

# THE VILLAGE

*Gazette*™ "It takes a Village..."

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I

## Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster? (It might be and you don't even know it)

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

Laptop computers have made computing mobile and very convenient. Wireless routers in our homes have made it possible to use our computers anywhere in the home, and not just where the connection comes into your home.

If you have a wireless router at home, then you are using one of three possible levels of security, 1) none, 2) poor and 3) what you SHOULD be using. "None" is real simple, open the box, plug in the router, connect to the Internet. With this connection, ANYONE within range, meaning your neighbors, passersby and that annoying teen-age kid down the who likes to hang around your house in the evening can use your wireless network to access the internet or worse, access your computers at home. Also, any illegal activity over the Internet is going to be traced back to your home, not to the person or computer that may have done it.

I often tell the story of the time I moved to Austin from Sacramento 4 1/2 years ago over the Thanksgiving holiday. I stayed overnight with a friend in Flagstaff, Arizona at her parents' home. Lots of relatives were there and they all smoked (and smoked a lot). Even though it was 35 degrees outside, I went and sat in my car for an hour just to breath fresh air. While in my car I powered up my laptop and discovered a completely unsecured network within range. I connected to it and took the opportunity to check my email and do some web surfing. Then the good Samaritan in me decided to do them a favor. I figured they hadn't changed the default password on their router, and sure enough I was right. I logged onto their router and took a screen shot of it. Since they were also using the default name for their computer network, I changed mine to match and could see that they had a computer turned on with

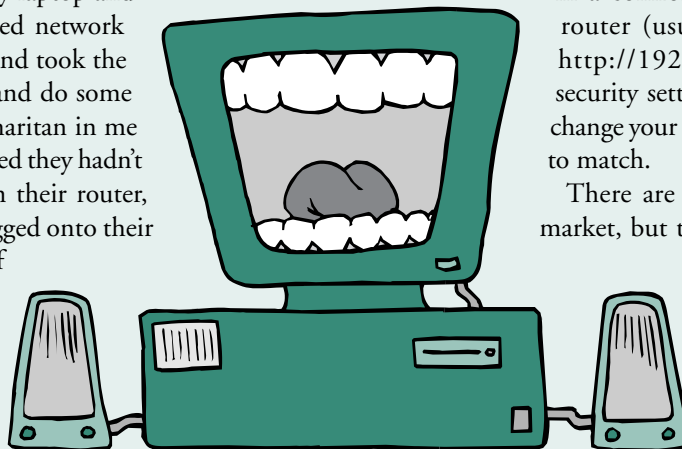
one of their hard drives shared (no, I didn't peek at it.) I also saw that they had an Epson printer connected to it, so I downloaded the printer driver and installed it on my laptop, opened Microsoft Word and pasted the screen shot of their router into it. I also included instructions on how to keep prying eyes out of their network, thanked them that I was able to check my email, and then I PRINTED the document out on their printer. Keep in mind I have no idea which house I had connected to. I imagine if they were home that they were a little shocked to have their printer start all by itself and print a note from a complete stranger. Lucky for them I wasn't someone who wanted to copy their files, plant a virus or lock them out of their own network.

The two levels of security that are usually displayed with a padlock symbol are WEP and WPA. WEP falls into the "poor" category of security. WEP will keep honest people out of your network, and will prevent someone from accidentally getting connected to your network, but WEP was "cracked" several years ago, and nowadays it only takes a laptop and 60 seconds to break into a network secured with WEP.

What you should be using is WPA (or WPA2) to provides a connection that (with a good password) can't be cracked in a comfortable lifetime. Log into your router (usually at <http://192.168.0.1> or <http://192.168.1.1>), go to the wireless security settings and set it for WPA. Then change your laptops and other wireless devices to match.

