

THE STAR

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2008

★☆☆ July 4th Parade ☆☆☆



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
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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

- Jul 27th - Concert at Towne Square
- Aug 2nd – Summer Bash
- Aug 23rd - Concert at Towne Square
- 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

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Erick J. Gerdeman 512-745-0706

Pack 203

Welcome all Steiner Ranch Boys!!
Grades 1st-5th

Do you know what Cub Scouts and Scouting is all about? Pack 203 at LWBE does fun things with fellow scouting friends every month? We get together as a PACK to wear our cool uniforms, show off our scout spirit, and participate in exciting scouting activities. As a cub scout, you will get to go camping with your family, shoot BB guns, sleep over on a real Naval Aircraft Carrier and do archery! We play all kinds of sports and build cool race cars and spaceships to race. Do you want to learn the secret scouting code and earn really cool patches? Do you want to learn more about nature and your community? Then, come find out how enriching being a Cub Scout can be!

Join us for Pack 203's

Cub Scout Fall Roundup

Informational Meetings

Thursday, September 4th and/or

Thursday, September 11th

6:30pm

LWBE MPR

Contact Kim Skelton for more
information nelson2930@austin.
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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.steinerranchneighbors.com

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Some Steiner Ranch statistics * 2008 ytd sales *

Sales price	# of Sales	Avg. Price per Sq. Ft.
\$200K-\$300K	33	\$117 per sf
\$300K-\$400K	54	\$117 per sf
\$400K-\$500K	23	\$133 per sf
\$500K-\$700K	22	\$154 per sf
\$700K-\$999K	12	\$160 per sf

*Not bad for a "downbeat" market.
Call me for an "UPBEAT" opinion.*

Diane Kennedy ABR, CRS
(512)750-2950

Email: diane@dianekennedy.com

Website: makeaustinhom.com

www.steinerranchneighbors.com



Steiner Ranch History Corner

By Rich Keith

You might wonder who settled the present-day area around Steiner Ranch. Getting here from downtown (such as it was in the 1800s) was a day's ride by horse, and there were not many places to cross the Colorado River. Our area became popular with the discovery of crossings such as Lohmann's Crossing and Marshall's Ford, the site of the original Marshall Ford Dam and the present-day Mansfield Dam.

German Immigrant John Henry Lohmann landed in Galveston with a wife and four small children during the winter of 1842. They made their way northward by ox cart, stopped briefly at Hornsby Bend, then settled on a tract of land on a hill overlooking the small community of Austin. Lohmann called the place Ridgetop, but it is better known today as the site of the University of Texas.

Lohmann established the first dairy in Travis County in 1845. His herd of 11 cows supplied enough milk for the entire Austin community, which included about 35 primitive dwellings and a rude capitol building. John continued the operation until 1861, when he homesteaded a fertile site along the river about 17 miles northwest of Austin and built a large stone house and five tenant cabins.

He also built and maintained a private road to a shallow river crossing, or ford. According to Lohmann the crossing at normal river level was 'up to a horse's belly, but a man could jump across it

during a drought.' In time the access became known as Lohmann's Ford Road but the name was somehow changed through local usage and one 'n' dropped from his name. Today it is shown on local maps as Lohman's Crossing Road.


Lohmann's Ford was one of the several such accesses that enabled pioneer families to cross the Colorado River, socialize with friends in neighboring communities and grind their corn at Anderson Mill.

The Hudson Family settled here in 1854 on land near the Colorado River bend which bears their name. The 1860 census recorded a Wiley Hudson, his wife Catherine and their children. It also listed a household headed by his father, James Hudson. The Hudsons acquired 4 of the 25 original surveys made on the 4,000 acre Hudson Bend tract.

Another prominent area name is Stewart. Benjamin K. Stewart came here by covered wagon from Tennessee in 1850. He purchased 1,500 acres of river-front land at Hurst Creek inlet and built a homestead on the site now known as Vineyard Bay. In addition to his ranching operation, Ben served in the militia and fought Indians. Many of his descendants live in the Austin area today.

Bee Cave's name was the result of an oddity. In the 1870's, Carl Beck operated a store on Highway 71. A swarm of bees built a nest

(Continued on page 5)



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	APY%****	
Term	Minimum	Deposit
12 mo.	3.39%	3.49%
24 mo.	3.50%	3.60%
36 mo.	3.65%	3.75%
48 mo.	3.85%	3.96%

*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.

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Steiner Ranch History - (Continued from page 4)

under the eave there and, as it grew in size, gradually took on the appearance of a cave. People passing by stopped to marvel at the grotesque "bee cave" until the oddity became the name of the location. Some researchers claim that the building known as Buck's Place today was part of Beck's original store.

The two main communities in 1900 were Bee Cave and Teck. The name for Teck also came about as an oddity. Its original name was Eck Community, after Leonard Eck who operated a general store. The original Eck community school was a one-room building on Eck Community Road (now Kollmeyer). When Eck applied for a post office for his store, postal authorities required a name with at least four letters. Leonard solved the dilemma by adding the letter "T" to Eck and everything became Teck instead of Eck."

Sources: C. L. Dowell, Dams and Reservoirs in Texas: History and Descriptive Information (Texas Water Commission Bulletin 6408); Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin; and Lakeway, the First 25 Years, by Byron D. Varner. For more information contact Rich Keith at 266-8498 or email RKeith@primerica.com

Stork Report in Steiner

Baby Boy:

James Joseph Quattro

7 lbs, 14 oz

20 inches long

Born:

July 24th, 2008

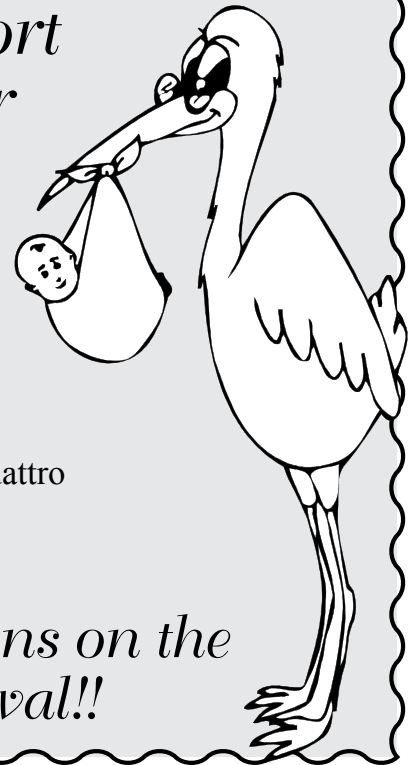
Proud Parents:

Felicia Hoang & Paul Quattro

Proud Brother:

Zachary, 3 years old

*Congratulations on the
new arrival!!*



"...and so can you...Jacqui sold our home in 11 days! Without reservation, we recommend her professional, knowledgeable service ..." -Jeremy & Rebecca Smith

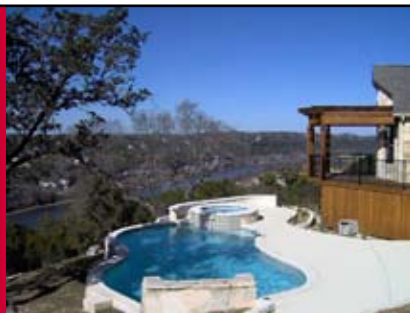
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THE STAR

Nominate Your Favorite Yard for The Star Yard Of The Month



Congratulations to The Star Yard of The Month for July!

