I am sitting in Fischer Store with family members from the fourth and fifth generations of Fischers living in Texas. They meet here almost every Saturday to mind the store and swap stories.

The large, barn-like doors at either end of one long room are thrown open and a light, pleasant breeze blows through. The scent of century-old wood fills the space. The family members all talk at once, happy to tell me about their ancestors.

Georganne Groesbeck’s mother, Charlene Fischer, was the last proprietor of the store which she ran as an antique store. After her death in 2015, the family cohered, intent on preserving and telling the history of the family, the community, and Fischer Store.

“It has really drawn the family together over the past few years,” Georganne says. And this is evident in the warm ambiance and jovial banter.– Fischer Store, originally built in 1853 by German immigrant Hermann Fischer I, has lived three iterations: as a mercantile store, a saloon, and the first Fischer post office. Fischer family members have served a total of 117 years as postmaster there, starting with Hermann I.

One story after another emerges as I listen:

Once, when Eddie Fischer was proprietor (about the mid-fifties), a state liquor commissioner showed up demanding to see a liquor license. This amused Eddie for two reasons: the store no longer sold liquor but he did have a license—from 1902! When he produced it, the state official, duly impressed, asked to take transitioning over to Military Intelligence. Major Stelle served with the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC., where intelligence is a critical element for the Special Operations Forces. He previously served as Assistant Professor of Military Science at The University of Texas at Austin. He is now the Chair and Professor of Military Science at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Artist and veteran Nick Watson will have artwork on display during the month of November (please see page 8 for more information), and Sherry Sorbera will display a “Fallen Heroes Quilt” in the library foyer. During the month of November, names of local veterans will be posted at the library. The Veterans Day Program is sponsored by the Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library and supplemented with funds from Synergy Federal Credit Union.

The Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library invite you and your family to join them in honoring veterans for their service. The annual Veterans Day Celebration will take place at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library on Friday, November 10th at 1:00pm. A reception will follow the ceremony and will include a photograph opportunity for all veterans and their families. Participants include Diane Zornow, the Smithson Valley High School Naval Junior ROTC, the Spring Branch Middle School Band, the Bill Brown Elementary School Choir, and guest speaker Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Stelle.

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Stelle brings 20+ years of Active Duty Army Experience as both an enlisted Soldier and Commissioned Officer. A product of ROTC, he commissioned from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee in 2000, completing a Green to Gold Scholarship. He also holds a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School.

He has served in every key command and staff job to this point, beginning as a Scout Platoon Leader in the Armor Corps before...
FISCHER STORE CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Terry Fischer remembers his grandmother talking about the Model T’s having to back up over the Devil’s Backbone because otherwise they would stall out on such a steep incline.

Since Fischer Store was the first establishment in northern Comal County to sell liquor and since the neighboring Hays County was dry, folks would come to Fischer and get soused. This caused some trouble. One night, a Fischer family member, Alfred Otto Fischer, a sheriff’s deputy, was killed arresting a thief.

All children attended the one room Fischer Store School until 1957 when the state assumed responsibility for public education. The school building, now serving as a community center, was built by the National Youth Administration, an organization established by Eleanor Roosevelt for young people ages sixteen to twenty-five. Lessons were taught in German there until after WWII, when discrimination against German speakers became prevalent.

Fischer Cemetery occupies the same property near the corner of FM 484 and Highway 32. Ironically, the first person buried there was the caretaker’s son.

In 1875, the community established the Fischer Agricultural Society for mutual support and Fischer Hall was built. The Fischers argue that Fischer Hall and Anhalt Halle are very closely tied as the first dancehalls in Texas. Today, the hall is available for rental but back then the Society sponsored dances, a polo club, and nine-pin bowling in an adjacent building that still opens to the public on Saturdays at 1:00pm for open bowling.

This month, the family receives a National Weather Service award for having kept continuous weather records since before the Service was established. This habit started with Hermann II when he began jotting weather records in the back of a used barbed wire catalogue.

If you like soaking in nostalgia, meandering through century-old artifacts, or warming up to a pot-bellied stove in winter, this is the place to visit. Pick up some locally made jam or an art piece by local artisans and get the t-shirt. I promise. It’ll make you smile!

The Fischer Fischer Historic District was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Fischer Store is located at 4040 FM 484 and is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday. To learn more visit http://www.fischerstore.com.

D. Ellis Phelps is an artist and freelance writer. She is the author of the novel Making Room for George and the blog www.FormidableWoman.org. She is also the local history correspondent for the West Comal Chronicle.

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Group annual Halloween in the Park evening of fun. Your evening will begin with a story or two followed by a walk along our not-too-spooky trails; 6pm - 7pm for your youngest ghosts and goblins; 7pm - 8:30pm for older ones. We’ll have free food and other bits of fun on this special evening - and the Discovery Center will be open, as well. Admission for this event is a $10-per-car donation which goes directly to the Friends Group and benefits programs and other projects at the park and Honey Creek.

Halloween Pet Costume Contest on Saturday, October 28 from 12pm - 2pm at the Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital in the Bealls shopping center. $20 entry fee (cash) with all proceeds to benefit the Bulverde Area Humane Society. Goody bags for all. Prizes for winners! Refreshments and a photo booth. (830) 438-7800

Market Days - Ongoing

Be Fab Market Days - Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 10am - 4pm at Be Fabulous Boutique, 2877 Bulverde Rd in Bulverde.

