

RANCH RECORD

*News For The Residents of
Blackhorse Ranch*

Attention All Swimmers! Swim Year-round with the Texas Terrapins

Texas Terrapins Swim Team is Northwest Houston's new year-round competitive swim team offering instruction and competition to swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Texas Terrapins Swim Team practices week-days at the Fairfield Athletic Club's outdoor heated pool, located near Highway 290 and Mason Road in Cypress, Texas.

Texas Terrapins Swim Team offers several program options for swim team participation, along with a growing "Learn to Swim" Program.

Texas Terrapins Swim Team -- just our team name indicates that we're different! We have a team mascot -- the terrapin (think turtle) and our team colors are royal blue and neon green. And although we're serious about our swimming, we keep in mind that it's still about having fun! We offer flexible practice schedules for busy families and an ability to take time off during the year to participate in other activities/sports. We recognize a child's accomplishments both IN and out of the water. And we support an individual's goal, while encouraging overall team achievement.

So take a moment to visit our new website, filled with information on this exciting new team! Watch for Registration information in August.

www.texasterrapins.com
For more information contact:

TELEPHONE
NUMBER: (713) 291-
6830

EMAIL:
HCTTST@hotmail.com



Turtles Always Triumph

Cypress Cares

Founded by a former US Army Reserves officer in Cole's Crossing, Cypress Cares is a group of community volunteers, dedicated to providing community support for the troops who protect our freedoms, through care packages and letters of encouragement from those of us who are proud to be Americans.

The group relies 100% on volunteers, donated items and financial contributions. All financial contributions are used for postage and related expenses. All packages are shipped in U.S. Post Office Flat Rate Priority Boxes especially designed for APO/FPO recipients. A donation of \$10 will help pay to ship one box.

It is our duty as citizens of this free country to show our appreciation not only to our veterans, but also to those troops who are currently serving to preserve and protect the freedom we hold so dear. As we have learned since the founding of our country on July 4, 1776, Freedom Isn't Free!

Most everyone knows of someone who is currently or has been deployed to the desert in the years since 9-11 occurred. No matter your opinion about our political leadership or the war effort itself, our troops need and deserve your support and encouragement. Please consider helping us to show our troops that we support their sacrifices.

Cypress Cares is NOT a 501(c)(3) organization and therefore can not offer anyone a receipt for tax deduction purposes. We simply ask for groups, individuals and businesses to donate from their hearts.

We will strive to find ways to involve our community and to spread the word about our efforts. Any suggestions about how we can better serve our troops, please feel free to contact us. We may be reached at cypress_cares@yahoo.com.

Please visit our website at www.cypress-cares.org for more information.

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

RANCH RECORD

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire	911
Ambulance	911
Harris County Sheriff	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office	281-550-6663

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center	281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center	281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist	281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD	281-897-4000
Warner Elementary School	281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School	281-897-4600

PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office	281-373-9125
Drivers License Info.	281-955-1100
Harris County Tax	713-224-1919

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	888-687-6444
Article Submissions	blackhorse@peelinc.com
Advertising	advertising@peelinc.com

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Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing blackhorse@peelinc.com or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for the Ranch Record. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

August 11, 2008



Early Bird Discount
until
July 18th

Mustang Classic Golf Tournament

Register your foursome today, or sign up as an individual and we'll pair you up. All proceeds go to benefit all of the Cypress Ranch High School athletics programs.

To be played at



BLACKHORSE
GOLF CLUB

Lunch & Dinner included with fees

Dinner ONLY tickets available.

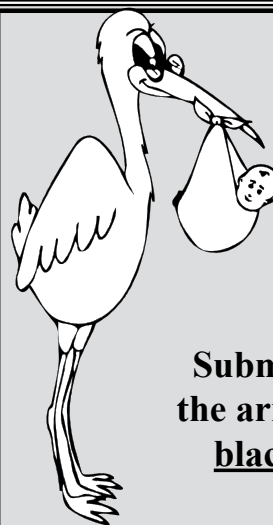
GREAT prizes

Silent Auction

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Available

For more information:

www.cypressranchfundraising.com



Stork Report in Blackhorse Ranch

Submit your information on
the arrival of your little one to
blackhorse@peelinc.com.

Cypress Assistance Ministries

11202 Huffmeister
281-955-7684

www.cypressassistance.org

CAM School Supply Drive

With the start of school just around the corner, CAM's school supply drive is in full swing. In August, we will be handing out school supplies to hundreds of children whose families are served through CAM. Your donations of school supplies are greatly appreciated. For a current list of needed school supplies go to our web site: www.cypressassistance.org.

