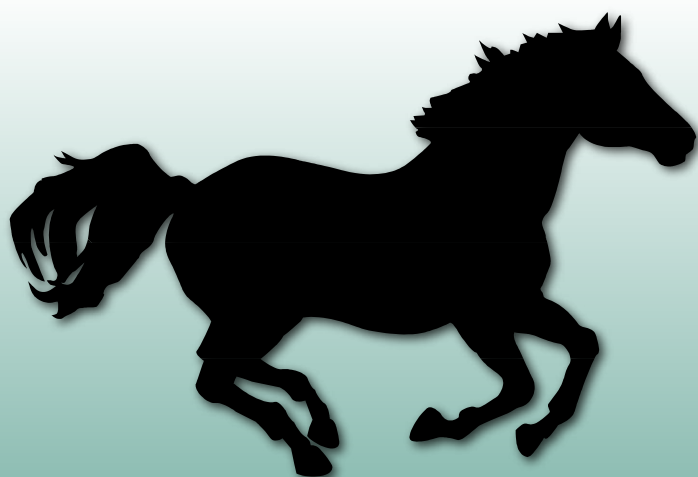


# RANCH RECORD

*News For The Residents of  
Blackhorse Ranch*



## BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



### *Keeping Winter Skin At Bay*

Just because the temperatures are dropping doesn't mean you should drop your skin care routine. Dermatologists at Baylor College of Medicine say continuing to wear sun block and moisturizers during the colder months is important for healthy skin year round. "It's very common to have dry skin during winter due to the colder, drier weather and the use of heaters," said Dr. John Wolf, professor and chair of dermatology at BCM. "Going untreated, dry skin could lead to discomfort or even an itchy, painful rash known as winter itch."

The key to prevention is moisturizing the skin. Wolf recommends starting with a lukewarm shower using a mild soap for sensitive skin. Before completely drying off, apply lotion or hand cream to damp skin. "This traps moisture onto your skin," Wolf said. "If you are adding lotion or hand cream to dry skin there will be some relief but you aren't hydrating the skin as well as you could be."

Wolf said the type of lotion isn't as important as when you put the moisturizer on. As long as you like the brand and it doesn't irritate your skin then it will work. For dry skin that needs extra help, Wolf suggests using a lotion or cream that contains petroleum jelly. "For your face, make sure to find a lotion that includes some type of sun block (SPF) protection," Wolf added. "The sun's rays can still be harmful during the winter."

## *Britt's Book Buzz*

### THE GIVER BY LOIS LOWRY *"A Perfect World?"*

The Giver by Lois Lowry won the 1994 Newbery Medal. Considered a young adult book, I purchased it for my nephew, but wanted to preview it before giving it to him. While I thoroughly enjoyed the book (it is intensely deep and invited more thought and examination than any other book I've read in a long time), I don't think the content is appropriate for young adults. I'll explain this in more detail, but in preparation for writing this review, I noticed that The Giver is on many middle school reading lists, but it is also on many banned book lists and appeared on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 1990's.

Although I didn't give the book to my nephew, I think it is an excellent adult read. This book makes you really think. It describes a community that lives in what the author describes as a "perfect" world—one without pain, emotion (including love), color, decisions, surprises, memories, inconvenience and even temperature variations. While this is definitely not my idea of a perfect world, the people of this community of people live their daily lives in a very robotic and extremely organized way.

Each member of this community is assigned a specific role at the age of 12 and the main character, Jonas, is given the role of Giver. He is given all the memories of past generations where there was pain, love, hunger, the brilliance of color and he is responsible for holding all of these memories so no one else has to live through them. The way the Receiver transfers these memories to Jonas and the horrifically hard life that awaits Jonas is extremely interesting and creative.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# RANCH RECORD

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire .....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Harris County Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office .....	281-550-6663

### AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center .....	281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center .....	281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist .....	281-477-1000

### SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD .....	281-897-4000
Warner Elementary School.....	281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School .....	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School.....	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School.....	281-897-4600

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## Britt's Book Buzz - (Continued from Cover Page)

When Jonas questions things—which he has never been permitted to do—he understands the very hard, but accepted way of life in his community. In particular, the “releasing” of the rule breakers, elders and anyone else who stands out or is an inconvenience to the group is heart wrenching—this is the part that is not for young adults.

The book is extremely creative; from the way the community and each family are structured to the unique role each person is assigned. It begs the question, “What would you give up to live in a more secure world?” and on the other hand, “What would you sacrifice to live life to the fullest?”

