

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

August 2017 Volume 11, Issue 8

News for the Residents of Belterra

WILDLAND FIRE PRECAUTIONS

With warmer temperatures and drying vegetation, residents need to be reminded of the need for wildfire/brush fire safety awareness and preparedness.

Do not park vehicles on the dry grass. The heat from the vehicle's exhaust system can cause the grass to catch fire.

Remove combustible materials from around your home. Keep grass mowed short.

Pack critical medicines, important documents, and family heirlooms to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

Agree on an evacuation plan that includes what to do if you get separated and where you'll go in case of evacuation.

TEN SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDLAND FIRE

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

1. LPG/propane tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

2. Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

3. All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.

4. Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

5. Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

6. In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.

7. Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake and a bucket or two for water.

8. Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.

9. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

10. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood.

Each family should be proactive to prepare for emergencies: Prepare a Basic Emergency Supply Kit; Make a Plan for Safety and Communicating with Family; Be Informed; and Get Involved in Preparing the Community.

A wealth of information to help you is available at:

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

<http://txforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=8512>



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
Article Submissionsbelterra@peelinc.com
Advertising.....advertising@peelinc.com
.....512-263-9181



INTRODUCING “GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS”

We are all very fortunate to call Belterra home. But, Belterra is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we’ve become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, “Get to Know Your Neighbors” which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Belterra a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

250 BUSINESS CARDS FOR \$16.50



Price Does Not include tax and shipping
Some Restrictions Apply

512.263.9181

QualityPrintingOfAustin.com

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED: Yard Work Pull Weeds for \$10 an hour
Email: AndrewJSchell@yahoo.com

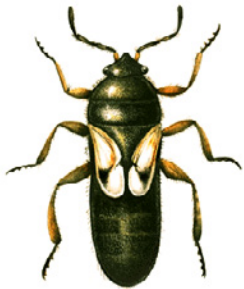
Personal Classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Belterra residents, **limit 30 words**, please e-mail belterra@peelinc.com.

CHINCH BUGS

NO EASY FIX

Author: Nathan Riggs

The heat and high temps of July and August aren't the only culprits that take a toll on your landscape and lawn. If your St. Augustine grass is looking sad and jaundiced, it may be under attack.



Summertime means a lot of different things to people — grillin', fun in the sun, barefoot walks in the lawn and other outdoor activities.

Unfortunately, the hot temperatures in July and August also have a daunting impact on local lawns and landscapes by creating water stress. When St. Augustine lawns in full sun become water stressed in July and August,

they fall victim to attack by the Southern Chinch Bug (*Blissus insularis*).

Chinch bugs suck the sap from the grass at the point where the blade emerges from the runner, or rhizome. As they feed on the sap, chinch bugs release saliva into the wound, causing the grass to turn yellow and die.

This yellowing usually begins at a central point and radiates in a circular pattern outward as the chinch bugs expand their feeding area. St. Augustine grass is a chinch bug's favorite meal, but Bermuda and Zoysia grasses may be attacked as well.

Here are a couple of ways to test for chinch bugs in the affected area.

- Drench method: flood an area on the edge of the sick grass with a soapy solution (2 tablespoons of liquid soap to 1 gallon water). If chinch bugs are present, they will emerge from the grass to get away from the soapy water.
- Flotation method: take a metal can with both ends removed and push one end into the ground at the border of the sick grass. Slowly fill with water and see if chinch bugs float up. Repeat for several different areas.

Once you've determined chinch bugs are present, you must target the infestation. To reduce chinch bug populations, treat a 15-foot radius around the damaged area with a liquid insecticide approved for turf grasses. It is NOT NECESSARY to treat the entire yard because a) non-target beneficial insects will be adversely impacted by the treatment, and b) chinch bugs won't be present in the entire yard.

After treatment, you must PATIENTLY rehab the affected turf areas. Do not overwater your grass in an effort to get it back to health because the root system is still recovering from the chinch bug onslaught. Instead, water thoroughly, but infrequently to encourage a deeper, more drought-tolerant root system.



