



ORIGINS OF EASTER AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Christians, worldwide, celebrate Easter as Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and is Christianity's most important holiday. The day is called a "movable feast" because it never falls on the same date every year, however, it does fall between March 22nd and April 25th each year, depending on the vernal equinox on March 21st.

The name "Easter" is believed to derive from the name Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Through a translation error, the term later appeared as esostarum in Old High German, which eventually became Easter in English.

Easter is really an entire season beginning with Lent, a time of reflection and penance (the 40 days that Jesus spent alone in the ministry) and is the 40-day period leading up to Easter Sunday. Holy week, the week preceding Easter, includes Maundy Thursday, the day before Lent, Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. This is the chance to splurge with food and fun before the fasting begins.

Whatever its origins and rites, Easter, like most holidays, has been commercialized and has various folk customs and pagan traditions. Easter egg hunts, bunnies, baskets and candy have become a standard part of this holy holiday.

Whatever your celebration traditions, this weekend is one of the busiest holidays for traveling, so keep your holiday safe and have a Happy Easter!

THERE MAY BE SOMETHING MORE HAZARDOUS LURKING IN THAT BLUEBONNET FIELD THAN ALLERGIES

The wildflower season is rapidly coming to an end, so many will want to take the opportunity for some last minute on-site family photo shoots.

There are, however, risks homeowners and public safety officers are warning of while taking bluebonnet photos.

Often people may stop to wade into a field of wildflowers, not thinking they may be trespassing, or that there may be unforeseen dangers, like poisonous snakes lurking in the field.

Bluebonnet fields are known to hide rattlesnakes and fire ant beds. If you're not careful, especially with young children who may not recognize the hazard, could be bitten either by a snake or from fire ants. The problem for the property owner is that it puts them with a liability.



Most property owners are knowledgeable of and eager to show people which spots are safe without affecting the harvest.

The Texas Department of Public Safety advises motorists to turn on the flashers, park in a parking lot if you can, and if you cross the road look both ways to safely visit any wildflower fields on the highways.

Rattlesnakes and rats are commonly found among the flowers so be careful before you step.

THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT A SYNTHETIC "DOOBIE" THAT'S SAFE!

Austin authorities say more than three-dozen people were treated last weekend for illness related to synthetic marijuana use.

At least 14 of the victims were taken to hospitals by emergency medical service teams.

Police and EMS crews have made frequent runs to a homeless center in downtown Austin to respond to reports of people who are convulsing, who have passed out or who are becoming violent. The symptoms are related to use of the synthetic street drug, also known as K2.

City officials last week said they've made 64 arrests related to delivery or possession of the drug.

There is grave concern that, as the marketing of medical marijuana increases so will the demand for this illegal and extremely dangerous derivative.

BELL COUNTY'S MOST WANTED AS OF: APRIL 15th, 2017



Tafawa Jefferally is one of three Bell County fugitives Wanted For: Possession of a Controlled Substance. Jefferally, from Killeen, was born March 17, 1969, stands 5'9" tall, and weighs 130 lbs. He is a B/M with Brown Eyes and Black Hair.

FROM AUSTIN – The reward for Johnny June Mason, Jr., 48, this month's featured fugitive, has been increased to \$8,000 if the tip comes in during the month of April.

DETAILS:
Wanted For:
Failure To Register As A Sex Offender And Parole Violation. HT: 5' 8", WT: 150 lbs., SMT: tattoo of



Chinese characters on his left forearm; scar on his forehead. LKA: Houston (his last known address) and Louisiana, including the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas.

Mason was convicted and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in Louisiana of attempted aggravated rape and aggravated crime against nature involving a 16-year-old girl in 1990. He has a history of violating his parole and failing to comply with sex offender registration requirements, and he has been wanted since June 2016. **All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.** For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=349>.



Woodlake

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Easter Edition



IT'S GONNA BE SUMMER SOON. LET'S KEEP SAFETY AT THE TOP OF THE CHECKLIST.

There is an organization offers free pool safety inspections to prevent drowning this year.

107 Texas children drowned in 2016 and The National Injury Prevention Council is trying to prevent that many tragedies this year.

No one has a greater understanding of the importance of pool safety than Kim Hodges, the organization's executive director.

Pool safety is personal to Kim Hodges. She explained, "If someone would have educated us to have those protections, know CPR, have a lock, alarm or fence any of those measures, my son would probably be alive today".

Her son drowned 17 years ago, a totally preventable accident she hopes, through education, won't happen to another parent.

Her approach is a little more in depth. Their training coordinates with the pool service industry and EMS to go into backyards of homeowners with the homeowner and do an assessment of the protections they put in place.

Thus far their approach has been well received and "eye-openers" for mothers with young children.

"You think a fence itself is good but then you realize the latch is too low and my daughter reached around and tried to undo the latch," one of those mothers said.

For many southerners, the day after Easter is the first day(s) of summer. If you are a fan of RV'g, FEMA wants to remind travel trailer, coach or 5th-wheel families to make the summer months more enjoyable by following some simple precautions to stay safe.

- Keep grills outside and at least 3' away from your trailer and any shrubs or bushes. Check for leak at the connection and fuel line to be sure it is working properly. Use only approved lighter fluids to start a fire in a charcoal grill.
- For cooking indoors, be sure to have proper ventilation in your trailer. Never store flammable items (pot holders, paper towels, matches, etc) near your stovetop, and do not leave cooking food unattended for even a few minutes.
- If a gas stove's burner does not start after two or three turns of the igniter knob, wait at least 30 seconds before trying to reignite the burner. Cover pan fires with a lid and turn off the gas or use the fire extinguisher to put it out.
- Know where your fire extinguisher is in the trailer and know how to use it. Remember to keep it near the exit.
- If you suspect that you have a gas leak in your trailer don't look for the leak yourself, get out immediately. Leave the door open behind you and then, from outside the trailer, call 911 or your local fire department. Check smoke detectors monthly and replace the battery as needed.
- For trailers with electric stoves, if the power goes off to your trailer while you are cooking, remember that your stove's burner knobs may still be on when the burners 'go dead.' When the power comes back on, it will start your stove's electric burners unless you turned them off.
- Don't overload electrical circuits by using more than two electrical appliances at a time.
- Set the A/C at 78 to stay cool and keep costs low.
- Make sure the heater fume vent on the outside of the trailer is never blocked or covered.