



# FOUR POINTS NEWS

SERVING STEINER RANCH, RIVER PLACE, GRANDVIEW HILLS, WESTMINSTER GLEN AND COMANCHE TRAIL

Volume 9, Issue 1 • 8 pages

Wednesday, January 2, 2013 • 50 cents

## Take a peek at what's Inside

- Project Outreach club helps homeless ..... 2
- TxTag - only way to go on toll roads ..... 6
- Movie picks for 2012..... 4
- Viper Soccer teaches community kids ..... 7

- School ..... 3
- Opinion ..... 4
- Classifieds ..... 4
- Sports ..... 7 & 8

## Upcoming Articles

- Traffic causing some families to move
- Local Irish Dancer goes to nationals
- Ready, Set, Teach prepares future teachers

## Lake Travis Level

Full at.....681.5 ft.  
Current level .....631.15 ft.  
Percentage full ..... 40%

Source: LCRA Updated: Dec. 29, 2012

Like us on Facebook  
www.FourPointsNews.com  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
LISD Holiday Jan. 21

## Austin demographic changed in last decade

10 top trends affect Four Points area

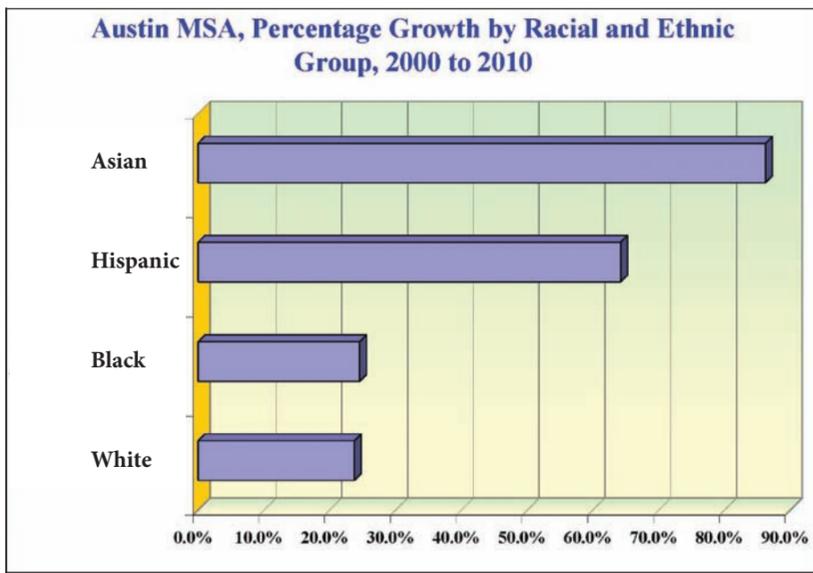
By RICH KEITH  
Four Points News

Austin has shown tremendous growth over the past decade, making it the 14th largest city in the US, with the majority of the growth occurring in the suburban areas including Four Points.

City of Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson presented a demographic study recently showing Austin is changing its socio-economic makeup.

"I think our three biggest challenges are social inequity, water availability and transportation," said Robinson, who gave a presentation at a meeting in November hosted by Lake-way planner and real estate developer Ross Frie, a former Austin city planner.

"As a demographer, I focus on the social inequity. To that point, I think our great challenge is to take this very large, young population that is now overwhelmingly Latino and try



Growth in the Austin area from the Hispanic population dominates overall growth, with significant gains in the Asian population. Black households are moving from urban to suburban areas, according to City of Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson.

to reverse the trend of an increasing societal gap," he said.

Growth in the Austin area from the Hispanic population dominates overall growth, with significant gains in the Asian population. Black households are moving from urban to suburban areas.

Also changes to the area's age structure includes growth in baby boomers, seniors and the very young or under 5 years.

These are the top findings for Austin and its metropolitan statistical area (MSA), including Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell and Hays coun-

ties.

## Long-term, sustained, rapid population growth.

Austin's MSA grew from 120,000 in 1910 to 1.8M in 2010. Robinson said Austin has three fundamental and enviable characteristics fueling this growth:

DEMOGRAPHIC, 6

## New light poles going up in Steiner

By LYNETTE HAALAND  
Four Points News

It's out with the old Steiner Ranch light poles and in with the new.

"We had some issues with rust on them," said Scott Selman, Executive Director of the two Steiner Ranch Home Owner Associations.

Austin Energy owns and manages the light poles and ordered them about six months ago for replacement.

"They started replacing them a couple of weeks ago. I expect them to finish a week or two after Christmas," Selman said.

They have been replacing the poles on Steiner Ranch Boulevard and some on Flat Top Ranch Road. These are Travis County roads but the county does not have equipment to maintain the lighting so that is why Austin Energy is involved, Selman said.

## Gusto Dogs - more than just dog walking

Service stimulates the canine mind

By LYNETTE HAALAND  
Four Points News

Steiner Ranch resident, Kristen West, started Gusto Dogs to provide more than just a dog walking service, she added a layer of mental exercise too.

Kristen West started Gusto Dogs to provide area dogs exercise for both body and mind. "You know you're doing something right when you return the dogs home and they flop onto the kitchen floor with sloppy grins," said the Steiner Ranch resident.

West used to run a pet sitting and dog walking business in Sydney, Australia.

Early on, she noticed that some clients would request things like, "After the walk, can you please make sure all the couch cushions and coffee table books are out of reach from the dog?"

"Basically these dogs were telling

GUSTO, 5



## Big Frog opens at Trails

3rd Austin custom T-shirt shop

By VAL OLIVAS  
Four Points News

Lakeway resident, Nancy Provolt, opened Big Frog Custom T-shirts and More in the Trails at 620 shopping center, and a grand opening is slated for late January.

Big Frog is an individually owned franchise offering custom-designed products. Customers provide their own preferred designs in text and artwork. Big Frog then prints the designs on available items, such as, t-shirts, hoodies, puzzles,



Nancy Provolt opened Big Frog Custom T-shirts and More in the Trails at 620 shopping center.

mouse pads and gifts.

Provolt was motivated to purchase the Big Frog franchise following an extensive career in the corporate

BIG FROG, 2

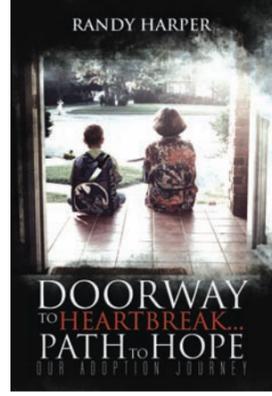
## River Place author pens new book

E-book focuses on family's adoptions

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

The youngest of Rose and Randy Harper's three biological children was already 12 years old when the Four Points couple decided that they were not "done" yet. Although Rose could no longer bear a child and suffered from lupus, an autoimmune disorder, she "just had a longing for these kids that were out there, that God had for us." And so began Rose and Randy's journey through the adoption of two children whose dangerous history went unnoticed and unrevealed by any agency or bureau in the process.

"Doorway to Heartbreak...Path to Hope", published this fall, is Randy's second book following the success of "I Choose to Fight", the story of his hero-



Book jacket contributed by Randy Harper

ic brother who, as a young Annapolis football player, survived a cancer diagnosis and grueling treatment to successfully graduate as a United States Navy Midshipman. Randy's latest book is a true account of his and Rose's adoption of a son, "Jake" at age two, and a daughter, "Sarah" at age six, and the lessons he and his family learned over the past 27 years. Randy changed all

DOORWAY, 2

## NJHS united with Barnes and Nobles

By ASHNEEN RAHMAN  
8th grade CRMS student

Canyon Ridge Middle School students dedicated an entire weekend recently spreading the importance of reading to young children by hosting a book fair at Barnes and Noble at the Hill Country Galleria.

