

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009



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COMMUNITY INFO

STEINER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane
Austin, Texas 78732
512-266-7553 – Telephone
512-266-9312 – Facsimile
www.steinerranchhoa.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 1:00pm – 5:00pm
Friday 10:00am – 5:00pm

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Front Office Coordinator

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Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado

Maintenance Technician

Macedonio Salazar

MISSION STATEMENT

Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

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

"Be the Community."

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
Fire..... 911
Ambulance..... 911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency..... 512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue
Administration Office..... 512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control..... 512-972-6060

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office..... 512-266-7553
Development Office..... 512-266-5833

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD..... 512-570-0000
Cedar Park High School..... 512-570-1200
Vandegrift High School..... 512-570-2300
Canyon Ridge Middle School 512-570-3500
Laura Welch Bush Elementary..... 512-570-6100
Steiner Ranch Elementary 512-570-5700
River Ridge Elementary..... 512-570-7300

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

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. 512-263-9181
Editor..... James Plasek
Advertising..... advertising@peelinc.com

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

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directly to your inbox.
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COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Ranch Record.

All photos submitted must have been taken in Steiner Ranch and we'd love to have something that pertains to this time of the year in some way, such as a great Winter photo. Our January issue submittal deadline is December 7th and photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Ranch Record or other Steiner Ranch publications.




ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Ranch Record 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 8th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The Ranch Record is mailed monthly to all Steiner Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit 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 consideration please email it to steinerranch@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.



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Table of Contents

AROUND STEINER

- 6 Steiner Ranch Holiday Bazaar
- 7 Holiday House Decorating Contest
- 8 Halloween Treats
- 10 Nominate Your Favorite Yard for Yard of the Month
- 11 Annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social
- 11 Holiday Trash Pick-Up Schedule
- 12 Trails Update
- 13 Speeding in Steiner Ranch
- 14 Steiner Birthdays
- 14 Newcomer Orientation
- 15 Greetings Steiner Ranch Folks
- 16 Workshop Series
- 17 Happening on the Ranch Programs
- 18 Winter Pool Hours
- 18 Stars Swim Team - Getting Ready for the 2010 Season
- 19 Attention Steiner Ranch Pet Owners
- 20 Yoga & Pilates Classes Offered
- 21 Women's Self Defense Classes
- 22 Steiner Ranch History Corner
- 24 Community Groups

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 26 Holiday Hours
- 26 Happy Holiday from the Association Office
- 27 Bulletin Board Posting Policy
- 27 Architectural Guidelines
- 28 On-line Assessment Payments Now Available
- 28 Holiday Decoration Rules

SCHOOL NEWS

- 30 Vandergrift High "How Tough Am I" Swim-A-Thon
- 31 Vipers Lacrosse
- 31 New Law Bans Cell Phone Use in School Zones
- 31 Stallions Spread Christmas Cheer

BUSINESS SECTION

- 34 Four Business Networking Groups in the Area

NEWS YOU CAN USE

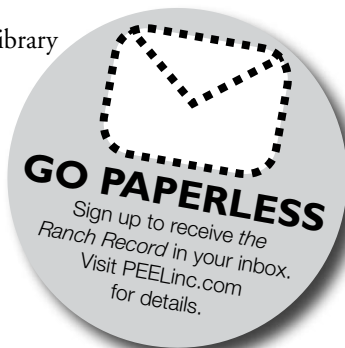
- 36 Bikes for Kids
- 38 Nature Watch - Sparrows
- 40 Techie Gifts
- 42 Lake Travis Community Library

KIDS SECTION

- 57 Bad Breath
- 58 Dec. Coloring Page

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 32 Calendar of Events
- 34 Classifieds
- 44 Teenage Job Seekers



Happy Holidays



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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Around Steiner

STEINER RANCH HOLIDAY BAZAAR BRINGS A

"Warm up for the Holidays" to residents



It may have been difficult to think about Christmas with the clear blue skies, warm temperatures and bright sunshine on Saturday, November 7, but businesses and Steiner Ranch residents enjoyed a "warm up for the holidays" at the annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Sales Event.

Santa was on hand for pictures, taken by Steiner Ranch resident owned, Studio 563. Kids arrived in their best duds to sit on old St. Nick's lap and have their pictures taken while reciting their list of holiday wishes. Of course, some kids were less than pleased to meet the big man in person, but Santa managed to win over most of his timid new friends with ease.

Every year the Steiner Ranch Holiday Sales Event allows area businesses, both old and new, to meet residents and introduce their products and services with everything from salsa to handbags, diabetic chocolate, free massages, jewelry, face painting and so much more.

If you have never been to the annual event, mark your calendars for next year! This is truly a fun event with something for everyone!

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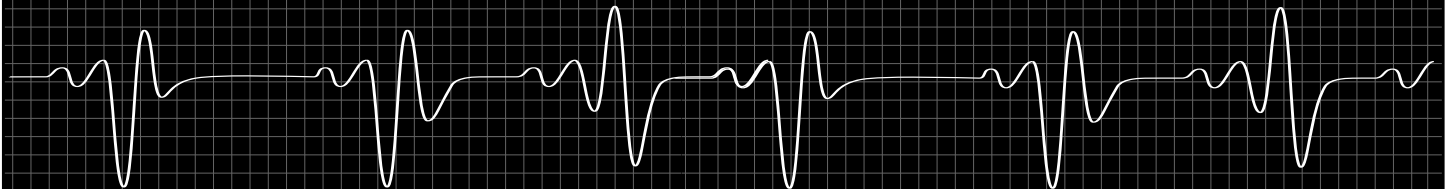
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HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Your Vote Counts!!!

Get ready for our Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest. We will be awarding 1st, 2nd & 3rd place cash prizes (\$200.00, \$150.00 & \$100.00 respectively). Honorable Mention will be given to the street or sub-division with the most participation.

FIRST – Nominate your home (or someone else's home) by emailing the physical address to Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Friday, December 12th.

NEXT – Go to the website (www.steinerranchhoa.org) and download the list of participating homes.

FINALLY – Vote for YOUR favorite home between Dec 13th–December 21st from the list and submit (only one vote per household) to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Tuesday, December 22nd

Winners will be announced on the website! Good Luck!!!



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HALLOWEEN TREATS



Thanks to all the kids (and parents) that came out to the Kids' Halloween Adventure on Saturday, October 31st at the John Simpson Park. It was a perfect day to spend some time outside, petting the animals in the Petting Zoo and winning some fun treats and candy.

A special thank you to the Canyon Ridge Middle School students from the National Junior Honor Society, Neha Mulpuri and Rhea Adhikary who helped set up and hand out treats to the kids, Rao Mulpuri for taking the great photos of the event and Stacy Rider of Coldwell Banker for supplying the Trick-or-Treat bags for the kids!

Make plans to come to next year's Halloween Adventure on Sunday, October 31st from 3pm – 5pm.





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

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

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



Nominate Your Favorite Yard for Yard Of The Month



*Congratulations to
The Yard of the Month
for November!*

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3108 WILD ROCK COVE**

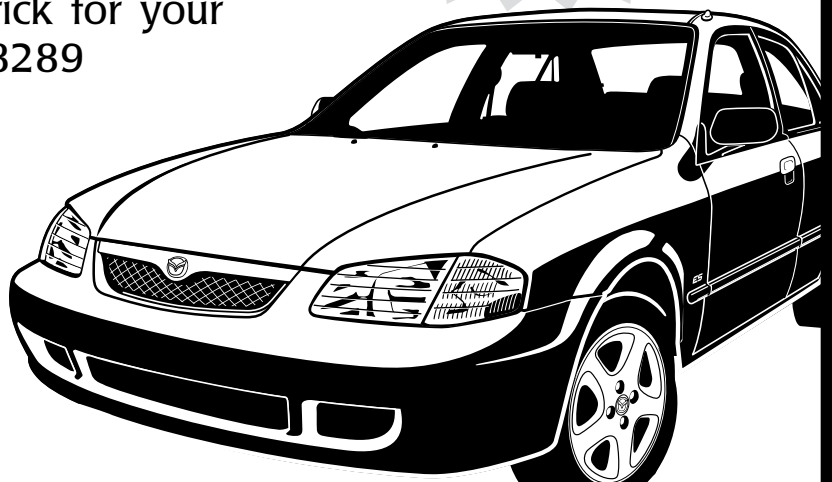
Do you know a neighbor who takes excellent care of their property or a neighbor who has added something new to their yard?

Nominate them by emailing the address to steinerranch@peelinc.com. Please include a photo if possible.

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IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL

Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social

Friday, December 4, 2009

7:00pm – 11:00pm

Towne Square Community Center
12550 Country Trails

Don't miss the annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social! This year we will be presenting festive holiday wine, food, and featuring music from FEEL GOOD MUZIK – Mike Avila, and giving away fantastic door prizes.

For more information, contact Sharon Adams - Community Coordinator

512-266-7553 or visit www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Holiday Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Christmas and New Year's service will remain regular service:

- Christmas week will be on ***Thursday, December 24th***
- New Year's week will be on ***Thursday, December 31st***



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Around Steiner

Trails Update

Someone has been cutting down trees in our greenbelt and this could be a danger to you and your family. Again on the Westridge Canyon Loop trail, someone has cut down trees to cross a switchback and the rogue trail is directed at several steep drop-offs. These are not authorized trails and are actually dangerous routes. Imagine a young biker who unknowingly follows that section and severely crashes when they go over the multiple steep ledges. And this is not the only example of rogue trails in Steiner. Ultimately this activity will only hurt the trail system and all residents. Cutting in the greenbelt is never allowed, and cutting in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) is a Federal offense. Common responses in the public trail system are to close the trails permanently (such as Forest Ridge in Austin). Rogue trails also cause erosion and other problems as reported in the September 2009 Ranch Record.

