

STONE FOREST

Flyer

June 2016

Volume 6, Issue 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Neighbors,

I hope all got through the storms in April without much headaches or property damage.

Stone Forest lost three large pines from most likely wind related causes. Thanks to Randi at Chaparral Management for her help in getting a quick response from Urban Foresters to remove the trees from our green spaces. I asked that this be done as soon as possible in that one tree had begun to topple over but became tangled up in a tree near by. This looked to be a danger in the making. Kudos to Urban Foresters for their quick response.

As this is the June newsletter, I would like to remind all that the annual Homeowners meeting is coming up in July. There will be three openings on the Board this year and ask that you please consider serving on your Homeowners Board of Directors. You'll only be required to attend a meeting every other month for about an hour and you will get to know how what goes on "behind the curtain"! I have really enjoyed my years on the board as well as my time on the ACC committee.

So with the rains comes the growth.....grass and flower beds and the like. Please remember to keep you residence in good order so that the whole community benefits from stable home values.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Tod Bisch

Board President

FLEAS

Fleas are ectoparasites and females require a blood meal to produce eggs. After feeding on a host, females can produce about 30-50 eggs per day that fall off the host animal and into carpeting or other areas of the home or outside in areas where the animal frequents. Larvae feed on organic matter as well as partially digested blood excreted by the adult fleas. After fleas pupate, they hatch out of the cocoon in about 2 weeks, but pupae can remain dormant for up to 5 months waiting for a host.

A proper flea management program has two parts- managing fleas on any pets and managing fleas in the environment. A veterinarian should be consulted about flea control for pets; there are numerous products on the market that work well. Grooming the animal with a flea comb or bathing can help reduce flea numbers. When you find fleas on a pet, you most likely will need to treat the pet, inside the home and the yard. Treatment should be targeted to areas where the pet likes to hang out.

Fleas found in and around homes that do not have pets may be coming from wildlife. The attic and crawl spaces should be inspected to see if wildlife has moved into the area, bringing fleas with them. Wildlife should be removed with traps and the area treated with an insecticide labeled for fleas. After wildlife is removed, the area should be sealed so that wildlife cannot move in again.

It is also possible for new homeowners with no pets to have fleas. This usually results from previous owners having pets. Fleas can remain dormant for several months and become active again when they sense vibrations from hosts.

Inside, vacuum regularly, getting under furniture and along baseboards to reduce flea eggs, larvae and pupae. Place the vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag and throw away in an outdoor garbage can at least once a week so fleas do not hatch out and re-infest the home. Wash pet bedding in hot water. Bathe pets regularly and use a flea

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(Continued from Cover)

comb to remove fleas. Avoid walking pets in known flea infested areas.

Outside, pesticide treatments should target areas where pets frequent. Full sun areas do not need to be treated as fleas will not remain in these areas.

When treating for fleas, you need to treat at least two times. The second treatment should occur 10-14 days after the initial treatment.

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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Finding Time

by Tara Chatterson

I've recently come to the conclusion that the world today has gone mad. It's as simple as that.

Don't believe me? Let's look at one simple fact--in what other place do the majority of the population spend trying to fit 35 hours into a 24 hour day? And continue to do so almost 7 days a week?

Tell me if this sounds familiar: work an 8-9 hour day, come home to do chores like cook dinner, do laundry, feed the dog, etc. add kids to the mix--forget it!

Our success-driven society tells us that we have to push to do more, do it bigger, and do it better than anyone else. Finding time to live any sort of life has suddenly become over-rated and unimaginable as a one-way trip to Neverland.

Over-scheduling, double-booking, extreme intake of caffeine & constant exhaustion have become our closest companions.

Well, I've decided I've had enough. If Neverland is the place where peace exists, then I want to live there.

Is it possible? I believe it is. It starts with claiming the time for yourself to relax and unwind. I've found my Neverland here at Five Horses, LLC. Working with, and learning from, the horses here

has brought me a peace of mind I never believed possible. I know it seems hard at first, but you owe it to yourself to find time to rebuild and recharge.

Indulge yourself by finding time for yourself. There are some amazing new events coming up this month at Five Horses. Take a look--I promise you won't regret it.



