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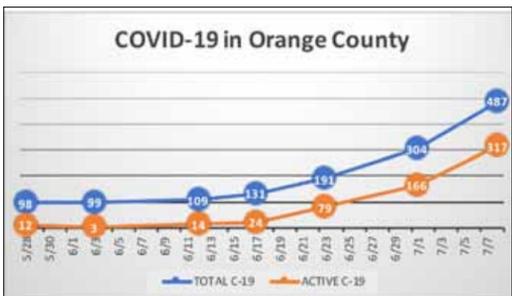
County Record

Vol. 61 No. 7

The Community Newspaper of Orange, Texas

Week of Wednesday, July 15, 2020

OC Covid cases increase by 3,966%



DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Another week, another couple hundred positive COVID-19 tests in Orange County.

Joel Ardoin, the county's emergency management coordinator, reported to county commissioners Tuesday afternoon that as of the end of Monday, July 12, Orange County had totaled 694 positive tests for the respiratory

virus that has so far killed 136,000 Americans.

And now 7 of those deaths attributed to the new coronavirus are from Orange County.

Since Memorial Day, the number of active cases in Texas' most southeastern counties has grown from 12 to 488. That's an increase of 3,966 percent in seven weeks.

Just since the last report of July 8, the county has seen an increase of 207 positive tests, 171 active cases and two

deaths.

That's an increase of 53.9 percent in active cases since last week.

"A month ago, if you'd have asked me if I personally knew someone with COVID, I'd have said no," County Judge

John Gothia said Tuesday. "Now, I could probably list 25."

Of course, Gothia tested positive – twice – at the end of June. While he was making his first public appearance since on Tuesday, Com-

missioner Johnny Trahan was missing his second meeting after testing positive not long after Gothia.

Gothia said Trahan was expecting a doctor's clearance Tuesday or Wednesday. For the first time since the

pandemic reached Texas in March, every one of the 15 or so socially distanced people in court chambers for the meeting wore a face mask. In the previous dozen or so

OC COVID CASES Page 3A

LSCO Gator fishermen reel in another win



The Fishing Team from Lamar State College Orange has reeled in another win. LSCO anglers Trent Buchholz and Grady Doucet placed third in the Abu Garcia College tournament, qualifying them for the national tournament. The event was held Friday, July 10 at Fort Gibson Lake in Oklahoma. This is the first win for these particular anglers as both Buchholz and Doucet are new to the LSCO Fishing Team. The team caught five fish with a total weight of 17 lbs. 1 ounce. Two other sets of teams from LSCO's club also participated in the tournament. Brett Fregia and Jack Tindel, who have already qualified for the national championship, placed 24; and Jaithen Burns and Kooper Abernathy placed 57.

City cuts check for Lions Den playground

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange City Council voted Tuesday to spend \$489,000 for the purchase and installation of a new playground at Lions Den Park.

The old wooden playground, a community project built in 1999 with donated materials and volunteer labor, was declared unsafe in February and torn down in June.

City fathers hope the new playground will be completed by the start of 2021.

The new playground will include several ADA features a ramp, swingset seat, a Miracle Megatower play structure and a Miracle Kid's Choice custom play structure with ADA Avalanche Slide, Rocks and Ropes Inca Net.

Other playground features include a rope bridge, Hover Net with Flux Capacitor and Loopz 3 Ring Climber, Cyclo Climber/Spinner, Accelerator Swing, UPC The King Lion Climber, Concerto 5-Congas, Vibes and

Chimes.

A Playhouse, Silly Tree and Sensory Garden Wall are other features. A swing will include seat belts, and four built-in shades, the largest 20 feet by 20 feet.

Ten concrete footings will support the shade structures and climbers. The layout will include 2,000 square feet of No Fault rubber surfacing covering a 652 linear foot shoulder to support wheelchairs.

The city also awarded a contract of \$63,000 to A-1 American Fencing to surround the new Riverside Pavilion near the Orange Boat Ramp.

Orange County set aside \$100,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to make this purchase to protect the Pavilion, which will be used for both city and county events.

Additionally, the council members voted to spend \$256,000 of money from last year's \$8 million bond sale to build a restroom to be constructed near the Pavilion.

It will include both men's

ORANGE Page 3A



A model of the new Lions Den playground.

Servant leader Campbell retires at LSCO

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Butch Campbell didn't work at Orange's two-year college from the day it began operation.

But he got there as soon as he could.

The Orange native got to what is now known as Lamar State College Orange in 1975 and the impact he's made on both the college and his hometown has been immeasurable.

Campbell, 65, retired after 44 years working at LSCO two weeks ago. The college is 51 years old.

He sounds like he'll really miss it. But not as much as he'll be missed.

"Butch was the epitome of a servant leader," Melanie Ledoux Toups, Bridge City Elementary School principal and part-time instructor at LSCO from 1986-93, said on the college's Facebook page. "His huge heart for others caused each person he came in contact with to feel spe-



Butch Campbell is enjoying his retirement after his 44 years of service to Lamar State College Orange wrapped up at the end of June. After starting as a phys ed teacher, Campbell was the college's director of student activities for a most of a career that ended with him as director of security.

"I was fortunate to see first-hand what an advocate he was for students."

Bill Bradberry wrote:

"There are hundreds of folks Butch Campbell has helped over the years. And thousands that will never know that he was their answered

prayer."

Jay Hall saw Campbell's good works up close.

"Butch was instrumental in helping me get back into school after a 10-year hiatus," Hall wrote. "He hired me part-time to work in the student center and he probably doesn't know how much his assistance helped me."

Campbell's first LSCO job came when he was still a year and a half or so from earning his bachelor's degree in physical education at Lamar University, Beaumont. He was hired to be the PE coach at Lamar University, Orange, becoming the school's 13th faculty member. But he really enjoyed his days as student activities director.

"I have no idea how many thousands of students came through there," Campbell said, "but I really got to know a bunch of them. They'd come back and visit, or I'd see them around town."

"Every one of them made

SERVANT LEADER Page 3A



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Biden to air first general-election TV ads in Texas

PATRICK SVITEK
The Texas Tribune

Joe Biden is launching his first general-election TV ads in Texas as a growing number of polls show a close presidential race here.

As part of a four-state ad buy that Biden's campaign is announcing Tuesday, the presumptive Democratic nominee is going up with a 60-second spot in Texas that addresses the increasingly dire coronavirus situation here.

"I'm of thinking all of you today across Texas," Biden says in the ad, which opens with a shot of Marfa. "I know the rise in case numbers is causing fear and apprehension."

"The virus is tough, but Texas is tougher," Biden later says, telling Americans to follow guidelines to slow the spread of the virus — and that he wants them to know: "I will not abandon you. We're all in this together."

The buy, which also features digital ads, is across Texas, Arizona, Florida and North Carolina — and it marks the campaign's first TV and digital ad spending in Texas since Biden secured the nomina-



Former Vice President Joe Biden plans to air his first general-election TV ads in Texas as polls show him closing in on President Donald Trump here.

PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Stravato for The Texas Tribune

tion. A Biden campaign official described the size of the four-state buy as "mid-six figures."

There have been a series of polls in recent weeks finding a tight contest between Biden and President Donald Trump in historically red Texas. One poll released Sunday found Biden leading Trump by 5 percentage points among likely voters, while another survey that came out the same day gave Trump a 1-point lead among likely voters, well within the margin of error.

At the same time, the campaign season in Texas has

been upended by the coronavirus, especially as it has surged here in recent weeks. The spike prompted Gov. Greg Abbott to issue a statewide mask requirement earlier this month, despite previously resisting calls to issue such a mandate.

In the ad, Biden encourages Texans to wear masks, wash their hands, stay home if they can and socially distance when they go out. The spot ends with an image of Biden in a mask, along with the words, "Stay Safe, Wear a Mask."

Biden has promised to contend Texas, which Trump won

by 9 percentage points in 2016, the smallest margin for a GOP nominee in the state since 1996. The 2016 Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, ran TV ads in the state, though she did not do so until less than a month out from the election and made a relatively small investment.

While the Biden campaign did not detail how much it is spending specifically in Texas, the official said the four-state buy "will run in each state's top markets, on local cable, and on Sunday cable shows." In Texas and two of the other states, the campaign is running Spanish-language versions of the spots, with captions, on YouTube, Facebook and Univision.

Trump has brushed off the threat of Biden in Texas, casting doubt on the polls.

"I think Texas is going to be very strong for us — all of us — as it was in the past election, 2016," Trump said during a tele-town hall Monday evening with a congressional candidate here.

Trump Victory, the joint reelection effort between the president's campaign and the Republican National Committee, announced Monday that it

now has over 1,500 staffers in its 23 "target states," which include Texas. The committee

pointed to that presence Tuesday in playing down Biden's ad spending.

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OC Covid-19 cases increase From Page 1

meetings since social distancing became a thing, media members were often the only ones wearing masks in meetings.

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered face masks inside businesses and government buildings last week and President Donald Trump has worn a mask in public for the first time this week.

"Wear masks, until further notice," was the message from Dr. Calvin Parker, Orange County health director, in a Monday interview.

