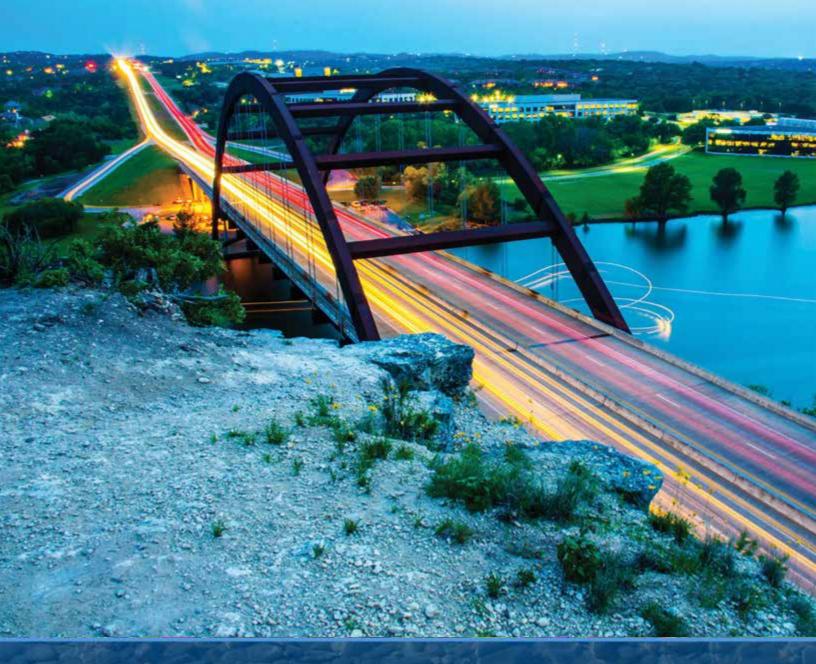
THE RIVER REVIEW

September 2015 Volume 9, Issue 9





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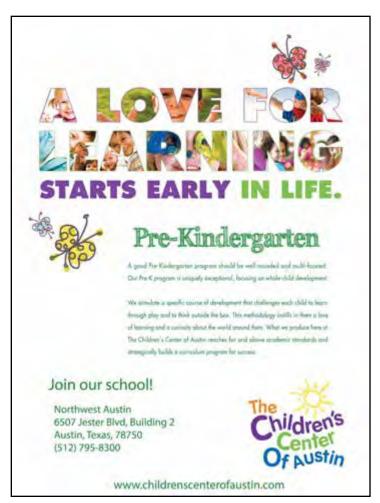
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Please support the advertisers that make River Review possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The River Review is mailed monthly to all River Place 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 River Review please email it to *riverreview@peelinc.com*. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



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HILL COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2015-16 EVENT CALENDAR

Mark your calendars for these Hill Country Education Foundation events. Your Four Points Academic Booster Club supports the Vandegrift High School feeder pattern, which includes Canyon Ridge and Four Points Middle Schools, and Grandview Hills, Laura Welch Bush, River Place, River Ridge and Steiner Ranch Elementary Schools. The Four Points community has helped HCEF invest more than \$400,000 in these schools during the past six years. By supporting HCEF, you support our passionate educators who work hard to inspire your students and provide the tools, technology and programming to prepare them well for their education journey.

Week of September 21, 2015 – Launch of Fall Giving Campaign. HCEF's 3rd Annual Fall Giving Campaign gets underway. For quick and easy giving, go to www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org.

Saturday, November 14, 2015 - 7th Annual FIRST® LEGO®

League Scrimmage. To learn more this HCEF event, email info@ HillCountryEdFoundation.org.

Saturday, February 27, 2016 – Annual Gala at The Westin Austin at The Domain. Dinner, Silent and Live Auctions, Heads or Tails Game, Live Band and more planned for HCEF's largest fundraiser of the year. To volunteer, donate or learn more, contact info@ HillCountryEdFoundation.org.

May 2016 – 6th Annual Impact Grant Awards. HCEF Grant Committee will surprise area teachers and administrators with program funding during the annual grant patrol. To date, HCEF has awarded more than \$120,000. Want to be on the Grant Committee? Email info@HillCountryEdFoundation.org.

