

The FAIR OAKS *Gazette*

May 2013

Volume 3 Issue 5



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ARTICLE INFO

The Fair Oaks Gazette is mailed monthly to all Fair Oaks Ranch area residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include 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 the Fair Oaks Gazette, please email it to fairoaksranch@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

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Animal Control 210-698-0990

SCHOOLS

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Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary 210-698-616

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CPSEnergy (new service) 210-353-2222
..... (service trouble or repairs) 210-353-4357
Fair Oaks Ranch Utilities - Water 210-698-7685
GVTC - Cable & Telephone 800-367-4882
Pedernales Electric Co-op 888-554-4732
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COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

Do you take great photos? Would you like to see your photo published on the next cover? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Fair Oaks Gazette. Our deadline for submittal is always the 20th of the month prior to the issue. All photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution (300 dpi) to fairoaksranch@peelinc.com. Portrait (vertical) photos work best. To view other photos submitted please visit www.PEELinc.com/FairOaksRanch, and view any of the past newsletters.

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk...

"Everyday is a Good Day in Fair Oaks Ranch"©

RUN ON THE RANCH

Hope you joined the Run on the Ranch Saturday, April 13th hosted by FOR Homeowners Association. Fantastic weather with runners and walkers of all ages ...participants almost doubled last year's registration. April seems to be the month of choice; mark you calendars for 2014!

TODAY IN AMERICA

Logistics are progressing well for the upcoming Today in America program hosted by Terry Bradshaw. Our City will be highlighted as one of the Best Places to Live and Play. The Bradshaw Studio's video production crew will arrive in Fair Oaks Ranch for a one day shoot on May 15th, Wednesday. Beginning at 8:00am, the schedule will be full staying on a very tight timeline throughout. The goal is for the crew to see the many aspects of our City - neighborhoods, horse trails, bike riders, friendly neighbors, school, walkers/runners, pets, sports and the list keeps going. Ten hours of shooting is to equal a 5 minute finished video once edited. Still unknown is when the video will air although anticipate sometime between June - August on Fox Business News and also 5-7 other regional markets such as Houston, Dallas, etc. Will keep you posted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY CLUB of FAIR OAKS RANCH

Congratulations and Happy 1st Birthday to the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch! A Proclamation commemorating their service to FOR Elementary with the Early Act Program, participating in Rotary International Exchange Student Program, initiating and implementing Meals on Wheels for our residents plus many other "Service Above Self" projects was signed early April. (The entire Proclamation is available on the City's website: www.fairoaksranctx.org)

WATER TEST-WELL LEVEL GRAPHIC

Now you can easily follow the well level! A new graphic went on the front page of the City's website! The gauge provides the date with the test-well water level as well as noted Drought Stages 1 thru 3. It takes two of three triggers to call a Drought Stage. All indications are drought stages will be called this summer if not before. The gauge will be updated on a regular basis. There is a link below the graphic that takes you to detailed information.

CITY-OWNED OFFICE BUILDING AND PROPERTY

The City Council at the April meeting authorized the City Administrator to obtain a current appraisal for the city-owned office building and land at the corner of Dietz Elkhorn and Fair Oaks Parkway. This is the first step toward potential selling of that property. Initially, the City purchased and seriously considered the property for expansion such as a new City Hall or a new Police Station. Our needs have not changed.

Our city now sits on both sides of Ralph Fair Road! The City expects within the next 8-10 years that it will build out taking our

population up to a 9,000 range which equals a 50% increase. Council is taking a proactive approach moving forward to meet anticipated increasing needs for citizen services including infrastructure - buildings, streets, etc.

After receiving many citizen comments that the Police Station near the school is preferred plus similar concerns from the real estate industry, other plans were investigated. Following many months of reviewing that property for a relocated and expanded City Administration building, it again became logistically problematic especially for technology infrastructure such as taking fiber optics from the current City property up to the office building property. Again, having City Hall away from its current location did not fulfill Council and City staff's anticipated projections, operations or needs.

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMENTS

Spring brings life not only in our flora and trees but in the animal kingdom as well. Timo Rodriguez, Animal Control Officer, provides valuable insight and information for us all.