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.

Master Naturalist Classes

Become a Texas Master Naturalist by taking the Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter class beginning Thursday, October 26. Applications are due by October 15. For more info and to download an application, go to www.txmn.org/lindheimer or call 830-620-3440.

Mental Health

Let’s Talk About It! - A Conversation of Hope & Help Around Suicide on October 12 from 6:30pm - 8pm at the Smithson Valley High School Auditorium.

Music and More

Anhalt Dance Hall - Oktoberfest 2017 on October 21, 2017 from 12pm - 10pm with the Ennis Czech Boys (2pm - 6pm) and Justin Trevino (7pm - 11pm). Pot roast and sausage meal ($10) and other fare. $7 before 3pm, $15 afterwards, 12 and under free. (830) 438-2873

Outdoors

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

Recycling Events

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal for Comal County – October 14 from 8am - 12pm at New Braunfels City Hall. The last car in line at noon will be the last assisted. See the following website for what constitutes hazardous waste: http://www.nbtx.org/1235/Household-Hazardous-Waste.

Community Wide Shred Day - October 21 from 9am - 12pm at the BSB Chamber of Commerce on 131 Bulverde Crossing. Free for Chamber members (up to 20 bankers boxes) and $3/box for non-members (up to 10 boxes).

Veterans Day Observance

Veterans Day – On Friday, November 10, from 1pm - 2pm. Drop off your unused or expired prescriptions at Bulverde City Hall or Bulverde/Spring Branch Fire & EMS.

Theater

S.T.A.G.E. – The Savannah Sipping Society will continue playing at the Krause House Theatre, 1300 Bulverde Road in Bulverde on October 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22. See www.stagebulverde.org or call Mona Klein/Charlotte Miniard at 830-438-2339.

Brauntex Theater in New Braunfels will present Mitch Ryder & the Detroit Wheels on Thursday, October 12 at 7:30pm. Their biggest hit was “Devil with the Blue Dress On.” Tickets start at $57. On Thursday, October 26 at 8pm Rosanne Cash will perform. Tickets start at $60. Call 830-627-0808 or go to www.brauntex.org.
Library Events - October - November

All library classes and events are FREE unless otherwise noted. **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.

**Thursday, October 12**

Create a Business Plan 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Thursdays through 11/16
Diane DeSimone, business owner with a Ph. D. in international marketing, will teach this six week workshop. You will learn how to identify the needs of your clients, learn about your competition, define what you are offering, determine funding requirements, and outline your marketing plan.

**Saturday, October 14**

Spooky Stories with Tim Tingle and Friends 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Get in the mood for Halloween! This event starts off with 45 minutes of Funny Spooky Stories, followed by a refreshment break, and ending with more spooky stories.

**Tuesday, October 17**

All About Meringue for Adults & Teens 13+
3:00pm - 4:15pm
We will be demonstrating everything about meringue, including Fluffy Meringue Frosting and more. Registration required.

**Saturday, October 19**

Bluebonnet Bunch - Homeschoolers & Afterschoolers 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Bluebonnet Bunch is a book club for children, grades 3-5. Each meeting we’ll have activities based on a different book from the 2017-2018 Bluebonnet Nominee List. Space is limited. Registration required.

**March 25, 2023**

Lunch and Learn - Simplify Your Life Through the Holidays 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Bring your lunch and learn something new! Are the holidays becoming less fun and more stressful? Author and Certified Life Coach Jeannie Powell will guide you through her plan to simplify, as found in her book Life, Simplified.

**Wednesday, November 1**

Young Naturalists Story Hour 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Learn about the wonders of nature with Ranger Craig from Guadalupe River State Park.

**Thursday, November 2**

Bluebonnet Bunch - Homeschoolers & Afterschoolers 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Bluebonnet Bunch is a book club for children, grades 3-5. Each meeting we’ll have activities based on a different book from the 2017-2018 Bluebonnet Nominee List. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Friday, November 3**

Murder on the Orient Express Matinee 3:00pm - 5:30pm
Join us for a viewing of the old 1974 Agatha Christi’s Murder on the Orient Express before you go see the new one at the theater. We will have tea and scones. Registration required.

**Saturday, November 4**

Make a Poinsettia Wreath 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Come learn how to make a Deco Mesh Poinsettia Wreath to decorate for the upcoming Christmas holidays. We will provide the wreath rings and ties you provide the rest! To make this you will need to bring a red roll of deco mesh that is 10” wide and 10 yards long and also a roll of green mesh in 21” wide. You will not need all 10 yards of this mesh.

**Monday, November 6**

Organize Your Photos with Shutterfly 10:30am - 11:45am
Learn how to upload your photos to this free website that will keep your photos safe and organized. You must bring your phone with charging cable, digital camera with cables or a flash drive with pictures stored on it. You will also need a laptop or you can use one of ours. Registration required

**Tuesday, November 7**

Flower Arranging for Adults & Teens 13+
6:30pm - 7:45pm
We will be arranging flowers from store bought bunches to spruce up our holiday tables. Reservation required.

**Wednesday, November 8**

Lunch and Learn – Water Conservation Techniques 12:00pm - 1:30pm
This will be a discussion on rainwater harvesting and how to effectively use the water we have, keep the water that falls and how to use that water for the wildlife you have.

