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LIFE'S
HIGHWAY**

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TheRecordLive.com

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, June 10, 2020

OC Sheriff, constable choose early exits


DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange County Sheriff Keith Merritt resigned Tuesday afternoon, effective June 30.

The announcement was made by County Judge John Gothia, who said he received Merritt's letter of resignation Tuesday morning.

Already on Tuesday's agenda for the bi-weekly County Commissioners meeting was the resignation of Precinct 3 Constable Mark Philpott, which was accepted.

Philpott, or maybe his wife Babette, announced his res-



Merritt

ignation on the Facebook page they share. The short note was full of colored type and emojis; his "official" 20-word resignation letter was written in a different color for every letter and ended in "Outta Here."

The veteran of just under 30 years in county law enforcement, first as a deputy, then a constable for 12 years, will work his final day will be June 26 and constable-elect Brad Frye was OK'd to re-

place him, beginning June 29.

Merritt, an Orange County lawman since signing on as an unpaid reserve deputy in 1979, did not run for reelection in 2020 after being elected to three four-year

terms as the county's top lawman.

When he announced he wasn't running again last fall, he said he was open to letting the new sheriff-elect, Lane Mooney, get an early start. But Merritt said two

weeks ago he planned to serve through the end of his term in December.

Tuesday, he said Mooney had agreed to take over in July.

"It was my intention to serve out my third four-year

term, but I strongly feel and my heart is telling me it's time to quit my law enforcement career and retire," Merritt said.

"I have loved working for

OCSHERIFF Page 3A

Creative thinking boosts LSCO despite Covid

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Making the best of a bad situation, educators have been busy since the onset of the coronavirus to think outside the box.

It's paying off at Lamar State College Orange, which on June 3 set a new school standard for summer enrollment with 1,019 students.

"It's a great day. I'm very excited," Dr. Tom Johnson, president of LSCO, said. "We made lemonade out of lemons this year."

The two-year college in downtown Orange is waiving tuition and fees for two 3-hour summer classes in 2021.

While summer school has already begun, the second summer semester does not begin until July and registration remains open.

The pandemic forced primary, secondary and higher education schools around the country to switch most of their classes to online.

At LSCO, only a few students in technical courses, like nursing and instrumentation, meeting on campus, in small groups that qualify under social distancing guidelines.

Johnson praised Dr. Wendy Elmore, LSCO provost, and Mary Wickland, vice president for finance and op-

LSCO Page 3A

Mustangs march 6-feet apart in 2020 graduation ceremony



Jeremy Bonet reaches for his diploma at the West Orange-Stark High School graduation last Friday at Dan Hooks Stadium. Approximately 115 walked in front of a stage packed with school board members and high school hierarchy. They picked their diplomas off a table and did not shake hands with school principals and Superintendent Rickie Harris, who tested positive for COVID-19sd

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Orange missionaries serve God on ‘The Rez’

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The retirement LaVern and Ricky Sterling had planned for didn't happen.

God had a better plan.

For the past 16 years, the North Orange couple has spent about half of every year living and working as Christian missionaries on the Navajo Nation Reservation in the northeast tip of New Mexico.

"When I retired I intended to play golf or go fishing every day," Ricky said. "But I sold the boat and I only play golf about once every two years."

"We sold the beach cabin," LaVern says as if she's still surprised it happened.

The Navajo U.S. Indian Reservation – known locally as the Rez -- has a population (175,000) slightly less than the Dallas suburb of Frisco, Texas spread across an area the size of the state of West Virginia. It lies mostly in Arizona but extends to New Mexico and Utah.

"We've been out there 16



Ricky Sterling, left, and wife LaVern Sterling admire a Navajo rug made for them during one of their summers working as missionaries on the Navajo Nation Reservation in New Mexico. The couple left Orange this week to return for the 17th year.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

years," she said. "We've watched a lot of kids grow up out there." "It's kind of like family out there," Ricky said.

Ricky Sterling, 69, and La-

Vern, 70, have been married 42 years. They both worked for DuPont and both retired early so they could spend more time ministering –

spiritually and physically – for the Many Waters Mission, located just outside the

ORANGE Page 3A



Lions install new officers...

Kacey Burnitt was installed as President of the Orange Lions Club at their clubs annual officer installation Monday. President Chris Kovatch presented Burnitt the gavel. Kovatch gave the clubs annual report. He also presented the Lion of the Year Award to Lion Ralph Thon and Rookie of the Year to Lion Tiffany Bell.

The club officers installed were Terrie Salter, 1st Vice President, Grover Roberts III, 2nd Vice President, Ann Ellis, Secretary, Kovatch, Treasurer, Lois Hughes, Membership Chairperson, Stump Weatherford, Tail Twister/Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairperson, Butch Campbell, Lion Tamer, Sandra Williams, Communication Officer.

Installed also were 1 Year Directors, Marlene Merritt, Bill Smith and Carlene Ortolon, 2 Year Directors Ron Rudeseal, Ed Freiberg and Dan Mohon and 3rd Year Directors Randall Morris, Tiffany Bell and Brittney Johnson.

RECORD PHOTO: Stump Weatherford

REGISTER NOW FOR ONLINE CLASSES





Lamar State College
— Orange —



Why I am a Democrat...

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN
John Cash Smith
Orange County Democratic Party Chairman

I am a Democrat because I believe in social justice. I believe in equality before the law for every person, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or social status. The American ideal is in the Declaration of Independence, which says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". As a nation we have never achieved that lofty goal, but since our founding, we have moved slowly and unevenly toward it.

No political party is perfect, but the Democratic Party has done by far the most to bring about social justice in our country. Since the coming of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in 1932, the Democratic Party has given us Wage and Hour laws, Child

Labor laws, the G.I. Bill, the Federal Housing Act (FHA), the FDIC, Medicare, Medicaid, The Affordable Care Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Head Start, the Peace Corp, the National Institutes of Health, the National Labor Relations Act, and many more. The Republican Party has opposed or tried to water down those progressive laws but there is no doubt that we have all been elevated because of them.

My life experience as a Baptist Christian, a lawyer and a historian has molded me into a strong believer in social justice. The Bible has over 2,000 passages in it emphasizing social justice, and Jesus' earthly ministry was about justice for the poor and downtrodden. My profession as a trial lawyer has driven me to believe in the rule of law, and to fight for justice for my clients. As a historian I have studied our slow and uneven progress toward equality for all Americans. In my long life I have personally witnessed the collapse of Jim Crow laws, Segregation and the success of the Civil Rights Movement but now I am seriously concerned about the present state of our country. For the past forty years, our progress toward equality under the law has stalled, and now some people want to turn back the clock. America's great middle class is shrinking, not growing. When the top 1% of our population possesses 40% of the nation's wealth, and the bottom 80% possesses only 7%, something is seriously wrong. The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. That has never worked in any nation, and it must be reversed. I'm not against people getting rich and I don't support



Orange County Democratic Party Chairman John Cash Smith.
RECORD PHOTO: Lawrence Trimm

state socialism, but serious reform is needed, and only the Democratic Party has proposals that can accomplish it. We need fairer tax laws and more social programs that promote legal equality and more opportunity for the underprivileged and less fortunate, and the dwindling middle class must be preserved. But we need more than changed laws. We need changed American hearts, minds, and attitudes about "the least of these" in our society. "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" means universal medical care, a good education for all of our children, accessi-

bility to decent housing, a fair minimum wage, and an absence of discrimination because of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. "A rising tide lifts all boats" and the water is very shallow in today's America. We are at a critical point in our nation's history. The 2020 election is the most important since 1860. What direction are we going to take? Are we going to move toward the Constitution's goal of "forming a more perfect union", or are we going to stay divided and unequal? History will be kind to leaders who, although imperfect, are dedicated to the principle "that all men are created equal". The choice is clear. Either we continue down the disastrous road of division and inequality or we move toward the goal of equality

and "a more perfect union". I know that if America continually moves toward the ideal set forth in the Declaration of Independence, we will be prosperous and unified. America's "original sin" of slavery, white supremacy, and racism must be expunged from our national culture. The Democratic Party is the only party moving in the right direction toward being "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Martin Luther King, Jr. quoting a pre-civil war preacher said, "The arc of moral history is long, but it bends toward justice". I believe that and that is why I am a Democrat. I hope that someday soon I can say that is why I am an American, because when that day comes, America will truly be great.

Texas has spent more than \$200 million on PPE

Shannon Najmabadi
The Texas Tribune

The state of Texas has spent more than \$200 million on 106 bulk orders of personal protective equipment from March 1 through early June, according to purchase orders released by the Texas Division of Emergency Management on Tuesday.

Though purchase orders totaling \$1.1 billion in the protective equipment have been issued, orders for \$638 million dollars' worth of items have been canceled to date and were not paid out. "Various federal funding

sources" will reimburse the purchases or were used to make them, said Seth Christensen, a spokesperson for the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

There are a number of reasons why purchase orders were canceled, he said. It could be because a shipment didn't meet the deadline outlined in the purchase order or that the products failed to pass the state's quality assurance check, he said.

"When the product arrives, before it's taken off the truck, we go through a quality assurance process to test the product and make sure

it's safe for use. If it doesn't meet that standard, we leave it on the truck and we do not accept receipt of it and we do not pay for it," Christensen said.

Some of the orders were also made when global demand was high and supply was low, "and so purchase orders might have been issued to vendors who said they could get us a product and then they never did," he said.

There are still outstanding purchase orders.

Gov. Greg Abbott created a supply chain strike force in late March, as medical pro-

viders in Texas and across the country complained they lacked protective equipment, like N95 respirators and masks. Keith Miears, senior vice president of worldwide procurement at Dell Technologies, was tapped to be Supply Chain Director.

The governor has since provided updates on incoming shipments of the protective equipment, and said at a May 18 press conference that "we now have ample supplies of PPE. We distribute well more than 1 million face masks per day."

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Orange missionries

From Page 1

Reservation in Waterflow, New Mexico.

The Sterlings were members of North Orange Baptist Church for 33 years before moving to the Cowboy Church in recent years. But LaVern's interest in missionaries went farther back.

