that keeps appreciating.

Why This Matters to the Hill Country

Here in the Hill Country, people value straight talk. We value understanding the truth behind the noise. And the truth is:

Debt is a tool. Debt becomes dangerous only when mismanaged. America's debt is large, but not unprecedented or unmanageable. The real conversation should be about smart stewardship, not fear. Just like a family that budgets wisely, invests in its home, and plans for the future, the nation must do the same.

A Final Thought

The future may bring tough decisions—just like any household faces when interest rates rise or income changes. But there is a path forward, and it starts with understanding the numbers instead of fearing them.

Debt isn't the enemy.

Misunderstanding debt is.

And when we see the national debt through the lens of a homeowner's mortgage, the picture becomes far less frightening—and more familiar.

By Marvin Willis



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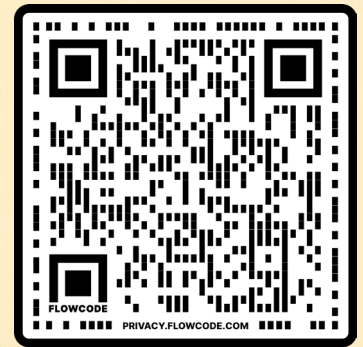
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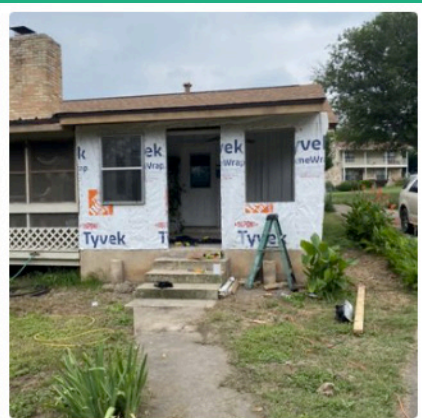
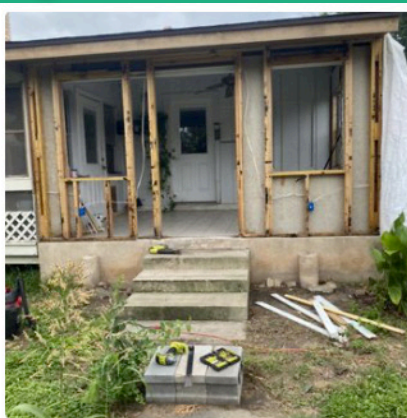
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But what makes this work is what happens after someone closes the magazine. Your business continues to show up across trusted Texas Hill Country Facebook communities where locals and visitors already spend time. These are not cold audiences. These are people actively looking for places to go, eat, shop, and explore. When they see your business more than once, in spaces they already trust, it starts to stick.

That kind of steady visibility builds something stronger than a quick spike in attention. It builds recognition.

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Prickly Pear: Food, Fence, and Fallback Plan

by Matthew Willis

There is a plant in the Hill Country that asks almost nothing and gives back more than most people realize. It grows in the cracks, along fence lines, and in places where other plants quit. Most folks see it as something to work around. A few have learned to work with it. Prickly pear sits right at the intersection of survival and abundance, and if you let it, it will teach you both.

Winter is a good time to notice structure in the landscape, and prickly pear holds its ground when everything else pulls back. Those flat pads, stacked and angled toward the sun, are not just random growth. They are water storage, sun management, and resilience all built into one form. In a region where rainfall comes in bursts and leaves just as quickly, that matters.

If you are planting prickly pear, now through early spring is a solid window. Choose a spot with full sun and excellent drainage. If your soil is heavy clay, do not dig a deep hole and trap moisture. Instead, plant slightly high or even mound the soil a few inches so water sheds away from the base. You can plant from nursery stock, but a single pad taken from an existing plant works just as well. Let the cut end dry and callous for about a week before setting it upright in the soil. Bury it an inch or two deep, no more. Then leave it alone.

Water once at planting, then resist the urge to keep checking on it with a hose. Prickly pear roots need to search, not sit. Too much water early on is more harmful than not enough. Within a few weeks, new roots will anchor the pad, and new growth will begin when conditions are right.

Spacing depends on your goal. If you want a loose, natural patch, give each plant two to three feet. If you are building a living barrier, you can tighten that spacing and let the pads knit together over time. It is not a manicured



hedge. It is a working fence that deters traffic, holds soil, and creates habitat.

By late spring into summer, you will see two gifts form. First come the flowers, usually yellow but sometimes orange or red depending on the variety. They draw in bees and other pollinators in steady numbers. After the blooms fade, the fruit begins to swell. The tunas, as they are often called, ripen into deep reds and purples. They are edible, but they require careful handling.

Gloves are not optional.

