

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

January 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

HOA Dues Increase

In June 2005, Riata HOA became an all-resident board. Prior to that point, the developer controlled the board. The assessments had not been increased in 3 - 4 years prior to 2005. The HOA budget was always in the red. Increasing assessments is not a good sales tool for developers or builders. Once the board became all-resident, it was unanimously decided to get the budget into the black. We implemented some cost control strategies initially to get the budget towards the black. We audited the irrigation system and found that we were being billed for meters that belonged to Barker Lake. We got the billing corrected and the funds returned. We installed better control, fixed leaks and installed rain sensors where we could. The annual savings is approximately \$ 13,000.00. Our landscaping company and some other vendors agreed to no increases the last couple of years to help us out. This brought us just into the black at the end of 2005 by about \$1800.00. The assessment for 2006 was therefore increased 7.5%. The projected amount needed called for a 15% increase. It was agreed on by the Board that we would try 7.5% along with continued cost controls and see how it went. The projected balance at the end of 2006 is roughly \$18,000.00. We knew we would be looking at increases from the landscaper and other vendors so we sent out bids. The lowest bid we received on landscaping, for example, was 50% higher than the landscaper we have now. The landscaper we have now is doing a good job, therefore there will be no change and we will be looking at an increase of about 20%. With upcoming maintenance issues such as the iron fencing between us and Stonegate which desperately needs painting (about a \$10,000.00 project), an aging pool that will soon need work (which could cost in upwards of \$20,000.00 for resurfacing, tiles and lighting) and other issues, it was decided that another increase was necessary to give the budget breathing room for unexpected capital costs. This puts us where we really felt we needed to be last year. All financial reports are presented and explained every year at the HOA annual meeting. Riata Ranch, to this date, still has one of the lowest assessments in our area. We are lower than Barker Lake, Stone Gate, Coles Crossing, Black Horse and Fairfield to name a few. The comparisons are posted on the Riata Ranch website www.riataranch.net There are many things that residents would like to see done, we receive suggestions weekly. We are trying to get the budget to the point where we can implement some of those suggestions while at the same time maintaining sufficient budget to cover unexpected capital costs. We on the board, like everyone else, do not want to pay any more than we have to. At the same time, we have a responsibility to maintain the neighborhood and do what we can to ensure that Riata Ranch is a neighborhood that people enjoy and want to live in.

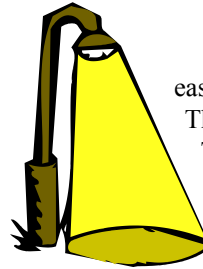
-Riata Ranch Home Owners Association Board

Santa Success

Breakfast with Santa on December 9th was another big success! Over 100 children came and had a merry time while visiting Santa Claus, and having delicious donuts while laughing with friends and snagging a treat! A special thanks to Mr. Santa Claus for taking time out of your busy schedule to stop by to chat and take pictures with us! Thank-you to the Special Events Committee for all of your hard work!

Street Light Out?

Don't drive around in the dark! Report it. It's easy. Just call 713-207-2222 and list the following:
The pole number, which is stenciled on the pole
The nature of the problem; completely out, flickering, etc. Location of the pole, such as the nearest street corner.



**Happy
New Year!**

View *The Ranch Review*
each month on-line at
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital	713-932-3000
Poison Control	800-222-1222

Schools

Cypress Fairbanks ISD	281-897-4000
Posta Elementary	281-345-3660
Spillane Middle	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

Utilities

HCMUD #196	
Billing	281-579-4500
Repairs	281-398-8211
Centerpoint Electric	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas	713-659-2111
AT&T/SBC	800-464-7928
Warner Cable.....	713-462-9000
Waste Mgt	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office	800-275-8777

Library

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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Newsletter Publisher

Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com, 888-687-6444

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EDITOR WANTED!!!!

We have received your very positive feedback regarding the monthly newsletter. However, the Board has been putting together the newsletter since it went to a monthly publication. We are looking for a resident who would like to take charge of the newsletter.

