

# THE BULLETIN

*Belterra Community News*

February 2017 Volume 11, Issue 2

News for the Residents of Belterra

## THIRD THURSDAY

LAWN GAMES - MUSIC - DRINKS



**THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 16TH  
5:00 – 7:30PM**

**Belterra Recreation Center**

Brought to you by Belterra Crescent Communities  
*Check out January's Third Thursday inside*

Join us for Third Thursday at the Belterra Recreation Center. Enjoy the live music, games for kids and food from local food trucks. This is a perfect family night out. Invite your neighbors and friends.

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 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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## Welcome to The Bulletin, BELTERRA COMMUNITY NEWS



The Bulletin is monthly publication for the residents of Belterra – a community newsletter. Each month, you will find information on community events, photos and updates on local activities.

My name is Barrett Criswell, a resident of Belterra and local editor of The Bulletin. Our goal is to provide you with current and interesting information regarding Belterra and the surrounding areas.

To learn more about what is going on in Belterra, be sure to join our Facebook page, Nextdoor and/ or visit the community website – all are listed below.

As we continue to grow, look for more articles on current happenings, events and activities. We welcome articles and pictures from our neighbors regarding our community.

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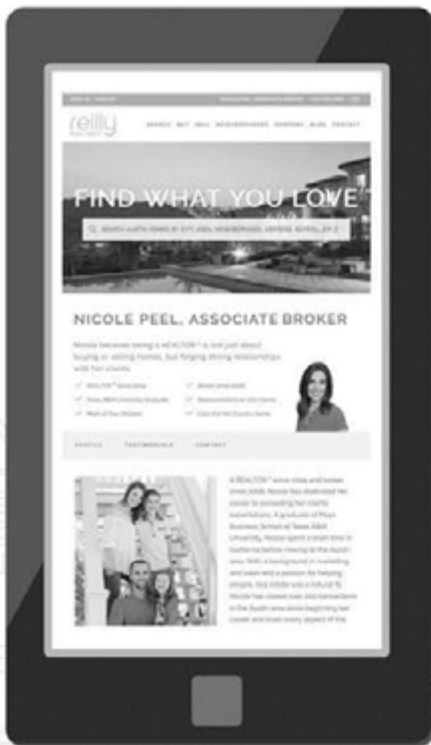
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# THE BULLETIN

(Continued from Cover)

## JANUARY THIRD THURSDAY

What a great time! As always, Danijel Leiner, the LifeStyle Director for Belterra, put together another fun evening with live music, drinks, food trailers and games for kids and adults.

Music was provided by Nick Swift ([www.facebook.com/nickswiftmusic](http://www.facebook.com/nickswiftmusic)), food was provided by Café Ybor ([www.cafeybor.com](http://www.cafeybor.com)) and Rosaritos ([rosaritoatx.com](http://rosaritoatx.com)) while Jolt Coffee and Beverage ([www.jolt-austin.com](http://www.jolt-austin.com)) offered hot chocolate.

Held at the Belterra Recreation Center, everyone seem to have a good time visiting, listening to music, eating or playing various games.

Third Thursday is pet-friendly and family friendly. Drive, walk or ride. Plan to attend the February Third Thursday – check the calendar on the Belterra Community website for more information.

Check out these fun photos:



Nick Swift



Café Ybor



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# BELTERRA RUNNING



The Belterra Community offers the best of both worlds when it comes to running—road and trail. Thanks to the master development plan, the neighborhood offers wide sidewalks throughout, allowing runners to safely run at any time of day. In addition to the road running options, the Belterra Community has its very own well-marked trail system

offering a combination of crushed granite trails and natural nature paths.

The Belterra Community roads offer many options for runners. The community sits in the hill country, which makes for hilly running throughout the community. Looking to build running strength? Head to the intersection of Belterra Drive and Estes Dr. and run hill repeats. Looking to do a little speed work and don't want to run laps around a track? Use the section between Abbott Dr. and Estes Dr. on Belterra Drive where the grade is relatively flat for back and forth repeats. Looking to just get in some miles? Start from your front door and just start running. You're guaranteed to get in great run with a mix of

hills, seeing your neighbors, and enjoying the scenery.

