

THE

# FRONT PORCH News



News and Information from the City of Bulverde and our Neighbors  
Volume 3 Issue 3 ☆ March 2016

Photo © Susan Eisenbrey

THE  
**FRONT PORCH**  
News

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ALL DEPARTMENTS

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830-221-1105

COMMISSIONERS COURT  
830-221-1100

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT 2  
830-438-2266

CONSTABLE, PCT 2  
830-438-3117

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830-885-4883      830-438-6172

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830-620-3400

BULVERDE SPRING BRANCH FIRE & EMS  
830-228-4501

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830-228-4504

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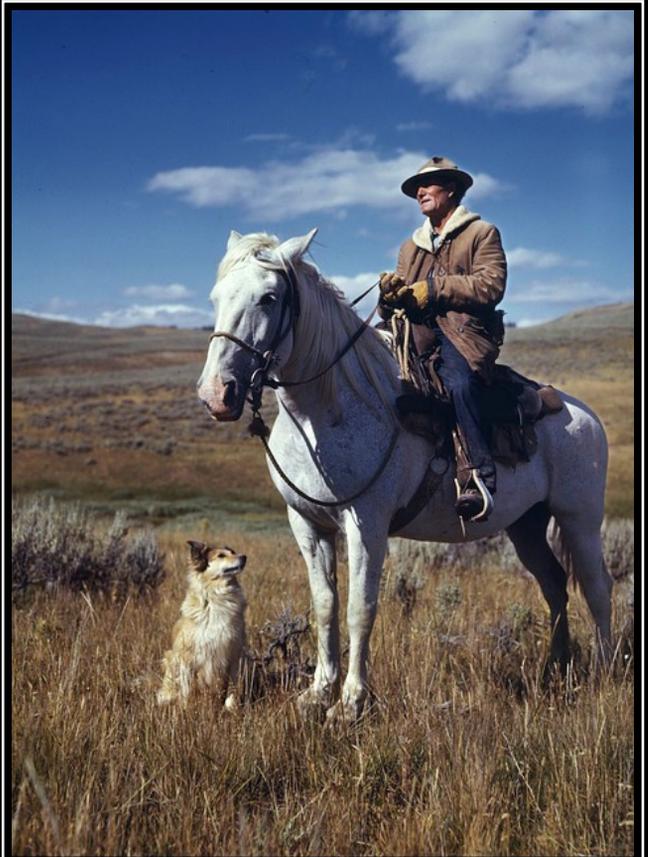
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FRONT PORCH NEWS  
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As a City publication, the Front Porch News strives to maintain objectivity and accuracy in all published content. The newsletter must remain neutral in the publication of content that may be considered controversial, biased, or inflammatory within the community (e.g., political content or opinions, religious material, etc.). The newsletter differs from a newspaper in that opinion pieces are typically not included. Publication of contributing partner content is subject to review for applicability and appropriateness of a publicly funded communication initiative. The newsletter is produced in part through public funding, and is accordingly governed by the regulations set forth in Texas State Law.

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# Pieper's Settlement: The Beginning



*This excerpt from **Bridging Spring Branch and Western Comal County, Texas** by Brenda Anderson-Lindemann is the second installment in a continued series of selections recounting the history and development of the Bulverde and Spring Banch communities.*

August Anton Pieper arrived in Texas after the first settlers came to New Braunfels. He left Germany 21 Sep 1845 and arrived at Galveston on 25 Nov 1845, on the ship GEORG DILLUS. He was a single man of 21, the son of Johann Pieper and Catherine nee Gable. August was born on 13 Jun 1824 in Klein Bergewedel, Hannover, Germany, the oldest of four children. The others, two sisters and a brother, came to Texas. The census shows August Pieper living with the Julius Dresel Family at New Braunfels, his occupation listed as laborer. It was soon after this census report that he settled on the Cibolo Creek.

According to John Henry Brown's "Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas", August Pieper, of Bulverde, was one of the original settlers of Comal Co. after coming to America with the Prince Solms colony in 1845. He first located at New Braunfels, where he worked at his trade (that of a carpenter and joiner) for 2 ½ years and later followed the business of contractor and builder for 9 years. In 1851 he married Miss Johanna

*(Continued on page 4)*



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*(Continued from page 3)*

Kramm, daughter of Conrad Kramm. In 1852 they became the first white settlers of what has since been known as the Pieper's Settlement, a settlement situated in one of the finest mountain districts of Comal Co. Mr. and Mrs. Pieper had 7 children; Caroline, now Mrs. Peter Lex; Emma, now Mrs. Otto Wehe; Sophia, now Mrs. Gustav Uecker; William, married to Miss Minnie Reinhardt; Frederick, married to Miss Augusta Ahrens; and Hermann, married to Miss Helena Uecker.<sup>1</sup>

August, while in New Braunfels, became good friends to Johann Kabelmacher and Heinrich Voges. They hauled freight and settlers to Fredericksburg. They often camped at the low-water crossing on the Cibolo Creek, which is the Mexican word for buffalo. This creek is the boundary border between Comal and Bexar Counties, and courses through very rugged terrain. They soon had friends among the Indians, who came into camp to drink coffee and smoke their tobacco. One morning they were having coffee and talking about not having received their 160 acres yet. Pieper had bought a land contract in Germany in 1843, Certificate #484, for 320 acres in the Fischer-Miller Grant, but so many new settlers were arriving he had not yet received the land. The men talked about how the government was giving land to those who worked and improved it for 3 years. They were sitting on land beside the Cibolo Creek that no one wanted because it was not a steady-flowing stream and water was important to the settlers. Only after a rain did it have deep water holes. The German geologist, Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, in his account of his 1845 visit to Texas, speaks of crossing this dry stream many times, passing between New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. He reported that just below the dry-crossing there was a waterhole where horses could obtain water and then after a thunderstorm the stream swelled so that it could not be crossed on horseback. The men liked the place and decided to try to settle along this stream. Since Mr. Kabelmacher was a surveyor, it was no problem. They surveyed a 160-acre tract each and began improvements. Pieper set up his tent brought from Germany.

