

# THE BULLETIN

*Belterra Community News*

October 2015 Volume 9, Issue 10

News for the Residents of Belterra

## WELCOME TO BELTERRA BULLETIN

*A Newsletter for the Belterra Community*

The Bulletin is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Belterra residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com). Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

**GO GREEN!** Subscribe via [Peelinc.com](http://Peelinc.com) to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!



## SOUTH LOCATION - Coming Soon!

Attention South Austin... there is no need to cross the river. We repeat, **NO NEED** to cross the river. We'll hold for cheers. The Blood Center of Central Texas is back in South Austin starting early October. Stay tuned for more details on our grand opening celebration (i.e. the party we're throwing for YOU, our new neighbors). But in the meantime, start marking your calendars because in early October our new center will be open:

Sunday 10:00am – 3:00pm and Wednesday through Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm

Did we mention you can find us just across the street at 3100 W Slaughter Ln Austin, TX 78748

Register to donate at [www.inyourhands.org](http://www.inyourhands.org) or call 512-206-1266 with questions.

The South Center will take appointments for Whole Blood and Double Red Cell donations.

## Partnerships for Children

### MEET MARQUES

Marques is a charming and quiet young man. He loves basketball and enjoys most all sports. He also enjoys riding his bike, playing video games and listening to music. He would enjoy being in a family that would provide activities for him to be active, especially sports. He would like to have a Mom that is caring and loving. He would also like to have a father that will do "guy things" like playing basketball and camping.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family



and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a program of Partnerships for Children. To learn more about the adoption or fostering process, please call the Heart Gallery of Central Texas at (512) 834-4756, email [heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org](mailto:heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org) or visit our website at [www.partnershipsforchildren.org](http://www.partnershipsforchildren.org)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
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  
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## NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



**Please remember to pick up after your pets and "scoop the poop"**



We believe strengthening the community starts with you. At the Springs Family YMCA, we will make sure you have the expertise and support needed to learn, grow and thrive. As you grow stronger, you'll strengthen your family and your neighborhood, and that makes us all stronger. Feel good. Do good. **Join today.**



SPRINGS FAMILY YMCA  
512.894.3309 [AustinYMCA.org](http://AustinYMCA.org)



# HOPE4MINDS' BATTLE OF THE YOUTH BANDS

## Hope4Minds' Second "Battle of the Youth Bands" Lets Kids Sling Their Six-Strings and Raise Money for Hope4Minds, Offering Hope and Support to Kids with an Acquired Brain Injury

Rock on and play hard for a good cause this fall at the second Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at The Rusty Mule, 9201 Hwy 290 in Austin. Produced by Hope4Minds with Strait Music and Austin School of Music, the Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest is a high octane day of live music, a silent auction and activities including gyroscope, rock wall, food trucks, face painting, redneck games knockdown, carnival games and much more. Youth bands will compete before and during the event to raise money. Proceeds benefit Hope4Minds, a 501 3(c) public charity that's fostering hope and enriching the lives of Texas children with an acquired brain injury. For more information or to donate, visit [www.hope4minds.org](http://www.hope4minds.org).

Bands are competing both on and off stage by raising money for Hope4Minds, with two winners earning a gig at Stubb's Bar-B-Q on Dec. 6, 2015. In addition to their Stubb's show, the first place winner will receive six hours of recording time at Austin School of Music.

Brianna, an 8 year old singer in one of the participating duos, suffered a traumatic brain injury when she was 12 months old and has physical disabilities as a result of her injury. Brianna said, "I want to help other kids get help like I did so they can get better."

Ronda Johnson, executive director for Hope4Minds, is especially impressed by the bands' enthusiasm to support other kids. "These young musicians from all over Austin are coming together to support

our kids and families, and there's something really special about that."

Admission is \$5 a person with free admission for children 2 or under. Tickets are available online at [Hope4Minds.org](http://Hope4Minds.org) and at the event. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs/blankets due to limited seating.

2015 Battle of the Youth Bands sponsors represent community-minded businesses from across Austin including Dell Children's Medical Center, Engel & Volkers; On Call Emergency Center; Premier Family Physicians; Community Impact; Covert Buick; Peel Inc. ; Big Sky Pediatric Therapy; AR Signs; Kim Burke of Sotheby's International Realty; Peter King Design; Massage Envy; European Wax Center; Moreland Properties; Sonrisas Therapies; Escarpment Village; Core Health Care; Stubb's Bar B Q; Maggie Ruiz of Realty Austin; Critter Ridder; Home Source Mortgage; Mercedes-Benz of Austin; William Talbot-Allstate; V & V Liquors; Therapy Center of Buda; Neuro Performance Austin; Anytime Fitness; Momentum Public Relations; Hill Country Sun; Victor Thompson Insurance Agency - Farmers Insurance Group; Curious Chords; OpenLabs; Wilson AC and Appliance; Mike and Cari Coble & Family; Protecting Texas Kids; Chris AT Liquor; Big Village IT; and Texas Music Water. Sponsorships are still available at:

[www.hope4minds.org](http://www.hope4minds.org)

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## DIAPERS AS LIFESAVERS

How can a diaper save lives? As diapers are not covered under assistance programs, they are a costly basic need to those in poverty or other crisis situation. With 29% of its children in poverty, Travis County alone has an estimated 12,000 children in a diaper need situation. Senior citizens with incontinence issues also fall prey to this issue due to fixed incomes and increased cost of living.

What if we could funnel all the extra diapers in Central Texas from those who no longer require them, to those in need? The answer is healthier babies and happier families. Austin is blessed with abundance and Austin Diaper Bank can harness that for our less fortunate neighbors.

