

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

February 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2

Official Publication of Riata Ranch Homeowners Association

Riata Ranch Parks Restricted to Residents Only

The Riata Ranch HOA is excited to see our community participate in organized sports such as Cy-Fair Sports Association. We feel that these groups have the ability to unify communities while also giving our children the opportunity to learn important lessons such as teamwork, discipline, and respect for others.

Unfortunately, the Riata Ranch HOA has been forced to address an increasing number of complaints about the organized groups use of HOA property. Incidents have included, but are not limited to:

- Illegal street parking
- Littering
- Vandalism
- Disregarding posted rules
- Verbal assaults

The Riata Ranch HOA has repeatedly requested the violators to be considerate of our community, but these requests have been ignored. It is with this disregard of our requests that the Riata Ranch HOA is forced to restrict Riata Ranch parks usage to Riata Ranch residents only. A letter has been sent to the Cy-Fair Sports Association listing our grievances and stating our resolution that they are no longer welcome to use Riata Ranch community property to hold their practices or events.

If you have questions or comments please contact the Riata Ranch HOA board at riatahoa@riataranch.net or call SCS Management at 281-463-1777.

SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 12th

8:00 a.m.

Rain or Shine

It's Garage Sale time – so clean out your garages and attics and make some money! There will need to be at least 60 families registered and paid by March 30th !!

We are doing things a bit different this year. We no longer have signs available. If you have one, feel free to use it. It was very hard to keep track of all of them, and we 5 returned after the last sale. Please remember that your \$5 fee goes to pay for advertising the sale, and not for the sign. We put ads in over 7 different papers across the Houston area. Without the advertising, we don't have customers! Without your fee, we don't get advertising. This is all going to be done by the honor system. Please do your part and send in your fee! We will still be putting up the big signs at the front entrances. Please feel free to make your own signs, but be sure to take them down after the sale.

There are 2 ways to register & pay your fee: You can mail your registration (name, street address, home phone number & \$5 check made out to SCS Management) to Bobbie McKeon 17223 Firecreek Ridge Dr. Houston, TX 77095 or come by the pool Sunday March 30th from 6-7pm. Please don't wait until the last minute! All the advertising must be submitted and paid for two weeks before the sale. You can send in your registration any time from now up through March 30th.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas please contact Bobbie McKeon at 281-213-3140 or RiataRanchGarageSale@yahoo.com

Important Dates:

Now through March 30th – Mail in registration (see info above)

Sunday March 30th, 6– 7 p.m. – In-person registration at the pool (see info above)

March 30th – Registration deadline

April 12th, 8:00 a.m. – Garage Sale

FYI: The HOA rules state that private garage sales are not allowed. Community garage sales are okay as long as they are a community sponsored event and meet the minimum participants requirement.



Don't want to wait for the mail?
View the current issue of The Ranch Review on the 1st day each month at www.PEELinc.com

RiataRanch.net

Riata Ranch

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital	713-932-3000
Poison Control	800-222-1222

Schools

Cypress Fairbanks ISD	281-897-4000
Posta Elementary	281-345-3660
Spillane Middle	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

Utilities

HCMUD #196	
Billing	281-579-4500
Repairs	281-398-8211
Centerpoint Electric	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas	713-659-2111
AT&T/SBC	800-464-7928
Warner Cable.....	713-462-9000
Waste Mgt	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office	800-275-8777

Library

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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Cypress Assistance Ministries

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www.cypressassistanceministries.com

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to spend more time volunteering in the community, then CAM is the place for you. Volunteers are making a difference in the lives of families in crisis throughout the ministry. Opportunities for service are available in Angels' Attic Resale Shop, the donation center, and the food pantry. By volunteering at CAM, you will experience warm, friendly fellowship and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped families in need.

The CAM Web site, www.cypressassistanceministries.com, features other volunteer opportunities, up-to-date information on our current donation needs and a description of all our services. For more information or to sign up for a volunteer tour, contact Lisa Bassett or Kelly Thomas at 281-955-7684. Hours of operation are Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. and Thursday – Saturday 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Riata Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail editor@riataranch.net.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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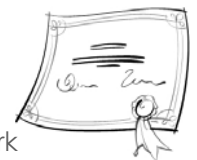
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HOA Reminders

Tree Trimming: Please remember to trim and maintain your trees so that pedestrians and vehicles can use the sidewalk and roads with ease. This fall is the perfect time to prune and thin trees. Take a look at your trees and make sure that they are not encroaching on roads or sidewalks.

