

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this is being written in early May, our totally new playground with a 40 by 40 foot cover has just been completed and seeing the amount of young families enjoying it during the first weekend was great. It took quite a lot of time to get everything together including the bidding process, the board decision as to which company and plan to go with, and the final actual removal of the original (unfixable) old structure and the new construction. This total structure is sturdy----the holes for the shade structure are 9 feet deep and 3 feet in diameter with a lot of concrete and rebar. Total cost was just over \$60,000. As I have written previously, commercial play equipment is expensive. Some may think that there is a lot of unused space within the borders, but it had to be this way to be compliant with all safety regulations.

We have received two bids for the construction of the sidewalk on the northwest side of Edgewood Place but are having them tweaked as we may add a walk from Valiant Woods to the mailbox cluster and add a walk across the front of the playground since the absence of such makes kids on bikes have to go out onto the street at the intersection of Edgewood Place and Stone Forest. All that process will hopefully be done before June ends. (But I'm not taking any bets.)

All of this sounds expensive; it is. BUT we do have the money on hand and none of this will cause the HOA dues to be raised. We are still comfortable.

Another change has to do with the moveable type of basketball goals. I talked with two realtors regarding this issue. Basically, I

asked that if they were bringing clients into a neighborhood and there were goals next to the driveway on the grass or in front of a garage door, what would the impact be on potential buyers. The response was that it would show that there were young families with kids and that it was an active neighborhood. Both stated that it was definitely a plus factor---providing that those goals were in good shape. In our April HOA board meeting we voted to amend the guidelines regarding placement of them when not in use but continued that they must be in good shape with specific guidelines to that effect.

Now that the weather has become (at least for a while) comfortable in the evening I'm encouraging residents to get out and walk, bike or whatever in the evenings when time allows and enjoy meeting other residents. During the evenings I've met about another 10 families. They are really friendly and, as I have always believed, everyone has many interesting stories in their history. (And some of their kids are ALMOST as neat as my grandkids!)

Not much else to pass on now except that I still have a set of keys (one of which is to a Ford) that were lost at the playground on the first weekend it was open which was April 25/26. Call me or email me at the numbers on the webpage or this newsletter, tell me what else is on the key ring, and I'll be glad to get them back to you.

Thanks, Dick Leonard, Pres.

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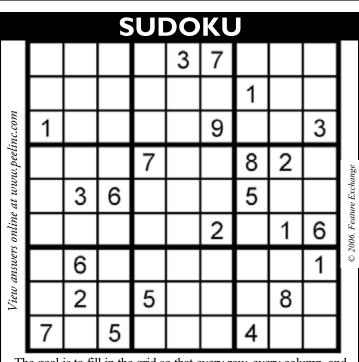
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A FOCUS ON SUNBURN

Protect Your Skin From Our Powerful Sun

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Sunburn is caused from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. While the symptoms (such as red skin that is painful to the touch) are usually temporary, the skin damage is often permanent and can cause serious long-term health effects, including skin cancer, pigmentation and premature aging. In addition to the skin, eyes can get burned from sun exposure; sunburned eyes turn red, dry, and painful, and can feel gritty.

Sunburn results when the amount of exposure to the sun or other ultraviolet light source exceeds the ability of the body's protective pigment, melanin, to protect the skin. Sunburn in a very light-skinned person may occur in less than 15 minutes of midday sun exposure, while a dark skinned person may tolerate the same exposure for hours.

Sunlight contains an invisible form of radiation called ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV A and possibly UV B can harm skin, connective tissue and increase risk for developing skin cancer. Certain drugs such as some blood pressure medication, antibiotics and nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs increase sensitivity to sunlight and the risk of getting sunburn.

SYMPTOMS

The first signs of a sunburn may not appear for a few hours. The full effect to your skin may not appear for 24 hours or longer. Possible symptoms include:

- Red, tender skin that is warm to touch. (1st degree burn)
- Blisters that develop hours to days later. (2nd degree burn)
- Severe reactions (sometimes called "sun poisoning"), including fever, chills, nausea, or rash.
- Skin peeling on sunburned areas several days after the sunburn. *FIRST AID*
- Try taking a cool bath or shower. Or place wet, cold wash cloths on the burn for 10 to 15 minutes, several times a day. You can mix baking soda in the water to help relieve the pain. Small children may become easily chilled, so keep the water tepid.
- Apply a soothing lotion to the skin.
- Aloe gel is a common household remedy for sunburns. Aloe contains active compounds that help stop pain and inflammation of the skin.
- Over-the-counter steroid cream can also be applied several times a day.
- Over-the-counter pain medication, such as nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, including aspirin, may be helpful, and are excellent for reducing burn inflammation whereas Tylenol only reduces pain, not the burn itself.

