



HELPING YOU FIND YOUR WAY HOME

MAY 07

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 5

The Robyn and Jessica Team

Real Estate Brokers

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific."*  
Lily Tomlin

Robyn, Jessica, and Laurel are pleased to have added **SHANA NYHUS** as the fourth member of The RJ Team

### Congratulations to

Karina for being the first to correctly answer the April Trivia Contest. The answer to April's trivia was "Gus VanZant".

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### Real Estate Facts

According to Dean Treftz in the Wall Street Journal the housing news isn't all grim. Even as prices sag nationwide, there are several cities in the country where home values are climbing smartly.

Portland, Ore., Boise, Idaho, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Houston, Austin, and Charlotte and Raleigh, N.C., are among the cities bucking the national trend. Homes' appreciation there between the fourth quarters of 2005 and 2006 far exceeded the national average of 5.9%, according to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight. In some markets, like Boise and Seattle, the appreciation jumped well into the double digits.

"All real estate is local, despite the headlines," says Lawrence Yun, the senior economist for the National Association of Realtors. Nationwide, the median existing-home price fell 1.3%, to \$212,800 in February from \$215,700 in February 2006, according to preliminary NAR statistics.

### Trivia Contest

What color is a yellow-bellied sap sucker's bib?

### New & Interesting Trends

\* Home owners that want room for their books, but not an entire library devoted to them, are now building "pocket libraries" in their homes. It can be arranged along a hallway or tucked into the landing point of the stairs.

\* The basement rec room is now tending toward an upstairs game room, with TV, pool tables, or air hockey and all the latest technological 'toys'.

\* A new environmentally friendly trend is using BRAC Systems gray water tank, that stores used shower water, filters and chlorinates it, and sends it back to the toilets for flushing. The process saves about 30% of the owner's water and sewer expenses.

### Upcoming Fun Activity

A fun family event is the annual Grand Floral Parade, scheduled for Saturday, June 9, at 10:00AM. The parade starts at the Memorial Coliseum and winds through downtown Portland. This internationally distinguished parade has been recognized by the International Festival & Events Association and USA Today as one of the top five parades in the nation. For more information, go to [www.rosefestival.org/events/grandfloralparade](http://www.rosefestival.org/events/grandfloralparade).

### Client Circle

Congratulations to Brianna for selling her home in Beaverton. Congratulations to The Griffee Family on their new home in SW Portland.

Congratulations to Sue on her new home in Hillsboro. Congratulations to Yan on his new home in SW Portland.