

RANCH RECORD

*News For The Residents of
Blackhorse Ranch*

CY-FAIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPRING RECRUITING OPEN HOUSE

The Cy-Fair VFD will be having a Spring Recruiting Open House at all 12 of our neighborhood fire stations on Saturday April 21st from 9am to 12. Those interested in joining or learning more about the Cy-Fair VFD can stop by and visit their local fire station and speak to actual volunteer firefighters about the needs and requirements to join. For more information on joining or to find your closest fire station please visit us at www.cyfairbravest.org or call 281-550-6663. The Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department is one of the largest volunteer fire departments in the Nation. We cover 156 sq. miles in Northwest Harris County from 12 Fire Stations and have over 350 volunteers.

YOUR NEIGHBOR'S NEED YOUR HELP!

Fifty years ago in the Cypress area, if you walked outside and saw your neighbor's house on fire there was no 911 to call, no fire station just around the corner and no fire fighters nearby trained to save lives and property. There was your neighbor and you. Along with anyone else who would stop to help, you would pass water buckets to each other, turn on the garden hose and hope to keep the fire at bay for the 20 minutes it took Houston, Fairbanks or Jersey Village fire departments to get an engine to your home. In 20 minutes, a home and a life built in it can be totally destroyed.

Responding to the need of their community, in 1961 the Cypress-Fairbanks Volunteer Fire Department was formed. The firefighters-to-be who signed up were mechanics, firefighters from other services, police, shop assistants, nurses, lawyers and other ordinary people from homes and businesses in Cypress-Fairbanks. Fire department phones were placed in businesses and homes throughout the region, and extensions run to homes to cover any calls received at night. Fire 'stations' were volunteers' homes, volunteers willing to be woken at any time of night with a cry for help. While the volunteer fire fighters responded, their wives would call the other volunteers – there were no pagers or cell phones in 1961.

Today, the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department has gone through many transitions. They have a state-of-the-art communications system. They have equipment that is the envy of many paid departments. And the word Volunteer does not mean Amateur – Cy-Fair has a no-cost training program for members that earns state qualifications in fire-fighting, EMS and Emergency Communications. But one thing has not changed – neighbors helping neighbors. No matter how good the training, the equipment or the operations, the Department needs neighbors to volunteer. They need YOU to volunteer. No matter what your day job is, no matter how busy or old you are. Man, woman, college student, the Department needs you to help us help your neighbor.

THE 14TH ANNUAL CYPRESS SPRINGS CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 - 9AM-5PM & SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012 - 10AM-4PM

The show is held at CFISD Exhibit Center located at

11206 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429

(1/4 mile north of Hwy 290 | 39,000 sq.ft. facility with 24-hour Security)

For information on renting a booth, please contact Penny Hecox at 832-392-3488 or email cyspringsffa@yahoo.com. All proceeds benefit the FFA Students at Cypress Springs High School

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Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Dept. Bus. Office281-550-6663

AREA HOSPITALS

Cy-Fair Medical Center..... 281-897-3300
North Cypress Medical Center281-477-0830
Willowbrook Methodist281-477-1000

SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD281-897-4000
Warner Elementary School.....281-213-1645
Spillane Middle School281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School.....281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School.....281-897-4600

PUBLIC SERVICES

Cypress Post Office281-373-9125
Drivers License Info.281-955-1100
Harris County Tax713-224-1919

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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.

Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?

We want to hear from you! Email blackhorse@peelinc.com to let the community know!

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Come Swim with the Fairfield Dolphins!



Several neighborhoods in the Cypress area do not have their own swim team. (Blackhorse, Lakes of Fairhaven & Cypress Creek Lakes, etc.); FAST extends an invitation to these swimmers to come join our team!

Fairfield Area Swim Team (FAST) is a neighborhood summer swim league that is part of the W1 division of NWAL (Northwest Aquatic League) which currently has over 99 swim teams. Fairfield's swim team has an awesome reputation as a neighborhood swim team, and we have our terrific 8 lane neighborhood pool, right here in Fairfield! Information about our team, practice location, general calendar items, coaches, board members, and more can be found on our website: www.swim4fast.net

This year we are offering our FAST families the opportunity to join FAST online through our new online registration starting March 1st, 2012 and ending May 1st, 2012. If you are interested in joining and are new to FAST Dolphins please come to the New Member Try Outs: Wednesday, April 25th 6:15-6:45 pm at the Fairfield Athletic Center. Look for the lady with the big blue cowboy hat; she will help get you into the right group to be evaluated by the Coaches.