Over one hundred students from CRMS volunteered their time throughout the weekend by reading books to children of all ages.

Other activities included a puppet show, face painting, balloon animals, singing, musical instruments and gift-wrapping.

The children and their parents were delighted. One young child



Over one hundred Canyon Ridge Middle School students volunteered recently by reading books to children at the Hill Country Galleria.

CRMS, 3

## Urgent Care ~ Now Open!



We are now open Sunday afternoons for sick visits by appointment only. You can call our office directly at 512-241-1370 between the hours of 1PM and 5PM to schedule an appointment with our nurse practitioner, Pat Budd, RN, CPNP. The phones turn on at 1PM.

6618 Sitio Del Rio #A101 | Austin, TX 78730 512-241-1370 | www.hillcountrypediatrics.com

## EXCEPTIONAL PHYSICIANS, EXCEPTIONAL CARE!

Allergy Testing • Physicals & Well Woman Exams  
Minor Injuries • Chronic Disease Management

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME!



Medicare, Most Insurance Accepted  
www.SteinerRanchPrimaryCare.com • 266-8877  
2900 N. Quinlan Park Rd. Ste 430  
Mon-Thurs 7:15am-3pm, Fri 7:15am-3pm



Claudia Legere, MD Li-Tai Chuo, MD

CALL EARLY FOR SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS, OPEN 7:15

# Viper seniors lead efforts to help Austin's homeless

*Year-round projects serve greater community*

By LESLEE BASSMAN  
Four Points News

These days, SAT study questions and college applications fill up much of any spare time Vandegrift High School seniors have left after sports, homework and sleep. However, a small group of the student body have made caring for the city's homeless a priority, devoting hours each week to developing project ideas and carrying out plans to help needy individuals.

Project Outreach, meets weekly in club sponsor Coach Derek Levisay's classroom, with officers Katie Chesnutt, Sophia Duffield, Emily Arterbury, Sarah Brent and Elise Patterson, all seniors, guiding each session's discussion on upcoming projects or brainstorming new ways to help Austin's most helpless residents. The PIT-time club was started three years

ago by then-senior Jordan Speir who came up with the group's name, motto and theme.

"I've never thought of myself as going out to help the homeless," Duffield, the group's vice president, said. "Without Project Outreach, I wouldn't know where to start."

Currently, the philanthropic club boasts 15 members who sponsor canned food drives, penny collections during lunch and coordinate personal supply kits, Bags of Grace, for the homeless. They often team up with Mobile Loaves and Fishes or nearby churches in their efforts to provide food, necessities and fellowship, rotating the benefiting charity.

"We think about who needs our help the most at the time," said Chesnutt, this year's Project Outreach president. "We try to give a little to everyone over time."

Chesnutt cites the group's work with Church Under the Bridge and assembling donated wheelchairs as some of the most rewarding

activities.

"In this area, we have so much and (it's nice) to be able to talk to people, like at Church Under the Bridge," said Chesnutt.

"They tell you how grateful they are," Arterbury added.

Brent, who plans to attend the University of Alabama in the fall, is interested in becoming involved in similar projects while in college. Patterson stated that she wrote one of her college entrance essays on the people she met while serving Church Under the Bridge with the group.

"They have their problems and you have your problems but, at the end of the day, you're both just human," Patterson said.

In January, Project Outreach is sponsoring a Capture the Flag or Frisbee Golf tournament to raise funds for the organization.

"Our focus now is to get younger members," said Brent, the club's historian. "We don't want the club to end with us."



Leslee Bassman

Project Outreach, a Vandegrift High School PIT club which meets weekly to help Austin's homeless, subscribes to the motto printed on their T-shirts: "Be the change you want to see in the world". Officers are (from left): Seniors Katie Chesnutt, Sophia Duffield, Elise Patterson, Emily Arterbury, Sarah Brent.

**KAWA**  
*Asian Kitchen*

**EVERYDAY:**  
Lunch Specials  
11 am - 3 pm  
Happy Hour 3 - 6 p.m.  
Delivery 5 - 9 p.m.

**SUNDAYS:**  
\$1 Mimosas All Day

**732-7278**  
[www.KawaAsianKitchen.com](http://www.KawaAsianKitchen.com)  
Shops at Steiner Ranch - 2900 N. Quinlan Park Rd.

## DOORWAY, FROM 1

of the names and identities in his story.

Although the couple had some files showing the background from which these children came, Rose and Randy did not have the complete picture - the paperwork they were handed was a mess and, once the adoption was finalized, they found that there were very few resources which could provide them with any assistance. Both children had come from extremely abusive, alcoholic, incestuous, life threatening homes with "Jake" diagnosed at age 11 as paranoid schizophrenic with homicidal tendencies and mental retardation. "Sarah" was later found to be severely bipolar with homicidal tendencies. What ensued during the next decade felt like the "Mount Everest of Bizarre" to Rose but, somehow, brought her and Randy closer together in their marriage.

"The tendency for some people would be to separate," said Rose. "We just ran smack dab into the middle."

Using wit, humor and empathy, Randy writes of his family's darkest days, what has become of their relationships since, and ad-



Photo by Leslee Bassman

Randy and Rose Harper's journey through raising two adopted children was extremely challenging, largely because their dangerous history was never disclosed initially. "The tendency for some people would be to separate," said Rose. "We just ran smack dab into the middle."

vice for readers on the "lessons" he and Rose learned from their experiences with the state's adoption system.

"Without a sense of humor, we would have gone completely wacko ourselves," said Randy after describing an incident in which "Jake" began emulating a dog while dining at a neighborhood restaurant. As Randy escorted his son out of the cafe, "Jake" yelled, "child abuse," looking for help from the other patrons.

On another occasion,

a social worker lectured Randy on "how to deal with problematic kids" as "Jake" was swinging a baseball bat over a second-story ledge in the home.

Eventually, the youngest Harper children became adults and, astonishingly, contributing members of society. "Jake" currently lives in a group home and holds down a steady job. Troubled "Sarah" is now finally in a stable relationship.

"Hopefully, "Sarah" can live a life that's free and full

of love," Rose said. Their son is about to test for his driver's license. "For "Jake", we're cautiously watching this driver's license thing. He has a case manager that helps him."

"The odds were stacked against them from Day One," said Randy. "But they've been able to maintain a sense of humor and they always bounce back."

For more information about Randy Harper or either of his books, please see [www.readingharper.com](http://www.readingharper.com).

**Four Points Family Vision**

*Appointments & Walk-ins Welcome*

- Therapeutic Optometrist
- Specialty Contact Lenses
- Pediatric Vision Exam
- Laser Surgery Consultation

Located at the  
Four Points Wal-Mart at  
**8201 N. FM 620**  
**512-328-2015**

Board Certified by the Texas Board of Optometry **Practicing Full Scope Optometry** Mon, Tue, Th, Fri, Sat.: 9:30-7:00

**PILATES at Four Points**  
*...is now Enrolling!*

**2013**

**Great Start Pilates WORKSHOPS**  
*Only \$279*

SAVE \$20 with the promo link at [www.pilates4points.com](http://www.pilates4points.com)

*Gift Certificates available by calling*  
**512-258-8444**  
at 620 & 2222 behind Walgreens

## BIG FROG, FROM 1

world.

"(After 25 years,) I was ready to be my own boss and control my destiny. Big Frog was a perfect fit for me because my background is in marketing communications. But even more than that, it was a perfect fit because it is a fun business," Provolt said.

