

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

May 2015 Volume 9, Issue 5

News for the Residents of Belterra

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

MOSQUITOES



Mosquitoes can be very irritating and disrupt outdoor activities. They also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. Mosquitoes are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs can be laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that are occasionally flooded by water. Some eggs are able to remain dormant under dry conditions for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which do not feed. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.

Female mosquito.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds.

Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

Avoiding peak hours when mosquitoes are active is probably the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled. Other products such as citronella candles will also repel mosquitoes, but work best in enclosed areas.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
 Ambulance / Fire.....911

SCHOOLS

Dripping Springs ISD 512-858-3000
 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

UTILITIES

Water – WCID # 1 & 2 512-246-0498
 Trash – Texas Disposal..... 512-246-0498
 Gas – Texas Community Propane..... 512-272-5503
 Electricity – Pedernales Electric 512-858-5611

OTHER

Oak Hill Post Office 512-892-2794
 Animal Control..... 512-393-7896

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. 512-263-9181
 Article Submissionsbelterra@peelinc.com
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NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

STAY CONNECTED!

Do you Facebook? If so, be sure to stay in the know about what is going on with your neighbors by requesting to join the following Facebook groups:

- Belterra Neighbors**
- Belterra Propane Coalition**
- Belterra Women & Wine Group**
- Belterra PlayGroup**
- Dripping Springs Neighbors**
- Dripping Springs Women2Women Connection**
- Dripping Springs Babble**

To find the Facebook group you want to join, just type the name in the search bar and request to join the page. Your request should be accepted shortly. You can leave the group page at any time.

You can also “like” the “Belterra Texas” Facebook page.



23 SUMMER CAMP LOCATIONS
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SPRING INTO SUMMER

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Alexandra Gandara

Austin resident Alexandra Gandara, and a former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, has been appointed director of the National League of Junior Cotillions chapters for Travis County, the program's national office announced. Gandara is a graduate of Texas State University and McNeil High School.

The Junior Cotillion program, which features etiquette, social dance, and life skills training for middle school students, holds classes starting in the fall and concludes with a black and white ball. "I believe the program has the ability to guide students into becoming well-mannered, savvy young adults who will positively impact their communities for years to come" she said.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., the National League of Junior Cotillions was established in 1979 and has more than 350 chapters nationwide.

Registration is now open for the 2015-2016 cotillion season. Please visit www.nljc.com or call 512-785-7068 to register.

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COLIN'S HOPE

by Dorian de Wind

When I was six or seven years old, I witnessed the ocean drowning of a dear aunt. Although too young for the full scope of the tragedy to sink in, the thoughts and the images of that event have remained with me for almost 70 years.

No wonder that, when our young grandson started splashing in our swimming pool a dozen or so years ago, the thought of such an unfathomable occurrence never left our mind. We took every precaution possible, as I am sure the vast majority of parents, grandparents, relatives, caretakers and friends of so many young children do when they let their young ones swim in pools, lakes, rivers, water parks and more.

But the unimaginable does occur -- more often than we think.

Now that another swimming season approaches it may be the time to give "the unimaginable" some thought because if statistics tell the truth, drowning is all too imaginable.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes the following grim statistic: From 1999 through 2010, a total of 46,419 deaths from unintentional drowning (including boating) occurred in the United States, an average of 3,868 deaths per year. That is an average of more than 10 drowning deaths each and every day of the year.

But what is even more disturbing, unintentional drowning has become the leading cause of death from unintentional injury among children aged 1-4 years. It replaces deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death from unintentional injury for boys aged 1-4 years. These child-drowning deaths occurred most often in a bathtub for children under one year of age and, in a swimming pool, for children aged 1-4 years. The latter location -- swimming pools -- accounts for more than 50% of all unintentional drowning deaths in that age group, according to the CDC.

