

LONG CANYON *Gazette*

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

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MAKE SURE YOUR HALLOWEEN HAS MORE TREATS THAN TRICKS

Halloween is supposed to be a night filled with fun and candy, but sadly the American Automobile Association (AAA) says October 31st is the second deadliest day of the year for pedestrians. Toni Odumosu, M.D., who practices at the Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center, says parents and kids should follow these safety tips to make their Halloween a safe and enjoyable night.

1. **Walk safely.** Make sure children travel in groups, utilize sidewalks when available, and look both ways when crossing the street. Parents should accompany trick-or-treaters under the age of 12. Those children allowed to walk without an adult should stick to areas where they are familiar with their surroundings.
2. **Keep costumes creative and safe.** Ill-fitting costumes or masks that make it difficult to see can be a recipe for an injury. Make sure costumes aren't too long and opt for face paint rather than masks, if possible. If the mask is a must, make sure your child can see in all directions when it is worn.
3. **Consider your accessories.** Children should not carry sharp objects or anything that could be mistaken for a weapon.
4. **Stay well lit.** Whether you trick-or-treat before the sun goes down, or carry flashlights, it is important that cars and other groups can see you. Consider putting reflective tape on dark-colored costumes.
5. **Check the candy.** Children are eager to tear into their loot, but parents should sort through the candy at the end of the night. Throw away anything that is not in its original wrapper. Children under the age of four should not consume hard or sticky candy, so that should be taken out as well.

"I also caution parents against allowing sugar overload. Kids want to eat their entire collection of candy in one day, but they will regret it later. Ration the candy to avoid stomach aches. Some dentists also offer "trade-in" programs where kids can swap the sugary treats for toys. I know it may be a hard sell for parents, but remind kids who make the swap that they can celebrate Halloween year-round with their new toy" encourages Dr. Odumosu.



LBJ Museum to Raffle Restored Vintage Truck

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Museum of San Marcos will raffle a spectacular, fully restored 1972 vintage Chevy truck on December 7th as a fund-raiser for the Claudia Taylor Johnson (Lady Bird) endowment for the museum.

Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased online at www.lbjmuseum.org from now until Black Friday, December 1st.

The 1972 C10 Chevy was meticulously restored by Performance Auto Repair, LLC, of Tulsa Ok.

The classic "Build" truck features a fuel injected LSX engine, auto 4-speed transmission (4160E), updated brake system, oak bed, leather interior and dash, powder coated frame, vintage air kit, updated gauge cluster, power steering and custom suspension. The truck is valued at \$25,000.

The restorers will deliver the truck to San Marcos this week and it will be on display at events around Hays County during the fall, including the Mermaid Parade in downtown San Marcos on Sept. 16. The truck will also be showcased at Chuck Nash Chevrolet in San Marcos. The raffle drawing will be held at the LBJ Museum of San Marcos following its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7th.

Raffle rules include:

- For each raffle ticket purchased, the person whose name and information is listed on the entry form will receive one (1) entry into the promotion. The purchaser will receive email confirmation of the purchase with a corresponding entry number.
- Need not be present to win
- Each ticket has a \$1.99 processing fee by EventBrite, the online site for ticket sales.
- The winner will be selected by random drawing from among all valid raffle tickets purchased.
- Odds of winning depend on the number of tickets purchased.
- Drawing will be held Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the LBJ Museum, San Marcos, TX.
- Winner pays all registration, tag & title fees, and applicable taxes.

The LBJ Museum was established in 1997 to honor the legacy of Texas State University graduate, President Lyndon B. Johnson, the only U.S. President to graduate from a Texas university.

The two story museum located at 131 N. Guadalupe in San Marcos features exhibits and artifacts from President Johnson's years as a student from 1927-1930 and his teaching experiences in South Texas.

His formative years here shaped landmark civil rights, education, and anti-poverty legislation enacted during his presidency from 1963-1969. The museum's endowment honors Lady Bird Johnson for her singular impact on the President's career and legacy.

The Claudia Taylor Johnson Endowment raises funds from donations, gifts and fund-raisers to support new exhibits, acquisition of artifacts, and special programs.

The LBJ Museum is free and open to the public Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Facilities for community meetings are available for rental.

For more information, contact the LBJ Museum at 512-353-3300 or email director@lbjmuseum.com.



