

THE STAR

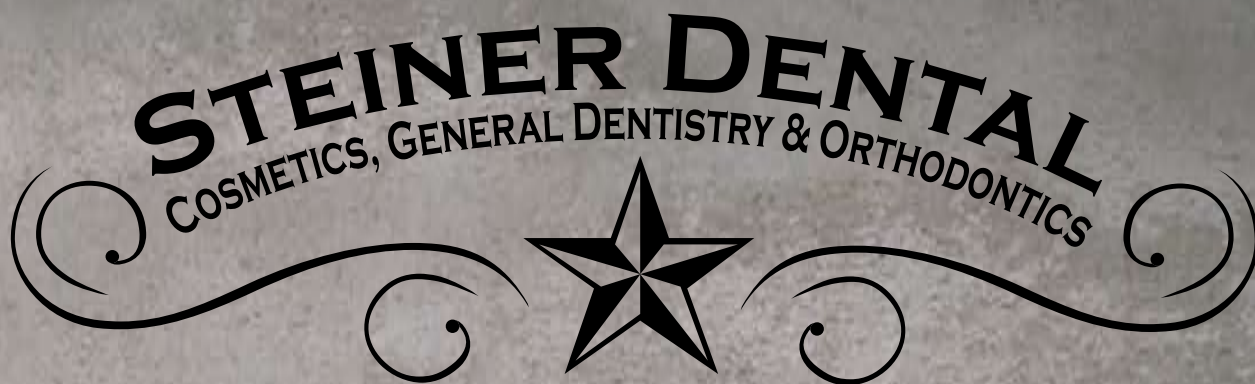
News for the Residents of Steiner Ranch

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6
JUNE 2009



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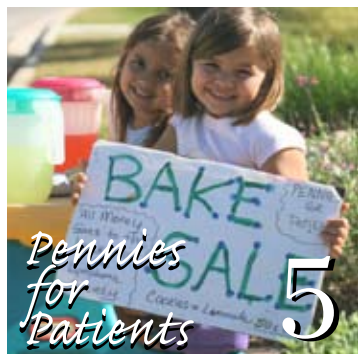
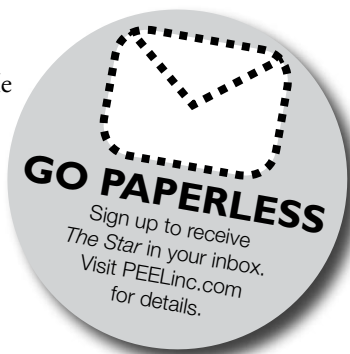
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue Administration Office.....	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 & Recycle).....	512-282-3508
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

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

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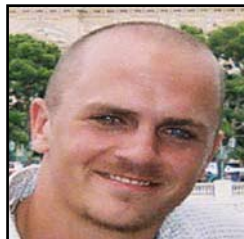
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Please support the advertisers that make The Star possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the issue.

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.

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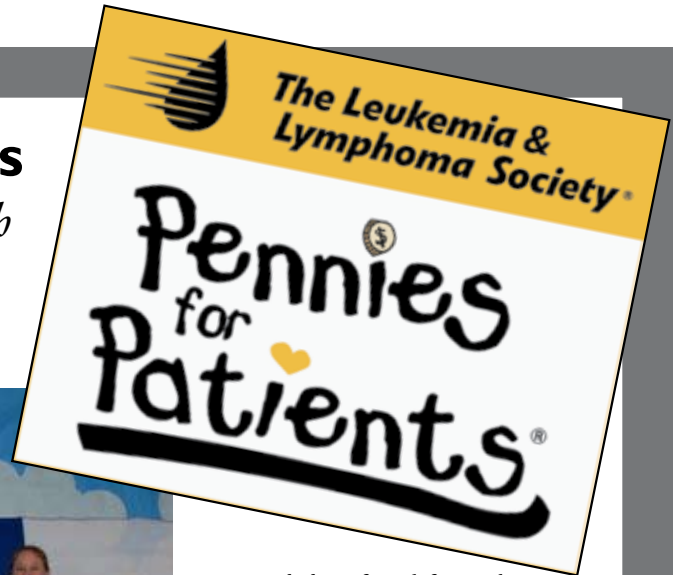
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Loose Change Saves Lives

*Local School Raises Over \$12,000 through
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's
School & YouthSM Programs*



Pictured above from left to right are Buddy B. Drop from the Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center; Shirley Bennett, Principal of SRE; Elizabeth Muenzler, Executive Director, LLS Central Texas Chapter; Noah Colbeck; Kevin Phillips and Doug Colbeck, leukemia survivors; Chandler Colbeck; Veronica Glass, LLS Pennies for Patients Program Coordinator; Kellie Lambert, SRE 4th-Grade Teacher; and Mrs. Lambert's class, which raised over \$2,000 during the campaign.

The Central Texas Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society recently completed its annual *Pennies for Patients* fundraising campaign, bringing in over \$220,000 this year to help find cures for cancer and provide help and hope to thousands of patients and their families. Overall the chapter had participation from more than 195,000 students in 316 schools.

Students at Steiner Ranch Elementary of Leander ISD collected more than \$12,200 during this year's three-week *Pennies for Patients* campaign, ranking it for the fourth year in a row as the top school in the Central Texas Chapter's 46-county region. SRE hosted a school-wide celebration and check presentation on May 5, 2009, to commemorate its success. Since 2004, SRE has raised nearly \$35,000 for the cause through *Pennies for Patients*.

The LLS School & Youth programs, *Pennies for Patients* and its sister program, Olive Garden's *Pasta for Pennies*, and *Hop for Leukemia and Lymphoma*, are designed to teach children the value of community service in a fun way. Students spent three weeks during the 2008-2009 school year contributing their spare change and allowance and organizing and participating in other special fundraising activities, such as bake sales, dog-walking, lemonade stands, hand-made art and jewelry sales, extra chores, and other innovative methods to raise money and raise awareness about blood cancers. Top fundraising classrooms at SRE earned pizza parties and ice cream from Cups & Cones, Steiner Ranch's local ice cream shop. *Pictured right are SRE students Lauren Campbell & Ellie Seitzler at their lemonade stand.*

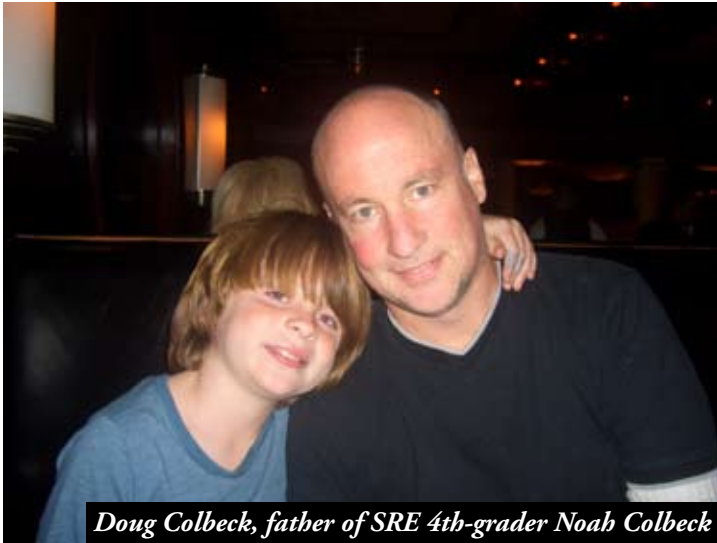
This year, SRE had a very personal connection with the cause. Doug Colbeck, father of SRE 4th-grader Noah Colbeck [pictured on page 6], was diagnosed in the summer of 2006 with a type of blood cancer called Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL). This particular type of blood cancer is both aggressive and resistant to treatments. Doug has endured multiple chemo treatments, bone

(Continued on Page 6)



Around Steiner

Pennies for Patients- (Continued from Page 5)



Doug Colbeck, father of SRE 4th-grader Noah Colbeck

marrow biopsy procedures, and an adult stem cell transplant which he just completed at MD Anderson in Houston. He served as SRE's Honored Hero for this campaign and plans to participate in SRE's celebration on Tuesday, where the students will have an opportunity to meet him for the first time.