12832 MAJESTIC OAKS

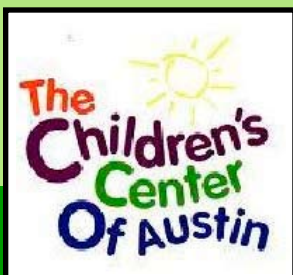
You can nominate your favorite yard for the month. Please do not nominate your own yard.

Do you know a neighbor who takes excellent care of their property or a neighbor who has added something new to their yard?

- New flowers
- Edging
- Yard decorations, etc
- New landscaping

It could be as simple as a neighbor whose grass is green all year round.

Nominate them emailing the address to thestar@PEELinc.com. Please include a photo if possible.



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STEINER RANCH FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

www.steinerranchfantasyfootball.com

There are still two franchises available in the Steiner Ranch Fantasy Football League (SRFFL). If you are interested in owning one of the two remaining franchises please contact kelly@peelinc.com ASAP as the draft date is set for August 27th.

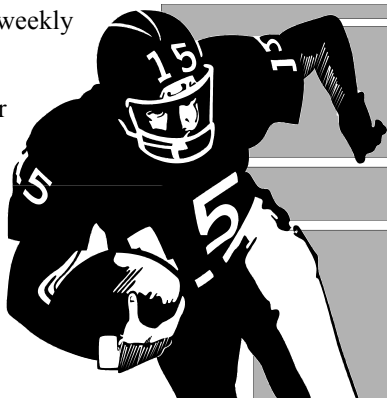
SRFFL is a money league with a \$200.00 entry fee.

Each franchise can be managed by one person or with a partner.

The overall point leader will take a portion of the pot total. Second, third and fourth place will also get a cut.

There will also be a weekly head to head contest.

Thanks to Fion for hosting SRFFL during our organizational meeting on July 23rd.



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Lake Level Falls

Submitted by Connie Ripley



Lake Mead on the other Colorado River in the Southwestern U.S. Notice the 100 foot high bathtub ring and the huge deep water intake sucking water from the bottom of the lake. The flow of the other Colorado was seriously misjudged 80 years ago. Now the population explosion and increased drought conditions have lead scientist to believe the other Colorado River system might be dry by 2021 and a 10% chance it will run out of usable water by 2014. This could be Lake Travis's future.



Lake Powell on the other Colorado just north of Grand Canyon.

Notice the empty marina and the long walkway.

Notice a change in the water level of Lake Travis? The level fell almost 8 feet in June. Compare this to almost 5 feet in June during the drought of 2006. The fuller the lake, the less quickly the level drops with equal amounts coming out. The lake was 13 ½ feet lower in 2006, yet it fell less.

Whether you enjoy the lake for recreation, drink it, use it to water your lawn, or you simply enjoy looking at the water views when you drive in to work, Lake Travis is an enormous economic and environmental driver for the entire Austin area.

As our population grows, will the drought/flood prone, over-stressed, over-promised Colorado River be able to handle the changes? With everything that is planned for Lake Travis, it would be foolhardy to believe our next 50 years will resemble our last 50.

Two huge deep water intakes are planned for Lake Travis. One by the City of Austin and one by Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock who have formed Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA). The combined maximum capacity of these two intakes will be 442 million gallons per day. These intakes are enormous permanent structures that will withdraw water on or near the bottom of the Colorado River channel in the lake. Up to now, the intakes on the lake are inconspicuous small structures mostly on floating barges.

The City of Austin intake will rest on the bottom of the deepest part of the Colorado River channel in the lake by the Oasis. The pipeline will tunnel under Balcones Canyonland Preserve to a large pump station on Bullick Hollow and up to an enormous treatment plant on RR 620. The beautiful hill country view you had on 620 and Bullick Hollow will become a gigantic industrial water treatment plant—much larger than I can imagine.

The BCRUA intake and pump station is planned for a residential area in the Village of Volente. The 8 foot pipeline will be placed in an open trench 12' x 10' through Volente and up Trails End Road to a water treatment plant at FM 1431 and New Hope in Cedar Park. The whole pipeline area will have a clear-cut 70 foot easement. Great treeless, barren view from the lake—not to mention the ordeal the people living in the area will have to endure!

Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock are not in the original LCRA service area—the Colorado River basin. They are in the Brazos River basin. All their sewer water is currently discharged into Brushy Creek that flows into the Brazos River. All the water poured on their lawns, medians and streets ends up in the Brazos River watershed. This water is gone from Lake Travis forever.

Austin, Cedar Park and Leander rely on the Colorado River for all their water needs, as does Steiner Ranch. Surface water evaporates a lot faster and flows a lot quicker than aquifer water. Aquifer water is readily available and plentiful in the Brazos River basin.

And lots more is planned...

LCRA and San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) are studying a proposed reservoir in Wharton County. What water will be used to keep this new lake full? Some will come from excess flows (when extra water is available), some from run-of-the-river water rights and some from Lakes Travis and Buchanan. How much? All the charts differ...Another out-of-basin customer taking our water.

And more still: LCRA has gone into retail sales. Not only does it wholesale raw water, as it was created to do, but now it also owns water

(Continued on page 10)



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.

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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.

Lake Levels Fall - (Continued from page 8) and wastewater systems that pipe water into Hays and Lampasas Counties—areas out of the Colorado River basin.

Lakes Travis and Buchanan have 445,000 acres feet per year (AFY) of firm water to sell. LCRA has committed for 507,000 (AFY). Why is LCRA doing this? They believe that they must sell to anyone that asks because of their own interpretation of a 1959 court case in New York, not the actual litigation. Bottom line, it is LCRA Board Policy.

How can they do this? LCRA contracts do not guarantee water. The cities contract for water and must pay for their contracted amount, but LCRA does not guarantee they will have the water available that they must pay for.

In the 2006 drought, 143,000 AFY of firm water was used. LCRA has committed for 507,000 AFY. Lake Travis fell almost a foot a week during the 2006 drought. What will happen when our population explodes to projected numbers? What about our next drought?

