
What’s that box at the entry of the Bulverde Community Park? Is it a birdhouse, a mailbox, or – wait, that’s a Little Free Library!

Free book lending is the concept behind the Little Free Library installed at the Bulverde Community Park.

State Farm insurance Agent Kathleen Banse purchased the decorated book box and donated it for our own Little Free Library in Bulverde. Banse, along with the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club, the Bulverde Parks Committee, and the Bulverde Spring Branch Library came together to create the Little Free Library outpost. The idea is to take one of the books in the box or exchange it for a book the reader would like to share.

“What better place to have this little library when you have somewhere between 8,000 to 10,000 visitors per year come to the park,” Banse said. “It provides an opportunity to browse and maybe it will encourage them to read more or stop in at our local library.”

SEE LITTLE LIBRARY ON PAGE 10

RATTLESNAKE REFLECTIONS

by R. Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter
Guadalupe River State Park

The voice on the radio stated that a dead snake had been found along the park road. My first thought was, how in the world, on a road with a 20 mph speed limit, could any critter be run over in broad daylight? Then, of course, I remembered it was the despised rattlesnake. This was followed by the realization that the snake could be the same one I had so carefully moved from the road a few days prior – first capturing photos, of course.

When I compared my photos with the dead snake, much to my dismay I realized that my effort to extend this snake’s life had been snuffed out by another human. My heart hurt.

As long as humans have walked the Earth there has been an unspoken war between man and beast. One of the 20th century’s greatest conservationists, Aldo Leopold, early in his career was at war with wolves, mountain lions and other predators. However, after shooting yet another wolf he came to understand that this view was lacking. He later wrote about that encounter in his book A Sand County Almanac:

“We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes—something known only to her and to the mountain. …I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters’ paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.”

While wolves and rattlesnakes are very different, the sentiment is similar: They are both predators and both saddled with great misunderstanding and even loathing. Snakes, particularly rattlesnakes, fit the bill perfectly for some people, representing something evil, something that we seemingly must kill for killing’s sake.

If we do a reality check however, we find that snakes are, it turns out, incredibly important animals in the scheme of things. They are significant predators of rodents and other rapidly reproducing creatures that would overrun us without predatory control. They serve as prey for a wide variety of predators, from hawks to other snakes. And to top it off, the vast majority of snakes are in fact quite harmless to us.

Not to mention the stories…oh the stories.

Only one was a surprise – and boy was it. While GPSing the breeding territory of the only known successfully nesting Black-capped Vireo at Honey Creek in 2013 – paying more attention to the bird, less to the ground in front of me—I suddenly found myself simultaneously levitating and moving horizontally while airborne! That’s what my colleagues said, anyway. On the ground near my right foot was a large, tightly coiled rattlesnake, paying me no apparent heed. Why I happened to look down at that moment I will never know, but I did learn what my go-to word is in time of sheer panic.

Then there was the time five years ago,

SEE RATTLESNAKES ON PAGE 10
VETERANS SERVICES OFFICES HELP VETERANS

The Comal County Veterans Services Office will move to appointments-only scheduling on Fridays beginning July 21. The office will remain open to walk-in traffic Mondays through Thursdays.

“As Comal County grows and increasing numbers of veterans seek our services, this move will help improve our office’s efficiency and better serve those who set up an appointment in advance,” said Veterans Services Officer Michaelle Davis.

In addition, walk-in services will be available once a month at satellite locations in Sattler, Garden Ridge and Bulverde, as follows:

- Sattler Annex, 160 Oak Drive, the second Wednesday of each month;
- Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, the third Wednesday of each month; and
- Bulverde Annex, 30470 Cougar Bend, the last Wednesday of each month.

The Veterans Services Office helps connect veterans with federal benefits programs and medical care. Although they do not directly administer any benefits, they can arrange for transportation, go over paperwork, and help veterans navigate an often complex system.

The office is in the Comal County Goodwin Annex, 1297 Church Hill Drive in New Braunfels. To make an appointment call 830-221-1170.

Contact: Michaelle Davis, 830-221-1170, davism@co.comal.tx.us.
AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Bulverde Jubilee

This annual parade and celebration in Old Village in Downtown Bulverde will take place on Saturday, September 16 from 10 am to 5 pm. Parade starts at 11am. Booths and food! Games and rides open from 12:30-4:30pm. Free to the public.

Classic Car Cruise-In

Every second Tuesday of the month from 5pm-8pm come out to the Ay Chiwawa! Mexican Café in the Singing Hills Shopping Center to see classic cars, hear live music, and enjoy happy hour drinks and food specials. Sponsored by Sonora Bank.