"When I was 12, some missionaries from Africa came and talked to us at church camp," she said. "I knew then that I wanted to be a missionary, but I didn't know it would be after I retired."

The Sterlings made the decision to retire early after LaVern visited the Rez for the first time, without Ricky, on a church missionary trip.

Among the many things they experienced was a first-hand visit with some of the Navajo Code Talkers, who had used their language as a U.S. secret code during World War II.

"On my first trip, some of us were asked to give Bibles to members of the Navajo Code Talkers when they were given their Presidential Medals of Honor," she said, remembering Sen. John McCain at the ceremony at Window Rock, Arizona.

"We go back and forth now," Ricky Sterling said.

LaVern: "We have churches we help in all three states."

LaVern Sterling said she had accompanied many summer youth missions from North Orange Baptist Church on trips all over the country, mostly to help the poor.

"A friend said, 'Let's go on an adult mission,' so we did," LaVern said. "That's when I met Lynn Cartwright."

Lynn Cartwright and her husband Don run the mission year-round, though Ricky Sterling mentions that the area is often covered by ice and snow from the fall until the spring.

"We're normally there from April through September," Ricky said, "but right now they've got a Covid outbreak up there that's bigger than New York [per capita],

so we really don't know what to do, or what we'll do when we get there."

Besides passing out Bibles and offering roadside ministry, the Sterlings spend a good bit of their time rounding up and distributing food and supplies.

"We have Bibles, food and clothing," LaVern said. "Our sign says, 'Free Prayer' because they get charged for prayers sometimes."

Many Waters Mission serves 33 churches in poor

Among the many things they experienced was a first-hand visit with some of the Navajo Code Talkers, who had used their language as a U.S. secret code during World War II.

communities. With volunteer help, it has overseen the construction of nine more churches.

"Thirty-five percent of the people on the Rez don't have running water," LaVern said. "A few of the churches run on generators because they don't have electricity."

Last year, they rounded up and handed out about 25 tons of food. Most came from food bank in Farmington, N.M.

"We spent \$50,000 for the summer," LaVern said, "and we get 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of food per week. And we got 1,000 pounds of frozen meat per week."

"Every week, we had to distribute it."

They got to use a new warehouse.

The supplies were donated. The work was all volunteer.

"Ricky and I did all the rebar for the foundation," LaVern Sterling said.

"It took weeks," Ricky recalled.

"Then we had 40 volunteers come from Arkansas and they built that warehouse in a week," Ricky said.

After the foundation was poured, three cement companies sent crews to do the finish work.

"We have a dorm at the mission that sleeps 70," Ricky said, his wife finishing the sentence, "and we fill it up" with volunteers.

"We schedule our mission team trips for a week."

LaVern Sterling says she has been adopted by three Navajo families during her time on the Rez.

"We've had very, very good friends who are Navajo," she said.

But the Sterlings don't forget their Orange friends.

"The Orange area has been really helpful out there," LaVern said. "We needed a dining hall and Pam and Rusty Honeycutt and others from the Cowboy Church came and built it. People from North Orange Baptist built one of the churches."

"Orange people have come out and helped out all over the Reservation."

Rusty and LaVern regularly host their five grandchildren for a month each summer.

And also becoming an annual thing is a Navajo "Ladies' Retreat" run with the help of women from Cowboy Church.

"It's all fun, food, prizes, popcorn and movies," LaVern said. "We're having our fourth one this year, and now we can have it in the best Fellowship Hall on the Rez."

They departed Wednesday morning for Year 17.

"People ask, 'Why do you keep going back there?'" LaVern said.

"Ricky and I used to take vacations to Cancun, the Bahamas, Jamaica. We had a boat and a beach house."

"But it doesn't even compare to out there [on the Rez]. God, He can do the impossible – and I've seen him do it."

OC Sheriff, constable exits

From Page 1

the citizens of Orange County for the last 25 years. It goes without saying I couldn't have done any of it without my staff, all my wonderful employees.

"It's been a wonderful ride."

Merritt said he'd seen 19 longtime sheriff deputies resign in the first five months of this year, including his chief deputy, John Tarver, and two Sheriff's Captains.

Merritt was elected in 2008 and served three four-year terms as Sheriff.

Previously, Merritt served as Constable for Orange County Precinct No. 1 for 15 years. He began his law enforcement career as a reserve deputy in 1979.

Mooney was elected Precinct 4 constable in 2016 and defeated deputy Rob Strause in March's race for Sheriff in the 2020 Republican primary.

As no Democrats signed up to run for sheriff, Mooney is the sheriff-elect.

In other business at Tuesday's county meeting, commissioners extended the COVID disaster declaration through the first week in July and approved paying \$1.3 million in bills for the weeks June 2 and June 9.

Of that, \$583,341 went to pay for property insurance and liability insurance for law enforcement and public officials and vehicles. Auditor Pennee Schmitt said the county's insurance bill went up 10 to 12 percent over last year.

An earlier health insurance workshop told commissioners that a 3 percent raise in employee premiums, about \$25 per month per employee, was expected, a cost borne by the county.

"I'm pleased it only went up 3 percent," said Lori Ar-

doin, county human resources director. "It went up 9.9 percent last year and 8.3 percent the year before that."

Commissioners voted to award a \$4,000 hotel occupancy tax grant to the Mauriceville Heritage Association.

Pinehurst salutes Zerko with honorary street

Dave Rogers
For The Record

ries.

The Pinehurst City Council voted to rename the 3500 block of Peacock Street to Zerko Lane, in honor of native son John Zerko, who is retiring from public service.

City administrator Robbie Hood said the name change would be "honorary" and would not require an official name change in 911 directories.

Hood has resigned his duties to take over as Vidor city manager. His younger brother, Jerry Hood, is replacing him at Pinehurst, as interim city administrator.

"He's a sharp guy," Mayor Dan Mohon said of Jerry Hood, who was formerly assistant manager of the Orange County Drainage District. "We felt like it was a good fit."



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LSCO enrollment up

From Page 1



Dr. Tom Johnson, president of Lamar State College, left, gives credit to Dr. Wendy Elmore, provost, and her staff for innovative incentives that rewarded LSCO with record summer attendance.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers
erations at both Lamar State Colleges in Orange and Port Arthur, for coming up with the plan to make the one-time offer to waive the tuition after each school received COVID Emergency grants of more than \$1 million.

Both schools in turn returned more than \$500,000 to students in the form of \$1,000 emergency grants, money that didn't have to be repaid.

"The other remaining funds are institutionally based and we as an institution are so committed to helping our students that we are reinvesting it into their education," Elmore said.

"Many of the other institutions are using it to purchase equipment or PPE. We had to use some to help shift our paradigm of instruction [to online]."

"But the lion's share of that \$500,000, we're reinvesting it to our students so that they can have the opportunity to take these two courses for free."

Johnson, two full years

into his job after coming from Tyler Junior College, is quite the cheerleader for Orange and two-year colleges.

"Seventy-six percent of our students are the first generation in their families to go to college. Many are like me," he said.

"I was the first generation in my family to go to college. I went first in the summer to Angelina College to see if I was ready for college. Because I did well in the summer, I stayed for the fall."

"If you start here, you can get on track for a trade, or you can get a two-year degree and transfer to a four-year college. It's win, win, win."

Elmore says the school also keeps an eye on its students' bottom lines.

"We're working hard to find monies to give to our students," she said, "so they can take more classes."

And there's beautiful downtown Orange, Johnson reminds.

"We truly believe if you come look at our school and take classes from our profes-

sors where the typical class size is 17, we're confident once you get here, you'll say this is where you need to go to college," Johnson said.

"We're going to take care of you. We want you to stay in Orange, Texas."

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MERRITT—A GOOD SHERIFF RESIGNS

I’ve known every sheriff since **Sheriff Chester Holts** and over the years the sheriff’s duties have changed with the times. **Holts** had only 13 employees, today that number has grown twenty fold. Today’s sheriff is more of an administrator. The gun toting sheriff went by the wayside a long time ago. To further complicate a sheriff’s job is that several years ago, law enforcement agencies started organizing. That in itself is not bad but the way it is often used is. A sheriff often is rebuffed on decisions he feels is best. Of all the sheriffs I’ve known **Keith Merritt** is the very best administrator. **Keith** is a numbers guy who documents everything. He’s always been up to date on where the department was financially and what grant money was available. He has worked with several different commissioners courts and with all of them **Merritt** has always been up front with the court on the bottom line. **Merritt** has been one of the best sheriff’s ever but doing his job became more difficult daily. Nine months is just too long a transition. Many of his best officers were leaving; while others that were staying were showing loyalty to the incoming sheriff, **Lane Mooney**, making it difficult to supervise them. More good officers will leave or be let go. The new sheriff is entitled to build his own department. When he takes office he can hire who he wants and name his captains. What **Sheriff Mooney** will learn down the line is that he will not be able to hire and fire or move personnel without the **Sheriff’s Association** giving their approval. **Sheriff White** gave that control away. I can assure you that down the line **Sheriff Mooney** also will have to face that reality. I hear that **Pct. 3, Constable Mark Philippott** will join **Sheriff Mooney’s** team. **Brad Frye** will take over as constable. I wish everyone the best in their new endeavors. Special thanks to **Keith Merritt** for his many years of service as a constable and sheriff. He made the best choice for himself and for the county to leave now. **He gave his best.**

COX SAID, “YOU MADE ME FAMOUS”

I was just sitting here staring at a blank sheet of paper before me. This was going to be the first **Breaux** column I had written in 25 years that “**Neighbor**” **Cox** wasn’t around. He read every column, every week, and often called me to discuss it. He repeated every Cajun story like it was his. He was famous for his joke telling. The phone ringing woke me up from my staring into space. It was **Judge Pat Clark**. He had called with condolences. He didn’t know **Cox**, but over the years he had kept up with what I wrote about him. “He must have been a good man, I saw how much you thought of him and I just wanted to express my condolences for the loss of your friend.” Coming from **Pat** I knew that was heartfelt. He’s known me long enough to know I was grieving. It was a hard loss that was unexpected. **Cox’s** daughter stopped by and dropped off a few pieces of petrified wood that came from the old **Cox** homestead in Joaquin. I’m going to put it with the other pieces **Cox** had given me, as a monument to the old soldier, in my courtyard. I was glad to learn that his son **Rodney**, who was recently widowed, will be moving into “**Neighbor**” **Cox’s** home, in “**Mr. Cox’s Neighborhood.**” We’ve had a lot of fun and some great time in that neighborhood and shared many country boy stories. We were blessed to have known him. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary and Down Life’s Highway column.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2010