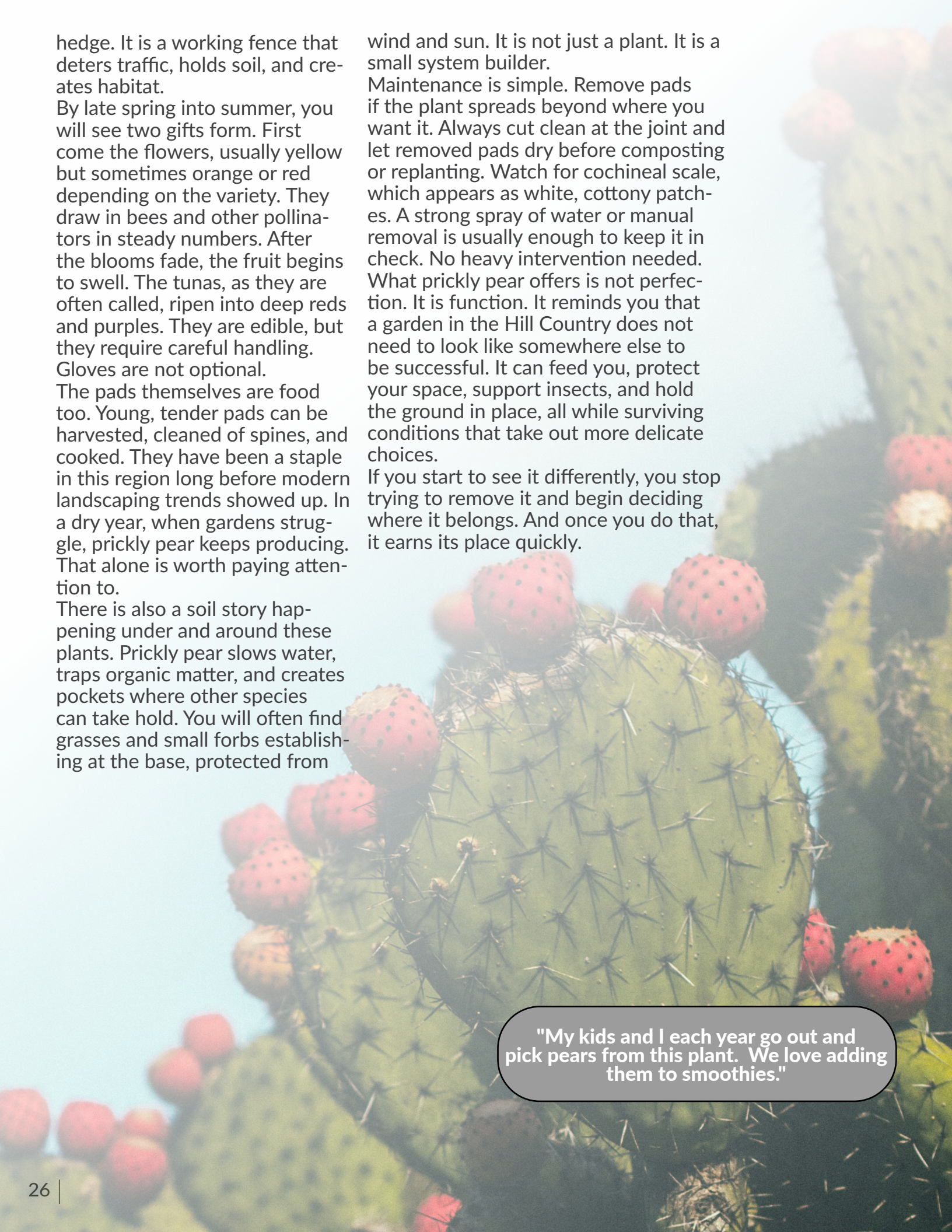
The pads themselves are food too. Young, tender pads can be harvested, cleaned of spines, and cooked. They have been a staple in this region long before modern landscaping trends showed up. In a dry year, when gardens struggle, prickly pear keeps producing. That alone is worth paying attention to.

There is also a soil story happening under and around these plants. Prickly pear slows water, traps organic matter, and creates pockets where other species can take hold. You will often find grasses and small forbs establishing at the base, protected from

wind and sun. It is not just a plant. It is a small system builder.

Maintenance is simple. Remove pads if the plant spreads beyond where you want it. Always cut clean at the joint and let removed pads dry before composting or replanting. Watch for cochineal scale, which appears as white, cottony patches. A strong spray of water or manual removal is usually enough to keep it in check. No heavy intervention needed. What prickly pear offers is not perfection. It is function. It reminds you that a garden in the Hill Country does not need to look like somewhere else to be successful. It can feed you, protect your space, support insects, and hold the ground in place, all while surviving conditions that take out more delicate choices.

If you start to see it differently, you stop trying to remove it and begin deciding where it belongs. And once you do that, it earns its place quickly.

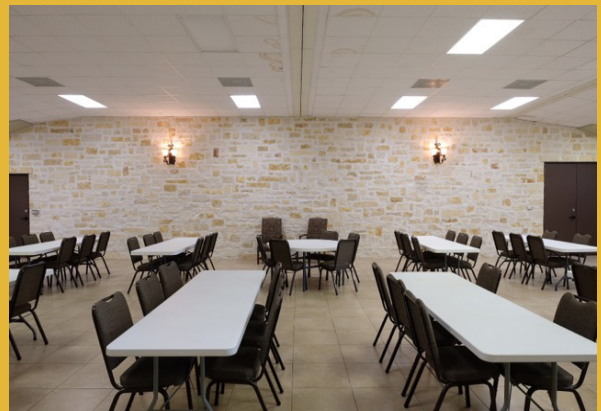


"My kids and I each year go out and pick pears from this plant. We love adding them to smoothies."