Not only does Lake Travis provide us all with water, it also generates electricity and cools power plants. How much more water will be used? Electricity is needed for water pumps and treatment plants. When water is low, which comes first?

What is the cost for Marinas to lower 3 or 4 feet a week? Walkways could get really long. Ramps will be useless. You cannot launch a boat off a cliff...

With all that is happening to Lake Travis, will you be able to get water from your kitchen faucet in the next drought? Will your children and grandchildren?

Only a huge groundswell of public opinion can protect our lake. LCRA and elected officials listen to numbers. Join DELTA (Don't Empty Lake Travis Association) and donate what you can. For membership applications and more information, go to www.drainingLakeTravis.org. DELTA is a 501 (c) (4) non-profit corporation.

Next month: Lake Travis does not have to fall in order to quench the thirst of our exploding population. Solutions next.

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ABCs of Making Money 4 Teens™ is a free two-hour workshop for teens. Parents are welcome to attend part or all. Plus, every teen who attends the workshop will receive a complementary copy of the ABCs of Making Money 4 Teens book. Some of the key elements of the book:

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Wednesday, July 30, 7-9 PM

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7-9 PM


Seats are limited. To reserve your seats call Rich Keith at (512) 266-8498 or send email to RKeith@primerica.com

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Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in The Star? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to thestar@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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*Prices are per person, double occupancy, cruise only and in U.S. dollars. Government departure taxes and fees are additional. All itineraries and prices are current at the time of printing and subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. ©2008 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ships registered in the Bahamas. Brilliance of the Seas® is operated by RCL (UK) Ltd., a subsidiary of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. 08012002 • 06/13/2008

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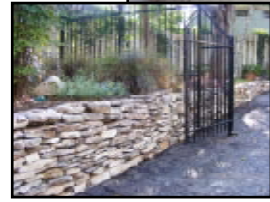
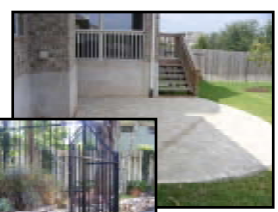


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Free Concerts in Steiner

Steiner Merchants are kicking it into high gear this summer with at least two free concerts (more if demand is high) at Steiner's Towne Square. Starting on July 27 with Lost in Austin, a top Austin cover band – voted 1 of the 5 best in Austin in 2007, Steiner residents will have a chance to party on the square with games, water slides, clowns, magicians and more. The fun starts at 5PM and then switches gears with the great music of Lost in Austin from 7PM until 9PM.

Families will have a chance to cool down and grab something to eat in the Towne Square Pavilion with plenty of food and drink options at great prices.

Then on August 23rd, Steiner Ranch will rock again with the second concert and a big back to school party. Families won't want to miss this event before getting back into the routine of school. Stop by local Steiner merchants for more information on these concerts. Provided to Steiner Residents as a way of saying "Thank You" for your business.



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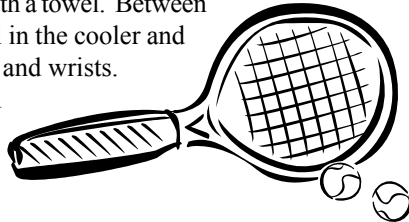
Tennis Tips

Submitted by Fernando Velasco

Watch for Dehydration - Avoid Heat Stress by:

- Schedule practice time in the morning and late afternoons.
- Wear light-colored clothes with breathable material.
- Wear white hat to protect face, skull and neck
- Drink 18-20 oz of fluid two or three hours before your match, then again another 8-10 oz ten to twenty minutes before match.
- During play, drink 8-10 oz every ten to twenty minutes (during changeovers.)
- If you have heat cramps, stretch the muscle, and take rehydration drinks with glucose and electrolytes.
- If you feel light-headed and think you might faint, lower your head or lay down on your back with your feet up. It would be a good idea to stop playing and to sit down in a cool area.
- Take two coolers on the court. One full of ice and water to drink and one with ice only with a towel. Between games, soak your towel in the cooler and refresh your face, neck and wrists.

Enjoy your tennis games and stay "cool"



National Night Out

Submitted by Deputy James Kitchens

Travis County Sheriff's Office

Dear Friends,

Greetings! It's time again to gather your neighbors and team up with your Law Enforcement Agency to give crime a going-away party.

National Night Out is an annual event normally held on the first Tuesday of August. This year it will take place on **October 7, 2008**. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Night Out Association of Town Watch. This past year's National Night Out campaigns involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, business, neighborhood organizations and local public officials from more than 9,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 29.5 million participated in National Night Out last year.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement – community partnership. But its primary goal is to send a strong message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front-yard vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local law enforcement officers, parades flashlights walks contests and youth programs. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for safer communities. The benefits that your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond the one night.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office has promoted National Night Out for the past 25 years. Our participation has grown from helping with a handful of neighborhood get-togethers to more than 4,000 participants enjoying block parties, carnivals, parades and an assortment of other activities. Our involvement has grown from a couple of crime prevention officers, to dozens of patrol officers, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, majors, county commissioners and the Sheriff.

National Night Out is a great way to get together with your neighbors, find out what's going on in your community and visit with local law enforcement officers about that you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur. Participation can be as simple as a small block party, or as big as a parade or carnival. To get involved, or to find out how to register your event

for National Night Out, call the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 854-8413 or 854-9770. Deputy James Kitchens Travis County Sheriff's Office Community Services & Outreach Unit (512) 854.8413 Fax: (512) 854.4719

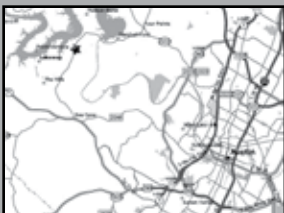


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Oct. 7, 2008

7-10 p.m.

Official Registration Form

(Please PRINT)

Name _____

Organization/Agency _____

Address, City, ZIP _____

Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____ E-mail _____

T-Shirt Size _____

Event Location & Address _____

Time Start _____ Time End _____ Lights Only? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Affiliated Police or Sheriff's Department _____

Size of area you hope to organize:

_____ houses _____ people _____ blocks

Would you like a representative from the Sheriff's Office to be present? _____

Do you have a neighborhood newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Contact information for newsletter coordinator: _____

Did your community participate in National Night Out 2007? _____

Are you/your group a National Association of Town Watch member? _____

Office Use Only:

Date Received _____

Reference # _____



Please return ASAP to:

Travis County Sheriff's Office
Community Outreach Unit
P. O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
Attention:
Deputy James Kitchens
Main Line: 512.854.9770
Fax: 512.854.4719

Important Note: This form must be returned to: (1) officially register your area, (2) receive organizational materials and updates, and (3) be eligible for 2008 post-project awards.

