

The LONGWOOD Letter

March 2010

Volume 4, Issue 3

News For The Residents of Longwood

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Time to Make Post-Recession Investment Moves?

Like a tiresome dinner guest, the recession has long outstayed its welcome. But there are some clear signs that the economy has begun to turn around. If that is indeed the case, how should you, as an individual investor, respond?

Before we get to that question, let's quickly review some of the key factors that suggest the recession may be ending. First, we've seen four straight months of gains by the Conference Board's Index of Leading Economic Indicators. Also, the job market is improving somewhat and bank lending is increasing. The Federal Reserve's efforts to stabilize the financial system have improved conditions in the corporate credit markets, as indicated by a dramatic increase in the amount of new bonds issued by companies thus far in 2009. We've also seen improvements in the housing market and in industrial production.

Even if all this evidence indicates the recession is ending, does that necessarily mean that boom times for investors will follow? A look back in time shows reasons for optimism. In 10 recessions, extending from 1949 through 2001, the S & P 500 rose, on average, 9.5 percent six months following the recession's end date, and 15.5 percent after 12 months, according to Ned Davis Research. Of course, as you

have no doubt heard, past performance is no guarantee of future results, but in years gone by, staying in the market rewarded long-term investors —those who could look beyond the recession at hand.

In any case, if the recession is ending, let's return to our original question: What investment moves should you make? As we've already seen, the most important step you can take is to remain invested - and if you're out of the market, consider getting back in. As exhibited by the strong market rally this summer, large gains can come quickly, but they only come to those who aren't on the investment sidelines.

(Cont. on Page 2)



BOOTS 'N WHOOPS

Featuring Singer Granger Smith

Sunday, March 28

NW Harris County

Aggie Moms

**Invite All Aggies & Their
Friends**

Come have a boot scootin' good time with the Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms Association at their big fundraiser this year entitled "Boots 'N Whoops" on Sunday, March 28. The fundraiser will benefit Aggie student scholarships and will feature the Texas Aggie recording artist, Granger Smith and his band. The fundraising event will be held at Mulligans & More at 14440 Stuebner Airline Road from 1 to 6 pm. The fun and entertainment includes western dancing, barbecue, games, golf, auctions, prizes, and more. Adult tickets are on sale in advance for \$28 (\$33 at the door) and student tickets are \$18 in advance (\$23 at the door). For ticket information, please contact Stacy Durham (713-899-1755) or Lisa Shive (832-515-1249).

Please come and join us in the fun and festivities for a great cause!

LONGWOOD LETTER

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Ambulance.....	911
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- Auto Theft	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse.....	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Traffic Light Issues	713-881-3210

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation	281-897-4380
Cypress Fairbanks Senior High.....	281-897-4600
Goodson Middle School	281-373-2350
Hamilton Elementary.....	281-370-0990

OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department	713-439-6260
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- not working (Report Number on Pole)	
Trash Removal	281-446-2030

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Financial Focus- (Cont. from Cover Page)

In addition to staying invested, consider these other post-recession moves — which are actually pretty good moves before and during a recession, as well:

- Look for quality. In any economic environment, you'll be making a smart move by focusing on quality investments that fit your unique situation. You may look for the stocks of those companies with strong management teams and competitive products. And stick with investment-grade bonds, if fixed income is appropriate.

- Diversify. Build a portfolio containing a variety of investments, including stocks, bonds, government securities and certificates of deposit. While diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, it can help you reduce the long-term effects of volatility on your holdings.

- Keep a long-term perspective. It's not easy to overlook market fluctuations, especially severe ones, but if you can keep your eyes on what you hope to achieve in the future, you might be less likely to over-react to short-term events. While you may need to periodically adjust your investment mix in response to changes in the economy and in your own life, you'll be better off, in the long run, by establishing a strategy that's appropriate for your individual risk tolerance and goals — and sticking to it.

As individuals, we're all subject to the ebbs and flows of the economy. But by focusing on those things you can control — such as buying quality investments, diversifying and thinking long-term — you can become an investor for all seasons.

