

The Ranch Review

www.riataranch.net

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A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

COLIN'S HOPE

by Dorian de Wind

When I was six or seven years old, I witnessed the ocean drowning of a dear aunt. Although too young for the full scope of the tragedy to sink in, the thoughts and the images of that event have remained with me for almost 70 years.

No wonder that, when our young grandson started splashing in our swimming pool a dozen or so years ago, the thought of such an unfathomable occurrence never left our mind. We took every precaution possible, as I am sure the vast majority of parents, grandparents, relatives, caretakers and friends of so many young children do when they let their young ones swim in pools, lakes, rivers, water parks and more.

But the unimaginable does occur -- more often than we think.

Now that another swimming season approaches it may be the time to give "the unimaginable" some thought because if statistics tell the truth, drowning is all too imaginable.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes the following grim statistic: From 1999 through 2010, a total of 46,419 deaths from unintentional drowning (including boating) occurred in the United States, an average of 3,868 deaths per year. That is an average of more than 10 drowning deaths each and every day of the year.

But what is even more disturbing, unintentional drowning has become the leading cause of death from unintentional injury among children aged 1-4 years. It replaces deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death from unintentional injury for boys aged 1-4 years. These child-drowning deaths occurred most often in a bathtub for children under one year of age and, in a swimming pool, for children aged 1-4 years. The latter location -- swimming pools -- accounts for more than 50% of all unintentional drowning deaths in that age group, according to the CDC.

At this point, the reader may ask, why the focus on younger children and swimming pools? While, of course, every drowning is an immeasurable tragedy, the loss of a toddler under such horrific circumstances in one's neighborhood pool, is bound to leave an indelible impression. That is what happened on a beautiful June day almost seven years ago at a nearby swimming pool. To be precise, on June 13, 2008, Colin Holst, a proud and happy four-and-a-half-year-old little boy went to "the big" pool -- a swimming pool close to Circle

C Ranch -- just one day after graduating from swimming lessons and receiving his medal. Little Colin, age 4, enjoying a family weekend by the water. Colin was having a ball playing in the fountains and sprinklers with his friends, all moving around the pool together in a clump, playing and splashing and ducking in and out of the water.

Suddenly, in an instant, Colin wasn't with them. Time stood still as all eyes swept the pool looking for him, and then, only moments later, Colin was pulled from the shallow water unconscious and not breathing. Efforts to revive him at the pool were unsuccessful. Colin, the baby boy born "with a mop of dark hair that looked just like his mother," died at the hospital the next day, having never opened his eyes again after his swim.



Out of this unimaginable tragedy, sprang a glimmer of hope -- even of good. Grief-stricken by their loss and shocked to learn the cruel toll drowning takes on children of Colin's age, Colin's family founded an organization dedicated to preventing such tragedies from befalling other families: Colin's Hope. Simply, "Colin's Hope envisions a world where children do not drown. Colin's Hope raises water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning."

As our weather warms up, as families once again head for our pools, lakes and beaches, please take time to familiarize yourself with water safety rules -- they might make the difference between a happy summer and the unimaginable. An excellent place to do such is ColinsHope.org. At Colin's Hope, learn about this wonderful organization's many water safety awareness programs, events, campaigns and resources. They all have one vision in mind: "A world where children do not drown. While at Colin's Hope, take a look at their on-line Water Safety Resources Hub," take the "Water Safety Quiz" and please consider volunteering for one of their many activities and programs and making a contribution so that the "glimmer of hope" may become a bright light -- a reality, as much as possible -- for our children and grandchildren.

Acknowledgement: Some of the information and wording in this article comes -- with permission -- from "Colin's Story," at Colin's Hope. Colin's photo and lead image, courtesy Colin's Hope.

Colin's Hope has a mission to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning. They envision a world where children do not drown. To learn more, please visit www.colinshope.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD.....	281-897-4000
Postma Elementary.....	281-345-3660
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High.....	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

UTILITIES

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Billing.....	281-579-4500
Repairs.....	281-398-8211
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Centerpoint Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
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Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet.....	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office.....	800-275-8777

LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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NEWSLETTER

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to riataranch@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

Cypress Symphony presents Bohuslav Rattay

Join the Cypress Symphony and
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INSPIRING AND BREATHTAKING EVITA DANCES INTO THE HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER

The story of the most beloved and hated woman in Argentina's history

hits HFAC's Garza Mainstage May 1 through May 24

The brilliance of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice is brought to life when Houston Family Arts Center (HFAC) brings the Tony award-winning musical EVITA to HFAC's Garza Mainstage, May 1 through May 24.

"EVITA is a true work of art. It is an example of a woman who came from nothing and grew to become the most powerful person in Argentina," said Matthew Logan, director and producer of HFAC's EVITA. "This musical is deep, energetic and fun, yet also wrestles with issues that we are confronting in America today."

