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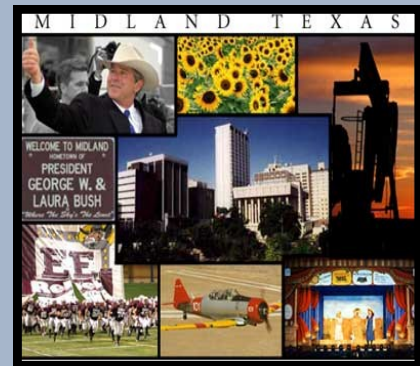
MIDLAND ROCKHOINDS
23RD



ANNUAL BASEBALL CAMP

The Midland RockHounds will conduct their 23rd Annual Baseball Camp sponsored by Odessa Regional Medical Center Sports Medicine from Monday, June 18 - Wednesday, June 20, 2012. Each session will focus on fundamentals and instruction of the skills required to be a successful baseball player. Midland RockHounds players and coaches will conduct the camp. Past camps have included instruction from current major league stars such as Jim Edmonds, Todd Greene, Eric Byrnes, Rich Harden, Nick Swisher, Dan Johnson, Joe Blanton, Travis Buck, Kurt Suzuki, Cliff Pennington, Tommy Everidge, Brad Ziegler, Jon Baker, Daric Barton, Andrew Bailey and Chris Carter. Camp days will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The exception will be the first day when registration will require you to report at 8:30 a.m. Each day will conclude with a lunch served by the RockHounds staff. In addition, each camper will receive a commemorative t-shirt, a certificate of participation and a free picnic ticket (\$13.00 value) to the June 20th (Wednesday) RockHounds game. The cost per camper is \$120.00. The Midland RockHounds must receive full payment by the opening of the camp. A \$60.00 deposit is necessary to reserve a place for each camper.

This story was not subject to the approval of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues or its clubs.



THE ADVANTAGE OF LISTING WITH A REALTOR WHEN BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME

It may seem tempting to try to sell or buy your home without using a real estate agent, you have the advantage of information and knowledge through what can often be a complicated and confusing procedure.

An agent is a professional who knows all that needs to be done. They have the experience and the resources to advertise, find the homes that suit your needs, and make all the preparations that save you the time and effort of researching it yourself.

When you are selling your home, an agent who knows the local market can help you set a fair market price. You want to get the most for your home, but overpricing can prolong the time it sits on the market, making it even more difficult to sell.

An agent can help you show your home to potential buyers to its best advantage. They will advise prospects of all aspects and conditions of your home, and protect you from later objections.

An agent can also help you with the home-buying process. Buying a home can be financially intimidating, but an agent can help you determine how much you can afford and show you some financing methods. The goal of home ownership remains one of the most commonly shared one, and an agent can show how to make it achievable.

An agent is familiar with all the local and current real estate values, taxes, costs and services that could affect your purchase. Your agent can show you homes best suited to your needs, and can also suggest simple changes that could make a home a good choice. It helps to have someone both objective and knowledgeable when looking at a home to buy.

When buying or selling a home, there are a lot of details that can overwhelm you or be forgotten. Using an agent is the best way to be sure that you have someone on your side to get you the best deal and see that everyone is satisfied.

Choosing your agent could be the most crucial element of the home buying and selling experience. This is where it is important to realize the difference between a real estate agent and a Realtor. While an agent is simply licensed by their state to do business, a Realtor has taken additional steps to become a member of their local board of Realtors, and has agreed to act under and adhere to a strict Code of Ethics. This membership obligates them to be fair to all parties involved in a transaction.

DON'T FORGET TO HOMESTEAD YOUR HOUSE BEFORE APRIL 30TH!

Questions? Call Sandy Scott at 432-638-3250.

Helpful hints:

There are several partial and absolute exemptions available. Some of these exemptions include General Residential Homestead, Over 65, Over 55 Surviving Spouse, Disability Homestead, Disabled Veterans, Charitable, Religious, Freeport and Pollution Control.

Does my home qualify for an exemption?

As a general rule to qualify for an exemption you must own your home and it must be your principal place of residence. Additional qualifications may apply based on the exemption.

Will this protect me in case of a lawsuit?

Texas has two distinct laws for designating a homestead. The Texas Tax Code offers homeowners a way to apply for homestead exemptions to reduce local property taxes. The Texas Property Code allows homeowners to designate their homesteads to protect them from a forced sale to satisfy creditors. This law does not, however, protect the homeowner from tax foreclosure sales of their homes for delinquent taxes. For more information on homestead designation as provided by the Texas Property Code please contact the Office of Attorney General at www.oag.state.tx.us

How much will I save?

An exemption removes part of the value of your property from taxation and lowers your tax bill. In addition to the state mandated exemption amounts for school taxes, each taxing unit decides whether to offer the optional exemption and at what percentage. The amount of savings depends on the exemption and the amount of exemption allowed by each taxing units.

Do I apply for a homestead exemption annually?

Only a one-time application is required, unless by written notice, the Chief Appraiser requests the property owner to file a new application. However, a new application is required when a property owner's residence homestead is changed.

I own more than one home, can I get a homestead on both?

A person may not receive a homestead exemption for more than residence homestead in the same year. You can receive a homestead exemption only for your main or principal residence.

What if I owned the property before I was married?

You can still only have one exemption which must be claimed on your principal residence.

I own my own homestead, but also own a home with my child that they live in. Would they qualify for a homestead?

They must have ownership interest in the property to qualify and would only receive a portion of the exemption based on the percent of ownership. My exemption fell off from last year, why? Exemptions reflect the January 1 owner. If you purchased a home after January 1st the exemption in place was for the previous owner. You must file an exemption application.

I forgot to apply for my exemption, can I receive it retroactively?

You may file a late homestead exemption application if you file it no later than one year after the date the taxes become delinquent.