Don't cut up our trails - you can help plan new trails here! Your Trails Committee now has a volunteer who is looking into where new trails can be made within Steiner Ranch. Working with our developer Taylor Woodrow, we are exploring possible new routes. We invite



all residents who have an idea or a desire for a new trail to come work with us to make it happen. These are your trails and you pay for them. But no one wants to spend money to close and re-vegetate rogue trails; that simply wastes money. Contact your trails committee to get involved at 266-8498.

On the positive side, by now you have seen trail improvements and repairs which make our trail system safer. Two large downed oak trees were removed from the Headlands trail near Westridge community. Also on Headlands, a very steep and slippery descent has been rerouted to include a gentler slope. This is right above the two wooden bridges near its intersection with the Majestic Oaks trail, and was an area where residents have slipped and fallen on the trail. Next, those nasty T-bar posts in the middle of several trails have been removed or pounded down. These posts are a legacy left by the first contractors who built some trails in Steiner Ranch, along with the now-eroded cedar "steps." These methods are not used by professional trail builders. And we are fortunate to have a professional trail builder on call to build our trails in a maintainable fashion, Talon Trails. Other repairs to the River Heights Overlook and Summer

(Continued on Page 13)

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--- Austin ---

Avery Ranch	Legend Oaks II
Barton Creek	Long Canyon
Barton Hills	Lost Creek
Bella Vista	Meadows of Brushy Creek
Belterra	Pemberton Heights
Canyon Creek	Ranch at Brushy Creek
Cherry Creek on Brodie Lane	River Place
Circle C Ranch	Sendera
Courtyard	Shady Hollow
Davenport Ranch	Sonoma
Forest Creek	South Lamar NA
Granada Hills	Steiner Ranch
Hidden Glen	Stone Canyon
Highland Park West Balcones	Travis Country West
Jester Estates	Twin Creeks
Lakeline Ranch	Villages of Westen Oaks
Lake Pointe	Vista Oaks
Lakeway	Westcreek
Lakewood	Westminster Glen
Laurel Oaks NA	Wood Glen

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Trails Update- (Continued from Page 12)

Vista trails include reroutes around wet seeps and more erosion control.

The trails committee continues to design a system of labels for our trail sign posts. To get connected here and volunteer your design skills, contact the trails committee at 266-8498.

Is your favorite trail in need of repair or in need of better sign locations? If you see a problem on the trails, call the HOA at 266-7553 or visit <http://www.steinerranchhoa.org> under "Report A Problem." Be specific about the location on the trail, the problem you see, your ideas for a solution, and your contact information. If you see any rogue trail cutting or dangerous activity, including motorcycles anywhere on the trails or in the parks, take a picture and call the Travis County Sheriff West Command at (512) 854-9728 and the HOA. Remember, your trails are private and are for your use, and your accompanied guests' use only.

SPEEDING IN STEINER RANCH

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Speeding has become a MAJOR problem in our community. Whether on the public roads or behind the gates in the private neighborhoods, speeding violations are on the increase. Also on the increase is the number of accidents on the roads.

Speeding can result in accidents, injuries and far worse. The Association receives many complaints on a regular basis. The solution is simple – PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Everyone at one time or another is guilty but the solution is simple. Think about your neighbors, think about the kids and think about safety and PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

Please help us keep Steiner Ranch beautiful and SAFE by not speeding!



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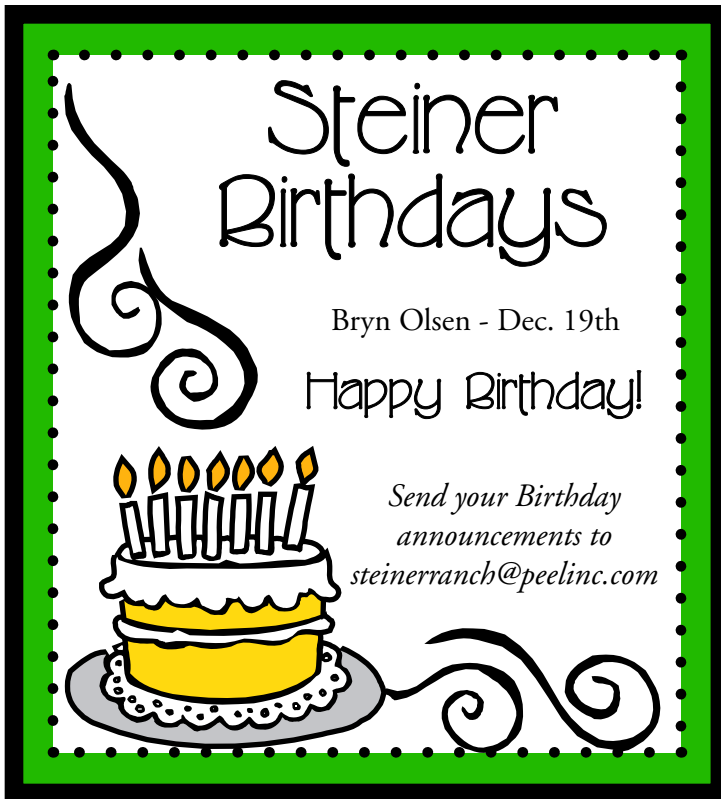
Photo by: Bob Roberts



DanceDiscovery.Com

419-7611

Around Steiner



NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Welcome Newcomers!

Welcome, newcomers to Steiner Ranch! If you have recently purchased a home here, you will receive an invitation to the Newcomer Orientation on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm in the Towne Square Community Center at 12550 Country Trails Lane. You will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with your new community, as well as with other new homeowners. A brief presentation will be given on the history of Steiner Ranch, the organization of the homeowners associations, the homeowner committees, the assessment rates, and community rules and regulations. A representative from the developer, Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd., will be available to answer questions about the future development plans for Steiner Ranch. Light refreshments will be served.

Have you lived here a while and never attended an orientation? Do you want to know more about Steiner Ranch? We would love to have you come and join us.

Please RSVP to 266-7553 or to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

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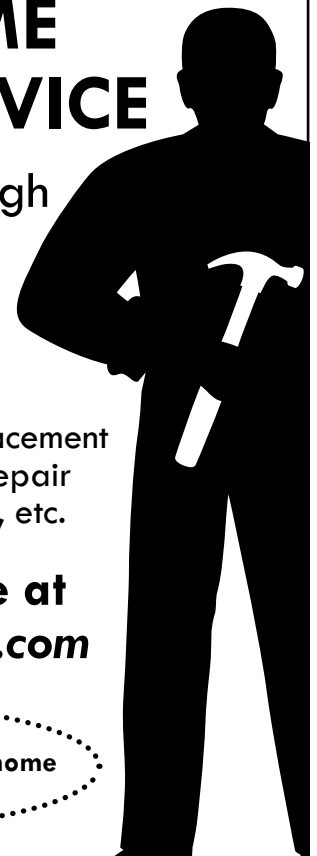
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GREETINGS STEINER RANCH FOLKS!

Lake Travis Fire Rescue has been busy serving Steiner Ranch and wants to thank your community for all the support and cookies we receive from you.

Fire calls have diminished in the Steiner Ranch community with all of the recent heavy rain and we want the positive trend to continue. So we want to prepare you for upcoming holiday dangers. First of all, Christmas trees are beautiful and festive, but inside your home they can be exceptionally dangerous. We really recommend that you consider an artificial tree, but if you must have a real tree, please follow these guidelines.

Number one, keep the tree watered. The drier the tree

becomes, the more flammable it becomes. The tree begins dying from the minute it is cut and keeping it watered is a key way to slow down the dying process.

Second, plan to place the tree in an area where you can egress your home without passing by the tree. Do not put the tree next to where you need to exit if the tree happens to catch on fire. Keep all candles and open flames far away from the tree. The tree can ignite rather easily and will become fully involved in a few seconds. Another good reminder is to cut off your Christmas lights when sleeping at night or when leaving your home.

Do not forget to be careful with fireplace and barbecue pit

ashes. We suggest disposing of the ashes in a sealed metal waste can. Let the ashes sit for four to five days before you put them in a regular trash can. We have had people place them in paper bags and set them on a wooden deck. This is a recipe for an undesired 2 a.m. surprise (please do not test our response times to your home)!

I also have to mention the idea of purchasing the new flameless candles. They are attractive and SAFE! Lastly, smoke detectors really do save lives!

Have a great winter and give us a call if we can help you with anything for you and your family's safety.

JIM LINARDOS, FIRE CHIEF



LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE

Jim Linardos, Fire Chief

Headquarters

512.266.2533

Fax 512.266.7065

Cell 512.203.0638

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Dr. Elyse Cronin

Around Steiner

Workshop Series

We will be scaling back out monthly workshops for December, knowing how busy these holiday months can be, but we are still offering some great workshops for you to attend. We are always looking for more workshops to offer residents so if you or someone you know can provide educational opportunities for Steiner Ranch residents, please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553

DECEMBER 1ST – HEALTHY LIVING WORKSHOPS; SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS: learn how to stay healthy and avoid the traditional holiday weight gain during the Thanksgiving to Christmas blowout! Plus more healthified recipes of traditional Christmas/Chanukah favorites!

RSVP www.wildbasinfitness.com

7:30pm Wild Basin Fitness Center

Cost: Free

DECEMBER 1ST – WOMEN AND FINANCE, by Rich Keith: As our financial success continues to grow, so do our financial responsibilities. But for many women, meeting these financial responsibilities can be a far greater challenge than it is for men. We explore the challenges and the opportunities that are unique to

women so you can create a financial road map that covers key areas of your life. With such a roadmap you can make better financial decisions. 7:00pm BMCC

Cost: Free

RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

DECEMBER 15TH – SAY WHAT YOU SEE – EYE-OPENING SOLUTIONS FOR PARENTS, by Sandy Blackard, author and founder of Language of Listening – Reassurance not working for “BOO”, fear of the dark and other scary moments? End the haunting in one simple step. Join Sandy Blackard for Q & A to explore how adding seeing to hearing can change your most challenging moments with children into rewarding ones.