For the summer, the Food Pantry is needing kid-friendly foods.

Cypress Assistance Ministries provides an array of services to needy families in the Cypress and Northwest Houston area. For a description of all our services, please see our web site, www.cypressassistance.org.

Lost Pets

Submitted by RB Cox

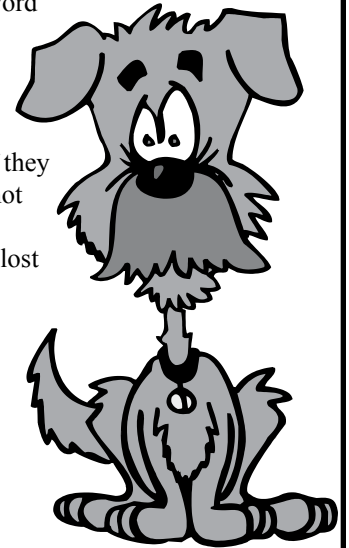
When a pet is lost, finding the pet means that time is of the essence. It takes time to create, print and distribute flyers. The flyers are many times illegible because of wind or rain. I certainly do not fault the pet owner because I have done this my self.

Frustrated, I thought there has to be a better way. So that is why we created Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com. The idea is to very quickly get the word out through an e-mail alert to as many neighbors as possible plus post the picture and information about the pet on the website under the specific neighborhood.

Once the email alert goes out to the specific neighborhood, many many neighbors are now aware. If they happen to forward the e-mail to their friends who have not signed up, it could mean hundreds of your neighbors are already alerted and are keeping their eyes open for your lost pet.

Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com is on call 7 days a week from sun up to sun down and is free. We are glad to work with any informal e-mail chains. The whole idea is to find lost pets quick for the good neighbors in Black Horse.

Please feel free to keep doing your posters but in the mean time give us a call.



When was the last time
someone got down on hands
and knees and cleaned *your*
bathroom floors?



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Call us within 24 hours after your
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Some things we'll always do. Our 22-Step Healthy Touch® Deep Cleaning System

Kitchen

- Clean sink
- Clean appliance exteriors
- Clean inside microwave
- Clean range top
- Damp wipe cabinet doors
- Clean counters
- Hand wash floor
- Load dishwasher

Bathrooms

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

All Rooms

- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Windows

- Clean entry window & one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink

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RANCH RECORD



The Tri-County Quilt Guild Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm

Meeting Place: Fairfield Baptist Church, 27240 High way 29
0 just off Muescke Rd, Cypress, TX 77433-4907

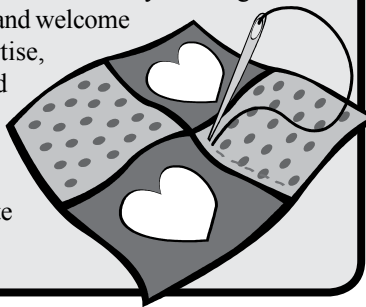
website: www.tricountyquiltguild.org

Established 2005

Some of our activities include Show & Tell, BOM's, Fabric Exchanges, Charity Quilts, Bees, Special Programs, guest speakers and more, with Door Prizes at every meeting!

We are a very friendly group and welcome quilters of all levels of expertise, from the Just Love Quilts and never sewn to the experienced and published. Visitors welcome!

Please check out our website for more information.



"Adventures in Mothering" at The MET

Submitted by Jennifer Everage

Mothers of Preschoolers need a little encouragement... and a whole lot of fun!

METMOPS is registering throughout the summer for the fall semester of MOPS. We are exploring "Adventures in Mothering". Join us this fall (September - December) on Friday mornings from 9:15 -11:45 a.m. at the Metropolitan Baptist Church. METMOPS meetings include awesome speakers, creative crafts, encouraging discussion time, food and door prizes. Childcare is provided with registration. Register now at metmops.org.

Cy-Ranch FFA

Submitted by Donna Wilson

Cy- Ranch FFA Parent Booster Club is forming now. If your student will be part of the Cy-Ranch FFA/Ag program please contact Donna Wilson at pointeofgrace7@aol.com for more information. We will begin to plan our 1st meeting with the parents this summer. If you like to join us please email for more details.



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Lone Star College-CyFair "Perspective"

Summer Fun in the Gallery and on Stage

The Bosque Gallery presents a University of Houston MFA Exhibition (July 15 - July 31) and a photo exhibition titled "IN-SITU: In the Place. - Italy Summer Study Abroad 2008" (Aug. 12 - Aug. 28). Go to CyFair.LoneStar.edu/bosquegallery for hours and artists reception. Don't miss this year's children's shows "Thaddeus and 'Tila" continuing through July 25 and "Go, Dog. Go!" Aug. 4 through Aug. 15. Then bring the family for Elton John and Tim Rice's "Aida" July 17 through July 27. The contemporary musical version of a classic tale of love and devotion tells the tale of the forbidden love between an Egyptian soldier and an enslaved Nubian princess. For tickets and information call 281-290-5201 or go to CyFair.LoneStar.edu/boxoffice.

