



CIRCLE C RANCH NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of the Circle C Homeowner's Association

Volume 4, Number 5

May 2007

www.circlecranch.info

Letter from the Board of Directors

The Association hosted its' annual homeowners meeting March 28th and held an election for three board of directors, a bylaw change and a proposed special assessment. The Board recommended the following amendment to allow all interested, qualified members of the association to be official nominees for open Board seats. The current bylaws require the Nominating Committee to create the list of official nominees at its discretion. They do not set minimum requirements, nor do they say how the Nominating Committee should use its discretion. This amendment sets explicit minimum requirements to become an official nominee. The amendment to the bylaws passed. There were 876,153 in favor and 126,564 opposed.

The proposed \$150 special assessment was specifically earmarked to be used towards major repairs and renovations to the Swim Center facility, the most visible of which will be the new Baby Pool. Remaining funds, if any, were to go towards other swim center development or improvement. The proposed special assessment failed. There were 749,442 in favor and 2,870,380 opposed.

Upcoming Events

May 1	First day of Summer Swim Lesson Registration
May 16	Board Meeting at 6:15pm
June 1	Sunken Treasure Family Fun Night at the Pool

There were five candidates who ran for the three open board seats. The results were:

Rob Johnson	684339 votes (appointed to 3 year term)
Cindy Groves	671409 votes (appointed to 3 year term)
Russ Hodes	541896 votes (appointed to 3 year term)
James Moseley	435368 votes
Michael Anania	360005 votes
Steve Elmore	245735 votes

Votes are based on your home's previous year's property value, so if you have a \$300,000 home, you have 3000 votes.

We'd like to welcome our three newest board members, Rob Johnson, Russ Hodes and Cindy Groves.

The new board plans to meet during the month of May for a board retreat and update the board priority list.

2007 Board Priority List

- ☐ Amenities Transfer Agreement
- ☐ One House/One Vote
- ☐ ACC/Deed Restriction Position
- ☐ Park Playscapes Plan
- ☐ Trash Contract
- ☐ Swim Center Capital Improvements

Completed Projects

- ☒ Insurance Policy/Agent Review
- ☒ Capital Project Bldg
- ☒ Annual Report
- ☒ Financial Contract Review
- ☒ Office Lease
- ☒ Landscape Contract
- ☒ 2007 Budget
- ☒ Management Review Plan
- ☒ Baby Pool
- ☒ Café Contract Review

Monthly Board Meeting CHANGE

The board has been meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month for some time now, but recently elected to change the date to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This will allow the board to receive the previous month's financials and evaluate and discuss at the board meeting. Please mark your calendars for this standing monthly meeting – the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:15pm at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2007.

Monthly Town Halls CHANGE

Due to the change in the monthly board meeting, we will also be changing the date of the Town Halls. The May Town Hall will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2007, location to be determined and posted on the Circle C HOA website, www.circlecranch.info. We will have a full schedule for the year listed in the June newsletter.

Baby Pool Construction Update

As some of you have seen (and heard), the baby pool construction has been going strong this past month. Contractors are on schedule and plan to have the project complete by May 2007. If you have questions or would like to see a copy of the plans, please contact the HOA office at 288-8663.

CIRCLE C RANCH

CCHOA Numbers

HOA Mgmt Office	info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
Financial Office.....	451-9901
Aquatics Director.....	288-4239
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc. Sales Office.....	512-989-8905
Adv./Kelly Peel ..advertising@PEELinc.com,	512-989-8905

Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café.....	288-6058
Circle C CDC.....	288-9792
Circle C Swim Center.....	288-6057
Circle C Tennis Club.....	Circle_CTennis@msn.com, 301-8685
Golf Course at Circle C Ranch	288-4297

2007 Board of Directors

Ryan Garcia.....	President
Rob Johnson.....	Vice President
Russ Hodes.....	Treasurer
Cindy Groves	Secretary
Sam Irwin.....	Board Member
Michelle Moran.....	Board Member
Contact Information	Email: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BFI (Allied Waste)	247.5647
Dead Animal Collection.....	494.9400
Abandoned Vehicle	974.8119
Pothole Complaints.....	974.8750
Stop Signs	457.4885
Street Light Outage	505.7617
Schools	
Clayton Elementary	841.9200
Kiker Elementary.....	414.2584
Mills Elementary	841.2400
Bailey Middle School	414.4990
Small Middle School	841.6700
Bowie High School.....	414.5247
SAYSA.....	899.1049

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Brendan McEntee Resignation

It is with a somewhat heavy heart that I resign my position as a member and President of the Circle C Homeowners' Association. Subsequent to my election last spring, I started my own engineering firm, which, as any small business owner knows, is like having to tend to a newborn. The time this endeavor demands, coupled with my already time-starved family life, left me with little alternative but to resign from the Board of Directors. The neighborhood deserves and expects a Director to have adequate time to devote to the Association, and I am woefully short in that area.

It has been a great pleasure, even during times of controversy, to serve the neighborhood in such a position of trust. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of my neighbors and have made many new friends, whom I hope to refer to as "old friends" one day. I will stay involved in the development and implementation of new, long awaited and sorely needed amenities as part of the Amenities Committee.

I sincerely thank everyone for the opportunity to be involved in one of the most exciting times in the history of Circle C Ranch as we continue to stake our claim as a progressive, family-friendly neighborhood.

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CCHOA Announcements

Deed Restriction Update

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Manager

We are still in the process of driving the entire neighborhood to look for lawn violations. Violations may include, but are not limited to: excessive weeds, areas of no turf, dead shrubs and/or trees, yard art, grass that is not edged or mowed and areas of dead grass. We encourage each of you to evaluate your lawn now so that you have time to re-sod if needed before the heat of summer. We are required to send notification of deed restriction violations via certified mail and we also send regular mail. If you receive a deed restriction violation notice and would like to speak to us about your plans for improvement, please contact the HOA office at 288-8663. It's impossible to know everyone's individual situation, so we appreciate communication from you. We also recommend that you review the architectural control committee's landscape design guidelines located within this newsletter.

If you have a deed restriction to report, you may email us the specific address at info@circlecranch.info or give us a call at 288-8663. Violations that are reported are generally checked with 2 business days and if we are able to confirm a violation, we will begin the deed restriction process (which you can access on the website at <http://www.circlecranch.info/documents/AssociationDocuments/DeedRestrictions/CCHOA-DeedRestrictionPolicy2003.pdf>).

Also, please look for a separate article in the newsletter regarding Community Service opportunities. Names that are collected will be listed in the newsletter and given as reference to those who may have received a deed restriction violation notice and are unable to do the work themselves.

Unauthorized trash dumping

It has come to our attention that some of the landscape companies servicing the residents in our community are dumping their bagged clippings at other resident's homes. You may not be aware this happening so please be sure to speak to your landscape provider and let them know this is NOT okay.

Trash Can and Recycling Containers Should Be Hidden From View

The Circle C Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions clearly state that trash cans and recycle bins should be stored Out of View from the street. Please be sure your trash can and recycling container are hidden.

(Continued on Page 5)



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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Bring us your aluminum can tops!

The HOA will be collecting aluminum can tops in the management office so please do not throw your cans away without taking off the tops. The tops will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas. To read more about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, you can visit <http://www.rmhc-austin.org/> Thank you to Circle C resident Bob Hendee for helping us coordinate this effort.

Animal Safety

We hear from many of you about lost pets found in the Circle C neighborhood – sometimes they are fortunate enough to reunite them with their owners. If you haven't already, please make sure your pets have accurate ID tags so that if they do manage to get out, you can be contacted.

We've also received quite a few complaints from homeowners on the dog mess being left behind in people's yards or common areas. City of Austin ordinance requires that owners pick up after their pets so be sure to bring a couple of bags with you when you are walking your dog.

(Continued on Page 6)

Spring Cleanings

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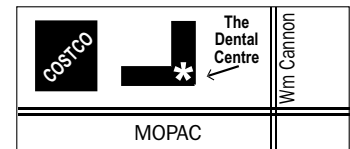
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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

CCHOA Board of Directors Policy on Commons Area Fencing *Created May 2004 • Amended January 2007*

The fencing which faces any commons area of the CCHOA is subject to review by the Architectural Control Committee prior to the establishment of any new subdivision and prior to any subsequent modifications. These areas include Escarpment Boulevard, Barstow Avenue, South Bay Lane and sections of La Crosse Avenue. Height, location, material and construction must be reviewed and approved. Fencing of front yards in general will not be approved. Additionally, City of Austin fence ordinances may apply.

Wooden Fencing. All fence repair including picket replacement, fence straightening, installation of new posts and new pickets will be the sole responsibility of the homeowner. The homeowner must follow the Design Guidelines as written by the Architectural Control Committee for fencing. Any change in design, material and/or color must be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee for approval.


Masonry Fencing: Drainage repairs and aesthetic repairs to the exterior side (side facing the commons areas) of masonry walls will be the responsibility of the CCHOA.

In the event of an accident which causes damage to a fence that abuts the commons area fence, the CCHOA will assist the homeowner in locating any person who caused the accident to happen through police department records or reports by other homeowners. The CCHOA encourages all homeowners in this situation to pursue an insurance liability claim against the person or persons responsible for the damage.

(Continued from Page 5)

Illegal dirt bikes

Typically around this time of year we begin to receive complaints from those of you who live near open space (either drainage areas or greenbelts) located throughout Circle C in regards to dirt bikes being driven in these areas. We believe the majority of the drivers are teenagers who live in our area – if your child has a dirt bike – please talk with them about safety and the dangers of riding in restricted areas. If you see or hear a dirt bike in an unauthorized area, please call 311 to report.



