VOLUME IV. ISSUE III

THE VILLAGE..." "It takes a Village..."

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

TRASH TO TREASURE

Bring Your Trash, Jo Home With A Treasure!

Do you have household paint, batteries or oil that you've been meaning to dispose of? Let local Girl Scouts do it for you!

Girl Scout Troop 2182 will hold a multi-family garage sale and hazardous waste collection on Saturday, March 6 from 8am to 2pm. The sale and collection will be held at 9329 Hopeland Drive in Vintage Place.

THE CITY OF AUSTIN WILL ALLOW THE TROOP TO COLLECT ANY AMOUNT OF:

- · Batteries
- · Oil
- · Paint
- · Antifreeze

Please bring the household hazardous waste in a sealed, leak-proof container, along with a suggested donation of \$5-10. Troop 2182 will make sure it is disposed of correctly with the City of Austin! Then, stay for our multi-family garage sale, with baby gear, kid clothes, toys, furniture, exercise equipment and more!

- Submitted by Michelle Moon Reinhardt



MILLS ELEMENTARY NEWS FOR MARCH 2010

VOTE YES! FOR EDUCATION: BRING MILLS YOUR BOX TOPS

Did you know Mills Elementary earns ten cents for every General Mills Box Top the school collects? Through General Mills' Box Tops for Education program, anyone can clip the pink Box Tops logo from any of hundreds of everyday products — cereals, tissues, you name it — and turn them in to Mills Elementary to help support the school.

If Mills Elementary is your polling place, then the March 2nd Texas primary election will be a prime time to bring along your Box Tops and drop them into the collection box just inside the school's main entrance. Of course, you're welcome to drop off Box Tops at any other time, too!

Mills appreciates your support – this election day and always!

For more information, please visit www. boxtops4education.com.

- Submitted by Kristen Card



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	911
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	
SCHOOLS	
Elementary	
Clayton	512-841-9200
Kiker	
Mills	
Patton	
Middle	
Bailey	512-414-4990
Small	
High School	
Austin	512./1/.2505
Bowie	
UTILITIES	
Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin	
City of Austin (billing)	
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	
Repair	
Billing	
Allied Waste	
Time Warner Cable	512-485-5555
OTHER NUMBERS	
Oak Hill Postal Station	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	1 000 2/) 0///
Dead Animal Collection	512-494-9000
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	
Street Light Outage (report pole#)	
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	-

The Live Oak Network of BNI

QUICK QUIZ:

- 1.Do you know a reliable and trustworthy service professional (residential, commercial, health and beauty, trades, or event planning) who places their customer's needs first?
- 2. Would you refer them to your friends and or family members without hesitation?

If you answered "Yes", tell them The Live Oak Network is looking for more good people to join our growing network of professionals today!

The Live Oak Network is a non-competitive professional referral organization that admits only one high quality individual or company per professional category to share ideas, contacts and most importantly referrals.

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





GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare (www.griefshare. org) will meet at Manchaca United Methodist Church, located at 1011 FM 1626, each Sunday beginning March 7, 2010, from 3-5 p.m. There is a \$12 charge for a workbook (scholarships available). GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You may begin the class at any point during the 13-week time frame. Led by Susan Feldkamp and Nancy Zaloga. Call 280-7241 for further information.

A Toast to the Children of Central Texas

Round Rock Circle of Friends Invite You to 11th Annual Wine Tasting Event

Round Rock Circle of Friends invites the community to help ensure good health for the children of Central Texas at the 11th Annual Toast to the Rock event. benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. The event will be held on April 18 from 3pm-6pm at the Fern Bluff Community Center, 7320 Wyoming Springs Drive, in Round Rock.

Dell Children's is a tremendous asset to our community. The state-of-the-art facility provides exceptional care, close to home, to thousands of children and their families. (We support a 46 county area throughout Central Texas) It continues the legacy of outstanding service of Children's Hospital of Austin (closed on July 1, 2007) with new space, new technology, new programs – and more hearts and hands to make it all happen.