From Timo: Once again spring is among us. Along with the green grass and vibrant flowers it tends to bring out unwanted or unwelcome critters. One main concern is the wildlife and feral animals. As the animals start having their offspring we tend to get caught up in the "cuteness" of them. We try to help out our furry little friends by feeding and attempting to pet or handle the animals. As the Animal Control Officer for the City of Fair Oaks Ranch I ask you to please reconsider. There are a couple of reasons not to do so, but one main reason is Rabies.

Did you know bats are not the only animals carrying the Rabies Virus? The top five "high-risk" animals with the Rabies Virus are Bats, Raccoons, Skunks, Foxes, and Coyotes. Rabies is spread by the saliva of an infected animal. The Rabies Virus may also enter the Mucous Membranes (i.e.: nose, mouth, eyes) as well as a scratch or break in the skin that has come in contact with saliva containing the Rabies Virus.

How does the Rabies Virus Spread? The Rabies Virus, once entered into a body, will multiply in the area near the entry site. If the infection is not stopped by this point the virus will invade the nerve tissue and continue to multiply as it travels along the nerve to the brain. The virus then continues to multiply and may then spread to the salivary glands and other parts of the body. Once the virus has hit this stage the Rabies Virus can be shed and is now infectious.

Are there different forms of Rabies? Yes, there are two forms of Rabies. They are Furious Rabies and Dumb Rabies. An example of Furious Rabies is a friendly dog or cat that may become vicious and bite without any apparent reason. An example of Dumb Rabies is when a friendly dog or cat becomes shy and withdrawn. Some clinical signs of rabies are pawing at the mouth, animal appears to

(Continued on Page 5)

FAIR OAKS RANCH

From the Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 4)

be choking, chewing at the site of the bite, paralysis of rear legs and lower jaw, seizures, eating strange objects (non-food), difficulty swallowing, and not eating.

Do I need to Rabies Vaccinate my pets? Yes, you need to vaccinate all dogs and cats annually unless your pets are receiving a three year rabies vaccination already. More information can be found on the City Of Fair Oaks Ranch web-site under Ordinances/Animal Control.

Warm blooded animals with offspring and/or having been trapped, can become very aggressive and try to protect themselves or their offspring. Feeding and attempting to handle the wildlife or feral animals is not recommended. For you and your family's safety as well as your neighbors, we ask that you contact the Animal Control Officer to handle such instances at 210-698-0900 during regular business hours (M-F 8:00 to 5:00). After hour calls can be made to the Non-Emergency Boerne Police Department at 830-816-3194 (available 24hrs.) and an Officer will arrive to handle the situation. Keep in mind all feral or domestic animals that are trapped, no longer wanted, or found must be handled through the Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department. The City Of Fair Oaks Ranch wishes you a Safe Summer and we are looking forward to continue meeting

your needs and concerns.

CLOSING COMMENTS

May is a busy month for our families as school begins to morph into summer. Keep eyes open for children being more visible in our yards, parks, walking, running, biking, playing ball, etc. over the next few months. When going on vacation, please sign up with the police department for the House Watch program (call 210-698-0900 for details).

Thank you for spending your time with me today and I personally wish everyone a special Mothers Day!!!

Respectfully,

Cheryl Landman, Mayor

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FAIR OAKS RANCH

TMI freshman wins piping competition



Lincoln Abbott, a resident of Fair Oaks Ranch and a freshman at TMI – The Episcopal School of Texas, was named Piper of the Day for his division at the San Antonio Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival, held April 6 at the Helotes Fairgrounds.

Bagpiper Lincoln Abbott, a freshman at TMI – The Episcopal School of Texas, was named Piper of the Day for his division at the San Antonio Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival, held April 6 at the Helotes Fairgrounds.

He received this honor for his outstanding performances in all three Grade IV Junior piping competitions. Abbott earned two first places (Strathspey/Reel and 2/4 March) and one second place (Piobaireachd, extended art music). As Piper of the Day, he was presented with a custom-embroidered carrying bag for his instrument's chanter (the recorder-like part on which the piper creates the melody).

Abbott will compete next in the Houston Highland Games and Celtic Festival, to be held April 27-28 at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club.



Newcomers of San Antonio Club

Newcomers of San Antonio welcomes new members to its organization. Newcomers of San Antonio is a club whose main mission is to welcome new residents (those living in the Greater San Antonio area 2 years or less) and help them learn about the area and form friendships.

