

Let's Eat!

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Local Principal Bitten by Copperhead Snake

Area citizens are being advised to use caution when working in their gardens, watering their lawns or simply walking through tall grass. The Lexington EMS has responded to three or four 911 calls about people being bitten by snakes and, according to EMS Coordinator Reuel Cooper, there have been at least two or three

other incidents where individuals drove themselves to the hospital after being bitten.

Just last Thursday, Lexington Elementary School Principal, Lynette Brown, was bitten by a copperhead snake while she was walking in her yard. She ended up spending two days in intensive care before being released from

Scott and White Hospital last Saturday.

Cooper said, "People need to be very careful this time of year when they are picking berries or going out in their yards. Copperheads are looking for places to get cool and a watered garden or lawn may be their spot of choice."

According to the website www.tigerhomes.org, the American Copperhead snake, more commonly referred to simply as a "Copperhead," is one of the most well known poisonous snakes of North America. While they are not known to be aggressive and normally have a quiet disposition, when

threatened, startled or stepped on, they will vigorously defend themselves from danger, usually biting whatever is in their space.

A Copperhead is overall

it is these same beautiful markings that give the Copperhead its natural camouflage. When a Copperhead snake coils up on a bed of fallen leaves they become



Ruth Margardt of Lexington found this 35" long Copperhead as she was working in her flower garden. This is unusually large for a copperhead. Ruth handily dispatched this unwelcome visitor with her sharpshooter. Local EMS asks local gardeners to be on the lookout for these guys when working in the garden.

Wagon Train Beds Down in Lexington



Enjoying some old fashioned travel and friendships are (standing, left to right) Blandford Terry from Waco, Joe Howard from Red Oak, Jim Crenshaw from Waco, Kelly Boesen from Austin, Gary Moyer from Florence, Wally Willey from Houston, Dave Feltenberger from New Braunfels and (kneeling) James Newton from Corpus Christi. The men are standing with two 19-hand tall Belgian Draft Horses, Lotus and Dan.

A group of six wagons slowly entered Lexington Monday afternoon, as they prepared to stop for the night and bed down at the Lexington City Park. A group of ten friends, business men and

retirees, got together to get back to some old fashioned roots while they traveled by horse-drawn wagons from Deansville through the Lee and Burleson County countryside.

The riders live all over the state of Texas, with some coming from Waco, New Braunfels, Florence, Houston, Austin, Red Oak and Corpus Christi. They started last Saturday in Deansville and made

their way through Farm to Market and County Roads, passing through Dime Box before arriving in Loebau. They spent the night at the Loebau Wagon Stop before heading out Sunday morning for the second day of their trail ride.

Sunday, they spent the night in Fedor at the Arthur Jatzlau property, where the riders said, "We were treated to be best chili dinner and the best iced tea and the most delicious brownies by the most hospitable people around."

Monday, they were in Lexington and Tuesday, they were headed to the little community of Gus, where they stayed at the Darren Martin residence, as they made their way back to Deansville to finalize their great adventure.

Trail rides have gained popularity over recent years. For more information about joining a ride or when rides are scheduled, go to www.texastrailriding.com.

Local Grassroots Movement to Host Lee Co. Tea Party

A small group of local and concerned citizens, known as the Tea Party Patriots, have received permission from the Lee County Commissioners' Court to host a Tea Party on the west lawn of the County Courthouse, Friday, July 3, from 4 until 7 p.m.

Roland Panguma of Giddings, along with "Preacher Joe" Paluch and James Martinez, are organizing the event and hope to generate more support in order to "hold our elected officials responsible to their constituency." Panguma works for a large oil field company and he said the reason he is getting involved is because of what he's seen happen the last couple of years in the oil field.

"Two years ago, if an oil company drilled a well and it was dry, the one to two million it may have cost them to drill it was a write-off. Today, that's not true. If the Cap and Trade bill that is on a

fast track in Congress right now passes, we may find an increased tax burden on oil companies and oil exploration and drilling may shut down. I don't have the numbers, but I know Lee County has a lot of people employed in the oil field industry and it would be devastating to our economy to lose those jobs," Panguma said.

He went on to say, "Not only will people lose jobs, but what about all the people in our county that receive some of their income from oil royalties? They could lose 30 - 40% of their income if oil companies stop drilling."

