

# The FAIR OAKS Gazette

July 2014

Volume 4 Issue 7



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Xeriscape & Diversity

*Presented by Kevin Belter*

Those are the themes I have chosen to introduce as the directives for sub-topics in a monthly article series that Fair Oaks Ranch and surrounding community finds both educational and valuable in the investments and satisfaction brought by their outdoor living space. The sub-topics will I hope, serve as a blueprint for your efforts to increase the beauty, functionality, health, and overall enjoyment of your outdoor space, while at the same time achieving these goals with less water use. Some of the topics I intend to cover include: oak wilt, irrigation system repairs and upgrades, mulching and soil amendments, fertilizing, pest issues, organics, and plant sourcing, and other issues requested by the readership. You are welcome to address suggestions, comments and or questions to: [kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com](mailto:kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com)

My name is Kevin Belter, and I am a consulting arborist based out of Berghheim. Briefly, a consulting arborist is a tree specialist, a tree doctor if you will, who seeks to care for the health of trees in our urban and rural landscapes. (For further info on arborists see: [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org) & [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)). I was encouraged by Mayor Cheryl Landman with the City of Fair Oaks Ranch to begin this series and share the knowledge I have accrued over the past ten years about landscapes with your community. I am looking forward to the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion for the green industry with you all, and I especially appreciate the publisher PEEL Inc. for the opportunity to do so through the Gazette.

I chose these two themes because I often encounter a perception that the two are juxtaposed against one another. You can't have diversity of plants if you don't water. Let's begin unraveling this dichotomy by correctly defining xeriscape. Xeriscape is not the exclusion of all irrigation from the landscape and use of only arid, desert-type plantings (succulents) and rocks. Rather, it is the use of irrigation in a supplemental fashion and the selection and placement of various plants based on capacity to handle some drought stress. Many of the plants recommended for xeriscape use are native species but far from most of the species that will thrive are natives, thus xeriscape does not equal "natives-only" or even natives-preferred necessarily. Thus, with proper depth of investigation into the plentiful options of plant species that could thrive here, there is no

need to worry about monocultures of the same species in everyone's yard just placed into different arrangements.

What are some of the major xeriscape principles? Water-wise, they are to minimize water run-off and evaporation, increase moisture retention, and select hardier plants that don't require frequent watering. These principles are accomplished through things such as collecting rainwater from gutters in barrels to use for watering. Another means is to add topsoil dressing to turf to increase depth of topsoil layer. Additionally, you should mulch landscape beds regularly. Finally, insuring that the plant you purchase or more likely a landscaper acquires come from one of the few nurseries who have high quality control commitment to important aspects such as seed/cultivar source, purity of strain and species, and grown in good potting soil and containers, and in the local area, among many other issues we will go into further depth in a later article.

In next month's article I will address the devastating disease called oak wilt. The truth of this disease is that it impacts all oaks and the importance of diversification in tree species planted from here on out is very important. I often hear that white oak species are resistant to the disease, but the facts are that oak wilt kills Burr Oaks, our native Lacey and Bigelow Oaks, and the well-meaning intentions of misinformed nursery owners and land landscapers do not correspond with the evidence. There are many other tree species flourishing in Fair Oaks Ranch, which I intend to highlight in greater depth in the future. Some examples are varieties of pines, Arizona Cypress, Sweetgum, varieties of Magnolias, Bald and Montezuma Cypress and many more. I would like to see more of these alternative species utilized in greater numbers versus just opting for another species in the oak family. There are numerous actions that can be taken that can greatly limit the trees that die from this disease. These includes injections of trees in imminent threat of contracting it via root grafting from neighboring trees and creating more ordinances that discourage the transmission through insect vector transmission as a result of poor pruning practices by irresponsible contractors.

I look forward to sharing this column with each of you for many months to come!

# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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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](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WATER ISSUE LUNACY

I always get excited when the "Fair Oaks Gazette" arrives in my mail box as I know the communications and news keeps us abreast of what is going on in our great city. The June edition was no different as I read it from cover to cover. You and your staff do a great job and truly are an added value to the residents of Fair Oaks Ranch. Thank you for your efforts and keep up the great work!

When I got to the end of "From the Mayor's Desk", I saw to my surprise your offer in big red letters to publish an opinion and thought to myself, I have to see if they really mean it, so here we go....