Market Days - Ongoing

Be Fab Market Days - Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 10am to 4pm at Be Fabulous Boutique, 2877 Bulverde Rd in Bulverde. Contact: Cathy Scroggins-Brownlow at 210-343-9272.

The Bulverde Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 11am-2pm features locally produced veggies, honey, and more. You’ll find it next to the Hatch 5 Boutique at 2630 Bulverde Road.

The New Braunfels Farmers Market is open year-round on Saturdays 9am-1pm at 186 Castell Avenue.

The Sage Gardens Bandera Farmers Market is open on Thursdays 8-11 am at 702 Main Street.

Johnson City Market Days is held every 4th weekend, on Saturdays 10am-5pm and Sundays 10am-4pm in City Memorial Park on US 290, 830-868-7684.

Boerne - Farmers Market at the Cibolo is open every Saturday 9am–1pm at the Herff Farm at 33 Herff Road in Boerne.

Fredericksburg Farmers Market will be open every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. beginning May 4 through September 21st. For details call 830-980-2226 or go to stagebulverde.org/auditions

Music and More

Max’s Roadhouse has live music on most Fridays and Saturdays. Food and drinks, shuffleboard and pool, plus sports on TV. At 5375 U.S. 281, Spring Branch, Texas 78070, 210-352-0820.

Sandra’s Cantina and Grill has great margaritas, homemade salsa, and Tex-Mex. Local bands play on the patio Friday and Saturday nights. 13100 US 281, Spring Branch, TX 78070, (830) 885-2939.

Specht’s Store – Historic store and bar/restaurant that features live music Wednesday thru Saturday nights and on Sunday afternoons. Bike Night on Wednesdays. 112 Specht Road, Bulverde 830-438-1888.

Shade Tree Saloon is a biker-friendly honky tonk that serves good burgers and other fare, plus drinks. Call 830-885-5550 for information about live music schedule. At 13430 Highway 281 North, Spring Branch, Texas.

Tejas Rodeo Company presents Saturday night rodeos through November 25, 2017. Doors open at 5pm and rodeo starts at 7:30pm. Call 830-980-2226 for more information. At 401 Obst Road, Bulverde.

Fredericksburg Farmers Market presents Saturday night rodeos through November 25, 2017. Doors open at 5pm and rodeo starts at 7:30pm. Call 830-980-2226 for more information. At 401 Obst Road, Bulverde.

Whitewater Amphitheater features outdoor concerts on the Guadalupe River. See the lineup at www.whitewaterrocks.com for schedule and tickets.

Outdoors

Honey Creek Hike takes place at the Guadalupe River State Park every Saturday from 9am to 11:30am. Cost: $7 for age 13 and over. See http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/guadalupe-river/

Summer Shelter Storytime

Every Wednesday this summer from 10am to 11:30 am at the Bulverde Area Humane Society, bring a favorite book or two to read to the dogs and cats! All ages are welcome. Hand out pupsicles to the dogs and have a popsicle for yourself. At 3563 Kingsnake Road, Bulverde, 830-980-2247.

Wine

Public Hill Country Wine Tours by 281 Wine Tours – Tours of wineries & vineyards every 3rd Saturday. You must register by the previous Saturday. $75.00 per person. Contact Greg Ortiz at 830-202-0697.

Rockbox Theater in Fredericksburg will present tribute band Rocketmen, The Music of Elton John, on Saturday, August 12 at 8pm. For details and tickets go to www.rockboxtheater.com or call 830-997-7625, 109 North Llano, Fredericksburg, TX.
Library Events - August & September

All library classes and events are FREE unless otherwise noted. Where: BSB Library at 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163. Questions? Call the library at 830-438-4864 or go to www.bsblibrary.org.

NOTE: If you registered for a class and need to cancel, please do so by clicking the link to unregister in your confirmation email or call the library.

Tuesday, August 15

Craft it Up! for ages 5-7
11:00am - 1:00pm

Craft it Up! for ages 8-12
11:00am - 1:00pm

Watercolor Basics for Adults & Teens 13+
3:00pm – 5:00pm
Come learn some watercolor techniques with Debbie. Please bring any supplies you want to use. We will have a limited amount of paint and brushes but will supply the paper. Registration required.

Leather Wrap Bracelet for Adults & Teens 13+
6:30pm - 7:45pm
Make a leather wrap bracelet with beads. All materials supplied. Registration required.

Wednesday, August 16

LEGO WeDo for ages 8-12
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Does your kid like playing with LEGOos? Maybe they want to build a robot? They can do both on Wednesdays in August from 2:00pm-3:30pm at the library. Trick them into learning valuable skills while they have fun! Registration required.

