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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015



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SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF AVERY RANCH

APRIL 2015

Connect With Your HOA!

Did you know there are several ways you can connect with Avery Ranch residents and board members? Want to know where the best place is to get information regarding activities, concerns, assistance, or just want to know what the community has to offer? Have a question for a board member or need to contact the property management company? We have many online sources that can get you on the path to communicating with Avery Ranch folks from our website, to Facebook, and Twitter are just a few.

Avery Ranch Official Website:

www.averyranchhoa.com

Avery Ranch Owners Association Official Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/averyranchhao.com (not a newsletter typo - it is hao)

Avery Ranch Neighborhood Events Official Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ARNeighborhoodEvents>

Avery Ranch Twitter:

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Avery Ranch YouTube Channel:

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Need help, information, or guidance? Send an email to:

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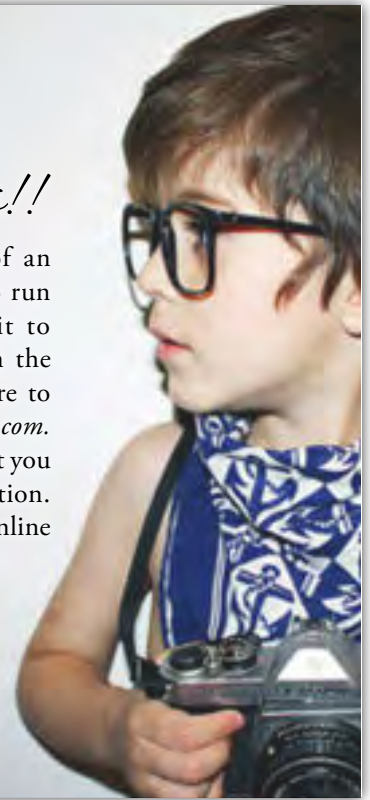
You can also find all board members contact info on both the AR website and the newsletter.

HOME ON THE RANCH

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Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to ARNEWS@AveryRanchHOA.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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AVERY RANCH HOA WEBSITE

Visit the Avery Ranch HOA website at AveryRanchHOA.com

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

For questions or concerns in your neighborhood contact
our Property Manager and HOA Board at GetHelp@AveryRanchHOA.com.

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.....5720 McNeil Dr.

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Shout Out!

The Avery Ranch Homeowners Association is giving a shout out to the Avery Ranch Social Committee and to our latest community event sponsor
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We are grateful for the businesses who continue to support us. They continue to make our neighborhood activities possible!

2015 AVERY RANCH *Event Calendar*

10/06 National Night Out
10/24 Harvest Hayride
11/07 Bazaar

11/TBD Concert in the
Park(TGIFT)
11/TBD Meet & Greet
12/19 Holiday Sleigh Ride

****All Food Truck events are cancelled until further notice.****



HOLIDAY SLEIGH RIDE

December 19th | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Ho, Ho, Ho, Neighbors! The magic of the holidays is right around the corner and Santa will soon be on his way to greet all the girls and boys of Avery Ranch.

Join Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Social Committee Elves for a fun time.

- Saturday, December 19th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. at the MAC (main activity center) Morningside.
- Visit with Santa, (seated by the fireplace at the main pool area)

while enjoying hot cocoa, cookies and holiday music.

- Take a leisurely ride on one of the three festive decorated horse drawn wagons. You and your family can relax during the ride and enjoy beautiful holiday decorations. Wagons will be located near the tennis courts at the Morningside Park.
- Mrs. Claus will be delighting us with holiday stories. Come on out and enjoy the fun, meet your wonderful neighbors and celebrate the holiday spirit!