Kabelmacher and Voges had wives and children at New Braunfels.

They worked long hours building rock fences. August built a long lean-to shed, preparing for the coming winter, and acquired a milk cow. Then he began digging a well. He built pens for the livestock and lean-tos for cattle, grubbed up trees and bushes to clear the land for crops and a garden. Deer were plentiful for his meat. He began building a herd of longhorn cattle.

His friend, Johann Kabelmacher, had married the widow of Christian Kramm, nee Sophie Theis, on 12 Dec 1847. She had three Kramm children: Johanna Henrietta Kramm, age 17; Heinrich Kramm, age 9; and Carl Kramm, age 7. Mr. Christian Kramm and two of their children, Helena and Johann, apparently died at sea on the crossing. After she married Johann Kabelmacher in Texas they had two daughters. Wilhelmine and Friedericke Kabelmacher. Wilhelmine died at age 16. Friedericke married Fritz Leesch and had 11 children. Johanna Henrietta Kramm was born 22 Dec 1830 at Gross Lafferde, Hannover, Germany. She is the girl who married August Pieper.

Close friend Heinrich Voges came to Texas with wife Sophie nee Ehlers with children Heinrich, Jr., Friedrich and Dorothy Voges. They arrived on the ship HERCULES, leaving Germany 14 Aug 1845, and arriving at Galveston on 16 Oct 1845 from Oberg, Hannover, Germany.

*The history of Pieper's Settlement will continue next month.*

<sup>1</sup> Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, p 536

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# COMAL COUNTY CORNER

by: Scott Haag – Precinct 2 Commissioner

It's no joke: The new Comal County satellite office in Bulverde should be finished somewhere around April Fool's Day.

A little more than six months ago, members of the Bulverde community celebrated the groundbreaking for a facility that will include offices for the County Clerk, Tax Assessor, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace, and County Constable. Since the fall's rains cleared out, the building's construction has moved quickly—and, weather permitting, will be wrapping up this time next month.

That's just Phase 1 of the project, however.

Once the annex and its parking lot are complete, staff will move in from the old

temporary building next door. Then Phase 2—removal of the old building and expansion of the parking lot—begins. We're hoping for a June finish, although any rain will likely push back that date.

The 9,000 square-foot building will provide Bulverde-area residents with a single place to take care of tax bills, justice-court-related matters, vehicle registration, birth certificates and marriage licenses, and land and other records.

We're excited to finally see it open and ready to serve residents in one of Texas' fastest-growing counties. Thank you, Bulverde residents, for your patience and support as we head into the home stretch!



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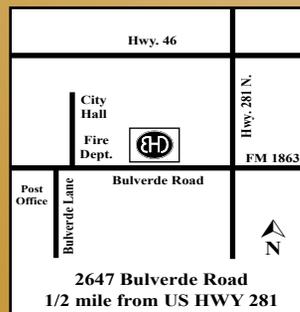
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# Committed to Our Community

## BULVERDE IMPROVEMENT INC.

### A NEW CITY-AFFILIATED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Since the inception of the City of Bulverde back in the late 1990s, City leaders have continually strived to keep the property tax burden low for its residents, and have actually lowered the overall property tax rate significantly over the decades as the commercial tax base has grown. Low taxes were a priority then and continue to be a priority today, which is reflected in the City's current property tax rate of 13.57 cents per hundred in property valuation (one of the lowest in the state of Texas!).

Keeping taxes low, being efficient and effective with limited tax payer resources, and exploring additional non-tax revenue sources remains a key priority for the City of Bulverde. To this end, in 2014 the Bulverde Police Department began to actively apply for and explore various grant opportunities from the Department of Justice, Homeland Security, the Governor's Office, and other private foundations. Since that time, the Bulverde Police Department has been successful in procuring several grants which include awards from the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Homeland Security, the Department of Justice Byrne Grant, the Criminal Justice Department, HEB, the Fire House Subs Public Safety Foundation, and Walmart. Total awards to date are approximately \$227,000.

These grant funds and donations have helped the Police Department acquire modern equipment to better serve the community (such as body cameras and multi-department interoperable radios) and also have increased police department programming efforts (such as the initiation of a canine unit, D.A.R.E. program, and the P.O.E.T. program). This critical equipment helps BPD officers perform their job better, and the grants have helped the City attain the equipment without any additional burden on Bulverde tax payers.

While exploring these various grant and donation opportunities, it quickly became apparent that many of the donors, especially the private foundations, prefer to make donations to 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit entities so that their donations can be classified as federal income tax deductible. Consequently, the creation of broadly scoped City-affiliated nonprofit foundation began to be explored, and thus came to fruition the Bulverde Improvement Corporation (BIC).

The BIC seeks to not be limited to public safety related donations/grants only, but instead has a broad scope that can accept donations for a

*(Continued on page 7)*

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**PURCHASE - REFINANCE - CONSTRUCTION**

(Continued from page 6)

wide range of community-related activities that may include parks and recreation, trails, public safety, and even scholarships presented by the Police Department to local students interested in law enforcement careers.

