

Volume 9, Issue 2 February 2010 Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net

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BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Looks Can Be Deceiving; Read Labels For Accurate Food Facts

When reaching for a healthy food option at the grocery store, do you ever wonder if your selection will live up to its label? According to an expert at Baylor College of Medicine, you might not be choosing the best option.

"You still have to look at the food labels to ensure that you are choosing the right foods," said Dr. Rebecca Reeves, assistant professor of medicine at BCM.

Reeves said that many people consider butter to be the healthier option because it does not contain trans fats. However, it does contain saturated fat and cholesterol, both known to increase LDL cholesterol, the "bad" cholesterol in the blood. LDL is linked to increased risk of heart disease. A much better choice is a margarine produced with no trans fat. Several types of margarine are now made with plant sterols and no trans fat which make them a healthier choice.

Many people believe that artificial sweeteners are not a healthy option. However, if used in moderation, they are safe for daily use. Another misconception is that sherbet is a healthy substitute for ice cream, but sherbet can contain a large amount of sugar. "Look at the label to see if the calorie and fat levels are actually lower than regular ice cream," said Reeves, also a registered dietitian at BCM. "Even low-fat ice creams have high amounts of sugar and fat in them." When selecting a frozen dessert, compare various products to see which ones actually contain less sugar and fat. Many times, whole fruit popsicles may be the best option.

In the bread aisle, look for options with 100 percent whole wheat flour or whole grains in them, said Reeves. Read the food label to be sure that whole wheat flour is listed as the first ingredient on the ingredient list

When it comes to energy bars, the most important thing to check for is how many calories they contain, said Reeves. Some energy bars can contain many more calories than you can actually burn during a workout. Reeves recommends purchasing popcorn kernels and a popcorn popper rather than purchasing microwaveable options that are high in fat.

"Popcorn is a whole grain, so it's really a healthy snack option. If you prefer the microwaveable brands, then choose one that lists fat-free on the label," said Reeves. Also, be sure to use salt sparingly when making your own popcorn.

Anytime a food is labeled as "fat free," be cautious of how much sugar is included and whether the calories per serving are actually different from the regular option. Remember that fat free does not mean sugar free, and even 'light' options may have a large amount of calories.

AUTUMN GROVE COTTAGE Needs Volunteers

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Do you enjoying spending time with seniors? Would you like to make a positive difference in their lives? Autumn Grove Cottage is an assisted living facility for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia related illnesses. We are interested in volunteers socializing with our residents. Autumn Grove Cottage has just 16 residents and it is close to your neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer in a cozy, home-like atmosphere then call Laura at (281) 398-6845 or visit our website www. autumngrovecottage.com. Come be a part of our philosophy – "To honor our residents and those who love and care for them." Volunteers will need to complete a volunteer application and attend a brief training session.

"No act of kindness, no matter, how small, is ever wasted" – Aesop

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI713-932-112	2
Gate Attendant	
Waterfowl, Betty Burkett	
Sheriff - (non-emergency)	
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)	
(non-emergency)	
Poison Control1-800-764-766	
Texas DPS713-681-176	
Waste Management	
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
SouthWest Water Company 713 405 175	0
Harris County Tax Office	
Reliant Energy 713-207-777	
CenterPoint (gas)	
Center Point (street light)713-207-222	
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast	0
Houston Chronicle	
Metro Transit Info713-635-400	
Kirk Elementary 713-849-825	0
Truitt Middle School	
Cy-Falls High School	00
Cy-Ridge High School	
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Incadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-644	4

LOE Board Of Directors

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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.

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.

Office Hours Mon - Fri 7am - 6pm Saturdays 8am - 1pm 713/937-4484

Lakes on Eldridge

2008 vs 2009

Price Range	Under	500K	\$500,000 Plus		
Year	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Number of Sales	39	31	11	8	
Avg. Sales Price	\$329,121	\$320,386	\$665,513	\$632,314	
Avg. Sq. Footage	3,219	3,236	5,057	4,899	
'Avg. Price per SqFt.	\$102.24	\$99.01	\$131.60	\$129.07	
Days on Market	59	61	117	115	
SP/LP Ratio	97%	96%	94%	95%	

*Average Adjusted Price: after seller contributions, repairs, or closing costs.

