

# THE BULLETIN

*Belterra Community News*

February 2018 Volume 12, Issue 2

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>**



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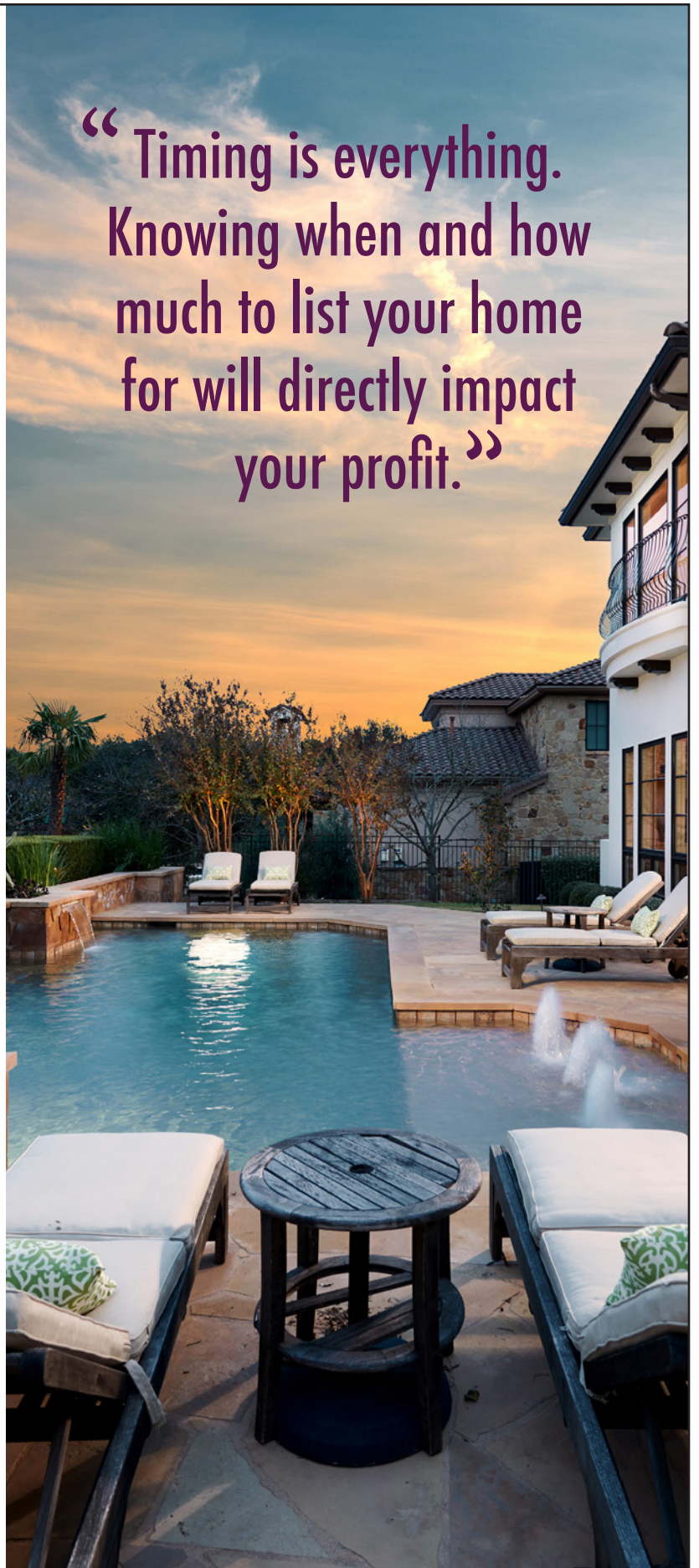
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## Introducing "Get To Know Your Neighbors"

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.



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

## 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

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## Talking BasebALZ, Fighting Memory Loss