We were sorry to learn about the death of **Neighbor Cox’s** sister **Dollie McElroy**, 90, who passed away in Port Arthur Monday. Service was held in Center on June 15. **Dollie** was a true fan of this newspaper and each week **Cox** had to bring her the latest issue. To **Millard, Virginia** and their family, we send our sympathies.(Editor’s note: Ten years later, June 4, **Cox** died.)**** In a heartbeat the **Big 12 Conference** became the **Big 10** with the desertsions of Colorado to the **Pac 10** and Nebraska to the **Big 10**. It’s not just football and rivalries which would be affected but we’re talking big bucks, as college football is an industry. Texas will make off like a bandit by keeping the **Big 12** intact.**** Special folks we know having birthdays coming up. Everybody’s buddy, **Wilson “King” Dunn** turns 92 Wednesday, June 16. A finer man is hard to find. Every week “**King**” breaks bread with the **Lunch Bunch**, tends to his place and checks daily on his wife of 72 years who is in a local nursing home.**** Our bestest friend, **Mary Alice Hartfield**, who never forgets our special days, celebrates her special day June 17. We wish her the best of everything*** Here’s a pair of aces worth drawing. To **John Cooper**, one of the great guys and **Commissioner David Dubose**, who happens to be **Harriet’s** husband. Best wishes to these two aces.***The very active **Beverly Perry** celebrates her special day June 16. Best wishes, **Bev.******A few friends who are on the mend. Our buddy **Daniel Jacobs**, in Houston battling leukemia, was waiting for test results Tuesday that will determine the next course of action. His wife is by his side and he says she’s a blessing.*****Judy Hidalgo** is still in Houston fighting the cause to beat lung

cancer. Husband **Gene** and their son have been sharing time looking after her. As bad as it is on the patient, it is very hard on the caregiver also. *****Bobby Bernard, Babette’s** dad, had surgery in Houston, came home, is doing great and giving up his walker. ***One of the finest young men we know, **Russell Bottley**, only 37, is battling cancer. **Kevin Smith** and others are planning a cowboy fundraiser. **Russell** is traveling for treatments twice a week. If you recall, since he was a teenager, he was the late **Betty Jo Spence’s** sidekick, taking care of her race horses. **Russ**, here’s wishing you God’s speed.**** **Billy Tubbs** gives up athletic director position at Lamar but will continue to eat at the trough. He has accepted a new gig as special assistant to **President Simmons**, as a consultant, sports public relations or whatever. Named interim **A.D.** is girls’ basketball coach **Larry Tidwell**. We’ve met and spent time with him, a very down to earth guy, who since he got to Lamar has been selling the program. **David Ess** and **Johnny Montagne** are sure to be happy their friend will be athletic director.******Gene Cropper**, 74, died last week in Port Arthur. We had known him since we were all youngsters. I bet **Gene** danced a million miles in his lifetime.****Our friends **Betty** and **Corky Harmon** renewed their marriage vows in the Catholic faith last weekend. Fifty-three years ago, when they were married, **Betty** was the baby sitter for his two boys. Her plans were to enter the convent and become a nun. Because of circumstances they could not marry in the Catholic faith although **Betty** raised all of the children Catholic and always maintained her loyalty to the church. It was a happy time for them to have **Father Daleo** perform the ceremony.****We were sorry to hear about the death of **Sheriff Keith Merritt’s dad, Bob Merritt**, last week. He was mowing his lawn when death called unexpectedly. **Marlene** says they learned the importance of everyone having a will. You never know when that call will come and the family will be left to sort through legal matters while trying to make arrangements. Condolences to **Keith** and his family.**** **Audie Murphy**, the most decorated soldier in **WW II** would have just been 85 on June 20. We met him 60 years ago and thought he’d be older.****The **Judds** broke up in 1991 after coming from rags to riches in the music business. This November they start an encore tour of 18 cities.**** Many of us will remember the times spent with **Jimmy Dean**, a fun guy to be around. **Jimmy** died Sunday at age 81. He is best known today for **Jimmy Dean Sausage** but some will recall his smash hit about the workingman’s hero, “**Big, Bad John.**” He had other hits and a television show also. He was born in poverty in Plainview, Texas and dropped out of high school in the ninth grade to help support the family. **Mark Dunn** took pictures of **Jimmy** and his dad, **Roy**, who has many **Dean** stories.

40 Years Ago-1980

Huey Simon was killed in a single car accident. The funeral held Sunday, June 9, drew one of the largest crowds ever for a local funeral. It’s memorable because **Huey** was just a common man, not a politician or anyone who had accomplished great wealth. **Roy Dunn**, who had known **Huey** since their very first day of school in Abbeville says, “On our first meeting **Huey** and I fought over who would occupy a certain desk. On our first day of learning I got the worse of it. Before I even had a desk, I was in the hospital with 14 stitches in my head from landing on a bookcase and splitting my head open. **Huey** and his family moved to Orange and later, when I did, **Huey** and I became friends. He had a lot of friends. He was one of the finest, big-hearted individuals you could hope to meet. He helped people from all walks of life and was respected by all who met him. That explains why so many attended his funeral. He was a likable guy but always tough.” **Huey was only 45 years old.********Tick Granger** is elected county commissioner, Pct. 3. **Jack Thompson** elected constable in Pct. 1.******Bridge City Cablevision** starts up the first television cable service in Bridge City. Owner/operator is **Al McKay**, in partnership with **Carl Parker** and **Oscar Wyatt**. ******Opportunity Valley News** announces winner for “**Best Dad of the Year.**” First place went to **Herbert Ray Jones**, submitted by stepson **Lyle Everett**; second place **Dr. Joe Ben Welch**, submitted by daughter **Wendi**; and third place, **Don Peters**, submitted by daughter **Rammi**. More than 100 names were submitted. ******Dr. Welch’s** wife **Dottie**, with daughters **Wendi, Sandy, Robin** and **Roxie** were in Zachary, La., celebrating **Joe Ben’s** dad, **Joe Welch’s** 64th birthday. They also visited with mom **Pill** and siblings **Mike, Bobbie** and **Wanza.********Mark Dunn** left to retrieve his finance **Kerrie Lewis** in Boston. He drove with hopes of bringing her to Texas. Also headed to Boston is his friend **Valerie Ingls**, KOGT-AM commentator. (Editor’s note: **Mark** did bring **Kerrie** back. They were married by **Judge Pat Clark** and had two daughters, **Amber** and **Jenna**. They have long parted and live different lives but have remained good friends. **Kerrie** didn’t like Texas and resides in Massachusetts). ******Sue Pate** of Bridge City is vying for one of seven Texas positions on the **Democratic National Committee**. Election will be June 20-21 at the state convention. There has never been a member on the committee from this area. (Editor’s note: **Sue**, a Bridge City schoolteacher, was elected and became the first person ever to serve from **South East Texas**. She was married to attorney **H.D. Pate**. **Sue** is now a resident of Lake Charles).

A FEW HAPPENINGS

One thing I haven’t lacked while being here in lockup is good food thanks to some very good friends. **Van Choate**, a prince of a guy, spends his days riding around finding people who need help. He keeps his lawn mower and weed eater handy and finds elderly people whose yards need cutting. That’s not all; he prepares a lot of balanced meals using his new vac-pack equipment to remove all the air and seal the individual meals. He loaded me down so my partner and I have a complete meal every day with meat and vegetables. They are delicious. My favorite is fricassee, thick gravy, with plenty of meat, served on mash potatoes. He also presented us with his famous **Italian** sausage and breakfast sausage and lots of other extras. That guy is making his way to Heaven.***I also got a couple of messes of fresh caught **Perch** thanks to **Allen** and **David**. I’ve had three fish fries in the last week. **Perch** seasoned with **Doug Nelson** and fried crispy so I could eat the whole thing. Thanks guys.*****Judge Derry Dunn** sent me a mess of fresh tomatoes. Every year I count on **Derry** having a good crop.

