

# The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

February 2010

Volume 5, Issue 2

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

## HELLO *Riata Ranch*

Ahhhh...February the month of love. Do you ever wonder how Valentine's Day came about? Here is an excerpt of an article about the history of Valentine's Day.

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

To read more about the history of Valentine's Day please go to the history channel website where I retrieved the above article or go to this link: <http://www.history.com/content/valentine/history-of-valentine-s-day>

I hope everyone has a great February and an even better Valentine's Day. For those who dislike Valentine's Day for one reason or another just think of it as a great day to indulge in chocolate!

Cindy



## DID YOU KNOW:

### *Valentines Facts*

#### LOOKING FOR LOVE

- 188 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. (This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchanges.) (Source: Hallmark research)
- Over 50 percent of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight. (Source: Hallmark research)
- Research reveals that more than half of the U.S. population celebrates Valentine's Day by purchasing a greeting card. (Source: Hallmark research)
- 1904: The number of dating service establishments nationwide as of 2002. These establishments, which include Internet dating services, employed nearly 4,300 people and pulled in \$489 million in revenues.

#### BE MINE

- 2.2 million marriages take place in the United States annually. That breaks down to more than 6,000 a day.
- 147,300 marriages are performed in Nevada during 2005. So many couples "tie the knot" in the Silver State that it ranked fourth nationally in marriages, even though it's total population that year among states was 35th.
- The estimated U.S. median ages at first marriage for women and men are 25.3 and 27.1 respectively, in 2005. The age for women rose 4.2 years in the last three decades. The age for men at first marriage is up 3.6 years.
- Men and women in northeastern states generally have a higher median age at first marriage than the national average. In Massachusetts, for example, women were a median of 27.4 years old and men 29.1 years of age at first marriage. States where people typically marry young include Utah, where women were a median of 21.9 years and men, 23.9 years.

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Riata Ranch

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Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com, 888-687-6444

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email the editor at editor@riataranch.net. Articles for the newsletter are finalized on the 10th of the preceding month So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

## Riata Ranch Homeowners Meetings

The Riata Ranch HOA Board of Directors encourages all homeowners to participate in the monthly board meetings. The meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in participating please contact SCS management in order to add your topic to the meeting agenda.

riatahoa@riataranch.net

or

Debbie Spaw

dspaw@scsmgmt.com

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## Did You Know - (Continued from Cover Page)

- 21: Number of places named "rose". The red rose has long been a symbol of romantic love. Rose Hill, VA., is the most populous, with more than 15,000 residents.

## CANDY IS DANDY!

- 1,241: The number of locations producing chocolate and cocoa products in 2004. These establishments employed 43,322 people. California led the nation in the number of such establishments with 136, followed by Pennsylvania with 122. (Source: http)
- 3,467 Number of confectionery and nut stores in the United States in 2004. Often referred to as candy stores, they are among the best sources of sweets for Valentine's Day.
- The per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2005 was 25.7 pounds. Candy consumption has actually declined over the last few years; in 1997, each American gobbled or savored more than 27 pounds of candy a year.

## SLOW DOWN ON CYPRESS N. HOUSTON!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are interested in volunteering or participating with our Special Events Committee, please contact us at [events@riataranch.net](mailto:events@riataranch.net)

Volunteers are always needed. An hour or more is greatly appreciated. Volunteers will be needed for Easter Family Day in April.

The Spring Garage sale will be in May. As we get closer to May, we will inform everyone of the exact date.