She discovered Big Frog through a company called FranNet which offers free services to potential franchisees, matching them with potential best-fit business opportunities. After attending a FranNet seminar

in Austin, Provolt felt the Big Frog franchise made sense.

As the third Big Frog franchisee to open its doors in Austin—the other locations are in Round Rock and Sunset Valley—Provolt is committed to highlighting the business' key strengths: no minimum orders, no setup charges, 24-hour delivery, and superior customer service.

Big Frog's eco-friendly technology utilizes all water-based ink and the Direct to Garment (DTG) method of printing embeds the design into the fabric of the product, resulting in a far longer-lasting print life than traditional silk screening, Provolt said.

The DTG method guarantees the images will not

crack or fade. A few instances exist where silk screening may be a more appropriate option instead of DTG technology. Provolt has selected who she believes is a great Austin-based silk-screener to fulfill these needs.

She notes that practically everyone is a potential Big Frog customer, including: businesses promoting their companies, schools offering spirit wear, sports teams, churches, and customers looking for baby shower gifts or birthday party designs.

For customers who already have a graphic ready to print, they can email the graphic or bring the design to the store on a flash drive or CD.

"We will also have designers on staff who will as-

sist in creating artwork at no charge. This is a huge benefit to our customers. Our business model allows for designers to touch up existing art or start from scratch, working with customers directly in lieu of the customers having to create it online themselves," Provolt said.

Big Frog, at 8300 North FM 620, will consistently stock white and ash grey shirts, allowing customers to receive these orders within 24 hours. Additional color samples and varying styles will be available for customers to see in person and try on in their dressing room to ensure the product fits their needs.

For additional information, please visit [www.bigfrog.com/nwaustin](http://www.bigfrog.com/nwaustin).

**Boarding over the Holidays still available.**

*Happy Holidays*

**Wellness Wednesday 50% OFF Vaccines**

**FREE EXAM**

All new patients will receive a free exam at first visit to the clinic. Can not be combined with any other offer. Exp. 1/30/13

- Dental Cleaning
- Emergency Care
- Laser Therapy
- Dog & Cat Boarding
- NOW OFFERING Acupuncture

**White Angel Animal Hospital**  
1700 N. Ranch Road 620 • Austin, TX 78734 • 512.266.7838

**Planning Wisdom Teeth Removal?**  
*A once in a lifetime decision...*

**Dale M. Gallagher, DDS, PA**  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
Specializing in Adult and Pediatric Care of the Jaws and Facial Structures  
Wisdom Teeth - Dental Implants - TMJ - Injuries - Reconstruction

*Serving Austin since 1984*

12210 Pecan Street - Austin - 78727  
Phone 512-258-1636 • [www.jawpain.com](http://www.jawpain.com)  
[www.facebook.com/drdalegallagher](http://www.facebook.com/drdalegallagher)

## Updating the community on safety



**BRET CHAMPION**  
Leander ISD Superintendant

I want to reiterate the Leander ISD community's shared heartbreak for the great tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. Any time innocent lives are lost, we all share in that deep sorrow. And when those lives are of children and teachers and principals, the empathy we feel for those who lost loved one resonates deeply within us.

As superintendent of LISD, I want reassure you that the safety and well-being of our students is our

highest priority and that we have done, and will continue to do, all we can to insulate our students from danger. And I want you to know that LISD is continuing the important conversation about student safety.

By now you have probably heard that the Texas Commissioner of Education, Michael Williams, requested that all Texas school districts review their safety plans. LISD is doing just that. The Monday following the incident at Sandy Hook Elementary, I met with all of our campus principals. Together we discussed our emergency preparedness plans, training procedures and best practices, and had a very constructive dialogue that will help move our district forward in continuing to improve student safety.

I've also been in com-

munication with all of the law enforcement agencies that we work with — Leander Police Department; Cedar Park Police Department; Williamson County Sherriff's Department; Travis County Constables; and Travis County Sherriff's Department — and they all share our commitment to student safety and have stepped up their patrols in areas near our schools.

I cannot overstate how outstanding our parents have been over the last few weeks. We have had so many parents contact us to share their concerns and suggestions on how we as a district can improve as we review our safety procedures. In fact, at the December 20 Board meeting, several of you spoke during citizen comments and gave the Board and administration

valuable input that we will take back and evaluate to determine where improvements need to be made to our processes. Thank you for joining LISD in making sure we continue to provide safe and supportive learning environments for our students.

Moreover, I would like to sincerely thank everyone — parents, teachers, principals, staff, school volunteers, local law enforcement agencies and engaged citizens — throughout the district for supporting our students and school communities through this difficult time and for remaining vigilant regarding our campus safety. We are blessed to be in a community that rallies around its children.

One of the concerns brought forward related to entryways at some schools.

The district has \$1.5 million in funds from the 2007 bond that was designated for potential design enhancements to address security at some of our campuses. This money was due to be sold in the 2011 bond sale, but because of the economic slowdown, we didn't have a sale in 2011 or 2012. We are, however, planning on including that money in our next sale of bonds. Additionally, we will be updating the Board with an audit plan of our school safety plans, as well as other improvements that will come out of the review.

Additionally, like the rest of the nation, we are committed to learning from the tragedy in Newtown. Once authorities have a more complete understanding of what occurred that day, we expect to receive updated national safety standards,

which along with input from law enforcement, parents, campus personnel and teachers, will help shape improvements within LISD's safety processes. In the wake of this tragic event, all public school systems will have to reevaluate safety protocols, and LISD will be on the forefront.

The campus security processes that LISD had in the past were effective, but we now know that the world has shifted. Again, thank you for supporting LISD. Join me as, together, we continue to keep our students safe and focused on learning.

It is unbearable to grasp the loss the Newton community has endured and how difficult it will be to rebuild. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

### CRMS, FROM 1

named Avery said: "Dad, can we stay longer, I like these books."

Friday night was extra special when there was a reading of *The Polar Express* with a three-layered Polar Express train cake made by Mrs. Jose, whose daughter is a member of National Junior Honor Society. NJHS officers dressed as elves while sitting with the young children as they listened to the story.

"Are you really an elf?" asked one child. The elves then gave each child a bell to ring, and cookies and hot chocolate to enjoy.

The book fair was a huge success as the students raised an overwhelming amount of donations, which are designated to the Shelter for Abused Women and Children along with the Homeless Shelter in Austin.

Barnes and Noble is donating ten percent of all proceeds from the weekend to support the cause.



### LISD Geography Bee



Cheryl Kleffner

Pictured Left to Right: Mr. Beach, Ms. Palko, Ryan Morreale, Mr. Marsh

Four students from Canyon Ridge Middle School are headed to the Leander ISD Geography Bee. Ryan Morreale, Johnathan Kaaua, Samantha Rondini, Rayhan Jhanji will have the chance to compete at the Leander ISD Geography Bee at Vista Ridge High School on Feb. 12.

Ryan Morreale, a sixth grade student, won the championship round at Canyon Ridge's Geography Bee by answering, "Name the large chain of volcanic islands that stretch about 1,200 miles westward from the Alaska Peninsula. Morreale answered correctly with the Aleutian Islands."

He will next take a written test that will be mailed to National Geographic. If he places in the top 100 in Texas, he will advance to the Texas State Bee in Dallas in the spring.