The Belterra Community trails are another great resource for running. Girl Scout Troop 211 completed a project that resulted in naming, mapping, and marking the trails within Belterra. Thanks to the Girl Scout Troop 211, the trails are easy to navigate. All trails originate at the Community Center, but you can hop on the trails at multiple areas throughout the community. Most of the trails are between 1 and 2 miles. Want to run longer? Run all the trails and you'll get in about 7 miles of running. Visit <http://www.beltterracommunity.com/> under "Pool/Amenities" to download the trail map.



The biggest challenge when it comes to running is getting out the door and getting started. Need some motivation? The Belterra community is friendly and active. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. The running options in Belterra are a true perk to those living in the community—take advantage of this amenity and go for a run!

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## DRIPPING SPRINGS POP WARNER YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR LOCAL AREA

*National Youth Sports Organization to Emphasize Leadership, Teamwork, and Discipline - Registration to Open in April of 2017*



Dripping Springs Pop Warner Tigers youth football and cheer program has officially established operations and plans to open registration for students throughout the Dripping Springs area in April. The non-profit organization emphasizes programs that put safety first

and will focus on building youth appreciation and understanding of leadership, teamwork, and personal responsibility skills they can use throughout their lives. Formed and managed by Dripping Springs' area parents, the new charter is dedicated to developing well-rounded young men and women as they advance in sports and beyond.

With more than 325,000 young people ranging from ages 5 to 16 years old, Pop Warner is the largest youth football and cheer program in the world. The Pop Warner youth sports organization was founded in 1929 and offers the only program that requires participants to maintain strict academic standards in order to remain in active standing. Pop Warner's commitment to academics distinguishes it from other youth sports programs both locally and around the world.

The safety-first football program ensures that kids compete with players of a similar age and size. As such, it is the only youth football program (local, regional and national) that sets and enforces a strict age & weight matrix that reduces the risk and reality of injuries. A study performed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, NEISS, found that Pop Warner football is safer than organized soccer programs, with 12% fewer injuries per capita among 5-15 year olds.

"Exceptional sports training and technical instruction will be the standard in our coaching. But our approach will be well-rounded and also highlight the importance of education and the development of sound character," said Clinton Friday, Dripping Springs Pop Warner's President. "Our football and cheer programs will include instruction on fundamental values, skills and knowledge that young people will use throughout their lives. And we aim to have a lot of fun in the process."

Registration for the 2017 football and cheer season opens in April of 2017. In order to participate, applicants must be between 5-12 years of age as of August 1st, 2017 and meet the Pop Warner age-weight requirements. Dripping Springs Pop Warner maintains a Mandatory Play Rule (MPR) for all teams so that every child plays. The organization will make every attempt to field the appropriate number of teams that will allow all registered children with an opportunity on the field. For questions

regarding the Dripping Springs Pop Warner, please contact staff at <http://www.drippingspringspopwarner.org/Site/More/Contact-Us>. To register, please visit: [www.drippingspringspopwarner.org/Site/Registration](http://www.drippingspringspopwarner.org/Site/Registration).

### Resources:

- Visit Dripping Springs Pop Warner on the Web at: [www.drippingspringspopwarner.org](http://www.drippingspringspopwarner.org)

### About Dripping Springs Pop Warner

Dripping Springs Pop Warner ("DSPW") is a non-profit youth football and cheer organization affiliated with the Hill Country Pop Warner league, chartered by Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. The organization is excited to provide Dripping Springs youth with the opportunity to participate in Pop Warner programs, beginning in 2017. Under Dripping Springs Pop Warner programs, children learn the fundamentals of football and cheer, but that is only the beginning. As part of all programs, overall growth is encouraged and kids are challenged to become better athletes, students, teammates, and people. Pop Warner coaches take their program roles very seriously and know that coaching is also mentorship and understanding the impact they can have on a young player's life. The organization cultivates an atmosphere that promotes safety, academics, social responsibility, and life skills development. Visit [www.drippingspringspopwarner.org](http://www.drippingspringspopwarner.org) to learn more.