Volunteer help is always appreciated and needed. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Rita Rear at arsc@averyranchhoa.com



Merry
CHRISTMAS
— ❄ —
HAPPY NEW YEAR

2nd Annual Polar Bear Splash

Start your 2016 off with a SPLASH in the 2nd Annual Polar Bear Splash hosted by the Avery Ranch Redfish. This year we are adding a chili cook-off to the event. The event will take place at the MAC pool on January 1, 2016 from 2pm – 4pm. Bring your family and neighbors to have some fun and taste the best chili in the neighborhood. Last year we had about 30 participants of all ages in the splash along with lots of spectators and encouragers. Come out and jump in or hold a warm towel for one of the adventurous jumpers. The fire pits will be lit and there will be plenty of hot cocoa to go around. Bring \$5 to participate in the chili tasting portion.

Do you make great chili? Email spiritedfish@gmail.com to enter the contest. GooOOO Redfish Swim Fast!



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MEALYBUGS

Mealybugs are pests of landscape plants and houseplants. They are often active during times of warm, dry weather, but can also become a problem indoors at any time of year. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic (males & females look different). Males have wings while females remain wingless and nymph-like throughout their life. Females are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to penetrate plant tissue and suck out juices. This can lead to chlorosis (yellowing of the plant), wilting and distortion. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or death of the plant. Mealybugs are also known for secreting honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called *sooty mold may grow.

*Sooty mold is a fungus that grows on honeydew excretions. Sooty mold can indirectly harm the plant by covering plant surfaces and reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches plant tissues, resulting in reduction of photosynthesis.

Since all but male mealybugs are wingless, adult females have to be placed near a host plant for them to infest it. They can crawl short distances to plants. Immatures can be blown to new locations by the wind, move by water or be transported by animals.

Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that will feed on mealybugs or parasitize them
- **Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
- **Insecticidal soap



- **Horticultural oils
- **Insecticides labeled for mealybug control
- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one

**If treating houseplants, move plants outside during treatment then move back inside once treatment has dried.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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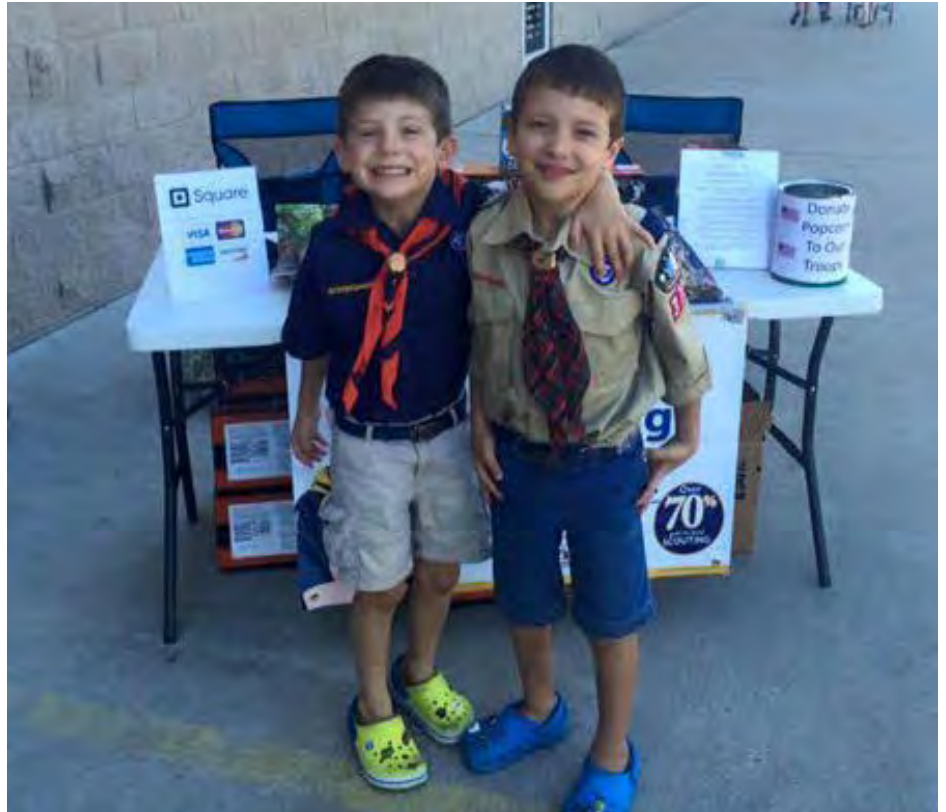
SCOUTING CORNER UPDATE