Cost: Free

Register with Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org

7:00pm – 8:30pm TSCC

DECEMBER 15TH OR DECEMBER 20TH – WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASS, by Robert Hamic – Come to this 2 hour training workshop and learn a couple of effective tactics to use in the event you are attacked. You will learn a very effective method

(Continued on Page 17)

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Workshop Series-

(Continued from Page 16)

that it instinctive and can be remembered easily. We train all people on this method including: SWAT officers, women, law enforcement, kids, military, men and older people. This is a "don't miss" class!

Cost: \$52.24 per person

Register online at www.steinerranchhoa.org

December 15th - 10:00am - 12:00pm TSCC

December 20th - 4:00pm - 6:00pm TSCC

For additional information go to www.steinerranchhoa.org or contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

Happenings on the Ranch Programs

2010 Spring Programs in Steiner Ranch will begin in January! Registration has already started, so go online and look for all program information in the 2010 Program Guide at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Here is a summary of what you will find:

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Sportball
- Tap & Ballet Combo
- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- Art
- Spanish
- Cooking
- Music

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Neighborhood Sports
 - o Flag Football
 - o Soccer
- Spring Break Aztec Soccer Camp
- Adult & Teen Tile Ceramic Workshop

ELEMENTARY – TEEN PROGRAMS

- Sportball
- Tap & Ballet combo
- Hip Hop
- Gymnastics
- Karate
- Tennis
- Art
- After School Supper Club

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Yoga
- Karate
- Tennis
- Dance Fitness
- Stroller Strides

Registration information can be found at www.steinerranchhoa.org or at the Community Association Office at 12550 Country Trails Lane.

If you have any questions, please call Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at 512-266-7553 or sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.



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12917 Little Dipper Path offered at \$387,000

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2217 Golden Gate Park for lease at \$1900/mo.

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Around Steiner

Winter Pool Hours

It's official, the Bella Mar Lap pool is now heated! Due to the installation of the heater, the pool will be closed and locked when the solar covers are on.

November pool hours will be as follows:

Bella Mar
Splash Pool & Baby Pool
closed

Lap Pool
Closed Monday
Tue-Fri 7:00am – 4:00pm
Sat & Sun – 7:00am – 2pm

Master's Swim Program
– Wednesday & Friday
5:30am – 6:45am;
Sunday 6:30am – 7:45am

VHS Swimming - Monday
– Friday 7:15am – 9:15am

Limited lap lanes will be available to lap swimmers during these programs sessions.

Towne Square – (unheated)
Closed Mon. until 12:00pm
Tues. – Sun. 8:00am
– 10:00pm

John Simpson - (unheated)
Closed Mon. until 2:00pm
Tues. – Sun. 5:30am
– 10:00pm

*Please note** Lifeguards are no longer on duty. Swim at your own risk.*

Stars Swim Team Getting Ready for the 2010 Season

Planning for the Steiner Stars 2010 swim season is currently underway by the Swim Team Board. The schedules for both red and blue teams are not final yet, but the start date for swim practices set by the Northwest Swim Circuit is May 10th. As of now, the season will be ending ONE WEEK LATER than in past seasons with Divisionals being held on July 17th and Invitationals being held at the UT Swim Center on July 18th. There was a scheduling conflict with the UT pool for Invitationals which is the cause for the week later swim season. Please be aware of this change as you are planning for summer camps and summer vacations.

We are currently working with the HOA on finalizing practice schedules and pool usage agreements. Periodically check the swim teams website, www.steinerstars.org for 2010 swim season information as we will try to keep the website current once circuit decisions and team decisions are made.



Give Your Family the Gifts the Last a Lifetime!



Our Holiday gift to you is one month FREE for the entire family!

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

*New members only; ages 4 - 110 yrs; exp. 1/31/10



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ATTENTION STEINER RANCH

Pet Owners!

LOST AND FOUND PET NOTICES

Over the past few months there has been a steady increase in the amount of lost and/or found pets in Steiner Ranch. We encourage EVERYONE to sign up for the Lost and Found pet alerts that are sent out from the Association. To sign up:

1. Go to www.steinerranchhoa.org
2. Enter your email in the "Join/Edit the Steiner Ranch email list"
3. Follow the directions from "Constant Contact"
4. Receive a confirmation email and click on the link to confirm

We've been able to reunite countless pets and owners through these highly successful alerts! But the more people that are signed up the better!

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

Please be a responsible pet owner by doing your part to keep Steiner Ranch a pleasant, clean, and safe neighborhood for all.

1. Scoop the Poop – Pet stations are located all throughout Steiner Ranch common areas.
2. Latch the leash – not only is it safer for your dog and others around you but it's a law in Travis County.
3. No excessive barking – be courteous of your neighbors and keep your barking dog quiet.
4. Report Violations – go to our website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on the link "Report a Problem".



Thank You For a Great Year!



*Wishing you & your families a
Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!*



What Will the Real Estate Market in 2010 Be Like?

*Experience will make a difference...when you need
to sell, call & together let's get it sold!*

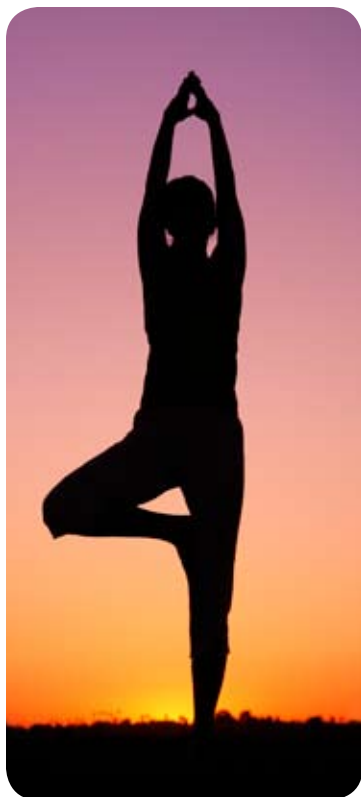


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*Thank you for the
opportunity to serve you*





Yoga Classes Offered

FREE CLASSES!

Yoga – Every Monday at 6:30pm at the Towne Square Community Center. Bring your own mat and water.

Pilates – Thursdays 8:00am at the Towne Square Community Center. Bring your own mat, water & exercise ball. See Calendar on the website for dates www.steinerranchhoa.org

PRE-NATAL YOGA CLASSES

Held on Monday 9 to 10 a.m. January 17th to February 21st (6 weeks). The mother & baby-to-be's well being is kept healthy during pregnancy. Body, mind, emotions, energy, spirit are balanced, regulated, monitored with regular, appropriate, yoga practice in class. Pregnancy can be quite stressful & traumatic. The effects of this register on the baby. It is important for mother, baby & family to benefit from the calming, centering, grounding, healthy effects of pre-natal yoga.

Yoga poses, breathing techniques, relaxation taught gently by yoga teacher competent to teach

yoga to Pre-Natal adults.

Gentle practices appropriate for Pre-Natal.
6 weeks session \$60

Or single classes \$15

Classes held at Towne Square Community Center

SENIOR'S YOGA

January 17th to February 21st (6 weeks). Monday 10 to 11 a.m. Yoga for seniors has shown to have beneficial effects upon the individual & family. Improvement of joints, muscles, nerve, skin tone & posture. Improvement on body & mind. Relief from illnesses & pain management. Removal of fear, increase of calmness. Yoga taught gently & appropriately to seniors by competent yoga teacher.

6 weeks at 20% discounted price of \$48

Single classes for \$10

Classes held at Towne Square Community Center

(Continued on Page 21)

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Thursday, January 21 from 6-8:30 p.m.

Steiner Ranch Steakhouse
5424 Steiner Ranch Blvd.
Austin, TX 78732

**Please make a reservation for yourself and
up to two guests. Call (512) 691-5946.**

This is an informational workshop.
There is no cost or obligation for attending.

Presented by:



Jon Fletcher

**Jon Fletcher, CPRC®
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Carl Canga

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Yoga Classes Offered- (Continued from Page 20)

KID'S YOGA CLASS

Yoga actually starts with the growing child. Just as we go to school as kids & not as adults. Yoga for kids is very differently taught from yoga for adults. Studies have shown a child who practices yoga on a regular basis has:

- Balanced growth of the physical body.
- A strengthened auto-immune system.
- Balance of mind & emotions.
- Balance of energy & behavior.
- Relaxation of body & mind leads to increase of concentration, focus, memory & creativity.
- Toned muscles & nerves, consciousness of body & mind help with sports & athleticism.
- Calmness & Serenity.
- Good memory recall & thought processing, confidence for test taking.
- Good self esteem to combat negative peer pressure.
- Harmony of Head, Heart & Hands.

January 17th to February 21st (6 weeks) \$60 or single classes for \$15.

Bella Mar Community Room; every Sunday at 5:00pm

2009 Program Registration form is found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org under the "documents" section.

Women's Self Defense Classes

December 15th 4:00pm – 6:00pm

or

December 19th 12:00pm – 2:00pm

\$50 per person (plus online fee of \$2.24)

Towne Square Community Center

Register online at www.steinerranchhoa.org, for this 2-hour Self Defense class offered by Robert Hamic, President of Summit Self Defense and resident of Steiner Ranch. Robert will be training a couple of effective tactics to use in the event of an attack. He has taught SWAT officers, women, law enforcement, kids, military, men and older people this same method.

Class size is limited, so register early.



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Around Steiner

• ❁ Steiner Ranch History Corner ❁ •



Last month we heard about how Bobby Steiner and his 2 brothers had a tutor while traveling with his family's rodeo business. Yes it was work but they made it fun too. Think about what it would have been like to be a traveling family in the 1960's and 1970's. And on top of that, you were traveling with a rodeo, which was as close to being a circus as it is possible to be. Buck and Tommy Steiner were rodeo producers. That meant that when they came to town they brought everybody they needed. They brought the rodeo band, the trick pony riders, an announcer, and an

emcee; all the animal loaders, truck drivers, tent-setters, cooks and clowns were also on the payroll.

Many venues weren't prepared for a rodeo. For these places the Steiners had to bring in much more equipment and perform a complete setup. For example, they would have to buy local dirt and bring it in, spreading it around the arena. They had to bring their own chutes and pens, and all their own lights and sound systems. When they were done, down came the tents and the dirt had to be sold off. It was a lot like a circus

but with a lot more dirt.