Together, we are creating a new standard in pediatric care. We are growing a worldclass medical center dedicated to the care of children and adolescents, regardless of their families' ability to pay. We offer help, hope, and healing to our children for generations to come.

Toast to the Rock is a fabulous afternoon of wine-tasting, food sampling, silent auction and musical entertainment. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$90 per couple and can be purchased online at www.ToastToTheRock. com. For more information please visit our

website or contact Martha Grandin, grandinmk@aol. com, or Holly Coe, gcoe@austin.rr.com event co-chairs.







NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE YARD FOR

Yard Of The Month

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

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Please include a photo if possible.



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The Village Gazette - March 2010

WILDFLOWER DAYSTM

Begins March 15 at Wildflower Center

<u>WHAT:</u> Wildflower Days M, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's spring season of events.

<u>WHEN:</u> Monday, March 15, through Monday, May 31. The center is open every day, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

<u>WHERE:</u> The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin, Texas.

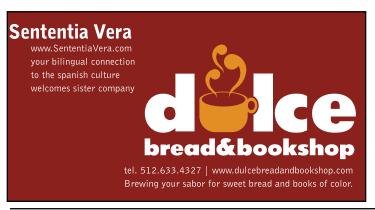
BACKGROUND: With recent rains helping landscapes recover from the drought, it's time to come see bluebonnets blooming at the Wildflower Center, along with mountain laurel, redbud, Mexican plum and lots more native plants. During this spring season, the Wildflower Center holds a series of events including:

- Artists & Artisan Festival, Saturday & Sunday, March 13 and 14—more than 20 artists in watercolor, ceramics, wood, metal and more.
- Spring Plant Sale & Gardening Festival, Saturday & Sunday, April 10 and 11—gardening tips from experts and plenty of wildflowers and native plants, including drought-tolerant options.
- National Wildflower Week Photo Exhibit, Monday, May 3, through Sunday, May 9—Texas Highways and the Wildflower Center present a portfolio of wildflower photographs. Sponsored by Canon.
- Wildflower Gala, Friday, April 30—The most fun –and the most sustainable-- garden party you will ever attend.
- Gardens on Tour, Saturday, May 8—a tour of five public and private native plant gardens plus the Wildflower Center.

<u>INFORMATION:</u> For information on events, call 512.232.0100 or visit www.wildflower.org.

<u>DAILY ADMISSION:</u> \$7 adults, \$6 seniors and students, \$3 children, and free for members and children under 5 until March 15. After March 15, \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and students, \$3 children and free for members and children under 5.

<u>CHECK THIS OUT:</u> Watch some of our biggest bluebonnets on video before you visit as they grow and start blooming: http://www.wildflower.org/bbcam





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Austin Newcomers Club March 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 varied fun Interest groups.

Time:11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon **Date:** March 17, 2010 (Reservations required by

Thursday, March 11th) **Location:** Green Pastures Restaurant

811 W. Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

Luncheon Cost: \$20 per person For Luncheon Reservations email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com or contact Marilyn Amey, 473-0118

For more Newcomers information visit

www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

March Program: Get to know Austin Monthly and how it informs and entertains it's readers in the capitol area Speaking to us this month will be Melissa Delaney, editor-in-chief of Austin Monthly and assistant editor Austin W.G. Morton. Austin Monthly is a glossy full color, urban lifestyle magazine which depicts Austin's culture with stories, event listings, fashion, shopping, dining, the arts, restaurant reviews and reflective personal essays. The magazine continues to grow at a rapid pace since it's initial publication in 1992.

Melissa Delaney, is an award winning journalist who worked as a reporter and editor at Boston area newspapers, then joined the staff of Computerworld during the height of the tech boom. After years of freelancing at several national magazines, Delaney joined Austin Monthly where she steers the staff through the planning, creation and production of the magazine.

Austin Morton is a 2008 Virginia Tech graduate. She currently edits the Events, Scene and Style sections. Austin says although she has been here 2 years, she still learns something new just about everyday while reporting on all the City of Austin has to offer.