Your local Scouting Troop 371 and Pack 371 have been busy. Thank you all who have supported the boys' fundraising efforts by buying or donating funds for their recent popcorn sale drive. Each sale helps support your local scouts.

Troop 371 has been learning new skills in running a business with their latest visit to Diamond Powder Coating. They participated in product demos and learned about what it takes to start and maintain a business. This month their service project will be helping at the Round Rock Serving Center. We had 12 rank advancements and 40 merit badges awarded at the recent Court of Honor.

Our Pack 371 has been growing with their successful Join Scouting Night and had a beautiful time at the Fall camp out at Buescher State Park. They are now preparing to do a Zoo Snooze at the Cameron Waco Zoo.

If you have a boy aged 6-18 and are interested in scouting, please contact April Aguren at april.aguren@averyranchhoa.com for more information.



THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

_ Sometimes I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

_ The two things I hate most: loud dogs and noisy neighbors.

_ I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

_ I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

_ I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're not home and for the flat screen TVs and gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

_ Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page or other social media. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

_ To you, leaving the window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.


_ If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally I hit the jackpot and walk right in!

Please remember to report all suspicious people or vehicles to 9-1-1!



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SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

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BREAST CANCER

Importance of Early Detection

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Screening is vital because early stages of the disease are easier to treat. The American Cancer Society recommends women:

- Obtain yearly mammography screenings, beginning at age 40
- Obtain yearly clinical breast exams
- Check your breasts regularly for lumps
- Discuss their breast cancer risk with their physician

Breast cancer risk increases as we age. Other factors that increase a woman's risk for breast cancer include:

- Having started menstrual periods at a young age
- Having a first child after age 30
- Use of hormone replacement therapy
- Having a family history of breast cancer

Men are also at risk for rare cases of breast cancer. All persons familiar with the normal look and feel of their breasts should promptly report any unexpected changes to their physicians. The American Cancer Society recommends both women and men consult their doctor if they notice any of the following:

- A new, hard lump or thickening in any part of the breast
- Change in breast size or shape
- Dimpling or puckering of the skin
- Swelling, redness, or warmth that does not go away
- Recurrent pain in a particular part of the breast
- Pulling in of the nipple
- Nipple discharge that starts suddenly in only one breast
- An itchy, sore, or scaly area on one nipple

For more information about breast cancer and early detection, contact your health care provider, your Concentra health specialist, visit the American Cancer Society Web Site at: www.cancer.org, or visit the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Web site at: <http://nbcam.org/>



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Twelve Top Travel Tips When Traveling with Your Pet

Traveling with your pet can be fun and rewarding – especially when you're prepared. In addition to the pet travel "basics" (safely restraining your pet, allowing adequate time for potty breaks, bringing comforting items from home, and so on), several additional simple practices can help make every trip easier and more pleasant for both you and your pet.

1. Schedule a veterinarian visit to insure overall health and current vaccinations. Ask for a health certificate and vaccination records, especially if you're traveling out of state.

2. Make sure your pet's identification tags are up-to-date and legible. Also, be sure his rabies tag and vaccinations are current.

3. Include your destination address and/or phone number on your pet's tags and cage/crate (if applicable).

4. Remember to pack water to prevent dehydration. To help insure convenient feedings bring along a collapsible food bowl.

5. Pack all medications and supplements to avoid missed doses.

6. Pack a first aid kit to insure readiness in the event of an injury or medical emergency.

7. Exercise your pet prior to departure. A tired pet is typically much more amenable to travel. Also, bring a lead or harness to allow exercise during pit stops.

