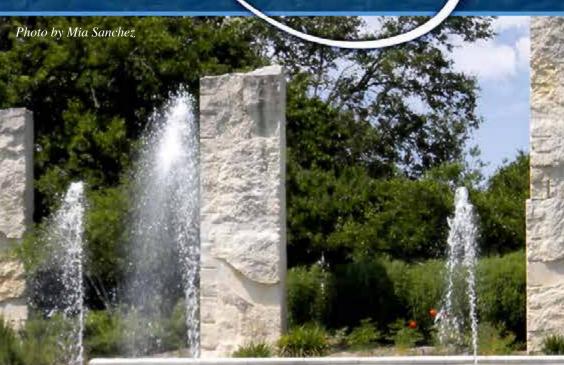
THE RIVER REVIEW

October 2016

Volume 10, Issue 10



RIVER PLACE



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TO THE ALLENS!



Say hello to Lauren and Preston Allen and their son, Connor (age 2) and daughter, Charlotte (age 5). They have a small and very friendly Shih Tzu named Peanut, who has been known to go for a run if he gets out. The Allens moved to River Place four years ago because they felt it would be a great neighborhood in which to raise their children.

Preston works as a Manager at Arrow Electronics while Lauren is a Rodan + Fields Consultant. Lauren holds a bachelor's degree from UMHB and a master's

degree from Texas State University. Preston holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. Connor is in preschool at Austin Baptist Church while Charlotte attends Kindergarten at River Place Elementary.

The Allens enjoy living on a corner cul-de-sac on China Garden Drive. Some of the things they love about River Place include their wonderful neighbors, the lakes, hill country views, and especially the schools. They enjoy spending time with friends at the country club, watching movies at the Moviehouse & Eatery, volunteering at church (Austin Baptist) and helping coordinate neighborhood HOA events. They commented, "We feel blessed to live in a neighborhood where we're surrounded by great friends!"



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS			
EMERGENCY91	1		
Fire 91			
Ambulance			
Sheriff – Non-Emergency			
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	,		
Emergencies	5		
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Information	,		
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Leander ISD512-570-000	0		
Cedar Park High School512-570-120	0		
Vandegrift High School512-570-230	0		
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City of Austin Electric512-494-940)		
Texas Gas Service			
Custom Service 1-800-700-244			
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New Service 1-800-464-792			
Repair 1-800-246-846-	4		
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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 <u>riverreview@peelinc.com</u>. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

Editor's Comment

In this edition we strive to provide information that River Place residents might, in conversation, ask one another about. "In and Around River Place" is an added series that we hope will do just that as we attempt to provide the right amount of information about what's going on in relation to our community. From the update on the Four Points Walmart site to the sale of 3M, our intent is to briefly bring you up to date without going overboard.

We continue on as well this month with our new series featuring a River Place family, the Allens. And being safety minded, we hope articles like "Being a 'Firewise' River Place Homeowner" will provide valuable information not only to protect ourselves from wildfires but also to increase awareness about available services such as those provided by the River Place Firewise Committee. We hope the word will be spread so more residents can be "Firewise."

We are certainly aware of the numerous area circulars and newsletters that have emerged, some just recently. However, we hope that our narrow focus on River Place related concerns and in keeping you better informed will preserve us a place in your busy reading schedule.

Feel free to let us know what you would like to see offered in future editions of The River Review. We value your input. And we always welcome articles from residents. If you need help with an article or have questions, feel free to contact (email or phone) me. Please send articles to either me at mrobertallen@aol.com or riverreview@peelinc.com.

Hope you enjoy this one as well as your future editions! Robert Martin, Editor (512-517-3619)

In And Around River Place

PostNet Has Been Sold: Yes, the recent sale of our River Place PostNet presents some minor inconveniences due to their reduced hours. The Maples, who are selling the business, are friendly folks who also live right here in River Place. Mary Catherine informed us that they definitely have a buyer although the exact date of the transition is not yet established. Currently, they are still open but hours have been reduced as her husband has already returned to the IT field and their daughter is having a baby. The Maples purchased the business in April of 2015. Hours will return to full time once the transition is complete.