Thursday, August 17

Come and Go: Decorate a Letter
5:00pm - 7:30pm
Bring a letter or letters of the alphabet to decorate for your office or to make a cute gift! Bring any size or use one of our stencils to make your own. Registration is suggested for supply count.

Saturday, August 19

Leather Wrap Bracelet for Adults & Teens 13+
6:30pm - 7:45pm
Make a leather wrap bracelet with beads. All materials supplied. Registration required.

Monday, August 21

Computer Basics - Getting Started
10:30 – 11:45 am
Learn the basics of using a computer and a mouse. NO computer experience required. Laptops will be available for your use or bring your own. Registration required.

Tuesday, August 22

Craft it Up! for ages 5-7
11:00am - 1:00pm

Craft it Up! for ages 8-12
11:00am - 1:00pm

Wednesday, August 23

Lunch and Learn - Rain Gardens
12:00pm - 1:30pm
Learn how to collect and treat storm water runoff. Conserve water by using the runoff to create a beautiful garden of native and adapted plants.

LEGO WeDo for ages 8-12
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Does your kid like playing with LEGOos? Maybe they want to build a robot? They can do both on Wednesdays in August from 2:00pm-3:30pm at the library. Trick them into learning valuable skills while they have fun! Registration required.

Thursday, August 24

Watercolor Calligraphy for Adults & Teens 13+
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Learn watercolor calligraphy! If you have a water pen please bring it. Please register for supplies count.

Online Language Course Training
6:30pm – 7:45 pm
Want to learn a new language? Pronunciator is a fun and free way to learn any of the 80 languages in the program. Learn how to use this free online resource. Registration required.

Monday, August 28

Computer Basics - Internet I
10:30am - 11:45am
Learn how to access the internet and use Google to find information. Laptops available or bring your own. Registration required.

Wednesday, August 30

LEGO WeDo for ages 8-12
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Does your kid like playing with LEGOos? Maybe they want to build a robot? They can do both on Wednesdays in August from 2:00pm-3:30pm at the library. Trick them into learning valuable skills while they have fun! Registration required.

Thursday, August 31

Family Place Parent/Child Workshop
2:00pm - 3:00pm
In this five week workshop (8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21 and 9/28), local professionals will guide parents and caregivers in encouraging literacy, sensory and motor development, and healthy habits in toddlers. Registration required.

Watercolor Technique for Adults & Teens 13+
6:00pm – 7:45 pm
Come learn some watercolor techniques with Susan. Please bring any supplies you want to use. We provide a limited amount of paint and brushes but will supply the paper. Registration required.

Sunday, September 3

LIBRARY CLOSED

Monday, September 4

LIBRARY CLOSED

Tuesday, September 5

Skeleton Leaf Art Project for Adults & Teens 13+
6:30pm - 7:45pm
We will mount skeleton leaves onto paper ready to frame. Registration required.

Thursday, September 7

Family Place Parent/Child Workshop
2:00pm - 3:00pm
In this five week workshop (8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21 and 9/28), local professionals will guide parents and caregivers in encouraging literacy, sensory and motor development, and healthy habits in toddlers. Registration required.
Great Decisions Discussion Series - U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum
5:45pm - 7:45pm
Speaker: Chris Ashcraft. A light meal will be served at 5:45pm followed by a viewing of the DVD from FPA.ORG. Our guest speaker will then address us, followed by a question and answer period. Sponsored by Mammen Investments™ and the Friends Of the Library.

**Friday, September 8**

Skeleton Leaf Art Project for Adults & Teens 13+
3:00pm – 4:15pm
We will mount skeleton leaves onto paper ready to frame. Registration required.

**Monday, September 11**

Computer Basics - Internet II
10:30am - 11:45am
Building on the skills from Internet I, gain more practice using Google to find and evaluate information. Laptops will be available for your use or bring your own. Registration required.

**Tuesday, September 12**

Watercolor for Adults & Teens 13+
3:00pm - 5:00pm
Debbie will guide as the class continues to work on the tree painting. Please bring any supplies you want to use. We will supply paper but have a limited amount of paint and brushes. Registration required.

What is Paleo? What is a Ketogenic Diet?
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Hear Lucrecia Rodrigues’s personal story and learn about the benefits of a ketogenic diet.

**Wednesday, September 13**

Lunch and Learn
12:00pm - 1:30pm
Bring your lunch and learn something new! Check Library calendar for details

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**BSBL TREKKER CALENDAR**

**Bulverde Activity Center**
1st and 3rd Mondays
12:30pm – 1:30pm
The Trekker will offer hands-on help with library resources and check out books.

**Tamiga Acres**
Every Tuesday
5:00pm - 6:00pm
The Trekker will be stopping by Tamiga Acres to check out books to children.