**Friday, November 10**

Veterans Day Event 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Please join us as we honor our veterans in this annual Veterans Day Observance at the Library. A reception in the library will follow.

**Saturday, November 11**

Flower Arranging for Adults and Teens 13+
3:00 – 4:15pm
We will be arranging flowers from store bought bunches to spruce up our holiday tables. Reservation required.
Ongoing Programs at the Library

**Mondays**

*Grateful Threads Quilt Group*
1st Monday of each month
10am - 4pm
Registration required.

*FOL Meeting*
2nd Monday
1:30pm - 3pm

*BARLD Meeting*
2nd Monday
5pm - 6:30pm

*Toddler Storytime*
10:30am - 11:30am

**Tuesdays**

*Watercolor for Adults & Teens 13+*
2nd Tuesday
3pm - 5pm
Registration required.

*Teen Writing Group*
2nd & 4th Tuesday
6pm - 7:30pm

*Beginning French*
9:30am - 11am

*Intermediate French*
11am 11:30am

*Hill Country Christian Writers*
6pm - 7:45pm

*Family Lego Night*
6pm - 7:30pm

**Wednesdays**

*Beginning Spanish*
9:30am - 10:30am

*Intermediate Spanish*
10:30am - 12pm

*Preschool Storytime*
10:30am - 11:30am

*The Art of Storytelling – Adults and Teens 13+*
1pm - 3pm
Registration required.

*English as a Second Language*
6pm - 7:30pm
No registration required.

**Thursdays**

*Cookbook Demo & Potluck Lunch Club*
1st Thursday
11:30am - 1:30pm

*Learn Adobe Dreamweaver Basics*
1st Thursday
2pm - 3:45pm
Registration required.

*Watercolor Calligraphy for Adults & Teens 13+*
3rd Thursday
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Registration required.

*The Doc Moore Storytelling Guild*
3rd Thursday
6:30pm - 7:45pm

*Watercolor Basics for Adults & Teens 13+*
4th Thursday
6:00pm - 7:45pm
Registration required.

*English as a Second Language*
6pm - 7:30pm
No registration required.

**Saturdays**

*Walk-In Computer Help*
11am - 12pm

*Anime Club for Teens*
2pm - 3:30pm

**BSBL Trekker Calendar**

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

1st and 3rd Wednesday
10am – 11:30 am
The Trekker will be at the Activity Center for adult crafts time.

**Tamiga Acres**
Every Tuesday 5:00pm - 5:30pm
The Trekker will be stopping by Tamiga Acres to check out books to children.

**Living Rock Academy**
1st and 3rd Wednesday
12:45pm – 1:30pm
The Trekker will be stopping by to check out books to students grades K-5.

**The Heights**
2nd and 4th Wednesday
10:30am – 11:30am
The Trekker will be traveling to The Heights for adult storytime.

**Community Outreach**
2nd and 4th Thursday
12pm – 2pm
The Trekker will stop by several local spots to deliver library materials AND to deliver the West Comal Chronicle.

**Helping Hands Food Pantry**
1st and 3rd Thursday
1:30pm - 6pm
The Trekker will be present with books, magazines, and more.

**Halloween in the Park**
Saturday, October 28th
6pm - 8:30pm
The Trekker will be set up at Halloween in the Park to hand out goodies to those who stop by!

**Trunk or Treat**
Tuesday, October 31st
5pm - 7pm
The Trekker will be set up at the Bulverde Spring Branch Trunk or Treat event (located in the Bealls parking lot) with treats to hand out.

**Brackenfest**
Saturday, November 11th
11am - 3pm
The Trekker will be set up at Brackenfest to hand out program information and sign up library cards.
SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE!
By Cassie Wedding

Jeannie Powell, a certified life coach and author of Life, Simplified, will be telling you how to do just that, simplify your life, at a presentation at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. The program will take place on Wednesday, October 25 from 12 noon to 1:30pm.

Ask yourself: Are the holidays becoming less fun and more stressful? I think most of us get caught up in the stress of the holiday season. We may enjoy it, but we are secretly—or not so secretly-- glad when it’s over. To pre-empt that feeling, Jeannie can tell you about a Simplify Your Life plan that actually works.

Often we complicate life more than we need to. We get distracted. We follow what someone else wants. We end up wasting precious time on activities that do not reflect what we really want. We are too busy to sit and think about the difficult questions that make the most difference, questions like: Who am I? What do I want? What do I not want? How do I get there? To simplify and enrich our lives, we must prioritize what is really important and what isn’t. Those answers are different for everyone.

Jeannie embraces the less is more approach. In an hour she can provide you with simple, practical tools to help you find better balance in your life, and not just during the holidays. The plan includes a guide to help you reveal the best aspects of your life through self-awareness and to recognize and claim your priorities.

Jeannie lives in the Hill Country with her husband and two sons.

Simplify Your Life Through the Holidays
Presented by life coach and author Jeannie Powell
Wednesday, October 25, 12pm - 1:30pm

FLU SHOTS FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Comal County Office of Public Health has flu shots available for county residents who want to protect themselves and their families against contracting influenza.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone at least six months old be vaccinated against the flu every year, said Cheryl Fraser, Comal County director of public health.

“The flu vaccine is an important part of staying healthy year round,” Fraser said. “Getting your flu shot is one of the best ways to reduce your chance of illness, doctors’ visits, and missed work and school.”

