THE RIVER REVIEW

March 2016

Volume 10, Issue 3

Photo by Mia Sanchez



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AUSTIN'S LIVE MUSIC RUNNING EVENT TAKING PLACE ON APRIL 3 ----

North Austin is home to the Austin 10/20, the only race in town that can truly claim to be Austin's Live Music Running Event. The 5th Annual Austin 10/20 is a family friendly race that will be held on April 3 at the Domain. The 10 mile running and walking event will have 20 stages of live music along the course and a Headliner Concert featuring Grammy nominated rock band Fastball at the Finish. Over 5,000 participants are expected to attend.

From local bands, to local prize money, to a featured local charity (Capital Area Food Bank of Texas), the Austin 10/20 showcases all thing that make Austin the best city in Texas.

Since the beginning of the Austin 10/20 in 2012, over 400 local bands have applied to play at the annual race but only twenty of the best can be selected each year. These talented bands are positioned every half mile along the route to keep athletes motivated and rocking as they move along.

Last year's winner Kenneth Rotich covered the race course in just 49:27. Runner up Erik Stanley was right on his heels finishing just a second behind in 49:28. Stanley was also the Travis County Champion and the winner of a special prize money purse available to the top five local male and female finishers.

Don't let the fast times discourage you as athletes of all abilities are welcomed and encouraged to participate. In addition to tons of music, the Austin 10/20 offers plenty of course support – water stations, cold towel stations, cheer zones and portapottie locations along the route to make race day enjoyable for everyone. The generous three hour time limit allows for walkers to participate.

Waiting at the Finish Line for all participants is a dazzling finisher medal and a rock 'n' roll Post Race Party with free beer (must be 21 or older). Rock band and Austin trio, Fastball will take the Main Stage at 10:30 AM. Friends and Family are welcome to cheer on their runners and stay for the Finish Line Concert.

The Austin 10/20 is sponsored by Third Base Sports Bar, Corner Bakery Café and Lyft. Turnkey Operations produces the race and is based in Austin, TX.

To learn more about the Austin 10/20 or to register for the race, visit Austin1020.com.

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ARTICLE INFO

The River Review is mailed monthly to all River Place residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include 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 the River Review please email it to <u>riverreview@peelinc.com</u>. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



THANK YOU Four Points Community!

for a successful evening of giving back to our students, schools and teachers. Together, we are the **VIPER NATION**



SAVE THE DATE MARCH 8-9, 2016



Watch the Four Points News and HCEF's Facebook page on how you can participate in the I LIVE HERE, I GIVE HERE campaign on March 8-9 right here in your Four Points community!

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4 River Review - March 2016

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HOPE4MINDS Amplifies Hope for Children with Acquired Brain Injury with \$10,000 **Matching Grant from DOCUmation**

Volunteers and Donors to Kick Off 2016 Amplify Austin Fundraising Campaign at The Dogwood on March 8th



HOPE4MINDS, an Ausun-based nonprofit that provides HOPE4MINDS, an Austincharitable support to Texas families of children with an

acquired brain injury, aims to raise \$30,000 in its 2016 Amplify Austin campaign that kicks off at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, at The Dogwood, 715 W. 6th Street in Austin. The Kickoff Party goes until 10 p.m. with live music from The Fixer & the Flaw & Mike Reardon Blues and complimentary appetizers from 6 to 7 p.m. The Dogwood will generously donate 10% of all alcohol and food sales to HOPE4MINDS during the party.

DOCUmation, a leading provider of business technology solutions from printing to document management systems, will match donations to HOPE4MINDS up to \$10,000. HOPE4MINDS is supported by more than a dozen individual fundraisers of all ages through Amplify Austin's website. Learn how to make a donation by searching "HOPE4MINDS" at www.ilivehereigivehere.org/amplify-austin or go to www. hope4minds.org.