"We don't know a lot of things, but we do know that wearing masks reduces transmission to some degree," he said. "Until we see the curve start to go down, until we see a decrease in the disease, see it go away, we have to keep going with social distancing and wearing masks."

Gothia was asked how many more county residents would test positive for COVID-19 before the end of the worst loss of U.S. lives since World War II.

"The one thing that we know is that number is going to continue to go up when we're testing more people," he said. "And we don't know how many people are getting multiple tests. I've had four, and they counted all of them."

Gothia said he received a blood antigen tests for COVID in late May and when he began feeling ill in late June.

Both came back negative. He said he had a nasal swab test and when results didn't come back in a timely fashion, repeated the test.

The day after his fourth test came back positive, he

"The one thing that we know is that number is going to continue to go up when we're testing more people," he said.

got the same results for test No. 3, he said.

Gov. Abbott has stressed for weeks that the most important statistic about COVID-19 is the "positivity," meaning the percent of positive tests divided by the total number of tests.

Orange County officials – Gothia, Parker and Ardoin – say they can't get a count on the total number of tests conducted because private clinics and doctors' offices that are doing a lot of testing are only required by the state to report positives to the counties.

The large testing sites set up by the state's military medical command and its replacement, a private contractor called Honu, do not report on the total number of positive tests from one of the one-day events because they are open to anybody and people don't have to be tested in their own counties.

Last Sunday's testing by

Honu at the Orange Armory provided 467 COVID-19 tests, more than 200 more tests than the county's previous busiest spot, at Bridge City on June 28.

More free tests will be per-

formed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Wednesday and Thursday, July 15-16, at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center, 11475 FM 1442 in Orange. No pre-registration is required.

"It's hard to judge statistics," Parker said. "You can be positive for COVID and sick with something else. You can have it [COVID] without symptoms. I've seen numerous cases, like Judge Gothia's. He tested negative two times, then the third test

was positive.

"I do this every day and this is something we've never seen. We're in new territory, not sure what to do with all this data. Your data is only as good as the information given to you."

While major Texas cities like Houston and Dallas are among the country's top hot-spots, much has been made of hospital beds filling up in Jefferson County's three hospitals.

They are also the most likely landing spot for people from Orange County, which has no hospital beds.

Ardoin said while beds are plentiful, the intensive care units that some COVID patients require are in short supply.

"Jefferson County hospitals have 775 general beds and their surge capacity is 930 beds. As of yesterday, only 337 of those beds were being used, and out of that number there are 117 being used by COVID patients," Ardoin said.

"Those hospitals have 86 ICU [intensive care unit]

beds, and can surge to 103 beds. As of yesterday, they had 86 beds in use, 45 by COVID patients."

If there is any good news in the stats, it's that the virus is not as deadly as it was in its first months in Texas.

In Orange County, the second COVID-caused death was reported May 1, making the ratio of deaths to cases 1 for every 38 positives. Ardoin's report listed 7 deaths out of 694 positives, about 1 death for every 100 positives.

"We're definitely seeing that the death toll is decreas-

ing compared to the number of active tests," Gothia said. "The medical community is using different options available to them than at first."

"We haven't seen it yet, but I was on the phone this morning with some other county judges who say their doctors are getting self-test kits. The doctors give to the patient, who then conducts his own test and sends the results off to a lab to be checked."

"That will make the number [of negative tests] even more hard to track."

Orange playground From Page 1

and women's bathrooms.

The money had been previously earmarked for "Streetscape" which had been planned for a "Welcome to Orange" gateway at the intersection of I-10 and 16th Street.

Widening of the highway and rebuilding the overpass means work on the gateway is about three years away.

"Understand we're not getting rid of the 16th Street

streetscape," Mayor Larry Spears, Jr., said. "We're going to use this money now with the opportunity to use money out of the general fund on 16th Street when the highway construction is finished."

Council also approved hiring Architects, Inc. of Bridge City to put together architectural plans for a new recreation center at the site of the old City Natatorium.

Servant leader From Page 1

an impact on me."

Named Jesse Campbell Jr. after his father, a longtime supervisor at DuPont, Butch was a 1973 graduate of West Orange High School Class of 1973. Campbell played football at Northwestern State University in Louisiana for a couple of years before what he described as "some ugly injuries," led him back to Texas to finish his college degree.

"I had decided at that point I wanted to be a coach, so I started taking PE classes as soon as I could," Campbell said. "Dr. [Pete] Yates was my adviser in Beaumont and he told me to check in at Lamar-Orange because they didn't have a PE teacher."

"The president in Orange then, Joe Ben [Welch], told me to go pick up some keys; I was teaching that afternoon. There was no interview."

The Orange campus had only one building then and Campbell's classes met at the gym at the Orange Navy base, about where the Orange Boat Ramp is now. Bob Frank, former head football coach for West Orange's Chiefs, was teaching PE at LSCO before Campbell.

"They hired me because he [Frank] wanted to go back to coaching full-time. He gave me one volleyball that wouldn't hold air."

Campbell got more volleyballs and added more programs. He added weightlifting, canoeing, aerobics and a little bit of health and wellness to old standards like basketball and volleyball. He even started a water skiing team.

"I built the program up from one class to where we had about seven offerings," Campbell said.

"I actually took classes in the morning then was coach in the afternoon, teaching the same people in the afternoon that I was taking classes with in the morning."

"I remember they paid me \$300 per class, \$2,100 per year."

In 1986, Campbell became student activities director. He finished up as Director of Security for LSCO and its Title IX compliance officer.

"My favorite part of what I got to do was the freedom the administration let me have," Campbell said. "They

let me run with a whole lot of ideas. I was able to start the phys-ed program, able to start an intramural program. I got to design the student activity center with Dr. Welch in 1986, and with the student activities program, I got to design activities for kids on campus."

"We brought in a lot of cool people, some tremendous entertainers and great lecturers, people they might not get to see anywhere else."

"It was a lot of fun, but it did keep me on my toes. Students will throw a lot of stuff at you, but I was the students' advocate. That's how I spent most of my time, being sure we did everything we could for them to be successful on campus."

Campbell said he enjoyed working with Lamar-Orange presidents Welch and Dr. Michael Shahan.

"They're two of the finest people I've ever known. I learned so much from both of those guys. They were amazing. And there were two vice presidents that I worked for that probably gave me more leeway than anybody else, Mike Yeater and Bobbie Burgess, was with me 15-20 years."

"I always had people who were friends that I got to work with."

Campbell and his lady, Linda, plan to do a lot of traveling, which began as soon as he handed in his keys. But they'll continue to live in Orange and keep close to their four children.

And, if he's not traveling, Butch will be out helping someone.

He twice won the Julie and Ben Community Service Award while working at LSCO. He's a life member of the Orange Lions Club, was honored as Orange's Citizen of the Year in 2017 and has helped with Cops and Kids for more than 20 years. He's a leader of the Back to School Orange program and board member and volunteer to countless organizations.

"Besides all that service at LSCO, he has always lent that helping hand to community projects," County Commissioner Johnny Trahan said. "Butch has always been there when called upon."



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SYMPTOMS ADDED ON TO CORONAVIRUS

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention has added four **Coronavirus** symptoms, **congestion, running nose, nausea and diarrhea** to list. The CDC previously said symptoms include chills, fever, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell. The federal health agency warns that symptoms could appear two to 14 days after exposure, mostly four or five days. Individuals with **Covid-19** may be most contagious **one or two days** before symptoms appear. **Older adults** and people who have underlying medical conditions have a higher risk for developing more serious complications and life threatening chances of getting severely ill. That's one reason I'm staying close to the house. **I'm in the highest risk.** I miss getting out with my friends, I miss going to work and boy am I ready to live normally again. I fear that won't be anytime soon. If school opens I wonder about how much spike that will bring. Boy, that's a double edged sword. ****I've got to move on. **Please come along, it won't do you no harm.**

TRUMP TARNISHES GOP BRAND

Donald J. Trump may be the biggest RINO, (Republican in name only), of all time. No record can be found that **Trump** ever voted in a **Republican Primary**. His grown children had never voted before they voted for their dad, making the family a herd of **Renos**. During this year of crises and sinking poll numbers, **Trump** has become consumed with deflecting blame for the virus response and fueling the culture wars. The president can't even articulate a second-term agenda when asked. "He's causing a brand problem for **Republicans**," former **Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich** told CNN last week. "That base he has, the edges of that base are beginning to fray, it's getting smaller and smaller." After vowing to "**drain the swamp**" in Washington, **Trump** has presided over a cesspool of cronyism and corruption. Late Friday, he commuted the prison sentence of longtime friend **Roger Stone**, who had been convicted of seven felonies. In reaction to this blatant abuse of presidential clemency power **Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah**, called it "unprecedented, historic corruption." **Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa.**, said it was a "mistake." As expected, the usual silence came from **Trump's GOP enablers**. **Republican** senators had the chance to rid themselves and the nation of **Trump's** millstone at the impeachment trial this year, but only **Romney** voted to convict and remove. Now their fortunes are tied to **Trump's**, even as the president recklessly tacks in a direction most of the nation doesn't want to go. There's a growing number of **GOP** figures publicly declaring they won't vote for **Trump**, (**Mitt Romney, John Bolton** and **Carly Fiorina**). Contemplating as much (**Sen. Lisa Murkowski** of Alaska, **George W. Bush, Jeb Bush** and **Cindy McCain**). A small but vehement group of **Republican "Never Trumpers"** has banded together to launch caustic **anti-Trump** ads. Today's **GOP** is more like a cult of personality. On issue after issue **Trump** is out of sync with public sentiment and the **Republican Party's** traditional values.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2010

