

The Clippings



March 2016 Volume 4, Issue 3

Reptile Night at Walden March 23rd, 2016

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Reptile Show 7-8:00 pm
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Bill Roe

wroe2@comcast.net

Misty Rowe

mistydrowe@gmail.com

Brock Ratliff

ratpac4@gmail.com

Martyn Bates

martyn.bates@bakerhughes.com

Don Karamihan

Nah1marak@gmail.com

J. Scott Bruce

jbruce@advaoptical.com

Ed Nelson

nelsonbama@yahoo.com

Robert Dandeneau

dandno1@aol.com

Eric Rounlick

rounlick1@gmail.com

CLUB MANAGEMENT TEAM

John Schlemmer - General Manager

jschlemmer@waldencc.com, 832-445-2107

Tanna Follis - Membership Director

tfollis@waldencc.com, 832-445-2105

Cathy Bellnap - Private Events Director

cbellnap@waldencc.com, 832-445-2104

Charlie Rudd - Head Golf Pro

crudd@waldencc.com, 832-445-2115

Kevin Lyles - Golf Course Superintendent

klyles@waldencc.com, 832-445-2114

Stella Meintzer - Food and Beverage Director

smeintzer@waldencc.com, 832-445-2131

Marty Tarabochia - Executive Chef

mtarabochia@waldencc.com, 832-445-2118

Mike Beatty - Athletics Director

mbeatty@waldencc.com, 832-445-2123

Kim Mello - Club Accountant

kmello@waldencc.com, 832-445-2117

2016 LGA

Mardi Gras

FIRST FLIGHT

1st Gross

Patricia Walters

Gail Miller

Margaret Boseman

Charlee Johnson

2nd Gross

Marlene Summers

Meghan Moake

Tani Traver

Becky Gustamante

1st Net

Karen Guthmiller

April Hix

Belinda Brown

Nancy Jennings

2nd Net

Emily Garza

Judy Stuckey

Sonia Garica

Mary Glaz

SECOND FLIGHT

1st Gross

Sally Milich

Hazel Adair

Jody George

Margaret Gore

2nd Gross

Christine Kinkad

Linda McGuire

Jane Erwin

Bea Gressett

1st Net

Brenda Nichols

Pam Bollero

Michelle Stickl

Sammie O'Donohoe

2nd Net

Cathy Cooney

B.A. Neddham

Eileen Crosson

Carol Haefling

THIRD FLIGHT

1st Gross

Kathy Cooper

Nell Vincent

Selina Fulghum

Shirley Mays

2nd Gross

Debbie Boatman

Nancy Cossette

Vickie McCormick

Anne Peterson

1st Net

Deb Burton

Helen Fuelberg

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LaVerne Franklin

2nd Net

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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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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 light-colored 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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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

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 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.

“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.”

30+ Years Connecting People & Cultures

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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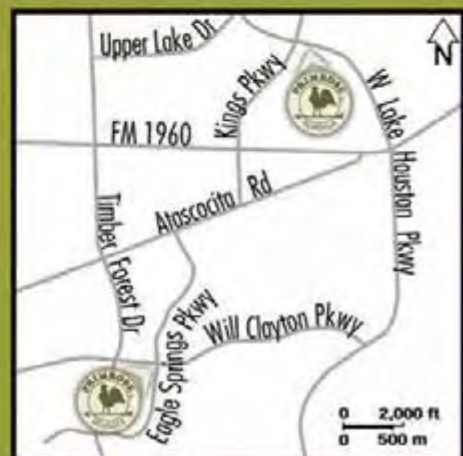
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Clutter No More

Do you have piles of clothes, papers and “stuff” collecting in your home? You’re not alone. It’s time to clean up that clutter and make your abode a more enjoyable and relaxing place to live.

Create a schedule. Depending on how high those piles are, you may not be able to accomplish the task in a single weekend. So, try tackling one room at a time. It may seem like a daunting project, but it will be less scary if you break it down into segments.

Practice a one item in, one item out rule. When you buy an item of clothing, for example, throw out one item of clothing. Not only will it keep down the clutter, but it will also make you rethink whether you really want to buy that new item.

Create a stress-free environment in the bedroom. That means no piles of toys and no mounds of clothes. It should be a place where you can rest without worry.

Make cleaning up fun for kids by turning it into a game. Kids are often the clutter culprits; involve them in the process to make things neater and more organized.

Know your vision for the room. What do you want from a room? Is it a place where you work, a space where you unwind, a playroom for the little ones or something else? If you can answer that question, you’ll be able to decide what items stay and what items go.

Try to make decluttering a part of your everyday life. If you do it at the same time every day—like before you go to bed—the piles won’t accumulate and you won’t have to set aside a block of time to do a major cleaning.

CURB APPEAL COUNTS

Cleaning out and sprucing up your yard are good low-cost alternatives to major home improvement. Whether you hire a professional or have the skills and tools to do it yourself, here are some tips to improve your lawn and landscape:

Weeding, edging, planting beds and mulching go a long way toward improving a yard’s look.

Planting colorful annuals in beds or pots around the house and patio, in hanging plant holders or in flower boxes makes a house look cared for and cozy.

