

THE STAR

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2008

Be Safe: When an Armadillo Sees its Shadow, is it Boating Season in Texas?

Submitted by LCRA



*Have fun this summer but remember:
Nobody's Waterproof.*

The time of year known nationally as the official boating season is about as relevant to Texans as Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow on Groundhog Day in Pennsylvania.

Our climate does not limit water recreation to three months out of the year as in many other states across the country. Many a Texas Christmas photo shows family members sporting shorts. On Feb. 25, Austin's 92-degree high was one of the warmest on record for that date. With warm, sunny days today, boaters and swimmers are not waiting until May to enjoy water recreation.

And with LCRA's meteorologist Bob Rose forecasting a trend of warmer temperatures, we can expect to see the numbers of lake visitors on the

rise well before the official first day of spring. What we don't want to see, however, is more lake accidents occurring earlier as well.

Unfortunately, the first two Highland Lakes drownings already occurred in February. They were both at Lake Travis and both victims were Austin-area residents. This is the earliest in a year that a lake fatality has occurred on Lake Travis in at least eight years.

So just as our mild Texas winters don't limit use of the lakes, actions and precautions that make lake visits safer should not be limited to Memorial Day through Labor Day. That doesn't mean folks won't hear plenty about National Safe Boating Week when it takes place May 17-23; it just means we want the safety reminders to be heard now when it's already warm enough to enjoy the lakes.

Plenty of water in the Highland Lakes and warm temperatures provide a great opportunity for people to enjoy the water by boat or from the shoreline. And lake visitors of all types can benefit from following a few easy water safety tips such as swimming or boating with a friend, wearing a life jacket, drinking responsibly and taking time to learn about risks such as water-related illnesses that are associated with any lake.

For the third year, LCRA will promote safe enjoyment of the lakes through its Nobody's Waterproof™ campaign. See www.nobodyswaterproof.com for dates and locations of these interactive lake events as well as tips to make sure your lake visit is fun and safe from start to finish.

Five to stay alive

- 1. Always swim with a friend.**
Recognize the signs of someone in trouble. Most drowning victims don't yell for help; instead, they panic and slip quietly under water.
- 2. Always wear a life jacket.** And, don't overestimate your swimming abilities.
- 3. Drink responsibly.** Many drowning accidents involve alcohol, which affects your coordination and judgment, especially when boating or swimming. Always drink lots of water.
- 4. Boat safely.** Familiarize yourself with the lake, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- 5. Have required equipment onboard.**
And, make sure it works correctly!

For more information, check out the Nobody's Waterproof Web site.

NOBODY'S
WATERPROOF™
PLAY IT SAFE
www.NobodysWaterproof.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| EMERGENCY | 911 |
| Fire | 911 |
| Ambulance | 911 |
| Sheriff – Non-Emergency | 512-974-0845 |
| Hudson Bend Fire and EMS | |
| Emergencies | 512-266-1775 |
| Information | 512-266-2533 |

SCHOOLS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Leander ISD | 512-434-5000 |
| Cedar Park High School | 512-435-8300 |
| Canyon Ridge Middle School | 512-424-7500 |
| Laura Welch Bush Elementary | 512-435-4750 |
| Steiner Ranch Elementary | 512-434-7100 |

UTILITIES

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Travis County WCID # 17 | 512-266-1111 |
| City of Austin Electric | 512-494-9400 |
| Texas Gas Service | |
| Custom Service | 1-800-700-2443 |
| Emergencies | 512-370-8609 |
| Call Before You Dig | 512-472-2822 |
| AT&T | |
| New Service | 1-800-464-7928 |
| Repair | 1-800-246-8464 |
| Billing | 1-800-858-7928 |
| Time Warner Cable | |
| Customer Service | 512-485-5555 |
| Repairs | 512-485-5080 |
| IESI (Trash) | 512-282-3508 |

OTHER NUMBERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Lake Travis Postal Office | 512-263-2458 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Peel, Inc. | 512-989-8905 |
| Article Submissions | thestar@peelinc.com |
| Advertising | advertising@peelinc.com |

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Star. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following issue.

2008 Events in Steiner

Apr 12th – Spring Garage Sale
 May 3rd – Casino Night
 Jul 4th – Parade
 Jul 26th – Luau at the Pool
 Aug 2nd – Summer Bash
 Sep 6th – Fall Garage Sale
 Sep 18th – Martinis and Manicures
 Oct 25th – 5k Fun Run and Health Fair
 Oct 31st – Children's Halloween Event
 Nov 8th – Camping on the Ranch
 Nov 28th – Holiday Wine Social
 Dec 6th – Pictures with Santa

Visit the HOA website for more information:
<http://www.steinerranchhoa.org/>

Don't want to wait for the mail?
View the current issue of The Star
on the 1st day of the month at
www.PEELinc.com



GOING ON VACATION?

BOOK NOW WITH LPN

- Free Consultation -

*Serving Lakeway, The Hills, Flintrock,
 Alta Vista, Bee Cave and Steiner Ranch.*

- FAMILY OWNED.
- REFERENCES.
- INSURED & BONDED.

www.lakewaypetnanny.com

CALL 261-6297

Assisting Buyers & Sellers
with their real estate
needs for over 30 years.

Let my experience make
your experience a good one!

I have enjoyed helping buyers discover Steiner Ranch for over 15 years and have helped many achieve their dream of living in Steiner Ranch. Through personal attention I strive to make every real estate transaction the best.



Stately Red Brick 5 Bedroom at Fabulous New Price!



3200 Wild Canyon Loop

\$569,900

- Quality finish-out throughout this David Weekley home built in 2004 and lovingly maintained.
- Hardwood floors throughout entry, formal dining and family room.
- Gourmet kitchen opens to large sunroom.
- Master on main level, upstairs loft, study, gameroom, bonus room plus 4 additional bedrooms.

mls #2097290

Check out my new Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Website

My new “free” interactive neighborhood website was created for use by all Steiner Ranch neighbors for their needs and interests. Please enjoy this website and feel free to post:

- your own classified ads
- favorite neighborhood photos
- pet photos or lost & found pets
 - school events info
 - favorite recipes
 - Kids athletic events
 - Fundraisers
- The website contains lots of other neighborhood and area information. I hope you enjoy using this website created just for you. Thanks! Diane

www.steiterranchneighbors.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Carson for winning last month's drawing!!

Become a new subscriber and be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Quinlan Park Grill

Diane Kennedy ABR, CRS **(512)750-2950**

Email: diane@dianekennedy.com * Website: makeaustinhomes.com

www.steiterranchneighbors.com



**COLDWELL
BANKER**

UNITED REALTORS®

www.ColdwellBankerUnited.com

Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated.

THE STAR

Laura Welch Bush Elementary News & Events

- April 8th - Math TAKS - 5th grade
- 2008-2009 Kindergarten Registration
Wednesday, April 23rd, 7:30 - 11:00 and 1:00 - 6:30.
- At registration parents MUST provide:
Birth Certificate
Social Security
Immunization Records
Proof of Residency
Parent Driver's License
- *Student transfer (Intra-district) forms are now available in the registrar's office.*



Citizen Alert – Travis County Sheriff

Watch For Suspicious Activity



The Lakeway Police Department and the Travis County Sheriff's Office are investigating reports of an elderly white male, balding with a short hair cut in the back, that has reportedly been soliciting children after they get off the school bus and asking them to pet sit his dog for cash. The man was seen driving a white 4 door sedan with no license plate. There has been one reported incident in Lakeway on February 19, 2008 at approximately 3:30pm and one reported incident in Apache Shores on February 22, 2008 at approximately 3:30pm. Parents, please remind children to be aware of their surroundings, do not approach strangers and report any suspicious behavior. If you see suspicious activity call 911 immediately.

BOW WOW MEOW!!



The River Ranch Animal Hospital
is your full service animal hospital
in the 620/2222 HEB Center.

What could be more convenient?

DROP OFFS WELCOME!



River Ranch Animal Hospital

7301 RR 620, Ste 175

331-7889

SCUBALAND ADVENTURES

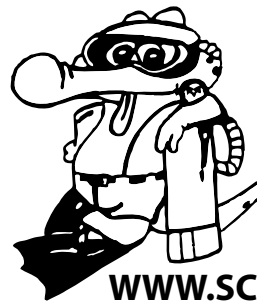
Austin's oldest and largest SCUBA center

Spring Specials on Training and Gear

2 Open Water Certifications \$300



UWATEC



WWW.SCUBALAND.COM

Training • Equipment • Travel • Repair Service • Rental

SCUBA Summer Camp for Kids

Open Water Certification

June 16-20

July 7-12

Advanced & Rescue

July 28 - Aug 1

Mon - Fri 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Ages 12 to 18



NORTH: 1001 W. Anderson Lane 323-6999

SOUTH: 3601 W. William Cannon 891-6054

Be Safe and Prepared in the Water

Submitted by LCRA

If someone does get in trouble in the water, here are things you can do to help while keeping yourself out of danger.