The Office of Public Health accepts Medicaid and Community First CHIP for children age 18 and younger, and Blue Cross Blue Shield for all ages. The cost of a shot for someone without insurance coverage is $35.

Walk-ins are welcome, or residents may call 830-221-1150 to make an appointment. The office is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. at 1297 Church Hill Drive, New Braunfels.
EXTENSION OFFICE OFFERS MONTHLY SEWING CLASSES

Comal County residents wanting to learn or improve their sewing skills are invited to register for a new make-and-take series offered by the Comal County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

“Make ‘n’ Takers” will offer one three-hour session each month for attendees to learn how to make a different item and take it home with them. Each class will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the county’s Extension Office, 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels. Cost will be $20 per class to cover supplies.

“We’ve had a lot of interest from residents who want to get back to the basics and practice their sewing – as well as interest from people who never learned to sew but want to try,” said Connie Sheppard, extension agent for family and consumer sciences. “These classes will be a great way for folks to gain some skills and have something to bring home, too.”

Each class in the series is on a Thursday; the dates and topics are:

• Oct. 12: Family apron (easy)
• Nov. 9: Zipper bag (moderate)
• Dec. 14: Last-minute gifts (crafting)

Because class size is limited, attendees are encouraged to register early by calling 830-620-3440, as well as calling before the class to make sure it reached the minimum required size.

PET OF THE MONTH - SIOUX

Sioux is a one year old female coonhound mix, medium-sized, with a gorgeous reddish brown coat and a lean frame. She came to BAHS as a stray but clearly has been a pet before and loves everyone. Sioux is an energetic pup who would do best with an active handler or owner. She is highly motivated to learn and would be a great training partner for agility or nose work. Like most hounds, she loves to follow her nose.

For more information or to meet Sioux and other 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 1pm-4pm. Contact BAHS at 830-980-2247 or www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com.

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

The Bulverde/ Spring Branch Library will be spending the week of October 15-21, 2017, celebrating its Friends of the Library group as part of the 12th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week.

The Friends of the Bulverde/ Spring Branch Library were established as a 501 C 3 in 2000. Over the next nearly two decades the group has been active supporters of library projects and programs while staying fluid enough in their duties to truly support the library in whatever fashion they may need.

“Our library would not be the community resource that it is without the Friends,” said library director Susan Herr. “The funds they raise definitely puts the icing on the cake. I think most members would be surprised to learn how many of the services and programs they enjoy are supported by the Friends.”

These days the Friends group writes grants, which are the backbone of our children’s summer reading program. They provide support for many adult programs including Great Decisions, a Veterans day event, Book and Author, and some of the larger community arts and musical entertainment presentations throughout the year. Perhaps the steadiest form of support from the Friends of the Library is shown by the many hours of volunteer work that they perform by taking donated books and giving them new life in their Book Nook. Here, members of the community are able to purchase most hardback books for $2.00, many paperback are only 50 cents and sale books mere pennies. While this in itself is a wonderful community resource, the money earned from these sales are put back into the library and used yearly for whatever needs or additional funding the library has. The Friends group are currently pledging a large sum of money for outfitting the expansion of the library that will be taking place next year.

Just this past year in 2016, the Friends had 294 members who contributed 3,752 hours of their time to library projects and support.

“The FOL are a wonderful group of volunteers who are committed to our library,” said Bev Lemes, the Bulverde Area Rural Library District President. “They sponsor interesting programs, both educational and enjoyable and they do so with an energetic and happy attitude. They participate in grant writing, help with fund raising and contribute countless hours to create a welcoming atmosphere at our library. The FOL has helped make our library an important presence in our community.”

While the friends are invaluable to the library they also have quite a bit of fun along the way, not only do they have several bus trips to fun and educational locations throughout the year, but they also have a members only Oktoberfest in the fall, a renown Christmas Tea for the community and a yearly meeting in January where there is plenty of good food and fun!

“There is a special being run during FOL week, October, 15-21--you can join for $10 through 2018,” said Karen Schmalz, The Friends of the Library President. “There is also a FOL Lifetime Membership. It is $500 per couple, after this onetime payment, they then never have to join again.”

Stop by the library in October and look at the display and scrapbook in the foyer of the library with information about our wonderful Friends group and their activities. Contact the library at (830)438-4864 or visit www.bsblibrary.org to learn more about the events going on or how to become a member of the Friends.

National Friends of Libraries Week is coordinated by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united.
WHAT BOOK CLUBS ARE READING

Married to Bhutan, Linda Leaming - memoir
In this funny, magical memoir, we accompany Linda Leaming on her travels through South Asia, sharing her experiences as she learns the language, customs, and religion; her surprising romance with a Buddhist artist; and her realizations about the unexpected path to happiness and accidental enlightenment. Bhutan is a tiny, landlocked country bordering China and India. Impossibly remote and nearly inaccessible, Bhutan is rich in natural beauty, exotic plants and animals, and crazy wisdom. It is a place where people are genuinely content with very few material possessions and the government embraces “Gross National Happiness” instead of Gross National Product.