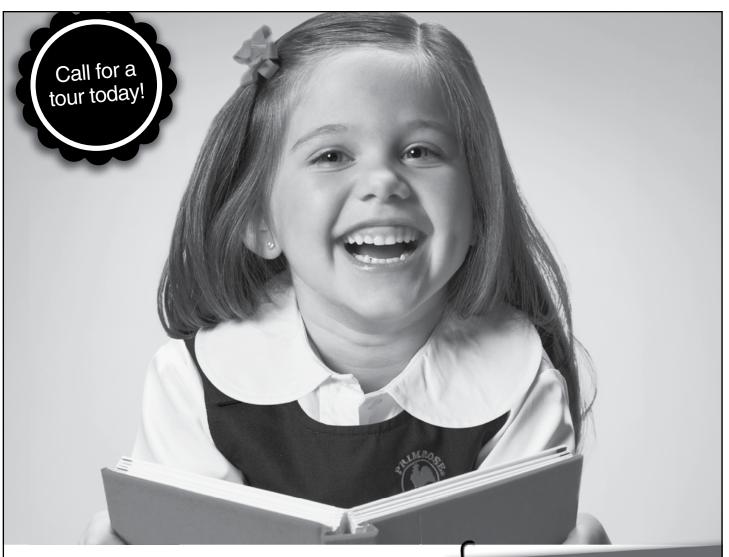
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The Village Gazette - March 2010

TRAVIS COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION NEWS

Thanks to legislative efforts that promote voter registration in Texas, as well as the efforts of many local volunteers and groups, Travis County enjoys a very high rate of voter registration: 95%. Despite the overall high rate, one group within the population typically does not register and therefore, does not vote.

If you had to guess which age group is least represented among registered voters, which one would you choose? You probably didn't guess seniors, age 66 and above, who tend not to move and remain registered to vote. Nine out of ten seniors fit that description. Baby boomers and the oldest Gen X voters, age 46-65 follow seniors in high levels of registration at about 8 in 10. Voters age 26-45 participate at a somewhat lower rate; however, this group constitutes about one-half of all registered voters in Travis County.

That leaves the group with the most to gain (or lose) in the long run: the young. Only 1 in 3 eighteen to twenty-five-year-olds is registered to vote. Why? While we don't have all the answers we do have some educated guesses.

There are a couple of main reasons why people (including 18-25 year old people) do not register to vote. One is because they don't know if they can and the other is that they don't know how.

SO HERE ARE THE BASICS:

- In Texas, a person must be 18 years old, a United States citizen (by birth or naturalization) and a resident of the county where they wish to register.
- Applicants must provide their full name, residence address and identification information (such as a driver's license number or Texas Identification number).
- Applicants can find postage paid voter registration applications in public libraries, schools, post offices and in many private businesses such as HEB and Randalls stores.
- Anyone can download a voter registration application at www. traviscountytax.org.
- A downloaded application will require postage and must be addressed to Travis County Voter Registration / P O Box 149327 / Austin, TX 78714-9327.
- Registration takes effect 30 days after the Voter Registrar receives the completed application.

Over the next six months, we will be targeting 10,000 young adults to join the ranks of Travis County registered voters. In early October of this year, the success of "Challenge 10,000" will be measured by

(Continued on Page 9)



Travis County Voter Registration - (Continued from Page 8)

comparing today's rate among young voters (71%) to a rate that we anticipate will more closely resemble the overall rate of 95%.

The most important goal of Challenge 10,000 involves voter awareness for all citizens, but especially those between the ages of 18 and 25. **If you are a registered voter here's what you can do to help promote this effort:**

- 1. Check your voter registration status by clicking on www. traviscountytax.org or by calling 854-9473. Make sure all of your information is correct and up to date. Once you know how easy it is to check, you can help someone else!
- 2. Ask the people around you, especially those who are 18 25, if they need assistance with voter registration, then help them or refer them to the Voter Registration helpline: 854-9473.
- 3. Volunteer your time to register voters as a Volunteer Deputy Registrar. Contact Cheryl Reese at 854-9473 extension 33284 or Cheryl.Reese@co.travis.tx.us to get started!

