

The Coles CONNECTION

Volume 9, Issue 4

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF COLES CROSSING

April 2015

Houston Repertoire Ballet's The Nutcracker will feature Coles Crossing residents Katie Davis, Aubrey Parks, and Rebecca Webb!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR THE APRIL 25 & 26 PERFORMANCES

WHO: Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB), Northwest Houston's premiere pre-professional ballet company, featuring guest artists from Ballet Idaho: HRB Alumna Elizabeth Keller and Andrew Taft.

WHAT: Houston Repertoire Ballet proudly presents the 2015 Celebration of Dance, a celebration of life, of beauty, of childhood simplicity – a true celebration of the art of dance and its unique ability to express and walk us through all of what life can lay before us! Included in the show are: Storybook Fantasy by Victoria Vittum, a favorite among children and a special trip down memory lane for the adults; Paquita, an energetic classic with Spanish flair; Shostakovich Suite by Steve Brule, celebrating the famous ballerinas of painter Edgar Degas; and two new works by emerging choreographers Leah Smith and Rebecca Webb, commissioned specifically for HRB dancers.

WHEN: Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm & Sunday, April 26 at 2 pm

WHERE: Tomball High School Theatre
30330 Quinn Road Tomball, Texas 77375

TICKETS: Reserved seating. Tickets: \$15 adults and \$12 students/seniors. For ticket information, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721) or visit www.hrbdance.org. For community groups, call the box office to ask about our group discount.

OUTREACH: Each year, the dancers of HRB perform excerpts 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).

GUEST ARTISTS: Elizabeth Keller was born in Dubai, UAE, and began her training at the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England. She then moved to Houston, TX where she trained with Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome at the Ballet Center of Houston and danced with the Houston Repertoire Ballet. At age 15, Ms. Keller was invited to train at Rock School of The Pennsylvania Ballet on full merit scholarship. There she was coached extensively by "Prima Ballerina Assoluta," Ms. Violette Verdy, and danced with the Pennsylvania Ballet for two seasons. In 2002, she attended the Miami City Ballet School summer intensive and trained with the Miami City Ballet School for the year before joining as a fulltime company member in 2003 under the direction of the founder and Artistic Director Edward Villella. Ms. Keller danced with the Miami City Ballet for ten seasons.

Her fondest memories of dancing with MCB include Symphony in Three Movements, Symphony in C, Lilac Garden, Serenade, Who Cares?, Donizetti Variations, Four Temperaments, Balanchine's full length Jewels, Giselle, Mercuric Tidings, Tarantella and Paquita. Elizabeth moved to Boise, Idaho in 2012 to join Trey McIntyre



Photo By: Steven O'Connor

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COLES CONNECTION

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ARTICLE INFO

The *Coles Connection* is mailed monthly to all Coles Crossing residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to colescrossing@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

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(Continued from Cover Page)

Project and work with the internationally and nationally acclaimed choreographer, Trey McIntyre. Ms. Keller was a part of the uniquely talented and forward-thinking organization for two seasons. She now calls Boise, Idaho home. Elizabeth will be joining Ballet Idaho for the 2014/2015 season.

Ms. Keller also has a passion for teaching. The last 10 years, she has taught summers in Houston, TX at Ballet Center of Houston; Saratoga Springs, New York, where she ran and was on faculty at The New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA); and was on the fulltime ballet faculty at Miami City Ballet School for two years. Ms. Keller was appointed the Children's Ballet Mistress for Balanchine's "The Nutcracker" at Miami City Ballet from 2009-2013. She will be joining the faculty at Eagle Performing Arts Center and Ballet Idaho Academy for the 2014/2015 school year. Ms. Keller also is thrilled to announce that she will be starting the very first Dance for Parkinson's classes in Boise, ID this fall.

Andrew Taft was born in Miami, Florida where he began his classical training at the age of nine with Ruth Wiesen at the Miami Conservatory. He also studied with Thomas Armour, Robert Pike, Nancy Raffa, as well as other professional guest artists. He trained in both Limon and Graham technique at the New World School of the Arts. His ballet training continued in New York City with private coaching by Johan Renvall and David Howard.

