

# THE BULLETIN

## *Belterra Community News*

May 2013 Volume 7, Issue 5

News for the Residents of Belterra

## Drowning Is Preventable

The Texas weather is warming up. Summer is almost here. Pools will soon open and the cool water will be calling your name. You can almost hear your kids laughing and the playing in the pool. Your family deserves to have many Best Day Ever moments in the water this summer. Please do not let those moments be ruined by the sound of a life guard whistle blast or the need to do CPR in order to save your child's life. Most families love a trip to the swimming pool, the lake or the beach during the summer...but the water can be deadly for a child.

Did you know that drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children between the ages of 1 and 14, with kids under the age of 5 at even higher risk?

Colin Holst's parents did not know either. Sadly, June 13th marks the 5 year anniversary of his drowning in a public, lifeguarded pool in Austin. Since Colin's drowning in 2008, Central Texas-based Colin's Hope has become a nonprofit leader in water safety and drowning prevention.

My name is Alissa Magrum and I am the Executive Director of Colin's Hope. But I am also a parent to 8 year old Ella. So, from one parent to another, please listen to this message. It is simple but filled with purpose: DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE. YOU can help protect your children. Following a series of simple water safety tips creates multiple layers of protection. These layers WILL keep children safer in and around the water and CAN prevent drownings.

### **THE FIRST 3 OF THESE TIPS ARE KEY.**

**Practice constant visual supervision.** Always assign an adult "water guardian" whose ONLY responsibility is to watch children who are in, near and around the water. If that water guardian needs to take a break, they must transfer their "watching" duty to another adult.

**Learn to swim.** Enroll children (and adults too) in formal swim classes. For kids under the age of 4, taking formal swim lessons reduces the risk of drowning by 88%.

**Wear life jackets.** Children who cannot swim should ALWAYS wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when in and around the water.

You can see additional tips, as well as more information on water safety and drowning prevention, on our website at [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org).

Each year, Colin's Hope volunteers stuff and distribute 75,000 water safety packets to families in zip codes that have been targeted due to the high number of near drownings and drownings in recent years. This life saving information along with a Peel Inc. ad campaign, a Reagan National Advertising billboard campaign and a presence at many community events is helping to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

**WE ALSO NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION** with family, friends, neighbors, teachers, babysitters...everyone! We have seen the difference that being aware and being prepared can make. Communities that have received our water safety information in prior years have seen child drownings and near drownings in their areas reduced to zero!

Please visit [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org) to find out how you can get involved in your own community. Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, subscribe to our monthly newsletter or even support our efforts with a donation.

We envision a world where children do not drown. Please share that vision and together we will get there.

*Wishing you the SAFEST AND BEST SUMMER EVER,  
Alissa Magrum Executive Director, Colin's Hope*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Ambulance / Fire..... 911

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Dripping Springs Elementary..... 512-858-3700  
Walnut Springs Elementary ..... 512-858-3800  
Rooster Springs Elementary..... 512-465-6200  
Dripping Springs Middle School..... 512-858-3400  
Dripping Springs High School..... 512-858-3100

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### OTHER

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Animal Control..... 512-393-7896

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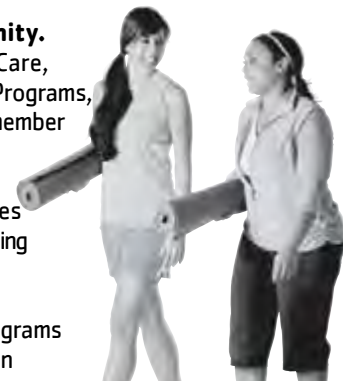
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# May Events

## AT THE WILDFLOWER CENTER

### WILD NIGHT OUT

6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 2

See the art and meet the artists whose work benefits the Wildflower Center. Enjoy organic wine, appetizers, Brazilian music and more.

### GARDENS ON TOUR - A MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND TRADITION

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 11

A self-guided tour of five inspirational private native plant gardens plus the Wildflower Center. Tickets available April 20 at Barton Springs Nursery, TreeHouse, Shoal Creek Nursery, the Natural Gardener and the Wildflower Center Store.

### TEXAS HIGHWAYS WILDFLOWER PHOTOS

Saturday, May 4 through Sunday, May 12

In honor of National Wildflower Week, striking photos from Texas Highways are on display and photo editor Griffin Smith offers a photo workshop at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 11. In the McDermott Learning Center. Closed at 3 p.m. Friday, May 3, for the Wildflower Gala. Open Memorial Day May 27. More information at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org).



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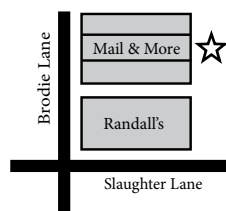
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## SNAKE BITES A CONCERN AS WEATHER WARMS UP

Warmer weather coaxes snakes out of hiding, and it's important to know what to do after a snake bite, according to a medical toxicologist at Baylor College of Medicine ([www.bcm.edu](http://www.bcm.edu)).

"Many people don't realize how much of an issue snake bites are in this area of the country," said Dr. Spencer Greene, director of medical toxicology and assistant professor of medicine – emergency medicine at BCM. "In fact, our regional poison center reported 235 snake bites – including 148 from known venomous snakes – in the Houston area in 2012, and I am sure many more are going unreported".

According to Greene, the first step is avoidance.