Mildew: There are many commercial products that can be applied to remove and kill the mildew. You won't believe what a difference it will make to your home and the overall appearance of the neighborhood.

Street Parking: The streets are county property and although parked cars are permitted, we would ask that you move them into the driveway whenever possible. Children cannot be seen crossing the streets when there are many parked cars.

Report Violations: If you see a property that you think has a violation that concerns you, please call our office and let us know. We will monitor it to be sure it is a consistent problem or verify the violation before sending a letter. Your call will be confidential. But remember it is not SCS, nor the Board's role to get involved in neighbor-to-neighbor disputes, so please call in only violations.

We look forward to working with all of you. Please call us if you need more time to correct violations. We are happy to work with you. The Board's goal is to improve the home values and to have the association looking first class. We are happy to work together with them and you to make that goal happen.



An Invitation to All the Women of the Community

Please join us on Tuesday, January 15th and every Tuesday for twelve weeks for an evening of study and fellowship with author Mindy Ferguson as she presents her study "Walking with God".

In this Bible study, you'll discover why walking with God means living your faith. It's trusting in Him and Him alone.

It's seeing the giants, but stepping confidently into the future because you believe the promises of Christ.

Walking with God is the difference between slavery to sin, and freedom in Christ. It's victory not defeat. It is living the promised life!

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

Tuesday Evenings, 6:45-8:30pm

Beginning January 15th

Author and Cypress resident Mindy Ferguson

will give live lectures at each session.

FREE CHILDCARE with reservation. The cost is \$20.00 which includes workbook. Tuition is due at the first session. Scholarships are available upon request. (All scholarship information is confidential) Register online at www.goodchurch.us, contact aynnaedaugherty@yahoo.com or call the church office at 281-373-2273

2008-2009 Informational Meetings for Cypress Christian School

On Thursday, February 7, CCS will host an informational meeting for future Kindergarten parents from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Building. On that same night, families with students entering 1st -12th grades are invited to attend an informational meeting from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. For details, please contact Mrs. Vicki Moore at 281-469-7745 or log on to www.CypressChristian.org.



Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Riata Ranch Community Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

281-373-4640

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Riata Ranch

This Is Your Newsletter!

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.

Volunteers Needed

The special events committee is a composed entirely of neighbor volunteers. We need more help to carry off these events and make them a big success. We would like to have at least one member from each section on the committee. We also need volunteers to help get the word out regarding activities. Please contact events@riataranch.net for more information on committee meetings.



Vacation Watch

At your request, the Harris County Sheriff's Department will put your house on VACATION WATCH. Just go to www.riataranch.net and look for the Vacation Watch form in the FORMS and DOCS section.

Your completed form will need to be submitted to the Sheriff's Department 7 days prior to departure, or just call 713-221-6000.

Help Keep the Storm Drains Clear

Recently, we have received reports of teens throwing items into the storm drains, such as boxes and basketballs. These items can plug the drain and cause flooding when the next storm comes.

If you see this activity, please report it to the Sheriff's Department with the best description of the activity that you can give.

Stopping this activity is important to all of us. It could even keep your home from flooding.



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**Valentine's Day
Headquarters**



Valentine's Day is
Thursday Feb. 14th!!

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Cy-Fair College Perspective

Save the “Discovery College” registration date: March 10: Cy-Fair College’s popular Discovery College summer camp for ages 6 to 15 is still six months away but registration is only a few weeks away. The one-week summer sessions are fun and educational programs to develop skills in a friendly environment. Registration begins March 10. Camps are offered at the Barker Cypress campus Monday through Friday at a cost of \$80 per class. Camps are offered at the Fairbanks Center campus, Monday through Friday at a cost of \$65 per class. For information, go to www.cy-faircollege.com/discoverycollege. For Barker Cypress camps only, call 832-482-1043 and for Fairbanks Center camps only, call 832-782-5038.

Check out Courses for Ages 50 and Better: The Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) at Cy-Fair College offers adults, 50 years and older, leisure classes, lectures and informal activities. The spring session will include classes on basic drawing, “23 things you want to know how to do on the Internet,” acting for seniors, Quigong, Bible Study, The Louvre, a variety of health and fitness classes, cooking, day trips and much more. An A.L.L. annual membership fee of \$10 entitles members to free or discounted classes. Register early as classes will fill up quickly. For more information, call Janet Taber at 281-290-5991 or Twana York at 281-290-5246.

