

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 9  
SEPTEMBER 2020

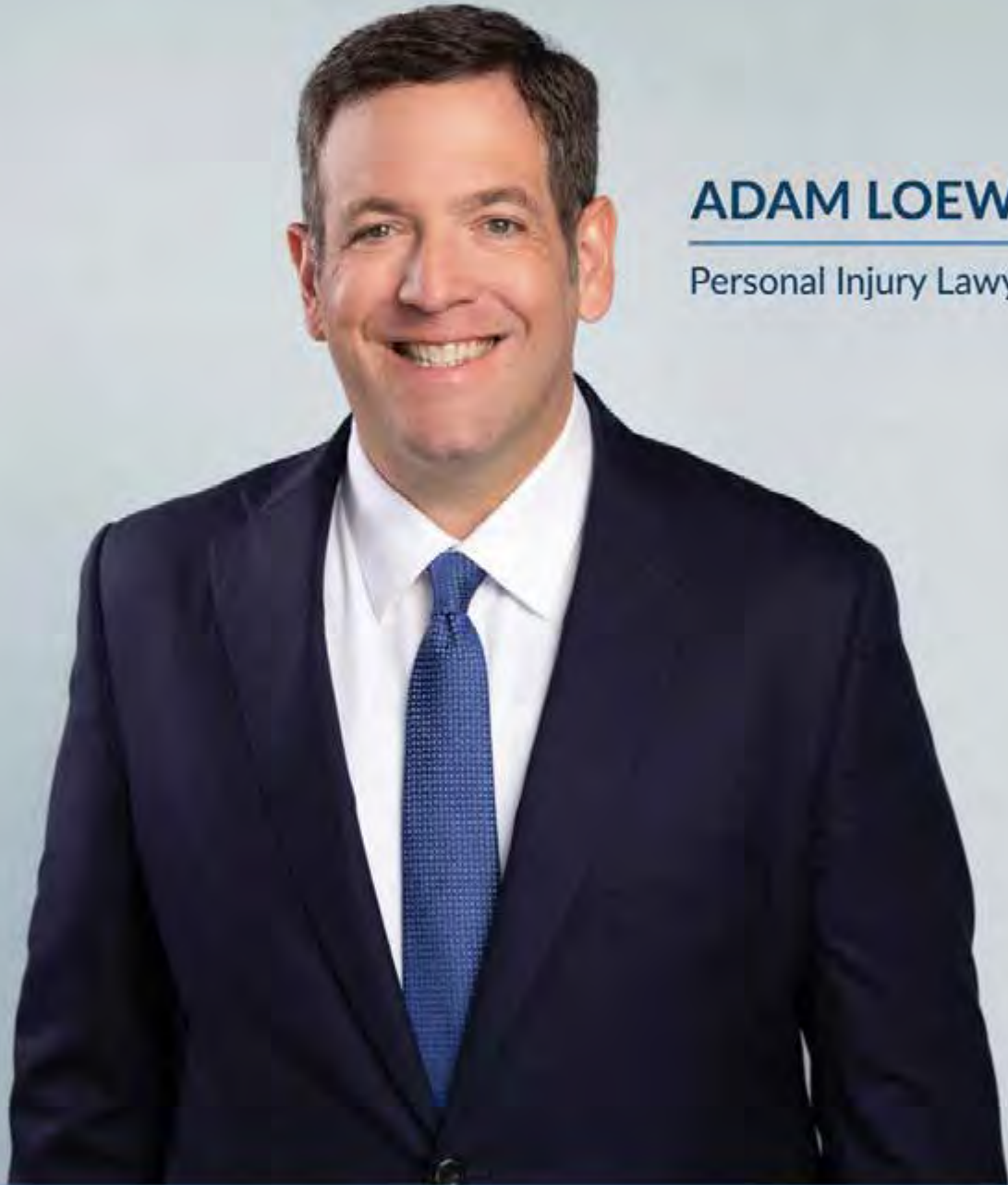
# MERIDIAN *Community Monitor*

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN

*Happy Fall, y'all!*



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



## **ADAM LOEWY**

Personal Injury Lawyer



**LOEWY LAW FIRM**  
HELPING INJURED TEXANS

LoewyFirm.com  
(512) 280-0800

## ***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](http://www.PEELinc.com) or you can email it [meridian@peelinc.com](mailto: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!

---

## ***ADVERTISING INFO***

---

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

---

## ***NEWSLETTER INFO***

---

### **PUBLISHER**

Peel, Inc. .... [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com), 512-263-9181  
Advertising ..... [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 512-263-9181



**Find Meridian on  
Facebook**

@MeridianSocialBuzz  
@MeridianMamas

# YOUR AD HERE

Contact us  
Today  
for Current  
Specials!



[advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com)  
512-263-9181  
[www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

## LETTUCE RECYCLE!

by Dena Houston

### THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA



Cateura is one of the poorest “slum” villages in Paraguay. It is located at the edge of Paraguay’s largest landfill into which three million pounds of trash are dumped daily.

This village suffers from severe poverty, lack of education among the young, high drug use, and a dangerously polluted water supply. When it rains in Cateura, the streets become a sea of trash.

Most of the people in the village make their living as “trash pickers,” earning five cents a pound for cardboard and ten cents a pound for plastic. In 2006, an environmental engineer named Favio Chavez went to Cateura to teach the trash pickers about recycling safety. He was also a musician and decided to teach music lessons to the children. He taught them outside, next to the landfill, in the heat and in the pouring rain. At first, he had two violins and three guitars for the 10 children who signed up. The kids had to share the instruments. They could not take them home to practice because the instruments were so valuable—more valuable than the houses the kids lived in—that they would surely be stolen.

Chavez asked one of the “pickers,” Cola Gomez, to help build some more instruments. Cola picked through the trash and found an old drum with a hole in it. He found X-ray film to cover the hole so the kids could play it. He made a violin for Ada Rios using a bent fork, metal sheets from a flattened paint can, and other recycled items. The story of Ada Rios is captured in a wonderful children’s book called *Ada’s Violin*.

Cola started experimenting with other materials to build instruments—water pipes became flutes, packing crates became guitars. He made a cello from an oil drum, a spoon, and the heel of a shoe.

Tito Romero put together trumpets, flutes, and trombones. He made a saxophone from a drainpipe, melted copper, spoon handles, cans, and bottle caps.

Soon, the orchestra performed concerts in Cateura and then in the capital of Asuncion. The audiences loved the orchestra and The Recycled Orchestra started to get invited to different countries. You can hear them perform at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTQQ0m8Ys8>.

Playing in the orchestra has changed the lives of many of the children in the village. Money from the concerts has helped the families build new and safer homes.

What started as a music class for 10 students has grown into a traveling orchestra and music school with 200 students and 25 instructors. Quoting Favio, “The world sends us garbage. We send back music.”

You can see a short documentary about the Recycled Orchestra (also called Landfill Harmonics at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg>).

References for this article:

- September 14, 2016, NPR’s All Things Considered – “From Trash to Triumph: The Recycled Orchestra”
- September 2019 Issue of Muse Magazine – “From Trash to Tunes”

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

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

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to:

[recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).

# NATURE WATCH

## WIZARD LIZARDS

by Jim and Lynne Weber



'Horny toad' is the colloquial name for three species of horned lizards that are present in Texas. The Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) is the only one found in our area, with the Round-tailed Horned Lizard (*P. modestum*) occurring in West Texas and the Panhandle, and the Greater Short-horned Lizard (*P. hernandesi*) restricted to the higher elevations in the Trans-Pecos. All three species are protected by the state of Texas, with the Texas Horned Lizard being the first species in Texas to be granted this status.

With a proportionally small, spiny head with a blunt snout, a distinctly flattened body fringed with a double row of spiny scales, the dorsal or top side of the Texas Horned Lizard is covered with numerous small scales, each keeled or ridged down the center making them rough to the touch. The back of its head is bordered with 8 enlarged spines, four on each side, with the middle pair being the largest and often referred to as the lizard's 'horns.' Its overall color is gray or tan, with a light line down the center of its back, and a series of light-bordered brown spots on either side of the center line.

Active from late February to October, the Texas Horned Lizard is a strict dietary specialist, feeding almost exclusively of native harvester ants in the genus *Pogonomyrmex*. Estimates show that one lizard requires 20 ant colonies, and it will feed by moving from one colony to the next, consuming about 20 or so ants at each. These lizards are wizards at avoiding predators, having a wide variety of defenses. They can flatten themselves against the ground and easily blend into a substrate or forcibly stab their head spines

into the mouth of a predator, but the most fascinating defense is the ability to squirt blood from the corners of their eyes. They can aim a jet of blood directly into the face of a predator, and their blood elicits a powerful distaste that coyotes, foxes, bobcats, and even mountain lions cannot tolerate.

In the past, the Texas Horned Lizard was present in all parts of Texas except for the southeast and the extreme northeast portions of Texas. Populations began to decline after huge numbers of these lizards were shipped across the country as part of the commercial reptile trade, only to perish due to the lack of harvester ants as a main staple of their diet. Since then, the decline has continued, mainly as a result of broad pesticide use to control imported red fire ants that has also resulted in the loss of harvester ants from the landscape. Today, these lizards have largely been extirpated east of I-35 and I-37, except in a few localities with sandy soil. If you'd like to get involved in helping Texas Parks & Wildlife gather information on the presence, abundance and decline of this species, join the citizens science project by the Texas Nature Trackers called the Texas Horned Lizard Watch, which is available on their website.

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto: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](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).