**Helping Hands Food Pantry**
1st and 3rd Thursdays
1:30pm - 6:00pm
The Trekker will be parked outside with books, magazines, and other library stuff.

**The Heights**
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
10:30am – 11:30am
The Trekker will be traveling to The Heights for adult story and craft time.

**Community Outreach & WCC Delivery**
2nd and 4th Thursdays
12:00pm – 2:30pm
The Trekker will stop by several local spots to deliver library resources.

**Trekker Calendar**

*NEW* Bulverde Jubilee Parade
September 16th
10:00am - 12:00pm
The Trekker will be cruising by in the Bulverde Jubilee Parade with some special guests to promote literacy and library card registration!

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### Ongoing Programs at the Library

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<th>Mondays</th>
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<tr>
<td>Toddler Storytime</td>
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<th>Tuesdays</th>
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<td>Beginning French</td>
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<td>9:30am – 11:00am</td>
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<td>Intermediate French</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:30am</td>
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<td>Hill Country Christian Writers</td>
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<td>6:00pm – 7:45pm</td>
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<td>Family Lego Night</td>
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<th>Wednesdays</th>
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<td>Preschool Storytime</td>
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<td>10:30am - 11:30am</td>
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<td>The Art of Storytelling - for Adults &amp; Teens 13+</td>
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<td>1:00pm - 3:00pm</td>
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<td>Registration required.</td>
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*NEW* Anime Club for Teens
4:00pm - 5:30pm

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<td>Conversational Spanish – through August</td>
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<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>English as a Second Language</td>
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<td>6:00pm - 7:30pm</td>
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<td>No registration required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Spanish - begins Sept.</td>
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<td>9:30am - 10:30am</td>
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<td>Intermediate Spanish - begins Sept.</td>
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<th>Saturdays</th>
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<td>Walk-In Computer Help</td>
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PET OF THE MONTH - CHLOE

Meet Chloe! This small two-year-old rat terrier mix will steal your heart. She arrived at BAHS after being badly injured by another dog. She was terrified, too. We expected it would take a long time for her to trust again, but we were wrong. Her wounds have healed and so has her heart. Chloe loves everyone, dances for treats, and just wants to be your favorite lap dog. Won’t you put out the word so this little girl finally gets a safe and loving home?

For more information or to meet all of our adoptable pets, come by 3563 Kingsnake, Bulverde, just off TX 1863 west of Hwy 281. Open TUES, THURS, AND SAT from 10am-1pm and SUN from 1-4pm. Contact BAHS at 830-980-2247 or www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com.

BURN BAN TO TAKE EFFECT

Because of increasingly dry conditions, the Comal County Commissioners Court implemented a 90-day ban on outdoor burning, as of July 7.

Under the restrictions, no open flames are allowed outdoors, including trash burning, campfires and torches, among others. Residents may barbecue with an open flame if the grill has a lid and is set off the ground. Welders are encouraged to use a spotter for any outdoor welding and to keep a water source nearby.

In recent days, about two dozen non-controlled fires have been reported to emergency services across the county, said Fire Marshal Kory Klabunde.

“The rain we had this spring has led to a lot of vegetation, which is now very dry,” he said. “The current conditions are not safe to have an open flame outside.”

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) this week reached 500, which is the threshold at which the Commissioners Court considers implementing a burn ban. Every 100 points of the KBDI is roughly equivalent to an inch of dry soil depth.

More information is available by calling 830-643-3740 or logging onto the Fire Marshal Office’s webpage, mycomalcounty.com/Fire.Marshal.htm.

S.T.A.G.E. AUDITIONS

Open auditions for Savannah Shipping Society, the next production of S.T.A.G.E. Theater, will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 20 at Krause House Theatre, 1300 Bulverde Road in Bulverde.

The story involves four Southern women, all needing to escape the sameness of their daily routines, who are drawn together by Fate and an impromptu happy hour.

Performers are needed for the following roles:

- Randa Covington – 40+ – High strung perfectionist, stylish, workaholic
- Dot Haigler – 60+ – Daffy and endearing, starting a new life after husband’s demise
- Marlafaye Mosley – 50+ – Earthy, boisterous, good ol’ Texas gal, recently divorced, seeking revenge
- Jinx Jenkins – 50+ – Spunky ball of fire, life coach, but most in need of sage advice

Scheduled show dates are October 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22. The play will be directed by Julia Cammack.

Using Slow Cookers to Make Food – Fast!

The next DIY Saturday, on August 12, will focus on using slow cookers to make food faster. The class will be 9:00am to 11:00am at the county’s Extension Office at 325 Resource Drive in New Braunfels. The cost is $15; supplies will be provided.