Art Exhibition Gives Voice to “I Have a Dream” Speech: Umoja, an African American student organization, and the Bosque Gallery present an art exhibition focusing on work that gives a contemporary

voice to Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I have a Dream” speech. This exhibition, on display through Feb. 21, will feature community members’ art as well as that of guest artist and lecturer Henry Earl Price, Art Supervisor for the Caddo Parish School Board in Louisiana. The Bosque Gallery is located in the Center for the Arts Building on the Barker Cypress campus. For gallery hours and information go to www.cy-faircollege.com/bosquegallery.

L.I.F.E. Lessons in February: The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cy-Fair College Branch Library (Room 131.) In February, learn to play the harmonica Feb. 6, take a look at hearts and chocolate Feb. 13, find out what your handwriting reveals Feb. 20 and hear about how Hollywood depicts the American West Feb. 27. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu>.

Spring Film Series Under Way: The Cy-Fair College Spring Film Series is a continuing education course called Film Appreciation. The series is presented at no charge. A professor or student organization at the college hosts each film and an in-depth discussion after the movie. February films include Jet Li’s “Fearless” Feb. 6, “To Kill a Mockingbird” Feb. 14 and “Possibilities” Feb. 20. Registration is available at all the film events. All films are shown at the Barker Cypress campus in ART 102. For the spring schedule or information, call 281-290-3966 or go online to www.cy-faircollege.com/filmseries.



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Riata Ranch

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John Cornyn(R)

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WASHINGTON DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2934
Fax: (202) 228-2856
Email: cornyn.senate.gov

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)

284 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5922
Fax: (202) 224-0776
hutchison.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives (Texas)

(District 7)

John Abney Culberson (R)

Capital Office
U.S. House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington 20515
Phone: (202) 225 2571
Fax: (202) 225 4381
District Office
10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 620

Houston 77024

Phone: (713) 682 8828

Fax: (713) 680 8070

Email: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/contactinfo.aspx>

Website: <http://www.culberson.house.gov/>

Texas Senator (District 7)

Dan Patrick (R)

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Capitol Station
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Phone: (512) 463 0107
Fax: (512) 463 8810

District Office

11451 Katy Fwy

Suite 209

Houston 77079

Phone: (713) 464-0282

Fax: (713) 461-0108

Email: <http://www.patrick.senate.state.tx.us/>

Website: <http://www.patrick.senate.state.tx.us/>

Texas House of Representatives

(District 130)

Corbin Van Arsdale (R)

Capital Office
House of Representatives, Room E1.412
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Suite 175
Houston 77070
Phone: (281) 469 9130
Fax: (281) 469 4130
Email: corbin.van_arsdale@house.state.tx.us
Website: <http://www.house.state.tx.us>

County Commissioner (Precinct 3)

Steve Radack

Administration Building
1001 Preston, Suite 924
Houston TX 77002
Email: pct3@hctx.net
Website: <http://www.pct3.hctx.net/>
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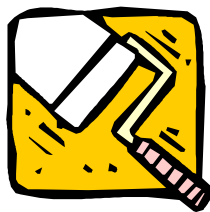
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Greg Riddle
Owner

What is the Main Goal in Little League Baseball?

Submitted by Robin Cox

What should your main objective be in coaching, teaching or parenting a Little Leaguer?

Is the objective to win? I would say Yes but also No. Winning is important but it is a result. Results, especially in sports are many times determined by actions outside of our control.

A game may be won by the opponent on a bad hop, a ball lost in the sun or lights or even by an umpire's supposed "bad" call. A game may be lost when a batter with bases loaded does everything right and hits the ball hard on a line drive but right at the left fielder that doesn't have to make a move to catch the ball.

Yes, in baseball, we may do everything right but still lose.

Many times we stress the "results" when instead we should be emphasizing what produces the results. When we teach to do the "little things" right we are putting our players in a position to win. Note: This often means doing repetitive drills which can be boring. A bored player is not learning. One thing that kids love is to make a game or competition out of the drills.

In Little League there can be a wide variance of skills among players on the same team.

But there is one common denominator that all players need in increasing measure. (including High School, College and Majors) Can you guess?

That one thing is Confidence. As the saying goes, Confidence is everything!

But confidence in what? Their arm, their bat, their glove? Given that all of those can and will fail what they need is increased confidence in who they are.

