

THE STAR



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

Echoes of the Drought From the 1950s

Bob Rose, LCRA meteorologist

LCRA meteorologist Bob Rose reflects on 2008 and shares his 2009 weather predictions

“During the long Texas drought of the 1950s a joke, probably already as old as the state, was told again and again about a man who bet several of his friends it would never rain again, and he collected from two of them.” This line is from Elmer Kelton’s famous book, “The Time it Never Rained”, a chronicle of the terrible record-setting drought of the 1950s in West Texas. In the book, Elmer states that drought, by Texas definition, is a period of severely deficient moisture that laps over from one year into another. “It often lasts two to three years duration. Anything shorter, though it may be serious, is termed a dry spell, as if more annoyance than hardship.”

There’s no doubt the long drought of the 1950s is one of the worst on record for Texas. During that period, many cities set records for all-time lowest rainfall in a month and in a calendar year. For example, Austin’s rainfall in 1954 was only 11.42 inches, the driest year on record, dating back to 1856. But very dry weather in 2008, although not long enough in duration to qualify as a drought, is matching, if not exceeding, some of the bad drought years of the 1950s. From the Hill Country to the middle Texas coast, rainfall through late December has been roughly 25 to 50 percent of normal. Data for Austin and San Antonio indicate 2008 was the fourth driest year for Austin and the third driest year for San Antonio, as well as the driest year for both cities since the mid 1950s! In reality, the dry weather of 2008 has not just been a dry spell but rather a very serious drought!

The cause of this drought, like most droughts, is not fully understood. It appears to be the result of many different elements in the oceans and atmosphere that have influenced the weather pattern over the central part of Texas most of the year. But in some ways, this drought also seemed to happen by chance, with several large rain storms just missing our region in one direction or another while other storm systems weakened and fell apart just before they moved through. In how many years do you find much of West and deep South Texas wetter than Central Texas?

Scientifically speaking, we’re currently in a period caused by a very long-term weather pattern that favors more dry years across Texas than wet ones. So having a fairly dry year right now is not all that surprising. But what is surprising is just how dry this year has been, especially following the very wet year in 2007. Like the two-year droughts of 2005-2006 and 1998-1999, the drought of 2008 still may continue for another six months to a year, possibly longer. No one knows for sure. But I have some hope the drought may back off some later this winter and going into spring. Looking back at the weather from other years with somewhat similar ocean and atmospheric conditions, specifically 1950, 1974 and 1989, dry weather continued into January of the following year, but some fairly generous rains began to develop February into March in each of those years. If 2009 is similar, we might indeed see more rains across our region late winter and into spring. But will this be a true change in the pattern or just a temporary break? Will the dry spell of 2008 turn into the drought of 2008-2009? Let’s certainly hope not.



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.	512-263-9181
Editor - Kelly Peel	thestar@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The Star, For Steiner Ranch

The mission of The Star is to provide the Steiner Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Steiner Ranch residents. Our goal is to help build Steiner Ranch by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

"Be the Community."

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Star possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The Star is mailed monthly to all Steiner Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for The Star please email it to thestar@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

urban
Painting
company

**Custom
Interior
& Exterior
Painting**

- Traditional Interior & Exterior Repainting
- Custom Striping
- Faux Finishing

Every room, area, and outside of your home reflects your personality, presence, individuality and sophistication.

We take great pride in our work

FREE Estimates



Erick Erdeman
512-745-0706

Steiner Ranch Resident
15 Yrs. Experience
Trusted Member of the
Steiner Ranch BNI Referrals Group

Table of Contents

FEATURES

- 10 Stork Report in Steiner
- 12 Vandergrift High School
- 22 Long Term Care: Manage the Cost
- 26 Virus and Spyware and Mail... Oh My!
- 30 New Food Guide Pyramid for Preschoolers

AROUND STEINER

- 4 The Star Yard of the Month
- 6 Steiner Ranch History Corner
- 8 The High Cost of High Property Taxes
- 11 Steiner Ranch Fantasy Football
- 11 Travis County Sheriff's Crime Prevention
- 16 Steiner Social Networking
- 18 Community Groups

BUSINESS SECTION

- 23 Three Business Networking Groups
- 24 Facing The Loss Of Your Job?
- 24 Free Education Seminars

NEWS YOU CAN USE

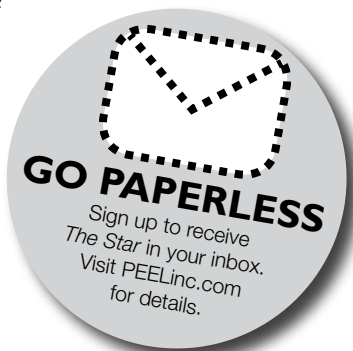
- 28 Sudoku
- 28 Austin Newcomers Club Luncheon
- 29 Britt's Book Buzz
- 32 What's at Stake
- 34 February is American Heart Month

KIDS SECTION

- 37 Ready, Set, Breakfast!
- 38 February Coloring Page
- 39 Adoption Coalition
- 39 Kids Crossword Puzzle

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 20 Calendar of Events
- 23 Business Classifieds
- 29 Personal Classifieds
- 35 Teenage Job Seekers



*Providing Austin with peace of mind,
certainty and value since 1987*

Registered Landscape Architects
Custom Construction • Detailed Maintenance

Lawn Maintenance Programs

Varied Frequencies & Services to Meet Your Needs

Landscape Design Studio - Design/Construction

Master Planning/Consultations • Outdoor Kitchens and
Outdoor Fireplaces • Stonework, Arbors, Decks, Patios
Fencing, Playscapes, Garden Art

Special Services - Full Landscape Management

Lawn/Shrub Fertilization • Insect/Fungus Treatment
Lawn Aeration • Small Landscape Renovations • Tree
Trimming/Removal

Irrigation Services / Outdoor Illumination

Call Today for a **FREE**
Maintenance Proposal

263-5638 ext 233

www.theperfectbiew.biz

Fully Licensed/Insured
References Proudly Provided
Reliable Uniformed Crews

Call now and receive 2005 prices
PLUS get your first mow **FREE!***

*plus tax. clean-up extra. new customers only.



Nominate Your Favorite Yard for The Star Yard Of The Month



*Congratulations to
The Star
Yard of The Month
for January!*

1120 LAKEWOOD HILLS
TERRACE

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

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.

WHITEGLOVE HOUSE CALL HEALTH



Why incur unnecessary healthcare expenses?

These days, the total cost for you to get routine medical care can be more than \$100 per visit, not to mention the time and hassles. And, should you need care after hours, you could be faced with very large surprise bills. At WhiteGlove, we think there is a better way - we offer a new choice in routine medical care where you enjoy a higher quality experience that costs you less. And the best part - we come to you at home or work, 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm!

	WhiteGlove Visit	Primary Care Visit	Urgent Care Visit	Emergency Room Visit
Visit Fee	\$35	\$25	\$100	\$200-\$750
Rx ¹	\$0	\$25	\$25	\$25
Incidentals ²	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$50
Total Visit Cost	\$35	\$100	\$175	\$275-\$825

¹ WhiteGlove provides most of the generic medications that we prescribe on your visit for no-cost.
² Incidentals include foods/beverages, over-the-counter remedies, gas, parking, child care, etc.

A NEW CHOICE FOR ROUTINE MEDICAL CARE

Using our service, we cap your out-of-pocket expenses for the medical visit to only our visit fee and eliminate the surprise bills you may receive from other providers because of unmet deductibles, procedures not covered by your insurance, and co-insurance. And, you do not spend money on gas, foods, beverages, childcare, over-the-counter remedies, etc., not to mention the time and hassles of running around for 3-4 hours.

877-329-8081

Check out our special offer for new members:
www.housecallhealth.com/offer



Thank you for making us the

#1 Real Estate Group in your community



8412 Denali Pkwy #2 • Offered at \$995,000



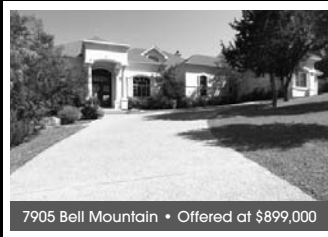
10104 Inshore • Offered at \$544,700



4105 Michael Neill Drive



5105 Shelter Cove



7905 Bell Mountain • Offered at \$899,000



1620 Lakecliff Hills • Offered at \$798,000



11505 Firehorn Drive • Offered at \$769,500



12000 Mira Mesa • Offered at \$496,000

Ask About Our Plan to get Substantially More for Your Home in Less Time



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)
- #1 Keller Williams
Real Estate Group
(NWMC '07 Volume)



Steiner Ranch History Corner

Submitted by Rich Keith



As you are likely aware, the Texas Hill Country was settled by many Europeans. Here is a story about an interesting and unusual person. There is a street in Steiner Ranch named for Ferdinand Ludwig von Herff, who was a physician, and born at Darmstadt, Germany in 1820. He came from an aristocratic family, and his father was chief justice of the Hessian Supreme Court. While attending the University of Bonn, Herff lived with his uncle, the president of the university, and was able to meet many famous people. Studying under influential medical scientists and learning leading edge concepts and techniques, he began his medical education at Berlin and finishing in 1843. While a surgeon in the Hessian Army (1843-47) he developed ingenious techniques in plastic surgery and tuberculosis treatment.