The Two-Family House, Lynda Cohen Loigman - fiction
From debut novelist Lynda Cohen Loigman, The Two-Family House is a moving family saga filled with heart, emotion, longing, love, and mystery. Brooklyn, 1947: in the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born minutes apart to two women. They are sisters by marriage with an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic night, but as the years progress, small cracks start to appear and their once deep friendship begins to unravel. No one knows why, and no one can stop it. One misguided choice; one moment of tragedy. Heartbreak wars with happiness and almost wins.

My Name is Lucy Barton, Elizabeth Strout - fiction
The profound mother-daughter bond is explored through a mother’s hospital visit to her estranged daughter by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Olive Kitteridge and The Burgess Boys. Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn’t spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy’s childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie tension and longing. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and unforgettable.

Danger Close: A Combat Helicopter Pilot, Amber Smith - memoir
Danger Close is the riveting first-ever memoir of active combat by a female helicopter pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan. Amber Smith flew into enemy fire in some of the most dangerous combat zones in the world. One of only a few women to fly the Kiowa Warrior, an armed reconnaissance helicopter that flies low, perilously close to the fight, Smith rose to Air Mission Commander in the premier Kiowa unit in the Army. In Danger Close, Smith takes us into the heat of battle, enabling readers to feel, hear, and smell the experience of being a combat pilot in warfare. This is an edge-of-the-seat story of learning to perform under pressure—both in action against an implacable enemy and within the elite boys’ club of Army aviation.

The Cellist of Sarajevo, Steven Galloway – historical fiction
Set during the 1990s Siege of Sarajevo, this novel tells the story of three people trying to survive in a war-torn city and of the sorrowing cellist who plays unaunted in their midst. One day a shell lands in a bread line and kills twenty-two people as the cellist watches from a window in his flat. He vows to sit in the hollow where the mortar fell and play Albinoni’s Adagio once a day for each of the twenty-two victims, unaware of a hidden shooter who is out to kill him as he plays his memorial. Meanwhile, other characters, almost paralyzed with fear, uncertain where the next shot will land, must make their way through the city to find food and water for their families. The author has created a story that speaks to the dignity and generosity of the human spirit under extraordinary duress.

UPCOMING ARTIST IN THE HALLWAY - NOVEMBER

Nick Watson comes from a long line of military service members going all the way back to the Revolutionary War (the winning side). He retired from the Marine Corps as a highly decorated Chief Warrant Officer, with service awards including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor.

Currently, Nick is co-owner of The Makery in Bulverde, along with his wife, Francesca. He is also a member of the Bulverde Area Arts Center. Nick had been dabbling with painting since the late 1990’s, but he took it up as a full-time vocation after his retirement from the military in 2014. He now works primarily on wood panels and canvas. He is also exploring mixed media and a variety of other materials.

In addition to the artwork in the hallway, the “Fallen Heroes Quilt” by award-winning quilter Sherry Sorbera will be displayed in the foyer. You can see more patriotic quilts in the hallway and reading room.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Join us for a viewing of the old 1974 Agatha Christi's Murder on the Orient Express before you go see the new one released November 10th. We will have tea and scones. Registration required.
**Clubs and Meetings**

**Do you have a special interest? Would like to explore a new one? Then check out these groups. If you would like your club listed, email us about it at news@comalchronicle.com.**

**Book Clubs**

History Book Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 1-3pm at Mystic Shores Community Center. Contact: Dennis Denny at vadenn@yahoo.com.

Emailed Dennis

2nd Tuesday Evening Book Club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the BSB Library. Check the library website for this month’s book selection.

3rd Tuesday Book Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30am at the BSB Library. Check the library website for this month’s book selection.

**Gardening**

The Bulverde Community Garden Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:15 pm at the BSB Activity Center.

The Bulverde Garden Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am. For location, contact Lorelei at 830-885-4318 or lorelei@gvtc.com.

The Butterfly Garden Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month from 9-10am at the BSB Library to maintain the butterfly garden.

Native Plant Society of Texas/Lindheimer Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the GVTG Auditorium. At the October 17 meeting, the topic is “How to Build a Loop Greenhouse” to be presented by David Will.

Texas Master Naturalists/Lindheimer Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm at the Tye Preston Memorial Library. In October the meeting will take place on October 19. Open to the public.

**Hobbies**

The Bulverde Quilt Group meets at Bulverde United Methodist Church on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Contact: Sherry Sorbera at sorbera@gmail.com.

Comal County Beekeepers Association meets the 1st Thursday of every month at the EMS station at 553 Rodeo Drive, Spring Branch, Texas (830) 438-5643.

Guadalupe Valley Amateur Radio Club meets on Saturdays at 7:30am at Granzin’s BBQ, 660 W. San Antonio in New Braunfels. Contact: David Schreier, 830-914-6270 or 210-392-0676.

Sit and Piece/Quilt has a new name: Greatful Threads Quilt Group. They still meet every 1st Monday of the month from 10am-1pm at the BSB Library. Call BSB Library 830-438-4864 to register.

**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.

The Bulverde City Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30pm to 6pm at Bulverde City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend, Bulverde. The public is invited. 830-438-3612.

**Service Clubs**

The Bulverde Men’s Lions Club meets 7-9pm every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Bulverde Community Center at 1747 E Ammann Rd.

The Spring Branch-Bulverde Lions Club meets 7:30-9pm every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center.

**Toastmasters**

Col. Jack Wallace Toastmasters meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 6:30pm to 7:45 pm at the BSB Library.