The Dripping Springs Farmers Market is each Wednesday from 3p - 6p.

SUMMER'S STILL HERE... AND SO ARE SWIM LESSONS AT THE Y

Summer may be winding down, but families are still hitting the water to cool off. That's why it's never too late to learn how to swim. And the YMCA is here with classes available year-round to keep kids safe.

NOW ENROLLING!

• For ages 6 months & Up • Group & Private Lesson Options

Call 894-3309 or visit AustinYMCA.org

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT*
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPRINGS FAMILY YMCA
27216 Ranch Rd 12

How Would You Tell Your Child That You Have Cancer? Or Explain Why Dad Can't Give Piggyback Rides Anymore?

THREE TEXAS ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO OPEN SAN ANTONIO'S FIRST WONDERS & WORRIES – A THERAPEUTIC SPACE WHERE CHILDREN AGES 2-18 WHOSE PARENT IS SUFFERING A SERIOUS ILLNESS, CAN RECEIVE SUPPORT TO HELP THEM COPE

San Antonio physician Jeff Hallett knows a thing or two about talking to patients about illness. But when his wife, Robin, was diagnosed with breast cancer, they felt at a loss for how to tell their daughter, Rachel, aged 10.

"It doesn't matter your background or experience," Jeff Hallett, MD, said. "When you have to tell your child this kind of news, you want to do it the right way. And we didn't know how. So we called Wonders & Worries."

Wonders & Worries is an Austin-based nonprofit that teaches parents how to parent and kids how to cope during a parent's serious illness. It's the only program of its kind in the US, and first in San Antonio. It is the fifth office for the organization.

For the Halletts, they now have specialized support in their own backyard. "We have found Wonders & Worries to be a tremendous resource for us at a time when help is sorely needed," said Jeff Hallett, MD. "Robin and I can see that it has helped Rachel to cope with her mother's illness."

Since its inception in 2001, Wonders & Worries has served more than 6,500 family members in central Texas, and expects to reach about 100 San Antonio families in its first year. Services are offered free of charge and available in English and Spanish.

"The partnership between the START Center for Cancer Care, the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, and Wonders & Worries meets a growing need," said Pam Sparks, director of physician integration at the START Center. "Nearly 3 million children in the US are living with a parent who is battling or has survived cancer."

Executive director of Wonders & Worries, Alex Gabbi, agreed. "Austin doesn't have a monopoly on sick parents." Gabbi is not only the executive director, but also received services from Wonders & Worries when his late wife, Heather, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. "I look at my three kids and know that our program works.

My children are well-adjusted and thriving because of what they learned from Wonders & Worries."

Rounding out this innovative venture is the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas. "We are honored to partner with two premier organizations that have a vision of healing and understand the impact that it has on children," said Marian Sokol, PhD, executive director for the Center.

Wonders & Worries co-founder, Meredith Cooper, praised the initiative for executing the vision she's had for the organization from the beginning. "This is another step towards all children and teenagers being able to reach their full potential despite a parent's illness," Cooper said.

Counseling and support groups are offered at the START Cancer Center location in the San Antonio Medical Center area. Referrals are welcome from physicians and families facing cancer, ALS, Parkinson's disease, MS and other serious diagnoses. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit:

www.wondersandworries.org or call 210-736-4847, ext. 247.



NATURE WATCH

DISCOVERING BLACKLIGHTING

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Lepidoptera is the order of insects that includes both butterflies and moths. While over 180,000 species of these insects have been identified worldwide, recent estimates suggest that this order may have more species than previously thought, and is among the four most speciose orders, along with Hymenoptera (sawflies, wasps, bees, & ants), Diptera (true flies, mosquitoes, gnats, & midges), and Coleoptera (beetles). Of the approximately 180,000 known Lepidoptera species, some 160,000 are moths, with nearly 11,000 of them found in the United States, and many are yet to be described.

*Polyphemus Silk Moth*

With such huge numbers and such a diversity of species, how does one go about studying moths? A good place to start is while knowing that most moths are creatures of the night, they are also attracted to light.