Free New Student Orientation and Family Orientations!

Incoming new students and their family members will receive campus tours and learn about academic and student life. Choose among full-day and half day programs that also include My Records training, advising presentation and class registration, or mini orientation programs that include student panel, student activities information and a question and answer session. Programs are available in July and August. Register at CyFair.LoneStar.edu/orientation.

Family Story Time and Reading Programs Available

Families that read together, can succeed together to earn certificates, gift cards and other incentives as participants in the LSC-CyFair Library's Summer Reading Program. Be part of the Texas Reading Club Jubilee: 1958-2008! and help Texas celebrate 50 years of reading through numerous child, teen and adult programs. The Kids Corner also hosts the return of a weekly Family Story Time. Go to CyFair.LoneStar.edu/library for information.

L.I.F.E. Lessons in July

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) In July, the programs include a book discussion on "Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation" July 2; French pastry lesson July 9; a talk on the JFK assassination July 16; accenting your garden with color July 23 and cool, light summer meal ideas July 30. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to CyFair.LoneStar.edu/library.

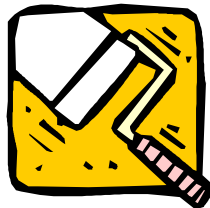
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RANCH RECORD

Students at Cypress Christian School Serving our Soldiers

*"Want to send your support to a soldier in harm's way,
but have no idea of what to send, who to send it to, or how to send it?"*



In the fall of the 2007-2008 school year, Mrs. Carolyn Morgan, fifth grade teacher at Cypress Christian School, asked this same question when planning a class

service project. Mrs. Morgan desired for her class to communicate with a soldier and bless him/her in whatever way possible. She logged on to AnySoldier.com to find volunteer soldier "contacts" on the "Where to Send" page. All the soldiers on this web site are military men and women stationed in areas that are in harm's way. She searched through the names and selected Major Christopher Lindner (shown at left).

Mrs. Morgan sent a few packages of goodies and supplies along with letters from her students to the address for Major Lindner. Upon receiving the packages, Major Lindner thanked Mrs. Morgan and her students via email and handwritten thank you cards. Mrs. Morgan began regularly corresponding with Major Lindner to determine his specific needs and requests. CCS students and parents jumped at the opportunity to continue blessing their "special" soldier. The back of Mrs. Morgan's classroom was piled with donations which filled nineteen boxes – all to be shipped to Iraq. Donations included study materials, snack items, toiletries, white socks

(which soldiers go through quickly), cards, letters and more. Major Lindner received so much that he was able to share the gifts with "his" soldiers serving alongside him in Iraq. He was even able to use some of the items in the Christmas stockings for his troops.

The fifth graders made it a priority to not only bless their special soldier with material items but to bless him through prayer. Major Lindner emailed specific prayer requests for his situation, his troops and his family back home in Colorado. In response to notes and cards sent by the students, Major Lindner wrote Mrs. Morgan saying, "I'm in awe of the love and grace that your children obviously have for God's people. They are truly an inspiration to me, that's for sure." (Shown at right are some of the fifth graders who were involved in this service project. On the last day of school they posed for a picture while holding photos, cards and letters from Major Lindner.)

Some may call this a coincidence but Mrs. Morgan gives all the credit to God for directing her to this godly man who needed encouragement while serving his country in a foreign land. Major Lindner said in an email to Mrs. Morgan, "I don't know if I speak for everyone, but there are many types of people who provide immense value for our country and we are just a small piece. So many people

get overlooked regarding their contribution and value to our future. I do miss my family so much, but I know that God has a plan for me and I have to trust that He will take care of the things I cannot. It's tough wanting to be there for my children and wife to provide that something that only a father can provide. However, I've had to realize that God can do that even better than I." What an example of faith this godly man was to our students!

Special Surprise: When the students who participated in this service project return to school in the fall, they have a special surprise awaiting them. Major Lindner sent the classes an American flag which was accompanied by a Certificate of Appreciation which states that the flag was flown at the Camp Remembrance II Theatre Internment Facility, Baghdad, Iraq, on February 22, 2008 in honor of Cypress Christian School.

We "salute" the men and women serving in the military and say "thank you" for sacrificial service!