**Web Design**

The San Antonio Web Spinners, an Adobe Web Design Group, meets on Tuesdays from 6:00pm – 7:45pm at the BSB Library to discuss Dreamweaver Basics, and web design in general.

**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.

**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 has dogs and cats for adoption, plus volunteer opportunities, at 3563 Kingsnake in Bulverde, just off TX 1863. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am-1pm and Sunday from 1-4pm. See www.bulverdeareahumaneociety.com.

**Comal County AgriLife Extension Service**

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service in Comal County offers free or low cost classes and resources in the following areas: Health, Foods and Nutrition, Agriculture and Natural resources, and 4H for Youth. 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. Morning and evening classes available. Call or go online at www.bslibrary.org for details.

**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.

Provisions: A 25:35 Outreach is a food pantry open Tuesday-Thursday from 9am to 3pm. At 2295-1 Bulverde Road in Bulverde.

Hope Center Food Pantry and Outreach distributes food every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10am - 12pm at Riverside Community Church, 1100 Bulverde Road in Bulverde. Call 830-980-4673 for more information.

**GED Classes**

Free GED Classes are available at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. Check for details at www.bslibrary.org or call 830-438-4864.

**Health and Wellness**

Wellness on Wheels is a rolling medical clinic staged by the BSB Fire & EMS. Every 2nd Thursday of the month, from 1-2 pm, WOW will be at St. Joseph’s Church Rotary, 25781 State Highway 46 W in Spring Branch.

**Jobs**

New Braunfels Works is a free service that helps adults and youth find jobs by providing Job Assistance Workshops the 1st Friday of each month, Java and Jobs on the 2nd Friday of each month, computer skills classes, and job coaching. Contact: Ines Picazo at 830-327-6007. See https://nibfoodbank.org/our-programs/job-assistance/new-braunfels-works.

**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.bslibrary.org.

**Mental Health**

Mental Health Crisis Number- 1-800-325-8931

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

**Parks**

Bulverde Community Park provides walking paths, picnic facilities, a garden, playscapes and a splash pad, covered pavilions with picnic benches, a garden, and more. Open 6am to 11pm. At 29815 Bulverde Lane in the Village of Bulverde.

**Recovery/Support**

AA Meetings in Bulverde – Every Monday and Wednesday at 8:15pm in the Bulverde Community Center, 1747 E. Amman Road, Bulverde, 210-413-4800.

AA Meetings in Spring Branch – Every morning including Sunday at 7:00am plus Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:15pm. New location: 9850 FM 311, Spring Branch, Ron at 512-508-3541.

AA Helpline 24/7 - 210-828-6235

A Alanon Helpline - 210-829-1392 for information about Alanon or Alateen meetings.

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

Dementia and Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group – Support, information, sharing, facilitated by trained counselors. 1st Monday of every month from 2-3pm. At the Comal County Senior Center, 655 Landa, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

**Seniors and Over 50’s**

Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center - Provides a friendly meeting place for adults over 50 to gather socially as well as a place to take free classes in exercise, yoga, nutrition, health, and much more! Call 830-438-311 or come by 30280 Cougar Bend in Bulverde. www.bsblibrary.org.
**Word Labyrinth #1448**

**by Gerardo Jofre**

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O L L L T
L E L L S R
R R S I S O
A A A A S
U B B U A
I N E E T
T T R T I
Y R E L T
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**CLUES (At random, not in sequence)**

**Across:**
1. Water barrier (3); Explosive initials (3); Suffix for baron or marquis (3); No longer working (Abbr.) (3); Affirmative (3); Operate (3); Our country (Init.) (3); Big bird (3);
2. Kimono sash (3); Unit of work (3); Heroic narrative (4); Dry starch (4); Encourage (4);
3. Shakespeare’s forest (5); Steers (6); Less chaste (6); Omitted (6); Finds out (7).

**Down:**
1. Sick (3); Aging (3); Like this, in Guayaquil (ASI) (3); Operate (3); Period (3);
2. Working (Abbr.) (3); Affirmative (3); Operate (3); Our country (Init.) (3); Big bird (3);
3. Defended positions (8); Odysseus’ wife (8); Urgent (8).

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 12**

**SPAGHETTI SQUASH LASAGNA WITH SPINACH**

*By The Bulverde Community Garden Committee*

2 small spaghetti squash (about 1 ½ pounds each)
4 tsp olive oil
4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1 (8-oz) package fresh baby spinach
½ cup part-skim ricotta cheese
1/8 tsp kosher salt
2 oz shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese (about 1/2 cup), divided
½ pound 93% lean ground turkey
1 ½ cups lower sodium marinara sauce
1 oz Parmesan cheese, grated (about ¼ cup)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cut squash in ½ lengthwise. Scoop out and discard seeds. Place squash halves on baking sheet, cut side up, and bake for 50 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes. Using a fork, scrape inside of squash to remove spaghetti-like strands. Place strands on a clean dish towel and squeeze until barely moist. Set squash shells aside.

Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil and garlic. Cook for 30 seconds. Add spinach and cook 1 minute, or until wilted. Remove from heat. In a medium bowl, combine spinach mixture, squash strands, ricotta cheese, salt and half the mozzarella cheese. Set aside.

Heat skillet over medium-high heat and cook turkey for 4 minutes, or until brown. Stir to crumble. Add marinara sauce, cover, reduce heat to medium and simmer for 4 minutes. Remove from heat.

