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MERIDIAN *Community Monitor*

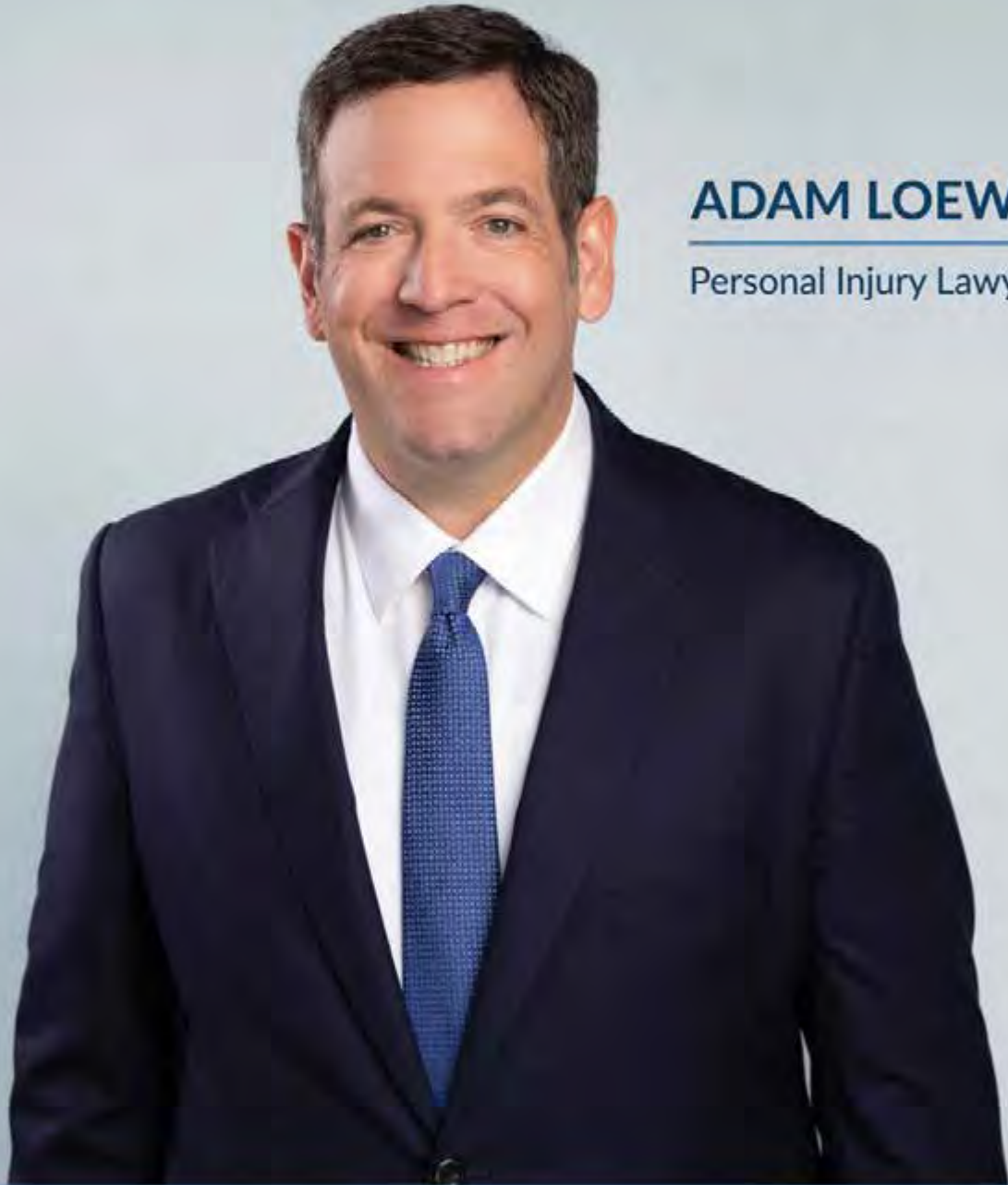
NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN



Boy Scout Impacting Camp Mabry

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Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more. If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome. Our goal is to keep you informed!

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NEWSLETTER INFO

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Continued from Cover

Boy Scout Impacting Camp Mabry

Austin, TX – Jacob Kamperman a Circle C resident, member of Boy Scout Troop 395 in Southwest Austin, and student at Bowie HS, wanted to do something special to support Camp Mabry. When he approached TXARNG Natural Resource Manager Linda Brown at Camp Mabry he found a project that would support Camp Mabry and his love of the outdoors.

Jacob has had a connection with Camp Mabry since he started camping on the base as a Cub Scout at 6 yrs old. Over the years he has spent endless hours at Camp Mabry visiting Texas Military Forces Museum, attending Muster Day and Reenactments, hiking the trails, and volunteering at the annual Fishing Derby.