Ironically, during the final week of this year's fundraising campaign, the father of one of Noah's classmates was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He is now receiving support and encouragement from an entire community whose awareness about blood cancers was raised by the tireless efforts of the students and staff of Steiner Ranch Elementary.

"Once again, our teachers, students, and parents wholeheartedly supported this program," said Nancy Phillips, volunteer coordinator for the SRE campaign. "We live in an amazing community. I can't describe how moved I've been by the stories I've heard about the generosity and compassion of our kids, their parents, and their teachers. I set this year's goal at only \$8,000 because of the economy. We not only met our goal...we broke our own fundraising record of \$10,000!" Phillips' husband, Kevin, now 47 and current president of the local Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Board of Trustees, was diagnosed at the age of 37 with leukemia when their daughter, Riley, was one month old. He has been in remission for 10 years. He commented, "We have a lot to learn from these kids about generosity."

"Thanks to research and patient support, about 88% of children with acute leukemia are now cured," said Elizabeth Muenzler, Executive Director of LLS's Central Texas Chapter. "But there still

(Continued on Page 7)



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Pennies for Patients- (Continued from Page 6)

is a long way to go. Leukemia affects more children than any other cancer. Our School & Youth Programs provide a meaningful way for kids to help kids. Every penny really does make a difference. Once again, Steiner Ranch Elementary has gone above and beyond to do their part in giving. I'm amazed and extremely grateful for their enthusiastic participation."

Since its inception in 1994, LLS School & Youth Programs have raised more than \$150 million through participation by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in White Plains, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit www.LLS.org or contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

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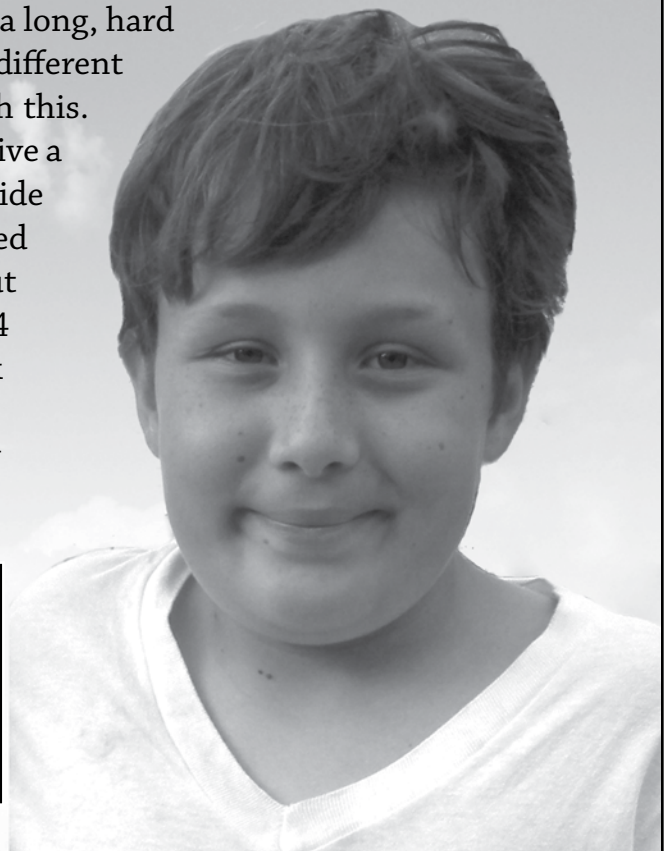
Helping a local.... Steiner Ranch Family

Nicholas Morales, a 5th grader, who attends LWBE here in Steiner Ranch, recently was hospitalized due to multiple epileptic seizures. While in hospital he suffered a rare allergic reaction, was in a coma for nearly a week, and in ICU at Dell Children's Hospital for nearly 3 weeks. The community came together to help the family with their extensive medical bills - which will be on-going for some time to come - by donating and taking part in a community-wide garage sale on April 18th on the grounds of LWBE. Over \$2,000 was raised. The school is also doing a coin drive of their own.

Although Nicholas is now home, the family has a long, hard road ahead of them; as Nicholas will need many different kinds of therapy in order for him to get through this.

If you missed the garage sale, but would like to give a monetary donation to help this family - who reside in our own community and are very much in need of our support - you can send a check made out to Richard Morales; c/o Tamara Crooks, 12724 Appaloosa Chase Drive, Austin 78732. Thank you for helping one of our own very special families, who is going through an unbelievably tough time.

*Please, let's join together
and help our neighbor.*





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Around Steiner

Pack 203 Tiger Cubs

Submitted by Deric Spindler



Pack 203 Tiger Cubs working to earn their citizenship belt loops picked up trash that accumulates in some of the green spaces. As part of their study of good citizenship, these cub scouts learned how being part of a community means that we have a responsibility to help address problems, and not assume that someone else will fix them. Collecting trash was just one the activities these cubs identified as things they could do to help their community..

From left to right: Sam Garcia, Ethan Spindler, Jake LaBarbiera, Tess LaBarbiera, Patrick O'Connor, (in foreground is Sam's brother).



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Steiner Ranch Resident



WCID #17 Mandatory Watering Schedule Started May 1st

Stage 1 – Mild Water Shortage Conditions Watering Schedule

– 2-Day per week:

- ODD Numbered address must water on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- EVEN Numbered address must water on Thursdays and Sundays.

For more information on WCID #17's Water Conservation visit www.wcid17.org

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual 4th of July Parade

When: July 4th, 9:00am

Where: John Simpson Park

Steiner Birthdays

June 1st – Rachel Campbell

June 8th – Amber McNeal

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Nominate Your Favorite Yard for The Star Yard Of The Month



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.

Congratulations to The Star Yard of The Month for May!

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Steiner Ranchers Are Fighting Again... *Fighting Cancer, That Is!*

Submitted by Kirsten Mulligan



Many Steiner Ranchers will start their summer by cycling 70 miles from Cedar Park to Lampasas, joining the Sense Corp Texas 4000 team in their fight against cancer. Texas 4000 for Cancer is the longest charity ride in the world...and it starts right here in Austin with the ATLAS Ride!