For short trips from Austin or from some other city, the family traveled by car. The animal handlers drove their trucks and trailers with many of the rodeo bulls and horses in the trailers. A typical all-day drive to the next rodeo needed only stops for food and water for people and for the stock. But for longer trips the Steiners took an airplane and the rest of the rodeo followed on the ground. Timing these trips required quite a bit of planning. And sometimes they had two complete crews in transit: one for the current rodeo and some in transit for the following rodeo.

Now if you're a kid on the road with your parents, who are you going to play with besides your siblings? In those days the people who traveled with the rodeo mostly went solo, leaving their families behind. There was one employee who worked the rodeo and brought his family, and that was the radio announcer. But for the most part the Steiners were the exception to the rule, being both competitors and producers who traveled with their families to most all of the rodeos. So the Steiner kids learned to enjoy the company of the cowboys, the rodeo clowns and the other performers. Source: Interview with Bobby Steiner. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

- RICH KEITH



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN STEINER RANCH

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 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@gstx.org or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at www.gstx.org.

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 and fishing with your family, shoot BB guns, sleep over on real U.S. Naval ships 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? Find out how enriching being a Cub Scout can be!

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

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.

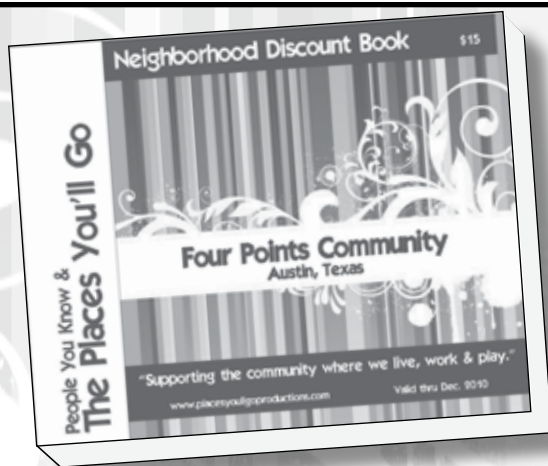
For more information, email David Dyke at david@austin-tech.net and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

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

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



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266-6161 or online at www.WildBasinFitness.com

From the Association Office

HOLIDAY HOURS

During the Holiday Season, the Association office will have reduced hours.

Please mark your calendars with the following changes:

Thursday, December 17th
Open 10am – 5pm

Friday, December 18th
Open 10am – 12pm Only

Thursday, December 24th
Open 10am – 2pm

Friday, December 25th
Closed All Day

Happy Holidays FROM THE ASSOCIATION STAFF

The HOA would like to thank those who joined and those who have been serving many years on our Facilities, Social, Architectural, Finance and the new Golf Club Committees, as well as our Board of Directors for volunteering many, many hours of their time. These are the homeowners who dedicate their time to make the tough decisions and who make Steiner Ranch an enjoyable place to live and raise a family.

We also recognize and thank those many sub-committees, such as Trails, Tennis,

Swim Team & Recycling. They work behind the scenes and help, with little recognition, but contribute in BIG ways!

Finally, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of you who have made a concerted effort to comply with the Steiner

Ranch deed restrictions and rules, and who pay assessments in a timely manner. Your consideration and punctuality is greatly appreciated!

Have a wonderful holiday season!



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Bulletin Board Posting Policy

Due to the small sizes of the community bulletin boards and the large numbers of residents wanting to post notices, the Boards of Directors for Steiner Ranch have adopted the following restrictions for the bulletin board postings:

1. Bulletin boards are for resident postings only. Association notices have first priority.
2. Notices are posted every Friday and will remain on the board for two (2) weeks. Notices must be submitted by 5:00pm on Thursday.
3. Notices may not be larger than 5"x 7".
4. Association notices are exempt from time and space restrictions.
5. Notices must include either a Steiner Ranch subdivision name OR a Steiner Ranch telephone number.
6. Commercial (for-profit) postings by adults are not permitted. (These include, but are not limited to, offers for in-home childcare, nannies, cleaning service, scrapbooking service, piano lessons, pet care, etc.)
7. Commercial (for-profit) postings for youth (under 18 years) are permitted. Youth postings may be placed on the boards for no more than one (1) month per calendar year.
8. All postings are approved at the Association Staff's discretion.

Thank you for your cooperation with the posting restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact the Community Associations Office at (512) 266-7553.

Lakeway Pediatric Associates



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ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES Solar Panel Requirements

All solar panels must be submitted to the Architectural Committee and reviewed for approval, based on design and location, but at a minimum must meet the following requirements:

- The glass, frame, flashing, and other solar panel collector materials must blend with the roof.
- All meters, disconnects, conduits, and other appurtenances must be painted to blend with the exterior of the house where attached
- Solar panels must not overhang the edge of the roof
- Location of panels, meters, disconnects, conduits, and other appurtenances must be submitted to the committee for review
- Solar panels should be located on an interior roof side, or rear facing roof side, when not abutting a street.

If you are considering Solar Panels for your home and have questions regarding the approval process, please call the HOA office at 512-266-7553.

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Tabletops*

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& walls*

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diningrooms & exercise
areas*



From the Association Office

Online Assessment Payments Now Available

Semi-annual assessments for January - June 2010 are due on January 1, 2010. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file in mid-December. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553. You are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees even if you do not receive a statement. Payments received after January 31, 2010 for any reason are subject to an initial \$40.00 late fee per association and a \$15.00 late fee for each additional month that the assessment remains unpaid. Please note that the assessment must be received by January 31st, not simply postmarked by January 31st. Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

Online Assessment payments can be made at www.steinerranchhoa.org, by clicking on the "Online Assessment Payments" tab.

There is an additional fee* for using this option and you must have your billing statement with you at the time of payment. Credit Cards and "pay by check" are accepted.

*Payment Amount	Fee
0 – \$150.00	\$5.00
150.01 – 300.00	\$10.00
300.01 – 500.00	\$15.00
Greater than \$500.01	\$25.00

You can still mail in your payments at the address listed on your statement, or bring them to the Association office at 12550 Country Trails Lane to avoid the Online fee.

Please note that if you do not pay your assessments, you may lose resident privileges such as pool access, facility rental, and attendance at, or registration for, social functions and programs.

Holiday Decoration Rules

Thanksgiving has passed and the Holiday season is now in full swing. Do you have jack-o-lanterns on your front step? Is there a plastic turkey in your yard? Are you thinking of hanging red-and-green lights on your house this year? As you plan your outside decor for the upcoming holidays, please observe the following Steiner Ranch rule regarding holiday decorations on the exterior of your property (this rule does not apply to the inside of your homes):

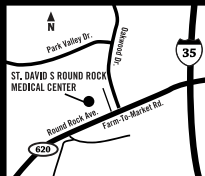
Holiday decorations (excluding Christmas) may be put out up to fourteen (14) days in advance of the holiday in question. Decoration must be removed no later than seven (7) days after the holiday. Christmas decorations may be put out beginning November 1st and must be removed by January 15th.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Steiner Ranch rules and have a wonderful holiday season!

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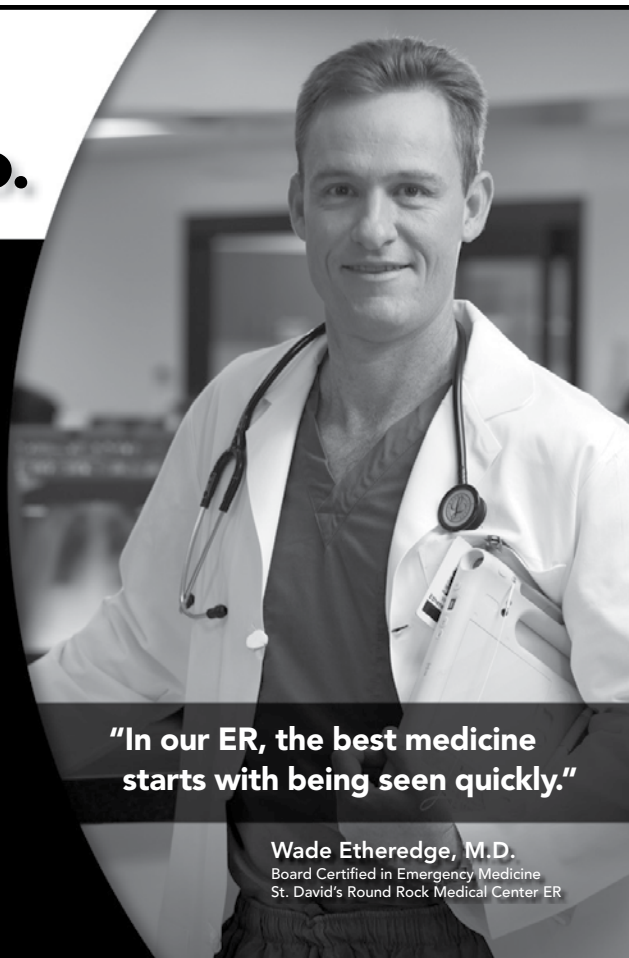
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Vandegrift High School “How Tough Am I” Swim-A-Thon

The Vandegrift High School Swim team held their 1st Annual Swim-a-thon at the Bella Mar Pool on Wednesday, November 4th. It was an early release day for LISD, so swimmers took advantage of the extra time to raise money for their inaugural swim season.

Each swimmer, swam a total of 10,000 yards and, as a team raised over \$3,000. It took them between 2 ½ to 3 ½ hours to complete. Afterward, the parents and swim team booster supplied food and smores for the team to enjoy! Thanks to Pizza Hut for providing the team with free pizza.

Congratulations on proving “how tough you are” VHS Swimmers!



Whether on the field, or off, don't let an injury sideline you!



