

The Gazette

MAY 2019
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5

Attention Parents of Graduating Seniors!

We would like to recognize our graduating seniors by including a small picture and a few lines about where your child will be attending college. Please send your information to articles@peelinc.com (include the newsletter you would like to recognize them in, photo, name, etc).



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills	512-841-2400
Patton	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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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.

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 US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at:



Mosquitoes



Mosquitoes can not only be irritating by biting, but they also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. They are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, Zika, dengue, yellow fever, malaria, and

filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs are laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that can be flooded by water. Eggs laid in dry locations can remain dormant for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which are non-feeding. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.


Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Since three of the four life stages of mosquitoes are in or near water, it is best to eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets, and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters,

flowerpots, and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians, and fish.

Avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours is the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves, and long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com



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NATURE WATCH

DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT MILKWEEDS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Much ado has been made of the more common and widespread milkweed species, but there are a handful of milkweed vines that are less common but more distinct, and just as useful as native host plants for Monarchs and related butterflies.

A fairly robust, twining vine 6 to 12 feet long growing in dry, light shade in thickets on rocky hillsides and woodland edges, Pearl Milkvine (*Matelea reticulata*) is best known for its heart-shaped leaves and flat, greenish-white flowers $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across with pearly, iridescent centers. Also called Green Milkweed Vine, Net Vine Milkvine, and Netted Milkvine, its curious flowers have tiny white veins forming an intricate pattern on the surface of the petals, adding to their unusual look. In fact, *reticulata* refers to this pattern, which means 'resembling a net or network'. It blooms from April to July, especially in full sun, giving way to fairly large, interesting prickly follicles filled with seeds attached to silky threads. This native species is a host plant to Monarch butterflies.



Often mistaken for Pearl Milkvine is Plateau Milkvine (*Matelea edwardsensis*), endemic only to the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas. This uncommon vine shares the same twining habit of Pearl Milkvine, but its leaves, while similar, generally have a somewhat wavy edge, and its flowers are bell-shaped instead of flat. Additionally, its greenish-white flowers do not have a pearl center, and its petals are not solely reticulate-patterned, having parallel veins in their lower halves and centers, and

reticulate or networked veins only on the edges or margins. Blooming in April and May, this species can be found on gravelly soils in open woodlands, often climbing on other plants, and it is a native host plant for Queen butterflies.



Usually found in the chalky soils of pastures and open ground, Purple Milkvine (*Matelea biflora*) has low-growing stems that radiate along the ground from a woody rootstock, and along with its opposite, triangular leaves, are covered with long, spreading hairs. From March to June, pairs of star-shaped, five-petaled, dark purple-brown flowers rise from the base of the leaves, which gives this plant its other common name of Star Milkvine. While its trailing stems can

grow up to 2 feet long, it inhabits grassy areas and as such is often hidden and overlooked, except by Queen and Soldier butterflies that use it as their native host plant.

Named for a small town in Chihuahua, Mexico, Talayote (*Cynanchum racemosum*) or Milkweed Vine is a climber that grows to 15 to 20 feet in full sun to part shade, and is a native host plant for both Queen and Soldier butterflies. Talayote produces clusters of small cream and green flowers that are held above and among the heart-shaped leaves, blooming in the hotter months from summer into fall, and attracting a host of other small but beneficial pollinators. Growing only in Central, South, and West Texas in the United States, this vine produces plump, smooth follicles 3 inches long, filled with silk-topped seeds, often remaining on the vine well into winter.



Take the time to seek out and appreciate these lesser known members of the Milkweed family, as they are beautifully and distinctly different!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, *Nature Watch Austin* and *Nature Watch Big Bend* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com

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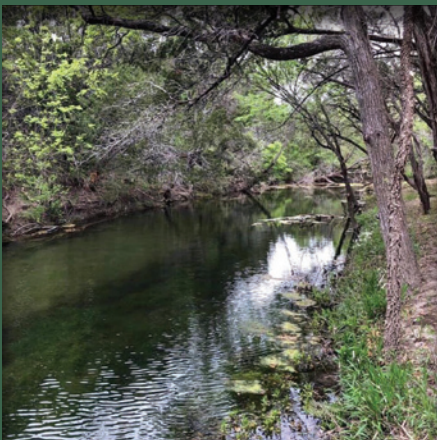


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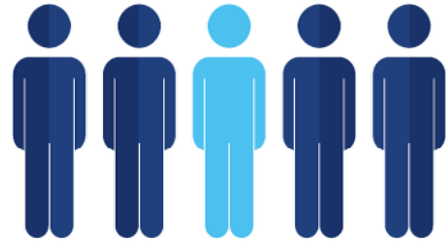
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SKIN CANCER

THE SAD TRUTH

Every year, **5.4 million new cases** of skin cancer are diagnosed, making skin cancer more prevalent than any other cancer. 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their life. The saddest part is that skin cancer is one of the most **easily preventable** and diagnosable cancers, and, if detected early, has one of the highest treatment rates. Yet, the public is still ill-informed on such a common cancer.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

PROTECT

Apply sunscreen and wear long-sleeves & hats under the sun.



PREVENT

Avoid direct sun exposure between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Never use tanning beds.



DETECT

Look out for abnormal moles or skin patches on your skin and regularly get physical examinations.