Look for an update on Challenge 10,000 coming this summer!

Travis County Voter Registration, a division of the Travis County Tax Office / 5501 Airport Boulevard / Austin, TX 78751 Nelda Wells Spears, Voter Registrar and Tax Assessor-Collector / Nelda.Spears@co.travis.tx.us

Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing <u>VillageGazette@PEELinc.com</u> or by going to http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php. All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for The Village Gazette. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Village Gazette. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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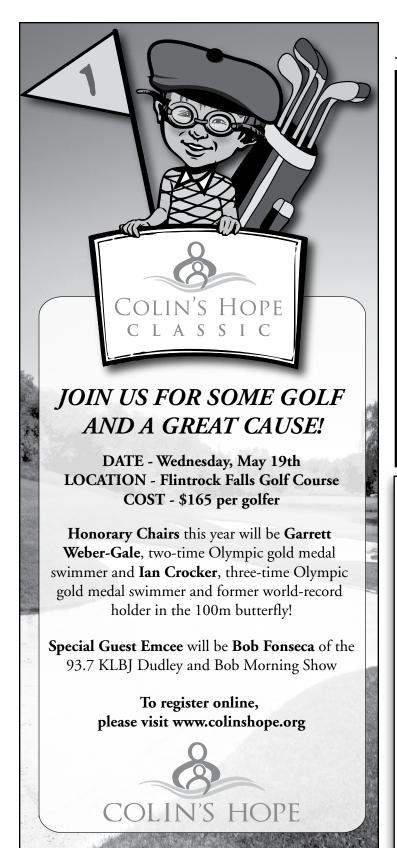






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Kecipe of the Month

Broccoli Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 package frozen broccoli
- 1 cup cooked rice
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 small jar Cheese Whiz
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Directions

Place rice in greased casserole dish.

Saute onions and celery. Cook broccoli until crispy tender. Combine vegetables, soups, and cheese. Pour over rice. Bake at 375° until bubbly.

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

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Most investors pay a great deal of attention to the price of their investments — yesterday's price, today's price, tomorrow's price, next year's price and so on. And that's understandable, because we always want the prices of our investments to rise. Yet, if you focus too much on prices, you could end up making some costly mistakes.

Why? Because price-driven behavior is emotional behavior — and as an investor, you're much better off making decisions with your head, not your heart. Suppose, for example, that you've seen a steep decline in the price of one of your investments. After a while, you may feel that you just can't take it anymore and you decide to "cut your losses" by selling the investment. Conversely, you may have an investment that has gone up and up — and to grab even bigger gains, you buy more shares.

Both these decisions could backfire on you. When you sold the investment whose price had fallen, you might find yourself on the investment "sidelines" if that same investment starts to turn around. And when you throw more money at an investment whose price has skyrocketed, you're betting against history — because no investment goes up forever. Furthermore, in both cases, your emotions will have led you to violate one of the guidelines of investing: buy low and sell high.

But apart from the tactical errors you may make when you over-concentrate on price movements, you're also ignoring another key characteristic of investments — their value.

Traditionally, an investment's "value" has been largely defined as whether or not it's considered "expensive" or "cheap." That's why many investors take a close look at a stock's price-to-earnings ratio (P/E). Generally speaking, a high P/E means a stock is more expensive, relative to its earnings, than a stock with a low P/E. Investors may be willing to pay more for the high P/E stocks

because they feel these companies will be worth more in the future.

But P/E doesn't tell the whole story of investment value. Any individual investment may have value to you because it can help you diversify your holdings. And while diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, it can help you reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. For instance, if your portfolio is heavy with stocks, the presence of some bonds — even those whose market price has fallen because interest rates have risen — can help reduce the impact of a downturn that primarily affects stocks.

