

# THE Ranch Review

September 2017  
Volume 11, Issue 9

*A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents*

## 4TH ANNUAL SHOTS FOR HOLLY FLU SEASON KICKOFF PARTY



The Shots for Holly crew is gearing up for the 4th annual Flu Season Kickoff Party, set for Sept. 9 at The Shack, 12710 Telge Road in Cypress.

"We want to invite everyone out to join us," said Dr. Michelle Becker, founder and president of Shots for Holly. "We'll be there from 11 to 2. We'll have information about the flu, prevention and inoculations, as well as our infamous bus for picture-taking, raffle items and games.

"One of our clinic partners will be there to administer the flu shots. And, we're super excited to announce that the band Soul Shine will be with us that day, providing a backdrop of great music for our festivities."

Proceeds from the raffle items will fund ongoing educational programs.

"We will have several items up for grabs in our raffle. You don't need to be present to win," Becker said. "Check our Facebook page and website for details on how you can purchase tickets for a wagon loaded up with party supplies, as well as a grill, and other fun items."

Each year, approximately 50,000 people die of flu-related complications, according to the Center for Disease Control. Deaths among young people 29-45 are on the rise.

"Thanks to our supporters, in the last three years, we have raised more than \$70,000, facilitated over 700 flu shots, traveled over 4000 miles in our bus, and made over 50 appearances at medical facilities and health expos to raise flu awareness," Becker said.

### INTRODUCING "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"

We are all very fortunate to call Riata Ranch home. But, Riata Ranch is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, "Get to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Riata Ranch a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

## 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

HCMUD #196	
Billing.....	281-579-4500
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Centerpoint Electric.....	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
AT&T/SBC.....	800-464-7928
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 INFO

### NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	riataranch@peelinc.com
Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com

### 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](mailto: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 5K FUN RUN AND PUPPY PARADE

*Submitted by Tracy Williams*



Cypress and Houston area residents can strengthen their families, their bodies, their neighborhood school, and their dogs at a very fun family friendly event this fall. Cypress 5K Fun Run and Puppy Parade benefiting the Performing Arts Department at Spillane Middle School will take place Saturday, November 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Spillane Middle School, 13403 Spillane Woods Blvd.

The event is the school's fourth annual Fun Run, and will feature a timed run. You don't have to be a competitive runner to participate since the race also features a family run for those pushing strollers or wanting to walk, and a dog walking segment. The race will begin at Spillane Middle School, and go through the Coles Crossing neighborhood. Medals will be awarded in multiple age brackets, and to the first three dogs who cross the finish line.

While generating funds to support the school's award-winning Performing Arts programs is one goal of this run, event organizers want to strengthen the school's ties to the community as well as encourage community spirit and fitness. The race has become an annual tradition for many, and provides the opportunity to run, walk, bond with, and support family, friends, and neighbors. Last year's run had over 900 participants, and was a great success.

Early bird registration runs August 20 through October 28 for \$30 per individual or \$100 for a family of four, and includes a commemorative T-shirt. From Oct. 29 Nov. 11th registration increases to \$35 per individual or \$110 for a family of four, and a T-shirt is not guaranteed. Late registration, which continues until race day, is \$40 per individual or \$160 for a family of four, and does not include the shirt.

Returning this year will be the option to "Sleep in for the Arts." Pay the registration fee. Do not participate on Race Day. Get a t-shirt!

Runners who have pre-registered can pick up their packets Thursday, November 16th at Spillane Middle School.

To register or for more information, visit the Cypress 5K Fun Run & Puppy Parade website at <https://thedriver.net/cypress5k>.



# AARF Houston

www.aarfhouston.org

## Shoe Drive



**WHO:** Anyone and everyone who has shoes to donate - shoes can be in ANY condition

**WHAT:** Shoe Drive benefiting AARF Houston (a No-Kill Dog Rescue organization)



- Shoes are collected, sorted and sold to another organization then sent to a Third World Country
- Funds will go towards kennels, blankets, dog beds, food, medicine, etc.