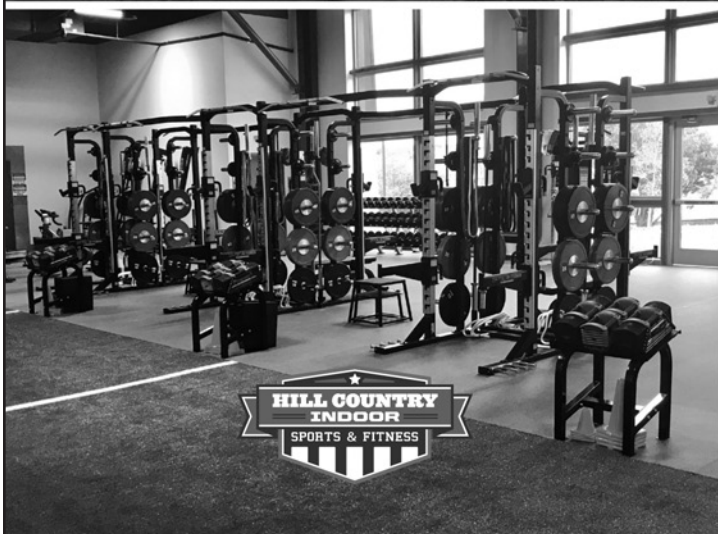
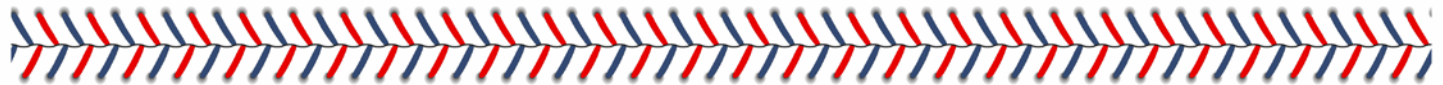
Jim Kenton has been a self-described “baseball geek” since the age of seven. He fondly recalls immersing himself in the world of baseball every summer of his childhood, glued to the radio listening to broadcasts of games, and racing to collect the latest baseball cards and magazines. Over a lifetime, Kenton’s knowledge of baseball has grown so vast that now he is using it to give back through a truly innovative program. Beginning on January 29, Jim and Alzheimer’s Texas will launch an effort to help people living with dementia reconnect with a lifetime of memories through conversations about a shared passion: baseball.

The program will provide a form of what’s called reminiscence therapy. While people with early-stage Alzheimer’s may have difficulty with their short-term memory, their long-term memories remain intact for many years. Through guided, focused reflection on a beloved childhood pastime like baseball, people with Alzheimer’s can explore and enjoy early life memories and reconnect with their essential sense of self. Additionally, the

group allows people to connect with supportive peers who share their interests and can relate to the experience of memory loss.

Research into reminiscence therapy is very promising and indicates that the simple act of sharing memories can have outcomes like improved mood, communication, and even functional ability. The practice can involve not only conversation, but interacting with sounds, smells, and sensory experiences that trigger long dormant memories.

The program will not only help participants reconnect with meaningful memories from childhood, but will also allow them to create new ones. The group is currently recruiting participants in the early stages of dementia with an interest in baseball. Meetings will be held on alternating Mondays starting January 29 from 11:00 am-12:30 pm at the Alzheimer’s Texas Office (3520 Executive Center Dr. #140, 78731). Lunch will be provided. A pre-screening interview is required to participate in the program, please contact 512-241-0420 x10 or vcardenas@txalz.org for more information and to schedule your interview.



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## Cirque Italia Is Thrilled To Present Their Newest And Greatest Creation – Aquatic Spectacular. You Don't Want To Miss Its Debut In Austin, Tx!!

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “Aquatic Spectacular”? Water, entertainment, excitement.....? You can expect all these things and so much more from the brand new themed Cirque Italia production with its perfectly fitting new title. After six years of enhancements, a rigorous casting selection, and countless performances nationwide, this newest form of Cirque Italia’s innovative and unique “traveling circus” spectacular production is set to be its finest to date.

Aquatic Spectacular came to life all thanks to its imaginative creator Manuel Rebecchi, along with invaluable direction and production management by Chanté DeMoustes. Cirque Italia’s brand-new theme show is an artistic blend of human abilities, technology and the element of water. This one-of-a-kind production combines water fountains, jet-skis, pirates, and more in a fun filled atmosphere all ages are sure to enjoy.

Performers from all over the world have been brought together under the enchanted spiral of the white and blue big top. The merging of their astonishing skills with the poetic element of water has led to the creation of a truly unforgettable experience. Cirque Italia has managed to create a beautifully unique theatrical production by combining the gracefulness of the human body with the calming fluidity of water, along with bursts

of power and excitement as well.

Aquatic Spectacular offers two hours of high-end entertainment. Beautiful aerialists dazzle and shimmer on a chandelier high above the ground, but they aren’t the only ones that will draw your eyes toward the sky. You can expect to see contortion in a bubble, a Venetian aerial duo, and even someone hula hooping while in the air. Don’t worry about getting your eyes checked, you aren’t seeing double; there are TWO lasermen. Duo jugglers, duo roller-skaters, the always breathtaking wheel of death.....the list goes on and on. It is even possible for a pre-historic dinosaur to make an appearance. Let your imagination wander, because anything is possible in this new whimsical production.

