

# *The* **RANCH REVIEW**

November 2018 Volume 12, Issue 11

News for the Residents of Legends Ranch

## Magical Winter Lights

**November, 16, 2018 at 5PM**

The 2018 Magical Winter Lights will return to Houston for its fourth year to Gulf Greyhound Park this winter from November 16, 2018 to January 6, 2019 including Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

The 52-day festival is one of the largest holiday lighting events in Houston, and the largest lantern festival of its kind in the U.S. Magical Winter Lights will showcase more impressive and creative lantern sets than its previous years and will also include a Holiday Market Square where guests will have a chance to explore the festival food court and shopping areas. Guests will have plenty of photo opportunities with appearances by the Ice Sisters and Santa Claus. There will be nightly acrobatic performances included in admission, authentic arts and crafts created by skilled Chinese artisans (dates TBD), amusement rides and games, and an expanded dinosaur exhibit complete with dinosaur rides.

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## 3 Fun Activities To Do with Your Family This Thanksgiving

by MarLee Berry, [texashillcountry.com/lifestyle](http://texashillcountry.com/lifestyle)

The turkey and trimmings have all been devoured and put away, but your family is here to stay for at least a few more hours. Right about now you might be thinking it is time to succumb to the usual post-Thanksgiving feast food coma or lay around the living room watching football. However, it may be a rare event when family members all come together, making this the most opportune time to participate in a few fun activities instead of just watching the back of your eyelids.

If you are stumped for ideas that can get both the young and the young at heart involved, then look no further than these three amusing activities that are sure to be remembered for many Thanksgivings to come.

### 1. Share Your Favorite Thanksgiving Memory

Over the years, your family has probably made some wonderful Thanksgiving memories and this activity is the perfect way to get everyone talking. Old Uncle Hank may dig in his heels if you expect him to do too much on a full stomach, but he probably won't pass up a chance to share his thoughts with an attentive audience. Start with the oldest family member and work your way down through the generations. For added fun, after someone shares a story see if everyone can recount all the tales told up to that point. As a final touch, be sure to get your video camera out to record the whole scene. A few years from now it will be nice to listen to Grandma reminisce about her childhood memories.

### 2. Play a Game of "Who Am I?"

There are different ways to go about playing this game, but however you choose to do it, this activity is a great way to get your family moving while creating hilarious Thanksgiving memories. Here are two ways you can choose to play:

- Write the name of each family member on a sticky note. Then, mix them up and place the sticky notes on everyone's forehead, making sure no one receives their own name. See who can guess their identity the fastest by asking questions that can only be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."
- This version is much like charades, except you only use the names of your fellow family members. After writing everyone's name on a slip of paper, mix them up and draw them one by one out of a jar. You can split up into teams, or keep individual scores. Everyone takes a turn pretending to be another relative. Remember, no talking!

### 3. Start a Backyard Game

Now that everyone has gotten warmed up, it is time to move outside if the weather permits. Whether you channel your inner Houston Astro in a game of baseball, or take the football off the screen and into the backyard, the focus is less on winning and more on spending time together. If needed, nominate an elderly family member to keep score but don't leave them out of the fun, after all, Grandma's touchdown dance may just become a treasured Thanksgiving Day recollection.





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# RANCH REVIEW

## Traditional Homemade Stuffing

This simple homemade stuffing is perfect for weeknight dinners or the holidays!

Author: Liz Fourez, [lovegrowswild.com](http://lovegrowswild.com)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound firm white bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups onion, finely diced
- 2 cups celery, finely diced
- 2½ cups low-sodium chicken broth, divided
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 large eggs

### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 250°F. Place the bread cubes in a single layer on baking sheets and bake for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Set aside and allow the bread to cool.

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the

onion and celery and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender and almost golden. Scrape the vegetables and butter into an extra large bowl and add the cooled bread cubes, parsley,

poultry seasoning, salt, pepper and 1¼ cup of the chicken broth. In a small bowl, whisk the 2 eggs and the remaining 1¼ cup chicken broth until combined and pour into the bowl of stuffing. Gently mix the stuffing until all the ingredients are completely combined and place in a buttered 13x9-inch baking dish. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Then remove the foil and bake for another 25-35 minutes until the center is set and the top is golden brown and crisp.