On Saturday, June 6, at 8:00 a.m. the Texas 4000 team will start their 4500-mile, 70-day cycling journey from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska—sharing Hope, Knowledge, and Charity along their way. Texas 4000 is an organization consisting of fifty passionate, young individuals, the majority being University of Texas students, whose lives have been touched by cancer. The organization has raised over \$1,411,250.00 benefitting The MD Anderson Cancer Center, The Children's Cancer Hospital, and The American Cancer Society in the last six years. Our goal is to raise over \$350,000.00 this year alone.

Steiner Ranchers have been involved at every level of the organization from the ATLAS Ride director to committee chairpersons to volunteers showing up on the day of the ride. We also have Steiner cyclists of every skill level registering to ride including first time cyclists and seasoned, competitive cyclists.

Nathasha Collmann and Kirsten Mulligan, along with other area community members, lead the planning committee for the ATLAS Ride—the first day of the Texas 4000—which rides the 70 miles from Cedar Park to Lampasas. “We each dedicate our ride honoring a friend, a neighbor, a survivor, or a fighter,” Mulligan says, “We ride for those who can’t.”

“The Steiner Ranch community plays a huge role in this event,” Collmann says, “We all have friends and family that have been diagnosed with cancer, many of whom go to UT’s MD Anderson Cancer Center for treatment.” For more information, visit www.atlasride.org or www.texas4000.org.

Great Hills Baptist Church SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Vacation Bible School | **June 15-19**

Going Beyond - Women's Conference
with Priscilla Shirer | **June 26-27**

Patriotic Celebration - Both Sunday Services
June 28

Children's Fine Art Workshop | **July 6-10**

Veggie Tales Day Camp | **July 27-31**

Middle / High School Camps at
Baylor University | **July 27-31**

Celebrate Recovery | **Mondays, 7 pm,
2nd floor of building A**

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am
Bible Life Groups for all ages

9:30 am
Celebration - Connection
Worship Choir & Orchestra

11:00 am
Life - Connection
Worship Band

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Around Steiner

Cedar Park Swimming Finishes 2008-2009 Short Course Strong

Submitted by Rob Alspaugh

Cedar Park Swimming finished up the Short Course season with a bang.

There were 27 Team and Personal Records set by 12 different swimmers:

Jaide Castle 50-Back

Jay Lenner – 100-Free

Josh Artmann – 50-Back, 100-Back, 100-Fly

Sheena Wang – 50-Free

Amanda Wu – 50-Breast, 100-Breast, 50 Fly, 100-Fly, 100-IM and 200-IM

Chris Flynn (Steiner Ranch) – 50-Free

Travis Beall – 200-Fly

Mackenzie Alspaugh – 100-Fly

Megan Ziemann – 100-Free, 100-Back, 200-Back, 100-Fly

Kelli McGee – 200-IM

Brent Aarons – 200-Free, 500-Free, 1000-Free, 1650-Free, 200-Back

Tom Gerken (Steiner Ranch) – 100-Breast, 200-Breast

Junior Olympics: 13-Swimmers qualified 26-Gold, 12-Silver, 6-Bronze, 8-4th place, and 3 Top-5 finishes

South Texas Age Group Swim:

34-Total Swimmers qualified. 5-Champions, 5-Silver, 9-Bronze, 7-4th, 8-5th, 11-6th, 4-7th, 3-8th, 4-Relays finishing top 2, Fielded 12-Relays

Texas Age Group Swim: 12-Swimmers qualified. Qualifying for finals in 11-events to include 3-Relays. Congratulations to Josh Artmann for taking two 2nd place finishes in the back stroke.

High School State: Brent Aarons, Ben Wiese both qualified for the Texas State High School Meet. Ben Wiese was part of the

5th place McNeil 200-Freestyle Relay team. Brent Aarons placed 10th in the State in the 500-Freestyle, and 9th in the 200-Freestyle Relay.

Swimmers receiving recognition and being named to the Texas All-State Team include Brent Aarons who placed 20th in the state in the 200-Freestyle, and 12th in the state for the 500 Freestyle. Megan Ziemann placed 17th in the state in the 200-Medley Relay, 20th in the 100-Back, and 20th in the 400-Freestyle. Ben Wiese placed 6th in the state in the 200-Freestyle Relay. Mackenzie Alspaugh placed 18th in the state in the 100-Fly, and 22nd in the state in the 100-Back.

Swimmers competing in Sectionals and all making the cut to swim finals include Brent Aarons, Tom Gerken and Megan Ziemann

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Steiner Stars Swim Team Schedule

2009 Red Team Swim Schedule

June

- 6th - **HOME** Swim Meet with Forest North Stingrays at Bella Mar Pool
- 9th - First day of morning practice
- 10th - Mini Golf at Daybreak
- 13th - **AWAY** Swim Meet with Round Rock Dolphins at Round Rock Pool
- 13th - Adult Social at Bella Mar Overlook - BYOB, no glass please
- 17th - Cookie Decorating
- 20th - **HOME** Swim Meet with Georgetown Aquadillos at Bella Mar Pool
- 22nd - Tubing in San Marcos
- 27th - **HOME** Swim Meet with Cedar Park Typhoons at Bella Mar Pool
- 29th - Round Rock Express Game - Swim Team Night

July

- 1st - Main Event Bowling
- 4th - **AWAY** Last Swim Meet with Anderson Mill Barracudas at Anderson Mill

- 8th - Alamo Draft House Afternoon Movie
- 11th - **HOME** Divisionals at Bella Mar Pool
- 12th - Invitationals at the UT Campus Pool
- 13th - Red/Blue End-of-Season Celebration from 5-8 p.m.

2009 Blue Team Swim Schedule

June

- 8th - First day of practice
- 9th - Mini Golf at Day Break
- 13th - Adult Social at Bella Mar Overlook - BYOB, no glass please
- 16th - Time Trial Meet
- 16th - Cookie Decorating
- 25th - Swim Meet
- 26th - Tubing in San Marcos
- 29th - Round Rock Express Game - Swim Team Night
- 30th - Main Event Bowling

July

- 2nd - Swim Meet
- 7th - Alamo Draft House Afternoon Movie
- 9th - Swim Meet
- 13th - Red/Blue End-of-Season Celebration from 5-8 p.m.



Mother's Day Out

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Travis County Sheriff Report

Steiner Ranch Vehicle Burglaries are Occurring in Your Area

In April 2009, there were 12 burglary of vehicles in the Steiner Ranch area. For the most part, the burglars have either broken out windows or door locks in order to enter the vehicles and steal property. In some instances, doors were left unlocked. In a majority of the cases the victims had left valuable property in their vehicles within plain view. Stolen items include items such as purses, GPS systems, ipods, and laptop computers.

Burglars generally look for easy targets. Please do not leave items such as these in your vehicle.

DON'T BE A VICTIM - SECURE YOUR VEHICLES AND VALUABLES - DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING IN YOUR VEHICLE THAT COULD BE STOLEN

In order to reduce the likelihood of being a victim, you should take the following precautions:

1. Lock your vehicle at all times.
2. Do not leave any valuable property in your vehicle. Burglars will generally not take the risk unless they know they will be able to quickly grab valuable items.