Once again, like salt being thrown into a gaping open wound, the mayor brings to our attention, water conservation and further explains that water is not manufactured but comes from all of the snow, ice and rain we get. In Texas? And, who on this planet does not agree that water is a vital resource to life? The fact that we are in one of the worst droughts in recorded history here and across the entire state is well documented. Just take a moment and read about Wichita Falls, a good size city, currently at stage 5 water restrictions with a prediction of being out of water within two years. They are resorting to using reclaimed waste water from their toilets for "essentials", a visual image I cringe to see.

Our mayor points out to us that the number one residential "water hog" is landscape watering and that we all need to be vigilant in assuring that our irrigation systems, which we can only use once a week by the way and soon not to be used at all, be leak free to avoid wasting tremendous amounts of water. Someone needs to help me here. Am

I the only one that sees the incredible hypocrisy screaming in our faces when our city leaders entertained the addition of 650 homes (that war is not over) and have already approved subdivisions in Fair Oaks Ranch which will literally add hundreds and hundreds of new homes which will consume tremendous, no GARGANTUAN amounts of water??? This makes no sense to me and I find it down right insulting. I say that if irrigation is a "water hog", unbridled development is GODZILLA.

If this business as usual continues with our city leaders, we potentially will be facing a total ban on landscape watering, filling swimming pools, car washing, sky rocketing water bills and the ever so popular "toilet to tap" water. I for one did not work my entire life to watch my huge investment burn to a crisp, my swimming pool turn into a "cement pond", pay more for water than electricity, watch my property value plummet or to drink sewage water, (I can live with a dirty car). I do agree with the mayor that there are two classifications of water consumption, essential and non-essential. I challenge the city to take a balanced approach to this critical resource and stop focusing all efforts on non-essential water usage and start conserving the essential usage by limiting the development in Fair Oaks Ranch. I propose that we have a moratorium on all future development within Fair Oaks Ranch until a sensible, calculated plan is developed by the true experts on this critical water issue today and into the future so that all of our current residents can continue to enjoy the quality of life that is Fair Oaks Ranch.

*Hank Hattoy, Deer Meadow Estates  
Member, Save Fair Oaks Ranch*

### FAIR OAKS NEIGHBORS:

An unusual thing happened to me this week as I was driving along Fair Oaks Parkway between Dietz-Elkhorn and IH 10. The car in front of me threw a Styrofoam cup out of the vehicle. We all know that people do this every day in our fine city, but in twelve years of living here, I've never actually seen it happen. It took me a moment to come to my senses and get the license number of the car. For years, I've seen the kindly gentleman who walks the parkway every morning picking up trash as a part of his fitness regimen. I've stopped twice to thank him. Like you, I've probably wondered what our beautiful parkway would look like if he wasn't there to pick up the trash. I've groused with my family about this epidemic of people who just don't care about littering. It's a little hard to believe in the 21st century that we still have folks who use our landscape as their ashtray and/or their trashcan. Here's the thing, though. I'd always assumed that these

polluters were vendors or contractors. On that Saturday morning, the car that had people inside who threw out their trash was a brand new Volvo sport utility vehicle. It had temporary tags associated with a new car. I believe the individuals in that car were residents of Fair Oaks. I contacted the City Administrator to see if there was a process for fining this individual. Surely, I thought, Fair Oaks has some sort of law against littering. I was informed that, "You will need to go to city hall to file a complaint with municipal court." And if I do this, what will be the outcome? A warning? A battle to prove that this incident actually occurred? Wouldn't it be just easier if we kept our trash and our cigarette butts in the vehicle we are driving and dispose of the trash when we get to our destination? Most residents already do this. Come on Fair Oaks polluters, join the rest of your neighbors in loving and caring for our beautiful city!

*D. Morgan, Raintree Woods*

*Do you have an opinion that you'd like to see printed in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email your document to [fairoaksranch@peelinc.com](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com).*



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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District Water Conservation Audit



During 2013, much like 2012, our average rainfall hovered around 32 inches District-wide. Unfortunately, most of this was received during sporadic weather events throughout the year. Case in point, we received ten inches of rain over Memorial Day weekend. High rainfall within such a short timeframe results in much of that rain running off into our streams and rivers providing little to recharge our aquifers. Please bear this in mind

as we head into summer. While all rainfall events are welcome, monitors wells into the Trinity Aquifer throughout the District still reflect record lows.

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD) would like to ask for your continued help in reducing demand on groundwater resources. We offer a free on-site consultation to identify problem areas that could be resulting in higher water usage to home or business owners residing within our District. Following the visit, we offer recommendations to help reduce water usage both inside and outside the home and a “goody” bag full of conservation-related items, including a hose timer, moisture meter, and low-flow showerhead.

