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County Record

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Week of Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Proposed 2021 county budget avoids rate hike

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The citizens talked and County Judge John Gothia listened.

The proposed budget he submitted during Tuesday afternoon's required public budget hearing was based, he said, on no raise in the tax rate.

"Based on the public hearing, we had no support for those proposed projects," he said of several million dollars of drainage improvements and upgrades for county road and election equipment he proposed, "so we did not use the .587 rate we had proposed.

"We can keep our rate at .542, if we take a little out of our reserve balance."

On Aug. 18, seven of eight speakers at the tax rate hearing strongly opposed the proposed tax rate increase of 4.5 cents per \$100 value that



Gothia

And they all said it was because of the hit to the local economy caused by COVID-19's required business shutdowns and resultant layoffs.

That was before Hurricane Laura sent trees and rooftops flying Aug. 27.

The actual tax rate hike proposed by the court back on Aug. 4 was a raise from .542, or 54.2 cents per \$100 – a rate that the county has used since 2017 – to .587 cents per \$100.

But Gothia said instead of shopping from the county's wish list, it would draw on some of what he said was a \$14 million reserve fund.

"When Commissioner

Trahan and I arrived on Commissioners' Court in 2017, the county had \$356,000 in reserve. Now we expect to have a fund balance of \$13 million at the end of next year.

"We've finally made it to

that number that you're supposed to have in reserve in case of emergencies, so we're in pretty good shape."

The final budget and tax rate will be voted on at the meeting of Commissioners' Court on Sept. 22.

They were expected to be voted on Tuesday, based on a pre-hurricane timetable. As it was, the copies prepared by Gothia and County Auditor Pennee Schmitt were hot off the copier when passed out to commissioners as Tues-

day's 1 p.m. budget hearing opened.

The 2021 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The budget presented Tuesday projects 2021 reve-

COUNTY BUDGET Page 3A

Laura damages delay school restart to Sept. 14

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Little Cypress-Mauriceville and West Orange-Cove announced Friday evening that their primary and secondary schools will not be able to hold class for at least another week because of damage done by Hurricane Laura.

Barring discovery of further problems, Monday, Sept. 14 should see all area schools returning to the mission of education as much as is possible under the still-with-us COVID-19 pandemic, which first affected area schools in mid-March.

Bridge City public schools and Lamar State College Orange had set Sept. 14 as their restart date earlier in the past week, after schools closed Monday, Aug. 25, in light of a countywide evacuation order.

Orangefield ISD is planning to restart Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Many have credited the early evacuation orders with the absence of any direct storm deaths in Orange County, but Hurricane Laura left a trail of destruction that will test once again the resiliency of Southeast Texans.

The hurricane made landfall 15 miles east of Orange in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, as a Category 4 storm and lashed Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes with winds of up to 150 miles per hour.

Gusts in Orange County were clocked as high as 100 mph and ripped the roofs off

homes and buildings, especially metal roofs and awnings, and pushed down power poles and trees that crashed onto power lines and then pulled down the poles. Much of the county was without electricity for a week.

Hurricane Laura struck Orange County after five months of ever-changing class schedules altered by the COVID-19 pandemic and made an already uncertain situation even more tricky for students, parents, teachers and school administrators.

"LCM has significant damage from the storm," said Sherry Combs, that district's community relations coordinator. "We lost the Transportation building and had damage to multiple buses that we are in the process of repairing. We will not be allowed to use these buses until the repairs are completed.

"We are also in the process of relocating Transportation at this time since the building took a very hard hit."

Among buildings damaged in the district were LCM High School, Little Cypress Elementary and the district's Vocational-Technology Building.

"The roofs are in the process of being patched until permanent repairs can be made," Combs said. "We had water intrusion from the damaged roofs. Serve Pro is in the buildings cutting Sheetrock and drying out the impacted areas."

SCHOOL RESTARTS Page 3A

A-1 Peterson Plumbing receives BBB 'Torch Award'



A-1 Peterson Plumbing of Orange has been named a recipient of the Better Business Bureau 2020 Torch Award for small business. The local business has been serving Orange County for over 50 years. "It is an honor to our family and to the legacy of our founders to be recognized for ethics in business by the BBB," said Donna Peterson, owner of A-1 Peterson and Plumbing. "For 52 Years, our goal has been to treat our employees like family and our customers like friends. In that way, quality of service and success in business are linked so that everyone wins!" Making the presentation of the Torch Award to Donna Peterson is Liz Fredrichs of the Better Business Bureau and Kimberly Rusley with Fox4. Also seen are Bill Peterson, Richard Peterson and Donna Peterson Jr.

RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn

Pandemic tough, LSCO prepares new nurses

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

"Why not?" is the answer Cord Tucker gives when asked why he wanted to become a nurse.

It's representative of the Lamar State College Orange nursing students of 2020, a year that will be forever remembered by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic that has confounded scientists and shut down economies across the globe.

It also emphasized the constant need for more and more nurses on the front line in the healthcare community.

"In my opinion," continues Tucker, a third-generation nurse, "nursing is one of the most rewarding jobs out there."

A Buna resident, Tucker is one of more than a hundred healthcare students at LSCO.

More than 50 graduated in August from the vocational nursing program, having completed the educational



Lamar State College nursing grads Jessica Dumas, seated from left, Victoria Leach and Cord Tucker visit with Leah Anne McGee, Associate Dean of Nursing recently in the lobby of the school's nursing classroom building.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

requirements to become an LVN, licensed vocational nurse.

LSCO also offers an RN transition program for LVNs who want to upgrade their

credentials. Additionally, the downtown Orange campus offers certification as emergency medical technicians (EMT), pharmacy technicians and dental assistants.

After wrapping up course requirements, the grads must pass national licensing board exams to earn the ini-

LSCO Page 3A



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Congressional subcommittees will investigate Fort Hood's leadership after a string of deaths

Shawn Mulcahy
The Texas Tribune

Two congressional subcommittees on Tuesday announced an investigation into the chain of command at Fort Hood following a recent spate of deaths at the Central Texas Army base.

The House Oversight and Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Security and the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel said they are seeking documents and information about how Fort Hood's leadership has responded to a series of deaths and instances of sexual harassment and abuse.

"Where appropriate, we intend to seek justice on behalf of those in uniform, and their families, who may have been failed by a military system and culture that was ultimately responsible for their care and protection," the committee chairs, U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., and Jackie Speier, D-Calif., wrote in a letter to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.



Spc. Vanessa Guillen

Spc. Vanessa Guillen went missing in April and her body was found near the Leon River in July. The soldier suspected of killing Guillen, Spc. Aaron Robinson, killed himself as police tried to arrest him.

Guillen was the victim of sexual harassment, her sister said, but she didn't report the sexual harassment out of fear of retaliation. The Army in June opened an independent review of base leadership's handling of her case.

Lynch and Speier also mentioned Pvt. Gregory Wedel-Morales, a private at Fort Hood whose body was found



Members of the U.S. military carry the casket of U.S. Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen ahead of her memorial and public viewing at Cesar E. Chavez High School in Houston Aug. 14, 2020.

Catholic News Service photo/Adrees Latif, Reuters)

in June, nearly a year after he went missing in August 2019.

Investigations into two additional deaths, of Pvt. Mejhur Morta and Sgt. Elder Fernandes, are ongoing. Authorities are also probing the deaths of Pfc. Brandon Scott Rosecrans, Spc. Freddy Delacruz Jr. and Spc. Shelby Tyler Jones.

Both Guillen and Fernandes were allegedly sexu-

ally abused or harassed prior to their deaths.

"While the Army has directed an independent review of Fort Hood, Congressional oversight is necessary to determine whether base leadership — by omission or commission — has allowed or enabled a culture to exist that undermines the values and traditions of the U.S. Army," the committee chairs

wrote.

Between 2014 and 2019, an average of 129 felonies were committed annually at Fort Hood, including murder, kidnapping and sexual assault, according to the letter. McCarthy acknowledged during a press briefing in

August that the base had "the most cases for sexual assault and harassment and murders for our entire formation of the U.S. Army."

The Army has until Oct. 1 to turn over requested information to Congress.

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Charles Empey - Pastor

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President Trump gets drone's eye view of Laura damage in OC



Pictured above is President Donald Trump, Governor Greg Abbott, Orange County Judge John Gothia, and Sheriff's Office Lt. Joey Jacobs.

On Saturday, August 29th, President Trump, Governor Abbott, Senator Cruz, and several other Federal and State Officials visited SW Louisiana and SE Texas, following landfall of Hurricane Laura.

During this time, Orange County officials had the opportunity to show both President Trump and Governor Abbott the hardest hit areas of Orange County, utilizing one of the Orange County Sheriff's Office Drones.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office operates these drones under a COA, which is a Certificate of Authorization issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. The drones can be used for anything from surveying storm damage to locating a lost child. They've become a valuable asset to this agency, as well as many agencies across the United States.

Lt. Jacobs stated, "After landfall, we flew for search and rescue, as well damage assessment".

The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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County budget From Page 1

nue of \$54.8 million with \$51.8 million in total general fund revenue. Property taxes are expected to supply 63% of that total general fund revenue with other government support (state and federal grants and reimbursements) making up 11.7% and sales tax 10.8%.

Budgeted expenditures for 2021 are projected to be \$52.8 million from total general funds and \$6.4 million from restricted funds, for total projected expenses of \$59.3 million.

Schmitt said expenses for the Sheriff's Office and the County Jail make up 50-53% of the county's general fund budget.

More than half all 250-odd county employees work for the Sheriff's Office, which sets its own budget. Jail budget is set by state law.

Budgeted revenue figures for 2021 included \$2.9 million of restricted funds, money that can be used only for specific purposes and not available to the general fund.