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Steiner Ranch Market Statistics

Price Range	As of July 8, 2008		6-Months Jan 1, 2008 - Jun 30, 2008		
	# For Sale, Avg \$/sf, Avg DOM	# Pending, Avg \$/sf, Avg DOM	# Sold, Avg \$/sf, Avg DOM	# Withdrawn, Avg \$/sf, Avg DOM	# Expired, Avg \$/sf, Avg DOM
\$200,000 - \$300,000	34/\$119/63	5/\$117/12	31/\$118/73	17/\$121/93	6/\$117/136
\$300,001 - \$400,000	61/\$122/87	6/\$120/87	53/\$118/78	18/\$119/93	12/\$127/137
\$400,001 - \$500,000	27/\$142/79	5/\$126/50	21/\$136/99	14/\$139/129	4/\$143/146
\$500,001 - \$600,000	25/\$154/72	6/\$151/124	9/\$139/94	10/\$145/92	9/\$145/171
\$600,001 - \$700,000	25/\$172/88	2/\$153/47	13/\$164/62	6/\$176/225	3/\$160/220
\$700,001 - \$800,000	6/\$182/87	4/\$182/75	10/\$158/123	7/\$198/88	5/\$177/184
\$800,001 - \$900,000	7/\$181/102	1/\$179/61	2/\$170/166	1/\$167/290	0
\$900,001 - \$1,000,000	3/\$209/44	0	0	1/\$194/182	5/\$199/187
\$1,000,001 - \$1,500,000	7/\$237/206	0	0	0	0
\$1,500,001 - \$2,000,000	0	0	1/\$316/275	0	0
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	1/\$448/451	0	0	0	0
\$3,000,001 - \$4,000,000	1/\$429/94	0	1/\$422/265	0	3/\$507/183

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Texas + Flood = Higher Risk

Submitted by Victor Thompson

During the dry season, it's sometimes hard to remember that Texas actually is a high-risk state for flooding. In fact, Texas actually led the nation in insurance payments for flood-related damage until 2005.

The risk is not just to our coastal communities, either – inland areas are just as vulnerable. For example, "Flash Flood Alley" in Central Texas, with its steep hills and winding rivers, is particularly prone to flooding during heavy rainfall.

Don't underestimate your chances of being a flood victim. During the course of a 30-year mortgage, homes in a high-risk area are three times more likely to be damaged by flood than by fire. In fact, about 25 percent of all Flood claims paid are for policies in low-to moderate-risk communities. Texas homeowners were paid more than \$2.7 billion for flood damage during the last quarter century (through 2004).

Obviously, no one can stop a flood. But here are a few steps you can take to limit that damage and out-of-pocket costs:

- **Get Flood insurance.**

Don't make the mistake of thinking that your Homeowners policy provides coverage for flooding – it doesn't. You need a separate Flood policy. You don't have to be in an area where Flood insurance is required to be eligible for it. If your community participates in the

National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase Flood insurance, and you may qualify for a Preferred Risk policy with lower rates. That's where I come in: Call me and we'll take a look at whether you're exposed, and you can decide what to do about it. Be aware that a Flood policy doesn't take effect until 30 days after purchase, so don't wait for floodwaters to rise.

- **Elevate.**

Get a licensed electrician to take a look at the electric switchbox, outlets and switches to see if they can be elevated at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation for your home. Ditto for your washer and dryer – you may be able to elevate them on masonry or pressure-treated lumber, or move them to a higher floor. If you're planning to remodel, ask your licensed contractor about relocating or elevating your furnace and water heater.

- **Have an emergency plan.**

Get your emergency supplies ready – for example, flashlights, batteries, portable radio, nonperishable food and water. Make sure family members know what to do and how to communicate if a flood is imminent or if you have to evacuate.

For more information on floods, go to www.floodsmart.gov.

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IT'S YOUR MONEY Give Your Finances a Clean Sweep

by Rich Keith

(NAPS)—Anytime of year can be the right time to get your home office organized—and while you're at it, your finances too. Here are some tips:

- **Take out the garbage.** Start with your desk top—not the one on your computer, the real one. If your desk is covered in paperwork, weed out what's important and store key documents in a central place. This could be a good time to dust off your credit report as well. If you are the victim of identity theft, one of the first places it can show up is on your credit report. Even though new legislation entitles you to one free report each year, it's estimated that only 10 percent of consumers are taking advantage of it. According to Money Magazine, 33 percent of those who did get a report found errors. To request a copy, visit annual.credireport.com or contact one of the major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion.
- **Make everything within reach.** When organizing your office, it's important to keep frequently used items close at hand. The same applies to your financial goals. Set goals you can reach. For example, start your retirement fund by putting a set amount every month into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

- **Have a backup plan for files and finances.** If you have important documents stored on your computer, back them up onto CDs once a month and store them in a fireproof safe. When it comes to financial backup, create an emergency fund of at least three months salary. Also, update your life insurance policy. Newsweek recently stated that for a married couple with two children, it is advisable to have life insurance protection that equals eight times your annual income. And while you're at it make sure your will is current.

Shred it and forget it. If you don't have a paper shredder, get one. Shred old quarterly statements on investments once you have the annual statements. Also, shredding anything you don't need that contains your Social Security number or birth date can be your first line of defense against identity theft. One easy way to eliminate clutter in your home office may be to sign up for online banking and cut down on the need for paper statements.

- **Make it automatic.** One easy way to eliminate clutter may be to sign up for online banking and cut down on the need for paper statements. Plus, you can set up monthly withdrawals from your checking account that are deposited into an IRA—starting with as little as \$25 a month.

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Submitted by Heather Pennington

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Natural Watch Dog

Submitted by Luis Escobar

I spoke with a man yesterday who has a "great watchdog". His dog lets him know when his neighbor is outside, when the kids down the street come home from school or are outside playing, when there is a squirrel on the lawn, when the mail arrives, when the neighbors get a UPS delivery, when a bird lands, a cat is out, when someone walks their dog, and on and on. WOW was I impressed. I couldn't help wondering how many times this guy was getting up to check on these alerts from his dog. I'm guessing a lot as he knew exactly what his dog was barking at. I got tired just thinking about having to check on all that activity.

I almost asked him how he would know if there was something that really needed his attention. To my thinking this wasn't a watch dog, but a nuisance barker. Can dogs learn the difference? Thankfully the answer is YES! Rover can learn to distinguish the difference, as long as we know the difference.

Rover is not a barker. I wish I could say that about the other dogs in our neighborhood. There are two yorkies behind us who go ballistic when anyone walks by. There is Rover's friend Emma the mixed up mutt next door who tries to tell the yorkies to shut up. There's Charlie the lab down the street who barks at every dog that walks by his house. You can follow us around the block, just by listening to the barking.