He doesn’t eat tomatoes but his grandson, **Jane** and I do.***Thanks to **Judge Chad Jenkins** we made a big pot of chicken and sausage gumbo. **Chad’s** deer sausage is a one man project. He kills the deer, skins it and personally processes the meat. He makes the sausage with his own seasoning, stuffs it and puts it in his own smokehouse to cure. It’s great anyway it’s prepared. I love it fried for breakfast but it sure made good gumbo.***My friends **Sue** and **Tommy Simar** have been holed up at their place. **Sue** tells me that if nothing comes along to ruin it the figs this year will be a bumper crop. I’m still shelling some of the pecans **Coach Les Johnson** brought to us. At least once a week we make a chocolate, fudge, pecan, pie. The **Farmer’s Wife, Lou**, at **Farmer’s Mercantile**, ran the recipe in her weekly column.***Thanks also to **Brenda**, family and friends who have kept us supplied with staples, fresh French bread and other goodies.***Thanks to **Carroll Holt** for again sharing his famous homemade vanilla. Nothing helps a recipe better than **Carroll’s** vanilla. It is said that **Trump** has gained 30 pounds since he has been in office. At the rate I’m going, I will beat that if I stay locked up too much longer.****A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **June 10**, finds **Jennifer Broussard**, **Tyler Derouen** and **Chris Riedel** celebrating.*****June 11** is a special day for **Judge Mandy White Rogers**. Fifteen years ago, in 2005, our longtime friend **Bax** died.*****June 12**, on this day a beautiful lady, **Wesley’s** better half, **Ronda Dishon**, celebrates.*****June 14** is **Flag Day** and also **Bobbie Burgess’** birthday. She once was Bridge City mayor. She and **Judge Don** moved away several years ago after **Ike**. Also on this day two folks we have known since they were teenagers, **Peggy** and **David Claybar**, celebrate their anniversary and longtime marriage.*****June 15**, someone very special to this writer, **Janelle Sehon**, turns 60. This column would be nearly impossible without her help. She’s appreciated every day.***Also, longtime buddy and a really good guy **Lyle Overman** is a year older today. *****Nancy** and **Kenneth “KeeKee” Dupuis’** special child **Adam** turns 42. That guy is a real kick. He and his dad are spending a lot of time at the lake since **Kenny** retired.***We wish **James Nezat** a very special 85th birthday. Best wishes for good health.******June 16**, a special lady, cancer survivor **Beverly Perry** is thankful to be celebrating another birthday. We wish her many more.***On this day 21 years ago, in 1999, **John Kennedy, Jr.**, his wife **Carolyn Basette** and her sister **Lauren** were killed in a plane crash. It just doesn’t seem like it’s been that long ago. Time really flies when you reach that last quarter.****A great guy, longtime friend, **Kenny Pigg**, gave me a remedy to help my memory. He said it helped him after the doctor recommended it. I’m still sharp for an old guy but I’m having some slippage.****I had a phone visit with 98-year-old, Pearl Harbor survivor, **Cedric Stout**. He was having heart test Tuesday while wife **Cherry** was going to the doctor for stomach problems. Otherwise, **Cedric** said they were keeping on keeping on. **Cedric** will be 99 in November.****I hear **John Bolton’s** “**Tell All**” book will further expose **Trump**. Four generals, who served under him, plus **Gen. Colin Powell**, have exposed **Trump’s** credibility and his failure to lead.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating birthdays on **June 10** are **Jennifer Broussard**, **Tyler Derouen**, **Caroline Henigan** and **Chris Riedel**.******June 11**, **Harold Wallace**, **Jacqueline Bourdier** and **Jane Minor**.******June 12**, **Candice Steele**, **Jesse Walles**, **Pam Williams**, **Caitlyn Villanouvea** and **Kaaren Kline**.******June 13**, **Ryan Kelly**, **Shawna Gauthier**, **Duane Anthony** and **Tammy Drodgy**.******June 14**, **Selita Ernst**, **Carley Swenson**, **Ben Perry**, **Brandon Duhon** and **Brandy Aldridge**.******June 15**, **David Cardner**, **Faye Sherwood**, **Sherri Fruge**, **Alex Eby** and **Carol Hall**, Special happy birthday to **Janelle Sehon** who turns 60 today.******June 16**, **Beverly Perry**, **Christian Louvier**, **Jennifer Harrison**, **Ruby Bell** and **Alex Brent**.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

June 10: **Prince Philip** 99, Prince; **Elizabeth Hurley** 55, Actress; **Lee Brice** 41, Country Singer.***June 11: **Shia LaBeouf** 32, Actor; **Sadie Robertson** 26, Reality Star; **Joe Montana** 64, Football Player.****June 12: **Mark Henry** 49, Wrestler; **Chris Young** 35, Country Singer.****June 13: **Mary-Kate & Ashley Olsen** 34, Actors; **Tim Allen** 67, Actor; **Chris Evans** 39, Movie Actor.****June 14: **Donald Trump** 74, US President; **Paul O’Grady** 65, Comedian; **Lucy Hale** 31, Actress.****June 15: **Neil Patrick Harris** 47, Actor; **Ice Cube** 51, Rapper; **CourtneyCox** 56, Actress; **HelenHunt** 57, Actress.***June 16: **John Cho** 48, Actor; **Phil Mickelson** 50, Golfer. **Missy Peregrym** 38, Movie Actress

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Mary Margaret Thibodeaux, a nice, calm, very respectable lady went into **Landry’s Drug Store** and axe for **Mr. Landry**, da pharmacist. She look him straight into his eyes and said, “I would like to buy some cyanide me.” **Landry** axe, “Why in da world, **Mrs. Thibodeaux**, you need cyanide, hank?” “I need to poison my husband **Joe**, me.” Da pharmacist’s eyes got big, big, and he said, “Lord, Lord, **Mrs. Thibodeaux**, have mercy.” “ I can’t give you no cyanide to kill you husband, dat’s against da law, dey would throw both of us in jail and me, I’ll lose my license.” “I can’t let you have no cyanide.” **Mrs. Thibodeaux** reach into her purse and pull out a picture wat show her husband in bed with **Agnes**, da pharmacist **Landry’s** wife. **Landry** him, he look at dat picture a longtime him, den he turn to **Mrs. Thibodeaux**, “Well, now dats different, you didn’t told me you had a prescription.”

C’EST TOUT
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“**Trump** wins this one. No doubt **Trump’s** protest around the country is far bigger than protest in **Obama’s** term, period.” By **Sean Spicer**, “Just kidding.”****I’ve run out of time and space. **Please read us cover to cover. Take care and God bless.**

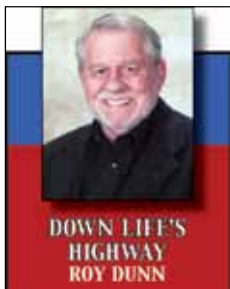
“Neighbor” Cox - The Old Soldier Goes Home

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY Roy Dunn - Columnist For The Record

I got a call from Neighbor Cox, my friend of 25 years, who I spoke with nearly every day. My son Mark had introduced me to him 25 years ago, when we operated the newspaper from our BC office, The Creaux's Nest, in “Neighbor Cox's neighborhood. Back in those early years Doug Harrington operated the drug store; H.D. Pate had a law office; Dr. Mark Messer had a dental office and Bill Nickum, the insurance man, had an office on Texas Ave... Today Bill is the only one in the neighborhood.

Cox and wife Jenny kept us supplied with fresh vegetables and Cox kept Nickum's yard mowed. Those were great times in Cox's Neighborhood. Almost daily he and I sat at the big spool table, under the Hackberry tree. Over the years our relationship grew. I watched after him while Jenny was in the nursing home. For over three years he visited her once and often twice a day until she passed away a few months ago.

Back to that phone call from Cox. He told me he was in Lufkin with his daughter Karen and husband Keith Duplechin. He said they thought it would be best, during the virus, for him to be there rather than going in and out of stores, etc. I agreed, for now that was probably a good idea. An unexpected tragedy happened while Cox was in Lufkin. His



daughter-in-law Diana, son Rodney's wife, passed away from heart issues.

We spoke daily. He missed Jenny so much and felt if he was home it would help with his sadness. They had been married 71 years, both natives of Joaquin, in East Texas. They married when he returned from the war. Through the war he had corresponded with her older

sister but when he got home he fell in love with Jenny. His brother married the older sister in a double wedding ceremony.

During his military career in the Army he was a shooting instructor. He rose to the rank of sergeant. Cox said most marksman instructors were southern country boys who learned to shoot hunting game. Since age 8, during those early years in Joaquin, he carried a shotgun and hunted.

When he was around 10 years old, he and his older brother were in the woods hunting and just roaming around when they heard a car pulling off the main dirt road. They stayed hidden and could hear a man and lady talking. The man put a shotgun on a tree stump and sawed the stock off and threw it in the hollowed out tree stump. The boys took it home to their dad. The next day, May 23, 1934, they heard about Bonnie and Clyde being killed nearby, in Louisiana. His dad had that stock mounted and kept it for years until the house burned down several years ago. Cox was sure it was the two gangsters.

Cox never boosted, but was proud to have



Millard Cox during the Wednesday Lunch Bunch's salute to WWII veterans on Veterans Day in 2019.

been a heavy equipment and crane operator at Texaco, where he retired from. He and his brother Jerry once told me that people talked about Cox being the best that ever was at Texaco, all those years without accident.

One of Cox's real blessings was that Karen and Keith's three boys were raised across the street in a home built on property he had bought. He was proud of those boys, Kevin and Kody were tennis stars. Neighbor Cox played the guitar and all of them picked. The youngest boy Kegan's talent amazed him.

Over the years, we kidded Cox about doing an Indian rain dance when the neighborhood was in a drought, since he was from Indian country. That will lead to the rest of the story.

Even though Karen didn't want him to come home, thinking he would not get the care he needed, she finally consented. He called me and said he had spent the night at home, slept in his own bed and was enjoying his back porch. He had been home one full day when he decided to blow off his driveway. It was nearly dark, on a dead end street. He

stumbled, broke his glasses, bruised his face but that wasn't the worst of it, he couldn't get up. Fortunately a neighbor happened to go outside and discovered him and called 9-11. He had broken two vertebrae in his neck. After a stay in hospital and being fitted with a brace, he was moved to a nursing home for rehab.

Each week he read every word in the Penny Record so we mailed it to him. One paper had his picture with all the old veterans in it. He called me last Wednesday and was feeling pretty good. We joked and kidded a lot. I asked him if he was doing an Indian Rain Dance when he fell. He was sure he would be going home soon and I said I'd check with him in the morning.

Thursday morning June 4, about 6:30 a.m. the phone rang. He sometimes called as early as 5:30 a.m. It was his daughter Karen. The old soldier, Millard “Billy” Cox, 95, had just passed away. I was in shock. He had gotten sick during the night and was transferred to the Medical Center where he died in early morning. I have never known a finer man, one who spread nothing but good. Most WWII veterans average about nine years older than me. As a youngster, I was always impressed by any military personal in uniform. They were my heroes. Now many are dying along due to the virus. Neighbor Cox and I had a special bonding. He thought I hung the moon and I'm sure he did.

His funeral service was held on D-Day, June 6. He had talked about Gen. Eisenhower landing on the beach in Normandy in 1944. Cox would go on to serve until 1946. Another from the Greatest Generation done gone. In just a few years they will all be gone.

I'm proud to have known so many of them. The ache I feel in my heart today won't soon go away. I'll long remember my friend, a kind and decent man. He's home now with his Jenny. Please see obituary.

