

CYPRESS

pulse

MAY 2020 - VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

NEWS FOR THE CYPRESS PARK COMMUNITY



Chick-FIL-A, Towne Lake, took 287 sandwiches in the morning and 87 sandwiches in the evening to Memorial Hermann Hospital on April 6th to thank the staff for all they are doing to keep us safe.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire/Ambulance.....	911
Officer.....	911
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Cy-Fair Medical Clinic (24 Hour)	281-890-4285
Sheriff Non-emergency.....	281-463-2648

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Roadside Assistance.....	800-525-5555
Fire/Ambulance.....	713-466-4073
Harris County Precinct 4	281-376-3472
Texas No Call List Registration	866-TXN-OCAL
Vacation Watch	281-401-6200

SCHOOLS

Bus Information	281-897-4380
Ault Elementary School.....	281-373-2800
Keith Elementary School.....	281-213-1744
Swenke Elementary School.....	281-213-1200
Rosehill Christian School	281-351-8114
Cy-Fair Administration	281-897-4000
Cy-Ranch High School	281-373-2300
Cy-Woods High School.....	281-213-1800
Salyards Middle School	281-373-2400
Spillane Middle School.....	281-213-1645

UTILITY NUMBERS

Eagle Water Management, Inc.....	281-373-8989
Centerpoint (Gas)	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy (Electricity).....	713-207-7777

OTHER NUMBERS

AT&T Repair Center	800-246-8464
Street Light Outages (Need to provide the 6 digit pole number).....	713-207-2222
Harris County Animal Control	832-999-3191
Best Trash (They provide free trashcan for recyclables)	281-313-2378
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Post Office.....	281-858-9021

NEWSLETTER INFO

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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 cypresspark@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.

Albion Hurricanes FC (AHFC)

Albion Hurricanes FC (AHFC), established in 1989, is leading the way in South Texas youth soccer by inspiring and developing young men and women through world class coaching and innovative techniques, as well as instilling the proper framework, self-esteem, confidence and sportsmanship within our athletes.

The club invites all interested competitive players from the ages of 7 to 19, to the Player Evaluations & Tryouts and to become part of our success. AHFC competitive evaluations will be in May**. We ask that all interested players pre-register before coming out to the fields. Please visit albionhurricanes.org for details about your particular campus.

AHFC also offers JHSL (a recreational program for 5 - 10 year old) at our Cy Fair and Central locations and offers additional training at Katy Friday Night Academy as well as Thursday Night Academy for players in the New Territory area.

Visit albionhurricanes.org to register and for times and dates.

***Subject to change in accordance to League rules.



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Crape Myrtle Bark Scale



Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance free for years, that is no longer the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas.

Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.

When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks, limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfested tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales fly. Others are dispersed by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape maintenance equipment to nearby areas. Long-distance transport occurs via infested material. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move onto to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for CMBS. There are lady bugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. Ensure that if you buy and plant crape myrtles, that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or you select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic. Studies from TAMU discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/ nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done with the second treatment taking place 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April-May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom to protect pollinators.

For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link:

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

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

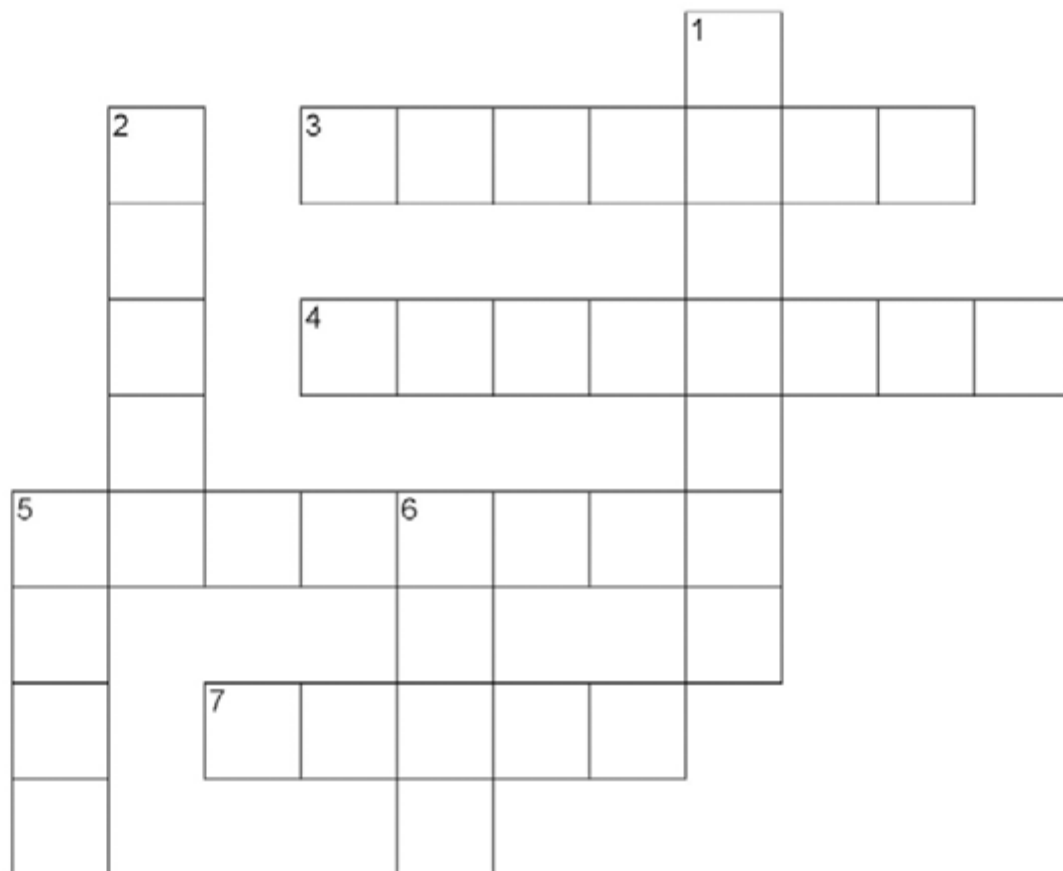
This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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Kidz Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Match the correct answer with each clue to complete the puzzle.