On a motion made by Orange County port board member **John Young**, and seconded by "**Buckshot**" **Winfree** prior to his death, **Jerry Hughes** was elected president of the Port Board to replace **Winfree**. It was "**Buckshot's**" wish that **Jerry** be chosen as president. On Monday the board appointed **Barbara Winfree** to replace her late husband on the port board. A great choice for several reasons, one is that after 25 years, she is familiar with the workings of the Port. The former schoolteacher is smart and has a keen interest in the continued success of our Orange County port. **Her appointment is a history-making event.** When sworn-in she will be the first female ever to serve on the board and that is a good thing. **Lester Winfree** had about two years left in his tenure. **** With the cap in place attention turns to the oil that has seeped in the Gulf. Facing the skimmers are more than 90 million gallons. The deepwater **Horizon** rig exploded April 20 and later sank sparking the largest oil spill in United States history. **** Last Saturday **Al Granger** celebrated **AutoMart's** 30-year anniversary. He treated the folks to great music by **Britt Godwin** and **Brad Brinkley**, served up great link and gave away many prizes. **Al** even got to meet **Neighbor Cox**. He said he did not realize **Cox** was a real live character; he thought he was just a fictitious person. **Virgie Moreland** and hubby **Larry** enjoyed the festivities as was **Juanita Smith** and **Ed**. There also was **Van Choate**, who knew almost everyone there, tried not to eat up all the goodies. **** **Butch Herman** turned 84 Saturday. He and **Bertie's** son, **Brandal**, came in from Hawaii to be with his dad on his birthday. Also **Aaron Block**, from Orangefield, called from Hawaii. Daughter **Brenda** spent the day with her dad. **** Other special folks celebrating this week. **Jeff Anderson** and our writer **Von Broussard** are a year older. Happy birthday also to **Ryan Kimbrough**. **** **Patsy Peck** is taking reservations for a very special tour to Boston. **** **Russell** and **Mary Dillow**, after being gone from Orange County several years, are returning to go into business. **** We were sorry to hear about the death of **Mary Gray**, 91, on July 15. Services were Sunday, July 18. I remember **Mary** way back in the 1960s when she and **Iva Holts, Mrs. Morris** and **Mrs. Burgess** fished almost daily. Sometimes

their boat broke down and had to be retrieved from the bayous off of Sabine Lake. Sometimes planes had to locate them. **That was before cell phones.** **Mary** was married to **Marshall Gray** until his death. **** A few years ago **Nova Dee Strickland** had a burglary at her home. She suspected someone and told the folks at **Sheriff Mike White's** office but no arrest was made. Last week, the current sheriff's office called to say they had arrested the man she had fingered years ago. **That made her happy.** She didn't get her stuff back however. **** We visited with **Ray Cotton** and **Coleman Peveto** last week at the **Longhorn**. Those old cowboys are really looking forward to the rodeo and show this Saturday night, July 24. **Mark Chesnutt** will entertain in the **Longhorn Entertainment Complex** following the bull challenge. **** Local boy **Brandon Hodge**, a 1998 Little Cypress-Mauriceville grad, does well in the candy business. **USA Today** has named his place "**Big Top Candy Shop**" on Congress in Austin as the No. 1 candy store in the country. I'm told by folks who visited the store that **Chef Keens** cooks up the world's best chocolate in a large variety of ways. Friends say old classmates might not recognize **Brandon** with his long handlebar mustache. Monday night **Brandon's** candy shop was featured on the **Food Network's "Kid in the Candy Store"** series.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN 10 Years Ago-2010

Mary Owens Gray, 91, of Orange died Thursday, July 15. Funeral services were Sunday, July 18. **Mary** was a nurse and a member of First Baptist Church of Orange and the Dupont Retirees Group. **Mary** was preceded in death by her husband, **Marshall Gray**, and is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. **** **Kathy Williams Primm**, 58, of Orange died Saturday, July 17. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 20. **Kathy** worked as a registered nurse at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont. **Kathy** is survived by her husband, **Reginald Primm**; father, **Lewis H. "Willie" Williams**; stepmother, **Nadine Williams**; sons, **Rob Primm** and **Chad Primm**; grandchildren, **Morgan** and **Pepper Primm**, **Hannah** and **Drue Primm** and brother, **Bill Williams**. **** **Ruth M. Christian**, 84, passed away on Friday, July 16. Her great joy in life was owning and operating "**Ruth's Café**" for more than 45 years. She was well known for her big beautiful hats, which she loved to wear. She loved to go gambling. She is survived by her daughters, **Darlene Wilson**, **Betty "Tootsie" Hryhorchuk**; son, **Ellis "Tiger" Shoemaker**; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

40 Years Ago-1980

Staudt's Jewelry celebrates 43 years in business. For many years the store was in downtown Orange. **** **Prejean Brothers Tire** and **Wheel Center**, 1213 16th. St. – sells **Michelin** and **Dayton** tires. **** **Rev. W.E. Gamblin**, a minister for 50 years, is honored on his 68th birthday. The ceremony took place at **First United Pentecostal Church** on **Edgar Brown Drive**. He has been church pastor 18 years. For 55 years the church was at 801 Border St. A native of Mississippi, **Gamblin** founded the **First Pentecostal Church** in Jackson, MS., and served as its pastor. **Orange Mayor Major Inman** presented **Gamblin** with a proclamation. **** Rehearsals are underway for the musical "**Annie Get Your Gun**." Thanks to **Jeanne Wood**, Bridge City High drama coach, who hustled a group of her talented students to Orange for parts including **Beth McCurry**, **Laura Smith** and **Robert Freeman**. **** Happy birthday to **Richard Turkel**, who celebrated Saturday, July 19. **** **Essie Peveto** turns 70 on July 23. **** Happy birthdays also to **Jan Courlyo**, **Randy Arnaud**, **Lewis Gay** and **Nina Hardin**. Good folks to know in Bridge City; **Bill Townes**, **Bobby Smitherman**, **Kenny Dupuis**, **Edna Luginan**, **Bubba Hubbard**, **Dot Eshbach**, **Dick Bevins**, **Frank Boren**, **Ed Cone**, **Bill Goodwin** and **Larry Ward**. **** The **Avon Lady, Hallie Prejean**, was injured in an auto accident. She is in Orange Memorial Hospital. Among her injuries and what hurts most is her broken nose. **** **Gerland's Food Fair**, 2270 MacArthur Drive, has **Folger's Coffee**, pound can, \$2.69; **Michelob Beer**, 6 pack, \$1.88; **Chuck Roast**, \$1.18 pound. (Editor's note: **Do you remember that store?**) **** The **Bar-B-Que King** is at 1725 N. 16th St. *** **House of Vacs** is at 2013 Western Ave. **** **Bill's Discount Furniture** is at 301 Border St. *** **The Korner** is at 1980 Texas Ave. in Bridge City. *** **Morrow's Appliance** is located at 206 Border. *** **Meredith Tailors** is at 409 N. 3rd St. *** **Patton Power** located on Texas 87 in BC *** **Sportsman's Shop** is at 2500 MacArthur. (Editor's note: None exist today.) **** Salesmen at **Wickersham** are **Theo Huff**, **Paul Skinner**, **Ralf Mims**, **N.J. Lee**, **Bob LeGrone**, **Sunye Bramton**, **Steve Thurman** and **Leo LaBouve**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Wilson Roberts has had a long, colorful life in law enforcement. The first **Bridge City Police Chief** has also served as a chief in other towns. He has been a deputy sheriff, district attorney investigator, state fire marshal, etc. I recall when he and **Texas Ranger Winston Paggett** used my house boat in the largest drug bust in the state. At the time drugs were run from Cow Bayou to North Texas. **Piggott** once used **Wilson's** gun to kill a convict who held hostages for days trying to escape from a Huntsville penitentiary. It's was a big story. Through all those years **Wilson** has been in some tight spots but was never trapped until now. Last week his little truck stalled in a Bridge City car wash and he couldn't get it out. Bridge City police Chief **Paul Davis** came to his rescue. He sent a wrecker with a long cable to get the truck out and get it to **Roccaforte's Auto Shop**. They got the truck back on the road. That's how the first police chief was rescued from a car wash by former DPS major and present BC chief. **Wilson Roberts' badges** and history can be viewed at the **Bridge City Police Station**. **** A few folks we know celebrating their special day in the next few days. **July 15:** Some good folks sharing birthdays. A good guy, the youngest of the **Harmon boys**, **Tommy Harmon** celebrated. His brothers **Corky**, **Jackie** and **Don** are now gone. *** **Dee's** better half, **Mayor David's** older brother **Calvin Rutledge** celebrates. *** **Mayor Larry Spears, Jr.**, has a birthday. *** Also **David's** longtime wife, **Bill Stringer's** little beauty, **Peggy Claybar** celebrates. *** Pretty **Melissa Eshbach** and **Mark Grazzaffi** have birthdays. **** **July 16:** Retired school teacher **Carliss Reed Roy** celebrates today as does our buddy, longtime auto sales executive **Preston Fuller**. **** **July 17:** One of the toughest women I've ever known, **Edee Pratt**, celebrates today. Hope she is doing okay. We haven't heard from her in a long time. *** Also Happy Birthday to **Daniel Eaves**. **** **July 18:** Former city manager **Don Fields** celebrates today. **** **July 19:** Happy 79th birthday