Deaths & Memorials

Millard “Billy” Cox, 95, Bridge City

Millard “Billy” Cox, 95, of Bridge City, Texas passed away Thursday, June 4, 2020 at the Medical Center of Southeast Texas in Port Arthur.

Billy was born September 9, 1924 in Joaquin, Texas to James Edwin Cox and Rhoda Kyle Cox.

Billy was a resident of Bridge City for 27 years and member of the Baptist faith. He retired as a heavy equipment operator from Texaco.

He proudly served in the U. S. Army from 1943-1946, and was a construction foreman, expert rifleman, and held the rank of sergeant.

Billy was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed gardening, mowing his lawn, and finding treasures to give to others. He had a big heart with an extra soft spot for children. He never met a stranger and knew more jokes than anybody else on the planet.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Virginia “Jenny” Cox; sisters Anna Lee Britnell, and Dollie McElroy; brothers, Her-



man Cox, Marvin Cox, and Jerry Cox.

Survivors include his daughter, Karen Duplechin and husband Keith of Lufkin; son, Rodney Cox of Port Arthur; grandchildren, Carly Palumbo and husband Troy, Christopher Cox, Kevin Duplechin and wife Erin, Kody Duplechin and wife Carlie, Kegan Duplechin and wife Jessica; and five great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the staff of Oak Grove Nursing Home for their excellent and compassionate care.

Marvin James Lemoine Sr., 93, Bridge

Marvin James Lemoine Sr., 93, of Bridge City, Texas passed away June 8, 2020. He was born in Plaucheville, Louisiana on March 21, 1927 to the late Victor Lemoine and Florentine Lemoine. He was a member of St. Henry Catholic Church. This was a man that never met a stranger. He was loved by everyone and will be missed by all who knew him.

Those left to cherish Marvin's memory are his children, Donna Rice of Lake Charles, LA, Marlyn Malin and her husband Jerry of The Woodlands, Bosco Lemoine and his wife Della of Brookeland, Pam Landry and her husband Gary of Newton, and Todd Lemoine



and his fiancé Monica Mosley of Bridge City; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 63 years, Sylvia Lemoine; his grandsons, Cody Landry and Max Lemoine; and his great-great-granddaughters, Caroline Lemoine and Avery Mills.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at Melancon's Funeral Home in Nederland on June 10, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a funeral service being held at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Memory Gardens of Jefferson County in Nederland.

Winona B. Sanders, 94, Bridge City

Winona B. Sanders, 94, of Bridge City, passed away on June 2, 2020, in Groves. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 7, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Reverend Ed Rawls of Silver Oaks Baptist Church in Mauriceville. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., prior to the service, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Born in Carthage, Texas, on May 14, 1926, she was the daughter of Mr. Birdwell and Marie (Getty) LaBay, along with the man who raised her, Arch LaBay. Winona proudly owned and operated Merle Normans in Bridge City for 36 years. She was a member of The Order of the Eastern Star, and faithfully served her Lord at Silver Oaks Baptist Church in Mauriceville where she taught vacation bible school until she was 86 years old, and remained devoted to her church family even into her later years. She enjoyed gardening and took great pleasure in spending time with her grandchildren. Winona was a wonderful mother and grandmother and will be deeply missed for generations to come. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Carl H. Sanders; father, Mr. Birdwell; mother, Marie LaBay; the man she considered her father, Arch



LaBay; son, Carl H. Sanders, Jr.; great-grandchild, Chloe Sanders; sisters, Geraldine Hardy, and Oneida Wullschlegler; and brothers, Dorman Birdwell and Bobby LaBay. She is survived by her sons, Steve Sanders and wife Melinda of Orange, Wenden Sanders and husband Sherman Gregory of Missouri City, and Malcom Sanders and wife Tamaiba of Spring; grandchildren, Jill Sanders Car-

penter Mahan and husband Ryan, Josh Sanders and wife Lindsay, Aston Sanders Aune and husband Tyler, Amy Sanders Martin and husband Kyle, Malcom Sanders, Winona Sanders, Danielle Sanders and Shonna Hunt; great-grandchildren, Colby Carpenter, Carsen Carpenter, Caryss Carpenter, Sam Mahan, Max Mahan, Judd Mahan, Sage Sanders, Beau Sanders, Stevie Sanders, Addie Sanders, Olivia Aune, Samuel Aune, Evangeline (Eva) Martin, Lillian Martin, Kristen Martin, Shelby Skinner, Cayden Sonnier, Nathan Hunt, Lila Oxford and Quinton Oxford. Serving as pallbearers will be her grandsons, Josh Sanders, Colby Carpenter, Sage Sanders, Tyler Aune, Ryan Mahan, and Kyle Martin. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Silver Oaks Baptist Church at 16460 FM 1442, Orange, Texas 77632.

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ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Ordinary People God Chose

LEARNING TO LOVE THE LOCAL CHURCH

Megan Hill
Guest Contributor
desiringGod.org

I'm not athletic. I'm not competitive. I don't like to sweat. I have trouble remembering the rules of games. The only organized sport on my life's résumé is two years of collegiate synchronized swimming — a singular exception that only proves the rule.

But for someone who doesn't like sporting events, I end up watching a lot of them. I've shivered on wooden bleachers during snowy college football games. I've sunburned in the outfield at minor (and major) league baseball games. I've covered my ears during deafening basketball games. I've flinched and winced at ice hockey games. I've arrived early for batting practice, and I've stayed late for the fireworks.

And I don't just watch. I wear the team colors. I sing the team song. I bite my fingernails in the bottom of the ninth. When we win, I rejoice. When we lose, I'm genuinely disappointed.

My surprising conduct has an explanation: I love people who love sports. The people in my family delight in goals and strikes and penalty shots, and so, over time, I've learned to take pleasure in those things too. What they love, I want to love.

At times, the local church can seem to us like a sporting event to a non-athlete, or a baking show to a microwave cook, or a book club to someone who doesn't like to read. It can seem like a big fuss over something insignificant and lots of work with unimpressive results. Week after week, the unremarkable people of our local congregations gather to do the same things in the same way, followed by stale coffee served at plastic tables in a damp basement. We may wonder, Why bother?

The answer requires us to look beyond our own experiences and inclinations — it requires



us to look to God himself. Having been redeemed by the blood of Christ and changed by the work of the Spirit, we love God. What God loves, we therefore want to love. And God loves the church.

The people of our church are often outwardly unremarkable, but in the mutual love of the local church, we affirm the love that God has for us.

Our First Love

We didn't always love God, of course. To begin with, we hated him. The Bible describes us as enemies (Romans 5:10), strangers (Ephesians 2:12), rebels (Ezekiel 20:38), and haters (Romans 1:30); impure (Ephesians 5:5), disobedient (Ephesians 2:2), hopeless (Ephesians 2:12), and ignorant (Romans 10:3). Our sins justly placed us under his wrath and displeasure (Ephesians 2:3). We rejected God, despised his authority, and ignored his good law. We were neither lovely nor loving.

But he loved us. In the counsels of eternity, he set his love on us, and in time, he sent his beloved Son to die for us so that we might enter into a loving relationship with him. He brought us out of slavery into the joyful

circle of his family and made us his privileged children. Because he loved us, we now love him. Our love for God is comprehensive: involving heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). It controls us (2 Corin-

thians 5:14), and it compels us (John 14:15). Our days and hours and minutes are taken up with this love. Like the psalmist, we look around us and proclaim that there is nothing in all the earth we desire apart from God (Psalm 73:25). He is our first love, and he is our great love.

God's Great Love

It's appropriate, then, that we would ask ourselves, What does God love? For anyone who has ever sat in the creaking pews — or folding chairs — of a local congregation on Sunday morning, the answer might be surprising: God loves the church.

Listen to what Paul tells the Ephesians:

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having

cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25–27)

The glorious purpose of God's eternal plan of redemption is the gathering and perfecting of his people. Jesus came for the sake of the church.

More than thirty times in the New Testament, the church is called "beloved." This is not because the ordinary and sometimes awkward people who gather on Sundays are themselves lovely, but because they are bound to someone who is. Christ is the one whom the Father "loved . . . before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). He is the beloved Son. And as people who were created in him, redeemed by him, united to him, and given to him, we find our identity in him. Christ is the beloved, and in him, the church is beloved too.

Loving the People God Loves

Of all the games I watch, the sporting events where I have the greatest investment are the ones where my own kids are playing. When I'm in the bleachers at their basketball games or beside the dugout at their baseball games, I can't take my eyes off the action. It might be Saturday morning T-ball, but it's always the big game to me. When someone I love is on the team, I'm all in.

Likewise, if the one our soul loves has committed himself to the church, it changes everything about our own commitment. "Beloved," writes John, "if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

This means that we will seek to make God's great love for the church our own. We begin on Sunday by regularly showing up to worship together (Hebrews 10:24). It's our highest privilege

to gather with the people of God before the face of God. In the church, we also work to promote one another's holiness, to show affection for one another, to bear one another's needs, to encourage one another's gifts, and to join in the cause of the gospel together. The people of our church are often outwardly unremarkable, but in the mutual love of the local church, we affirm the love that God has for us.

Thankfully, we don't have to muster up love for the church on our own strength. Before he went to the cross to redeem his people, Christ prayed for the church. He petitioned the Father "that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John

17:26). Surrounded by the ordinary and yet extraordinary, sinful and yet holy, weak and yet ultimately triumphant people of God, we look for the Father's gracious answer to the Son's request. And when the God who is love (1 John 4:8) dwells in us by his Spirit, we have everything we need to love the church.

Megan Hill is the author of three books, including *A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church*, which released in May. A pastor's wife and pastor's daughter, she serves as an editor for *The Gospel Coalition* and lives in Massachusetts, where she belongs to West Springfield Covenant Community Church.