No experience is needed but you must have access to a computer and internet connection. The newsletter takes time, so if your interested, please be prepared to take the time needed to get it right and coordinate timely articles of interest.

The newsletter has come a long way and still has much room for improvement.

If you are interested, please contact us at editor@riataranch.net.

Help Keep the Storm Drains Clear

Recently, we have received reports of teens throwing items into the storm drains, such as boxes and basketballs. These items can plug the drain and cause flooding when the next storm comes.

If you see this activity, please report it to the Sheriff's Department with the best description of the activity that you can give.

Stopping this activity is important to all of us. It could even keep your home from flooding.

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Phone: (202) 224-2934
Fax: (202) 228-2856
cornyn.senate.gov

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)

284 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5922
Fax: (202) 224-0776
hutchison.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives (Texas) (District 7)

John Abney Culberson (R)

Capital Office

U.S. House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington 20515
Phone: (202) 225 2571
Fax: (202) 225 4381

District Office

10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 620
Houston 77024
Phone: (713) 682 8828
Fax: (713) 680 8070

Email: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/contactinfo.aspx>
Website: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/>

Texas Senator (District 7)

Jon S. Lindsay (R)

Capital Office

PO Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin 78711
Phone: (512) 463 0107
Fax: (512) 463 8810

District Office

15531 Kuykendahl
Suite 251
Houston 77090
Phone: (281) 583 1011
Fax: (281) 444 0189

Email: jon.lindsay@senate.state.tx.us
Website: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us>

Texas House of Representatives (District 130)

Corbin Van Arsdale

Capital Office

House of Representatives, Room E1.412
PO Box 2910
Austin 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0661
Fax: (512) 463-4130

District Office

12777 Jones Road
Suite 175
Houston 77070
Phone: (281) 469 9130
Fax: (281) 4469 4130

Email: corbin.van_arsdale@house.state.tx.us
Website: <http://www.house.state.tx.us>

County Commissioner (Precinct 3)

Steve Radack

Administration Building
1001 Preston, Suite 924
Houston TX 77002
Phone: (713) 755 6306
Fax: (713) 755 8928

Email: pet3@hctx.net
Website: <http://www.pet3.hctx.net/>

Classified Ads

The RANCH REVIEW runs classified ads that are FREE to residents. If you would like to place and add, please email your submission to editor@riataranch.net.

Your submission must be received by the 10th of the prior month. For example, you must have your request submitted by December 10th in order for it to appear in January's newsletter.

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Riata Ranch

Cy-Fair College Happenings

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America
The Harris County Public Library's Cy-Fair College Branch is proud to be the only Houston library (and one of three Texas libraries) to host this national traveling exhibition through Feb. 16. Take a tour to learn about Alexander Hamilton, see rare and precious historical objects and documents, pistols used in a deadly duel and handwritten correspondence. Among the upcoming exhibition-related programs are the Jan. 11 birthday celebration with C-SPAN2's Book TV Bus; a book signing, program and keynote with Douglas Ambrose; several book discussions and more. For exhibition information, go to www.alexanderhamiltonexhibition.org or www.cy-faircollege.com.

Start the New Year with Art Appreciation: See an exhibition featuring the work of visiting artist Lindsey Wolkowicz in the Bosque Gallery from Jan. 16 to Feb. 8. An elementary art teacher and former art school admissions counselor from Portland, Oregon, Wolkowicz combines traditional drawing, non-traditional materials and constructed surfaces to create her mixed media art. A closing reception and lecture will be held from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Center for the Arts Building, located at 9191 Barker Cypress. Call 832-482-1038 for gallery hours and information or go to www.cyfaircollege.com/goto/bosquegallery.

It's Not Too Late to Register!: The last day to register for Spring semester classes is Jan. 13. Students can register for online, weekend,

evening or distance learning courses by phone, online or in person at Barker Cypress, 9191 Barker Cypress or the Fairbanks Center, 14955 Northwest Freeway. Call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 for information or go to www.cy-faircollege.com.