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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*



Circle C Community Service Opportunities Neighbors helping Neighbors

Are you interested in being one of the groundbreakers in a Community Service program for our neighborhood? Or, are you in need of a little help and/or companionship?

"Taking an active role in serving the community teaches young people to reach beyond themselves. They begin to understand the needs of the bigger community and see ways in which they can make positive contributions toward the improvement of life for everyone."

Community work proposed includes, but is not limited to, helping senior citizens and shut-in's that are unable to do things they ordinarily would do such as pulling weeds in their yard, mowing their lawn, walking their dog, etc. We could possibly visit shut-ins, nursing homes in the area, or even help with organizations in the area such as El Buen Samaritano. There are many needs right here in our own neighborhood that would benefit from this type of program.

Members of our community learn the values of being good leaders and citizens by volunteering. You can earn community service hours needed for school and/or graduation requirements. Community service bolsters character, discipline, and responsibility.

"I believe that a society cannot be truly successful with a mentality that every individual should only worry about themselves and in the end things will work out for the best. Community service is about building a stronger community whether on campus, in your neighborhood, city, state, or any other type of community."

--unknown

"It benefits you just as much as the people you serve. There is no better feeling than knowing you've made a positive impact on another person's life. It is my responsibility, due to all of the privileges I have been given, to help those that have less."

-unknown

Will you spare some time for someone in need?

Or

Are you in need of service?

Please contact CCHOA Management office at 288-8663 or email info@circlecranch.info for more information about obtaining community service hours or if you need some help or companionship!

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Circle C Landscape Update

Submitted by Susan Hoover

As part of the overall long term landscape plan for Circle C Ranch, the CCHOA Board adopted guidelines and priorities for tree care for the vast numbers of trees that are on the commons areas.

The guidelines include providing annual funding for tree care and maintenance in order to preserve the health of the trees. The goal of the program is to systematically tag and survey all trees, set priorities for regular pruning, identify all landmark trees, prevent disease, ensure that young trees are pruned in a timely fashion to secure good growth habits.

For 2006, the following specific areas were identified and have been treated by a certified arborist.

- A) Wildflower Park. Tag, survey, prune all trees in the park area. Provide oak wilt fungicide treatment for all live oaks.
- B) Prune all young live oak trees on Escarpment, north of the bridge to Slaughter.
- C) Identify and prioritize landmark trees (trees 19" caliper and above). Provide a health prune for these trees once priority list is made
- D) Prune all trees at the Circle C Swim Center
- E) Fertilize water oaks on Escarpment medians.

In addition to the tree program, Circle C Landscape is moving forward on the approved commons areas 2007 improvements. Native plant installations have been completed in Circle C North, Vintage Place, Eclipse, Dahlgreen, and on Escarpment. The next phase of improvements will be the installation of decorative and understory trees on Escarpment.

What about the turfgrass?

One of the goals of the long term improvement plan for landscaped areas is to reduce the turf areas and restore the turf in weedy areas.

Most of the older commons areas boulevards such as Slaughter Lane and Escarpment were installed with hydromulched Bermuda grass. As the trees reached maturity, much of this grass died out due to excessive shade in addition to being over treated with chemicals. St. Augustine grass migrated from the residential neighborhoods to the commons areas. With the variety of conditions, weeds have infiltrated these mixed areas.

The long term plan utilizes native grasses and perennial beds to reduce the amount of turf area needed. Then the bad grass/weeds are killed out, organic top soil is added, and new sod has been laid down. The areas along LaCrosse from Escarpment to Dahlgreen have received this treatment, along with areas at the swim center plaza and terraces and newer areas in Circle C West. The preferred sod is Pallasades zoysia. These areas have responded well to lower water and fertilizer usage. Eventually, over a number of years, all turf areas will be brought up to this standard.

Design Guidelines

for Front Yard Landscapes

Submitted by the Architectural Control Committee

Circle C residents are welcome to improve their existing landscapes through plant, shrub and tree enhancements, bed edging, additional flower beds, or turf replacement without going through the Architectural Review Committee approval.

The following items require approval from the ACC:

- hardscape in the front yards, including but not limited to walls, fences, fountains, patios. No vertical hardscape greater than 18" in height will be approved.
- transition to a native landscape in front yards. The ACC encourages drought tolerant plantings and limited turf area. However, landscapes that dramatically change from the original landscape design must go through the approval process. A conceptual plan showing bed locations, turf locations and a list of plants must be provided to the committee.

The following items will be considered in reviewing a plan:

- amount of turf area. Turf can be limited but must be present next to sidewalk and driveway edges and used to define bed areas
- landscape designs must include evergreen shrubs as well as perennial and deciduous plants and wildflowers. Plants beds must be designed to enhance and give order to a front yard landscape
- it is important that landscape designs retain a Texas Hill Country feel, rather than a desert Southwest design. Natural colored gravel (excluding pea gravel) and decomposed granite may be used in limited amounts for paths or accents. They may not replace mulch in bed areas.
- all designs must be able to be maintained in a way that is compatible with traditional yards in the neighborhood. Perennials must be pruned at the appropriate times, shrubs must be trimmed, wildflower areas may cycle through the wildflower planting and reseeding times, and then must be trimmed appropriately.
- beds should be mulched to retain moisture and control weeds. Mulch should be between 2" and 3" in depth, and updated as needed.
- flower pots must integrate into the overall design and be well maintained. Empty pots and dead vegetation must be removed.

Prohibited elements in front yard design:

- Yard Art. Non-vegetative elements must be compatible and an integral part of the landscape design. Excessive yard art of random objects is prohibited, including but not limited to statuary, flags, gazing ballls, birdbaths. Residents are encouraged to put yard art in the back yard.
- Artificial Flowers, silk flowers, artificial flower baskets.
- Recycled glass, large fountains, aluminum lawn chairs and loungers.

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May 15th, 7PM and May 16th 3PM

I Annuities revisited --- Annuity contracts have come a long way since our grandparents. This discussion will cover such topics as fixed, variable and equity indexed. Differences between deferred and immediate annuities will be covered and how to evaluate various contracts.

June 21st, 7PM

II Equity Compensation --- A discussion dealing with various forms of stock compensation, including: Stock options, stock grants and stock purchase plans. Basic insights concerning tax consequences, vesting schedules and value will be covered.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

July – **401k concepts/strategies**

August – **Funding Your Child's College Education**

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Volunteers Needed



Have you ever thought about who plans all the awesome Holiday Parties or the Easter Egg Hunt or even the Fourth of July Parade? What about who helps set up better communication among the entire neighborhood or who helps make sure that the Landscape stays as beautiful as it is? Well, it is all done by VOLUNTEERS. If we do not have volunteers to help plan, improve, and maintain, we don't get anything completed.

This is our selfless plea for HELP! We have so many committees that need more people and assistance! Please look over the list below and call Denise or Gale in the HOA Office (288-8663) if you have any time to offer.

1. Communication Committee~ This committee will be working to improve communications between the HOA and the residents, via the website, newsletter, etc.

2. Landscape Ad-Hoc Committee~ This committee will be responsible for bidding the landscape maintenance contract for Circle C; the current contract expires December 2007.
3. Special Events Committee~ This is the committee that plans all the awesome events! We need energy and creativeness. This is a very FUN group and we usually meet during the week at lunchtime!

***VOLUNTEER AND HELP TO CONTINUE
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Clayton Elementary Announcements

Submitted by Anne Lasseigne Tiedt

The Clayton Elementary PTA invites Circle C to the first-ever Keep Clayton Cool Fun Run and Celebration. This family-friendly event will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007, from 3 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at Nan Clayton Elementary School, located at 7525 La Crosse Avenue. Parents can cheer on our Southwest Austin kids, Pre-K to 5th Grade, as they run laps around the school. The children with the most money raised will be honored during our Winners Circle celebration.

Everyone is invited to participate in the FREE obstacle course and face painting before listening to a live music performance by Amy Boudreaux. The celebration also includes a \$1 per ticket stuffed animal walk and a silent auction that includes gift certificates and items from area restaurants and businesses, sports memorabilia and summer camp entry fees, among other items. The "Time with Teachers" certificates are the true highlight of this silent auction, giving families the opportunity to "buy" time for their child to spend with a Clayton teacher together in a fun activity.

Race entry fees begin at \$5.00 per child. Food and drink booths will be on site. Boxed hot dog dinners will be sold for \$4 a piece. Tickets for all other activities and food booth items are only \$1 or

\$2 each. All net proceeds will be used by Clayton Elementary and the Clayton Elementary School PTA for school-wide needs and projects; student and classroom/building supplies and equipment; and continuing education needs by our staff and administrators.

Event organizers are currently seeking additional items for the silent auction. To contribute an item to the silent auction, please contact Julie King at julieking@austin.rr.com. For more information about the event please visit <http://claytoncardinals.org/funrun.html>. Event registration forms may be printed from this site. Completed forms and entry fees may be dropped off at Clayton Elementary.

A special thank you to our event sponsors: Austin Real Estate Partners, Goldwasser Real Estate, KB Homes, H-E-B Escarpment Village, Central Texas Insurance, Costco, Jefferson Bank, UPS Store, Rhinestone Studio, Circle C Café and Catering, Circle C Child Development Center, Digital Discovery Solutions, Hill Country OB/GYN Associates, Kumon Learning Center, Shipley Do-Nuts, Waterloo Ice House, The Waxing Studio, The Willoughby Team, MetLife and The Williams Family.