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10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Family Service)

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer: Rite II (Wendesday)

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Children & Youth Activities - 6:00 pm

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Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,

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Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Youth & Children's Activities

Pastor: Keith Royal

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGEFIELD

9788 F.M. 105 Orangefield 409.735.3113

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Wednesday evening services: Youth and Children 6:00 p.m.,

Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.,

Pastor Cody Hogden

Email: office@fbcof.com / Website: www.fbcof.com

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PASTOR SAM ROE

Music Director: Tim McCarver

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Sunday Service: 10:30 am / Sunday Evening: 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study: 6 pm

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Ladies Bible Study • Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

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Kemp takes Saturday Shootout

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

Thirty-two boats fished a Saturday edition of the weekly Sabine River Shootout and posted some very solid numbers in spite of the weekend fishing pressure. Seventeen teams finished the day with a reason to weigh in and fourteen of their fish topped the three pound mark!

Brent and Chad Kemp enjoyed the day about ten ounces more than the second place team of Gavin Deshotel and Dagan Bradshaw. The Kemps weighed 16.46-pounds while the second place team finished the outing with a 15.83-stringer. The third place team of Kenny Fusilier and Nathan Paul cashed the third place check with a solid 14.81-pound bag.

Dehotel and Bradshaw eased a little of the sting of their narrow loss by taking home the big bass pot as well. Their winning bass weighed in a very respectable 5.49-pounds. The duo hadn't lost in a month making their second place finish something they were unaccustomed to.

The weekly team events continue to grow and that fact has not been lost on local sponsors. If you would like to try your hand at a little competitive bass fishing this is a great place to start.

Mary Lynn LeJeune celebrated her tenth birthday Sunday afternoon fishing the river with her Uncle Saul and it turned out to be a very special day for both of them. "We caught enough goggle-eye to have a fish fry that night," said Mary Lynn, "and I caught the biggest bass of my life!"

Saul said they were fishing the Burned Out bridge area with small crawfish under a cork when she hung the big fish. "I thought it was a grinnel until it jumped. When I saw it was a bass I got more excited than little Lynn."

Her birthday fish weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces on the grocery store scales. "I knew I was going to get the fish mounted the minute it landed in the bottom of the boat," said the very proud Uncle. "We'll never forget this birthday!"

The annual CCA S.T.A.R. tournament is in full swing and while nearly every category is still wide open, a couple of them will be hard to beat. Eight year old Rowdy Hanks of Kountz put a 6-pound 12 ounce gafftop on the board early

COLBURN Page 3B

Texas 'two-a-days' hard to beat



Chuck Uzzle

CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE
OUTDOORS
For The Record

Now unless you live under a rock in a far dark corner of the planet you probably have some sort of idea about how completely fanatical Texas folks are about football. The summer months in our great state are often looked upon with great enthusiasm as thousands of football players begin their preparations for the fall campaign by first trying to beat the Texas heat.

The football term "2 a days" refers to the common practice of working out twice a day, usually once in the morning and once in the afternoon in an effort to escape the hottest parts of the day. Well football players aren't the only ones trying to beat those high temperatures; fishermen are also trying to combat the heat as well. Triple digit temps not only have an effect on fishermen but also on the fish in some instances.

The whole key to successful summer fishing is figuring out how to cope with the heat and that means focusing on the best times as well as tides to pursue your fish. The folks who have to make



Two young anglers show off their two beautiful redfish during Texas "two-a-days" to beat the heat.
RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

the biggest changes in how and where they fish are those that stay in the shallow water areas like the marshes around Sabine and Calcasieu. During the summer months those shallow brackish marshes can have some ridiculously high water temps which in turn really do a number on the fish.

UZZLE Page 4B



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Two-day shortened MLB draft begins tomorrow

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record

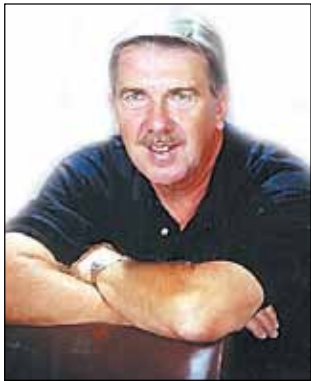
I had the privilege of being at Texas A&M's Blue Bell Park in mid February and watching the best college pitcher in tomorrow's major league draft beat Army early this spring.

Left-hander Asa Lacy, who incidentally was born just north of Blue Bell Park, is considered the top pitcher in this year's draft by DraftSite.com and is expected to be chosen by the Miami Marlins as the No. 3 overall player in the first round.

I heard rumors that he was the best pitcher in the nation while at College Station for the three-game series between the Aggies and Army. But oftentimes when talking to an Aggie there may be a little exaggeration about the talent level of one wearing a Texas A&M uniform.

But it didn't take long for me to see that Lacy was the real deal, popping his fast ball at 97 and 98 miles per hour consistently in the 45-degree night air.

Army got around half dozen base hits off Lacy and scored two earned runs—which incidentally were the only two earned runs Lacy surrendered during the 24 innings he pitched during



the abbreviated collegiate baseball season.

My grandson, Logan Smith, may have been fortunate to be named the starting pitcher of the Saturday night game, being tagged with the 6-5 loss after giving up four unearned runs thanks to three errors and a couple of mental boo-boos by his teammates in one inning.

DraftSite.com rates Lacy as having the best arm in his class and at 6-4, 215 pounds has more than filled out his frame. His fastball can range from 90-98 mph and is complemented by a "filthy" slider, plus a change-up and a power curveball.

In only four starts, Lacy struck out 46 batters (14 against Army), walked eight and allowed two earned runs in 24 innings. And the Marlins could very well miss out on drafting Lacy if Detroit or

Baltimore decide they want him first.

As far as our Houston Astros are concerned in the 2020 draft, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred stripped them of their first and second-round picks as punishment in their infamous sign-stealing episode in 2017 and 2018.

So, Houston won't pick until the third round and will have four picks in the five-round draft.

Today, General Manager James Click gathered his scouts and other front-office personnel for a trial run of their virtual draft room. They'll follow along, cross names off the board and debate selections on a night where they won't actually pick, according to Sunday's edition of the Houston Chronicle.

"When it comes to a five-round draft with four picks for us, it honestly simplifies it a little bit," Click said. "It can just be about taking the best talent possible because in those early rounds, that is the tool that we're all looking for."

Houston's first pick is 72nd—a compensatory selection after Gerrit Cole declined its qualifying offer and signed with the Yankees. If not for that, the Astros wouldn't select until the 101st slot, the article added.

Tomorrow's opening rounds are expected to be college-heavy because more video exists on college players, especially those in premier conferences. In both the 2018 and 2019 drafts, nine of the Astros first 10 selections were college players.

And because Houston is without first or second-round picks, its signing bonus pool is a major-league low \$2,202,600. The Astros first selection at No. 72 carries just an \$870,700 slot value. Teams are subject to penalties if they exceed their bonus pool.

The Astros' farm system is rated as the fifth worst in the sport. Outfield depth is depleted, as is left-handed pitching. Houston spent its last two first-round picks on position players—first baseman Seth Beer in 2018 and catcher Korey Lee in 2019. The first four picks last year were collegiate position players.

The first-round of the draft can be seen 6 p.m. tomorrow on the NFL Network and ESPN and 4 p.m. Friday on the MLB Network and ESPN2 for rounds 2-5.

KWICKIES...

Former Palestine High School and NFL great Adrian Peterson predicted this weekend that there will be

league-wide kneeling for the National Anthem this season—if there even will be an NFL season.

Live PGA-Tour golf begins tomorrow at the Colonial in Fort Worth featuring Texas Longhorn Jordan Spieth and Oklahoma State's Rickie Fowler in the field of golfers-only—no fans.

And speaking of Oklahoma State, the school was fined \$10,000 and its men's basketball team was banned from the upcoming postseason Friday after the NCAA found that former assistant coach Lamont Evans accepted up to \$22,000 in bribes intended to help steer athletes to certain financial advisers.

Former West Orange-Stark and Lamar star pitcher Jack Dallas played in last weekend's Collegiate Summer Baseball Invitational in Bryan. The four-team tournament featured some of the nation's top talent hand-picked by the team's coaches. Some 70 different Division I schools from across the country were represented in the tourney.

Former Houston Astros Roy Oswalt and Jose Cruz along with former Houston Oilers linebacker Robert Brazile are among nominees for potential selection to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

Although most NFL players are eager to get playing

again, according to an Associated Press survey, but there are some who expressed worry about resuming the sport without a virus vaccine.

JUST BETWEEN US...

Kolbe Aven, who is the grandson of Judge Pat Clark, is considered one the best high school catchers in South Florida. He is the son of former West Orange-Stark and Lamar University baseball star Bruce Aven, who co-incidentally was his high school baseball coach. Kolbe, who has an academic scholarship to Furman University, visited the campus and fell in love with it. He talked with the baseball coach who said he wanted him to go to the next level of his career at Furman. A couple of weeks ago, the coach called Kolbe and sadly informed him that Furman was dropping several sports, including baseball. Kolbe heard of a small school 10 minutes from his home—Nova Southeastern University—and contacted the baseball coach, who told him he already had a starting catcher but would get back with him in a couple of weeks. He called back within an hour after checking Kolbe's baseball and academic records and said he wanted him on the team.

Great American Outdoors Act awaits Senate Ted Cruz among 17 Senators to vote against Bill meant to protect Texas' cherish landmarks



The 53-year-old federal program has poured millions into protecting cherished Lone Star State landmarks including the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park among many others.

PHOTO: National Parks Service

Larry Johnson
For The Record

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate voted on Monday to end debate on the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan bill to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually and provide \$9.5 billion over five years to fix maintenance problems that are plaguing America's public lands.

The "cloture" vote on the bill introduced by Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) passed the Senate with a vote of 80-17. We expect a final vote on the Senate floor later this week.

The 53-year-old federal program has poured millions into protecting cherished Lone Star State landmarks including the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Padre Islands National Seashore and Big Bend National Preserve, among other famed Texas locations.

Texas Republican Ted Cruz was one of the 17 senators to vote against holding a final floor vote on the bipartisan proposal to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. According to the San Antonio Current, Cruz's office was unavailable for comment Tuesday on why he voted against the bill.

Alongside conservation groups, hunting and fishing groups, outdoor recreation

businesses, and more, Environment America has prioritized the LWCF, America's best conservation and recreation program.