Clearly, the value of any investment has several dimensions — any or all of which may be valuable to you as your pursue your goals. So, as you build, maintain and adjust your portfolio over time, keep an eye on the changing prices of your investments — but don't overlook their true value.



Meet Devion (7/02)

Devion is only little in physical size. He is convinced he is the biggest kid around and that he can do anything anyone else can do. This little man lights up any room he enters with his smile and personality. Devion loves attending church and enjoys singing in the children's choir. Devion loves playing with other people of any age but he plays in the manner of a child age 4 to 6. He is showing progress in being able to play independently. Devion loves to do almost anything outside. He loves to swim, ride bikes & scooters, play baseball, basketball & football and has even recently tried to water ski! Devion has played 4 seasons of t-ball and one season of basketball since living in our home and loves telling everyone about it. While Devion has wonderful gross motor skills he struggles with his fine motor skills. While Devion has made much progress emotionally he continues to receive weekly therapy to work on social skills and impulsivity.

Devion is very loving and affectionate. He enjoys being with others and would do well in a loving, structured, active home of any ethnic make-up as an only or youngest child.

For more information on Devion or on adoption contact Grace Lindgren at the Adoption Coalition of Texas 512-810-0813 or gracelindgren@adopttexas.org





NATURE WATCH

Spiny Splendor



and some species are among the early bloomers that characterize the arrival of spring.

While all cacti are succulents, not all succulents are cacti. Anatomically speaking, cacti consist of tubercles, areoles, leaves, spines, glochids, and flowers. Tubercles refer to enlarged, nipple-shaped structures on the surface of the cactus. When running in vertical lines or aligned spirally along a stem, tubercles form ribs which can aid in species identification and add strength and stability to the body of the cactus. Each tubercle bears an areole, which is a highly specialized structure that can give rise to leaves, spines, flowers, fruits, or other stems. While cacti do not appear to have

Often described as al and unique, cacti are have tiny ones, which reduce the surface area through which cacti lose water. Spines are modified leaves and can vary in number, arrangement, size, and shape.

Prickly pears, or Opuntia, are the only

family of cacti that have glochids, much shorter and thinner spines that dislodge easily and are difficult to remove from the skin.

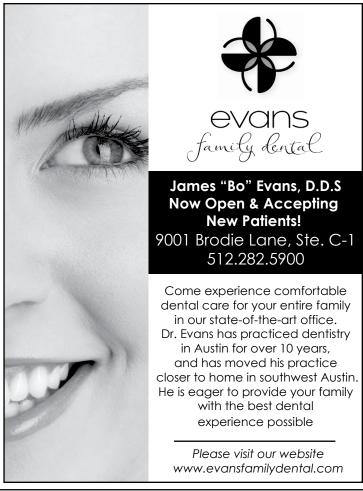
Perhaps the most stunning feature of cacti is the strikingly beautiful flowers they produce. In proportion to the plant, the flower is generally quite large and can appear in every color except blue. Unlike other flowers, cactus flowers are 'inside out', hollow tubes where the ovary is located beneath all other parts of the flower. Maturing from this floral ovary is the cactus fruit, which contains the seeds. These fruits are eaten by several species of animals and birds, thereby ensuring distribution the seeds and propagation of the species.

(Continued on Page 14)

Lace Cactus (Photo:

Melody Lytle)





THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

Tasajillo (Photo:
Robert C. Duncan)

Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 13)

By far the most common cactus in central Texas is the Texas prickly pear (Opuntia engelmannii var. lindheimeri). A relatively large, sprawling plant, this cactus has green to blue-green pads, mostly yellow spines, and almost circular areoles. Brilliant yellow blooms appear in March through

June, opening in the morning and afternoon, and sometimes closing at night. There are several species of prickly pear in Texas, and collectively they are the state plant of Texas.