Gothia said the reason restricted funds expenses were so much more than restricted funds revenue was because the Sheriff's Office had used its restricted drug seizure funds to purchase a new fleet of vehicles, instead of using county general funds.

"With the Sheriff's Office doing what they're doing, it allows us to help other departments."

Among new purchases in the budget are the longed for \$350,000 landfill compactor, except at a three-year installment rate of \$143,000 per year; \$516,000 for voting machines and \$489,000 for cost of living raises for non-elected county employees, raises that average out to \$2,000 per person.

Gothia pointed out that the fund balance could face as much as a \$5.5 million hit from Hurricane Laura.

At the regular Commissioners Court meeting that

followed the budget hearing, the county authorized an emergency expenditure amendment of \$5.5 million to the soon expiring 2020 budget.

The bookkeeping adjustment will keep expenses in the year they were incurred. As government reimbursement checks come in, possibly years from now, they will be credited to the 2020 expense.

"The estimated cost of the

"The estimated cost of the cleanup is \$5.5 million," Gothia said. "Even if we get government [FEMA] assistance, we'll still be responsible for 10 to 25 percent. So that's a little over \$1 million we'd have to take out of reserves."

cleanup is \$5.5 million," Gothia said. "Even if we get government [FEMA] assistance, we'll still be responsible for 10 to 25 percent. So that's a little over \$1 million we'd have to take out of reserves."

The only person citizen to speak at the public budget hearing was Dean Fuller.

He was upset that government had prevented him from evicting non-paying renters in his housing properties for months and was now forcing him to pay all eviction costs while first responders were dining on catered meals of stuffed quail and steak and shrimp, according to menus from the County's Emergency Operations Center posted on websites by county employees.

The bad optics, including having county employees post "selfies" of President Donald Trump walking past their desks in the media-not-allowed EOC, were unfortunate.

Gothia told Fuller that the county had nothing to do with a prohibition on evictions, and that the meal provider for the EOC had been

hired as a low bidder months before the storm and came up with the menus without county assistance.

"We had 350 people from outside the county come to help us the night of the storm. We try to take care of those people," Gothia said. "The only people that got fed were first responders, and we had 350 of them sleeping that shoulder to shoulder the first night."

"We didn't bid on quail.

We bid on a breakfast and a lunch."

For those affected by the storms, the county agreed to keep open the county landfill, at no charge, for two more weeks, seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., through Sept. 22.

Debris removal began in the county's unincorporated areas Monday, Gothia said.

Joel Ardoin, county emergency management coordinator, said the estimate on total debris to be removed is 300,000 cubic yards and 11,705 cubic yards were picked up Monday in the West Orange-Pinehurst areas.

Ardoin said he thought Southeast Texas had already met the threshold of \$38 million in storm damage to qualify for federal reimbursement - "we've documented \$50 million damages - and that the state needed a total of 800 uninsured, destroyed homes to qualify for individual assistance, and so far, 627 such homes had been identified."

After Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019, Texas homeowners qualified for individ-

ual assistance but the local governments did not get public assistance because it didn't have enough damage, according to FEMA.

Kurt Guidry, county maintenance director, reported that the two worst instances of damage to county property happened when roofs were torn off the jail dormitory and the airport area building that housed the Precinct 3 commissioner and constable offices.

The county approved hiring Interstate to do drying and buildout work on county buildings, some of which had wet carpet after rain entered via roof or window seals.

The commissioners voted no to a Trump-endorsed idea to withhold payroll taxes from its employees checks for the remainder of 2020. The kicker is the employees will have to have their checks docked twice in the first three months of 2021 to make up for it.

"They're kind of basing it on forgiveness [of the 2020 taxes]," Commissioner Theresa Beauchamp said.

"That's a long shot," Commissioner Viator and Judge Gothia said in unison."

Viator made the motion not to participate and Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioners signed an interlocal agreement with the Sabine River Authority, Orange County Drainage District, Jasper County and Newton County to submit a plan to the General Land Office for a \$100 million project to expand and extend the Sabine River Relief Ditch that runs from Jasper County to the Sabine River.

It is expected the project would help shift the watershed from Jasper and Newton counties from Orange County bayous to the river that separates Texas and Louisiana.

LSCO prepares nurses From Page 1

tials after their names.

Traditionally, graduation is celebrated with a pinning ceremony open to family and friends, but because of restrictions against large gatherings, the ceremony was a walkthrough instead, observing plenty of social distancing.

COVID-19 caused a lot of changes this year.

"It made you work harder for what you wanted," said Jessica Dumas of Lumber-ton, a former Navy quartermaster and veteran of two Middle East deployments.

"You think, 'Is this really worth it for all the stress I'm under?' But we had to do it. They needed us."

Normally, nursing students attend lecture classes two days per week and spend up to three days a week providing bedside patient care at hospitals, nursing homes and community health clinics and doctors' offices.

"We had to transfer our lectures to an online format. We were able to lecture live with students online and we recorded lectures so they could watch on their own," said Leah Anne McGee, Associate Dean of Nursing at LSCO.

"It was helpful, because when the community had to shut down, the ones already working as nurses had to work additional shifts."

For the ones not already employed as LVNs or medical assistants, the hands-on "clinical" training opportunities were definitely differ-

ent.

"In the spring, all the clinical facilities shut down to nursing students, but the Texas Board of Nursing allowed us to deliver a lot of clinical contact online or virtual. All of the departments at LSCO have used technology in the past, but it became so much more valuable during the COVID environment."

"We were able to adjust with just a few hiccups."

Victoria Leach, an LSCO student from Vinton, La., worked at Oakwood Manor, a long-term care rehab facility in Vidor, during the spring.

"It's chaotic. The rules change every day. Policies change every day. You get screened at the door. It's constantly changing."

"But it was worth it. It made you become a better student."

"It taught me more discipline," Tucker said. "But all our teachers have done a phenomenal job."

McGee said her teachers and students made the best of a rocky situation.

"I was amazed at the resiliency of our staff, students and community," she said. "I think we all came out stronger. Changed, but stronger, because of this."

"You hope for the best and prepare for the worst," Leach said.

"You're always going to have roadblocks to hurdle over in life," Dumas said. "Just don't stop until you get there. Just persevere."

School restarts From Page 1

Combs said the district is in the process of cleaning out spoiled food from freezers, sanitizing freezers and ordering new food to be delivered. She pointed out that the process could not begin until electricity had been restored.

Ironically, LCM's high school parking lot has been used as a staging ground for hundreds of contract electrical workers in town to restore power after the storm.



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From The Creaux's Nest

THE AFTERMATH OF LAURA

Many citizens find themselves surround by destruction around their homes and at best a lot of clean up. **I find myself in both.** Some people have done a great job putting their places back in shape. I'm still waiting on an adjuster, due to come by on Saturday. I have fought hurricanes all my life, going back to 1939, in an **Ike** type surge and many others after. Twelve years ago for **Ike** I was much younger and when you're not old and in good health, storms are just a bump in the road. **Ike** took nine months to get back to our home. At least this time I'm home and comfortable but the outside is a wreck and a large pecan tree lies on the roof. **Fences and shed need major repairs.** In younger times, I would have been gathering limbs, cleaning up and thinking about moving on till the next time. **Today energy has been snapped from this old body,** there is not much labor left in it. I'm thankful that at least my mind is somewhat intact so I'll knock this column out like I've been doing for over 50 years and let someone else put this place back in shape. There is one thing I've noticed and I'm sure you have also. A dozen years ago, you could get help for ten bucks an hour, today; craftsmen want three times that much. **I thank you for tagging along with this old codger for all these years.** I plan on being around for awhile. Hope you hang with me. I have to move on. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE--THERE'S FIRE

Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of "The Atlantic" magazine, details disparaging remarks that **President Trump** made about dead **American** soldiers. **Goldberg** quotes four people with first hand knowledge that the real reason **Trump** refused to visit the **American** cemetery near **Paris** was because he did not want to get his hair wet. He felt it wasn't important to honor those buried there saying the cemetery was "Filled with losers." **Goldberg** also reported that on the same trip **Trump** called U.S. Marines who died in the **World War** battle at **Belleau Wood**, "Suckers." Since the **Atlantic** release, the **Washington Post**, **New York Times**, **Associated Press** and **Fox News** have quoted anonymous sources that backed **Goldberg's** claims. **Jennifer Griffin**, who reported for **Fox News**, said through her sources she was convinced the story was true. **Trump** went into a rage and took to **twitter** demanding that **Griffin** be fired immediately. Sunday on **Chris Wallace's** show, the reporter substituting for **Wallace**, said **Fox** stood behind their reporter. Oddly enough **Tucker Carlson** and **Sean Hannity** did not appear live Friday and ran re-runs. They were caught off guard by the "Breaking News" and had not had the time to rehearse a defense of **Trump**. Monday was **Labor Day** so their first show since the bombshell is Tuesday night after my deadline but I'm interested in seeing how they spin this one. I believe **Trump's** "Sucker and Losers" story is just the tip of the iceberg. It's a good bet that **other shoes will drop.** **Trump** believes that the military is for a lower class of people. **Trump** himself dodged the military service by paying a doctor to certify that he has bone spurs. **Trump** has been heard to say those who can't figure a way out of serving are "dopes." According to his niece, **Mary Trump**, her uncle told **Donald, Jr.** when he wanted to go into the **Army**, that he would disown him if he did, saying, "That stuff is for suckers." No **Trump** has ever served in the military. **Donald's** father, **Fred**, managed to avoid **World War II**. There never was but one **Trump** to serve in public office. His sister **Mary Trump Berry**, a federal appellate court judge, is the only one and she had unkind words to say about her brother. She accused him of being a liar, with no principles and never has been very smart, "He paid someone to take his **SAT** to be able to get into college." **Trump's** longtime lawyer and fixer, **Michael Cohn**, is releasing his new book this week. **He knows where all the bones are buried.** The **Trump** spinners will be out to discredit him as being a liar. (The kettle calling the pot black.) Not many **Republicans** are coming to **Trump's** rescue, especially from the congress and senate. Here in **Texas**, **Sen. John Cornyn** is keeping a lot of distance between himself and **Trump**. Two weeks ago, when **Trump** came to **Orange** would have been a good chance for a photo-op with the president in **Texas**. He dodged it and let **Ted**, who is not running do the honors. What still upsets me most is that **Trump** doesn't care enough about our soldiers to broach the subject with **Russia's Putin** paying bounties to kill them. Possible he believes those youngsters are suckers and losers to join the military to start with. Four years ago, I predicted if **Trump** was elected it would be four years of chaos and that there were two things he would never do is turn on **Putin** and release his tax records. My bet is if **Trump** is re-elected **Vladimir Putin** will be a guest in the **Lincoln** bedroom. Only 55 days to Election Day. It will seem like six months. There are no extremes **Trump** won't go to win, expect the worse.