PRACTICES BEGIN ON APRIL 24TH & WILL BE HELD AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL JUNE 1ST, WHEN THEY WILL BE HELD IN THE MORNINGS:

APRIL/MAY

Sharks.....3:15-4:15 PM
Rays4:00-5:00 PM
Flounders.....4:45-5:30 PM
Eels.....5:15-6:00 PM
Squids.....5:45-6:45 PM

JUNE

Eels..... 7:30-8:15 AM
Flounders..... 8:00-8:45 AM
Squids 8:30-9:30 AM
Rays..... 9:15-10:15 AM
Sharks 10:00-11:00 AM

Our intra-squad trial (Blue & White Meet) is May 6th and meets begin May 19th. We have swim meets every Saturday and finish up with our Divisional Meet (think of this as a swim tournament) on June 23rd. If you are interested in learning more about our program, please explore the website. If you have further questions please contact Shalle Hovorka, President at: president@swim4fast.org.

Cypress United Methodist Church

DONATES THOUSANDS TO LOCAL SCHOOL - \$8K TO GO TOWARD ADAM ELEMENTARY'S (CY-FAIR ISD) RUNNING TRACK

People normally think of church as a place that accepts donations, but this week Cypress United Methodist Church is giving a donation of \$8,000 to Adam Elementary School to be used to complete their running track. The check presentation ceremony was Wednesday, February, 29, at 11:30 a.m. at Adam Elementary, 11303 Honeygrove, in Houston. "Our theme for our Christmas Eve offering was 'Give It All Away,'" says Jerome Brimmage, Senior Pastor at Cypress UMC. "We felt led to give 100% of our Christmas Eve offering to support local and global missions. Locally, that portion of the money is going to Adam."

The track project at Adam has been in the works for eight years, but had stalled due to lack of funding. Cypress UMC "adopted" Adam Elementary in 2011, and has been instrumental in providing backpacks, school supplies, and volunteers to help the students and staff at the school. The program has been so successful; other local schools have contacted Cypress UMC, to see if they can be adopted as well.



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RANCH RECORD

CYPRESS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Pop show 'PIAZZ' on Feb. 24th and 25th was a huge success! Musical numbers from 'Grease', 'Sister Act', 'Newsies', 'Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?', 'Hairspray' and 'High School Musical' filled the stage for a truly entertaining evening. Performances were polished, sets were vibrant, costumes clever and our students dazzled us with their lively spirit. The Varsity Men's and Women's choirs, along with Acapella and Chamber choirs were melded together fantastically and masterfully in two weeks for an event that left you feeling happy and wanting more. Great job to all the behind the scene helpers, the baking parents, the costume making mom's and our amazing choir directors! You pulled off yet another smashing, scene stealing, show! BRAVO!

We would like to thank our student teacher that has been a wonderful part time addition to the teaching and directing of our choirs. Mr. Matthew Perez joined our team in partial fulfillment of his degree plan. While working with our students, he gained respect and admiration that will be carried with him as he continues his musical journey. His time at Cy Falls will no doubt enhance his future career and his presence will be missed.



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MANE 2012

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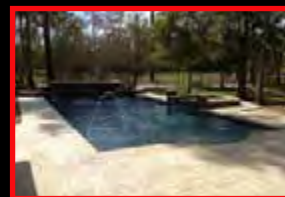
- Entry fee: \$10 or \$5 plus 12pack of Soda/Water (no store brands please)
- Children 10 and under Free

This is a fundraising event for cypress ranch project prom. A place that offers students and their dates a safe, fun, alcohol and drug free place to celebrate after prom. All proceeds go directly to MANE event 2012, the parent sponsored volunteer group. MANE stands for Mustangs at Nights End.



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RANCH RECORD

Auto Talk – Ask a Medic

Recently my mechanic said my catalytic converter is defective and has to be replaced. What is a catalytic converter and how does it become defective?