These dogs are all barking inappropriately. In other words this is nuisance barking. Birds, squirrels, leaves, cats, lizards or other dogs and people are not things we need Rover telling us about. Fires, someone breaking in, or unexpected things are what we want to be notified about.

As I said, Rover is not a barker. He'll look towards the sound of other dogs barking but he doesn't join in. The times he did join in we corrected him. We consistently let him know that we didn't need to know if the Yorkies saw someone or even if he saw someone. It was none of his business, but if he wanted to watch he could do so quietly. Now he basically ignores the cacophony of the "watch dogs". But he will alert us to unusual events.

One night I was having trouble sleeping and got up and went outside in the middle of the night. Rover didn't hear me go out but he did hear me come back in. He gave a couple of warning barks and started growling when he heard the front door open. The door opening in the middle of the night was unusual. He woke Cathy, alerting her to my sneaking back in. Even though he rattled me out he still got lots of praise for raising the alarm.

Dogs will naturally alert you to the things out of the ordinary. They WILL warn about unusual events, even if they are corrected for barking at the wrong things.

If Rover is a nuisance barker the chances are that over time we'll just tune him out. It's like the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf really comes we won't believe him.

Nuisance barking CAN be corrected but it's important to address the cause(s) and not just the symptom(s). Dogs bark for various reasons such as calling the pack, trying to scare someone or something, because they are afraid, or because they're bored. It's often stressful not only to us and our neighbors, but to the dogs as well. This is especially true with issues of separation anxiety.

Do you have a neighbor whose dog is creating a nuisance with his constant barking? How you approach this might be difficult. You might ask if their dog is ok because it seems to be upset a lot. If it only barks when the owners aren't home they might not even know it's barking. Ask about the dog with concern instead of confrontation and you may have a better chance of getting the owner to understand there's a problem.

Once the inappropriate barking is under control you'll have a natural watchdog. One who alerts you to something out of the ordinary, and one who's warning you can trust. Once we can trust Rover's warning we'll know when we have to really check on things and it won't be because the kids down the street are outside playing. The results?

Happy Dogs = Happy Families and Happy Neighbors.

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August Landscaping

Submitted by Ron Kerwin

August is a great month to stay inside and make your plans for this fall's plantings. Browse the catalogs for ideas and bulbs to order now to plant in November and December for next spring's display. If you are going to work in the lawn or garden, plan it around the early morning or evening in the cooler hours. Drink plenty of water to keep from dehydrating.

The July heat may have already taken its toll on your annuals. If they are beyond help, pull them out and replace them with more heat tolerant varieties. If they are okay but overgrown, you can trim back your annuals and perennials by 1/3 to 1/2 to get better flowering in the fall. You can also trim off the dead or damaged canes and the errant chutes from your roses to enhance the fall blooms. Fertilize your roses right after you prune, as this application is very important. Do NOT trim flowering shrubs, like Indian Hawthorns, after July or you will probably trim off the buds (look like berries) that would provide the flowers next year. Rework your beds to prepare them for fall plantings of flowers or vegetables. Bury in the compost materials and add the mulch



on top. They will be ready for planting when it is time. You can fertilize your lawns this month with a 3-1-2 ratio 50% slow release nitrogen fertilizer. This is a good fertilizer for your shrubs and flowerbeds too.

The heat stresses all our lawns, shrubs etc. We will probably not get much rain so we will have to water with irrigation systems or drag around sprinklers to keep everything from burning up. 1 inch of water per week should be enough. Do not water in mid-day, as most of it will simply evaporate prior to getting into the ground. Irrigate in the early morning if possible.

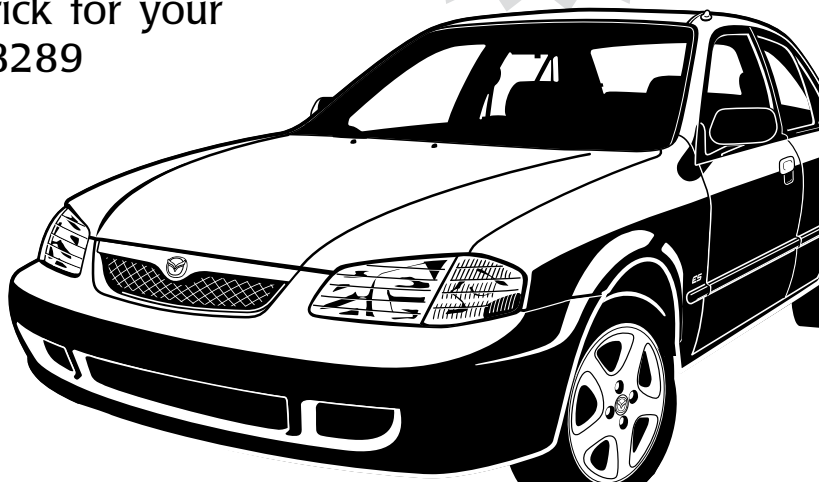
Water deeply, not frequently. Watering in the evening can lead to plant diseases. Maintain the water in the soil of your beds more effectively by having a good thick layer of mulch. Most every month I comment on the benefits of thick mulch but it is a topic worth repeating, as its benefits are many.

If your property is in need of new sod, it can be put in now with no problems as long as you water it properly. With new sod, you do not have to suffer with mud in the fall and winter.

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Steiner Ranch BNI

Submitted by Elicia Rudberg

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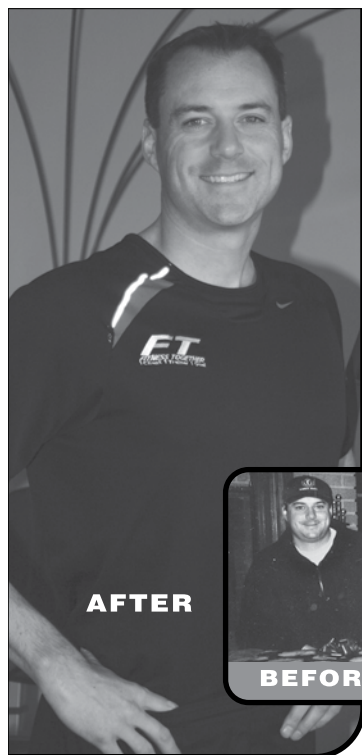
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The Green Corner

Submitted by Sheri Hicks

Green Up Your Everyday Cleaning

When I began going green, I started with the chemicals under my sink. I had already deduced by the chemical components, the ingredient list and the disposal warnings - they couldn't be good for the planet. What I didn't know is that despite heavy marketing claims that these products were not only safe but necessary to keep my home beautiful and healthy, they were actually causing far more harm than good.