Because of the political environment in Germany at this time, many Germans were emigrating, especially to America. In 1847 Herff helped organize a group composed mainly of university-educated professionals, Die Vierziger (the Forty), to found an idealistic commune in Texas. The commune was named Bettina and was located on the Llano River near what is now Castell. The enthusiastic settlers were ill prepared to cope with the harsh realities of the Texas frontier, however, and within eighteen months the commune failed. Herff returned to Germany convinced that Texas would be his ultimate home. He married Mathilde Hoeffler in 1849. He rejoined the military, and his successes in treating battle casualties were attributed to his dexterity and his scrupulous attention to cleanliness which resulted in low infection rates. He returned to Texas, became

a citizen, and dropped the nobility title "von" from his name.

He and his wife settled briefly in New Braunfels, then moved in 1850 to San Antonio, where Herff began one of the most prolonged careers in Texas medicine. There was no lack of patients, but most were poor, and Herff's philosophy that professional satisfaction was its own reward led to family hardships. Of necessity surgery was performed in homes, hotels, and even in open-air locations. His reputation grew as a result of remarkable medical feats, including the removal of two large bladder stones from a Texas Ranger, an operation which was Herff's first use of chloroform and was witnessed by a crowd of onlookers which included Ranger William A. A. (Big Foot) Wallace; cataract removal resulting in the

(Continued on Page 7)

River Place Country Club
4207 River Place Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78730

RIVER PLACE
COUNTRY CLUB

Phone: 512.346.1114
Fax: 512.346.0527
www.riverplaceclub.com

You are Invited...
To Our Summer Camp Open House Event
Wednesday, March 11th from 5pm to 8pm

Learn about the great Summer Camp activities we offer! Our Summer Programs include Golf, Tennis, Sports Camp, Tot Camp, Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Tap, Ballet, Karate, and much more!

What are your Kids
Doing after school?
Join the Fun this Spring!

Junior Programs are offered after school every day from January through May. Our programs include: Golf, Tennis, Tap, Tumbling, Ballet, and Hip Hop.

***Membership is Not Required to Trial After School Programs or Summer Camp Programs.**

Visit us online to view our 2009 Spring Junior Programs and Summer Camp Brochure.

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Spring and Summer Junior Programs, or to RSVP to our Open House Event!

The Dominion



Golf Group

River Place • The Dominion • Onion Creek • Twin Creeks

Steiner Ranch History Corner- (Continued from Page 6)

restoration of eyesight; the correction of a depressed skull fracture to alleviate traumatic epilepsy; and expert arrow removal (one victim traveled over 100 miles to obtain lifesaving relief). He also performed gastrostomy on a young person who had ingested lye, and at age eighty-four under primitive ranch conditions he operated on his daughter-in-law, who had an ectopic pregnancy.

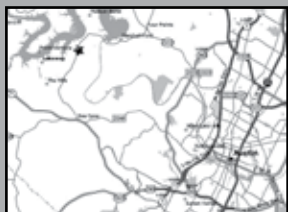
Herff worked tirelessly to achieve high standards of medical practice. He helped organize the Bexar County Medical Society, the West Texas Medical Association, the Texas Medical and Surgical Record, and the Texas Medical Association and served on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. He was also instrumental in the establishment of San Antonio's first hospital. Herff shunned praise but he received many honors, including recognition from the University of Giessen and St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. He died in San Antonio on May 18, 1912. For more information contact RKeith@primerica.com Rich Keith (512) 266-8498.

Sources: Dielmann, "Dr. Ferdinand Herff, Pioneer Physician and Surgeon," SHQ 57; Ferdinand Herff, ed. Laura L. Barber; Nixon, *A Century of Medicine in San Antonio*, TSH online.

BECAUSE YOUR PET DESERVES THE BEST



Wellness & Emergencies



512-266-7VET

1901 RR 620 N



**FEBRUARY IS 'DENTAL MONTH'
30% OFF ON ALL DENTALS**

(INCLUDES EXAM, ANESTHESIA, SCALING & POLISHING, & DIGITAL DENTAL X-RAYS)

Expires
2-28-09

Why do some listings SELL while others remain on the market indefinitely?

Market Knowledge and Strategy.



805 Lakewood Hills Terrace \$619,900

Allow me to use my experience to differentiate your home from "listing" to "SOLD"

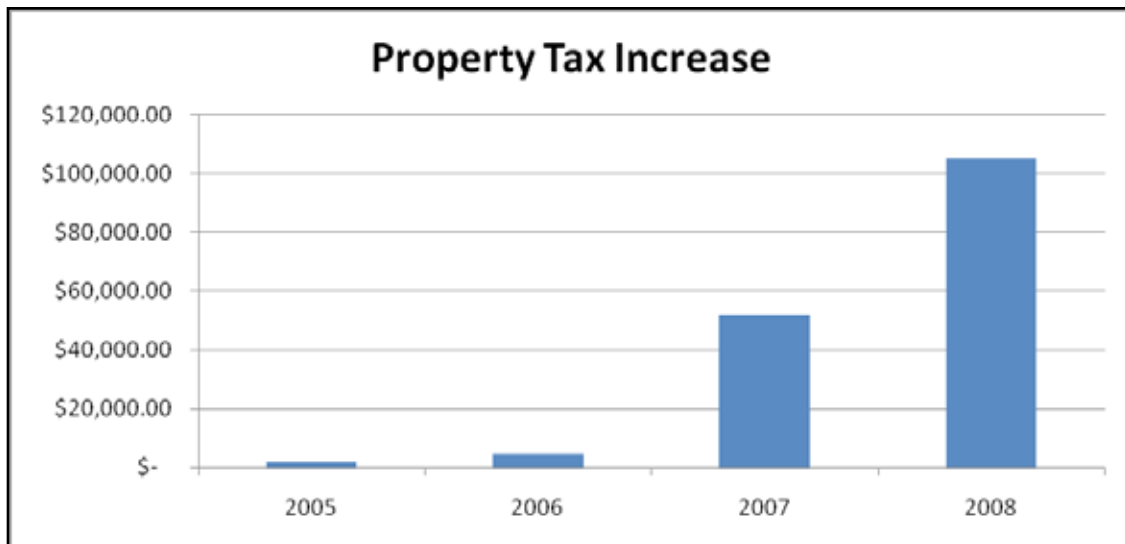
Angie Noeth
THE Steiner Ranch
Realty Sales Specialist
(512) 695-7025
www.agent-angie.com


KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY



The High Cost of High Property Taxes

By Alica Harrison, co-owner, Wild Basin Fitness at Steiner Ranch



By all accounts, this year's holiday season was a difficult one for most businesses. The credit crisis had many consumers holding on to what cash they had. Businesses big and small were cutting prices just to get buyers in the door. And the resulting loss of income is leaving thousands of people unemployed in the new year. It was a gloomy holiday season throughout most of the country. But our business was doing well. In fact, our December sales jumped substantially from the previous year. And as a small business struggling through our second year, the sales spike was reason to celebrate. Until we got our property tax bill.

You see, Travis and Williamson counties determined that the value of our building

increased 65% this year. When coupled with rising tax rates, our property taxes effectively doubled. This during a period when property values are falling, sales are down, vacancies in our area are 24%, and there is a glut in the commercial real estate market. Here's what that looks like for us. (See Chart).

As a small, family-owned business, we have absorbed as much of these costs as we can, but are now forced to start passing these government-imposed increases on to our customers. Unlike a sales tax hike, the increase in property taxes is often invisible to the consumer, but results in you and I paying a higher fee for the same goods and services.

So when you see those commercials urging you to buy locally and support your local businesses, know that your support really does matter. By frequenting local businesses, you keep your neighbors and friends employed, you provide valuable tax revenue for your schools and county services, and you ensure that the goods and services you want are provided for you in your community. And locally-owned businesses are often able to provide you with products tailored to your specific needs. We pride ourselves on serving the families of our community, sincerely appreciate the support you've shown us, and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Peel, Inc.
Printing & Publishing

Publishing Community Newsletters Since 1991
512-263-9181 • www.PEELinc.com



**Support Your
Neighborhood
Newsletter.**

Kelly Peel
Sales Manager & Steiner Ranch Resident
512-263-9181, kelly@PEELinc.com

*Advertise your business
to your neighbors.*



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.



Stork Report in Steiner



Baby Boy:

Adrian Michael Olebe
6 lbs. 9 ounces

Born:

January 5, 2009

Proud Parents:

Leo and Andrea Olebe

Proud Big Brother:

Anthony

Proud Grandparents:

Margaret and Richard Olebe



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

Should your computer be acting OLD? Is it getting slower and slower?

Tek-Chic Systems can make your computer run like NEW
or better for less than half the cost of a new computer!
All without the loss of any of your important documents.