TURNING BACK THE HAND OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2010 STORMS ALTERED OUR LIVES

Katrina slammed the **Gulf Coast** on Aug. 28, 2005 causing major damage to the **Louisiana**, **Mississippi** and **Alabama** coastlines. Many lives were lost in **New Orleans** while citizens waited for help that never came. A million people would later flee the city. Many came to **Texas**, in-

cluding **Orange County**. Volunteer groups assisted with food and lodging. **New Orleans' Ninth Ward** was like a bomb had hit it. I had never seen destruction like I witnessed in **Waveland**, **Bay St. Louis** and **Diamond Head Mississippi**. On Sept. 24, 2005, believe it or not, we fled from **Hurricane Rita**, to the area **Katrina** had practically destroyed. **Rita** slammed **Orange County Texas** with brutal winds and many twisters. As many as 100 thousand trees were uprooted and many fell on houses and buildings. **The County looked like a war zone.** The damage seemed impossible to recover from. **Hurricane Rita** was the fourth-most intense Atlantic hurricane ever and the worst storm we had witnessed. **Rita** would probably be the worse we would have in a lifetime. Next we ran from **Humberto**, Sept. 12, 2007, then **Gustav**, Sept. 4, 2008, both did minimal damage. The area, still recovering from **Rita**, was finally getting back in shape when the unexpected happened. For years old timers and seasoned weather men had predicted that if a hurricane ever took dead aim at **Lake Sabine** it could put water over **Bridge City** all the way to the interstate. **Hurricane Ike** was the largest storm to hit the **Gulf of Mexico**. It was so wide and big that it took in the entire **Gulf**, from **Galveston** to **Florida**. **Bridge City** and much of **Orange** were submerged with as much as eight feet of water in low areas. Those who stayed climbed in attics and rooftops, surrounded by snakes and debris. **Ike** wasn't a big blower like **Rita**, winds were around a 100 mph with gusts up to 135 mph. The twisters it spawned did much destruction to homes, lifting ceilings and attics, loosing framework. However, the worse was the rushing salt water carrying ocean bottom mud, rushing into homes some six foot high, totally destroying homes and buildings. **Recovery seemed impossible and would take many years.** Many old timers, 50-year residents of the **Bridge City** area, collected their insurance, sold the property and moved to higher ground. Others with no flood insurance chose to stay and rebuild. **** We were sorry to hear about the death of coach **Bill Tennison**, age 76, who passed away Sept. 4. Services were held Tuesday, Sept. 7 at Orangefield High School Gym. **Bill**, a former chairman of the **Orange County Republican Party**, spent 24 years at Orangefield High as a coach and teacher. We have lost a good, honest and special man **** Condolences also the family of **David Darby, Sr.**, age 62 who died Saturday, Sept. 4.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2010

Bobbie Jean Stakes, 73, of **Orange**, died Friday, Aug. 27. Funeral services were held Monday. She and her husband were the owners and operators of **Stakes Electric Company**. She is survived by her husband, **Calvin Stakes Sr.** of **Orange**; son, **Calvin Stakes Jr.** of **Bridge City**; daughter and son-in-law, **Kellie** and **Scott Muckleroy** of **Tulsa, Okla.**; sister, **Billie Don Carter** of **Orangefield**; and granddaughter, **Citori Stakes**. **** **Kenneth R. Lumpkin**, 63, died Friday, Aug. 27. A graveside service took place Monday. He served in the **National Guard** reserves and loved the outdoors and fishing and was an avid guitarist. **Ken** is survived by his wife of 45 years, **Marilyn (Lyn)** of **Orange**; son, **Terry Lumpkin** and his wife, **Penny**; daughters and sons-in-law, **Kim** and **Paul Dickerson**, **Janice** and **Troy Green**; and six grandchildren.

45 Years Ago-1975

A letter was received this week from **Anna**, **Illinois** addressed to **Jackie Harmon**, P.O. Box 3300, **Harmon, TX**. Now we have all known for sometime that **Jackie** bought up a lot of downtown **Orange** property but we were not aware that he had bought enough of the city to change it's name to **Harmon, Texas**. **** **Gov. Dolph Briscoe** attends a coffee for citizens at the **Orange House** while touring the area. **** **Lynn and Sue Ableson** are the proud parents of a baby boy and have also moved into a new home. (Editor's note: That baby boy is 45 years old today.) **** **Mrs. Ovie Harmon** is in **Orange Memorial** for a routine check up. **** **Lynn Hall's** son, **John Sanford**, turns 11 years old this week. (Editor's note: I can't believe that boy is 56 years old today. We knew his lovely mom when she was much younger than that.) **** **LuAnn Dumas**, **Miss Bridge City**, reins over **Bridge City Day** festival. **Chief Fulton Battise**, of the **Alabama Coushatta** tribe, served as parade marshal. **Dr. David Olson** is chamber president. **** **Earl Thomas**, **West Orange** running back, leads team in a 26-7 victory over **Leon Godchaux**. (Editor's note: His son **Earl Jr.** is a former **University of Texas** safety and **NFL** star. **** **Vic Hern**, **Dennis Powell** and **Jack Couvillion** witnessed **Bill White**, with his five wood on the **DERA** 163-yard, no. 9 hole, ace the hole after the ball took a hop into the green and scooted right into it. (Editor's note: I wonder if **Judge Powell** can recall that far back?)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week the staff put out a nice **Laura** hurricane newspaper under very difficult conditions. Many locations ran out of papers and requested more. Fortunately, like in other hurricanes, we had held back 1,500 papers in case. Thanks to the **IBEW**, all of **Orange County** was back on electricity by the weekend. Those people are amazing. Twenty states were represented as workers flooded the county. We dodged the worst of the hurricane when **Laura**, by one slight move east three hours before landfall, missed us by just a few miles. **Vinton** was destroyed. **Ray Cotton's** little goldmine, the **Longhorn**, was wiped away. **Little Cypress**, closest to **Vinton**, got the worst blow here. **** A few folks we know celebrating their special day in the next few days. **Sept. 9**, is longtime friend, deputy sheriff **Shanon Gearhart**. It's hard to believe this good looking lady woman 65. *** Also celebrating today is **Gerald** and **Penny's** daughter **Janet Leleux**. And **Pam Smith**. *** My thoughts today turn to my late friend "Neighbor Cox," who would have been 97 years old. I miss him a lot. **** **Sept. 10**, one of the nicest people I've known since she was a toddler, **Tanya Strickland Birdwell**, celebrates today. She's one of **Nova Dee's** two lovely daughters and celebrating also is **Jamie Oliphint**. *** Happy anniversary to our friend **Dist. Att. John** and **Kelly Kimbrough**. Best wishes for many more healthy years. **** **Sept. 11**, Happy birthday to **Andrea Peoples**, **Billy Fontenot**, **Chris Kavatch** and **Shannon Sparks**. **** **Sept. 12**, Celebrating today **Karen Warner**, **Bryan Riedel**, **Buffy Bean**, **Cynthia Claybar**, **Dustin James** and one of our favorite gals **Brenda Lund**. **** **Sept. 13**, **Mark's** youngest daughter, who has given him four grandchildren, **Jenna Dunn Bellou**, celebrates today, also **Kade Hanks** and **Margaret Jeffcote**. This is also the date in 2008 that **Hurricane Ike** landed and destroyed much of **Orange County**. **** **Sept. 14**,

Fadra Thibeaux, mother of 9 (3 sets of twins,) grandma of 10, great grandma of 4, turns 82 today. Also our longtime friends **Cathy Garretson** and **Karrie Dunn**. **** **Sept. 15**, Our buddy, a great gal, **Ethel Dunn**, has a birthday today, also **Tara Smith**, **Jon Berry** and **Ginger Ellis**. **Happy Birthday to all**. **** For the first time in many years, **Sheriff Keith Merritt** evacuated. In previous years he always stayed at the command center. He and **Marlene** returned to find they didn't have much shade left in their yard. If **FEMA** did anything in **Orange County** I haven't found it. Returning here trying to clean up the mosquitoes overtook us. A call to **Pestco** took care of that. They rushed over and sprayed their special herb formula. I haven't been stung since. They really destroyed the "Skeeters" for the next few weeks. **** **Louis DeJoy**, who heads up the **U.S. Postal Department**, is in a lot of trouble for reimbursing employees who made the \$2,5000 donation limit contribution to the **Trump** campaign. I recall when an **Orange** businessman got a conviction for doing the same thing in the **Geo. W. Bush**, **Tom Delay**, **Karl Rove** days. They should nail **DeJoy** to the closest fence post. **** Neither the governor, during his Thursday meeting with state and local officials at **Orange City Hall**, nor **President Trump** in his visit at the **Orange County Convention and Expo Center** Saturday, would attempt to pronounce **Gothia's** name. Thursday, **Abbott** thanked by name every elected or appointed government official standing behind him and some who were in the wings. But he referred only to **Gothia** as "Judge" every time he talked about or to the county leader. Saturday, **Trump** did the same. But finally, **Abbott** was heaping more praise and said **Gothia's** name. **Sort of**. He pronounced the name of the county's top elected official "Judge GOTH-e-ya." **John** tells me it's **GO-the-A**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Irby and **Gertie Comeaux** had two beautiful teenage daughters but **Irby** him, always talked about having a boy. He wanted a son. **Wen Gertie** got pregnant her, **Irby** was so excited. Sho nuff, **Gertie** delivered a healthy baby boy. **Irby** rushed to the nursery to see his new son him. He was shocked and horrified at da ugliest child he ever saw.