Oddly shaped, discolored, large, and evolving moles are potentially malignant



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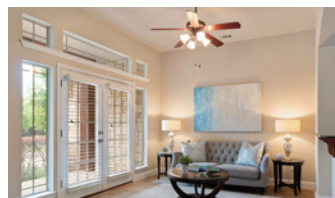
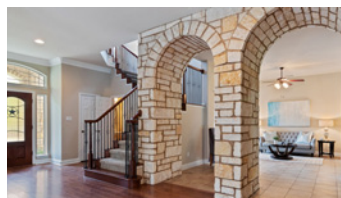
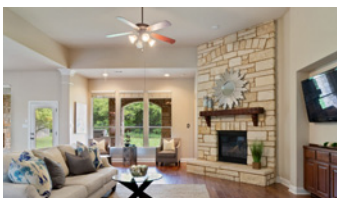
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Ashley Stucki is the highest volume producing agent in Southwest Austin. An expert negotiator, Ashley ensures her buyers and sellers get the best possible price. In the past twelve months, her listings have sold in less than HALF the time of other agents.

With Ashley, her process is designed to be unlike any Austin agent. It's highly targeted, communication is transparent, marketing is enviable and her knowledge of real estate trends is unmatched in Austin.

Hey Southwest Austin, what an exciting real estate market we are currently experiencing! Below and on the back page is The Squires Team's sales activity for the past month leading into April. Some of the homes will have square footages and pricing to show what these properties are getting in the marketplace. We work with both sellers and buyers, as we have over 40 years sales experience in Southwest Austin. We are selling our listings so high that many are not appraising, but John knows the secrets to getting top value for your property *and* having it appraise/close on time. You need the most experienced agent in Southwest Austin home sales working for you when you are experiencing multiple offers, financed offers and very high contingency offers. You don't want to choose the wrong buyer to have the transaction fall apart. John can help you negotiate your home to achieve the highest net price to you AND provide you with a seller's leaseback to allow the smooth transition into your new home or next destination. Give John a call any time to speak about the market or what may be changing with your families housing needs. Below are 3 properties that John represented the buyers to purchase their dream homes. The back page are 5 of John's latest listing sales this month.



10821 Albero Cove - Stunning brand new built 1 acre property. Lennar/Village builder took one year to complete this magnificent home. 5300 ~ sq. ft at **\$1M+++** Custom, glassed-in wine vault, pro media rm., rock fireplace, city views.



John Squires' 'sell' phone is **(512) 970-1970**. Call OR text for a no-obligation appointment with John to find out your home's value in today's marketplace. John can also represent you in the purchase of any property. You may call John personally at any time, as he is always available for you. He takes all his own calls, so give him a shout!

13029 Mallett Drive—Gorgeous brand new built Lenner/Village home on a nice cul-de-sac, backing to permanent greenbelt. All the latest in quartz, w/soaring ceils. 3300~ sq. ft. **Listed in \$630,000.'s**



7800 Bettis Trophy—Beautiful, sandstone 1-story in the gated Golf Course Estates with crystal blue pool and hot tub. Fantastic, open plan at 3382~ sq. ft. **Listed at \$750,000.**



9441 El Rey— Unbelievable estate sand stone home with pool/guest house on 1 manicured acre with media room, pool, professional wood working shop and more! Tons of room to roam with no immediate neighbors. Approximately 4800~ sq. ft. in Granada Oaks Estates priced at **\$899,000.**



5204 Corrientes Cove Beautiful estate home in Circle C on the park. Probably the largest pool in CC. Pulte, executive series home on cul de sac, on approx. .40 acre lot backing to greenbelt. Over 100 people came through John's open house in 3 hours! Approx. 3635 sq. ft. Priced at **\$679,000.**

6505 Walebridge Lane— Fabulous Pulte 1-story model home on a large tree-shaded lot in the heart of CC. High ceilings, private and on top of a little hill within quick walking distance to school and pool. 2120~ sq. ft. for **\$424,500.**



#1 realtor in Circle C Ranch real estate with approximately **565~** homes sold to date.. Over **1080~** homes sold in the Austin area. **#1 agent in Southwest Austin according to Austin Board of Realtors statistics..**



"Top 50" agent in central Texas **8** times according to Austin Business Journal. Only 1 number to call and John Squires answers his phone! Call John's direct 'sell' phone at **(512) 970-1970.**



11400 Hollister—Nice Fedrick Harris home in Muirfield Estates with outdoor patio, fireplace, wood floors and soaring ceilings. Game room and media room PLUS 3.5 car garage! Approx. 3025 sq. ft. priced at **\$564,500.**

7905 Crandall Road— Gorgeous 1-story, Fedrick harris Winchester plan with outdoor fireplace and patio/grill. In exclusive Muirfield, gated subdivision. Large, open plan with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. East lifestyle living at it's best. Approx. 2850 sq. ft. Listed at **\$539,000.**



(You'll never be handed off to an assistant, as John speaks directly with all his clients.)



As always, "Buy or Sell with me, use the Truck and Trailer for Free!" As a client of John Squires, you may use the trailer for all your local moves, furniture pick-ups, hauling of household goods, gear,...basically anything legal, as long as you are safe. Availability depends on current demand.