“The rain we had this spring has led to a lot of vegetation, which is now very dry,” he said. “The current conditions are not safe to have an open flame outside.”

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) this week reached 500, which is the threshold at which the Commissioners Court considers implementing a burn ban. Every 100 points of the KBDI is roughly equivalent to an inch of dry soil depth.

More information is available by calling 830-643-3740 or logging onto the Fire Marshal Office’s webpage, mycomalcounty.com/Fire.Marshal.htm.
ZIKA NEWS

Comal County and the City of New Braunfels have teamed up to create a website for area residents seeking more information about combating Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses.

The website, ComalZika.org, provides information, links and answers to frequently asked questions about preventing mosquito bites and Zika transmission.

“Zika and other diseases carried by mosquitoes continue to concern our community,” said Cheryl L. Fraser, Comal County director of public health. “We want to continue educating Comal County and New Braunfels residents about how they can protect themselves and their families from serious diseases like Zika.”

Although no positive cases of Zika have yet been recorded in New Braunfels or Comal County, cases have been reported in South Texas since 2016. The disease can have fatal effects for unborn children.

Along with listing Zika symptoms, ways to combat mosquitoes and steps to take if a person thinks they have contracted Zika, the website discusses how the city and county combat mosquitoes on public property and steps residents can take to submit complaints about the insects breeding on vacant or abandoned private property.

For more information, contact Cheryl Fraser, Comal County Director of Public Health, at 830-221-1150.

LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

by Laura Kraus, BSBL Youth Services Librarian

Now that it’s almost time to hit the books again, it’s important to know how to properly research and find accurate and reliable information for school, whether you’re in Kindergarten or college. The resources that the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library has are a great place to start, and the staff is more than happy to help, including myself. In fact, if you’d like to have an in person tutorial for your whole class on how to use our online resources, please contact the library, that’s what we’re here for.

The internet can be a great resource for information, but you need to know where you can find legitimate and factual sources that will help you write papers and complete your homework in order to show the world your research skills. One example of a legitimate source that can be used for homework and research is called a database, which can be found in your school library or the public library. Not all databases are about scholarly research. The Library has databases that focus skill improvement. Two of those databases include the Learning Express Library and EBSCO Explora.

Explora for Elementary, which is under our TexShare databases, makes database searching simple by associating each topic of research with a photo, making the database a little more user friendly for those who are more visually inclined, specifically, elementary aged children. Once you’ve picked a subcategory, such as Drama, which is under Arts and Music, a topic overview shows up, as well as related videos, and full text articles from encyclopedias, magazines, news, books, reviews, and biographies. You can narrow down the results to incorporate only the sources you want. There is also a filter for Lexile range (the reading level the student is at) as well. Explora for High school retains the visual layout that its younger cousin has, but gets straight to the nitty gritty after the initial photo interface. Users can choose to include or exclude full text articles from multiple sources as well as scholarly reviewed journal articles, and the ability to adjust for a specific publication date. Keep in mind, these are just a two of the databases that we offer here at the library, so feel free to explore once you get your free library card.

If you’ve never used a database before, it can look scary, but as noted before, the library is here to help! Please call, email or stop by for a brief tutorial before school starts.

UNCH & LEARN

Rain Gardens

Wednesday, August 23rd
from 12:00 - 1:30pm

A rain garden is a landscape feature consisting of a shallow depression to collect storm water runoff from roofs, parking lots and other impervious surfaces. The main function of the rain garden is to retain and treat storm water instead of allowing the storm water to runoff the property carrying contaminants and eroding the soil. Planted with beautiful native and adapted plants, a rain garden becomes a water conserving garden as a storm water best management practice.
WHAT BOOK CLUBS ARE READING
by Cassie Wedding

Five book clubs meet at the Bulverde Spring Branch Library. Two clubs are open for new members, the Second Tuesday Evening Book Club and the Third Tuesday Book Club. See our website under Programs and Classes for meeting dates and times. Check out the list below. Even if you’re not in a book club, you might decide to read one of the selections.

For September, the book clubs will read and discuss the following books:

Ordinary Grace, William Kent Krueger – mystery thriller
Narrator Frank Drum is a middle-aged man looking back on the summer of 1961 in New Bremen, Minnesota. He was 13 and his best friend was killed by a train. This is the first of several mysterious deaths that shake the community over the years. This coming-of-age story attempts to show how grace can work through the fissures of suffering. Ordinary Grace won several awards for best novel and best mystery in 2013.