For more information, check out: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/uvradiation





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Bring the World to your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a HYPERLINK "http://www.ayusa.org" high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through personto-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs – especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose

children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Heather Wells, Senior Regional Director for HYPERLINK "http://www.ayusa.org" Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural traditions.

"My daughter Kelsie feels as if Isabelle, our exchange student from Germany, is an older sister to her," said Melissa Hughes, an Ayusa host mom from Ashville, North Carolina. "They have confided in each other, have had movie nights together, and have gone to the

(Continued on Page 5)



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mall together - much like natural sisters would do. Kelsie will never forget Isabelle and they have already planned future get-togethers when they are older."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

"In Tunisia, we always hear about Americans and American life style, in movies, media, songs, everything, and I know it is different, and I wanted to figure out this difference myself," said HYPERLINK "http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8_px-f7mhY" Asma, a bubbly high school student from Tunisia who spent a school year living with the O'Donnell family in Anchorage, Alaska.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

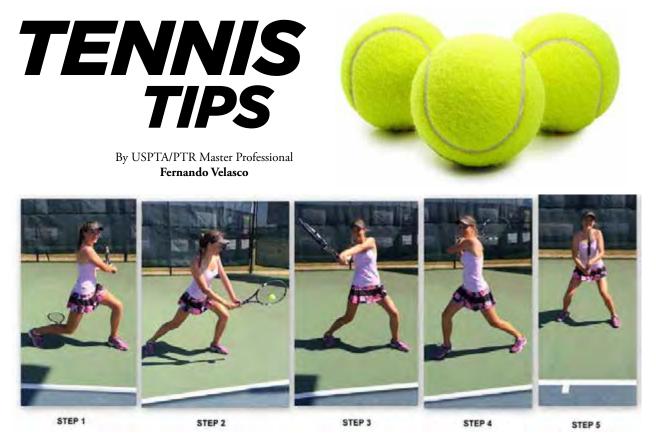
Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

"Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community," says Heather Wells. "There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home."

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at:

www.ayusa.org





The Modern Game: The Top Spin Backhand

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the "modern" game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may be already playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more "weapons" on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Top Spin Backhand. This shot is used when a player is presently hitting the ball long and out. The ball will be aimed high over the net and hit with power. The ball will have a "top spin" so that when the ball hits the court, it will take a big hop, forcing the opponent to fall back close to the fence, or to hit the ball on the rise.

In the illustrations, Tyler Duncum, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Tyler is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant. This shot can also be executed from the service line as an "approach shot" to the net.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Tyler is pulled wide to her backhand, she makes a quick turn of her upper body and takes her racket back. The head of the racket is now at waist height, her shoulders are turned, the left hand holding the racket, and her right hand changing to the "continental grip". She has loaded her left hip to help her drive her weight forward. Her left grip is relaxed and her wrist is "laid back" to allow maximum point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a top spin shot is keeping the ball on the strings going from low to high in a 30 degree angle and accelerating the racket head around the outside of the ball. Tyler started the swing high and "looped" it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. She will be brushing around the outside of the ball as she makes contact with it. Her right shoulder is almost opening and her weight has now been shifted toward the front.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to get maximum control and power, Tyler is keeping her left arm almost straight as she extends through the shot. She has "snapped" her left wrist and her right hand helps with the stability and power. She has now allows her left side to transfer forward towards the net.

Step 4: The Finish: Tyler's upper body acceleration is creating a high finish over her right shoulder. Her legs are already in position to recover back towards the middle of the court.

Step 5: The Ready Position: Once Tyler returns the ball to her opponent, she goes back home (towards the center of the court), to be ready for the next shot. Her knees are slightly flexed, she is in a good athletic stance and her eyes are focused on the oncoming ball.

Look in the next Newsletter for: "The Modern Game: The Forehand Approach Forehand Volley"



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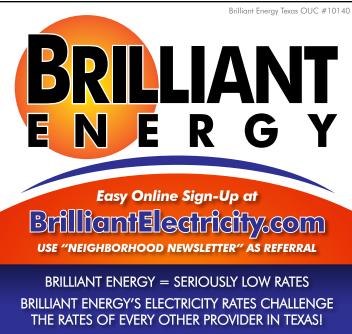
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