Late May – 3rd Annual HCEF Educational Excellence Scholarships announced at Senior Awards.

COVER PHOTO Do you take great photos?

Do you take great photos? Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the River Review. All photos submitted must represent River Place or the surround area. Our deadine for submittals is always the 9th of the month prior to the issue. All photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution (300 dpi) to riverreview@peelinc.com. Portrait (vertical) photos work best.

To view other photos submitted please visit www.PEELinc.com/RiverPlace, and view any of the past newsletters.

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the River Review or other Peel, Inc. publications.

If your business is interested in sponsoring the cover call 512-263-9181 to find out how to be featured on the cover of the River Review.



RIVER REVIEW





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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco



With this issue, I will be offering tips on the fundamentals of the game of tennis. Kristen Somerholter, a Member of the Grey Rock Tennis Club shows the proper form and technique for the forehand groundstroke:

Step 1: Early Anticipation: The upper body turns with the right wrist slightly "cocked" back and level with the hip. Notice the eyes focused toward the incoming ball and the balance of the left hand in front of the body.

Step 2: Point of contact: Once the racquet starts accelerating, the right wrist is still slightly "cocked" back, but will have a small snap when making contact with the ball. Optimum point of contact is in front of the opposite foot. Notice that the eyes are still focused on the tennis ball and her weight has transferred to her left foot.

Step 3: Follow Through: Once the ball has made contact with racket, the arm needs to follow through for a long period of time to allow maximum compaction of the ball and help from the strings and the frame. Notice that the body has slightly turned watching where the ball is landing. The knee has flexed to allow more flexibility and power for the ball.

Step 4: Finish: If the racket has great momentum, let it continue following through the body and finishing it around the neck. This will allow for a more powerful impact and depth on the ball. The smile on her face shows that she hit a great shot!!

Look for next Issue: The Backhand Groundstroke



Garden Tips for SEPTEMBER

Prepare your lawn for Fall and Winter

September and October are the perfect time to aerate and top dress or compost your lawn. Follow with foliar feeds like seaweed, Garrett Juice, or Medina Soil Activator through November. If just trying to winterize or feel lazy, spread organic pellet fertilizer by Lady Bug or Fox Farm and then drench the lawn with a foliar feed.

Control Weeds: Spread Corn Gluten Meal on your lawn between 9/1 and 10/15 to control weeds. As



& feed and common ingredient in pet food, it does not kill active weeds, but it prevents weeds from sprouting. Also, it fertilizes the lawn with 9% nitrogen. Plant Everything!!!



LOOP 360 IMPROVEMENT STUDY

he Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently launched a new study to identify short- and long-term transportation improvements along Loop 360 from US 290/SH 71 to North MoPac.

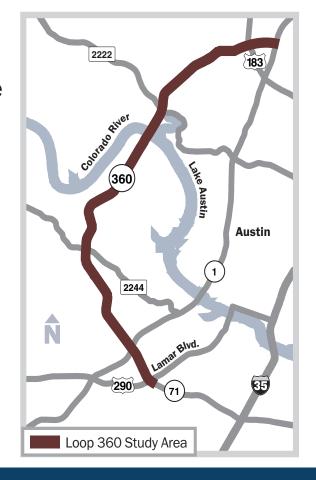
TxDOT wants to know your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for the future of Loop 360.

Visit www.Loop360Study.com to:

- Take a survey on problems, potential solutions, and considerations for future planning on Loop 360.
- Submit a comment.
- Request a meeting with the Loop 360 study team.
- Sign up for the mailing list.







TREE RETREATS

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the most common lizards in the Austin area is the Texas Spiny Lizard (Sceloporus olivaceus). It is also one of the largest, averaging 7.5 to 11 inches in length, with the females being larger than the males.

A Texas spiny lizard is often hard to spot, as its dorsal pattern can vary by locality, serving as adequate camouflage in its chosen habitat.

Typically grey in color with black, white, or reddish-brown blotches or crossbands down its back, it blends in perfectly against the bark of resident trees. Its underside is usually uniformly light grey, and males commonly have bright blue patches on either side of the belly. The scales appear

particularly pointed and spiny, and it has long toes and sharp claws suitable for climbing.