Add Some L.I.F.E. to Your Week: The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cy-Fair College Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs resume Jan. 10 with "Desk Set", Jan. 17 with "Confessions of a Librarian", Jan. 24 with "Ambrose Discusses Hamilton" and Jan. 31 with "How the Artist Uses Color." Call the library at 281-290-3213 for monthly L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu>. Experience A.L.L. this year

The Cy-Fair College Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) provides opportunities for adults 50 and better to enjoy intellectual and social enrichment. With an annual membership of \$10, participants can take member-driven courses for free or at a reduced rate; study under the guidance of members who represent a wide range of expertise and life experiences; develop friendships within a diverse group of people; participate in social activities; and be part of a collective voice of active adults in the community. For information e-mail Twana.m.york@nhmccd.edu, call 281-290-5246 or go to www.cy-faircollege.com/goto/all

(Continued on page 6)

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Need some extra cash for the summer? Use THE RANCH REVIEW to find some work.

Fill out the form and send it to The Ranch Review, care of SCS Management. You will need to have your parent's signature on the form before your information will be published.

We hope to have your form turned in soon and get that extra money coming in!!

Not Available Online

Teenage Job Seekers

Please place my name on the TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS list in the RANCH REVIEW.

Signature _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- Baby-sitting
- Pet Care
- House/Plant Care
- Lawn Care

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Phone _____

I give my permission for my child's name and phone number to be entered in THE RANCH REVIEW as a TEENAGE JOB SEEKER

Parent's Signature _____

Clip and mail to: The Ranch Review
c/o SCS management
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Riata Ranch

Cy-fair Happenings - (Continued from page 4)

for a full schedule of offerings.

Library Offers Free Computer Classes and Book Clubs: The Harris County Public Library Cy-Fair College Branch offers free computer workshops, including a family-friendly class. Topics range from basic computer functions to introductions to the Internet and various software programs. A variety of monthly book clubs are also available including women of the world, democracy, and sports page. There are plenty of youth programs with activities and book clubs for teens and storytime for younger children. Go online to <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu> for information.

Do you have a Home Based Business right here in Riata Ranch?

You can get information about your service or products to every home in Riata Ranch, by running a business classified in The Riata Ranch HOA Newsletter. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your neighborhood. The cost is \$45 for up to 40 words. Display ads are also available. For more information, please contact Peel, Inc. at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

This Is Your Newsletter!

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email the editor at editor@riataranch.net. Articles for the newsletter are finalized on the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Riata Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail editor@riatranchnet.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



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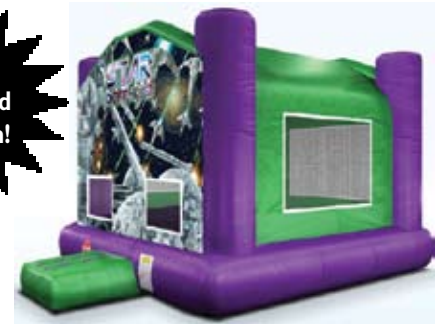
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One hour free Launch Pad session with this ad

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Children for a Better World!

Children for a Better World has had a busy and successful holiday season! Our children created beautiful magnetic picture frames, hand-made candles and decorative candle holders. Also, CBW held our first holiday craft sale, successfully raising money for Maiti Nepal, a non-profit group that rescues and rehabilitates child slaves. Look for us in the spring, as we continue to raise money for children in need and strive to teach our kids that they can make a positive difference in the world.

Interested in joining a playgroup that does more than play? Join us on the second Thursday of each month for fun kid crafts and a chance to help children around the world. Our next get-together will be on January 11th. We will plant herbs and flowers in hand-decorated pots and sell them to raise funds for Ronald McDonald charities. Please call Katie at 713-398-3829 or Shamim at 832-641-9066 for more details.



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Regular office hours are:

10am - 2pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Wednesday from 5pm - 7pm. Closed Fridays.