After much IRS paperwork, the Bulverde Improvement Inc. was founded. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit geared towards making the Bulverde area a better place to live, all the while creating an opportunity for those willing to give the opportunity to legally receive acknowledgment of their donation upon filing their federal tax return. Donors can keep their donation broad or request their donation to be utilized in specific community-oriented areas such as public safety, parks, etc. In fact, the Bulverde Improvement Corporation has already received two \$500 donations late last year.

The Bulverde Improvement Inc. creates a great, tax-deductible donation opportunity for charitable residents and other entities who have a strong desire to see Bulverde remain a great place to live, and help our Police Department keep our community safe. If you are interested in making a donation, it is as simple as contacting our local Broadway Bank. Just specify your donation to the Bulverde Improvement Inc., or mail your donation to Bulverde Improvement, Inc. P.O. Box 129 Bulverde, TX 78163. If you would like your donation to be specific to a certain community-oriented activity, please include that request with your donation.



## Bulverde/Spring Branch Area

# Job Fair

power your future

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2pm - 6pm

Bulverde/Spring Branch Library  
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# BETTER ISO RATING IN BULVERDE

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) assigns a numeric rating number for geographical areas, such as cities and counties. This numeric number is commonly utilized by many large insurance underwriting companies to establish the amount of “risk” associated with built structures within a geographic area. Typically a higher ISO number (ranges from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best) indicates a higher fire “risk” for structures, which can also translate into higher insurance premiums.

The City of Bulverde had never been audited by the ISO before. In addition, the general spread-out nature of our rural area, combined with limited central-water resources throughout the

community, created a former ISO rating of 9. A rating of “9” designated the area within the high fire risk category.

Towards the end of last year, the City of Bulverde was audited for the first time by the ISO. The ISO ranking system evaluates many community factors, such as water resources for firefighting personnel, the enforcement of modern building codes, and flood damage prevention regulations, just to name a few. The auditors were generally pleased to see that the City of Bulverde had a robust flood damage prevention ordinance, had adopted modern building construction codes, and had processes in place to enforce those regulations. The only suggestion the auditors had was for the City to adopt a more current edition of the International Building Code, as this effort typically improves the ISO rating.

Consequently, the City Council reviewed this recommended change and adopted the 2015 International Building Code and International Residential Code at the November City Council meeting. The City of Bulverde received formal notification from the ISO in February that the City’s ISO rating has been enhanced. Due to the City Council’s adoption of the more current building construction codes, the City’s current enforcement processes, and the excellent services of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Emergency Services personnel, the ISO rating has now been enhanced to a level 4.

With an over 50% enhancement to the ISO rating (from level 9 to level 4), Bulverde residents and businesses should see some degree of savings on their insurance premiums. We encourage you to contact your insurance agent for specific details regarding your policy.

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## *Hill Country Christian Church* *(Disciples of Christ)*



10:30am Sunday Worship service  
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### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday - March 20, 10:30am.** Annual Easter Egg Hunt afterwards.

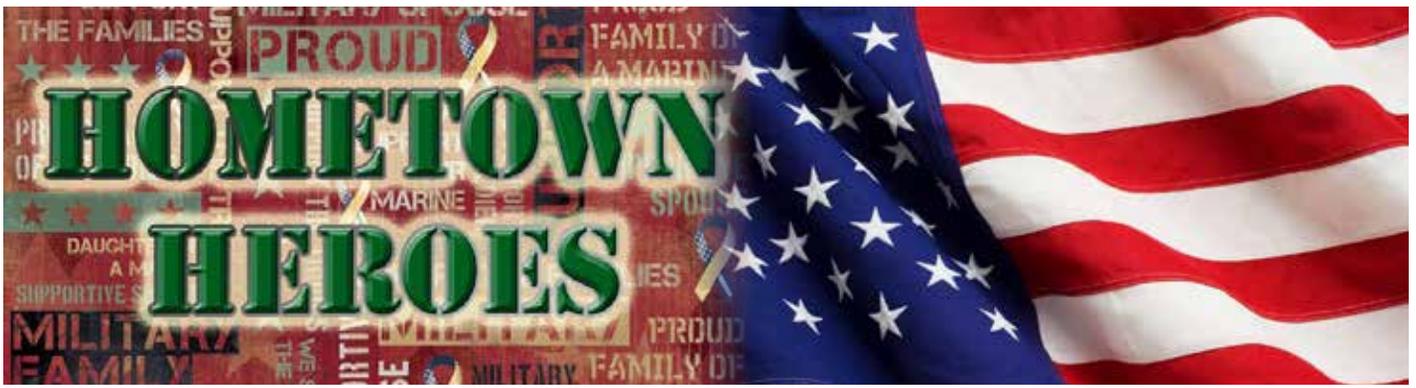
**Maundy Thursday - March 24, 6:00pm** - We’ll have a Seder Supper Service followed by church potluck.

**Good Friday Service - March 25, 6:00pm.**

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

8:30am - Sunrise Service with Peaches Kelly  
9:30am - Potluck breakfast  
10:30am - Easter Worship Service

20845 TX-46 West, Spring Branch, TX. 78070  
Sr. Minister, Larry Garcia | Associate Pastor, Janie Harrison  
Church office: 830-980-2019  
Church office hours: M-Thu., 9:00-3:00 (Closed on Fridays)  
Website: [www.trymychurch.com](http://www.trymychurch.com) / Email: [debhccc@gvtc.com](mailto:debhccc@gvtc.com)



If you've ever been in Bulverde City Hall, you may have noticed the Hometown Heroes bulletin board in the hallway where photos and stories about our local armed forces members are displayed. The board has been up for quite a while, and the staff at City Hall would love to add to and update the display with new photos and biographies of the local men and women who have or are currently



78163, or email the bio and photo (as a jpg file) to [editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us](mailto:editor@ci.bulverde.tx.us) serving in the military. If you would like to honor a family member (active duty or vet), please send a photo along with a short biography about your hero. You may mail your photos (5x7 or smaller please) to "Hometown Heroes" c/o Front Porch News at 30360 Cougar Bend, Bulverde TX

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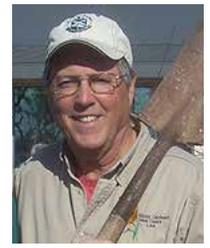
# You're Invited!