Reach To help someone in the water, reach first with a fishing pole, long stick, floating noodle, or boat oar, but don't get in the water yourself.

Throw Scan the area for items such as an empty milk jug, cooler, ring buoy, other flotation device or a rope. Bring a boat cushion that floats and keep it close at hand.

Row It is not safe to go near a swimmer with the boat motor running. Turn the motor off and use oars to bring the boat close enough to reach or throw.

Don't Go Without training and experience in life-saving techniques, you could put yourself in danger along with the person you are trying to help.

Know and Call Know where you are on the lake or at the park so that when you call 9-1-1, emergency personnel can locate you.

Did You Know?

.... Personal classifieds can be submitted to *The Star* for **FREE** by all Steiner Ranch Residents? Email your personal classified to thestar@peelinc.com.

.... Any Steiner Ranch resident or community group can submit an article to *The Star*? Photos and post-event write ups are welcome. Email your article to thestar@peelinc.com (deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue).

.... Kids Club winners are posted online AND they receive a prize? Visit <http://www.peelinc.com/kidsClub.php> to see the current and past winners.

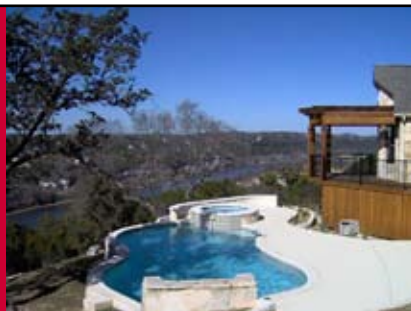


"...and so can you...Jacqui sold our Steiner home in 11 days! Without reservation, we recommend her professional, knowledgeable service ..."

--Jeremy & Rebecca Smith

Best Lake View in Steiner!

13325 Bright Sky Overlook
Newly completed with all the bells & whistles! 90' Lot, 3 car garage, approx 3,793 sq ft living space! www.jacquiholtzman.com



Jacqui Holtzman is a Steiner resident specializing in you and your real estate needs! Trusted personalized experience that gets results!



Owner/Agent

Direct: 512-736-SOLD (7653)

Jacqui@AvalarAustin.com

4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd., #220,
Austin, TX 78732



Custom Gated

Sierra Vista @ Steiner

Spectacular Lake Austin Canyon Views!

424 Dawn River Cove

1.33 Acres Overlooking Lake Austin Canyon & Balcones Preserve

Custom w/ attention to detail throughout!

Approx 4,273 sq ft of living space, negative edge pool, outdoor living and more! www.jacquiholtzman.com

Spring is Here. . . Head for the Parks

Submitted by LCRA



The unseasonably warm weather just might bring out the wildflowers, creating a wonderful opportunity for photos.

Spring break and Easter have come and gone, so you know what that means in Central Texas: It's time to head for the parks to camp, fish or just take a long day to play in the warming weather.

The busiest weekends of 2008 recreation season are upon us as outdoor lovers by the thousands pull out their stored-away camping equipment to give it a check and uncover the boat to make sure it still runs and is safe.

Then they head for outside adventures, including flocking to LCRA's 40 parks and recreation areas that are located from the Highland Lakes down the Colorado River to Matagorda Bay.

Because of the drought-breaking floods last summer, the Highland Lakes are full and offer plenty of water for recreation of all types.

Depending on what Mother Nature does with the weather — remember this is Texas and spring can mean rainy and cold or perfect 70s or higher — some people will even jump in the cold river or lakes for an early springtime dip. Or maybe water ski. If you do this, consider these safety tips: Don't stay in the water too long and swim with a buddy.

Back on land, it's a little early for wildflowers. Some trees will start to bud and the prime wildflower season is just around the corner.

This is also a good time to watch birds migrating north, such as hummingbirds,

robins and purple martins.

If the weather is right, early spring can provide some of the best tent camping of the year. RV camping is good even if it's raining and chilly because you can be snug in your camper anywhere.

Word to the wise: Campgrounds and particularly cabins and RV spots get reserved early. In fact, reservations can be made 333 days out. For instance, some reservations were made last fall for Memorial Day. So the sooner you call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Reservation Center at (512) 389-8900, the better chance you have to get the spot you want when you want it. Plan ahead.

Special discounts may still be available during the spring at some LCRA parks. Call the individual parks to check.

It's a good practice to check on county burn bans before you go.



NOW ENROLLING

2008 Summer Camp Fun Is Camp Eco-Kids

Designed with a thoughtful, activity-filled curriculum, Camp Eco-Kids is a unique program where making the choice to "go green" can be an easy thing to do. The themes for each week are:

What in the World?
Oceans Alive!
Ready, Set, Eco!

Bringing Home the Green
Community Connection
Green Light for Growing
Here, There, Everywhere – Air

Be A Habitat Hero
Green is Global
I Can Make a Difference!

**FIELD
TRIPS**

Field trips include cool destinations such as:

Main Event

City Park

Boggy Creek Farms

Chapparral Ice

Movies

Soccer Fun

Austin Nature & Science Center

Texas Jumping Bean

Austin Park N Pizza

Reunion Ranch

The Capital

Our own splash pad

Radijazz

Austin Zoo

Zilker Park

Bowling

Sportsball



Year Round Program...

- 6:30 am to 6:30 pm, Monday thru Friday
- Ages 6 weeks thru 12 years
- Before and After School Care
- Transportation to and from School
- Superior curriculum for all ages
- School Age Field Trips
- 4 Outdoor Play Areas and Splashpad
- Hot Nutritional Meals and Snacks
- Family Owned and Operated
- Trained Professional Staff, including First Aid & CPR
- Watch your child on secure web cam

To learn more, come take a tour, visit our website or give us a call!

601 RR 620 S

Lakeway TX 78734

512.263.9192

www.ltkidsrkids.com

Now Hiring!



Cedar Park Swim Club

Submitted by Rob Alspaugh, VP-Cedar Park Swimming, 512-733-2490

The Cedar Park Swim club recently completed their Short Course season with the STAGS (South Texas Age Group) Championship meet, February 15-17. The following swimmers made finals in multiple events:

Girls 11-Years Old

Abby Artman
Amanda Wu
Sheena Wang

Girls 11-12-Years Old Relay

Emily Sweet
Kristina Beall

Boys 10 & Under

Connor Lorson
Josh Artman
Adam Toler
Travis Beall

Boys 12-Years Old

Cody Sims
Chris Flynn

Boys 11-12-Year Old Relay

Steve Gerken
Robert Wang

Boys 14-Years Old

Brent Aarons

Also, congratulations to swim club member Megan Ziemann who finished second in the State Competition (for Vista Ridge HS) in the 200-Free and 7th in the 500-Free.

Cedar Park Swimming is a year-round swim club sanctioned by USA Swimming and South Texas Swimming. The team has now served the city of Cedar Park and the north Austin area for over a decade, building the program to a membership total of over 150 athletes, ages 6 - 22.

Please visit our web site for more information: <http://www.cedarparkswimming.org/>

A Year Round Vacation

*Custom Swimming Pools • Pool Remodeling
Patio Covers • Outdoor Living Areas • Decks*

TEXAS
POOLS & PATIOS

Call for Free Consultation
512-402-1175

www.texaspoolsandpatios.com



There are 170 homes on the market in Steiner Ranch...



*12828
Texas Sage Ct.*



How Quickly Will YOURS Sell?

Angie Noeth
THE Steiner Ranch
Realty Sales Specialist
(512) 695-7025
www.agent-angie.com

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY





Cinderella *is coming to Steiner!*

Jenifer Carsrud was born in Oklahoma and introduced to the theater at an early age. She earned a BA in Theatre from the University of Houston, as well as her MFA in Directing from the same university. Jenifer stated that “the University of Houston had some of the greatest mentors”. While there, Jenifer studied with some of the most esteemed members of the theatre world as Sir Peter Hall, K. Todd Freeman, Kevin Rigdon, Dr. Sidney Berger, Lois Chiles, Edward Albee and Lanford Wilson to name a few. While in her graduate program she founded Celtic Cougars at the University of Houston and self produced and directed works under that organization including *Bell, Book and Candle* and *Misalliance*. During rehearsals for *Misalliance*, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Lanford Wilson, sat in one day he kicked off his shoes and enjoyed the performance so much they forged a friendship that last to this day. Several times over the years Lanford commented how he has wished Jenifer had been part of the Circle Repertory Theatre, which Lanford founded in 1969 along side director Marshall Mason. Lanford also commented about the fact that Jenifer’s production of George Bernard Shaw’s *Misalliance* was the first time he enjoyed Shaw. Also while in Houston Jenifer had the opportunity to work along side Dr. Sidney Berger, founder of the Houston Shakespeare Festival. In 2005 as his assistant director for *As You Like It*, to this day she still considers him an valuable mentor.

