

The

RANCH REVIEW

November 2019 Volume 13, Issue 11

News for the Residents of Legends Ranch



RANCH REVIEW

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Property Tax

Montgomery County Tax 936-539-7897
 Conroe ISD 936-709-7751
 Montgomery MUD #89 713-932-9011

Police & Fire

Emergency 911
 Montgomery Sheriff 936-760-5800
 Pct. 3 Constable Office 281-364-4211
 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) 713-207-2222
 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/Phone...COMCAST 713-341-1000

Public Services

Local US Post Office 281-419-7948
 Toll Road EZ Tag 281-875-3279
 Voters Registration 936-539-7843
 Vehicle Registration 281-292-3325
 Drivers License Information 936-442-2810
 Montgomery County Animal Control 936-442-7738
 Montgomery Chamber 281-367-5777

Conroe ISD

..... 936-709-7751
 Birnham Woods Elementary 281-863-4200
 Cox Intermediate 281-465-3200
 York Junior High 832-592-8600
 Oak Ridge High 832-592-5300

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THREE BILLION LOST

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Recently, the journal Science published a study showing that we have lost more than 1 in 4 birds from the United States and Canada since 1970. That's 3 billion! The study was conducted by scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology along with six other institutions. "Birds are excellent indicators of environmental health. Severe declines in common birds, like those shown in this study, tell us something is wrong and underscores the need to become better stewards of the planet," said Dr. Nicole Michel, senior quantitative ecologist with Audubon.

The study doesn't address why we're losing birds in such great numbers but as with many wildlife species, habitat loss has to be at the top of the list. Other reasons are as follows:

- The use of pesticides – it is estimated that the United States uses 20% of all pesticides used globally every year. That's a staggering 1.2 billion pounds. Pesticides are used for agricultural purposes, forest and rangeland management and golf courses. They are also used in and around our homes.

- Climate change – Audubon conducted a study of 588 bird species and discovered that more than half are in trouble. Three hundred fourteen bird species will lose more than half of their climatic range

by 2080. To read the full report, go to <https://climate.audubon.org>.

- Cats – According to a study by the Smithsonian Conservatory Biology Institute, over 2.4 billion birds are killed by cats, both pets and feral, in the U.S. every year.

- Collisions - windows, wind turbines, and other structures. According to the American Bird Conservancy, up to one billion birds die every year in the US when they hit windows and other structures. The Smithsonian estimates that wind turbines account for up to 328,000 bird deaths annually.

So what can we do to be better stewards of the environment? Use organic pesticides. Keep your pet cats indoors. In some cities and communities it is illegal to let your pet cat roam free outside. Use decals or tape on your windows to prevent bird collisions. These are just a few of the many things we can do to help our environment. Let's all learn to live in harmony with the animals we share our world with.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 40-year-old non-profit organization located in Houston. Over 5,000 ill, injured, or orphaned animals are brought to us every year in need of medical care. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and refer to our website for helpful wildlife information—www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.



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RANCH REVIEW

How to Host a Friendsgiving Feast

As one of the most popular holiday traditions in the United States, families have celebrated Thanksgiving for decades. However, as more and more hosts look to put a new spin on the festivities, Friendsgiving continues to grow in popularity.

While the two “holidays” generally involve the same ideals – showing appreciation for loved ones, whether family or friends – cooking for both can be a challenge during this busy season. Consider these quick and easy ideas from the Friendsgiving experts at Sabra to celebrate this vibrant event with your closest friends.

Decorations - Plenty of planning and preparation goes into Thanksgiving festivities, which makes Friendsgiving an opportunity to take a step back and focus on simplicity. Keep your table decor clean and modern, like an understated black-and-white design, where food and fun can take center stage.

Attire - Friendsgiving strikes a delicate balance between a reunion of companions and just an excuse to spend time with your closest cohorts, which can make a normally tricky decision even more difficult: what to wear. Try aiming for the more casual look, or try something low-key and fun like a pajama party.

Food - Because Friendsgiving is usually celebrated within a week or so of Thanksgiving, whether it’s before or after, most guests will be tired of turkey and stuffing – meaning it’s time to think outside the box. For just enough of a twist on traditional seasonal taste, try making plant-based versions of your childhood favorites.