*Please contact us at 210-698-1155 with questions, or to schedule a free in-home audit!*

*To learn more about Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, please visit us at [www.trinityglenrose.com](http://www.trinityglenrose.com).*

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

A photograph of two horses, one dark and one light, standing in a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The horses are looking towards the camera.

**GOOD LUCK.  
BAD LUCK  
WHO KNOWS!**

*by Lolly Daskal*

There is a story of a farmer who used an old horse to till his fields. One day, the horse escaped into the hills. When the farmer's neighbors sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

A week later, the horse returned with a herd of horses from the hills. This time the neighbors congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?"

Then when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this was very bad luck. The farmer's reaction: "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

Some weeks later, the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg, they let him off. Was that Good luck or Bad luck? Who knows!

Great leaders understand that even though they have all that it takes to be a top-notch leader, they don't have all the answers. A leader who always knows the way usually shows the way—but when they don't know, they allow themselves permission to face the times of "Who knows?"

Who knows? Remain calm. Great leaders stay calm and refuse to become agitated when things seem to fall apart. They trust in their abilities to pull them through.

Who knows? Trust your abilities. Great leaders have handled

crises before, and they have the inner assurance that their capabilities and abilities will pull them through again.

Who knows? Take action. Great leaders don't become paralyzed by events that don't turn out exactly as imagined. They make plans and they take specific action to move forward.

Who knows? Invite acceptance. Great leaders accept the idea that in chaos there is order, and that sometimes you have to work with what you've got, accept what happens, and move on.

Who knows? Don't compromise. Great leaders don't compromise on their integrity. They know that to compromise is to go a little below what they know it is right. When they put integrity first they know they can keep respect.

Who knows? Foster agility. Great leaders know how to respond to change with flexibility and not rigidity. Change and adversity are inevitable; those who are busy worrying about the past or distracted by the present are most certain to miss out on the future.

When it appears there are more questions than answers, more trouble than solutions, more failures than successes, more bad than good, to lead with greatness is to sometimes say, "Who knows!"

Lead From Within: When everything seems to be bad luck—it may just be good luck in disguise—and when not everything has an answer, and not everything can be figured out—that is when true leadership emerges.

*Lolly Daskal is president and founder of Lead From Within, a coaching and consultant firm that manages large scale corporate coaching and custom made leadership programs. [www.lollydaskal.com](http://www.lollydaskal.com)*



# FAIR OAKS RANCH



## Newcomers of San Antonio

Newcomers of San Antonio is a non-profit social organization founded in 1981. Membership is open to anyone residing in the greater San Antonio area for three years or less. We sponsor social events (monthly luncheons the 1st Thursday of the month and monthly coffees the 3rd Thursday of the month), interest groups (including games, book club, evening groups and local day trips), and opportunities for community involvement. Please visit us at [NewcomersofSanAntonio.org](http://NewcomersofSanAntonio.org) for more information.

## ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS RANCH

meets weekly at noon at the  
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## FIT AND FUN

### Health Tips for You and Your Children

*By: Concentra Urgent Care*



Getting fit and staying fit can be a fun process. That's true for individuals, and it's especially true for families.

Fitness is an important topic, especially when your daily routine involves a lot of sitting, whether at work, at school, or at home in front of a computer or TV screen.

The habits that we learn as children are often the habits we carry into adulthood. As parents, we can help our children build healthy habits and find new, fun ways to motivate ourselves and our children to get active.

Below are some ideas for getting off the couch and having some fun while getting fit:

- Take an active vacation: It's tempting every day to think of your vacation as a time to sit and relax. But isn't that what your body does everyday? Instead, you can plan a trip that includes hiking, biking, skiing, and other activities that the whole family can do together.
- Visit a local park: It doesn't have to take a whole day, but you could spend a few hours playing at a park. Take a ball (football or soccer), a Frisbee, or a hacky sack, and play. You can invite some friends to join you, too. And remember: It's not just about the kids moving around –

it's your time, too!

- Hold a block party: Call your neighbors, and block off the closest cul-de-sac for a get together that includes fun and active games. From freeze tag and relay races to hide-and-seek and kickball, there are hundreds of activities to choose from that are fun for everyone.
- Go for a hike: Find a local area where you and your family can go and hike for a few miles. Spend time outdoors, and enjoy what nature has to offer while you all get fit!