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Bridgeland residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail bridgeland@peelinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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CY-RANCH "CLASSICS" GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Houston Oaks Golf & Country Club

22602 Hegar Road Hockley, Texas

Please join the Cy-Ranch High School "Classics" Parent Club as they host the 1st Annual Cy-Ranch "Classics" Golf Tournament on Thursday, July 24, 2008. The tournament will be a **four-man scramble** which will begin at **9:00 am with a shotgun start**. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Cy-Ranch "Classics" Drill Team as they begin their inaugural season.

Tournament Registration & Check-In will begin at 8:00 am:

Individual ~ \$100 Foursome ~ \$400

"Classics" Special ~ \$500 (Includes 4 Golfers & 1 Hole Sponsorship)

Entry Fee Includes: Green fees, cart, range balls, t-shirt, goodie bag, box lunch with drink, door prize ticket, and silent auction opportunity.

Team Captain _____

Phone # _____

T-Shirt Size _____

Player #2 _____

Phone # _____

T-Shirt Size _____

Player #3 _____

Phone # _____

T-Shirt Size _____

Player #4 _____

Phone # _____

T-Shirt Size _____

Sponsorship Opportunities: Includes Signage at Specific Location, Lunch, T-Shirt & Goodie Bag

Putting Contest Sponsor \$250 Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Longest Drive Sponsor \$250 Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Closest to the Pin Sponsor \$250 Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Hole Sponsor \$150 Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Featured Attractions:

Win a 2009 ACURA sponsored by STERLING McCALL ACURA for a Hole in One!

Possible Surprise Appearance from a Houston Texan at the Tournament!

Sorry, I/we cannot commit to a sponsorship and/or play in the tournament, but wish to donate _____ for a potential door prize, silent auction item, or goodie bag item for the tournament.

For Tax Purposes our Tax I.D. # is 262702933

Check Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: CRCPC, Inc.

(Cy-Ranch Classics Parent Club, Inc.)

Total Amount Charged: \$ _____

VISA MasterCard American Express

Account # _____

Expiration Date: _____

***Return** completed form to: CRCPC, Inc. at 15502 Rambling River Way Cypress, Texas 77433 or
Fax to 281.256.2329. Contact Lisa & Rick Cannon at 281.373.1969 for details and/or questions.

WRAP

(Wildcats Right After Prom)

Cy-Woods High School's project prom group of parents is busy raising funds for their first post prom celebration in May 2009. With about 930 seniors, WRAP has set a fundraising goal of \$100,000. Kicking off fundraising is the "Pave A Path To Woods" program. By purchasing a brick engraved with a senior student's name, a lasting memory of this first graduating class will be left at the school and project prom will earn funds at the same time. Bricks are \$100 each and the deadline to purchase is October 1st. Parents, relatives, friends and businesses can participate by buying a brick for their deserving senior. To purchase a brick, contact Cindy Theut c.theut@sbcglobal.net.

Parents can join WRAP by coming to the monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Cy-Woods High School Commons at 7pm or check out our website at cywoodswrap.org. Start earning WRAP bucks now--\$10,000 WRAP bucks for a brick and \$5000 for attending a meeting! See you there!

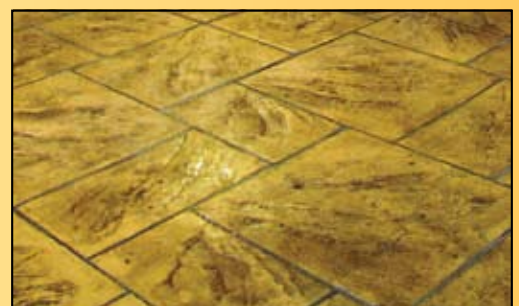
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Preschool OPEN REGISTRATION for 2008-2009 school year.

Our state licensed preschool program is for children age three as of September 1 through Pre-K. We offer classes from 9:15a.m. to 2:15p.m. Monday thru Friday. Please call 281-373-0834.

Fairfield Preschool Coupon

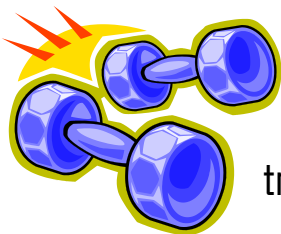
\$125⁰⁰ OFF

**Preschool Registration Fee
Good for the 2008-2009 school year**

*applies to new students to our program, must be presented at initial enrollment.

Fairfield Summer Camp open registration!

We offer camp for children who have completed Kindergarten through incoming fifth graders. Summer Camp is offered on a weekly sign up basis.



Fitness?
Ask about our new
training programs too!