He rush back to **Gertie's** hospital room and tole her, "Look here **Gertie**, dere's no way I can be da papa of dat baby no. Look at da two beautiful daughters I fathered me. **Gertie**, you must have been fooling around behind my back yeah."

Gertie her, smiled sweetly and replied, "No **Irby**, not dis time."

C'EST TOUT

Rainbow Bridge opens September 8, 1938

The week of **Sept. 8th** marks 82 years since the \$3 million **Rainbow Bridge** was opened. A regatta on the river with many speed boats and such was seen by a large crowd. A parade, barbecue, dance, rodeo, fireworks and other activities were on the program. **Ms. Phyl**, her sister **Jo** and their parents attended the opening although she was too young to remember much about it. **I first crossed the bridge in 1940**, two years after its completion. It was an unbelievable sight. The tallest structure I had ever seen in this flat land was a three story sky scraper. It was a cloudy day with low clouds and the tall bridge seemed to extend into the clouds. I've often thought about the large structure costing \$3 million. Today it cost more than that to paint it. **Orange** mayor **W.E. Bill Lea**, was master of ceremonies. Years before he was attorney in prosecuting the claim for the bridge. Fifty-years later, for the anniversary celebration, three of **Lea's** sons, **Bill**, **Hugh** and **Dick**, all lawyers, attended. The **Rainbow 50th anniversary** celebration was held at the **Sparkle Paradise** grounds. **Gordon Baxter** served as M. C. for the 1988 celebration. The address of welcome was given by **Commissioner Don Cole**, speakers were **Texas State Senator Carl Parker** and **Judge Don Burgess**, 9th District Court of Appeals. The celebration committee members were **Glenda Dyer**, **Chairman**, who was the brainchild for the celebration; **Charlotte Chiasson**, **Larry Hamilton**, **Pat Lancaster**, **Tom Perry** and **Neil Bond**, **Bridge City Chamber**; **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Toronjo, Jr.**, **Orange County Historical Society**; **Jerry McInnis** and **Sissy Wood**, **Jefferson County Historical Commission**; **Barbara Humphrey**, **Groves Chamber**; **Candy Smith** and **Lonnie Hoyt**, **Vidor Chamber**; **Bob Anderson** and **Art Spencer**, **Port Arthur Chamber**; **Dr. Sam Monroe**, **Port Arthur Historical Society**; **Dr. Howard Williams**, **Orange Historical Commission**; **Wade Granger**, **Orangefield**; **Christy McClintock Loupe**, **Port Arthur**; **Bill Potter**, resident engineer **Texas Dept. of Highways**, **Port Arthur** and **Frank James**, resident engineer **TDH**, **Orange**. The bridge was started **March 3, 1936** and was completed in just under two and a half years. Six lives were lost working on the project. **Mary Elizabeth Mills** cut the red, white and blue ribbon with **Texas Governor Allred** in attendance. In cost and time comparison, repair to the swing bridge on **Cow Bayou**, which has taken more than three years, so far has cost over \$3 million. Side Note: **DIVE OFF BRIDGE**. While the huge through looked on aghast, **Ogden Smith**, 34, daredevil high diver, leaped approximately 180 feet from the bridge at 2. p.m., streaked arrow-straight to the river below and cut the water cleanly, feet first. After vanishing a few moments **Smith** re-appeared swimming and was assisted into a small boat manned by attendants. He appeared uninjured. A wild outburst of cheering greeted **Smith**. The diver made one complete revolution in midair en route riverward. **Smith** was reported to have received \$300 for the dive. **** That's all for this week. Take care and stay safe. **God Bless**.



Deaths & Memorials

Marie Therese Duplex Landry, 99, BC

Marie Therese Duplex Landry, age 99, of Bridge City, Texas passed away on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at The Abbey Assisted Living in Houston, Tx.

Born in Youngsville, Louisiana, November 1, 1920. She was the daughter of Louis Ellis Duplex Sr. and Oleta Duplex. Marie graduated from Southwestern Louisiana Institute in Elementary Education. She began teaching in Youngsville, La., then later in Bridge City, Texas at Hatton Elementary for 35 years. Marie was a devout Catholic and active member of St. Henry's Catholic Church, Bridge City, Tx. for over 50 years. One of Marie's favorite things to do was cook, and what an excellent cook she was. She performed her best in the kitchen loving to prepare huge and wonderful meals for her children, grandchildren, and other family members. She always had a table full of the best Cajun foods. She also sewed endless amounts of clothes for her five girls. Traveling all over the United States with Floyd, searching for a bargain, quilting, ice cream, and looking at Christmas lights were things that she enjoyed. "Grammit" as she was called by her grandchildren, was a loyal wife, mother, and teacher and her infectious laugh, deep beliefs, and devout spirit will live on in our hearts.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd Landry of 55 years; parents, Louis Duplex, Sr. and Oleta Duplex; sis-



ter, Marie Claire Boudreaux; and brother, Louis Ellis Duplex Jr.

She is survived by her daughters, Charlotte Engelke and husband Bobby of Houston, Texas, Becky Landry, also of Houston, Texas, Kayla Weekley, of Richmond, Texas, Dana Laborde of Katy, Texas, and Lana Evans and husband Michael of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She had eight

grandchildren, Ned, Ellen, Jessica, Ashley, Brant, and Patrick, Ethan, and Lucas; 11 great grandchildren; and 5 great great grandchildren.

A special note of recognition and gratitude is extended to Rogers Duplessis who joined "Miss Marie" in prayer, laughter, and friendship.

A walk by viewing is scheduled on Saturday, September 12, prior to the service, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, Texas.

Funeral Mass is set for 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 12, at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Bridge City, Tx. Internment will immediately follow the Mass at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Services are open but health and safety are important to us, so please do not feel obligated to attend. Due to COVID 19 social distancing and masks are requested.

In lieu of flowers please consider sending donations to the Star of Hope or the charity of your choice.

Ginger Ann Gunter, 67, Bridge City

Ginger Ann Gunter, 67, of Bridge City, passed away on August 18, 2020, at her home. A memorial gathering will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, August 29, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Ville Platte, Louisiana, on April 28, 1953, she was the daughter of Nolan Joseph Devillier and Mary Nell (Tate) Devillier.

She was preceded in death by her par-



ents, Nolan and Nell Devillier; son, Randy Wilson; and sister, Kathy Walker.

She is survived by her children, Charles Wilson and Scott (Heather) Wilson; grandchildren, Corey Wilson, Randi Wilson, Chuck Wilson, Scotty Wilson, and Jacob Wilson; siblings, Wayne Devillier and Gwen (Tony) Titus; personal friend, Connie Reese; many nieces and neph-

ews and great nieces and nephews.

Rains Fell and Wind Blew

Pastor Charles Empey
Columnist
For The Record

Matt. 7:24-27 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."



How is your house doing in the storm? No, not your house of wood and nails, but your spiritual house. Who you are. You and I are a spiritual house living in a fleshly house, our bodies. The fleshly house we live in is going away and the wood and nail and brick house our fleshly body and spiritual us lives in is deteriorating, as well. God is not as interested in your home address nor your fleshly body as He is you who lives in it all. So, our Scripture reading is talking about the condition of your spiritual life, you.

Is your spiritual life, your inner-being, built upon the Rock Christ and what His Word promises or upon the sand, which is the opinion and promise of a fallen and continual falling world? What or who do you trust to see you through in the storms of life? Do you give it up to the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord, or do you fret with the world that cannot see hope?

Laura came and went leaving behind another landscape of debris and heartache. Your survival physically required wisdom to listen to the professionals as to stay or go. It was what you imagined was happening while you were out and then what the reality was when you returned.

The most important part is how did your emotional and spiritual life handle it all? While you were out, did you just turn the results over to the Lord who rules heaven and earth, trusting Him with your belongings

and their destiny, or were you a caving wreck. More so, when you returned, did you accept and trust God for the assessment of your house and belongings? It all depends on what you were building your life upon before this storm came. Was it Jesus' godly wisdom, His Word of promise?