Comal Master Gardeners Lee Franzel and Doug Sawin will be attending a three-day seminar in Ft Worth in early March to obtain their Vegetable Gardening Specialist certification.

Part of the requirement for certification is to give educational programs in their home community. You are invited to a free, two-hour program hosted by Lee and Doug about vegetable gardening for our area at **Bulverde/Spring Branch Library** on Saturday, March 19 from 1:00

p.m. to 3:00 p.m. How to add a vegetable patch to your home site and the technical points of soil, fertilizer, planting dates, and varieties will be covered. They promise a fun and lively presentation with lots of slides and printed material to take home. For more information: [lee Franzel@gvvc.com](mailto:lee Franzel@gvvc.com)



Did you know that there are *VA Benefits* that can help offset the cost of living in a retirement community or assisted living?

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Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
10:00am

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# Recycling in Bulverde

If you travel into the downtown village of Bulverde on Friday mornings between 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., you've likely seen the line of cars and trucks in front of the Comal County JP office as folks wait to drop off their weekly accumulation of recyclable materials. No one waits very long, though! The crew who mans the recycling center are helpful, efficient, fast, and friendly, and they make it very easy to take care of this weekly task. All local residents are invited to utilize this free, weekly

recycling service provided by Comal County Rural Recycling. Simply load your recyclable materials into the back seat or trunk of your car or bed of your truck, drive into the lot by the big green trucks, and these wonderful guys will unload it for you. A complete list of what they accept and what is not recyclable is available on the County's website at <http://www.co.comal.tx.us/REC.htm>. There is also a list of alternate days and locations in the area if you are unable to make the Friday drop off.

Next time you drive through, be sure to thank these guys for their dedication and service to our community! Keep it green, Bulverde!



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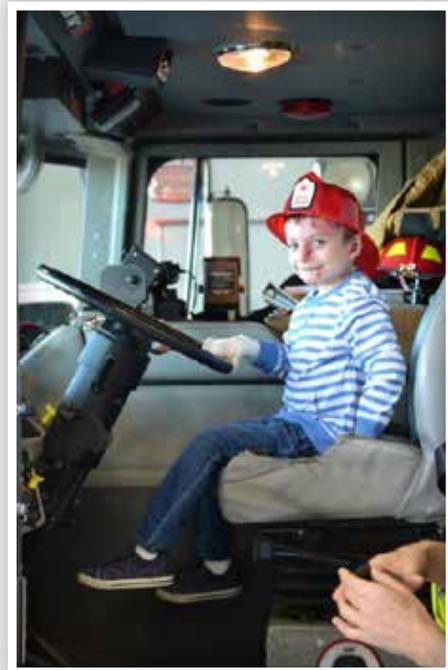


It may be hard to believe, but there are three “Butterfly Children” living in the Bulverde Spring Branch area. Epidermolysis bullosa is a group of rare diseases that cause the skin to blister. “Butterfly Children” is the term given to those born with the disease, as their skin is seen to be as delicate and fragile as a butterfly’s wings; even minor rubbing may cause blistering. At times, the person with epidermolysis bullosa may not be aware of rubbing or injuring the skin even though blisters develop. In severe epidermolysis bullosa, blisters are not confined to the outer skin and they may develop in such places as the linings of the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and upper airway.

At one time, research on epidermolysis bullosa was limited to describing the disease and understanding what happens in the layers of skin. Today, research focuses on finding gene mutations and their effect on the tissues. Epidermolysis bullosa has no cure, though mild forms may improve with age. Treatment focuses on addressing the symptoms, such as infection and itching, and preventing pain and wounds. Supportive care includes daily wound care, bandaging, and pain management as needed.

One of our three local Butterfly Children is Bill Vinson. His dream is to be a firefighter. So, the firefighters at Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS made sure that dream came through. Bill spent a day at our Johnson Ranch Station where he pumped water through the fire hoses and took charge of a fire engine.

Sometimes, life hands children challenges that are not so easy to deal with. Our firefighters often step in when that happens and work to make at least one day easier.



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# Raccoons in the Bays?



There is a unique emergency services system in the Texas Hill Country known statewide as Bulverde

Spring Branch Emergency Services. This system, also known as Bulverde Spring Branch Fire & EMS, is a 38 year old remarkable organization providing services to a 216 square mile rural area. To arrive at our destination, the organization actually had three separate beginnings, but all have connecting stories that ultimately becomes an exceptional operating and model system.

**1959** - The Spring Branch Volunteer Fire Department was the first emergency services organization in the Bulverde Spring Branch area.

**1966** - Meanwhile in Bulverde, the Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department was formed because of an obvious need for structure and brush firefighting.

**1978** - EMS was formed after a 46-year old man died of a heart attack and Bexar County (San Antonio) was unable to cross the county line and a local hospital was too far. Like both local fire departments, EMS had meager beginnings, transporting out of a converted station wagon. Many 9-1-1 calls were run from the homes of volunteers. Ambulances ran out of a station in this rural county of Comal. Our medical director, Dr. Craig Manifold, often mentions, "On many evenings, the ambulances shared the bays with frisky raccoons."