3. If you must leave items in your vehicle, be certain that they are not in view from outside the vehicle. Also conceal phone/GPS chargers and GPS suction cups that may be attached to your windshield.

4. Make an inventory list of all valuables. Include brand, model, serial number, any owner applied number, or any identifying markings (ie-scratches, markings).

5. Photograph your valuable items. Include close-up pictures of serial numbers and identifying marks.

6. Be aware of your surroundings. Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 for any "in-progress" suspicious activity. You can also call TCSO dispatch non-emergency # at **974-0845** to report any prior suspicious activity.

IF YOU SEE ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, DON'T TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE THE DISPATCHER THE BEST DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT OR SUSPECT VEHICLE (LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IF YOU CAN GET IT SAFELY)

(Continued on Page 17)

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Travis County Sheriff Report -
(Continued from Page 16)

If you have not already signed up for Citizen Observer, please sign up for Alerts from the Travis county Sheriff's Office at www.citizenobserver.com. It is a free service and you will get alerts from Travis County Sheriff's Office of crime trends that may be taking place in your neighborhoods.

If you have any information in reference to the recent break-ins, please feel free to contact me.

DETECTIVE JOHN LOUGHRAN
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WEST COMMAND

OFC-512-854-4310

FAX-512-854-9774

john.loughran@co.travis.tx.us

SPEEDING IN STEINER RANCH

PARKING ON THE STREET

Most homeowners have some space in their garage reserved for storage – in some cases most of the garage, thereby not leaving enough room for their vehicles. Consequently, many owners park their vehicles on the street making it difficult for others to pass and creating hazardous conditions for the children.

Although we're all anxious to get home to be with our families, speeding and reckless driving is against the law and endangers everyone. Steiner Ranch is a family oriented community with many children; for that reason before you speed or park on the street, please consider their well-being. Also, children playing in the street can unknowingly create a dangerous situation, especially on heavily traveled streets; the driver may not see the child, especially in the evening or after dark.

We all know that children have a tendency to move about impulsively and may inadvertently run into the street. Please don't let a tragedy happen before parking your vehicle off the street or obeying the speed limit. For the benefit of all the residents and children, and the overall appearance of your neighborhood, please do not park on the street. Make accommodations in your garage or driveway for your vehicles and keep your streets clear and safe for all and please, **DO NOT SPEED IN STEINER RANCH.**

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Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Submitted by Rich Keith

Colorful characters abound in the world of the Steiners in years gone by. One such person is M.H. Henry, a cowboy artist with 60 years of association with the family. He was able to translate years of rodeo and riding to canvas with his paintbrush.

M.H. Henry — known to family and friends as just plain “H” — is 86 today and he’s not fancy. His boots are off-brand, his Wranglers are held up by plain, black suspenders and his twisted back and sore knees come courtesy of too many rodeo rides. His friends call him just plain “H” and yes, H has his share of those giant belt buckles for rodeo wins. That’s about it, though, as far as material wealth. “I’ve got two saddles, one blanket, a couple of bridles and that old ‘84 van,” he says.

But this pure-bred cowboy still has tricks, even though he hasn’t ridden a bull since he was 61 and his home has been his van the past few years. For the time, he’s staying with his niece in Liberty Hill. But H has had his first art show in Austin recently.

Henry’s talent is bringing the Old West back to life through the inspired artwork he’s been producing since he was a kid in the hills of Burnet County, where he made his first drawings by carving into a creek sandbar with a stick.

“I used to get in trouble for that,” Henry says. “It’d make my dad mad. He said anybody who drew or played the fiddle wasn’t worth their salt.”

Henry kept at it, though, picking up the stubs of cedar pencils that others discarded during the Depression. His family were migrant sharecroppers. Memories and childhood stories still spill from his long, slender fingers to the canvas. One idea for a future painting is his parents’ unusual marriage. Henry’s mother was so bashful she wouldn’t get out of the carriage on her wedding day. So, the preacher came to her perch and married the young couple right there, the bride inside the buggy and the groom standing beside it.

Henry would find time between the dawn-to-dark chores to draw. He started with ranch brands and animals, but realized his work drew more attention if it showed people and their activities. “I drew on barn walls, planks and everything I could get ahold of,” he says.

The boy was transported by the colorful tales he heard from his grandfather, who drove cattle up the Chisholm Trail in the late 1800s. Images of the danger and drudgery of those trail rides have danced in his head for 80 years, inspiring much of the art he paints today.

(Continued on Page 19)

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Steiner Ranch History Corner - (Continued from Page 18)

In 2004, Henry was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, in part because of his artistic talents. He was honored for being a journeyman cowboy, as skilled in the rodeo arena as on a ranch breaking horses or herding cattle.

Perhaps the best known of Henry's art has been on display in Austin for 60 years. In the late 1940s, Henry designed and helped build the 17-foot tall cowboy boot sign hanging in front of the old Capitol Saddlery store, the boot and saddle shop opened by the late, legendary cowboy T.C. "Buck" Steiner at 1614 Lavaca St.

Henry served in the Pacific in World War II. In the 1950s, Henry began a 15-year tenure as one of Steiner's full-time workers. Steiner encouraged Henry's artistic talent and paid him to paint store windows with advertising when Steiner brought a rodeo to a new town.

Steiner bought Henry a set of bottled watercolors and paintbrushes at Woolworth's in San Angelo so Henry could paint the windows for the first time in the town of Ballinger for a rodeo.

Steiner hovered close by as Henry painted bucking horses and wild-eyed bulls on shop windows on the courthouse square. He made Henry load the window signs with lots of colors, and the merchants paid Henry \$200. "He was hard to work for," Henry says, "but the pay was good." Source: Adapted from an article by D.Gamino, Austin Statesman, Feb. 12, 2008. For more information contact RKeith@Primerica.com Rich Keith (512) 632-0162.

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WATER DISTRICT 17 WATERFEST A DAY OF FUN, EDUCATION

Submitted by Travis County WC & ID 17 - Article written by Debbie Gernes

Photos courtesy of Gernes, Field and Logan



In celebration of WCID 17's 50th Anniversary, hundreds of people turned out to attend the District 17's annual WaterFest on Saturday at the Hudson Bend Middle School. Attendees were treated to a variety of educational and fun activities as well as some delicious barbecue from Rudy's and great music from the Matt Dunham Band.

Water District 17 staff and board members were on hand to provide presentations and hands on activities to demonstrate where our drinking water comes from, how it is treated, and how best to conserve this precious resource. Water exhibits included scale models of the Eck Lane membrane microfiltration treatment plant, a demonstration of water testing as well as a taste test. An interactive computer program showed how various water pumping stations communicate and allowed participants to become a "virtual water operator" for a few minutes and practice keeping tanks full ahead of demand. Wastewater operators demonstrated the biological treatment process with photo posters and a look at beneficial bacteria through microscopes. Many customers also took advantage of the guided tours of the water and wastewater plants for a first hand look at the treatment centers.

The LCRA Water IQ team exhibit focused on water conservation, and one lucky customer won a wagonload of lawn care and conservation prizes. Demonstrations on topics such as detecting leaks, minimizing water waste, and maintaining efficient sprinkler systems helped customers to better understand and operate their outdoor irrigation systems.