Mr. Taft has danced leading roles with Michael Uthoff Dance Theatre, Miami Ballet, Francis Owen/Cox Dance, Ballet Hawaii and Miami City Ballet. Notable roles include Franz in Coppelia, Soloist in Theme and Variations, Prince Charming in Cinderella and The Bluebird in The Sleeping Beauty. In 2011, Andrew had the honor to perform for Michelle Obama and her daughters in Ballet Hawaii's The Nutcracker. This is Mr. Taft's fifth season with Ballet Idaho and his first as a Principal. He has danced leading roles in Yes, Virginia, Another Piano Ballet, The Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Pulcinella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Piano Concerto in G, Firebird and many others.

SYNOPSIS: Storybook Fantasy: Victoria Vittum's light-hearted tale of a young girl who falls asleep while reading, only to find that the characters from her book have come to life and begin to dance with her and the toys in her room. Reunite with Mickey & Minnie Mouse, Cat in the Hat, Snow White, and many more!

Paquita: A fiery, energy-filled classic by famous choreographer Marius Petipa, Paquita will delight with its Spanish flair, its grand corps de ballet, and guest artists from Ballet Idaho, HRB alumna Elizabeth Keller and Andrew Taft.

Shostakovich Suite: Playful yet elegant, like the paintings, this ballet celebrates the famous ballerinas brought to life by Edgar Degas.

Plus two new pieces by emerging choreographers Leah Smith and Rebecca Webb.

ABOUT HRB: The Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), founded in 1995 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 as a guest teacher.

For two decades 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 HRB's spring program, Celebration of Dance, 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. 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.

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RANCH CRITTERS - AN EQUINE RESCUE A SECRET PIECE OF HEAVEN IN HEMPSTEAD

By Melanie Delph

Just up the road from Coles Crossing in Hempstead, Texas is a wonderful organization called Ranch Critters. Ranch Critters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that specializes in helping equine rescues get a second chance at life. Founded in 2010 by Charlie Renken and Gwen Murphy, their mission is to help unwanted, abused, and neglected horses have a place to feel safe and loved, so they can heal. Ranch Critters offers immediate shelter, medical care, rehabilitation and behavioral training to each horse before carefully coordinating an adoption between horse and prospective owner.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, Ranch Critters is having their biggest fundraiser of the year. This is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends, as well as, a chance to see what Ranch Critters has to offer for it's rescues. There will be activities for every age. Come on out for some great barbeque, wonderful music, horses, demonstrations, silent auction, raffles, and the not-to-be missed HeeHaw Auction, plus a whole lot more! Don't miss a minute of the fun!!

To really see what a difference Ranch Critters makes in the lives of the rescues, go to their website, www.RanchCritters.org, and visit their Facebook page at HeeHaw Ranch. The pictures really say it all! There is one thing for sure, all the horses are winners, because through all the past hurt and pain, they all know love. Ranch Critters has been ranked a top non-profit for both 2013 and 2014. You can read some of the reviews at www.greatnonprofits.org.

Donations for auction items are needed to make 2015's fundraiser a success. Please contact Melanie Delph via delph@entouch.net for drop off information. Ranch Critters could not do what it does without the generous giving of all their caring supporters and volunteers. Please join us in making a difference and giving a second chance to these rescues. "Let the healing begin".

See you out at Ranch Critters in Hempstead, Texas on Saturday, April 15, 2015.