**WHEN:** Three remaining collection dates...

- 1) Wed, 08/16/2017 from 7 PM to 9 PM (at library)
- 2) Sat, 09/09/2017 from 10 AM to 1 PM (at Girl Scout Expo)
- 3) Sun, 09/17/2017 from 1 PM to 4 PM (at library)

**WHERE:** Two collection sites...

- 1) Lone Star College Cy-Fair – Library Room 131  
9191 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77433  
\* Text 281-301-5512 for “drive-thru” drop off option
- 2) CFISD Science Exhibition Center – CyFair Girl Scout Expo  
11206 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429  
\* Drop off at Bronze/Silver/Gold Awards info booth

\* If above dates and/or sites are not convenient, please text or call Brenda Wong (281-301-5512) for alternate options



Girl Scout Cadettes, Faith Wong and Grace Wong, are concerned about the increasing number of dogs roaming neighborhoods – many ending up in euthanizing shelters.

To help with non-euthanizing efforts, Faith and Grace wanted to educate the community on ways to prevent loose/lost dogs and offer some suggestions in doing so.



As part of their Silver Award Project (the highest honor of a Girl Scout Cadette), they are planning, organizing and executing the Shoe Drive with AARF Houston and sorting process while also informing people ways to prevent our animal friends from being loose or lost.



## THERE IS POWER IN EVERY GIRL!



In Girl Scouts, the next opportunity to stand up, speak up, and take the lead is never far away. With Girl Scouts, your daughter will discover the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-Taker, Leader)™ within herself and you'll be able to watch her shine, again and again. Girls discover all they can be and learn everything

they can accomplish when they have the right tools and a safe space to work together to change the world.

Ready to unleash your inner G.I.R.L.? Throughout the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls can participate in a variety of fun and challenging activities, like earning badges, selling cookies, going on exciting trips, exploring the outdoors, and doing community service projects. In Girl Scouts, girls get to lead their own adventure (it's your world!), and work with other girls to pick and choose the exciting, hands-on activities they want to do. The idea is to learn by doing,

and in Girl Scouts, girls do lots of it.

Girl Scout volunteers in the Cypress area are hosting the CyFair Girl Scout Expo on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the Science Exhibition Center, 11206 Telge Road from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. At this event, you'll be able to learn more about Girl Scouts, talk to volunteers, and register for Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts is open to girls in kindergarten to 12th grade. Membership is \$25 annually and financial assistance is available, if needed. For more information, please email Jo Anna Harris at [jharris@sigs.org](mailto:jharris@sigs.org).

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## ALBION HURRICANES

Technical Development Indoor Soccer Program (TDIS) will be held on Monday evening's from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. The objective is to further the technical skills of each player through innovative drills, guided discovery exercises and fun and challenging game play. This program is open to all players regardless of club affiliation.

All sessions will be held at Dynamic Indoor Soccer, 20212 Franz Road, Katy TX 77449 for nine weeks.

**AGE GROUP:** (BOYS & GIRLS) U8 - U10

**DATES Fall 2017 Option 1:**

August 7, 14, 21, 28  
 September 4, 11, 18, 25  
 October 2

**COST:** \$200

For further information please  
 contact Eliel Pierre:

[epierre@albionhurricanes.org](mailto:epierre@albionhurricanes.org)



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 26084 Hwy 290 W  
 281-256-1344

**Fairfield Town Center**  
 28610 Hwy 290  
 346-218-7630

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# Monarchs and OE

The protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) infects monarch and queen butterflies. It is an obligate parasite and requires a host to live within and to grow and multiply. It was first discovered in the 1960's infecting monarchs in Florida. Since then, it's been found in monarch populations across the world. It is thought that the parasite has co-evolved with monarchs.