## DANCE INSTITUTE CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 7 NOW ENROLLING



DANCE FITNESS PILATES  
PILATES SPECIAL  
BUY 6 PRIVATES GET 10 WITH MARY OR WENDY  
BALLET JAZZ LYRICAL BALLROOM  
HIP HOP CONTEMPORARY TAP  
CREATIVE MOVEMENT TURNS & PROGRESSIONS



## PUBLISHER'S POINT OF VIEW



LYNETTE HAALAND

### Senior citizens growing in Four Points

Austin is the 3rd fastest growing area in the country for people who are 65 years or older. Austin is also the fastest-growing area in the country in the pre-senior category, ages 55 to 64.

These are statistics that were delivered by City of Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson at a recent meeting (full story starts on page 1.)

Four Points is mirroring these Austin trends.

I hear often times of parents of friends or acquaintances moving here to be closer to grandkids.

This week I randomly met Aaron Waldrop at the local coffee shop. He lives in the Comanche Trail area by Oasis Village. He has family in Steiner Ranch.

Waldrop suggested a segment in Four Points News geared for seniors. He would like to see news geared toward what seniors are doing and, maybe more importantly, guides on local doctors specializing in the types of care and medicine many seniors need for arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.

This resonates with many of us who have parents in their mid-60s and older.

I know seniors take a lot of medicine. In fact my in-laws have a hammer sitting out in their kitchen that we were all curious about during

our holiday visit. Sure enough it is used to break up one of my mother-in-law's large pills.

My mom is in her mid-60s and is visiting for the holidays. She does not like the long, 10-hour drives anymore that it takes to get here from the Panhandle of Texas. So this trip, for the first time, my niece did the driving.

My mom asked if there was an active, local senior community like her town Dalhart has. At home, she enjoys the \$5 meals and sometimes she participates in the quilting sessions and game-filled afternoons.

I know here in Four Points there is at least one formalized senior group but I don't hear too much from them. (Please keep us in the loop.)

Another commonality among this age group is downsizing homes. Four Points is answering the demand. More and more homes are being built in Steiner geared for empty nesters who are downsizing square footage, yards and their footprint.

It is all in good timing.

The seniors population share is projected to grow from 8 percent of the Austin MSA in 2010 to 18 percent in 2040.

No doubt Four Points will see its share of this growth.

## FOUR POINTS OF VIEW

### Do you have a New Year's Resolution?



Aaron Waldrop  
Villa Montaña

My goal is every day in 2013 to do something for somebody that will brighten their day. There are so many things going on that let you believe things aren't good. If somebody needs a reason to smile, I'll do it.



Kristen Hanna  
Round Rock

I don't have any resolutions. I just plan on being good all year.



Colleen Keller  
Apache Shores

I want to cook healthy food at home more and get ready for new baby in March.



Steve Keller  
Apache Shores

Learn how to be a great father for our new baby.

## FOUR POINTS NEWS

Your Community Newspaper

Locally owned and operated, we are published weekly by Four Points News LLC.  
TELEPHONE: 512-380-1405 FAX: 512-355-1774  
WWW.FOURPOINTSNEWS.COM

### PERSONNEL

Publisher & Editor .....	LYNETTE HAALAND - Lynette.FourPoints@gmail.com
Associate Editor .....	LESLEE BASSMAN - FourPointsNews.Edit@gmail.com
Advertising Sales Representative .....	LYNETTE HAALAND - Lynette.FourPoints@gmail.com
Reporter .....	RICH KEITH - Rich.FourPoints@gmail.com
Reporter .....	VAL OLIVAS
Creative Services .....	JENNIFER ROBERTS
Circulation .....	FRED FRANCO
Contributor .....	BRET CHAMPION

For subscription information, email inquiries to fourpointsnews.bookkeeping@gmail.com

## Coker's top (and bottom) movie picks of 2012



Laurie Coker  
Film Critic

I always find this a daunting task. As a member of the Austin Film Critics Association, I get so many screeners, and so little time to watch, but I try! So here we have it - my top picks for best of and worst of for 2012. I can't even count how many times the list has changed and morphed, and it still feels transitional and incomplete. Even order within the categories shifted over and over.

### Best Picture\*

1. Silver Linings Playbook - Cooper's best work, Lawrence shines and FINALLY - a fresh film!
2. Argo - Ben Affleck does it all and does it well!
3. Sessions - passionate, moving, hopeful and inspirational
4. The Avengers - I love a well cast, intelligent comic driven

5. Safety Not Guaranteed - a rich character driven delight
6. Perks of Bring a Wallflower - the little film that could and should get more attention
7. Cabin in the Woods - Goddard directs a multi-faceted horror film that captivated me
8. Lincoln - should be titled The 13th Amendment, but Day-Lewis and crew - WOW!
9. The Impossible - possible the most stunning disaster film in a long time
10. Anna Karenina - Mainly because of the unique choices made by the director and the exceptional cast, costuming and creativity

### \* Others that deserve a mention:

The Intouchables is by far one that moved around my list and probably should be there.

I couldn't make the day screening of Zero Dark Thirty - but I hear it should rise to the top, but I doubt it will change my mind about Silver Linings Playbook.

Many are raving about Amour, but I don't see why - sorry. Flight is quite disturbing

and Washington's performance so exceptional that I must give it a little

Mention, even if I wouldn't place in to the top ten.

The Intouchables is by far one that moved around my list and probably should be there.

**Best Director** (I oft' wonder if this category should line up with the above, but the more I think about it, the more I think not.)

1. David O. Russell - Silver Linings Playbook
2. Ben Affleck - Argo
3. Ang Lee - Life of Pi
4. Steven Spielberg - Lincoln
5. Drew Goddard - Cabin in the Woods

### Best Actor

1. Bradley Cooper
2. Hugh Jackman
3. John Hawkes
4. Daniel Day-Lewis
5. Joaquin Phoenix

### Best Actress

1. Jennifer Lawrence
2. Quvenzhané Wallis
3. Naomi Watts
4. Maggie Smith - Quartet
5. Jessica Chastain

BEST, 5

## Soulful eating habits to help you get back in shape



Aline Hanle  
French Lifestyle Expert

Good health has become one of the first wishes everyone shares on their New Year resolution list and for a good reason.

Most of us have indulged in chocolate, butter and who knows what other tasty food that makes the mouth drool with our own childhood memories. While these mouth-pleasing delicacies support the spirit of the season, they do not serve our waistline or our overall sense of well-being.

However, let's not give guilt one moment of our precious life and instead let's find ways

to get back in shape after the holiday excess with joy, fun and creativity!

Here are four tips to invite a healthy lifestyle to walk with you throughout your next 365 days!

### #1 - The structure of the French eating habits

French have a way with food that seems to be working when it comes to healthy lifestyle. Although butter, chocolate and bread are all important parts of our daily routine, somehow it does work all year long also. The way the French day is organized may be what works so well. Here is a little wisdom through which, we, French, structure our daily eating habits. Breakfast: Eat like a king. Lunch: Eat like a prince. Dinner: Eat like a pauper.

### #2 - Food is to the body what thoughts are to the mind

Food is a source of energy for

our body just like thoughts are fuels for the mind. What you give to your body will determine what your body looks like and what it feels like. Be selective with your food not because of what it costs nor how fast you can get it, but more so how nourishing for the body, mind and spirit it truly is. Who you wish to be can be seen in your plate. Choose health. Choose well-being. Choose life.

### #3 - Size matters, diversity answers

The common sense of "size matters" is true with food and health as well as being creative with the way we choose to nurture our body and life. As a French woman, I had never heard of "portion control" but more so I know food diversity. The most amazing thing about living here, in Austin, is that

SOULFUL, 5

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Student encourages caution when using fireworks

Dear Editor,

I am concerned about fireworks starting a fire in Steiner Ranch. I read your article on fireworks starting fires, and what could potentially happen over New Year's.