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SNAKE BITES A CONCERN AS WEATHER WARMS UP

Warmer weather coaxes snakes out of hiding, and it's important to know what to do after a snake bite, according to a medical toxicologist at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu).

"Many people don't realize how much of an issue snake bites are in this area of the country," said Dr. Spencer Greene, director of medical toxicology and assistant professor of medicine – emergency medicine at BCM. "In fact, our regional poison center reported 235 snake bites – including 148 from known venomous snakes – in the Houston area in 2012, and I am sure many more are going unreported".

According to Greene, the first step is avoidance.

"Never reach into a hole or a bush blindly, a snake may be resting there," he said. "It is also important to maintain an appropriate distance from a snake. Most pit vipers, which include rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins, can strike at a target up to two-thirds of their body length when provoked."

If you are bitten by a snake, Greene suggests the following important steps:

- Stay calm.
- Call 911 immediately to be evaluated.
- Take off anything that is constricting the affected area, such as a ring or watch.
- Position the affected area at or above heart level. This means that if you are bitten on the hand, bring it to heart level, and if you're bitten on the leg or foot, elevate it if possible. This minimizes the amount of local tissue damage and swelling, which is the most common finding in pit viper bites.
- Go to the emergency room – the sooner the better.

Greene also dispels several myths about treating snake bites and suggests heeding the following advice:

- Do not apply a tourniquet or a constriction band.
- Do not apply ice; it can cause local tissue damage.
- Do not apply heat.
- Don't cut the affected area and attempt to suck the venom out – this increases the amount of local tissue damage.

- Don't use a commercially-available extraction device. These have also shown to be ineffective in removing venom and actually increase the amount of tissue damage.
- Don't use electrical therapy.
- Don't apply any type of lotions or ointments.

The management of snake bites has changed over the years and the newer type of anti-venom has proven to be very effective in reducing pain, bleeding complications, swelling and tissue damage, Greene says. Although anti-venom has been shown to have the maximum effectiveness within the first 12 hours of the bite, it can still be effective a few days after the bite.

At the hospital, physicians will determine if anti-venom and hospital admission is necessary.

"Ideally, patients should be evaluated by a medical toxicologist with experience in managing snake bites," Greene says.

If a patient requires anti-venom, he or she usually spends one or two days in the hospital. After hospital discharge, patients will need to follow up twice a week for two weeks to watch for any signs of recurrent toxicity.



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FAIR OAKS RANCH

A 40 Year Perspective

by Diana Anzollitto

In the 40 years since Roe v Wade became “law of the land” there has been much debate around the issue of “choice”. Recently, Planned Parenthood is taking a step back and considering how it wants to describe abortion rights advocates. “It’s a complicated topic and one in which labels don’t reflect the complexity,” Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards said at a press briefing earlier in Jan 2013. Planned Parenthood Executive Vice President Dawn Laguens in particular derided the word “choice,” Now that women have more rights and freedoms, “‘choice’ as word sounds frivolous,” she said.

Here at the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center we speak with women making hard choices about their pregnancy every day. Our job is simply to listen, to care, to communicate the love of Christ in a tangible way, and to educate women about the various “choices” out there in regard to their pregnancy. No scare tactics here, no judgment or condemnation. But make no mistake about it; we believe life begins at conception and that God is the creator of life. We also know that life is hard and none of us is willing “to cast the first stone”. We are here to serve our sisters, and that includes those

who may choose or have chosen to have an abortion at some point.

The Supreme Court ruling of Roe versus Wade stated, “We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development in man’s knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer.” And thus, they agreed that abortion would no longer be against the law. It was a private issue between a woman and her doctor.

But 40 years later we have seen quite a development in this area of man’s knowledge about when life begins. A doctor I know used to perform abortions in the early 1970’s but has not done so in many decades now. He commented to me that ultrasound technology was unavailable in 1973 and people considered the young fetus to be “just” tissue or a clump of cells. Fetal motion began being detected regularly with the use of ultrasound technology by the late 70’s and early 80’s. By 1990 ultrasound technology had improved to the point of showing accurate first trimester babies. Today we can detect

(Continued on Page 10)

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40 Year Perspective (Continued from Page 8)

a heartbeat between 6 to 8 weeks and later we can see our babies with 3D imaging that is really stunning. Quite a development in technology and knowledge.