I definitely have Gathering Blue and Messenger on my reading list, two other books that are companion reads to The Giver.

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# RANCH RECORD

## BAK-PAK CRITTERS READING PROGRAM

*Wags into Keith Elementary*

**BAK-PAK: Books and Kids, Power and Knowledge**

Keith Elementary is participating in a very exciting reading program called BAK-PAK Critters Reading Program. This program is dedicated to helping children improve their reading skills by using specially trained therapy dogs. Teams consist of a handle and their therapy animal. Two teams work with 20 students during the school day on a one-on-one basis to help at-risk students improve their reading skills. Research shows that children who are below their peers in reading skills are often intimidated by reading aloud. The use of therapy pets reduces stress and students are more willing to interact with an animal than with another person.

Keith Elementary gives a special thanks to Lori King and Becky Talash for volunteering countless hours training their own pets to be certified therapy dogs. Their dogs kicked off the program in January and it has been a huge success.

More dogs are needed. You and your pet can become involved in this specialized animal assisted reading program which is sponsored by Oaks Presbyterian Church and partially funded by a grant for Williams. For more information please contact Mary Kegaris at 832-326-4112 or mary\_kegarise@hotmail.com

## 4th Annual Cy-Woods' Athletic Booster Club Classic Golf Tournament

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## Cypress Ranch Mustang Band Garage Sale

Love to shop at garage sales? Made a New Year's resolution to save money or get organized? Cleaning out your garage or closets and wondering what to do with all that great "stuff"? The Cypress Ranch Mustang Band is sponsoring a garage sale on February 27, 2010 and could use your help whether you have things to donate or like to shop for bargains!

The garage sale will be held at St. Timothy Lutheran Church located at 14223 Hargrave Road, Houston from 8 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, February 27, 2010. St. Timothy Lutheran Church is located in the Willowbrook area, just north of Methodist hospital off of Highway 249.

Donations of toys, clothing, baby items, furniture, household items, working appliances, and electronics are all welcome. Pick up dates for items are: Saturday afternoon, February 7, 14, and 21 from 1 PM to 5 PM. Please call 281-373-5889 to arrange for a pickup.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Mustang Band. The Cypress Ranch Mustang Band is now in its second year and is rapidly growing in both size and skill including receiving a 5A first division rating in the UIL Marching Competition this fall. The band is under the direction of Russell Holcombe, with assistance from Kyle Stahl.

## "What Happens in Vegas ..."

The 2010 S.N.A.P. (Senior Night After Prom) Committee of Cypress Creek High School will host a Las Vegas-style Parent Night Out on **Sunday, February 21st, 2010 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.** This fun evening, featuring dinner, casino games, silent and live auctions will be held at Parkway Chevrolet, 25500 Hwy. 249. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include dinner, \$3,000 casino money and 2 drink tickets. The event is open to everyone – being a Cy Creek parent is not required. For casino night tickets and/or contributions, please contact Jeannette Harris at 713-560-6666 or jharrissix@comcast.net.

A 2010 Cougar Blue Camaro will also be raffled off during the casino night in support of S.N.A.P. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. You do not have to be present to win. Contact Mike Wilson at 832-496-2748 or mew0954@sbcglobal.net for raffle tickets. Details about the 2010 S.N.A.P. are at [www.cycreeksnap.org](http://www.cycreeksnap.org).



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# RANCH RECORD

## CY-FAIR ISD & VOLUNTEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (VIPS): "Volunteers Rock!"

VIPS is an acronym for Volunteers in Public Schools. VIPS in Cy-Fair ISD center the attention of their service on supporting students and staff and making a significant contribution to the education of children. These dedicated individuals, who give freely of their time and resources, impact the academic and personal development of Cy-Fair ISD students. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is fortunate to be able to draw from a diversity of skills and knowledge in its community.

The district VIPS Executive Board spearheads the business of the VIPS. This board is comprised of volunteers elected to take on specific responsibilities offering support, guidance, and training to all volunteers in the district. The VIPS Executive Board meets monthly to evaluate and address the needs of the district and distribute information relating to volunteer and community activities and strengthen parental involvement in education.

If you are interested in being involved at Cy-Fair schools as a volunteer who "Rocks" and making a difference, or would like more information, please contact Pam Scott, Partners in Education Director at 281-894-3950.

### HOW TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING

Register for training by emailing the PIE office at [viprsvp@cfisd.net](mailto:viprsvp@cfisd.net). Provide your name and the name and date of the training you wish to attend. Registration is required to guarantee a seat and training materials.

Adults only please.