Also called Christmas cholla and pencil cactus, Tasajillo (Cylindropuntia leptocaulis) is a low shrub with pencil-sized branched stems. Its spines are gray tipped with yellow, growing out of broadly elliptical areoles. Small, pale green to yellowish-green blooms appear in March and continue through August, opening in late afternoon and closing at night.

With all but one protruding central spine forming a star at the areole, the Grooved nipple cactus (Coryphantha sulcata) is also known as the finger cactus and the pineapple cactus. Often seen

in growing in clumps, its gray spines contrast with its green globular shape, and it blooms at the apex with a golden yellow flower and bright red center from April through May.

Identified by radial spines in longitudinal rows along its columnar body, the Lace cactus (Echinocereus reichenbachii) is prolific and probably one of the best known cacti in our area. Elliptical to linear areoles at the base of the spines are close enough together to cause the spines to overlap and mimic fine lace. Its bright pink to magenta flowers appears in April and June, but only last for a day.

While they can vary greatly in size and general appearance, cacti have played an important role in ancient civilizations. Tenochtitlan, the earlier name of Mexico City, means 'place of the sacred cactus.' Images of this family of plants occur in many forms of historical art, emphasizing its important role in daily life by providing food, wood, fiber, and the spectacular beauty only a cactus bloom can bring!

- By Jim and Lynne Weber

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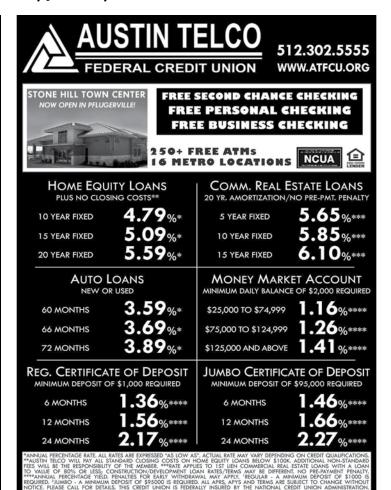
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Crossword Puzzle 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 32 31

ACROSS

- 1. Squeeze
- 5. Lovers
- 9. Women's magazine
- 10. Special case only (2 wds.)
- 11. Lemony
- 12. Passes at the bull
- 13. Of this
- 15. Feign
- 16. Long scoldings
- 18. Tutee
- 21. To be
- 22. Band instrument
- 26. cotta (clay)
- 28. Too
- 29. Append (2 wds.)
- 30. Worker
- 31. Honker
- 32. University (abbr.)

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

DOWN

- 1. Fit together
- 2. Healing plant
- 3. Speak indistinctly
- 4. To this document
- 5. Food and drug administration (abbr.)
- 6. Leading
- 7. Time being
- 8. Beats it!
- 10. Wrangle
- 14. What the Tin Man needed
- 17. Naval fleet
- 18. Devil
- 19. Doctrine
- 20. Tends sheep
- 23. Group of nations
- 24. Afloat
- 25. Noble
- 27. Fish eggs

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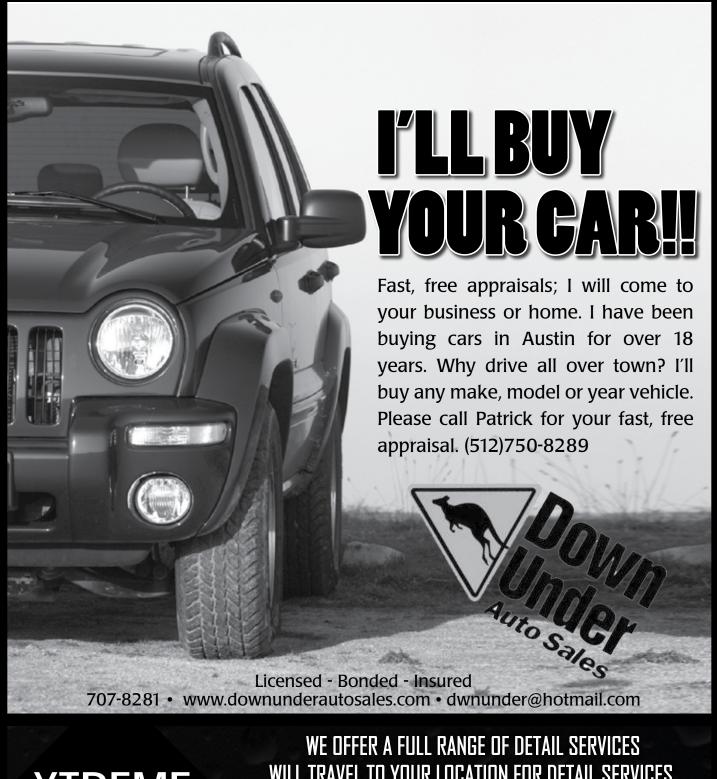
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The Village Gazette - March 2010