Classifieds

For Sale or Lease: 11423 Old Mission Road (Riata Ranch) 4/2/2 home has been smoke and pet free. Call Monica Hayman 713-594-7097 or monicahayman@hotmail.com for more information or pictures of the home

Vanpool Riders Needed: We are looking for additional vanpool riders that commute from Cypress to the Westchase area. If you are interested please contact Bryan at (713) 953-5155. Work schedule: 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Office Location: 2929 Briarpark Houston, TX 77042

Silver 2002 Nissan Xterra for sale: Auto, cruise, power windows & locks, sunroof, tow hitch, 6-CD, Great shape! 99,872 miles \$10,750.

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candle and blows up the bonfire.
-Francois de La Rochefoucauld*



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Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to www.riataranch.net and look for the Vacation Watch form in the FORMS and DOCS section.

Your completed form will need to be submitted to the Sheriff's Department 7 days prior to departure, or just call 713-221-6000.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

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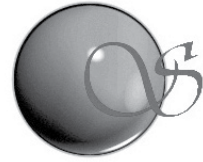
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Dental Tip of the Month.

All Porcelain Crowns in the Molars, Just One Dentist's Opinion...

Dear Friends,

The technology in porcelain has led us to create almost life-like teeth.

In the front teeth, where people can see when you smile, I agree with getting all porcelain crowns placed.

However, in the molar region, even to this date, the best, longest lasting crowns are pure gold crowns. I agree, not many people want gold in their mouths, as a result, they have what we call porcelain fused to gold, so one gets the strength of the gold and beauty of a porcelain.

Is it better looking than being all porcelain and no gold – the answer is NO! However, it is far enough back in the mouth, that people won't notice much and you will have a longer lasting crown.

Disadvantage of an all porcelain crown is that you have to shave off twice as much tooth structure then you would with porcelain fused to gold. Already the molars are short for most people. Added to that, if you take off so much tooth structure, the only thing that will hold that crown is the cement. When cement will fail, the crown will fail.

Second disadvantage of an all porcelain crown is that it speeds up the wear process of the opposing natural enamel. Thus your teeth will wear out faster.

Lastly, porcelain as a material doesn't have any "give". It will break, but will not bend like gold would.

In the mean time, if you have any dental related questions, please email me at sundranidds@yahoo.com, and I will happily respond to your inquiries.

Your Dentist,
Dr. Sundrani

sundranidds@yahoo.com

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8:15 a.m. – Traditional, *the Sanctuary*

9:30 a.m. – Contemporary, *the Ministry Activity Center*

11:00 a.m. – Traditional, *in the Sanctuary*

11:00 a.m. – **Common Ground**, *Ministry Activity Center*
a worship service offering a Traditional
worship format with traditional hymns
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www.cypress-umc.org



Cryptogram



A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote from Albert Einstein, German-born Physicist

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q			X									G													S

$\frac{D}{X J} \quad \frac{C J P}{A J L L S} \quad \frac{Y}{Q R J V P} \quad \frac{A}{S J V L} \quad \frac{Y}{K L J R M N G F} \quad \frac{M}{A W P O} \quad \frac{M A}{G Q P O N G Q P W E F} \quad \frac{A}{W Q F F V L N}$
 $\frac{Y}{S J V} \quad \frac{M}{G W C N} \quad \frac{A}{Q L N} \quad \frac{A}{H Q L} \quad \frac{A}{Z L N Q P N L}$

*Solution on page 18

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Dusting the competition or showing off to friends are not the only reasons to get in shape before ski season. Skiing is an activity that requires a variety of skills: strength, endurance, balance and coordination. Hit the slopes without developing these skills and you may be in for more than a little embarrassment - you might even hurt yourself.

Sports specific training: This is where sports-specific training comes in. Generally speaking, sports-specific training programs involve focusing on the various skills associated with a particular activity.

Depending on the sport, this may include health-related fitness components such as cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

A specific program may also take into account skill-related measures of fitness such as agility, balance, coordination, power, speed and reaction time. Most sports require a mixture of these components.

Skiing is a sport that relies heavily on skill-related fitness. A

traditional fitness program, which includes a combination of weight training and cardiovascular exercise, will only take you so far.

A specific training program to develop specific skills for skiing will take you from the peaks to the valleys in record time.