to **James McCorvy**. *** Our buddy, one of the **Scales girls, Pam Honeycutt**, celebrates. *** **Dr. Turkel's** other half **Richard** celebrates as does **Robin Thibodeaux**. **** **July 20:** Celebrating on this day also are **Carrie Hunt** and **Rebecca Toal**. The first moon landing took place on this day in 1969. **** **July 21:** Happy Birthday to **Todd Hurst** and **Danika Duboise**. *** On this day in 2009 our friend **Cal Broussard** died. **** Thanks to **Bud** for picking us some more fresh figs. **Sue** and **Tommy Simar** dropped them off at the office. **** **Port Commissioner Carroll Holt** dropped off a jar of his own fig preserves. His own recipe is different but very good. **Carroll** has a hobby that no one else I know has. **He makes vanilla from the bean.** The product is pure. You can't buy pure extracted vanilla in the store. It says it is but read the ingredients, water is added. **One bean cost about \$5.** **** I got a great surprise last weekend thanks to **Renee Dillon**, who gave me a dozen fresh duck eggs. I love duck eggs but very seldom can get them. Thanks to **Evelyn Brandon** who helped make my gift possible. **** I had a nice visit with **Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte**. I was surprised to learn he is as **Cajun** as I am. His 94-year-old mother is full blooded **Cajun**. With the last name of **Landry**, she was raised in **Erath in Vermilion Parish**. She has good **Cajun** genes and gets along fine, better than younger folks. I would have bet \$100 **Roccaforte** was all **Italian**. **** **Elvis Presley's** grandson, **Benjamin Keough**, 27, died of self inflicted gunshot wounds last weekend. He was the son of **Lisa Marie Presley**, the only child of **Elvis and Pricilla Presley**. She is the mother of actress **Riley Keough** and 11-year-old twins. **** Judge allows **Mary Trump's** book to be released. The tell all book went on sale Tuesday. **Donald Trump's** niece reveals back stabbing, lifelong trauma. It's a playbook for the average soap opera episode. **Mary Trump** paints a portrait of a strange and irrevocable damaged family shaped by the **Trump** patriarch, **Fred Trump**, who ruled with an iron fist under a dark oppressive cloud of psychological and emotional abuse. "**Too Much and Never Enough**" is rife with toe-curling cruelty. When **Mary** was 29 she was hired briefly to write **Donald's** new book. That didn't last. The family apparently was not people of faith. The book is already a number one best seller.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A special belated birthday wish to **Robert Stevens** who celebrated **July 13**. **** Celebrating birthdays this week are **Melissa Darbonne**, **BJ Graham**, **Phil Dickman**, **Mary Dorsey**, **Deborah Ashcraft**, **Don Hightower**, **Cheryl Richard Cynthia Chataignier**, **Matthew McKinney**, **Marion Whittle**, **Dorothy Hagy**, **Amanda Stephson**, **Megan Stephson**, **Summer Stephson**, **Amiel Leleux**, **Joel Bourdier** and **Patricia Tamplin**.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

July 15: **Gabriel Iglesias** 44, Comedian; **Forest Whitaker** 59, Movie Actor; **Brigitte Nielsen** 57, Movie Actress; **July 16** **Will Ferrell** 52, Movie Actor; **Corey Feldman** 49, Movie Actor; **Barry Sanders** 52, Football Player; **July 17** **Luke Bryan** 44, Country Singer; **David Hasselhoff** 68, Actor; **Donald Sutherland** 84, Movie Actor; **Camilla Parker Bowles** 73, Duchess; **July 18** **Vin Diesel** 52, Movie Actor; **Kristen Bell** 39, TV Actress; **Wendy Williams** 56, TV Show Host; **July 19** **Tim Foust** 39, Country Singer; **Jon Jones** 32, MMA Fighter; **Benedict Cumberbatch** 44, Movie Actor; **Jared Padalecki** 38, TV Actor; **July 20** **Julianne Hough** 32, Dancer; **Sandra Oh** 49, TV Actor; **Carlos Santana** 73, Guitarist; **July 21** **Cat Stevens** 72, Folk Singer; **Juno Temple** 31, Movie Actress; **DeAndre Jordan** 32, Basketball Player.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Anna Mae Broudreux went to da dentist **Dr. Alex Dartez**. He notice dat she was looking very nervous her. **Dr. Dartez**, while putting on his gloves decided to tell her a little joke to relax her. He said, "**Mrs. Broudreux**, do you know how dey make these gloves, hanh?"

"No," she replied.

"Well, dere's a building in China wit a big tank of latex and workers of all hand sizes dip dere hands in da tank. Den dey let dem dry, peel off the gloves and trow dem into boxes of da right size."

Mrs. Broudreux her didn't crack a smile.

Doc him, said to hisself, "Oh well, I tried."

Bout five minutes later, during da dental procedure, she bust out laughing.

"**Wats so funny?**" **Doc Dartez** axe.

"Well, me I was just picturing how condoms are made."

C'EST TOUT COVID-19 ALIVE LOCALLY

Coronavirus is like a thief in the night, you can't see it or realize which direction it comes from. It looms around the corner and attacks the unexpected. Most every victim of the virus I spoke with had no idea where their attack came from. One thing I did learn is that the virus comes in different grades. When **Constable Brad Frye** and his wife, **Sandy**, both contacted the virus, **Sandy** had high fever and was very sick, while **Brad** had low-grade temperature. Both were tested with the nose swab. Results showed negative and then a different test proved what they already knew, they were sick. I believe their test results took around six days. **Brad** says he was already feeling better when results came back. His wife, like **Judge Gothia**, had bad headaches, **Brad** didn't. One thing **Constable Frye** cautioned about is that this illness is real and everyone should practice precautions. You can't be careful enough he says. I understand that **Judge Chris Jenkins** is in quarantine because his father has been ill with the virus. I am still convinced it is air-borne but could be on anything. Meanwhile, wear a mask, you may have it and not know it for several days and could be spreading it. **Wash hands often. Everyone touches their faces.** There is a lot more of the disease around here at home than anyone realizes. Some people won't get very sick just know they don't feel right, while others are far worse. If a person is old, with an immune system that is compromised, it could be fatal. **Younger people should really take caution about getting around elderly people.** I fear it will get worse before the turn-around. Go about your travels but just be very cautious and considerate of others. **If everyone plays be the rules it will go away.** That's been proven. Texas was persuaded to open too early for political reasons and it has proven very costly. The states that listened to the scientist have fared better than those who listened to the politicians and Washington leadership. **** **Follow the rules, take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Sam Khoury, 80, Orange

Samuel Joseph Khoury, Sr., 80, of Orange, passed away on July 11, 2020, in Beaumont. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 17, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Pastor Gerard Little of Emmanuel Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Autumn Oaks Memorial Park in Orange. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Born in Amarillo, Texas, on December 13, 1939, he was the son of Isaac Joseph Khoury and Iris Dené (Sanders) Khoury. Sam was a longtime member of Wesley United Methodist Church. He worked diligently as a Supervisor for American Bridge/United Steel for 27 years. Sam was a proud Veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was a dedicated Board Member at Shriners Orthopedic Hospital in Houston. He also volunteered to drive children to their appointments at the Burn Center in Houston. Sam was a Past President of Shriners Association of Texas, Past Potentate of El Mina Shriners, and Past Master of Orange's Madison Lodge 126, AF & AM and also a member of Tutonia Masonic Lodge No. 47. He was also the Past President of Orange Shrine Club. He was a member of the Kart Patrol, and the Oriental Band. He was also a member of Galveston Scottish Rite and an associate member of Lake Charles' Habibi Shriners. He was a member of Little Cypress Lions Club and the Jaycee's. He was a coach and umpire for Little League Football and Baseball. He served as Past President of American Bridge Bass Club. He was a member of the VFW, and American



Legion. Sam headed up the award-winning barbecue team '35th Degree'. Of all the amazing things Sam did and accomplished he considered being a devoted father and grandfather his greatest achievement. He was preceded in death by his parents, Isaac and Iris Khoury; wife, Jimmie Gaye (Williams) Khoury; son, Mike Dumatrait; sister, Rhema Khoury; and Jerry Foreman. He is survived by his children, Donna Lynn Bennett and husband Brent of Buxton, North Carolina, Samuel Joseph Khoury, Jr. and wife Cyndi of Orange, Charles Isaac "Ike" Khoury and wife Theresa of Canyon Lake, Christy Khoury of Orange, and John Mitchell Khoury of Bridge City; the love of his life & significant other for 31 years, Dayle Foreman; grandchildren, Brittany Khoury, Samuel Joseph "Joe" Khoury III and wife Lacey, Joshua Khoury, Cody Bollich and wife Kari, Kristen LaBorde and husband Corey, Jeremiah Khoury, Coree Dené Guerra, and Arlan Wade Khoury; great-grandchildren, Keaton, Jaydon, Kade, Preslie, Paxton, Pailyn, Riley, Hadley, Kylie, Emma and Ellie; and the children he considered his own, Deanna Lansdon, Terri Childs and husband Brad, Ciara Lansdon, Zachary Corbello, Abigail Noah, and Bailey Noah. Serving as pallbearers will be Riley Williamson, Zachary Corbello, Keaton Khoury, Arlan Khoury, Kade Bouillion, and Jayden Khoury. Honorary pallbearers are JC Jones, and Buddy Withrow. The family would like to extend a special thank you to his pastor Randy Branch for the constant and endearing support and love he showed to Sam without fail.