I like the precautions you have listed but it would be nice if you could put some places not to shoot

fireworks, like cul-de-sacs, in your newspaper so there is a minimum chance of catching Steiner Ranch on fire again.

Thank you for doing all you can to stop fires.

Sam Weiss  
4th grade  
Steiner Ranch Elementary

### EVERY NEW YEARS BRINGS TH' PROSPECT OF...



# SERVICES • SERVICES • SERVICES

**New Year! New Paint!**

- Tall Walls • Fences
- Trim • Decks

Hundreds of Happy Steiner Clients!

Best Pricing Guaranteed since 1981

Four Points Painter  
424 - 9629  
John Skoczen

**ARHS** ABSOLUTE REMODELING & HANDYMAN SERVICES

"ABSOLUTE QUALITY" INSURED

KITCHEN PAINTING	SHEETROCK WINDOWS FLOORING	DOORS TILE
------------------	----------------------------	------------

LEE STARK 512-422-5262  
EMAIL: ARHS@AUSTIN.RR.COM

777-2774

**CEDAR PARK HANDYMAN**  
No Job Too Small or Too Big

Rotten Board Replacement - Decks - Fences  
Doors Installed - Windows - Painting - Staining  
Pressure Washing - Pergolas - Trellis  
Electrical Repairs - Plumbing Repairs  
Drywall Repairs - Tile Flooring - Siding

CALL TODAY - FREE ESTIMATES  
LICENSED & INSURED

www.CedarParkHandyman.com

**GEOSCAPES OF TEXAS, INC.**

Landscape Services

Services:  
Sprinkler System Installation • Total Landscape Maintenance  
Landscape Design/Installation • Sod and Tree Installation  
Tree Care and Removal

Phone: 512-259-5296 • Fax: 512-259-0380  
P.O. Box 1922 • Leander, TX 78646

LI-0007203

## APD mourns loss of officer who shot UT Tower sniper

Houston McCoy, the retired Austin Police Officer who shot and killed the UT Tower sniper after a deadly rampage on Aug. 1, 1966, has passed away. The shooter killed 16 people (including Austin Police Officer Billy Speed) and injured 32 others during a shooting spree on the UT campus.

"I was privileged to have met and spent time with Houston and his wonderful family the past few years and will miss him dearly," said APD Chief Art Acevedo.

McCoy was known for being humble, kind and sensitive and was quick to point out that he was not the only officer to help end Whitman's rampage.

"I have been asked many times how the '66 UT tower incident affected my life," McCoy said in a 2011 Austin American-Statesman article. "Although



Former APD Officer Houston McCoy recently passed away. McCoy shot and killed the UT Tower sniper, Charles Whitman, who killed 16 people on a deadly rampage on Aug. 1, 1966. "I was privileged to have met and spent time with Houston," said APD Chief Art Acevedo.

it was a significant moment, it was, but only one reflection of my life and did not dictate my overall character. When momentous events occur in one's life, you no longer know life without it; that is our journey. With or without August 1, 1966, I know I

am loved by my family and respected by many friends, what else can a man ask for? Being surrounded by my loving family and friends - I go peacefully to more family and friends in the great beyond and know they will escort me to meet my maker."



McCoy said in a 2011 Austin American-Statesman article. "Although it was a significant moment, it was, but only one reflection of my life and did not dictate my overall character."

### GUSTO, FROM 1

ing us that the walk just wasn't enough. They needed to be engaged in other ways that nature intended like retrieving, hunting, problem solving or whatever their passion is. They weren't bad dogs, just bored," West said.

So based on the feedback from clients in Australia and from experience, she found that dogs who received extra mental enrichment in addition to their structured walks were much more tired and satisfied by the end of her visits than those who did not.

"Once I moved to Austin I quickly discovered that Austin dog owners are a perfect match for this type of activity because they are very much invested in their dog's well-being and overall health," she said.

West says that the more a dog owner can combine a dog's physical exercise with mental exercise, the hap-



pier and more balanced the dog becomes.

Gusto Dogs offers a way for busy dog owners to fulfill that need for their pets and ultimately come home to a more peaceful household.

Gusto Dogs emphasizes that 75 percent of their visit will be important structured exercise with the remaining time spent on enrichment activities chosen together with the client. West says that some dogs enjoy a simple game of retrieving or hide-and-seek after the walk while others like to zig-zag through the

neighborhood in a make-shift agility course.

West says that her own dog, a high-energy Jack Russell terrier mix, gives her a lot of practice.

"Like every dog, he needs a long, structured walk every day. But if I don't add some sort of challenging component to his routine on top of it - even something as simple as making him perform tricks for his breakfast - within a couple of hours he will start running circles around the house with excess energy to burn."

West's client list has been

### BEST, FROM 4

#### Best Supporting Actor

1. Christoph Waltz
2. Jude Law
3. Robert DeNiro
4. Javier Bardem
5. Ezra Miller

#### Best Supporting Actress

1. Ann Hathaway
2. Maggie Smith - Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
3. Helen Mirren
4. Judi Dench
5. Samantha Barks

#### Best Animated

1. Rise of the Guardians
2. Wreck It Ralph
3. Frankenweenie
4. Paranorman
5. Madagascar 3

#### Best Cinematography

1. Danny Cohen - Les Misérables
2. Claudio Miranda - Life of Pi
3. Janusz Kaminski - Lincoln
4. Mihai Malaimare Jr. - The Master
5. Roger Deakins - Skyfall

#### Adapted Screenplay

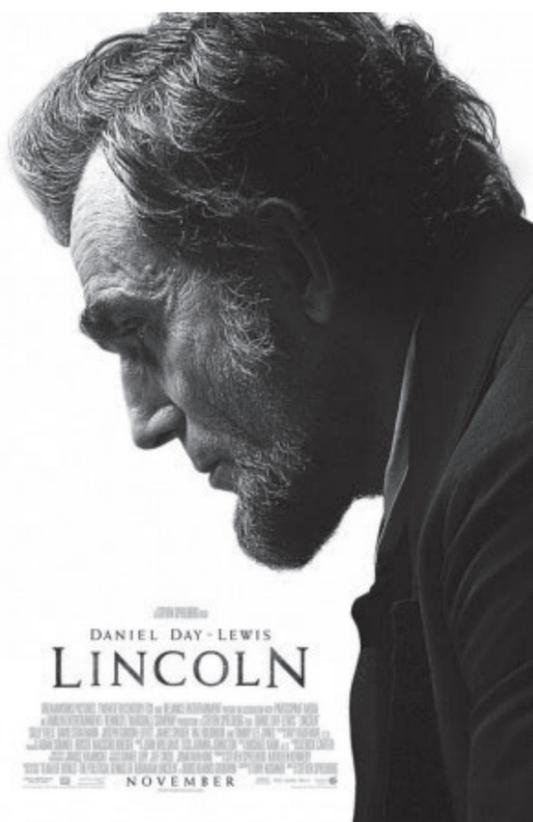
1. Silver Linings Playbook - David O. Russell
2. Argo - Chris Terrio
3. The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky
4. The Sessions - Ben Lewin
5. Les Misérables - William Nicholson

#### Original Screenplay

1. Moonrise Kingdom - Wes Anderson & Toman Coppola
2. The Intouchables - Olivier Nakache, Eric Toledano
3. Django Unchained - Quentin Tarantino
4. Looper - Rian Johnson
5. The Intouchables - Olivier Nakache, Eric Toledano

#### Best Original Soundtrack

1. Skyfall - Thomas Newman
2. Lincoln - John Williams



3. Anna Karenina - Dario Marianelli
4. Argo - Alexandre Desplat
5. Moonrise Kingdom - Benjamin Britten

#### Austin Film Award

1. Bernie
2. Man on a Mission
3. Sushi A Global Catch
4. Saturday Morning Masacre
5. Trash Dance

#### WORST Films of 2012

1. The Watch - watch out - a real stinker of stupidity
2. Alex Cross - a good mystery novel series turns out not-so mysteriously bad
3. Battleship - Oh NO, they sunk this battleship
4. That's My Boy - that's so stupid
5. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 - didn't like the others either
6. Wrath of the Titans - feel

the wrath of this bomb 7. Taken 2 - should never have been given 8. Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter - seriously - who thought this was a good idea?! 9. The Campaign - I vote to burn all prints 10. The Dictator - nothing good here - stupidly idiotic!