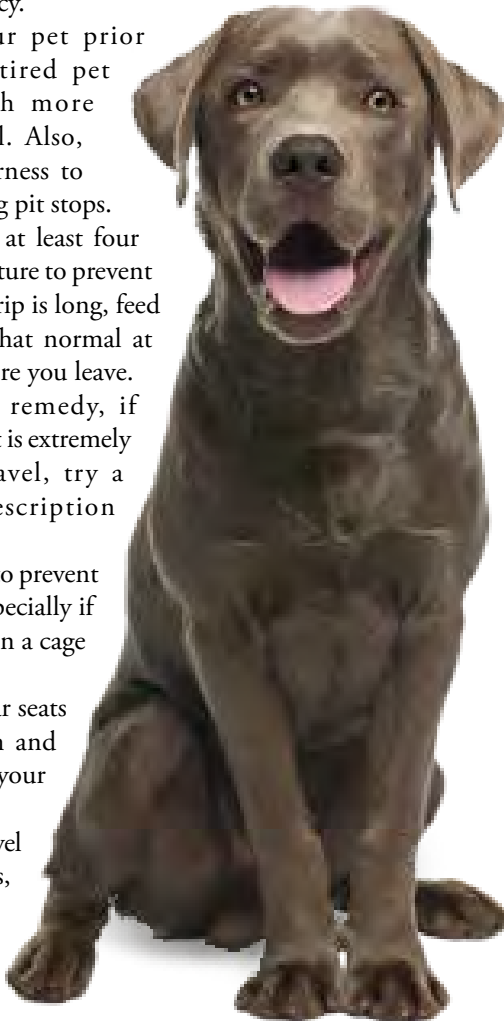
8. Feed your pet at least four hours prior to departure to prevent car sickness. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount than normal at least two hours before you leave.

9. Use a travel remedy, if necessary. If your pet is extremely anxious about travel, try a soothing non-prescription calming product.

10. Trim toenails to prevent snags and injury, especially if your pet will travel in a cage or crate.

11. Cover your car seats to keep them clean and free of hair shed on your trip.

12. Know your travel rules and restrictions, especially if you will travel on an airplane.



SUDOKU

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8					1			
	1				9			
		5				4	7	
						6		
		4		2		7	3	
9				1				8
2	8				5			

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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Hosting an International Exchange Student

Hosting an International Exchange Student is such a great experience for all of those involved. It leads to a better understanding between individuals of other cultures, hopefully branching its way out to a more peaceful global society. But don't just take my word about it, read about Nelva's experience and understanding of the exchange program.

I'm so lucky to have been placed with a great host family in Texas! The best part is when we share each other's cultures and have a lot of quality time together. I'm blessed to have chance to study in American High School.

Being an exchange student is hard. For the first couple days it was hard because I didn't know anybody, the moving class system is new for me and sometimes it's hard to understand what they say. But America is really friendly and handy so I got a lot of help from them. From the exchange program, people can really get to know each other, people start to respect each other and we can start a new chapter to have a better world.

So if you want to enrich your life, host an exchange student!

Nelva is from Indonesia and is spending the academic year here in Texas as part of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study

(YES) program. This program is funded by the US Department of State which provides scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations. As part of her program year, Nelva is required to perform at least 60 hours of community service (however most YES students' hours amount to hundreds of hours) and continue working with the program in her home country.

Our application process for the 2016 Spring Semester and 2016/2017 academic year will soon be opening. School spots in our area tend to fill up rather quickly, so get your application in early to host one of these amazing students!