The Right Heart Can Forgive and Tolerate

PASTOR CHARLES EMPEY For The Record



Pastor Empey

John 3:16 " For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
Let's begin with the heart of God. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." That is the first Verse of the Bible. When He got done, He looked at it all and said, "It is good." He liked it. In all of His holiness He loved it. The crowning point of His creation, as it says in 1:26, was His making of man and woman, whom He made to mirror Him. It says they were made in His image. They are His reflection. He loved them and walked on the earth in that Garden of Eden with them, fellowshiping with them in holiness. But one day Lucifer, one of the three arch angels, who had taken a third of the angels and had launched an attack on God to dethrone Him, and was cast out and down with that one third of the angels, had entered the garden under a new title...Satan. He proceeded to tempt Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had told them to not eat. Satan convinced Eve to just take a bit and then she invited Adam to do so. This act of disobedience to God killed the fellowship between them and the holy God. Disobedience of God is sin and sin and God cannot fellowship, cannot exist in the same place. So, He cast Adam out and every child born to Adam and every child born to his children and on down to us today is born in sin. The nature of man and therein the heart (the soul) of man was slain in sin and is dead spiritually, separated in that death from God. Death passed upon all (Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3). So, as our last article stated, the heart of man was lost to God...dead to God.
Without a heart of God, a heart of righteousness and therein a heart of righteous

(pure and holy) love, man is not capable of loving and tolerating to the extent of staying in harmony. In this fact we can understand the myriads of broken relationships between people of every circumstance, including marriage and the failing love between parents and children and between neighbors and countries...just the broken human race we are and are displaying it daily in the news. We can understand the need of God ordained police forces, magistrates and armies to fight against evil...evil hearts.

Then we can understand why God needs His government of His brand of holy love established on earth. It begins by each person being established by faith in Jesus Christ by grace through faith in each person's heart. Then we see how Jesus brought together a number of believing hearts and established His first church and for the purpose it was established. It was to be a center of His love taught and practiced and the place from which his love was to be sent out into the world to win others to His love and gather them in to prepare to go back out and love others and call them in with them week after week on the first day of the week. Churches of the Lord Jesus Christ are the centers of love and Jesus said that "where two or three are gathered together, there I am also."

If we don't re-visit and build up again these centers of worship and love, God-love, where we learn to love one another, their is no hope for America. It is not filling the streets with violence that will unit us, it will only come through the love of Jesus Christ the Lord, God in the flesh (Emmanuel), and only the building up of current and the building of more churches, centers of God's love, will we win and prepare a people to love the world like God does. Only then will peace on earth come again.

Charles Empey is the Pastor of Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.

Orange Christian Services updated hours

The OCS building is still closed due to COVID19. They are continuing the emergency drive-thru food assistance each Thursday 10:00-2:00. Starting Thursday, July 16, from 10:00-2:00, they will have the covered, back-door area full of clothing (etc.) to give away. OCS is requiring that you wear a mask and only 3-4 people will be allowed in at a time, to follow recommended social distancing.

Thursday, July 16 baby, toddler, boys, girls, & teens: onesies, tops, shorts, slacks, dresses, underwear, sleepwear, shoes Thursday, July 23 Ladies XS-4X: tops, shorts and capris, underwear, belts, scarves, socks, shoe. Thursday, July 30 Men's S-5X: shirts, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, nomex, suit coats, stained clothing for work clothes. Orange Christian Services 2518 W. Park Ave., Orange.

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The Farmer's Wife ...

LOU HARRIS
For The Record

Hello Everyone,

I hope this week finds everyone well and blessed. In James 3:5 it reads, "The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts". If we watch what our tongues say, maybe we can learn to live together as brothers and sisters in Christ.



If the soil is heavy, add playground sand, composted manures or compost. Mix until the soil becomes loose. A good final mix ratio is 1-1-1, Clay, sand, or organic matter. Mix in an area 2 feet wide and 10-12 inches in depth for each rose plant. Add 2 cups of gypsum to this and mix in.



Roses Continued

Roses don't grow well when planted directly into soil that is heavy with clay. Add ammendments according to the following to correct the problems with soils.

RECIPES OF THE WEEK

Hershey Bar Cake

- 8 1oz. Hershey Bars
- 1 Sm can Hershey syrup
- 1 c butter
- 1 C sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/2 c flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 c buttermilk
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 1 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 10 in. Tube pan. Set aside. Melt Hershey bars and syrup in a small saucepan over

low heat. Cream butter and sugar, add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Stir together dry ingredients. Add alternately with milk and extracts. Mix well. Add chocolate to this mixture and mix well. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until set. Cool completely and frost.

Icing

- 4 Tbsp butter
- 3 c powdered sugar
- 1/2 c cocoa
- 1 tsp vanilla

Melt butter. Add chocolate, powdered sugar and vanilla. Cream together and spread on cake.

Macaroni Salad

- 1 c cooked macaroni
- 1/2 c Mayo
- 2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 3 Tbsp ripe olives, chopped
- 3 Tbsp sweet relish
- 1 Tbsp onion, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients well. Season to taste. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Thank you for taking the time to read my column and see you again here next week!

Save Money on Prescriptions if You Lost Coverage

Many Americans are feeling the effects of job loss and furloughs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For people with a chronic condition, loss of insurance coverage can create additional stress during this uncertain time. However, it's vitally important for them to stay adherent to their medication to maintain their health and to reduce their risk of complications from COVID-19.

Fortunately, there are ways that people can obtain their medications affordably and predictably even if they have lost coverage.

One program is called Express Scripts Parachute Rx, which offers deep discounts on prescription medications, capping costs at \$25 for a 30-day supply of generics, and \$75 for a 30-day supply of select brand-name medications for eligible customers.

Get discounted medications delivered to your home

To take advantage of the Express Scripts Parachute Rx program, visit www.express-scripts.com/parachuterx to view the list of available medications, eligibility requirements and restrictions.

Also, if you are an Express Scripts' plan member who is losing coverage, you can transition your prescriptions to Parachute Rx by contacting the number on the back of your prescription card.

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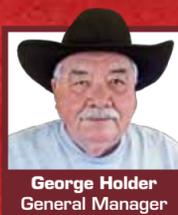
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Brushpile yields big surprise

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

It turned out to be a lengthy conversation in a parking lot that should have lasted no longer than five minutes. My hearing barely qualifies as functional at best and the chances of my understanding a single word diminishes even further when the message is spoken through a mask.

Don't get me wrong. While masks are both uncomfortable and inconvenient, I would put a bucket on my head if it helped prevent further spread of this virus. I have spoken with two clients, both men over sixty years of age that are hopefully recovering without hospital stays.

They are still quarantined, have at least temporarily lost their sense of taste and smell and one of them has been diagnosed with permanent lung damage. These are two physically tough individuals and that fact alone makes you feel even more vulnerable.

Now....back to my unsolicited conversation on a very hot morning. Gerald Bergeron had approached me waving his phone in the air as I was unlocking the truck. "Mr. Colburn, I have some pictures I want to show you and tell you what happened to me last Wednesday night."

At least I think that is what he said after having to repeat himself three times. It took us a while and attracted two more interested shoppers, but his story and pictures were well worth their stop. I never touched his phone as he scrolled through several terrible pictures, but it was still easy enough to determine that the star of each picture was a very large bass. How about 11-pounds 4-ounces!

When the wind threatened to abort another night trip, he and his neighbor decided to fish a short semi-protected stretch of shoreline in Diamond Cove on Toledo Bend. Aside from the docks, the only other structure they could find was a small brush pile in twenty-two feet of water.

After two to three hundred casts with an eleven inch power worm, Bergeron said he finally detected what might be a light strike. "By the time I reeled down for a better feel, my worm was already hung up."

When Bergeron grabbed his rod in the middle to try and free the worm, it pulled back. "I couldn't believe it, but there was no doubt that something was swimming off with my bait." Bergeron said he thought the tug of war lasted over an hour, but his neighbor said it was closer to two minutes!

When all was said and done they slid the net under two feet of willow limb and a monstrous bass. "I thought it weighed twenty pounds," said Bergeron, "and I have always said that I would never keep a bass over ten pounds."