Many teams give out stars for the players caps after a game for winning. But I suggest giving out stars or rewards at practice for doing the little things right. Especially putting an emphasis on "hustle" when making the extra effort for trying to stop a ball (whether they made the play or not) or as a batter hanging tough with a pitcher by fouling off many pitches (even though he may eventually strike out) or showing great attitude or encouragement toward a fellow teammate. What does this do? It builds confidence in themselves. They should be instantly rewarded for doing and being their best.

Lastly, as their confidence increases, you as a coach, teacher and parent are looking for one thing. It is called a "breakout." A breakout can occur in practice or in a game. It may be a breakout "at bat" when a batter gets a hit after a long slump. It might occur on a play he has never been able to accomplish until now with his increased hustle. It is that moment when he realizes, yes I can do this! It is that memorable point when he comes off the field smiling so big, it makes the whole season worth it whether your team is 10-0 or 0-10.

But remember, a "breakout" in confidence is not limited to sports and little leaguers.



40 days of Lent.

What you'll find at
Cypress United Methodist Church

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6th and ends on Holy Saturday.

The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Palm Sunday) – Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death.



Cypress United Methodist Church is preparing for Easter and would like to welcome you to church during the Lenten Season. We are planning special Bible studies, worship services and events that will lead you to the cross. Visit our website, today, for our Lenten Season schedule at www.Cypress-UMC.org.

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 am – Traditional in Sanctuary
9:30 am – Contemporary Worship Center
11:00 am – Sanctuary & Worship Center

Cypress United Methodist Church
13403 Cypress N. Houston Rd.
(just east of Huffmeister)
Cypress, Texas 77429
281-469-0730

HELPFUL TOOLS on RIATARANCH.NET

On our website, under DOCS, FORMS, LINKS, there are many helpful tools at your disposal. All of the known forms needed for all neighborhood business and activities are listed on the site, and the list keeps growing. As a new need is realized, the site gets updated with additional links in an effort to give you one place to find everything you need to make the most out of our community.

You will find everything from information regarding mosquitoes and violation summaries, to downloadable forms for vacation watches and ACC applications.

One of the tools that you'll find is very helpful, but not very pleasant. It is a link to the sex offender section of the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY web site (<https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/default.cfm>). This site contains a mapping tool that allows you to input your address and assess your surroundings and proximity to known offenders.

Although it is a difficult subject to address, this link helps enhance the safety of our community through knowledge.

Use the site. Be knowledgeable and be safe.

Make your own candy for Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day is Thursday, February 14 ... and it's a really really big holiday! According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. Since many folks give candy along with their cards, this year you might have fun making your own candy. Put some pieces of homemade white divinity in a clear bag tied with a red or pink ribbon, and your gift is sure to generate sweet thoughts (and probably some hugs and kisses as well)! There are many recipes for divinity, all fairly similar; so pick one from your favorite cookbook or Internet site, and start cooking. It's easy to make; and if you're a WeightWatchers member, this candy won't sabotage your good efforts—it's only one point per piece!

Divinity

2 egg whites

1/2 cup water

1/2 cup light corn syrup

2 cups white sugar

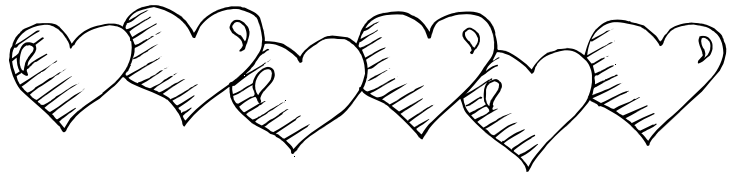
MIX together water and corn syrup in a heavy pan, and bring to a boil. Add sugar and continue boiling until dissolved. Continue cooking over medium heat, without stirring, to the hard-ball stage (about 250° on a candy thermometer).

WHILE syrup mixture is cooking, beat egg whites in a large bowl until they just hold their shape. When the syrup is ready, pour it slowly over the egg whites in a steady thin stream, whipping slowly at the same time. Do not scrape pan.

BEAT candy mixture until candy can be dropped onto waxed paper into pieces that hold their shape. (This can take a while.)