To solve problems or add interest, plant new trees and shrubs to create focus areas, or to camouflage foundations and old fencing, or block unsightly views.

Have your trees and shrubs professionally pruned, fix brown spots in the lawn and remove and replace diseased plants.

Homeowners who want help with their yard should seek an evaluation by a professional lawn or landscape firm. A professional can assess the health of the lawn, plants, trees and shrubs and offer recommendations for improvements.



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National Nutrition Month
National Peanut Month
National Women's History Month
Red Cross Month
Social Workers Month

13 Daylight Savings
15 Ides of March
17 St. Patrick's Day
20 International Earth Day - also called Sun-Earth Day
20 Palm Sunday
20 Spring (Vernal) Equinox
23 Purim begins at sundown
25 Feast of the Annunciation
25 Good Friday
27 Easter Sunday



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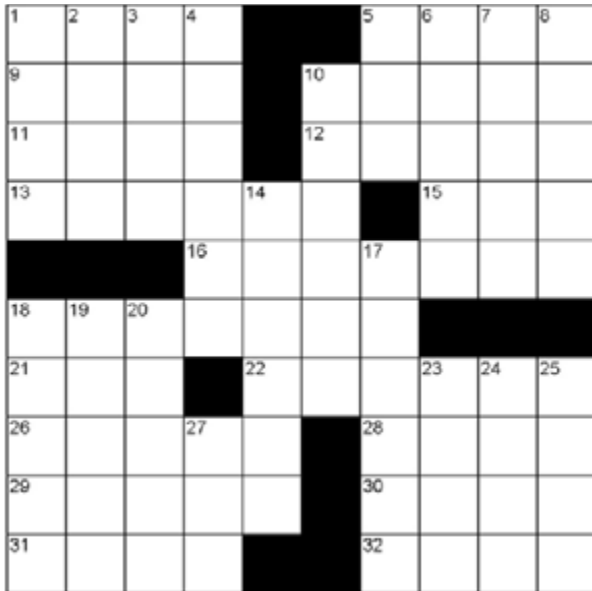


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ACROSS

1. Part of doorway
5. Baby
9. Seaweed substance
10. Transparent gem
11. Defeat
12. Blend
13. Suck up
15. Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
16. French composer Claude
18. Artifacts found in rocks
21. Rend
22. Elite
26. Reorient
28. Canal
29. Meal listings
30. Opp. of ill
31. Adam's garden
32. Hawk

DOWN

1. Indonesian island
2. Elderly
3. Welcome rugs
4. Sulks
5. TV lawyer Matlock
6. Sign of the zodiac
7. Computer memory units
8. Lamenting poem
10. What a gum chewer blows
14. Ruled over
17. "___ and World Report"
18. Border
19. Lubricated
20. Chine
23. Elm
24. Small brook
25. Holler
27. Bullet shooter

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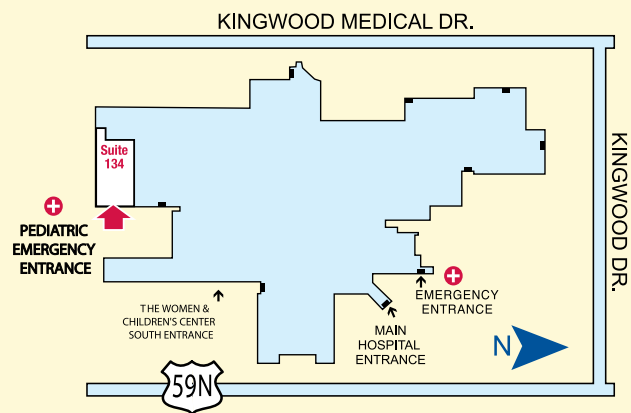


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SPRING MAKEOVER

Spring is such a beautiful time of year in Houston. One can't help but feel the refreshing power of this season when flowers are in full bloom. As the sun will certainly shine a little more, we will want to spend more time in the great outdoors. This will lead to "spring cleaning" and the opportunity to give our homes a little makeover.

Whether you're looking to sell your home or just want to make some home improvements, we want to help you get the most out of your hard earned dollar. Below are a few of my personal tips that will be sure to impress:

Landscaping

The Power of Flowers - Weed free flowerbeds and colorful flowers wins buyers hearts

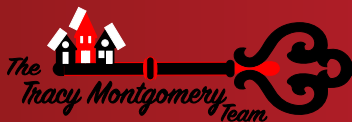
Trimmed lawns, trees, and bushes - Send a positive message to buyers and neighbors; a well-cared for yard represents a well-cared for home.

Interior

Walls - A fresh coat of paint can do wonders for a home. Conservative/neutral paints are the best option if you are planning on selling and most often give a home an open feeling.

Lighting - With so many low energy options the task of finding bright bulbs that don't give off unnatural lighting is often easier said than done. Most of the large box stores will allow you to take back lights you don't like. Buy a few varieties, find the one you like, and take the rest back. Once you find the right "bright" light you'll find your home to be more cheerful and inviting.

If you're been thinking about selling call the Tracy Montgomery Team before spending any money. Interest rates are incredibly low, homes are in high demand, and buying power for many remains strong. The Tracy Montgomery Team of experienced listing agents will help ensure you get the most out of your home investment.



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