For more ideas about fun activities, visit the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's Web site at: [www.aahperd.com](http://www.aahperd.com).

The Goal: Be instrumental in encouraging children to develop the good habit of moving through space, nurturing their physical power, and getting fit.

For more information about healthy activities, contact your health care provider or your Concentra health specialist. For more information on the importance of fitness for children, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity/>



## SPORTS PHYSICAL?

### Why Your Kids Should Also Visit The Pediatrician

*Vanessa Chiapetta, MD, ADC Pediatrics*

If your children underwent a sports physical through their school district, you might wonder why it's also necessary for them to see their doctor.

The answer? Quality. Sports physicals performed through schools are very convenient. They are also very quick and inexpensive. Time is short and so is money, so why not?

There are a number of benefits of visiting the pediatrician for a well-child exam, rather than just undergoing a sports physical.

#### **BENEFITS OF A WELL-CHILD EXAM**

With your pediatrician, you will receive a full assessment of your child's specific needs with someone who knows him/her and your family.

You are present at the visit so you can get information and ask questions about your child's

- Development

- Nutritional status
- Chronic medical issues
- Past injuries and how they relate to the sport in which he is planning to participate

Your pediatrician will be sure your child has his appropriate immunizations at this visit and they can refill any chronic medications your child takes.

Your pediatrician can also refer him/her to any specialists they may need to see to be sure they are fit for the sport he/she chooses.

Your well-child exam can also be used as the school's annual Sports Exam if it is done after a certain date in the spring. (Check with your school for their date.)

Maybe it is a little more work and/or money than the school's sports physical, but ultimately the quality and education your well-child exam provides should beat convenience when it comes to your family's health.

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH



*From left to right: Sheryl Garton, Paul Giguere, Nereyda Castaneda, Rezia Olson, Ryan Lewis, James and Keli Olson. In front: Chris Florando*

## Adopt-A-Block

As part of the Boerne YMCA mission to serve the community, the following Y members participated in an Adopt-A-Block event on the East side of San Antonio. Members worked on cleaning up the neighborhood by mowing, raking and picking up trash for senior citizens of East side of San Antonio.



*Pictured are Mary Ann Caldwell, member, Donor Recruitment Consultant Rita Holmberg, and Rezia Olson, Boerne Y Site Coordinator. (l to r)*

## Blood Drive

Boerne YMCA members take part in a quarterly blood drive sponsored by the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center. The number of participants exceeded previous donors. Thanks to all who participated.



## Berges Fest

Boerne YMCA Ambassadors preparing to march in the Berges Fest parade. The Ambassador program is made up of Y volunteers who to inform and assist new members make an enjoyable transition into the Y.

*Front Row- Abigail Zuniga, Kylie Baum, Emma Terrez.  
Middle Row- Shirley Smith, Andrea Zuniga, Sharon Huff,  
Gina Kearley, Gary Kearley, Alexis Terez*



## SEND US YOUR

### *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to [fairoaksranch@peelinc.com](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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## TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
**Fernando Velasco**



### The Modern Game: The Forehand Approach Shot

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing. I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may be already playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court. In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Top Forehand Approach Shot. This shot is used when an opponent hits a soft shot that has bounced high over the net. The player will take advantage and will charge to the net, thus hitting with top spin high over the net and hit with power. When the ball hits the court, it will take a big hop, forcing the opponent to fall back close to the fence, or to hit the ball on the rise. This shot can be used as a “winner” or as an “approach shot.”

In the illustrations, Christian Smith, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Christian is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

**Step 1: The Back Swing:** When Christian sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, the left hand in front of his body for balance. He has

loaded his right hip to help him drive his weight forward. His grip is relaxed and his wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum point of contact.

**Step 2: The Point of Contact:** The success of a top spin shot is keeping the ball on the strings going from low to high in a 30 degree angle and accelerating the racket head around the outside of the ball. Christian started the swing high and “looped” it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. He will be brushing around the outside of the ball as he makes contact with it. His right shoulder is almost opening and his weight has now been shifted toward the front.

**Step 3: The Follow Through:** In order to get maximum control and power, Christian is keeping his left arm in front as he extends through the shot. He has “snapped” his left wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is in the process of shifting forward.

**Step 4: The Finish:** Christian’s upper body acceleration forced his head of the racket to “wrap around” his left hip, thus creating the most power and topspin on the ball. His legs are already in position to move forward the net for a volley.