Since 2012, HOPE4MINDS has provided more than \$296,000 in services to families. They help families pay for things such as therapy, treatments, equipment, and home renovations that are not covered or only partially covered by insurance. They have a monthly support group in Austin, along with a Parents-4-Parents Support Program. They also offer CPR/First Aid Trainings and Concussion Baseline Screenings in the Austin area.

"HOPE4MINDS is truly changing the lives of the families it supports and our team wants others to know about the incredible impact they are having on kids' lives," says Denise Bodman, Real Estate Advisor for Engel & Völkers who has supported HOPE4MINDS as a donor and volunteer since its inception in 2011. "Amplify Austin is a unique opportunity to rally our community to learn what HOPE4MINDS is all about and to rally our community behind their cause."

According to The Center for Head Injury Services, approximately 1 in 500 school-age children each year receive a head injury severe enough to be hospitalized. Although families are eligible for state and federal financial support, funding is limited, and families are forced to pay for medical care on their own. A child who survives a head injury face a wide range of conditions, including short-term memory loss, a decline in functions such as reasoning, judgment, and synthesizing information; anomia, or difficulty with words, as well as visual disturbances. Other effects may include ataxia, or a lack of coordination; apraxia, or an inability to coordinate a familiar movements such as brushing teeth, combing hair, using eating utensils; spasticity, rigidity and myoclonus, disorders which can include a tendency toward jerky motions and trembling; and quadriparesis, a weakness of the arms and legs.

The HOPE4MINDS mission is to foster hope and enrich the lives of children with an acquired brain injury through support and education. For more information, visit www. hope4minds.org.

XERISCAPE

Before you nix the xeriscape, know this: it doesn't mean you have to convert your lawn to a rock garden. Nor do you have to go cold turkey on turfgrass. But you do have to keep seven principles in mind.

www.gardenstylesanantonio.com

Coined in 1981 by Denver Water, xeriscape (xeris is Greek for dry) refers to the principles of matching low maintenance landscape with low water usage.

Xeriscape is not just rocks, cactus, agaves, synthetic turf, decomposed granite and rain barrels, although these could all be components of a xeriscape. A xeriscape in its simplest form is minimal lawn, native flowering perennials and shrubs with no more than two inches of mulch, and pervious patios or decks.

THERE ARE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE. THEY INCLUDE:

- 1. Planning and design
- 2. Soil amendment
- 3. Efficient irrigation
- 4. Appropriate plant selection
- 5. Mulch
- 6. Limited turf areas
- 7. Appropriate maintenance

Now let's look at what these principles really mean.

PLANNING AND DESIGN

Always begin with a plan. Consider aspect, shade, slope, soil, and existing and desired species. Always have in the back of your mind the goal of one third lawn, one third beds and one third pervious patio or deck.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

Soil holds moisture. The more soil, the less supplemental water needed. One way to increase water holding capacity is compost. Add one inch of compost to the soil. Expanded shale, while not organic, is excellent for heavy clay soils.

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Of course, the most efficient irrigation is rain. But the second best is a hose. Let this sink in — an in-ground irrigation system will use 50 percent more water (70 percent in the summer) than a hose-end sprinkler or hand held hose. Which do you think does a better job of conserving water?

APPROPRIATE PLANT SELECTION

Pick a good shade tree or two. Enjoy some native plants or ones well-adapted to our area. An extensive list of options is available at GardenStyleSA.com.

MULCH

Two inches of mulch, whether organic like woodchips or river rock, is sufficient. Xeric plants prefer limited mulch.

LIMITED TURF

It's really simple. Lawns uses an excessive amount water. Therefore, reduce the size of lawns. The recommendation of weekly mowing suddenly becomes much easier.

APPROPRIATE MAINTENANCE

Excessive pruning and fertilization does more harm than good. Just keep it simple – mow weekly, prune perennials no more than three times a year, prune trees once every five years and fertilize once a year or use compost in spring and fall.