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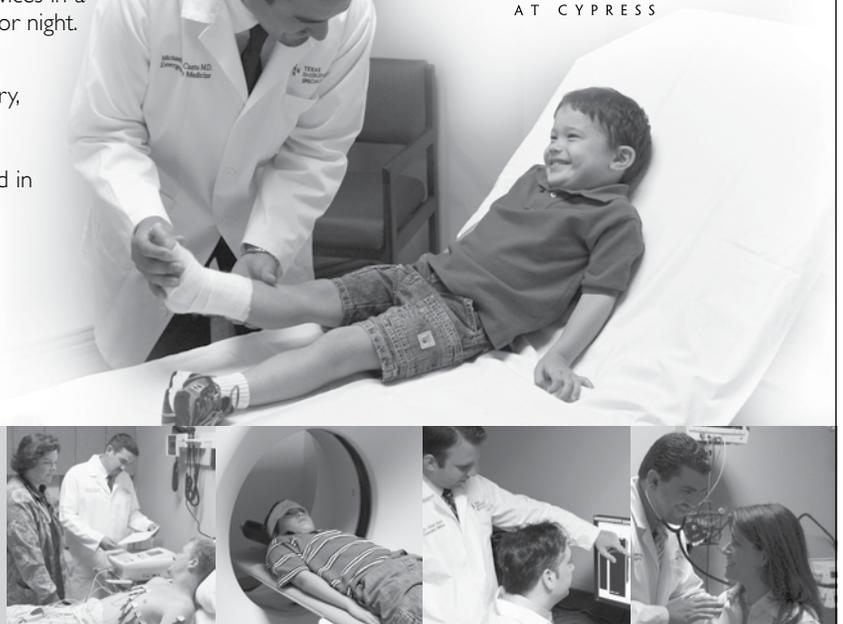
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## WANT TO IMPRESS YOUR LOVED ONE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY?

*Here are some Valentine's Day Quotations that will Surely Impress!*

*Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies. - Aristotle*

*Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. - Lao Tzu*

*My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,  
The more I have, for both are infinite.  
- William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet*

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

*Young love is a flame; very pretty, often  
very hot and fierce, but still only light  
and flickering. The love of the older and*

*disciplined heart is as coals, deep-burning,  
unquenchable. - Henry Ward Beecher*

*Age does not protect you from love. But love,  
to some extent, protects you from age.  
- Anais Nin*

*Life has taught us that love does not consist in  
gazing at each other but in looking outward  
in the same direction.  
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

*Love has no desire but to fulfill itself.  
But if you love and must needs have desires,  
let these be your desires;*

*To melt and be like a running brook that  
sings its melody to the night.  
To know the pain of too much tenderness.*

*To be wounded by your own  
understanding of love;  
And to bleed willingly and joyfully.  
- Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet*

*The best and most beautiful things in the  
world cannot be seen or even touched. They  
must be felt with the heart. -Helen Keller*

*Love does not dominate; it cultivates.  
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

*Love makes your soul crawl out from its  
hiding place. - Zora Neale Hurston*

*Love is life. All, everything that I understand,  
I understand only because I love.*

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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Want to Impress Your Loved One - (Continued from Page 4)

Everything is, everything exists, only because I love. - Leo Tolstoy

Love is like quicksilver in the hand. Leave the fingers open and it stays. Clutch it, and it darts away. - Dorothy Parker

I have learned not to worry about love; but to honor its coming with all my heart. - Alice Walker

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.  
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;  
so I love you because I know no other way  
than this: where I does not exist nor you,  
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,  
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.  
- Pablo Neruda, "Love Sonnet XVII"



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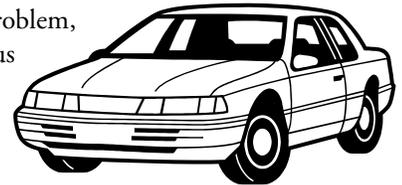
## ASK AN EXPERT: MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLES REGULARLY

### To Save Gas And High Repair Costs

Written by Chris Yarger

There are more benefits to maintaining a regular schedule of preventative maintenance than just a longer car life. A well serviced vehicle will not only perform as it should but will run more efficiently, saving its owner money and avoid unplanned or potentially unsafe situations. Following these simple steps provide cost-saving benefits to protect your vehicle life-span:

