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# The Penny Record

Vol. 61 No. 8

Distributed FREE To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, July 22, 2020

## Total C-19 cases double in 2 weeks

DAVE ROGERS  
For The Record

More than 1,000 people were tested for COVID-19 during three days of testing offered in Orange County last week.

Might the number of positive tests from Orange County also top 1,000 when the next official weekly information release comes later this week?

Based on the ever-climbing upward curve of recent weeks, it wouldn't be a big reach.

The number of lab-con-

firmed cases increased by 232 between July 8 (487) and July 15 (719).

Active cases stood at 508, according to the July 15 report posted on the Facebook page for Orange County Emergency Management.

That's a jump of 191 from July 8.

While it took three months for the county to reach 300 confirmed cases, the number more than doubled in two weeks – an increase of 136% since July 1.

"We knew those numbers were going to climb as we did

more testing," County Judge John Gothia said.

Gothia and County Commissioner Johnny Trahan have just returned to work after testing positive for COVID-19 and having to quar-

antine for 14 days.

This week, Sheriff Lane Mooney and Kurt Guidry, county maintenance director, are quarantining a positive COVID-19 tests.

Gothia said about 20 coun-

ty employees have tested positive for COVID-19 since the respiratory illness first surfaced in the county in March.

The county judge feels someone has some 'splaining

to do about the reporting of test results. He's pretty sure that he's down as two cases since he has had four tests and two came back positive.

OCCOVIDCASES Page 3A



Orange County Precinct 2 Commissioner Theresa Beauchamp, elected to office in March 2018 and sworn in on Jan. 1, 2019, makes a phone call to a constituent in her soon-to-be-furnished new office on Highway 62 in Mauriceville. The Precinct 2 building, which will also host a Sheriff's Office substation, was destroyed in August 2017 by Tropical Storm Harvey. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

## New office almost real for Beauchamp

DAVE ROGERS  
For The Record

Almost paradise. Who could ask for more?

Probably Orange County Precinct 2 Commissioner Theresa Beauchamp.

But she seems too busy being tickled pink by the fact that her long-awaited office is almost ready to call home.

"I'm just so happy," Beauchamp said during a Friday show-and-tell of the nearly complete rebuild of the office on Highway 62 that also will serve as a Sheriff's Office substation.

It flooded during the country's wettest storm, Tropical Storm Harvey, in August of 2017.

"Barry Burton opened the door and closed it, then went and found other office space," Beauchamp said.

Burton was her predecessor as commissioner. She beat him by two votes in the March 2018 Republican primary election.

Since being sworn in Jan. 1, 2019, Beauchamp has had temporary quarters in the

COMMISSIONER Page 2A

DAVE ROGERS  
For The Record

Tired of paying big insurance premiums only to sit in a crowded waiting room to see a doctor for less than 10 minutes once or twice a year?

Dr. Amy Townsend says she has a better way.

Her Magnolia Direct Primary Care medical practice is located at 2845 Texas Ave., Suite 100, next to Orange County Building Materials in Bridge City.

It doesn't run on insurance.

"Insurance is why healthcare is so expensive," she says. "There's just this tremendous waste in healthcare. All of the bureaucracy needs to go away."

Direct primary care, Townsend explains, "is really a grass roots effort for physicians to change the model of healthcare, to function outside of insurance."

Direct Primary Care practices require small monthly fees up front, but patients are not charged out of pocket for each appointment. Patients are allowed to see their provider as often as they like for preventive, wellness and chronic care.

"This is like a gym membership or Netflix. You pay a monthly membership fee for everything we do in primary care," Townsend said. "It allows a physician to



Dr. Amy Townsend opened her Magnolia Direct Primary Care in Bridge City in March. Direct Primary Care is a new business model for physicians that operates outside of the insurance system. Patients pay a monthly fee and pay nothing out of pocket for preventive, wellness and chronic care.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

remove a lot of waste -- instead of having 10-12 people in your office doing insurance coding. We're really trying to disrupt a system that's broken."

Without all the costly red tape, there's more time and lower costs for patients.