### February 2010 Upcoming Events

#### FEBRUARY 2 - VIPS MULTICULTURAL MEETING – 9:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M., BERRY CENTER

Open to all CFISD school staff, volunteers, parents and community members. The purpose of the CFISD Multicultural Committee is to raise the level of cultural understanding and respect by sharing information with the CFISD community to encourage cultural sensitivity and parental involvement to strengthen student success.

#### FEBRUARY 9 - GALVESTON BAY TRAINING – 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M., BERRY CENTER

Open to all CFISD school staff, volunteers, and parents. Learn how to present a TEKS based science lesson to 4th grade students at your school. Students will learn about the importance of our bay and waterways and what measures can be taken to protect this life-giving estuary.

#### FEBRUARY 11 - VIPS TAG TEAM MEETING – 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M., BERRY CENTER

Training for individuals who are interested in working directly with students to help them reach their full academic potential.

#### FEBRUARY 18 - VIPS GENERAL MEETING – 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M., BERRY CENTER

Open to all CFISD volunteers, parents, staff and community members. Get the latest information on CFISD volunteering and learn through networking!

#### FEBRUARY 23 - GALVESTON BAY TRAINING – 9:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M., BERRY CENTER

Open to all CFISD school staff, volunteers, and parents. Learn how to present a TEKS based science lesson to 4th grade students at your school. Students will learn about the importance of our bay and waterways and what measures can be taken to protect this life-giving estuary.



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## CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL - PROJECT PROM 2010



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Friday, February 26, 2010

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

VFW Hall, 21902 Hempstead  
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25.00 per person / admission 21  
or older

All proceeds benefit Cy-Fair  
High School Project Prom 2010  
For more information: [www.  
cyfairprojectprom.org](http://www.cyfairprojectprom.org).



### Upcoming Fundraisers include:

Tickets on sale now for CFPP annual Denim and Diamonds Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction to be held at VFW Hall on Telge @ Hwy 290 on Friday, Feb 26 from 7-11 pm. Dinner will be served by La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant at 7:30pm and tickets are \$25.00 each. Get yours today!! Sponsor a table for \$250.00 and receive 2 free tickets!! We NEED silent auction items. Please consider donating an item to our 501c3 organization. Please contact Terry Ortiz at [terry.ortiz@cfisd.net](mailto:terry.ortiz@cfisd.net) or 281-389-4522 to donate items or purchase tickets.

Mulch Sales, pre order with form online at [www.cyfairprojectprom.org](http://www.cyfairprojectprom.org) by Feb. Two cubic feet of black mulch is bagged and sells for \$5.00 a bag. Our two drop off points will be at the Wortham Villages Club or StoneGate park near the guardhouse.

T-Shirt Sales: Bobcat T-Shirts are for sale for \$10! Students will be able to purchase on Fridays at the lollipop stand during lunches in the cafeteria or parent can purchase at each general meeting. Wear t-shirts to a meeting and earn 1,000 PP\$! These make a great gifts for your senior!! The shirts are in. Be sure to get yours today!!

Golf Tournament: Friday, April 3, 2010 Four-man Scramble tournament, shot gun start at noon, includes golf, range balls, buffet lunch and after golf snacks. We are looking for donations for Hole sponsorships, appetizer or lunch sponsorship, Raffle donations and Silent Auction donations.

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# RANCH RECORD

## MEET NICHOLAS

*DOB: 02/1996*

Nick is a friendly and sweet child, although he is shy when meeting new people. Nick enjoys interacting with other children in his class and in his home. He also likes to please others and enjoys helping when he can. Nick is all boy and enjoys throwing a football, playing outdoors, video games & board games. He also likes to draw and play with various action figures. Nick is also interested in collecting cars. Nick performs well in school and receives good reports from his teachers. Nick is most proud when he is reported for doing things well. His foster parent notes that he can be a very sweet and helpful child. He befriends other children easily. He catches on to various activities quickly and likes to figure things out, such as how to take things apart and put them back together. Nick's caseworker notes that he's competitive when playing games and is a natural "practical joker" as he enjoys making people laugh.

If you would like more information about Nick, or the adoption process, contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at [info@adopttexas.org](mailto:info@adopttexas.org).

Remember ~ There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system, regardless of what agency you work with!

The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization (operating under the Austin Community Foundation), created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. Adoption Coalition of Texas partner agencies include Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services.