Ayusa is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad, and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or vodom@ayusa.org or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

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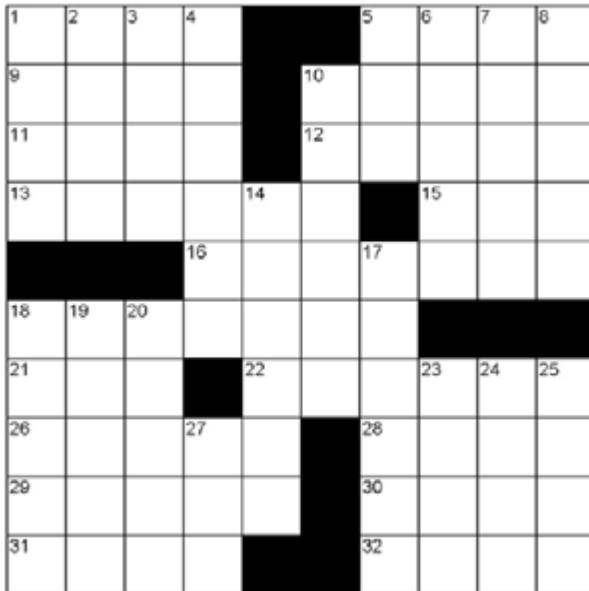
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9. Run easily
10. Distinguished
11. Malaria
12. Book of facts
13. One who dies for a cause
15. Stretch to make do
16. Headphones
18. Brutality
21. Desert
22. Snuck a look
26. Declare
28. S.A. Indian
29. Gave a lavish party
30. Element
31. Question closely
32. DNA component

DOWN

1. Chowder ingredient
2. Meditation
3. Goad
4. Grow molars
5. Explosive
6. Tears
7. Waken
8. Set in
10. Self-protection
14. Barked in pain
17. Coloring
18. Small enclosed field
19. Indian currency
20. Inches, for example
23. Leg joint
24. Economics abbr.
25. Citizen of Denmark
27. Tulle

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Nature Watch: "Gone to Seed"

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Often used as an informal figure of speech meaning to deteriorate or go downhill, 'gone to seed' can have a negative connotation. But each seed contains a new beginning: a tiny plant just waiting for the right conditions such as water, warmth, and a good location, to germinate and grow. Seeds and seed heads form fascinating shapes, varying sizes, and intricate patterns, often adorning the fall and winter landscape.

Plants have many ways of dispersing their seeds, and most have evolved over millions of years. While the methods are tried and true, certain seeds have developed in very particular ways to take advantage of such methods, and some plants only release their seeds in response to specific triggers.

Wind helps seeds float or flutter away, often aided by seed structures such as thin wing extensions or long, feathery tails like those on the endemic Scarlet Clematis (*Clematis texensis*). Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus* sp.) employ the expulsion or explosion method, where the small, pebble-like seeds are forcibly expelled when the dried pods twist open in the warm sun. Gravity plays a part in many plants seed dispersals, where weighty seeds fall off the plant and roll to a new location. The best example of this are the round, heavy fruits that simply fall off a plant when ripe, such as those on Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) or Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*). If the fruits have a tough outer shell, they may travel some distance from the parent plant, and if they have a soft skin, they may break open

where they fall and scatter the seed or seeds within.

Some plants produce very light seeds, seeds with buoyant fluff, or seeds with air trapped in them, so they can float away from the parent plant that grows in or around water, like Common Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) or Black Willow (*Salix nigra*). Others employ the assistance of animals, which can come in the form of seed or fruit eating (where the seed can pass undigested through the animal), seed caching or burying, or seed transportation. Often unbeknownst to the animal, seeds can be covered with tiny hooks or spines that catch on a passing animal's fur, and eventually rubbed off in another location. Common examples include Cedar Waxwings and American Robins eating juniper and yaupon berries, both ground and tree squirrels eating and caching acorns, and many animals (including humans) that emerge from the wilds carrying the seeds of Beggarsticks (*Bidens* sp.).

This fall and winter, let the seeds linger! Not only do they provide much needed food for wildlife, but leaving them allows for some beautiful and mysterious patterns in your winter landscape, and the promise of renewing the cycle of life that begins again each spring!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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