"Part of the problem with health insurance is there is zero transparency on what the cost of a procedure is," Townsend said. "It's basically just putting your trust in insurance companies. It's

"Again, the way that this is structured is to give a very transparent, every-up-front pricing. People know what they're going to pay."

and I'm hoping it's going to cover it and I'm not going to end up with this bill at the end.'

"But more and more people are finding that insurance companies are denying things and they are getting these surprise bills, things they weren't even anticipating."

"The civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s are imprinted on her soul.

"We'd get on the bus and ride to those marches," she said. "We marched and marched."

never have more than 500 patients, while the average doctor working under the insurance model may have as many as 3,500 patients.

"This model changes everything," Townsend said. "Not only for the patients; it allows me to spend more time with patients. Visits can be 30 or 60 minutes long, not the average of seven minutes for the usual outpatient practice."

Townsend knows about

DOCTORCUTS. Page 3A

## John Lewis' death stirs Essie Bellfield's civil rights recal

DAVE ROGERS  
For The Record

The memories are great in quantity and quality for 92-year-old Essie Bellfield and last weekend's death of civil rights legend John Lewis is carried her back to "Bloody Sunday."

"They had billy clubs hitting us all over the head and everything," said Bellfield, who was Orange's first Black and first female mayor from 1997-2000.

Lewis, a Congressman who represented Atlanta, Georgia, in the U.S. House of Representatives for 43 years, was before that a contempo-

rary of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He was beaten unconscious by an Alabama state trooper wielding a nightstick as he crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge leaving Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965.

State troopers, flanked by horseback-mounted members of the sheriff's posse, wore gas masks and swung nightsticks as they attacked the peaceful marchers.

"They were spraying water [from firehoses] all over us," Bellfield said. "Mr. James A. Roberts from Orange, they knocked him down with a water hose."

Bellfield said she accompa-

nied Roberts, Velma Jeter and Fred Early, all from Orange, to join 600 others in the March 1965 voting-rights march, which began in downtown Selma and ended in blood and gas clouds less than half a mile later.

Two weeks later, after a federal judge overturned an order by Alabama Gov. George Wallace declaring the march illegal, Lewis and MLK were accompanied by about 3,000 marchers when they finished the 54-mile march to the state capital in Montgomery.

Bellfield said she met Lewis several times on one of her trips to Washington, D.C.,

either with the NAACP or on behalf of the city of Orange or one of her other organizations.

"I represented Texas for Govs. Dolph Briscoe and Ann Richards," Bellfield. "I've gone there with [Houston U.S. Rep.] Sheila Jackson-Lee."

The civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s are imprinted on her soul.

"We'd get on the bus and ride to those marches," she said. "We marched and marched."

Bellfield's own upbringing was different than many who



Former Orange Mayor Essie Bellfield, 92, says she is the last living member of an Orange NAACP contingent to have crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

ORANGE CIVIL Page 2A

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David and Danielle Gonzales, directors for the Directors for the Pinnacle Christian Preschool, seen here with their children on Sunday.

## Orange civil rights leader From Page 1

marched in those days. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Louisiana, her father was a lumberjack and her mother was housekeeper for owners of a rice mill.

"Those Boudreauxs were good people," she said.

Her family moved to Orange, where Bellfield's mother worked for some of the city's top families and Essie resided under those families' roofs.

The future mayor headed

up the housekeeping department for Orange's hospital for years.

And she loves traveling. "I've been all over the world except Russia," Bellfield said.

After her years as mayor, she rejoined city government as a council member before losing a re-election bid a couple of years ago.

Though she stays close to home these days, she hasn't stopped looking out for oth-

ers.

"I'm for civil rights, man. I need people to go up there for jury duty when they call them," she said. "You have to do it."

And, from time to time, she looks back on the "olden days."

"Right now, I go back and look at the Pettus Bridge, and I say, 'Ya'll don't know what we did here.'"

## Commissioner gets office From Page 1

county transportation office on FM 1442.

"I've been sharing it with a mechanic," she said. "The room is so small, the best thing in it is a Snappy toolbox."

Precinct 2 is the county's biggest, in terms of area, extending north from the West Orange city limits to the county line, touching parts of Vidor to the west and all of the communities of McLewis and Mauriceville.