We look forward to seeing you at Clayton on May 12th!

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Park West HOA News (*pertains only to Park West residents*)

Submitted by Board of Directors, Park West HOA

On February 15th, the Park West Homeowners Association Board of Directors held its first meeting since the annual Park West HOA meeting and elected officers for 2007; the names, positions, and contact information of the board officers are posted on both mail center bulletin boards. Dave was re-elected as President. Kathy is now 1st Vice President, and Veta is 2nd Vice President. Charlie is now Treasurer, and Joe is now Secretary.

Congratulations to Park West resident Russ Hodes on his election to the Circle C HOA board of directors. We know Russ will do an excellent job in representing all Circle C homeowners.

Regular meetings of the Park West HOA Board of Directors are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month. The first 30 minutes of each regular board meeting is available for homeowners to present comments, concerns, and/or issues. To be placed on the board meeting agenda and to learn the board meeting place and time, please notify the president.

The Park West HOA board and your fellow homeowners will be working on the following things in 2007:

- Post Office Landscaping
- Web Site
- Road Repair Plan
- Lot 103 Policy and Issues
- Landscape Contract Goals & Survey
- Bylaw and Rules Review
- Rules Enforcement
- Five/Ten Year Plan

Changing circumstances might result in modification of the list over time. Please continue to read this newsletter and to check the mail center bulletin boards for updates or changes that might occur as we move through the year. Please notify a board member if you are interested in providing input or assistance on any of these projects. Many of your fellow homeowners volunteer their time in our HOA committees. Park West HOA committee meeting schedules, with contact names and phone numbers for committee chairpersons, are posted at the mail center bulletin boards.

How else can you submit information to the board? Here is another way that you can communicate your ideas, concerns and suggestions: "Ask the Board" boxes are located at the rear of each mail center. These locked boxes are checked weekly by board members, and contents are read at the monthly board meetings. You need not list your name/address on these communications, but remember that you will not receive an individual reply to anonymous submissions.

On page 8 of the April issue of the Circle C newsletter, Circle C HOA printed its Circle C Design Guidelines for Front Yard Landscapes. These rules also apply to Park West residents and prohibit: statuary, flags, gazing balls, birdbaths, artificial flowers, and aluminum lawn furniture. Park West residents with complaints about such items in neighbor's yards should call the Circle C HOA management office at 288-8663. Similar calls concerning parked boats, ATVs, and junk cars have been effective with the good folks in the Circle C office taking quick action. The Circle C office also

takes complaints on residents whose trash cans spend too much time in the street.

Park West had no reported vehicular accidents in 2006, but unfortunately, one accident has already occurred this year. A resident backed into a car parked on the street, thereby becoming our fourth reported vehicular accident since February 2005. All accidents have involved parked cars. If you park on our Park West streets, you are parking on our commonly owned streets; in so doing, you increase your chances of being in an accident, you may endanger pedestrians, and you impede emergency vehicles. For the sake of your fellow neighbors, please park in your driveway or your garage.

Both sets of Park West gates are now closed 24/7. We do keep one entry gate open during traditional Sunday Open House periods from 1:00-3:00 PM and during scheduled hours for the Circle C Wide Garage Sale. During a power outage, the entry gates open automatically and remain open until power is restored.

In August 2006, we reported that PW board members met with Pedernales Electric and Circle C Ranch officials to discuss routing of a new backup underground power line from Park West Pass, east along La Crosse and north along Escarpment. The work is now complete near the property walls on the 'outside' (on Circle C HOA common area property). The new line replaces an original underground line that traveled under Tasajillo Trail. As of this writing, we are waiting for Pedernales to seed the grass.

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Walk to Action

How far would you walk to save a child? You can help with the prevention of child abuse by participating in the Walk to Action on November 3-4, 2007. Space is limited on this intimate walk, so don't delay! To register, donate, or learn more, call toll-free 866.858.6877 or visit www.walktoaction.org

Austin Newcomers Club May Luncheon

Time: 11:00 AM Social; 12:00 Noon Luncheon
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 (Reservations by Thursday, May 10)
Program: Alicia Robertson, Director of Volunteer Services for the Dell Children's Medical Center, will provide information about the new world-class, pediatric healthcare facility.
Location: Green Pastures Restaurant
Street address: 811 W. Live Oak Street, 78704
Cost: \$20.00
Public contact phone number and or website: 314-5100 or www.austinnewcomers.com

Oak Hill United Methodist Church

Submitted by Michelle Moon Reinhardt

May Events at Oak Hill United Methodist Church

Please join us for these upcoming events at Oak Hill UMC, located across from the ACC Pinnacle campus on Highway 290. Worship services are held Sundays at 9:00am and 11:15am.

Mother's Day Performance – The children's choir will present the spring musical, *Elijah!* on May 13 at 10am.

Big Band Dance – Come dance to the big band sound as the Good News Singers perform hits from the 1940s for two nights on May 25 and 26 at 7pm. The cost is \$15 per person and proceeds go to the Crossfire Youth Choir Ministries.

Vacation Bible School – "Lifting Off" is the theme for this year's VBS, scheduled for June 11 – 15. Children ages four to fourth grade are encouraged to attend. Registration is limited to 150 children. Forms are available at the Church office at 288-3836.

For more information, visit our website at www.oakhillumc.org.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued***The Longevity Factor and Long-Term Care Insurance**

Most of us want to live a long life; those of us with children and grandchildren want to see them grow up and thrive. Perhaps we'd like to start a new and different career after retiring, or travel to different parts of the world. Thanks to advances in medical care, sanitation, and food science, many of us will have the opportunity to live long lives. In fact, life expectancy has climbed during the past 100 years from an average of 47 years to nearly 77 years.¹ This longevity revolution is quite remarkable, but unfortunately is not without its risks. If you live a healthy lifestyle, you can expect to live longer. However, the longer you live, the more likely you are to develop a cognitive or physical condition that will result in the need for long-term care.

Long-term care is generally defined as assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, bathing, dressing, eating, transferring from one point to another, and continence. It also includes care for a cognitive impairment from Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia. Care services can be provided by health care professionals and may take place in your home, in the community, in an assisted living facility, or in a nursing home.

While families still provide the bulk of care services, family dynamics have changed dramatically over the past few years.

Women, who previously dominated the caregiving role, are in the workforce in record numbers and may not be able to provide full-time care. There are also fewer children in households today than in previous generations, more divorces, and more single people living alone. Therefore, the number of family caregivers will be even smaller in the future than it is today.

It's a natural tendency to think that you will never need long-term care, and planning for dependency seems so far away. However, long-term care may be the greatest uninsured risk people face. Many people think that their health insurance or Medicare will pay for their long-term care needs. Unfortunately, Medicare pays a limited amount of long-term care expenses, and health insurance generally does not cover the custodial care expenses associated with long-term care. These long-term care expenses have the potential of depleting assets quickly.

Long-Term Care Insurance can help provide financial independence and choice, by preserving retirement assets and allowing you to receive care where you want it.

¹Older Americans 2004: Key Indicators of Well Being, Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Related Statistics, November 2004.

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Kindergarten Korner is back!

Submitted by Angie Schuckle

If you are new to the area or have a new kindergartner starting school at Kiker Elementary, you may want some information to make your transition into Kindergarten easier. This is my 3rd year of writing a newsletter for Kindergarten and I hope you'll find it helpful. Write to "laerdana@yahoo.com".

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CALL FOR ACTION

From the Circle C Political Action Committee

The neighborhood of Lost Creek has asked Circle C for help. Lost Creek is on the verge of being annexed by the City of Austin. Of course, they, like us, don't want to be annexed. State Rep. Dwayne Bohac (R-Houston) has filed a bill (HB 2149) which is scheduled for committee hearing April 11. This bill says that a city with more than 675,000 citizens may not annex a community with a "special district" (Lost Creek has one) unless that city is organized as a single-member-district city (Austin is not).

Lost Creek asks Circle C residents to call our state representative and senator to ask for their support of HB 2149. For reference, our state representative is Valinda Bolton, office 463-0652, valinda.bolton@house.state.tx.us, mailing address, P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768; our state senator is Jeff Wentworth, office 463-0125, jeff.wentworth@senate.state.tx.us, mailing address, P. O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711.

Thank you,

Ken Rigsbee, Chairman, CC PAC

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

That Green Space with the Fence Around It

Submitted by Michael Anania

Circle C has a number of fenced in, posted, environmentally critical areas. They add attractive patches of wild greenery to our neighborhoods. The fences and postings are required because these areas contain karsts—small, open caves that carry rainwater directly into the Edwards Aquifer. It can be difficult, certainly, to explain to children that these tempting, little forests are not playgrounds, but an informed explanation will be more than worth the effort.

Although the environmental issues involved are complex, elementary school students are more than capable of dealing with them. Most of the concepts are part of the Austin Independent School District curriculum for 5th grade science, and some of the most appealing karst-related sites on the Internet were created by teachers and grade school students. It's a great area for study and discussion because the science of karst systems is so fascinating and various, involving chemistry, physics, geography, geology, hydrology and biology.

Unlike the rainwater in your yard, which percolates through layers of sand and rock for years and is naturally filtered before it reaches the underground water supply, water in karsts moves quickly, without being filtered at all. Last night's rainfall could reach Barton Springs in a matter of days. Sadly, any pollutant would reach the Springs just as quickly.