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NW Harris County Aggie Moms Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 9th, 2010

Please join us in welcoming our guest speaker, Dr. Robert C. Webb Sr., Interim Dean for the office of graduate studies at Texas A&M University. Our guest speaker, Dr. Webb, received his undergraduate degree in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania and MS and PhD in Physics from Princeton University. After serving on the faculty of University of California and Princeton University, Dr. Webb has served many years in several administrative positions at Texas A&M University in the Department of Physics as professor, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, and Interim Head for the Department of Physics. Dr. Webb will be speaking about the wonderful research opportunities available for the undergraduate students at Texas A&M University.

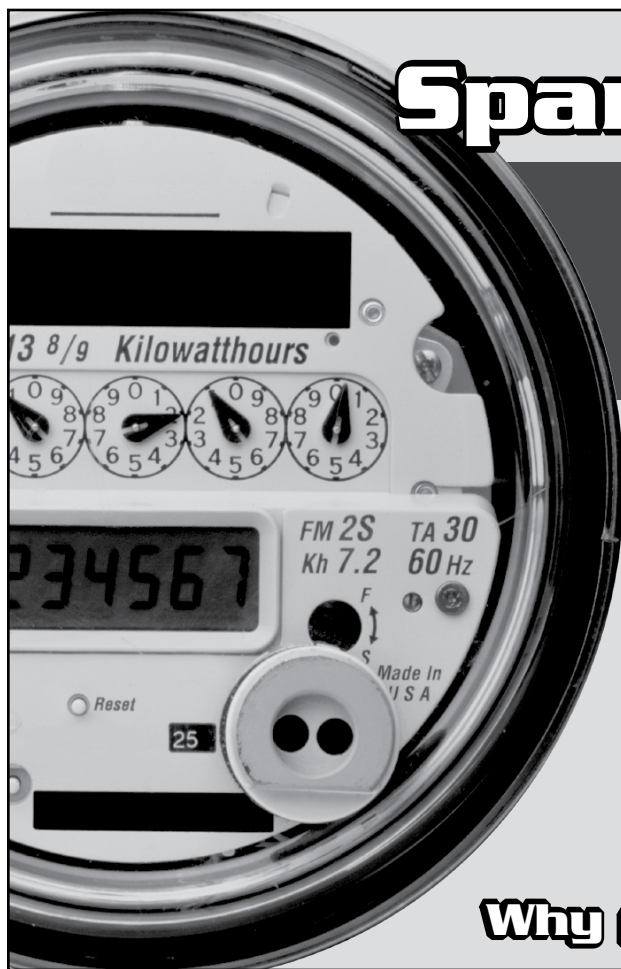
The Aggie Moms will gather on Tuesday, March 9th at 7 pm at the Houston Distribution Center conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of Cutten Road and 7100 High Life Drive. All current, future, and former Aggie moms are welcome to attend! Our monthly meetings include refreshments, fellowship, guest speakers, the Aggie gift boutique, door prizes, and more! Also learn about upcoming events, fundraisers, and Aggieland trips. Aggie Moms will be hosting a baseball tailgate party and an upcoming "Boots 'N Whoops" western dance fundraiser in March. Please come and learn more about the great opportunities available through the Aggie Moms Club. For more information, see our website at www.nwhcaggie moms.com.

Your Unwanted Books

If you throw out your paperbacks, please give me a call and let me pick them up, if they are in good condition. We spread them around to people who can't buy for themselves (homeless shelters, prison ministry, etc.). Hardbacks and kid's books are welcomed, as well. Thanks! Please call Deanna at (281)-373-4477.

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LONGWOOD LETTER

The MOMS Club® of Cypress / NW-Fairfield Moms Offering Moms Support

Welcomes all Stay-At-Home Moms in Fairfield and Lakes of Fairhaven

MOMS Club® is an international organization with a neighborhood feel! We are teachers, business women, counselors, chefs, CPA's and artists who have put those careers on hold and have made the choice to stay home with our kids.

MOMS Club® is a place to find friendship, support, playmates and sisterhood!

ALL events include our children and we believe there is something for every mom out there! Are you looking for park days, coffee breaks, lunch outings, (free) babysitting co-op, craft projects, time to sit and chat, cooking club, book club or someone to share dinner with when your husband is traveling or working late? We even find the time to meet once a month for a mom's night out for a great time to unwind. Or are you interested in helping within the community with service

projects? We have that! (And a whole lot more!)