Call Laurie Scott with Tek-Chic Systems

512-983-8470



- Home Network & Internet Security
- Inexpensive Backup Solutions
- Data Recovery / Damaged Disks
- Free Pickup and Drop-Off

TEK-CHIC
SYSTEMS

Laurie Scott
Steiner Ranch Resident
512-983-8470
Laurie@Tek-Chic.com
www.Tek-Chic.com

"Because Everybody Needs a Geek in Their Life"

AUSTIN TELCO

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WWW.ATFCU.ORG 512.302.5555

Free Checking 200+ Free ATMs

HOME EQUITY LOANS		AUTO LOANS		COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOANS	
5 YEARS	4.95% APR*	SHOULD BE DOWN 72 MONTHS	4.85% APR*	15 YEARS	5.99%***
10 YEARS	5.40% APR*		5.20% APR*		6.29%***
15 YEARS	5.75% APR*		6.49%***		
MONEY MARKET		SHARE CERTIFICATES		20 Year Amortization	
\$75,000 to \$124,999	2.48% APY****	12 MONTHS	3.29% APY****	3.44% APY****	Jumbo ²
\$125,000 to \$174,999	2.68% APY****	24 MONTHS	3.55% APY****	3.75% APY****	
\$175,000 and Above	2.89% APY****	36 MONTHS	3.65% APY****	3.85% APY****	

*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. ***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. Please call for details. ****Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

14 METRO LOCATIONS



STEINER RANCH FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

www.steinerranchfantasyfootball.com

Overall Standings

Team	Total Points
Young Guns	2946
Bobblehead Wobblers	2834
McLovin	2637
One Asterisk	2501
Fat Toads	2491
Flux Capacitors	2353
The Scramblers	2251
Barrel of Monkeys	2245
Flying Monkeys	2227
Ask Abby and Dennis	2098
Vikedawgs	2090
Motorboaters	1654

Head to Head Playoff Standings

Team	Place
Flying Monkeys	1st
Bobblehead Wobblers	2nd
Fat Toads	3rd
McLovin	4th

*Thanks to the
Steiner Ranch
Steakhouse for
hosting our final
meeting.*



Travis County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Reminder

Burglaries of Vehicles- Most Burglary of vehicles occur between the hours of midnight and 4:00am. You can help prevent this crime by locking your vehicles and removing your personal items from your vehicle. Suspects often use a flashlight to look in your vehicle before committing the crime. If they don't find what they are looking for they will most likely move on. Always report suspicious activity to your local Law Enforcement Agency by dialing 911 or our non-emergency number 512-974-0845.

Illegal Dumping- Illegal dumping in Travis County continues to be a major concern for our department.

Please contact our dispatch to report illegal dumping. Do not dig through someone else's trash, you have no way of knowing what contaminates are in the dumping area or in the trash itself. Try to obtain license plates of vehicles seen in the dumping areas and report the activity immediately.



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



MAKE YOUR SPRING BREAK RESERVATIONS NOW!

Free Consultation

- Family Owned
- References
- Insured & Bonded



CALL 261-6297
www.lakewaypetnanny.com

Vandergrift High School

Opening Fall, 2009



Dear LISD Community,

As the newest LISD high school principal, I am excited and honored to be a part of the Leander tradition of excellence. My family and I have lived in the Steiner Ranch area for over ten years, and I currently have three children at 2 different LISD campuses (from PreK to Middle School). I have been a principal for the last ten years in neighboring Lake Travis ISD, and I'm blessed to now have an opportunity to serve in my community. Like many of you, I am amazed at the unprecedented rate of growth in our area. In response to this growth, the district's leadership began the process of constructing the 5th high school (Vandergrift) and the 7th middle school (Four Points) in the south end of Leander ISD to meet the needs of our community. I'm pleased to share that the construction of these new facilities is on time and well underway.

In the fall of 2009, Vandergrift High School will officially open at its temporary location on the campus of the new Four Points Middle School in Ribelin Ranch, on FM 2222 near "Tumbleweed Hill." The current plan is to open the Four Points Middle School building in 2009 with Grades 9-10. In 2010, freshmen, sophomores and juniors would move to the new Vandergrift campus, and Four Points Middle School would officially re-open as a full (grade 6 - 8) middle school.

Opening a high school in this two-step fashion will pose many exciting challenges; however, the immediate benefits of having a state-of-the-art high school closer to the students' own neighborhoods will far outweigh the temporary logistical issues. Vandergrift was designed as a full four-year high school. This stunning, modern campus will in every way match the educational content of LISD's other four high schools, and will eventually accommodate up to 1,800 students. I guarantee that the temporary inconveniences will be well worth the wait! An extensive FAQ document has been prepared to help answer and anticipate some of your questions. I have included a few of the most commonly asked questions below. Please take a moment to review this information on our new school website. The website has been updated to include construction photos, the new 2009-2010 High School Course Catalogue, and a virtual tour of the Vandergrift HS campus. You can access the website from the district homepage or directly by going to: <http://nse.leanderisd.org/preview.aspx?name=vhs.home>

If you would like to stay informed on issues related to Vandergrift High School, please be sure to join the LISD Vandergrift Insider distribution list. If you have a student that will attend Vandergrift,

now, or in the near future, I strongly encourage you to join. To sign up, you can follow the direct link to the Insider on the school website.

I hope you will encourage your student to contact me at anytime if he or she wants to become more involved or have a suggestion or idea that they would like the committee to consider. Together, we will begin to tackle some of the challenges involved with opening a new high school and start to create the traditions and campus culture that will be uniquely Vandergrift.

Sincerely,

Charlie Little

Principal

Vandergrift High School

Leander ISD

(512) 570-1600

(512) 570-1606 Fax

charlie.little@leanderisd.org

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. *Q: Where is Vandergrift High School? What are the attendance boundaries?*

A: Vandergrift High School is located in the southern portion of Leander ISD's 200-square mile district, and – in general – will serve students living in and along the south west 620 corridor and west of 2222 in the areas currently zoned to attend Canyon Ridge Middle School. Attendance boundaries for VHS will be finalized at January 8th meeting of the LISD Board of Trustees. For up-to-date information on the attendance zone, go to the district website at www.leanderisd.org.

2. *Q: How was the name, Vandergrift, selected? Who was Lt. Matthew Ryan Vandergrift?*

A. The LISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the school in honor of Lt. Matthew Ryan Vandergrift, a Leander High School honors graduate (Class of 1999) and athlete – who was killed in Iraq in April 2008. He graduated from Texas A&M University with honors and a degree in international business, before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in August 2005. He was killed just four days past his 28th birthday.

Lt. Vandergrift grew up in the Steiner Ranch subdivision — very near this new high school — and was an honor graduate at both the high school and college level. He participated in

(Continued on Page 14)



Different by Design Better by Comparison!

Coming to your Neighborhood in March



Pre-Sale Memberships

Join Now & Pay

\$0

ENROLLMENT

Offer Expires 03.08.09

512.372.4000

www.anytimefitness.com
austintx@anytimefitness.com

Pre-Sale Hours:

Mon - Fri: 12PM - 6PM Sat - Sun: 10AM - 3PM or by appointment

7300 FM 2222 & Jester Austin, TX 78730

Private Adult Co-Ed Fitness Center

24-Hour Club Access

Nation-wide reciprocity to all Anytime
Fitness clubs - More than 1,000 locations!

Personal Training

Close to home and work

Secure, comfortable, and clean

Around Steiner

Vandegrift Highschool- (Continued from Page 12)

extracurricular activities, and demonstrated the highest character, plus a devotion to service demonstrated by the fact that he volunteered to defend the ideals of our great nation. Matthew Vandegrift was a walking role model for what we hope to see demonstrated by each and every Leander ISD graduate.

3. *Q: Who will attend Vandegrift High School?*

A: All freshmen and sophomore students zoned for VHS will attend VHS this fall (fall 2009). Students affected by this change will be officially notified when the attendance boundaries are finalized by the district.

There are two exceptions to this "no transfers" rule:

1. Freshman and sophomores zoned for VHS who have Junior/Senior siblings that will be attending CPHS during the 2009-2010 school year may request a transfer to their sibling's campus (CPHS) so that they may both attend the same high school.
2. VHS-zoned freshmen and sophomores may apply to transfer to LHS to be part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) advanced academic program. To be eligible, students must enroll in pre-IB classes in all four core academic areas. Any student dropping these pre-IB classes will be returned to his or her "home" campus (the campus designated for his/her attendance zone).

4. *Q: How many students will the VHS and FPMS campuses accommodate?*

A: Vandegrift will be a slightly smaller campus than the other four LISD high schools. It is built to accommodate approximately 1,800 students. The smaller size is based on future enrollment projections and demographics. Four Points Middle School has been designed to accommodate 1,200 students.

5. *Q: How many students are zoned for VHS the first year?*

A: Approximately 600-650 freshman and sophomore students are projected to attend VHS in 2009-2010 the first year. This number is approximate, since the attendance boundaries have not been yet been finalized. No middle school-age students will be housed at Four Points Middle School until the 2010-2011 school year when the high school students move to the Vandegrift campus.