"Never reach into a hole or a bush blindly, a snake may be resting there," he said. "It is also important to maintain an appropriate distance from a snake. Most pit vipers, which include rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins, can strike at a target up to two-thirds of their body length when provoked."

If you are bitten by a snake, Greene suggests the following important steps:

- Stay calm.
- Call 911 immediately to be evaluated.
- Take off anything that is constricting the affected area, such as a ring or watch.
- Position the affected area at or above heart level. This means that if you are bitten on the hand, bring it to heart level, and if you're bitten on the leg or foot, elevate it if possible. This minimizes the amount of local tissue damage and swelling, which is the most common finding in pit viper bites.

- Go to the emergency room – the sooner the better.

Greene also dispels several myths about treating snake bites and suggests heeding the following advice:

- Do not apply a tourniquet or a constriction band.
- Do not apply ice; it can cause local tissue damage.
- Do not apply heat.
- Don't cut the affected area and attempt to suck the venom out – this increases the amount of local tissue damage.

- Don't use a commercially-available extraction device. These have also shown to be ineffective in removing venom and actually increase the amount of tissue damage.
- Don't use electrical therapy.
- Don't apply any type of lotions or ointments.

The management of snake bites has changed over the years and the newer type of anti-venom has proven to be very effective in reducing pain, bleeding complications, swelling and tissue damage, Greene says. Although anti-venom has been shown to have the maximum effectiveness within the first 12 hours of the bite, it can still be effective a few days after the bite.

At the hospital, physicians will determine if anti-venom and hospital admission is necessary.

"Ideally, patients should be evaluated by a medical toxicologist with experience in managing snake bites," Greene says.

If a patient requires anti-venom, he or she usually spends one or two days in the hospital. After hospital discharge, patients will need to follow up twice a week for two weeks to watch for any signs of recurrent toxicity.



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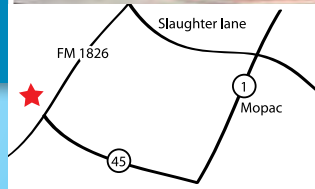
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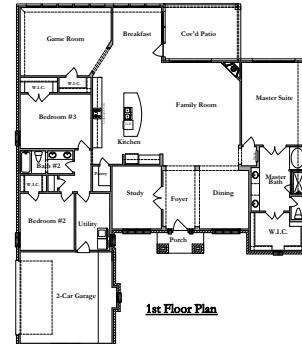
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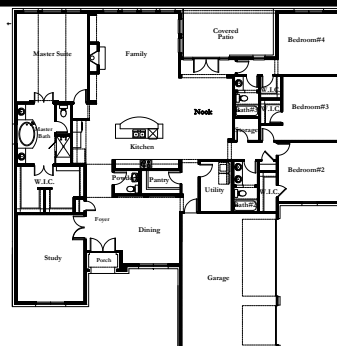
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## CONTROL YOUR WEIGHT, MINIMIZE CANCER RISK

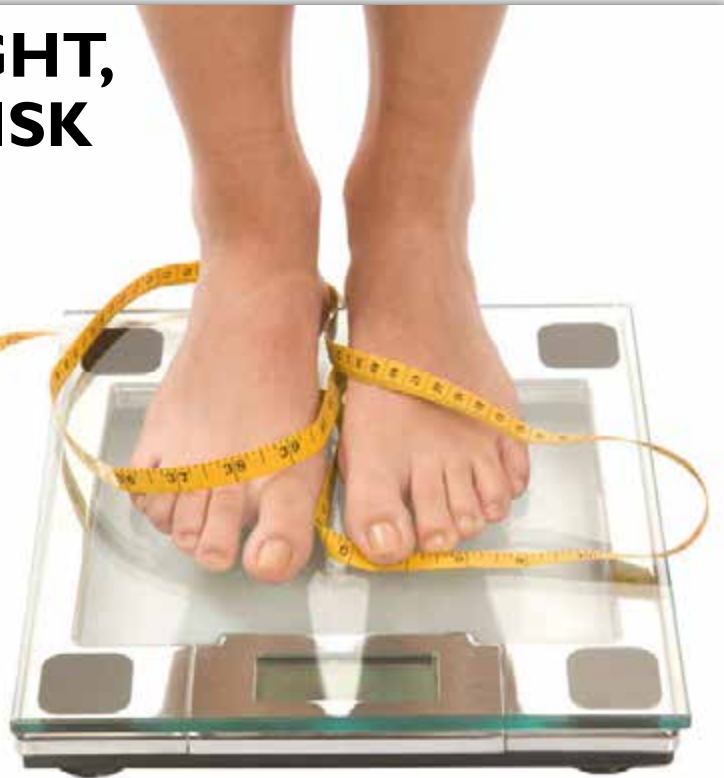
Controlling weight can help a person reduce the risk of cancer, said an oncologist from the NCI-designated Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

"We do not know exactly how and why obesity affects cancer risk, but we know there is an increase, so it is important for everyone to control their weight to minimize this risk," said Dr. Kent Osborne, director of the Duncan Cancer Center and the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center, both at BCM.

Research has linked obesity to a greater risk of developing esophageal, pancreatic, colorectal, breast, endometrial, kidney, thyroid and gallbladder cancer, Osborne said.

In some cancers like breast cancer, there is also an increase in the risk of recurrence if a patient already has the cancer and is obese.

Many other factors, such as genetics, may play a role in cancer development, but keeping a normal weight is one thing people can change and it may help, he said.



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