"I'm going to miss everyone out there," Beauchamp said of the folks at the transportation office. "They've

been so kind.

"But I need to be here, in Mauriceville. Mauriceville is the largest part of my precinct. And this office is huge compared to that one."

Kurt Guidry, county maintenance director, said the biggest thing remaining to make a \$138,000 repair of the 1,700-square-foot building complete is installation of internet.

And furniture.

The delay in making storm repairs was due, in part, to Burton accepting alternate housing for 16 months, and a desire to get FEMA to autho-

rize a reimbursement of funds.

After two years of waiting on FEMA to issue rules, then rewrite them often, Orange County decided to do the repair with proceeds of its insurance policy.

"Dean Crooks wanted FEMA to pay, and that just slowed everything down," Beauchamp said, beginning to list all the county judges she has worked with in not quite two years on the job.

Carl Thibodeaux said, 'You need an office. This is ridiculous.' And John Gothia followed through.

## Pinnacle Christian Preschool opening soon

### Staff Report For The Record

Pinnacle Christian Preschool and Mother's Day Out opens this fall in Bridge City. The preschool provides faith-based education in a play-based learning environment. Directors for the Pinnacle Christian Preschool are David and Danielle Gonzales.

"We're very excited about our new preschool ministry at Pinnacle," said David Gonzales. "The purpose of the preschool is to provide happy group learning experiences where parents can be assured that their child is loved and well cared for by Christian teachers. We also provide this ministry as an out-reach to the community."

According to Gonzales, the children will learn about multiple different musical instruments, and have hands on music lessons. They will learn Christian bible songs and participate in bible stories. We will celebrate holidays during the year: Fall Festival, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

Pinnacle Christian Preschool is open Mondays and Wednesdays, from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm and is for 2-5-year-olds. Children must be at least 2-years-old by September 1st to enroll. The registration fee is \$75.00 and the monthly tuition is \$180.00.

The purpose of teaching children will be to help each child:

- Begin to associate God with love.
- Help them make progress in sharing and taking turns.
- Develop large and small motor skills through planned activities.
- Recognize objects by shape, color and size.
- Recognize alphabet and numbers.
- Learn basic math skills and problem solving.

scholarship organization benefitting Pinnacle Christian Preschool and Pinnacle Music Academy. Your support helps a child in a low income or single-parent household be able to develop the skills that provide a firm foundation for lifelong learning through our music and early education programs.

Each preschool scholarship provides a child with twice weekly preschool classes during the school year, a polo uniform shirt, and several yearly special events and holiday celebrations. Each music scholarship provides a child with weekly lessons, a T-shirt, and a performance at our annual showcase.

If you or your organization would like to provide a scholarship for a child, please contact David at PdreamFoundation@yahoo.com

## Wake Up

### by the late Pearl Burgess

My heart is sad, but I still have hope  
Not all is bad, nor the end of the rope.  
I look up and see bright stars and the moon  
But the "Morning Light" will be here soon.

Are we our brother's keeper? Oh, yes we are.  
Not only those close to us, but those that are far.  
Nation against nation with their selfish greed  
Many people everywhere that we clothe and feed.

Do unto others we're taught in school  
Our Commander's voice was "The Golden Rule."  
Brother against brother is that what we hear?  
Our Commander says, "Do not fear."

The earth is trembling under soldier's feet  
No children playing, no one on the street.  
I see the lightening flash, I hear the thunder roll,  
The wars around us have taken its toll.

Wake up! Wake up!  
No time to nod.  
The trumpet has sounded,  
Cometh all mighty God!

