

Austin Post-Bulletin



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House prices are up in many cities » A3



Photos by Joe Michaud-Scorza / jscorza@postbulletin.com

Charlie Kanne catches a monarch butterfly before tagging and releasing it Tuesday at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center in Austin.

Tag, you're it; now fly away

By Heather Rule
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If you want tips on how to catch a butterfly and tag it, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is the place to be.

"It's going to be a lot easier to catch these guys if you wait for them to land," said Maria Anderson, teacher/naturalist at the nature center. "You want to sneak up behind them, and then you go fast enough that the monarch ends up in the back of the net."

Anderson's class Tuesday was for five children ages 9-12. Her tips for success: Make sure the net is closed, then cup your hand around the butterfly and gently squeeze the wings together.

Kids carefully lifted each monarch, checked for an identifying gender spot, put a sticker on its wing, then let it go.

The group caught fewer than 10 monarchs, but cloudy skies and a sun shower had something to do with that.

"They like it better when it's

sunny out," Anderson said. "They hide from the rain."

Charlie Kanne, 11, had tagged butterflies before. He said it's fun to get an up-close look at them. On Tuesday, he caught a couple, and he seemed relieved.

"Yeah, I'm happy," Charlie said. "I wouldn't want to go home and have my little sister bug me about it all day."

His sister Ellen, 9, also netted a couple monarchs.

Before the kids went out into the prairie grass, they spent time inside learning about monarchs by reviewing their life cycle, from caterpillar to butterfly, how to identify males and females and how to properly tag them.

This time of year, monarchs migrate to Mexico, so when kids tag them here (and record the date, tag number and place) they can check the website monarch-watch.org to see if their tagged monarchs are recovered in Mexico.

AustinPB.com
Slide show; related weblink



Ellen Kanne, 9, releases a butterfly.



A \$5 reward is offered for each tag collected at the end of the butterfly's migration, in Mexico.

From Austin's history to its future Visions

Helle to leave Hormel Historic Home post

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Hormel Historic Home Executive Director Laura Helle will leave her job this fall to work full-time for the Vision 2020 project as the director of vision creation.

The new Vision 2020 job will be responsible for supporting the 10 committees working on projects. Forms of support might include communication, grant writing, grant research and logistics.

Helle will make a slow transition out of her current role into the new one, remaining full-time at HHH for two weeks; starting Sept. 12, she will spend about six weeks working 20 hours at each position. On Oct. 24, she'll go full time with Vision 2020.

"I think the biggest attraction for me was it's going to be a new challenge," Helle said. "I'm the kind of person who's always looking for a challenge and something to really keep me on my toes."

The Hormel Foundation will provide a three-year commitment for the funding for Helle's position with Vision 2020, she said.

HHH has posted the executive director job opening on its website. The board of trustees is hoping to have the new hire in time for Helle to be able to train him or her before Helle's time is up.

Helle has worked at the home for six years, and she said it was a really tough decision to leave. The home is an asset to the community and she loves and respects all the people associated with it, she said. She's also been impressed with Vision 2020 so far, she said.

"And I see so much potential for really transforming our community that it was pretty much irresistible to me," Helle said.

Helle has been on the Vision 2020 steering committee as a volunteer. She will be the first and only full-time worker for the project.

As the steering committee reviewed things this summer, the idea came up that projects could be elevated to the next level if there were someone in place to handle logistics to make sure everything moves forward cohesively, Helle said.

"The steering committee was very aware that this is kind of a transition point," Helle said. "The question is: Are we going to devote the resources to really push this forward and get into high gear, or are we satisfied with what can be done on a volunteer basis?"

"I think the answer was it really is going to benefit from having a full-time person."

Steering committee member Bonnie Rietz agreed, and said she's pleased Helle decided to take the job.

"As we were looking at candidates, Laura really rose to the top because she's been very, very involved from the beginning," Rietz said. "So when we were looking at this position, we realized that she would do a very good job, and it will really help the Vision 2020 projects to move along very well."

Though Helle doesn't have all the details yet, she will work out of an office at the Austin Area Chamber of Commerce, which offered to share its space.



Helle

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Related weblinks

Mitt is chosen, Ann steals the stage

By David Espo
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night, praised lovingly by his wife from their national convention stage as the "man America needs" and cheered by delegates eager to propel him into the fall campaign against President Obama.

The hall erupted in cheers when Romney strolled on stage and shared a hug and kiss with his wife of more than 40 years.

"This man will not fail. This man will not let us down," Ann Romney said in a prime-time speech that sounded at times

like a heart-to-heart talk among women and a testimonial to her husband's little-known soft side.

She vouched for her husband, who lags behind Obama in surveys among women: "You can trust Mitt. He loves America."

Earlier, the Romneys watched on television at a hotel suite as delegates sealed his hard-won victories in winter's primaries and caucuses. They ended the evening in a VIP box just above the convention floor.

To send Romney and ticket-mate Paul Ryan into the fall campaign, the convention quickly approved a conservative platform that calls for tax cuts — not government spending — to stimulate the economy at a time of sluggish growth and 8.3

percent unemployment.

Republican mockery of Obama began almost instantly at a convention postponed and dogged by Hurricane Isaac. The Democratic president has "never run a company. He hasn't even run a garage sale or seen the inside of a lemonade stand," said Reince Priebus, Republican Party chairman.

More than eight hours in length, the session inside the Republicans' red, white and blue-themed convention hall passed up no opportunity to broaden Romney's appeal. Speakers included Hispanic candidates for office; former Rep. Artur Davis, a one-time Democrat and member of the Congressional Black Caucus;

businessmen and women; and former Sen. Rick Santorum.

"Leadership matters," declared New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, keynote speaker and not coincidentally a Republican from a majority-Democratic state. "It's time to end this era of absentee leadership in the Oval Office and send real leaders to the White House."

Ann Romney's appearance was the highlight, and it turned the proceedings into something of a his-and-hers convention.

"I read somewhere that Mitt and I have a 'storybook marriage.' Well, in the storybooks I read, there were never long, long, rainy winter afternoons in a house with five boys screaming at once," she said.



Associated Press

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and his wife, Ann, wave to delegates following her speech at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Tuesday.

"A storybook marriage? No, not at all. What Mitt Romney and I have is a real marriage," she said.

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66 6 a.m. 72° Noon 93° 6 p.m. 98°

Corrections

The Post-Bulletin is committed to fairness and accuracy. If you have a concern, contact Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or furst@postbulletin.com.

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Punchline A2

"I voted against you in the last election and I recommend everyone else does that in the upcoming election."

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