After completing her MFA she moved to Austin Texas along side her husband Dr. Victor Carsrud, a local Chiropractor, to continue her theatre career. In Austin she worked briefly at the ZACH Scott theatre as the company manager for Project InterACT. She also worked briefly for the State Theatre downtown working on development projects. She has locally directed for Frontera Fest for the past 3 years, plays include *Brain Big* chosen for Best of Fest 2008, *The Perfect Snowball*, Riverview Ritz wildcard Best of Fest 2007 and *Little Baby Two Shoes*.

Jenifer teaches as a private acting instructor for Pulse Performing Arts Studio in Leander and recently began teaching for KidsActingStudio in 2008. In 2007 she was asked to be a guest director for the Wimberley Players and directed *Bell, Book and Candle*. New to the Wimberley Players and following a blockbuster *Man of La Mancha*, she set out to bring nostalgia to the Wimberley stage. Audiences and Board members alike commented about the production quite positively. Comments about the detail to set, casting, fluidity of text and mannerisms are just few among many. One review stated “Cheers to the Director”.

Jenifer’s approach to directing is quite unique. Former professor Jim Johnson commented that “she related to the actors and makes them feel comfortable that they WANT to give the best performance.” “She feels very connected with the actors, having been an actress herself.” Jenifer said she feels like it is the “directors’ job to help guide the actors to the end result.” She believes a good actor knows inherently the details about the character, but a good director is there to guide

the actors’ instincts. Although she directs adult and children’s shows now, Jenifer is no stranger to the stage herself, having been an actress for over 20 years.

She also worked at the costume shop at the University of Houston as a costumer, and was also a stage manager for local Houston area theatres. Acting roles in theatre included Reenie from *Dark* at the Top of the Stairs, Mae from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Ismene in *Antigone* as well as many others. Jenifer is now finally realizing a dream; she is in the beginning stages of bringing a new theatre complex to the Austin area. “I had always wanted to open a theatre here in Texas, bringing theatre to the masses is something that always appealed to me.” “Once I realized it was going to be something I was going to bring to fruition, the entire process has just fallen into place.” She has been meeting daily/weekly with members of the theatre community in Austin, and is taking the next steps to getting the massive project off the ground.

Be looking for more details soon about this new theatre complex. But for now UPCOMING to Steiner, two nights of theatre a version of *Cinderella*, written by Luisa Wasser, local to Steiner and directed by Jenifer and Brain Big revisited, by Priscilla Sample and directed again by Jenifer. *Cinderella* will be performed April 25th, and Brain Big May 16th. *Cinderella*, is the basic story told with actors and audience participation. Brain Big is a play about self image performed by 3 actors. These actors also performed Brain Big for Frontera Fest 2008.



Steiner Ranch Orthodontics

4302 Quinlan Park Road

(Across from the Welcome Center in the Vista Ridge Center)

266 8585

Come see the difference a Board Certified Orthodontist can provide. Dr. James Waters graduated at the top of his class from the University of Texas Dental School in San Antonio in 1996. He served a one year residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and practiced for two years as a General Dentist in Oregon. Realizing the complexities of Orthodontics, he sought to pursue ADA accredited advanced specialty education prior to offering this service to the public. As all specialists are required, Dr. Waters left his General Dentistry practice to attend a 30 month Post-Doctorate University. After graduating Valedictorian from the prestigious Saint Louis University Orthodontic Program with a Master's degree in Orthodontics, Dr. Waters moved to Austin in 2001 and joined the nationally recognized practice of orthodontist Dr. Robert Kaveff who pioneered many early treatment techniques and appliances over his 40+ years in practice. Dr. Waters worked side by side with Dr. Kaveff over the next year as he gained further invaluable experience from reviewing hundreds of cases and he learned techniques known only to those who have been in the specialty field for a lifetime. After retirement, Dr. Kaveff passed the torch to Dr. Waters who is pleased to open his new office to his neighbors in Steiner Ranch.

Come in and see our new office and see what Contemporary Orthodontics from a trained specialist can do for you and your family. *We provide more than just a smile!*

Meet Dr. Waters and receive your Complimentary examination today.
All insurances Accepted. Visa/MC/Discover.



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



There is nothing more relaxing than spending an afternoon by your pool. Many challenges come with maintaining this enjoyment. We are here to help you make the most of your time by keeping it in immaculate condition. Enjoy your pool, enjoy your time.


Starting at
\$40.00 per visit
plus Chemicals

We specialize in:


- Weekly Maintenance
- Pool Inspection
- Pool School
- We repair all makes and models
- 30 years experience in equipment repair and service
- Chemical only service available-call for details

* Spring Special- Free Chems for the first month with mention of this ad!

To start service today call 512.306.0505
www.elementscompanies.com



AFTER



BEFORE

I LOST 50 POUNDS!


Let Me Help YOU Achieve Your Fitness Goals.

Doug Ross,
Owner of Fitness Together Austin

COME IN TODAY FOR A
COMPLIMENTARY TRAINING SESSION

Valid for new clients only.

10601 FM 2222, Ste. N
Austin, TX 78730
512-241-1700
www.FTAustin.com



FT
FITNESS TOGETHER
1 Client 1 Trainer 1 Goal

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

RIVER PLACE

COUNTRY CLUB

COME SEE EVERYTHING MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER...

Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Social & Dining

Rated "Best Family Club in Austin"
by AVIDGOLFER 2006!

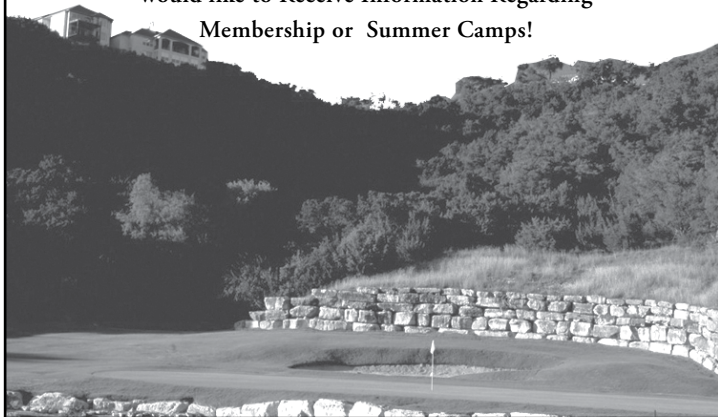
WHAT ARE YOUR KIDS DOING THIS SUMMER?

Join the Fun During our 10 Weeks of Camp!
Camps are Offered June thru August

Our Summer Camps include: Sports Camp, Tot Camp,
Group & Private Swim Lessons, Golf & Tennis Camps,
Tap, Ballet, Hip Hop & Karate!

*Membership is Not Required to Attend Camps

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you
would like to Receive Information Regarding
Membership or Summer Camps!



4207 River Place Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78730
Phone: 512.346.1114
Fax: 512.346.0527
www.riverplaceclub.com

THE STAR

Austin Runners Corner

Courtesy of www.raceworksinc.com

• RUN with the HEROES – 04-20-2008

April 20, 2008 is the date set for "RUN with the HEROES" 5k. Sgt. Scott "SCARY" Cary will come out of his Race Director retirement to put this race on course. A 8:00 a.m. is set for this 5k start but the course is still in development. But you can bet your badge it will be a fine one.

• Texas Round Up 5 & 10K – 04-26-2008

The Texas Round Up 5K & 10K will be on Saturday 26 April 2008. Start Time is set for 8:00 a.m. with the Kids-K at 10:00. There is always a big turn out from people all over the state of Texas. All abilities and all ages. Over 7,000 people attended this fitness Festival in 2007. Check the web site: www.texasroundup.org and click on "Events" and stay tuned for more details on their website.

Steiner Ranch News

Steiner Ranch mom Carolina Alvarez is starting Spanish Train. This is an initiative to promote early Spanish learning, through immersion programs. She will be offering the first 8 weeks session workshop for toddlers and their moms from mid April to early June 2008 at the Steiner Ranch Bella Mar Community Center at 10:30 am.



Dr. David P. Wasserman
Board Certified in Family
Medicine since 1999

Lake Travis MEDICAL CENTER

1927 Lohman's Crossing
Suite 200
Lakeway, TX 78734

Specializing in
Family &
Urgent Care

263-9188

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



Lake Travis
**MEDICAL
CENTER**

**NOW ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS**

WALK-INS Welcome!
FREE Wireless Internet

CLINIC HOURS

Mon-Thu: 8:30AM -5:00PM
Friday: 8:30AM -1:00PM

Most Insurance Accepted
www.laketravismedical.com



SCOUTS AIM TO "KEEP TEXAS FED"

*Scouting for Food drive has goal of collecting
250,000 pounds of food in Central Texas*

Thousands of Scouts will visit homes in April to collect more than a quarter-million pounds of food for needy Central Texas families.