Increase oven to 425°F. Place squash shells on baking sheet. Spoon sauce mixture evenly into each half. Top each with half of the squash mixture. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella cheese and Parmesan cheese. Bake for 20 minutes. Leaving the squash in the oven, preheat broiler and broil 1-2 minutes, or until cheese is golden brown and bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Serves 4

Source: Cooking Light, www.cookinglight.com

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**CELEBRATE TEXAS NATIVE PLANT WEEK**

*By Cassie Wedding*

This year Texas Native Plant Week will take place from October 15 through October 21. Come see the displays prepared by the Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, at the Bulverde Spring Branch Library, the Tye Preston Library, and the New Braunfels Public Library.

Why Native Plants? Can’t I just buy any plant I want to put in my yard?
Yes, of course you can. However, many a hopeful gardener has purchased a beautiful plant from a nursery, planted it in his yard and discovered to his disappointment that the plant fails to thrive or even dies. Often, the fate of the plant has nothing to do with the skills of the gardener. It just was not adapted to grow in this soil or climate.

It makes sense to choose plants that will thrive locally. Enter native plants. Here are just a few reasons to plant with natives:

Native plants are drought-tolerant, so they don’t need regular watering except when newly planted. Sometimes you don’t need to water them at all. The result is the conservation of precious and dwindling water resources.

Native plants provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Native plants thrive without much attention. They are naturally resistant to local insects and they don’t need special soil or fertilizers.

Native plants support and enhance the local ecosystem, of which they are a part.

Native plants are just as beautiful as imported plants, and a lot less trouble.

Where Can I Find Native Plants?

Most locally owned nurseries are well stocked with native plants. They can help you choose native plants that fit the location, size, and purpose you need. They will be knowledgeable about how to take care of the plant, how big it will get, and any other questions you may have. While it may be convenient and tempting to buy plants from a box store, many of those plants are not chosen with local conditions in mind and won’t do well. The employees at such stores are not likely to be knowledgeable about the plants in stock.

What Does It Mean To Be Native?

Botanists say that Texas is home to over 7,000 species of plants, including native, naturalized, non-native, crop and forage. Nearly 5,000 of these are said to be native plants. What does “native plant” mean? According to Bill Ward, President of the local NPSOT, it is difficult to find a definitive answer to that question.

He says that some say that “native plant” means plants that were growing naturally here when the European settlers came. This is a popular definition with many botanists and native-plant enthusiasts. However, it is more accurate to say that plants introduced by man during the last three hundred or so years and that have adapted to our landscape and climate are referred to as “naturalized.”

An example of this in Texas is the black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), originally native to the northeastern US, but now prevalent in Gulf Coast states, where it was introduced by nurserymen. Those aggressive naturalized plants that are detrimental to the health of native-plant populations commonly are called “invasive exotics.”

Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) are notorious examples of highly proliferating exotic species.

Others advocate that a native plant species is best defined as one which has inhabited a particular region for thousands of years. From Bill Ward’s perspective as a geologist, he might define Texas natives as descendants of those plants which were growing naturally in this area about 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, just after the last Ice Age.

To complicate matters, Texas is such a big state that a plant growing in one part of the state may not be considered native to another part of the state. For example, when the Native Plant Society of Texas creates demonstration gardens, all plants used must be native within a 50-mile radius of the garden.

For more information about gardening in Comal County with native plants, attracting local wildlife to your landscape, and more, see the website at http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer.

**WHERE CAN I PICK UP THE WEST COMAL CHRONICLE?**

You can always find the paper at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. Plus, we distribute on the second Thursday of each month to the following locations:

- 46th Street Pizza
- Big’s on 46
- BSB Activity Center
- BSB Chamber of Commerce
- Bulverde City Hall
- Bulverde Post Office
- Bulverde Tax Office
- Bulverde/Spring Branch Library
- Family Fitness

**HERE:**

- HEB
- The Loft Coffee House
- McDonalds on Hwy 46
- Pet Galaxy on 281
- Popcorn Friday
- Spring Branch Animal Hospital
- Spring Creek Gardens
- Strutty’s on Hwy 281
- Walgreens on 46

- Bulverde/Spring Branch Library
- Bulverde Tax Office
- Big’s on 46
- McDonalds on Hwy 46
- Pet Galaxy on 281
- Popcorn Friday
- Spring Branch Animal Hospital
- Spring Creek Gardens
- Strutty’s on Hwy 281
- Walgreens on 46
With 32 species of birds in my birding bag, a few more seemed unlikely. Always hopeful, however, I took up my usual perch under a hackberry tree, which had already been claimed by a mockingbird. It eyed me from a nearby Chimney Swift nest structure, perhaps making sure that I didn’t pluck a fruit it was guarding for a later meal.

My perch faces east with the north to my left, where southward-soaring hawks might appear. Knowing it was still early by migration standards, I remained hopeful. A recent visit with family in Iowa provided Kestrels, a couple of Ospreys, Bald Eagles and a plethora of Red-tailed Hawks for my viewing enjoyment. So my raptor-watching interest was piqued.

Each fall tens of thousands – at least – of diurnal raptors pass through Texas for wintering grounds as remote as Argentina. While many of those birds – likely the majority – pass closer to the gulf, it never hurts to keep your eyes skyward in the Hill Country, especially on days where the north wind is blowing from late September through November.