March and already here and spring is just around the corner! Yay! I'm sure your kids are looking forward to Spring Break. The MOMS Club has some fun and exciting activities planned for the spring including a family picnic. Do you have young children and looking for some fun things to do? Come join other moms and kids in many great outdoor and indoor activities. Are you new to the area or a new mom and need a friend or support; we are here for you. Don't let yourself feel isolated being a stay at home mom. You can attend two events before joining. Our membership fee is only \$20 a year. The MOMS Club is a great opportunity for you and your kids to make new friends in our area. Come visit our next all-member

meeting and see for yourself! There is a lot of fun and support just waiting for you! Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 9th at 10AM at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church located on Cypresswood Drive in Fairfield. We often have a guest speaker at our meetings discussing topics like finance, health, organization and other popular topics. As always, children welcomed!

For more information, please contact

Keri Whitt, Membership VP,
713-724-4147,

keriwhitt@yahoo.com
or

Amy Wilkes, President,
281-455-2807,
amywilkes2003@yahoo.com.

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LONGWOOD LETTER

HOUSTON BALLET STARS DANCE IN THE SUBURBS

HRB presents Sleeping Beauty and Other Tales at the Berry Center



Houston Ballet principal dancers Sara Webb and Connor Walsh will perform as Princess Aurora and Prince Florimond in the timeless tale of Sleeping Beauty's Aurora's Wedding staged by award-winning HRB Artistic Director Victoria Vittum and Barbara LeGault to Tchaikovsky's musical score. Sara Webb, from Dallas, Texas, joined the Houston Ballet in 1997 and was promoted to Principal in 2003. "A ballerina who dances from the soul, bleeding musicality, technical virtuosity, speed, fearlessness and spunk through her gracefully arched feet and liquid

arms," writes Molly Glentzer of the Houston Chronicle. Her partner in this famous pas de deux is the talented Connor Walsh. Connor, born in Fairfax, Virginia, began dancing at the age of seven. He joined the Houston Ballet in 2004 and was promoted to Principal in 2007. "We are thrilled at the opportunity to have our community see Sara and Connor close up and personal at the Berry Center," states Victoria Vittum, founder of the Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB). HRB is the premier junior ballet company in Northwest Houston which provides quality performances in the community – including its annual Nutcracker performances in Tomball.

Sleeping Beauty and Other Tales includes a collection of pieces designed to delight children and introduce them to classical and contemporary ballet and modern dance: Storybook Fantasy and Tangled Web choreographed by Victoria Vittum and the premier of I'm in Charge of Painting My Soul (based on the children's book Bear's Picture by Daniel Pinkwater) choreographed by Jane Weiner, founder of Hope Stone, Inc. Performances will be held at the Berry Center Saturday, April 10 at 2 and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 11 at 3pm. Tickets, \$18, are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 281-861-0199; or going to www.hrbdance.org. Girl Scout and other group

discounts are available. Sara and Connor will be showcased in the Saturday 7pm and Sunday performances. Houston Ballet II dancers will fill the role at the Saturday matinee performance, specifically Liao Xiang and Aaron Sharratt, both having excellent placement in the recent Prix de Lausanne competition in Switzerland.

HRB is a non-profit civic organization dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the art of classical ballet. It provides young aspiring dancers the opportunity to discover within themselves a source of enrichment, beauty, and the means of aesthetic expression that will last a lifetime. HRB dancers have gone on to dance professionally with the New York City Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Walt Disney World, Texas Ballet Theater, American Ballet Theater (ABT), and Dayton Ballet. HRB is directed by Victoria Vittum, a nationally recognized teacher and choreographer who has been a faculty member of the Houston Ballet Academy and has served as Resident Choreographer for the Gwinnett Ballet Theater in Atlanta, GA. She is the recipient of a Choreography Fellowship awarded by the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and the Texas Commission for the Arts for outstanding Choreographic merit and contribution to the City of Houston.