- **CHANGE ENGINE OIL AT REGULAR INTERVALS** – Engine oil will clean, lubricate and cool your engine properly. When oil levels are inadequate or not changed with its filter as recommended, your vehicle consumes more gas to compensate for increased heat and friction among the engines moving parts.
- **CHECK FLUIDS MONTHLY** – Your engines vital fluids including antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids must be kept at their proper levels to prevent rust and dirt build-up which can ultimately clog or restrict the flow of fluids and damage internal parts. An engine deprived of clean fluids will struggle to operate efficiently and ultimately burn more fuel.
- **CHECK TIRE PRESSURE WEEKLY FOR MAXIMUM FUEL EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY** -- Properly inflated tire pressure is key for fuel efficiency. An under inflated tire causes increased road resistance which makes the vehicles computer to allocate more fuel to the engine. Tires should also be rotated every 5,000 miles to prevent uneven wear and prevent a potential blowout and hazardous situation on the road.
- **SERVICE YOUR VEHICLE REGULARLY BY A TRUSTED AUTOMOTIVE EXPERT** – Regular preventative maintenance rather than costly repairs keeps you driving efficiently and safely while protecting resale values and warranties. Follow the maintenance schedule per your owner's manual and do not neglect even a small problem, as they can lead to dangerous situations and costly repairs.



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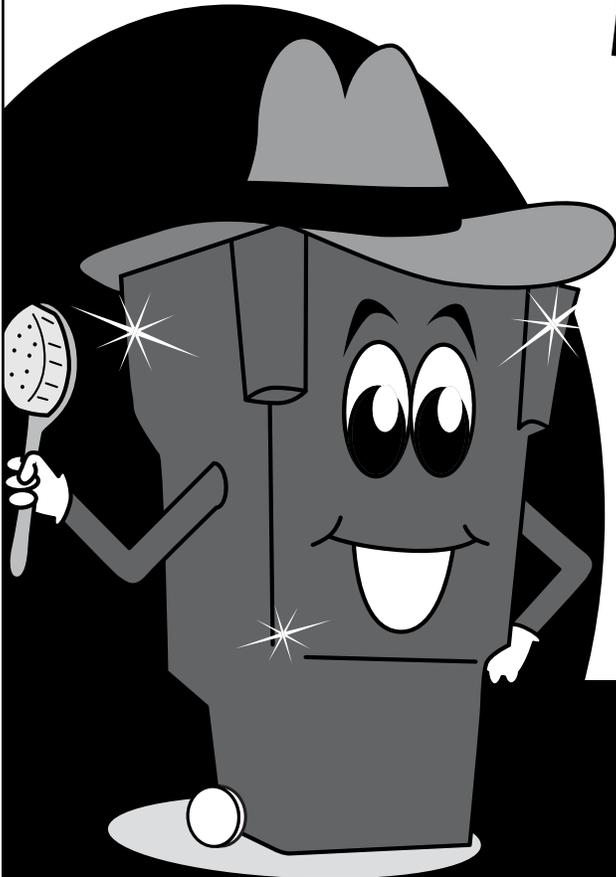
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# T.C.C.S