6. *Q: What will the new high school look like?*

A: Chuck Fields of Fields & Associates architects presented a design development update on Leander ISD High School #5 at the LISD Board of Trustees meeting on May 15, 2008. The presentation included the layout of Four Points Middle School

(Continued on Page 15)




Innovative Painting Inc.

Painting and Decorating	Hydro Cleaning
Specialty finishes	Outstanding Quality
Faux Finishes	Professional Painting
Staining	Murals
Minor Repairs	Interior / Exterior

512-926-8291
Over 25 years experience
www.innovativepaintinginc.com








Receive 10% OFF
on your next purchase when you mention this ad.

- Custom Nursery & Children's Furniture •
- Custom Bedding and Gliders •
- Designer Diaper Bags •
- Unique Clothing and Gifts •
- Newborn to Size 6 •

Personalized Design Services

The Village of Westlake
(next to Barnes and Noble)
701 S Capital of Texas Hwy, N-850
512-306-8882



Vandergrift Highschool- (Continued from Page 14)

and buildings on the site (located south of 3M off of RR2222), as well as drawings of the Vandegrift campus and stadium. You may view the HS#5 Design Presentation and a virtual tour of the campus complex via this webpage link on the district website.

7. ***Q: What is the rationale behind opening with Freshman and Sophomores?***

A: The Leander ISD Board and administration were asked by the community to consider opening LISD High School #5 with both 9th and 10th grades. After weighing the pluses and minuses of the 9th-only vs. grades 9 & 10 grade configurations, Dr. Bret Champion determined that LISD High School #5 will open for the 2009 - 2010 school year with freshmen and sophomores. Dr. Champion noted that the primary reasons for this decision were parent input, the positive impact on Cedar Park High School overcrowding, and the unique physical location of the HS#5 site in the far south portion of Leander ISD.

A: The following freshmen and sophomores who are transferring can participate in UIL activities in their first year:

1. 9th and 10th graders transferring into Vandegrift High School (inaugural year only);
2. 9th and 10th graders transferring from the VHS attendance zone into CPHS to attend with an older sibling;
3. Freshmen or sophomores transferring into Leander High School to be part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

8. ***Q: What are the VHS mascot and colors?***

A: The students who will attend our new campus will help select the Vandegrift High School mascot and school colors. A student advisory committee consisting of current CPHS 9th graders and CRMS 8th graders who will comprise the first classes of Vandegrift HS will determine the process and criteria for selecting the school mascot. All students will be allowed an opportunity to suggest and rank mascot names prior to the final decision.

The primary school colors used in the design phase of VHS were determined earlier by the district architectural committee and incorporated into the final school design. The color palette consists of blue, silver (with red, white accents). These existing color palettes/schemes will be considered by the committee when determining the final school color palette for spirit-related purposes.

For the complete version of the Vandegrift FAQ, please visit the school website:

<http://nse.leanderisd.org/preview.aspx?name=vhs.home>



Campus Location



Four Points Middle School Campus



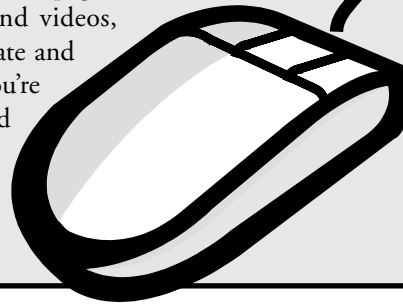
Vandegrift High School Site Work

Introducing “Steiner Social”: Steiner Ranch’s Social Networking Website

Submitted by Peter Lubell

A website has been created for the residents of Steiner Ranch called Steiner Social. This free social networking website offers Steiner Ranch residents a new way to meet, network and socialize with your neighbors. Have a garage sale or block party you'd like to promote? Looking for people to join your poker game? Need one more person for a golf foursome? Want to put together a wine tasting, basketball game or book club? Want to just meet more people from Steiner Ranch? You can do it on Steiner Social!

Steiner Social allows you to create your own profile page, invite your friends and neighbors, share pictures and videos, send messages to your friends, post events, create and join interest groups and share local news. If you're interested in joining Steiner Social, please send an email request to Peter Lubell at palubell@sbcglobal.net. You will then receive an email invitation with the proper link to sign up. This site is for Steiner Ranch residents only.



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 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

HELP YOUR BUSINESS GROW



ADVERTISE HERE

512-263-9181 • www.PEELinc.com

NO MATTER THE SIZE OF YOUR BUSINESS, WE'VE GOT ROOM FOR YOU!

The Steiner360 Team

No one knows your neighborhood better than your neighbors!

Kelly Thate

512.750.5777

ThateTeam@yahoo.com



Lenae Snow

512.636.1609

LSnow@austin.rr.com

*Let us assist you with all
your real estate needs.*

www.Steiner360.com



2701 Rio Mesa, \$405,000, Popular Floorplan
Gorgeous backyard, endless lap pool,
4 bedroom 3.5 bath

Year End Market Statistics for Steiner Ranch		
Average	2007	2008
No. of Home Sales	312	279
Square Footage	3166	3177
Sales Price	\$435,850	\$425,823
Days on Market	72	85

*We are holding on strong. Austin is consistently ranked
among the top cities in the country to live, buy, or sell.
In 2009, stay positive and look at these challenging
times as opportunities. We are grateful to be here and
would love to assist you with your real estate needs.*



13113 Delphinus Walk, \$450,000, Greenbelt
2007 barely lived in, over \$72K in upgrades,
huge backyard



12525 Central Park, \$300,000, Greenbelt
Rare 1-story with bonus gameroom
and half bath up



13125 Zen Garden, \$262,000, Greenbelt Lot
1.18 acres, uninterrupted panoramic
Lake Austin views



12916 Appaloosa Chase, \$270,000, 1-story
Open floor plan, true 4 bedroom,
walk to schools

**61 homes sold in
Steiner Ranch during
the last 3 months.
Call for details!**



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Is Your Current Mortgage Rate Over 6%?

If so, **NOW** is the time to take advantage
of the lowest rates in **forty** years!

**Call Joe Brown with Sente Mortgage
today for a quick estimate of your
monthly savings.**

Sente is an independent mortgage bank,
not a broker, that represents more than
50 lenders nationwide.

Joe has been a mortgage consultant in
Austin since 1985 and can be reached at
(512) 637-9108 or
joe.brown@SenteMortgage.com.

Grannys as Nannys

Ruth & Bob Friedman

512-266-6637

Babysitters Extraordinaire!

Infants to age 12

Excellent local references

DAY OR NIGHT & EMERGENCY

Steiner Ranch residents and grandparents

This advertising spot is offered as a free service to Steiner
Ranch residents. We are not affiliated with and do not
endorse any services shown here.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN STEINER RANCH

Steiner TechNet Wants You!

Submitted by David Dyke

If you work in technology and live in Steiner Ranch, we have a new community for you. This includes a quarterly social mixer in Steiner with opportunities to meet new neighbors, discuss business issues, find job opportunities and share best practice ideas, etc.

For more information, email David Dyke at ddyke@i-hire.com and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

Steiner With Out Kids Social Group (SWOK)

Submitted by Paula Kaisner

Did you know there is a social group in Steiner called Steiner w/o Kids (SWOK). We have been established since January 2006 and have had many couples join who've made new friendships. Whether you've never had kids or you have grown children you are welcome to join this fun social group. We get together once a month at someone's home in Steiner for food and drinks along with making new friends and/or enjoying old friends! It's a great way to meet other couples and form new relationships with people who also don't have children at home. For more information please email Paula Kaisner at paula@kaisner.org

Steiner Ranch Community Groups & Organizations

Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner? Email the information about your group to thestar@peelinc.com and it will be included in each issue. Feel free to submit post event write-ups and photos.



Looking
out for
your BEST
interest for
18 years

Amy Oehler

Manager/Senior Loan Officer
TX License # 55506

Purchase - Construction - Refinance - Home Equity

Direct: 512-733-3210

Fax: 512-857-1295

E-mail: amy@Lending360.net

www.LENDING360.net

Steiner Ranch Resident



COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTINUED

New Mothers' Support Group

Come join other new moms (and babies) at the new Mothers' Support Group! It's a time to share the joys and frustrations of being a new mother and a good reason for getting out of the house.

Motherhood is a tough job but we know you can do it! If you need a little advice, an ear to vent to, or a little friendly conversation then this group is the perfect place for you.

The new mothers' support group is open to all new moms with babies up to 1 year old. There is no sign up or registration required and the group is free to attend.

We meet weekly from 9:30am - 11:00am Mondays beginning January 12th at the Towne Square Community Center, 12550 Country Trails Lane.

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!

Contact Kim Skelton for more information

nelson2930@austin.rr.com



**The New Year's Resolution
You Need to Keep.**

*Find an Investment Advisor
that cares about my portfolio.*

At Solaris Private Wealth Management, we care about our clients and their financial well-being. That's why we are an independent, fee-only Registered Investment Advisor.