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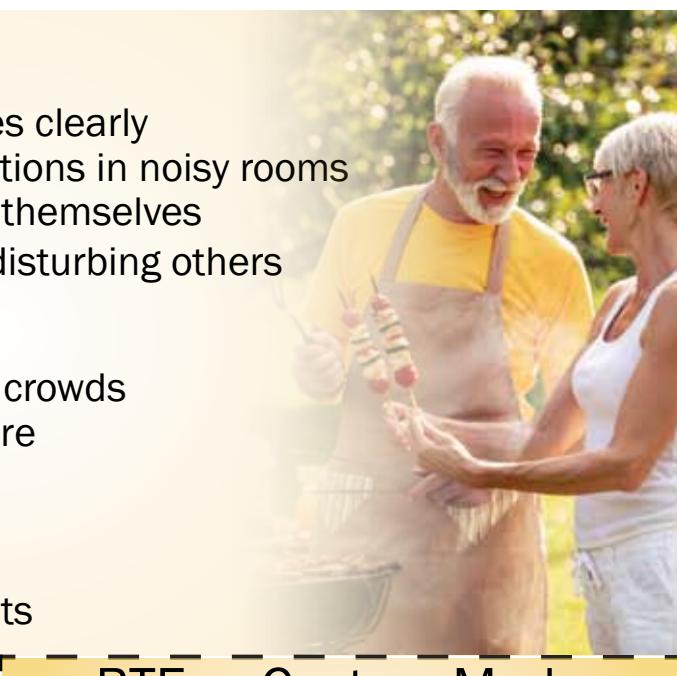
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# Duo brings Indian cycles to Orange

DAVE ROGERS  
For The Record

For more than 50 years, his family business has been busy improving the looks of local properties.

But Mark Frey of Orange is joining with Ed Van Huis, the owner and founder of industrial manufacturer Tubal-Cain Industries, to send folks off on the road to new horizons.

Their Columbanus Motor Sports, located at 3500 Interstate 10, is set to open as the new Southeast Texas dealership for Indian Motorcycles next spring.

The company is named after St. Columbanus, a sixth century monk who is known as the patron saint of motorcyclists after a life of traveling across Europe.

Indian Motorcycle, founded in 1901, was America's first motorcycle. Soon after, it became the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world.

"It's a lifestyle bike," Van Huis said. "I like being different, not just another Harley-Davidson rider."

The Indian Motorcycle company went bankrupt in 1953, but is having a resurgence since being purchased and brought back by Polaris a decade ago.

"I wanted to bring Indian Motorcycles here, because it



Mark Frey, left, and Ed Van Huis, look over the drawings for their new Columbanus Motor Sports

was being dropped by Cowboy Motorsports [Beaumont's Harley-Davidson dealer]," said Frey, best known around town as the owner of Frey's Landscape.

"I'm an Indian rider. Mark Strayhorn [sales manager] is an Indian rider. We wanted to keep a dealership in the area."

Van Huis, a native of Chicago, has been in Southeast Texas for nearly four decades, after leaving the family machine shop business to start his own.

After starting Tubal-Cain to manufacture anchor bolts, he kept adding products and eventually bought his family's Chicago business and

moved it to Texas. He started Tubal-Cain Marine Services in Orange in 2005 but outgrew his plant and moved that business to Port Arthur after a few years.

"I've always liked Indian Motorcycles, but my riding days are over," Van Huis said. "I just enjoy selling them."

"I like putting smiles on people's faces."

The idea for the Indian Motorcycle dealership began a little over a year ago and led to the purchase of the Honda dealership as a first step last September.

"Last spring, March 3, 2019, Mark just popped me an email and said, 'Would you ever consider getting

you ever consider getting

## Covid cases double in OC From Page 1

While the governor and others say the key to gauging the depth of the ongoing crisis is the percentage of tests that come back positive, Orange County continues to report no negative tests.

That means every Orange County result reported is a positive. And two for the county judge.

Which begs the question about negative test results. A requirement to be released from quarantine by health of-

ficials is two negative tests.

Another statistical challenge?

The average age group for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Orange County is in the middle, 41-50 group.

But the weekly average has been in the 31-40 range two of the past four weeks.

The number of positives in the 0-10 age group has gone from zero to 20 since June 17, while the 11-20 age group has seen positives rise from 4 to 50

over the same span.

The age group in the county with the highest number of positive tests is the 21-30, with 117 recorded as of July 15.

President Donald Trump wants all students to return to school campuses next month. The Texas Education Agency offered governance last week.

Then redid that plan the next day.

