

# THE BULLETIN

*Belterra Community News*

July 2019 Volume 1, Issue 7

News for the Residents of Belterra

## National Survey Reveals Roof Damage Is One Of The Top Issues That Stress Out American Homeowners

*Only 3% of Austin Homeowners are Proactive at Checking their Roofs*



Roof damage is among the top 3 stressful issues for homeowners next to burst pipes and flood damage according to a new national survey by Owens Corning Roofing. While a roof is one of the most important items protecting most American's single largest financial investment, 69% of homeowners admitted to rarely, if ever, looking at their roof or hiring a professional to do so in advance of unpredictable weather seasons. Nationwide, the survey also found that 70% say the cost of repairs would be taxing, but only 29% of homeowners have money set aside to address unexpected roof damage.

Specific to Austin, the survey found that 40% of Austin homeowners admit they don't currently have money set aside to repair or replace unexpected roof damage and yet in the last three years only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather.

"Understanding the importance of checking their roofs and knowing the basics of roof maintenance and damage can help ensure homeowners are better prepared for upcoming weather," says Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans of Sanders Roofing and Exteriors. "It can

literally make a huge financial impact for you and your family."

### **Checking the Condition of a Roof**

According to Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans, there are a few simple steps Austin homeowners can take to identify issues and make sure their roof is ready for upcoming weather: WIN (Walk the Attic, Inspect Your Ceilings, Note Outside Changes).

### **Walk the attic:**

Often, early warning signs of current or future roof problems are visible in your attic long before they become apparent from the inside or the outside. Look for daylight coming from around any of the roof penetrations (e.g. chimney, soil pipe, vents, etc.) and check for any signs of moisture or staining on the underside wood of your roof including mold.

### **Inspect ceilings:**

The first and simplest check that you likely do without even noticing it, is to occasionally inspect the ceilings in the rooms on the highest level of your home. Check for staining or discoloration on the ceilings of these rooms and hallways, especially during or after heavy precipitation.

### **Note outside changes:**

At the start of each new season you should conduct an external visual inspection of your roof from the ground. Things to look for include: curling, blistering, damaged or missing shingles; missing granules including circular shapes; sagging shingle rows; moss or discoloration; and shiny shingles. IMPORTANT: A close-up inspection of your roof is recommended at least once a year, but if you are uncomfortable, inexperienced or have any doubts about your or your spouse's ability to do this safely, you should not try this and should call a professional roofing contractor instead.

### **Importance of a Certified Contractor**

According to the survey, more than 54% of American homeowners say that finding a contractor they could trust would

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
 Ambulance / Fire..... 911

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 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

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 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  
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(Continued from Cover Page)

be stressful – in fact, it is so crucial that most homeowners (75%) said they would be willing to pay more money to find a contractor they could trust. The survey also found that for three quarters of Americans (75%), the single most important sign to know if a contractor can be trusted was a certification by a national roofing manufacturer.

To find a trustworthy local roofing contractor, Owens Corning recommends the following:

- If someone says your entire roof needs to be replaced, but you are unsure, get a second opinion, especially on newer roofs
- Check to make sure that the contractor is fully insured and make sure you get proof
- Confirm that a contractor carries valid state & local licenses and fully understands local knowledge of codes
- Check that the contractor is affiliated/certified by a trusted national roofing manufacturer
- Make sure the contractor has good standing with the Better Business Bureau; you can find out by visiting <https://www.bbb.org/en/us/search/>
- Looking for a trustworthy and reliable contractor in your area, but don't know where to start? Visit <https://www.sandersroofs.com/> or, for a list of additional reliable, vetted independent contractors in your area, visit [www.owenscorning.com/roofing/contractors](http://www.owenscorning.com/roofing/contractors).

#### About Owens Corning

Owens Corning (NYSE: OC) develops, manufactures, and markets insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composites. Global in scope and human in scale, the company's market-leading businesses use their deep expertise in materials, manufacturing, and building science to develop products and systems that save energy and improve comfort in commercial and residential buildings. Through its glass reinforcements business, the company makes thousands of products lighter, stronger, and more durable. Ultimately, Owens Corning people and products make the world a better place. Based in Toledo, Ohio, Owens Corning posted 2017 sales of \$6.4 billion and employs 19,000 people in 37 countries. It has been a Fortune 500® company for 63 consecutive years. For more information, please visit [www.owenscorning.com/](http://www.owenscorning.com/).

#### About Sanders Roofing and Exteriors

Sanders Roofing & Exteriors has been pushing the limits for the past 10 years to become the most reliable roofing company in all of Central Texas. Tracy and Kim Sanders and Luke and Michele Evans are the operators of Sanders Roofing & Exteriors, overseeing its day-to-day success. As a family owned and operated company, much of our business comes from referrals. If we don't do our job to your satisfaction then you won't recommend us to your family, friends, and neighbors – and everyone loses! We promise quality workmanship and products for every job, and our customers can testify to the high standards we maintain. Sanders Roofing & Exteriors is a proud Owens Corning "Platinum Preferred Contractor". For more information, visit <https://www.sandersroofs.com/>.



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

## TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

NAME	AGE	BABY SIT	HOUSE SIT	PET SIT	PHONE
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If you are a teenager and want to be included on the babysitter/pet sitter/house sitter list or if you are on this list and want to update your information, contact [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com).