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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional, Fernando Velasco



How to execute The Half Volley

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, and the serve. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute the half volley, which is usually played between the base line and the net. The player is not close enough to the net to hit it on the air and/ or does not have enough time to retrieve back to hit it on the top of the flight. The ball is usually hit right after it hits the ground. In these pictures student Liz Stanis from the Grey Rock Tennis Club demonstrates the proper form and technique.

Step 1: The Split step: When the player realizes that she will have to play the ball right after it hits the ground, the player will stop and take the split step by bouncing off her toes at the same time and let her body lean forward to react to the ball. Both hands are on the racket so it can react to either move to the left or to the right. Eyes are focused on the incoming ball.

Step 2: The Back Swing: The secret of the half volley is to take the racket back early and have a short back swing. Also, it is critical to lay the wrist back slightly to allow for a good point of contact in front of the body. The player will then bend her knees and lunge forward to hit the ball as soon as it hits the ground. Notice the concentration of keeping her eye on the ball.

Step 3: The Point of Contact: As soon as the ball starts to rise, the player will make the contact with the ball and will aim to go away from the net person. Her eyes are focused on the point of contact and the left hand is still close the body for better balance. The left knee is still bent and the left toe is pointing toward the point of contact.

Step 4: The Finish: Once the ball leaves the racket, the left knee has now almost straightened up and the follow through is above the players' head. This will allow the ball to go high over the net and will land deep toward the baseline. The opponent will have to back off to hit the next ball, or will also be forced to hit another half volley. The left hand is ready to hold the racket on the handle to anticipate the next shot, which probably will be the volley.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The One Handed Backhand Volley

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION Zika Virus

Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes and there is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available. The best way to avoid getting the virus is to avoid being bitten by infected mosquitoes. About 20% of people with Zika virus actually get ill. Severe disease, requiring hospitalization, is uncommon and death due to the virus is rare.

The incubation period of Zika virus is thought to be a few days to a week, but is still unknown. Symptoms include fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache. Symptoms tend to be mild and last from 2-7 days. Zika virus can be contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, through blood transfusions, through sexual contact, and from mother to child during pregnancy.

The mosquitoes that are able to transmit Zika virus are also able to transmit dengue and Chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes are daytime biters, but can also bite at night. Aedes mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water- buckets, tires, tree holes, animal water dishes, etc.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, wear lightcolored clothing that covers as much skin as possible, use insect repellent (read and follow label instructions), use screening on doors and windows, use mosquito netting (if needed) while sleeping, and reduce standing water areas.

For more information on Zika virus, please see the CDC website here http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html

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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Community Outreach at The Heart of Relay For Life of Lake Travis



The Relay For Life of Lake Travis had a record breaking year in 2015, raising over \$98,000 for The American Cancer Society. In 2014, the event raised a mere \$15,000, which frustrated the current Event Chair, Cathleen McBurney. "I walked in my first Relay For Life on

May 2nd, 2014, exactly one year from the date of my stage IV diagnosis," says McBurney, "and I couldn't believe how small the event was in such a giving community." That led McBurney to ask the question, "How can I help?" And the rest is history...

After taking over the event, the committee reached out to the

community that was largely unaware that Relay For Life even existed in the Lake Travis area anymore. A relationship was reestablished with LTISD, who jumped on board and the event was moved back to the High School where it belongs. Suzanne Stone and Brandy Belk have been instrumental in helping to get district wide support. The Cavalettes, LT Cheer and the Drum Line all participated in last year's event, really bringing the school and community together for the cause. The Cavalettes and Cheer teams have already signed up to perform again this year, along with HBMS Pom Squad, to cheer on the survivors as they walk the opening Survivor Lap.

