

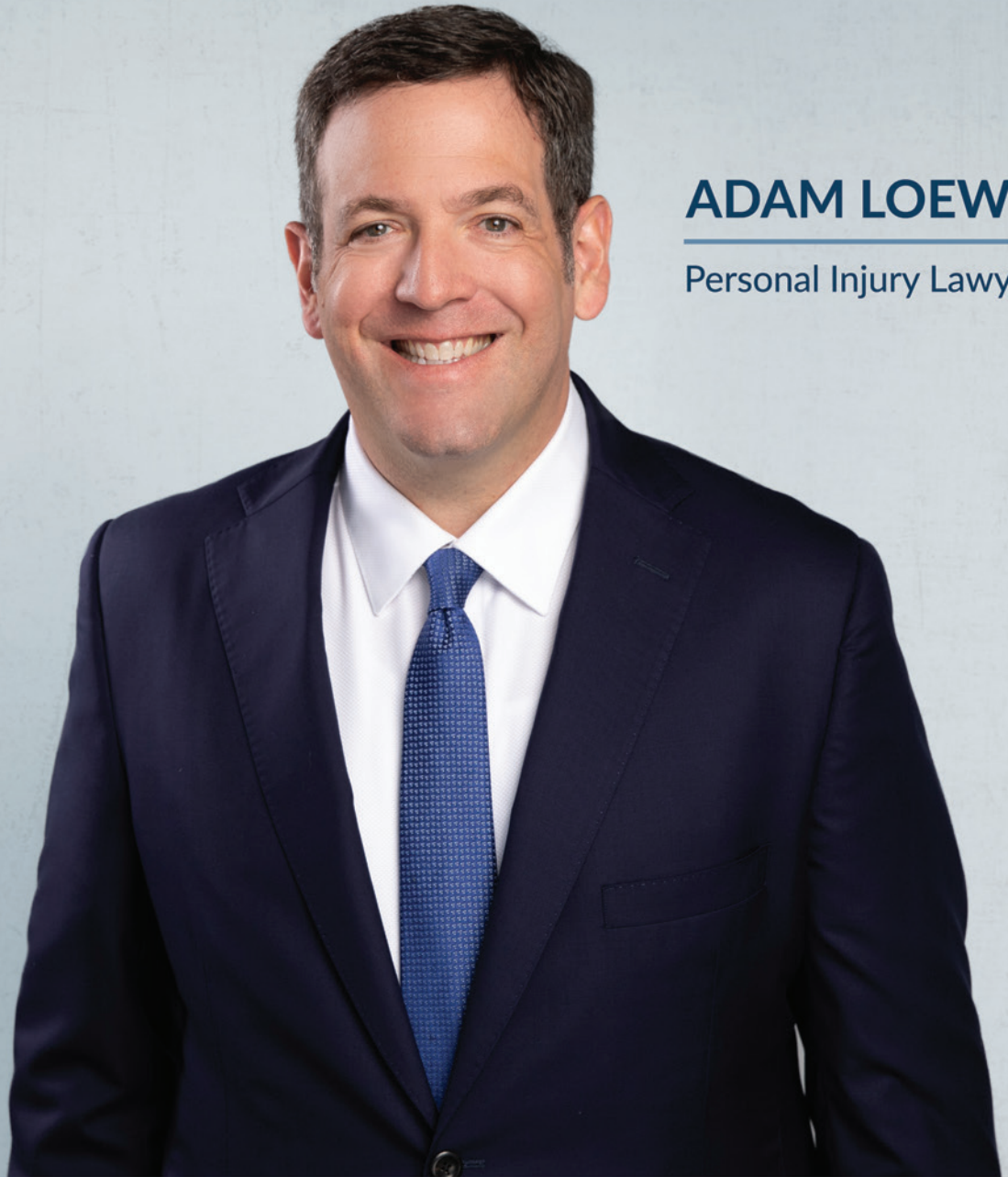
# The Gazette

DECEMBER 2020  
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 12

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



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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# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845

## SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker .....	512-414-2584
Mills .....	512-841-2400
Patton.....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small .....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki.....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin.....	512-414-2505
Bowie .....	512-414-5247

## UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing.....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing .....	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste .....	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

## OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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## NATURE WATCH

### MERRY MISTLETOE

by Jim and Lynne Weber



*Beloved Emarginea Moth*

medieval times branches of mistletoe were hung from the ceiling to ward off evil spirits. With the process of immigration and settlement of North America, traditions associated with the European plant were transferred to the New World and evolved into a folklore all its own.