When I drove away to San Antonio to evacuate, I had to leave a life time library, furniture just replaced from Imelda, when we lost two cars also. The year before was Hurricane Harvey when our living room flooded, but that was minor as a majority of homes went way under water. I also had lung cancer 5 years ago and it looks like I have it again, so I tell you all of this so that I can say legitimately, "I understand the pressure of such times as this. I surrendered my life to Jesus as my Lord and Savior in 1965 and learned through the years that material losses are to be accepted like Job did. He said, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." It is first all the Lord's and then on loan to us. If He wants to destroy what is His, that's His business. As for any consequences in my life, if He can't see me through those, there is literally no one else nor anything else that can. In under 55 years of His care, I have survived more than one life threatening event and the loss of some of the most important things in life, but by His sovereign grace and power here I stand. He is carrying me through life into His arms one day, and He is in charge of that timing and my care between here and there, and anything I suffer will never compare to His suffering for me on the cross to secure my place in heaven after this life. I received Him as my Lord and Savior and He said that He would never lose me and would be with me at all times all the way into heaven. Suffering is a part of a fallen world and a fallen body in sin, but the salvation from that is established in Christ Jesus and will be fully accomplished in heaven by HIM. So, let the storms of life come. My destiny where there are no storms, no sickness, no sorrow and no death is secure in Christ Jesus. Let's give thanks for all things, knowing in our inner man, that house built upon the Rock, Jesus. Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Charles Empey pastors Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Football Back Soon With Spirit

We are proud to welcome Maddy Smith as a columnist for The Record. Maddy is a student at Orangefield High School. She is a talented young writer whose columns offer unique insights from the perspective of a local high school student. Intended primarily for young people, all of The Record readers are welcome to enjoy our columns by Maddy Smith.

Maddy Smith
For The Record

Football season will be back soon for most Orange County teams. This means people are scrambling to buy tickets and make sure they have plenty of spirit clothing, accessories, and items to show their support. However this can also be a very stressful time for the players in high school that are hoping to make football their life and job.



Maddy Smith

Whether you are going to support your high school football team, you are going to support your favorite NFL football team, or both, you always want to make sure you look the part. This cannot only be achieved by wearing spirit shirts and accessories but also by having the enthusiasm and passion for the team you are supporting. As a freshman in high school that has previously gone to a private school, I am looking forward to all the football games. The high school football season is not just exciting to me but to parents, teachers, and students everywhere. Parents can go watch their child play hard in a game that they are very passionate about. Teachers get to watch their students who are probably not so full

of life in the classroom but a completely different person on the field. And students get to support all their friends while hanging out with their friends in the stands. It's a time for everybody to come together, eat nachos and hot dogs every night, and have a great time with their friends.

If you are a football player, however, the upcoming football season can be very scary. Sometimes, people play because they enjoy the game but others do it because they want to make football their life and job. College scouts come out to games to decide if they think you would be an asset to their team and recruit you. This puts a lot of pressure on the football players. Football work very hard to impress the recruiters. Their determination is respectable. The amount of hours they practice, workout, and mentally prepare themselves while also going to school is incredible. This year could be different with the global pandemic that is circulating. When going to any sports game, the supporters especially, need to be cautious and stay safe. If you are worried that you may get sick at the game or be around someone that is sick then do not go. It is better to be safe than sorry. Make sure you wear gloves, a mask, and bring hand sanitizer to wash your hands. Do it not only for you, but for your children or friend who plays football. If someone gets sick and was at the football game, they will most likely not continue with the season. This can affect many people on the team just like it did the baseball and softball players back in March and April. Being a supporter also means that we make sacrifices. If that sacrifice is to not come to your games so the season is not cancelled and you can get recruited by a college team then we will do it.

Athletes work too hard just for their season to be cancelled. We need to take the extra step and be cautious when going to games. Remember to have fun on the field and parents and friends have fun in the stands. Continue to stay strong and be safe.

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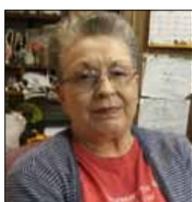
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The Farmer's Wife . . .

LOU HARRIS
For The Record



Hello Everyone,
I hope you all came through the storm in one piece. By the Grace of God, we did not get the brunt of the storm. Now our prayers are with our neighbors in Louisiana.

It is with my deepest regret that I have to say that this is my last column. I wish everyone that followed me the very best and know that each and everyone of you have a special place in my heart. I leave you with two verses from the Bible.

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, transgressions are not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Ephesians 5:4

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor creeds joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be Thanksgiving. God Bless each and everyone.

Recipes of Week

ANGEL BISCUITS

In memory of my mother
Alma Royal

- 1 Pkg Yeast
- 1/4 c warm water
- 2 c buttermilk
- 1 c shortening (Crisco)
- 1/4 c sugar
- 5 c all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- 2 Tbsp butter, melted

Dissolve yeast in warm water and add sugar. Add Melted shortening and buttermilk. Mix in dry ingredients and mix well. Cover and chill for several hours. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Turn dough out on floured surface. Divide dough in half and roll out to 1/4 inch thick. Cut with a biscuit cutter and place on a greased cookie sheet or jelly roll pan, with sides almost touching. Let rise at room temperature for about 1 hour. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes.

COWBOY COOKIES

In memory of
Irene Adams

- 1 1/2 c sugar
- 1 1/2 c brown sugar
- 1 1/ c Crisco

- 2 1/2 c flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 c oatmeal
- 1 1/2 c Rice Krispie
- 1 1/2 c coconut
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix all ingredients well. Drop by teaspoonful on greased cookie sheet.
Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

How to save time and money for back-to-school

As the summer draws to a close, many families are prepping for the new back-to-school season. While this academic year might look a little different from previous years, there are still many ways to save on the essentials your family needs.

To get ready, check out the savings and organizational tips below from the discount experts at Dollar General.

• **School Supplies**

Don't let the school supply list overwhelm you! Whether you're picking up binders, folders, pens, pencils, paper, crayons or scissors, you can find everything you need to kick off the year affordably at Dollar General, which is offering more than 200 back-to-school items for \$1 or less, as well as a digital coupon for \$5 off of a \$15 purchase through Sept. 12.

• **Easy Meals**

Back-to-school season often feels hectic for those who find themselves balancing a new schedule. However, when it comes to feeding your family, you can take some of the pressure off with DG Easy Meals. The site features weekday recipes that will help you save on kitchen staples. Each recipe offers simple steps using affordable ingredients to make breakfast, lunch and dinner a breeze. For families looking for easy ways to stay on top of their nutrition goals, browse the site's "better for you recipes" section at dollargeneral.com.

• **Distance-Learning Essentials**

Make sure your family is ready to take on the challenge of distance learning with a variety of supplies, including a great set of headphones to help your student focus if they need to attend class virtually. You can also help students stay on track with a new planner or calendar that they can keep in their backpack or learning space. Organization will help your family navigate the challenges this back-to-school season might bring, so make sure you're prepared with the extra supplies you need for school year.

Keeping Kids Safe Online This School Year

Between schoolwork, socialization and gaming, kids will likely be online more than ever this year, especially with many students continuing to learn remotely. Families are yet again facing the challenge of ensuring children's online usage is balanced, healthy, and safe. Here are a few of the issues around increased screen time:

• **Disrupted sleep:** According to the National Sleep Foundation, blue light emitted from electronic devices disrupts quality shuteye, as it can delay the release of melatonin, a natural sleep hormone. Over time, compromised sleep can create a number of physical and mental health concerns.

• **Safety threats:** With kids online more hours a day and

less supervised than they would be during a typical school day, online predators have taken advantage of the situation. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tipline reported a notable surge in complaints.

• **Mental health issues:** The physical separation from friends, teachers and the classroom has created new mental health challenges for students, not all of which remote learning can completely address. With many adults and kids alike experiencing "Zoom fatigue," maintaining motivation throughout the school year will be even more challenging than in a typical year.

• **Set a schedule:** A typical school day includes natural breaks. Families can recreate this at home with scheduled time for kids to walk around, stretch, and get fresh air between assignments.

• **Monitor online usage:** With parents themselves busy during the day, monitoring what children are doing online is a challenge in many cases, and impossible in others. However, screen time management solutions for parents, such as OurPact from Eтури Corp., can prove a valuable tool in keeping kids productive and safe. Using the app, parents can set schedules, grant access to needed sites, create daily screen time allowances, block inappropriate content and apps and monitor internet use.

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Short But Pertinent...

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN For The Record



Dickie Colburn

What a week! Depending on where you live in the Orange area, Laura was rated somewhere between a minor inconvenience and a disaster. Having lost part of the roof, two bedrooms, a bathroom and the garage, it has been a tad more than an inconvenience for us thus far.

Without sounding too Pollyanna, it could have been far worse as we narrowly averted a direct hit. I have friends in Creole, Cameron, Hackberry, Sulphur and Lake Charles that lost their entire residences.

As far as the fishing is concerned, the dreaded record tidal surge did not materialize and the flooding was not as devastating as predicted. When all was said and done the fishing actually improved, but taking advantage of that could earn you a divorce at this stage of recovery!

Larry Sargent, not unlike a lot of other local anglers that can't even get their boats out of the driveway due to the debris piled on the side of the road, told me Friday that at the very least his bass boat won't get stolen while out of service. "The garage collapsed on it and I can't see anything, but the tongue of the trailer."

If you rank among those that were little more than inconvenienced and don't feel obliged to spending your free time helping others that were, you will be pleased to know that the catching on Sabine Lake apparently only improved this past week. According to the folks I talked with, there was even more schooling activity and larger groups of terns and gulls working the north end of the lake.

I personally have no problem with a friend heading to the lake while I am dragging limbs off the roof, but because that irks some folks, I will not mention the names of the few active fishermen I have talked with this week.

The shad hatch is getting even stronger and the shoreline all the way from Willow to Blue Buck has been good for redfish in the mornings. There have been enough small schools running the banks to prevent everyone targeting one small area.

I usually throw a Usual Suspect or weedless spoon to these fish, but they have been catching a lot of 21 to 26-inch redfish on bone topwaters like the She Dog and Skitterwalk. A single spin spinner bait with a small Colorado blade and Gulp trailer have also been effective when the redfish are not pushing a wake.

The mouth of East Pass continues to cough up limits of small keeper trout as well as redfish, but that area generally draws a crowd. I received a text and pictures from one angler that kept five trout between two and four pounds and three upper slot reds while no one else around him was catching keeper size fish.