EVITA follows the rags-to-riches rise of the First Lady of Argentina, Eva Duarte Peron. Set primarily in Argentina, from 1934-1952, the musical follows Eva on her journey from fatherless child, to ambitious actress, to the most powerful woman in Latin America. The events in Evita's life are presented in song and editorialized by the show's narrator, Che. The musical began as a rock-opera concept album, winning the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Musical and was the first British musical to receive the Tony Award for Best Musical.

Lending their talents to this production are Matthew Logan (director), Michael Montgomery (executive producer), Jennifer Stewart (musical director), Adam Delka (choreography), Lisa Garza (scenic design), Kristin Knipp and Amber Stepanik (costume design), Ron Putterman (lighting design) and David Dean (sound design).

The show is brought to life by cast members Shanae'a Moore (Eva Peron), Darry Hearon (Che), Larry Luck (Juan Peron), Sam Balest (Magaldi), Nicole Palmer (Mistress). Rounding out the cast are ensemble players: Patrick Barton, Bambi Carlson, Joey Castorema, Tyler Collins, Adrian Collinson, Monica Cummings, Stephanie Hayden, Mandy Kolbaba, Shannon Murray, Charlie McCoy, JJ Obee, Chloe Rhodes, Christa Ruiz, Sarah Sneesby and John Watkins.

Performances of EVITA are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3 May 1 through May 24 on HFAC's Garza Mainstage. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at www.houstonfac.com, or by phone at 281-587-6100. Special pricing is available for groups of 10 or more.

Performance Location:

Houston Family Arts Center Garza Mainstage
10760 Grant Road Houston, TX 77070

(Located in northwest Houston, easily accessible from SH 249 & SH 290.)

Performances:

Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 3 at 3 p.m.
Friday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 10 at 3 p.m.
Friday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m.
Friday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$26, Seniors (65+): \$22
Students (3-18): \$15

About Houston Family Arts Center

Houston Family Arts Center (HFAC), founded in 2005, is a not-for-profit performing arts and educational organization, with a passion for entertaining, enlightening and engaging audiences in Texas. Recent winner in seven categories for the Broadway World Houston Awards, HFAC has also been named Houston's "Best Gem of a Theater" by the Houston Press and "Best Arts and Entertainment" by the "Best of the Northwest" Readers' Choice awards. HFAC is a proud winner of the prestigious national American Association of Community Theatre Twink Lynch Organizational Award. HFAC produces a broad mix of classics, comedies, dramas, musicals and new works. Through its award-winning Actors Academy, HFAC offers acting, singing and dance classes, and performance opportunities for all ages. To purchase tickets, sign up for auditions or classes, or for more information, please visit www.houstonfac.com or call HFAC at 281-587-6100.



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NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY AGGIE MOM'S CLUB

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY AGGIE MOMS TO RECOGNIZE GRADUATING SENIORS

Join us for the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. We will begin refreshments and social time at 6:30pm, meeting beginning promptly at 7:15 pm and end at 9:00pm. The meetings are held at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the intersection of High Life Drive and Cutten Road. At our May meeting we will be recognizing our graduating Seniors, announcing the book awards and installing our 2015-2016 Board Officers. Please help us congratulate these students on this significant achievement and the beginning of an amazing journey! All meetings are open to the public and prospective students, current students and Aggie families are always welcome!

SUMMER MIXERS

Are you a new Aggie Mom? Are you sending off your first to

Aggieland this fall? Find out how we help your student succeed that first year at one of our informal Summer Mixers. Dates and locations are listed on our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org.

Aggie Moms, as an organization, encourages parents to become familiar with A&M during their student's freshman year. The path to graduation can be a challenging journey; don't go it alone. Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms has been here for 25 years and we're committed to helping your student and YOU enjoy the TAMU experience.

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club meets August thru May on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:15 pm at 7100 High Life Drive. Refreshments are available at 6:30! For more information on monthly speakers or upcoming events visit our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org or contact President Connie Pritchard at pritchardg@sbcglobal.net.



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CYFEN HONORS THREE MEMBERS AT ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON



*Pictured L to R: Michelle Becker of Shots for Holly;
Jessica Smith of Iberia Bank;
Melanie Kay Hugel of MK Events Floral Designs
Picture courtesy of CYFEN*

The annual Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN) of the American Business Woman’s Association (ABWA) recognition luncheon selected and honored three outstanding business women from the membership.

Michelle Becker of Shots for Holly received the Woman of Excellence Award through the Federation of Houston Professional Woman. Becker will be recognized at The Federation of Houston

Professional Women’s 2015 Women of Excellence Gala on Saturday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.. This year’s gala will be held at The Norris Center at City Centre.