Children were introduced to District 17's mascot, "Squirt," a fleet of heavy equipment, and had a fine time climbing onto a backhoe, rock saw and bobcat in their new orange vests and hardhats. They fished for toys in the "fish pond" and answered questions at several exhibits to earn prizes. Many people were fascinated by the wastewater collection department's "visible manhole" display which showed how the inside of wastewater lines can be examined by using a remotely controlled camera visible through the plexiglas "pipes".

Lake Travis Fire Rescue's Safety House display and fire engine were there to provide fire and general safety information, while the Travis County Sheriff's Department provided free vehicle etching to help deter one's auto from being stolen for parts. One parent upon exiting the Safety House said, "I really learned some things in there about how to handle a home fire situation with my family should such an unfortunate thing happen to us." The Hudson Bend Garden Club disseminated valuable information on native plants and xeriscaping for water conservation, with an array of attractive, drought tolerant plants given away as door prizes.

WaterFest is an annual event sponsored by Water District 17 at no cost to customers. The goal of the festival is to promote hands on public education about water issues in the Lake Travis area. Please join WCID17 in extending a warm thank you and support of our local businesses, listed in another article, that helped make this year's WaterFest a huge success.

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.



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LEANDER ISD

LISD School Board of Trustees Elections

*Don Hisle Re-Elected,
Lisa Mallory Elected to Place 1*

Incumbent Don Hisle was reelected Place 2 on the Leander ISD Board of Trustees, while Lisa Mallory was the top vote getter in Place 1 in the Saturday, May 9, election. Both will serve three-year terms.

Mallory will replace Don McCall who chose not to seek re-election.

The final vote, tallied by Travis and Williamson election officials was:

Place 1 (All Precincts Reporting)

Dustin J. Weibel.....	814.....	26%
James Spires.....	860.....	28%
Lisa Mallory	1,410.....	46%

Place 2 (All Precincts Reporting)

Nacole McDonald Thompson.....	825.....	27%
Don Hisle	1,520.....	49%
Nathan Deckinga	728.....	24%

Spanish Summer Camp for Elementary Students

Students will be immersed in the Spanish language for three fun-filled hours! Students will learn basic Spanish through games, songs, plays, food, dance, and cultural arts and crafts taught by Leander ISD Certified Spanish teachers.

June 15-18 and July 6-9 (\$50 per session)

Morning Session (8:30-11:30) and Afternoon Session (1:00-4:00)

Classes divided into K-2 and Grades 3-5.

Each session limited to 20 students per section

All needed supplies and snacks will be provided.

Location: Deer Creek Elementary (Must provide own transportation)

2420 Zeppelin Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613

To register, go to LISD website and click on Summer School and Academic Camps.

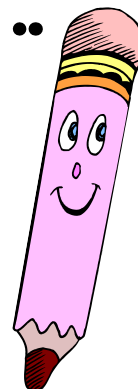
Contact Eva Guardiola at eva.guardiola@leanderisd.org for more information.

Laura Bush & River Ridge Elementary Order your 2009-2010 School Supplies Online NOW!

1. Go to www.epipacks.com
2. Enter the School ID
 - If your child will be attending Laura Bush, enter School ID BUS021
 - If your child will be attending River Ridge, enter School ID RIV073
3. Follow the directions to complete your order.
4. Over the summer, check out the school website for distribution details.

Questions? Please contact Lynn Cronin at cronintx@sbcglobal.net

*Deadline for all
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June 19th!*



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Vandergrift High School

Opening Fall, 2009



Dear Viper Students and Parents,

It continues to be an exciting and busy time as we get ready to open the doors of Vandergrift High School at the Four Points campus on August 24th. I'm pleased to announce that we are on schedule and anticipate a smooth transition to our temporary home. The floors at Four Points are being waxed and the construction is starting to clear out. As for the Vandergrift site, the new turf has been placed on the stadium field and the exterior walls and roof of the first phase of the VHS construction is now clearly visible. It is exciting to see the new Viper band hall and classroom wings taking shape, and it will be fun for the students to watch the evolution of their future high school throughout next year.

Aside from the construction progress, I'm also excited to share that we are nearing the completion of the building our new faculty, too. I'm pleased to share that we have assembled an extraordinary team of teachers, coaches, directors and staff for next year. In every position, and at every level, we have sought out people who have a passion and

excitement for learning. I can assure you that every member of our staff is committed to making next year the best it can be for your child.

In an effort to keep our future students and parents informed, we have put together another installment of our Vandergrift bulletin. Please visit the following link if you would like to read information concerning Vandergrift High School: <http://nse.leanderisd.org/docs/139-VHSUpdate5-11-09.pdf>

The following are some of the topics/information contained in the bulletin:

- Staffing and coach updates
- 1st Annual Meet the Coach BBQ
- Athletic Booster Meeting
- Vandergrift Summer Camp Information
- Vandergrift Orientation Dates

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Girl Scout Registration is Open

Submitted by Carmen Tucker

Girl Scouts of Central Texas registration is open year-round to girls in grades K-12. Now is the perfect time to register in order to take advantage of summer experiences like overnight camp, robotics day camp, backpacking trips and more. Registration is \$10 per year and girls can choose to join a troop or participate as individuals.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Through fun, informal and educational experiences girls can discover their potential, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts provides a wide variety of experiences for interests such as the arts, science, technology, nature, athletics, community service, health, leadership and more. To learn more or to register, contact Carmen Tucker at CarmenT@gscctx.org or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at www.gscctx.org.



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 david@austin-tech.net and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

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 at nelson2930@austin.rr.com

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

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Business Section

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 Thai Harmony in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Mark Taylor at marktaylor@actioncoach.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.

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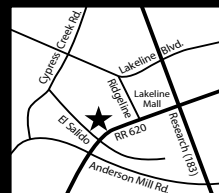
- June 11, Education Funding 7 pm, Bella Mar
- June 16, ABCs of Talking to Your Kids about Money 7 PM, Bella Mar
- June 23, ABCs of Making Money for Teens, 7 pm, Bella Mar
- June 24, New Retirement Strategies, 7 pm, Bella Mar

All seminars are free and are offered as a public service. To reserve your seats call Rich Keith at (512) 632-0162 or send email to RKeith@primerica.com.



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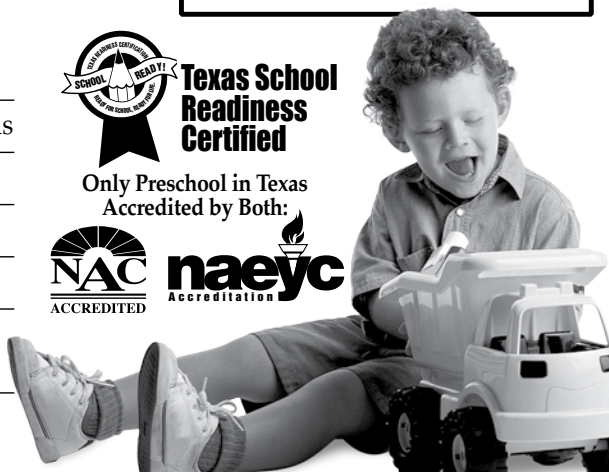
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INTERIOR DESIGN: I will be graduating with my Bachelor's in June and need to build my portfolio. I can provide interior design services for a fraction of the cost. Resident of Steiner Ranch. Contact Crystal at 801-361-0066 or email crystalhintze@gmail.com.