*Christmas Mistletoe*

species. It has small, elliptical evergreen leaves and smooth green stems covered by short hairs, with tiny green flowers on the male plant and shiny white berries on the female plant. Widely used in the United States as a Christmas decoration, it is especially common growing on Sugar Hackberry, Cedar Elm, Honey Mesquite and other hardwood trees in Texas as well as Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi.



*Great Purple Hairstreak*

From the earliest times mistletoe has been considered one of the most magical, mysterious, and sacred plants found in European folklore. Originally used to bestow life and fertility, as a protection from poison, and as an aphrodisiac, in

In Central Texas, two species of mistletoe are native, the Christmas Mistletoe (*Phoradendron tomentosum*) and Oak Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*). The genus comes from the Greek 'phor' which means thief and 'dendron' which means tree, as both species are semiparasites that steal water and nutrients from their host trees. Christmas Mistletoe is by far the most common of the two

While mistletoe is often viewed by humans as a nuisance, it is an important species for wildlife. It is the larval host plant for the Great Purple Hairstreak butterfly and the Beloved Emarginea moth, and its berries are relished by winter resident bird species such as Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, and American Robins. These birds eat the berries and spread the seeds through their droppings and by wiping their beaks on tree

branches, both of which may cause a new plant to take hold. Interestingly, seeds deposited in this way first spend considerable time and energy developing their roots within the branch's tissue before sprouting external stems and leaves.

While ancient folklore has attributed a wide range of mystical abilities to mistletoe, none is more fascinating than the myth of Frigga, the Norse Mother Goddess worshiped by pre-Christian people of northern Europe, and how mistletoe became her sacred plant. She was believed to be the mother of Balder, the God of the Summer Sun, who had a dream of death. Alarmed by this dream, Frigga went to all the elements, plants, and animals to seek a promise that no harm would come to her son. Balder was thought to be safe from harm by anything on or under the Earth.

But Balder's enemy, Loki, was the God of Evil, and he knew of the one plant that Frigga overlooked. It was the lowly mistletoe, which grew neither on nor under the Earth itself, but on the branches of oaks and other trees. Loki made an arrow tip with the mistletoe, and gave it to the Hoder, the blind God of Winter, who used it to strike Balder dead. The sky paled and everything wept for the Sun God, who was restored by Frigga after working with the elements for three days. The tears she shed for her son were said to be the pearly white berries of the mistletoe, and in her joy at his resurrection she kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

Thus began the custom that whomever should stand beneath the humble mistletoe will come to no harm, but receive only a kiss as a token of love. Merry mistletoe to you and yours!

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).



*Mistletoe Flowers*



*Mistletoe Berries*



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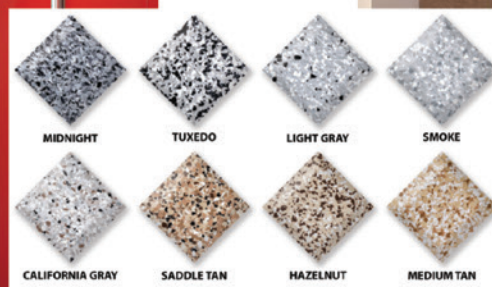
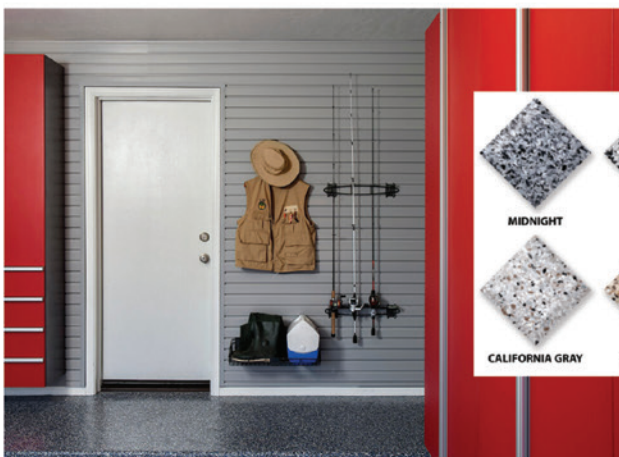
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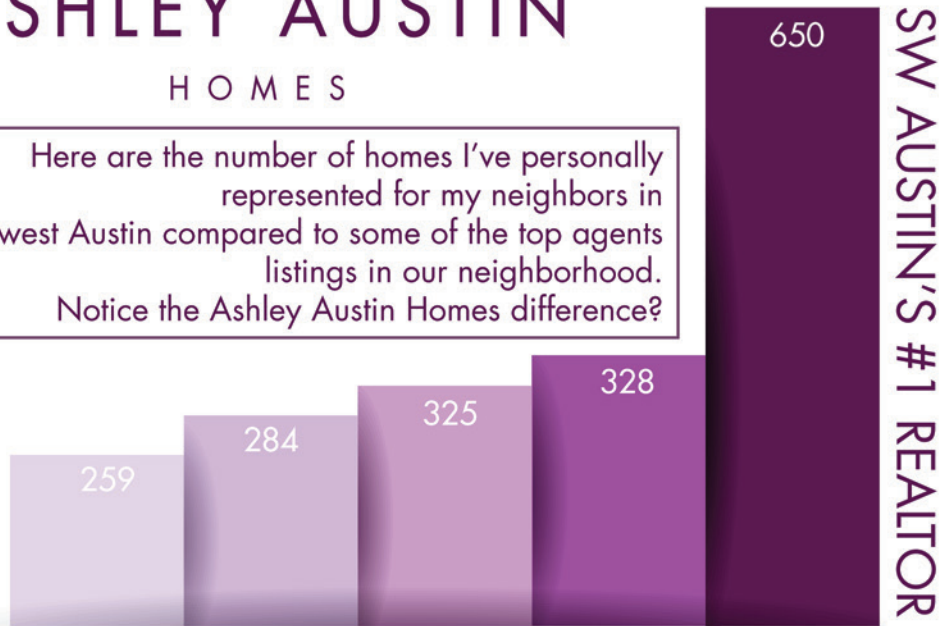
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# ASHLEY AUSTIN