Water created the karsts. Rainwater and ground water that were slightly acidic dissolved the limestone and carved out the karsts' underground caves and streams over millions of years. When the aquifer, including the karst on your block, was being formed, dinosaurs, like the ones in the statues in Zilker Park, roamed across central Texas. The animal and plant biology of the Austin karst system is equally amazing. It is home for forty unique and eight additional species, among them the Texas blind salamander.

Despite their age, karsts are fragile. Austin's karst system is one of the ten most endangered in the world. It is threatened by major problems like urban sprawl, industrialization, drought and excessive ground water use, but individual karst features, like ours, can be endangered by something as simple as debris. If surface openings become clogged, not only does the surface water not reach the aquifer, whole sub-surface areas can collapse into deep sink holes.

Here are some useful web sites for learning more about karsts:

www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/caves/karsh.php

[www.wvcc.net/education/Living on Karst/livingOnkarst-4.asp](http://www.wvcc.net/education/Living%20on%20Karst/livingOnkarst-4.asp)

www.dyetracing.com/karst/ka01001.html

www.watersheds.org/teacher/rd.htm

www.bseacd.org/western_oaks.htm

www.watersheds.org/earth/nps3/htm

www.karstwaters.org/conduit/vol7no1/karst10.htm

You might also want to visit W. Gary Smith's sculpture, "Karst Circle," at Fire Station 43 at 11401 Escarpment Blvd. in Circle C.

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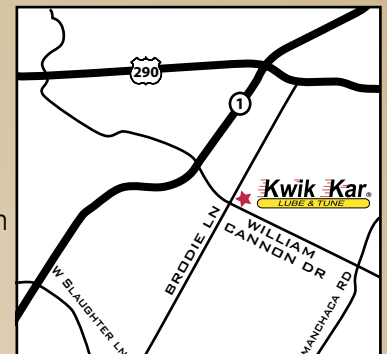
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Circle C Amenities

The Golf Club at Circle C Ranch

Submitted by Denise Fisher

FIRST FRIDAYS Live Music Series & Memorial Day Concert!

Friday, May 4th 6-9pm & Friday, May 25th 6-9pm

The 2007 live music series continues with two events in May! We'll kick off the month with an appearance by Darren Zozelsky this Friday, May 4th featuring his traditional county sounds. There will also be special Memorial Day concert on Friday, May 25th with the cool sounds of Groove Labs. Bring the whole family and enjoy fresh dinner and drink specials and FUN for all! Check our website for other dates and artists at www.thegolfclubatcirclec.com.

MEN'S LEAGUE every Wednesday!

NOW is the TIME.....To connect with friends and neighbors that share your passion!

As a member of the league you'll play in competitive events every Wednesday and weekend tournaments including a member/member, club championship, member/guest and the Circle C Cup. All this and much more for only \$500! Call the Pro Shop at 288.4297 ext. 1 to learn more.

EWGA starts Tuesday, April 3rd

The South League EWGA meets each Tuesday at 5:30pm for a 9-hole game. The mission of EWGA is to promote and foster a spirit of acceptance, dignity and respect of career-oriented women golfers.

For more information or to register, call the EWGA Hotline at (512) 707-4402 or go to www.ewga-austin.com.

THINKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

NOW is the TIME.....To entertain family, friends and business associates at YOUR club!

Now is THE time to join The Golf Club at Circle C. Visit us soon for a FREE round of golf and learn how you can make The Golf Club at Circle C your home for golf and so much more! Memberships start at \$3,500. Call Denise Fisher at 288.4297 ext 4 or email denise@thegolfclubatcirclec.com to learn more.

BUCK MAYERS GOLF ACADEMY

The Golf Academy is putting together some great programs for adult and junior players of all levels. Call the Academy at 301.2932 or visit www.buckmayersgolfacademy.com to check out the variety of lessons, programs and camps now available.

TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS for Circle C Residents

NOW is the TIME.....To treat yourself to that golf membership you've always promised yourself!

Circle C Residents now have the opportunity to purchase a Trial Membership for just \$500. Experience all the benefits of full membership for 3 months. Space is limited so call today to get signed up and start your privileges. Some restrictions apply.

DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAYS

Every Sunday at 1pm is our SUNDAY SKINS GAME

FRIDAYS

Every Friday at 12:30pm is our MEMBER GAME

CLOSED Monday, May 21st

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Circle C Amenities *Continued*

Circle C Cafe & Catering

288-6058 Pool Cafe 5919 LaCrosse Ave

Hours: Monday - Saturday 3pm-8:30pm; Closed Sunday

Serving salads, pizzas, hamburgers, and nightly gourmet specials

Delivery is always FREE in Circle C!

292-4716 Wildflower Cafe 4801 LaCrosse Ave

Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 12pm-4pm

Serving salads, sandwiches, soups, and desserts

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Cafe Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday 12-5pm

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May Events at the

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

What's in a Name: Wildflower Identification Tours

Stephen Brueggerhoff will teach you plant characteristics, uses, legends and lore. Pre-register at 512.292.4200 x 112. 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 8, 10, 22 & 24

National Wildflower Week is May 7-13

Save 20 percent on Wildflowers Across America by Lady Bird Johnson and all landscaping books at the store. Saturday, May 5

Gardens on Tour

Visit five private gardens and the Wildflower Center plus a special feature, the Stratus Properties green roof. Rain or shine. Wristbands on sale starting April 7 at select retailers. Plant lists and home previews at www.wildflower.org. \$25 for all gardens or \$6 for each garden. Children under 5 free. 9 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 12

Gardens on Tour at the store

Ben Rehder will sign his new novel, Gun Shy, from 1 to 4 p.m. Moms who visit the store will receive a free packet of wildflower seeds. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 12

Nature Nights: If Looks Could Kill: Carnivorous Plants of Texas Plants that eat meat! Join Michael Pagoulatos, owner of Carnivorous Plants of Texas, and learn about myths, facts, their allure and secret weapons. Come hungry for fun, family adventure! 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 18

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Goldwasser International invites you to attend the fourth annual Rock 'n' Restock benefit concert. All proceeds benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. May 24th is the last day of school, and we want to remind everyone that hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. It is vital that we help to keep the Food Bank shelves stocked throughout the year, especially when kids won't have access to the food provided for them at school.



RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Rock 'n' Restock has sold out the last 3 years!
www.goldwasserteam.com

Circle C Swim Center Spring 2007

General Pool Schedule March 16th – May 19th
 Group Swim Lessons begin on April 28th- Schedule is subject to change without notice-
 (SEALS Practice will change to Monday-Thursday 6-8pm beginning April 23rd)

Time	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
5:30am	Closed	Lap Swim 5:30am -11am	Lap Swim 5:30am -11am	Lap Swim 5:30am -11am	Lap Swim 5:30am -11am	Lap Swim 5:30am -11am	Closed
6:00am							
6:30am							
7:00am							
7:30am							
8:00am							Lap Swim 7:30am-8:00pm
8:30am							
9:00am		Group Swim Lessons 9-11am	Aqua Aerobics 9-10am Water Walking 10-11am	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am	Private Swim Lessons 9-11am	Private Swim Lessons 9-11am	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am
9:30am							
10:00am							
10:30am							
11:00am	Rec & Lap Swim 12:30-6pm	Pool Closed 11am-3pm	Pool Closed 11am-3pm	Pool Closed 11am-3pm	Pool Closed 11am-3pm	Pool Closed 11am-3pm	Rec Swim 11:30-8pm
11:30am							
12:00pm							
12:30pm							
1:00pm							
1:30pm		Rec Swim 3-8pm Lap Swim 3-8pm Private Swim Lessons 4:30-6:30pm	Rec Swim 3pm-8pm Lap Swim 3-8pm Group Swim Lessons 4:30-6:30pm	Rec Swim 3-8pm Lap Swim 3-8pm Private Swim Lessons 4:30-6:30pm	Rec Swim 3-8pm Lap Swim 3-8pm Group Swim Lessons 4:30-6:30pm	Rec Swim 3-8pm Lap Swim 3-8pm	Closes at 8pm
3:00pm							
3:30pm							
4:00pm							
4:30pm							
5:00pm	Closes at 6:00PM	SEALS 6:00-8:00pm	SEALS 6:00-8:00pm	SEALS 6:00-8:00pm	SEALS 6:00-8:00pm	SEALS 6:00-8:00pm	Closes at 8pm
5:30pm							
6:00pm							
6:30pm							
7:00pm							
7:30pm							
8:00pm							
8:30pm							

Texas Events - May

1-6—AUSTIN: Stomp! The Paramount Theatre. www.austintheatre.org 866/443-8849

1-31—AUSTIN: Latino Music Month Latino artists are showcased at the city's "Live from the Plaza" shows, outside City Hall. City Hall and various venues. www.austinlatinomusic.com

3-5—SAN MARCOS: Cinco de Mayo Texans compete for the coveted State Menudo Champion title. Features live music, arts & crafts and a downtown parade. San Marcos Plaza. www.sanmarcoscharms.com 888/200-5620

3, 6, 10, 20, 24, 31—BURNET: Devil's Waterhole Canoe Tour Reservations required. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

4-5—MASON: Relay for Life Begins at 8 p.m. Friday and ends 7 a.m. on Saturday. Mason High School — Practice Field. E-mail: country_home_health@verizon.net 325/347-9600

4-6—AUSTIN: Cinco de Mayo Music Festival Celebrates Mexico's independence from France with live music, food and carnival rides. Fiesta Gardens. www.austincinco.com 512/867-1999