# NATURE WATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

## MARIPOSA DE LA MUERTE



Photo: Black Witch

Commonly known as owlet moths, cutworms, or armyworms, moths in the Noctuidae family make up one of the largest families of Lepidoptera. The word Noctuidae is derived from the Latin word noctua meaning ‘little owl’ and the largest moth in this family in the continental United States is the Black Witch (*Ascalapha odorata*).

The Black Witch moth has been known as mariposa de la muerte or ‘butterfly of death’ since the time of the Aztecs, when it was believed that they were harbingers of death. With a wingspan of up to 6 inches, its upperside is mottled dark brown to grayish-brown with hints of iridescent purple and pink, and females, which are slightly larger and lighter in color than males, have a pale almost lavender-pink median band through both fore and hind wings.

Common to abundant in the New World topics as far south as Brazil, the Black Witch flies year-round in south Florida

and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In June and July, summer monsoons in Mexico trigger this fabulous creature to migrate north through Texas, where it is often found roosting in garages, under eaves, or under bridges. It has the ability to migrate great distances over bodies of open water, such as the Gulf of Mexico, and one specimen was recorded in 1903 in Leadville, Colorado, caught in a snowstorm on the Fourth of July!

Primarily nocturnal, the adult Black Witch is attracted to light and fermenting fruit. Its larvae feed at night on a variety of cassias, acacias, ebony, mesquite, and other woody legumes, and rest during the day hidden under bark and branches. Up to 3 inches long, its caterpillar is dark gray tinged with brown, with a pale stripe down the back and dark stripes down the sides, and it relies on this natural camouflage to make it difficult to spot. Pupation occurs on the ground in scattered leaf litter within a fragile cocoon. Black Witches breed year round in overlapping generations, and their adult stage is thought to last only three or four weeks.

At first glance, this very large moth is often mistaken for a small bat hovering around a porch light, but it will eventually land and linger for several hours if undisturbed. If this happens to you, you can only hope that the South Texas legend of the Black Witch is true, as it states, “If a Black Witch lands above your door and stays there for a while, you could win the lottery!”

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*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).

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## Help Make the World a Better Place

Did you know that by opening your home to a foreign exchange student you are taking on the role as a diplomat of the United States? Its true! Hosting a teenager from another country is form of public diplomacy – it gives both the host family and the student an opportunity to learn from each other, exchange cultural experiences and most of all, form life-long relationships.

All that is required of a host family is to provide three meals a day, a place for the student to sleep and a little bit of TLC thrown in. Students can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within three years of their age. The students all come with their own spending money, health insurance and an eagerness to be part of your family.

STS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is looking for volunteer host families for the 2019/2020 school year. We accept all different types of families, from single parents, to newly marrieds, to empty nesters to same sex couples. The application process is simple, once you are completely vetted, you will have access to our student database where you can select the student that best fits in with your family.

If you would like to find out more about hosting one of our wonderful students, please contact Vicki Odom at (832) 455-7881 or email at [vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com). I can get you started in helping to make the world a better place to live.



### HELPING YOU LIVE BETTER

The YMCA of Austin is here to help active older adults live better and enjoy life more. Whether you're looking to remain fit, recover from an injury, relieve arthritis pain, or you just want to connect and have fun with your peers, the Y is the perfect place to start.

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## Flooding: How to Protect Your Family & Finances

In many areas, flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster—and it can happen here. Just one inch of water in your home or office can cost thousands of dollars in cleanup and replacement costs, including drywall, baseboards, floor coverings and furniture. You may think you're covered, but many homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding.

Here are several reasons to talk to an insurance agent now about flood insurance.

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
- Coverage is relatively inexpensive.
- Renters can buy flood insurance for personal belongings or business inventory.
- Basement coverage includes cleanup expense and repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers and pumps.
- You do not have to repay flood insurance benefits as you do with disaster-related assistance loans.
- You can receive payments for flood-related losses even if no disaster was declared.

Learn more about flood insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

There are things you can do to prepare your home and family now for flash floods:

- Make a family emergency plan. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Write down your plan. Decide ahead of time where you will go if you have to leave and where family members will meet up. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Get supplies for an emergency kit. Start with three days' water and three days' packaged and canned food. Add a battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Store in waterproof containers with wheels or that you can lift so you can take them with you. For details about preparing an emergency kit, visit [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html)
- Stay informed about what could happen. During storm season, listen to local media for up-to-date reports on weather watches and warnings. Keep a battery-powered portable radio—with a NOAA weather band—handy in case the power goes out. Choose one.

Learn more about preparedness at [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html).

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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.

**Email [Kelly@peelinc.com](mailto:Kelly@peelinc.com) to be featured in a future issue.**

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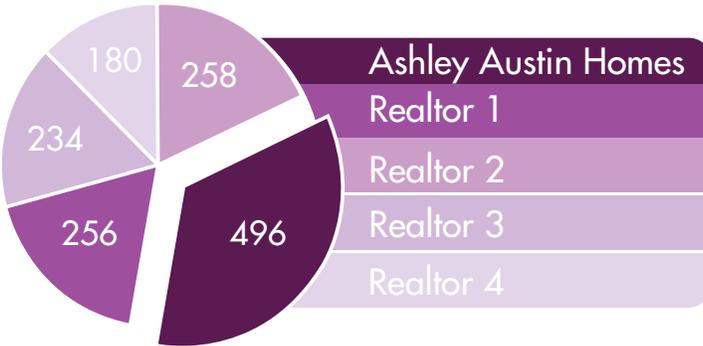
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