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HAARP: A Facility, a Signal, and the Questions That Follow

by Matthew Willis



Lean in. Not every mystery hides behind locked doors. Some sit in the open, fenced but visible, humming quietly in the cold. If the last story showed us what happens when institutions fail people directly,

this one is different. Here, the question is not whether something exists. It does. The question is simpler, and harder at the same time. What exactly can it do?

What HAARP Actually Is

The High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, better known as HAARP, is a research facility located near Gakona, Alaska [1]. It was originally developed and funded by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA [2].

The core of the facility is an array of high-frequency antennas designed to study the ionosphere, a region of Earth's upper atmosphere

charged with particles that affect radio communication and satellite systems [3].

According to official descriptions, HAARP transmits high-frequency radio waves into the ionosphere to temporarily excite a small portion of it. Researchers then observe how that region responds [4].

This is not classified. The facility, its purpose, and much of its research have been publicly documented for decades.

The Science Behind the Signal

The ionosphere plays a critical role in global communication. Radio signals often bounce off this layer, allowing transmissions to travel long distances beyond the horizon [5].

HAARP's transmissions can briefly heat a targeted area of the ionosphere, creating controlled disturbances that help scientists understand how signals behave under different conditions [6]. This research has applications in improving communication systems, navigation, and understanding space weather effects caused by solar activity [7].

The scale matters. According to official program materials, the affected area is small and temporary, returning to normal once the transmission ends [8].

In other words, HAARP is not described as altering the atmosphere at large, but as studying it in controlled conditions.

Military Roots and Public Access

HAARP's early funding and oversight came from military branches, which often raises questions about dual-use technology. Research that improves communication and detection systems can have both civilian and defense applications [9].

In 2015, ownership of the facility was transferred to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which now operates HAARP as a research site open to scientists from around the world [10].



Conspiracy Corner

The facility even hosts open houses and educational outreach events.

This transition is documented and publicly announced, not hidden.

Where Questions Begin

Despite its documented purpose, HAARP has become a focal point for public speculation. Some claims suggest it can influence weather patterns, disrupt communications on a massive scale, or affect human behavior.

These claims are not supported by official documentation.

Government and academic sources consistently describe HAARP's capabilities as limited to localized ionospheric research [11]. The energy levels involved, while significant in a research context, are far below what would be required to influence global weather systems [12].

Still, the existence of a powerful transmission system aimed at the sky, combined with its military origins, has been enough to fuel ongoing curiosity.

Why This Matters

HAARP sits at an interesting crossroads. It is a real facility with real funding, real experiments, and real documentation. At the same time, it highlights how quickly public perception can expand beyond what is formally described.

When institutions operate advanced technology that few people fully understand, questions naturally follow. Not accusations, but questions. And sometimes, those questions grow faster than the available explanations.

Understanding the difference between documented capability and imagined potential is part of being an informed reader.

Not a Theory. The Record.

What is established:

HAARP exists and is located in Alaska [1]

It was funded by U.S. military and research

agencies [2]

It studies the ionosphere using high-frequency radio waves [3][4]

Its research is publicly documented and currently operated by a university [10]

What is not established:

That HAARP controls weather

That it can manipulate large-scale environmental systems

That it has capabilities beyond those described in official research

The distinction matters. The record supports the facility's existence and purpose. It does not support the broader claims often associated with it.

Next Steps

Take time to read the technical descriptions. Look at how the ionosphere works. Notice how complex systems can be misunderstood when only part of the picture is visible.

Curiosity does not require jumping to conclusions. It requires staying long enough to understand the difference between what is documented and what is assumed.

Sources & Record

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<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com>

Your Story Belongs in the Hill Country

by Publisher

The Hill Country is not just a place on a map. It is a feeling. It is the sound of boots on courthouse square sidewalks, the glow of café lights after sunset, the laughter from back porches, the live music drifting through open doors, and the pride of people who still believe local matters.

At Hill Country Visitor Magazine, we believe the businesses, events, makers, dreamers, and community leaders of this region deserve more than a quick mention or a forgettable ad. They deserve to be seen well. They deserve to be represented beautifully. They deserve to be connected to the very people who are already looking for what they offer.

That is where we come in.

When you join Hill Country Visitor Magazine, you are not just buying space in a publication. You are stepping into a regional platform built to help your business stand out, stay memorable, and turn attention into action.

More Than Exposure. Real Presence.

Anybody can promise visibility. What matters is whether that visibility actually works.

We have built Hill Country Visitor Magazine to do more than place your name in front of readers. We help you create a presence that feels alive. A presence that reflects your business with style, personality, and purpose.

Our advertising approach is digital-first, which means your brand does not just sit there. It moves. It engages. It invites response. We can integrate autoplay videos, interactive QR codes, clickable pathways, and custom funnels that guide readers exactly where you want them to go.

That means your ad can do more than look good. It can bring people to your website, your event, your booking page, your storefront, your offer, or your next conversation.