I was shocked to find, during my research, that the EPA estimates indoor air pollution is up to five times greater than outdoor air pollution in part due to common household cleaners, aerosols, air fresheners, disinfectants, and even dry-cleaned clothing (solvent emissions). Recent studies also show a link between common household cleaners and asthma, the number one childhood chronic illness. The reason for this is that the chemical compounds in these products, when used and even while stored, emit harmful gasses that can cause eye, nose and throat irritation and respiratory issues. They are also linked to headaches, loss of coordination, nausea and liver, kidney and central nervous system damage. In some cases, they have been known to cause cancer in laboratory animals and humans and are suspected in links to neurological issues including ADHD and Parkinson's disease.

You don't have to compromise between the health and safety of your family and a clean environment. Below are my top five green cleaning solutions. Not only are they non-toxic and as effective as commercial cleaners but all of them are significantly less expensive than their commercial counterpart, something I appreciate in the midst of today's rapidly rising gas and grocery prices.

1. Baking soda is a very low cost yet extremely versatile foundation to green cleaning. Among other things, it can be used as a deodorizer, a stain remover, and a mild abrasive that can be used on porcelain bath and sink fixtures and stovetops. I once removed permanent marker from my coffee table by scrubbing with baking soda and a damp cloth.
2. Vinegar acts as a mild disinfectant and often boosts the power of baking soda. Nothing, not even Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser, can compete with the combined power of vinegar and baking soda on baked on food. Use to clean toilets, floors, windows and stove tops. Sprinkle baking soda into a slow drain and follow with vinegar, the reaction will help loosen clogs and open drains.
3. Pure Essential Oils are good substitutes for synthetic fragrances. Sprinkle your favorite essential oil (my favorites are lavender, peppermint and lemon) in a bowl of water to sit on the counter, sprinkle in closets, vacuum bags or vehicle

carpets for a safe air freshener. Be careful, essential oils are toxic to cats if applied directly to their fur.

4. Grain alcohol with high alcohol content is an effective disinfectant or even window cleaner to replace the harsher ammonia-based window cleaners or petroleum-based disinfectants. It can also be used in the occasional after cleaning cocktail! As with all alcohol products, keep out of reach of children.
5. Lemon juice is a natural stain remover and laundry brightener; a safe alternative to bleach. I recently removed a black grease stain from a pair of white pants with the power of pure lemon juice. It can also be mixed with vinegar to make a powerful disinfectant that can be used in the kitchen, in the bathroom, on floors and anywhere else germs may be lurking.

If you shy away from making your own cleaning products, there are now many safe non-toxic alternatives available on market shelves. My favorite for non-toxic dish soap (both liquid and automatic dishwasher soap), laundry soaps and softeners are made by Seventh Generation but there are other good products such as Mrs. Meyers and Planet. For an even bigger boost to the environment, use cloth rags that can be washed with the laundry instead of disposable products such as wipes or paper towels.





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THE STAR

SEP: The Easy Way to Save for Retirement for the Self Employed

Submitted by Kai A. Lamb, Registered Investment Advisor (RIA)

A simplified employee pension (SEP) is an entry-level retirement plan that allows the self-employed or the small employer to make large tax-deferred contributions to their retirement plan. The deadline for establishing this plan is April 15th. Contributions to a SEP are one of the few transactions that can be made after the close of the tax year and can make a significant impact on the previous year's tax return.

Let's say Jill, a self-employed real estate agent, earned \$110,000 in 2007. Now she's scrambling for tax deductions. By establishing a SEP sometime before she files her tax return on April 15, 2008 (or October 15 if she requests an extension), Jill can contribute up to \$27,500 and deduct that amount on her 2007 tax return. In her tax bracket (28% - Filing Status: Single) this saves her \$7,700 in taxes. So she's really out of pocket only \$19,800 (\$27,500 - \$7,700).

SEPs for self-employed individuals

Many business-owners and independent contractors (writers, consultants, salespeople and freelance professionals) looking for a smart, easy way to save for retirement benefit from the significant contributions beyond the maximum traditional or Roth IRA contribution found in a SEP.

SEPs have been gaining popularity since 2002, when contribution

limits were raised to compete with Keoghs and other profit-sharing plans. The current maximum contribution is 25% of compensation, not to exceed a set dollar amount, which is adjusted for inflation each year: \$45,000 in 2007 or \$46,000 in 2008. The maximum amount of compensation that can be factored into the formula is \$225,000 in 2007 or \$230,000 in 2008.

The IRS has provided a worksheet for calculating SEP contributions for self-employed individuals, but your best bet is to let your tax advisor do the calculation when they prepare your tax returns and know exactly how much income you earned.

SEP IRAs for businesses with employees

SEPs are extremely simple for self-employed individuals with no employees. But they are not much more complicated when there are employees. In this case the owner makes contributions directly into employees' IRAs, either existing IRAs or new ones set up for this purpose. Not all employees have to be covered; those who are under 21 or who have not been with the company at least three out of the last five years or who earned less than \$500 do not have to have contributions made to their accounts. All others do, including part-time employees, seasonal employees, and employees who die or terminate employment during the year.

(Continued on page 27)



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SEP - (Continued from Page 26)

Any kind of business may establish a SEP, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations (including S-corporations). The deadline for establishing and contributing to a SEP is the company's tax filing deadline, including extensions. For calendar year corporations the deadline for 2007 contributions is March 15, 2008, or September 15, 2008, if an extension is filed.

Unlike for other retirement plans, for a SEP no papers need to be filed with the IRS. All a business needs to do to set up a SEP is to:

- Execute a formal written agreement to provide benefits to all eligible employees
- Give each eligible employee certain information about the SEP
- Set up (or instruct eligible employees to set up) a SEP IRA account

The contribution rate for all employees is the same and may be anywhere from 0% to 25% in any given year. So if the plan adopts a 25% contribution rate, the employer must contribute 25% of each employee's salary into his or her account. Amounts may be integrated with Social Security if the plan allows. Amounts contributed to employees' accounts become vested immediately. A lower contribution rate can always be adopted; however, it applies to the owner as well as the employees. If the business has a bad year, the employer is not obligated to contribute at all. But it's all or nothing—if the owner

chooses not to contribute to employees' accounts, no contribution may be made to the owner's account either.

Simplicity is the name of the game

SEPs are perfect for people who like simplicity, flexibility, and low cost. They are ideal for self-employed individuals who want to maximize contributions.

SEPs are also good for businesses that employ part-time or low-wage workers. If a plan adopts a 25% contribution rate, a high-earning owner can contribute \$46,000 to his or her own account in 2008 while contributing just \$5,000 for an employee who earns \$20,000.

Compared to other plans, a SEP is the simplest, least expensive, and most efficient way for a small business to establish a qualified plan. It is often viewed as an entry-level plan for self-employed individuals and very small businesses that have no plan at all, both of which may be attracted to a SEP for the immediate tax deduction or the sudden urgent need to save for retirement.