<sup>1</sup>Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) <https://www.cpsc.gov/research--statistics/neiss-injury-data/>

## Prevent Oak Wilt - Don't Prune Oaks Feb 1st - June 30th

*Submitted by Johanna Arendt, Community Liason, Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources*



*Leaves from a live oak showing signs of oak wilt. Photo provided by the Texas A&M Forest Service.*

Oak wilt has claimed the lives of thousands of trees in Central Texas and beyond. Majestic oaks play a large role in this region's beauty and identity; it would be hard to imagine the Hill Country without them. They are an iconic part of many local businesses

and neighborhoods, providing shade, beauty, and higher property values. Following simple preventive measures can go a long way towards stopping the spread of this destructive disease.

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus

*(Continued on Page 9)*

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(Continued from Page 8)

*Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from “fungal mats” that form under the tree’s bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects, especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.

Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them. Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure NOT to prune oaks between February 1 and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is. For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org), the website of The Oak Wilt Information Partnership, a project of the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Forest Health Protection branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.



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# NATURE WATCH

THE PRESERVES AROUND US

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the main reasons Austin is such a wonderful place to live is because it is interlaced with a patchwork of preserves, which together comprise the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) System. In 1992, voters in the City of Austin passed Proposition 10, approving \$22M in bonds for the sole purpose of acquiring and improving lands to protect air and water quality, conserve endangered species, and provide open space for passive public use. Jointly owned and managed by the City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy, the Travis Audubon Society, and private landowners, the BCP's ultimate goal is to set aside 30,428 acres that contribute to the quality of all life here in Austin.

A multi-agency conservation effort that operates under a regional permit issued under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the BCP consists of several tracts of land in western Travis County. It is important to note that a 'preserve' is different than a 'park', and is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a natural state rather than developed for recreational use. The BCP protects prime habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a bird species that is found only to breed within Central Texas' specialized mix of native, mature Ashe Juniper (often incorrectly called 'cedar') and stands of Live, Spanish, and Shin oak trees. This type of mixed oak-juniper woodland grows mainly on our moist steep-sided canyons and slopes, providing the warbler with the food, water, and nest-building material it needs to breed.

In addition to the Golden-cheeked Warbler, 7 other endangered species make the preserve system their home, including the Black-capped Vireo, Tooth Cave Ground Beetle, Tooth Cave Pseudoscorpion, Tooth Cave Spider, Kretschmarr Cave Mold Beetle, Bone Cave Harvestman, and Bee Creek Cave Harvestman. These last 6 species are called karst invertebrates, arthropods that spend their entire existence underground in karst formations. These karst features, such as caves, sinkholes, cracks, and crevices, were formed by the dissolution of calcium carbonate in limestone bedrock by mildly acidic groundwater. Over 70 other rare plant and animal species also exist on the preserves, making this region one of the most biologically diverse areas in the country. As such, Central Texas is happily home to more habitat conservation plans than any other region in the United States.

These wild and beautiful areas require management plans in order for them to remain pristine habitats. This includes establishment of secure boundaries and rules for access control, maintenance of appropriate trails, species monitoring, habitat enhancement, and – last but not least – public education and outreach to promote good neighbor relations. As Austin residents, we can do our part to become stewards of these unique habitats. While in the preserve system, we can stay on marked trails, travel only on foot, and “take only photographs, leave only footprints.” In our neighborhoods, especially those that border preserve tracts, we can landscape with native plants, remove invasive plants, eliminate pesticide use, be responsible pet owners, practice water conservation, and always respect preserve boundaries.

Most importantly, we can all minimize further negative impacts on the fragile habitat that surrounds our neighborhoods by caring for the preserves through volunteering. Some of the activities you can become involved with in the preserve system include long-term habitat restoration, gathering and planting native seeds, removing non-native invasive plants, leading guided hikes, and learning about and sharing your knowledge of the native plants and animals that make this such a special place to live. For more information, visit the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/bcp>.