The Hill Country Is Watching

From Fredericksburg to Boerne, Kerrville to Wimberley, and beyond, Hill Country Visitor Mag-

azine is expanding across the region with one goal in mind: connecting readers to the people, places, and businesses that make the Hill Country unforgettable.

This is a region full of movement. Tourists come looking for charm. Newcomers come looking for belonging. Locals come looking for trusted businesses and familiar favorites. We put your brand in front of all three.

And because every magazine ad connects into our broader reach ecosystem, your visibility does not stop at the page.

Built-In Reach That Keeps Working

Every issue works harder than a traditional publication ever could.

Your presence can extend into our Multiplier Network, where your message is posted across 30+ Hill Country community pages. One ad becomes a wave of visibility. One placement becomes post after post, town after town, audience after audience.

That means more real eyes on your business. More recognition. More clicks. More curiosity. More chances for the right person to find you at the right time.

We also offer expanded opportunities through:

- Hill Country Circular newsletter exposure
- SMS text marketing
- Scan to Win campaigns
- interactive QR engagement
- custom digital promotions
- print-to-digital bridge strategies

This is what makes working with us different. We are not simply offering ad space. We are helping build momentum.

We Know This Market Because We Live Here

We are not some out-of-town agency trying to guess what works in the Hill Country.

We know this region because we are part of it. We understand the pace, the pride, the culture, the family businesses, the local causes, the sea-

sonal rhythms, the visitors, the festivals, the ranch roads, the downtown foot traffic, and the people who still want to shake your hand before they trust your name.

That matters.

Because good marketing is never one-size-fits-all. It has to fit the place. It has to sound right. It has to feel true. It has to honor the people you are trying to reach.

That is why our clients do not just get placement. They get partnership.

We Sit Down. We Listen. We Build Something That Fits.

Some businesses need a clean magazine placement that introduces them to the region.

Some need a larger campaign with print, digital, social, and direct response working together.

Some need help clarifying their message, polishing their brand, designing an ad that finally feels like them, or building a better path from attention to customer.

That is why we start by learning your goals.

We want to know who you are, who you serve, what makes your business special, and where

you want to go next. Then we build a custom plan around that.

No bloated packages. No canned nonsense. No guesswork dressed up as strategy.

Just thoughtful, local, well-crafted marketing designed to help your business get noticed and remembered.

Powered by More Than a Magazine

Hill Country Visitor Magazine is proudly powered by Peeled Onion Publishing, which means when you work with us, you are tapping into a larger creative and marketing engine.

That includes access to:

- Strategic brand storytelling

- Custom content and ad design
- Funnel building and QR integration
- Email campaigns
- Print-to-digital bridges
- Event promotion
- Community engagement tools

So whether you need a beautiful ad, a stronger message, a wider reach, or a complete campaign, you are in the right place.

Be Seen. Be Remembered. Be Local.

There is something powerful about being part of a publication that celebrates the Hill Country while also helping shape its future.

This magazine is about more than pages. It is about connection.

It is about helping a small business become a local favorite.

It is about helping a family-owned brand look as strong online as it does in person.

It is about helping readers discover where to eat, shop, stay, gather, explore, and return again.

It is about putting your story in front of people who still care

where they spend their money.

And in a world full of forgettable noise, that kind of attention is worth something.

Let's Tell Your Story Next

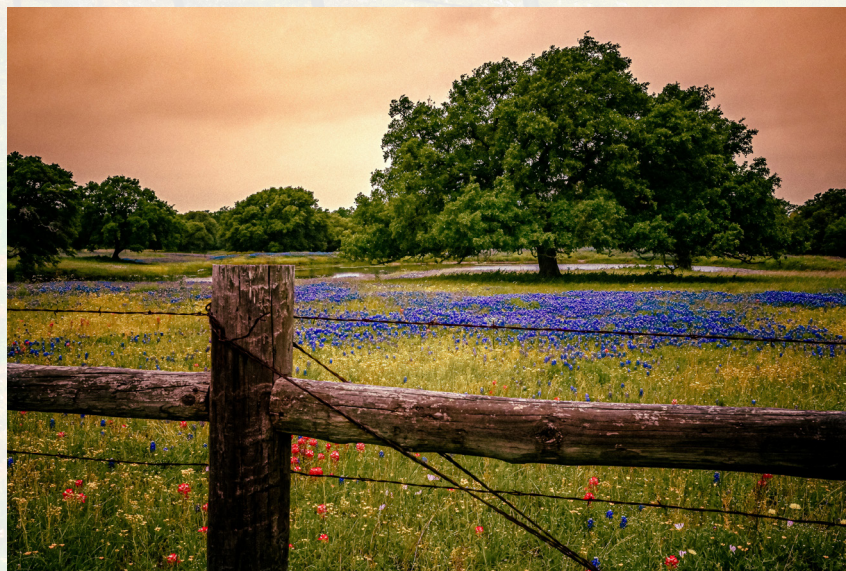
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The Well I Walked Away From

by Matthew Willis

I tried. I really did. I explained, clarified, circled back, softened my words. But somewhere along the way, I realized something I did not want to admit. Not everyone will understand your reasons, and not everyone is meant to.

So I stepped away.