"We're a step closer to finally, fully funding America's best conservation and recreation program," said Environment America's Acting President Wendlandt, "This bill is a big deal -- it's \$900 million a year, plus a short-term infusion of money to fix the maintenance issues that keep Americans from fully enjoying our public lands."

"Since President Lyndon

Johnson put his signature on the Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation in 1964, it has funded projects in all 50 states and every county in the United States. While it has received more than \$40 billion, it's troubling that more than half of those funds have been diverted away from the program. The Great American Outdoor Act puts a lock and key on money that truly is intended for conservation projects," Wendlandt said.

Marcia Argust, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks

campaign, told Public News Service-Texas, that even as visitation has increased over the past decade, the park system has crumbling roads, deteriorating historic buildings, rundown trails and outdated water, sewer and electrical systems.

"This bill would invest the dollars to keep these systems functioning and safe," Argust said. "And in doing so, it would also create jobs - and that's really important right now to help the country get back on its economic feet."

Argust added that 5 million people visit Texas parks each year.

"Those visitors are spending over \$300 million in local communities," Argust said. "That spending generates over 4,000 jobs each year."

The proposed bill would use \$6 billion in royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling over five years to fix up federal sites.



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Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2020 Winners

Staff Report
For The Record

ATHENS – The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is pleased to announce the Texas division of Wildlife Forever’s State-Fish Art Contest winners for 2020.

The State-Fish Art Contest is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries, and fishing. The program encourages K-12 students to submit original artwork of any officially designated state fish and an essay or poem about the participant’s fish entry, its habitat or efforts to conserve it.

“The State-Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art,” said Tom Lang, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Director. “We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans.”

This year, judges at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center chose the top 12 out of 286 total entries from Texas students. These top 12 works of art will be featured at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, in the 2021 Texas State-Fish Art Calendar, and at the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest at Lake Fork November 5-8.

In the K-3 category, winners were: First Place, John Lee of Carrollton; Second Place, Yuna Kim of Allen; Third Place, Anya Hegde of Irving.

In the grades 4–6 category, winners were: First Place, Phillip Kim of Irving; Second Place, Collin Chon of Frisco; Third Place, Taylor Davis of Coppell.

In the grades 7–9 category, winners were: First Place, Amber Li of Coppell; Second Place, Olivia Park of Dallas;



Above is Eunice Kim’s cutthroat trout coming in second place in the nation.
IMAGE: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Third Place, Arim Jun of Dallas.

In the grades 10–12 category, winners were: First Place, Eunice Kim of Colleyville; Second Place, Madeline Alexander of Keller; Third Place, Juliann Dooley of Warren.

First-place winners in each of the four age groups advanced to the national level and competed against winners from other states. Three Texas winners were announced as national winners by Wildlife Forever. Amber Li’s steelhead trout won first place in the nation for the 7th through 9th grade category. Eunice Kim’s cutthroat trout won second place in the 10th through 12th grade division and Philip Kim’s northern pike was selected as the third-place winner in the 4th through 6th grade group. Amber Li’s essay, “Steelhead Trout, A Short Biography” also won second place nationwide in the grade 7-9 category.

Scholarships for the first, second, and third place Texas winners are provided by the Toyota Bassmaster Texas

Fest. Scholarships in the grades 10–12 division are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. Awards in the 4–6 and 7–9 grade levels are \$200 for first, \$150 for second, \$100 for third. In the K–3 division awards are \$100 for first, \$75 for second, \$50 for third.

Scholarships for Texas winners are provided by funds raised through Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest, with additional support for the contest provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

“Sponsor support for the Texas contest has been a key factor in making it the biggest in the nation,” said Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Texas coordinator. “The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center hosts a day of fishing, fun and recognition for the top forty winning students, their teachers and families. And each child participating in the Texas contest receives a certificate. None of this could happen without the support of our sponsors.”

Stinchcomb also pointed out that research done on the Texas contest shows that participation in the contest makes students more likely to become interested in fishing. “Getting youth involved in the outdoors is a key goal of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and we applaud our sponsors for helping grow the future generation of stewards of our outdoors.”

Honorable mentions for Texas students in grades K–3 were awarded to Desmond Low of Irving; Junhee Kim of Flower Mound; Eddie Li of Bellaire; Seha (Stella) Jeong of Lewisville; Emma Nguyen of Southlake; Crystal Shen of Coppell; and Addyson Villarreal of Crosby.

Honorable mentions in grades 4–6 were awarded to: Nysa Nayak of Irving; Gracie Whisniant of Silsbee; Jonah Kim of Flower Mound; Sanjitha Yeruva of Irving; Victoria Jung of McKinney; Stephanie Lee of Frisco; and Caitlyn Nguyen of Southlake.

Honorable mentions for grades 7–9 were: Lydia Harris of Corpus Christi; Margo Johnson of Corsicana; Alice

Won of Flower Mound; Saanvi Mhatre of Houston; Jamie Yoon of Flower Mound; Meera Thamaran of Coppell; and Cindy Wang of Irving.

Honorable mentions for grades 10–12 were: Marvin Deckert of Fred; Stacy Hong of Irving; Yiwei Shen of Coppell; Victoria Gore of Fred; Alexis Hollyfield of Warren; Zoë Montgomery of Warren; and Michelle Huang of Coppell.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2021 contest can find entry forms, rules and guidelines and more online. A lesson plan can also be found that offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species iden-

tification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets. Learn more at www.wildlifeever.org.

The State-Fish Art Contest is a project of Wildlife Forever. Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to “on-the-ground” efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

To view or download high resolution images of the winning artwork, visit the 2020 Fish Art Contest Album on the TPWD Flickr page.

Colburn From Page 1B

and will now have his parents sweating out his possibility of winning a \$50,000 scholarship all summer.

In the 11 to 17 age division, Andrew Larson of Danbury is in the lead in the Upper Coast Trout Division with a 7-pound 10 ounce speck. Because big trout have been a little hard to come by on the upper coast the past few years that fish could also be hard to beat. Don’t tell that to his little brother, however, as he is currently holding down second place with a lot of summer remaining.

Curtis Widener of Sargent has also posted an early flounder in the Teen Division that just may win him \$25,000 in college money. His flounder tipped the scales at 6 pounds 5 ounces.

In the adult division, Mike Fesco of Sour Lake may well have already have laid claim to the gafftop prize money with a whopping 8-pound 2-ounce fish. Of the few leading fish at this point, Mike’s gafftop will undoubtedly be the hardest to beat.

A double digit trout is leading the lower coast and an 8-pound 7-ounce fish is leading the Upper Coast. Any of these weights can be bested over the summer and there is a ton of money still up for grabs. Only two of the tagged redfish have been caught thus far.

The white perch bite is still strong on both Rayburn and Toledo Bend. Milton and Ronnie Carrol apparently don’t know what the hell they are doing when it comes to catching crappie over a brush pile, but they had a good day in spite of themselves last Friday.

“We only caught two white perch,” said Milton, “but we filled up an ice box with bream and catfish.” That could only happen to the Carrols. There problem could have been that they thought they found some brush in eight feet of water and they were fishing with crickets!

The folks that are doing it right are catching pretty easy limits of crappie up to a pound and a half. On both lakes the reports I got were that shiners were working much better than jigs.

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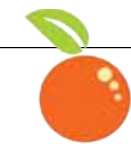
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Orange County Happenings & Events

Food Safety Conference July 28

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is holding a Food Safety Conference. It will be held on July 28, 2020 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This was previously scheduled for August 4th but had to be changed. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch provided. The conference will have: Hand's on Activities, Round Table Talk, and Active Shooter Scenarios. Some topics that will be covered are: Rodent Control, Vent-a-hood Maintenance, and there will be Health Department Speakers. The conference is free to attend but a Food Handlers' Course is offered from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Food Handlers' Course will cost \$20 if you choose to attend the course. To register go to Orange.agrilife.org and click on the Food Safety Registration Tab.

BC/OF Ministerial Alliance relocates

The Bridge City / Orangefield Ministerial Alliance has moved to their temporary location until the new building is complete. Our temporary location at Fellowship Baptist in Bridge City located at 1965 Miller Dr. (Off 408) in Bridge City. The hours of operation are Monday & Wednesday from 9am-12pm. For more information please contact our office at 409-735-8296.

Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m..

Orange Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking

problem. Al-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange, TX 77632. Call Angela at 474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info. Calls are kept Confidential.

Bridge City Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Library at St. Henry's Catholic Church Education building, located at 475 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. For more information, please contact Cindy at 409-749-9036 or Mike at 409-718-0333.



Orange County Beekeepers Info

The Orange County Beekeepers Group works with the Orange County Ag Agent to expand beekeeping opportunity in Orange. We also strive to aid and assist fellow beekeepers, any new beekeepers and the general public. Officers of the Orange County Apiary Committee are normally in attendance to answer questions and assist Orange County residents. For information or assistance with Honeybee removals please contact the Orange County Agrilife office 409-882-7010, Len VanMarion 409-728-0344 Texas Master Beekeeper, Christie Ray 409-550-9195 owner of QueenBee Supply in Orange or Brian Muldrow 713-377-0356, owner of Muldrow Bee Farm.

Pinnacle Music Academy

Pinnacle Academy offers private music lessons for Piano, Vocal, Guitar, Drums, Bass Trumpet, Ukulele, and more for all ages. Learn all musical styles including Pop, Rock, Country, Metal, Jazz, Blues, and Hip Hop. Pinnacle Academy is located at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W. Roundbunch, Bridge City. Come and discover this opportunity to learn an instrument in the local area. For more information, call 409-241-3920 or visit www.PinnacleMusicAcademy.com.

Orange County Beekeeping Group

The Orange County Beekeepers Group is a group of local beekeepers interested in spreading information about honeybees and the pollination service they perform. The group also strives to aid and assist fellow beekeepers, any new beekeepers, and the general public. For information or assistance with honeybee removals, please contact Len VanMarion 409-728-0344 or Brian Muldrow 713-377-0356.