One might be concerned that such a spectacular entertainment opportunity is out of his/her price range, but Cirque Italia is committed to bringing a Las Vegas quality production to your hometown at an affordable price. They also feature many special offers and promotions.

Cirque Italia continues to contribute to the modernization of the performing arts and the circus industry by abiding by a strict animal free policy.

*(Continued on Page 6)*



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# THE BULLETIN

(Continued from Page 5)

For more information visit [www.cirqueitalia.com](http://www.cirqueitalia.com) and make sure to check all our social media accounts.

**When:** February 2-5 & 8-11

**Where:** 2901 S Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX 78746

**At:** Barton Creek Square

**Located:** In the parking lot near Dillard's  
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- February 2 Friday: 7:30pm
- February 3 Saturday: 1:30pm, 4:30pm, & 7:30pm
- February 4 Sunday: 1:30pm, 4:30pm, & 7:30pm
- February 5 Monday: 7:30pm
- February 8 Thursday: 7:30pm
- February 9 Friday: 7:30pm
- February 10 Saturday: 1:30pm, 4:30pm, & 7:30pm
- February 11 Sunday: 1:30pm, 4:30pm, & 7:30pm

**Box office hours:**

The box office opens on-site on Tuesday, the week of the show.

**Non-show days:** 10am – 6pm

**On show days:** 10am – 9pm

You can purchase tickets through our website ([cirqueitalia.com/tickets](http://cirqueitalia.com/tickets)) or by phone: (941) 704-8572. We also respond to text message.



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## NATURE WATCH

## RASCALLY RACCOONS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Although easily recognized by its bandit mask and ringed tail, the Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is a widespread mammal but not often seen due to its nocturnal habits. It consumes a highly varied diet, is very intelligent and curious, and possesses a far greater manual dexterity and mental ability than cats and dogs, enough to defeat any but the most determined defense of garbage cans or home gardens. Much has been made of the intelligence of raccoons, with recent studies showing they are capable of remembering tasks for up to three years, possessing a mental acuity more closely approximating that of monkeys.

Denning above ground in tree cavities, chimneys and attics, underground in old burrows, storm sewers and crawl spaces, raccoons mate from February to August with 2 to 5 young (or kits) in each litter. Previously thought to be solitary, related females can share a common breeding territory, while unrelated males live together in small groups to guard their mating opportunities against potential rivals. Raccoons have a large array of over 50 vocalizations, including hissing, growling, purring, squealing, and chirping. They can run up to 15 mph, are efficient tree climbers, and can survive unharmed if dropped from heights of up to 40 feet. Raccoons are found throughout all regions in Texas, but they are seldom found far from water, which has an important influence on their distribution and breeding success.

Contrary to popular belief, raccoons do not wash everything they eat, but they do manipulate their food (appearing to wash it when water is available) in order to tactually experience the object rather than actually clean it. In fact, the word 'raccoon' was adopted into English from a now extinct language called Powhatan, which was spoken by the native peoples of Tidewater

Virginia, and translated to mean 'one who rubs, scrubs, and scratches with its hands.'

Raccoons exhibit rascally behavior by stealing food out of pet dishes, eating fish out of backyard ponds, and knocking over trash cans and scattering the contents. Additionally, they can carry and spread disease like rabies and parvovirus. However, since they are scavengers, they play an important role in keeping our ecosystems healthy by cleaning up carrion (keeping our surroundings sanitary), eating other species we humans consider pests (when numbers get out of control), and spreading the seeds of native

plants (by consuming berries and nuts).

You can do your part to keep their destructive behavior at bay by resolving conflicts compassionately. Contain available food sources by putting your trash out in the morning instead of the evening, feeding your pets indoors, and placing netting over ponds containing fish. Close all entry points to your home and other outdoor structures, so they are not used as dens to raise young. If a family of nesting raccoons is found in or around your home, they should not be removed until the end of nesting season in the fall. Separating the young from their mother will mean they will starve to death, and trapping and moving the family will



**Northern Raccoon**

likely result in death from resident raccoons, and is a Class C misdemeanor in Texas (this applies to transporting or selling live raccoons, coyotes, and foxes from, to, or within the state).

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





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