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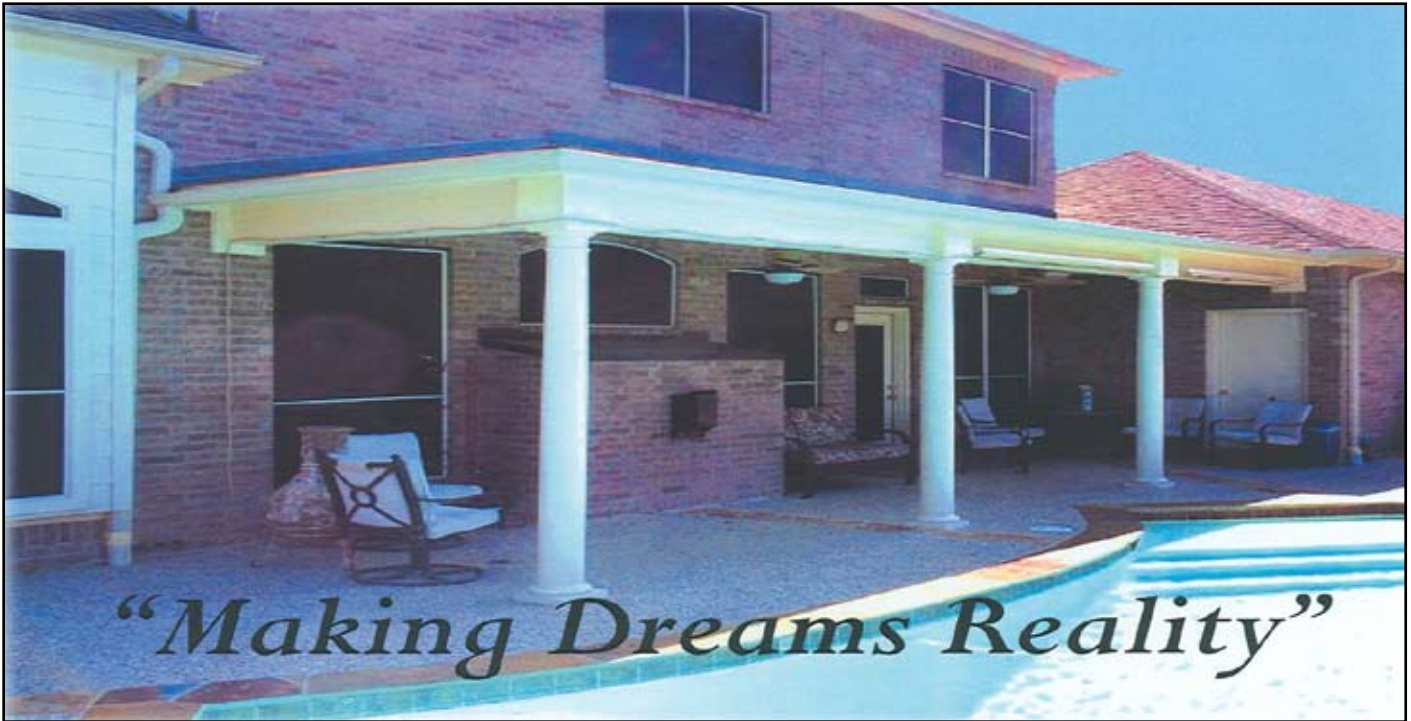
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BAK-PAK Critters Reading Program Wags into Keith Elementary

BAK-PAK: Books and Kids, Power and Knowledge

Keith Elementary is participating in a very exciting reading program called BAK-PAK Critters Reading Program. This program is dedicated to helping children improve their reading skills by using specially trained therapy dogs. Teams consist of a handle and their therapy animal. Two teams work with 20 students during the school day on a one-on-one basis to help at-risk students improve their reading skills. Research shows that children who are below their peers in reading skills are often intimidated by reading aloud. The use of therapy pets reduces stress and students are more willing to interact with an animal than with another person.

Keith Elementary gives a special thanks to Lori King and Becky Talash for volunteering countless hours training their own pets to be certified therapy dogs. Their dogs kicked off the program in January and it has been a huge success.

More dogs are needed. You and your pet can become involved in this specialized animal assisted reading program which is sponsored by Oaks Presbyterian Church and partially funded by a grant for Williams. For more information please contact Mary Kegarise at 832-326-4112 or mary_kegarise@hotmail.com