The 2008 "Keep Texas Fed" Scouting for Food drive is on Saturday, April 12, 2008. In its inaugural year in 2007, the drive collected more than 83,000 pounds of food for the Capital Area Food Bank and its Partner Agencies.

"Many people donate food during the traditional holiday months," says Adrienne Longenecker, Deputy Director Community Relations for the Capital Area Food Bank. "But we have a serious need just before summer, as children who were counting on meals at school spend more time at home. The 'Keep Texas Fed' drive was a tremendous help last year and we know that Scouts will rise to the occasion again this year."

76% of households receiving assistance from Capital Area Food Bank Partner Agencies report incomes below the federal poverty level (source: Hunger in America 2006: Central Texas Report, in association with America's Second Harvest). These are families that are working, trying to support themselves but have trouble making ends meet.

Starting in April, Scouts will leave door hangers on the front door of homes in their communities, informing residents that Scouts will be back on Saturday, April 12, starting at 8am, to collect food donations. Instead of providing bags for the donations, Scouts are asking people to put the food in plastic shopping bags already in their homes. After Scouts pick up the bags, the food will be donated and the bags will be recycled.

If you have any questions about the Scouting for Food drive, contact the Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, at (512) 617-8641 or (800) 444-1910 ext. 641. You can also visit the Capitol Area Council's website, www.bsacac.org, and click on the "Contact Us" link to send an email.

AUSTIN ESTATE GATE



**SALES • REPAIR • INSTALLATION
OF FENCES & GATES**

ANTHONY BRUNO • 512.296.2671
ANTHONY@AUSTINESTATEGATE.COM
WWW.AUSTINESTATEGATE.COM

"The Residential Perimeter Security Specialists!"

A New Smile... A New You!



G. DAN DEVINE, DDS
COSMETIC DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS

JULIA C. HAWTHORNE, DDS,
COSMETIC AND FAMILY DENTISTRY

We will gladly assist you with your dental benefits.

OUR HIGH QUALITY DENTAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- PROFESSIONAL DENTAL CLEANINGS
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- SEALANTS AND FLUORIDE
- ORAL CANCER SCREENINGS
- TEETH WHITENING
- CROWNS AND BRIDGES
- COSMETIC BONDING AND VENEERS
- TOOTH-COLORED FILLINGS
- ROOT CANALS
- ORAL SURGERY
- ORTHODONTICS AND INVISALIGN

Save \$50

On any Dental Services

New patients only.

Not valid with any other offer

(Limited One Per Patient)

Free Teeth Whitening for Life!

Why pay for Teeth Whitening

Our Patients get it FREE!

With completion of dental exam, cleaning, and
necessary x-rays. Available to new patients only.

(Limited Time Offer)

(512) 266-9585

2900 NORTH QUINLAN PARK RD. #160

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78732

Located in the new Shops at Steiner Ranch overlooking the UT Golf Course

It's the plan where
your savings for college
grow tax free.*

It's the start of
something



With the Texas College Savings Plan, a professionally managed 529 plan, your money grows tax free and can be used at most accredited colleges in the US. You can open an account for your child with as little as \$25. Enroll today—the earlier you start, the bigger they can dream. It's fast and easy to get started.

Go to www.texascollegesavings.com

1.800.445.GRAD (4723)



Susan Combs Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



OppenheimerFunds®
Distributor, Inc.

*Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals are subject to income tax and penalty. Not FDIC insured, not guaranteed and may lose money. Established and maintained by the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board. Distributed by OppenheimerFunds Distributor, Inc. Non-Texas residents should see if their state offers a plan with alternative tax advantages. Carefully consider the Plan objectives, risks, admin fees and expenses. Plan documents contain this and other info. Read them carefully before investing.

©Copyright 2008 OppenheimerFunds Distributor, Inc. All rights reserved.

Eels on Wheels, Adaptive Scuba Club for handicapped individuals, holds 5th Annual Fundraiser:

Scuba Marathon and Dive Show on April 13th, 2008 at the St Edwards University Recreation and Convocation Center

Eels on Wheels is hosting its 5th Annual Scuba Marathon and Dive Show on April 13th, 2008 at the St Edwards University Recreation and Convocation Center from 10am to 3pm. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a service project that benefits the handicapped community in the Central Texas area. Scuba Marathon is our primary fundraiser each year and we are hoping that 2008 will set a record! Divers will be taking pledges from friends, family and other members of the community. In return, the divers will participate in the dive marathon which will consist of underwater obstacle courses, underwater football and other challenges. Scuba Marathon is not just entertaining for those that are diving, but also for the spectators. A variety of dive shops will have gear on display, as well as, information about upcoming scuba classes. If you've considered scuba diving in the past and want a chance to try the sport, bring your swimwear and we'll give you a chance to discover scuba in the pool. There will be several specials offered on gear, close-out merchandise and scuba classes.

Eels on Wheels Adaptive Scuba Club is a non-profit, 501(C)3 organization of "can-do" minded people who love to scuba dive. Eels is centered around its members (adults AND children) who live with quadriplegia, paraplegia, and the many others with various disabilities caused by birth defects, illnesses and injuries. We think that ANYONE can dive regardless of physical (and even some mental) challenges, and we adapt our dive training to ensure the safety and fun of everyone. Eels on Wheels gets people out of their wheelchairs and into life.

Eels on Wheels provides so much more to people with disabilities than an annual vacation and a little fun. By returning independence to those who had lost it due to injury or illness, we return to them their self-esteem and confidence. In turn, many of them donate their time to other worthy causes. Our group is completely volunteer oriented and donor dependent and thanks to the hearts and muscles of our volunteers and the generosity of our wonderful donors, it is growing.

Our goal is to provide diving and the experience to anyone interested at the same cost as the general public. As one would imagine, training a person with a disability is markedly more challenging and often takes an increased amount of time and expense. The Eels use donations to help disabled divers with special needs to "re" experience life outside the wheelchair.

How can you help? By responding today and participating in this fun and exciting community event.

For more details on Eels on Wheels or Scuba Marathon please visit our websites: www.scubamarathon.com or our homesite www.eels.org. You may also email us regarding pledges, sponsorships or volunteer opportunities at tamara@swiftprintingsolutions.com.

Alternatives to Lawn Expense

By Dale Bulla

For a long time now, most American landscaping has focused on maintaining a manicured green lawn. This requires a lot of water and fertilizer. Native trees, shrub masses, ground covers, prairie or meadow patches, wildflower beds, and attractively mulched areas are better environmental choices for people and for wildlife. Below are some more reasons to consider reducing your lawn and the expense that goes with it.

If you are fed up with lawn maintenance, here are some alternatives to consider...

- native species of ground cover instead of grass
- native trees and/or shrub masses
- water garden or pond
- rock garden
- mulched paths
- native annual or perennial beds

- meadow or prairie patch
- hedgerow
- organic vegetable garden
- butterfly or hummingbird garden

Remember if Buffalo Grass is used instead of regular turf grass, no additional water is required after it is established. When it gets dry, it goes dormant, when it rains it greens up. It only grows about six inches high so mowing is not necessary. If you must water, the city recommends water every 45 days for Buffalo Grass to stay green. Mowing can increase weed infestation so hand weeding is recommended if you cut your Buffalo Grass. Check out the city of Austin plant guide: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/plantguide/searchplantresults.cfm>

Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing thestar@PEELinc.com or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for The Star. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

Classified Ads

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

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



Owned and Operated by Steiner Ranch Residents

Central Station Monitoring
for most brands of security systems
including Westec & ADT
As low as \$15 per month!

877-488-4897

7301 RR 620 Ste. 155, 157
Austin, TX 78726-4539

Innovation has always been a cornerstone of our company. Great pride is taken in our efforts to always be on the leading edge of technology while providing only the highest quality products and service at an affordable price. Our list of current services includes but is not limited to:

Access Control
Computer Networking
Security Systems

Central Vacuum
Plasma/LCD Displays
Telephone Systems

Satellite Systems
Distributed Audio
CCTV/DVR

Home Automation • Home Theater • Media Rooms

FREE
Security Monitoring For Life

* No purchase necessary. Call for details

FREE
Security System

*With purchase. Call for details

NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

There's No Such Thing As Buzzards

To most Texans, vultures are simply "buzzards," an unfortunate misnomer that stems from the term early settlers used to describe these birds that reminded them of a common, medium-sized hawk found in Europe. American vultures have their own distinct family and differ from vultures found on other continents, which are more closely related to hawks and eagles.