Lack of diapers can cause several detriments that can be easily avoided. For babies' brains to develop appropriately and for maternal bonding to take place, stress levels have to be minimized. Diaper need has been shown to be as stressful to families as not having enough food. Babies who are forced to remain in soiled diapers tend to be fussy. There is unfortunately, a direct correlation between increased crying and child abuse. Diapers can prevent all of these things and even strengthen families and their wellbeing.

What else can diaper do? Providing diapers provides many favorable outcomes. Diapers allow children to attend daycare and receive early childhood education that is proven to improve learning outcomes long-term. Diapers, also therefore, allow parents to go to work, support their families and live normal lives. It is strange to think that diapers promote a stronger workforce, but they absolutely do.

Diaper Need Awareness Week (September 28th-October 4th) is a local and national event designed to raise awareness of diaper need, declared under official proclamation by Mayor Steve Adler.

### How can you help, you ask?

- Hold a diaper drive at your workplace, civic club, school or place of worship
- Donate dollars or diapers.
- Volunteer at the diaper bank.
- Raise awareness by sharing via social media or email.
- Eat at P. Terry's on Saturday October 3rd. All profits made that day will be donated to Austin Diaper Bank!

Check out more at [www.austindiapers.org](http://www.austindiapers.org).



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### Practice Areas:

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# AIR PLANTS

# NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

When the time of year arrives when leaves begin to fall and the landscape starts to appear a bit more barren, some things become more noticeable, even though they were present all along. One such thing is epiphytes, or plants that grow harmlessly upon another plant (such as a tree), and derive moisture and nutrients from the air. The word epiphyte comes from the Greek 'epi' meaning 'upon' and 'phyton' meaning 'plant.' Epiphytes differ from parasites in that they grow on other plants for physical support and do not necessarily negatively affect their host. They are also called 'air plants' since they do not root in soil. In central Texas, the most common epiphytes native to our area are Ball Moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*) and Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*).

Members of the Bromeliad or Pineapple family, neither of these plants are real mosses, but true plants with flowers and seeds. Ball Moss is a scurfy herb with narrow leaves forming small, grayish ball-like clusters on the branches of deciduous trees. In North America, it is native from Florida to southern Georgia, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, with a disjunct population in central Louisiana. Slender, pale violet flowers appear on long bracts from June to August. Ball Moss grows well in areas with low light, little airflow, and high humidity, which is why it is often found on shade trees in the South. It photosynthesizes its own food by receiving water vapor from the air, nitrogen from bacteria, and other minerals from windblown dust. Wind is also the main method of Ball Moss seed dispersal, and its plentiful seeds are armed with fine, straight hairs that cling well to wet or rough surfaces such as bark.

Generally growing upon larger trees such as Southern Live Oak and Bald Cypress, Spanish Moss forms a cascading mass of slender, scaly gray leaves. These scales help the plant absorb water and nutrients,

mostly from the minerals naturally leached from the foliage of its host tree. Its specific name 'usneoides' means 'resembling Usnea', which is also known as Beard Lichen, but this plant is not a lichen either. It grows in chain-like fashion to form hanging structures up to 20 feet in length, and bears tiny whitish-green flowers from April to June. Its primary range is the southeastern US, but is found as far north as Virginia, and it propagates both by seed and vegetatively with fragments carried by the wind to neighboring tree limbs. Spanish Moss has been used for various purposes, including building insulation, packing material, and mattress stuffing. It is still in use today for arts and crafts, and even in the manufacture of evaporative or swamp coolers. These coolers contain thick pads of Spanish Moss that are pumped with water, with the cooling effect of evaporation caused by a fan that pulls air through the pad and into the building.

There is a common misconception that these epiphytes are parasites, and that they harm the trees that serve as their hosts. While trees that are heavily infested with these plants can have increased wind resistance and result in fallen limbs, there is little evidence among the botanist community that a reasonable presence of these plants have a noticeable effect on the growth or health of the tree. In fact, the presence of these air plants serves as a benefit to many forms of wildlife by harboring small insects that provide food, supplying nesting material, and serving as shelter from the outside elements.

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them.

If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



Ball Moss



Spanish Moss



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## CLOTHES MOTHS

Wizzie Brown

Clothes moths can cause considerable damage to materials containing wool, fur or other animal-derived products. There are two common clothes moths, case making clothes moths and webbing clothes moths. The names describe the larval (caterpillar) stage of the moth. Case-making clothes moths spin silken cases that they drag along with them while they feed. Webbing clothes moths feed within silken burrows that they spin over the surface of fabric.

Adults are small, tan moths about 3/8 an inch long. They are weak fliers and avoid light. Larvae like to feed in protected areas, such as folded clothing, and they rarely leave their food source.

To reduce or avoid clothes moth problems, the following tips may be helpful:

- o Locate and remove any infested items; look in drawers and closets; on the floor; on or under furniture; on or in walls, ceilings and attics
  - Launder or dry clean clothing
  - Periodically shake and air out items such as rugs and clothing
  - Use heat and/ or cold to kill insects in infested items
  - Thoroughly clean storage areas
  - Store clothing in tightly sealed containers
- o Cedar is not very effective in repelling clothes moths.

- o Cedar must be freshly cut or chipped for vapors to be effective, vapors lose potency quickly.

- Mothballs (naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene) can be used to repel insects

- o Read and follow all label instructions

- o Use only in sealed areas or closed containers

- o Note that the fumes from these products may soften or melt some plastics

- Insecticide sprays can be used to supplement sanitation techniques

- o Remove all items from the area before treating with an insecticide

- o Allow area to completely dry before returning items

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out the blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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