They immediately raced back to the camp to weigh the fish

COLBURN Page 2B

Redfish heat up with the weather



Chuck Uzzle
CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE
OUTDOORS
For The Record

It's a familiar scene that is played out all along the gulf coast from Texas to Florida, anglers armed with light tackle weapons probe the shallow shorelines for the bullies of the marsh. The whole encounter is a sensory overload from the get go, it is always visually stimulating to see cruising redfish roam the banks and wreak havoc like only they can. Your ears are often treated to the sounds of vicious strikes as these heavyweights flex their muscles on mullet or crabs with equal zest. Yes, it is a moment like no other as the gap between angler and fish is narrowed in an effort to escalate one of fishing's best confrontations.

The whole event can take place in a matter of seconds or it may take several minutes to gain the proper advantage needed to make a well placed cast. The still days that are so prevalent during the summer months offer up some of the best opportunities for Sabine lake fishermen to sight fish for redfish. Sight fishing refers to the art of actually seeing the fish before a cast is made instead of just fan casting or blind casting in hopes that a fish will find you instead. The off colored water that



Brad Hankins shows off a quality summer time redfish. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

we are so accustomed to here on Sabine lake usually clears up in the summer months enough to actually practice this method of fishing. When water clarity is an issue anglers usually target the familiar "V"

shaped wakes associated with cruising reds, by casting just ahead of these wakes an angler can put themselves in position for one of the best shows on the water as their lure of choice is demolished in a flash of

red. Anglers can take redfish in a variety of ways with many different lures, spoons or topwaters are high on the list for conventional anglers

UZZLE Page 3B



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 <p style="color: red;">2016 Ford F-150 XL SuperCrew Cab 6</p> <p style="font-size: small;">2.7L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans., EPA-Est MPG: 18/25, Exterior Color: Blue Flame Metallic, Interior Color: Medium Earth Gray, Mileage: 33351 VIN: 1FTEW1CP0GKE69784 Stock #: P2184A</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$26,025</p>	 <p style="color: red;">2017 Ford Explorer XLT SUV 6</p> <p style="font-size: small;">3.5L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans., EPA-Est MPG6: 17/24, Exterior Color: Blue, Interior Color: Medium Light Camel, Mileage: 54339 VIN: 1FM5K7D8XHGC76354 Stock #: 7875A</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$21,318</p>	 <p style="color: red;">2017 Ford Taurus SEL Sedan 6</p> <p style="font-size: small;">3.5L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans., EPA-Est MPG: 18/27, Exterior Color: Blue Interior Color: Dune, Mileage: 34827 VIN: 1FAHP2E80HG135111 Stock #: P2227</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$15,793</p>	 <p style="color: red;">2015 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ SUV 6</p> <p style="font-size: small;">3.6L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans., EPA-Est MPG6: 17/24, Exterior Color: Tungsten Metallic Interior Color: Jet Black, Mileage: 47021, VIN: 2GNFLDE31F6439369, Stock No. P2215</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$15,385</p>

Minor League's 2020 season cancelled due to Covid-19

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record



JOE KAZMAR

Another one bites the dust!! Last week the brain trust of professional baseball announced there will be no 2020 minor league baseball season due to the coronavirus.

This hit close to home for me because more than a half century ago, I was playing minor league baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization.

Back then, very few minor leaguers were in it for the money, because most of them were corralled less than a thousand dollars a month.

And the minor league baseball season lasted only five months, so a player either had to find some kind of winter job or else go back to college for the fall semester.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to the Winter Instructional League at the Cubs' spring training facility in Mesa, AZ. at the end of my first season in the minors which was split between Middlesboro, Ky. in the Appalachian (Rookie) League and Pocatello, Idaho of the Pioneer League.

The paycheck for the Instructional League was in the form of an expense check which amounted to a little less than a minor league salary.

Today's minor leaguers average about three times more than in the 1960's, but with

no season this summer, it will force many of them to get a "real" job and perhaps end their professional baseball careers. This was the first time since 1901 that there wasn't a minor league season.

Pat O'Conner, Minor League Baseball's president and chief executive, optimistically commented after announcing the news of no 2020 season, "While this is a real sad day for many, this announcement removes the uncertainty surrounding the 2020 season and allows our teams to begin planning for an exciting 2021 season."

Unlike franchises in the majors, minor league teams rely heavily on revenue from people in the stands—tickets, beer and hot dog sales and sponsorships tied to attendance, according to an article appearing in the Houston Chronicle last week.

O'Conner estimated that 85-90 percent of revenue was related to ticket money, concessions, parking and ballpark advertising. The minors drew 41.5 million fans last year for 176 teams in 15 leagues, averaging 4,044 fans per game.

Minor league teams earn an average of \$70,000 in gross revenue per home game and \$5.4 million per year. Most of the money goes

to operating expenses, including paying employees (each team averages 21 full-timers and 200 seasonal workers). MLB teams have paid for and provided the minor league players and coaches.

In addition, the Professional Baseball Agreement between the majors and minors expires Sept. 30 and MLB has proposed to reduce the minimum affiliates from 160 to 120 in a cost-saving measure.

Because the minors do not have widespread TV or streaming deals, it would not be feasible for minor league baseball to play games in empty stadiums as MLB plans to do. Also, Minor League Baseball plays in smaller towns across the country and would have to negotiate many more state and local reopening guidelines, the article added.

Without a season, several minor league owners fear some teams would fold permanently because they could not go 18 months without revenue, giving MLB the minor league contraction it has sought.

O'Conner said that more than half of the minor league team owners could either be forced to sell their teams or go insolvent without outside financial help.

And many of the 8,000 minor leaguers—those who are not part of their affiliated MLB team's 60-man player pool for the 2020 season—

will miss an entire year of their careers.

Fortunately, most major league teams committed to paying their minor league players—many of whom earn less than \$15,000 per season—\$400 per week a week beyond June 30, which is right now.

KWICKIES...

Three Washington Redskins' minority owners (40 per cent) are wanting to sell the franchise because they are not happy with team owner Dan Snyder and his view on getting rid of the Redskins mascot.

Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona believes the team should drop their Indians mascot because "it's not good enough to say we're not trying to be disrespectful."

Japan plans to allow fans to watch professional baseball and soccer games beginning on Friday.

Bryson DeChambeau birdied four of the first seven holes in Sunday's final round of the PGA Tour Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit to win the event by three strokes over 21-year-old Matthew Wolff, who went into the final round with a three-stroke lead but hurt his chances with five bogeys on the first 10 holes. DeChambeau's win earned him a \$1.35 million winner's check.

Lone Star Park canceled eight of its nine scheduled horse races last weekend because of coronavirus concerns. The announcement was made about 45 minutes after the first race was completed.

Boise State announced last week that it is discontinuing its baseball program after

the school was forced to cut short its first season in 40 years with only a few games played this spring. The school also has cut women's swimming and diving because of budget constraints and should reduce the overall budget by nearly \$3 million.

JUST BETWEEN US...

Question—What do the Houston Astros and Texas A&M Aggies have in common? **Answer**—They both got caught cheating.

Question—What's the difference between the two teams?

Answer—The Astros were World Champions in their cheating year while the Aggies merely won a few Southeastern Conference football games in theirs.

Colburn From Page 1B

and get her back in the water. "I sure wasn't disappointed that she weighed eleven pounds and since she was already struggling in the livewell Larry quickly snapped these photos and I put her back in the lake."

Less than a minute later they saw her lying on her side on the surface. "She would go under, but couldn't stay down. I don't know what we did wrong, but she didn't make it," said Bergeron. "She will go on the wall in the store."

Brush piles have completely changed crappie fishing, but they also make good hideouts for quality bass.

Most of them are anchored in eighteen to twenty-six feet of water and many of them are near extended points that run well off the shoreline.

These deeper ambush points are also attractive to overweight bass looking for not only an easy meal, but cooler water across a very hot summer. They also yield far less hang-ups as the willow or bamboo branches are upright and easier to fish through.

Jason Mere recently told me that he started fishing this program when the hydrilla disappeared and he had a very good tip for any-

one that may want to give the brush piles a try.

"Rather than making a lot of casts with a Carolina rig or conventional Texas rig, I find it much easier to pick a pile apart pegging my slip sinker against the hook and vertically fishing every hole in the pile." Mere also added that you need to locate several piles as he seldom catches more than two or three bass off a single pile....more especially when they are big fish.

He also added with a smile, "A mask isn't necessary when fishing alone at night in the middle of the lake!"

Free Covid-19 Testing

Mobile testing will take place in your community on Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 16 at the Orange County Convention & Expo Center. You will be screened if you have fever/chills, cough, fatigue, body aches, muscle or joint pain,

shortness of breath, sore throat, headaches, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, nasal congestion or loss of taste or smell. The Expo Center is located at 11475 FM 1442 in Orange and testing will take place from 8 am to 4 pm.

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'Pineywoods' biologist named to head Texas Parks and Wildlife

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN — Clayton Wolf, a 27-year veteran of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), has been named Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Wolf, previously the Wildlife Division Director, joined TPWD as a wildlife biologist in 1993.

