

The Ranch Report

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2019



SAVE MONEY ON SUMMER ROAD TRIPS

Photo courtesy of Getty (family picnic)

If financial constraints are keeping you from exploring the world, it may be time to reassess your approach to travel. From road trips across the country to jaunts across your state, there are plenty of ways to curb costs, so your biggest challenge is finding more days away from the office, not replenishing your bank account.

Make reservations in advance. Shopping early for lodging is one way to save. Give yourself plenty of time to watch deals so you can grab the best one, and if it's possible, be flexible with the travel dates. Shifting your trip by even a day can sometimes make a difference in the rates.

Utilize rewards programs. Shopper loyalty programs make it easy

to save money on essential purchases. Not only can you access exclusive card-holder discounts, but you can accumulate rewards points or even earn cash back. For example, with the Shell | Fuel Rewards® credit cards, you can save 10 cents per gallon (up to 20 gallons) every time you fill up at Shell, in addition to earning rebates on other qualifying purchases. See store for details or learn more at shell.us/roadtrip.

Share the journey. If your travel party consists of multiple families, consolidate into as few vehicles as you can. This helps minimize costs on everything from gas to per-vehicle admission fees at destinations like national parks.

(Continued on Page 3)



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 JANUARY 10, 2020
 JANUARY 24, 2020



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 Fire.....911
 Ambulance.....911
 Sheriff – Non-Emergency..... 512-943-1300

SCHOOLS

ROUND ROCK ISD

Patsy Sommer Elementary 704-0600
 16200 Avery Ranch Blvd.
 Elsa England Elementary School 704-1200
8801 Pearson Ranch Road
 Cedar Valley Middle School..... 428-2300
 8139 Racine Trail
 Pearson Ranch Middle School..... 704-1500
8901 Pearson Ranch Road
 McNeil High School..... 464-6300
5720 McNeil Dr.

LEANDER ISD

Rutledge Elementary..... 570-6500
 11501 Staked Plains Dr.
 Stiles Middle School 570-0000
 3250 Barley Rd.
 Vista Ridge High School..... 570-1800
200 S. Vista Ridge Dr.

UTILITIES

City of Austin Water 512-494-9400
 Perdarnales Electric..... 512-219-2602

TEXAS GAS SERVICE

Custom Service.....1-800-700-2443
 Emergencies..... 512-370-8609
 Call Before You Dig..... 512-472-2822

AT&T

New Service.....1-800-464-7928
 Repair.....1-800-246-8464
 Billing.....1-800-858-7928

TIME WARNER CABLE

Customer Service..... 512-485-5555
 Repairs..... 512-485-5080
 Solid Waste Servies..... 512-494-9400

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWS

Articles..... AveryRanch@peelinc.com

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. 512-263-9181
 Advertising..... advertising@peelinc.com

(Continued from Cover)

Pack snacks. Next to lodging, food is the biggest expense you're likely to encounter on a road trip. Consider packing snacks for the road so you can save money while managing your hunger. Alternatively, an option like the Shell | Fuel Rewards Mastercard lets you earn rebates on qualifying purchases made with the card.

Be conscious of your gas mileage. You may not have much of a choice when it comes to which vehicle you'll drive, but paying more attention to your driving habits can stretch your gas tank a little further. Be sure your tires are inflated to the correct pressure. If your vehicle is a gas guzzler, consider renting a more efficient vehicle for the trip. Weigh the additional cost of the rental versus what you may spend in fuel for your personal car before making a decision.

Research attractions. Admission fees to various attractions can really add up, but a little pre-planning can help you capitalize on discount days and other special deals. If your plans are flexible, you can schedule your trip around those offers to capture the same experiences at a significantly lower price tag.

Travel doesn't have to drain your wallet. Managing your trips with practical tips like these may even free up enough funds so you can fit in an extra adventure or two.

Content courtesy of Shell

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS

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Sherry Salkhordeh O.D.

NATURE WATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LONGHORN



'Cottonwood Borer'

The Cerambycidae are a family of longhorn beetles, typically characterized by extremely long antennae, often as long as or longer than the beetle's body. Also called longicorns, over 400 species have been described in Texas alone. The scientific name of this beetle family is named after the shepherd Cerambus, a mythical Greek figure who was transformed into a large beetle with horns after an argument with nymphs. Most of these beetles can fly well and are be found on tree trunks, logs, flowers, or at lights at night. Some even squeak when held, making a rocking motion with their head which rubs tiny ridges against the inside surface of their thorax.