*First ambulance of the organization*

## THE PRESENT

Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services is an award winning model system. All 113 individuals comprise the organization with a

service attitude as they live and breathe the mission and vision. Leadership at BSB shares the following: "We teach, we invent, we explore, we open our facilities to community groups and meetings. We publish, and in many ways, we are supporting the future of medicine." It is a unique mix of orthopedics, austere medicine, and SWAT in the same house (on the same day) a paramedic crew treats a trauma victim. The system excels because flight services train here, as do the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, five residencies and four fellowships, SWAT, County Sheriffs, and many more from Central and South Texas seeking exceptional training in an exceptional facility. Our medics are blessed with rubbing shoulders with such experienced and varied emergency services groups. Others around the United States and beyond recognize the high caliber of education offered in Bulverde and Spring Branch. Instructors from our organization travel the globe lecturing and holding labs in over 40 yearly conferences with thousands of participants.



*Newest addition to BSB Fire & EMS fleet now totaling 34 apparatus*

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What a great weekend we had at the 2nd Annual Chamber Rodeo at Tejas Rodeo Company on February 6th and 7th, with amazing rodeo action provided by the always amazing Diamond Cross Rodeo Company, bringing you the badest bulls, fastest steer, and white knuckle broncs this side of the great State of Texas.

(Photos by Kierce Photography)



## B/SB Area Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar

### March 10

Business Networking Mixer  
5:30–7:30 pm

Sponsored by The Reel Seafood House  
Location: 17130 Hwy. 46 W, Spring Branch, TX  
Member Only Event

### March 16

Chamber Monthly Power Lunch  
Sponsored By: Wonderfully Well  
12 Noon–1:00 pm

Location: Bulverde Spring Branch Library

### March 31

Community Wide Job Fair  
Location: BSB Library

131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX  
2:00 pm–6:00 pm

*\*\*For information on any of the above events, please see our website at [bulverdespringbranchchamber.com](http://bulverdespringbranchchamber.com) or call the Chamber Office at (830) 438-4285*

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# Calling All Area Employers & Job Seekers!

## 2nd Annual Spring Job Fair

Thursday, March 31, 2016

2pm to 6pm

Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

131 Bulverde Crossing  
Bulverde, Texas 78163



The BSBEDF is spearheading the upcoming 2nd Annual Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Spring Job Fair in collaboration with the BSB Chamber, Workforce Solutions Alamo, the City of Bulverde, and the BSB Library.

The purpose of this FREE EVENT is to connect area employers with job seekers throughout the region. Whether you are a local business seeking employees or a job seeker looking for your next career opportunity, we hope you will join us.

Job seekers will be able to participate in on the spot interviews with local area employers, Workintexas.com registration, and online application support. Professional resume services and mock interviews will also be available.

### EMPLOYERS

Interested Bulverde/Spring Branch area employers will need to register online or download the Employer Registration Form to ensure your place at the event. We are limiting employer participation to 15 employers this year due to the overcrowding we experienced last year, therefore, registration is first come, first served. Register today!

Please visit our websites at [www.bsbedf.com](http://www.bsbedf.com), <http://bulverdetx.gov>, <http://www.bsblibrary.org>, or [www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com](http://www.bulverdespringbranchchamber.com) to download the event flyer, register online, or download the paper registration form.

The BSBEDF is committed to assisting our community in its efforts to manage growth and foster a stable local economy while maintaining our rural character and quality of life. Please visit our website at [www.bsbedf.com](http://www.bsbedf.com), our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bsbedf> or call us at 830.885.4331 to learn more about who we are, what we do and how we can help you with your business needs.

Sherry Mosier  
President  
BSBEDF, Inc.



# City of Bulverde Big Trash Day



March 19, 2016

8AM – Noon



**For City of Bulverde Residents Only**

Located at City Hall, 30360 Cougar Bend

Progressive will collect all acceptable items as outlined below

Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or any item containing CFC's must be tagged by a licensed technician certifying Freon removal, white goods (i.e. hot water heaters, washer and dryer machines, bath tubs, stoves, sinks, and furniture)

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Items comprised of construction of demolition debris or any waste resulting from remodeling, general property clean-up or clearing of the property for the preparation of construction (i.e., cartons, rocks, dirt, concrete, excelsior, gypsum board, metal, paper, plastic, rubber and wood products), or hazardous waste.

- Gasoline, motor oil, paint, chemicals, and similar flammable liquids
- Medical waste (including needles and syringes), animals or human waste
- Tires, car batteries, and large pieces of metal (car fenders, engines, etc.)
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# The 3rd Annual “Bulverde Fun Fest” is Scheduled!

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, June 18, 2016**  
**10 am–2 pm**  
**Bulverde Community Park**



The date has recently changed but, we still look forward to seeing you at the “Bulverde Fun Fest” in June! The “Bulverde Fun Fest” is a fun filled day of games and activities

for children of all ages in the community to participate in and enjoy. The Blue Lion Train will be available for train rides throughout the park, and there will be plenty of food, drinks, and prizes for participating in different activity stations.

The 2nd Annual “Bulverde Fun Fest” held in June 2015 had well over 700 attendees, and we expect a similar crowd this year. The Friends of the Park are looking for sponsors for this well attended community event as well as park enthusiasts willing to share their talents to ensure the park is filled with joy and laughter on the day of the Fun Fest. Contact Merri Harrison at 210.387.9332 or merri.harrison@yahoo.com for more details on this fabulous event!