"The governor says counties can get exemptions [from re-

turning to in-person classes] if

into the motorcycle business. Within two or three minutes, he had my reply.

"Then Indian strongly suggested we have another brand."

The two entrepreneurs purchased the local Honda dealership from Clester Andrews, who had owned it since 1967, Frey said.

"Honda was the key. Honda is a stable brand with a good inventory," Frey said.

Frey turned over the day-to-day of the landscaping business to daughter Malloie Henning.

Columbanus Motor Sports, the former Cummins truck sales and service center down Tejas Drive from the Free States Cellars winery, will also include the Honda dealership that is now located at 1800 Strickland Dr.

The new business also features a wide variety of ATVs as well as exMark lawn mowers sales and maintenance. Plans call for a café inside and rally pavilion.

"This new place will be about four and a half times bigger than this [Strickland Drive location]," Frey said. "We have a 2,500-square foot showroom here. We'll have about 21,000 square feet of showroom there, and about four times the total floor space."

"And this, actually, for a lot of people because their deductibles are so high, it's

## Doctor cuts insurance waste From Page 1

"usual outpatient practices."

She observed them up close the first two years after she earned her medical degree from UTMB, then completed her family residency in 2006.

"I worked in a private practice for two years and I felt, because of insurance, I couldn't give patients what they needed," she recalled.

"I actually transitioned to do hospital medicine. I saw patients at the hospital and took care of them at the hospital. I could get things done in the hospital."

Townsend worked as a hospitalist for much of the past decade but also worked for several years in hospital administration for Christus Southeast Texas and other hospitals. She was a regional vice president for Christus in 2015-16.

She opened her Bridge City practice in March.

"I started planning this two years ago," she said.

"And it's challenging to get people to see that it can be done better. As soon as you tell them it's not within the insurance system, they think that it's going to be unaffordable."

"And this, actually, for a lot of people because their deductibles are so high, it's

more affordable."

Townsend points out that membership in her practice doesn't cover hospital care or other catastrophic problems.

"Direct primary care is not a replacement for catastrophic healthcare," she said. "This allows the patient direct access to primary care. But we encourage patients to have some kind of catastrophic insurance plan."

"A lot of times those can be purchased at much reduced prices that a regular insurance policy."

She also said that she will work with patients who may already have insurance policies to provide the best outcomes, physically and fiscally.

"Some people have such high deductibles they choose to pay out of pocket for some things rather than have it filed on their insurance," Townsend said.

"I can order a routine lab panel and if someone has a high deductible like \$5,000, they may pay \$500 or \$600. But if you pay out of pocket, it's literally like \$40."

Townsend says she is available 24-7 for her patients.

"I want them to communicate with me. I don't want them to have to go to urgent care," she said.

TOTAL ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 CASES AS OF JULY 15, 2020			Cases: 719	
			Actions Taken	
			Recovered	Hospitalized
			505	113
			Deceased	2
<b>REGION OF RESIDENCE</b>				
Brownwood Area	89			
Forest Heights Area	89			
Lakeside Area	5			
Little Cypress Area	30			
Mauriceville Area	58			
McLennan Area	10			
Other Areas	159			
OrangeFeld Area	38			
Pine Forest Area	21			
Pinehurst Area	21			
Rose City Area	5			
Vidor Area	173			
West Orange Area	27			
Area Pending	15			

the county health authorities approve a waiver," Gothia said.

"We want to make the best decision to keep students and teachers safe. And their families and grandparents safe,

when the schools get back open.

"I think the rules will change again before we get there. Every week, things change."

The county has installed walk-through kiosks that check your temperature at both the main courthouse and the administration building that holds the tax office and the commissioners' courtroom.

Those kiosks will also ultimately function as metal detectors. This has resulted in access to the county courthouse being limited to the center door off the back parking lot.

