

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

APRIL 2018
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4



ANNOUNCING THE FIRST ANNUAL "SHARKS AFTER DARK" 3K KIDS AND FAMILY GLOW RUN BENEFITING THE SHADOW CREEK BAND!

SHADOW CREEK BAND!

APRIL 14, 2018

8:30 PM,

SHADOW CREEK HS

SHARKS AFTER DARK

3K Family Glow Run

April 14, 2018



Supporting the Shadow Creek HS Band

Be a part of the awesome new Pearland area glow run designed for kids (and families!) that's more like a street party!

You'll arrive to enjoy a carnival-like atmosphere with food trucks and activities for kids! At 8:30 pm, our fun run kicks off from the SCHS track complex and winds all around the edge of the campus for 3K of glow-in-the-dark fun.

Grownups: you get to run FREE with your registered child!

Strollers, wheelchair racers, and walkers are welcome! All registered kids get awesome race swag: t-shirt, glow necklace, and even a medal! Extra t-shirts are only \$10 with paid registration.

Compete with your Alvin ISD elementary school for the most racers! The school with the most racers will receive a "Spirit Shark" traveling trophy and a donation of recess equipment.

All proceeds from the race support the concert and marching activities of the award-winning Shadow Creek High School Band. More race sponsors are needed! Don't miss your chance to put your business name on this new event that is sure to become an awesome community tradition.

To sign up or become a sponsor, please visit our race website at <http://thedriven.net/sharksafterdark>

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

NATURE WATCH

LITTLE ARMORED ONE

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spanish for 'little armored one', the armadillo is one of the most interesting mammals in North America. All but one of the 20 different species of armadillo live in Latin America, but the Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) makes its home as far north as Texas (except for the western Trans-Pecos), Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In fact, this armadillo is the official state small mammal of Texas!

A cat-sized, insect-eating mammal, armadillos have bony plates that cover their back, head, legs, and tail, protecting them from predators. No other living mammal wears such a shell, but contrary to popular belief, the Nine-banded Armadillo cannot roll into a ball and encase itself with its shell. Only the Three-banded Armadillo can accomplish this, by curling its head and back feet inward and contorting its shell as protection. No amount of armor can protect them from the cold, however, and because of their low metabolic rate and lack of fur and body fat stores, cold weather can wipe out whole populations of these little creatures.

Armadillos have a pointy snout and small eyes, and are prolific diggers. They dig for food and dig many burrows, mostly along creekbeds in Central Texas, and they do not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. Armadillos spend up to 16 hours a day digging, mainly active in the dawn and dusk hours, looking for beetles, ants, termites, and other insects. Their eyesight is quite poor, but they use their keen sense of smell to locate food, and utilize their long, sticky tongues to grasp berries, caterpillars, grubs, fungi, and sometimes even carrion.

Armadillos are quite fond of water, visiting water holes and streams to drink, feed, and even take mud baths. Their specific gravity is high, which means they normally ride low in the water when swimming. For short water crossings, they often just walk underwater across the bottom, but for deeper and longer crossings they voluntarily ingest air to inflate themselves and increase their

(Continued on Page 3)

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Nine-banded Armadillo

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

(Continued from Page 2)

buoyancy by retaining the air in their digestive tract!

Armadillos are thought to be a pair during the breeding season, sharing the same burrow. Due to their bony shells and the underside location of their genitalia, copulation occurs with the female lying on her back. While breeding occurs in July, the embryo remains in a dormant state until November. Always of the same sex, identical quadruplets develop from the single egg, and four young are born in a grass-lined burrow in March.

While the Nine-banded Armadillo is a unique mammal whose range is expanding northward, there is reason to be concerned about their conservation status in Texas. Encroaching human civilization, overgrazing, and progressive climatic change may be keeping them on the move, and many mammalogists agree that armadillos are rare at best when compared to populations of a few years ago. This decline also appears to be correlated with increasing populations of feral hogs, as well as the propensity for people to make trinkets from armadillo shells. Perhaps our state motto should read 'Don't Mess with Texas Armadillos!'

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 (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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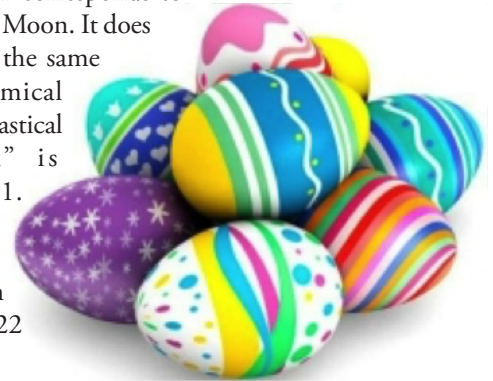
THE TRADITIONS OF EASTER

As with almost all “Christian” holidays, Easter has been secularized and commercialized. The dichotomous nature of Easter and its symbols, however, is not necessarily a modern fabrication. Since its conception as a holy celebration in the second century, Easter has had its non-religious side. In fact, Easter was originally a pagan festival.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. When the second century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner. As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed

to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Date of Easter, Prior to A.D. 325: Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, a caveat must be introduced here. The “full moon” in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical “vernal equinox” is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.




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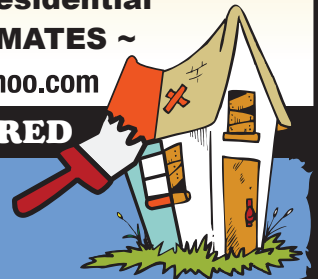
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1 lb. ground beef	1 tsp. oregano
1 large onion, chopped	1 tsp. cumin
1 clove garlic	½ tsp. brown sugar
1 can tomato sauce	½ tsp. salt
1 can tomato paste (plus 3 cans water)	
½ tsp. pepper	1 tsp. chili powder
1 pkg. taco mix	½ small pkg. cooked Minute Rice

Brown ground beef; add onion and garlic and cook until tender. Add all other ingredients except rice. Simmer for 30 minutes.

In separate dishes, serve the following:

Fritos	Diced tomatoes
Shredded lettuce	Chopped onion
Diced olives	Grated cheese
Taco sauce	Sour cream

Use Fritos for first layer on each individual's plate. Add meat mixture. Top with other ingredients as desired by each individual.



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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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ONLINE**

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DUE: April 30, 2018

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

Name (first name, last initial): _____ Age: _____



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