There are many different routers on the market, but there are a few standard rules to follow: Changing the security settings on your router should

*(Continued on page 4)*



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
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Ambulance.....	911
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Middle	
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Austin .....	512-414-2505
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### UTILITIES

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City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing).....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing .....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
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Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-288-2020
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Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

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City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9000
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Curious? Do you want to learn how to build your business by word-of-mouth referral? Visit us this Wednesday morning 7:45 to 9:30 a.m.... have a great time, meet new people - and there is no obligation to join. Please contact Susan Hale for more information at [susan@ubeuinc.com](mailto:susan@ubeuinc.com), 369.3692 or visit [www.bniaustin.com](http://www.bniaustin.com) for specific location.

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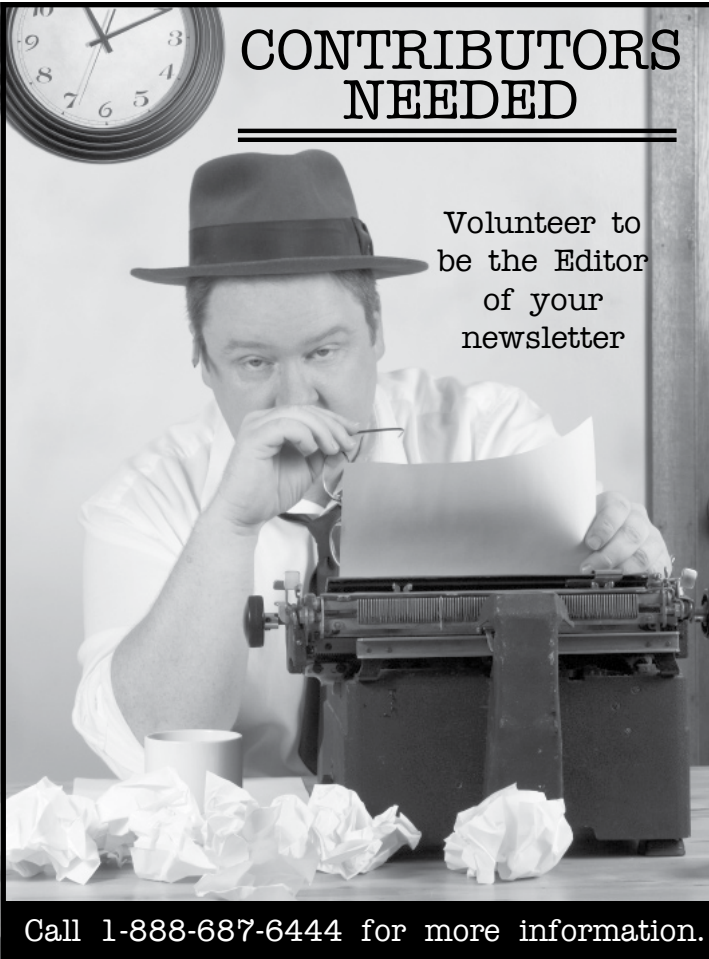
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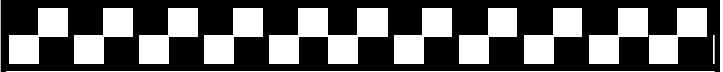
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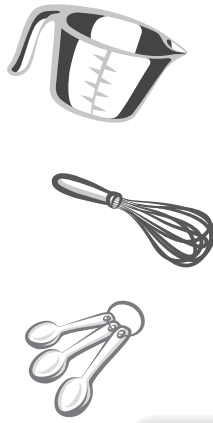
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## Recipe of the Month

### Orange Julius



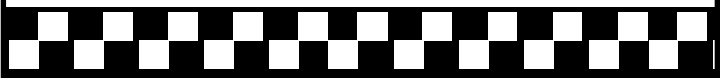
**Ingredients**

- 1 6 oz. Can Concentrated Orange Juice
- 1 Cup milk
- 1 Cup Water
- 1/2 Cup sugar

**Directions**

Put in blender container, fill container to top with ice. Process.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*




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**15 AUSTIN METRO LOCATIONS**

# THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

## Internet Broadcaster - (Continued from Cover Page)

always be done with the computer attached to the router via a network cable - don't change it over a wireless connection. If you make a mistake, you won't be able to get back in to fix it. In the wireless security settings on your router, you will see WEP and SHOULD see WPA as options. If you don't see WPA as an option, your router is probably several years old. Go to the manufacturer's support page on their web site and look for updated "firmware" to download. Download the firmware and update the router per the instructions provided by the manufacturer. If the latest firmware doesn't provide WPA encryption, then it's time for a trip to Best Buy or Fry's for a new router. ANY new router will provide WPA encryption. Next use a strong password. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long, feel free to make it a lot longer - the longer the better. Be sure to use upper and lower case letters, use numbers AND use special characters like # \* ( \ } [ @ ! &. Write it down and put it in a safe place. If it helps, use 2 or 3 non-related words or numbers that you know but no one is likely to guess. Something like maybe the city you got married in with the year of your first car and the name of your brother's daughter. It might look something like Dallas@1989!Samantha#. Even people you know you won't guess this. Be creative and have fun, but MAKE IT STRONG!

Next month I'll talk about keeping your information secure when you're online both at home and away.



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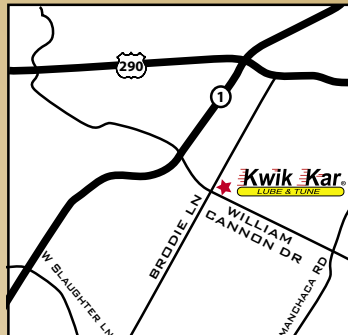
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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

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## Mills Students: The End is Near!

*submitted by Kristen Card*

The end of summer is already creeping closer – but a finish to this fiery summer also marks a fresh start to a new school year for our community's kids.

Mills Elementary School has set the dates for learning and getting to know your 2009-10 teachers. Please mark your calendars for:

Tuesday, August 18th, 5 p.m. – Class lists will be posted along the library entrance in front of the school; and

Friday, August 21st, 4 – 6 p.m. – Open house will be held for students to come check out their new classrooms and chat with their new teachers.

Here's to a fun summer's end and a great school year yet to come!

For further information about what's happening at Mills, please visit [www.millspta.org](http://www.millspta.org).

## Host an Exchange Student— *Experience another culture without the cost of travel!*

*Submitted by Katie Robinson*

iE International Student Exchange is seeking host homes for high school exchange students from Germany and other nations. We are seeking couples, singles, or families who are willing to open their home to one special exchange student for 6 weeks or for the entire 2009-2010 school year. You will be amazed to find what you gain from the experience, as well as what you give: the chance for one international student to have a lifechanging encounter. This is a great opportunity to connect with someone from another culture! All you need to host is a spare bed and an open heart!

Contact Katie Robinson,  
Local Coordinator for  
Austin - 512-538-8080  
or [k.leigh.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:k.leigh.robinson@gmail.com).



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## The Science of Grocery Shopping

Submitted by Kelly Bruneman, Certified Nutrition Specialist

The grocery store can be a scary place! All those aisles filled with grocery goodness! What is healthy and what isn't? How do you know where to start and what to buy? Follow these simple rules to ensure that you get the most out of your grocery shopping experience:

### • STAY TO THE OUTSIDE

- Most everything you need is on the perimeter of the store. Your produce, meats, and dairy cases are all on the outside. The aisles are where the boxed and processed foods reside.

### • ORGANIC...IS IT WORTH IT?

- Not all things are necessary to buy organic. The following produce list is often referred to as the "Dirty Dozen" because they contain the highest levels of pesticides.
  - THE DIRTY DOZEN: Peaches, Apples, Sweet Bell Peppers, Celery, Nectarines, Strawberries, Cherries, Pears, Grapes (Imported), Spinach, Lettuce, Potatoes.
  - THE LEAST CONTAMINATED: Onions, Avocado, Sweet Corn (Frozen), Pineapples, Mango, Asparagus, Sweet Peas (Frozen), Kiwi Fruit, Bananas, Cabbage, Broccoli, Papaya.