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LESS THAN A PENNY: You can run a business classified in The Star and reach all of Steiner Ranch for less than a penny per home. Call 512-263-9181 for details.

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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.

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Calendar of Events

JUNE 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Mom's Group Let's Dance Free Yoga	2 CRMS 8 th Grade Picnic	3	4 LWBE 5 th Grade Party ♻️🗑️	5 SRE 5 th Grade Party LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	6 Stars Red Team Home Meet
7	8 Let's Dance Free Yoga	9 Social Committee Meeting	10	11 Education Funding ♻️🗑️	12	13
14	15 Let's Dance Free Yoga	16 ABC's of Making Money for Teens	17	18 ♻️🗑️	19	20 Stars Red Team Home Meet
21 Father's Day	22 Let's Dance Free Yoga	23 ABC's of Making Money for Teens	24 New Retirement Strategies	25 SRROA Board Meeting ♻️🗑️	26	27 Stars Red Team Home Meet Movie in the Park
28	29 Let's Dance Free Yoga	30 SRMA Board Meeting	ANNOUNCE YOUR EVENT <i>Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner?</i> <i>Email the information about your group's event to</i> <i>thestar@peelinc.com and it will be included on the calendar.</i> <i>For more information and locations visit the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org.</i>			

JULY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 ♻️🗑️	3	4 4 th of July Parade
5	6 Let's Dance Free Yoga	7	8	9 ♻️🗑️	10	11
12	13 Let's Dance Free Yoga	14 Social Committee Meeting	15	16 ♻️🗑️	17	18
19	20 Free Yoga	21	22	23 ♻️🗑️	24	25
26	27 Free Yoga	28 SRMA Board Meeting	29	30 SRROA Board Meeting ♻️🗑️	31	



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News You Can Use

Colin's Hope Golf Tournament was a HUGE Success!

Submitted by Jeff Holst



Local charity, Colin's Hope, took its first big leap into the Austin community with the first annual golf tournament & fundraiser, the Colin's Hope Classic...and it was a perfect cannonball! The tournament was held on April 23, 2009 at the Hills of Lakeway, Yaupon course...a perfect, sunny spring day that hinted of summer and swimming, which is exactly what the folks at Colin's Hope wanted people thinking about! Colin's Hope is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation which creates and supports programs to aid in the prevention of childhood drowning. The foundation was launched in August 2008 by the family and friends of Colin Holst, who drowned last summer at the age of 4. As the summer swim season approaches, Colin's Hope plans to make its presence known throughout the community, increasing water safety awareness and standards wherever possible...and the Colin's Hope Classic was a significant "leap" in the right direction!

One hundred forty-four golfers on 36 teams teed off for an afternoon of fun and fundraising after a lunch donated by one of many generous local sponsors! The tournament was sponsored by 47 local companies, who donated cash, prizes, services and more to support a cause that benefits their community. Silent auction items including golf getaways, deer hunting weekends, autographed sports memorabilia and spa packages raised almost \$6,000. More than 100 energetic and enthusiastic volunteers generously gave of their time to

be sure that the golfers were treated to a first-class event that everyone would want to be a part of year after year. The tournament's honorary chairs, Olympic swimming gold-medalist Garrett Weber-Gale, and ARCA RE/MAX Series racecar driver Matt Merrell, along with special guest EMCEE Bob Fonseca from the 93.7 KLBJ-FM's award winning Dudley and Bob Morning show came out to support Colin's Hope. And through the generosity of all those involved and the dedication of so many, Colin's Hope raised a total of just over \$72,000 at the tournament, shattering their goal by more than \$30,000!

The directors of the foundation are now hard at work researching the best ways to spend this money to make Colin's Hope's mission a reality. Currently, the foundation is sponsoring swim lessons for underprivileged children through a partnership with the Junior League of Austin and the Austin YMCA. In addition, Colin's Hope continues to participate in many community events where they can spread the word and help educate parents, children and lifeguards on water safety. The foundation offers the following important facts and drowning prevention tips to all those who will be in and around the water this swim season:

- Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4.
- Drowning can and does occur even if you know how to swim

(Continued on Page 31)

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Colin's Hope- (Continued from Page 30)

– most people overestimate their ability to swim during a panic event.

- Drowning is quick & silent – children do not scream, splash or struggle and can drown in as little as 2 minutes.
- Actively supervise all children in the water AT ALL TIMES!
- Have children swim with a buddy and wear Coast Guard- approved life jackets if they cannot swim or are swimming in a more dangerous water environment (such as lakes, beaches, etc.)

You can find a more complete list and much more information about drowning and water safety on their website at www.colinshope.org, as well as information about other upcoming events, including Water Safety Day at the West Austin Athletic Club and the “Buddy Up” Poster Contest. With the support of so many, Colin's Hope will continue to “make a splash” in our community!



Colin's Hope volunteers assisting golfers during registration

Page 30 Photo Captions: Left: Colin's Hope founders, Karen Holst and Jeff Holst (center) along with Honorary Chairs, Garrett Weber-Gale (left) and Matt Merrell (right)

Middle: Garrett Weber-Gale teeing it off at Colin's Hope

Right: From left to right, Colin's Hope volunteers: Raquel Knox, Jeff Holst, Honorary Chair Garrett Weber-Gale, Amber Brabham, Tiffany Wilkinson, and Jana Holst Classic

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Eight Water Safety Rules for a Safe Austin Summer

Submitted by Lynn Neillie

1. Always have a pool gate around home pools. This includes having a locked and securely fastened gate that is not accessible to little ones.
 2. Continuously educate children on water safety. This is a great thing to do at home, on the boat, at the pool, wherever there is water. Each time you are getting your little one ready for a swim session or water play, go over the rules of water safety. Repetition is key with small children. Make sure your swim instructor incorporates a "Safety Lesson of the Week" into its lesson curriculum. This includes questions about water safety and how to avoid dangerous situations.
 3. Designate a "Water Watcher." This is a responsible adult who sticks to alcohol-free beverages during swim time and who is in charge of keeping both eyes on the pool while it is in use. Or, better yet: consider renting a Lifeguard for your party or group event.
 4. Remove all pool toys, floaters, ring buoys and other child-enticing items from the pool area when it is not in use. One wrong reach for that floating rubber ducky could be disaster.
 5. Clear homes of common household items that can be dangerous to a curious toddler. It takes just 2 inches of water for a child to drown in a bucket. Put all mop buckets, dog dishes and coolers out of children's reach.
 6. Never leave a young child in the pool or bathtub--even "just to get the phone."
 7. Enroll your child in swim classes. Start lessons early. The longer a child has lessons the more they understand water safety. A great time to do this is in the spring! This way your kids are already prepped and ready to roll for the summer swim season. You'll want to find an inside heated pool and lesson times geared towards working families.
 8. Supervise, Supervise, Supervise! Try to have your eyes on your children in and around the pool at all times. Adults should always be present when any child is in the pool area.
- Let's help our kids love the water while also respecting it by being safe and well-trained at all levels.