512.687.3184 www.SolarisPWM.com

9442 Capital of Texas Highway, Arboretum Plaza One #500 Austin, TX 78759



Divorce Options

*An educational seminar
for individuals facing divorce*

Presented by
Independent Collaborative and
Family Law Attorneys

Amanda Andrae | 512.382.2989
Catherine Benouis | 512.479.7990
Amy Lambert | 512.472.1919
Cristi Trusler | 512.481.0330
Melissa Williams | 512.477.5448

the next DIVORCE OPTIONS seminar will be held on

Thursday, January 22, 2009

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Mira Vista Building

2705 Bee Caves Road, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78746

Divorce Options is an informational session about various divorce process alternatives available in Texas, followed by question and answer time. No individual advice will be given.

Limited space available; reserve your spot by calling Erika at 512.477.5448

For more information: www.texasdivorceoptions.com

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Free Yoga Groundhog Day	3 Facility Committee Meeting	4	5 New Owner Orientation	6	7 Hike & Bike
8	9 Free Yoga	10 Social Committee Meeting	11	12 Estate Planning	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Free Yoga Presidents Day Girls Night Out	17 Field Lottery	18	19 ABC's of Making Money for teens	20 Free Scapbooking	21 Chili Cook-off
22	23 Free Yoga	24 SRMA Board Meeting	25 Ash Wednesday	26 SRROA Board Meeting	27	28 Summer Camp Fair

MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Free Yoga	3	4	5	6 Movie in the Park	7 Run the Ranch
8	9 Free Yoga	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Free Yoga Spring Break	17 Spring Break	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20 Spring Break	21
22	23 Free Yoga	24	25	26	27	28 Pets Day in the Park
29	30 Free Yoga	31				

ANNOUNCE YOUR EVENT

Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner? Email the information about your group's event to thestar@peelinc.com and it will be included on the calendar.

New Solar Tax Credit

Save up to **70%** on your system.

By combining the new Federal Tax Credit with local incentives and our Steiner Ranch "Neighborhood Solar Program," it has never been more affordable to go solar. Contact us to see how purchasing solar with your neighbors is good for your wallet and good for the planet.



WHY GO SOLAR?

- Up to \$13,500.00 in city rebates
- 25+ years of savings
- Energy independence
- Tax free ROI



512.904.9006 | www.solarcommunity.net | 2401 E Sixth St. Suite 4063

Long Term Care: Manage the Costs

Submitted by Rich Keith

Yearly long term care costs have increased 15% since 2004 to nearly \$75,000 in 2007. And 75% of Americans have no long term care plans.

A recent survey from Genworth Financial's 2007 Cost of Care Survey found the average national cost of care for nursing homes, assisted living facilities and in the home has steadily increased over the past four years and has reached new highs that exceed most household incomes in the U.S. The rising costs of long term care may, therefore, present difficulties for many Americans should they need to pay for long term care out of their own pockets.

A separate national poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies for Genworth Financial with input from the Alzheimer's Association found that 75 percent of Americans have made no long term care plans and 59 percent expressed concern about being able to pay for long term care. Almost half of the respondents (44 percent) incorrectly believe that Medicare or their private health insurance will pay for their long term care needs. In actuality, health insurance and the federal Medicare program do not generally cover long term care.

Genworth's annual benchmark study surveyed more than 11,000 nursing homes, assisted living facilities and home care providers. It was conducted by CareScout between January and February 2007 to gain a comprehensive view of long term care expenses. The survey is available at www.genworth.com.

According to the survey, the average national cost in 2007 of a single year in a private nursing home room is \$74,806. To put this into context, one year in a private nursing home room costs nearly one and a half times the average full 4-year college degree in the U.S., including tuition, room and board. Note the College Board's national average for public colleges is \$51,184 for four years, making a single year in a nursing home 46 percent more expensive.

The cost of assisted living facilities has also increased sharply in the last four years, by more than 13 percent, to a new annual average cost of \$32,573 for a one-bedroom unit.



If given the choice between care in a facility such as a nursing home or an assisted living facility and care at home, 75% of national poll respondents said they would prefer care at home. However, the hourly rate for a home health aide has increased 2.7 percent since Genworth's 2004 Cost of Care Survey. The average cost for a 40-hour per week home health aide – \$52,977 a year – is more than the median household income in the U.S. of \$46,272.

The Alzheimer's Association recently reported that the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease has increased 10 percent in the last five years and that someone in America develops Alzheimer's every 72 seconds. Seventy-two percent of poll respondents said that the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease makes planning for their long term care more important to them. Following are key findings from the survey, broken out by major category.

Nursing Homes: The average annual national cost of a private room in a nursing home is \$74,806 or \$204 per day, reflecting a 14.8 percent increase over 2004 rates. This remains the most costly care option.

Assisted Living: A private one-bedroom unit in an assisted living facility has an average annual cost of \$32,573, a 13 percent increase since 2004.

Home Care: The average hourly rate for Medicare/Medicaid certified and state licensed home health aides is \$25.47 an hour, a cost that translates to a \$52,977 per year for 40 hours per week.

With so many Baby Boomers heading into retirement, it's critical that long term care planning be integrated into every adult's retirement strategy. Paying for just a few years of long term care out of pocket can very easily deplete an entire life's savings and retirement. Not planning ahead can also limit the variety of choices available, such as the ability to live independently at home with assistance from a home health aide. Source: Genworth Financial, Inc.

It's Tax Time! Call Jim

Tax Preparation Services

- e-File
- 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.

Bookkeeping Services

- Hourly or monthly fees

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



Stacey Hurley-Rider
Realtor®

12104 Estrada Court
Austin, TX 78732
Stacey@MitzkatRealty.com
www.MitzkatRealty.com
512.423.8122

Excellence in Real Estate
Listening to what YOU want!

*Your greatest treasures in life
can be found wherever you
invest your time, attention
and resources.*



Central Texas Real Estate
Mitzkat & Associates



Three Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2009? If so, you might be interested in a few of the business networking groups in the area. There are a few to choose from:

Steiner Ranch Referrals BNI Group

Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:30 at Cups and Cones in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Elicia Rudberg at Elicia@AustinRelocationResource.com for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

Four Points BNI

Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 at the River Place Country Club. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Amy Oehler at Amy@Lending360.net or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

A Business Referral Group Made Fun

Networking Northwest Austin is expanding its member base of businesses in our area. NWNWA members build close business and personal relationships. We believe in business by referrals and having a limited member base (not duplicating professions), so you will not see your competitors here. We have a caring, positive, involved group of people who not only wish to build their business, but also want to build the strength of our networking group. NWNWA meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Waterloo Ice House, 360 & FM 2222 from 7:00 am – 8:30am. And a fun happy hour once per month at a beautiful location. Come to a breakfast or call Dorothy Scarborough – President dscarborough5@austin.rr.com, 512-589-3678.

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

FOUR POINTS TUTORING, offers one-on-one tutoring in all core academic subjects. We serve all ages, pre – kindergarten through adult. Our tutors are experienced educators that are passionate about helping students learn! For further information contact us at 512-497-4355 or Fourpointstutoring@sbcglobal.net.

Science & Math Tutoring @ Steiner Ranch: College/High school: CHEMISTRY, all MATH, PHYSICS. **Middle/Elementary School:** Math Homework Help, PACE, TAKS, Math Enrichment Programs. Many References! **Dr. Anjali Sharad** @ 512 853 9624 or excel.science@gmail.com



COME, STAY, PLAY, AND LEARN

FREE Play Day Coupon

Our Tuesday/Thursday play days at Taurus Lake Travis are staffed by behavior experts who want to help enhance your relationship with your dog.

Taurus Lake Travis | RR 620 North

512.266.3005 | laketraavis@taurusdogtraining.com

Valid only at Taurus Lake Travis. One coupon per household. Advance reservation required. For current, required vaccination information and our contract for services, visit www.taurusdogtraining.com. Expires 2/26/09.

Star

- **RR 620 North, near Lakeway and Steiner Ranch | 512.266.3005**
- South Lamar Blvd. at Barton Springs Rd. | 512.442.3416
- McNeil Rd. at Hwy. 183 | 512.258.5588
- Metric Blvd. at Parmer Lane | 512.832.1012

Boarding • Training • Doggy Play Day
www.taurusdogtraining.com



Facing The Loss Of Your Job?

Submitted by Weston Sythoff

As the economic down-turn continues, more and more people are at risk of losing their job as a result of downsizing or business closures. While the overall economic and job picture here in the Austin area and Texas is still good, job losses are occurring.

People react differently to job loss. Emotions can range from denial to panic, anger, and depression. Stress from job loss can affect people not only emotionally but physically and can affect relationships with family and friends.

When you lose a job, don't let grass grow under your feet. Begin looking for your next job immediately, even if you received a severance package. The longer you wait to start your job search, the longer it will take you to achieve results. Here are a few helpful tips for moving forward:

- File for Unemployment Insurance. In Texas you can apply by phone or online. Locally in the Austin area, call 512-340-4300 or 1-800-939-6631. Online, go to www.texasworkforce.org.
- Begin looking for your next job by registering for work online at www.workintexas.com.
- If you have questions regarding retirement and health care coverage check out www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/dislocated_workers_brochure.html.
- Take some time to look at what has happened. Was the loss of your job due to current economic conditions or changes/trends in the industry? Is it time to consider a possible career change – a new industry or a new occupation? Is it time learn new skills or improve on the one's you already have?