## HOMES

Here are the number of homes I've personally represented for my neighbors in Southwest Austin compared to some of the top agents listings in our neighborhood. Notice the Ashley Austin Homes difference?

2010 - 2020  
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John has been receiving many calls lately from families young and old looking to move a little further out into the hill country from southwest Austin. Some just want a little more space, views and perhaps a little slower pace. Some younger families have decided to raise their kids out in the Dripping Springs school system while some older families may want more of a retirement property. Some of those areas we've been showing/selling in lately have been Lewis Mountain Ranch, Rimrock, Reunion Ranch, Parten, Polo Club, Saratoga Hills, Caliterra, the 1826 corridor, Saddletree Ranch and even out into Wimberley. Below are 4 new-builds of John's clients just going up or are in the planning stages of construction. The lots have been chosen, plans decided upon and the fun process of building starts. If that is lifestyle change you have been considering, please don't hesitate to give John a call or text to exchange some ideas. Thanks!



**1293 Gato Del Sol in Saratoga Hills** will be a luxury single story home at approx. 4400 square feet on a deep cul-de-sac with an in-ground, negative edge pool and distant views. Ashton Woods is the builder at approx. \$995,000.



**192 Bridge Water Loop in Caliterra** will be a single story home backing to permanent greenbelt with stone and stucco masonry. Bridge Water Loop is a quiet back street, yet just a 5 minute walk to the gorgeous hoa pool. Scott Felder is the builder at \$575,000.



**240 Tangled Brush Drive in Bear Creek Crossing** is a single story backing to permanent greenbelt and highly upgraded. Wood floors and quartz throughout. It is being constructed as a retirement home through MI Homes. \$415,000.



**593 Cross Water Lane in Caliterra** will be a single story, post-modern contemporary build on this stunning homesite. Wood floors, vaulted ceilings with beams, quartz and stained concrete with rough-hewn accent wood textures. Knockout Mid-Century Home at \$775,000.



This **Westlake/Rollingwood A. D. Stenger** gem at **432 Ridgewood** was placed under contract within an hour after John was notified by his buyer of a sign going in the yard. In this market, timing is everything and you must respond to your clients *immediately*. These are rare homes, inspired by the lines of Frank Lloyd Wright designs and were built in the mid-60's. Pine-beamed ceilings, stained concrete and walls of glass to view the fauna of the private back yard. Fantastic investment at \$995,000.

Call **John Squires** at **(512) 970-1970** to list your house for sale and/or buy another.

The Squires Team have the top-selling agents in Southwest Austin and Circle C Ranch home sales over the last 23 years. John Squires has sold over 600 homes in Circle C Ranch alone and knows the ever-changing values, areas and marketplace. **There's only 1 number to call and John answers his phone!** Move-up/down plans, flexible commissions offered. Call for a free, no-obligation market assessment on your valuable home. Only John works directly with all his clients and you will never be handed off to an assistant or another agent. 7 days or nights per week by appointment. **(512) 970-1970.**