COLBURN Page 2B

2020 NFL season starts tomorrow

KAZ'S KORNER JOE KAZMAR For The Record



Joe Kazmar

If the National Football League's 2020 season wasn't beginning tomorrow at Kansas City, many of the cities with smaller franchises would be in for a huge financial hit.

What I'm referring to is cities with franchises like the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Arizona Cardinals, Seattle Seahawks, Tennessee Titans, Buffalo Bills, Cincinnati Bengals, Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers, Indianapolis Colts and even the Green Bay Packers would fall deeply into the red as far as the projected income from a normal season is concerned.

The city of Green Bay, with its 250,000 population, will take a hit even if the season goes undisturbed. Lambeau Field has a 78,000-plus capacity but the team said that at most 12,000 fans will be allowed to view each home game this season.

And if most of the crowd is from Green Bay, there will be an even greater negative impact that will cut into the \$15 million economic bonanza each game provides the city, according to a recent article appearing in USA Today Sports Weekly.

"Overall, the Packers contribute more than \$160 million a year to Green Bay's economy from games, special events, meetings and conventions, charitable grants and year-round tourism," the article points out.

Every NFL team will have a negative bottom line at the end of the regular season, but the television royalties will soften the financial hurt somewhat if the season continues through early January without any delays due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

On a more positive note, our Houston Texans, who don't have many problems getting into the post-season playoffs, are getting sick and tired of getting bounced out before the con-



Head Coach and General Manager Bill O'Brien convinced owner Cal McNair to loosen the purse strings and pick up some talented free agents and extend the contracts of their impact players.

ference championship game.

So, Head Coach and General Manager Bill O'Brien convinced owner Cal McNair to loosen the purse strings and pick up some talented free agents and extend the contracts of their impact players.

The main deal that O'Brien orchestrated last weekend was to extend quarterback Deshaun Watson's contract with a new four-year, \$156 million deal making him the second-highest paid player in NFL history.

He's only behind Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes' contract worth \$45 million a year compared to Watson's \$39 million, followed by Seattle's Russell Wilson (\$35 million), Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger (\$34 million), LA Rams' Jared Goff (\$33.5 million) and Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers (also \$33.5 million).

Other deals made by O'Brien to start this season was to outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus (four years/\$54 million), offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil (three years/\$66 million) and inside linebacker Zach Cun-

ningham (four years/\$58 million), according to Sunday's edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Houston's plan for tomorrow night's game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City is to limit big plays by Mahomes. The Texans learned a valuable lesson there in last year's playoffs when Mahomes guided the Chiefs from a 24-0 early deficit to a convincing 51-31 victory en route to capturing the Super Bowl.

However, the Texans' first-year defensive coordinator Anthony Weaver must come up with a plan to curtail Mahomes with his richest contract in Northern American professional sports history.

Weaver speaks highly of Mahomes, "He's honestly one of the best quarterbacks I've ever seen, and the thing about him is the play is never over. You think you've got him in the grass, he escapes and he's chucking the ball down the field."

"It doesn't matter if he escapes to

KAZ Page 2B

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Local hunters prepare as teal season set to open



Outdoors Weekly
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

In what has become a highly anticipated yearly ritual, wingshooters from all over Texas will make their way to the fields and marshes as the 2020-21 waterfowl hunting season officially gets underway. The teal season opener has become a real gathering of sorts, almost a social get together if you will. Hunters eagerly awaiting each new hunting season head to the fields for their first taste of what is in store and this one looks promising thanks to some recent rains. Both fields and marshes are abundant with life and fresh growth, a plus for some and a curse for others. Hurricane Laura put a dent in some areas with the high winds and water but for the most part conditions are favorable right now.

The early teal season is a great September option for waterfowlers who want to get a jump on their hunting opportunities. The 16 day season opens statewide on Saturday and runs through Sept. 27th. Shooting hours are 30



Local hunters have already begun brushing blinds in preparation for the teal season opener this weekend.

minutes before sunrise to sunset and the bag limit is 6 teal, any species. Heavy rains in recent weeks have made the marshes flush with new vegetation and fresh water, both of which should really help the hunters as well as the birds.

With the promise of the years first cool fronts coming in September it is understandable that the hunters have high hopes. So far nature and the weatherman have cooperated, at least up until this point. Now all we need is some cooperation from the birds and no more crazy weather that would cause catastrophic changes in the outlook. September has been an active month

historically in the Gulf of Mexico, hopefully we will be spared any more problems after what we went through with Hurricane Laura.

The outlook for Teal hunters is outstanding as the numbers of birds in our area is solid and continuing to build. Local scouting reports have been favorable and a huge push of birds have already made their way into our part of the state. The first cool front will help usher more teal south as they continue along their migration towards Mexico and beyond. Rice fields and areas along the prairies that are holding water are seeing

See Uzzle Page 4B

Colburn From Page 1B

He said the whole game changed when he switched out a four inch tail he was fishing under a cork for a larger glow-chartreuse Diedapper. He was rigging it on a 4/0 worm hook rather than a jig head and reported that the smaller fish just left it alone.

Sharing that change in tactics was appreciated and could help local fishermen. He is from Nacogdoches and won't be back until December. Not many fishermen would have shared that adjustment!

Two reports were important, but had nothing to do with the catching. One angler lost a lower unit on his 250 hp Yamaha to a timber floating just beneath the surface in Cow Bayou and another tore a hole in the hull of his bay boat when he hit a section of partially submerged fencing. Slow down, keep an eye out for this dangerous debris and move it or mark it when possible.

Let's hope we can get everyone back in their homes and fishing by the end of the month!

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

the right of the pocket or the left side of the pocket. He can make every throw from every angle. The guy is remarkable," Weaver concluded.

And I must have picked the winner of this game with my heart instead of my head because I believe Houston can win this game and said so in my Fearless Forecast.

KWICKIES...It certainly feels good to sleep in my own bed after being an evacuee for nine days. I was elated to see my house standing in one piece with not a shingle out of place and no visible damage to the house. It's hard to understand why Orange, Texas suddenly is the target of these

massive hurricanes. I feel sorry for those not so fortunate.

Dustin Johnson showed why he is the world's No. 1 golfer by winning the FedEx Tour Championship and all that moolah Monday afternoon.

Sorry to hear about the passing of Hall of Fame outfielder Lou Brock at age 81. Lou got traded from the Chicago Cubs to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1964 when I was still in their organization. He was fast as greased lightning and holds the National League record for stolen bases with 938 and stole 50 bases in 12 straight seasons.

And while on the subject, we lost a good friend in Ron-

nie Logan, who passed last weekend. He was one of the best athletes to come out of Orange back in the 1950's.

A couple of late NFL signings last weekend include crybaby Jadeveon Clowney, who signed a one-year, \$15 million deal with the Tennessee Titans and good guy Adrian Peterson, who signed with the Detroit Lions.

The Miami Dolphins named veteran quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick as their starter Sunday at New England instead of rookie sensation Tua Tagovailoa. It won't be long before Dolphin fans will be chanting for Tua to get some playing time.

JUST BETWEEN US...If you owned a major league baseball team, would you rather the team scored most of its runs early or late in the games? Our Houston Astros, who don't seem to win many games away from Minute Maid Park, scored early in all four games at Anaheim last weekend while the Los Angeles Angels scored mostly in the final innings, winning all four games from the Astros in their final at-bat. It's hard to decide whether LA is great when the game is on the line or the Astros bullpen that weak in the latter stages of the game.

Mentored Hunting Workshops Introduce First Time Hunters to the Hunting Experience



The workshops will take place at Texas State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) throughout the state and participants will have an opportunity to develop the skills needed to be successful in the field and build a foundation for their hunting tradition.

Straff Report For The Record

AUSTIN — Just in time for hunting season, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is hosting a series of mentored hunting workshops for first time hunters looking to learn how to safely and ethically harvest wild game. The workshops will take place at Texas State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) throughout the state and participants will have an opportunity to develop the skills needed to be successful in the field and build a foundation for their hunting tradition. These workshops are followed by an actual mentored hunt on the area.

This year, TPWD is offer-

ing mentored hunting workshops for feral hog at Abilene State Park, white-tailed deer hunts at Inks Lake State Park, an opportunity to learn waterfowl hunting at Purits Creek State Park, among others. While most of the mentored hunting workshops are geared toward first time adult hunters, there are also opportunities for youth and adults to hunt together for squirrel at Gus Engeling WMA and for disabled veterans and youth hunters to hunt white-tailed deer at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

New in 2020 is the opportunity for families to learn the basics of camping while a member of the family also learns to hunt. This mentored hunting and camping

family workshop is ideal for groups who would like to develop new outdoor traditions that the whole family can enjoy. Mentored hunting and camping family workshops will be offered at Copper Breaks State Park, Inks Lake State Park and San Angelo State Park.

To apply for a mentored hunting workshop, please register using our Mentored Hunting Workshop Registration form. First time hunters will be selected according to their level of experience and

the order in which they submit their application. If you are selected for a workshop, you will be notified by the hunt manager. Mentored hunting workshop applications will be accepted until Sept. 15.

Those interested in learning more about what a mentored hunting workshop is like can follow along with a previous participant's experience on the TPWD YouTube channel.

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Changes Proposed to Texas Aquatic Species Regulations

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing changes to regulations regarding harmful or potentially harmful fish, shellfish and aquatic plants. The proposed changes significantly reorganize the existing rules to enhance accessibility, meet the changing needs of the regulated community, and address current and potential future threats posed by these exotic species.

The proposed rules will be published in the Texas Register no later than Friday, Oct. 2. At that time, comments on the changes can be provided on the TPWD public comment page until Monday, Nov. 9. The TPW Commission will take public comment on the proposed changes at their meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10 in Austin. Comments on the proposed changes also can be submitted to Ken Kurzawski at (512) 389-4591, email: ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov.