Free Educational Seminars in Personal Finance

- Estate Planning and Long Term Care, February 12
- ABCs of Making Money for Teens, February 19 (for teens)
- ABCs of Talking to Your Kids About Money, March 12 (for parents)
- ABCs of Making Money for Teens, March 19 (for teens)
- Money 101 for your 401(k), March 26 - Satisfies IRS 404(c) educational requirements for employers.
- Women and Finance, April 2
- Education Funding, April 16

All seminars are free, educational and with no obligation. Seminars are held in Steiner Ranch. To RSVP contact rkeith@primerica.com Rich Keith (512) 266-8498.

Love Your Skin Again

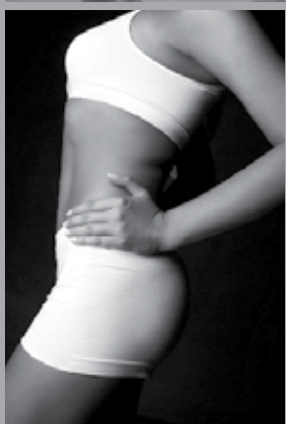
This February, show your skin some love. Steiner Ranch Dermatology offers the latest lip and wrinkle filler products which return your skin to a youthful appearance and texture. Schedule a consultation appointment with our expert staff and treat yourself or a loved one to beautiful skin. For more information, visit www.steinerranchdermatology.com



STEINER RANCH
Dermatology

4300 N Quinlan Park Rd. St. 225
Austin, TX 78732 | Ph: 512.266.0007
www.steinerranchdermatology.com





ABS, ABS & MORE ABS

Morning and Mid-Morning Classes!

NO EXCUSES

STEINER RANCH BOOTCAMP!

February 9 - March 6

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

***NEW!** *Mid-Morning Class • M, T, Th • 8:00 am - 9:00 am*
Child Supervision and Activities for Kids Ages 3 to 5

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

Virus and Spyware and Mail... Oh My!

Submitted by Laurie Scott

Here we are in 2009, and the days of thinking that our anti-virus and anti-spyware software will protect us is over. We live in a time when organized crime all over the world is trying to either get your personal information directly or turning your computer into a “zombie” that without your knowledge attacks other computers or sends out spam. Even Apple computer has posted (rather quietly) a recommendation that Mac users consider using anti-virus software.

The generic term for viruses, spyware, etc. is malware, and malware authors are getting more and more creative in getting their hands into your computer. A particularly nasty approach being used is to trick you by popping up a window that says your computer is being scanned for viruses, and that upwards of 40 have been found. It instructs you to click on a button to download their “anti-virus” software to clean your system. When you click on that button, you’ve just allow the spyware onto your system. It is a very convincing window and looks legitimate. Once downloaded, it adds insult to injury by telling you need to purchase the software to actually remove the viruses. Of course, it doesn’t remove any spyware or virus, and getting you to send them money is just icing on their cake. The most common names for this program is WinAntiVirus 2008 (and now a 2009



version) and Pro AntiSpyware.

The problem with these and many other malware programs is that they are increasingly difficult for your anti-virus and anti-spyware program to detect and almost impossible to completely remove. Many threats appear before the anti-virus companies even have a chance to update their software, leaving you completely unprotected.

So how can you keep your computer safe from such threats? The first thing you must do is be sure to keep your anti-virus up to date. If your subscription has expired, you should either renew it or else use one of the free anti-virus programs like AVG Free or Avast (they have paid versions but you don’t need them). Microsoft’s anti-spyware program “Defender” is included with Vista and can be downloaded free from Microsoft for Windows XP. Though the threat for Macs is low, programs like ClamXav and MacScan are available, as are programs from Symantec and McAfee.

Next is keep your operating system up to date. Both Microsoft and Apple frequently issue updates, and it’s very important you patch your computer before the bad guys worm their way in.

Finally and most important is your behavior when using your computer. You can own a Volvo or Mercedes with 12 airbags and 5-way seat belts, but if your behavior is to drive 120 miles an hour, those safety features aren’t going to help you when you hit a solid wall. Likewise, when you’re using your computer, don’t click on links or open attachments in email, even if it’s from someone you know – they may not even know they sent it! If you’re expecting it, then ok. Don’t click on email links that look like they came from your bank, many people have given their banking login information to thieves because they thought they were logging into their bank, but really weren’t. If you use Internet Explorer, be sure you’ve upgraded to version 7 (click on Help | About to see the version number.) If you’re using Firefox, you should be using version 3. Safari users should be at 3.2 (4.0 will be released sometime “soon”.) Don’t click on pop-up’s, and don’t download music sharing sites like LimeWire, where malware is EVERYWHERE. Follow those few tips and you’ll enjoy a much safer computing experience.



Come by and hang out, enjoy the outdoors on our patio, or take it to go with our quick online ordering!



*Now offering
Weekend Brunch!*

Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. 11am - 10pm
Sat. and Sun. 10am - 10pm

512.266.2330
www.lakesidepizzagrill.com

WILD Basin FITNESS

Who knew ...

that when **Kirk Leavell** trained his first client 17 years ago he would go on to provide personal training to everyone from **celebrities to athletes** create two of Austin's most **highly-acclaimed** fitness facilities, and build an **online fitness and nutrition** website that serves clients all over the US? We caught-up with Kirk between training sessions to find out what motivates him, his personal fitness philosophy, and what he sees in the future.

Kirk Leavell



Train with a **purpose**.

Whether you are a professional athlete, stay-at-home mom, or business executive, you must train with a clear purpose and goal. You don't need to run a marathon or bench press 300 pounds to call yourself "**fit**".

I train one-on-one for those who have specific issues and goals, but prefer group training. The group setting provides additional motivation and creates a higher level of accountability.

The **key** to success.

Variety. I mix-up my workouts weekly and my clients know to **expect different workouts** each time they come in. And as a firm believer in variety, I play golf and tennis, lift weights, ski, wakeboard, trail run and mountain bike.

Standing apart from the crowd

I started Wild Basin Fitness in 1996 and built a business founded on hard work and dedication. We opened in Westlake with 30 clients and built our business on referrals and word-of-mouth.

I love the size of Wild Basin. It's big enough to always have something going on, but not so large that you get lost in the crowd. We've been blessed with some of the best and most qualified trainers in the country as well as the most dedicated and hardworking group of instructors and front desk staff I've seen in nearly 20 years in the business.

What does the **future** hold?

We will, of course, continue to offer the personalized service that our clients have come to expect. But we also look forward to expanding our business to serve student athletes and folks that can't workout at Wild Basin.

We have recently launched a series of **Student Athlete Sports Conditioning Camps**, helping kids 8-15 improve their conditioning levels and excel in their sports.

We've also introduced a new **Online Fitness and Nutrition** service, providing customized workouts and nutrition advice. It's great for people that can't get to a gym and for people that travel and want the guidance of a personal trainer even when they're on the road.

*"We laugh, share stories,
and work our way to a
healthier lifestyle with
Kirk's help. The Wild
Basin family provides the
motivation to workout
hard and still have fun."*

Jade A.

Winter Special

Join now for only \$99!

Come in or go to www.WildBasinFitness.com

Wild Basin Fitness
Be what you want to be.

Sudoku

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

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

© 2007. Feature Exchange

SUPERIOR PAINTING & WOOD ROT REPAIR

PROMPT - RELIABLE - AFFORDABLE - SINCE 1993

INT./EXT. PAINTING - SIDING REPLACEMENT
DOOR/WINDOW INSTALLATION - TRIM CARPENTRY

EXTENSIVE REFERENCES - FREE ESTIMATES
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

SUPERIORPAINTING@CENTURYTEL.NET
512-426-8997

STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

- water pressure problems
- sewer & drain service • fiber optic drain line inspections
- free estimates • satisfaction guaranteed

Steve Brougner
276-7476

1106 West Koenig Lane

Master License: M-11465



Austin Newcomers Club Luncheon

February 18, 2009

Have you kept that New Year's Resolution to take better care of yourself? It is not too late and Diane Young, with her inspiring story of her rise in the beauty care industry, can be just the kick start to boost your self esteem and get you on the road to the improved you.

Diane started right her graduating with a B.S. from the University of Texas, then completed coursework on her Masters at Fordham University. A quest to learn was enriched with her studies from around the world, which lead her to Europe and the Bretlands Beauty Institute in Royal Turnbridge Wells, England, the Christian Chaubeau Institute in Paris, France, and completed sessions at the Elizabeth Jones Aromatherapy Program in Vienna, Austria. Her business sense prompted her to open her own skin care salon in New York City in 1982, where she pioneered her Anti-Aging beauty treatments on New York's prestigious East 57th St.

