

News for the Residents of Legends Ranch

INTRODUCING "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"

We are all very fortunate to call Legends Ranch home. But, Legends Ranch is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with familyfriendly 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 Legends Ranch a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Property Tax

Montgomery County Tax	936-539-7897
Conroe ISD	
Montgomery MUD #89	713-932-9011

Police & Fire

Emergency	
Montgomery Sheriff	
Pct. 3 Constable Office	
S. Montgomery Co. Fire Dept. Non-Emergency.	281-363-3473
Montgomery County EMS Non-Emergency	936-441-6243
Crime Stoppers	.713-222-TIPS
Poison Control	.800-222-1222
Texas DPS	713-681-1761

Utilities

Electricity (TXU)	800-368-1398
Electricity (TXU New Service)	281-441-3928
Electricity (Centerpoint)	
Gas (Centerpoint)	713-659-2111
Water/Municipal Oper. & Consulting	281-367-5511
Best Trash	281-313-2378
Street Light Outages	713-207-2222
Cable/Internet/PhoneCOMCAST	

Public Services

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Monarchs & 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 Statesone 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

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RANCH REVIEW The Minimalist Gardener

By Flint Sage

Trees: Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every one to two weeks to just stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water, as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (outermost leaves). Summer is not a good month to plant trees or bushes because they need nearly daily watering.

Lawns: Arrange to keep the mower clippings on the lawn. There are few arguments for bagging clippings.

Vegetables: August is the time to plant southern peas, okra, and peppers. In general, though, it is the worst month to plant most things as it is too hot!

Fall Color: If you want fall color, this is the time to plant marigolds and petunias. If using seeds, start them in a shady part of the yard. They will need daily water.

Mulch: Mulch keeps water in, keeps the heat out, and

significantly reduces the need for weeding. Keep mulch six inches or so away from the tree and bush trunks. Lay down a minimum of three thicknesses of newspapers under the mulch. Wet the papers to keep them from blowing away before mulching.

Roses: Expect roses to look quite bad by late summer. In August, cut back between ¼ and 1/3 of the bush. Fertilize each rose with ½ pound of ammonium sulfate in mid-August. Distribute the fertilizer around the drip line. If no blooms appear in the first week of September, add a second application. Water thoroughly after pruning and fertilizing.

We tried Chinese Okra this year. We had some huge ones that got lost in the abundant large leaves. These plants remind me of Kudzu. They are vines that try to cover everything. We removed them before they covered the entire State. We probably won't plant them next year.

Fruit Trees: According to Texas Gardener Magazine, this is the month to stop fertilizing all fruit trees.



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A Focus on Influenza: What You Should Know About the Flu

By Concentra Urgent Care

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year. Every year in the United States, on average:

- 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu
- More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications
- About 36,000 people die from flu

Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications.

Complications of flu

Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

How flu spreads

Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Apparently healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five days after becoming sick. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

Key facts about seasonal flu vaccine

The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. There are two types of vaccines:

The "flu shot": an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. The flu shot is approved for use in people older than 6 months, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions.

The nasal-spray flu vaccine: a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu (sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine"). LAIV is approved for use in healthy people two to 49 years of age who are not pregnant. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on international surveillance and scientists' estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate in a given year. About two weeks after vaccination, enough antibodies build up to provide protection against the influenza virus. **Symptoms of the flu**

- Fever (usually high)
- Headache
- Fatigue (can be extreme)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Diarrhea and vomiting (more common among children than adults)

Having these symptoms does not always mean that you have the flu. Many different illnesses, including the common cold, can have similar symptoms.

Diagnosing the flu

It is very difficult to distinguish the flu from other infections on the basis of symptoms alone. A doctor's exam may be needed to tell whether you have developed the flu or a complication of the flu. There are tests that can determine if you have the flu as long as you are tested within the first two or three days of illness.

If you develop flu-like symptoms and are concerned about your illness, especially if you are at high risk for complications of the flu, you should consult your health care provider. Those at high risk for complications include people 65 years or older, people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and young children.

Good health habits for flu prevention

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering your mouth when you cough and washing your hands often can help prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. There also are flu antiviral drugs that can be used to treat and prevent the flu.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth due to the spread of germs.
- Practice other good health habits:
- Get plenty of sleep
- Be physically active
- Manage your stress
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Eat nutritious food

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THE HOUSTON CHORAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES ITS 2017-2018 SEASON

Houston, TX - Led by Artistic Director Dr. Kevin Klotz, the Houston Choral Society (HCS) announces its versatile and engaging 2017-2018 season. They are truly working to fulfill their mantra of professionalism, versatility and passion. "We are providing our audiences with a wide variety of musical genres this year. We will have German folk music and waltzes, Spanish carols, Broadway favorites, and The Lord Nelson Mass. There is something for everyone to enjoy in our 2017-2018 season," says Klotz.