Whether its neighborhood updates in your area or other parts of the world, I am a phone call, text or email away.

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All information based on HAR/MLS data 01/01/09 to 12/31/09.

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Lakes on Eldridge

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 vipsrsvp@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

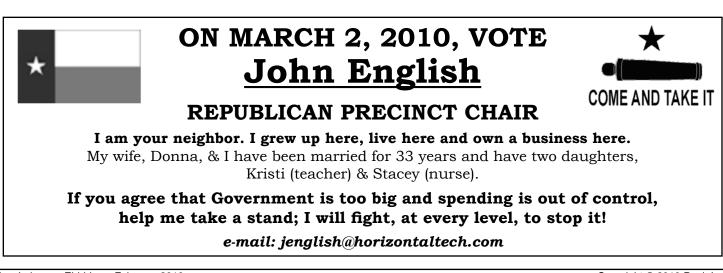
Training for individuals who are interested in working directly with students to help them reach their full academic potential.

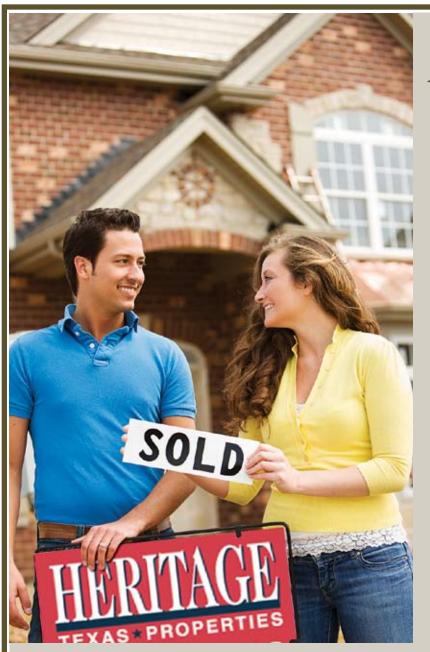
FEBRUARY 18 - VIPS GENERAL MEETING – 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M., BERRY CENTER

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.





AS A REMINDER

For first time and current home buyers in 2009, be sure to file your Homestead Exemption by April 30, 2010. Don't have a form? Contact ME!

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BOOK CLUB

Our reading list for 2010 has a wide variety of topics, and each book is available through the Harris Cty. Library. Consider joining us to discuss them! We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at a member's home. Call Celeste at 713-896-6942 for location or additional information.

February 22 – Whitethorn Woods by Maeve Binchy. When a new highway threatens to bypass the town of Rossmore and cut through Whitethorn Woods, it will also destroy St. Ann's well, where people have been coming for generations to share their dreams and speak their prayers. Some believe the well to be a place of true spiritual power, demanding protection; others think it's a mere magnet for superstitions, easily sacrificed. Maeve Binchy creates a rich spectrum of men and women, all with passionate opinions, who are drawn into this timely conflict between the traditions of the past and the promises of the future.

SUSHI BAR Japanese restaurant

- March 22 Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner
- April 26 The Island by Victoria Hislop
- May 24 The Master Butcher's Singing Club by Louise Erdrich
- June 28 There Is No Me Without You by Melissa Fay Greene







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.

<u>Lakes on Eldridge</u> "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.





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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

Our newly designed website is up and running. So take a moment to visit www.lakesoneldridge.net and get to know more about our community! There are message boards, directories, links to many sites and your suggestion box. We hope to make this website the principal method of communication in the months ahead.