**Step 5: The Ready Position:** Once Christian hits the ball, he must get ready to volley if the ball was not a “winner”. By the smile on his face, his forehand approach shot was successful and is waiting for an easy return to “kill” the next shot. His knees are slightly flexed, he is in a good athletic stance and his eyes are focused on the oncoming ball.

*Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Backhand Approach Shot”*



# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## APHIDS



Aphids feed on a wide variety of plants in Texas. They have high reproductive capabilities so their populations can grow to large numbers quickly.

Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that come in a variety of colors. Some have wings while others may not, but all have cornicles, or "tailpipes" that come off the tip of the abdomen.

Aphids have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to pierce plant tissue and suck out the juices. Damage often appears as yellowing or curling of foliage. Aphids also secrete a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew. Honeydew often appears on the plant as a shiny spots or sometimes the honeydew may have sooty mold growing on it. Sooty mold is a black fungus that can block sunlight from reaching the plant leading to a decrease of photosynthesis.

*Some ideas for managing aphids are as follows:*

- Encourage natural enemies such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae & syrphid fly larvae; know what these creatures look like so you don't kill them
- Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge aphids from the plant
- Less toxic pesticides include active ingredients such as insecticidal soap, azadirachtin (neem), horticultural oils or d-limonene
- Other pesticides to manage aphids may include active ingredients such as permethrin, acephate (non-food items only), carbaryl or imidacloprid

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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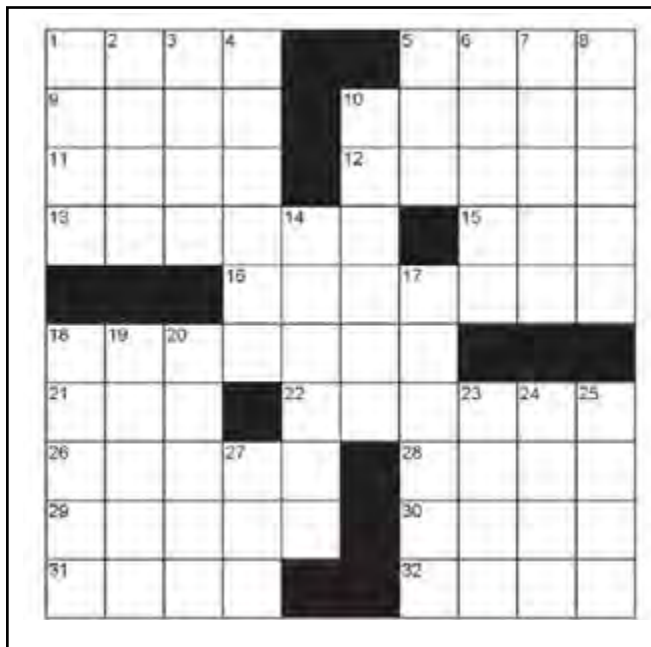
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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Chunk
5. Tramp
9. Run
10. Confuse
11. Cain killed him
12. To that time
13. Fraud
15. Compass point
16. Taught
18. Hides
21. Brew
22. Large meals
26. Sheer, triangular scarf
28. Midwestern state
29. Electronic mail
30. First letter of the Arabic alphabet
31. September (abbr.)
32. Polish

### DOWN

1. Attired
2. Earring need
3. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
4. Efface
5. Egg layer
6. Many times
7. Capital of Idaho
8. Eyed
10. Combustible material
14. Angry
17. Old Testament prophet
18. Fireproof storage areas
19. Climate
20. Summary
23. Fly alone
24. Matching
25. Secure
27. Whack

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The Lodge at Leon Springs is pleased to announce the addition of several newly-constructed one bedroom cottages, broadening independent living choices available for seniors in our community. Our spacious one and two bedroom cottages (800 & 1,500 sq ft, respectively) are each equipped with large screened patios, a fully functional kitchen as well as a laundry room with washer and dryer. Cottage residents enjoy dining options that include the delivery of three hot meals to their home(s) or joining friends and fellow residents in our assisted living home. For the comfort and convenience of our residents, The Lodge provides housekeeping, as well as facility and grounds maintenance. Activities are offered and designed to enhance quality of life and encourage new friendships.



*Sit and enjoy the beauty of nature at its best and the serenity of the historic Leon Springs.*

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# FAIR OAKS RANCH

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Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [fairoaksranch@peelinc.com](mailto:fairoaksranch@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



## SUDOKU

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

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