So, what other alternatives do we have? The other nearest place that provides similar services and ships your packages is the UPS location at HEB Four Points, right next to Starbucks, down from Subway and Twin Liquors. They have accommodating hours, open till 7:30 during the week and till 2:30 on Saturdays. Their phone number is 512-219-8022.

Annual BBQ and Hoedown October 15: Make no other plans on this day! Come to Sun Tree Park on Saturday the 15th, 4 to 7 pm for the River Place Annual Hoedown! There are many activities for all ages this year. There's a petting zoo, a Playland Bounce House for little folks and an obstacle course called the Adrenaline Rush for both school age children and older. This sounds like fun for all! To top it off, you can expect to be treated to some delicious BBQ to stave off your hunger. So, come and eat, mingle with friends and get to know your neighbors. See you there!

Former Four Points Walmart Sold: The 220,000 square foot facility Walmart store where many of us once shopped was closed back in January. Just recently in August it was purchased by a California real estate company, PacVentures, Inc. Thus investment company is looking to lease the property for office use, entertainment/recreation or even

education space. They might possibly be leaning toward private school and/or university use. Founding Principal Andrew Kaplan states, "It's in a great campus setting." The site is actually located right next to Concordia University so a connection there seems plausible. They would prefer it not be a mixed use site. It will be interesting to see how the 40 acre property is developed and what businesses and services eventually emerge. Stay tuned.

3M Selling Four Points 156 Acre Campus: 3M, situated on the other side of RR 2222 from River Place, is looking to relocate their workplace now employing some 800 people. According to Fred Wahlers, retired 3M Regional Sales Manager, they currently use only less than half of the approximately one million square foot facility. They are seeking to acquire a new Austin location better suited to meet their present needs. Employees will be relocated. 3M produces tape, notepaper, computer accessories, laminating systems and packaging products.

There is a very important concern here for River Place residents who have school-aged children. The Four Points Traffic Committee, established to improve local area traffic conditions, is hoping that in the process of the sale they can maneuver a second way to get to and from Vandegrift High School and Four Points Middle School i.e., by cutting through 3M from River Place Blvd. Preliminary steps have already been taken to establish an easement on which the one mile access road could be built.

Now, the one way in or out, McNeil Drive, merges onto RR 2222. This has long been an issue since both that intersection and RR 2222 itself are often congested. For possible emergencies and just normalizing area traffic flow, surely this is one development we would all like to see materialize.

Featured River Place Location: Big View Scenic Lookout

Ever want to just stop for a few minutes and clear your mind? Is there any place convenient and nearby that would help us with this?

We have the answer to both questions. The Big View Scenic Lookout may be just the spot you're looking for. As River Place was strategically located in Hill Country, the advantages of doing so were not overlooked by its founders and designers. Located just south of China Garden Drive on the west side of Big View Drive you'll see a small cove just large enough to park a few cars. Right next to it is a walkway leading to the lookout.

From there you can see the River Place Country Club and the golf course. Off in the distance you can see clear to Steiner Ranch and even a sliver of Lake Austin. Most of you have probably driven by and seen

the area but perhaps never took the time to take a look. We invite you to do so. And if this location is not handy, there is a similar lookout on River Place Blvd. just south of Sun Tree Park. A nice feature of both settings is that another bench is available but with a totally different view, facing eastward rather than to the west.

The grounds around the lookout were originally decorated by the River Place Garden Club. It's a beautiful spot to just spend a few minutes to sit and catch your breath. Whether you're exercising, driving by or walking your dog, our bet is you'll find the view relaxing if not breathtaking. We're so lucky to have landscapes like these in River Place. It's part of what makes River Place a special place to live. Enjoy the views!