What they do not tell you about digging a new well is how long it takes before you find water. At first, there is nothing. Just dry ground and effort that feels wasted. You question yourself. You replay every conversation. You wonder if maybe they were right about you.

Those are the hard days.

But you keep digging. Not out of stubbornness, but out of calling. There is a difference. One is about proving something. The other is about obedience.

Slowly, things begin to shift. Not all at once. Not loudly. Just enough to keep going. And over time, what once felt like loss starts to look more like planting. What felt like breaking starts to feel like becoming.

The truth is, some things have to be left behind for new life to begin. Even good things. Even things that worked.

Time has a way of doing what words cannot. It softens hearts. It clears confusion. It reveals what was actually there all along.

I do not regret the well I walked away from. It served its purpose. But I also do not regret the ground I stand on now.

Because sometimes the clearest sign you are where you are meant to be is not how easy it was to get there, but that you were willing to keep digging when no one else understood why.

In the Hill Country, a good well is not something you take lightly. When you find one that produces, you stick with it. You build around it. You trust it. That is what I had. It worked. It provided. It made sense.

Which is why leaving it felt wrong.

From the outside, I imagine it looked even worse. Why walk away from something good? Why trade certainty for something unproven? People ask those questions out loud sometimes. Other times, they just answer them for you. Motives get assigned. Intentions get rewritten. And no matter how carefully you try to explain your heart, it somehow comes out different on the other side.

New Restaurants Worth Visiting

by Editor

Juniper & Ash

Dripping Springs, TX — Opening: April 26

Set just outside the bustle of Fitzhugh Road, Juniper & Ash leans hard into live-fire cooking and Hill Country sourcing. Built around a custom wood-burning hearth, the menu focuses on Texas proteins treated simply but precisely — dry-aged beef, oak-roasted chicken, and seasonal vegetables kissed by smoke rather than buried under it. Early previews highlight house ferments, herb-forward sauces, and a tight wine list that favors natural producers. The space itself mirrors the food: warm wood, limestone, and an open kitchen that keeps the fire in full view. It feels like a place designed for long dinners and slow conversations, where technique stays quiet and flavor does the talking.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

La Cascada Cocina

Marble Falls, TX — Opening: May 2026

La Cascada Cocina is bringing a polished but rooted take on interior Mexican cooking to Marble Falls, drawing inspiration from central Mexico's market kitchens rather than Tex-Mex staples. Expect hand-made tortillas pressed to order, slow-braised meats, and deeply layered sauces built from toasted chiles and stone-ground spices. Early menu notes include cochinita pibil, mole negro, and grilled pescado served with citrus and herbs. The restaurant sits near the lake corridor, positioning itself as both a local staple and a destination stop for weekend traffic. It aims to bridge tradition and presentation without losing authenticity, offering something more refined than casual fare but still grounded in heritage cooking.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

The Copper Stir

Fredericksburg, TX — Opening Jun 2026

Fredericksburg's dining scene continues to sharpen with The Copper Stir, a cocktail-driven kitchen pairing elevated comfort food with a serious bar program. The concept centers around classic techniques — both behind the bar and on the plate — with dishes like braised short ribs, seared pork chops, and butter-rich sides designed to complement spirit-forward drinks. The cocktail menu leans into Texas ingredients, incorporating local honey, herbs, and seasonal fruit into old-school builds rather than gimmicks. Located just off Main Street, the space balances tourist appeal with local credibility, aiming to be the kind of place you stop in for a drink and end up staying for dinner.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

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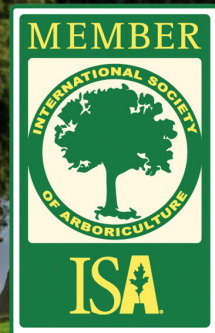
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April Through June In The Hill Country

by Matthew Willis

April arrives in the Hill Country like a door swinging open. One week you are still watching the last of the cool mornings, and the next the landscape is alive with color, movement, and a steady hum of activity. Wildflowers stretch across roadsides, gardens begin to fill in, and the quiet work of winter suddenly shows itself. This is the season where effort turns visible. What you prepared in the early months now starts to take shape, and the pace of the garden picks up in a way that feels both exciting and demanding.

April is planting time in earnest. The soil has warmed enough to welcome warm season crops, and the risk of frost fades into memory. Tomatoes and peppers move from trays to beds, settling into the ground with a bit of care and a good soak-

ing. Squash, cucumbers, and beans follow quickly, eager to climb, spread, and produce. Give these plants space now. It is easy to underestimate how much they will grow in a few short weeks. A little room at planting time prevents crowding later when everything is pushing toward the sun at once.

The soil you built earlier continues to do the heavy lifting. Compost added in winter feeds this burst of growth, and mulch becomes essential again as temperatures begin to climb. A steady layer helps hold moisture, keeps roots cool, and slows down the first wave of aggressive weeds. You will notice quickly that where soil is covered, plants thrive with less effort. Where it is bare, the work increases.