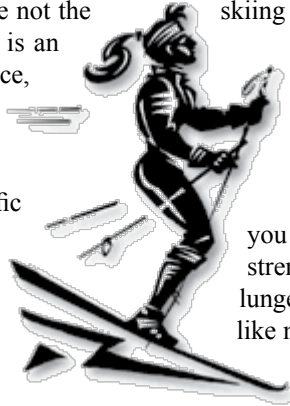
Get ready to ski: There are several ways to begin a sports-specific training program. The simplest way is to include several new exercises in your regular workout schedule.

For example, performing wall sits that require you to "sit" against a wall will help build up the isometric strength needed for the tuck position in skiing. Squats and lunges will build lower body strength for skiing tough terrain like moguls.

Exercises such as crunches to work your abdominals are essential in creating a solid "core" for balance and agility.

It is important to train your body to withstand and absorb the impact associated with skiing. Plyometric movements, such as hopping from side to side, develop muscle power and strength as well as improve

(Continued on page 13)



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Fit Facts - (Continued from page 12)

agility.

Set up your own ski circuit: A great way to integrate these elements into your existing routine is to create a circuit training program, which involves rapidly moving from one exercise to the next. You can set up a circuit in any large room, or at your club's aerobic studio.

Be sure and place all of your stations before beginning your workout so you don't have to stop in the middle. Set a specific time limit for each exercise, as well as a set period of breaks between each station. Thirty seconds of work followed by 30 seconds of rest are common interval periods.

Then, simply turn up the music and make your way around the circuit. You might even want to create your own music tape with timed intervals of music for exercise and silence for rest periods.

Try these stations to help you gear up for the slopes: use the slide for lateral training, perform one-legged squats to develop balance and strength, and use a step-bench platform to improve power. Try catching a bean bag as it drops off your forearm to improve reaction times or bounce two tennis balls to improve coordination.

To improve agility, create your own slalom by running between cones. In sports-specific training, you are limited only by your imagination.



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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

				2	5	4		
	9	8	1				7	6
						5		
								8
1		6						
	3	7		8				
	6	1		5	4			3
								5
9						7	6	

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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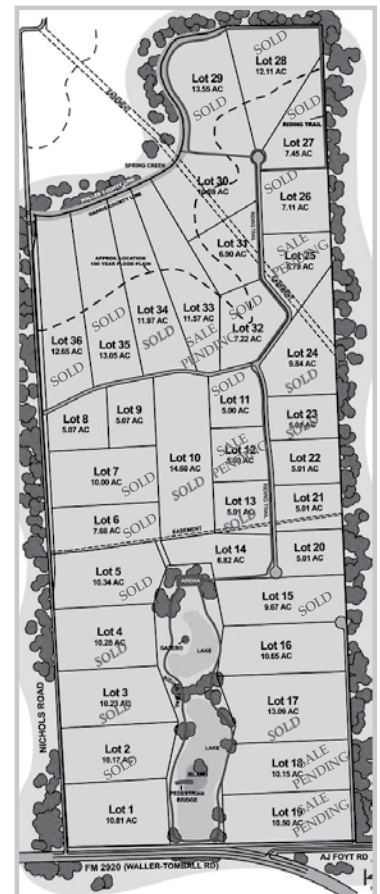
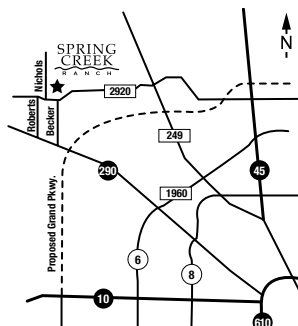
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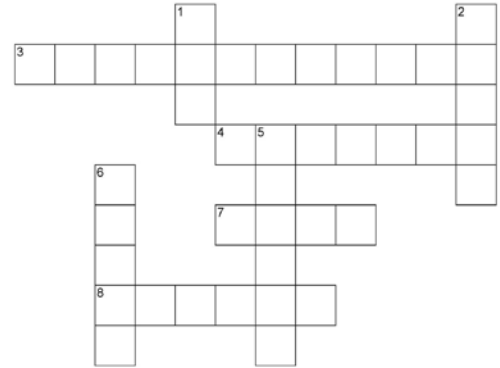
K	J	J	N	E	N	U	T	P	E	N	J
T	M	Z	U	C	G	K	J	X	F	N	T
L	Z	D	Y	P	M	A	R	S	P	K	J
V	N	B	R	V	I	K	J	M	L	U	K
S	K	R	U	O	M	T	G	Y	R	P	S
A	R	V	C	L	T	L	E	A	Z	U	D
T	N	R	R	T	P	U	N	R	N	K	Z
U	F	T	E	N	C	U	L	E	K	F	M
R	K	P	M	L	S	H	V	P	X	R	K
N	D	L	N	M	P	T	K	W	N	G	B