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River Place MUD Holds Tax Rate Public Hearing/Vote AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LIMITED DISTRICT?

from Scott Crosby, River Place and a post on Nextdoor by Scott Crosby

On September 29th the River Place Municipal Utility District (MUD) held a public meeting on a 2016 tax year rate proposal and set a new tax rate. This tax rate is for the operation and maintenance of the MUD. Unfortunately, as of this writing, all we can conclude is that, depending on how that vote went, we will either pay a higher rate to accumulate more surplus or a lower rate so that we pay as we go, relying on our current surplus for emergencies.

Four of the five MUD board members have been for a higher rate of around .20% or more. Board member Scott Crosby has favored a much lower tax rate that is approximately half the current one or the one proposed. He explains that the current MUD surplus can be used, if needed, in place of higher taxes, allowing for a 'pay as you go' approach. While the total amount needed will be about the same either way, in addition to present value concerns, paying as you go prevents residents who might leave River Place in the future from having paid for services they never received. In other words, we would only raise taxes if we need to.

While the vote for the new tax rate has already been cast as you read this, there is a much more important vote coming up for River Place residents: Approximately six months after we are officially

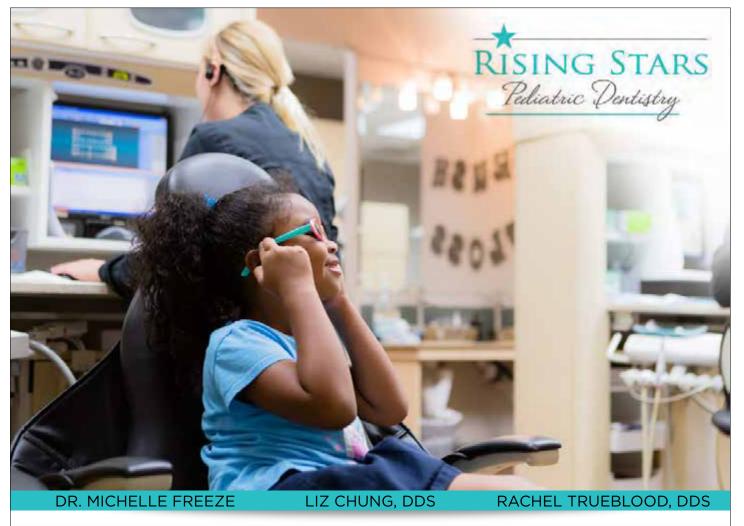
annexed by the City of Austin, we will vote on whether River Place will remain a Limited District.

Remaining a Limited District is very important as it means the MUD continues to maintain our parks and trails and also manages our trash pickup services. Hopefully we can all appreciate the quality of the maintenance and care we receive from local oversight and attention as opposed to that which the COA is capable of providing.

Now for example, we can discard large items (one per month) for weekly trash pickup. This is not the case in the rest of the city. And we are already considering replacing our playground equipment at Sun Tree Park. The care given to maintaining the Sun Tree basketball court, other park areas such as Woodlands Park including the tennis courts, the trails and our greenbelt areas for example, cannot be overlooked.

Therefore, it should make very good sense that we make every effort to keep our existing system in place. While the City of Austin does a good job in general, through local oversight we can certainly expect our concerns to be better heard and our needs more adequately addressed.





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Vandegrift High School's Library Renovation Is Just What Students Need

Can you imagine not eating lunch at your desk? I can't - my day is jammed packed with a long list of work needs, volunteer demands and family needs. Like many adults, I'm running between my quiet office corner and meetings I regularly host at local coffee shops. Food is a necessary afterthought for busy people.

In today's highly competitive world, are high school students' demands any different? According to Vandegrift Librarian Zandra Lopez, the answer is an emphatic "no!"

"At lunch time the kids would swarm the library. They were eating between all the stacks, and it was a mess. I could tell that a lot of them were also working together and this was the only place where they really could get anything done, but they were everywhere!" So, over the summer, with the financial support of donors to the Viper Nation Education Foundations Learning Commons project, she solved her student's needs with a subtle, but highly effective renovation.