Exotic species can become invasive, meaning they are causing or have potential to cause harm to the ecosystem, economy, or human health and quality of life. If exotic species are not detected until after introduction, the infestation can progress past the point when eradication is possible for some species. After that point, the infestation can quickly progress into costly, long-term treatment and control.

Regulations are an essential form of prevention against impacts from these species. TPWD regulations specify a prohibited species list, with the primary focus being prevention, and only a few species are allowed for use.

TPWD is proposing to add seven species to the controlled exotic species list, including four fish (stone moroko, European perch, Amur sleeper, Wels catfish) which are federally listed as injurious. These species are not currently present in the United States, but there is a high risk that they could be introduced and become established in Texas, resulting in harmful impacts. The addition of these species to the list would restore federal protections against their transport into Texas in the event they are introduced in the U.S.

The golden mussel, which is not presently in the U.S., are proposed for addition to the list due to a high risk of introduction, establishment, and impacts similar to those of zebra mussels. In addition, two aquatic plants, yellow and crested floating hearts, are proposed for addition to prevent their spread. These species were recently introduced to Texas and have become established, requiring management.

TPWD is also proposing some changes to rules governing possession of exotic species. Under these proposed changes, exotic fish and shellfish other than oysters, which must currently be beheaded or gutted, could also be possessed if gill-cut, killed using another means, frozen or packaged on ice. The requirement for oysters to be shucked or otherwise removed from their shells would remain in place. Possession and transport of zebra mussels attached to boats, alive or dead, remain prohibited to prevent their spread.

Additionally, proposed changes address the needs of pond and landowners. These new rules would allow the possession and transport of exotic plants, zebra mussels, and

applesnails by pond and lakefront landowners for the purposes of disposal without a permit if securely contained.

This proposal also creates a permit for sellers of tilapia and triploid grass carp for pond stocking that eliminates the requirement to have an aquaculture facility, provided that the fish are not cultured and are held at a physical location only for a short time. These sellers buy the fish from an aquaculturist before delivering them directly to ponds or temporary holding and distribution locations.

TPWD is addressing the interests of aquaculturists by providing new multi-year renewal options for aquaculture permits for three or five years in addition to the current annual renewal option. Additionally, reporting for tilapia aquaculture would no longer be required. In response to aquaculturist requests in recent years, the department is proposing to allow the aquaculture of the Wami tilapia, a species that does not pose a greater ecological risk than species currently in aquaculture.

Given the rise in hobbyist aquaponics—where fish are raised to provide nutrients for cultured plants and are not sold—the department is proposing an allowance for possession of four species of tilapia in these escape-proof systems without a permit provided the fish are not sold and are killed prior to transfer to another person.

Currently only Mozambique tilapia can be possessed without a permit for stocking in private ponds, but under the rules proposed by TPWD, blue, Nile, and Wami tilapia would be allowed for possession to stock in private ponds. Hybridization among species in aquaculture is rampant, thus making it impossible to confidently confirm the identity of these species. The issue of identification and enforcement would be eliminated with this new regulation.

However, in order to prevent an increase in ecological impacts from allowing stocking of additional species, the department is proposing a zonal approach to tilapia pond stocking based on scientific research. In the “conservation zone”—approximately that area west of I-35—department authorization would be mandated prior to stocking tilapia, but no permit or fee would be required. In the “stocking zone”—the remainder of the state—no department authorization would be required. Also, in the stocking zone, the department is proposing an allowance to “fast-track” applications for stocking of 10 or fewer triploid grass carp.

The rules would also provide clarity that the department may prescribe a disposition protocol for controlled exotic species illegally in possession, upon cessation of permitted activities, or upon permit renewal denial. Should the department have to implement the protocol due to noncompliance, the individual in violation would be responsible for costs incurred by the department.

To accompany these rule changes, TPWD is proposing to establish fees for new permits and update the aquaculture permit fees in accordance with the new multi-year renewal structure and five-year inspection interval. There are no changes being proposed to the current permit administrative or inspection fees.

KAZ'S FEARLESS FOOTBALL FORECAST

• WEST ORANGE-STARK at JASPER—Cancelled by Hurricane Laura.

• LITTLE CYPRESS-MAURICEVILLE-CARTHAGE—Canceled.

• BRIDGE CITY-HUFFMAN—Canceled.

• ORANGEFIELD OVER LIVINGSTON—The Bobcats pick up where they left off last year. While the hosting Lions do the same. VIDOR over BRAZOSPORT—The Pirates get the 2020 abbreviated season off on the right foot.

• COLLEGE

Miami over UAB (Thursday); West Virginia over Eastern Kentucky, Appalachian State over Charlotte, Iowa State over Louisiana-Lafayette, Syracuse over North Carolina, Baylor over Louisiana Tech.

• PRO PICKS

Houston over Kansas City (Upset Special) Thursday; Seattle over Atlanta, Baltimore over Cleveland, Buffalo over NY Jets, Carolina over Las Vegas (Oakland), Chicago over Detroit, Indianapolis over Jacksonville, Minnesota over Green Bay, New England over Miami, Philadelphia over Washington, LA Chargers over Cincinnati, New Orleans over Tampa Bay, San Francisco over Arizona, Dallas over LA Rams (all Sunday); NY Giants over Pittsburgh and Denver over Tennessee (both Monday night).

Duo hooks “monster” alligator gar

Staff Report
For The Record

A pair of San Antonio anglers reeled in what they are calling a “river monster” last week near Three Rivers Lake.

Daniel Uriegas told mySA.com he and his friend Mark Sanmiguel caught a 6-foot-5-inch alligator gar on Aug. 31 at Choke Canyon, which is a reservoir about 88 miles south of San Antonio.

Uriegas, who has a side business in which he takes clients on fishing trips, said his friend really wanted to catch a gar, so he decided to take him out on the lake. That day, Uriegas said the two caught eight small alligators gar before catching the 6-foot-5-inch gar.



“We ended up landing ourselves a river monster,” he said about the gar, which he estimates is about 125 pounds.

The fight between the gar and the anglers was about 13 minutes, Uriegas said, adding that they had to use a rope af-

ter hooking it to get the gar on the boat.

“That was the difficult part,” Uriegas said about getting the gar on the boat. “They are really big fish and have a lot of power, and they will fight until they can’t anymore.”

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Capt. Chuck Uzzle is seen last teal season with a nice group of ducks. Local hunters need to take precautions during teal season as its prime time for snakes, gators and mosquitoes.

Uzzle: Teal season opens soon From Page 1

huge concentrations of teal while the same can be said for the coastal marshes. I wouldn't be surprised at all to see the public hunting areas along the coast do very well for this weekend's opener, especially after a recent scouting trip I made.

A few things to remember about the early teal season that shouldn't be ignored. First and foremost is safety for everyone involved in the hunt. It's warm outside and that means all the creepy crawlies will still be hanging around. Alligators and

snakes will certainly make their presence felt so be on the lookout, especially if you bring a dog. Mosquitoes will be another concern and with the West Nile Virus lurking around it's important to take proper precautions so don't leave home without repellent.

Now as far as hunting goes don't make it too complicated, teal are usually rather easy to decoy so scouting is more important than decoy placement or calling. Be in area where the birds want to be and you should be fine. If

you feel like calling a whistle is the best call you can have on your lanyard, a few easy "peeps" on a whistle is often all you need to get teal to commit to your spread. The shooting can be fast and furious at times so always be aware of those around you, no bird is worth an accident. The forecast is good for opening morning so hopefully the birds cooperate, there are certainly enough of them out there to make this one a memorable opening day.



Pictured Left to Right: Wanda McGraw, Georgia Taylor, Maureen McAllister, Laci Gibbens and Kristen Placette.

BCCC honors United Way of Orange County

Staff Report For The Record

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced that United Way of Orange County has been named Business of the Month. President of United Way of Orange County, Maureen McAllister accepted the award along with her staff, Georgia Taylor and Laci Gibbens.

The United Way of Orange believes Everyone deserves opportunities to have a good

life good health, a quality education that leads to a stable job, and enough income to support a family through retirement. Advancing the common good is less about helping one person at a time and more about changing systems to help all of us. We are all connected and interdependent. We all win when people are healthy, when a child succeeds in school, and when families are financially stable.

Please visit their website to find out how you can help

United Way of Orange County continue to make a difference in our community.

Bridge City Ambassadors Rani Dillow, Wanda McGraw and Kristen Placette presented the award along with gifts from the following business: Entergy Country Ford, Wellspring Credit Union, Tiger Rock Marital Arts of Bridge City, OhainWEB.com, Las Rosas, Delta Force Orange, Neches Credit Union and Candace Mulholland RE/MAX.

Daughters of the American Revolution meetings

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. Any woman who can estab-

lish a direct family line to a patriot in the American Revolution can join. The Daughters of the American Revolution promotes Patriotism, Education and Historical Preservation. We had members that can help you find

your Patriot. If you need any questions answered you can call Jackie Hucakbay, Regent @ 409-719-6478 or Registrar, Katy Latiolais @ 409-720-9834.

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Via#2A8R54P48R827930
08 CHRY
Owed \$566.10
Via#1GGYATEYXLF281493
20 CHEV
Owed \$576.27
Via#2G2W/P552881168759
08 PONT
Owed \$313.13
Via#1C6RRELTILN316764
20 DODGE
Owed \$813.13
Via#2GTEC13T551395541
05 GMC
Owed \$745.17
Via#3C6UR5DL4JG242688
18 DODGE
Owed \$618.13
Via#1T1BF1K9DU274815
13 TOYOTA
Owed \$1,043.13

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.