All of these features serve this lizard well, as it is diurnal and arboreal, spending much of its time in trees. While it prefers larger tree species with a significant amount of leaf litter below, such as live oaks, post oaks, red oaks, pecans, hackberries, and elms, it may also be found

in brushy trees such as mesquites and junipers. This lizard can also be seen climbing on man-made structures such as fence posts, walls, and telephone poles, especially when the base of these objects is covered in brush.

Typically shy and wary, this lizard quickly retreats to the opposite side of a tree trunk in the presence of a predator or human observer. If startled when approached closely,



Texas Spiny Lizard

lizards are territorial, often defending a single tree from encroachment by other males. When challenged, the two males will have what appears to be a push up contest, until one is intimidated enough to give up and scurry away.

> lizards are reproductively active throughout the warmer months of the year. Females lay up to four clutches of eggs in a shallow depression in

it will suddenly jump

from a tree trunk and flee noisily into the leaf

litter below, making it

almost impossible to

locate. Trees not only

provide protection for

this lizard, but they also

provide for its food.

Being insectivorous,

it can find cicadas,

crickets, grasshoppers,

beetles, ants, butterflies,

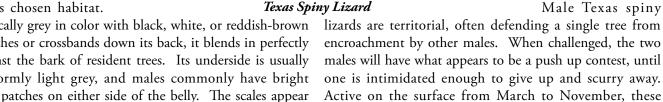
and caterpillars in the

leafy canopy.

leaf litter, with hatchlings emerging 45-60 days later. In the cooler months of the year, they take cover for weeks at a time under rocks, logs, and in deep leaf litter, and are occasionally seen basking in the sun on warmer, sunnier days.

So when you're out and about in your yard or at a park, and you hear something skittering in the leaf litter or retreating up a tree, it most likely is a Texas Spiny Lizard!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin. rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!





RIVER REVIEW



FIRE ANT TREATME

There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time and can be labor intensive and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many "home remedies", but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient (what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

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The College Search & Application Process: Some Words of Wisdom for Juniors, Seniors and their Parents

For many, the return to school also means embarking on (if you're a junior), or continuing with (if you're a senior) the often daunting, and seemingly mystifying college search and application process. After working for many years as an admission officer at a private research university where I reviewed and evaluated thousands of applications, and as a college counselor at a small independent secondary school where I advised hundreds of students, I know well the anxiety both parents and students often associate with the entire process.

Regardless of where you are in the college search and application process, if you understand the admission process is mostly art and only a bit of science - more qualitative than quantitative - than you will already have a greater comprehension of the process and how it works. If too much information leaves you dizzy, believing the world of admission is little more than an unvielding maze, do not lose hope. The good news is that you, the applicant, have a great deal of freedom to plan your own course of action. By understanding the general process of admissions, remaining positive, and taking one step at a time, you will feel a greater sense of confidence, and ultimately, control.

Generally speaking, most colleges and universities are interested in five key aspects of the application including:

- Your high school record/transcript
- Standardized test scores
- Essay and/or personal statement
- · Letters of recommendation from teachers
- Extracurricular activities: anything you devote your time to outside the classroom

Although variation exists from school to school, most admissions officers agree the high school record is the single most important factor in the entire process. Schools are interested in the grades

achieved in the classes you have taken, and in any trends such as an improvement in grades from freshman through senior year, or a change in the level of courses (for example, taking standard classes in the first half of high school, then switching to intermediate or honors classes). It is better to push yourself in more difficult courses, perhaps risking a lower grade, than it is to take easy classes and earn all A's. Students and parents often find this truth difficult to believe, but I promise you, this one stands true - take the tougher class!

After reviewing the high school transcript, different schools will place different value on the remaining components. Some will place great credence on letters of recommendation while others may be more or less interested in your standardized test scores. As for the essay or personal statement, most college admissions professionals concur, a great essay rarely makes up for a weak academic record, and a mediocre essay won't necessarily consign your application to the deny list. But, a great essay forces the admission officer to focus on you for a critical period of time, and often, it generates increased curiosity about your candidacy. It is that quantity of time and quality of curiosity that can make the difference.

