

The Ranch Report

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OCTOBER 2017

THE BEST FALL SALE

It's almost that time again, and it makes me so excited. My friends, please believe me nothing makes me as happy as saving money. I cannot keep it to myself. I love to save money. I absolutely adore Garage sales. I stalk estate sales, and consignment sales are my favorite! One of the best sales I have found here is the Just Between Friends Williamson County Sale. The Just Between Friends sale is North America's leading children and maternity consignment sale. They sell gently loved and some brand-new items. Now I know you're wondering how they can do that? Well, the items are sold through Consignors. Consignors can be anyone. Me, you or Suzy from down the street. People gather their gently used baby items. They clean them up and, tag them with prices. Then send them to the sale to be sold for them and they receive a check.

Just Between Friends has hundreds of consignors right in our own back yard. I know you're shaking your head saying nope this sounds too good to be true. Well, you are **WRONG** it's not. I have seen it firsthand. I always attend the JBF sale, and I get tons of great stuff, for a great price. Most of it was brand new, still in the box. JBF carries children's sizes from newborn to teens. It's not just clothing by the way. They also carry bags, backpacks, slings, bedding, textiles, arts and crafts, books, games, Infant items, shoes, car seats, strollers, baby gear, (bouncers, rockers, jumpers) swimwear, costumes, sports gear, and dance wear. Wait there is more they have toys, nursery items and even maternity clothing for you. You want to shop with JBF because you're going to get the best bargains. All their items are inspected for quality and recall so if you're thinking you're getting someone's old raggedy Stuff; you are mistaken. They also meet U.S. safety standards. I mean it's perfect you help other moms make money. Really what more do you need?

Here are my top 9 shopping dos and don'ts for the Just Between Friends sale. Ten tricks so you can score big.

1) Register and print your ticket beforehand.

Check out their website at www.williamsoncounty.jbfsale.com to get your free tickets. On their site and their Facebook page, there

is a list of people who can get onto pre-sale if you meet the criteria.

2) Be Early! - Ever heard the saying early is on time, on time is late, and late is lost.

This is the truth! When it comes to this sale, people arrive early to get in line. Don't worry there are only two lines you have to master. The line to get in and the line to check out. Be smart and give yourself time to park and get to the line.

3) Get Comfortable.

Make sure you wear comfy clothes. No need to be super-duper dolled up. I go for comfort and agility. There's lots of floor space to cover, and I need to be nimble. Don't forget comfy shoes. Tennis shoes or closed toe shoes would be the best.

4) B.Y.O. B

No! Friend not a bottle, bag. Bring your own bag. By bag, I mean something large. I am bringing my big blue IKEA bag. If you plan on doing the same, mark it with a sticker or your name, because JBF uses the same type of bags.

5) Write a List / or 3x5 Card

Plan your work and work your plan. Write out a list or a 3x5 card. I write my list out on the 3x5 card. I fold it in half and make two lists. The 3x5 card is simple and slides in and out of my pocket. I'm good to go.

6) Bring a buddy!

Bring a friend! I think shopping is always more fun with a friend. You can go crazy. You can tag team the sale and hold each other's place in line.

7) Leave Your Babies, Leave Your Toddlers.

I repeat if you don't have to take your babies. Leave them. Shoot leave the hubby too. Anything or anyone who will shake your focus. OK, let's have a real talk this is a mission. Kids and nagging husbands are collateral damage. You want to be able to zip to where you need to go. Grab and go. If you have to bring them children are welcome

(Continued on Page 6)



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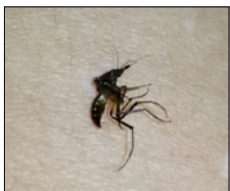
RANCH REPORT

FLOODWATER MOSQUITOES

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to and can swarm in high numbers.



While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should

be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

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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Sherry Salkhordeh O.D.

October

By Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.



FIVE LITTLE PUMPKINS

By: Kenneth David Whiteley / Raffi Cavoukian

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate
First one said, "Oh my, it's getting late!"
Second one said, "There are witches in the air"
The third one said, " but we don't care!"
The fourth one said, "let's run and run and run"
The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun!"
Ooo ooo went the wind, and out went the light
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight



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(Continued from Cover)

on certain days. The website will have all the info regarding when.