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## PERSONAL FINANCE

### *Debt Stacking - Get Out of Debt!*

*By Rich Keith*

Modern financial planning has to address consumer debt to be realistic. Debt is the biggest blocker to financial success that I know of. And getting out of debt seems to be something most Americans want to do these days. This discussion will focus only on what is known as "bad debt" which includes credit cards and revolving charge accounts. If you would truly like to get out of debt, the first thing you need to do is stop incurring more debt on your credit cards. Pay cash for a month and track your "latte factor." There are several strategies to use from this point. You can transfer your balance to a lower rate card, but beware of the fees associated with transferring the balance. As I am fond of saying, the large print giveth and the fine print taketh away. You can also ask your lender or credit card company to lower your interest rate, but it has become tougher to achieve this.

Many clients benefit from doing a debt consolidation loan which can free up hundreds of dollars a month in cash flow. A powerful method which I recommend is called "Debt Stacking". Debt stacking allows you to use less money to pay off the same amount of debt more quickly. The method of Debt Stacking states that you pay off the highest interest rate debt first, while making just the minimum payments on all the other credit cards. When you pay off that high interest rate credit card, you then transfer the amount that you were paying monthly on that card to the next highest interest rate credit card. Let's look at an example. First, arrange your credit cards in order of highest to lowest interest rate:

- REVOLVING CHARGE CARD A: \$4,000 at 24% APR, minimum payment \$100
- CREDIT CARD B: \$5,000 at 18% APR, minimum payment \$100
- CREDIT CARD C: \$3,000 at 12% APR, minimum payment \$100

Assuming that you are able to pay \$400 per month towards all credit cards, use the Debt Stacking method to pay \$200 towards Revolving Charge Card A until it is paid off. Then you would add that \$200 to the \$100 equaling \$300 that you would pay on Credit card B until it was paid off. Finally you would add the \$300 you were paying on Credit Card B to Credit Card C for a total of \$400 dollars until the last one is paid off. In a comparatively short time you are out of debt. You will have paid less interest and gotten out of debt more quickly than if you had you paid the same amount of money spread equally over the three credit cards.

In conclusion, your steps to get out of debt are to stop incurring more debt, pay less interest on the debt you do have, spend smarter, and use the Debt Stacking Method. You'll be debt free much faster, and you will save a lot of money!

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# RANCH RECORD

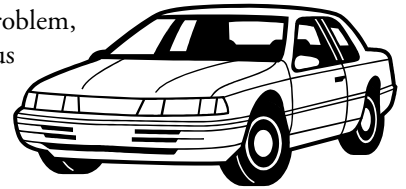
## ASK AN EXPERT: MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLES REGULARLY

### *To Save Gas And High Repair Costs*

*Written by Chris Yarger*

There are more benefits to maintaining a regular schedule of preventative maintenance than just a longer car life. A well serviced vehicle will not only perform as it should but will run more efficiently, saving its owner money and avoid unplanned or potentially unsafe situations. Following these simple steps provide cost-saving benefits to protect your vehicle life-span:

- CHANGE ENGINE OIL AT REGULAR INTERVALS – Engine oil will clean, lubricate and cool your engine properly. When oil levels are inadequate or not changed with its filter as recommended, your vehicle consumes more gas to compensate for increased heat and friction among the engines moving parts.
- CHECK FLUIDS MONTHLY – Your engines vital fluids including antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids must be kept at their proper levels to prevent rust and dirt build-up which can ultimately clog or restrict the flow of fluids and damage internal parts. An engine deprived of clean fluids will struggle to operate efficiently and ultimately burn more fuel.
- CHECK TIRE PRESSURE WEEKLY FOR MAXIMUM FUEL EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY -- Properly inflated tire pressure is key for fuel efficiency. An under inflated tire causes increased road resistance which makes the vehicles computer to allocate more fuel to the engine. Tires should also be rotated every 5,000 miles to prevent uneven wear and prevent a potential blowout and hazardous situation on the road.
- SERVICE YOUR VEHICLE REGULARLY BY A TRUSTED AUTOMOTIVE EXPERT – Regular preventative maintenance rather than costly repairs keeps you driving efficiently and safely while protecting resale values and warranties. Follow the maintenance schedule per your owner's manual and do not neglect even a small problem, as they can lead to dangerous situations and costly repairs.



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## Lone Star College-CyFair Perspective

### LOOK WHAT'S ON STAGE AND IN THE GALLERY

On stage enjoy a Percussion One Drumline performance Feb. 6 and an autobiographical comedy drama in "The Good Times are Killing Me" Feb. 25 – March 7. In the Bosque Gallery, visit "Mothers and Daughters" a visually and emotionally moving collaborative exhibition Feb. 9 – Feb. 25. A reception with artist Mari Omori is Feb. 11 and an artist's talk is Feb. 25. For event information, go to LoneStar.edu.