A few days before, I had enjoyed a Mississippi Kite morning at the park. Thirty of these primarily insect-eating raptors had emerged from cliff-top trees above the river as the sun rose behind them, reminiscent of several years prior when on a foggy day at the park nearly 100 of them appeared – gray birds emerging from a dense fog. These memories kept me on the bench, hoping for more.

As the sun continued to sink in the west, nothing appeared; even the resident Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were absent, by both sight and sound. Finally a Turkey Vulture circling lazily just north of the park drew my attention. I put it in my binocs hoping that perhaps something else would be following suit. As I scanned near the vulture, a hawk came into view. Drifting on dark primaries and secondaries (wing flight feathers) set against white underwing feathers, it was the unmistakable pattern of a Swainson’s Hawk. How about that!

Alertness renewed, I continued to scan the sky for more but none came. Until, that is, I happened to look to my right. Flapping its pointed wings toward me was the real surprise of the evening. With a dark line below the eye and sharply pointed wings, I knew I had a falcon. As it approached I ruled out the Merlin (they lack the dark line) and the Kestrel – they are smaller with distinctive blue (male) or brown (female) wings with a reddish tail. That left two choices, a Peregrine or Prairie Falcon. Both would be first-timers for me at the little park I was birding – and both would be GREAT!

As it cruised by it became clear that the size didn’t match a Peregrine, but the dark underwing coverts sure did make it a Prairie Falcon-- my first for the park and for my years in Texas. What a thrill!

As quickly as it appeared, it was gone. Falcons do that, you know, showing themselves quickly and quite briefly. They remind me of the few encounters I have had with bobcats. You look up and there it is. You move for your camera and ghostlike, it is gone.

Sitting there lost in amazement I reflected back to a day years ago as a naturalist with the Missouri Department of Conservation leading a bird walk. Nearing sunset I heard a distinct song of a rather uncommon bird known as the Henslow’s (not Hensley’s, darn it) Sparrow. It sounds as though it is clearing its throat to sing and then, that’s it; that’s its song. It is so indistinct that this song is, in reality, distinct. While our eyes feasted on this little grassland sparrow, a lifer for several in the party and myself, someone asked, “How are you going to top that?”

Well, not ten seconds later a Peregrine Falcon, cruising a few feet above the grass, glided through an astonished group of birders, disappearing as quickly as it appeared. I calmly asked, “How about a Peregrine Falcon?” I believe they call that birder luck: watch enough birds and you are going to see a lot of crazy good things, like a Prairie Falcon on a hawk-hoping evening in the Texas Hill Country.

As we enter October I encourage you to keep your eyes skyward; the fall migration of birds is underway, whether it is the arrival of our overwintering grassland sparrows or a flight of Sandhill Cranes, White Pelicans, waterfowl or, yes, hawks. And be sure to join us at the park for a bird walk or any of the other programs we offer this fall. It’s a great time of year to get your nature on at your Guadalupe River State Park!
BUSINESS REVIEW: FRONT PORCH 
BAR AND GRILL
By Cassie Wedding

In the heart of the village of Bulverde a new restaurant has opened: the Front Porch Bar and Grill. It’s on the main street that runs through Bulverde, a bit past the gas station, on the right. The restaurant is locally owned, and I like to support local business owners, especially where eating is concerned.

There’s plenty of parking in front. The restaurant resembles an airplane hangar not only from the front, but inside too, meaning plenty of open space and a high ceiling. At the back is a well-stocked bar, which boasts beer on tap and a wine collection “fit for a wine connoisseur,” so they claim. I hear the house sangria is delicious.

Don’t miss the spacious outdoor area, with nice views of old oak trees and vintage farm buildings. This would be a good spot to bring an out-of-town visitor for a casual meal.

The menu holds no surprises, except perhaps a wedge salad with blue cheese dressing. That alone is worth 4 stars from me, especially since the bleu cheese dressing is made in-house. Otherwise, it’s pretty standard fare: hamburgers and other sandwiches, salads, the usual appetizers, plus steaks and a fried catfish basket.

Come to think of it, the lack of menu creativity may be a good thing. After all, this is home-style, comfort foods most people like. Plus, they do prepare everything fresh and to order, and that is always welcome in this age of prefab food full of salt, fat, and who-knows-what chemicals. Prices are quite reasonable, too. Fridays and Saturdays are steak nights, when you can order a hefty prime cut ribeye with all the trimmings to enjoy, along with the live music on those evenings.

The Front Porch also posts a sign visible from the street with daily specials. (Last week it was chicken fried “stake.”)

As for the “to order” part, I can vouch for that. The second time I visited, at lunchtime, I was meeting a friend who has a multitude of food intolerances. Every item on the menu contained at least one ingredient she could not eat. So she ordered a smidgen of this from one offering, and a smidgen of that from another, and please bring a sliced avocado, too. This is the kind of thing that makes most servers blanch. But the young lady cheerfully took my friend’s order and delivered exactly what she requested. Plus, they get bonus points for not charging her extra for preparing an off-menu meal.

If you want to pop in for lunch, a casual dinner, or for happy hour, The Front Porch is a good place to hang out and relax. It’s open every day except Monday, from 11am to 9pm and 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays. At 2265 Bulverde Rd, Bulverde, TX 78163, 830-438-3344.