Call: **281-373-0834**
www.fairfieldvillage.org

Spring Festival Raises \$510,000 for Boys and Girls Country

The Boys and Girls Country Spring Festival, held on May 3, broke all records for this event, netting over \$510,000. It was a day packed with entertainment, all types of booths for children of all ages, auctions, crafts, and barbecue, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Over 3,200 people attended the festival, including 500 hard working volunteers.

Boys and Girls Country is a residential Home for children, ages five to college age. The Home provides a loving, caring, safe environment in which children from families in crisis can grow into successful adults. Says Shirley Wright, Executive Director, of Boys and Girls Country, "this event not only raised much needed

funds to support our work with children, but it was also a wonderful opportunity for our neighbors in northwest Houston to learn how the Home is changing the lives of children".

The event was planned by members of the Spring Festival Committee and co-chaired by Karen Rosales and Frank Todaro. In addition, members of the Northwest Committee provided support in planning, marketing, volunteering at the event, securing booth sponsorships and auction items, and in selling drawing tickets.

Major underwriters for Spring Festival included Schulte Building Systems, HTK Consultants, Inc.,

Premiere & Co., American Association of Drilling Engineers, KPMG LLP, and Marathon Oil Corporation. Additional supporters included Sim-Tex, L.P., Hercules Offshore, Mirand Card Services, Bob and Helen Howard, El Paso Corporation, The Galloway Family, and Rodney and NaDean Eads.

For further information, please call George O'Neal at 281.351.4976, ext. 225.



Teen Drivers: Accidents Waiting For A Place to Happen?

Submitted by Victor Thompson

“Mom, where are the car keys?” Your teen can’t wait to start driving. But I know how worried you must be about your child getting behind the wheel of a car. Although the number of auto-accident injuries and fatalities among drivers between ages 15 and 20 is falling, accidents are still the leading cause of death for that age group. The good news: You can take steps to help keep your young driver safer:

- Limit night driving. Most fatal accidents involving young drivers occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. Night driving requires more skill than driving in daylight, and young drivers may be more prone to distraction, carelessness or fatigue when driving after dark. Let your teen get plenty of daytime-driving experience before you allow nighttime driving.

- Restrict the number of passengers. Nearly two-thirds of teen passenger deaths occur when the driver is also a teen. Teen friends in the car may distract a novice driver. And sometimes peer passengers encourage recklessness in a normally safe young driver. Limit the number of passengers your teen may have in the car.

- Choose safer wheels. That flashy red sports car or cool SUV may be your teen’s dream machine, but think “safety” when shopping for a vehicle, and look for one with protective features. For example, midsize cars typically withstand crashes better than small ones, and many newer models hold up better in crashes than older ones. Newer cars also offer improved safety features such as airbags and antilock brakes.

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Thunderstorms, Firecrackers, and Other Loud Sounds

Submitted by Luis Escobar, Dog Behavioral Therapist & Master Trainer

Does your dog jump at the clap of thunder? Does he bark at the bang of fireworks? Or is he calm with seemingly no reaction to the loud crashes?

Dogs have varying reactions to loud noises. Some may tear up the house, others may try to hide or run from the scary sounds, while others seem just fine.

If your dog appears fearful of clamoring sounds, check with your vet. Some dog's ears are so sensitive that the noisy clapping of thunder may actually hurt their ears. If a dog is somewhat deaf, these sounds may also cause adverse reactions. Your vet also can help if your pup needs a sedative to calm him during a noisy storm or explosive celebrations of the 4th of July. Also check with your vet about using Bach Rescue Remedy if a sedative is not appropriate.

Since you are not always home when storms hit, you will want to set up an area for your dog in which he feels safe. Crate training your dog offers him that safe haven. He should be able to access the designated refuge whenever you are not at home.

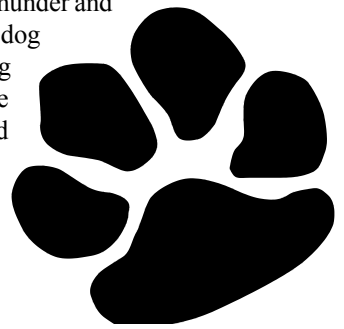
Some dogs react to an approaching storm long before it even reaches the area. It is as though that the dog is reacting to the sound of thunder from the distanced storm. The dog, however, is actually

reacting to the presence of static electricity in the atmosphere (as happens with the drop of barometric pressure prior to a storm).

These dogs need to be grounded. An anti-static mat can be placed in or under the dog's kennel. The kennel should be situated in a way that the dog thinks it has entered the house. The kennel should be soundproofed with rubber-backed carpet with an extra piece of carpet across the opening to create a flap that closes after the dog enters.