But speak about abortion and you will quickly see how the Supreme Court judges got one thing right. It is a private issue for most women. Not everyone is politicizing it. Some women live with the experience of having had an abortion. Some women live with the experience of having placed their baby in a family after birth. Some women have grown up as single moms or blended families as a result of their choice. And there are many men and women that I have met (and so many more that I will never meet) who tell me the story of how their mothers considered abortion but chose not to travel that road. I am glad to have the opportunity to speak with them.

40 years have brought many changes since Roe v Wade became law and a person's perspective is influenced by their life experiences. From my perspective I am glad that the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center exists here in Boerne. To offer free ultrasounds, up to date information and so much more. But even more importantly, to be caring and available when a woman experiences a crisis in her life around sexuality and pregnancy. To share the love of Jesus Christ. Regardless of her choice.



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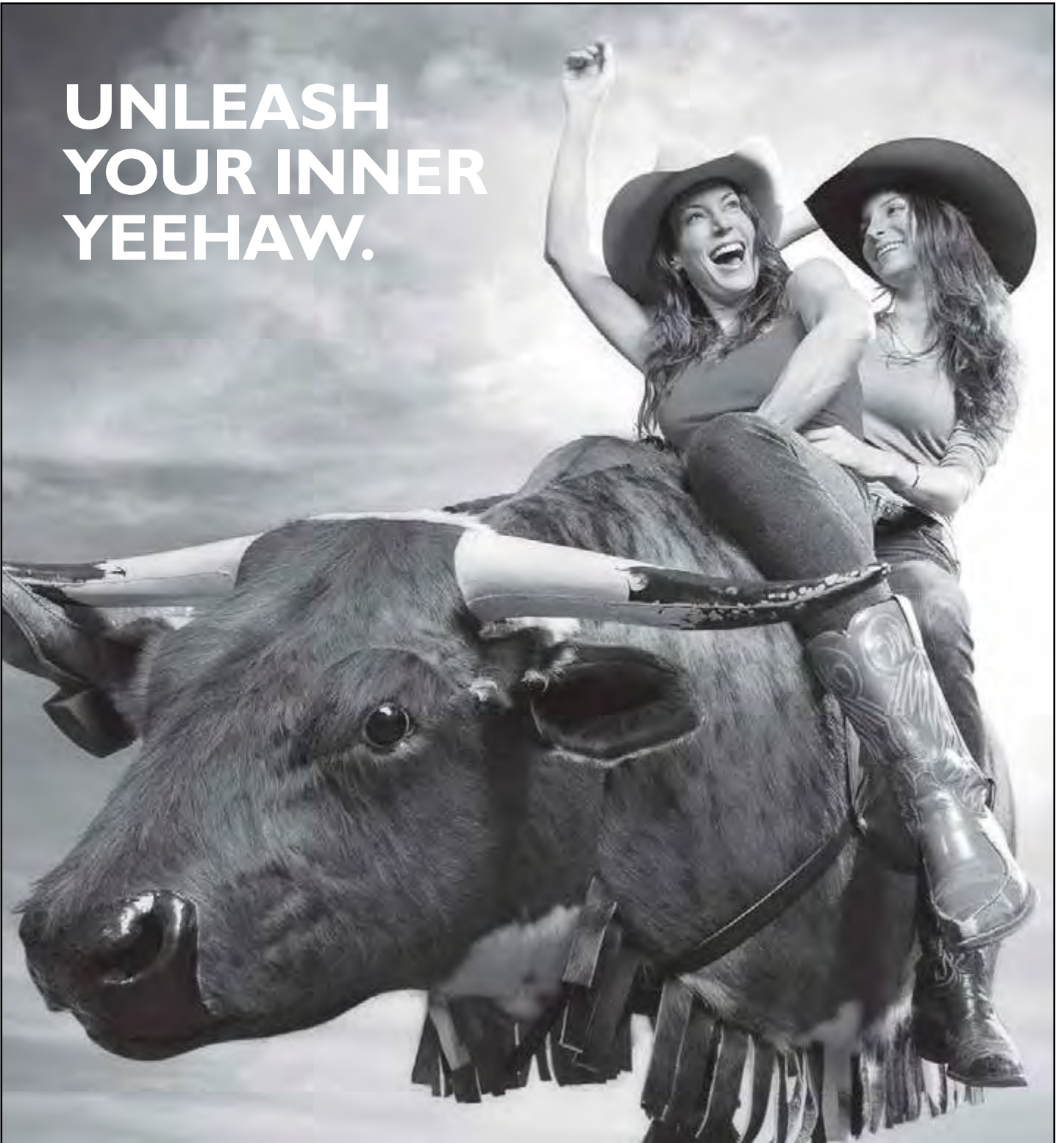
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18 Benefits of Playing a Musical Instrument