Dr. Brown and her team have been working to restore the undeveloped areas of Camp Mabry back to their natural form, 65% of Camp Mabry's 375 acres are undeveloped. Jacob wanted to support a project that improved the natural environment and increase the diverse wildlife on the base.

Jacob identified a need for Bat houses. He led volunteers designing, building, and installing three double chamber bat houses. The new bat houses will give bats the opportunity to bring their insect-eating presence to the fields of Camp Mabry. Jacob felt the need to increase the Bat population to offset the concerns around diseases spreading in the Central TX bat population. In May 2019 *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd) was detected at Bracken Cave Preserve, in the hill country. PD fungus can cause White-nose Syndrome (WNS) which kills bats. Across North America, WNS has killed millions of hibernating bats over the past decade, causing the most severe threat to bats on the continent.

Jacob's project, which took over 200 volunteer hours to complete fulfills the requirements for the William T. Hornaday award. The Hornaday is a program that promotes sound stewardship of natural resources and respect for the outdoors. The Scouting award was created in 1914 by Dr. Hornaday. Hornaday was a pioneer of natural resource conservation, who was instrumental in preventing the extinction of American bison. Fewer than 1200 medals have been awarded in the last 80 years, and it is an honor that requires a great commitment and achievement over periods of months or even years to earn.



SKUNKS ARE THEY GOOD FOR ANYTHING?

Actually, yes, they are. For most people, the only thing they know about skunks is that they stink but they are very beneficial to farmers and homeowners. They eat garden and agricultural pests in large numbers. They feed on larvae, worms, fruit, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, bees, wasps and fish.

Texas is home to five species of skunks—the eastern spotted, striped, two types of hog-nosed and the hooded skunk. The hooded skunk is considered a Mexican species and can only be found in a few Texas counties near Mexico. The striped skunk is the most common skunk in North America. It has a white stripe on either side of its back that extends over the head and down the sides of the tail. The spotted skunk can only be found in eastern Texas, the Panhandle and the eastern United States. It gets its name from having a small white spot on its forehead and a spot in front of each ear. The American hog-nosed skunk is the largest skunk in the world. They have one broad white stripe from the top of the head to the base of the tail and a long, bushy white tail. They can be found in southern and central Texas.

The eastern spotted skunk is small and unlike the other species of skunks, its movements are similar to that of the squirrel. They are very active and can even climb trees. Due to threats such as habitat loss, pesticide use and vehicle strikes across the spotted skunk's entire range, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is evaluating the species' status and will determine if it should be listed as threatened or endangered. It plans to make a listing recommendation in 2023.

Skunks are very docile animals and they will warn predators before releasing the oily substance from their anal glands that contains the active ingredient, n-butyl mercaptan. They'll do a little dance, stomp the ground, slap their tail on the ground and may even stand on their back legs. They're giving you fair

warning. Once they spray, they are unable to do it again for ten days. If you encounter a skunk, stop immediately and slowly back away.

1. If your pet gets sprayed, here's what the American Kennel Club recommends. It may not completely remove the smell but it'll get rid of most of it.

2. Check the eyes. If affected, flush with cool water or purchase an eye wash from your vet and keep on hand if you live in an area with a high population of skunks.

3. Mix 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide solution (found at any pharmacy or supermarket), 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing soap.

4. Wear rubber gloves and thoroughly wash your pet. Don't leave the solution on too long. You may have to repeat the process.

5. Use a regular pet shampoo and wash your pet again to remove any residual solution.

6. Towel dry your pet.

If you need to wash your clothes, use 1/2 cup of baking soda with your regular detergent.

DO NOT STORE solution for later use. If kept in a covered container, it can explode. Do not get the solution in your pet's eyes. Don't use a peroxide solution stronger than 3%.

TWRC Wildlife Center is available to answer your questions and guide you through the rescue process should you find an animal needing help. Sometimes animals don't need help and are better left alone. We will help you make that determination. Call us at 713-468-8972 or check our website for helpful information: www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.

Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS – PART 3

This is the last part of a three-part series on questions from our readers. Recycling can be very confusing; I encourage you to send me your questions at recycling@hpwbana.org. I will answer your questions personally.

ARE PLASTIC ROLL-ON DEODERANT CONTAINERS RECYCLABLE? Only completely empty plastic roll-on deodorant containers with the recycling symbol on the bottom are recyclable. Aerosol containers (any kind, including deodorant) are recyclable in the blue cart ONLY if they are completely empty. Partially full aerosol cans are a fire hazard at the recycling processing facility. They must go into the trash can or be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMPOSTABLE AND BIODEGRADABLE? Compostable material is always biodegradable, but biodegradable material is not always compostable. Compostable materials will break down in a compost pile and become dirt or humus. Biodegradable products are designed to break down into smaller pieces, but they never become dirt or humus. For example, a biodegradable plastic bag degrades into small pieces of plastic, while a compostable plastic bag becomes dirt. Therefore, it is important that you place only compostable materials and bags into the green curbside compost collection bin.