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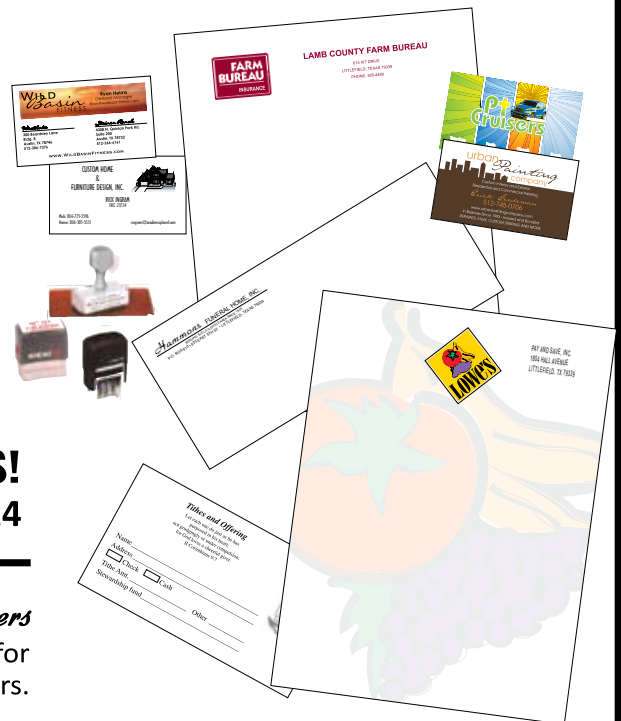
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LONGWOOD LETTER



SAVE THE DATE: 2010 Seniors and Parents we need your help to make this a successful event. Join us at this semester's monthly meetings on March 4, April 8, April 22, May 6 and May 25. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Cy Woods High School commons. Parents will earn 5,000 WRAP bucks & students 3,000 for attending. For more information on WRAP, please visit our website at www.cywoodswrap.org, contact us via email at cywoodswrap@yahoo.com or join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WRAP2010>.

Stay Informed by providing us with your email address to receive the latest news about WRAP. The only way WRAP knows to include you in the email list is by your request. Please send a complete Parent Information form (located on the Forms page) to www.cywoodswrap@yahoo.com.

MAKE YOUR MARK (Seniors only). WRAP 2010 is sponsoring a fundraiser to leave a legacy for the future classes of Cy-Woods High School. A life size bronze wildcat will be mounted on a base that will include all class of 2010 senior student donor's names. The cost of participating is \$50. Final deadline is March 20th. Please pick up your order form at the VIPS window or go to www.cywoodswrap.org.

WRAP PROM CLOTHES RESALE BOUTIQUE – Does your daughter have a dance coming up and need a dress? Do we have a deal for you! Come in and browse through our selection of gently worn long and short dresses. Sale begins Saturday March 6th and runs through Sunday March 7th at the Coles Crossing Country Club. Hours are from 12-5 each day. Please go to www.cywoodswrap.org for more information.

WRAP is a Cy-Woods High School's parent-driven Project Prom organization. The purpose of WRAP is to provide a drug- and alcohol-free overnight lock-in party for the graduating seniors and their guests after their prom. Held at the CFISD Berry Center on May 28, 2010, from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., it is a fun-filled evening of shows, games, activities, food, gifts and prizes!



View the Kids' Club Contest Winners
online each month at
www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php

CY-FAIR KIWANIS CLUB

Would you like to be involved in an organization that focuses its service projects toward benefitting the lives of children and teenagers in our community? Come join us at the CY-FAIR KIWANIS CLUB and be a part of these activities. CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE is the motto of Kiwanis Clubs worldwide. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club sponsors nine Key Clubs in the Cy-Fair Schools; supports Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Sea Scout troops and activities; provides scholarships to outstanding Key Club members in our district; provides assistance to Cypress Assistance Ministries and Bear Creek Ministries; the Houston Food Bank; and many other nonprofit organizations. Membership is open to persons of good character who adhere to the standards of good conduct in their community and believe in and subscribe to the objects of Kiwanis International. If you would like to know more about Kiwanis and the programs it promotes, we invite you to be our guest at one of our monthly meetings. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis meet at Hearthstone Country Club on the first, second, and third Tuesday of each month at 12:15 for lunch and informative programs. For more information, call John Carroll at 281-463-0373 or George Crowl at 832-467-1998.

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LONGWOOD LETTER

CY-FAIR ISD & VOLUNTEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (VIPS): "Volunteers Rock!"

VIPS is an acronym for Volunteers in Public Schools. VIPS in Cy-Fair ISD center the attention of their service on supporting students and staff and making a significant contribution to the education of children. These dedicated individuals, who give freely of their time and resources, impact the academic and personal development of Cy-Fair ISD students. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is fortunate to be able to draw from a diversity of skills and knowledge in its community.