"What attracted me to this position is the appreciation that I have for all of my TPWD colleagues and the critically important work they do on a daily basis to conserve the natural resources of Texas. I've had an appreciation for the wild things and wild places of Texas ever since I was a kid, and that appreciation has grown significantly throughout my career," said Wolf. "It has become very apparent to me through the years that



Clayton Wolf, a 27-year veteran of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, has been named Chief Operating Officer.

every employee at TPWD has a role in delivering our mission, and if we are to continue to do this effectively, we must connect all Texans

with nature in some form or fashion."

As COO, Wolf will work within the Executive Office, acting as a liaison between

the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and TPWD staff in accordance with established policies and will be responsible for the overall operation of TPWD.

"Having been with TPWD for many years, I'm confident that we can utilize the many success stories within the agency as models to make TPWD even more effective and efficient in delivering our mission," said Wolf. "Externally, our work must be relevant to all Texans, whether they enjoy wildlife as hunters, anglers, hikers, campers, or they simply enjoy watching wildlife in their backyards and local communities. There's so much opportunity for the agency to reach out to more citizens and show them what their state's natural resources have to offer."

Wolf is a native Texan. He grew up in Rockdale, but his

lifelong love and appreciation of the Texas outdoors was cultivated on family land in Lee County that his great-grandparents settled after immigrating from Germany in the late 1800s. Wolf attended Stephen F. Austin University for his bachelor's

degree and Texas A&M University for his master's degree. Prior to beginning his career with TPWD, Wolf worked as a private sector wildlife biologist in the Pineywoods of Southeast Texas.

Commercial Gulf Shrimp Season Opens Wednesday, July 15

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN- The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for both state and federal waters will reopen 30 minutes after sunset on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The opening date is based on an evaluation of the biological, social and economic impact to maximize the benefits to the industry and the public.

In making its determination, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division used the best available data from samples col-

lected during routine trawls and bag seines in June.

The Gulf season was closed in mid-May to protect brown shrimp until they can reach larger, more valuable sizes during their major period of emigration from the bays to the Gulf of Mexico. The closure also helped to prevent the waste caused by the discarding of smaller individual shrimp.

Federal waters (from 9 to 200 nautical miles offshore) will open at the same time that state waters will open. The National Marine Fisheries Service chose to adopt rules compatible with those adopted by Texas.

Uzzle From Page 1

while other folks like to offer up a shad or finger mullet on a split shot rig. Perhaps the most exciting way to tangle with these broad shouldered fish is to cast a popping fly or crab imitation and hang on. Flyfishing for redfish is an adrenaline producing rush like you may have never experienced, more often than not once a redfish is hooked most anglers don't know who has who as their line keeps leaving off the reel at break-neck speed. The sheer power of the fish can really be appreciated with fly gear, the whole experience is magnified to the point where it becomes an addiction of sorts.

Now contrary to what you may think about fly tackle, you are not totally handicapped by using the long rod. The fly tackle does limit you in some areas but it also allows you an advantage in some areas as well. When stalking these redfish you may make an errant cast

with a conventional baitcaster which means you must reel all the line back and try again while the fish keeps moving or just plain drops out of sight. The same errant cast with a flyrod can be picked up and cast again in a fraction of the time it takes to do the same with a baitcaster or spinning reel, translation is more shots at the same fish which puts the odds in your favor from time to time.

Chasing these fish with either style of gear has become a summer pattern that plenty of anglers including myself look forward to with great anticipation. Either near the banks looking for one red at a time or out on the smooth open water of the lake looking for a school of 50 or so. Keep your eyes open and listen carefully because in the coming weeks anglers on Sabine lake will be in store for great fishing courtesy of the marvelous redfish.

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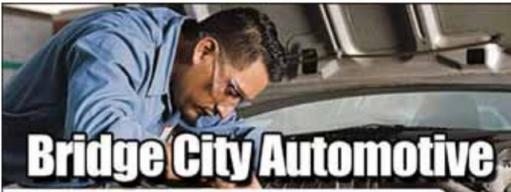
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Texas White-tailed Deer Hunters Can Look To Favorable Season

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – Well distributed and timely precipitation across much of Texas in the spring, along with positive long-term growth among the state's white-tailed deer population, has set the stage for a favorable 2020-21 hunting season.

Spring rains allowed many regions of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau and areas west to recover from last year's very dry fall and winter, leading to an abundance of quality forbs and shrubs, both of which are critical for deer nutrition. These conditions have lent to a good start to antler growth and positive outlook for fawn recruitment numbers.

"With any luck we'll receive another rain or two in July solidifying the good conditions and setting the stage for another favorable hunting season," said Alan Cain, White-tailed Deer Program Leader at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

TPWD biologists estimate that the state's deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres. However, that density is not uniform across the state and those areas with better habitat tend to support higher deer populations. TPWD data suggests that the hunter success rate in 2019 was estimated to be 60% and similar trends can be expected for the 2020-21 season. The Edward's Plateau and the Cross Timbers regions of Texas are forecast to have the highest deer populations.

"From a statewide perspective, hunters might expect to see a higher proportion of bucks in the 6.5 to 8.5-year age classes as a result of above average fawn crop in previous correspond-



TPWD biologists estimate that the state's deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres. PHOTO: Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

ing years while other age classes reflect a more even distribution," Cain said. "While doe harvest has been down slightly in the last couple of years, which is likely contributing to a widening ratio of does to bucks, the good news for hunters is that there should be plenty of carry-over from previous years."

Hunters looking for a place to hunt or a change of scenery this fall are encouraged to apply for one of TPWD's many drawn public hunt opportunities.

TPWD wants to remind hunters that mandatory harvest reporting is required when taking an antlerless deer during archery, youth-only, muzzleloader or the 4-day doe days during general season in the following counties: Austin, Bastrop,

Caldwell, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Waller, Washington and Wilson. Counties also included are Goliad, Jackson, Victoria and Wharton counties north of U.S. Highway 59 and Comal, Hays and Travis east of IH-35. Harvests must be reported within 24 hours of taking an animal via the free My Hunt Harvest app. Public land hunters can also use the My Hunt Harvest app to complete their on-site registration electronically.

All season dates by animal, along with regulations, harvest means and methods and more, can be found online in the Outdoor Annual.

The 2020-21 Outdoor Annual will only be available digitally for the upcoming hunting and fishing season.

Hunters will have the ability to print copies of relevant portions of the Outdoor Annual before heading to the field. Hunters can also download the free Outdoor Annual mobile app on iOS and Android.

White-tailed deer and Mule Deer are Chronic Wasting Disease-susceptible animals. As such, prior to hitting the field, TPWD asks that hunters review CWD information to find area testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions in CWD Containment and Surveillance Zones.

New for the 2020-21 season, a CWD zone has been established in Kimble County. Additional information about CWD can be found on the TPWD website.

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Multi-family Garage Sale on Sat., July 18th 7am-12pm at 205 Blueberry St. in BC. Decor, clothes, toys, crafts, home items and much more.

Multi-family Garage Sale this Sat., July 18th from 7 am to noon at 160 Shadowdale in Bridge City. Laptop, kindle fire, gaming chair, gym

GARAGE SALE

mat, 4-Wheeler, microwave, Vera Bradley, UGG boots, AG dolls, gun cases, home decor, clothes and misc.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **HAROLD W. GUNTER**, Deceased, were issued on the 14th day of **JULY, 2020**, in Cause No. **P18776**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **IVA GUNTER PEASLEY**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Iva Gunter Peasley
1541 Huntsman
Orange, TX 77632

DATED the 14th day of July, 2020.

Rex Peveto
Rex Peveto
Attorney for:
Iva Gunter Peasley
State Bar No.: 00791437
118 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0220
Fax: (409)883-0259
Email: liz@pevetolawfirm.com

DATED the 14th day of July, 2020.

Rex Peveto
Rex Peveto
Attorney for:
Iva Gunter Peasley
State Bar No.: 00791437
118 Border Street
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **BRENDA L. PATNAUDE**, Deceased, were issued on the 8th day of **JULY, 2020**, in Cause No. **P18761**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **TERI LYNN RIDLEY**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Teri Lynn Ridley
10925 County Road
Bon Weir, TX 75928

DATED the 14th day of July, 2020.

Rex Peveto
Rex Peveto
Attorney for:
Teri Lynn Ridley
State Bar No.: 00791437
118 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0220
Fax: (409)883-0259
Email: liz@pevetolawfirm.com

DATED the 14th day of July, 2020.

Rex Peveto
Rex Peveto
Attorney for:
Teri Lynn Ridley
State Bar No.: 00791437
118 Border Street
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROBERT EARL HOLLIER**, Deceased, were issued on the JUNE 30, 2020, in Cause No. **P18758**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **AMELIA V. HOLLIER**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Tommy Gunn
Attorney at Law
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 30th day of June, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Amelia V. Hollier
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunn-law.org

Dated the 30th day of June, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Amelia V. Hollier
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CHARLES DEAN GRANGER**, Deceased, were issued on the JULY 7, 2020, in Cause No. **P18773**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **KIMBERLEY ANN GRANGER**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Tommy Gunn
Attorney at Law
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 7th day of July, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Kimberley Ann Granger
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunn-law.org

Dated the 7th day of July, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Kimberley Ann Granger
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **EDITH LOUISE RISHER**, Deceased, were issued on the JUNE 9, 2020, in Cause No. **P18744**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Jerry V. Pennington**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Jerry V. Pennington
Attorney at Law
State Bar No.: 15759000
108 N. Seventh Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 13th day of July, 2020.