HELP US GROW OUR SHADE FUND— Trees are wonderful and provide years of aesthetic beauty as well as shade to enjoy. Unfortunately, trees typically take decades to grow and provide sufficient shade for areas in the park in desperate need. Therefore, net proceeds from the “Bulverde Fun Fest” will be combined with net proceeds from last years’ event to help the City of Bulverde purchase much needed shade structures for several areas already identified within the park.

*The Friends of the Park is the fundraising arm for the Bulverde Community Park Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation in Bulverde. Our organization is dedicated to bringing our community together by providing recreational and educational opportunities in our local parks to enhance the quality of everyday life in our community.*



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# Preparing for Kitten Spring!

by Animal Rescue Connection Volunteer Pam Parmer

## ***Kitten Season***

With a warmer than usual winter so far, kitten season will be starting early. So now is the time to get to work before the outdoor cat population starts its spring explosion. Keep your outdoor cat numbers controlled by using the low-cost services available at Hill Country Animal League in Boerne. It's important to know how to safely trap cats and why they should be returned to their original locations.

Check out San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition's schedule of FREE workshops a <http://sanantonioperalcats.org/tnr-schedule/>.



Upcoming classes will be held:

- March 12** at Animal Defense League
- March 20** at New Braunfels Public Library
- March 23** at SA Animal Care Services
- April 3** at San Antonio Humane Society
- April 9** at the Cortez Library in San Antonio
- April 27** at SA Animal Care Services.

By attending just one workshop, you will get access to all kinds of support and assistance from the organization; it will be well-worth it! Still got questions or need help catching and transporting cats in the Comal County area? Contact Animal Rescue Connections for advice and assistance.

### **Importance of Vaccinations**

Spring also is a good time to review your pet's vaccination records. Cats that are outside are especially susceptible to contagious diseases like canine parvovirus and feline calicivirus infection making their lives a misery.

### **Spring Cleaning**

If you are cleaning up and cleaning out, please consider contacting Animal Rescue Connections and donating usable goods for our participation in the Garden Ridge Women's Club annual garage sale and our annual Partners for Good donation drive. Just call or email us for information or go to our website.

**Website:** [animalrescueconnections.org](http://animalrescueconnections.org)

**Email:** [info@animalrescueconnections.vpweb.com](mailto:info@animalrescueconnections.vpweb.com)

**Helpline:** 210-474-0083

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# Older Than Dirt

by: Tom Blacklock



“Older than Dirt” or “Old as Dirt” are two idiomatic expressions frequently used to describe someone or something that is old. These idioms can certainly be applied to a number of the staff and volunteers as well as several of the buildings and grounds at the Bulverde Area Humane Society. Glen Enloe said it well in his poem “Old as Dirt,” when it comes to describing how we at BAHS sometimes feel about the aging of the shelter:

*It ain't that you's gittin' old  
Or Father Time is bold  
Or that last crow has done crowed,  
It's jest sittin' till ya mold.*



Having served the Bulverde area for just under 33 years, the shelter buildings and grounds are showing their age. The main kennel, which houses our canine population, is 231 years old, uh,

that's in dog years of course. It has foundation and wall issues with cracks in the concrete and cinder blocks caused by too many hot dry summers in South Texas. The individual pens, which seemingly are never vacant, also need to be painted.

Added to the age-related and hot, dry seasons wear and tear was the recent flooding of the shelter. While no significant permanent damage was done by the flood waters, repairs which include road repairs, excavation, and cement work are needed.



The main cattery, which consists of a 100-year-old Rock House (that's in human years) and an attached screened yard play area is one area in need of repair. While the cattery, which houses the kitten rooms, as well as adult cats

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who can free roam both inside and outside, has had a new metal roof in the last several years, it sorely needs concrete work to repair floors that are cracked and crumbling and to divert water run-off. The recent flooding was not kind to the cattery and really demonstrated the need for this concrete work.

A mobile home, which houses the special needs and geriatric kitties, is getting a facelift with money having been raised to replace the leaky roof, siding, and windows and to mediate mold. It should be completed in several months.



With the mobile home taken care of, that still leaves the problems with the Main Kennel, the Rock House, and the interior road in need of repair.

Marilyn Lott sums up our feelings about the legacy of BAHS and what it does for the community in her Poem “Older than Dirt”:

*“I think the stories from the past  
Should be told, it wouldn't hurt  
Cause if you had a childhood like mine  
Then you're no doubt older than dirt!”*

So if you have recently won the lottery or find yourself with some excess funds, a donation to the BAHS Building Fund would be a good way to get rid of this excess while at the same time insuring that BAHS can continue its legacy of finding forever homes for all the critters who come into its care.

# The Buzz From the Garden

by Lorelei Mayer, Bulverde Community Garden member

The Bulverde Community Garden established a butterfly bed early last spring with the help of a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and YouthServe from St. Joseph's Honey Creek Catholic Church.

The kids built an approximately 5' x 10' bed at the back corner of the garden. With the help of volunteers and a grant from Home Depot, we were able to fill the bed with over 30 bags of soil, leaves and compost. The NPSOT grant allowed us to buy native monarch butterfly host and nectar plants. Host plants are those that monarchs lay their eggs and nectar plants are those that monarchs use to feed.

There are various native milkweeds (host plants) in the Garden; native blue salvia, Maximilian sunflowers, Gregg's mistflower, frostweed, liatris and coneflowers (nectar). Non-native plants include tropical milkweed and Gomphrena "Fireworks".

All summer long we saw queen, swallowtail and sulphur butterflies feasting on the garden's flowers. On October 1st, we saw our first monarch butterfly and monarch caterpillar!

Our efforts have been rewarded with recognition by both the American Butterfly Association as a Certified Butterfly Garden and as a Monarch Waystation by MonarchWatch.org.