I apparently dodged the bullet - missing several real stinkers this year, like ATM, Act of Valor, A Thousand Words, Gone and Paranormal Activity 3 - lucky me! But I still saw plenty as far as I am concerned!

Laurie Coker is a Westwood High School educator, Hill Country News film critic, Journeys Adolescent Services transporter and YMCA - Aquafit instructor.

### SOULFUL, FROM 4

food diversity is available in every grocery store. Learn to diversify your plate by bringing new vegetables, experiencing new spices, cooking new recipes, sharing new cuisine. To dare the new and invite innovative ways to take over our eating habits is to say no to boredom and yes to building a health-rich lifestyle.

#### #4 - Food as a means and purpose

The more we focus on health, the more we claim wellness as our purpose and means. The human being has learned to master gravity and electricity and has set-

tled for a mediocre way of feeding his or her own way to experience the world. The body is the primary space for life to be. To remind ourselves that a healthy body means an empowered life is a daily routine that feeds our thoughts with love and ultimately entrusts our minds with healthy choices.

Aline Hanle, owner of Mademoiselle Aline, lives with her husband and two wonderful children in neighboring Four Points. She has a passion for sharing the French experience.

growing lately as people get to know about them especially in Steiner and greater Four Points.

"You know you're doing something right when you return the dogs home and they flop onto the kitchen floor with sloppy grins," West said.

For more information visit [www.gustodogs.com](http://www.gustodogs.com).



# HOW DO YOU DEFINE ENOUGH?

TEACHING SERIES | JANUARY

SATURDAY 5:30 | SUNDAY 9:30/11

Lakeside  
pizza & grill



Football Playoffs on our new PATIO big screen!

Live Music line ups too!



Like us on



266-2330

Shops at Steiner Ranch

[www.LakesidePizzaGrill.com](http://www.LakesidePizzaGrill.com)

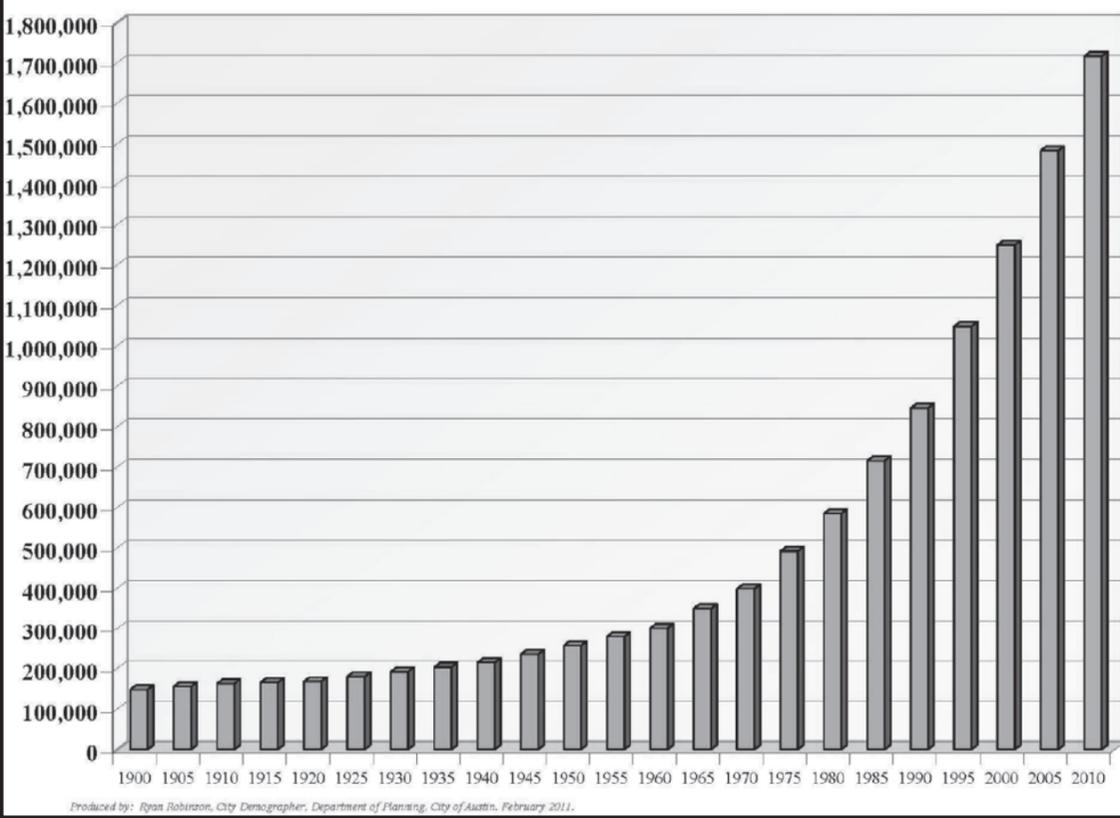


Austin Christian Fellowship  
6401 River Place Blvd., Austin, TX 78730

f t  
[ACFellowship.com](http://ACFellowship.com)

DEMOGRAPHIC, FROM 1

## Austin MSA Population History: 1900 to 2010



Austin's MSA grew from 120,000 in 1910 to 1.8M in 2010. Austin has three fundamental and enviable characteristics fueling this growth: economic vitality, relative affordability, and quality of life, according to City of Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson.

economic vitality, relative affordability, and quality of life.

Austin is the 35th largest MSA but fastest growing after Las Vegas and Raleigh, NC.

"Austin is often compared with Raleigh and Charlotte, NC," Robinson said.

### Suburban tilt to the decade's population growth

Suburban Travis County - including Four Points - captured a disproportionate share of the growth over the last decade. This, in spite of the city's push to increase downtown living.

Steiner Ranch, Rough Hollow, Buttercup Creek, Avery Ranch and Crystal Falls all dominate on suburban maps.

"The key to understanding this is that our quality of life attracts people to Austin but people ultimately choose to raise a family in the suburbs," said Robinson.

### Growth from Hispanics dominates

Probably the biggest overall factor in the changing landscape is the significant growth in the Hispanic population region-wide. Williamson County doubled in percentage over the decade. The Austin MSA Hispanic population grew by 75,000 residents compared to 35,000 whites. This leaves the Austin MSA with nearly 200,000 Hispanics compared to about 175,000 whites today.

Hispanic distribution is changing, with some historic downtown areas losing Hispanics and other areas gaining such as North Lamar, northeast and southeast Travis County and East Riverside.

There was a substantial increase in international immigration as a source of population growth, "but this flow has slowed over the decade," Robinson said.

### Hispanics dominate the young scene

In the under-18 category, Hispanics increased by 26,000 versus no change for whites and 4,000 for Asians during the decade.