The 2015 Woman of the Year was awarded to Jessica Smith of Iberia Bank and Melanie Kay Hugel of MK Events Floral Designs was selected as the Top Ten Business Woman of ABWA Candidate. Both ladies will be recognized at the 2015 Annual Recognition Luncheon honoring ABWA Women of the Year and Top Ten Candidates. The event will kick off with a Welcome Reception on Friday, June 19 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM and end with the Women Celebrating Women Luncheon on Saturday, June 20, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Both events will be held at Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, Texas 77027.

CYFEN was founded in 2003 to pursue the vision of becoming a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Currently, the 64 members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition.

CYFEN monthly meetings are held at Sterling Country Club at Houston National. For more information go to www.CYFEN.org.

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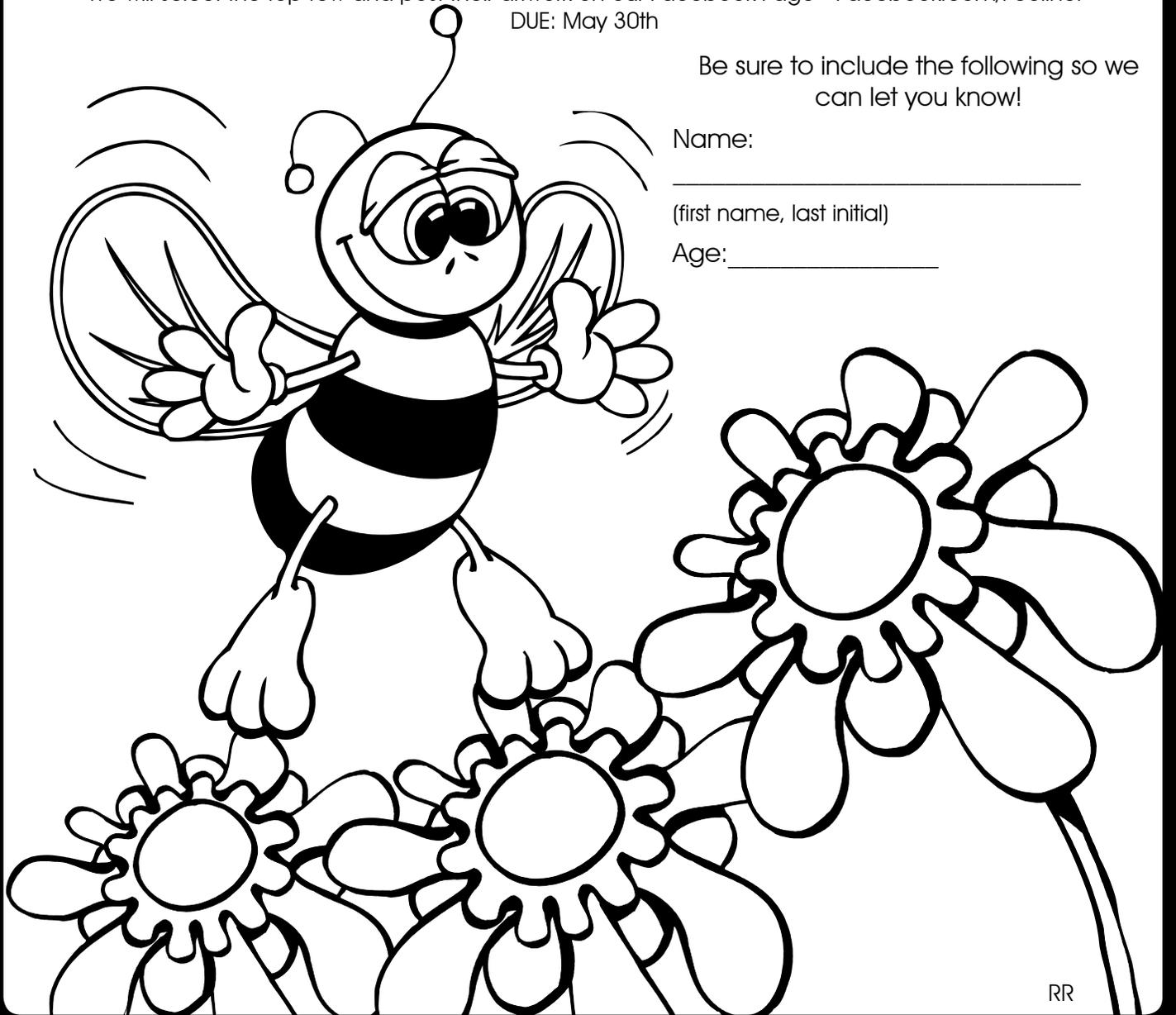
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