The addition of a native plant display garden, through the efforts of the Humans of Smithson Valley and NPSOT Lindheimer Chapter, along with a planned expansion of the butterfly bed, should attract even more butterflies to the garden this year.

Spring is around the corner, come visit us!



*If you or your business would like to secure a plot (at no cost), please visit the Garden website at [www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com](http://www.bulverdecommunitygarden.com) or contact Joanne Hall at [johall@gvvc.com](mailto:johall@gvvc.com). Donations gladly accepted. Also, interested persons are invited to attend the Bulverde Community Garden Committee meeting on the second Monday of the month at 5:15pm at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center.*

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# BOOKS, BUBBLES, AND BRUNCH

If you love books, great food, and drinks, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library is the place to be on Sunday, April 3, 10 am to 1 pm. Our annual event will be catered by the Magnolia Pancake Haus who will be providing a hearty brunch and complimented by coffee from Starbucks, mimosas, and juice. The main program will once again feature a panel of distinguished authors, whose books will be available for purchase and signing. We will also feature a silent auction including an Americus Diamond pendant, Spurs tickets, and many additional items and services donated by individuals and local businesses. All proceeds from the event will go towards outfitting the new mobile library services vehicle.

The diverse line-up of authors will be moderated by Jim LaVilla-Havelin, poet and instructor at Gemini Ink. Local Bulverde author and nutritionist, Jan Tilley, will be sharing her book, Eat Well to Be Well, providing advice and recipes for anti-inflammatory foods. Boerne residents Anita Belles Porterfield and John Porterfield will give us insights into their book Death on Base: The Ft. Hood Massacre. We will be featuring two western themed books, one fiction and one

non-fiction. Jeff Guinn, author of many fiction and non-fiction books will be sharing his new novel Buffalo Trail, the second in his new series. Our non-fiction western is The Wests of Texas, and is written by Bruce Shackelford, an expert on the subject of the history of the American West. Best-selling author, Paulette Jiles will be sharing thoughts on her upcoming novel, News of the World. Our children/young adult book this year is Zack Delacruz: Me and My Big Mouth written by former educator, Jeff Anderson. This book addresses the timely topic of bullying.

Tickets for this event (adults only) may be purchased online at [bsblibrary.org](http://bsblibrary.org) (a small processing fee will be added) or at the circulation desk in the library for \$50 cash or check. The fee includes all food, drink, the program, and a donation to the library. We hope you will join us!

## SPRING EVENTS AT THE BSB LIBRARY



As usual, the Bulverde Spring Branch Library has a full calendar of events, classes, and services planned for the month of March. A few examples of the various events and services include:

- **AARP Foundation Tax Aide** - Every Friday beginning February 5 through April 15, 10:30am - 3:30pm. Free tax preparation and filing from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Anyone, with some exceptions, can take advantage of AARP Tax-Aide especially those low-to-moderate income taxpayers and those age 60 and older. **Services are strictly by appointment only.** Call 830-885-2247
- **Gluten Free Eating** - Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 6:30pm - 7:45pm. Denise will discuss switching out favorite recipes to healthy alternatives, along with introducing new recipes and ingredients. Registration is required.
- **Electronics Recycling** - Saturday, March 19, 2016, 10:00am - 2:00pm, BSB Library Lower Parking Lot. The public is invited to drop off their unwanted consumer electronic materials at the lower library parking lot. Items such as computers, cell phones, & printers will be accepted for recycling. (LCR televisions/monitors will be accepted but no CRT.)

Among the other offerings, there are also technology and social media classes, quilting and cooking lessons, and instructions on fly fishing and navigating the Guadalupe river. There truly is something for everyone. Call the Bulverde Spring Branch Library at (830) 438-4864, or stop by and sign up for an activity that interests you! 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, TX 78163

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## Consider Rainwater Harvesting— Comal County Receives Over 2.5 Feet of Rain Per Year!



The year 2015 saw rain gauges in Western Comal County top 60 inches of rain—nearly double the area’s average.

Comal homeowners can build simple or complex systems to capture, store, and use this rainwater to water their landscape plants. In spite of recent drought conditions, on average, Comal County receives over 30 inches of rain per year. A roof area of only 1,000 sq. ft. can provide approx. 600 gallons of water during a one inch rainfall. A Comal County rooftop of 2,500 sq. ft. can gather over 45,000 gallons of rainwater each year.

Rainwater harvesting as a method of using rain water for domestic and agricultural use is widely used throughout the world. It is a method which has been used since ancient times and is increasingly being accepted as a practical method of providing potable water. There are a few Comal County residents who have no well or water service at all—they live exclusively via rainwater harvesting.

Rainwater harvesting promotes self-sufficiency and fosters an appreciation for water as a finite resource. It also promotes water conservation. As County communities have developed, large areas of land have been changed from native quasi-desert vegetation to more impervious surfaces such as houses, driveways, roads, and parking lots. When it rains, these impervious land areas shed greater and greater amounts of rainfall, which in turn results in more runoff and increasingly adds to the possibility of local flooding.

Capturing rain water is easy and can save you money! While many people may not realize it, those few 30 inches of annual rainfall can be a valuable resource. Harvesting rainwater not only helps reduce the possibility of flooding, it also decreases the community’s dependence on groundwater for domestic uses. Unlike groundwater, however, rainwater is remarkably pure with virtually no dissolved salts or minerals. Because of this, rainwater is perfectly suited for landscape irrigation, washing, and many other home applications.