This Hummus Mashed Potatoes recipe is a perfect example – creating a dairy-free and gluten-free version of the classic dish that’s bursting with unexpected flavors. Alternately, if you’re hosting this year, these Sweet and Savory Cranberry Hummus Bites can hold over a hungry crowd. For another simple snacking solution, pairing a dip like Sabra Hummus, available in more than a dozen flavors, with pita chips or baby carrots may be your party-perfect appetizer.

Find more Friendsgiving inspiration at Sabra.com

Hummus Mashed Potatoes



5 cups yellow potatoes (about 6 potatoes), peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes

1/4 teaspoon salt, plus additional, to taste, divided

1 1/3 cups Sabra Classic Hummus

2 tablespoons olive oil or coconut oil

fresh pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley

Place potato cubes and 1/4 teaspoon salt in medium-sized pot with enough water to cover. Bring to boil and simmer over medium heat about 30 minutes, or until fork tender.

Drain potatoes and place back into pot over medium heat until moisture comes out and potatoes appear dry, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

In same pot using potato masher, mash potatoes. Mash in hummus and oil, followed by salt and pepper, to taste.

Serve topped with fresh parsley.

Sweet and Savory Cranberry Hummus Bites

9 teaspoons whole berry cranberry sauce

12-14 tablespoons Sabra Classic Hummus

24 slices French-style baguette, sliced about 1/4-inch thick

5 teaspoons fresh chopped herbs, such as parsley (optional)

Open cranberry sauce can and stir well.

Spread about 1/2 tablespoon hummus on each baguette slice.

Place 3/4 teaspoon cranberry sauce on top of hummus on each baguette slice.

Garnish with fresh herbs, if desired. (*Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com*)



3 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE WITH LOVED ONES

Any time can be the right time to enjoy memorable moments with family members, but the holidays present a special opportunity to have meaningful conversations and interactions with loved ones.

One of the best ways to spark creativity and generate memories is through activities that get the conversation started, whether it's remembering favorite moments from the past or simply sharing notes of appreciation. This holiday season, consider these activity ideas from the Funeral and Memorial Information Council, which created the "Have the Talk of a Lifetime" initiative to encourage families to facilitate conversations that become invaluable when the time comes to honor a loved one.

While these conversations can be difficult to engage in and even harder to begin, the natural bonding moments that stem from activities like these can help make the process easier.

Gratitude Tree

Start a new tradition by creating a gratitude tree, a simple decoration you can look forward to using each year as a reminder of what you and your family are thankful for.

To make a gratitude tree, collect twigs or branches, dry them out and cut them to the desired lengths. Put the branches in a vase or decorative container. Punch holes at the tops of fall-colored paper to be used as tags then instruct guests to write what they're grateful for on each tag.

Take turns reading the tags and tie them to the branches then keep the handwritten tags in a safe place until they can be read again each holiday season. Over the years, as the tree fills up, you'll have a lifetime of memories to share.

Time Capsule

Making a holiday-inspired time capsule can help strengthen family bonds while preserving treasured memories and creating opportunities for future holidays when it's time to reopen the contents.

Use a sealed container or plastic bag to protect items from moisture and mold then place the container in a box that can be decorated and stored in a safe place with related holiday decorations. Mark on the container the date it was created for future reference, and pack it with items like family-favorite recipes; notes about significant



events from that year like births, weddings, graduations and more; copies of newspapers detailing high-profile happenings; and pictures, drawings and notes from the year.

If you're patient enough to wait, try leaving the contents undisturbed at least five years to give the memories even more meaning when the time comes to relive those special moments.

Memories Tablecloth

To help keep important family footnotes front and center during future celebrations, a memorial tablecloth provides each person an opportunity to personalize a piece of popular decor. As you gather around the table for holiday meals, ask each family member to jot down a favorite memory or something he or she is thankful for along with a signature and date.

You can make it an annual event by using the same tablecloth each year and, before long, it will be filled with personal memories as a way to cherish relationships as time goes on. Just use an appropriately sized, inexpensive white canvas drop cloth. Place fabric markers in the center of the table before inviting guests to participate, and to help distinguish each year, try using different colored markers.

Find more ways to celebrate the holidays with your loved ones at talkofalifetime.org.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images #14949

Source: Funeral and Memorial Information Council

Content downloaded from familyfeatures.com.

RANCH REVIEW

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RANCH REVIEW



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