4-6—FREDERICKSBURG: Run Includes music, food, bike games, "road trip & raffle," Bluebonnet Ball, Cowboy Breakfast, Sunday service and more. Lady Bird Johnson Park. www.hillcountryrun.com 866/839-3378

5—BEND: Crawling Wild Cave Exploration Reservations required. Begins at 9 a.m. Colorado Bend State Park. 325/628-3240

5—ELDORADO: Cinco de Mayo Parade & Celebration E-mail: eoboc@hotmail.com 325/853-3678

5—JUNCTION: Citywide Garage Sale E-mail: junctiontx@cebridge.net • www.junctiontexas.net 325/446-3190

5—MASON: Mason County Fire Department Annual BBQ Fundraiser Fort Mason City Park Community Building. www.masontxcoc.com 325/347-5758

5—NEW BRAUNFELS: Austin Lounge Lizards Group has delighted audience with its inventive style of satirical folk, country and bluegrass music. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre. 830/627-0808

5—TAYLOR: Bloomin' Festival Family-oriented event includes arts & crafts, children's activities, horticulture exhibits and demonstrations, agricultural exhibits, heritage entertainment, music, food and more. Historic Downtown Taylor. www.taylormainstreet.com 512/352-5448

5-6—MARBLE FALLS: 36th Annual Howdy-Roo Chili & Barbecue Cook-Off 830/693-5502

5-6—SAN MARCOS: Heritage Home Tours/Tours of Distinction Get an inside view of charming historic homes on a self-guided tour in the historic districts. www.sanmarcoscharms.com 888/200-5620

5, 12, 19, 26—BANDERA: Cowboys on Main Enjoy authentic

(Continued on Page 23)

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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 22)

cowboy entertainment. Activities vary weekly. Downtown Main Street. www.banderacowboycapital.com 800/364-3833

5, 19, 26—BURNET: Go Fishing with a Ranger After a brief safety and basic skills instruction, families fish with a park ranger. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

6—BANDERA: St. Stanislaus Parish Festival Includes a meal, children's activities, music, auction, entertainment and more. Mansfield Park. www.stanislausfest.com 830/460-4712

6—FREDERICKSBURG: Maifest (German Chorale Concert) Arior Mannerchor and Hermann Sons Mixed Choir present a concert of German choral music at 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Halle. 830/997-3936

7-12—AUSTIN: National Wildflower Week Celebrate the natural beauty and vital role of native plants. Join the Wildflower Center guides for a tour of the native Texas wildflower gardens. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org 512/292-4200

9-Jun. 30—INGRAM: Regional Juried Art Show Features a selection of art representing the best from the state. The Gallery at the Point. www.hcaf.com 830/367-5121

10-13—AUSTIN: A Special Evening with Stephen Mills Presents three world-premiere works for a golden finale to the end of the season. Paramount Theatre. www.balletaustin.org 512/476-2163

10-12, 17-20, 24-27—BULVERDE: Flavia & the Dream Maker Musical explores the world of a small, loving family during World War II. S.T.A.G.E. 830/438-2339

11-12—AUSTIN: Classical Mystery Tour — An Austin Symphony Tribute to the Beatles Features performances of more than 30 Beatles tunes. Palmer Events Center. www.austinsymphony.org 512/476-6064

11-12—BLANCO: Blanco County Barrel Racing & Bull Riding Youth play day is Friday night. Yett Memorial Park. 830/833-4418

11-12—JUNCTION: Twist Off Rodeo & Miss Kimble County Contest Includes a rodeo, parade, dance and vendors. Fair Grounds. 325/446-2537

11-13—BLANCO: May Fest Includes dancing, cooking competition, crafters, live entertainment and vendors. Yett Memorial Park. www.blancochamber.com 830/833-5101

11-13—FREDERICKSBURG: Intertribal Pow Wow Includes competition from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and gourd dancing from 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Fort Martin Scott. www.fredericksburgintertribalpovwow.org 830/997-8925

11-Jun. 8—FREDERICKSBURG: OPA (Oil Painters of America) National Exhibition Features more than 200 paintings by some of the nation's best oil painters. Whistle Pik. www.oilpainterofamerica.com 830/997-0375

12—AUSTIN: Gardens on Tour 2007 Offers gardening enthusiasts an insider's view of five exceptional gardens, plus the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org 512/292-4200

12—BRADY: Duffers Scramble Golf Tournament Brady Municipal

(Continued on Page 24)

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CIRCLE C RANCH

Texas Events - (Continued from Page 23)

Golf Course. E-mail: chamber@bradytx.us • www.bradytx.com
325/597-3491

12—BURNET: Hot Dog! It's the Second Saturday Bluegrass Show
Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

12—BURNET: Ol' Town Market Days Includes vendors, antiques
and entertainment. Downtown Square. www.burnetchamber.org
512/756-4297

12—FREDERICKSBURG: Founders Day Festival Hours are 10
a.m. to 5 p.m. Pioneer Museum, 309 W. Main. www.pioneermuseum.com
830/997-2835

12—GEORGETOWN: Market Day Features arts & crafts, antiques,
collectibles and festive foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Historic
Downtown Georgetown. www.downtowngeorgetownassociation.org
512/868-8675

12—KERRVILLE: Second Saturday Art Trail Thirteen art galleries
in Kerrville and Ingram present special exhibits and receptions. www.artinthehills.com
830/895-5184

12-13—BOERNE: Market Days Includes dozens of vendors from
all over Texas, arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles, unusual items and
great food. Main Plaza. www.mainstreetboerne.com 830/249-5530

12, 26—BRACKETTVILLE: Morning Bird Walks Reservations
required. Kickapoo Cavern State Park. 830/563-2342

12, 26—BRACKETTVILLE: Wild Cave Tour Reservations required.

Kickapoo Cavern State Park. 830/563-2342

13—CASTROVILLE: Market Trail Day Features food, plant and
craft booths from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Houston Square on Angelo Street.
830/741-2313

13—GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist Gruene Hall.
www.gruenehall.com 830/629-5077 or 830/606-1601

18—AUSTIN: Nature Nights Enjoy habitat hikes, talks and plenty
of kids activities. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org
512/292-4200

18-19—BURNET: BBQ Cook-Off Includes live music, food tasting
and more. Rodeo Grounds. www.gallowayhammond.com 512/756-
6180

18-20—FREDERICKSBURG: Lone Star Street Rod Association
State Run Shows pre-1949 vehicles. The best times for viewing
are 11 a.m. to about 3 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday.
Lady Bird Johnson Park, Hwy. 16 S. E-mail: texasl.s.s.r.a@aol.com
903/652-2855 or 903/674-4355

18-20—FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days Includes antiques,
collectibles, shabby chic and crafts. Hwy. 290 E. www.fbtradedays.com
830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

19—BANDERA: RiverFest Features the "Anything that Floats but
a Boat Regatta," arts & crafts, music, special children's activities,
food and kayak races. Bandera City Park. www.banderariverfest.com
800/364-3833

(Continued on Page 25)

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"My wife and I wanted to tell you that you
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to find the answer...not too pushy...thanks."

Texas Events - (Continued from Page 24)

19—BLANCO: Annual Blanco Classic Car Show Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Blanco State Park. 830/833-5348

19—BOERNE: Cibolo Songs & Stories Features Nobuko. Cibolo Nature Center. www.cibolo.org 830/537-9184

19—KERRVILLE: Spring Variation Features dancers from the Kerrville School of Dance and the Performing Art School Classical Ballet of San Antonio. Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater, 910 Main St. 830/896-6116

19—LAKEHILLS: Medina Lake Barbecue Cook-Off Includes arts & crafts, music, car show, games and more. Medina Lake Civic Center, Park Road 37. www.medinalakebarbequecookoff.com 830/612-2700 or 210/473-5192

19—MASON: Habitat for Humanity Annual Spring Benefit E-mail: masoncountyhfh@yahoo.com 325/347-9591

19—SAN MARCOS: Texas Natural & Western Swing Festival Relax on the banks of the San Marcos River and enjoy the sounds of Texas Western Swing legends. San Marcos Plaza. www.sanmacoscharms.com 888/200-5620

19-20—FREDERICKSBURG: Lavender Fest Includes gardening-related products, demonstrations, cooking demos, speakers, tours and wine tasting. Becker Vineyards. www.beckervineyards.com 830/644-2681

19-20—GRUENE: Old Gruene Market Days Features more than 100 vendors with uniquely crafted items, collectibles and packaged

Texas foods. www.gruenemarketdays.com 830/832-1721

20—GRUENE: KNBT Americana Music Jam Celebrates Americana music and features exceptional artists of the genre. Gruene Hall. www.gruenehall.com 830/629-5077 or 830/606-1601

20—KERRVILLE: Poetry Set to Music Presented by the Chorale. The Union Church. 830/895-3710

24—KERRVILLE: Heroes All Memorial Day celebration commences with a fly-by of F-16 Fighting Falcon Fighter Jets. Includes food, drinks, ice cream and fireworks. Bank of the Hills Parking Lot, 1075 Junction Highway. www.bankofthehills.com 830/895-2265

24—MASON: Country Opry Begins at 7:30 p.m. Features Jake Hooker. Odeon Theater. www.hillbillyhits.com 325/597-2119

24-Jun. 9—INGRAM: Beehive: The '60s Musical The Point Outdoor Theater, Hwy. 39. www.hcaf.com 830/367-5121

24-Jun. 10—KERRVILLE: Kerrville Folk Festival Songwriting festival offers folk, bluegrass, acoustic rock, blues, country, jazz and Americana. Enjoy special concerts and activities for children, songwriting schools, music business seminars, bike rides, canoe trips on the Guadalupe River, Sunday Folk Services, New Folk competition and concerts for emerging songwriters. Quiet Valley Ranch. www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com 830/257-3600