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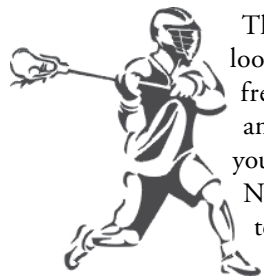
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Vipers Boys' Lacrosse Team



The Vipers boys' lacrosse team is forming and looking for players. If you are an incoming freshman or sophomore at Vandegrift HS and are interested, then we are looking for you. **NO PRIOR PLAYING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** *7th/8th and 5th/6th grade teams now forming!*

For more information visit viperslax.net or email the team at viperslax@gmail.com

New Law Bans Cell Phone Use in School Zones

Beginning September 1 of this year a new law went into effect that does not allow the use of your cell phone (unless you use a hands free devise) in a school zone and Steiner Ranch has three of them all within 3 miles of each other.

So, end that call before entering the school zone, or you could face a \$200 fine.

STALLIONS SPREAD

Christmas Cheer

The holiday season is upon us and Steiner Ranch Elementary is once again participating in a community Toy Drive. The toy drive is an opportunity for our students to make the holiday season a little brighter for children in need.

With the help of our long-time partner, Starbucks at Four Points, toys will be distributed to local charities. Such charities in the past have included Blue Santa, Brown Santa and children's hospitals.

"We want to teach our school children that giving to others in need is an important part of Christmas. I think it is a great way to exercise our ethical principle 'Concern for Others,'" said Susan Kemmerer, event co-chair. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off from December 7th through 11th at the school collection bins.

Brownie Troop #1743 will be "advertising" with troop-made signs to remind parents at pick-up time, and a Boy Scout troop will assist with transporting gifts.

If you would like to be involved in transporting gifts to the Four Points Starbucks collection site, please contact Susan Kemmerer (sykemmerer@earthlink.net). Your time is a gift worth giving to this great cause, and it would only involve one afternoon. Please contact Sarah Ribeiro or Susan Kemmerer with questions. Sarahribeiro@sbcglobal.net - Sykemmerer@earthlink.net. We'd love to help those that want to be involved!!

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm – Tentative Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – Women & Finance (BMCC) 7:30pm – Surviving the Holidays (Wild Basin Fitness)	2	3 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – New Owner Orientation (TSCC) ♻️	4 7:00pm – Holiday Wine Social (TSCC)	5
6	7 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	8 6:30pm – Committee Members Holiday Party (TSCC)	9	10 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) ♻️	11	12
13	14 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	15 10:00am – 12:00pm – Self Defense Class (TSCC) 6:30pm – Eye Opening Solutions for Parents (TSCC)	16	17 Association Office Open 10am – 5pm. ♻️	18 Association Staff Office Holiday Party – Office Open 10am – Noon only	19
20 4:00pm - 6:00pm – Self Defense Class (TSCC)	21 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	22	23	24 Association Office Open 10am – 2pm ♻️	25 Christmas Day Association Office Closed	26
27	28 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	29	30	31 ♻️		



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JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Association Office Closed Happy New Year	2
3	4 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	5	6	7 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC)	8	9
10 4:00pm – 6:00pm – Self Defense Class (TSCC)	11 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	12 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	13	14	15	16
17	18 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	19	20	21	22	23 10:00am – 12:30pm – Custom Ceramic Tile 2-day Workshop (TSCC)
24/31	25 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	26	27	28	29	30 10:00am – 12:30pm – Custom Ceramic Tile 2-day Workshop (TSCC)

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Business Section

Four Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2010? 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 8:00am to 9:30am 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 11:30am to 1:00pm 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 7:00am to 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.

4PBA.ORG,

"Your Trusted Source For Local Business." We're your user friendly networking group that provides business networking leads, co-op advertising support, and community event participation. See our web site 4PBA.org or call Chase Burris for more information 512-809-5051.

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 steinerranch@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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Christmas is...



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LightFest | December 6 - 6:15pm

Christmas Is... Program | December 12 & 13 - 7pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | 5pm

Christmas Weekend Worship | December 27 - 11am

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship

9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

Great Hills Baptist Church

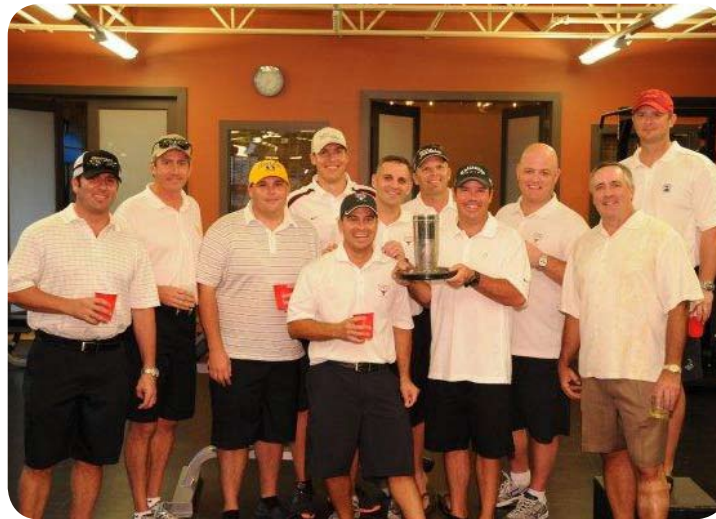
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BIKES FOR KIDS



Wild Basin teamed up with Mix94.7, the UT Golf Club, Fion's Bistro, and Antonio's Tex Mex to hold a golf tournament and happy hour benefitting Bikes for Kids. We were able to raise over \$2000 with this one event, thanks to the generous donations of our members as well as UT Golf, Fion's, and Antonio's. Two golf teams, one lead by professional golfer Rich Beem and the other by Wild Basin owner Kirk Leavell, matched-up on the UT golf course for bragging rights. The loser had to complete 100 GI Janes, which Kirk did in a record 17 minutes!



ABOUT BIKES FOR KIDS:

Over the past 12 years, JB & Sandy's Bikes for Kids program has reached an amazing milestone; over 10,000 bikes donated and more than \$1 million raised! Bikes for Kids was started in 1996 by JB & Sandy. They have always felt that no child should miss out on the feeling of receiving a shiny new bicycle on Christmas morning. When the promotion began it was on a very grass roots level, with JB & Sandy giving away 100 bikes. It has since grown to be one of the city's most recognized charities.

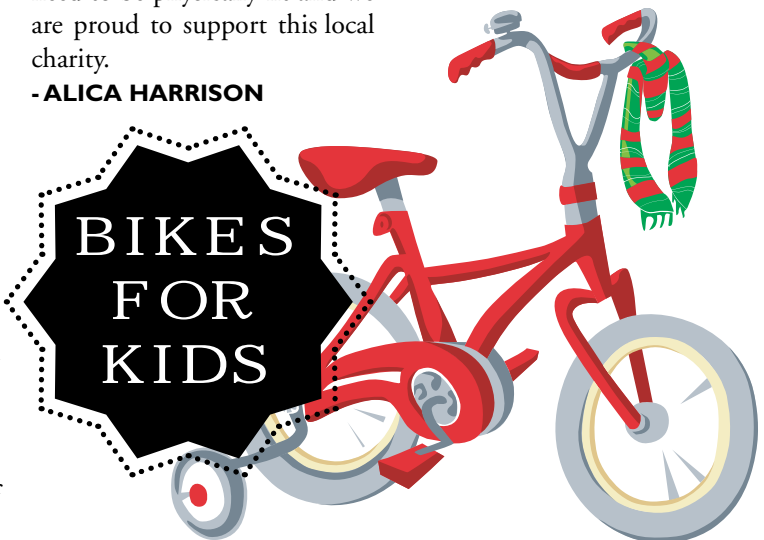
Obviously, the mission of

Bikes for Kids is in-line with our mission of providing Austinites with the tools and expertise they need to be physically fit and we are proud to support this local charity.

-ALICA HARRISON



(Left:) Beem with Trophy
(Center:) Winners
(Right:) Kirk Leavell



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Chipping Sparrow



White-Crowned Sparrow

NATURE WATCH

The Simple Beauty of Sparrows

Coming from the Anglo-Saxon word 'spearwa' and literally meaning 'flutterer', sparrows often conjure up images of the ubiquitous and non-native House sparrow and the House finch, which isn't a sparrow at all. While most sparrows are generally small to medium brown birds with streaks, the differences between sparrows can best be determined by their relative size, head markings, and habitat.

All sparrows have conical bills that they use to shell seeds, a primary component of their diet year-round, but especially so in the winter months. There is little difference between the males and the females in terms of appearance, but males are on average larger than females. As a group, most sparrows are birds of grasslands, prairies, and marshes, and seem to prefer weedy fields and woodland edges in the winter. Of the sparrow species that migrate, none travel further than the southern United States or northern Mexico.

One of our most common winter sparrows is the Chipping sparrow. Small and slim, with a long notched tail, rusty cap, white stripe over the eye and a black line through the eye, this sparrow moves in loose flocks and frequently feeds in short grass and open woods. While still fairly abundant, this sparrow is declining in numbers, mainly due to habitat destruction, and winters in the southern part of the United States. When first identified in 1810 by an American ornithologist, it was nicknamed 'the social sparrow' for it was easily approached and associated with human habitation.

(Continued on Page 39)

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512.266.8877

Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 38)

A fairly large sparrow, the White-crowned sparrow is distinguished by its black and white striped head, unmarked gray breast, and dark pink bill. It is found in large groups in thickets and weedy areas, foraging on the ground. Discovered in 1772 by a German naturalist, this sparrow was originally named the 'white-eyebrowed bunting', for in the Old World, sparrows were usually called buntings.

Found in a variety of grassy habitats, and often in small flocks, is the Savannah sparrow. Streaked on both their back and their breast, Savannah's have pink legs, yellow above the eye, a thin white median crown stripe, and a short notched tail. First described by a British ornithologist in 1790, it was called a 'sandwich bunting' due to the first specimens being collected from Sandwich Bay in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Lincoln's sparrow is a medium-sized bird with a rather short tail, broad gray stripe above the eye,



Savannah Sparrow

buffy moustache stripe, and a buffy upper breast with crisp, blackish streaks. Found in winter in brushy edges of ponds and other moist areas, this sparrow was named by John James Audubon in 1833 after his research companion, Thomas Lincoln, shot the first specimen in Labrador.