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Uzzle

From Page 1B

Surface temps in the 90's will begin to make things dangerous even for the heartiest of redbfish as oxygen levels decrease during the long summer days. Many times these fish will retreat to the deepest areas of the marsh in search of cooler water. Several years ago I was helping some Florida angler's pre fish for a big tournament and watched them carve out a very unlikely but successful pattern by fishing deep ditches adjacent to larger back lakes and ponds. We watched several other anglers scour the shallow water areas and finally give up after having little or no success while the deeper ditch pattern steadily produced quality fish. Its amazing the difference in temperature that comes from water only a couple of feet deeper than the surrounding area, especially if it has a decent tidal influence.

Another great equalizer for the fish is matted vegetation that acts like a canopy and provides shaded cooler water. Many of the areas I like to fish will get covered in widgeon grass, turtle grass, or even coontail and the fish seem to gravitate to it like a magnet. Besides the immediate relief from the temperature that mats offer there is also the extra added bonus of bait that tends to gather there as well. Shrimp, small crabs, and other baitfish will seek out the safety and sanctity of those grassy areas just like redbfish will and that's a great combination for both fish and fisherman. Certain adjustments in tackle and technique will need to be made in order to properly fish these areas and it all starts with lure selection. For me it's the Stanley Ribbit, hands down one of my absolute favorite ways to fish. After taking a page out of the freshwater fishing playbook on fishing grass and vegetation the Ribbit opened up an entire new world for clients and myself. Being able to fish water that in the past was basically off limits due to the thick grass enabled me to fish virtually anywhere and not be uncomfortable with those conditions. The Ribbit is not only a versatile lure but the strikes it provokes from thick grass are heart stoppers! Definitely worth experimenting with if you've never done it before.

Now the shallow water

folks are not the only ones who have to adjust to the heat, the open water folks have to adapt as well. The fish in the open lake or bay are not as affected as the shallow fish are but they certainly can be at times. Surface temps, high skies, bright sun, little to no wind can all be factors that stifle a bite. The most obvious factor is surface temperature and that causes perhaps the biggest adjustments. Tons of anglers will habitually patrol the shorelines barely a cast away from the land regardless of other factors. During certain times of the year that program pays off but in the summer it can hurt just the same. I have seen plenty of boats anchored up at marsh drains that empty into Sabine lake during the summer oblivious to the fact that the water coming out is much hotter than the water in the lake. Most of these folks just go there because they fished here one time and caught fish so it must be the same year round. In the summer this can be a bad idea while in the winter it's a perfect pattern. Perhaps one of the best bets during the summer months is to burn a little gas, get off the shoreline, and go see what the open water has to offer. On Sabine you may just run into some of the huge schools of shad and pogies that are often times being destroyed by schools of

big redbfish and hungry trout. The tell tale signs of feeding slicks along with an occasional shrimp skipping across the surface can be a precursor to some absolute angling chaos without any crowds to dampen the fun.

Now so far we've thoroughly discussed how temperatures affect the fish, its time to consider what this summer heat does to anglers. For most of us the thought of working in hot temperatures is down right unappealing. The funny thing is that fishing in those same temps somehow doesn't seem so bad. Standard precautions of staying hydrated, using sunscreen, and wearing appropriate clothing go without saying. Many folks also adjust their time schedule and will often leave the dock after dark to get a more comfortable surrounding. Fishing in the dark has its own set of rules and precautions to follow so we'll talk about that at another time. Just be sure if you do decide to prowl the bay after dark to communicate with some one about where you'll be and have all your necessary safety gear in order, especially lights. Back to our schedule change, the pre dawn launch that allows you to grab that first hour or so before the sun starts cooking is a magical part of the morning and a favorite for many fishermen. The same can be said for the

last hour of daylight until sunset. These times are tailor made for catching big fish in the summer and there are many anglers I know who try to do both in the same day. The thought of 2 or 3 fishing hours at dawn followed by 2 or 3 fishing hours at sunset is my idea of a "Texas 2 a day

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- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Belittle
- A note to follow so
- Annie Oakley's show
- Hipbone-related
- Chicago to Detroit direction
- Historical period
- "Most gifted Father's Day gift"
- "a.k.a. Father of the Constitution"
- Have a cold, e.g.
- Bog deposit
- Styling product
- Not yet final, in law
- Squirrels away
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Antioxidants-rich berry
- Text that precedes the main text
- Car brand, e.g.
- "Full House" father
- Brazilian indigenous people
- a.k.a. drowsy
- Precedes shine
- Paving stone
- Early TV manufacturer
- Bayonet wound
- "Zip it!"
- Popular form of communication
- Part of a match
- "Christopher Robin's father"
- "Father known as "one-shot" Finch
- Largest deer
- "Richard Bobbsey's offspring"
- Precedes desist
- Cuckoo
- Friedrich Schiller's " ____ to Joy"
- Personnel person
- Job for a body shop

- Parent's order
- Wrestling's ____ the Giant

DOWN

- It's equivalent to pain?
- Sound mind, ____ body
- Not of the cloth
- Japanese port
- Highly ingredient
- High school club
- "Boy's father in "The Road"
- Recurring melody
- Shoshonean people
- Without further ____ pl.
- 1920s art style
- "John-John's father"
- Cow's favorite grass?
- Homer's classic
- Pleasurable interjection
- Adrian Brody in 2002 film
- "Wednesday's father"
- Dodge
- Compare
- "Antithesis to Mufasa"
- Liberal pursuits
- Don Giovanni and such
- Echo sounder output
- "a.k.a. the father of modern economics"
- "Indecent Proposal" star Moore
- Research facility
- Used for raising
- U.K. Prime Minister, 1945-51
- Lady lobster
- "You ____!"
- Xe
- Make a connection, two words
- In the thick of
- Steak condiment
- Express complaint
- Antonym of is
- All over again
- "Popular Father's Day greeting"
- Olympic cast-out
- Bone-dry
- Commotion

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NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

The Orange County Drainage District is seeking applicants for the positions of **Operator III** and **Oiler**.

Position Summary for Operator III:

Operate multiple types of tracked and wheeled equipment such as Dozer, Track Hoe, Boom Mower, Tractor/Mower, Truck/Trailer combination, Front Loader, Dump Truck, or any other similar rolling stock (CDL Required); be able to make minor repairs and service equipment as required; be proficient in Heavy Equipment use for excavating, backfilling, blading, grading, trenching, and scraping; clear trees, grass, mulch, and other items from drainage areas; clean and/or construct drainage ways, easements, and right-of-way to specifications and direction of supervision; set pipe at specific elevations; load and unload equipment and materials from trucks and trailers; perform all other essential job functions.

Position Summary for Oiler:

Assist Operators in the operation and transportation of heavy equipment; operate or learn to operate tractors, mowers, excavators, and all other heavy equipment regularly used by the Drainage District; assist Operators and Mechanics in the maintenance, servicing and repair of heavy equipment; mow grass and clean drainage ditches and other drainage structures; assist in the general maintenance of Drainage District buildings and facilities; perform all other essential job functions.

The Essential Job Functions, and Required Education, Experience, Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, Licenses, Certifications and other job requirements are set forth in the Notice of Job Opening posted on the Drainage District website found at www.ocddtx.com.

Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience.

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Applications may be obtained at the Drainage District office or on the District website: www.ocddtx.com.

The applications must be received at the Drainage District office, located at 8081 Old Hwy 90, no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2020.

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Lue Harris
For the Record

Recipes of the Week

Hello Everyone

This is a great day that God has made available for us. Now is the time for us to show Him how much we appreciate it. Remember, gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24

Planting Citrus

The hole should be about one inch less deep than the soil in the container.

Example: Dig an 8 inch hole in the soil if the container is 9 inch deep the hole should be twice as wide as the container. Take the tree with the soil from the container and place in center of the hole. Back fill with a soil mix that is equal to the soil mix that is around the root. Back fill to the top edge of the graft. Apply water and add more back fill as needed.

Don't allow grass to grow up to trunk. Mulch at least a foot or more around the base of the tree, leaving about an inch from mulch to the trunk. Mulching prevents damage to the trunk from mowers and weed eaters.

June 10,11,12

Best time to plant root crops. Also good time for Biennial, perennials, berries, trees and shrubs.

Best time to cultivate and kill pest

Good time to prepare seed beds.

June 14, 16

Good time to kill pest and kill weeds.

Good time to cultivate.

Amazing Bacon Pie

12 slices bacon,
fried crispy and crumbled
1 c shredded Swiss cheese
1/2 c chopped onion
2 c milk
1 c biscuit mix
4 eggs
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oven to 400 degrees grease a 10 inch pie plate. Sprinkle bacon, cheese and onion on bottom.

Beat remaining ingredients until smooth. Pour into plate. Bake about 35-40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool about 5 minutes.

Earth Quake Cake

1 c coconut
1 German Chocolate cake mix
8 oz. Cream cheese
1 c pecans, chopped
1 lb power sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a 9x13 in. Pan. Mix coconut and pecans. And place on bottom of pan. Mix cake mix per direction on box. Pour over coconut and pecans. Mix cream cheese and powder sugar together until. Smooth. Drop by spoonfuls on top. Bake per directions on cake mix.

Church distributes Farmers to Families food

The Orange Church of God is hosting USDA Farmers to Families Food Giveaway Saturday, June 13, beginning at 2 p.m. The Department of Agriculture program, designed to assist families that have been financially hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic and aid farmers similarly affected, is bringing 1,000 boxes of food and 1,000 gallons of milk to give away, according to Pastor Demo Moffett. The church, located at 1907 N. 16th St., handed out 220 food boxes and gallons of milk on May 30, the pastor said. Last week, 500 food boxes and a 500 gallons of milk were distributed.

Food Safety Conference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is holding a Food Safety Conference. It will be held on July 28, 2020 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch provided. The conference will have: Hand's on Activities, Round Table Talk, and Active Shooter Scenarios. Some topics that will be covered are: Rodent Control, Vent-a-hood Maintenance, and there will be Health Department Speakers. The conference is free to attend but a Food Handlers' Course is offered from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Food Handlers' Course will cost \$20 if you choose to attend the course. To register go to Orange.agrilife.org and click on the Food Safety Registration Tab.

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