Cypress Ridge H.S. Ram After Prom 2010 "COW PLOP FESTIVAL"

Come out and enjoy great food, good music, and activities for the whole family . No entrance fee. Make plans to attend this community event-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 from 11am-3pm. It will be held in the parking lot of the Agricultural Barn directly south of Cypress Ridge H.S. Cypress Ridge is located at 7900 North Eldridge. "Moo" -ve on over and buy a Cow Plop Plat to take a chance on where the plop drops!!! (Only \$10 Each per Plat) Contact rap2010@sbcglobal.net for more information! All proceeds from this event go to support the Ram After Prom 2010, and participating Cypress Ridge H.S. Clubs/Organizations.

Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch and Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the LOE Beach Club House. We knit, crochet, needle pint, embroidery, counted cross stitch, mend items, and sew on buttons that we have put off much too long.

We make Quilts for family members, shawls for Cancer patients, caps for newborn babies. We would love to have you join us for coffee and conversation. We would be happy to help you get started on any project that you have always wanted to do.

You do not have to be a resident of the Lakes on Eldridge to join us. For more information contact:

Catherine Spellings at: CTSpellings@aol.com or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652

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	ACTIVE	PENDING	SOLD Last 6 Mos	
# of Listings	14	3	27	
Price Range:	\$255,000 \$325,000 \$1,097,430 \$359,900		\$230,000 \$920,000	
Average Price	\$487,903	\$338,267	\$367,590	
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$127.39	\$89.09	\$107.55	
Avg DOM	127	119	60	
High Price/sq.ft.			\$171.93	
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$84.25	





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ASK AN EXPERT: MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLES REGULARLY *To Save Jas 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:

- <u>CHANGE ENGINE OIL AT REGULAR INTERVALS</u> 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.
- <u>CHECK FLUIDS MONTHLY</u> 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.
- <u>CHECK TIRE PRESSURE WEEKLY FOR MAXIMUM FUEL</u> <u>EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY</u> -- 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.
- <u>SERVICE YOUR VEHICLE REGULARLY BY A TRUSTED</u> <u>AUTOMOTIVE EXPERT</u> – 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 d o

not neglect even a small problem, as they can lead to dangerous situations and costly repairs.





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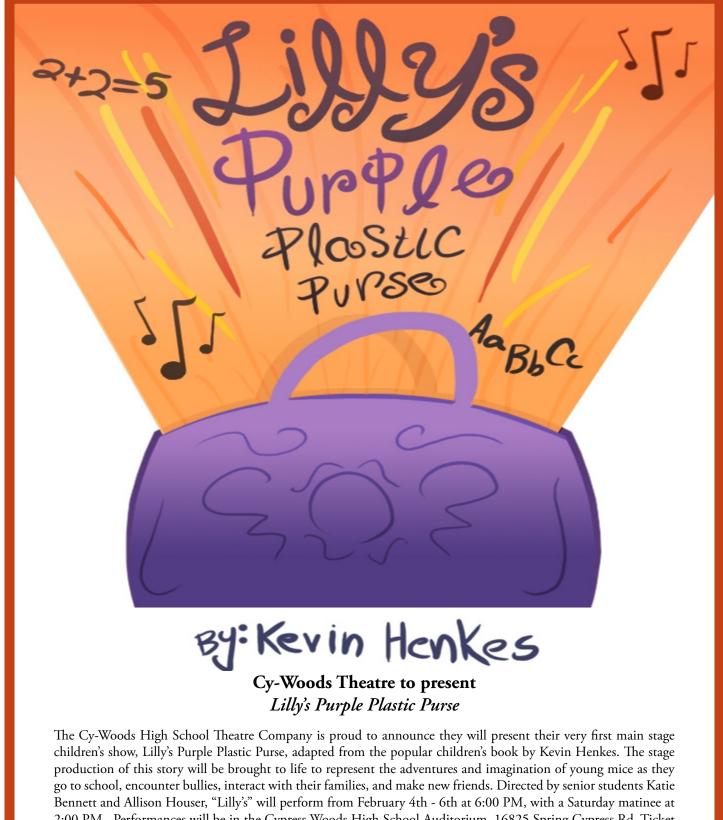
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Bennett and Allison Houser, "Lilly's" will perform from February 4th - 6th at 6:00 PM, with a Saturday matinee at 2:00 PM. Performances will be in the Cypress Woods High School Auditorium, 16825 Spring Cypress Rd. Ticket prices are \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Students. Reduced ticket prices of \$1 will be available for children ages 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Hunger does not end with the holidays