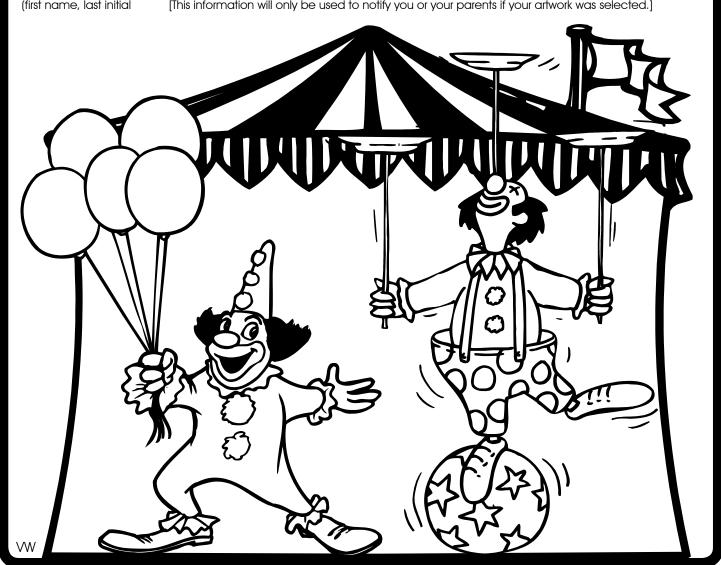
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Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at Peel, Inc. - Kids Club 311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200 Lakeway, TX 78734

We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: March 31st

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 you	r artwork was salacted 1



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THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

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VW

Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report										
	6 Months Sold History (Aug '09 - Jan '10)							CURRENT MARKET		
SW Austin by Neighborhood	TOTAL	AL AVERAGE							TOTAL	
	Homes	Square	Price /		Sold Price		Year	Days On	Available	Pending
	Sold	Feet	Sq. Foot		\$K		Built	Market		Sale
Belterra	32	2,939	\$ 10	ı	\$	297	2007	108	36	11
Circle C Ranch	139	2,880	\$ 11.	4	\$	330	2001	90	63	29
Heights at Loma Vista	1	2,646	\$ 13)	\$	345	2005	34	3	1
Highpointe	15	3,233	\$ 9	3	\$	317	2007	103	14	2
Legend Oaks	26	2,264	\$ 11:	2	\$	254	1993	61	12	6
Maple Run	33	1,662	\$ 11		\$	182	1986	32	8	11
Meridian	14	3,408	\$ 11	5	\$	394	2008	120	8	7
Oak Creek Parke	10	2,698	\$ 10	ı	\$	272	1995	50	3	1
Sendera	23	2,001	\$ 11.	5	\$	230	1999	46	11	6
Shady Hollow	16	3,041	\$ 11	ı	\$	339	1994	105	7	6
Villages at Western Oaks	63	2,063	\$ 11	7	\$	245	1993	47	33	9
Western Oaks	5	2,161	\$ 11	3	\$	256	1984	32	1	0
Grand Total	377	2,571	\$ 11:	2	\$	289	1998	75	199	89
% Change Mo/Mo	-16%	0%	1%		1%	,)	0%	0%	17%	89%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 2/05/2010. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



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