ACROSS

DOWN

Clue

- 3. Good dessert
- 4. Confuse or divert
- 5. Lives next door
- 7. To float

Answer

- Distract
- Neighbor
- Drift
- Pudding

Clue

- 1. Collection of books
- 2. Used to weigh
- 5. Bird's house
- 6. Frozen raindrops

Answer

- Scale
- Library
- Hail
- Nest

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IS IT A FROG OR A TOAD? How to tell the difference

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Did you know there are 30 different species of frogs and toads in Texas? The problem I have, however, is telling the difference between a frog and a toad. Can you tell the difference?

First, let's explore the similarities. Both frogs and toads are members of the amphibian class. Both have short bodies, two hind legs, two front arms and a wide head. Both frogs and toads are carnivorous and eat worms, insects, slugs, spiders and small fish. Toads may also eat dog food left outside. They catch their prey with their long, sticky tongues. Females lay their eggs close to water or actually in the water and the males fertilize them.

DIFFERENCES:

- If you look at the hind legs, you'll notice the frog has very long legs. They need longer legs because they hop more and higher than toads. Toads tend to crawl more. They can hop but they can't hop very high or very far.

- The frog spends most of its time in the water so it has webbed back feet. Sometimes the front feet are webbed as well.

- Toads have a chubbier appearance than frogs.

- The skin of the frog is much smoother. A toad's skin will be bumpy and the bumps resemble warts.

- The coloring between frogs and toads is different. Frogs are a bright green or a yellow-olive in color. Toads are a dark green to an olive green in color. Make sure you don't rely solely on coloring when trying to identify an animal though because there are some brownish green frogs.

- Frogs spend the majority of their time near water and rarely venture very far away from a water source.

During breeding season, frogs can be incredibly noisy. If you have security lights around your home, these lights will attract insects which will in turn attract frogs who want to eat them. If the noise bothers you, turn out the lights.

If you have pets, don't allow them to play with toads. When toads are threatened or bitten, they use the same defense mechanism as a skunk. The skin lets out a bitter taste and odor that burns the eyes and nostrils.

It is highly toxic to pets and can cause death if left untreated. Humans, however, are not affected by a toad's toxin. If your pet has been outside and you notice it pawing at its mouth or eyes, crying or whimpering, it may have encountered a toad. Other signs to look for:

- Excessive drooling
- Seizures
- Yellow vomit
- Diarrhea
- Dilated pupils
- Irregular heartbeat
- Foaming at the mouth
- Hyperthermia
- Collapse
- Difficulty breathing

If you think your pet has had an encounter with a toad, contact your veterinarian immediately.

For other helpful information, check out the blog on the TWRC Wildlife Center website. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org

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Dreams Have no Travel Limitations!

Our foreign exchange students have the dream to study in the US, and they HOPE that they can come this fall. Let's keep their dreams alive and show them they are welcome and wanted if it becomes possible for the come.

Now more than ever, is the perfect time to sign up to host an exchange student. Students from around the world are still holding onto their dreams of spending a year in the USA! Help make that dream come true today. It is true we cannot predict the future, but these students are hoping to be able to come in August. It would make them very happy to know someone here WANTED them.

Each of our students is fluent in English, comes with their own spending money and health insurance. Most importantly, they come with a dream to spend a year in the US so they can experience life as an American teenager!

STS Foundation accepts all of host families – from single parents, newly marrieds, empty nesters and same sex couples. In order to host, you would need to meet the following qualifications:

- Host must be 25 years or older
- Pass a background check
- Provide food for 3 meals daily

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