ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY GAZETTE



THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SCALE INSECTS

Scale insects are divided into two basic categories- soft scales and hard, or armored, scales. Soft scales produce a soft, thin, cottony, powdery, or waxy covering that cannot be separated from their body. They also produce a lot of honeydew (a sweet, sticky substance excreted by some insects). Hard scales produce a hard, shield-like covering made of shed skins and wax that conceals their body but is not attached to the body.



Hard Scale

Scale insects lay eggs which hatch into crawlers. Eggs are usually hidden under the female's body, but some may be placed under a cottony or waxy covering secreted by the female. The first instar is called a "crawler" because when they emerge from the egg, they move around on the plant to locate a place to settle down and feed. Crawlers may be transported to other plants by wind, people, or animals such as birds. After they choose their spot, the insects typically do not move for the rest of their life.

Scale insects cause damage to plants by puncturing and removing plant juices via their piercing-sucking mouthparts. This can lead to



Soft Scale

yellowing, wilting, leaf drop, or sometimes killing sections of the plant. Soft scales produce honeydew which can lead to growth of a black fungus called sooty mold that can further stress your plant. Depending on the type of scale, they may be found on foliage, stems, or even roots of the plant.

Tips for managing scale insects:

- Prune sections that contain scales from the plant and discard in sealed bags.
- Try spraying the plant with a high pressure water spray to knock the insects from the plant.
- Try treating the plant with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil.

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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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
EMERGENCY 911 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191 Poison Control 800-222-1222
NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Pct 4 Constable Non-Emergency Dispatch
SCHOOLS
Humble ISD 281-540-1775 Whispering Pines Elementary 281-641-2500 Humble Middle School 281-641-2500 Humble High School 281-641-6300
UTILITY NUMBERS
Report Power Outage - Centerpoint
DPS Office
NEIGHBORHOOD MANAGEMENT Community Asset Management www.CommunityAssetManagement.com Pam Valentinepvalentine@cam-texas.com
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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.



WHAT'S LIVING IN MY CHIMNEY?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



If you're hearing twittering followed by rapid, high-pitched chirps in your fireplace, you've got Chimney Swifts but before you call an exterminator to have them removed, it's important to know that the birds have the law on their side. They are protected by federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty

Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb their nests, eggs or young during the breeding season. Any knowledgeable, respected exterminating company won't touch them. Once the babies are old enough to chirp, they'll only be around for a couple of weeks before they leave the nest so hang in there and leave them alone. They cause little to no damage.

Sadly, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Chimney Swift populations have decreased by 72% since 1966. Their favorite nesting places are old hollow trees and masonry chimneys. With urban sprawl many of the trees are being removed and newer homes and buildings are being constructed without fireplaces. If fireplaces are being built, newer materials such as metal liners are being used making it impossible for the Swifts to cling to the sides.

Once a nesting site has been found, Mom and Dad Swift construct

a half saucer-shaped nest made of twigs. The twigs are held together by glue-like saliva from a gland under the bird's tongue. The nest is "glued" to the side of the chimney.

Chimney Swifts fly almost constantly except when roosting overnight and nesting. They even bathe while flying. They fly down to the water, hit the surface with their body, bounce up and shake off the water. When it is time to rest, they don't sit on perches. They have long claws that cling to textured walls and other textured vertical surfaces such as the walls of your chimney.

Swifts are very beneficial. They gobble up thousands of mosquitoes, flies and other insects while in flight. Two parents along with their nestlings will consume up to 12,000 flying insects every day.

Come fall the birds migrate back to the Amazon River Basin.

Chimney Swifts are admitted to TWRC Wildlife Center every year. As part of our mission, we want to educate the public to the laws regarding this species as well as many other migratory species. If you have Chimney Swifts in your chimney, please leave them alone and don't risk the fines and possible jail time associated with disturbing them. If you have questions, please give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.

DELTON HAYES JEWELERS JUNE SPECIAL!

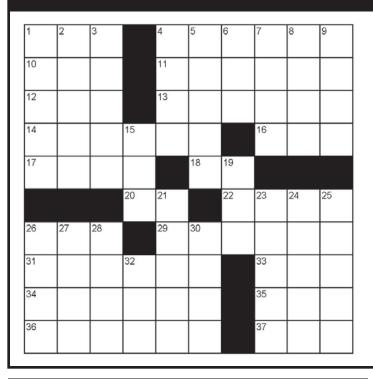


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 4. Walks
- 10. Bumbling insect
- 11. Hide (2 wds.)
- 12. Rowing tool
- 13. City in the former USSR
- 14. Incomparable
- 16. Supersonic transport
- 17. Meat alternative
- 18. " Mice and Men"
- 20. Cincinnati locale
- 22. Stretched car
- 26. Dined
- 29. Entertained
- 31. Delete
- 33. Type of partnership
- 34. Musical speeds
- 35. Elver
- 36. Seize
- 37. Sample