Season subscriptions are now on sale. Season subscribers save 15% for four concerts. Season tickets are \$85 for adults, \$65 for seniors/students and \$30 for children 5 years old and under. Season tickets are available online at www.houstonchoral.org.

Oktoberfest: Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 PM

The Houston Choral Society begins their 2017-2018 Concert Season with a program featuring German composers. In addition to a variety of sacred works and popular German folk songs, the chorus will perform the famous Liebeslieder Walzer (Op. 52) by Johannes Brahms set for piano four-hands! Come and enjoy this wonderful music – and who knows? You just might want to go grab a pint after the concert! Ja, das ist gut!

Home for the Holidays: Saturday, December 2 at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM

In addition to your favorite Christmas songs, audience singalongs and Santa Claus, HCS is featuring Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest, a collection of beautiful and well-loved Spanish carols set for chorus, soloists, harp, guitar, and marimba. Matinee and evening concerts are both on Saturday.

A Night on Broadway: Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

You won't want to miss hearing The Houston Choral Society perform some of the biggest hits from Broadway on this concert! Come hear exciting choruses from popular musicals, such as Oklahoma, The Sound of Music, Les Misérables, and more!

Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass: Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 PM

The Houston Choral Society concludes their regular concert season with one of Joseph Haydn's greatest masterpieces: Missa in angustiis (often referred to as "The Lord Nelson Mass"). For this special concert, The Houston Choral Society will be joined by singers from St. Laurence Catholic Church and local choirs, professional soloists, and professional orchestra in a performance of this major work as well as other grand sacred choral pieces. For this special concert, HCS will be joined by singers from St. Laurence Catholic Church and other local choirs, professional soloists and orchestra for a grand performance of Haydn's monumental work and other sacred choral pieces. The Houston Choral Society performs at The Foundry United Methodist Church, which is one of the premiere choral venues in Houston with extraordinary acoustics. It is located in northwest Houston at 8350 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77065 with easy access from Highway 290. Dr Klotz said, "If you are a singer, come share your talent and love of music with the Houston Choral Society!" For audition information please visit the HCS website at:

www.houstonchoral.org

HOUSTON CHORAL SOCIETY (HCS) is a not-forprofit professional-quality civic chorus that serves the greater Houston area led by Dr. Kevin M. Klotz. HCS has completed five international tours performing in England/Scotland, Italy, Hungary/Austria/Czech Republic, Ireland, and Germany/ Austria. The Houston Choral Society is a member of Chorus America, an association of professional and volunteer vocal ensembles. HCS is funded in part by grants from Harris County and the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit the HCS website at www.houstonchoral.org or call 832-478-6986.





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RANCH REVIEW

10 Easy Ways to Make Your Home Safe

A home should be a sanctuary and a safe haven. You can ensure that you and your loved ones remain out of harm's way in the precincts of your homestead.

To avoid all kinds of accidents you should make it an accidentproof dwelling. It's really simple if you observe specific steps to keep mishaps at bay.

Here are 10 easy ways to make your home safe and secure. These will help you take care and protect yourself, family members and house-guests. Employ these effective tips:

1. Keep interiors and exteriors well lit. This is important at nighttime and also in winters when daylight is not very effective. Critical areas that need to be illuminated are the stairs, outdoors and fovers.

2. Never leave electrical problems pending at any point. The slightest fluctuation should be attended immediately. Make it a cardinal rule to switch off appliances after use.

3. Smoke alarms are a necessity and you must have the very best. Practice regular safety drills with your family to ensure awareness of procedures.

4. Keep ordinary appliances safely as they could be dangerous. Especially with kids around. Make electrical outlets safe by safety plugging and child proofing them. Keep sharp objects like scissors,

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knives, weapons and match boxes out of reach.

5. Ensure locks and bolts on doors and windows are in order and tamper-proof. Keep an eye out for suspicious characters and never invite strangers into your home. Teach your children not to entertain queries from strangers.

6. Do not share information about working or school hours. Teach family members to avoid telling people about schedules and routines. Do not put personal information online and never respond to voicemails.

7. The risk of accidents goes up when you are getting maintenance or repair work done. Ensure safety and precaution and be prepared to react quickly to accidents or injuries.

8. Do not attempt repair work of appliances involving undue risk. Many home accidents are the result of improper tampering with tools like lawnmowers and trimmers.

9. Maintain caution when driving vehicles in or out of your home. If you are backing the car up, watch out for children and pets on the road.

Make sure you don't leave stuff on stairs that may cause people to trip and fall. Be watchful when clearing snow from pathways that you do not heap it up in areas where people might walk.





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RANCH REVIEW



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