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Britt's Book Buzz: Heartfelt and True

Wish You Well (By David Baldacci) is the first book I have read by this author and I think it is an excellent novel. Firstly, he captures the raw love of mother/son and sister/brother in an expert way - it almost hurts your heart. Secondly, it demonstrates how our true existence is defined by the way we choose to interact with those around us. It was an optimistically kind novel, demonstrating that it does matter when we help each other in times of need and struggle. The characters were deeply engaging and strong. I felt at peace and complete with the entire work. This is a wonderful read. Great work, Baldacci - more like it, please!

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: <http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

2nd Annual Locks of Love Event 2009

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.

You can sign up at the Kick-off Celebration on June 12th at Cups and Cones in Steiner Ranch between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. You will receive a registration packet and your first hair measurement. You then have until December 2009 to grow your hair to at least ten inches long. Hair must be ten inches long at time of cut and can be colored, but must be free of bleach.

All participants will be invited to multiple events throughout the coming months by local businesses. Participants will also receive free gifts and valuable coupons from various event sponsors. Moms are welcome too!

For more information contact Sandra Bennett at 512-372-3500 or visit www.locksoflove.org



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Talking to your Kids about Money

Submitted by Rich Keith

The condition known as "affluenza" is contagious and rapidly spreading throughout our youth. Do you find your kids are disconnected from the concept of cash and its true value? Do you believe they are lacking in knowledge about how credit cards and debt really work? Results show that the 18-25 age group is now the largest demographic filing for bankruptcy. What's the solution?

While children listen to their parents they don't always do what their parents say they should do. They will, however, absorb their parent's values. So the answer is to first examine your own attitudes about money. Learn and then live the principles daily that will keep you and your family healthy financially. And communicate with your kids about your process and the decisions you are making.

For example, in our home we no longer say, "We can't afford that." When we examined that statement we found it was weak and powerless. Instead we now say, "We are choosing not to afford that at this time." This holds power and promise because: We choose. We prioritize. We can change if we want to, and it can lead to a discussion about life priorities. You can make a big difference in your kids' lives regarding their attitudes toward money.

Attend some free educational workshops for teens and parents this month. Workshop attendees will receive a free copy of the book,

"The ABCs of Making Money 4 Teens." It is a groundbreaking book based on the acclaimed international Best Seller, The ABCs of Making Money. Written specifically for teens, this book covers all the basics of making money, how to hang on to it and how to make it grow while having fun.

This common sense approach contains lots of simple, self-directed exercises and is loaded with inspirational teen success stories. The book follows the same successful formula as its predecessor, which stressed the importance of Attitude and Goal setting as the building blocks for success in any endeavor. This inspiring book gives teenagers the motivation and tools to achieve their dreams.

For 90% of the population, the best way for someone to learn something is to take a hands-on approach. In the ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens, young people get the chance to write their thoughts and ideas all over their book. For example, there is space provided for you state your goals or your very own business ideas. This aspect makes this book a winner for young people.

So what is the ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens all about? This book has three sections and each is very relevant to teens. The first section talks about ATTITUDES and how they are the key to either your success or failure. Attitudes are everything! The book reminds us that

(Continued on Page 35)



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Talking to Your Kids- (Continued from Page 34)

if you think you can't do something, you won't be able to! But if you believe that you can achieve a goal, even though it may be tough, you will succeed. So set your goals and change negative attitudes about money into positive ones!

The second deals with the "HOW TO's" of money- in other words, the basics of saving and investing. It talks about the time value of money. The time value of money basically says that the more time you have to save and invest, the more money you will make with compound interest. That means that young people that start saving their money early will become financially wealthy sooner! This section tells personal stories of successful and well-known investors such as the man who started Kinko's.

The third chapter deals with CREATING WEALTH through entrepreneurial ideas. There are loads of young and old entrepreneurs that are featured in this section. There are entrepreneurial ideas, direction on how to start a business, and other useful small business tips. This was a very creative chapter in that it asks teens to draw out some entrepreneurial ideas that you have. It encourages you to bring those ideas to light!

The ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens is filled with a number of stories about teens that have made a difference. Teens get to hear what successful teens their own age think and are doing to secure their financial freedom.

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.



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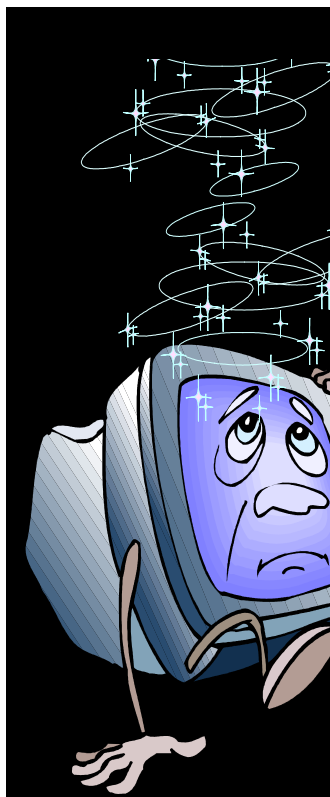


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What to do About My Tired PC? Part II

Submitted by Laurie Scott

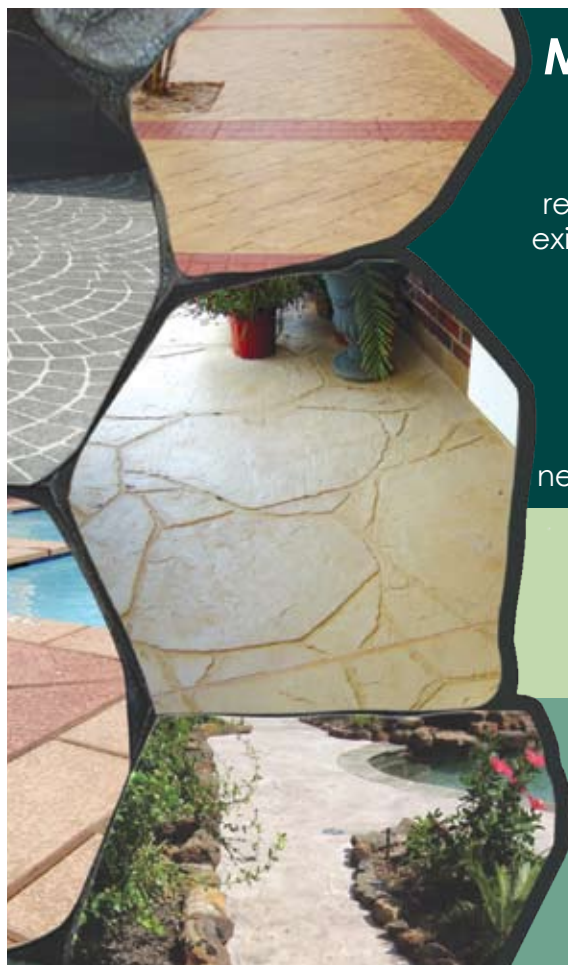
Can I build a computer cheaper than buying one? If you want a laptop – no. If you want a desktop, then most of the time – no. The major manufacturers (Dell, HP (and Compaq), Toshiba and Sony have the advantage of volume to be able to sell entry level (but still powerful) PC's for under \$500. If you try hard, you could probably shop the parts yourself and perhaps build one (including the monitor) for that, but then YOU become the warranty. If it breaks – YOU fix it. If you need support, YOU search Google. But if you enjoy the challenge or just want to learn how to do it – it's not that hard, go have fun. Online stores like Newegg.com has everything you need to build the ultimate computer.