The Cavs Against Cancer Club was formed at LTHS as well, which helps to spread awareness and to increase school involvement in Relay For Life. Just last week the Cavs Against Cancer Club, led by LTHS teacher Paul Knepper and club president Sydney Gaskamp, held a fundraiser in which they sold luminaria bags to honor survivors, and to remember the brave warriors who lost their battle to this terrible disease. Along with the Boys Varsity basketball team, they hosted a halftime luminaria ceremony in honor of World Cancer Day. Several *(Continued on Page 10)*



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(Continued from Page 7)

people thanked the club for the ceremony and shared about their own battles as a result.

Growing the event also meant finding new and creative ways to get people excited and to raise funds. As a result, the Kick Cancer's Booty event was birthed and after a successful first year in 2015, the 2016 event was even bigger and better, raising over \$13,000. Held at Twisted X Brewing Company last month, there was an amazing array of over 100 silent auction items donated by local businesses that really helped to bring in big dollars for the cause. Managed by Fionnuala Stockton, the silent auction was brilliantly coordinated and staged with the help of Laurie Cavins, Gina Molitor and Sonia Mussiett. Attendees were served a delectable assortment of donated food from It's All Good BBQ, Verdes, Papa Murphy's, Sauzy's, Rough Hollow Grille and Chick Fil A. The music of The Back Steps and Joe Greer and The Backrow Sinners, kept the crowd dancing until the last moment.

Survivors are a key component to Relay For Life, which really seeks to honor them and their caregivers both during and prior to the event. Last year's Survivor/Caregiver dinner at Star Hill Ranch was such a success, that they will be hosting one again this year as well. On April 7th, 2016, you can bet that there will be much to celebrate as survivors are treated with silver gloves. If you are a cancer survivor or caregiver, please register for Relay For Life of Lake Travis to receive a special invitation to this event. www.relayforlife.org/laketravistx The Survivor Lap and Luminaria ceremony at Relay For Life are also important tributes to the survivors in our lives.

Relay For Life of Lake Travis will host it's main event on 4/16/16 at Lake Travis High School. Form teams and start fundraising now! Help us to reach our goal of \$150,000.







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 a Foreign Exchange Student

Families host foreign exchange students for various reasons: to provide a learning experience for teens from another country, to forge friendships with their own children and to exchange cultural insights. The experience must be a good one, because some families host new exchange students year after year.

Hosting requirements are simple, says Vicki Odom, Senior Regional Director for AYUSA, a cultural exchange organization. Hosts "provide room and board, and a loving, nurturing environment," says Odom, a host every year since 2009. "There's no such thing as a perfect host family," she says. Couples and singles, with or without children, and

(Continued on Page 13)



(Continued from Page 12)

even empty nesters make good host families."

Application Process

Participating in a foreign exchange program requires some paperwork to get started, followed by an interview process. Applications, which include background checks, "are not for the faint of heart," admits Odom. "The safety of participants is the number one priority," she says. Much of the application process is designed to inform and prepare potential host families for their upcoming experience.

Cost of Housing a Student

Hosting an exchange student can add to your food bill, admits Odom. "It's not so bad if you merely provide what you would normally buy for your family," she says. Visiting students usually have their own spending money and are expected to buy their own cosmetics and other items. A discussion about money and expectations at the onset of the student's visit will likely smooth the way for the year.

Family Dynamics

"Sibling" rivalries can develop between visiting and host kids who are the same sex or nearly the same age. But usually, "it helps other kids learn to share when there's an extra person in the house," says Heather Wells, a Katy, TX mom who has hosted two students so far. "The exchange experience is often terrific for elementary-age kids in the host family, despite the age difference with a teen exchange student, because they learn so much," says Wells.

RIVER REVIEW

"Hosting an exchange student can be a wonderful experience for the entire family," states Vicki Odom. "It teaches your kids tolerance and gives them great respect for other cultures. It's a way to learn more about the world without leaving home. You get a glimpse at least, by hosting a student. We can't all be diplomats or ambassadors, but this is something American families can do to make a difference."

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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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16 River Review - March 2016

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