The Tea Party is intended to be a place for local folks to voice their opinions about what's happening on the state and national level, when it comes to taxation, healthcare, bailouts and jobs. While it is not sponsored by any party affiliation, State Representative Tim Kleinschmidt,

along with Ash Wright, the County Party Outreach Coordinator for the Republican Party of Texas, are expected to speak.

Panguma said, "Some people ask me, 'What can little old Lee County do?' I tell them we can let our local politicians, senators and representatives know that we are watching what they do and what they vote on. We're watching because we voted them in with confidence and they represent the constituents of this county and we need them to vote against higher taxes and some of the other issues that will put an incredible financial burden on this county."

There were several dozen Tea Parties throughout the state on Tax Day, April 15, this year and there are more scheduled for the 3rd and 4th of July. One in Austin will feature Joe the Plumber. For details about those events, go to www.teapartypatriots.org.

virtually invisible. Cooper said, "When you're out in the yard or garden, the last thing you need to have on is flip-flops. Gardeners should wear long rubber gloves this time of year to help prevent accidental provocation of a snake in the grass."

Seven Sentenced in District Court

With the Honorable Terry Flenniken presiding, seven individuals were sentenced in the 21st Judicial Court of Lee County on June 16, 2009.

David Lee Phillips, 47, of Pflugerville, charged with two charges of Possession with Intent to Sell a Counterfeit Inspection Certificate and Possession with Intent to Sell a Counterfeit Insurance Document, was sentenced to 5 years confinement in TDCJ on each count. He was assessed \$400 Court Appointed Attorney Fee and \$300 Court Costs.

On a charge of Driving While Intoxicated-Subsequent, Erik Watson Liccioni, 37, of La Grange received 10 years confinement in TDCJ probated for 10 years; 60 days confinement in Lee County Law Enforcement Center as a condition of probation; \$3000 fine; \$300 Court Costs; \$50 Drug Court Fee; \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopped Fee; two years driver's license suspension; 150 hours community service restitution. He is also ordered to enter and successfully complete the SWI and Victim Impact Panel Programs and complete an Alcohol Treatment Program. He is to have an Ignition Interlock System installed in his vehicle.

Brandon Lamont Mathis, 23, of Ledbetter was convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance-Cocaine, 1-4 grams and was sentenced to five years confinement in TDCJ, probated five years; 90 days confinement in Lee County Law Enforcement Center as a condition of probation. He was assessed a \$1500 fine, \$400 Court Appointed Attorney fee; \$300 Court Costs; \$140 Restitution; \$50 Drug Court Fee, and \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopper

Fee. Brittany Louise Atteberry aka Brittany Maxwell aka Brittany Adams, 23, of Austin was sentenced to two years confinement in TDCJ for Fraudulent Use of Identifying Information. The sentence was probated for 4 years. She was fined \$1000 and assessed \$400 Court Appointed Attorney Fee; \$300 Court Costs; \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopper Fee; \$734.07 Restitution and must do 100 hours of community service restitution.

Matthew Van Coody, 23, of West Point, Texas, was sentenced to 18 months confinement in TDCJ State Jail Facility probated for three years for a conviction of Theft by Check - \$1500 - \$20,000. He was assessed a \$600 fine; \$400 Court Appointed Attorney Fee; \$300 Court Costs; \$2,393.79 Restitution; \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopper Fee and 50 hours community service restitution.

For conviction of Injury to a Child, Juan Castro, 50, of Giddings received a five year probated sentence. He was assessed a \$2500 fine; \$300 Court Costs; \$100 Child Abuse Prevention Fund; \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopper Fee and was ordered to complete Sex Offender Evaluation and Counseling.

Jared Blake Becker, 17, of Giddings was sentenced to three years probation for Possession of a Controlled Substance-3.4 M e t h y l e n d i o x y Methamphetamine. He must pay a \$1000 fine; \$300 Court Costs; \$50 Bluebonnet Area Crime Stopper Fee; \$50 Drug Court Fee; \$140 Restitution and serve 200 hours of community service restitution. He must also complete the Drug Offender Education Program Classes.

Burn Index Rises

Lee County Commissioners voted this week to keep the emergency Burn Ban that Judge Paul Fischer enacted last week. The Texas Forest Service said the Burn Index was 587 Monday morning and by Monday afternoon, it was up to 593. 500 is the benchmark where the Forest Service recommends a Burn Ban.