Vultures are characterized by small, unfeathered heads and hooded beaks, which help them feed on the carrion that makes up most of their diet. As scavengers, they often feed together and assemble in large groups to roost at night. These gregarious birds become solitary during the spring nesting season, from March to June in Texas, and prefer protected rock ledges, caves, hollow trees, and even deserted buildings as nesting sites, as they do little to no nest construction. Male and female vultures look alike, and they have no song or call, although they will grunt and hiss when feeding or frightened.


Turkey vultures are one of two vulture species common in central Texas. Large, sleek, and black with a naked red head, white beak, and longish tail, the turkey vulture has a six-foot wing span. Combined with its relatively light weight, you will often see this bird using thermals to carry it aloft, soaring high above the ground in sweeping circles. From below, its slender wings appear two-toned, with leading edge black

wing linings contrasting with trailing edge light grey flight feathers. Unlike other vultures, the turkey vulture uses its sense of smell to locate carrion. And like its stork relatives, this vulture often defecates on its own legs, using the evaporation of the water in its feces to cool itself down.

Smaller, with a shorter tail, naked black head, and a wing span of less than five feet, the black vulture is not built for endless soaring like the turkey vulture. As such, you will often see this bird alternate rapid flapping of its wings with short glides. From below, its wings also appear two-toned, but with the light grey feathers appearing only on the wing tips. Unlike the turkey vulture, the black vulture will supplement its carrion diet with small mammals, reptiles, and young birds, and will depend solely on its vision to find food. A more aggressive bird, black vultures will often form small groups and gang up on a larger turkey vulture to drive it from a carcass.

Populations of turkey and black vultures fluctuate throughout the year in central Texas. Although some stay year-round, many turkey vultures spend the winter in Central America. Black vultures also migrate, and may travel as far south as Brazil for the winter. Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, it is illegal to take, kill, or possess turkey or black vultures, except for birds that are injured and unable to return to the wild.

(Continued on page 17)



AUSTIN TELCO

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WWW.ATFCU.ORG ~ 512.302.5555

Georgetown Branch Now Open: 501 W. University Ave.
Brodie Lane Branch Now Open: 9220 Brodie Ln.

Visit any of our 14 Locations!

HOME EQUITY LOANS

5 years **5.35%**^{APR*} 10 years **5.45%**^{APR*} 15 years **5.70%**^{APR*} 20 years **5.85%**^{APR*}

PLUS NO CLOSING COSTS!***

AUTO LOANS



60 mos. **5.15%**^{APR*} 66 mos. **5.25%**^{APR*} 72 mos. **5.35%**^{APR*}

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOANS

6.34%^{APR****} 10 year fixed rate,
up to 20 year amortization

| SAVINGS RATES | | Share Certificate | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Money Market | | APY%**** | |
| \$2,000 - \$74,999 | 2.53% ^{****} | Term | Minimum Deposit |
| \$75,000 - \$124,999 | 2.78% ^{****} | 12 mo. | \$1,000 |
| \$125,000 and Above | 3.04% ^{****} | 24 mo. | \$95,000 |
| | | 36 mo. | 3.96% |
| | | 48 mo. | 4.06% |
| | | | 4.15% |
| | | | 4.29% |
| | | | 4.36% |

*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates expressed are "as low as". **Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. Credit qualifications apply. ***Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less; construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No Pre-payment penalty. Credit qualifications apply. Please call for details. ****Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice.


CONGRATULATIONS

Your Wedding Video is here...

PACKAGES START AS LOW AS \$895.

STANDARD AND HD OPTIONS.

ASK US ABOUT OUR "WEDDING STORY" PACKAGE



MENTION THIS AD &
RECEIVE 15% OFF!

CONCRETE FILM PRODUCTIONS

OFFICE: 512-432-5473

MOBILE: 512-745-2581

WWW.CONCRETEFILMPRODUCTIONS.COM

Nature Watch - (Continued from page 16)

While vultures may not be the most attractive bird around, you have to admire their majestic stature, graceful flight, unique social characteristics, and the role they play as nature's best recyclers! Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.

TAX TIPS – 2008

Don't forget to file your Federal Income Taxes (or apply for an extension) by Tuesday, April 15, 2008!! The IRS has made it much easier to file electronically if you do not want to file a paper return or are in need of a last minute extension. You can also file form 4868 electronically which will give you an extension of up to 6 months to file your return (October 15, 2008) but it does not extend the payment for those taxes. If you think you will owe when you do file your return, then you must pay the balance along with the extension request or you will pay the government interest and penalties.

Looking for your refund? If you have already filed your return and want to know the status of your refund, you can now log on-line and find out when you can expect to receive it. This option is available whether you requested automatic deposit into one or multiple accounts or a check mailed to your home address. Log on to: www.irs.gov for a link to this feature.

Make sure you: Maximize your credits! The credits available to many filers are often overlooked. These include:

Child & Dependent Care Credit: may be available for daycare expenses paid even if you participate in a flexible spending program with your employer.

Child Tax Credit: generally available for taxpayers having qualifying children with adjusted gross income under \$110,000

Education Credits: for higher education expenses two different credits apply, the Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit

Adoption Credits: a nonrefundable credit available for taxpayers with qualified adoption expenses

Watch Out For: The IRS has new substantiation requirements for common itemized deductions such as employee business deductions and charitable contributions including non-cash contributions.

Make sure you get with your tax advisor if you think any of the above could possibly benefit you as each individual situation is different.

You're just one phone call away from a beautiful lawn and carefree weekends.

Guaranteed!

Try our lawn care & landscape services for one month. --- If you're not absolutely delighted with the results, we'll refund 100% of your money.

Professional Lawn Care & Landscaping You Can Trust!

Austin Detailers --part of the Better Business Bureau since 2003, without a complaint! When you hire our professional lawn care team, you'll be assigned your own personal lawn care account manager; someone dedicated to your neighborhood; someone you'll know on a first-name basis; and someone you can trust to take care of your lawncare and landscaping needs, 100% guaranteed.

We're a year round professional landscape management company, not just a "lawn service" or part time "lawn guy." We offer a full range of lawncare and landscape management services, and we deliver with integrity and competence. We proactively manage your lawn, landscape, and sprinkler system so you can avoid unsightly or expensive problems down the road.

- We actually show up when promised, within a two-day mow window.
- When you call, you don't get passed from one department to another.
- We offer quarterly, service satisfaction visits so that we can continue to provide the highest level of service satisfaction that we can.
- As an optional service, we'll advise you of the best ways to landscape at the lowest costs to enhance your homes re-sale value. Do you know any "lawn guys" who can do that?

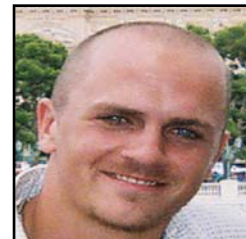
Austin Detailers

A Lawn and Landscape
Management Company

"We're Ready For Your Phone Call"

(512) 249-0101

www.AustinDetailers.com



David Hunsaker,
Owner

KELLY PEEL
Sales Manager

512-989-8905, Ext. 22
kelly@PEELinc.com



Peel, Inc.

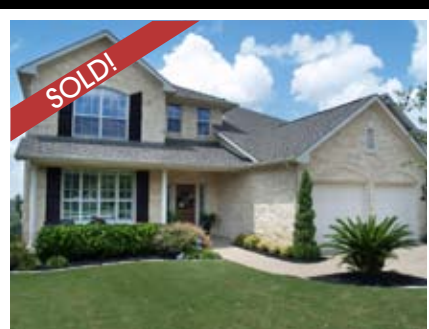
www.PEELinc.com

203 West Main Street, Suite D
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

PH. 512-989-8905
Fax 512-989-8946



You've Seen Our Signs Now See Our Results!



These Properties
Sold for 95% to
100% of List Price at
an Average of 18
Active Days
on the Market!



418-1435

Call us for a FREE market
analysis of your home!

www.TopKWGroup.com



Each office is independently owned and operated.

- 50,000,000 in Sales ('07)
- #4 Group in Austin in '07 (Austin Business Journal (Large Group))
- Top 7 in Austin (Austin Business Journal '04, '05, '06)
- #1 Keller Williams Real Estate Group (NWMC '07 Volume)



Meet Jackie



Growing up in foster care is not something children should have to do. Imagine not being able to hang out with your friends as often as the other kids, attend slumber parties or always worrying about moving. Children in foster care worry every day about their future and where they will be. They are often in survival mode, feeling that they must look out for themselves because who else is? While there is an entire system working very hard to find permanency for these children, it can never replace the feelings of loneliness and isolation these children feel. Who is there to guide them over their lifetime, to teach them the little things in life we take for granted.

Meet Jackie, a beautiful spirited girl with a heart of gold. Yes, she is a teenager. Yes, she is afraid for her future. Yes, her defenses are up. She is like so many others. The spark in her eye is the hope – the hope that someone will want her; someone will claim her unconditionally as his/her child.