- Beef, Poultry, and Dairy are also worth the organic price because they are produced without growth hormones and antibiotics.
- Currently the USDA has not developed organic certification standards for seafood.
- REMEMBER: buying organic foods that aren't good for you doesn't make them healthy!!

### • BUY FROZEN

- Frozen fruits and vegetables are often flash frozen locking in nutrients better than canned foods.
- Frozen fish and chicken is also flash frozen at the source locking in nutrients and making them convenient alternatives to store in your freezer.

### • DON'T BE AN IMPULSE BUYER

- Make a list according to how your grocery store is laid out and STICK TO IT! If ice cream isn't on your list, don't go down the ice cream aisle.
- Don't go to the grocery store when you are tired, hungry or irritable. This almost always leads to impulse buys.

(Continued on Page 9)



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## *The Science of Grocery Shopping- (Continued from Page 8)*

- If possible, don't take the kids! Grocery stores target impulse buyers and almost all kids are impulse buyers!
- Don't get distracted at the checkout line. As you are waiting to check out grocery stores stock the racks with tempting candy bars and sodas. Don't be fooled! If you think you might give in bring in water with you and pop a piece of sugar free gum! Or flip through the latest gossip magazine until it is your turn to pay.
- If you don't buy the junk food, you won't have it in the house!

### • CHECK OUT THE LABEL

- THE FDA requires that all ingredients be listed in descending order of predominance by weight. Try to pick foods that have a short ingredient list that don't have many artificial ingredients.
- Look for foods that have ingredients that you can pronounce
- Choose foods that are "real". Examples are 100% fruit juice or 100% whole-grain items with as little processing and as few additives as possible. If you want more salt or sugar, add it yourself.

Finally, just take a deep breath and go for it! You are in control and remember if you don't buy it; it won't find its way into your house!

## Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing [VillageGazette@PEELinc.com](mailto:VillageGazette@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 Village Gazette. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

## Advertising Information

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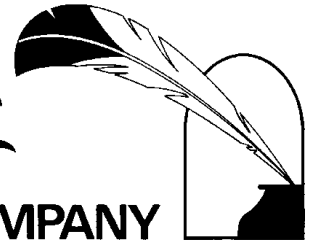
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## Movie Review

By Kiko Martinez - San Antonio-based film critic/writer  
www.CineSnob.net

### *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

*Daniel Radcliffe and Michael Gambon star in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth installment of the series.*



**Starring:** Daniel Radcliffe, Jim Broadbent, Emma Watson  
**Directed by:** David Yates ("Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix")

**Written by:** Steve Kloves ("Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire")  
The popular boy wizard continues down the mysterious road of sorcery and wonderment that has entertained fans for the last eight years in the sixth installment of the J.K. Rowling's fantasy franchise, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Who would have guessed that Harry's most formidable adversary in the new film would be

puberty?

Yes, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) has developed into a young man, and just in time. In "Half-Blood Prince," there's far more to fear than acne breakouts and raging hormones. The Dark Arts flourish as Harry and best friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) continue on their quest to stop the evil Lord Voldemort (seen in this film only as a gothic-looking young student).

The story begins with Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon)

*(Continued on page 11)*

We recommend an even  
higher level of protection  
this summer.