On the day that I visited the library, I found it to be much like Librarian Lopez described, very busy. But, the large room had two very distinctive areas. In the area with laminate flooring (donated by Chase Flooring) and many four-top tables, were groups of students eating, relaxing, laughing. One group was actively discussing what was on a laptop screen surrounded by lunch wrappers and drinks. But outside the carpeted area of the eating zone was a noticeably calmer environment. It was the same room, but over the shorter stacks I could see students quietly reading, working in pairs on laptops and some typing with focus. A great deal of work was happening a few steps away.

I found Senior student Abbie Dunn working on her laptop at a table in the "no-eating" zone of the library and asked why the library is such a popular place for lunch.

"I can't take my laptop into the cafeteria so I get most of my work done here during lunch period. I've got homework and college applications to do. Also, it's a really good place for Freshmen who don't know where to sit. If you look around the school, people are eating everywhere - outside on the tables, down the halls. But this place isn't intimidating to Freshmen. Anyone can come in here."

Regarding the renovations, Abby liked how the changes made

(Continued on Page 10)





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(Continued from Page 8)

the eating space obvious. "Sectioning off does matter and it works. If I need to eat lunch I eat over there, then I come over here and do my work. There is a different feel over here, than over there [where the eating tables are.] We all get it. We are allowed to bring drinks over here but sometimes the librarian has to tell someone not to eat over here. You can figure it out pretty easily. Also, its a lot quieter over here."

Zandra Lopez did show me other facilities that the library provides to the students; facilities I certainly did not have when I was a student. "Last year I held focus groups to learn what they wanted in the library. One thing they begged me not to get rid of was the Manga room." She had an entire room dedicated to Manga books in the Japanese storytelling style. Just off the eating zone she opened a door to a small room, lit with pleasant window light. There were three communal reading tables surrounded by bookshelves lined with thin Manga paper-backs. "These are the most popular books I have!" she said.

The other wonderful facility that every student has access to is her multi-media room. There, students can reserve access to various tools in order to help them create a project. "I've got a 3-D printer in here, some video equipment. Students come in here and create amazing stuff. Lots of students reserve this equipment for school projects, then they can just come in here and do it!"

The Library Learning Commons project is a work in progress sponsored by the Viper Nation Education Foundation. To learn more, go to www.vipernationef.org. or contact Executive Director Courtney Johnson at cjohnson@vipernationef.org.

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Being A "Firewise" River Place Homeowner

from Scott Crosby, River Place and a post on Nextdoor by Scott Crosby

Following the rains this summer which stimulated foliage growth, things began to dry out, generating a great deal of dry brush and shrub. Unfortunately, this dry brush and shrub can serve as fuel for accidental or naturally occurring wildfires. There have been numerous fires cited around the central Texas area this year, a common occurrence in most years.

The threat to us is that embers from these fires can "jump" up to a mile, given the right weather conditions. And with our homes in River Place being so close together, once a fire is ignited, it may be very difficult to get under control and limit the damages. For example, in September of 2011 nearly 2000 homes and buildings were destroyed by wildfires, mostly in the same week.

To this end, the River Place Firewise Committee has been established to provide directions on what you can do to protect your home from being at risk. They look closely at the "danger points" caused by embers landing on your property. Since we are all susceptible, we strongly recommend protecting your home by having a FREE Firewise Assessment provided by the Firewise Committee. Doesn't this sound like a win-win?

All you need to do is call Vangie Bocanegra at 512-339-6962 or email her at vangieb@cmaaustin.com to get started. Why not take advantage of this free and helpful service?

Tennis Tip of the Month: Approaching the Net

After hitting an approach shot or a penetrating groundstroke, you begin your transition from the baseline to the net. How do you best position yourself to handle the opponent's passing shot or defensive lob?