The reason for this behavior is unknown, although one theory is that moths use a form of celestial navigation called transverse orientation. They attempt to maintain a constant angular relationship to a bright celestial light, like the moon. But since the moon is so far away, and the angle change is negligible, the moth appears to travel in a straight line. This theory is tested when moths fly near much closer sources of light, such as a porch light or a campfire. The angle to the light source changes constantly as the moth flies by, so the moth instinctively attempts to correct it by turning toward the light, thereby producing its erratic, sometimes circular flight.

One way for the moth to keep a constant angle to a stationary light

source is by becoming stationary itself, effectively being 'trapped' by the light rather than 'attracted' to it. Those interested in studying moths have taken advantage of this fact, and have developed a method called blacklighting to attract and photograph moths. The first step is to set up a light source, and either an ultraviolet light (also known as a blacklight) or a mercury vapor light can be used. Mercury vapor is now the preferred source, as it provides a different spectrum of light than a blacklight, although a blacklight emits a broader spectrum of light. Moths can see waves of light that humans cannot, so providing them with different spectrums will generally produce the greatest response. The light is carefully hung or positioned in front a vertical white sheet, which the light bounces off to produce a big, concentrated, glowing mass, while providing a safe surface for the moths to land.

*Small Heterocampa Moth*

The blacklighting setup is positioned out of the wind and typically near a boundary between wooded and open areas. The light is turned on at dusk and left on all night, as different species of moths are most active at different times. After taking the desired photographs with a digital SLR with a macro lens and flash, the light is turned off and the sheet is given a vigorous shake to scatter the remaining moths. After all that was done to 'capture' them with light for observation and photography, it would be a shame for them to become easy morning quarry for insect-eating birds or other predators!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, *Nature Watch Austin* and *Nature Watch Big Bend* (both published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

*Imperial Moth*

THE BULLETIN

At no time will any source be allowed to use The Bulletin's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in The Bulletin is exclusively for the private use of the residents Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

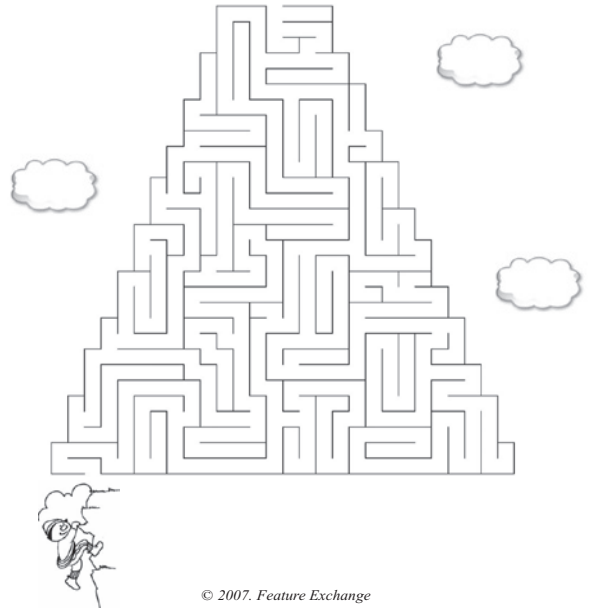
* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

Kidz Maze Mania

The mountain climber is trying to get to the top of the mountain. Help him reach the peak in record time.