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.

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NOTICE TO IMPLEMENT REVISED FIXED FUEL FACTOR

Entergy Texas, Inc. hereby publishes NOTICE that, pursuant to Section 36.203 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (codified in Tex. Util. Code) and 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.235(b), it filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (the "Commission") on August 19, 2020, a tariff to implement a revised fixed fuel factor. All of Entergy Texas' retail customers whose fuel charges are calculated under the Texas fixed fuel factor tariff – including but not limited to Residential, Small General Service, Large General Service, Large Industrial Power Service, and Street and Outdoor Lighting Service – will be affected by the Commission's approval of the revised fixed fuel factor. The revised fixed fuel factor, if approved, will affect only the fuel portion of the rates charged by Entergy Texas and will have no effect on non-fuel base rates.

Entergy Texas seeks Commission approval to revise the fixed fuel factor effective with the first billing cycle of the September 2020 billing month. Entergy Texas proposed that the fixed fuel factor be changed pursuant to a semi-annual filing to be made each February and August, with revised fuel factors to be effective with the first billing cycle of the March and September billing months, pursuant to a methodology that changes the fuel factor based upon changes in the published price of natural gas. This methodology was authorized for use in Docket No. 32915.

The revised fixed fuel factor, differentiated by voltage level, is as follows:

FACTOR BY VOLTAGE LEVELS		
Delivery Voltage	Fixed Fuel Factor	
Secondary	\$0.0301213	per kWh
Primary	\$0.0294032	per kWh
69kV/138kV	\$0.0285817	per kWh
230kV	\$0.0281375	per kWh

The revised fuel factor would result in an increase in Entergy Texas' annual Texas retail fuel and purchased power revenues by approximately \$126.5 million, or 28.4% on an annual basis. Compared to the fixed fuel factor approved by the Commission effective March 2020, a residential customer using 1000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month would see an approximate decrease of 29.09% annually, or \$6.64 on average per month, on his/her electric bill. The fixed fuel factor rate is designed to pass through to customers the actual fuel costs incurred by Entergy Texas to serve customers. Entergy Texas is not allowed to make a profit on fuel costs. Amounts collected from affected customers pursuant to the revised fixed fuel factor will be subject to final review by the Commission in Entergy Texas' next applicable fuel reconciliation proceeding before the Commission. Entergy Texas expects the revised fixed fuel factor to be in effect for the billing period of September 2020 through February 2021.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact Entergy Texas at Attn: Customer Service – Fuel Factor, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call [1-800-368-3749 (once you hear: "Welcome to Entergy" select option 1, then press 5, then press 7)] during normal business hours. A complete copy of this petition is available for inspection at the address listed above.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 51196 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT APPLICATION / ADMINISTRATION SERVICES RFP-2020-02-HMGP

The Orange County Drainage District plans to apply for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Texas Division of Emergency Management for DR 4466 (Tropical Storm Imelda). Services are being solicited to assist the District in its application and administration of HMGP contract(s), if awarded, to support eligible activities in Orange County, Texas. Accordingly, the District is seeking to contract with a qualified Grant Administration Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the awarded contract(s). Copies of the RFP 2020-02-HMGP may be located on the District's website at <https://www.ocddtx.com/documents.php> and <http://civcastusa.com> (search for Orange County Drainage District). Please submit five (5) copies of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below: Attn: Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser, Orange County Drainage District, 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas 77630. Proposals shall be received by the District no later than 12:00 pm on the 17th day of September, 2020 to be considered. The District reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises and labor surplus firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The Orange County Drainage District is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Faithfulness in Forgotten Places

WHY SMALL OBEDIENCE MATTERS TO GOD

Scott Hubbard
Editor
desiringGod.org

When the Holy Spirit cultivates his fruit in our lives, he often works in ways we would never pray for (Galatians 5:22-23). To grow the fruit of love in us, he may give us an enemy; to grow the fruit of peace, he may allow conflict to come near. And to grow the fruit of faithfulness, he may send us to forgotten places.

Forgotten places are those corners of the world where no one seems to be watching, where our efforts go unseen, unthanked. Perhaps we labor among diapers and dishes, cubicles and emails. Or maybe, more painfully, among unfruitful mission fields, rebellious children, or spouses whose love has cooled. All of us live in forgotten places sometimes; some live there all the time.

Drudgery as a Disciple

We should beware of underestimating the spiritual strain of such monotonous and seemingly unrewarded toil. The daily duties in forgotten places may be small, but pile them up over months, years, or decades, and you may start to sympathize with Oswald Chambers when he writes,

We do not need the grace of God to stand crises, human nature and pride are sufficient, we can face the strain magnificently; but it does require the supernatural grace of God to live twenty-four hours in every day as a saint, to go through drudgery as a disciple, to live an ordinary, unobserved, ignored existence as a disciple of Jesus.

Chambers may overstate his case — but not by much. In truth, the forgotten places can feel like a wilderness, and many days come when we find ourselves searching for something to keep us going, some water from the rock to sustain us in this desert (Psalm 105:41).

We will find it, not in the forgotten places themselves, but in the God who sent us here, who is with us here, and who promises to reward us here.

God's Providence

At times, we may stare at the responsibilities in front of us and wonder how we landed here. How did we wander into this wilderness of drab days and hidden obedience? We have become familiar with the backward glance, wondering if we missed a turn somewhere. How clarifying, then, to remember that our life situation is not ultimately a matter of chance, nor of any mistakes we have made, nor even of the string of events leading up to the present, but of God's providence. The tasks in front of us are, at least for today, God's assignment to us.

To be sure, God's providence does not nullify the decisions —

live (Acts 17:26). He assigns to us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). He apportions spiritual gifts as he wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). He entrusts to us a number of talents — whether five, two, or just one (Matthew 25:15). He gives us a specific ministry (Colossians 4:17). He even calls us to a particular life (1 Corinthians 7:17).

In time, this forgotten place may give way to somewhere different — and depending on the circumstances, we may be wise to seek that change. But for now, we can look at the responsibilities in front of us and say with relief, "My Father's hand has led me here."

God's Pleasure

God not only sends us to the forgotten places, however; he also meets us there. When we labor in obscurity, he is near (Psalm 139:5). When our work

Christ.

The missionary Hudson Taylor was fond of saying, "A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a great thing." Cooking a meal, filling a spreadsheet, buying groceries, wiping a child's nose — these are little things. But if done faithfully for Christ's sake, they become greater than all the triumphs and trophies of an unbelieving world. They become the delight of our watching Lord.

God's Promise

Once we have traced God's providence in the past and felt his pleasure in the present, he would have us consider the future, when all our obedience will be rewarded.

When many Christians imagine judgment day, we assume the spotlight will fall on the grand acts of sin and righteousness. And surely it will — but not only. Remarkably, when Jesus and the apostles speak of that day, they often focus on life's ordinary moments.

"On the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak," Jesus tells us (Matthew 12:36). On the other hand, God will reward his people for the smallest good works they do by his grace: for giving to the needy (Matthew 6:4), for praying in the closet (Matthew 6:6), for fasting in secret (Matthew 6:18), even for giving a cup of cold water to one of Christ's disciples (Matthew 10:42).

The apostle Paul similarly writes that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:10). But then in Ephesians he clarifies the kind of good he has in mind: not just extravagant good, impressive good, or above-average good, but "whatever good" (Ephesians 6:8). Come judgment day, every scrap of unseen obedience will find its

fitting reward.

Living and dying in forgotten places, then, is no infallible index of our labor in God's eyes. Many saints, in fact, will not know the true worth of what they've done for Christ until Christ himself tells them (Matthew 25:37-40).

Exceptional in the Ordinary

Chambers, after remarking on the grace required to endure drudgery as a disciple, goes on to write, "It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God; but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes."

Again, Chambers may slightly overstate his case. God sometimes does call us to do exceptional things for him: to adopt children, to launch ministries, to plant churches, to move overseas. But the point still holds, because none of us will do anything exceptional unless we have first learned, through ten thousand steps of faithfulness, to be exceptional in the ordinary.

We are not on our own here. Faithfulness, remember, is a fruit of the Spirit. And to bear that fruit in us, he would have us treasure up the providence, the pleasure, and the promises of God that hem us in behind and before, and follow us into every forgotten place.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
1401 WEST PARK AVE., ORANGE, TX
Rev. Keith Giblin, Vicar of Saint Paul's
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Morning Prayer: Rite I (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Family Service)
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer: Rite II (Wednesday)
Supper & Book Study in Parish Hall (following Service)
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Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
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Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
Jon Brinlee, Pastor
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Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Wednesday:
Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Children & Youth Activities - 6:00 pm

St. Paul United Methodist Church
1155 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409.735.5546
Sunday Morning Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.,
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Praise Worship 10:45 a.m.
(Nursery provided)
Wednesday SPICE 5:30 p.m. Includes meal, bible studies,
children and youth activities. (Nursery provided).
Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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Thursday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
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Worship Director: Alyssa Click
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Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Ofcnazarene.org or find us on Facebook

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Wednesday Night Supper 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

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Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Pastor: Ruth Burch

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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
Sun: Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,
Wednesday evening services: Youth and Children 6:00 p.m.,
Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.,
Pastor Cody Hogden
Email: office@fbcf.com / Website: www.fbcf.com

Colony Baptist Church
13353 FM 1130 • Orange
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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Co-Ed Bible Study • Sunday 9:15 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study • Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
Bible Studies & Youth Activities • Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Starlight Church of God in Christ
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
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Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
www.slccgicorange.org

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(www.faihorange.org)

First United Methodist Church Orange
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11:00 a.m. Service - Traditional Worship in the Slade Chapel
Sunday School For All Ages 10:00 a.m.
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