Tennis Tip: As you move forward toward the net you keep your eyes on your opponent. Then, just before your opponent makes contact with the ball, you split step or stutter step, as it is sometimes called. You essentially bring both feet parallel to the net, balanced on your toes so you can push off in any direction to reach a volley or an overhead. Knees should be bent and the racquet held out in front, usually with both hands, your off hand on the racquet throat. This gives you equal time to reach either way. With knees bent, stay low in case you must hit a half volley or low, shoelace volley. From this low, poised position, you can also spring up to hit the overhead if need be.

So remember, it all starts with the split step. You can also improve your poaching in doubles by starting from this position. With the correct footwork and body position, you'll be surprised at how much easier it is to hit those winning volleys and overhead smashes! If you have a question on the split step, feel free to call or text me. Walter: 512-497-9971

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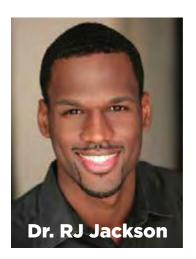


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QUARTERLY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FOUR POINTS EDITION FALL 2016



BE WISE AND IMMUNIZE AGAINST FLU

Reviewed by Crystal Cherico, RN ADC Clinical Supervisors and Travel Clinic Director



Influenza is a serious, potentially life-threatening disease but cases increase between October and March in the U.S. Flu can cause absences at school and result in lost production at work.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), estimate that in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population get the flu each year and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from seasonal flu-related complications. Flu seasons can be unpredictable and severe.

So, who should get the flu vaccine?

Anyone over 6 months of age should get a flu shot yearly, especially those individuals at high risk for flu including:

- Children younger than 5 (especially those younger than 2 years old);
- Adults 65 years and older;
- Pregnant women and
- Residents in nursing homes/long-term care facilities.

People with the following medical conditions are considered at high risk for flu and should also be immunized yearly:

- Asthma;
- Neurological conditions;
- Heart disease:
- Blood disorders (like sickle cell anemia);
- Kidney and liver disorders;
- Metabolic disorders;
- Weakened immune systems;
- People who are younger than 19 on aspirin therapy and people who are morbidly obese.

Are there people who should not get a flu shot?

Talk to your doctor if you . . .

- have had a past reaction to the flu shot;
- are recovering from a moderate to severe illness, or
- have a history or Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

When should you get vaccinated?

Flu season usually runs from October through May. Doctors recommend you get the vaccine as early as September to maximize protection for you and your family. It usually takes two to four weeks for the vaccine to give you immunity.

Can I get the flu from a flu shot?

No. The injection you will receive is a dead virus - it cannot give you the flu. However, you may experience side effects such as a sore arm, mild fever or achiness that may last up to two days. In years past the alternative to the flu shot was Flu Mist, a nasal flu spray. However, earlier this summer, the Centers for Disease Control stated they DO NOT recommend Flu Mist because of studies showing its ineffectiveness in protecting individuals from getting the flu.

What is the High Dose Flu Vaccine?

Th high dose vaccine contains four times the amount of antigen (which prompts the body to make antibodies) as the regular flu vaccine. The high dose vaccine is approved for use in adults 65 years and older. As we age our immune systems weaken and immune responses decrease. A recent study² indicated that a high-dose vaccine was more effective in preventing flu in adults 65+.

What is the difference between the flu and a cold?

A cold may begin gradually and develop over several days. The flu comes on suddenly and is accompanied by some or all of the following symptoms:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

The Austin Diagnostic Clinic, will offer flu shots for adults 18 years and older at all doctor's offices, including Steiner Ranch, during regular business hours. Parents should contact their pediatrician or family doctor to schedule flu shots for children under 18 years old.

- Flu shots \$40 (or will file insurance)
- High Dose Flu Shots \$65 (will file insurance)

For additional hours and information please visit ADClinic.com/flu or call our Flu Hotline at 512-901-7117.