Some general words of wisdom for juniors who may be beginning the process:

- Start early! Takes SATs, SAT IIs, and ACTs by the end of junior
- · Self-reflect: Think about who you are and what is important to you. Ask yourself how, where, or if any of this will fit into finding a school that is the right match for you.
- Do your research: Read the college mail that will soon inundate you, visit schools' Web sites, establish a relationship with your college counselor (or whichever school official can help you with this process).

(Continued on Page 11)



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(Continued from Page 10)

- Create a preliminary list of schools in which you may be interested.
- Schedule campus visits: Attend information session, take campus tours, and meet with admissions representatives.
- Become discerning: Begin to eliminate schools in which you may no longer have interest.
- Continue to focus on your academics. Although the college search and application process quickly takes on a life of its own, do not let your grades slip or opt out of challenging classes. Junior year grades and course selection are of great importance.

Though junior year can be critical, don't be overly concerned if you are a senior just beginning to think about this process. Many students complete most, if not all, of the admissions steps during the fall of their senior year. No matter where you are in the overall process, you can and will be successful. I encourage each of you to be honest, sincere and thoughtful throughout the entire college search and application process. If you stick to these core principles, you will remain true to yourself while also presenting your best self to those who will be reading and evaluating your applications. Best wishes!



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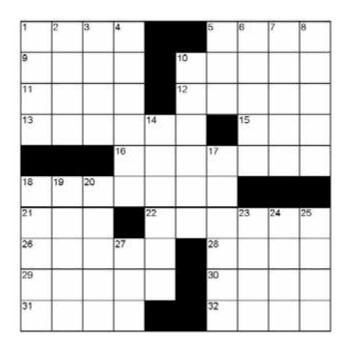
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

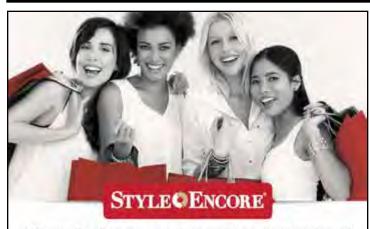
- 1. Canned meat brand
- 5. Recommend
- 9. Volcanic rock
- 10. Strength
- 11. Consumer
- 12. Refastens
- 13. Mire
- 15. Flurry
- 16. Remove a light bulb
- 18. Easier to get at
- 21. Frosty
- 22. Pretended
- 26. Spring flower
- 28. Basic's opposite
- 29. Buddy
- 30. Sliding toy
- 31. Ball player Aaron
- 32. Food

DOWN

- 1. Ghetto
- 2. El (Texas city)
- 3. Maintain
- 4. Plunder
- 5. Vase
- 6. Measuring instrument
- 7. Point
- 8. Render capable
- 10. Public transportation vehicles
- 14. Short-tempered
- 17. Put a fold in
- 18. Catch a ride
- 19. Sporty car brand
- 20. Synthetic fiber
- 23. Ca. University
- 24. Abstain from certain foods
- 25. Chances of winning
- 27. Writing liquid

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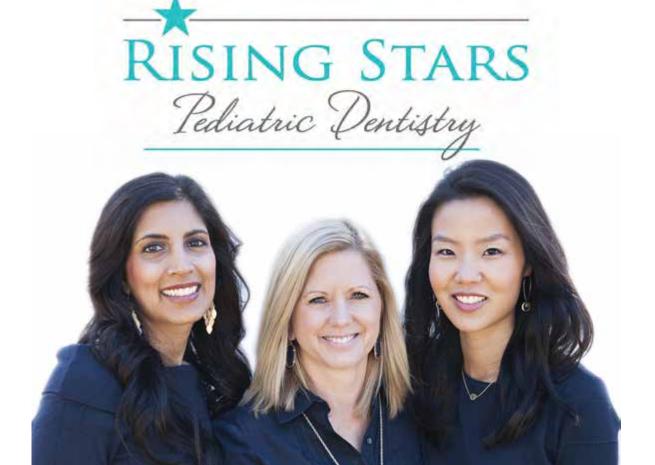
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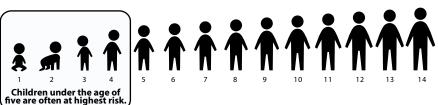




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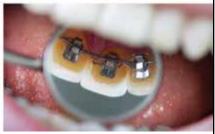
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