24-Jul. 8—KERRVILLE: Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show Kerr Arts & Cultural Center, 228 Earl Garrett. www.kackerrville.com 830/895-2911

(Continued on Page 26)

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CIRCLE C RANCH

Texas Events - (Continued from Page 25)

25-26—FREDERICKSBURG: Crawfish Festival Enjoy Cajun food and fun. Hours are 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday. Marktplatz. www.tex-fest.com 866/839-3378 or 830/997-8515

25-26—KERRVILLE: Quilt Guild Show Features more than 100 quilts by artists. Edington Gymnasium, Schreiner University Campus. 830/257-8452

25-27—BANDERA: Bandera Regulars Trail Ride Twin Elm Guest Ranch. www.banderaregulars.org

25-27—BANDERA: Cowboy Capital Rodeo Association Pro Rodeo Includes a carnival. Mansfield Park Rodeo Arena. www.banderarodeo.com 830/796-7207

25-27—LAMPASAS: Memorial Golf Classic 512/556-3202

25-28—BANDERA: Sixth Annual Spring HC-SNAP Memorial Day Weekend Benefit Trail Ride State Natural Area. www.hcsnap.org 830/393-7037 or 830/796-4413

25-28—KERRVILLE: 2007 Texas Arts & Crafts Fair Fine arts & crafts fair features great food, music, demonstrations and children's activities. River Star Arts & Event Park. www.tacef.org 830/896-5711

26—BANDERA: Funtier Day Parade Features rodeo cowboys, trail ride groups, antique cars and gaily decorated floats. Main Street Bandera. www.banderatex.com 800/364-3833

26—KERRVILLE: Kerr County Market Day Shop arts & crafts, fresh grown produce and plants. Kerr County Courthouse Square. www.kerrmarketdays.com 830/895-7962

26—LEAKEY: Annual Cowboy Breakfast 830/232-5199

26—LEAKEY: Shrimp Boil www.friocanyonchamber.com 830/232-5222

26-27—BANDERA: Bandera County Artists Association Arts & Crafts Show Courthouse Square. www.banderacountyartists.com 830/460-3294

27—AUSTIN: Arturo Sandoval One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.com 512/329-6753

27—BURNET: Breakfast with the Birds Reservations required. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

29-Sep. 30—KERRVILLE: A Backdrop to History — Landscapes that Led Us Westward Museum of Western Art. www.museumofwesternart.org 830/896-2553

31-Jun. 3—AUSTIN: Republic of Texas Biker Rally Includes a parade, expo and tours of the scenic . Travis County Exposition Center and Sixth Street. www.rotrally.com 972/387-1883

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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Stop Colon Cancer in Minutes

Baylor College of Medicine

In just a few minutes, it can help stop colon cancer before it begins.

Getting screened regularly is the most effective way of preventing this "silent" but deadly disease, say doctors at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston.

"There are several screening options, but a colonoscopy is the most sensitive and accurate way to find precancerous growths," said Dr. Waqar Qureshi, associate professor of medicine and chief of endoscopy at BCM. "Colon cancer has no warning signs and without screening you won't know you have it until it's too late."

By the time symptoms such as rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, weight loss, or anemia occur, the cancer has more than likely spread beyond the point of being cured. Screening, on the other hand, can catch precancerous growths at a time when life saving treatments are still effective.

During a colonoscopy, a thin, flexible device called a colonoscope is used to view the colon. A small video camera helps doctors look for abnormalities such as polyps, which are growths found on the colon wall. Almost all instances of colon cancer begin as polyps, which are easily removed during a colonoscopy.

"It takes a polyp about six to eight years to turn into a cancer," Qureshi said. "That is a huge window for polyps to be detected."

Colonoscopy screening should take place every ten years starting at age 50. If colon cancer runs in a family, testing should begin earlier in age and be performed more often.

Colonoscopies take about twenty minutes and, since sedation is used, they are painless. Qureshi said most patients tell him they don't remember the procedure.

"There isn't an excuse to not have a colonoscopy," Qureshi said. "It is a quick, painless, and life saving procedure."

A proper diet has been shown to lower the risk of colon cancer. Qureshi suggests eating more fruits, vegetables and diets low in saturated fat. Adding calcium supplements to your daily routine can also help.

"Improving what you eat is always good, but nothing can replace regular colonoscopy screenings," Qureshi said. "It is a routine procedure, and it can save your life."

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With Seasonal Allergies, The 'Eyes' Have It

Baylor College of Medicine

HOUSTON – Red, itchy, swollen eyes don't have to keep you from enjoying the season, say doctors at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston.

"The same pollen that causes nasal allergies also causes eye allergies," said Dr. Yvonne I. Chu, assistant professor of ophthalmology at BCM. "Like in the nasal mucosa, when allergens such as pollen touch the ocular surface, the conjunctiva, mast cells release histamine which causes many symptoms. However, the two allergies can have different issues that can appear separately."

Seasonal allergic conjunctivitis, eye allergies that begin to show up this time of year, can cause the eyes to become red and irritated. Symptoms include itching, swollen eyes along with burning, tearing, and discomfort.

"Rubbing your eyes is a natural reaction, but it's only going to make matters worse," Chu said. "Prevention is the key, keep allergens from getting into the eye in the first place."

Chu recommends keeping track of pollen counts and staying indoors if too much pollen is in the air. Using an air filter and keeping windows closed can also help reduce allergens indoors.

Because many of the allergens that trigger eye allergies are airborne, the following steps can be taken to relieve unavoidable seasonal allergy symptoms that pop up:

- Use over-the-counter artificial tears to dilute and flush out allergens from the eyes. This will also relieve some of the itching and redness.
- Apply a cold compress to the eyes to ease discomfort and reduce puffiness.
- Over-the-counter antihistamines that are designed to help nasal allergies can also help treat eye allergies.
- For more severe seasonal allergic conjunctivitis cases, an ophthalmologist can prescribe eye drops such as mast cell stabilizers and topical antihistamines which block histamines from being released.

Histamines are derived from an amino acid and once released; it increases the blood flow to areas that are injured or to areas where a foreign substance has entered the body. In the case of allergies, histamines kick in when materials such as pollen or ragweed touch the surface of the eye.

Don't let this time of year get you irritated: preventative measures and topical treatments can help allergy sufferers get the "spring" back in their step.

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Bike + Mountains = Excitement And Challenge

Tired of paved roads? Want to go where there aren't any speed limits? If you answered yes, then your vehicle of choice could very well be a mountain bike. Ever since a group of friends took a fast-paced ride down a steep incline in Northern California, mountain biking has been an exciting challenge to off-road riders.

Its inclusion as an event in the 1996 Olympics confirmed what riders already know: Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, both in popularity and participation.

If you've never been on a mountain bike you might wonder what all the fuss is about. Many riders say it's the freedom. After all, destinations are unlimited on these machines built for rough terrain.

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

Mountain bikes are sturdier than your average 10-speed or hybrid bicycle so they can withstand rough roads. They have wide tires that grip the trail, and cantilever brakes, similar to those found on a motorcycle.

When purchasing a mountain bike, be sure that it isn't too large. You should always be able to put a foot on the ground to steady yourself. A helmet is a must, and knee and elbow pads are sure-fire scar preventers.

YOUR BODY ON A BIKE

Riding a bike is one of the best cardiovascular exercises around. Not only does it provide an aerobic workout, but it

strengthens the large muscles of the lower body, including the thighs, hips and buttocks, without putting a lot of stress on the joints. The upper body and arms come into play when climbing hills.

Always warm up before you begin your ride. Pedal in a low gear over flat terrain until you begin to sweat or feel warm.

This usually takes about five to 10 minutes. And don't neglect to cool down when you come to the end of your ride. Gradually lowering your heart rate can help prevent the pooling of lactic acid in the muscles. Again, pedal slowly in a low gear.



ON THE TRAIL

Practice makes perfect isn't a cliché when it comes to handling a mountain bike. Once you start heading up hills and mountains and over rocks and steep falls, you'll need to rely on your instincts, which, if they don't come naturally, develop through practice.

One of the first things to do is to get a feel for how the brakes work. The front brake on a mountain bike usually has more power than the back, and pulling it alone may send you flying over the handlebars. Practice quick stops before you hit the trail so you can feel how your weight may affect how you stop. Cantilever brakes are stronger than those on other bikes, allowing riders to control factors such as their rate of decline. When descending a hill, lightly squeeze and release the brakes - a technique called feathering - to prevent the wheels from locking.

Change gears as it becomes necessary in order to keep a steady cadence. Use a low gear when you need power, and a high gear when you want speed.

Climbing requires a shift in your weight that will control the tires' grip on the ground. Short, steep hills may require out-of-the-seat pedaling to garner more power. If you try this on a long climb, however, you'll likely tire before you reach the top. Shift your weight forward, off the seat if necessary, to gain the power you need.

GET PEDALING

You can obtain information about trails in your area from your local library or mountain-biking group. The sooner you start pedaling, the sooner you can test your limits - those set by both your body and your mind.



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Spring rains beg the question: Is the drought over?

Submitted by LCRA

It's raining again. Lake Travis is up. The ground is saturated. Springs are flowing. Burn bans and watering restrictions are being lifted.

So is the drought finally over?