The Train to Crystal City: FDR’s Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America’s Only Family Internment Camp During World War II, Jan Jarboe Russell - history
Jan Jarboe Russell of San Antonio is the author of this bestselling story of a secret Japanese internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, during World War II. Her research included interviews with more than 50 surviving Crystal City prisoners. She focuses on two American-born girls of Japanese descent who struggle through years at the camp. Jarboe also uncovers details about FDR’s secret plan to gather Japanese people from all over the hemisphere to the Crystal City camp, and how he plans to use them.

The Unlikely Lavender Queen, Jeannie Ralston – Hill Country memoir
This book was chosen by one of the book clubs for August and was reviewed last month. Jeannie Ralston was a successful magazine writer in New York City until she got married and ended up on a farm in Blanco, Texas. Life was difficult on the dilapidated farm they lived on, especially after three children came along. She wondered whether she had given up too much for the man she loved. Then she cultivated a lavender field and a passion was awakened that made it all worthwhile.

The Life We Bury, Allen Eskens - mystery
The Life We Bury is the debut novel of Allen Eskens, winner of a number of book awards. Joe Talbert, a junior at the University of Minnesota, receives a class assignment to write a biography of someone who has lived an interesting life. He meets Carl Iverson in a nursing home, where he has been medically paroled after spending thirty years in prison for rape and murder. Carl tells Joe his story, and Joe sets out to unravel the tapestry of the thirty-year-old murder. Meanwhile, he has his own family problems to deal with, including a bipolar mother and an autistic brother.

UPCOMING ARTIST IN THE HALLWAY
by Cassie Wedding

From an early age, Carol Walker Bryant knew art was a part of her. She won her first art contest at the age of six and has continued to follow her passion since then.

Carol describes herself as the grandma who went back to college. She earned a degree in commercial art in 1991, with a minor in Fine Art from Austin Community College. Since then she has been creating unique and diverse styles of art using oils, pastels, watercolor, acrylic, collage, encaustic, ink and gouache, and clay, in addition to photography. Bryant has achieved critical acclaim and won local and regional awards for her creations in each medium.

In Austin, Carol taught home school programs, special needs adults with the Texas Head Injury Foundation, and drawing and painting at the Austin Community College Pinnacle Campus. After relocating to Canyon Lake in 1994, she focused on teaching workshops and private lessons. She enjoys sharing her gifts with the community.

Carol owns the Thistle Dew II Art Studio overlooking the waters of Canyon Lake. A covered patio and a large deck make it ideal for outdoor art classes in natural surroundings. The Thistle Dew II is also available for weekend retreats for small groups.

Bryant has coordinated various art shows and is past president of the Austin Palette Club and Canyon Lake Art Guild. She is also a member of a number of other art guilds and clubs.

THE DOC MOORE STORYTELLING GUILD

The Doc Moore Storytelling Guild will meet monthly and welcomes audiences (middle school age to adult) to enjoy stories told by both professional oral performers and up-and-coming storytellers.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH
FROM 6:30PM - 7:45PM
BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY | 131 BULVERDE CROSSING | 830.438.4864
**Community Resources**

**Animals**
Animal Rescue Connections provides instructions and traps for the Trap, Neuter, Return feral cat program and furnishes speakers for HOAs and other groups. www.animalrescueconnections.org.

Bulverde Area Humane Society offers dogs and cats for adoption, plus volunteer opportunities, at 3563 Kingssnake in Bulverde, just off TX 1863. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am-1pm and Sunday from 1-4pm. See www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com.

**Comal County AgriLife Extension Service**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Comal County offers free or low cost classes and resources. Call 830-620-3440 or go to https://comal.agrilife.org for more information.

**ESL Classes**
Free ESL classes are available at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. For more information, call 830-885-3945 or 830-221-5526.

**Food Pantries**
Helping Hands Food Pantry offers food, nutrition education, and spiritual guidance. Open 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 2pm-5:45pm. At Rebecca Creek Baptist Church on Hwy 281 in Spring Branch. For more information, call 830-885-3945 or 830-221-5526.

**Mental Health**
Comal County Mental Health Center - Provides mental health services for adults severe & persistent mental illness. Fees based on a sliding scale. 830-620-6221.

**Recovery/Support**
Celebrate Recovery – a Christ centered 12 step ministry dealing with hurts, habits and hang-ups meets every week at 7pm on Thursday at the Cowboys for Jesus Christian Fellowship, 8400 FM 32 on north side of Canyon Lake.

**Jobs**
New Braunfels Works is a free service that helps adults and youth find jobs. “Work Force Class” meets the 1st Friday of each month at 11am and “Java and Jobs” meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30am. At the Kitchen Table at the Marketplace Shopping Center, 651 N. Business 35, New Braunfels. Contact: 210-431-8367.