Jackie, a beautiful and loving girl who enjoys dancing, will be 15 in June. She is on the volleyball team and pep squad at

school. She describes herself as “funny and thoughtful”. Like most teenage girls, she loves to shop and talk on the phone. Her favorite subject in school is Math and she is working hard to pull up her grades.

Jackie hopes for a single mother to adopt her and she wouldn't mind being the only child. Jackie looks forward to going to the movies, going out to eat and attending church with her new family. She is excited about getting a family to call her own and spending holidays together. Jackie would do well with a family who could also act as a mentor to help guide her into adulthood.

Everyone needs someone.

If you are interested in learning more about the adoption process, contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at tracyeilers@adoptioncoalitiontx.org (512-301-2825). If you are interested in learning more about Jackie, please contact Vanessa at vcoppola@adoptioncoalitiontx.org or (512) 692-2540.

Business Classifieds

SUMMER TUTORING SERVICE to ensure retention of academic skills: Certified K-8 Teacher available to assist your child in retaining and progressing in L.Arts and Math skills. Days, evenings, weekends. Reasonable Rates. Steiner Ranch resident, your home or mine. References available. Eanes ISD Reading Specialist/Dyslexia/Special Education. eharpine@austin.rr.com 470-2673

DOES YOUR HOME NEED A FACELIFT??? Your doorway to a beautiful home*****Interior Design Consultant***** Interior designer offering an April/Spring special of \$75.00 Hour to help you with ideas on colors, painting, flooring, window treatments or furniture placement. Call JG Consultants/ Jerome Gomez 512-382-6488.

Personal Classifieds

FREE Snake/Reptile/Creepy-Crawler Removal for Steiner Ranch Residents. I will come to your house, capture, remove and relocate any/all snakes, lizards, spiders, scorpions, etc. for no charge, and with a smile. Call anytime. Snake specialist! 512-944-0633

FOR SALE: Wine Refrigerator - Free-standing Haier, 30 bottle capacity wine cooler. Lighted interior with adjustable shelves. Temperature control. Contoured smoked glass door. \$60.00. Call 512-373-3657.

LOOKING FOR MORE SPACE TO SUPPORT YOUR HOBBY? I live in Steiner Ranch and am interested in finding several other residents who are willing to meet and discuss the possibility of buying some nearby land and building a workshop for woodworking, car restoration, boat storage, etc. This can be done with a minimal initial investment. If interested please contact Steven Stancey 569-4617.

Long Term Care: Something to Think About

Submitted by Rich Keith

A recent Long Term Care National Poll revealed what people are thinking and doing about long term care. Genworth Financial reports from this poll that many people believe long term care is only for the very old and therefore are prone to ignoring the issues. But what are the important things to know about long term care?

The bottom line: Americans are not planning for possible long term care needs but are concerned about how they will pay for it. The vast majority of Americans are not prepared for the costs of long term care:

- Nearly 6 in 10 Americans (59% of survey respondents) are worried about being able to pay for long term care for themselves.
- 75% (3 out of 4) have made no preparations for their own or a loved one's long term care needs in case it is needed.
- Even if it meant saving \$25,000 a year, only 9% of respondents said they would place a loved one in a nursing home in another part of the state or in a neighboring state.

But the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease motivates people to plan for LTC. 72% of respondents said that the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia is an important motivating factor in planning for long term care.

- The growing incidence of Alzheimer's disease is a motivating factor for long term care planning, especially for senior citizens. When informed of a new report that found Alzheimer's disease

prevalence has increased 10% in the last few years and that someone in America is diagnosed every 72 seconds, roughly half (49%) of survey respondents age 65 or older said the disease was a VERY important motivating factor in planning for long term care. In comparison, only 24% of seniors who were not informed of the recent Alzheimer's disease report were very concerned about being able to pay for long term care.

Consumers incorrectly believe the federal government or their health insurance will pay for their long term care needs

- Almost half of survey respondents (44%) incorrectly believe that Medicare or their private health insurance will pay for their long term care needs. Actually, health insurance and the federal Medicare program do not generally cover long term care.

People would prefer long term care in their home

- If given the choice between care in a facility such as a nursing home or an assisted living facility and care at home, 75% (3 out of 4) of respondents would prefer care at home.
- However, 43% of respondents incorrectly believe Medicare or their health insurance will pay for a home health aide.

Survey Information: The survey was conducted March 25-27, 2007 by Public Opinion Strategies. The poll of 800 registered voters across the country and has a margin of error of +3.46% in 95 out of 100 cases.

Cruise Specialty Store Cruises into Austin

Please stop by and say "Hi". We would love to meet you whether you have never cruised or are a seasoned veteran!

It's not too late to book an Alaska Cruise for this Summer! Experience the spacious elegance of Holland America Line

7-Day Glacier Discovery Cruise

from **\$499**

12 & 14-Day Glacier Discovery Cruise

from **\$1249**



Holland America Line

A Signature of Excellence

Cruise Holidays is the oldest and largest chain of cruise specialty stores in North America. Take advantage of our passion and expertise in creating the perfect cruise for you - call us today!



Cruise Holidays of Austin

9901 North Capital of TX HWY #220, Austin, TX 78759

(512) 338-8880

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy in the minimum categories, cruise only and in US dollars. Taxes and fuel surcharges are additional. Additional sailings and rates are available. Cruise Holidays is not responsible for omissions or printing errors; all pricing is current at time of printing and subject to change.

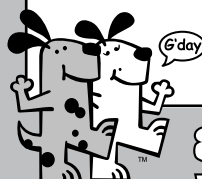
Is This Your Dog?

If you're frustrated by your dog's behavior, call **Bark Busters!**

The world's largest, most trusted dog training company

Locally Owned and Operated!

- 🐾 Any dog, any age
- 🐾 Simple, natural methods
- 🐾 Vet recommended
- 🐾 Lifetime guarantee
- 🐾 In-home service
- 🐾 Results in hours



877-500-2275

www.BarkBusters.com

Training Dogs the Aussie Way!



WE'RE ALMOST THERE...

"Memberships are limited here, and it's definitely by design. Priding itself on constant customer attention, cutting-edge training and a family-oriented atmosphere, Wild Basin is rapidly becoming a force in the Austin gym scene... It's a shame memberships are limited."

Austin Fit Magazine

Be one of our final 50 families!

We are welcoming our final 50 families to Wild Basin Fitness at Steiner Ranch. Come be a part of one of the top fitness facilities in Austin before it's too late.

- Luxurious facilities right in Steiner Ranch
- Friendly, experienced staff
- Professional personal trainers & instructors
- Over 100 free classes each month, including yoga, Pilates, Zumba®, spin, & more.

Join now and save \$50 on any training package of \$200 or more.*

WILD
Basin
FITNESS

*Offer limited to 50 families and expires 5/31/08.
WBF reserves the right to increase or change memberships at any time and without notice.



What are your summer plans? Want to help make miracles happen?

By S. Apodaca

Three years ago this summer my husband and I met Luis (not his real name), a young boy who would forever change and enrich our lives. Luis came to live with us for a few weeks through a program called Summer Miracles. We knew his visit would present challenges for at least a couple of reasons. First, we normally do not have children living under our care whose needs require a change in our busy schedules. Secondly, we primarily speak English and knew that Luis, coming from Colombia, would speak only Spanish. No problem, we like a challenge and there was proof that many families before us had successfully met the challenge.

Our goal that summer was to give an older orphaned child a life-changing opportunity simply by giving him a fun summer experience outside his orphanage walls and introducing him to friends and others in our community. We read the program rules, participated in the training, volunteered efforts and time in the fund raisers, and took all recommended measures to prepare for a summer with Luis. Our preparation did pave the path for a summer of growth, fun surprises, and newly made friends. But can one ever really prepare for the awesome power and teachings of a miracle?

The miracle to which I refer is that Luis ultimately met an amazing couple who decided to pursue his adoption. The following summer Luis was back in Austin with his new forever family. It sounds so simple. While the concept may be simple, the reality is not. The

Summer Miracles program goal of increasing the awareness of the plight of orphaned children requires many dedicated people to make it work. It is a Kidsave International (www.kidsave.org) program which Kidsave Austin, the local grassroots chapter, has been participating in for years. Kidsave is not an adoption agency, but its mission is to end the harmful institutionalization of children. No, not a simple mission, but absolutely worthwhile. For many international orphans over age 7, it is the only glimmer of hope for the chance to enjoy childhood and for a future which does not end in crime or suicide.

Luis' adoptive parents have been gracious enough to allow us to remain a part of his life. Playing a part in his family miracle continues to bring pleasure beyond any I ever thought to imagine. Luis speaks fluent English now, is a model student in school, and is having fun exploring his love of music, poetry, math and other worlds now open to him. He is flourishing under the care and guidance of his adoptive parents!