A catalytic converter is a device that converts three harmful compounds (hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides) in car exhaust into harmless compounds. Carbon monoxide is a poison for any air-breathing animal. Nitrogen oxides lead to smog and acid rain, and hydrocarbons produce smog.

A catalytic converter becomes defective when too much raw fuel enters the exhaust system—causing the metals inside to start imploding. When this happens, severe black exhaust fumes (smells like raw fuel) and/or “bogging down” can happen and causes back pressure on the engine. Your check engine light will illuminate on your vehicle’s dashboard when this occurs.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER FAILURE? TWO SIMPLE THINGS:

- Make sure your vehicle is tuned up on time; every time. Why? Once the spark plugs become worn, they will not burn fuel optimally—this causes raw fuel to enter and/or collect in the vehicle’s exhaust system.
- Service your cooling system every two years or 30,000 miles (contrary to the manufacturer’s suggestion of five years or 100,000 miles. With wear and tear, your vehicle’s cooling system thermostat may be sticking “open,” causing continuous flow of coolant—never allowing the engine to reach its full operating temperature the majority of the time. The driver will never see this issue on the gauge. It’s a minute problem that will cause severe issues to the catalytic converter later down the road. If the vehicle continuously stays cool, the computer wants to dump more fuel in the engine than what is really needed. This again allows raw fuel to enter the exhaust thereby causing catalytic converter failure.

Tommy Bludworth is an ASE certified technician with more than 15 years experience. Advice and recommendations given are for your convenience. You should see a qualified, professional when having any automotive repairs made on your vehicle.

CY WOODS KEY CLUB

When you normally hear clapping or cheering coming from proud parents, it is usually found at an outdoor sporting event, such as basketball, football, and soccer, or during an awards ceremony. Yet, when I heard these sounds, they weren’t at an outdoor sporting event but at the annual cup stacking tournament at Goodson Middle School.

At this event, I judged children from the ages as young as five to thirteen, watching large amounts of talent and precision in their abilities to stack cups at great speeds. My day began walking into the preliminary rounds of the competition. I was judging the seven-year old participants, for whom this might have been their first year participating. They were tasked with completing the 3-3-3, which was an event where they stacked up pyramids of 3 cups and then took them down. After the 3-3-3 they would complete the 3-6-3 which followed the same guidelines as the 3-3-3. After the 3-6-3, would be the Cycle, which is perhaps the most difficult because it involved stacking up the cups the same as the 3-6-3 then after taking the cups down, the cups would be divided into two towers of 6 cups each. They would then stack both towers into pyramids after which they take the pyramids down and then combine the cups into one tower and then build up into one grand pyramid before finishing in the 3-6-3 stance. Also with the singles divisions were the doubles divisions where two competitors would work as one stacker using only one hand depending where they stood to stack the Cycle.

When the preliminaries were completed, next were the team relays where a majority of teams worked against each other and the clock to advance into the next round. The teams completed the 3-6-3. With the 3-6-3 team relays the first person would start the clock and each contestant on the team would stack the 3-6-3, after the last person has stacked, he or she would stop the clock and the judges would compare scores and times to determine the winner.

Finally were the finals where the top 5 in each division would participate in head to head times. During this time, cameras would be set up to record the contestants stacking but there are two reasons for these cameras: one is to record the contestants in case they surpass and set new records, and another is to check whether or not they made a mistake and the time is not recorded as by this time, a majority of the competitors move too fast for the judges to properly observe.

During these events I witnessed many competitors moving at varying paces. The little kids would move at a speed many might describe as a snail’s pace while the older competitors might be moving as fast as a fighter jet. But no matter what speed the little kids were moving at, the whole goal was neither their ability nor speed at stacking, but for them to have fun. Witnessing the number of smiles and laughter from the kids, as well as cheering from excited parents, I can tell without a doubt that this goal was accomplished in soaring numbers.

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RANCH RECORD

The Zeta Tau Alpha Pink Tie Affair Casino & Silent Auction

The Zeta Tau Alpha Cypress, Texas Alumnae Chapter meets often to foster friendship, encourage service to the community and to support breast cancer awareness and education by raising funds for the ZTA Foundation. We invite any interested Zetas to reconnect with the Fraternity by joining our group! For more information on our group and registration please visit our website at www.cypresszta.com.