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### DELAYS MAKE SOME TEST RESULTS USELESS

Some local people with coronavirus, who quarantined themselves, tell us they were almost well by the time they got their test results. The **Center for Disease Control Prevention** said COVID-19 incubation is up to 14 days. That means some test are worthless. We will never stop the spread without reliable and timely results. With no national strategy labs struggle to keep up. With an absence of national testing there's little federal coordination to steer supplies to regions where the virus thrives. My friend **Bill Waldrop**, in the Rio Grande Valley, tells me that some people are waiting 12 to 14 hours in their cars, in 105 degree weather for testing. "People are getting sick and fainting just from the long wait." **Dr. Brian Castrucci** called "shifting test responsibility to states the worst misuse of federalism ever and a national leadership disaster."\*\*\*\*I need to move on; I have a lot to cover. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

### TRUMP'S MEDICINE SHOW RESUMES VIRUS BRIEFINGS

Tuesday the **coronavirus** briefings resumed at the **White House**. Monday **Trump** said, "We have this big flare up in Florida, Texas and a couple of other places so I think what we're going to do is I'll get involved,"(what he should have been doing since day one), and we'll start with daily briefings." Adviser **Kellyanne Conway** had called for **Trump** to return to the podium with the daily briefings he conducted earlier in the pandemic. This will be used to dominate the 24-hour news cycle. The briefings were suspended after **Trump** drew criticism for suggesting the **virus could be treated with bleach or some disinfectant**, maybe injected inside. The briefings were a chance for Americans to hear from public health experts, including **Dr. Deborah Birx** and **Dr. Anthony Fauci**. **Trump** recently described **Fauci** as an alarmist and **White House** top aids have taken to openly criticizing him. Some **Republicans** believe that **Trump's** penchant for going off script at briefings is damaging rather than helpful. Recent polling indicates most Americans do not trust **Trump's coronavirus** information. Only 30% of voters trust **Trump**, 67% do not. By contrast 65% trust **Dr. Fauci**. Many voters believe the briefings will serve as **Trump's** political show, lacking important, correct information. Since reporting will no longer go to the **CDC** and will be sent to the **White House** for dispersing nationwide. Information from the **White House** will consist of **two sets of books**, cooking the numbers down to be released to the public. We could be in for three months of **Trump's** daily reality show. If it becomes mostly political like it was Tuesday, rather than worthwhile **coronavirus** info, TV networks will back out and it will be carried only by **FOX News**. The latest national polls show **Biden** leading **Trump** as much as 15 points. The briefings will be used to try and cut down **Biden's** lead. **Trump** will go as far as wearing a face mask now that his ass is in a crack. The scientific method is our nation's pathway toward better test, treatments and vaccines. **Over 140,000 citizens have died and there will be many more**. Most deaths could have been avoided with the proper leadership, not the failed leadership that's been in denial with the next election being more important than the nation's health. **Red states**, including **Texas**, followed **Trump's** lead and opened too early to please him and his re-election hopes. Personally, I believe the die is cast.

### CONDOLENCES

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Frances "Pud" Hogg**, 59, our friend of many years who distributed the Record Newspapers for over 15 years. She also delivered the Beaumont Enterprise for 30 years. She was a fun person to be around. **Frances** passed away July 18. Services will be held Wednesday, July 22, 2:00 P.M., at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. To know her was to like her. Please see obituary. \*\*\*\*We were sorry to learn of the death of **Sam Khoury**, 80, who passed away July 11. He was our friend **Christy Khoury's** dad. He died a day before her birthday on July 12. We had known **Sam's** dad **Ike Khoury**, who was a professional wrestler promoted by **Paul Bousch**. Our condolences to **Christy** and her entire family. Services were held Friday, July 17. A good man has left us. May he rest in peace.

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2010

**Sam Kittrell** has been Orange Police Chief 23 years. Over those years, I've gained a lot of respect for him. He runs a good department without the usual cliques that often divide departments in law enforcement and in the private sector. That wasn't always the case at **Orange Police Department** before he took over. In 2008, we named him our **Person of the Year**.\*\*\*\* Over the last decade few statewide candidates have come to our little part of Texas. **Bill White** held a rally at the Court House late Saturday evening drawing a nice crowd despite threatening weather. His visit will probably spur other statewide candidates to quit ignoring us.\*\*\*\* **Rick Perry**, whose net worth was \$270,000 when he ran for political office is a **multi-millionaire** today. A story broke statewide Monday on how **Perry** made over \$500,000 on just one land deal. Insiders believe **Perry** is not running to be Texas governor but for a