Please join in our Food Drive to benefit the Houston Guadalupe Center! Think of us during your next grocery store trip!

Your Keller Williams Realty area specialist will accept donations of nonperishable food items from January 30th till February 28th at 5802 Bolero Point Circle in LOEN.

Items needed are: Pasta, dry uncooked beans, peanut butter, mashed potatoes, dry cereal, dry milk, canned meat, canned tuna, canned vegetables and canned fruits.

Please drop bags under the porte cochere by side door anytime during the month of February!

For more information and directions please call 832-788-6002.

Thank you for sharing our Blessings as a community with less fortunate neighbors!





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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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Lakes on Eldridge **GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM**

Girl Scout cookies are a familiar part of American culture. For more than 80 years, Girl Scouts, with the enthusiastic support of their families, have participated in the country's premier entrepreneurial and economic literacy program. Cookies will be sold January 9 through March 28, 2010. In February, troops will begin selling cookies at "Cookie Booths" outside neighborhood grocery stores.

WHY BUY GIRL SCOUT COOKIES? BECAUSE YOUR SUPPORT:

- Helps girls develop courage, confidence and character
- Teaches girls about teamwork, goal-setting and fiscal responsibility
- · Helps troops raise funds for community service projects, troop activities and more

Next time you hear, "Would you like to buy some Girl Scout cookies?" know that your support is developing future leaders who will make the world a better place!

PURCHASING GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Enjoy delicious Girl Scout Cookies and support a worthy cause! If you've been unable to purchase cookies from a Girl Scout in your area, call 1-888-GS-COOKIE to find a troop near you. Also, visit Cookie Finder to locate a "Cookie Booth" in your neighborhood.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

All of the revenue earned through the Girl Scout cookie program benefits our community and Girl Scouts in San Jacinto Council. The volunteer board of directors determines how the Council's share of the proceeds is spent. Among other things, at the Council level, proceeds are used to:

- maintain campsites
- provide financial assistance to girls
- offer training for adult volunteers
- keep camp and program fees at a minimum

· support special initiatives, such as offering Girl Scout programs in underprivileged communities like public housing facilities and detention centers



Michelle Xu, Rachal Pastrano, Layla Jones, Tabatha Calvit Brooklyn House, Isabel Mujica, Grace Schlafer, Ali Morgan, Nichole Riso

Less than a third of the selling price of a package of Girl Scout cookies goes toward the actual cost of the cookies. This means that more than two thirds of every Girl Scout cookie purchase goes toward programs and services to benefit girls. A portion of that goes directly to the troop/group selling the cookies.

Each Girl Scout council's volunteer board of directors determines the baker, the price per package of cookies, how revenue will be used to provide vital services in the community and how much money will be returned to troops/groups selling cookies for their projects and activities.

Within our Council, approximately half of the operating budget is funded by the Cookie Sale. The price for a package of cookies is \$3.50. Troops receive 56 to 63 cents of every cookie package they sell. Service units receive 3 cents per package. Troops/Groups and Service Units decide how they want to spend their bonus money. The national organization receives no funding from the cookie sale.



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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.