Kidsave Austin is seeking hosts, translators, golfers (tournament May 10), and other volunteers who are interested in making miracles happen for more children this summer. What are your plans? I hope you enjoy them as much as I am sure we will enjoy ours as we gear up for another year of participation in the Summer Miracles program, and I hope you will join us.

Spanish Immersion Workshop for Tots



SPANISH TRAIN™
IMMERSION WORKSHOP FOR TODDLERS

Mother/Child 50-minute
weekly workshop
M/W 10:30 am
Bella Mar CC
Starts APRIL 14th, 2008
Register soon! Limited space

512-275-6714
www.SpanishTrain.org

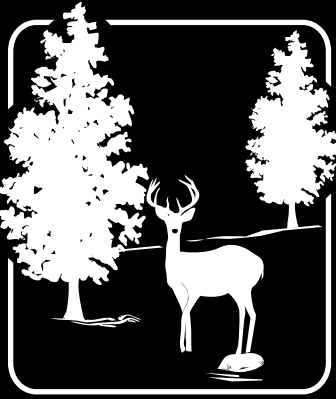
Tax Time! Call Jim

Tax Preparation Services

- e-Fax
- Reasonable flat fees
- Prompt service

Don't overlook those deductions and credits to which you are entitled. Even if you use a computer software program, there is no substitute for the assistance of an experienced tax professional.

James, E. Longmire, III CPA
512-970-2449—jlongmire@austin.rr.com



LHC

LAKE HILLS CONSTRUCTION

Patios

Arbors

Driveways

Stone Work

Retainer Walls

Covered Patios

Concrete Work

Pattern Concrete

Outdoor Kitchens

Swimming Pool Remodels

**Anything To Do With
Outdoor Living!**

7301 N RR 620 STE 155 BOX 368

Austin TX 78726

512-924-4814

getwettx@yahoo.com

THE STAR

Recipe of the Month:



Smothered Pork Chops

- 6 pork chops (sliced thick)
- 1 - 4 oz. can sliced mushrooms
- 1 envelope Lipton onion soup mix
- 4 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 C water

Brown pork chops. In buttered baking dish, place pork chops, potatoes, and mushrooms. Combine water and onion soup mix. Pour over pork chops. Cover with foil, and bake in 325° oven for about 1 hour.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe to The Star email it to thestar@peelinc.com.

April Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Spring Plant Sale & Gardening Festival

Friday, April 11 – Members' Only Sale, 1 to 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The best selection of native wildflowers, trees and shrubs and chance of a lifetime heritage tree seedlings descended from the magnificent oaks, pecans and cedar elms at the LBJ Ranch National Historic Site. Expert gardeners on hand to tell you how to select, plant and grow these plants and attract butterflies, birds and wildlife to your yard. From 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday Jackie Poole signs her new book, Rare Plants of Texas. Try a taste of jelly, jam and "Hot Salt" from Texas Traditions. From 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday Wildflower Days™ artist L.Ray signs this year's commemorative art print and T-shirt. Jen Ohlson signs Every Town Needs a Trail, a tribute to Lady Bird Lake, and George Miller signs Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas.

Nature Nights

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 18

Family fun.

Arbor Day Sale

Noon to 3 p.m.



What can BROWN paint for you?

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR PAINTING
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
GENERAL REPAIRS / CARPENTRY
SHEETROCK REPLACEMENT
TEXTURING & FAUX FINISHES
CUSTOM STAIN & VARNISH

Why should BROWN paint for you?

FREE ESTIMATES
BONDED & INSURED
10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
EXCELLENT REFERENCES
3-YEAR WARRANTY
FAMILY-OWNED & OPERATED

www.brownpaint.com
512.506.9740

Ants In Your Plants?



\$10.00 OFF

Any Pest Control Service

Exp. 04/30/08

New Customers Only

\$25.00 OFF

Any Termite Service

Exp. 04/30/08



We Specialize in:

- Fire Ants
- Carpenter Ants
- Roaches
- Scorpions
- Silverfish
- Hornets/Wasps
- Spiders
- Enclosures
- Rodents
- Preventative/Corrective Termite Treatments
- Free Estimates!

Locally Owned and Operated

Visit Our Website:

www.BeatingBugsBetter.com

CALL: 266-8477



Sheriffs Association Of Texas Has Membership Drive In Travis County

*Submitted By: Roger Wade,
Public Information Officer, (512) 854-4986*

Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton is working with the Sheriffs' Association of Texas to raise money to support the Sheriff's Offices of Texas. Travis County residents will receive, or have received, application letters to become Associate Members of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. The application letters, which are signed by Sheriff Hamilton, invite people to become associate members of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. The membership dues/contributions are tax deductible.

The monies from these memberships will go towards crime prevention and awareness programs, promote public safety, provide training for Sheriffs and their deputies, and provide scholarships for children of law enforcement officers.

Those who do not receive a membership letter/application can request one by contacting the Sheriffs' Association of Texas at, 1601 S. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78741, or going on the web at, www.txsheriffs.org

"As the need for building stronger public-private law enforcement partnerships in this country continues to escalate, programs such as this continue to grow in importance," said Sheriff Hamilton. I encourage everyone receiving a membership appeal to consider joining forces with us by becoming an Associate Member. It is a valuable investment in our future."

Founded in 1874, the Sheriffs' Association of Texas is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit professional and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of peace and the protection of lives and property of the citizens of Texas. The Sheriffs' Association of Texas does not make solicitations by telephone. If you receive a telephone call from someone who uses the name of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, please report it to your local Sheriff or County/District Attorney.

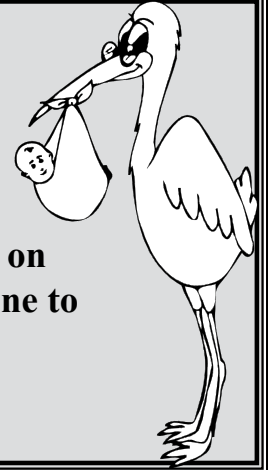
DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

Stork Report in Steiner



**Submit your information on
the arrival of your little one to
thestar@peelinc.com.**

Classified Ads

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

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.



Accent your life with quality custom framing

Village at Westlake
701 S Capital of TX Hwy
360 and Bee Cave Rd
512-306-0999

\$40 off

Must present when ordering. Offer good for custom framing orders only.
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Not valid on work in progress.

FASTFRAME® Design & Craftsmanship,
Your Total Satisfaction Guarantee.
EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING
Over 300 Locations Worldwide • www.fastframeaustin.com

THE STAR

It's My Park – April 12th, 9 am

The annual "It's My Park" Day is sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation, which is a non-profit organization not affiliated with the City of Austin (www.austinparks.org). This year you can go to their website at www.austinparks.org, type in your zip code, and find activities around your house where you can help beautify a park.



View the Kids' Club Contest Winners
online each month at
www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php

Luis'
Mowing Services
— Quality Lawn Care —

**EXCELLENT SERVICE AT
A BETTER PRICE!**

ASK ABOUT:
MOWING
EDGING
CLEAN UP
FERTILIZATION

512-673-8768

How To Start Playing Tennis

By Fernando M. Velasco

In past issues, we have discussed on how to start taking lessons, purchasing rackets, shoes and giving you some tips to begin playing.

Now that you are ready to start playing the game, in this issue, we will discuss on how to become "mentally prepared" when competing and playing socially with spouses, friends and children.

Game of "Mistakes" – Tennis, unlike other sports, is based on minimizing mistakes. Even the tournament players, will make mistakes. We will hit balls long, short, into the net, into the parking lot and sometimes even hit our own partners, if playing doubles.

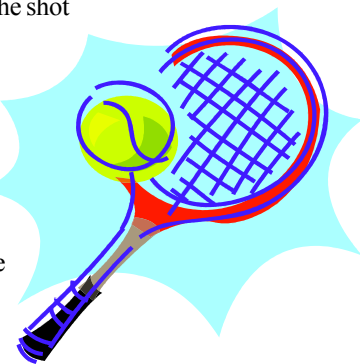
Three basis rules that I have my students follow when making an error are the three "R's" that I learned from Dr. Karl Slaikeu in his book "Focused for Tennis":

1. "Release" – The mistake is done. There is nothing to get the point back.
2. "Review" – Think of what you could have done to avoid the mistake.
3. "Reset" – Start the next point refreshed and with your mind clear.

Tennis is a game where, unless the opponent hit the last shot to win the match, that you still have plenty of opportunities to get your "rhythm" and confidence back.