Experts at LCRA agree that the heavy March rains certainly put a dent in the drought that has afflicted much of Central Texas for more than two years. But they point out that drought conditions still linger in the Hill Country, which is still recovering from a two-year rainfall deficit of more than 20 inches. And they caution that the wet weather may only be providing a temporary respite to drought conditions, as happened during the record drought of the 1940s and '50s.

Austin, downstream basin generally free of drought

For those folks living east of Interstate 35, "there's certainly no question that the drought has ended," said Bob Rose, LCRA chief meteorologist. Austin and downstream communities have enjoyed the heaviest of the

rains that have been falling intermittently in the basin since late December.

On the other side of the Interstate, the Hill Country benefited from rains of up to 4 inches or more during March, which poured more than 100 billion gallons of water into lakes Travis and Buchanan – almost enough to fill all four of the smaller Highland Lakes (Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls and Austin) twice.

The rains and resulting runoff have raised Lake Travis by more than 20 feet to an April 5 elevation of 667.2 feet above mean sea level (msl), its highest elevation since November 2005.

As of April 5, lakes Travis and Buchanan combined were more than 70 percent full, holding 1.4 million acre-feet, or almost 466 billion gallons – a 32 percent increase from a month earlier.

The prospect for additional rains is good, Rose said, with the National Weather Service's latest outlook calling for above-average rains through the rest of April

Drought conditions linger in Hill Country

But effects of the two-year drought linger. Most of the rains fell in the Lake Travis watershed, so that the March rains and runoff resulted in Lake Buchanan rising only a little more than 4 feet, as opposed to the 20-foot rise on Travis. Both lakes are still below their average elevations for this time of year – more than 4 feet for Travis, almost 9 for Buchanan.

Even with the outlook for above-average April rains, the region continues to transition from a wet "El Nino" weather pattern to a drier "La Nina" pattern, Rose said.

Heavy rains fell during Drought of Record

And historical precedent indicates that heavy rains are no guarantee of an end to long-term drought. The best example occurred during the decade-long Drought of Record during the 1940's and '50s that dropped Lake Travis to its all-time low of 614.2 feet msl, almost 70 feet below its full elevation.

Continued on Page 33

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Spring Rains - (Continued from Page 32)

On Sept. 10, 1952, rains of up to 15 inches throughout the Hill Country caused Lake Travis to rise by 55 feet within a 16-hour period. Continued rains pushed Travis above its full elevation of 681 feet msl by January 1953.

But the drought, temporarily vanquished by the rains, returned in full force within a couple of years. Many long-time residents recall 1955 and 1956 as the driest conditions they ever encountered. In spring 1957 massive rains and floods broke the decade-long drought for good.

While the spring rains have eased the prospect of mandatory water restrictions later this summer, LCRA continues to encourage basin residents to use water wisely. Check the Water IQ Web site at www.wateriq.org on tips on how you can save water and money without crimping your lifestyle.

The Lower Colorado River Authority protects people, property and the environment in Central Texas. Subscribe to Currents, the LCRA newsletter, at www.lcra.org/subscribetocurrents.

Carlos'n Charlie's - Before



Carlos'n Charlie's - After



Marshall Ford Marina - Before



Marshall Ford Marina - After



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Latino Music Month Returns with Spicy Sounds

Month-Long Festival Rocks Austin throughout May

April 9, 2007

AUSTIN, TX - The city known for live music and listed among the "top cities for Hispanics to live and work," celebrates Latino Music Month throughout May. The City of Austin features Latino artists as part of "Live from the Plaza" noon concert series every Friday at City Hall, at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and during weekly Austin City Council meetings. A number of special showcase are produced during the month, and many local clubs and venues book Latino artists.

Organized by the Austin Latino Music Association (ALMA), Latino Music Month is intended to increase knowledge and awareness of Austin's Latino music scene. ALMA strives to assist not only the artists but also the club owners, live music venues and event producers with increased attendance at shows taking place during the festival.

"This is a great opportunity for Latino musicians to shine and to raise awareness about this important segment of the local music scene," says ALMA founder Raul Alvarez. "This month-long festival celebrates everything from Latin country and western to salsa and flamenco."

The celebration kicks off with a party on May 1 from 6-9 p.m. at the Gibson Guitar Showroom, located in Penn Field at 3601 South Congress Ave, Ste. G-400. Attendees can enjoy performances by David Garza and Alejandro Escovedo.

Other highlights during the month are Grupo Fantasma and Vallejo, May 5 at Antone's; Justin Treviño, Wednesdays through May 30 at Ginny's Little Longhorn; and Ruben Ramos at Round Rock's Fiesta Amistad on May 26.

May also includes the celebration of Cinco de Mayo, May 3-6 at Fiesta Gardens. The festival commemorates Mexico's independence from France and includes activities such as a jalapeño eating contest and Polka dance contest.

The month is also packed with other events such as the Austin Conjunto Festival on May 6 at Fiesta Gardens and the Old Pecan Street Festival, May 5-6, which features Vallejo, Son Y No Son and more.

A complete schedule of events, festivals, performances and venue listings during Latino Music Month is available at www.austinlatinomusic.com.

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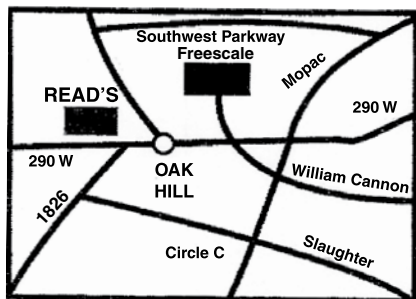
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			7					
		7			8		4	6
1	9		4			2		
				8				
	4	1	6					3
2					3	6		7
7	2							5
					3		9	
							2	

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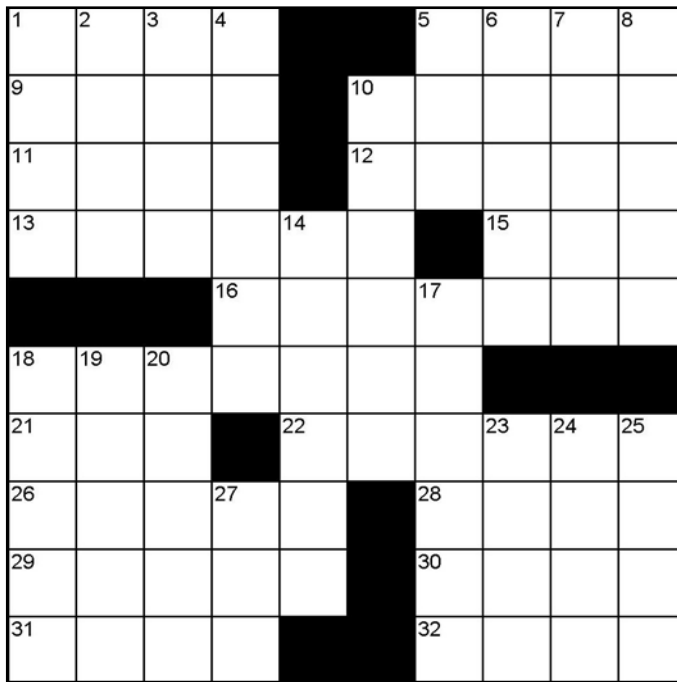
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Foster
5. Cab
9. Walk back and forth
10. Small bunch of flowers
11. Lubricates
12. Licit
13. Injury
15. Before, poetically
16. Upset (2 wds.)
18. Defers
21. Also
22. Soak up
26. Appall
28. Opera solo
29. Egyptian flower
30. Shout
31. Canal
32. Hawked

DOWN

1. Smirch
2. Set of 2
3. Ca. University
4. Job hunter's need
5. Imitate
6. Recommends
7. Jeweled headdress
8. Eyed
10. Allayed
14. Ladies
17. School writings
18. Dickens' "___ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
19. Beige
20. Raccoon-like animal
23. Dunking cookies
24. Small brook
25. Bare scalp
27. Regret

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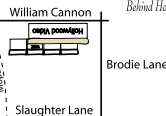
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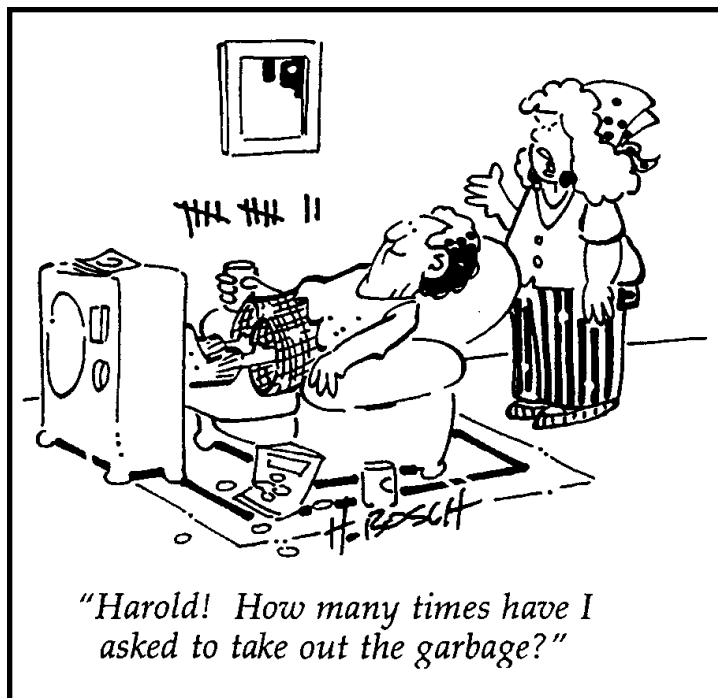
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The deadline is the 12th of the preceding month May's deadline will be May 12). Photos and graphics must be submitted as a jpg, tif, or wmf file.