Jeremy Spicer, Vandegrift High School Director of Bands, is dedicated to teaching music. He says, "Music is a part of everyone's life in some form. The study of music and all of the arts is critical to the complete education of society...it allows humans the tools to stir feelings and create emotion." This article will provide you with 18 benefits of playing an instrument and will hopefully give you a better sense of appreciation and pride for music.

2. Refines your time management and organizational skills. Learning how to play an instrument requires you to really learn how to be organized and to manage your time wisely. A good musician knows that the quality of practice time is more valuable than the quantity.

4. Teaches you perseverance. Learning to play an instrument takes time and effort, which really teaches you patience and perseverance.

playing an instrument requires a lot of hand-eye coordination. By reading musical notes on a page, your brain subconsciously must convert that note into specific motor patterns while also adding breathing and rhythm to the mix.

7. Improves your reading and comprehension skills. Research shows that children exposed to a multi-year program of music tuition involving training in increasingly complex rhythmic, tonal, and practical skills display superior cognitive performance in reading skills compared with their non-musically trained peers.

9. Exposes you to cultural history. Students learn a variety of music types such as classical traditions, folk music, medieval, and other genres. Music itself is history.

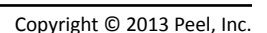
11. Fosters your self-expression and relieves stress. It's your instrument, so you can play whatever you want on it! The more advanced you become on an instrument, the greater you'll be able to play what you want and how you want.

13. Promotes your social skills. Playing an instrument can be a great way to enhance your social skills. Some of the best people join bands and orchestras, and many times the lifelong friends you make here become like family.

15. Teaches you discipline. Practicing often and working on the hard parts of music and not just the easy and fun stuff requires discipline.

17. Enhances your respiratory system (wind instruments only). If you have a good music director/tutor, you should hear them tell you quite often to “use more air!” Breathing exercises are highly recommended for musicians, and they can really strengthen your respiratory system.

Mr Spicer adds, “I cannot imagine my life, or society, without music...it has defined me in nearly every way possible.” Adapted from an article by by Michael Matthews. For the full article and sources visit <http://www.effectivemusicteaching.com/articles/directors/18-benefits-of-playing-a-musical-instrument/>



FAIR OAKS RANCH



Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit

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To learn more about Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, please visit us at www.trinityglenrose.com.

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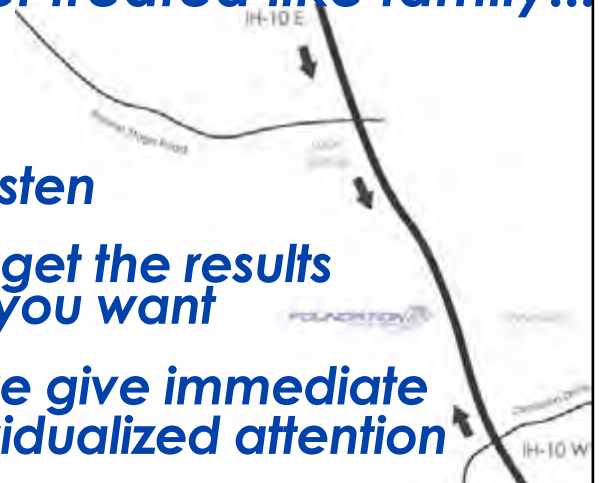
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Food Safety Tips Help Prevent Food Poisoning

When getting together to cook for loved ones, the last thing you want is to get sick from the food you eat. Roberta Anding, a registered dietitian at Baylor College of Medicine, has a few tips to keep your food safe.

- Always use a meat thermometer to check if meat is fully cooked. The color of the meat can't determine the safety of the meat. All meat should be cooked to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly during food preparation.
- Wash all produce before cutting and chopping.
- Refrigerator leftovers within two hours.
- Use a thermometer when reheating food as well.

Following these basic guidelines will ensure that the food you serve is safe to eat, said Anding.



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