At this point, the reader may ask, why the focus on younger children and swimming pools? While, of course, every drowning is an immeasurable tragedy, the loss of a toddler under such horrific circumstances in one's neighborhood pool, is bound to leave an indelible impression. That is what happened on a beautiful June day almost seven years ago at a nearby swimming pool. To be precise, on June 13, 2008, Colin Holst, a proud and happy four-and-a-half-year-old little boy went to "the big" pool -- a swimming pool close to Circle C Ranch -- just one day after graduating from swimming

lessons and receiving his medal. Little Colin, age 4, enjoying a family weekend by the water. Colin was having a ball playing in the fountains and sprinklers with his friends, all moving around the pool together in a clump, playing and splashing and ducking in and out of the water.

Suddenly, in an instant, Colin wasn't with them. Time stood still as all eyes swept the pool looking for him, and then, only moments later, Colin was pulled from the shallow water unconscious and not breathing. Efforts to revive him at the pool were unsuccessful. Colin, the baby boy born "with a mop of dark hair that looked just like his mother," died at the hospital the next day, having never opened his

eyes again after his swim.

Out of this unimaginable tragedy, sprang a glimmer of hope -- even of good. Grief-stricken by their loss and shocked to learn the cruel toll drowning takes on children of Colin's age, Colin's family founded an organization dedicated to preventing such tragedies from befalling other families: Colin's Hope. Simply, "Colin's Hope envisions a world where children do not drown. Colin's Hope raises water safety awareness to prevent children from



drowning."

As our weather warms up, as families once again head for our pools, lakes and beaches, please take time to familiarize yourself with water safety rules -- they might make the difference between a happy summer and the unimaginable. An excellent place to do such is ColinsHope.org. At Colin's Hope, learn about this wonderful organization's many water safety awareness programs, events, campaigns and resources. They all have one vision in mind: "A world where children do not drown. While at Colin's Hope, take a look at their on-line Water Safety Resources Hub," take the "Water Safety Quiz" and please consider volunteering for one of their many activities and programs and making a contribution so that the "glimmer of hope" may become a bright light -- a reality, as much as possible -- for our children and grandchildren.

Acknowledgement: Some of the information and wording in this article comes -- with permission -- from "Colin's Story," at Colin's Hope. Colin's photo and lead image, courtesy Colin's Hope.

Colin's Hope has a mission to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning. They envision a world where children do not drown. To learn more, please visit www.colinshope.org

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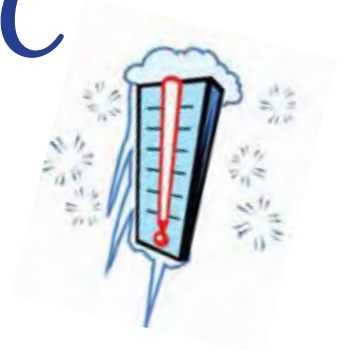
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KEEP AUSTIN WILD

by Jim and Lynne Weber

NATUREWATCH

As Austin and surrounding areas grow and expand, encounters with urban wildlife become increasingly frequent, especially during the spring and summer breeding seasons.

Wild animals often make their homes in or around our homes, and they can be unwelcome and even destructive. Be aware that trapping is not always the answer, and should only be used as a last resort. Unless the source of the problem is eliminated (uncapped chimneys, holes in decks or attics, pet food left outside), another animal will likely move into the same spot. Additionally, during spring and summer, you may trap a mother whose babies will be left orphaned if she is removed.

Trapping is also quite stressful for animals, and they often injure themselves when trying to escape. They can be exposed to the elements and left trapped for an unknown number of hours or days, without food or water. If they are relocated, they may have trouble finding food, water, or shelter, as they will be disoriented in their new environment. They can also be considered intruders by the resident animal population, and be driven away or attacked, with a very uncertain outcome.

To avoid all of these situations, there are humane solutions to prevent common wildlife problems before they occur. These include installing L-shaped mesh barriers under decks, sheds, and around gardens, adding bungee cords to trash can lids or keeping the cans inside the garage until collection day, capping the top of the chimney, installing mesh covered attic vents, taking pet food indoors overnight, and adding squirrel-proof baffles to bird feeders.