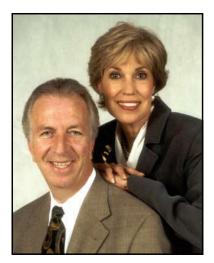
NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? GET ASSISTANCE FEB. 21 Don't miss College Goal Sunday, a YMCA-sponsored national financial aid program, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Technology Building at Lone Star College-CyFair. Attendees will get free, on-site professional assistance filling out the FAFSA (Free Application 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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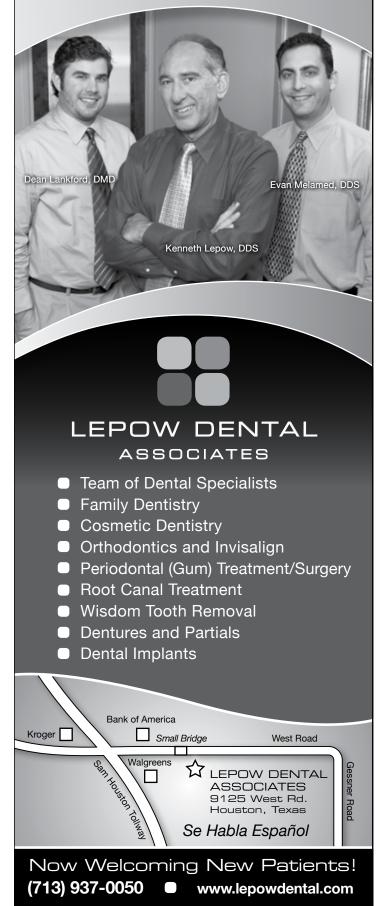
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The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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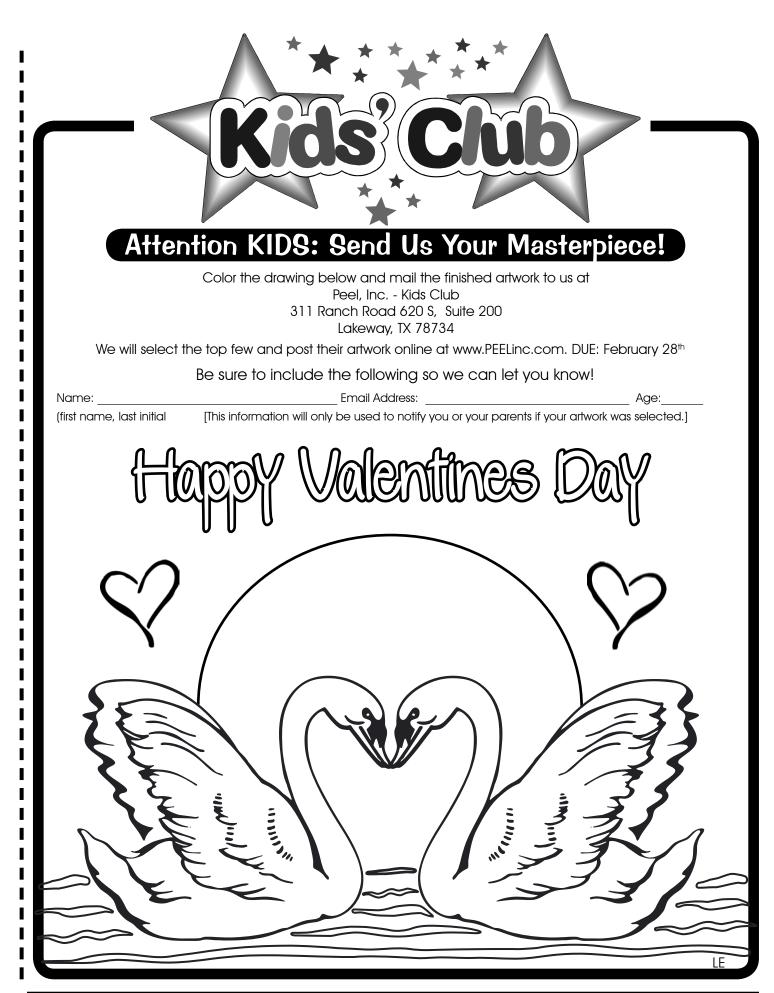
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