Diane has witnessed time and again how "makeup magic" can transform a woman's self esteem and has reached out to even more people by introducing her products on QVC and appearing on the Oprah Winfrey show twice. A woman that has been named by Harper's Bazaar as "one of the four top beauty experts in the world" as well as a "living legend in skin care" by a leading trade publication will share her passion and experience. What a wonderful career helping women feel beautiful.

Pauline Stockbauer, Publicity

Austin Newcomers Club, 236-8326

Luncheon Information

Social:	11:00 AM
Luncheon:	12:00 Noon
Cost:	\$20.00 per person
Speaker:	Diane Young
Location:	Green Pastures Restaurant 811 W. Live Oak Austin, TX 78703

For Registration Information

Website:	www.austinnewcomersclub
Phone:	314-5100

Britt's Book Buzz

Submitted by Brittany Jedrzejewski

Pure entertainment, minimal effort

Every time Nicolas Sparks has a new book releasing around Christmas time, I always put in on my wish list. It always provides a fun, easy read and The Lucky One is no different. As long as you keep your expectations in check and temporarily overlook the multitude of clichés, gender stereotypes, predictability and overused character traits, this quick page turner is pure entertainment with very minimal effort. As a frame of reference, I've read just about every one of Sparks' books and I rank this one towards the bottom (The Notebook being the best).

The main character finds a picture of a mysterious woman while in Iraq and goes in search of her by foot upon his return home. He is led to believe that she has brought him luck and safety while at war. Essentially, he finds her and they fall in love...with a few bumps in the road. Does the fairy tale last forever? This is something I shall save for you to find out.

One portion of the book keeps coming to mind, which is the soldier's realization that the stresses of everyday life are minimal in comparison to being in a warzone where you see death and barely survive—a good reminder about putting everything into perspective.

I particularly enjoyed the relationship that the main character had with his dog—that was endearing.

On a final note, I must argue that the ex-husband's behavior at the very end of the book isn't consistent with the build-up throughout and I am left unmoved at the outcome.

Okay, now I am back to reading something a bit more robust and discussion-worthy. But it sure was a fun page turner. And, I'll still ask for the Sparks' next novel when it is released.

Feel free to comment on this review or your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review at brittanyjed@hotmail.com.

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

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 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Advertise YOUR business to YOUR neighbors for less than 3¢ per home.

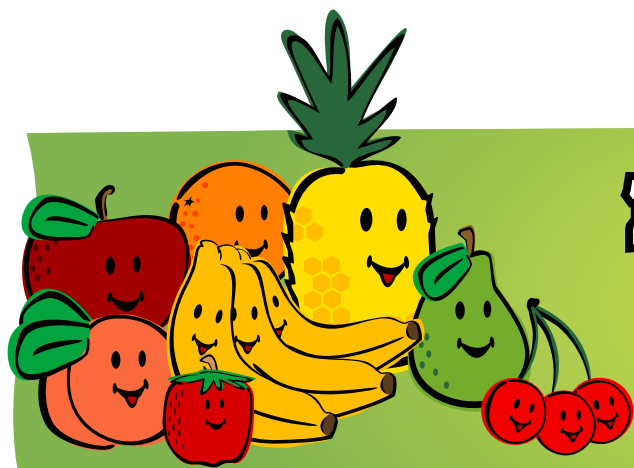
Effective Advertising, Done Right.

Call today to Reserve your space.

Peel, Inc.
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

512-263-9181
www.PEELinc.com

SR



NEW FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID FOR PRESCHOOLERS

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

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

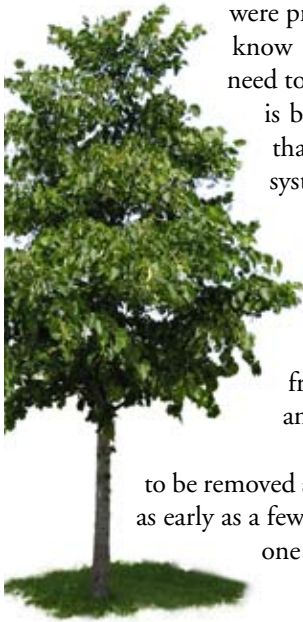
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78732

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

Dr. Devine and Dr. Hawthorne are General Dentists

News You Can Use

What's at Stake? *The Health of Your Trees*



Most of us have trees in our front yards that were provided by our home builders. Did you know that the stakes supporting these trees need to be removed within the first year? This is because stakes provide artificial support that replaces a supportive trunk and root system.

Movement of the trunk helps strengthen the tree by thickening it and giving it taper from bottom to top. Trunk movement also stimulates root growth. The artificial support from the stakes leaves tree trunks weak and their root systems less developed.

Bottom line - all staking material needs to be removed after roots have established. This can be as early as a few months, but should be no longer than one growing season.

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

Your Steiner Ranch Triathlon Coaching Firm

TrevAthlete.com

Train Smart... Race Fast!!!



- Train Where You Live!
- Beginners, Elites and Youth
- Private, Group and Online
- USA Triathlon Certified
- USA Cycling Certified

www.TrevAthlete.com

512-266-0432

Lakeway Pediatric Associates



Come meet the doctor
for a no charge, no
obligation visit.
Call 512 -328-2266 to
schedule an appt.

- Friendly, personalized and professional pediatric care.
- School and camp physicals, sick and well child exams for your children from birth through late adolescence.
- Board certified physician.
- Accepting new patients and contracted with most insurances.

Shubha Adeni MD; FAAP

900 RR 620 South, Suite C 201, Lakeway, Texas 78734

Phone: 512 -328-2266 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 AM to 5 PM



Lake Travis PROPANE STATION

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Located at La Hecinda RV Resort
5320 Hudson Bend Rd, Austin TX 78734
(512)266-8001

Breaking News

Hugh Jackman Drinks Water!



Okay, this is a shameful ploy to get you to stop and read this about the water we use & drink (Last month's issue with "Brad" / Don, was so successful I thought I would try it again), but what **is in our drinking water?**



Fluoride is a poison! Although you know its good for teeth development, **you may not know** it's bad to drink and after age 14 it is useless!



Heavy Metals are sometimes found in drinking water. Many times the plumbing systems are the contributors. (Lead based welding solder, nickel faucets, copper particles)



Micro-Organisms are often found like bacteria, viruses, nitrates, arsenic, and VOC's. Its obvious we don't want to drink any of that!



Chlorine is used to clean our water yet, it's still a poison. Do we really want to have ourselves and our children **drinking** a poison?

Most people buy **bottled water** thinking they are drinking safe water. There are 2 kinds of bottled water, 'Spring Water' **not** regulated By FDA, (Food and Drug Admin.) which can be any kind of water from any source and 'Purified Water' which is Regulated by the FDA, that is 99.6% pure water.

So you ask, "**How can I do something about this potentially harmful water?**". Well the solution is easy! We can install a 'state of the art' filter system under your kitchen sink that will give you up to 99.6% **pure water**-all for just pennies a bottle. You can still get the benefits of fluoride by brushing and rinsing in the lavatory and Chlorine still keeps the rest of your pipes clean and safe. By investing in a system from us, not only is it a safety choice, it is also a **GREEN CHOICE !** When you invest in a system from us, we will also give you **Two** Reusable Metal Bottles so you can fill and refill with your new pure water, and quit buying bottled water. You can feel good about not contributing to our landfills. (*Many Cities, Seattle, San Francisco, NY to name a few, are trying to ban plastic water bottles altogether to keep there landfills from filling up needlessly!*)

Confused? It can be somewhat confusing, so what I am proposing is, Call us at **512 328-2000** and **set an appointment for us to come out and test your water** for Total Dissolved Solids and Hardness **FOR FREE**- just mention this newsletter. What do you have to lose? I promise no "high pressure sales"!

Sincerely, *Will Hawkins* The Water Guru

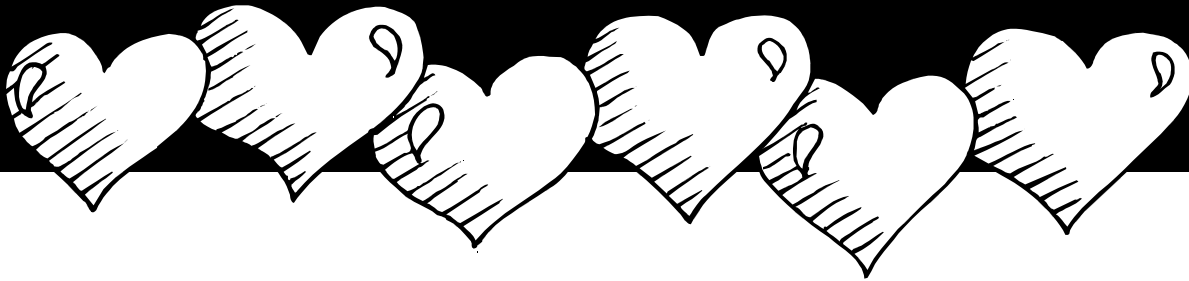


512-328-2000

ANY SERVICE

PLUMBING OR AIR CONDITIONING





February is American Heart Month

Submitted by Karen Behrend

February is American Heart Month! Here are some facts and tips to help you keep your heart healthy and help prevent Heart Disease.