**Literacy**
The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library offers books, audiobooks, and DVDs for free checkout, plus a variety of free classes in all topics for everyone from children, teens to adults, including ESL, Spanish and French. Check it out at www.bsblibrary.org.

**Local Government**
The Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at City Hall. The public is welcome. 830-438-3612.

**Tourism**
Kingsnake in Bulverde, just off TX 1863 offers informative presentations about the area, plus volunteer opportunities, at 3563 Kingssnake in Bulverde, just off TX 1863. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am-1pm and Sunday from 1-4pm. See www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com.

**Web Design**
The San Antonio Web Spinners, an Adobe User Group, meets 6:00pm - 7:45pm on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. They focus on web design and other web related topics.

**Writing**
Canyon Lake Area Writers (CLAW) meet the first and third Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Tye Preston Memorial Library. Hill Country Christian Writers meet weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00pm - 7:45pm at the BSB Library to share encouragement and writing.
Rattlesnakes continued from PG 1

when a call came over the radio about a rattlesnake in the day use area, along with a request for its removal. Excitedly I raced to the area to find my supervisor Clay with a five-gallon bucket and a section of PVC pipe through which a rope extended, noose on one end.

Apparently, one puts the noose around the snake’s neck, tightens it and then removal is perfunctory. Amazingly enough the snake cooperated, lifting its head for the noose as if it knew the routine. Placed in the bucket my boss asks me something to the effect of “think the snake will stay in the bucket?” I looked at him incredulously. “Not without a lid!” I stammered.

No lid present, we found a way to move the snake away from the gawking public, noose still intact. Then a problem arose: the noose would not release the snake.

“So what are you going to do now, Hensley?” my boss asked. Good question.

Moments later my hands were wrapped around the snake. Did I mention it was a live, very unhappy western diamondback rattlesnake, mouth wide open, the noose being the only thing between a slightly shaking hand and the snake’s fangs?

We slipped the noose off. Now I REALLY am holding a live rattlesnake.

“So what are you going to do now, Hensley?” Another good question.

“Well, first you are going to get my cell phone out and take a picture!” I responded. That accomplished, it was time for release. I figured I would toss it away from me as quickly as possible, all the while thinking the snake would be agile enough to defy gravity, spin around, and pay me back for my disturbance of its day. Well, that didn’t happen, and the snake slithered away.

Sadly, that snake too most likely ended up dead; two days later a snake of similar size was discovered lifelessly hanging over a tree branch, head and rattles missing. I have run into people that have coffee cans full of rattles, and it gives me pause. Do those persons have a need to play predator, to add yet another rattle to his or her collection? Or was it a simple lack of education, of not understanding the role predators play in the great scheme of life? Perhaps it is a bit of each.

The reality is that there will always be people who kill rattlesnakes, and certainly there are times for safety reasons that it can be justified. But I hope that instead of giving in to our first thought (Kill the snake!), instead we might respectfully remember its role in nature, snap a photo, and then let it continue on its way. I know that’s what I’ll do. Will you?
Family Place Parent Child Workshop

The Family Place Parent/Child Workshop is a five week program that involves toddlers and their parents and caregivers, and allows them to learn how to play with their children in a manner that encourages literacy, sensory and motor development, as well as incorporation of healthy habits. Each session answers parents’ questions about the particular topic covered that week, features local professionals who serve as resources for parents, emphasizes the role of parenting as the first teachers of their children, facilitates early intervention, and teaches strategies for healthy child development and early literacy. Registration (up to 15) is required.

August 31st
September 7th
September 14th
September 21st
September 28th

Sessions are from 2:00pm – 3:00pm

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Family Place Program is made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and in part by a State-funded grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Come and Go Craft: Decorate a Letter

Thursday, August 17th
From 5:00pm-7:30pm

Bring a letter or letters to decorate at the library! Get ready for the school year, personalize your office, hang in your nursery or make a cute gift! Bring any size and if you can’t decide or don’t want to bring a letter, we will have plenty of cardboard and stencils to make your own! Registration is not required but is suggested for supply count!

TWO GREAT ORGANIZATIONS FOR NATURE & OUTDOOR LOVERS

by Cassie Wedding

Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter

The Texas Master Naturalist/Lindheimer Chapter is dedicated to protecting the natural beauty of our little bit of Texas. To that end, the Chapter trains a class of new members each year, beginning with an orientation in October.

The course consists of 12 monthly classes, several field trips, a class project, and opportunities to volunteer in many locations and areas of interest, including: birding, geology, wildflowers, aquatic life, butterflies, invasive species management, bats, education, and paleontology, to name a few. Students follow a curriculum and have the opportunity to listen to fascinating speakers on many topics. Graduation takes place the following October.