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Bring the World into Your Home

Ayusa International, a non-profit organization that has promoted global learning and leadership through high school student cultural exchanges for more than 35 years, is launching its annual search for families in Houston and the surrounding area interested in hosting international students for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ayusa host families who volunteer to open their home to exchange students contribute to the global community as public diplomats for greater international understanding. Each host family and student creates a lasting relationship that spans the cultural differences between their two nations.

The Bray Family from Houston has been hosting two students this year, Mahau from France and Genzo from Japan. Both students have been attending Mayde Creek High School this year. The Brays have six children of their own but feel that hosting exchange students is "probably one of the best decisions our family has ever made," according to host mom April Bray. "[The students] quickly become a part of your family and it's always a great feeling to see their eyes light up when they experience something for the first time or hear the excitement in their voices when they tell you about a new friend they made at school. Your children also get to gain another brother

or sister and it's always fun to see them trying to learn your exchange student's language or customs. For us, there is no greater feeling than watching our exchange students succeed and grow and being able to share our culture and learn more about theirs."

The students have also been having a wonderful experience with the Bray family. Genzo shares, "My host family is so nice to me and I feel like this family is the home I can go back to. They make me feel like I'm loved by them. Of course you can share your culture and learn the language but more importantly, you can experience the other family that you love." His exchange "sister" Mahau says, "It's crazy how much you can love people you didn't know 10 months before. Every day they make my exchange year super great. I consider them like a member of my family. They are the reason why I enjoyed every single day of my new life."

Ayusa works with diverse families who are interested in hosting an international student of high school age. Families without children, empty nesters, military families, retirees, and single people are all welcome. Ayusa families come from all over the country and reside in rural, suburban and urban communities.

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(Continued from Page 4)

"Houston is a popular destination for Ayusa exchange students in the U.S.," says Heather Wells, Ayusa Regional Manager for the Southwest. "Host families love to share the diversity and history of Houston. It's such a fun area to live in, with activities and things for students to experience, from music and sports to outdoor activities and delicious Tex-Mex!" She continues, "If you have ever wanted to learn about a new culture while sharing life in America, I encourage you to give us a call or check out our website to learn more about how you can create an international friendship that lasts a lifetime!"

Host families provide the exchange student with three meals a day and a bedroom (private or shared). A professionally trained Ayusa representative supports each host family, student, and local school throughout the program year. Ayusa's exchange students are 15-18 years old and come from more than 60 countries around the world. Students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English.

How to Host an International Student

Interested families can learn more about the program and available exchange students and request additional information by