If you are interested in being a volunteer who "Rocks" and making a difference, or would like more information, please contact Pam Scott, Partners in Education Director at 281-894-3950.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING

Register for training by emailing the PIE office at vipsrsvp@cfisd.net. Include your name, name of training/event and date you wish to attend. Registration is required to guarantee a seat & training materials. *Adults only please.*

March - April 2010 Upcoming Events

March 9 - Junior Achievement Volunteer Training

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Berry Center

The purpose of Junior Achievement is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, understand business and economics, and be workforce ready.

March 25 - VIPS General Meeting

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Berry Center

Open to all CFISD volunteers, parents, staff and community members. Get the latest information on CFISD volunteering and learn through networking!

April 23 - VIPS Spring Workshop

7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Berry Center

A day of informative workshops is offered to volunteer leaders and chairpersons designed to help coordinate and enhance a successful volunteer program in the 2010-11 school year.

April 29 - VIPS General Meeting

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Berry Center

The last VIPS General Meeting of the 2009-10 school year! Open to all CFISD volunteers, parents, staff and community members. Get the latest school district information and have the privilege of meeting our district and state volunteer award winners. April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Please join us for a celebration of our volunteers.

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Notes from the Cypress Ranch Mustang Band Roadhouse Ribs at the Ranch!

Once again the Cypress Ranch Mustang Band is offering the opportunity to purchase a delicious Texas Roadhouse Ribs or Chicken dinner without the drive down 290! Texas Roadhouse will be grilling those tasty ribs and barbeque chicken in the rear parking lot at Cypress Ranch High School on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. Drive through the band parking lot and someone will bring your food directly to your car. The food will be available 4:30-6:30 pm to those who preorder by March 23. Meals include ribs or chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and those famous rolls with cinnamon butter for \$11.00 and children's portions of ribs, or two hot dogs, mashed potatoes and a roll for only \$6.00.

Order forms are available in the Band Hall or online at www.cypressranchband.org. Drop off the order form and payment in the Band Hall at Cypress Ranch or mail to Cypress Ranch Band, PO Box 1551 Cypress TX, 77410-1551 by March 23, 2010. Make checks payable to CRHSBBC. Questions? Contact Jeana Kech at 832-275-3395. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Cypress Ranch Mustang Band.

ATTENTION

2010 Seniors of Cy-Fair Schools who graduated from Ault Elementary

The Ault Elementary PTO awards a \$500 scholarship to one male and one female applicant who is graduating from a Cy-Fair High School and graduated from Ault Elementary. Scholarship applications and guidelines can be obtained from the Counselors' office. The deadline for submitting applications is April 9, 2010.

Longwood Letter Stork Report

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LONGWOOD LETTER

AUTUMN GROVE COTTAGE

Needs Volunteers

Do you enjoy spending time with seniors? Would you like to make a positive difference in their lives? Autumn Grove Cottage is an assisted living facility for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia related illnesses. We are interested in volunteers socializing with our residents. Autumn Grove Cottage has just 16 residents and it is close to your neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer in a cozy, home-like atmosphere then call Laura at (281) 398-6845 or visit our website www.autumngrovecottage.com. Come be a part of our philosophy – "To honor our residents and those who love and care for them." Volunteers will need to complete a volunteer application and attend a brief training session.

"No act of kindness, no matter, how small, is ever wasted" – Aesop

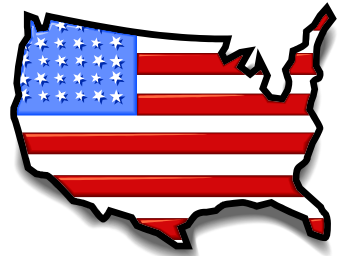
America is Good

- I believe in God and He is the Center of my Life.
- The family is sacred. My spouse and I are the ultimate authority, not the government.
- I have a right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, but there is no guarantee of equal results.
- I work hard for what I have and I will share it with who I want to. Government cannot force me to be charitable.
- The government works for me. I do not answer to them, they answer to me.