#### Great Hills Baptist Church

##### Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

9:30 am - Celebration-Connection  
(Worship Choir & Orchestra)

11:00 am - Life-Connection  
(Worship Band)

Classes Beginning September 20:

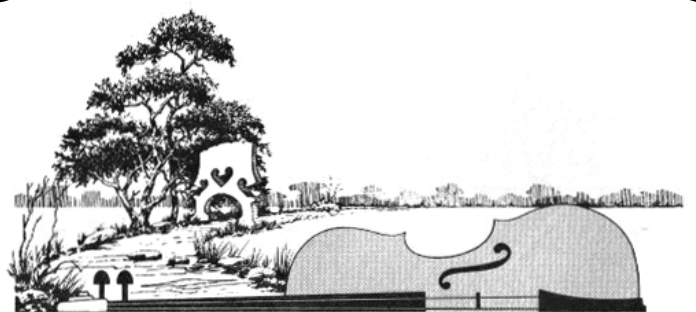
##### Hot Topics

Topics include: teen purity, empty-nesters, financial stability, parenting for greatness, defending your faith

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## Movie Review- (Continued from Page 10)

interfering into Harry's life outside of Hogwarts as he flirts with a café waitress and sets up an impromptu date. Harry, who now knows he is "the chosen one," doesn't have time to enjoy the Muggle world as much as he would like. Dumbledore whisks him off to visit retired professor Horace Slughorn (Jim Broadbent) so they can try to persuade him to return to Hogwarts. There's something Slughorn is suppressing in his memory that can help Harry understand how to defeat Voldemort.

Along with Slughorn's secrets, Harry must contend with a trio of smoky Death Eaters, who are terrorizing both the Muggle and Wizard worlds, Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton), who is coming into his own and doing so by following orders of the Dark Lord himself, and, of course, the romantic high jinks that seems contagious throughout the entire school.

While romance continues to blossom occasionally between Harry and Ginny Weasley (Bonnie Wright), Ron and Hermione's ambiguous relationship halts for a moment when another girl (Jessie Cave) begins to show interest in Ron. There's no need for too many doses of love potion in the high school-like melodrama that plays out in the halls of Hogwarts. With all the heartbreak, jealousy, infatuation, and pitter-patter of youthful hearts, it's really a treat to see there's actual blood pumping through these characters as the

story continues to unfold.

Directed by David Yates, who was also behind "Order of the Phoenix," "Half-Blood Prince" is the most dialogue-heavy of the entire series. Yates and his screenwriting team slow down the pace considerably to uncover more of the emotional elements of everyone involved. However, there are still highly entertaining scenes comprised of impressive special effects and sprightly editing (you can't have a "Harry Potter" movie without a weather-beaten game of Quidditch). "Half-Blood Prince" is also the funniest of the bunch.

While actual magic might be a secondary thought in Rowling's text, "Half-Blood Prince" is a notable addition to the narrative as a whole. It all leads up nicely to the final installment, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows," which will be released in two parts in 2010 and 2011 respectively.



## Announcing New Services at Seton Southwest Hospital!

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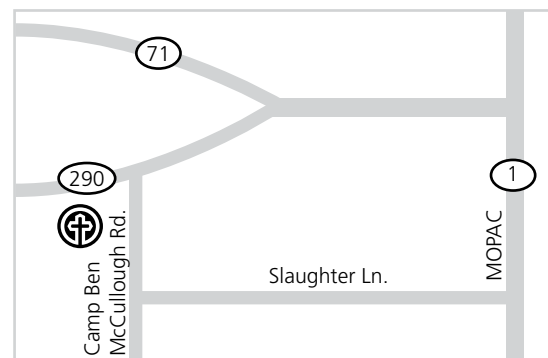
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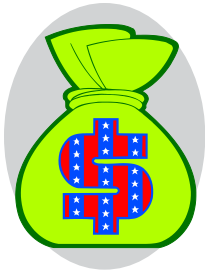
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## A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

As a parent, you may feel a moral obligation to fund your children's education, but you don't want to sacrifice your current lifestyle or rob your future retirement in order to fund education costs. Well, to make funding both their education and your retirement a non-issue, you must consider how to:



- Maximize your cash flow so that you can invest funds in education and retirement accounts. This includes both reducing debt and lowering expenses.
- Utilize the numerous education tax incentives provided by the IRS to reduce taxes and produce so-called "tax scholarships" for your family.
- Qualify for merit and need-based financial aid offered by colleges

If you can maximize the benefits produced by the above strategies, you may not have to compromise your education and retirement goals. Historically, we see that college costs have risen at 2 to 3 times the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index. And college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. Depending on which tax bracket you are in, the amount you must

earn to pay for college is a good deal more because you must first pay the IRS...before you pay the college.