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- 3 summer squash, sliced
- 1 small green pepper
- ½ C minute rice
- ¾ stick margarine, melted

Mix all together, and pour into greased casserole. Pour melted margarine over all. Bake covered ½ hour at 350°.

Kristyne Blackburn

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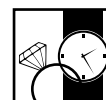
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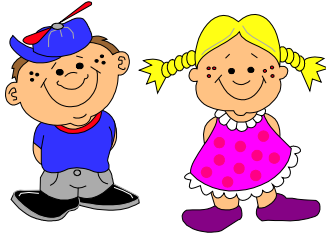
Tony Ragan
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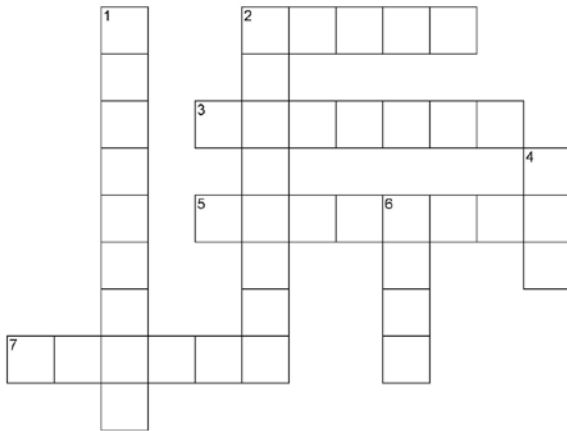


Kidz Korner



Kidz Crossword Puzzle

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



ACROSS

Clue

2. Makes you laugh
3. Bird that lives by the sea
5. Taken when sick
7. Soaks up water

Answer Clue

- Sponge 1. Directs an orchestra
- Clown 2. Capital of Wyoming
- Seagull 4. Unlocks doors
- Medicine 6. A delicious dessert

DOWN

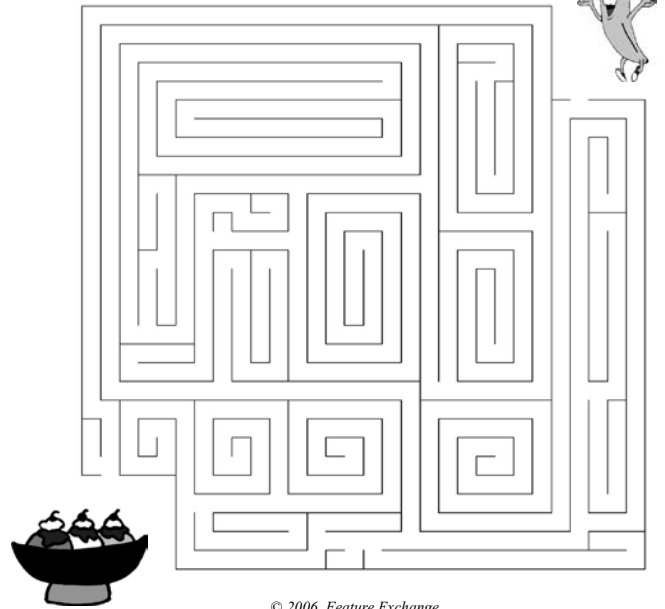
Answer

- Key
- Cake
- Cheyenne
- Conductor

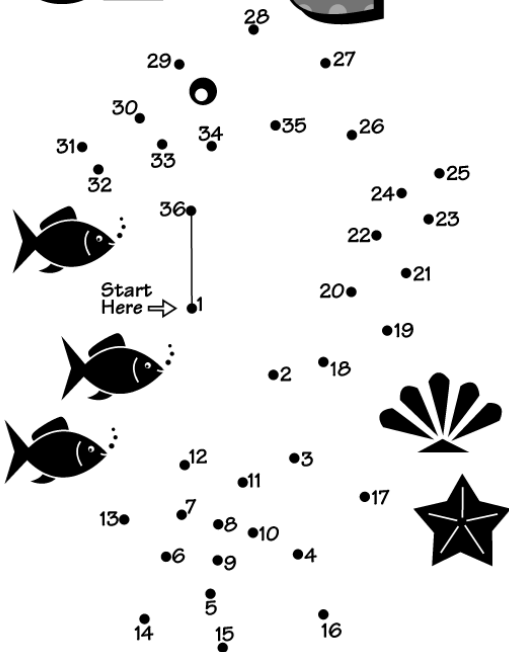
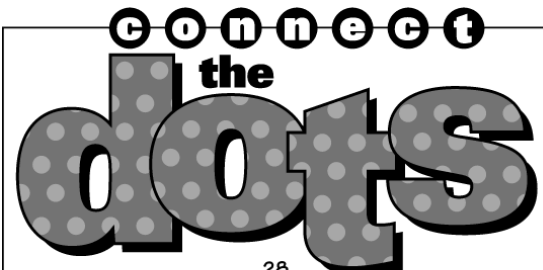
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Kidz Maze Mania

Help the banana get to the ice cream before it melts! The banana wants to turn the ice cream sundae into a banana split.



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Locate the names of eight colors. Words can go vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Do it in less than 3 minutes and you are a Pro!

Kidz Word Seek

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

BLUE
PINK

BROWN
PURPLE

GREEN
RED

ORANGE
YELLOW

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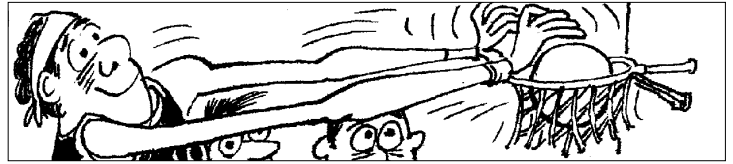
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Did You Know?



The Irving Berlin song, "How Deep is the Ocean" contains only one line that is not a question. The one non-quizzical line is "I'll tell you no lie."



The most points scored by a single player in an NBA basketball game is 100, by Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors, on March 2, 1962.



Jimmy Carter was the first president to walk the inaugural parade route from the Capitol Building to the White House.



The record number of hands shaken by a public figure at an official function was 8,513 by President Theodore Roosevelt at a New Year's Day White House presentation in 1907.

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A Charlotte That's A Peach Of A Fine Dessert

(NAPSA)-Here's a fresh approach to using canned peaches as part of a memorable dessert.

Using canned peaches may help a cook cut down on preparation time, but it won't cut down on nutrition or taste.

California Peach Charlotte

Ingredients:

- 3 (15-oz.) cans California Cling Peach slices, well drained (reserve 5 slices for garnish)
- 8 ounces (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar, preferably superfine
- 5 tablespoons Amaretto almond liqueur, Grand Marnier, or syrup from the peaches (if using peach syrup, add ½ teaspoon almond extract)
- 1½ cups finely ground almonds (reserve 1 tablespoon for garnish)
- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Equipment:

- 1 8½" springform pan
- Waxed paper and plastic wrap



Even when used in a luxurious dish, such as this Charlotte, canned peaches can be a source of vitamins A, C and E.

Preparation: Line the bottom of the springform pan with a circle of waxed paper. Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and superfine sugar together for 4 or 5 minutes, until pale and airy. Add the Amaretto almond liqueur, Grand Marnier or reserved peach syrup and almond extract.

Continue to beat for a few more minutes until the sugar has nearly dissolved. Blend in the almonds. Reserve.

Whip the cream with the sugar and vanilla until it just holds very soft peaks. Fold the lightly whipped cream completely into the almond mixture.

Cover the bottom of the springform pan with 1/3 of the almond cream. Arrange half of the peach slices in a sunburst pattern on the almond cream. Cover with another 1/3 of the almond cream. Repeat with another layer of peach slices and cover with the remaining almond cream. Firmly tap the filled pan onto work surface to settle the mixture and remove any air pockets that may have formed. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 5 hours or overnight. The California Peach Charlotte may be prepared a day in advance to this point.

To Serve: Remove the plastic wrap and run a knife around the edge of the pan. Unlatch the springform pan, leaving the ring in place. Place the selected serving plate upside down over the mold and reverse the finished charlotte onto the plate. Remove the ring and the bottom of the pan. Remove the waxed paper. Garnish with reserved peach slices and sprinkle with the reserved ground almonds. Refrigerate until service. For best results, slice with a damp knife.

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Thanks Circle C for helping us grow!

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Monday, May 7

The Golf Club at Circle C,
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Clayton Elementary
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Austin Real Estate Partners Market Report

Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	Sales Trends - Oct. '06 - Mar. '07					Current Market	
	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Total Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Feet	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	33	2,777	\$ 110	1992	57	12	12
North	15	1,994	\$ 127	1997	22	1	5
Wildflower	10	2,304	\$ 118	2002	31	1	6
On The Park	5	3,347	\$ 112	1996	34	1	0
Vintage Place	11	3,071	\$ 112	2004	74	5	0
Hielscher	22	3,020	\$ 118	2003	31	7	9
West	15	3,518	\$ 121	2005	76	7	4
Park West	5	2,187	\$ 148	2002	49	2	6
Park Place	10	2,474	\$ 121	2004	27	4	4
Muirfield	5	3,359	\$ 135	2006	117	11	7
Enclave / Lacrosse	5	2,686	\$ 116	2006	23	0	1
Alta Mira	9	2,815	\$ 126	2006	61	2	3
TOTAL	145	2,797	\$ 119	2000	49	53	57

Corresponding Neighborhood Map on AUSTINREPS.com

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 04/10/07. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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