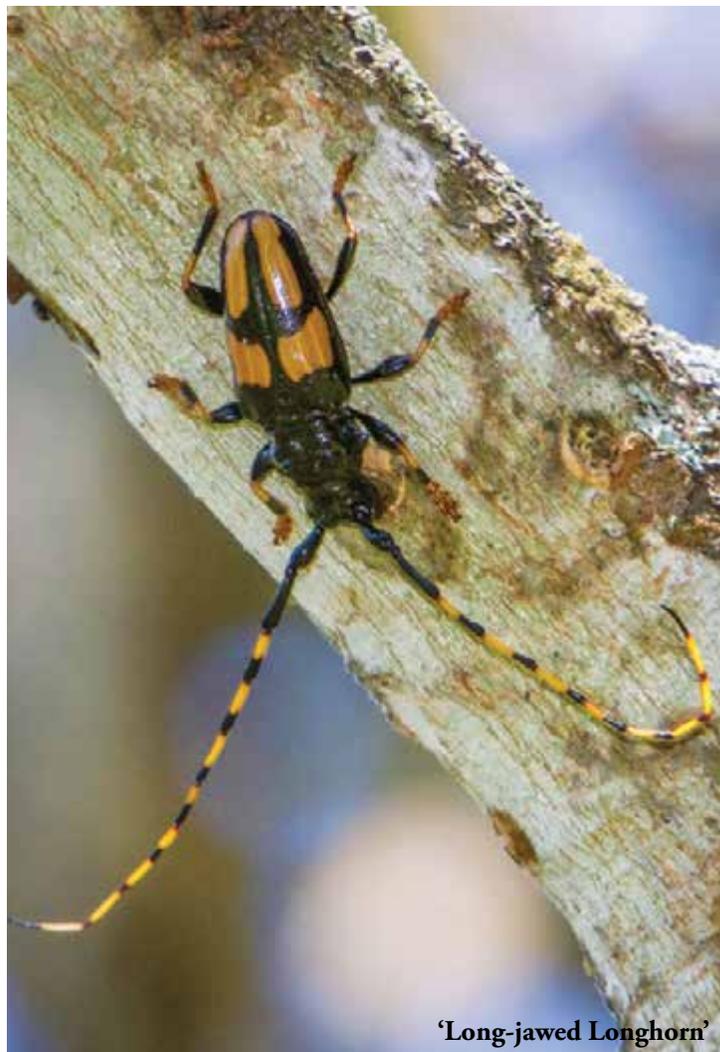
Two of our more common longhorn beetles are the Cottonwood Borer (*Plectrodera scalator*) and the Long-jawed or Horse-bean Longhorn Beetle (*Trachyderes mandibularis*). The Cottonwood Borer is one of the largest insects in North America, reaching 1.6 inches in length and 0.5 inches in width. It has a bold black and white pattern on its body with long black antennae. The white portions of the pattern are actually microscopic masses of hair. Adults are active by day, feeding on leaf stems and shoots of cottonwood trees. The female bores small holes in the base of the tree to lay her eggs. The larvae take up to 2 years to mature, then they pupate for about 3 weeks in a root below ground, and once metamorphosis is completed, they chew their way out of the root and dig their way to the surface.

Long-jawed Longhorn Beetle has a glossy black or dark brown body with 4 generally large but sometimes reduced yellow to yellow-orange markings, and segments of its antennae and legs alternating between black and yellow-orange. It can grow to a length of 1.3 inches and is generally common from March to November. Its species name comes from the fact that the males have much expanded jaws or mandibles. Active during the day, adults are mostly found near wounded trees as they feed on oozing sap, and

its larvae feed on native hackberries as well as non-native ficus and tamarisk species.

This large family of longhorns includes beetles called sawyers, pruners, and girdlers in addition to borers. Most are found in dead or dying wood, and some mine live plants. While many of these beetles are considered to be occasional pests, it should be noted that they literally help shape the forest canopy and assist in recycling dead wood into precious soil. All the more reason to appreciate this different kind of longhorn!