### L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN FEBRUARY

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in February include: recyclable cards in "BE My Valentine" Feb. 3; FBI agent stories in "A Day in the Life of an FBI Agent" Feb. 10; a Vietnamese cooking lesson in "Fold your own Spring Rolls" Feb. 17 and differences between two great military men in "Lee and Grant" Feb. 24. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

### NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? GET ASSISTANCE FEB. 21

Don't miss College Goal Sunday, a YMCA-sponsored national

financial aid program, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Technology Building at Lone Star College-CyFair. Attendees will get free, on-site professional assistance filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); can talk to financial aid professionals about financial aid resources and how to apply; and will get information regarding state-wide student services, admission requirements and more. Watch for additional FAFSA workshops this spring. Visit LoneStar.edu/financial-aid for information.

### EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING?

Lone Star College-CyFair will host an Alternative Teacher Certification Program (ATCP) information session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16. The teacher certification program is designed for individuals who have a bachelor's degree and want to enter the teaching profession. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. This information session will also provide information on a new Clinical Teaching option which provides students training and field-based experience at the appropriate grade level or content area. For information, call 281.290.3957, e-mail cy-fair.tcp@lonestar.edu or go to LoneStar.edu/cyfair-atcp.

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Valentine's Day is  
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## 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.

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

\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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# - Kids Stuff -

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

**When It's Just  
You in an  
Emergency**



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Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at  
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311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200  
Lakeway, TX 78734

We will select the top few and post their artwork online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com). DUE: February 28<sup>th</sup>

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name, last initial) [This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]

# Happy Valentines Day



BK



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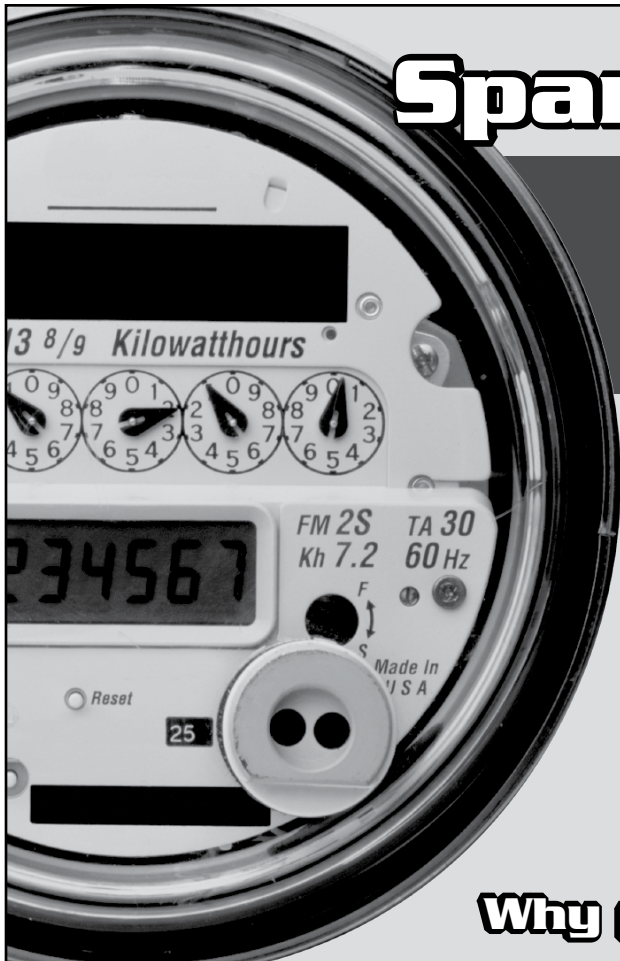
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## Blackhorse Year-to-Date Sales Report

	Mar '09	Apr '09	May '09	June '09	July '09	Aug '09	Sept '09	Oct '09	Nov '09	Dec '09
\$451,000 and above	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
\$351,000--\$450,000	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
\$276,000--\$350,000	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
\$231,000--\$275,000	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
\$201,000--\$230,000	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
\$200,000 and below	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Highest \$/sq ft</b>	<b>\$86.78</b>	<b>\$85.81</b>	<b>\$95.09</b>	<b>\$85.34</b>	<b>\$96.37</b>	<b>\$112.57</b>	<b>\$80.11</b>	<b>\$93.18</b>	<b>\$95.07</b>	<b>\$145.25</b>

*This information is taken from the Houston Multiple Listing Service*

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