How old will you be when your last child graduates from college? Assume that you are 45 years old and you plan to retire in 20 years and that a public college costs \$60,000 for 4 years. You take the money out of your retirement savings today. The money you give to a public college for four years will cost your retirement fund about \$280,000 at an 8% return. Elite colleges cost more, but there is a hidden benefit which we will get to later. And remember, these numbers are for just one child's college education.

Clearly this presents a funding dilemma shared by parents everywhere: how to fund college and retirement? Experts agree there are two methods to make this work:

The first method is by using your money through: (A) paying out of your current income, (B) paying with withdrawals from your savings accounts, or (C) borrowing. Most people use some combination of all three. The second method is to use money from others. This comes in the following forms: (A) financial aid, (B) by using special education tax strategies, (C) gifts from relatives, or (D) your child's resources (his/her income and assets). We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses.

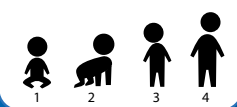


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#### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

#### DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" - no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

#### DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.

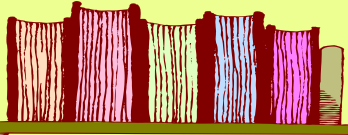


Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

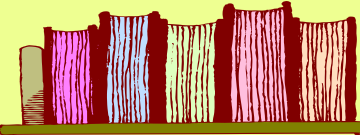
Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

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***Britt's Book Buzz:  
It's Criminal!***



THE ASSOCIATE BY JOHN GRISHAM

I am a positive person and I feel bad about putting negativity out there, especially in a book review. I must say, however, that *The Associate* by John Grisham was a terrible book. I hadn't read anything by Grisham since *The Firm* and *The Pelican Brief* while in high school. At the time, they seemed like somewhat smart novels. I came across *The Associate* at Half Price Books and thought "why not?" Boy, has time changed the author—and not for the better. My mom put it best, "he has a formula to his books." Meaning, he doesn't put much thought into the books other than to get them on the bookshelves as quickly as possible. Do lawyers even read these books or find them even mildly entertaining?

In the book, a hotshot law student has two great job offers and a bright future, but a blackmailing expert team has found a skeleton in his closet and exploits it to the fullest in order to obtain highly confidential information. Only in the last 50 or so

pages does the law student finally realize that he should just come clean and face the issue. Wouldn't a Yale law student know how to resolve the situation without having to work with the blackmailers? I have absolutely no law background, but I saw no evidence to even convict him!

Character development was poor and the book was loaded with cliché after cliché and stereotypes (i.e. the hot law student who dressed really great and showed off her perfect body to the enjoyment of her male colleagues). The ending was horrifically lazy and unfinished.

Looking at the bright side, I hope this review saved you a worthless read.

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

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## Travel Tips

*Submitted by Marina Byrum*

If you plan to travel this year, you should be able to take advantage of the many bargains that are available. With the stock market wavering and the economy slowing, most cruise lines, tour operators and hoteliers are feeling the pinch as travelers cut back on vacation spending.

The good news is that this is a great time to travel, as prices for almost everything are being slashed by as much as 75% off normal pricing. Many seven-night cruises are available for about \$1,000.00 per couple, based on an inside cabin (no window or porthole). Hotels are cutting their rates also; with some offering 4th and 5th nights free; or discounts as high as 60% off the normal rack rates.