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*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



'Long-jawed Longhorn'

VISTA RIDGE RANGERS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/23/19	Hutto Hippos	Hutto, TX (Hutto Memorial Stadium)	7:00PM
8/30/19	Rouse Raiders	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
9/05/19	Killeen Kangaroos	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
9/13/19	McNeil Mavericks	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
9/20/19	Westwood Warriors	Round Rock, TX (Dragon Stadium)	7:00PM
9/27/19	Vandergrift Vipers	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
10/04/19	Leander Lions	Leander, TX (Bible Stadium)	7:00PM
10/11/19	Stony Point Tigers	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
10/18/19	Cedar Ridge Raiders	Round Rock, TX (Dragon Stadium)	7:00PM
10/25/19	Hendrickson Hawks	Cedar Park, TX (Gupton Stadium)	7:00PM
11/01/19			TBA
11/07/19	Round Rock Dragons	Round Rock, TX (Dragon Stadium)	7:00PM

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RANCH REPORT

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RANCH REPORT



MCNEIL HIGH SCHOOL

2019



2019 VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	H/A	TIME
Aug. 23	FRIDAY	Anderson High School	TBA	A	TBA
Aug. 30	FRIDAY	Del Valle High School	Del Valle	A	7:30
Sept. 6	FRIDAY	Leander Glenn High School	Reeves Complex	H	7:30
Sept. 13*	FRIDAY	Vista Ridge High School	Gupton	A	7:00
Sept. 20*	FRIDAY	Round Rock High School	Reeves Complex	H	7:00
Sept. 27	FRIDAY	<i>OPEN</i>			
Oct. 4*	FRIDAY	Westwood High School	Dragon Stadium	A	7:00
Oct. 11*	FRIDAY	<i>Vandegrift High School (Homecoming)</i>	Reeves Complex	H	7:00
Oct. 18*	FRIDAY	Leander High School	Bible Stadium	A	7:00
Oct. 24*	THURSDAY	Stony Point High School	Reeves Complex	H	7:00
Nov. 1*	FRIDAY	Cedar Ridge High School	Reeves Complex	A	7:00
Nov. 8*	FRIDAY	Hendrickson High School	Dragon Stadium	H	7:00

2019 JV BLUE & GREEN FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	H/A	TIME
Aug. 23	FRIDAY	Anderson High School	TBA	A	TBA
Aug. 29	THURSDAY	Del Valle High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Sept. 5	THURSDAY	Leander Glenn High School	Glenn HS	A	5:00/7:00
Sept. 12*	THURSDAY	Vista Ridge High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Sept. 19	THURSDAY	Round Rock High School	Dragon Stadium	A	5:00/7:00
Sept. 26	THURSDAY	<i>OPEN</i>			
Oct. 3*	THURSDAY	Westwood High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Oct. 10*	THURSDAY	Vandegrift High School	Vandegrift HS	A	5:00/7:00
Oct. 17*	THURSDAY	Leander High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Oct. 23*	WEDNESDAY	Stony Point High School	Stony Point HS	A	5:00/7:00
Oct. 31*	THURSDAY	Cedar Ridge High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Nov. 7*	THURSDAY	Hendrickson High School	Hendrickson HS	A	5:00/7:00

2019 FRESHMAN BLUE & GREEN FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	H/A	TIME
Aug. 23	FRIDAY	Anderson High School	TBA	A	TBA
Aug. 29	THURSDAY	Del Valle High School	Del Valle HS	A	5:00/7:00
Sept. 5	THURSDAY	Leander Glenn High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Sept. 12*	THURSDAY	Vista Ridge High School	Vista Ridge HS	A	5:00/7:00
Sept. 19	THURSDAY	Round Rock High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Sept. 26	THURSDAY	<i>OPEN</i>			
Oct. 3*	THURSDAY	Westwood High School	Westwood HS	A	5:00/7:00
Oct. 10*	THURSDAY	Vandegrift High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Oct. 17*	THURSDAY	Leander High School	Leander HS	A	5:00/7:00
Oct. 23*	WEDNESDAY	Stony Point High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00
Oct. 31*	THURSDAY	Cedar Ridge High School	Cedar Ridge HS	A	5:00/7:00
Nov. 7*	THURSDAY	Hendrickson High School	Maverick Field	H	5:00/7:00

Head Football Coach: Howard McMahan
 Athletic Admin Asst: Amanda Worrell
 Athletic Trainers: Xander Keller/Maggie Florez-Cook
 MHS Principal: Amanda Johnson
 RRISD Athletic Director: Dwayne Weirich
 MHS Main Office 512-484-6300 MHS Athletic Office 512-484-6515

H = HOME A = AWAY
 * DISTRICT 13 - 6A GAMES

JV & Freshman Games:

Blue @ 5:00 / Green @ 7:00

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