May brings a shift from planting to managing. Growth

is no longer slow and steady. It becomes fast and full. Tomatoes begin to stretch and require support. Stakes, cages, or trellises need to be in place before plants get ahead of you. Beans start climbing, cucumbers reach for anything nearby, and squash spreads across the beds. This is the time to guide, tie, and gently shape plants so they grow in a way that keeps the garden workable.

Watering becomes more important now, but it should still be thoughtful. Deep watering a few times a week encourages roots to grow down rather than staying shallow. This matters as the heat of June approaches. A garden that has been trained to seek water below the surface will handle stress better than one that relies on daily shallow watering. Early morning remains the best



time, giving plants what they need before the sun takes over.

By late May and into June, the garden begins to produce in earnest. The first tomatoes show color, squash appears almost overnight, and beans seem to double each day. This is where the rhythm of harvesting begins. Picking regularly keeps plants producing. A missed harvest can slow things down, while steady picking encourages more growth. There is a satisfaction in stepping into the garden and gathering what was only a seed a few weeks before.

June also reminds you that the Hill Country is never far from heat. Afternoon temperatures climb, and the garden begins to feel the pressure. Leaves may droop in the heat of the day but recover in the evening. This is normal. What matters is how the garden looks in the morning. If plants greet the day strong, they are handling the conditions well. Mulch, spacing, and deep watering all show their value now.

Pests and disease make their appearance as well. Aphids, caterpillars, and beetles find their way into the garden as

growth increases. The key is not to panic. A healthy garden can tolerate some damage. Walk your beds regularly, check the undersides of leaves, and address problems early. A simple spray of water, hand removal, or a targeted treatment is usually enough when caught in time. Balance is part of the system, and not every insect is an enemy.

This quarter is also a time to notice what works. Which varieties handle the heat better, which areas hold moisture longer, and which plants seem to struggle. These observations guide future seasons. Gardening here is not about perfection. It is about learning the patterns of your space and working with them year after year.

By the end of June, the garden is full, active, and demanding your attention daily. What began as careful planning in winter has become something living and productive. The pace will soon shift again as summer deepens, but for now, this is the season of growth. It is busy, rewarding, and full of small moments that remind you why you started in the first place.

YOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Plant warm season crops like tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and beans.

Use mulch to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and reduce weeds.

Install supports early for tomatoes, beans, and climbing plants.

Water deeply and less often to encourage strong root systems.

Harvest regularly to keep plants producing through the season.

Monitor for pests early and manage them before they spread.

Observe which plants thrive to guide future garden planning.

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The Cucumber that Keeps Showing Up

by Matthew Willis

I was not expecting much the first time I saw someone swap rice and seaweed for cucumber. It felt like one of those ideas that looks good on a screen but leaves you wishing you had just made the real thing. Cucumber instead of sushi rice? It sounded light, sure, but maybe a little too light. Then I tried it on a warm afternoon, and it clicked.

These cucumber rolls are crisp, cool, and surprisingly satisfying. You take thin ribbons of fresh cucumber and wrap them around a simple filling like cream cheese and smoked salmon or even a bit of crab. No rice, no fuss, just clean flavors that come together in a way that feels fresh and a little addictive.

What makes this one stick is the texture. The cucumber has that snap when you bite into it, followed by the smooth richness of the filling. It is the kind of contrast that keeps you reaching back for another piece without thinking about it. Around here in the Hill Country, that matters, especially when the heat starts climbing and heavy meals lose their appeal.

These rolls fit right into that easy, gather-around-the-table style of eating. You can set them out for a light lunch, bring them to a backyard get-together, or keep them in the fridge for something quick between errands. They look a little fancy, but they come together faster than most people expect.

And like most good things, they are easy to make your own. Add a slice of avocado for creaminess, a strip of bell pepper for a little crunch, or a drizzle

of soy sauce or spicy mayo if you want to lean into those classic flavors. You can keep them simple or dress them up depending on who is coming over.

What surprises people most is how something this simple can feel like a complete dish. It is not trying to replace sushi. It is doing its own thing. Light, refreshing, and just interesting enough to get people asking how you made it.

Set a plate of these out on a hot day and watch how fast they disappear. It is the kind of recipe that does not need much explaining. One bite usually takes care of that.





Ingredients

2 large cucumbers
4 oz cream cheese, softened
4 oz smoked salmon or imitation crab
1 avocado, sliced (optional)
1 small bell pepper, thinly sliced (optional)
Soy sauce or coconut aminos, for serving
Optional: spicy mayo or a light drizzle of sriracha

The Steps

Slice the cucumbers lengthwise into thin strips. A vegetable peeler or mandoline works best to get long, even ribbons.

Lay the cucumber strips flat on a clean surface, slightly overlapping them to form a base.

Spread a thin layer of cream cheese across the cucumber, then add your smoked salmon or crab along one edge. Add avocado or bell pepper if you are using them.

Carefully roll the cucumber into a tight log, starting from the filled edge.

Slice into bite-sized pieces and arrange on a plate.

Serve chilled with soy sauce or your favorite dipping sauce.