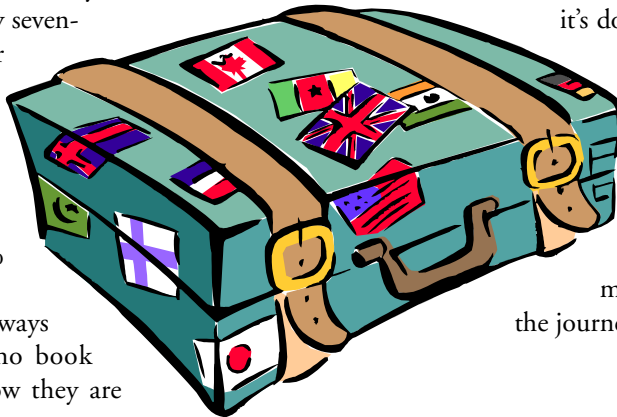
Whereas cruise lines have always offered discounts to those who book six months or more ahead; now they are

discounting even more. Carnival Cruise Lines, for example, now offers an Early Saver Fare that offers about a 45% discount; with the caveat that your deposit is non-refundable. They also offer an optional insurance policy that would recover your deposit if you need to cancel for any covered reason; i.e., accident, illness or death in the immediate family.

Planning a vacation has never been easier; and it's doubtful we will ever see it cheaper. That is, unless the economy continues to slide.

As we enter the month of July, there is still plenty of availability for the rest of the summer; something that has not been true in summers past.

So take advantage of the deep discounts if you can; and remember that no matter where you go, just take care to enjoy the journey. Have a fun, safe summer.



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# - Kids Stuff -

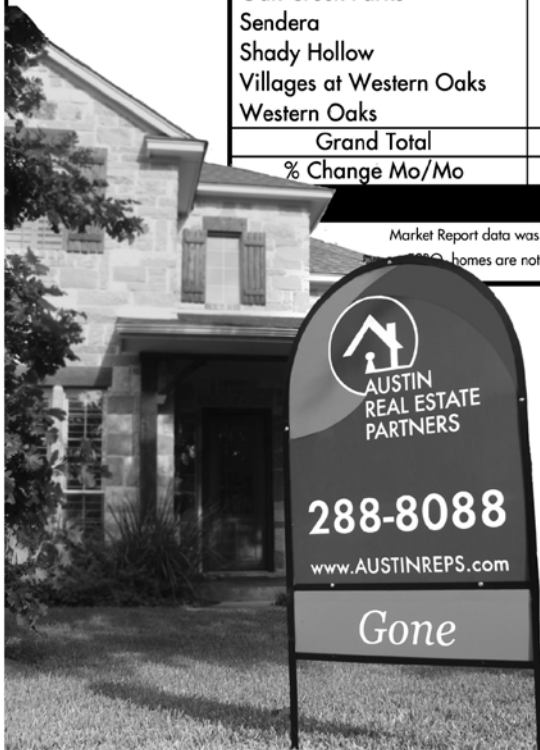
Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!



Not Available Online

Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
SW Austin by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Jan '09 - Jun '09)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Belterra	46	2,995	\$ 99	\$ 295	2007	165	36	19
Circle C Ranch	139	2,771	\$ 116	\$ 320	2000	91	103	33
Heights at Loma Vista	1	2,537	\$ 122	\$ 310	2006	42	4	1
Highpointe	13	3,020	\$ 94	\$ 284	2007	111	11	4
Legend Oaks	18	2,139	\$ 119	\$ 255	1993	31	9	8
Maple Run	40	1,627	\$ 111	\$ 181	1987	82	12	12
Meridian	26	3,269	\$ 114	\$ 372	2008	124	10	3
Oak Creek Parke	8	2,800	\$ 96	\$ 269	1993	94	5	1
Sendera	26	2,036	\$ 108	\$ 220	1999	78	11	13
Shady Hollow	15	2,525	\$ 117	\$ 296	1989	86	14	3
Villages at Western Oaks	54	2,083	\$ 116	\$ 243	1994	73	25	30
Western Oaks	3	2,186	\$ 122	\$ 268	1980	52	2	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>2,534</b>	<b>\$ 112</b>	<b>\$ 283</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>% Change Mo/Mo</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 07/08/2009. In some cases new construction and homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



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