## How to Find the Right Mower for You



(Family Features) Whether you're a first-time homeowner or looking for an upgrade, deciding what lawn mower to purchase deserves careful consideration. Similar to day-to-day life, new technology over the last five years, specifically in the gas mower industry, is making it easier to maintain your lawn.

If you're in the market for a new mower, consider these tips to find the perfect tool to match your needs.

### Yard Size

Looking at the size of your yard is the first step in determining the best mower for your needs. Walk-behind mowers work well for yards that are 1/2 acre or less, but for yards 1-3-acres or larger, a zero-turn rider (ZTR) or riding mower may be appropriate.

The Monitor is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use The Monitor's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

### Terrain

A small, flat yard may only require a walk-behind mower. If your yard is sloped or hilly, you may prefer a self-propelled mower rather than one you have to push. A walk-behind mower with big back wheels is easier to maneuver across rough terrain. Riding mowers and ZTRs can handle varied terrain, although some handle better on slopes than others.

### Engine

Engines are one of the most important factors affecting a mower's performance, so purchasing one with a quality engine is essential. For example, Briggs & Stratton engines can be found on several brands of lawn mowers, including eight of the top 10 walk-behind brands. As a global leader in gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment, these engines power mowers ranging from small walk-behinds to large ZTRs and riding mowers.

### Special Features

While certain features may add to the cost of lawn mowers, many provide functions worth considering. One popular option is a mulching blade, which returns finely cut grass pieces to the lawn as a natural fertilizer. Another common choice is a bagging attachment, which is a grass-catching bag that can be affixed to the side or back of the mower to collect grass clippings.

Explore more ways to put technology to work in your yard at [briggsandstratton.com](http://briggsandstratton.com).

### Technology to Get the Job Done

Explore high-tech features that make mowing more manageable with these insights from professional home improvement contractor Jason Cameron, host of DIY Network's "Desperate Landscapes."

Avoid disturbing the neighbors. If finding time to mow means you might be inconveniencing your neighbors, a mower designed to operate quietly may be what you need. To take advantage of weekend mornings without bothering others, look into modern models, some of which even feature technology to make the mower quieter than the average gas mower.

Skip oil changes. Seasonal maintenance can help keep your mower in top condition, and new innovations allow you to skip the messiest part: oil changes. Some mowers, specifically those with Briggs & Stratton's No Oil Changes technology, are built with the intent that you never have to change the oil; you can simply check the level at the beginning of the season and add what you need.

Get an assist starting the engine. You can forget the days when starting a mower was a hassle; many of today's gas-powered mowers feature the starting reliability of lithium-ion battery technology, so you can unleash the power of gas with the push of a button.

Save space in the garage. If storage is a challenge in your garage, look for a compact model with Briggs & Stratton's Mow N' Stow technology, which makes storage easy. This patented design allows owners to fold the mower and store it upright without fuel or oil leaks, saving you up to 70% of the storage space in your garage or shed.

#15165

Source: Briggs & Stratton

Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com



## GO GREEN!



Receive your newsletter  
in your inbox

FOR DETAILS GO TO  
[WWW.PEELINC.COM](http://WWW.PEELINC.COM)  
AND CLICK THE "RESIDENTS" TAB



Because  
you've been  
through enough,  
I've got it  
from here.

*This combat veteran  
will fight for you!*

Nicholas Madsen



Injury and Insurance Law  
Kyle, Texas

512-358-1616



## 5 DRINKS TO MAKE THIS FALL!



Gingered  
Hot Cider



Blackberry &  
Sage Spritzer



Shrub-a-  
Dub-Dub



Non-alcoholic  
Sangria



Pomegranate Tonics



**PEEL, INC.**

1405 Brandi Ln  
Round Rock, TX 78681

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

MER



SOLD IN 4 DAYS  
\$25K OVER THE LISTED PRICE



SOLD IN 4 DAYS  
\$20K OVER THE LISTED PRICE



SOLD IN 4 DAYS  
\$10K OVER THE LISTED PRICE

# ASHLEY AUSTIN HOMES

WWW.ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM  
512.217.6103



SOLD IN 4 DAYS  
\$20K OVER THE LISTED PRICE

As an expert in the Austin market and Southwest Austin's #1 agent, it is my top priority to make sure we exceed your expectations.

From the moment we list your home to the day your listing is "sold," our expertise, backed by proven results, will guide you every step of the way.

**ASHLEY STUCKI**  
BROKER, REALTOR, CHLMS, CIPS, CRS  
ashley@ashleyaustinhomes.com



**ASHLEY'S AWARD WINNING SYSTEM IS SHOWN IN HER RECORD BREAKING RESULTS**

*Austin's Platinum Top 50 Nominee and Award Winner 2015 - 2019 | AIOREP Top 10 Agent for Client Satisfaction in Texas 2015 - 2019  
Austin Business Journal Top Producing Agent 2013 - 2019 | Texas Monthly Five Star Agent 2013 - 2019*