chance to be on the national ticket in two years. **Bill White** is one of the most qualified business executives to run for governor in a long time. He says he's the best choice to prepare our economy for the future and turn our education situation around.\*\*\*\*The state of **Texas** faces an **\$18 billion shortfall**, severe budget problems, school funding problems and much more. Texas has the highest insurance rates in the country. Legislators, next year, will have to face a decisive redistricting plan that is fair to all Texans, **not gerrymandered to favor one party or the large metropolitan areas**.\*\*\*\***Russell** and **Mary Dillow** are coming home. They have purchased the **Sears** store in Orange and take over Aug. 1. **Russell** has been in Chicago for two week training to operate a successful store. **Russell** says many changes will be made in the store to best make available all items now found at other Sears stores.\*\*\*\*Lightning struck a 90-foot pine tree in **Lynwood Sanders'** yard. The large flame you saw burning in the Sunset area was the top of **Lynwood's** tree. The lightning strike was too close for **Lynn's** comfort.\*\*\*\***Margie Stephens** celebrated her birthday Saturday, July 24. She and the late **Mary Fontenot** celebrated birthdays on the same day. A nice shower came down as the barbecue was ready to serve, expertly prepared by **Buddy Serrett**. **Margie** said that the rain was her friend **Mary's** way of acknowledging their birthdays. **Margie's** pretty sisters, one of **Harry's** lovely daughters and a house full of friends and relatives, including **Harry's** brother **Ronny** attended.\*\*\*\***Rev. Leo Anderson** celebrates this week as does **Dr. Joe Majors**. Two good guys.\*\*\*Our buddy **Sleepy Smith** doesn't celebrate his day until Aug. 6, however he has given himself a trip to Alaska. He hopes to have lunch with **Levi Johnson**, **Sarah** and the **Palin** crew. We will have to wait and see how that works out.\*\*\*Happy birthday to the lovely **Lisa Faulk**.\*\*\*\*Our great friend of many years, **Jo Ann Collins**, is in a Beaumont hospital after falling and breaking a hip. When she is released from the hospital, she will recuperate at the **Meadows**.\*\*\*\*Fifty years ago **T.W. Permenter** married the lovely **Lyndia Burton** to be his bride and she has kept him all of these years.\*\*\*\*Congrats to **Barbara Winfree**, sworn in Friday as the first female to serve on the port board. She knows all of the good old boys, **John**, **Jimmy**, **Keith**, **Jerry** and **Gene**. She'll be able to hold her own.\*\*\*\*I have found that if you want just the right cut of beef there's not but three places that will hand pick and custom cut your steak or roast just the way you want it. For quality meat at the best price I always shop **Robert's**, **Danny's** or **K-Dan's**. Their meat is not prepackaged several weeks early.\*\*\*\*Fifteen years ago on Sept. 8, 1995, **Theresa Foskey**, 28, was murdered in her Bridge City mobile home and her body was cut up. Parts were found in and near the Sabine River at Deweyville. Today, **James Holden**, 43, of Deweyville is on trial and accused of that long ago murder. is prosecuting the case for the **DA's office**. The state is not seeking the death penalty, life in prison or 40 years with no parole. **Sonny Gibbs** is the defense attorney. The trial continues in **Judge Powell's** 163rd Court.