JUPITER	MARS	MERCURY	NEPTUNE
PLUTO	SATURN	URANUS	VENUS

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Kidz Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Match the correct answer with each clue to complete the puzzle.



ACROSS

DOWN

Clue	Answer	Clue	Answer
3. Liberty Bell's location	Secret	1. Shows directions	Worst
4. Smells great	Fall	2. Covers about 2/3 of Earth	Eraser
7. Follows Summer	Perfume	5. Removes a mistake	Water
8. Don't tell anyone	Philadelphia	6. Opposite of best	Map

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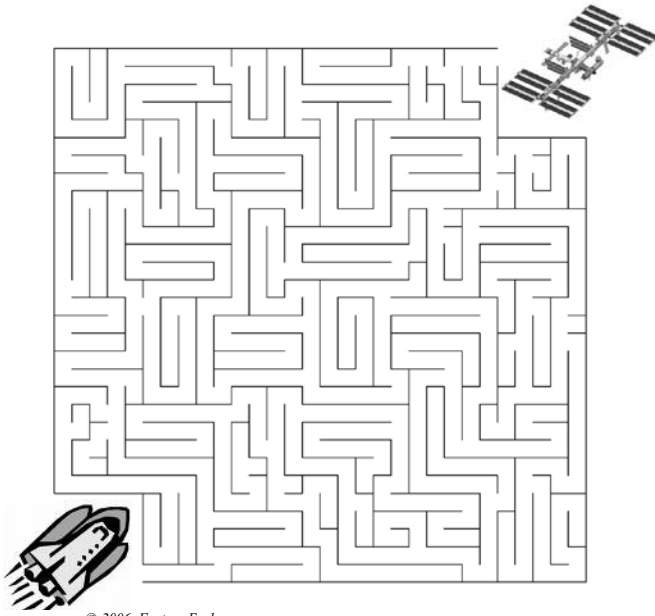
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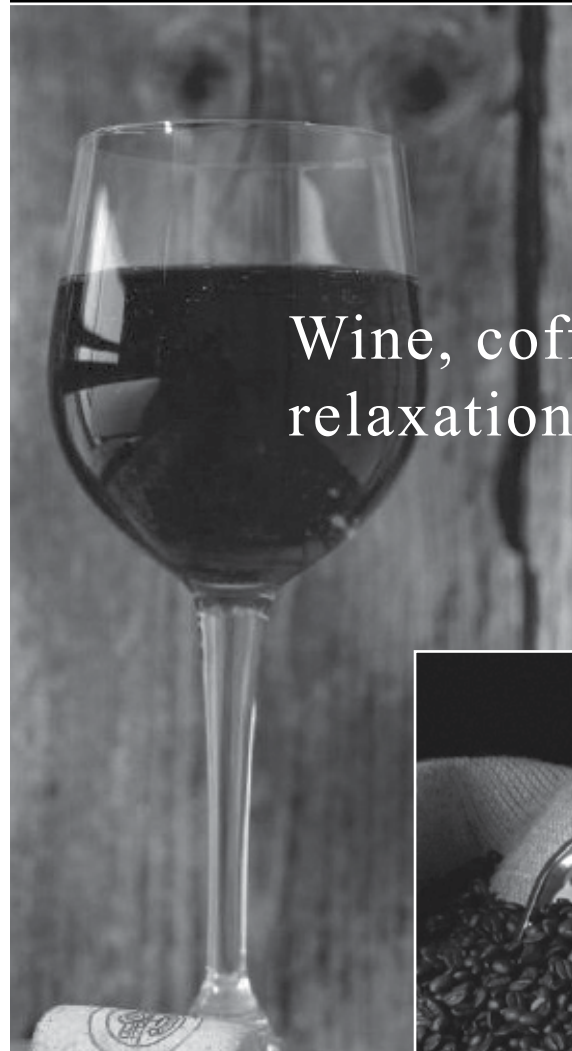
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The Truth About Mucus

