

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

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2nd Annual KidsRStrong2 Charity Kickball Classic Set for December 16

KidsRStrong2 is set to host their 2nd annual Holiday Kickball Classic in support of local pediatric cancer patients, on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Funds raised from the event will be used to support children and families in need this Christmas holiday.

“We’re looking forward to another great event, and welcome our community members and local businesses to get involved, so that together we can put smiles on the faces of many,” said Tomika Gamble, founder and president of the organization.

This year the family-friendly event will take place at Houston Sportsplex, located at 12631 Main St., in Houston. Teams of 8 or more are invited to attend for a small donation of \$250 per team (which can be paid in full, or by individual team members). The donation requested of individuals is \$25. If a person is interested

in participating, but does not have a team, they will be placed on a team. Participants should be 10 years of age or older.

To support this cause, donate and/or register by visiting www.kidsrstrong2.org/kickball. Sponsors and vendors are welcome. Information in regards to sponsoring is also available online.

Cutline: Individual and corporate supporters enjoyed a day of fun while "kicking for a cause" at the 2016 KidsRStrong2 Holiday Kickball Classic. Corporate teams from Odjfell, Level One Fitness and many more participated to help raise funds for families in need during the Christmas holiday. Pediatric cancer patients from local hospitals received support. The 2017 event will take place on December 16 at Houston Sportsplex.



SHADOW CREEK RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	281-331-9000
Pearland Police Department.....	281-997-4100

SCHOOLS

Mary Marek Elementary	281-245-3232
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary	281-245-3090
Manvel Junior High	281-331-1416
Alvin Senior High	281-331-8151
Manvel High School	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation	281-331-0960

UTILITIES

Electricity - Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
Gas - Center Point	713-659-2111
Trash Removal - City of Pearland	281-652-1600

CITY

Pearland City Hall.....	281-652-1600
Pearland Utility Billing - Water Dept.	281-652-1603
Pearland Animal Control.....	281-652-1970
Pearland Police Dept - Non-Emergency	281-652-1100
Pearland Public Works.....	281-652-1900

OTHER NUMBERS

Pearland Post Office	281-485-2132
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Brazoria County Health Department	979-864-1484
Animal Control.....	281-756-2265
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	shadowcreekranch@peelinc.com
Publisher	
Peel, Inc.	1-888-687-6444
Advertising.....	1-888-687-6444

CARPET BEETLES

Carpet beetles adults can be found outdoors on crape myrtles or other plants where the adults eat pollen and nectar. The adults may also be found in rodent or bird nests. When these adults move into homes, they may lay eggs which can lead to problems. These beetles can be pests in warehouses, homes, museums and other locations.

Carpet beetle adults are small, round to oval shaped and often brightly colored. Larvae are small, tan, and ringed with bands of long hairs.

Carpet beetle larvae feed on high protein foods, usually animal based, but they can also feed on plant material. They can be found in a variety of locations throughout the home. In the pantry, you may find them in items such as powdered milk, dried meats (jerky), or pet food. Other areas of the home they can be attracted to items made from wool, fur or feathers, areas where dead insects accumulate (i.e. light fixtures), leather book bindings, hair, silk or dried plant products. If the larvae are seen feeding on synthetic fibers, it is because the material is stained with body oils or food.

A program utilizing sanitation, exclusion and insecticides should be able to get a carpet beetle problem under control.

- Clean accumulations of hair, dead insects, and bird, rodent or wasp nests
- Regularly clean rugs, carpets, upholstery, etc.
 - o make sure to get along edges, under cushions, and under furniture where debris may collect
- Inspect animal based items (taxidermied animals, leather, wool, silk, etc.) once a year to avoid infestations
- Keep pantry items/ dry goods in sealed, air-tight containers
- Infested items (if possible, depending on the items) can be heated or cooled to kill any beetles
 - o freeze 2 weeks at temperatures below 18°F
 - o heat for at least 30 minutes to temperatures above 120°F
- Insecticides should be used as spot treatments- make sure carpet beetles are listed on the label as well as the area/ item you are treating
 - o make sure the product will not stain

If you find a few adult carpet beetles in your home, squish them on vacuum them up. A few adults usually do not warrant a full treatment, but you should watch for a developing infestation.

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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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

FINDING HOPE

Sometimes I just feel broken. Broken as in not whole, shattered & not even sure how to begin putting the pieces back together. Are all of the pieces even still there?

I'm not going to lie. Living and dealing with emotional trauma is no cup of tea. You feel lost, beaten, broken, and very much alone. You frequently feel things will never get better. After all, how can they ever be as good as they were (or, at least, as good as you thought they were) when you're this broken shell of a person. Then, you watch and see the rest of the world passing, and think, "Why even try? It's hopeless."

With the passing of spring, I've been thinking about the significance of this particular season at this junction of my life. Spring is the season of rebirth and renewal; the time of fresh starts. So, as I sit & watch the renewal of everything around me, I wonder... What about me? Can I be renewed? Is there enough left of this broken person to put back together, fill the holes, and turn out a new person fresh and whole?