Sparrows are gregarious and are often our most hardy winter visitors. Adorned in various shades of brown, gray, black, and white, they reflect the subdued hues of a winter landscape. Often dismissed as 'little brown birds' when seen with the naked eye, these birds invite closer inspection and are nature's way of reminding us that subtle colors and patterns can be beautiful, too!

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

- JIM & LYNNE WEBER



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Techie Gifts for the Geek in Your Life

Well, here we are again, it's almost Christmas and you still haven't bought that "perfect" gift for the geek in your life. With the help of your computer and UPS/FedEx, you can have a gift in just a few days, just be sure to follow my "safe shopping" advice from September (you can read it online in the Lakeway newsletter at <http://bit.ly/Peel-Inc>)

Let's start with a trip to ThinkGeek.com. Who doesn't love Yoda, that cute little green Jedi from Star Wars? Now you can take Yoda with you with your very own Yoda Backpack. You strap him to your back and he holds on to you and your things at the same time (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts001>). Is your geek a prankster (or better, you want to pull a prank on your geek)? Then you want the "Phantom Keystroker". Simply insert the Phantom Keystroker into an available (and unseen) USB port and it will randomly and unexpectedly move the mouse, trigger the Caps-Lock key, or insert garbage text into typing (or all 3 if you wish). It's enough to drive anyone crazy on either a PC or a Mac (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts002>). Want to be part James Bond and part Q? How about a watch that hides an 8GB USB flash drive? It's stylish and stealthy (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts003>).

X-tremegeek.com has lots of goodies also. Know someone who likes to tinker? Then they need "Electronic Gadgets for The Evil Genius". For under \$100, they can build a working light saber, a laser listening system, a sonic phaser cannon and many other projects (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts004>). Does your geek like to stay up late and then has trouble getting up in the morning? The "Sonic Boom Alarm Clock" is what is needed. Not only does it have a loud 113 decibel alarm, it also comes with a 12 volt bed shaker that will make you think you live along the San Andreas Fault (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts005>).

USB is great not only for connecting printers and flash drives, but it can also power various gadgets, and USBGeek.com is the place for all things USB. One thing you can say about Texas, is that it gets HOT here. Wouldn't a 5" fan sitting on your desk be nice on those sweltering days? Well just plug this fan into a USB port and cooling air will be rushing over you (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts006>). Feeling particularly taken with the Christmas spirit? Then a USB powered neon Christmas tree is what you need. And if all your USB ports are used up, then some AAA batteries will power it instead (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts007>). Sometimes on hot days those big office

(Continued on Page 41)

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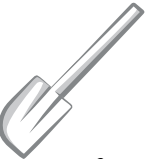


Techie Gifts- (Continued from Page 40)

buildings turn the air-conditioners down so far it's actually cold, so heated Christmas gloves are what you need. Your fingertips are left free for typing, yet your hands stay nice and warm (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts008>). Ever start a can of cola only to have to go warm before you finish it? The USB Can Cooler/Heater will help keep it cool, and I suppose if you have the right shape coffee cup it can keep your coffee warm as well (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts009>).

Need some clothing ideas? Maybe you're a dad and the geek in the family, then get your kid a "My Dad's a Geek" sweatshirt from CleaverCuties.com and be proud of it (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts010>). Is the mom the geek? Then how about a "My Mom's a Geek" hoodie (<http://bit.ly/TekChicGifts011>).




Have a wonderful Christmas season. Next month we'll look at some of the fun stuff coming up in 2010.

- LAURIE SCOTT



Recipe of the Month

Ham Roll-Ups



Ingredients

- Flour tortillas
- 8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese (softened)
- 1 small can Hormel canned ham
- Picante sauce

Directions

Mix the cream cheese, ham, and picante sauce together. Spread on tortillas and roll up. Refrigerate several hours, then slice.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

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LAKE TRAVIS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Holiday Story Time
Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m



Attend the Holiday Story Time at Lake Travis Community Library on Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m.

When is the last time you visited the library? Did you know that Lake Travis Community Library carries audiobooks, large print titles, board books for toddlers, music, magazines, electronic books, databases, magazines for children, and, of course, books for all ages? If you need a free way to fill your cozy autumn evenings, visit Lake Travis Community Library.

"We have five library book clubs, three story times a week, a craft club, a memoir writing group, a pajama story time once a month, a weekly after-school reading program, Love the Earth Camp twice a month, genealogy classes, computer help sessions, and more," said Library Director Morgan McMillian. "We have something to offer everyone in the community."

The special event in the month of December is the popular Holiday Story Time on Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m. Holiday stories, songs, and treats will create a festive mood. Close to one hundred people have attended this special evening in the past and you won't want to miss it! Be sure to stay for the special guest!

(Continued on Page 43)

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season

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David Sander

Partner & Steiner Resident

Lake Travis Community Library- (Continued from Page 42)

The Teen Book Club meets on Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at the library. All junior high and high school students are invited to discuss M.T. Anderson's *Feed*. This fantasy novel, set in a future world where computers are implanted directly into people's brains when they are babies, is sure to provoke much debate. Pizza will be served! See www.laketravislibrary.org/bookclub.htm for details about the four adult book clubs offered at the library.

The Memoir Writing Group holds its next meeting on Tuesday, December 1 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the group is to remember, to write, and to support each other in the process. At meetings, participants listen to a writing prompt, write for about twenty minutes, and share stories with each other. Library staff member Mary Jo Finch is the facilitator of this popular new group. More information can be found at <http://laketraviscommunity.wordpress.com/welcome/>.

Computer Help sessions continue to be offered at the library on Thursday mornings before the library opens at 9 a.m. If you have questions about searching the Internet, adding attachments to Word documents, operating your digital camera, or opening an email account, please plan to attend. And, the Genealogy Group continues to meet Friday mornings at 9 a.m. to access computer databases, share information, and get advice from experts.

There are many events presented for children as well! Five to eight year olds are encouraged to attend the Read It! program on Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. Each week, the group reads several chapters from a novel, completes an accompanying activity, and enjoys a light snack. Wear your sleepwear in public on the third Tuesday of December at 6:15 p.m. for a pajama storytime with a bedtime theme. Love the Earth Camp is for early elementary students on the second and fourth Saturday of the month to learn about conservation. Teen volunteer Ashley Fosshat leads the group in arts and crafts, snacks, and a special story time with an environmental theme. And, three weekly story times continue to be popular for our youngest patrons. Preschoolers meet on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., toddler story time is held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and babies are welcome to attend a story time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with songs and fingerplays.

As always, please contact the library for more information about any of these events at (512) 263-2885 or www.laketravislibrary.org. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

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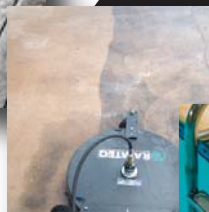
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LEGAL SMARTS

Top 6 mistakes parents make when naming a guardian for their children

As a parent, you have the responsibility for making sure that not only your future is well planned, but that your children's are as well, even after you are no longer here. Choosing who will take care of your kids and legally documenting your decisions is estate planning—it's your backup, your Plan B.... if you have kids, you need it.

The most common mistake parents make when naming a guardian for their children is procrastinating. You will NEVER be able to name the perfect person to take your place as guardian of your minor children---only you as the parents are the perfect people. Your goal should be to at least make a B. If you procrastinate and never get a plan in order in the event of a tragedy you have an F.

People make other common mistakes when naming a guardian for their children. Here is a list of the top 6:

1. Named a couple to act as guardians when you don't really want both people in the couple and you have not indicated what should happen if the couple broke up or one of the partners in the couple died.

2. Not named enough alternates to serve if your first choice could not serve.

3. Failed to exclude someone you do not want to serve or who may challenge your decision.

4. Considered financial resources when deciding who should raise your children. Your guardians do not have to also be financial decision makers for your kids. They should be the people who will make the best health care, education, housing, discipline and care decisions for your kids. It's your responsibility to leave enough

money behind to take care of your kids either through savings or life insurance and you can name someone other than your guardians to take care of that money if the best choice guardians are not "good with money" people.

5. Only named long-term care guardians and did not make any arrangements for the immediate term if you were in an accident. The last thing any parent wants for their child to end up at child protective services. But, if you are in an accident and no plan is in place to locate the person who is legally able to take control of your children and the legal documents authorizing such, this nightmare could become your children's reality. If your named guardian does not live near you, it is imperative that you name

(Continued on Page 47)

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Legal Smarts- (Continued from Page 46)

a temporary guardian who lives within 20 minutes of your home. It is also imperative that you have a plan in place so that the police department is capable of knowing who your temporary guardian is and is able to contact them at any time.

6. Placed your guardianship instruction inside your will and then protected your will in your safe deposit box, fireproof safe or some other 'secret' location. If your documents are under lock and key or if the proper people don't know how to get access to them immediately and from any location, how is your PLAN B going to actually be implemented? Actually preparing the legal guardianship documents is only the first step. How will the police know you have designated a temporary guardian? How will your babysitter know? While this is being sorted out, your children are being shipped off to foster care. Smart parents think about these things in advance and have an emergency plan that can actually be implemented.

Travis County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Reminder

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

Illegal Dumping- Illegal dumping in Travis County continues to be a major concern for our department. Please contact our dispatch to report illegal dumping. Do not dig through someone else's trash, you have no way of knowing what contaminates are in the dumping area or in the trash itself. Try to obtain license plates of vehicles seen in the dumping areas and report the activity immediately.



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Staying Fit through the Winter Months

Wow! The days are shorter, and the weather is colder. Winter is here once again. Luckily Texas winters, especially in Austin, only a few months. Nevertheless, winter can wreak havoc on fitness regimes for two reasons. Many individuals experience SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), which is winter blues or depression that occurs in people with normal mental health. It's due to the lack of sun light. According to the Mayo clinic, SAD can be treated with light therapy or antidepressants. If you think you might be suffering Seasonal Affective Disorder, talk to your doctor.