If the kennel is a safe place, the dog should be allowed to come and go as it wishes. Some dogs become so fearful that they may hurt themselves if the kennel is closed and they cannot escape. If the kennel is soundproofed, the bang of thunder and fireworks may be diminished and the dog may remain calm. If crating your dog is not a possibility or you do not have a crate, find a place where the sound is less intense. In a thunderstorm, the dog should be in a closed-in area that does not let in the flash of light.

(Continued from Page 13)



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Thunderstorms, Firecrackers- (Continued from Page 12)

The best solution, however, for dogs that are fearful of noises is desensitization. This is the process of helping your dog work through his fear of storms and other loud noises. It can be a slow process, and you must take time every day to work with your dog. Do not console your dog when he is fearful. Instead, distract him with something like play. He will be so busy playing that he may not even hear the thunder. You may also want to use a soundtrack of storm noises, firecrackers, car backfiring or other sharp sounds. Play the tape at a low level and simultaneously distract him by keeping him focused on play, on you or on another activity. Over time, increase the volume of the recording. Repeat this process until your dog has become accustomed to the noises.

Case Study: Rex, a Rottweiler, would begin acting anxious when a storm approached. The owner could not settle the dog, and he would hurt himself when the storm arrived. Rex would run through the house or the backyard crashing into things. One time he had escaped trying to run from the storm and was not found until after the weather calmed. The solution of using a crate with antic-static pads helped to calm Rex. The soundproofed crate diminished the sound of the thunder and the carpet prevented the flash of light inside. Rex is now calmer during a storm and much happier. The owner now has a calm dog and no longer needs to search for Rex after a storm.



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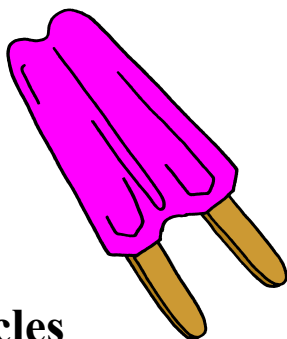
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Add cold water. Pour into molds and freeze.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe
email it to articles@peelinc.com.*

Summer Pet Health

By Jim Amyx, DVM

Pet owners are often surprised to learn common household plants are toxic to pets, with perhaps the Sago Palm being the most prevalent toxic plant in this area. Sago Palm trees contain a very potent toxin called Cycasin. The toxin, found in all parts of the plant, has its greatest concentration in the seeds and root balls of the Sago. A pet ingesting as few as 1 or 2 seeds can experience acute liver failure and death; therefore, please plant Sagos where your pets do not have access to them. If your pet does ingest any part of a Sago Palm, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Lilies are probably the second most prevalent plant toxicity in this area. Several types of Lilies are toxic, with the principal ones being Easter Lilies, Tiger Lilies, Stargazer Lilies, Peace Lilies and Day Lilies. Lilies are extremely toxic to cats. Generally, toxicosis occurs only in cats. All parts of the Lilly contain toxins that can cause acute renal failure.

As with Sago Palms, there is no specific antidote for the toxins, however expedient veterinary treatment and supportive care can improve your pet's prognosis for survival.

Other common toxic plants are Oleanders, Azaleas, Rhododendron, Laurel, Castor Beans, Foxgloves, Cyclamens, and Yews. Common houseplants that can be toxic as well. Go to the ASPCA poison control website (www.aspc.org) for additional information on toxic plants AND foods – grapes, raisins, onions, and chocolate are all toxic to your pet too!

I hope this "Summer Pet Health" series helps you and your pet enjoy the "Great Outdoors" this summer. Have a Great Summer!

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Garage Doors Certainly are “Beasts of Burden”

Submitted by Bill Cook

One of the most ignored and overlooked maintenance components of your home is your garage door and opener. These “beasts of burden” are frequently ignored, neglected and taken for granted...that is until they stop working.

An average two-car garage door has nearly forty moving parts and weighs approximately 300 pounds. When in the up position, the door is usually 8 feet above the floor with your second most expensive investment parked directly underneath. Last year approximately 20,000 garage door related injuries were treated in America's emergency rooms.

Given these facts, proper maintenance and repair should be a higher priority on our never-ending “to do lists”.

Basic routine maintenance should be performed every six months to maximize performance and extend the life of the moving parts of your garage door(s). While repairs should be left to the professionals, the following activities should be completed every six months:

Door:

1. Lubricate hinge joints with a silicone-based lubricant. Be careful in selecting a product as many common spray lubricants are alcohol-based and can actually dry out moving parts.
2. Do not lubricate track and rollers. This common misconception only serves to attract dust particles and cause further wear. While it does appear to be a short-term fix, over that short time, problems will become worse.