- 1. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm
- 1. ntp://www.cuc.gov/jucinuex.ntm 2.http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1315727?query=featured_home& 3. http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/s0622-laiv-flu.html

^{*} It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

BE WISE & IMMUNIZE AGAINST CAINST

ADClinic.com/flu 512-901-1111



ADC Steiner Ranch 5145 RM 620 N., Building I 8am to 5pm Monday-Friday Get a flu shot and protect yourself and your family this flu season.



- ★ Flu shots for adults 18 years and older at all ADC offices
- ★ Cost: \$40 or we will file insurance. High-dose flu shots (\$65) for adults 65+
- ★ Available during regular business hours Monday- Friday
- ★ Flu shots after-hours and weekends at ADC Urgent Care in North & South Austin
- ★ Parents should contact their pediatrician to schedule flu shots for children under 18.





We welcome Pediatrician
Christopher Saenz, MD to
ADC Steiner Ranch!
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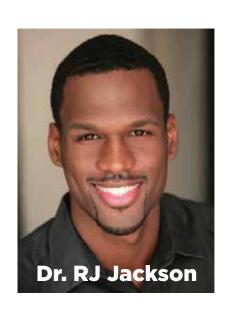
Braces at 7-Years-Old, Is That Too Young?

For years, orthodontics have been a "reactive" profession. Parents would slowly watch their child's teeth go from bad to worse while waiting for the baby teeth to fall out, then finally visit an orthodontist for a set of braces. Today, orthodontics has evolved into a "prevention focused" profession. Longterm research studies have proven that preventing a problem from occurring is better than allowing the problem to occur and then fixing it. The American Association of Orthodontics (AAO) and the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) both recommend every child have an evaluation no later than age 7. Timing is of the essence, because the ability to correct certain problems greatly diminishes as the child develops over time.

Early detection and correction can also prevent future extractions, improve self-esteem, decrease the overall cost of orthodontic treatment, and decrease the chances of dental complications later on. Another benefit of early correction includes improved stability which decreases the likelihood of teeth shifting back to the original, improper position later in life.

Although there are many benefits to treatment at an early age, it is not recommended for every child. Children treated unnecessarily can negatively impact their dental health, and increase the total overall expenses for parents. This is one reason it is imperative for parents to choose a board-certified orthodontist for treatment. A board certified orthodontist has demonstrated competence and is held accountable for their work by the American Board of Orthodontics. Only 1 out of 3 orthodontists are board-certified, so do not make the mistake of assuming an orthodontist holds this recognition. Your board-certified orthodontist will inform you if the time is right for orthodontic treatment.

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Problems to Watch for in Growing Children

Malocclusions ("bad bites") like those illustrated below, may benefit from early diagnosis and referral to an orthodontic specialist for a full evaluation.



Crossbite of Front Teeth

Top teeth are behind bottom teeth



Crossbite of Back Teeth

Top teeth are to the inside of bottom teeth



Crowding



Open Bite

Front teeth do not meet when back teeth are closed



Protrusion



Deep Bite



Underbite

The lower teeth sit in front of upper teeth when back teeth are closed



Spacing



Oral Habits

Sucking on thumb, fingers



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Our SnoMaster Fridges are dual AC/DC meaning they can be plugged into a 12 volt car charger when traveling (or even hard wired to the car battery) and then plugged into a standard outlet when available. No need to load and unload, and absolutely no need for ice!

TO GUARANTEE THE BEST COOLING PERFORMANCE

SnoMaster developed its own compressor for portable refrigerators and freezers, which still functions reliably even in the harsh environment of an offroad vehicle and at extreme temperatures of desert heat! The compressor is designed to resist dust and dirt, violent vibrations and shocks of todays overlander. SnoMaster gurantee's the compressor for a period of 5 years.

WIRELESS REMOTE

All SnoMaster coolers are supplied with a wireless remote control. This allows the coolers to be fully monitored and controlled from the driver seat.