If you do run across wildlife babies, remember that they cannot digest cow's milk properly, so they should be brought to Wildlife Rescue as soon as possible. Fawns are often left alone and curled up in the grass for up to 10-12 hours while their mothers forage, so if their mouth is warm, bottom is clean, and they are not being overrun by fire ants, leave them alone. Young feathered birds are frequently found on the ground and belong there, as it is natural for them to fledge the nest and learn to fly, feed, and avoid predators, all under the watchful eyes of their parents, who are likely nearby. Unfeathered baby birds can be safely united with

their parents by creating a makeshift nest, nailing a small plastic bowl as high as you can reach onto a tree, first poking a few small drain holes in the bottom, adding some dry grass or leaves, and placing the nestlings in it. Within a few hours, the parents should return to resume feeding them.

Recently, the National Wildlife Federation ranked America's largest cities based on three criteria for wildlife: percentage of parkland, citizen action to create wildlife habitat, and school adoption of outdoor learning in wildlife gardens. Austin, Texas was named as "the clear-cut (#1) choice as America's best city for wildlife, boasting the most Certified Wildlife Habitats (2,154),

most certified Wildlife Habitats per capita, and most Schoolyard Habitats (67). Famous for its Congress Avenue Bridge that's home to 1.5 million bats, the City of Austin is certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat. Its residents not only want to Keep Austin Weird – they're the best in America at keeping their city wild."

However, as more and more of our landscape is bulldozed and developed, we leave less and less for the native animals that call it home. The least we can do is be

cognizant of these changes, prevent conflicts when possible, and learn to treat our native wildlife as humanely as possible!

HUMANE RESOURCES for wildlife conflicts:

Austin Wildlife Rescue: 512-472-9453 or www.austinwildliferescue.org

Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation: 512-709-6335 or www.austinareawildliferehab.org

Tips & Advice: www.humanesociety.org/wildneighbors

State Laws: www.tpwd.texas.gov

Please also note that Austin Wildlife Rescue benefits from the Randall's Good Neighbor Program. Present your Remarkable Card with the Wildlife Rescue Organization Number (#2780) and a percentage of your purchase will be donated back to this wonderful non-profit organization!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!



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HOPE4MINDS EXPANDS ITS MISSION

TO SUPPORT MORE TEXAS CHILDREN WITH SEVERE BRAIN INJURIES

Austin, Texas — April 8, 2015 – Less than four years after it was founded, a Southwest Austin nonprofit organization has decided that it's got more than enough hope to go around.

That's the thinking behind a new mission and a name change for the Southwest Austin nonprofit organization known as HOPE4JD, which was founded in 2011 to support families whose children suffered brain injuries due to nonfatal drownings. As of April, the organization will be known as Hope4Minds whose mission is to foster hope and enrich the lives of children with an acquired brain injury by providing support and education.

With a new name and more families to serve, Hope4Minds also will expand its community outreach services to include parent support groups and concussion baseline screenings, in addition to the services it already offers such as CPR/First Aid training and family care packages.

"Our board of directors and supporters see the opportunity to do more and help more Texas families," says Ronda Johnson, executive director, Hope4Minds. "Our community rose to the challenge over the last few years, helping us make a difference in the lives of families in Austin, San Antonio and Dallas. Our work has showed us the needs of more children who are living with an acquired brain injury and whose families need our support."

According to the Texas Brain Injury Alliance, fewer than 1 in 20 children with acquired brain injury will get the rehabilitation they need for recovery. Injury may occur during events such as non-fatal drownings, choking, car accidents, sports and recreational activities, falls, lightning strikes and even abuse.

Since 2012, the organization has provided more than \$211,248 in services to families, 841 hours of recovery therapy services, nearly 100 family care packages to Texas hospitals and rehab centers, and free CPR training for 216 adults.



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