3. Release the door from the opener by disengaging the trolley (pull the red string down). * Raise the door to the halfway point. A properly balanced door should remain in that position. If the door falls or rises on its own this is a symptom of spring failure. Improperly balanced garage doors can cause opener and/or door damage. * Raise and lower the door manually. The door should require no more than ten pounds of force to raise. This is the maximum weight residential openers are designed to raise. Clacking, screeching or popping sounds also indicate moving parts failure. * Please Do Not attempt any repairs as certain garage door components can cause serious injury!

Opener:

1. Chain and belt drive openers should have a light coating of silicone-based lubricant sprayed on the boom (bar from the motor unit to the door) twice per year.
2. If the system has safety eye sensors (located at the bottom of the door tracks), make sure these are properly aligned and free of dust and debris. An obstruction could stop the opener from closing the door.

POWER SURGES to your home can severely damage the electronics of electric door openers. Should your opener operate erratically, DO NOT attempt to continue using it as it may damage your garage door.

It is always wiser to error on the side caution concerning this large, heavy moving wall in your home.



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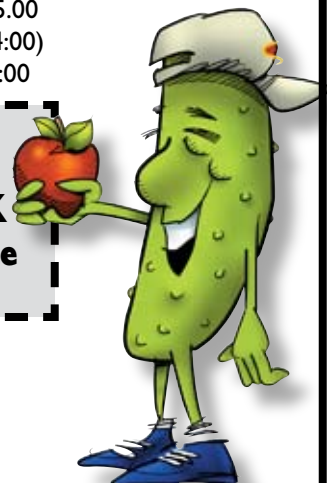
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RANCH RECORD

Texas Events - July

2-6—FREEPORT: Annual Fishing Fiesta Freeport Municipal Park. 979/233-1047

3-4—BAYTOWN: July 3 & 4 Celebration The Coastliners and headliner John Conlee performs from 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday. Friday continues with entertainment, activities, food, arts & crafts, kids amusement area and more. J. Paul Jr. & the Zydeco Nubreeds, Eli Young Band and Tracy Byrd perform at 4 p.m. Concludes with a 9:30 p.m. fireworks show. Bicentennial Park. www.baytown.org 281/420-6597

4—CLEAR LAKE AREA: Fourth of July Fireworks over Clear Lake Begins at 9:30 p.m. Clear Lake Park Boat Ramp. 281/488-7676

4—GALVESTON: July 4 Fireworks Display Begins at 9:15 p.m. 37th and Seawall. www.galveston.com 888/425-4753

4—GALVESTON: July 4 Parade Stages at 25th and Santa Fe Place, travels Santa Fe Place to the Strand, takes 21st to Postoffice, then Postoffice to 24th and 24th to Sealy. Enjoy a celebration with patriotic entertainment at Sealy Pavilion after the parade. galveston.com

4—HOUSTON: Target Summer Symphony Nights The symphony presents a rousing musical salute to Independence Day. Concludes with a spectacular fireworks display. Begins at 8 p.m. Miller Outdoor Theatre. www.milleroutdoortheatre.com 281/373-3386

4—LAKE JACKSON: Fourth of July Celebration & Fireworks Display 979/297-4533

4—MISSOURI CITY: July 4 Celebration at Buffalo Run Park Hamilton Loomis sings the blues while the "Wheels of Freestyle" stunt team performs BMX demonstrations. Features children's activities, food, crafts and fireworks over the lake. www.missouricitytx.gov 281/403-8500

4—PORT ARTHUR: Independence Day Celebration Lamar State College. 409/984-6101

5—GALVESTON: Art in the Park Offers an open-air market from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sangerfest Park. www.galveston.com

5—GALVESTON: Artwalk Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Galveston Historic District. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27—HOUSTON: Summer Concert Series Includes honky tonk, Tejano, funk, Cajun and bluegrass. Concerts begin at noon. Traders Village. tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

11-13, 18-20—GALVESTON: Nipples to the Wind The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

12—GALVESTON: Family Day: Rigs to Reefs Learn how obsolete oil platforms are being converted into artificial reef habitats and why sea creatures make these structures home. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, Pier 20. 409/766-STAR

12—GALVESTON: GCVA Galveston Summer Heat Tournament Presented by the Volleyball Association. Begins at 9 a.m. Stewart Beach. www.galveston.com

(Continued on Page 17)

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Texas Events - July - (Continued from Page 16)

15-20—HOUSTON: Disney's When You Wish Features some of the best-loved Disney songs of all time. Begins at 8:15 p.m. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. www.milleroutdoortheatre.com 281/373-3386