MY PIZZA BOXES LOOK CLEAN. CAN I THROW THEM INTO MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN? No. Even if the box looks clean, it has absorbed grease that is not visible. This grease makes the cardboard unable to be processed properly for recycling. All pizza boxes can go into the green curbside compost collection bin or the trash can.

MY NEWSPAPER GOT WET BUT NOW IT IS DRY. CAN I PUT IT INTO MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN? No. When any paper gets wet, the paper fibers shrink, making the paper less valuable. Also, wet paper is at risk for contamination from whatever contaminated it. Wet paper can go into your green curbside compost bin or into the trash can.

CAN I RECYCLE PLASTIC LIDS IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE RECYCLING TRIANGLE ON THEM? No. The triangle marked on plastics tells what the plastic is made of. This helps sort the plastics properly at the MRF (manufacturing recycling facility). If plastic is not labeled, the MRF won't know how to process it. These types of plastics need to go into the trash can.

ARE PHOTOGRAPHS RECYCLABLE IN THE BLUE BINS? Old photos are not recyclable because of the chemicals used in the photographic process. Newer digital photos are recyclable, much like magazines. To tell the difference, tear the photo. If it tears in layers, rather than cleanly ripping apart, you have an "old school" photo and need to put it into your trash can.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>

**PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT,
THROW IT OUT!!!**

If you don't know how to recycle something, put it into your trash can so that it doesn't contaminate the recycling stream.



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WELCOME

Oak Hill United Methodist Church is excited to welcome our new pastor, Stephen Sanders. We would love to have you join us in worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on facebook.com/OakHillUMC. You don't need a Facebook account to join the service. All are welcome.

COVID-19 and so many other things seem to make this a particularly difficult time. This month we'll be exploring how to "Thrive in the Wilderness."



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Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby	Pet	House	Yard	Phone
		Sit	Sit	Sit	Work	
Altai, Rand.....	19.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	394-9690
Gonzalez, Byanka*+	18.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	512-667-3943
Jordan, Ryan.....	17.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	512-369-2504
Krueger, Ana*.....	16.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	907-522-0052
Scoma, Anika*+	15.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	737-932-1766
Tilton, Marijka.....	16.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	•.....	512-228-1682

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Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Meridian teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to meridian@peelinc.com by the 9th of the month!





Reimagining Public Safety

Key Changes in the FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget



\$11.3 million reduction to the Austin Police Department's Forecast Budget

- Eliminated 100 vacant police officer positions from the forecast budget for a total reduction of \$9.2 million
- Delayed the July 2020 cadet class resulting in an estimated \$1.5 million reduction
- Delayed scheduled replacement of duty weapons resulting in a \$400,000 reduction
- Transferred Austin Center for Events staff to the Development Services Department for a reduction of \$200,000

Reallocation of \$11.3 million to fund alternative public safety strategies and public health services

- \$3.0 million to enhance the work of the Office of Police Oversight and the Equity Office, rewrite the Austin Police Department's General Orders, and conduct and implement audits
- \$2.7 million to improve mental health first response by expanding the Integral Care-EMCOT contract for clinical staff and telehealth services, increasing community outreach to underserved communities, and adding 7 new positions to the Community Health Paramedic program
- \$2.3 million reallocation within the Austin Police Department budget to replace the department's 15-year old records management system, which will allow for more-efficient records keeping
- \$1.1 million to increase the capacity of mental health services, family violence programs, and immigrant legal services provided by Austin Public Health
- \$1.0 million transfer to the Housing Trust Fund to support key affordable housing goals, including preserving and creating reasonably priced housing within the city of Austin
- \$900,000 reallocated within the Austin Police Department's budget to fund targeted training related to trauma-informed response, unconscious bias, and racial and cultural sensitivity, as well as training to safely administer Naloxone to someone experiencing a drug overdose
- \$300,000 to support the newly formed Civil Rights Office, which is tasked with enforcement of City ordinances and federal statutes prohibiting discrimination

Next steps: Reimagining public safety programs & services

- Emergency call center & police dispatch
- Forensics lab
- Vehicle licensing
- Nuisance abatement
- Park Patrol, Lake Patrol, & Airport Police
- Administrative & management services
- Crisis intervention & mental health response
- Officer wellness
- Internal affairs
- Protective services
- Victim services
- Officer training
- Governance





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