SAT., OCTOBER 6, 2012

PINK TIE AFFAIR CASINO & SILENT AUCTION

The ladies of the Zeta Tau Alpha Cypress Alumnae chapter have started plans for their Second Annual Pink Tie Affair to be held on October 6, 2012 at the Sterling Country Club at Houston National! The first annual Casino and Silent Auction night held last October was a great success raising \$7,000 to benefit breast cancer awareness. Be sure to mark your calendars for October 6, 2012 to join the fun and to help support a great cause, Breast Cancer awareness and education! For more details on the event and clips of last year, please contact Natalie Taylor at daisemail@comcast.net or visit our website at www.cypresszta.com.



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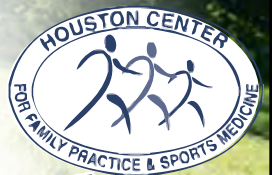
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Fit & Fun: Health Tips for You & Your Children

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Getting fit and staying fit can be a fun process. That's true for individuals, and it's especially true for families. Fitness is an important topic, especially when your daily routine involves a lot of sitting, whether at work, at school, or at home in front of a computer or TV screen. The habits that we learn as children are often the habits we carry into adulthood. As parents, we can help our children build healthy habits and find new, fun ways to motivate ourselves and our children to get active.

**BELOW ARE SOME IDEAS FOR
GETTING OFF THE COUCH & HAVING
SOME FUN WHILE GETTING FIT:**

- **Take an active vacation:** It's tempting every day to think of your vacation as a time to sit and relax. But isn't that what your body does everyday? Instead, you can

plan a trip that includes hiking, biking, skiing, and other activities that the whole family can do together.

- **Visit a local park:** It doesn't have to take a whole day, but you could spend a few hours playing at a park. Take a ball (football or soccer), a Frisbee, or a hacky sack, and play. You can invite some friends to join you, too. And remember: It's not just about the kids moving around – it's your time, too!
- **Hold a block party:** Call your neighbors, and block off the closest cul-de-sac for a get together that includes fun and active games. From freeze tag and relay races to hide-and-seek and kickball, there are hundreds of activities to choose from that are fun for everyone.

- **Go for a hike:** Find a local area where you and your family can go and hike for a few miles. Spend time outdoors, and enjoy what nature has to offer while you all get fit!

For more ideas about fun activities, visit the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's Web site at: www.aahperd.com.

**THE GOAL: BE INSTRUMENTAL IN
ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP
THE GOOD HABIT OF MOVING THROUGH
SPACE, NURTURING THEIR PHYSICAL
POWER, & GETTING FIT.**

For more information about healthy activities, contact your health care provider or your Concentra health specialist. For more information on the importance of fitness for children, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity/>

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Houston Repertoire Ballet Presents the Classic Cinderella

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WHO

Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB), featuring guest artist David Armendariz as the prince, while Claire White and Amaris Sharratt will alternate the role of Cinderella.

WHAT

The pre-professional ballet company in Northwest Houston proudly presents the Tomball premiere of its full-length production of Cinderella in three acts. Award-winning choreographer Victoria Vittum brings the classic fairy tale to life with her interpretation of this "happily ever after" ballet set to the timeless score of Sergei Prokofiev.

WHEN & WHERE

**Saturday, April 28 at 4pm & Sunday,
April 29 at 2pm**

**Tomball High School Auditorium
30330 Quinn Road
Tomball, Texas 77375**

TICKETS

Reserved Seating: \$15/\$18. For ticket information, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721) or visit www.hrbdance.org.

OUTREACH

The dancers of HRB perform excerpts from each production and make costumed appearances at various nursing homes, group events and at Arts & Education performances. Also, HRB will perform for the Tomball ISD fourth grade students, fulfilling the arts component of their curriculum. To schedule an outreach event for your organization, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721).

WHAT ELSE

Cinderella's original choreography is the creation of Victoria Vittum, with Barbara Le Gault doing much of the coaching and rehearsing. HRB's beautiful sets transform the stage back into a time where dreams really did come true. The exquisite costumes, designed by an amazing group of volunteers and partnered with Twin Cities Ballet in Monroe, LA, bring the dancers into Cinderella's world of magic and fantasy in this professionally staged production.