19—GALVESTON: Family Fishing Clinic All the basics will be taught and then practiced with hands-on fishing. Galveston Island State Park. 409/737-1222

19—PORT ARTHUR: Cayman Night in Port Arthur Carl Parker Multi-Purpose Center/Lamar College. 409/963-1107

24-26—GALVESTON: Texas Race Week in Galveston More than 50 sail boats race on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Begins between 10 a.m. and noon. The recommended places to watch the races are East Beach, Stewart Beach or a few miles down the Seawall. 888/425-4753

29—HOUSTON: Beauty & the Beast Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. www.milleroutdoortheatre.com 281/373-3386

30—HOUSTON: Freedom Train Presents an inspiring tale of a family's journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad through Texas into Mexico. Begins at 11 a.m. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. www.milleroutdoortheatre.com 281/373-3386

31—HOUSTON: Peter Rabbit Begins at 11 a.m. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. milleroutdoortheatre.com 281/373-3386

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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Ranch Record - July 2008 19

RANCH RECORD

Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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

*See solution at PEELinc.com

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July Landscaping

Submitted by Ron Kerwin

July heat will take its toll on our lawns, and everything in our lawns if we fail to use water properly. Water less frequently and deeper with each application. Our lawns need one inch of water per week. Do not water so much per application that it runs off into the street curbs, but do water as much as possible per each application. Put any straight-sided container out in the lawn, water for a specific period of time, and then simply measure the amount of water you caught in the container for that period of time. You now can figure an easy formula for the goal of 1 inch per week. Your lawn turf roots will seek a deeper soil level if you water longer with each application. Deeper roots will be healthier and less drought susceptible.

If your lawn turf is getting sparse under your trees, you might take a look at the following as a possible solution. Dead or damaged limbs in your trees are very visible right now. Remove them for a healthier and better looking tree. Raising the tree canopy will allow more sunlight to reach the lawn turf underneath. Raising the canopy means you simply remove the lower limbs from the tree trunk base upward to a point. This height varies with tree variety and it is basically up to your desires. After working on the canopy, you can work at thinning the tree. This involves removing the small diameter growths from each branch starting at the bottom limbs and working upward. Depending on the overall tree size you can remove these small growths out about 1/3 of the limb length from the main trunk. Removing all this will allow more light to get through to your soil. It also allows for an increase in air circulation through the tree, which is also a benefit to the tree. Another option would be to construct a bed and plant ground cover (Asian Jasmine or English Ivy) as examples of shade loving plants.

This is a good month to remove rose bush branches that are sickly or dead. A light pruning now will increase your fall flower production. Get a good thick layer of mulch down in all your beds to help your flowers and shrubs survive the heat we all know is coming. It is easy to figure your needs. Most mulch comes in 2 cubic foot bags. Take the length of your bed times it width, multiply by .17 (2 inch depth of mulch), or by .25 (3 inch depth of mulch), and divide by 2 cubic feet per bag. The result is how many bags you need to buy. Your shrubs bases take up some space so you can subtract one or two bags and still get by fine. Example- your bed is 5 feet by 25 feet. $5 \times 25 \times .17 / 2 = 10.6$ bags, buy 10 and you'll be just fine.

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Meet Austin

DOB March 2001

Austin is a playful and loving boy who enjoys playing in the water. He also loves Sesame Street books and his favorite character is the Cookie Monster. Austin is diagnosed with Autism and is learning how to communicate through sign language. He is also working on potty training. Austin is in special education and in kindergarten. His teacher reports that she enjoys having him in her class and that he has made a lot of progress. Austin is legally free for adoption and would do well with parents who can make an unconditional commitment to him.

For more information please contact:

Vanessa Coppola, MSSW

Adoption Coalition of Texas/Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.



Hint: Quote by W. C. Fields 1879-1946, American Actor

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
													H	E				G		A				J	

O N , U N O O N ,
 E H P L Z A U N H W X U E B N D N R N E H
 S O O O Y S
 N K T G Q E U P L Z R E C N F L Q E U Z T J G
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\$451,000 and above				1	1			0	0	1
\$351,000--\$450,000	3	1	1	2	1			1	1	0
\$276,000--\$350,000						1		3	2	0
\$231,000--\$275,000	1				2			0	1	0
\$201,000--\$230,000	1				1			1	0	0
\$200,000 and below	1	2	2					0	0	0
Total	6	3	3	3	4	1	-	5	4	1
Highest \$/sq ft	\$93.86	\$88.32	\$96.51	\$172.45				\$92.22	\$97.18	\$138.57

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