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## 5 Ways to Honor Your Local Veterans on Veterans Day

*by Crystal Galde*



While most of us are quick to post on social media, fly an American flag, or offer a quick handshake to a local servicemember on Veterans Day, many are unsure how to show our full appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Below are five ways to truly honor veterans this Veterans Day:

### 1. Volunteer Your Time

There are hundreds of volunteer organizations that work both directly and indirectly with veterans. Turn your appreciation into action by offering your time and energy to any one of these noble causes. Contact your local VFW or American Legion to see what upcoming events may be in need of volunteers. Offer assistance to a local elderly or disabled vet, or volunteer a few hours to a local veteran-owned business. Whatever your skill, put it to use in your community by helping out the veterans closest to you. Visit [texvet.com/volunteer](http://texvet.com/volunteer) to search for opportunities available in your area.

### 2. Donate Your Dollars

If you're short on time, making a monetary donation is another great way to show support. There are many organizations that offer various forms of aid and assistance to our country's servicemen and women. For instance, Homes for Our Troops builds specially-

equipped homes for injured servicemembers. Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers financial assistance and scholarships. The Gary Sinise Foundation creates and supports unique programs specifically for veterans. There are countless organizations dedicated to improving the lives of American veterans, and they can only continue to do so with the financial support of grateful citizens like you.

### 3. Take Time to Listen

Taking time to have a real conversation with your neighbor seems to be a lost art in today's virtual world! Veterans have a wealth of knowledge and interesting stories to share for those willing to listen. Of course, not every veteran will be willing to share the details of his or her time in the service, but many enjoy reminiscing and sharing their unique perspective. Rather than simply thanking them for serving their country, take a moment to open up a meaningful dialogue about their military service and how it has shaped their views on life and liberty.

### 4. Stay Informed

How much do you really know about how our country's military works? What is the status of current legislation regarding today's active-duty troops and veterans? Which political leaders have a military background? Many people have little more than basic knowledge of America's armed forces. One of the best ways to show your appreciation is to take the time to understand exactly what role the military plays in today's world. Arm yourself with knowledge by reading (and verifying) information about the military's mission and its history, and always exercise your rights by voting for people and policies that support veterans.

### 5. Pay it Forward

The service of veterans is the cornerstone on which American freedom stands. It is important to appreciate both the rights and responsibilities of being an American and to work together to ensure that veterans' sacrifices are not in vain. Honor a veteran this Veterans Day by being a good citizen, a good neighbor, and a good friend. Even the smallest good deed can go a long way towards making America a better place for everyone.



## 3 Ways To Better Manage the Time You Spend on Social Media

However, as amazing as this technology is, it has the potential to distract us from accomplishing our goals. In fact, during a study conducted by Dscout, individuals touched their phones an average of 2,617 times per day. All these touches culminated into an average time of just over two hours spent on a smartphone for the typical user.

## 1. The BreakFree App

## 2. The RescueTime App

The lite version of this handy tool is completely free and allows you to track the time you spend on the worldwide web. However, RescueTime's blocking feature only comes in its premium version which can be purchased for \$9 per month. This app is available for computers and mobile devices

To conclude this list of helpful tools, the Moment app includes many of the same features previously mentioned in descriptions for other apps. However, Moment does have a sub-entity labeled Moment Family, which enables you to control the browsing and usage habits of your entire family depending on what in-app purchases you decide to make. Its description notes this app is great for accountability purposes, as family members can track other's goals and usage amounts.

In many ways, technology has made our lives much easier, but it is important to recognize the possible dangers of spending too much time glued to a screen. Hopefully, these three tools will help you increase your productivity and will free up time for you to do things you truly enjoy!



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## Tabletop Turkey Craft from the Editors at Parenting.com

1. Paint a paper cup brown. Turn the cup upside down and glue a pom-pom to the top of the cup for the head.
2. Cut nine 4-inch leaf shapes from different colors of construction paper. Fold a 1-inch-square piece of orange construction paper in half; cut a triangle shape out of the folded paper for the beak. Using a 2-inch square of red paper folded in half, cut a heart shape to create the turkey's wattle.
3. Glue the beak and wattle to the pom-pom. Add googly eyes. Glue on the "feathers."

Needed:

- 1" Pom Poms
- 9" x 12" Construction Paper, Assorted Colors
- Assorted Wiggle Eyes



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