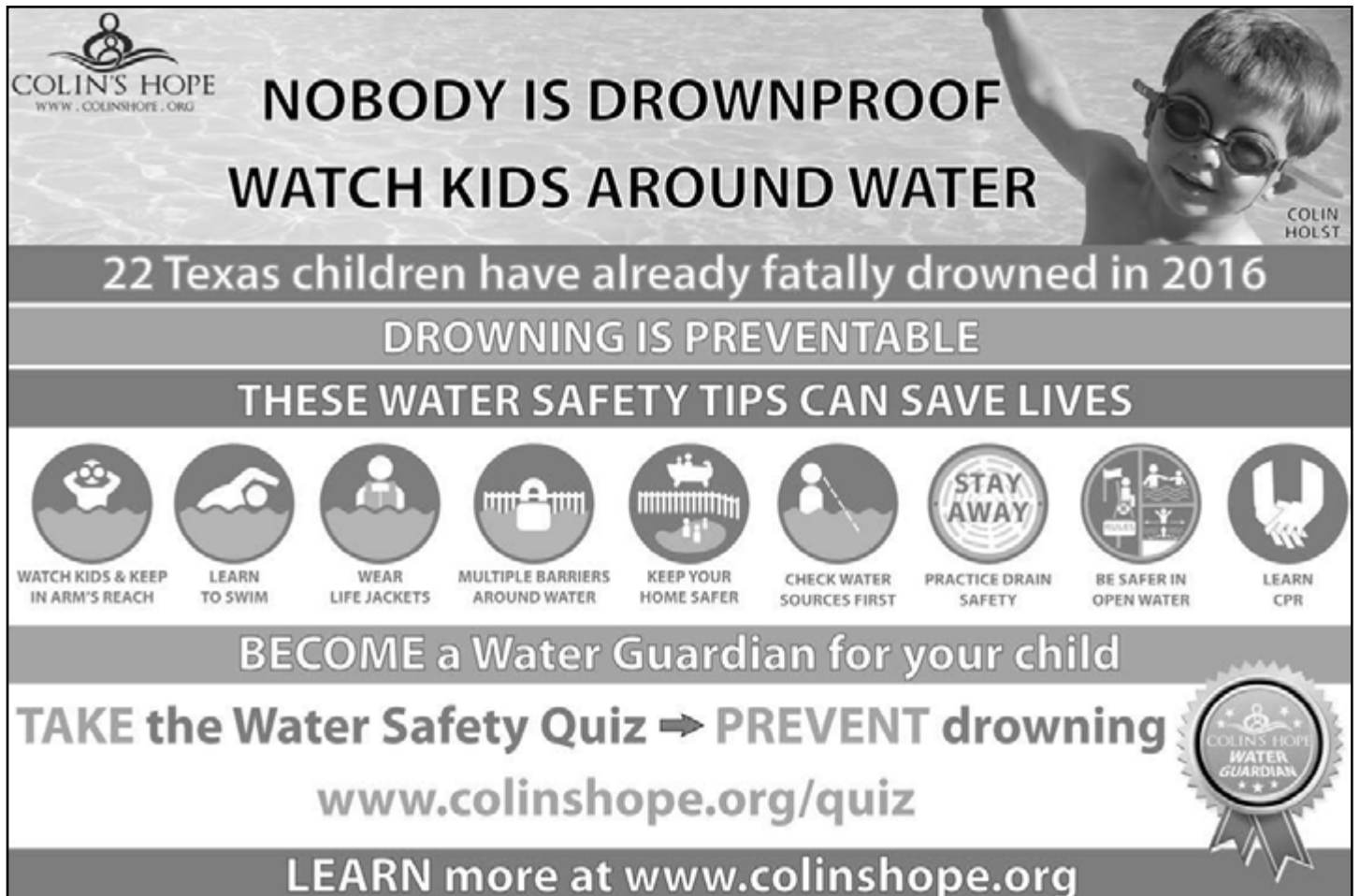
visiting www.ayusa.org or calling 1-888-552-9872.

The process to apply is simple. Families complete the online application, which includes questions about themselves and local high school, references, and a background check. The local Ayusa Community Representative conducts an in-home interview. They can also help each family with any questions they may have about the application or process.

After families are fully approved, they can select the Ayusa student they would like to host.

About Ayusa

Ayusa International (<http://www.ayusa.org>) is a 501(c)3 non-profit student exchange organization founded in 1981 and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. In addition, Ayusa administers high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations. Ayusa is a sister company of Intrax, a family of organizations that provides a lifetime of high-quality educational, work and volunteer programs that connect people and cultures. Intrax is headquartered in San Francisco with offices on four continents.



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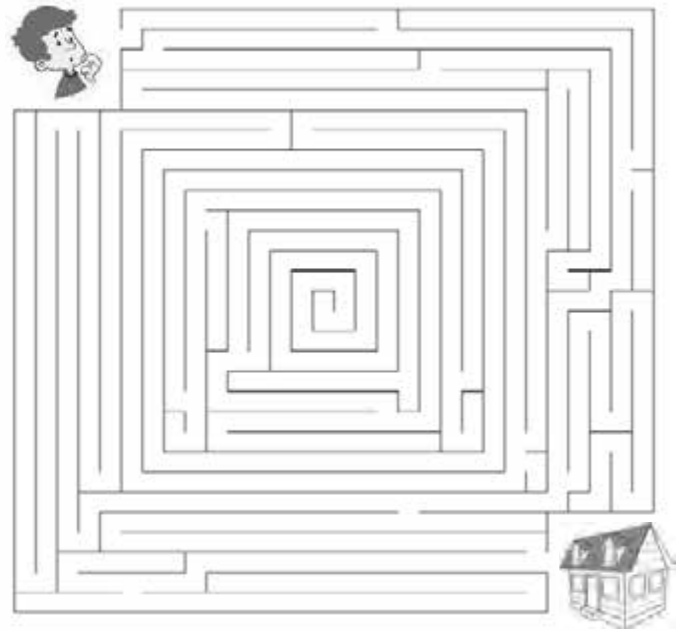
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