I've found that spending time with friends, both the human and equine variety, is a great healer. They have become my glue that pulls the shattered pieces back together. While spending quiet moments relaxing with my horse I hear God more clearly, telling me that I

have purpose in this life. What came before was meant to happen, if only to prepare me for what is to come and to help me become the person He means me to be. Learning God's plans for me not only helps reassemble the scattered pieces, but leads me to discover new pieces, more vibrant than the old ever were. Suddenly, I find myself renewed and, just like that, there it is--- Hope Resurrected

If you find these things to be true in your own life, and would like to make a change, please visit our website at www.fivehorses.com to learn more about our newest workshop, Finding Courage



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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

PUMPKIN CAKE ROLL

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs 1C granulated sugar
2/3 C pumpkin 1 tsp. lemon juice
3/4 C flour 1 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. cinnamon 1 tsp. ginger
1/2 tsp. nutmeg 1/2 tsp. salt
1 C finely chopped nuts Powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

Beat eggs on high speed for 5 min.; gradually beat in sugar. Stir in pumpkin and lemon juice. Stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt. Fold in pumpkin. Spread in greased and floured 15x10x1" pan. Top with nuts. Bake at 375° for 15 min. Turn out on towel sprinkled with powdered sugar. Starting at narrow end, roll towel and cake together. Cool. Unroll.

FILLING

1 C powdered sugar
2 - 3 oz. pkg. cream cheese
4 T margarine
1/2 tsp. vanilla.

Beat until smooth. Spread over cake. Roll and chill.



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TAX NEWS RELATED TO HARVEY DISASTER AND FLOODING



For those suffering a casualty loss due to the recent flooding there is some good tax news. If you suffered a casualty loss in excess of any insurance reimbursement you are able to take the deduction on your 2017 income tax return or

amend your 2016 tax return and get an immediate refund. The casualty loss does not have to be reduced by 10% of adjusted gross income and can be deducted even if you do not itemize. If the casualty loss generates a net operating loss on your return, the loss related to the casualty can be carried back to your prior 3 year returns and if still not fully utilized may be carried forward 20 years. The decision to take the loss in 2017 or 2016 would be made after consultation with your tax advisor.

If the casualty loss produces a net operating loss in 2017, this may also be an opportunity to bring additional income into this tax year rather than carrying the loss back to a prior year. For example, if your casualty loss is more than your income for 2017 you could withdraw funds from your retirement plan to offset the loss and not create any additional tax. Penalty for early withdrawal from a retirement plan is waived.

In addition to the relief provided above a taxpayer who has drawn funds from a retirement plan for disaster relief may recontribute the funds back within a 3 year period. If the funds are not recontributed to the retirement plan then tax can be paid on the withdrawal over a 3 year period. The limitation for this relief is \$100,000. This is good news for those needing additional funds while waiting for the sale of the flooded property or insurance proceeds.

The casualty loss for your real property is calculated using the fair market value before the flood and after the flood or the cost to restore the home. A decrease in the overall market value is not included in the casualty loss, for example if the value decreased because you live in a flood zone. The casualty loss for personal property is the fair market value of the property. The loss is limited to your adjusted basis in the property, typically your cost. The casualty loss must be reduced by insurance proceeds or other reimbursements received.

These are a few of the highlights of the tax relief offered. This can be a confusing area and if you have questions you may contact me at twilliams@nhw.net.

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Love them or hate them, they're everywhere! I'm talking about those funny little critters called squirrels.

As the fall baby season is coming to an end, TWRC Wildlife Center has been inundated with babies. What is normally a very busy time anyway, Hurricane Harvey only added to the numbers.

Hundreds of orphans were admitted and will continue to be cared for until they are ready for release.

The Houston area is home to the gray squirrel, the fox squirrel, and the flying squirrel. About 90% of the squirrels in our area are gray squirrels. Most people have never seen a flying squirrel because they are nocturnal. They are very small and their tail acts as a rudder to help guide it in flight. They don't have wings but rather skin that forms "flaps" that stretch between the "ankle" and "wrist".

If you've ever seen a squirrel eating out of a "squirrel-proof" bird feeder, then you know how intelligent they are. They have also been known to pretend to bury food just to trick other animals. A 2010 study showed that when a squirrel is being watched, they will actually dig a hole, pat it with their front teeth and scrape dirt over it to make it look like they are burying a treasure when, in fact, they are hiding their stash in a pocket near their armpit.

Here are some things you probably don't know about squirrels:

- A squirrel's front teeth never stop growing. In the wild, squirrels are constantly gnawing which keeps them short.
- When you see squirrels running and zig-zagging in your yard, they are doing this to avoid capture by a predator.
- Baby squirrels are only about an inch long when they're born.
- There are 285 species of squirrels and they can be found in every continent except Antarctica and Australia.
- Squirrels have four toes on the front feet and five on the back feet.
- Squirrels will twitch their tails to alert other squirrels to possible danger.
- Squirrels have more than one nest. If one gets destroyed or infested with insects, they always have a back-up.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 38-year-old non-profit in Houston that rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing healthy animals back to the wild. If you love wildlife and want to help, go to www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or you can call 713-468-8972.

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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