COOL HEART FACTS:

- o The heart beats 2.5 billion times in a lifetime (65 yrs) (if you take care of it, maybe more!)
- o It takes 23-24 seconds for a drop of blood to circulate through the entire body
- o Your body pumps 1 million barrels of blood in a lifetime!
- o Your body has 60,000 miles of blood vessels
- o Every day over 650 Americans have coronary bypass surgery.

RISK FACTORS:

I. Unalterable Risk Factors you CAN NOT change:

- o Family History (father/brother had heart disease before age 55, or mother/sister before age 65).
- o Gender (men have a higher risk)
- o Age (Men over 45 and Women over 55 are at increase risk)

II. Risk Factors you CAN alter:

- o High Blood Pressure (three readings at 140/90 in a month, see your doctor)
- o Smoking (#1 preventable cause of heart attacks in the US. Smokers have a 70% great risk than nonsmokers). Tough habit to break, but sooner or later you will quit!
- o Cholesterol (Blood cholesterol of 200 mg/dl is desirable, 239 mg/dl is borderline and 240 mg/dl+ is high) Know your numbers and get a complete breakdown of your total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and Triglycerides. Have your doctor explain the numbers to you!
- o Obesity (more than 30% of your desirable weight) Eating too much of the wrong foods can make you fat! Focus on 5 fruits or veggies a day for the next 20 days.

- o Physical Inactivity (Choose to move! 30-60 minutes 3-4 times a week!)

III. Other contributing Factors

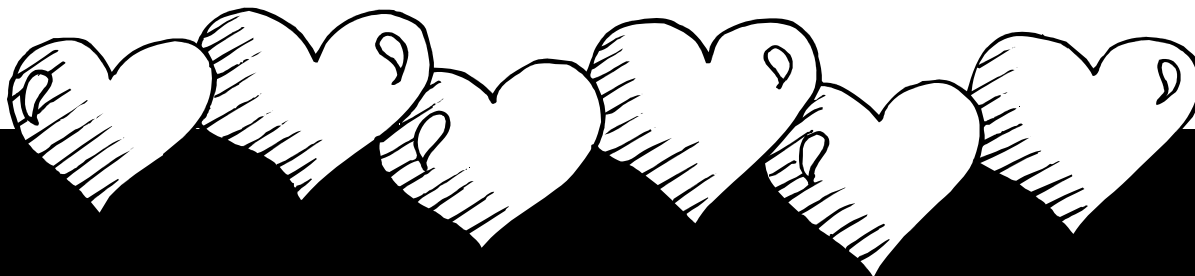
- o Diabetes
- o Stress/Tension
- o Hormonal Factors
- o Alcohol

Primary Risk Factors have the strongest relationship to heart disease (family history, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and physical inactivity), when two or more of these are present, the likelihood of heart disease greatly increases.

10 TIPS TO HELP DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS AND PREVENT HEART DISEASE IN YOUR FAMILY

Take care of your heart and your children's hearts by:

1. Regular daily physical activity (walk, bike, hike together)
2. Participate in age-appropriate sports, lesson or clubs. Let kids try a variety and find what they like
3. Participate in household chores (the physical kind)
4. Follow a healthy diet; low in fat and high in complex carbohydrates. Be supportive. Focus on positive instead of negative. Praise for a job well done!
5. Don't reward kids with food...find other ways to celebrate!
6. Be supportive. Focus on positive instead of negative. Praise for a job well done!
7. Limit TV, video game and computer time...disconnect from it! 1-2 hours a day max!
8. Be a positive role model and practice what you preach
9. Set goals and limits. Daily activity, 1-2 desserts a week
10. Learn CPR. The next life you save may be someone you love!



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Send Us Your Event Pictures!!

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.

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.

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.

STOP BLAMING IT ON THE DRYER.

Excuses will not get you back into your skinny jeans. Personal training at our private studio will. At Fitness Together, it's just you, your personal trainer and results. Start today.



© 2009 Fitness Together

1 Client 1 Trainer 1 Goal

Fitness Together - Austin | 10601 FM 2222, Suite N
512.241.1700 | www.ftaustin.com



**PATRIOT CAR WASH
STEINER RANCH
- 1815 RR 620**

(Just North of Debba Drive, next to Carquest
- 3 miles South of Mansfield Dam)

**Brushless Automatic Car
Wash with Covered Vacuums**

- ALWAYS OPEN -
Attendant on duty
9AM-5:30PM
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun.

**BEAUTIFUL, WELL-
MAINTAINED FACILITY**
*Patriot Car Wash is environmentally
friendly, using bio-degradable
products to clean your vehicles and
to keep our rivers and lakes clean.*



**RECOMMENDATION
FOR A CLEAN VEHICLE**

Weekly:

Use Patriot Car Wash

Monthly:

Use a Full Service Wash

Yearly:

Detail Your Vehicle

- Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200

Lakeway, TX 78734

We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: February 28th



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.]

**WILL YOU
BE MY
VALENTINE?**

Steiner Ranch

Meet Rebecka

As we look forward to 2009, maybe we have kids graduating from high school, maybe we ourselves decided to go back to school, or maybe we are looking forward to a career change. Either way, we are looking forward to this year with optimism and hope – hope for health and happiness. Whatever our goals



are for the new year, the children in foster care remain in pretty much the same place, with the same goals. You see, the children were removed from their homes, from their families – not because of something they did, but something their parents did. Now, they live in a temporary foster care system wondering what the future holds. Foster care is a time for these children to heal, but it is not the end. It is supposed to be a temporary system until the children can move on to permanency, and permanency being the safe, stable and loving family that will be there for them forever.

Meet Rebecka. She has been in foster care a few years and has hopes. Her biggest hope is that someone will love her enough to claim her. Her other hopes include the person, or family, being patient enough for her to learn and grow, and catch up for all of the time missed. For some children, they need that one on one time, the time to be special, the time to feel the object of others attention.

Rebecka, 11, is an active, intelligent and engaging child, who needs direction, and assistance in staying focused. Rebecka likes to read, listen to country music, sing, attend church and play with friends. Rebecka is talented, intelligent and a gifted vocalist. She likes to play with kids her age. Rebecka however, at this time, requires supervision while with peers. She vies for attention. She is a young girl with a beautiful smile and a lot of potential. Although she may exhibit challenging behaviors, she will thrive with a committed family.

Rebecka would benefit from being adopted by parents who have strong parenting skills. Rebecka will need time to bond. She would benefit from a permanent placement with a loving, supportive and understanding family where she continue to grow and learn. Rebecka needs consistent care from parents who will promote her future success. If you would like to learn more about adoption from foster care, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at info@adopttexas.org or 512-301-2825. If you are interested in learning more about Rebecka, contact Grace Lindren, LMSW, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter/Adoption Coalition of Texas

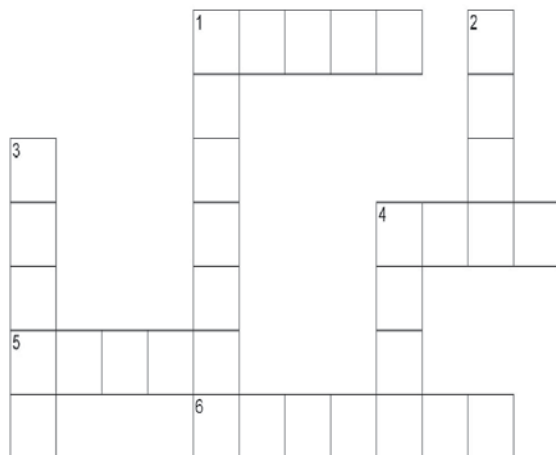
512-687-3209/fax 512-692-2540, gracelindgren@adopttexas.org.

If you are interested, you can view a story with Rebecka on News 8 Austin Forever Families – just click the link: http://www.news8austin.com/content/living/forever_families/?ArID=226023&SecID=428

Photo Courtesy of the Adoption Coalition of Texas/The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, Photo by HJ Brockway, Photo Gusto

Kids Crossword Puzzle

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



ACROSS

Clue

1. Queen's headdress
4. Opposite of first
5. Computer mail
6. Squeeze or hold

DOWN

Answer Clue

- Last 1. To laugh
- Embrace 2. Throw or pass
- Crown 3. Something to spend
- Email 4. Melted rock

Answer

- Money
- Lava
- Toss
- Chuckle

© 2007. Feature Exchange



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

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



www.VallureRealty.com

VALLURE™
R E A L T Y

FULL-SERVICE
BUYER & SELLER
REPRESENTATION

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

Nicole Peel
Broker/Owner

**Why Not Get Paid for Your Efforts?
Earn a 2% Rebate* on Your Home Purchase!**

*See website for rebate guidelines. Rebate is subject to client consent.

Peel, Inc.

311 Ranch Road 620 S. Ste 200
Lakeway, TX 78734-4775

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

☎ **Voice 512-263-9181**

💻 **www.PEELinc.com**

SR