There are three major populations of monarchs in the United States- one east of the Rocky Mountains that winters in Central Mexico and migrate north into the US and Canada; another west of the Rocky mountains that overwinters on the coast of California; the third population are non-migratory and can breed year round in areas such as Florida, Texas and Hawaii. All three populations are infected with OE.

Monarchs infected with OE will have spores wedged between the scales on their body, with the greatest concentration usually occurring on the abdomen. The spores are very small and require a microscope to see.

Female monarchs pass OE spores onto their offspring when they lay eggs. When caterpillars emerge from the egg, they eat the egg shell ingesting the spores. When spores reach the midgut of the insect, they break open and release protozoan parasites. The protozoans move through the gut lining to the epidermis where they reproduce asexually (divides multiple times increasing the number of protozoans). In the butterfly chrysalis stage, the protozoans go through sexual reproduction (again increasing the number of protozoans). Spores form so the emerging butterfly is covered in spores. Spores can also be scattered onto milkweed from butterflies laying eggs or feeding on nectar. Spores on the milkweed can be consumed by caterpillars as they eat foliage.

Once butterflies are infected, they do not recover. OE does not grow or reproduce on the adults; spores remain dormant until they are ingested by a caterpillar.

Infected pupae have dark blotches 2-3 days before emergence. Adults that are heavily infected often have problems emerging from the chrysalis and some may die before emerging. Others that do emerge may fall to the ground before their wings are expanded leading to them dying quickly. Many infected monarchs look healthy, so the only way to determine infection is by looking for spores.

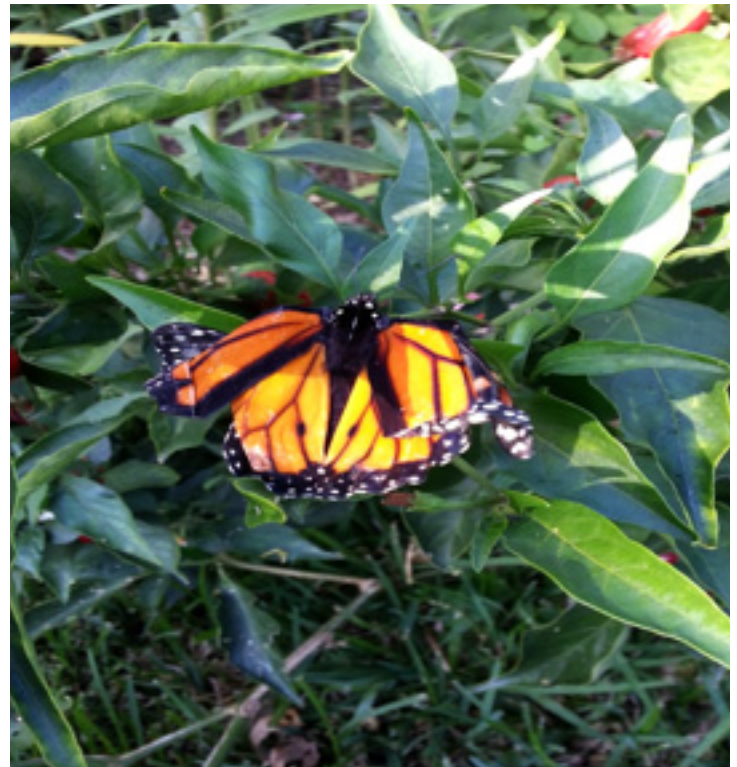
What can you do? Check monarchs for spores and destroy any you find that are infected. I know this seems harsh, but infected monarchs further spread the protozoa and kill more butterflies in later generations. Cut down milkweed several times per year to get rid of any possible spores that may be on the plants and to encourage new, healthy growth.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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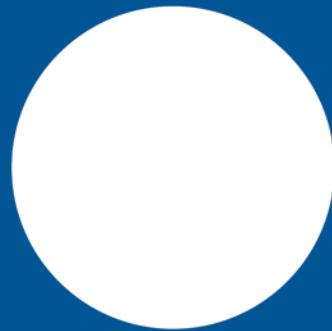
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