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.



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Kayak For Fun, Fitness Or Fishing

Submitted by Bill Sleep

We live in the best place in the USA to be a kayaker. Lake Austin & Travis are in our backyards and Lady Bird Lake, the San Marcos, Colorado and Guadalupe rivers are also close - within two hours there is even more unexplored territory. The Texas Parks & Wildlife has created numerous "Texas Paddling Trails" for you to explore across the state.

You can kayak for fun and sun, to enjoy nature, for cardiovascular and muscular fitness, to catch fresh and saltwater fish or even to become a competitive paddler.

Kayaking is experiencing exponential growth and participation has tripled since 1998. Boats have become more stable and less expensive. You can choose from sit-on-tops, sit-inside, touring boats and inflatables that come in plastic, wood or kevlar. Choose a single kayak or a double that is big enough for a friend and even a child or dog.

Best yet, kayak skills are easy to learn with a little instruction. There is no need to paddle 2 miles in a zig-zag pattern when 1 mile is in order. (Remember surviving your first summer camp canoe experience.)

As is the case with learning golf or tennis skills, basic paddling skills training will make you efficient and the sport more enjoyable. It's also important to understand how to select the right boat, accessories and equipment, how to efficiently load and transport the boat and the importance of safety.

Once your skills have improved, there are many new places to paddle and different ways to use your paddling skills. For instance, you can join Canyon of the Eagles kayak tour on Lake Buchanan or register for a recreational canoe race like the Great Castell Kayak race on the Llano.

Kayak wave surfing on the gulf is another popular alternative.

Or you can just kickback and enjoy an adventure on Lake Austin without burning fossil fuels - your choice - stayfit and have fun.

For more info: contact Bill Sleep at ctocoach@msn.com or 626-9300 - finisher of numerous adventure races as well as the 260

Mile Texas Water Safari - "Worlds Toughest Canoe Race."



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NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

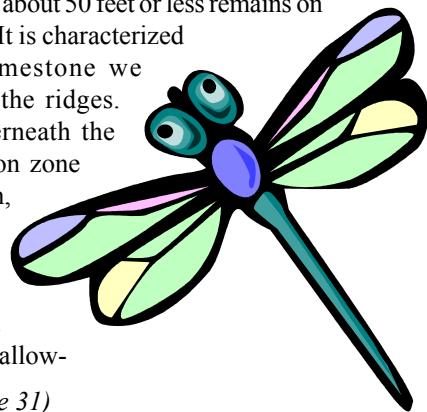
Geology 101: The Edwards Plateau

Located in central Texas, the Edwards Plateau is a "physiographic region," meaning it has distinct characteristics in terms of landscape, plants, and animals. The eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau is very abrupt and forms a steep escarpment, a feature actually visible from space! The Edwards Plateau is indeed a plateau with a relatively flat topography, situated at a higher elevation than regions to the southeast. However, on its southern and eastern edges, many rivers have eroded downward and cut steep valleys into the plateau, creating the canyons and adjacent hills. The erosion by these rivers creates the landscape that we call the Texas Hill Country.

The rocks underlying the Edwards Plateau are layers of limestone that were deposited in a warm, shallow sea during the Cretaceous period about 100 million years ago. At that time, the area of the Edwards Plateau was located closer to the equator, and the climate of the Earth was generally warmer than today's climate. Limestone formed as a chemical precipitate from the seawater in this warm, shallow sea, along with the deposited calcareous remains of billions of tiny sea creatures. During the drainage of that ancient sea and the formation of the Gulf of Mexico, a break and a slip occurred in the Earth's crust, centered along a linear fault zone. Running in an arc from west of Uvalde to about Waco, this fault zone forms the primary

recharge zone, where water runs off the higher elevation areas west of the fault and drains into the lower elevation areas east of the fault – the Edwards aquifer – which was once one of the only sources of drinking water for our region before the building of reservoirs along the rivers.

Time, wind, and water erosion have revealed many of the limestone layers. Of those layers that are currently exposed, the youngest layer is called the Edwards group. Once hundreds of feet thick, most of this layer is eroded away and only about 50 feet or less remains on the tops of the highest hills. It is characterized by the "swiss cheese" limestone we often trip on when hiking the ridges. The next oldest layer underneath the Edwards group is a transition zone called the Walnut formation, which formed when this area was near the shore of a nearby landmass, and is characterized by abundant fossils of many kinds of shallow-



(Continued on page 31)



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Nature Watch- (Continued from Page 30)

water marine creatures and includes silts and sands washed off of the land. As you might expect, this layer is soft and crumbly (often called 'marl'), and contains many marine fossils, mud crack impressions, and even dinosaur tracks!

Beneath the Walnut, and often the oldest layer we can see easily, is called the Glen Rose formation. It represents the vast majority of rocks exposed at the surface of the Plateau. The rocks of the Glen Rose are much more varied, created by deposits from salt marshes, beaches, lagoons, deep sea water, and flowing river water, which means that during this period there were many shifts between land and marine-based environments. Because of this variation, hard and soft rock alternate, and as the softer rock erodes more rapidly, large bands of the harder limestone are exposed. This gives the hills their terraced or balconied appearance, and hence the Spanish name "Balcones."

Because of our unique geology and the resulting soils formed from the limestone deposits, central Texas is a very biodiverse area with a large number of different species of plants and animals. It's yet another reason for all of us to do what we can to protect and preserve it for future generations!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.

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Meet Devion

Devion, who turned 6 years old in July, has been in foster care four years. While Devion loved the gifts he received for his birthday, the greatest gift he could get is a forever family. He said "it doesn't matter what type of family, just a forever family".

Devion is with wonderful foster parents who spend a tremendous amount of time helping the

children to overcome trauma, heal and grow.

Devion has flourished in their home!

Here is a paragraph from the foster mom: Devion came to our home just before his 4th birthday. Upon coming to our home Devion quickly became our "Peanut" because he was so tiny for his age. Our little Peanut is growing and thriving and has grown 6 inches in two years. Devion's only little in physical size. He is convinced he is the biggest kid around and that he can do anything anyone else can do. This little man lights up any room he enters with his smile and personality. Devion loves attending church and enjoys singing in

the children's choir. While he has difficulty playing independently, Devion loves to do almost anything outside. He loves to swim, ride bikes & scooters, play baseball, basketball & football and has even recently tried to water ski! Devion has played 4 seasons of t-ball and one season of basketball since living in our home and loves telling everyone about it.