## MEET NICHOLAS

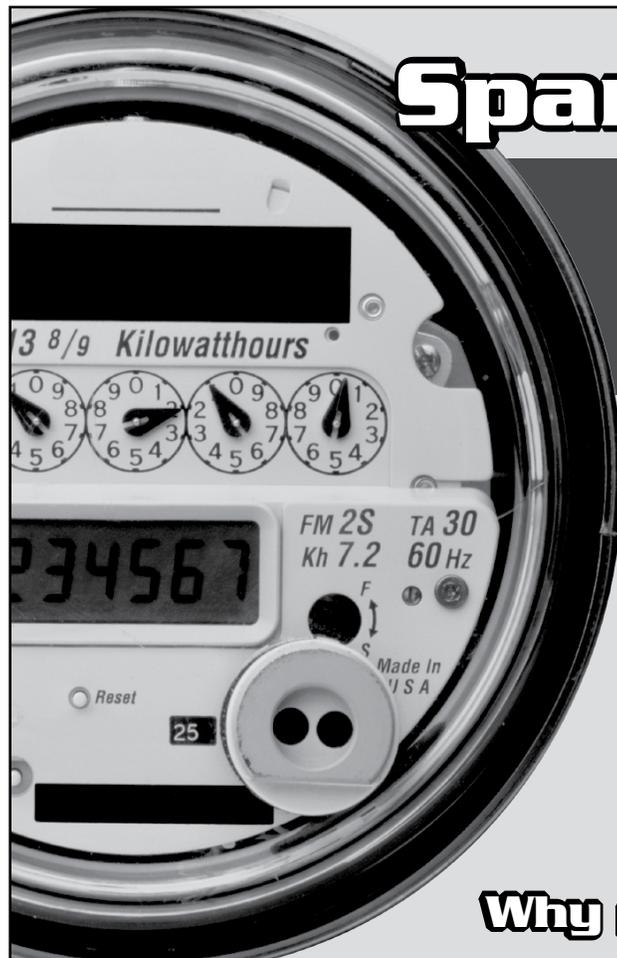
*DOB: 02/1996*

Nick is a friendly and sweet child, although he is shy when meeting new people. Nick enjoys interacting with other children in his class and in his home. He also likes to please others and enjoys helping when he can. Nick is all boy and enjoys throwing a football, playing outdoors, video games & board games. He also likes to draw and play with various action figures. Nick is also interested in collecting cars. Nick performs well in school and receives good reports from his teachers. Nick is most proud when he is reported for doing things well. His foster parent notes that he can be a very sweet and helpful child. He befriends other children easily. He catches on to various activities quickly and likes to figure things out, such as how to take things apart and put them back together. Nick's caseworker notes that he's competitive when playing games and is a natural "practical joker" as he enjoys making people laugh.

If you would like more information about Nick, or the adoption process, contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at [info@adopttexas.org](mailto:info@adopttexas.org).

Remember - There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system, regardless of what agency you work with!

The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization (operating under the Austin Community Foundation), created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. Adoption Coalition of Texas partner agencies include Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services.



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

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## Valentine's Day Headquarters



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## THE GIVER BY LOIS LOWRY

*"A Perfect World?"*

The Giver by Lois Lowry won the 1994 Newbery Medal. Considered a young adult book, I purchased it for my nephew, but wanted to preview it before giving it to him. While I thoroughly enjoyed the book (it is intensely deep and invited more thought and examination than any other book I've read in a long time), I don't think the content is appropriate for young adults. I'll explain this in more detail, but in preparation for writing this review, I noticed that The Giver is on many middle school reading lists, but it is also on many banned book lists and appeared on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 1990's.

Although I didn't give the book to my nephew, I think it is an excellent adult read. This book makes you really think. It describes a community that lives in what the author describes as a "perfect" world—one without pain, emotion (including love), color, decisions, surprises, memories, inconvenience and even temperature variations. While this is definitely not my idea of a perfect world, the people of this community of people live their daily lives in a very robotic and extremely organized way.

Each member of this community is assigned a specific role at the age of 12 and the main character, Jonas, is given the role of Giver. He is given all the memories of past generations where there was pain, love, hunger, the brilliance of color and he is responsible for holding all of these memories so no one else has to live through them. The way the Receiver transfers these memories to Jonas and the horrifically hard life that awaits Jonas is extremely interesting and creative.

When Jonas questions things—which he has never been permitted to do—he understands the very hard, but accepted way of life in his community. In particular, the "releasing" of the rule breakers, elders and anyone else who stands out or is an inconvenience to the group is heart wrenching—this is the part that is not for young adults.

The book is extremely creative; from the way the community and each family are structured to the unique role each person is assigned. It begs the question, "What would you give up to live in a more secure world?" and on the other hand, "What would you sacrifice to live life to the fullest?"

I definitely have Gathering Blue and Messenger on my reading list, two other books that are companion reads to The Giver.



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Section 1	1	-	-	-	-
Section 2	1	-	-	-	-
Section 3	1	-	-	-	-
Section 4	1	1	-	-	-
Section 5	3	-	-	-	-
Section 6	1	-	-	-	-
Section 7	-	-	-	-	-
Section 8	2	-	-	-	-
Section 9	1	-	-	-	-
Section 10	3	-	1	39	81.17
Section 11	6	-	-	-	-

According to information taken from the Houston Board of Realtors MLS computer.  
This is not a solicitation of currently listed properties.

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