SYNOPSIS

The magical tale of a beautiful, kind young woman who rises from scrubbing floors to marrying a prince comes to life in Cinderella, a full-length ballet presented by HRB. From the wicked stepsisters' hilarious antics to the lovely pas de deux performed by Cinderella and the Prince, the performance is sure to capture the hearts of all. The ballet opens with the sisters fighting over fabric with Cinderella left to pick up the mess. The wicked stepmother orders Cinderella's father to purchase gowns for the sisters (Skinny and Dumpy) leaving Cinderella home alone. The fairy godmother conjures up fairies representing the four seasons to help Cinderella get dressed for the ball where she and the Prince fall in love. After elves stop time and Cinderella loses one of the glass slippers, the Prince travels the world to find her. Once they are reunited, they marry in an enchanted forest amid waltzing dancers.

ABOUT HRB

The Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), founded by Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome, both nationally acclaimed teachers and choreographers who served as its co-artistic directors. Today, Ms. Vittum oversees training and programming with an equal eye to serving the needs of the community. Although Mr. Rome is now retired, he maintains his interest and affiliation with HRB, performing as Drosselmeyer in *The Nutcracker* and as a guest teacher.

Since 1994, HRB has contributed to the cultural fabric of Harris and Montgomery Counties by providing excellent dance training to the area's young ballet stars and dance educators of tomorrow, while also presenting two high-quality productions annually at affordable prices. The *Nutcracker* and its Spring Program, this year *Cinderella*, introduce area children and their families to the world of classical and contemporary ballet. Today, HRB is considered to be the premiere pre-professional ballet company in the Houston region, and is recognized for sharing its gifts with the community and beyond.

The program attracts and develops some of the finest young dancers in the greater Houston area, with many of the dancers advancing to professional ballet companies throughout the country. HRB graduates can be seen with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and other prestigious companies. HRB has three graduating seniors this year and each will continue with dance at the university level. For more information, please visit: www.hrbdance.org.

MISSION

HRB's mission is dedicated to providing the finest classical ballet instruction, education and performance experience to local gifted students, and to preparing them for a professional career in the world of dance. HRB also is committed to serving the suburban Houston region with high-quality theatre productions that educate, engage and entertain residents of all ages and perpetuate their appreciation of dance as an art form.

Major funding for Houston Repertoire Ballet provided by Houston Endowment, Inc and ConocoPhillips. *Cinderella* is funded in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance.

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RANCH RECORD

Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life Cy-Fair

We are contacting you to inform you of an upcoming free event that will take place in your neighborhood.

The members of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Cy-Fair planning committee are proud to announce that we will be hosting our Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life Cy-Fair. The event will begin the evening of APRIL 13th and last until the morning of APRIL 14th held at CY-FALLS High School, 9811 Huffmeister Road, Houston TX 77095.

The Relay is a 12-hour, overnight, continuous walk to help raise money to further the American Cancer Society's mission of eliminating cancer by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by

finding cures, and by fighting back.

The event will include a live band, disc jockey, carnival type games, food, contests, silent auction, etc. GREAT FAMILY FUN with all profits going to the American Cancer Society.

Relay activities kick off at 7pm with the opening ceremony. We extend a heartfelt invitation to you and your family to participate in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Cy-Fair. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the fight against cancer, please contact:

Catherine Kovar at 713-826-2841 or
Karen DePaul at 713-471-1265

Sincerely,
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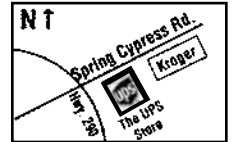
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Blackhorse Ranch Year-to-Date Sales Report

	May '11	June '11	July '11	Aug '11	Sept '11	Oct '11	Nov '11	Dec '11	Jan '12	Feb '12
\$500,000 and above	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
\$451,000--\$499,999	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0
\$351,000--\$450,999	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	3	2	1
\$276,000--\$350,999	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
\$231,000--\$275,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$201,000--\$230,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$200,999 and below	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	2	2	5	2	3	2	4	2	2
Highest \$/sq ft	\$95.69	\$111.23	\$105.13	\$117.36	\$112.30	\$112.27	\$112.27	\$108.92	\$109.27	\$85.39

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