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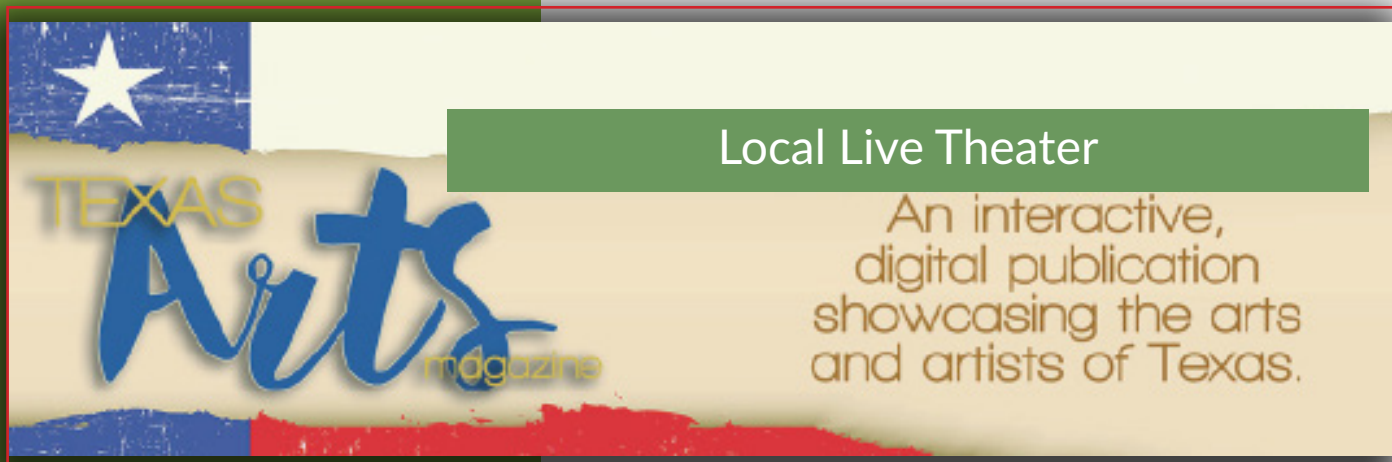
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ON EXHIBIT: *TEXAS*

Spring arrives in Texas with a little more light and a little more color, and the museums seem to follow suit. From April through June, galleries open up into bold ideas, traveling exhibitions, and works that feel alive with movement and renewal. It is a season made for wandering.

Dallas Museum of Art

1717 North Harwood
Dallas, Texas 75201
214-922-1200

<https://www.dma.org>

This spring, the DMA leans into global storytelling and contemporary perspective, offering exhibitions that feel expansive and layered. The galleries invite both curiosity and quiet attention.

- He Said/She Said: Contemporary Women Artists Interject



A powerful collection of works that challenge historical narratives

and reframe perspective through contemporary female voices.

On view through July 2026.

- Afro-Atlantic Histories

A sweeping, multi-artist exhibition exploring the cultural and artistic connections across Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

On view through June 2026.

- Contemporary Projects Series

Rotating installations from emerging and established artists that shift the tone of the galleries with fresh, experimental work.

On view April–June 2026.

- Arts of the Americas Galleries

Permanent works that explore identity, land, and tradition across centuries.

Kimbell Art Museum

3333 Camp Bowie Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-2792
817-332-8451

<https://www.kimbellart.org>

The Kimbell carries spring with restraint and clarity. Its exhibitions favor precision and beauty, offering a slower, more grounded counterpoint to the season's energy.

- The Language of Beauty in African Art

A refined presentation of African sculpture and objects, emphasizing form, symbolism, and craftsmanship.

On view through July 27, 2026.

- Permanent Collection Highlights

Masterworks from Europe and beyond remain central, offering balance and continuity.

- Asian Art Installations

Quiet, contemplative works that invite close looking and reflection.

- Special Exhibition Programming

Lectures and guided tours deepen engagement with seasonal exhibitions.



April–June 2026.

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

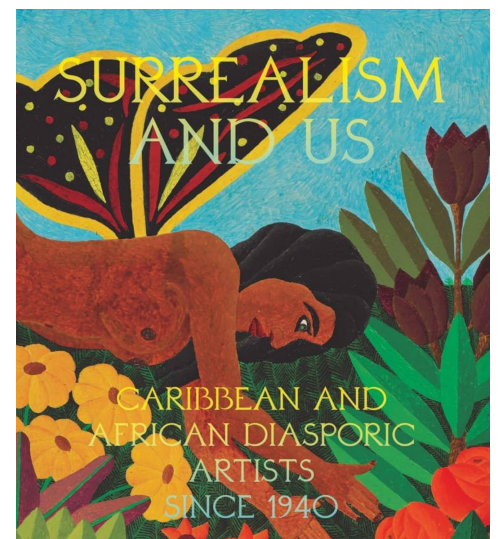
3200 Darnell Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
1-866-824-5566

<https://www.themodern.org>

Spring at the Modern feels immediate and physical. The exhibitions engage with the present moment, often pushing material and emotional boundaries.

- Surrealism and Us: Caribbean and African Diasporic Artists Since 1940

A dynamic exhibition connecting surrealist traditions with contem-



porary diasporic voices.

On view through July 2026.