Devion has attended a full year of Head Start and kindergarten but will need to repeat kindergarten this fall. While Devion has wonderful gross motor skills he struggles with his fine motor skills. He also has some speech delays. Devion receives speech and occupational therapy at school and through Easter Seals. While Devion has made much progress emotionally he continues to receive weekly therapy [therapy is important for children who transition through the foster care system]. Devion is very loving and affectionate. He enjoys being with others and would do well in a loving, structured, active home with one or two other children.

He is definitely quite the little ham. To learn more about Devion or the adoption process, contact Tracy Eilers at the Adoption Coalition of Texas,

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Locks of Love Kickoff

Locks of Love is a not-for-profit organization that provides free hairpieces to children 18 years and younger in the US and Canada suffering from any type of medical hair loss.

Girls ranging in age from 3 years old to "Moms" have signed up to donate their luxurious locks to kids who cannot grow their own hair. Moms and daughters have joined together to support this great cause. Girls from all over Austin, including Georgetown, Round Rock, South Austin, Steiner Ranch, Grand View Hills, River Place and Leander are participating. Many local Girl Scout Troops (including one entire Troop) and their leaders are also among the participants. Each contributing Girl Scout will earn a Merit Badge.

It's not too late to donate your long tresses to this most deserving group of kids. Hair must be ten inches long at time of cut and can be colored, but not highlighted or permed.

The next event created for these great girls is a fabulous "Girls Night Out". There will be more fun activities in store for the donors over the next 6 months. Mom and Daughter teams are encouraged to join in on the merriment.all in the name of fun, fun fun!

Local businesses have come together to support and help implement Sandra's idea. For more information, contact Sandra Bennett at 512-372-3500.



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.... *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.

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A black spiral binding on the left side of a notebook page, with three large black circles representing the spiral's loops.

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2008-2009 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Important Dates

First Day of School Aug. 25
 Last Day, First Semester Jan. 16
 First Day, Second Semester Jan. 20
 Last Student Day June 5

Major Holidays and Events

Labor Day Sept. 1
 Rosh Hashanah Sept. 30
 Yom Kippur Oct. 9
 Columbus Day Oct. 13
 Veterans Day Nov. 11
 Thanksgiving Day Nov. 27
 Hanukkah Dec. 22
 Christmas Day Dec. 25
 MLK Day Jan. 19
 Spring Break March 16 - 20
 Good Friday April 10
 Bad Weather Makeup Date April 13
 Bad Weather Makeup Date May 25
 Memorial Day May 25

Proposed TAKS Dates

Oct. 21 - 24 Exit-level TAKS
 March 3 - 6 TAKS All Levels
 April 6 - 9 TAKS Grades 5 & 8
 April 27 - May 1 TAKS All Levels
 May End of Course High School Window
 May 19 - 21 TAKS Retest

Calendar Key

- Student/Teacher Holiday
- Staff Development/Student Holiday
- Bad Weather Makeup Day
- bold** First or Last Days - Semesters
- Proposed TAKS Testing Dates

August 2008

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31						

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February 2009

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April 2009

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May 2009

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June 2009

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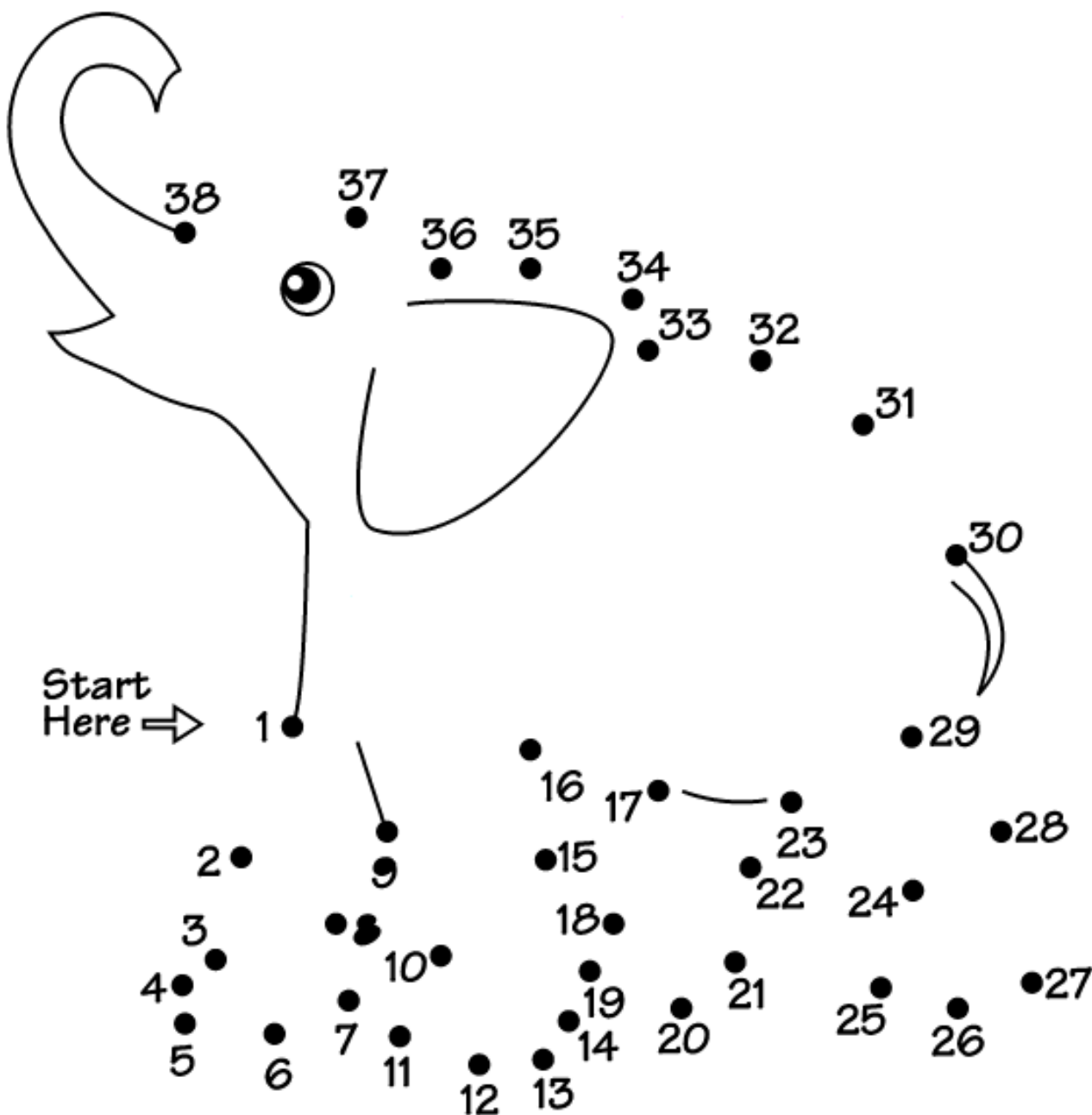
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