Second, many of us tend to hibernate in our homes in the

winter. Sitting at home in front of the fireplace with a warm blanket and drinking hot chocolate or tea or eating warm soup is more pleasing than going out and exercising in the cold or going to the gym after work when it's already dark out. This makes it feel later than it is, when in reality it's only 5 or 6 o'clock. Need not to worry though; here are some fitness tips that will keep you going until spring arrives again.

1. WARM UP AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.

A proper warm-up is critical because cold temperatures can make your muscles tight and therefore more prone to injuries. Remember, always warm-up

prior to engaging in any physical activity. Drink, drink, and drink plenty of water. Most people forget the importance of water during the colder months and are more likely to become dehydrated.

2. GO WINDOW SHOPPING AT THE LOCAL MALL!

Most local mall(s) open an hour early in order to provide a safe indoor walking haven during the winter months. If you can't make it in morning, take your sneakers with you and go right after work. Three

(Continued on Page 49)



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Staying Fit- (Continued from Page 48)

or four times a week will help keep the pounds off.

3. REMEMBER THOSE EXERCISE VIDEOS.

Just about everyone has had one. Wipe the dust off your exercise video and use it on the days you can't exercise outdoors because of the darkness. If you don't have an exercise video, check one out at your local library and/or video rental stores. Also, some cable networks have exercise channels on-demand for no charge, so look at your channel menu.

4. CREATE A HOME GYM.

Most people have a home gym without realizing it. Check your garage, under the bed, storage room, and closet. You can easily set-up a great workout routine with just a set of dumbbells, an exercise ball and a jump rope. If you don't any of these items, you can purchase most of these items at a local athletic supplier or discounted resale store for about \$50 to \$60.

There's no need to hit the couch or hibernate during the winter months. Stay motivated. With a little knowledge and motivation, anyone can meet the challenges of winter exercise. Have a fun, safe and a physically active winter.

- VALERIE SALINAS

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

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Staying Healthy During Your Holiday Travels

FLLEE THE FLU

Some experts say it's a myth that the re-circulated air on airplanes spreads colds and other maladies. But it's not a myth that you need to protect yourself from the germs spread by folks sniffing and sneezing around you, especially with double threat of the seasonal flu and H1N1, or swine flu, ready to pounce.

What can you do?

- **Fill 'er up with regular:** Get the regular flu shot. Now. If you don't have time to see a doctor or stop by a pharmacy or grocery store flu clinic, there are flu-shot kiosks in many airports, and even some bus and train stations.

- **Get some sleep:** Plan on a good night's rest before you travel and try to eat right and exercise when on the road. Experts say lack of sleep and the stress of travel contribute more to getting sick than that icky airplane air.

- **Wash your hands:** A lot. Ignore the stares and use sanitary wipes on your airplane armrests and tray table. At the hotel, wipe down telephone, the TV remote control and other germey surfaces.

- **Research swine flu:** Find out if you're in the target group for the H1N1 vaccine. If so, find out when and where you can get the shot.

- **Stay home:** If you get sick, don't go to the airport. And although it won't help you if you decide not to travel, this may be the season to explore travel or trip-cancellation insurance. You know — just in case.

- **Wear a mask.** Seriously, many people think masks are ineffective; but I'd rather take that precaution and maybe look a little foolish than get the flu bug.

WATCH WHAT YOU DRINK

While it's a good idea to stay hydrated, you may reconsider what you drink, or

decline to drink, on an airplane. Five years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tested the tap water served to airline passengers. In late 2004, the water on nearly 20 percent of the airplanes tested fell below EPA standards and had unacceptable, and in some cases dangerous, levels of bacteria. Since then, many airlines have been voluntarily monitoring their tap water and reporting back to agency, but last week it issued rules that spell out exactly how often airlines must clean and disinfect airplane water systems and test for coliform bacteria.

Airlines have up to two years to comply with those rules, so in the meantime, it's a good idea to:


- **BYOB — of water:** Buy a bottle once you pass through security or bring an empty bottle from home and fill it up at a post-security water fountain.

(Continued on Page 51)

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Staying Healthy- (Continued from Page 50)

- **Drink from the bottle:** When on the plane, drink soda, juice or water you see being poured from a bottle. And skip the coffee and tea: the water temperature used to brew coffee or heat water for tea usually doesn't get high enough to kill germs.
- **Don't drink in the bathroom:** Don't drink the lavatory water, and think twice about using it to brush your teeth.
- **Avoid caffeinated drinks and alcohol.** Nothing causes dehydration faster than the combination of caffeine or alcohol and the dried-out air on an airplane. Stick to water and non-carbonated beverages to stay hydrated.
- **Take your vitamins.** Take plenty of Vitamin C. Many travelers I know use Emergen-C, which is a powerful powder that you can mix with water. It's packed with vitamin C and bioflavonoids.

Following all the above tips may keep you well during your next airplane flight. Hopefully when you reach your destination, you will be well enough to enjoy your destination, instead of being confined to your hotel room with an unwanted illness.

Remember, whenever you travel and wherever you go, just sit back and Enjoy the Journey!

- MARINA BYRUM



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Tips for Teaching Children about Table Manners

Submitted by Rebecca Beavers

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime time special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.
2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."
3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.
4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.
5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit www.Dr.ZandMe.com.

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News You Can Use

AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

December Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many fun Interest groups.

Time: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

Date: December 16, 2009 (Reservations required by Thursday, December 10th)

Location: Green Pastures Restaurant
811 W. Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

Luncheon Cost: \$20 per person

For more information visit www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

December Program: Fabulous Holiday Entertainment

Join us to hear Emily Bem, an award-winning singer and actress as she sings for us at our holiday luncheon. Emily has been performing in Austin for the past ten years. Most recently, she appeared as Sister Robert Anne in Nunsense with TexARTS, a company she has previously performed with including The Music Man (Alma), Big River (Widow Douglas) and Damn Yankees (Doris). On the Zilker Hillside, Emily played Alice Miller in My Favorite Year (she won a B. Iden Payne award), the Wardrobe in Beauty and The Beast, and most recently, Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in The Music Man (Payne nominee). Emily performed in eight consecutive Austin Musical Theatre shows. At Austin Playhouse she was Hattie in Kiss Me Kate and Miss Weston in Damn Yankees. She has played a variety of characters as well as playing Aldonza in Man of La Mancha--one of her all time dream roles--at the Sam Bass Theater in Round Rock. Emily directed Schoolhouse Rock Live! Junior for TexARTS at the Long Center, and teaches at their Academy in Lakeway. She also teaches acting and singing at Huntington Surrey High School, and offers lessons to people of all ages at her house in Southwest Austin. She will be accompanied on the piano is Marlene Nichols.

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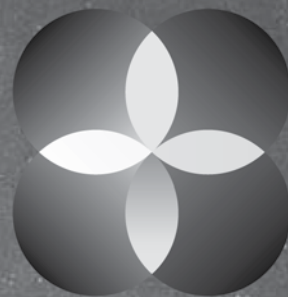
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Britt's Book Buzz

“A TRUE TEXAS INSPIRATION”

*Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall
and Denver Moore*

At the core of *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a true story written by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, are the relationships that Ron and Denver have with each other, their friends, Ron's spouse and children, nature, the environment in which they were raised (especially Denver) and most importantly, God.

Denver, an illiterate and homeless African American man from Louisiana, has suffered at the hands of many throughout his life but through it all become a true messenger for God. The book begins with Denver recounting his heartbreaking life—from the back breaking work of picking cotton to seeing the people he loved most in the world disappear. The book so graphically reveals the gut wrenching life of a boy who wants for almost nothing, but is treated terribly.

Ron is a self-made millionaire whose heart was open to being guided by God, at the hands of his wife Deborah. Deborah—a person so filled with faith—heard God speak to her and conveyed these very specific and detailed visions to Ron (including seeing Denver's face even though they had not met him yet) and together, they became an integral part of a community of homeless people in Fort Worth, Texas. And this is where Ron's and Denver's lives intersected and forever changed.

The writing is relatable and each personality (the book alternates between Ron's and Denver's voices) is clearly unique and endearing. For example Ron, who worked on his grandpa's farm during summers, writes of the land, "...the land is miserable, cursed with soil that may well be the original inspiration for cement."

The book addresses a question that all of us have asked, "Why did God let that happen?" It challenges faith in a very personal way. The book also encourages each of us to believe that God has a purpose for us, even if it isn't clear at this moment.

Same Kind of Different as Me demonstrates that the human spirit is fragile while at the same time immensely strong. It shows how trust, prayer and unconditional love can bring out amazing change and a life long friendship.

The book ended with a wonderful reminder, "...everybody's different...We're all just regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us...this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless—just workin our way toward home."

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>.

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The recharge zone is a 1,250 square mile area where highly faulted and fractured Edwards limestones outcrop at the land surface, allowing large quantities of water to flow into the Aquifer. For this reason, the Edwards is often called a fault-zone aquifer. About 75-80% of recharge occurs when streams and rivers cross the permeable formation and go underground. The rest enters when precipitation falls directly on the outcrop. Medina Lake is a surface water reservoir built partly on the recharge zone and it contributes large amounts

of water to the Aquifer. Recent findings suggest that up to 10% of the total recharge water enters the Edwards from the Trinity aquifer. Most of the annual average recharge of about 724,000 acre feet (for the period 1934-2008) occurs in the western counties of Medina and Uvalde, where the Edwards outcrop is very wide at the surface. But rainfall is highly variable and so recharge amounts also vary widely from year to year.

A little-known fact is that some local features such as Barton Springs and San Felipe Springs are part of the Barton Springs segment, which is a different segment of the aquifer than the San Antonio segment. While part of the same aquifer system, their waters do not mix. The Barton Springs segment extends from south Austin to Kyle. The San Antonio segment is where much of the use by humans takes place, where most of the major natural springs occur, and where the water use issues are most hotly-debated. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

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LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER

December Events



WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5 - Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 6

Find the perfect gift in the garden. Sales, discounts, demonstrations and book and ornament signings. On Saturday and Sunday some 14 artists and artisans display their work for sale. Sponsored by Majic 95.5.