Using harvested water to irrigate plants, for instance, flushes salt buildup from the soil and produces vigorous, healthy plants. Harvested water may also be used for personal consumption, but it must be filtered and treated prior to use. By reducing runoff and using rainwater that falls on your property, you can put a valuable water resource to work around your house and yard. An excellent reference document for Texas rainwater harvesting from TCEQ can be found at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-404.html>.

Do-it-yourself rain barrels can easily be made by using a simple set of directions provided free by the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions Club; get your copy at: [www.SBBLions.com](http://www.SBBLions.com). As a public service project, the SBB Family Lions Club also makes and inexpensively sells low-cost completed rain collection barrels.

Help your Comal Trinity GCD conserve the Trinity Aquifer; connect with us by attending the CTGCD monthly meetings or signing up for our water conservation newsletter at [www.ComalTrinityGCD.com](http://www.ComalTrinityGCD.com).

–Submitted by Comal Trinity GCD

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# On the Cover

You may recognize the stone building on the cover if you've spent any time in the Downtown Bulverde Village area. This photo was taken by Bulverde resident Susan Eisenbrey. Susan is an amateur photographer who took up photography 12 years ago when she moved to Bulverde. She likes to photograph a variety of subjects, but particularly enjoys taking pictures of small Texas towns that "have seen better days." She says that she likes to imagine what those towns were like in their heyday. She also likes to drive the back roads of Texas because "you never know what you'll find around the next bend." Susan has submitted several excellent photos to the Front Porch News, so be sure to look for more of her work in future issues.



Cayden Doyle (center, red shirt) poses with Bulverde Spring Branch Fire and EMS staff, Lions from the Spring Branch Bulverde Family Lions, and friends from Living Rock Academy to celebrate his 5th birthday on January 23rd. The Doyle home suffered major damage in a fire in Spring Branch

just days before Cayden's birthday so he had nowhere to hold his birthday party. Fire Chief Beaudoin and his firefighters offered to hold Cayden's party at the Rodeo Drive Fire and EMS station and they even let the young man ride in the fire truck and sound the siren. Special thanks to the devoted service providers of BSB Fire & EMS.

## Odds-n-Ends

### Monarch Butterfly Conservation

The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the GVTC Auditorium located at 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels.

Cathy Downs, NPSOT's Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas coordinator, will make a presentation on Monarch Conservation. The meeting is open to the public, and we welcome new members. For more information contact: Susan James, President, at 979-373-8259 or visit our website at [npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/](http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/)

### Guadalupe River Association Annual Meeting

The Guadalupe River Association will hold its Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Emergency Services building at 353 Rodeo Dr., Spring Branch, TX 78070. There will be a brief meeting to elect Board Members, then two guest speakers will follow. Tom Hodge CEO of Canyon Lake Water Service, and Larry Hull President of Comal Trinity Groundwater District will be presenters this year.

GRA, [www.guadalupeiver.org](http://www.guadalupeiver.org), is a now a 501(c)3. Your support is gratefully accepted. We look forward to seeing you.

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**MARCH 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)						
		1 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	2 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery)	3 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.) TxDot Hwy. 46 Public Meeting 5:30p (SVHS)	4 Casino Night 6:00p (Activity Ctr.) The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	5 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.) Guad. River Assoc. Annual Mtg. 2:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)
6 The Color of Stars (S.T.A.G.E.)	7 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library)	8 City Council 6:30p	9	10 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Ctr.) Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins (spring forward 1 hour) S.T.A.G.E. Auditions: Alone Together Again	14 Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.) CISD Spring Break	15 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) CISD Spring Break	16 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.) CISD Spring Break	17 St. Patrick's Day ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) CISD Spring Break	18 CISD Spring Break	19 Big Trash Day 8:00a-12:00p (City Hall) Electronics Recycling 10:00a-2:00p (BSB Library) SBB Lions Club Car Show 10:00a (Bulv. Baptist Church)
20 Spring Begins	21 CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	22 Friends of the Park 6:00p	23	24 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) POET Program 5:30p (City Hall)	25 Good Friday CISD Holiday City Hall closed	26 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
27 Easter	28	29	30	31 Job Fair 2:00p-6:00p (BSB Library)		

\*Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

**APRIL 2016**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NOTES:</b> Bulverde City Council, Bulverde Planning and Zoning Commission, and Friends of the Park meetings are held at Bulverde City Hall (30360 Cougar Bend)						
					1 April Fool's Day	2
3	4 Friends of Library Board mtg. 1:00p (Library) Rural Library District mtg. 4:00p (Library)	5 Planning & Zoning 6:30p	6 BAAC mtg 6:30p (The Makery) SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	7	8 Movies in the Park (dusk 8:00sh; Bulverde Comm. Park)	9
10	11 Comm. Garden Mtg. 5:15p (Activity Ctr.)	12 City Council 6:30p	13	14 Wellness on Wheels 1:00p (St. Joseph's Honey Ctr.) Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.)	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16
17	18 CTGCD* 6:00p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	19 Native Plant Soc. 7:00p (GVTC) Mayor's Town Hall Mtg. 6:00p (BSB Library)	20 SBB Family Lions 7:30p (Activity Ctr.)	21 ESD #1, 4, & 5 6:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.) BSBES 5:30p (353 Rodeo Dr.)	22 Earth Day Passover begins CISD Holiday	23 Shine the Park 8:00a (Bulv. Comm. Park)
24	25	26 Friends of the Park 6:00p	27 Administrative Professionals' Day	28 Bulverde Lions 7:00p (Bulv. Comm. Ctr.) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	29 Arbor Day POET Program 5:30p (City Hall) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)	30 Chamber Market Day 10:00a (Bealls ctr., Hwy. 46) Alone Together Again (S.T.A.G.E.)

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