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 two books, [Nature Watch Austin & Nature Watch Big Bend](#), both published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



*The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.*



*The endangered Black-capped Vireo.*



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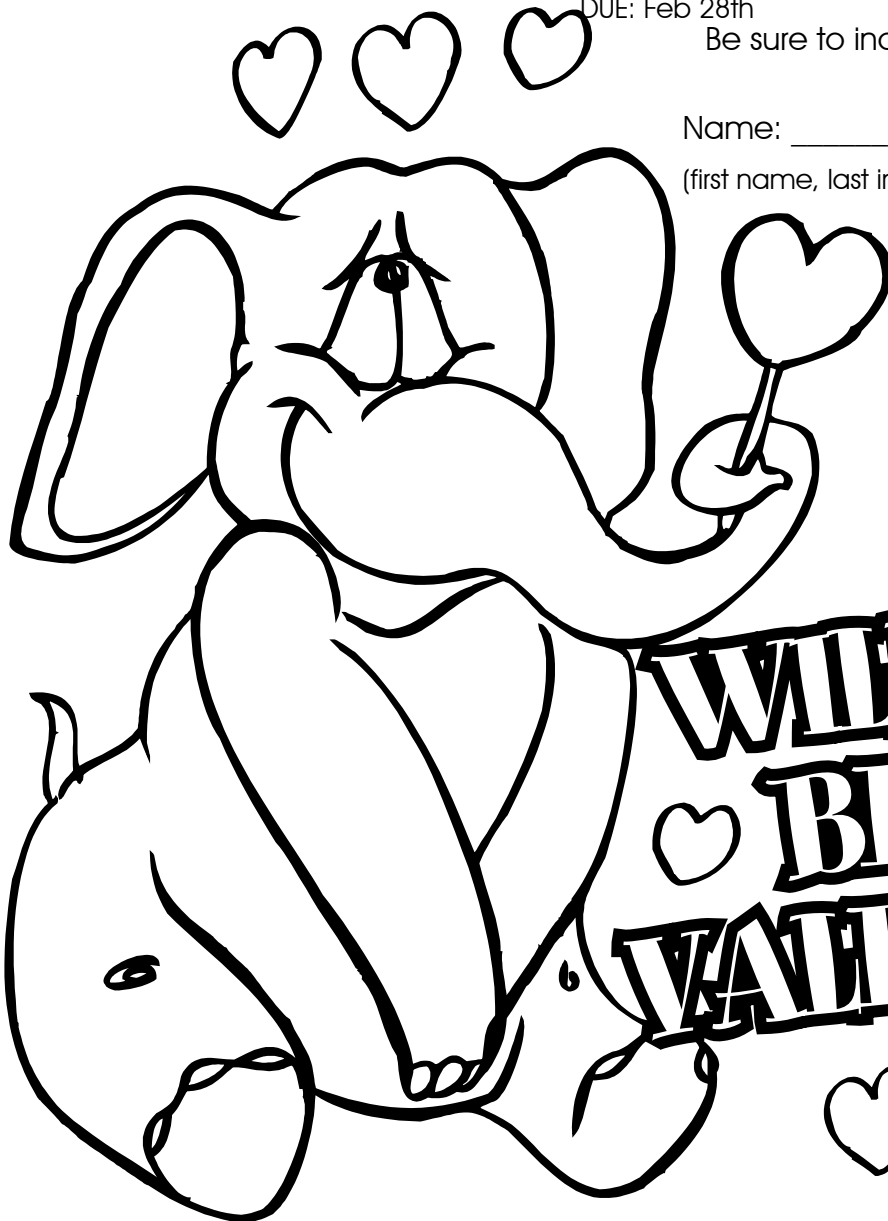
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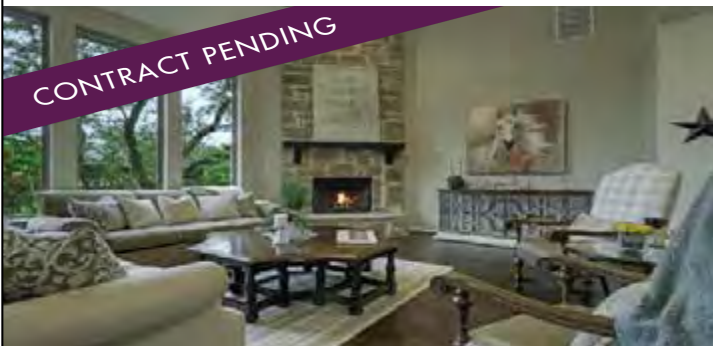
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