LUMINATIONS

Members Night, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, December 11 - Public, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13

Thousands of luminarias and twinkly lights, music, taste treats and children's crafts, all for the donation of two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank. Sponsored by Samsung, Silicon Labs, Majic 95.5 and the Austin American-Statesman

ART EXHIBITS

Nature inspired sculpture in the gardens through March 7. Collage and mixed media by artist Mary Frasher in the McDermott Learning Center through December 6. Water Sparks by sculptor Damian Priour--a joint exhibit with the Umlauf Sculpture Garden through December 20.



CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Wildflower Center will be closed from December 21 through January 1

Steiner Ranch Home Sale Data Now Available Online

Home sale data for recently sold homes in Steiner Ranch is available through a FREE members-only area of my website. This is the kind of information you want: addresses, sales prices, number of bedrooms & bathrooms, and more! Updated each month, this is a great way to track the value of homes in Steiner Ranch. Register by December 29th to be entered to win one of three pairs of tickets to see comedian Tim Hawkins on Saturday, January 9th.

Visit www.RealEstateInAustin.com and click on the Neighborhood Home Sale Data link.



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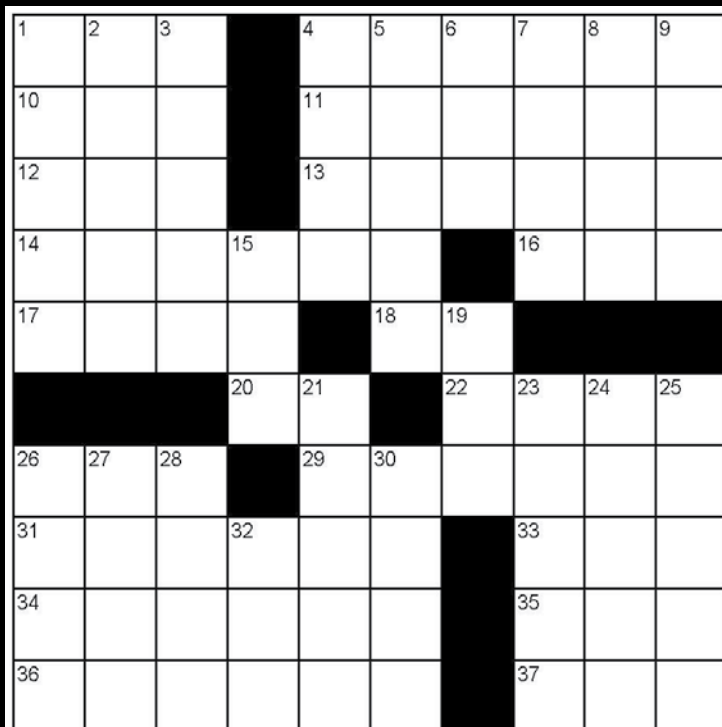
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Small amount
4. Metal bracket that holds stones together
10. Terminal abbr.
11. Timid
12. Mama
13. City in W. Oregon
14. Straighten
16. Spots
17. Stable gear
18. Gold (abbr.)
20. Mr. ___ (tv horse)
22. Canned meat brand
26. Oolong
29. Come out
31. Italian sausage
33. Wing
34. Busyness
35. Still
36. Parallelograms
37. Pigpen

DOWN

1. Object
2. Repent
3. Deer
4. Prayer ending
5. Orange cheese
6. Floor covering
7. At sea
8. Defend
9. Potato sprouts
15. Compass point
19. Employ
21. Demobilize
23. Petitions to God
24. Metal tip on the end of a lance
25. Substantive
26. Despot
27. Every
28. Singing voice
30. Brief
32. Point

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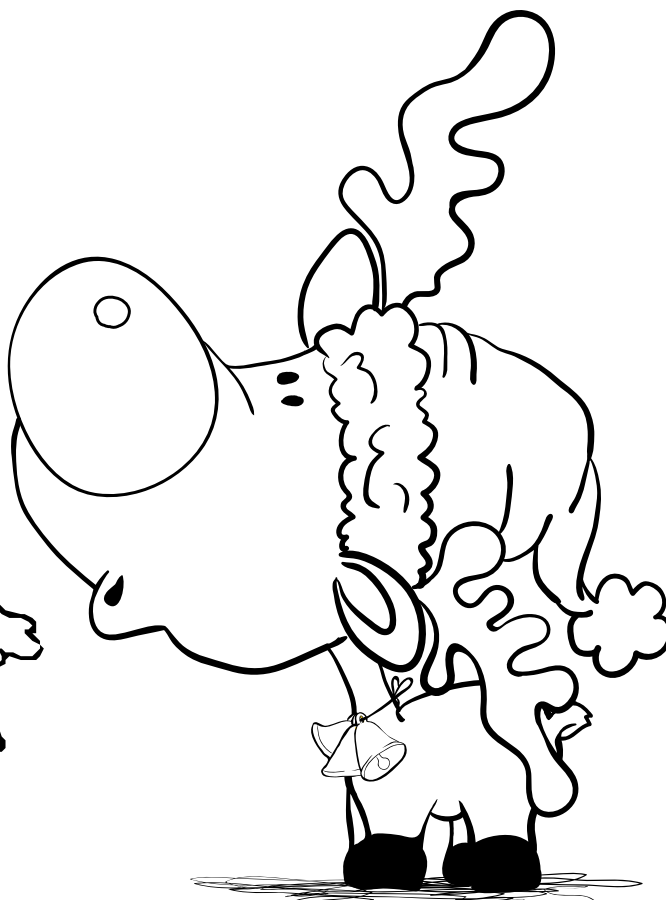
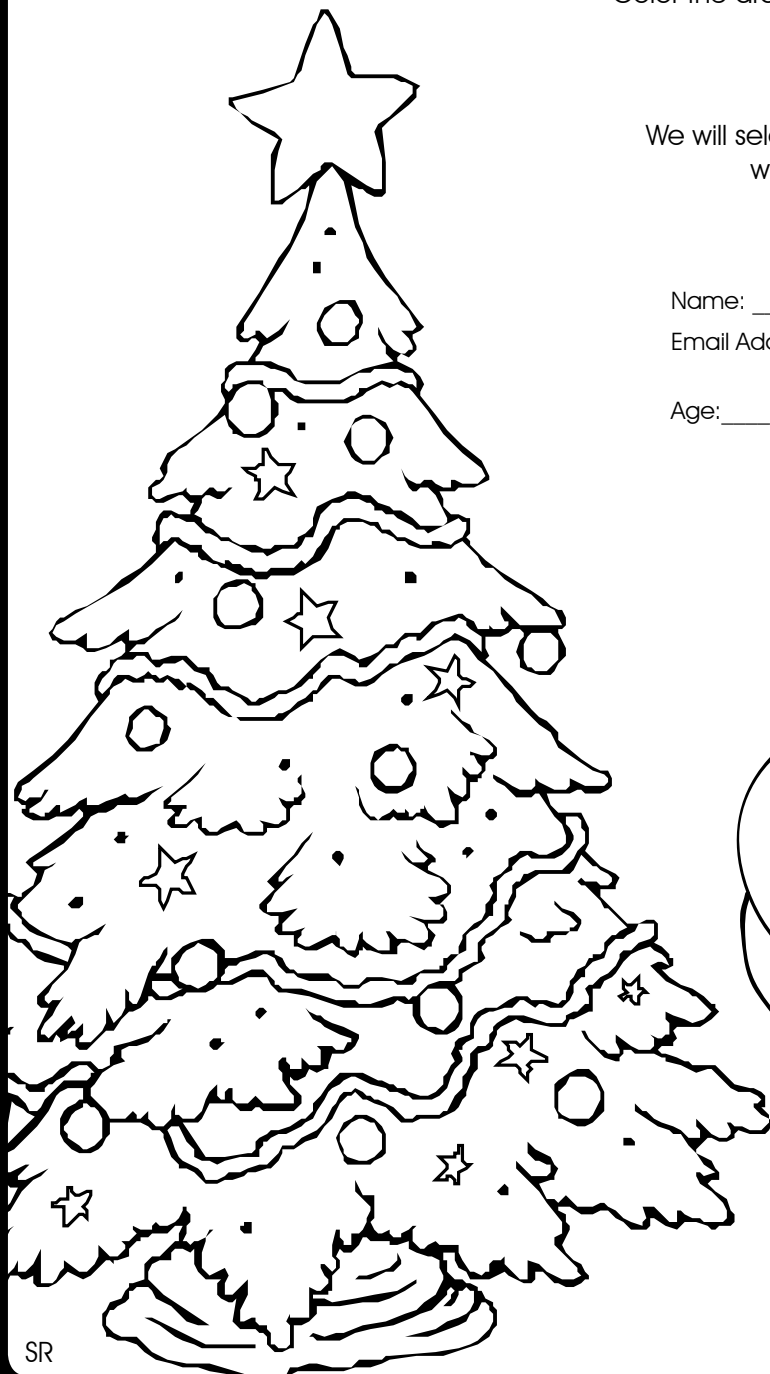
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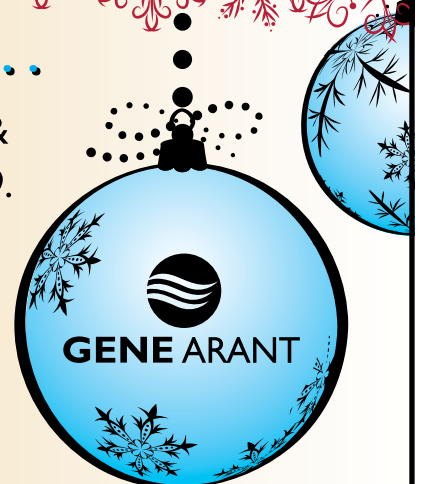
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Steiner Ranch



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