YIELD: 40 pieces (about 1-1/2 pounds of candy)

WeightWatchers Points: 1 point per piece



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MARCH 1 & 2, 2008



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Dental Tip of the Month

First Dental Visit of Children

Dear Friends,

The Academy of Pediatric Dentistry suggests seeing the child when the first tooth erupts or age one, whichever comes first. This is to inform the parents how to begin preventive dentistry for their children, discuss oral habits, fluoride uptake, nursing and bottle use. Regular cleaning visits with fluoride treatment can start at age 3.

Before the first dental visit for a child, I recommend going to the local library and getting a book on going to the dentist. I advise parents to tell the child they are going to meet their dentist, who is going to brush their teeth with a special toothbrush that tickles, and then he is going to count their teeth and make sure that they have a pretty white smile. Do not use the word "hurt" or "pain" at all.

Usually we allow the parent in the treatment room on a kid's first visit. Most young children feel more comfortable and secure having a parent or sibling in the room. However, if one of the parents has dental fears I suggest having the other parent accompany the child to the first visit. Children easily pick up your discomfort and fears about dentistry. After the first visit when dental work is being done, the child may do better with a "one on one" with the dentist. Many children act up with the parent present and actually behave better without a parent in the treatment area.

Once in the treatment room, refrain from talking, because kids can only listen to one person at a time. However, don't be afraid to ask the dentist any questions before the treatment.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sundranids@yahoo.com.

Your Dentist,

 **Dr. Sundrani**
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FOUR STAGES OF IMPROVING YOUR TENNIS GAME

Submitted by Fernando M. Velasco

Tennis players, as many other individual sports, need to have "personal" attention in order to improve their games. In my 35+ years of coaching, I have been successful improving games of players who have trusted me with their games, using the Four Stages listed below.

Stage One: Consistency

Our muscles react to repetition of something that feels good and natural. If a player needs work on a particular stroke, hundreds of balls need to be given so the production of their stroke looks the same regardless of where the ball is located. Consistency of grips, foot work, anticipation, point of contact and follow-through, need to be almost "carbon" copy of each other.

Stage Two: Control

Do you know that there are only eight shots that can be executed when you hit a groundstroke? They are: cross court, down the line, flat, top spin, slice, drop shot, lob and "miss-hits" Once a player reaches the consistency of getting the ball over the net and into the court, the player needs to start working on controlling the "where" and "how" type of shot. As players advance on control, they will combine these shots, such as "top spin cross court, slice down the line, top spin lobs, etc.

Stage Three: Depth

Most players want to hit the ball an inch above the net height. If players look at most of the great players, they will realize that most of the shots they hit are at least three feet over the net and land between the service line and base line of their opponents. The balls that are "skimmed" over the net, are usually passing shots when the players come up to the net, or great winners that only a Roger Federer or an Andy Roddick can do with great control and consistency.

Stage Four: Power

Once a player feels comfortable with the first three stages, then it is time to create Power. Unfortunately, most tennis players become injured by going to the Fourth Stage too quick into the game and become frustrated, thus ruining their weekend games and being sore for an entire week due to torn muscles. Power is generated mostly by good timing, good foot work, reading early where the ball will land, and by planning the shot even before the player gets to the ball.

Most players in League level 2.5 to 4.0 will end up winning their matches by mastering the first three stages, while the ones going to stage Four too quick, will be spending their time with ice packs and taking Ibuprofen pills until the next match and start the "vicious" circle again....

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Please place my name on the TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS list in the RANCH REVIEW.

Signature _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- Baby-sitting
- Pet Care
- House/Plant Care
- Lawn Care

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Phone _____

I give my permission for my child's name and phone number to be entered in THE RANCH REVIEW as a TEENAGE JOB SEEKER

Parent's Signature _____

Clip and mail to: The Ranch Review c/o SCS management
7170 Cherry Park Drive, Houston, TX 77095

Attention Teenage Job Seekers

Need some extra cash? Use THE RANCH REVIEW to find some work.

Fill out the form and send it to The Ranch Review, care of SCS Management. You will need to have your parent's signature on the form before your information will be published. To be removed from this list please call (281) 463-1777.

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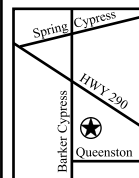
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Price trends for the previous month...



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Section 2	-	1	1	22	69.06
Section 3	3	1	-	-	-
Section 4	5	-	1	50	59.82
Section 5	5	-	-	-	-
Section 6	3	-	-	-	-
Section 7	-	-	-	-	-
Section 8	-	-	-	-	-
Section 9	4	-	-	-	-
Section 10	2	-	-	-	-
Section 11	3	-	-	-	-

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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