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COLES CONNECTION

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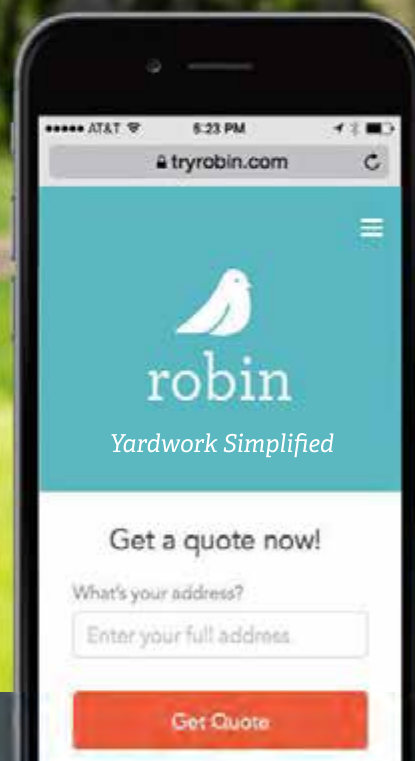
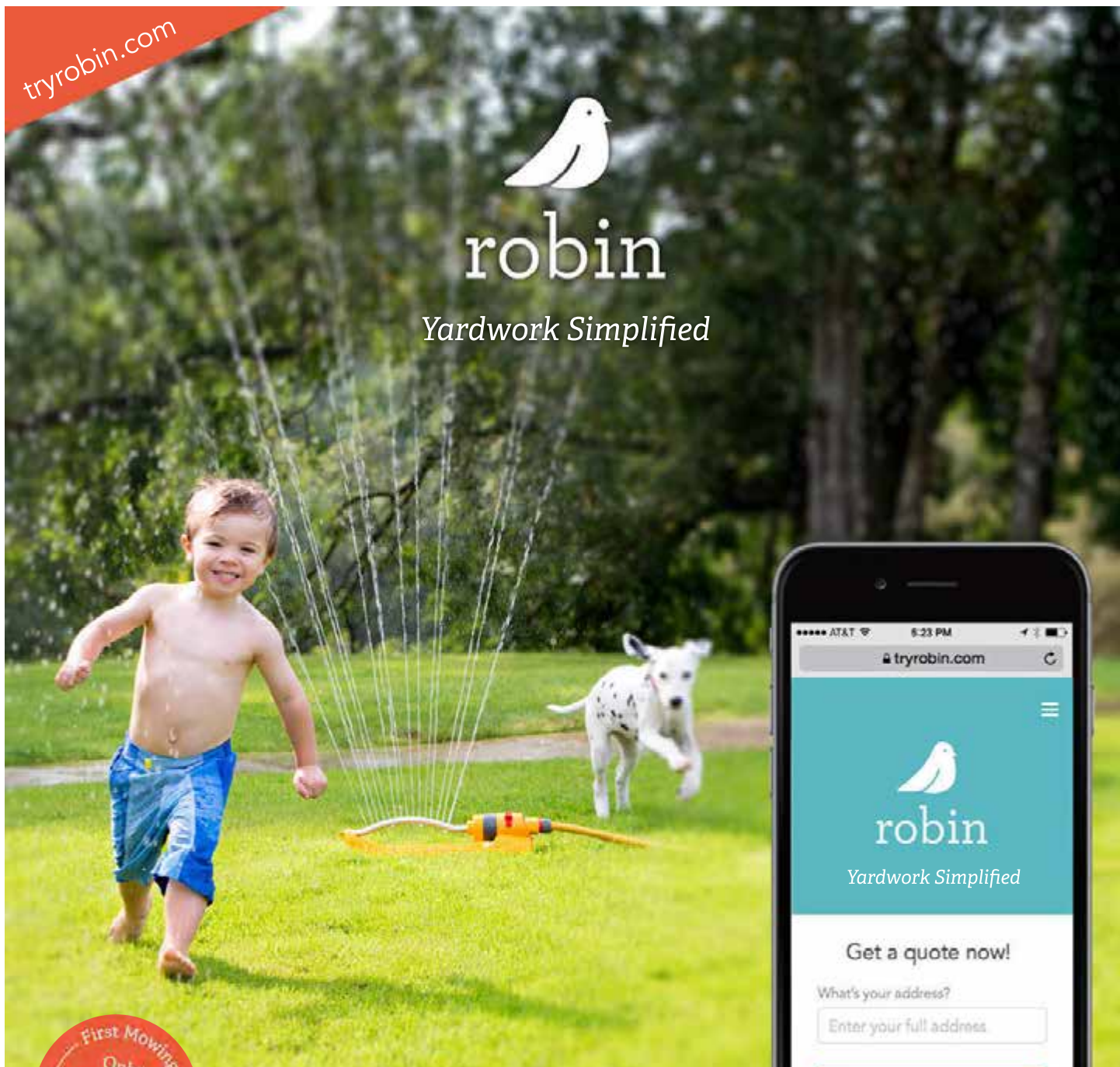
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