- Modern Collection Installations

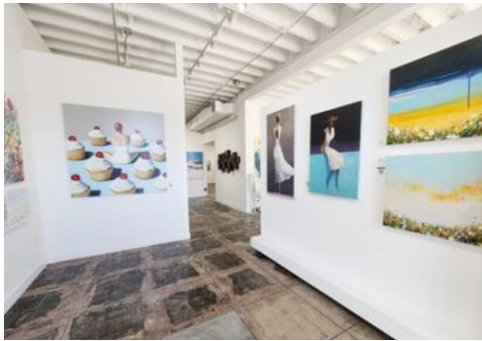
Selections from the museum's collection highlight abstraction, minimalism, and contemporary experimentation.

- Photography and New Media Works

Rotating works explore perception, time, and technology.

On view April–June 2026.

- Sculpture Terrace Installations



Outdoor works that interact with light, water, and architecture.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

1001 Bissonnet

Houston, Texas 77005

713-639-7300

<https://www.mfah.org>

MFAH embraces spring with scale and variety, offering exhibitions that move between design, contemporary art, and global traditions.

- The World Around Us: Contemporary Landscape

A look at how artists reinterpret landscape through modern perspectives and materials.

On view through June 2026.

- Decorative Arts and Design Galleries

Elegant presentations of craft and design that bridge past and present.

- Modern and Contemporary Collection Highlights

Key works that anchor the museum's expansive holdings.

- Rotating Contemporary Installations

Fresh works that shift the tone of the galleries each season.

April–June 2026.

San Antonio Museum of Art

200 West Jones Avenue

San Antonio, TX 78215

210-978-8100

<https://www.samuseum.org>

Along the river, SAMA's spring programming blends history with regional dialogue. The exhibitions feel rooted yet expansive, drawing connections across time and place.

- Canvas to Clay: Georgia O'Keeffe & Maria Martinez to Mata Ortiz & Tonalá

A rich conversation between painting and pottery, linking artistic traditions across borders.

On view through October 4, 2026.

- Art of the Ancient Mediterranean



nean

Timeless works that continue to ground the museum's identity.

- Asian Art Galleries

Focused installations that emphasize beauty through simplicity

and form.

- Special Exhibitions and Rotations

Seasonal works that bring new energy to the galleries.

April–June 2026.

McNay Art Museum

6000 N New Braunfels Ave

San Antonio, TX 78209

210-824-5368

<https://www.mcnayart.org>

The McNay moves into spring with a blend of modernist strength and contemporary curiosity. Its exhibitions feel both personal and forward-looking.

- Deconstructed Realities: Contemporary Perspectives

A group exhibition exploring how artists reinterpret space,



identity, and perception.

On view through June 2026.

- Modernist Collection Highlights

Core works that define the museum's identity.

- Outdoor Sculpture Installations

Pieces that shift with light and season, offering a different experience with each visit.

- Rotating Contemporary Works

New installations bring fresh energy into the galleries.

April–June 2026.

The Point Theater

120 Point Theatre Road, Ingram, Texas 78025

The Hill Country Arts Foundation (HCAF)/Point Theatre is located on the banks of the Guadalupe River off State Highway 39 in Ingram, Texas. HCAF provides a cultural atmosphere, including art classes and theatre for professionals and amateurs, plus special children's programs.

2026 SEASON ON HOLD UNTIL SUMMER

Playhouse 2000

The Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts in beautiful downtown Kerrville, TX includes the 800 seat Cailloux Theater, the intimate VK Garage Theater black box, and the Kit Werlein Annex support facility. All facilities and programming are managed by Playhouse 2000, a production and community theater performance company with over 20 years history bringing great entertainment to the Hill Country. Playhouse 2000 is also proud to offer their own productions at the Cailloux City Center. We hope to see you soon!

[See the Playhouse 2000 season here](#)

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The Hills Are Alive With Music



The concert opens with the brilliant Strauss fanfare, made famous as the opening theme for the Stanley Kubrick film 2001: A Space Odyssey. We feature our symphony bass trombonist Rod Leonard playing Ian Deterling Concerto for Bass Trombone, a colorful new work which fully expresses our orchestra's amazing talent and diversity. Our grand finale will be a multimedia presentation of Guvat-Holst's groundbreaking work, **The Planets**, with Scheinner University's own Kim Arvidsson, associate professor of physics and mathematics, providing projected images and an introduction. This stellar composition closes with music about **Neptune**, featuring a wordless women's chorus echoing the music of the spheres.

Clap loud—an encore will bring an exciting way to mark our nation's 250th

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Music Program

Strauss — *Also Sprach Zarathustra (Prelude)*

Ian Deterling — **Concerto** for Bass Trombone **No. 1 in D Minor**

— Rod Leonard, bass trombone

Holst — **The Planets**

— Introduction by Kim Arvidson, Schreiner professor of physics & mathematics — With Women's Choir, Claire



Roderick Leonard

Bass Trombonist

Roderick Leonard is our principal bass trombonist, holding a Bachelor's of Music Education from UT-San Antonio. He is the Director of Bands at TMI Episcopal, the Music Director of The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble, and the founder of The San Antonio' Wind Symphony. Roderick has played with the Corpus Christi, Laredo, Mid Texas, Victoria Symphonies, and The New Sousa Band.

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