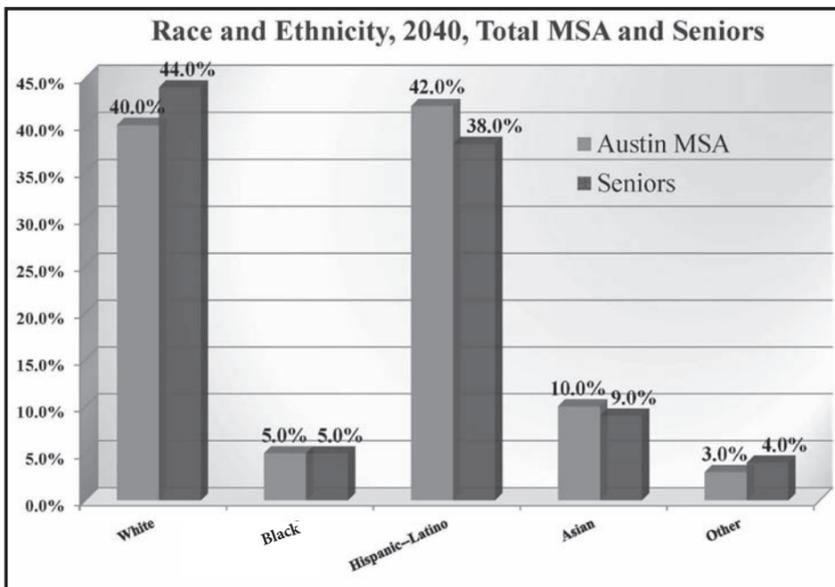
Hispanics, with 51 percent of the under-18 age share, far outpace whites at 32 percent and blacks at 8 percent shares, respectively.

### The Asian boom

Asians are smaller group than Hispanics yet are the fastest-growing, revealing an 85 percent growth rate over the decade, compared to 63 percent for Hispanics and 23 percent for whites.

Starting at less than 5,000 population in 1970, Asians now account for 82,000 persons. This gives Austin the 10th place in Asian share of population in large US cities.

Asians in Austin account



Austin is the 3rd fastest growing area for seniors, or those 65 plus, in the country. The seniors population share is projected to grow from 8 percent of the Austin MSA in 2010 to 18 percent in 2040.

for roughly: 23 percent Chinese, 30 percent Indian, 15 percent Vietnamese, 11 percent Korean, 5 percent Filipino, 2 percent Japanese and the remainder self-described as other.

Asian distribution is heavy in most northwest areas including the Four Points region, where the largest Asian groups represented are from India.

### More black households moving to suburbs

Though growing by less than 25,000 persons over the decade, the majority of growth in this sector is found in the suburban MSA areas.

### Central city population growth and decline

A region's population growth can decline even when density increases. This happens when singles and empty-nesters move in. For example, an influx of childless residents is transforming once-poorer East Austin. Between 2000 and 2010, the area was virtually emptied of children while adults flooded in, Robinson said.

A hundred years ago, East Austin was a black

neighborhood. It later became a working-class Latino enclave. Now it is a mecca for childless hipsters of all ethnicities. The heart of the newly gentrified area is the 78702 ZIP code.

"(It's) all about being adult-friendly," Robinson says. "There's probably a neighborhood like this in a lot of cities."

### New growth in the very young, baby boomers, seniors

Austin's growth is peaking with the very young and the older. Austin is the 3rd fastest growing area for seniors, or those 65 plus, in the country.

The seniors population share is projected to grow from 8 percent of the Austin MSA in 2010 to 18 percent in 2040.

Austin is also the fastest-growing area in the country in the pre-senior category, ages 55 to 64.

The under-10 set experienced a large increase in population, from roughly 86,000 to nearly 130,000. When Austin's MSA gains population, roughly 35 percent of that gain comes from infants being born. The remainder comes from

people moving into the area from somewhere else.

### Increasing socioeconomic gaps

Poverty levels for small children, under 5, are highest in Hispanic communities, which hold 82 percent of the area's poverty as compared to 13 percent for black and 2 percent for white children.

### Political landscapes

Republican or conservative voting patterns were found mostly west of MoPac Expressway, including the Four Points area.

These voters showed far less support for the Travis County Health Prop 1 initiative, and far less support for President Barack Obama while at the same time revealing huge voter turnout as compared to east of MoPac, generally.

City bonds were voted on by many Four Points residents including those living in River Place, Grandview Hills, and Comanche Trail. Results showed far less support for the affordable housing bond, and more support for Proposition 3, the 10-1 city council plan.

## Austin toll roads are electronic only

### Pay by mail or with TxTag

Motorists traveling on Austin-area toll roads can now enjoy a more seamless ride. On Jan. 1 tolls converted to all an-electronic payment system. The new method will save motorists the time and headache of digging for change or waiting in line at toll booths. Now drivers can either pay by mail or purchase a TxTag, which can save them up to 25 percent on toll charges.

"The state-of-the-art equipment on Central Texas toll roads allows us to accurately assess toll charges for every vehicle, so all motorists can enjoy the benefit of the open road without needing to stop to pay," said Doug Woodall, TxDOT Toll Operations Director. Already, drivers are seeing the advantage of paying with a TxTag, which provides them a substantial discount on tolls throughout the state.

The action, approved by the Texas Transportation Commission at its August meeting allows the Texas Department of Transportation to remove the cash payment option on Loop 1, SH 45 North and Segments 1-4 of SH 130, between I-35 in Georgetown and U.S. 183 near Mustang Ridge.

TxDOT's newest toll roads, including SH 45

Southeast, have opened as all-electronic roadways without toll booths. Eliminating cash toll collections on Central Texas toll roads will reduce TxDOT's operating costs in 2013 by approximately \$5 million.

TxTag users will notice no changes, other than the eventual removal of toll booths. TxDOT will install barricades to prevent vehicles from going through cash-payment lanes until the booths are removed.

Motorists without a prepaid toll account will receive a monthly bill in the mail with toll charges, plus a \$1.15 statement fee. The Pay-By-Mail option is administered through video capture of vehicles' license plates. Toll road users can pay their bill online, mail their payment, or pay in person at the TxTag Customer Service Center. Central Texas toll roads will also continue to accept the North Texas TollTags and Harris County EZ Tags.

Drivers can register for a TxTag online at TxTag.org, by phone at 1-888-GoTxTag or in person at the Customer Service Center, 12719 Burnet Road. TxTag users receive a discount of 25 percent off the Pay-By-Mail rates, and the initial fee for the TxTag sticker is waived if motorists enroll in AutoPay.

### SEND FLOWERS



(512) 266-4841  
WWW.BLISSBLOOMSFLORAL.COM

## Montessori

An "education for life" ... starts at School in the Hills

Call 512.266.6160 to schedule a tour of the school to see our amazing children in action. Let us demonstrate why Montessori and School in the Hills is the right choice for your child.

Discover why Montessori education has amazed parents and inspired children for over 100 years. Enroll and watch your child grow to love learning while developing life skills such as: Self Confidence, Independence, Curiosity and Creativity.



## Beautiful Smiles

restorative, cosmetic & implant dentistry

Complimentary Exam and X-Rays with New Patient Cleaning

Expires 1-31-13



(512) 249-8488

200 S. Bell Blvd., Suite E2 • Cedar Park  
www.karenaples.com



JAMES R. WATERS, DDS, MSD, PA  
Board Certified Orthodontist  
Complete Orthodontic Care From 6 years to 66 years  
Specializing in Early Interceptive Treatments

266-8585

0% Payment Plans, All Insurances  
Call for your Complimentary Exam!



LOCATED IN STEINER RANCH!