2017 Lil Diggers Volleyball Camp is Here!

Calling all girls and boys in K-6 grade for a day of fun and volleyball skills development! Every year, the Vandegrift Volleyball Program and Volleyball Booster Club invites players from Kindergarten through 6th grade to participate in a skills camp with the Viper volleyball players. This year, the 2017 Lil Diggers Volleyball Camp will be held on Saturday, October 14, from 1– 4 pm at Vandegrift High School. The event usually draws about 75 kids. With your \$40 registration, each player will receive:

- Lil Diggers t-shirt
- Giveaways
- An unforgettable experience, working with Viper volleyball players!

More information and registration is available at <http://www.vhsvipers.com/volleyball/>. Register by October 4 to guarantee t-shirt size. Thanks for your continued support for our Viper Volleyball program. All proceeds benefit the Viper Volleyball Booster Club. Please contact Carrie Yeats at carrie.yeats@gmail.com with questions. Go Vipers!



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NATURE WATCH

SNOUTBREAK!

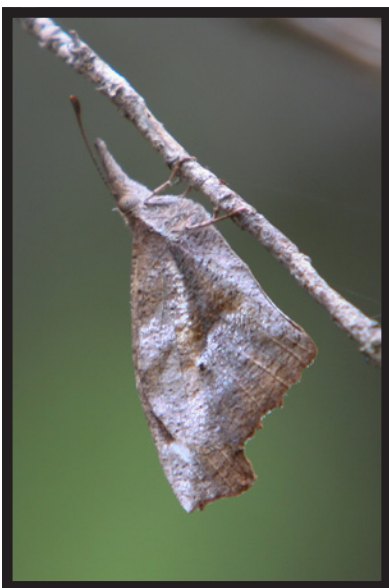
by Jim and Lynne Weber

The change from late summer into early fall can trigger some unusual natural events, and at this time of year in Central Texas, we can often see periodic population explosions of the American Snout butterfly.



American Snout Butterfly

Often mistaken for migrating Monarch butterflies, the American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*) is a medium-sized butterfly with a brown upperside, wings orange at the base, and white spots near the tips of the forewings. Its underside is a mottled grayish-brown pattern, much like a dried, dead leaf. Snouts are named for their elongated mouthparts, and when they hang from the underside of a branch, which they most often do, their 'snout' resembles the stem or 'petiole' of a leaf and their folded wings appear to be the dead leaf itself. It's the perfect camouflage for defense against avian predators.



American Snout Camouflage

In the caterpillar stage, snouts are dark green with yellow stripes along the top and sides of their body, with two small, black tubercles on the top of their thorax. These caterpillars feed on all hackberry species, but they prefer spiny hackberry. While Austin is at the northernmost boundary of this plant's range, it is close enough that we get to experience a 'snoutbreak.' After a good rain, spiny hackberry plants (also known as granjeno or desert hackberry) grow numerous new leaves. In response, the snout butterfly

lays its eggs on these new leaves, which provides the fuel for a significant number of its caterpillars. In Texas, it only takes 12 days to go from egg to caterpillar to adult butterfly.



Spiny Hackberry

diapause', a state of arrested development/reproduction and decreased metabolism in response to the adverse environmental conditions. This condition reverses when the rains arrive and trigger the third factor, new growth on the spiny hackberry host plants. Female snouts will only lay eggs on this prolific new growth, and coupled with the lack of parasites, this creates a population boom.

Most often, 'snoutbreaks' occur in South Texas and Mexico, where the spiny hackberry is plentiful. However, one of the largest recorded snout emergences occurred in late September of 1921, when over the course of 18 days more than 6 billion southeasterly-bound snout butterflies flew over San Marcos to the Rio Grande River. That's an estimated 25 million per minute! While not every year is quite that spectacular, keep your eyes open this time of year, about two weeks after a rain, and you should see region-wide migrations of snout butterflies as they waft by in pretty impressive numbers.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our books, [Nature Watch Austin](#) and [Nature Watch Big Bend](#) (both published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

The ecology behind this event is related to several factors. First, the population of snouts is positively correlated to the intensity and duration of dry periods that immediately precede significant rains. These droughts seem to greatly diminish parasites that can harm and kill snout larvae. Second, adult snouts wait out these long, dry periods by remaining in 'reproductive

PUMPKIN SNICKERDOODLES



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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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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Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



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Halloween!

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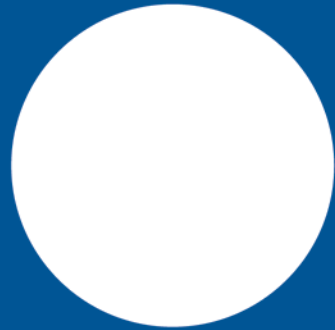
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