Do you like to play the most current computer games? Do you like to edit large photos and print

them out? Are you the next Steven Spielberg and like to play with making movies on your computer? Well, then it's time for a new computer. All of these can be both processor intensive (the Intel or AMD chip inside your computer) and memory intensive. Standard versions of Windows XP and Vista are 32-bit (don't worry about the geeky term) and can only use about 3GB (3 gigabytes) of memory. If you purchase your computer with the 64-bit versions of Windows, then you can use as much memory as you can afford. 8GB is usually enough even for the avid home movie producer. The current Macs are already 64-bit so memory limitations are not an issue.

Should I buy a Mac or a PC? Well, (guess what's coming.....) that depends. Windows has come a long way in the photo, music and video editing space, and if you're already comfortable with Windows, I'd stay with it. Do you have a child in

(Continued on Page 38)



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News You Can Use

Tired PC- (Continued from Page 36)

school and Macs are the computers they use, then going with a Mac would be an easier decision. Are you new to computing and on a tight budget? Without question, Windows. If the budget isn't so much a problem, then a Mac might be a little easier to start with. One more thing to consider is who you will call if you need help. If you have friends with Macs, go with a Mac. If everyone you know uses Windows, then you may want to go that way. Walking through the computing minefield is always easier with someone who has been there.

National Night Out 2009

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 held on the first Tuesday of October. 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.

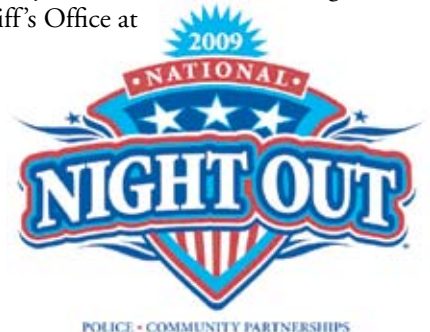
Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front-yard vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local law enforcement officers, parades flashlights walks contests and youth programs. NNO has proven 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 what 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.

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That high pitch hum in your ear...summer is here and the mosquitoes have arrived. It's time to take action but let's keep the family protected and safe.

Don't use any mosquito spray that contains DEET (diethyl toluamide). DEET is a very effective insect repellant but not the best choice for the families' health.

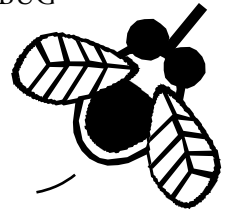
DEET is a known neurotoxin, causes kidney and liver damage and has been implicated in birth and developmental defects. "Children in particular are at risk for subtle brain changes caused by chemicals in the environment, because their skin more readily absorbs them, and the chemicals more potently affect their developing nervous systems." ¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) states that over 30% of the global burden of disease in children can be attributed to environmental factors, including pesticides. ²

If the bottle of repellant you are planning to purchase contains DEET the label will say: may damage furniture finishes, watch crystals, leather, painted or varnished surfaces. This is a very harsh chemical that shouldn't be sprayed on the skin.

So what are some other options? Vinegar, either white or apple cider will work. Put it in a salad dressing bottle and sprinkle it on exposed skin. There are also herbal oils the are recommended such as tea tree, cedar, peppermint, citronella, eucalyptus and lemongrass. Mix these oils with cooking oil to dilute prior to putting on the skin.

If you wish to purchase insect repellant BUG OFF ³ from Dr. Mercola is a healthier option. It contains several of the essential oils listed above.

(Continued on Page 40)



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News You Can Use

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.

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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Healthier Homes- (Continued from Page 39)

Mosquitoes are attracted to light colored clothing especially yellow. They zero in on fragrances from scented body care products, laundry detergents and scented fabric softeners. The use of unscented fragrance free products decreases the families' neurotoxic exposure but also keeps mosquitoes searching for another meal. Mosquitoes do not like the smell of garlic so by using a product called Mosquito Barrier(a very potent garlic solution) on the lawn, this will repel mosquitoes from the yard.

Check the external home environment. Be sure to empty any standing water around the home because this will provide the mosquitoes with a breeding ground. Consider putting up a bat house. A bat can eat approximately 600 mosquito sized insects an hour.

With these measures in place your family will probably not hear a high pitch hum in the ear this summer. The mosquitoes will find a better location than your home for their next meal.

For more learning and resources:

- 1 Duke University Medical Center (2002, May 2) DEET Brain Effects in Animals , Warrant Caution
- 2 Beyond Pesticides Fact Sheet: Children and Pesticides Don't Mix, Debra Lyn Dadd: About Natural Mosquito Relief, www.1001nets.net, cotton mosquito nets form Australia
- 3 Bug Off Toll free number to order: 877-985-2695



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- Kids Stuff -

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



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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: June 30th

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

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

Email Address: _____

Age: _____

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



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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

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The Market in Steiner Ranch is Heating Up! If you're planning a move this summer, call

Elicia Rudberg

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in 19 days!

12008 Tarraza Court \$369,000

- 4 bedrooms, 3 Full Bathrooms, 2950 Square Feet
- One Story Home on Flat Cul-De-Sac
- Rare 1/3 Acre Lot Backs to Greenbelt
- Gorgeous Wide Plank Hand Scraped Wood Floors and New Carpet
- Tons of Architectural Details – Crown and Base Moldings, Archways, Art Niches, Wall of Stone
- Gourmet Kitchen with Granite, Slate Floors, New Stainless Steel Appliances, and Incredible Skylight
- Rubbed Bronze Fixtures throughout
- Updated Lighting, Designer Paint
- Easy Entrance/Exit from neighborhood



11600 Hunters Green Trail \$550,000

- 4 Bed, 3.5 baths, Gameroom + Media
- RARE .35 Acre Greenbelt Lot
- Cul-De-Sac, 3 Car Garage
- Gated Golf Course Community
- 18 Inch Diagonal Tile
- Upstairs Covered Patio
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Designer Paint & Lighting
- Butlers Pantry
- Taylor Morrison Venice Plan
- Gorgeous Stone Exterior
- Cast Stone Fireplace



Under Contract
in 10 days!

13030 Titus Court \$425,000

- 5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 3760 Sq. Feet
- .30 Acres on a Flat Cul-De-Sac backs to Greenbelt
- Over 400 sq. feet of Outdoor, Covered Living Space
- Very Private Location Panoramic Views, Room for Pool
- Large Kitchen with Stainless Steel Appliances, Double Ovens
- 18 Inch Diagonal Tiles & Art Niches
- Large Bedrooms with Walk-In Closets
- Designer Window Treatments
- Oversized Game Room
- Master and Full Bed/Bath Downstairs

Ask Elicia! Selling a vacant home? Stage it for almost nothing!