8) Line up!

Pop in the check-out line as soon as you have everything you want. You don't want to wait till the line fills up. The Same line to get in will be the same line to get out. By that I mean LONG. You want to make sure you got everything on your list. While in line this is a handy time to check sizes, make sure you have correct pairs of shoes. You don't want to have to get out of line so you can look for something else.

10) Money Money Money!

Bring Cash to stay on budget. It's just easy, but they do take credit cards at the sale as well, so you don't have to worry. These nine pro tips will help you rock this sale and come away with some fabulous goodies.

To hear more about the sale, you can head over to website at www.williamsoncounty.jbfsale.com to find out the dates of the sale. And you can head over to my blog, www.crieshighfivesandlittlewhitelies.com for more tips. Happy shopping.



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TIPS FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING

The spooky fun is upon us once again. There is a cool crisp breeze in the air. The rustling of trees, and ghost and goblins on the loose. Halloween is getting ready to fill the hearts of little and not so little folks. Here is a list of great tips to help keep you safe and happy during this Halloween season.

1) Light up the night.

The dollar tree has glow in the dark bracelets, necklace, Wands, etc. Get some early in the month to have on hand for when It get dark. Stick to bright colors, red, pink, oranges, and yellow's. They will be the ones that will stand out the most. Place them on your child costume for you to keep an eye on them as they go door-to-door. This also help so cars can see them too.

2) The early Bird gets the candy.

When Dusk/ Sunsets hit gets an early start if you have little ones. Start out around your neighborhood first. That way you'll get the prime candy first, and they will most likely be home and willing to give you candy whiles its still somewhat light out since they know you.

3) Take care of the little piggy's.

Wear comfy shoes because walking. Lots and lots of walking. Make sure all in your party have on comfy shoes as well. Even little kids. Assure them that nobday wantd to walk around in shoes that can hurt their feet all night. If you have a head stong child such as mine bring aopair of tennis shoes so when then start to whine you can swoop in and save the day.

4) Map it out.

Plan your route ahead of time. So, you know which streets you're heading to. This is all about this mindset. This is not a game people.

There is free candy in them there hills.

5) Let there be light:

Grab a flashlight! Or use the one on your phone. The later it gets the darker the walkways and sidewalks will become. Plus, little ones who are new to trick or treating may be afraid of the dark.

6) Mask Off:

So, remember what it was like to sweat through that mask? I do. Cut your kid some slack. It's hard to see. It's hot. When you have walked for 5 mins and it feels like a sana. Make sure to give your kiddos a break with the mask off. Maybe pop it on once you get to the door or just use non-toxic face paint.

7) Don't get tripped up:

Beware of a long costume, kids can easily trip and put a stop to all the fun. Make sure you have your child try on their costume and make sure it is the appropriate length.

8) One for you Two for me:

Check all your candy. I know of course I mean everyone knows to check your candy. This one is a given rule. Right? Our moms told us this every year. Don't forget while checking to take a few pieces out for you. I mean you deserve it happy trick-or-treating!



INGREDIENTS:

3 3/4 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 large egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

FOR THE COATING:

1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
Dash of allspice

DIRECTIONS:

- In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Whisk together to blend. In a large bowl, beat together butter and sugars on medium speed until well combined. Next, still on medium speed, beat in pumpkin.

Then, add the egg and vanilla extract. Lastly, add in the dry ingredients. Beat until combined, but do not over mix. Cover the dough, and refrigerate for one hour, until firm.

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Line baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, mix together the sugar and spices for the sugar coating. Scoop dough (approximately 2 1/2 tablespoons) and roll into a ball. Roll the dough ball in the sugar mixture, and place on the lined baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie. Take a drinking glass with a flat bottom and moisten with water. Dip the glass in the sugar mixture, and use it to flatten the dough balls. Re-sugar the glass as needed.
- Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes. Remove when the centers of the cookies have set. Let cool on the baking pan for approximately 5 minutes, and then transfer to wire to cool completely.



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