The next class will begin on Thursday, October 26, 2017, with the mandatory orientation session. Classes are generally held the first Tuesday of each month, and will begin on November 7 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the AgriLife Extension classroom at 325 Resource Dr., New Braunfels, TX  78132-3775, (830) 620-3440. The cost of the year-long course is $150.00.

Applications are due on October 15. They are available on the TMN website at www.txmn.org/lindheimer.

In addition to classes, the TMN Lindheimer Chapter’s Master Naturalists get involved in many projects, often working with experts from other fields.

Come check out this local group of naturalists by attending one of their monthly meetings. The group holds public meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the Tye Preston Memorial Library. In August the meeting takes place on Thursday, August 17.

The meeting will start at 6:30pm with refreshments and social time. Then at 7:00pm Michael Huston, Ph.D., will speak on the topic of climate change. This controversial subject is sure to pique the interest of many in our area.

Dr. Huston is a recently retired biology professor at Texas State University. Before TSU, he was a professor and research scientist at the University of Western Australia and at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Huston is the author of two books, numerous articles, and was the Director of Interdisciplinary Solutions for Environmental Sustainability, Inc.

Native Plant Society of Texas Lindheimer Chapter August & September Meetings

The Native Plant Society of Texas is a state-wide organization whose mission is to promote conservation and understanding of Texas native plants and to encourage the use of beautiful and durable natives in our landscape. The Lindheimer chapter is based in Comal County and the Canyon Lake area. It holds informative monthly meetings open to the public on every 3rd Tuesday. On Tuesday, August 15, Matt Woods will discuss “Landscaping with Natives in Comal County.”

On Tuesday, September 19, Guadalupe River State Park Interpreter Craig Hensley will speak on “Confusing Composites: An Introduction to the Sunflower Family.”

The meetings begin with a social time at 6:30pm, with the speaker following at 7pm. Meetings take place at the GVTC Auditorium at 36101FM 3159, New Braunfels. Don’t forget the chance to get plants from members’ gardens.

The Lindheimer NPSOT also holds plant sales and provides helpful information about native plants on their website at http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer.

Native Plant Society Volunteer Opportunities

The Native Plant Society needs help in creating plant beds on the grounds of Folk Fest at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels on Wednesday, September 20 and Saturday, September 23.

The Society also needs volunteers to help establish screening plantings to separate a neighboring business under construction at Tye Preston Memorial Library in Sattler on Wednesday, September 27 and Saturday, September 30.

Times will be posted closer to the dates at http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/, or https://www.facebook.com/npsot.lindheimer/.
My husband and I have a standing date every week to go to Sandra’s for dinner and a margarita. So I will state upfront that I’m not an objective reviewer when it comes to Sandra’s. It’s my favorite Mexican food restaurant for miles around. The food is yummy, but the margaritas might be the most popular item on the menu, for good reason.

First, the basics: Sandra’s Cantina has a full bar inside with several TVs on the walls showing sports and news. With sound turned off and subtitles on, competing TV noise doesn’t interfere with conversation. Outside, there’s a huge covered patio and a playscape for kids. A small stage features local bands on Friday and Saturday nights.

Sandra’s is owned by Sandra, who hails from Venezuela, and her American partner Brad. They are hands-on owners and one or both are always on premises, running the kitchen, greeting diners, and in general keeping an eye on things. Sandra’s has been open for several years. It’s a popular gathering place for families, couples, and friends who want to catch up while they share a meal.

Now, for the food: The menu offers a variety of mostly Tex-Mex dishes, including ceviche, salads, great fajitas, plus an extensive breakfast menu that includes American breakfast fare like pancakes. One way to judge a Mexican restaurant is by its salsa. At Sandra’s they make it fresh every day, and it is delicious. I have been known to dump a whole bowl of it onto my plate.

Finally, the drinks: Sandra’s offers a full bar, including at least a dozen varieties of margaritas. Be forewarned that Sandra’s frozen margaritas have quite a kick to them. I usually stick to the happy hour size, and imbibe only one of those. True, I’m a lightweight when it comes to alcohol, but Sandra’s margaritas are stronger than their wimpy counterparts in other restaurants. Ice cold, with just the right mix of sweet and tart, they hit the spot after a scorching afternoon of summer heat.

Sandra’s is open every day except Sunday and Monday from 8am to 9pm. It is located in Spring Branch, north of the post office, at 13100 US Hwy 281 North, 830-885-2939.

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Solution to Word Labyrinth #1446

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S T R A P R A I D E R P O D
O M O T E L L E L O P E D
M O D E M M I M O S A R E B
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