Jerry V. Pennington

Jerry V. Pennington
Attorney for:
Edith Louise Risher
State Bar No.: 15759000
108 N. Seventh Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)886-0575
Email: penningtonlawoffice74@gmail.com

Dated the 13th day of July, 2020.

Jerry V. Pennington

Jerry V. Pennington
Attorney for:
Edith Louise Risher
State Bar No.: 15759000
108 N. Seventh Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)886-0575
Email: penningtonlawoffice74@gmail.com

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **IRA LEE ZERKO**, Deceased, were issued on JUNE 30, 2020, in Cause No. **P18623**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Margaret Ann Shafer George**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Cimron Campbell
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 6th day of July, 2020.

Cimron Campbell
Cimron Campbell
Attorney for Executrix
State Bar No.: 03696000
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 6th day of July, 2020.

Cimron Campbell
Cimron Campbell
Attorney for Executrix
State Bar No.: 03696000
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

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THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Crystal Lynne Lewis, Respondent,

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of **Riki Hunnicutt**, Petitioners, was filed in the County Court at Law #2 of Orange County, Texas on July 10, 2020, against **Crystal Lynne Lewis**, numbered 200420-D and entitled **In the Interest of Macalynne Nikole Steele A Child**. The suit requests ORIGINAL PETITION FOR TERMINATION AND ADOPTION OF CHILD.

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

MACALYNN NIKOLE STEELE Sept. 26, 2008 Beaumont, Texas

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this JULY 14, 2020.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas

Vickie Edgerly

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ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

You're Not Alone in the Cave

Mark Meynell
Writer
desiringGod.org

It's been hard to avoid hyperbole when talking about the COVID-19 crisis. Unprecedented! World-changing! Life won't be the same again! We've heard it all and will continue to hear it. It's estimated that around half the world's population experienced virus-provoked restrictions of one sort or another. In addition to the fears and griefs directly caused by the disease, the lockdowns and quarantines brought genuine hardship, whether from enforced separation (from needed friends, for example) or enforced proximity (as in cases of domestic abuse).

This really has been new. Not because pandemics are new. Indeed, the carnage from the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic dwarfs the COVID-19 crisis. The game changer has been the technology that brings everything to within a few bytes' reach. We now are globally aware like never before. And yet, that only dented the pains of isolation for so many. It is that sense of isolation that is unnervingly familiar to those with mental illness.

If the lockdown has been something you personally found difficult, then one possible redeeming feature could be greater sympathy. One psychologist observes how the global lockdown immersed millions into some of the daily realities of the physically disabled, with the hope for greater understanding to result. And to the physically disabled, we might also add those wrestling with mental illness.

Deeper Than 'Depression'

It started as a way of finding my own words, on the advice of a psychologist, and was definitely not intended for publication. But in the end, that's what happened: it evolved into a book on doing ministry while managing depression. Bizarrely (for I only discovered this fairly recently), it seems that I best process life and what I'm actually thinking on paper (or screens).

But what do you do if there are

no words? Words have been my thing for years, as one who loves literature and who preaches and trains preachers. But since my PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) diagnosis in 2005 (on our return to London from a few years' teaching in a small Ugandan seminary), as well as being on medication ever since, the most terrifying aspect was the inability to articulate what was happening. This was acutely isolating. Especially from those closest to me.

Words that were commonly associated with depression (including that useless and deceptive catch-all term itself) felt far too limp or puny. "Oh, if that's all it is, then just have an early night! Or take a few days off? You'll be fine in a blink!" Those thoughtless "solutions" echoed round my mind. Or even worse, the platitudes from the well-meaning and know-it-all friends. "The Lord will be with you in it all. Pray and you'll feel great again in the morning. Or don't you trust his promises?"

Isolated in the Cave

The Lord has been with me in this, of course. But the conviction has been shaken and battered, especially in those darker hours, or rather, months. It's something to cling onto despite every experience in the cave that screams the sheer absurdity of doing so. Talk about learning the hard way how to live by faith, not sight (or any other sense, for that matter).

And he is a God of surprises. For my most important cavebook was not Christian at all, and yet I have little doubt he led me there. William Styron's *Darkness Visible* gave me the breakthrough. For here was a words guy (at a far higher plane than I could even aspire to) who articulated the inarticulable. Winner of the Pulitzer and France's *Légion d'Honneur*, Styron was nevertheless immobilized by depression late in life, moving him terrifyingly close to suicide. The insight that came as a lightning bolt was his recognition of the need for metaphor. Almost immediately after drinking in the

book (in just one afternoon, as sparkling water to a desiccated soul), I latched onto the cave metaphor. I wrote this to describe why it struck home:

Caves are more mysterious, dank, and intimidating in their organic gloom. They seem to extend endlessly into some vast labyrinth. No wonder they are a setting for nightmares and horror stories. But there's a deeper reason for the usefulness of the imagery. Caves can function as vast echo chambers. Once trapped inside, the only voice we can hear clearly is our own. (When Darkness Seems My Closest Friend, 41)

Accompanied in the Cave

Once I started ruminating on his and other metaphors, I was struck by something so obvious and yet previously invisible to me. The Bible is full of them! In fact, some are almost identical to those I most identified with, especially in the Psalms: feeling feeble and utterly crushed (Psalm 38:5-8), the sense of sinking and drowning (Psalm 42:7), the inability to think of anything except escape from fears and the constant dread (Psalm 55:4-8).

Most daringly, the Psalter contains in Psalm 88 a cry of near-despair and loneliness unlike anything else in all Scripture (and, I suspect, unlike any other religion's sacred texts). God allowed this to be there. How else could it have been included? No one who serves up their religion bright, neat, and formulaic could ever have tolerated such apparent blasphemy. Could it possibly be that the very God I so often despaired of in my cave had actually provided a liturgy for despair to enable us to vocalize precisely that to him in prayer? Psalm 88 is, in a way, an expression or enactment of that desperate father's wonderfully paradoxical plea to the Lord Jesus: "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

I think it's fair to say that the presence of Psalm 88 in the Bible was a key factor in my reviving confidence that God had not socially distanced himself from me or his broken world. That and

the psychological turmoil that Jesus's mission caused him, culminating in Gethsemane. Now, I'm certainly not equating my illness (for it certainly is an illness, rather than necessarily some lack of faith) with the horrors he endured. Far from it. But it did mean that having suffered infinitely worse, he knew my suffering. Intimately. Our high priest can truly sympathize with our weaknesses, our temptations, our suffering (Hebrews 4:15). Even more, none of that puts him off or scares him away. He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters (Hebrews 2:11). That meant the world to me. I was not alone. We are not alone. You are not alone.

Companions in Suffering

But what about other people? What about groups, church meetings, conferences, and the rest of it? That's an entirely different matter. They can sometimes be ridiculously tricky. The last decade and a half have certainly had their challenges, not least because of working in a large central London church and now a ministry that gathers groups large and small for training. Times when people mill around for coffee and small talk are the worst! They have the perverse effect of deepening the sense of isolation.

Post-lockdown, to get out and about, to see wider family, to spend unhurried time with trusted friends, I for one have craved these simple pleasures — such stuff as dreams are made on! But groups, small or large, are not the same as that at all. For the thing that those with battles in the mind crave more than anything — though, of course, I speak mainly for myself here — is companionship. We need friends who understand, who come alongside, who offer a hand up or an arm round the shoulder. Not fixers or analysts, not would-be therapists trialing their latest pop-psychobabble theories, not trite theologues — and certainly not those whose spiritual insecurities are such that they need other believers, and especially pastors, to always

be spiritually "sorted" and robust.

But the wonderful thing is that these people exist. They exist in books, and I have found "friendships" in poets and authors long past, both Christian and non-Christian. I have found companionship with fellow sufferers and non-sufferers alike, for the simple reason that they have sacrificially taken the step to listen and accompany (even in the face of their own incomprehension). And I have found them in the Scriptures: in particular Moses, Elijah, King David, other psalmists, Jeremiah, the apostle Paul, and even the Lord Jesus himself. We truly are not alone. We are not like Elijah who, in the pit of his exhaustion, felt he was the only one left (1 Kings 19:10).

Thanks to technology, it was

possible, more than ever before, to be physically distanced in the weirdness of the quarantine season without being socially distanced. But thanks to our gracious God, we can know that in Christ we are not and never will be spiritually distanced. The Lord Jesus is the greatest friend because he truly sticks closer than any brother possibly could (Proverbs 18:24).

Mark Meynell is director (*Europe & Caribbean*) for *Langham Preaching* (a program of *Langham Partnership*). With his wife, Rachel, and family, he formerly served in churches throughout the UK and at a small seminary in Kampala, Uganda. He has written a number of books and blogs at markmeynell.net.

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