DOWN

- 1. Regarding
- 2. Lotto
- 3. Character part
- 4. Thousand (abbr.)
- 5. Cowboy show
- 6. Bullfight cheer
- 7. Dining hall
- 8. Domestic cat
- 9. Lovers quarrel
- 15. Status
- 19. Respiratory disease
- 21. Trouble
- 23. Small island
- 24. Measure
- 25. Strangely
- 26. Branch of learning
- 27. Adolescent
- 28. Austin novel
- 30. Net
- 32. Choose

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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THE BEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE DAD?

Encouraging him to make an appointment for his annual physical

June is Men's Health Awareness Month and physicians affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital are encouraging men to use this time as a reminder to get their annual physical.

"Men often forego yearly physical exams, but early detection is key to avoiding many of the diseases that affect our mortality and quality of life. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple discussion of prevention and treatment of illnesses like heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes with a family doctor for people to get on a better health track," says Adan Alvarez, M.D., a family medicine physician with Memorial Hermann Medical Group Copperfield.

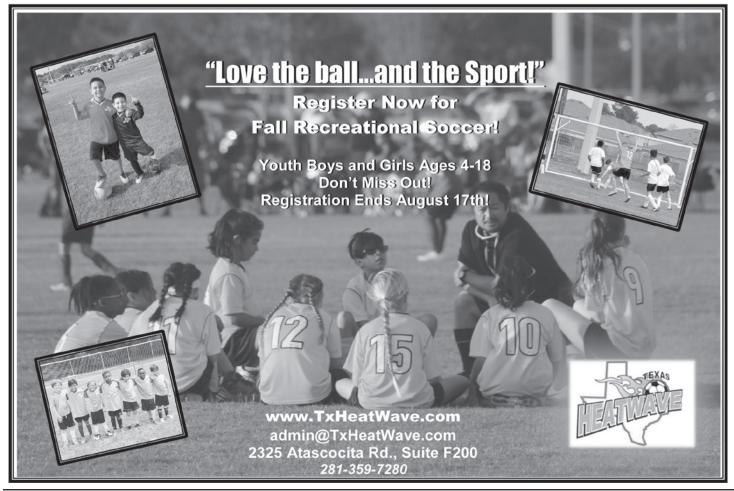
Dr. Alvarez emphasizes the importance of basic screening and patient education to help patients prevent more serious interventions down the line.

"If you're seeing your physician annually, you'll be more involved with tracking your overall health—simple things

such as changes in your blood pressure and weight are good indicators. Monitoring risk factors, getting appropriate lab work, and making lifestyle modifications now will go a long way and may spare you the need for medications or even surgery down the line," says Dr. Alvarez.

Family medicine physicians with Memorial Hermann Medical Group treat patients of all ages for a variety of conditions, including routine physicals, chronic disease management, and immunization. All clinics are staffed by board-certified physicians and offer X-ray and lab services on-site.

Memorial Hermann Medical Group Copperfield is open from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday. It is located in the Kroger shopping center at the corner of Hwy 6 N and Pebble Lake Dr., between West Road and Huffmeister. Call 281.550.9005 to schedule an appointment.



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HOLIDAY MARKET VENDOR OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

The Ladies Auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is holding their 26th annual Gingerbread Village Holiday Market on October 27, 2018. We are located at 6646 Addicks Satsuma Road, Houston, 77041. If you are a vendor who would like to showcase your arts, crafts, seasonal décor, etc. at our event, please email: gingerbreadvillage@yahoo.com for more information or application.

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HISTORY OF AMERICAN FLAG.

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It's been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. And the American Flag has been a prominent icon in our national history. Here are the highlights of its unique past.

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington's control. On that New Year's Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

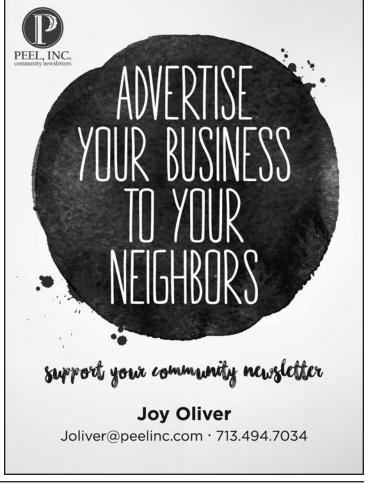
On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

- Act of January 13, 1794 provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.
- Act of April 4, 1818 provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.
- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies, the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well: Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.





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