The remote control displays the desired and actual temperature of the unit. The desired temperature can be adjusted via the wireless remote control. The status of the power supply is displayed and the battery monitor can be adjusted.

If necessary, the cooler can be switched on and off by remote control. The performance of the compressor can be also regulated for optimal performance.

To use the remote control even in the dark, if necessary, the backlight of the display can be turned on. Integrated into the wireless remote is a handy LED flashlight.

All these powerful features from an integrated solar cells on the back of the remote for continuous charge.

CONTACT US: Tel: 512-698-6169

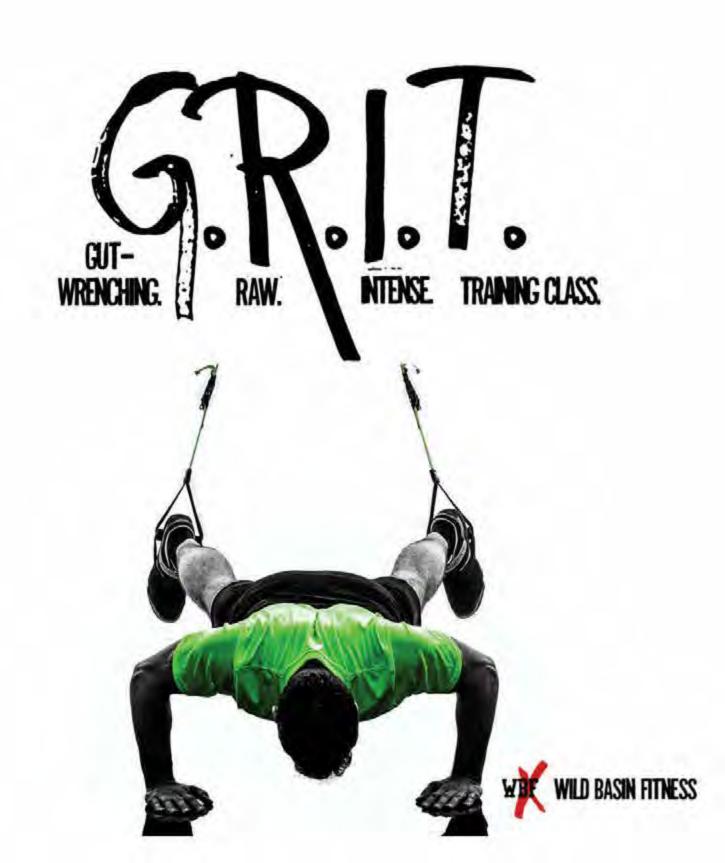
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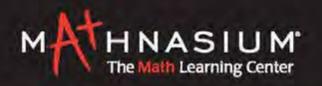


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Is your child on pace for math success?

The fall semester is well underway, and it's time for a math checkup! Can your child answer these mental math questions? The results may surprise you! If they can solve questions at and above grade level, they could be ready for a challenge! If they are unable to answer questions at their grade level or below, they may be in need of extra help.



-		
	First Grade	11 + 12 =
	Second Grade	1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10=
	Third Grade	How much is 99 plus 99 plus 99?
L US HEDULE A LE TRIAL!	Fourth Grade	Count by 13/2 from 0 to 7.
	Fifth Grade	Which is greatest: 17, 23 or 18 ? (Explain how you got your answer.)
	Sixth Grade	Halfway through the second quarter, how much of the game is left?
	Seventh Grade	How much is $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ of 250?
	Pre-Algebra	On a certain map, 6 inches represents 25 miles. How many miles does 15 inches represent?
	Algebra	When you take 3 away from twice a number, the answer is 8. What is the number?
	Geometry	What is the Absolute Value of the point (3, 4)?

Whether your child is far behind, performing at grade level, or eager to get ahead, Mathnasium's personalized programs can help. Contact us today to get started!

For answers and explanations, visit: mathnasium.com/answers

Mathnasium of Steiner Ranch

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