If you agree with any or all of the statements above then come to
The Glenn Beck 9/12 Project Organizational
meeting for Cypress on the second Thursday of each month.
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Cy-Fair Express Network March Luncheon and Hosting Cy-Fair Women's Expo

Event: Cy-Fair Express Network Luncheon
When: March 25, 2010
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Houston National Golf Club
16500 Houston National Blvd
Houston, TX 77095, 281-304-1400

Networking and Business Luncheon

The American Business Women's Association Cy-Fair Express Network invites you to their monthly networking meeting and luncheon. Lots of fun, networking, and giveaways. Bring plenty of business cards. Contact Anya Lucas at (713)459-2331 or anya@lucascare.com, or go to www.cyfen.org for more information. Please RSVP by Friday, March 19.

Event: Cy-Fair Women's Expo
When: April 22, 2010
Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Where: Houston National Golf Club
16500 Houston National Blvd
Houston, TX 77095, 281-304-1400

Cy-Fair Women's Expo Vendor Booths Available

Promote your company and products/services to over 200 women from CyFair and surrounding areas or mark your calendar to attend. Join us as we increase health and environmental awareness and raise money for educational scholarships in the Cy-Fair community. Booth fees begin as low as \$60 and include lunch. To register, please visit our website at www.cyfen.org before April 1 or contact mrotholz@comcast.net. Proudly sponsored by Cy-Fair Medical Center and CYFEN.

CYFEN is an ABWA Express Network organization providing opportunities to network with other professionals in the Northwest Houston area, and offers professional development and educational advantages through ABWA. CYFEN meets the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December), and visitors are always welcome.

290 Cypress Business Networking Group

The 290 Cypress Business Networking Group meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am at Cypress Station Grill located at 26010 Hempstead Road. Behind the Target shopping center at 290 and Spring Cypress. The group is open to all business owners and professionals who want to increase their exposure to the residents of Cypress and the surrounding areas. Job seekers are welcome. There is no cost to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, please call Ken Parker at 281-384-1562 or visit our website at 290Cypress.com

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LONGWOOD LETTER

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM



*Michelle Xu, Rachal Pastrano,
Layla Jones, Tabatha Calvit,
Brooklyn House, Isabel Mujica,
Grace Schlafer, Ali Morgan, Nichole Riso*

Girl Scout cookies are a familiar part of American culture. For more than 80 years, Girl Scouts, with the enthusiastic support of their families, have participated in the country's premier entrepreneurial and economic literacy program. Cookies will be sold January 9 through March 28, 2010. In February, troops will begin selling cookies at "Cookie Booths" outside neighborhood grocery stores.

WHY BUY GIRL SCOUT COOKIES? BECAUSE YOUR SUPPORT:

- Helps girls develop courage, confidence and character
- Teaches girls about teamwork, goal-setting and fiscal responsibility
- Helps troops raise funds for community service projects, troop activities and more

Next time you hear, "Would you like to buy some Girl Scout cookies?" know that

your support is developing future leaders who will make the world a better place!

PURCHASING GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Enjoy delicious Girl Scout Cookies and support a worthy cause! If you've been unable to purchase cookies from a Girl Scout in your area, call 1-888-GS-COOKIE to find a troop near you. Also, visit Cookie Finder to locate a "Cookie Booth" in your neighborhood.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

All of the revenue earned through the Girl Scout cookie program benefits our community and Girl Scouts in San Jacinto Council. The volunteer board of directors determines how the Council's share of the proceeds is spent. Among other things, at the Council level, proceeds are used to:

- maintain campsites

(Continued on Page 15)

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Girl Scout Cookie Program- (Continued from Page 14)

- provide financial assistance to girls
- offer training for adult volunteers
- keep camp and program fees at a minimum
- support special initiatives, such as offering Girl Scout programs in underprivileged communities like public housing facilities and detention centers

Less than a third of the selling price of a package of Girl Scout cookies goes toward the actual cost of the cookies. This means that more than two thirds of every Girl Scout cookie purchase goes toward programs and services to benefit girls. A portion of that goes directly to the troop/group selling the cookies.

Each Girl Scout council's volunteer board of directors determines the baker, the price per package of cookies, how revenue will be used to provide vital services in the community and how much money will be returned to troops/groups selling cookies for their projects and activities.

Within our Council, approximately half of the operating budget is funded by the Cookie Sale. The price for a package of cookies is \$3.50. Troops receive 56 to 63 cents of every cookie package they sell. Service units receive 3 cents per package. Troops/Groups and Service Units decide how they want to spend their bonus money. The national organization receives no funding from the cookie sale.

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