4302 Quinlan Park Road • www.bracesaustin.com



## Steiner Ranch Orthodontics



BEFORE TREATMENT



AFTER TREATMENT

BASKETBALL



**Ryan Brewster - Junior #10 (Guard)**

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Basketball:**  
Getting to play with great teammates everyday.

BASKETBALL



**Megha Pandya - Senior #21 (Guard)**

**Favorite part about being involved in Viper Basketball:**  
My favorite part of being involved in Lady Viper Basketball is spending time and making memories with my team. I like that we have all become so close and can depend on each other. Traveling and bonding with the team is the most fun.

WRESTLING



**Brent Peterson**

**What do you like about the sport of wrestling?**  
It's only you and one other guy on the mat.  
**What is your goal this year?** Place at state.  
**Favorite quote:**  
Success is getting up one more time than you fall down!

FCCLA



**Brittany Crowds - Senior (FCCLA)**

**Favorite part about being involved in the Viper Family, Career and Community Leaders of America program:**  
Meeting people, going to conferences in different cities, I also like leading people and setting traditions and an example for future FCCLAs at VHS.

**rise {AND} SHINE BAKERY**  
Cakes  
Sandwiches  
Breakfast  
Coffee

Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30am - 6pm, Sat. till 2pm  
www.RiseandShineBakery.com • 512.346.2253

Giving your children life insurance?  
The gift will protect their future.  
Let me show you some options.

**RF INSURANCE MASTERS**  
Affordable Health & Life Solutions  
www.RFIMasters.com

Office: (512) 807-9594  
Mobile: (512) 565-7369

River Ranch Animal Hospital  
**Dr. Cammie Teliha**  
Exceptional Veterinary Medicine  
Personal Care

Full Service Care • Emergencies • Surgery  
X-Ray • Wellness • Geriatric

Located in Four Points H-E-B center!  
www.riverranchanimalhospital.com • 331-7889

**Go Vipers!**  
**Chicken EXPRESS**

Coming Soon to The Trails at 620!

Express Tenders® with Gravy, a Roll or Biscuit • Express Fish®  
12 Side Items (Your Choice) • All Day 92¢ (32oz.) Drinks

**VHS Boys hoops resume district play Jan. 2**

The Vandegrift High School Boys Basketball team is currently 11-10 (0-1) on the year.

"The young team is still learning to play together and finding out what it takes to win at the varsity level," said Cliff Ellis, Head Coach VHS Boys Basketball.

"We have looked really good at times and we have looked equally bad at times. This is mostly attributed to our youth and inexperience," Ellis added.

Currently the Vipers are led in scoring by sophomore guard Davis Florence (younger brother to last year's team MVP, Nick Florence) who is averaging right around 15 points per game.

The Vipers played at the Wimberley HoopsFest tournament last weekend, starting off with 2-0 record on Thursday with victories over Eastside Memorial and a 2 point buzzer-beater win by Nick Fionda over host Wimberley.

The varsity team did have miscue in the district home opener on Dec. 21st to Vista Ridge. The Vipers relinquished a late 4th quarter lead and ended up losing 59-58. The team is hoping a good tournament will propel them to great play as district continues on Jan. 2 at Dripping Springs HS.

Current statistical leaders for the Vipers:  
Davis Florence 13.8 ppg and 3.6 assists per game (apg)  
Nick Fionda 9.4 ppg and 5.1 rebounds per game (rpg)  
Zach Hartman 7.8 ppg and 6.2 apg

Many single game school records have also been broken already this year. Zach Hartman set the school single game record of assists with 12 in one game. Hunter Gross set the single game record for rebounds in a game with 16 and Nick Fionda set the blocks in a game record with 6. Ryan Brewster was also named to the All-Tournament team at the Soaring to the Hoops Tournament at Cedar Creek HS prior to the Holiday Break.

"There is a lot to be excited about with the young team, the rest of this season and the future are definitely bright," Ellis said.



Jim Parker Photography



Jim Parker Photography

**Viper Girls BB readies for district play**

Vandegrift High School Girls Basketball entered the 2012-13 season with a bang going 3-0 to start the season, including an impressive season opening win against Lake Travis.

The team struggled in games through the mid-section of its schedule, due in large part to a number of injuries at key positions.

"We are back at near full-strength and are poised to strike as we resume district play after the break," said Julie Wilke, Head VHS Girls Basketball Coach.



photos by Eric Morton

Photos of Vandegrift High School vs Austin Bowie, VHS lost 57-41.



*Wishing you Happy Holidays from Hue Salon!*



Gift Certificates Available  
**266-9225**

Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 10am - 7pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm



2900 N. Quinlan Park Suite 230 • Book appointment at www.SalonHueAustin.com

**Modern Medicine. Compassionate Care.**  
*Treating you like family.*



Dr. Frank, Dr. Mindi & family



(512) 276-2633  
www.2222VeterinaryClinic.com

Shops at Riverplace  
10601 FM 2222, Suite J 78730

*Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!*



**Rhonda Durrill**, Realtor®, e-PRO  
**512-994-8400**

rhonda@avalaraustin.com  
www.rhondadurrill.com



Like us on



# Viper Girls Soccer shares skills with community

## Staff Reports

The Vandegrift Girl's Soccer Team shared their gifts of soccer and academics recently with the children of Side by Side Kids, a faith-based after school program anchored in East Austin's St. John community.

Side by Side Kids work alongside students from kindergarten to 5th grade. The Vandegrift soccer players reached spent time with this group on Dec. 5 as part of their way to give back to the community.

The afternoon's events included tutor-

ing the children, reading in their classroom and leading the children in a soccer clinic.

The event allowed the Vipers to demonstrate their leadership skills. They developed and ran the clinic on their own and quickly gained a new appreciation for the skills needed to direct and lead young children.

The girls instantly bonded with the kids and by the end of the afternoon's events were giving autographs to their new young fans.



## Meet Our Agents

Let us show you why - over the last 18 years we have helped significantly more buyers and sellers in the Four Points area than any other agent or group!



**Tim Moncrief - Owner**  
Certified Luxury  
Home Marketing Specialist



**Marissa Radack - Owner**  
Certified Luxury  
Home Marketing Specialist



**Tom Radack - Owner**  
Certified Luxury  
Home Marketing Specialist



**Shannon Kramer**  
REALTOR



**Brian Blumentrath**  
REALTOR



**Cara Asher**  
REALTOR



**Thad Buster**  
REALTOR



**Sarah Suffin**  
CLHMS, CRS, CIPS  
SRES, ABR



**Kevin Plunkett**  
REALTOR



**Carrie Mendez**  
REALTOR



**Cassie North**  
REALTOR



**Kay Sittler**  
Transaction Coordinator  
REALTOR



**(512) 418-1435**



www.BartlettRealEstateGroup.com

The best way to discover the Montessori Way is to experience it yourself!

*Planting seeds of knowledge, nurturing seeds of love.*



**BLUEBONNET MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
*of Lakeway*



15099 Debba Drive • Austin, Texas 78734

**266-6626**

www.bluebonnetmontessori.com

**Concordia launches new online degree, certification programs**

Concordia University Texas will offer three new degree and certification programs in a fully online format through its Online Center. Students will be able to earn a Master of Education in Advanced Literary Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management beginning this month. The University will also offer a Superintendent Certification program beginning in March.

The online courses emulate the on-campus environment by providing students with opportunities to collaborate and interact with their professors and peers.



**GENE ARANT**  
Real Estate Team

*Are you thinking of a new home?  
We can make it happen for you!  
Call us and learn how!*

**See how the Gene Arant Real Estate Team can help you!**



512-261-1000 • www.GeneArant.com