

RANCH RECORD

*News For The Residents of
Blackhorse Ranch*

Fit and Fun: Health Tips for You and Your Children

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 and 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, and 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/>



RANCH RECORD

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Ambulance	911
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Spillane Middle School	281-213-1645
Cy Woods High School	281-213-1727
Cy Fair High School	281-897-4600
Cypress Ranch High School	281-373-2300

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NORTHWEST FLYERS YOUTH TRACK CLUB SEASON STARTS SEPT 8TH

The Northwest Flyers Track Club Youth Cross-Country Team kicks off the fall season with registration and a mandatory orientation for parents and athletes on Monday, September 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Registration will be held at Cypress Creek High School, 9815 Grant Rd., Houston, TX. The first practice will be held at the Cypress Creek YMCA on Thursday, September 11.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a member program of USA Track and Field (USATF), the national governing body for track and cross country. The club is in its 27th year in the northwest Houston area. Ages 6 - 18 may participate in the team, and both beginners and experienced runners are welcome. Middle school and high school cross country athletes can also register, but should compete after their cross country season is over.

Contact Coach Eric Wentworth at emw185@gmail.com, 281-961-6603, or Coach Donnell Carter at dcarter.nwflyers@yahoo.com, 281-467-4727, for more information. Email Coach Carter to get on the email list and you will receive a free running training video. Visit www.northwestflyers.org to get updates and learn more about the team.

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Youth Art Contest - Enter by November 1

Kids 19 and younger may enter the “Get to Know” Texas State Parks Youth Arts Contest! There are five categories with rules and prizes, and you may enter as many as you wish by following three steps:

Visit a state park for inspiration!

Create an original work of art:
writing, photography, video or music.

Get instructions to submit your work at
www.KeepCyfairBeautiful.org




Last day to enter online or by mail is November 1st

Prizes in the national “Get to Know” contest include digital cameras, underwater cameras, camcorders, art supplies, binoculars, fishing rods, writing supplies and more. Texas State Parks will award Junior Ranger daypacks, caps and water bottles!



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Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)-Houston-Pack:

On August 1 & 2, 2014 at the Berry Center in Cypress, more than 5,000 volunteers from churches, businesses, & schools throughout the city of Houston will join together and pack 1.25 MILLION dry rice/protein "Manna Pack" meals with the "Feed My Starving Children" missions organization!! This is an opportunity for your family & friends, ages 5-95, to experience a mini-missions trip right here at home. Please visit The website to 1. Donate towards the HoustonCityPack event. Each volunteer will pack approximately \$50 worth of food. 2. Register you & your family to volunteer for a two hour packing shift. Please join us in this united effort to meet an immediate food need that will turn hunger into hope for children, in Jesus' name, all across the globe. *Note-the Friday (8/1) night packing shift will be geared towards Junior High & High School students.

Websites with more information include:

<http://houstoncitypack.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fmschouston>

Twitter: Follow @HoustonCityPack
FMSC.org

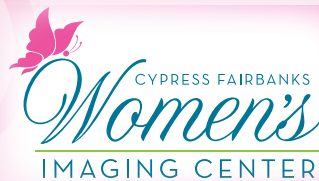
Sign up individually or in groups through the website.

Please email Meghan Martin at MeghanMarie918@gmail.com with further questions about getting your family, churches, businesses or groups involved with this event. Thanks!



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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



CAPTION 1



CAPTION 2



CAPTION 3



CAPTION 4



CAPTION 5

The Modern Game: The Forehand Approach Shot

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 in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Top Forehand Approach Shot. This shot is used when an opponent hits a soft shot that has bounced high over the net. The player will take advantage and will charge to the net, thus hitting with top spin high over the net and hit with power. 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. This shot can be used as a “winner” or as an “approach shot.”

In the illustrations, Christian Smith, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Christian is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Christian sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, the left hand in front of his body for balance. He has loaded his right hip to help him drive his weight forward. His grip is relaxed and his 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. Christian started the swing high and “looped” it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. He will be brushing around the outside of the ball as he makes contact with it. His right shoulder is almost opening and his weight has now been shifted toward the front.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to get maximum control and power, Christian is keeping his left arm in front as he extends through the shot. He has “snapped” his left wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is in the process of shifting forward.

Step 4: The Finish: Christian’s upper body acceleration forced his head of the racket to “wrap around” his left hip, thus creating the most power and topspin on the ball. His legs are already in position to move forward the net for a volley.

Step 5: The Ready Position: Once Christian hits the ball, he must get ready to volley if the ball was not a “winner”. By the smile on his face, his forehand approach shot was successful and is waiting for an easy return to “kill” the next shot. His knees are slightly flexed, he is in a good athletic stance and his eyes are focused on the oncoming ball.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Backhand Approach Shot”

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