© 2007. Feature Exchange

NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE

**ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS
TO YOUR
*Neighbors***

Mark Rimmer

markrimmer@peelinc.com

512.751.8812



PEEL, INC.
community newsletters



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

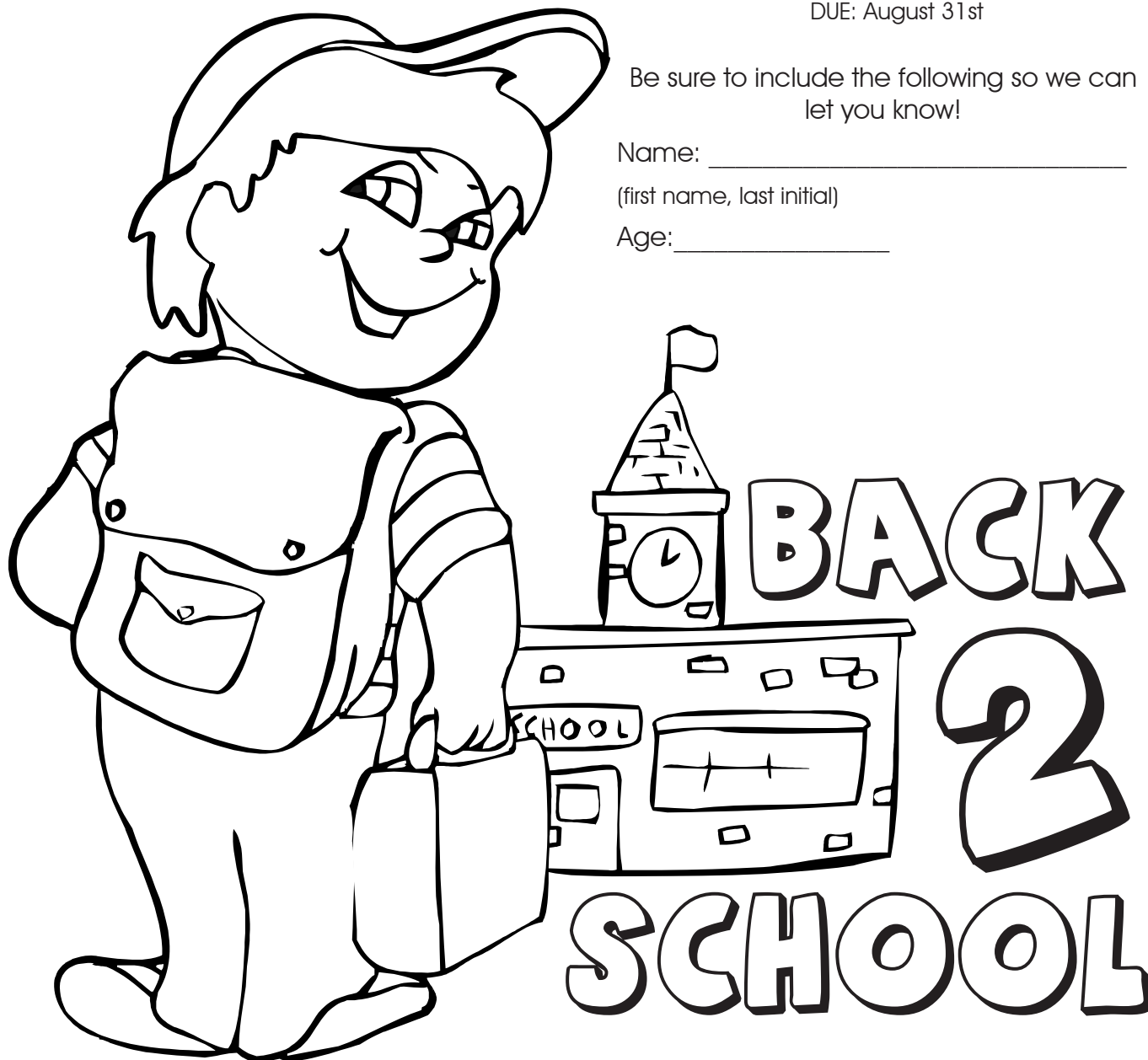
Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:
Peel, Inc. - Kids Club, 308 Meadowlark St, Lakeway, TX 78734-4717
We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.
DUE: August 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can
let you know!

Name: _____

(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



BT



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St.
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

BT

* Not intended to solicit homes currently for sale in the MLS.



ASHLEY AUSTIN
HOMES

ASHLEY SELLS MORE HOMES
IN SOUTHWEST AUSTIN
THAN ANYONE ELSE, FIND
OUT WHAT YOUR HOME
IS WORTH & UPGRADE TO
YOUR DREAM KITCHEN

WWW.ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM

512.217.6103