In order to hit "winner" shots, one must take chances. On critical points, I ask my students to review the following "awareness points":

1. "Own awareness" – Hit the shot that you have and can depend on it.
2. "Opponent awareness" – Hit the shot to the opponent's weak area.
3. "Court awareness" – Plan your shot according to where the sun is and where the wind is coming from.
4. "Score awareness" – If ahead in the score, take chances, if behind or even, be more conservative.



*Repaints –Interior, exterior, and much more
*Free on-site estimates
*Established company for 17 years, member of the BBB
*Offer painting, staining, and popcorn ceiling removal
*Please contact Robby Chapman at 512-632-5990 with
D&W Painting, Inc. or by email - robby@dwpainting.com
We look forward to helping you create your perfect home!

ABS, ABS & MORE ABS

Morning and Evening Classes!

THE REAL STEINER RANCH BOOTCAMP!

April 21 - May 16

Early Morning Class • M, W, F • 5:30 am - 6:30 am

Evening Class • M, T, Th • 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

John Simpson Park

\$190.00 per Individual / \$290.00 per Duo



**You will drop weight. You will be tougher.
You will feel better. You will have a blast!**

512.656.2626

sarge@resurgencefitness.com

www.resurgencefitness.com



EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM OF PAINLESS HAIR REMOVAL

ISOLAZ™ HAIR REMOVAL THERAPY

A BREAKTHROUGH PROCEDURE NOW OFFERED AT STEINER RANCH DERMATOLOGY
NO ANESTHESIA • NO NUMBING GELS • NO DOWNTIME • IN 20 MINUTES OR LESS

DR. TED LAIN | STEINER RANCH DERMATOLOGY | www.SteinerRanchDermatology.com
4300 N QUINLAN PARK RD. ST. 225 | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78732 | PHONE: 512.266.0007

SMOOTH SKIN SPECIAL: 3RD AREA OF HAIR REMOVAL FREE UNTIL 4-30-08

STEINER RANCH
Dermatology



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at 203 W. Main Street, Ste. D, Pflugerville, TX 78660.
We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: April 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

Email Address: _____ Age: _____

[This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]

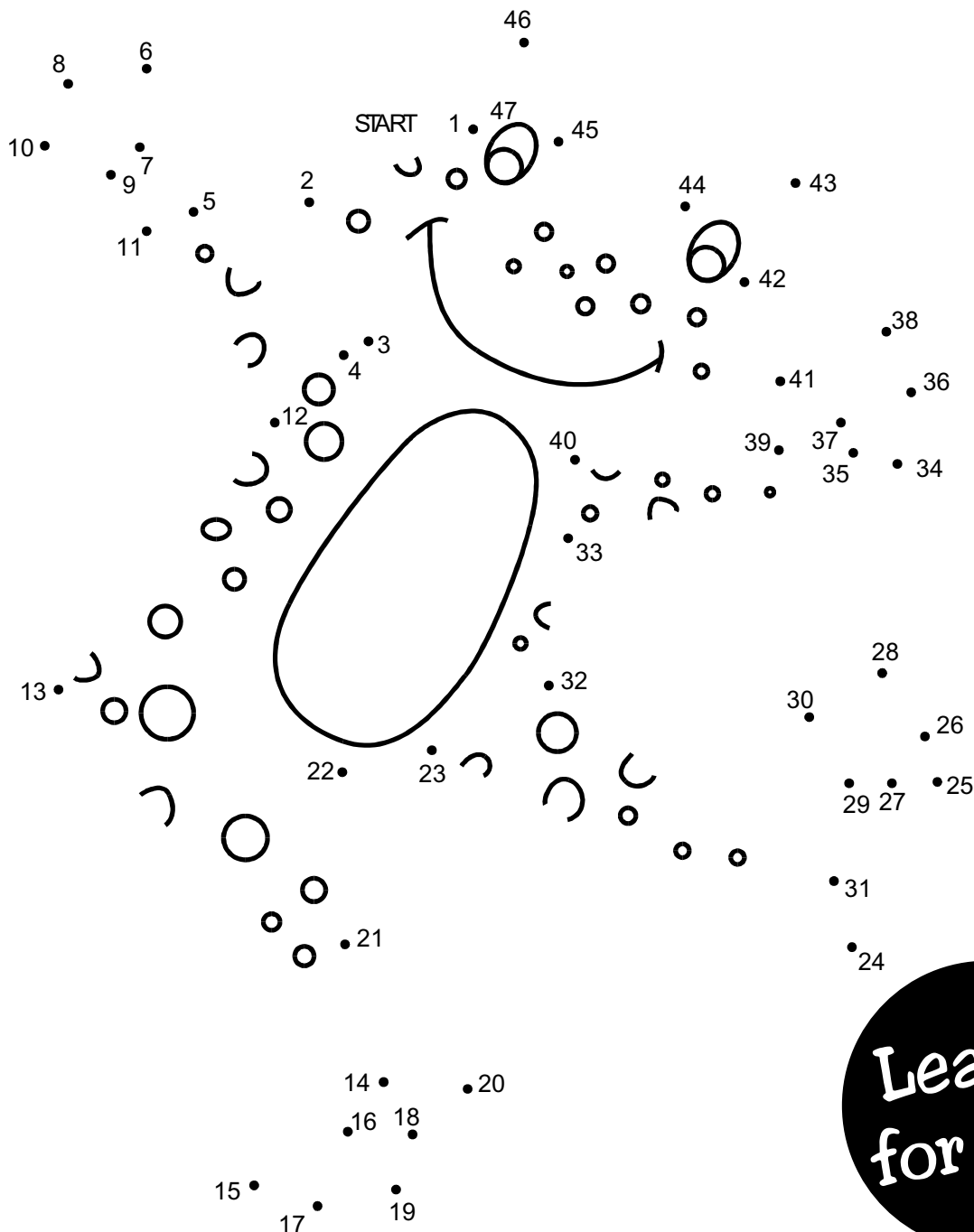


Steiner Ranch

STAR Kids

Dot-To-Dot

Connect the dots to find the hidden image.



Leap'n
for Joy!

April 2008 Austin Newcomers Club Luncheon

Time: 11:00 AM Social; 12:00 Noon Luncheon

Date: April 16, 2008 (Reservations by Thursday, April 10th)

Program: Judy Maggio, KEYE-TV ANCHOR

With 26 years of experience reporting the news in Austin, Judy Maggio is one of the most familiar faces seen on television in Central Texas. She is a native Texan, a "Longhorn through and through", and has gladly spent her entire broadcasting career in Austin, "the best city on earth." She began as an entry-level reporter on KVUE-TV and became the nightly news anchor in 1986. In 2003, she accepted an Anchor/Managing Editor position at CBS/KEYE-TV. Judy has covered three presidential inaugurations and four national political conventions, as well as interviewed and profiled celebrities including Lady Bird Johnson, Ted Koppel, and Willie Nelson. She even sang a few bars of "On the Road Again" with Willie. She is active in community organizations and has emceed dozens of local fundraisers. Judy says that she is an outdoor fanatic who loves hiking, walking, running, and swimming. She also loves dogs. We are extremely fortunate to have Judy share some of her experiences with us in her talk called, "Adventures in Television News." Don't miss it!

Check out Judy's Blog at www.keyetv.com

Location: Green Pastures Restaurant

811 W. Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

Public contact phone number and/or website: 512-314-5100 or www.austinnewcomers.com

The Star is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use The Star contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.



Teenage Job Seekers

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

WANTED

— BY PEEL INC. —

ENERGETIC SALES REPRESENTATIVES

 **REWARD** 

COMMISSION BASED INCOME

**WANTED FOR WORKING FROM HOME,
EARNING EXTRA INCOME, AND
SELLING ADS IN YOUR NEWSLETTER**

VISIT WWW.PEELINC.COM/JOBS.PHP FOR MORE INFORMATION

512-989-8905 | WWW.PEELINC.COM

"Nicole was the best agent I have ever used. This was my 5th house to purchase. She is very prompt and always helpful. She understood what I was interested in and helped me locate the perfect home. I highly recommend Nicole."

-B Doyle, Austin, TX



3305 Indigo Waters Drive

Open, Warm & Inviting, Large Back Yard Backs to Greenbelt/Nature Trail to Westridge Park, Custom Stone Patio, 22ft. Ceiling in Family Room, Huge Kitchen, Solar Tek Shield, Designer Paint, Open Loft & Bonus Room Up, 3rd Car Garage.



Exclusive Buyer Rebate Program

FULL-SERVICE 1% & FLAT FEE
MLS LISTING OPTIONS

www.VallureRealty.com

Steiner Ranch Resident
Office #: 512-249-6299
Mobile #: 512-740-2300

Nicole Peel
Broker/Owner

*Experienced. Trusted.
Bringing You the BEST Value!*



Peel, Inc.

203 W. Main Street, Suite D
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

☎ Voice 512-989-8905

💻 www.PEELinc.com

SR