(NAPSA)-It starts with a harmless little snuffle, then a constant trickle from your kid's nose, and before you know it, your child is coughing and sneezing and generally miserable. It's cold season, so you better get used to all that extra mucus in his nose and chest!

Believe it or not, mucus is actually good for the body and helps protect it. In fact, the body produces up to four cups of mucus a day. The nose continually produces mucus so it can moisten and clean the nasal membranes, humidify the air in the nose and fight infection. Those hard things in your kid's nose? Mucus that has dried and hardened around dust and other particles that try to sneak into his body through his nose.

Allergies and infections can make the body produce too much mucus. Too much slow-moving mucus can trigger coughs, sore throats, a husky voice and bad breath. When this happens, it's time to break up the mucus and move it out of the bronchial passageways. So what can you do to provide relief when Junior has too much mucus

in his chest and nose?

- Have him (or help him) blow his nose, which is the best way to get rid of mucus. For children under the age of 2, use a bulb syringe to suck mucus out of the nose.
- Give him plenty of liquids, which help thin out the mucus. Hot liquids soothe coughs and sore throats while also clearing mucus.
- Think tropical! An enzyme in pineapple is believed to thin mucus. If he likes spicy food, chili peppers also have been known to break up mucus and act as a decongestant.
- Make sure he gets exercise. Physical activity can loosen mucus in the respiratory system.
- Use humidifiers, which help add moisture to the air and ease the flow of air through nasal and breathing passages. Be sure to clean your humidifier at least once a week to prevent the growth of bacteria.
- Give him an expectorant to loosen and thin out the mucus so he can cough more productively. A new form of expectorant for kids offers parents a whole new way to help the



(Continued on Page 17)





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The Truth About Mucus - (Continued from Page 16)

medicine go down, and provides fast relief from chest congestion. Mucinex(r) Mini-Melts(tm) are quick-melting granules that taste good and are easy for children to swallow.

- Give him nonprescription cold remedies, including decongestants and cough suppressants. The medicine won't prevent or shorten the length of the cold, but it can provide relief from some of the symptoms.

While it may be impossible to keep your child from getting sick during the cold and flu season or prevent the increased production of mucus, it is possible to provide relief from the uncomfortable symptoms.

For more information about kids and mucus, visit www.mucinex.com. Use as directed. (c) 2006 Adams Respiratory Therapeutics, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

While it may be impossible to prevent your child from getting sick during cold/flu season, parents can provide relief for the uncomfortable symptoms.

The next time you feel like complaining, remember that your garbage disposal probably eats better than 30 percent of the people in the world.
-Robert Orben



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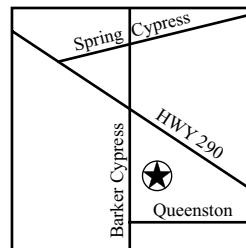
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Our Vision

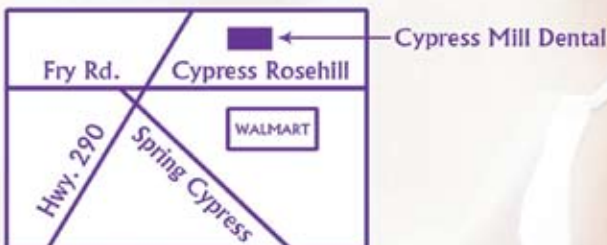
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	Section 4	3	1	-	-	-	
	Section 5	5	2	-	-	-	
	Section 6	2	-	2	95	66.90	
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