### 40 Years Ago-1980

A solid gold Cadillac parked in the lobby of the **Orange House** reminds visitors of the Orange Community Playhouse presentation of "Solid Gold Cadillac". The play by **George Kaufman** is one of four plays to be presented in the 1980-81 seasons. **Charlotte Smith** will direct the dinner theater production. Other plays presented are "Inherit the Wind" by Laurence and Lee, directed by **Charles Ferguson**; "Light Up the Night" by **Moss Haet**, directed by **Diana Hill**; and "An American Comedy," by **Gladys Turner**. The Membership Drive Committee headed by **Faye Speer** is comprised of **Ferguson**, **Jimmie Hart**, **Claude** and **Jean Hamerly** and **Doris Jones**.\*\*\*\***Dennis** and **Lynn Hall** and family, **John**, **Lani** and **Janet**, are vacationing in Colorado and New Mexico. **Lynn** had worked for the **Opportunity Valley News** and **Dennis** wrote a column. They didn't learn the OVN had changed hands until they got back into town. (Editor's note: I don't know what became of **Dennis** and **Lynn**, who divorced over 30 years ago. I heard **Lynn** remarried and was living in Beaumont. It seems **Dennis** just disappeared.)\*\*\*\***Ace** and **Jo Amodeo** celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary. (Editor's note: They divorced many years ago.)\*\*\*\*Celebrating birthdays are **Russ Turkel**, who turns 10 years old on July 31 and **Juliet Patton**, who also celebrates on that day. (Editor's note: **Juliet** died a few years ago, as did her husband **Charlie**. They owned **Gravely Patton Power** on Highway 87).\*\*\*\*This Sunday **George Jones** appears at the Lake Charles Civic Center along with the **Oak Ridge Boys** and **Con Hunley**. **George** will also appear in **Clint Eastwood's** movie, "Any Which Way You Can".\*\*\*\***Lamar Beaumont** enrollment up to 3,920 students from 3,874, **Lamar Port Arthur** up 175 students from 90, **Lamar Orange** up 34 students to 166 this year. (Editor's note: Can you believe that **Lamar Orange**, in 1979 had only 132 students?)\*\*\*\*Top country singles are #1, "Bar Room Buddies" by **Merle Haggard**; #2, "Dancin' Cowboys" by the **Bellamy Brothers**; #3, "Stand by Me" by **Mickey Gilley**; #4, "True Love Ways," **Mickey Gilley**; #5, "It's True Love" by **Conway and Loretta**; #6, "Tennessee River" by **Alabama**; #7, "Clyde" by **Waylon Jennings**; #8, "Friday Night Blues" by **John Conlee**; #9, "Wayfaring Stranger" by **Emmylou Harris** and #10, "Save Your Heart for Me" by **Jacky Ward**. (Editor's note: I don't remember **Jacky Ward**).\*\*\*\*Things are starting to happen at the new **Bridge City/Orangefield Community Center**. A teen dance will be held Saturday, Aug. 2. Women's exercise classes begin Aug. 11. Kiddie Shows will be held every Saturday morning.\*\*\*\***Jim Wallace** resigns from the **BC City Council**. **Bob Pruitt** is appointed to succeed him. (Editor's note: Over the past 30 years **Wallace** has been a district judge in Houston).\*\*\*\***Jean Lapeyrolerie** turns 21 on Aug. 2. (Editor's note: Hard to believe that 40 years have gone by. I remember **Jean's** 21 like it was yesterday).\*\*\*\***Pat Meeks** receives a baseball scholarship to Northeast Louisiana in Monroe. As a senior at Bridge City **Pat** had a 13-3 pitching record. **Billy Bryant** will be playing baseball for McNeese. His older brother **Kim** plays for McNeese also. The two **Bryant** brothers are expected to be a winning combination for the **Cowboys**.

### RUSSIA ACCUSED OF VACCINE HACKING

Last week **Britain**, **Canada** and the **United States** alleged hackers, backed by the **Russian** government, are attempting to steal information from researchers and pharmaceutical companies racing to find a **Covid-19** vaccine. **Dominic Raab**, Britain's foreign secretary, said, "It is completely unacceptable that **Russia** is targeting those working to combat the coronavirus pandemic." The **Trump Administration** has yet to denounce **Russia's** actions.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

I read last week that **Butch Campbell** had retired from **Lamar Orange** after 44 years. I can't imagine **Lamar** without **Butch**. I have known **Butch** since he was 12 years old. Even at that age he was a good athlete. I knew his dad also, a good guy with a lot of class. Best wishes to **Butch** in retirement. He did his job well and has earned the time not meeting the rush.\*\*\*\*Friday afternoon after the press had left the **White House** removed the portraits of **President Bill Clinton** and **President George W. Bush** from the main foyer. The photos were moved to a dining area used only by **White House** employees and not seen by **White House** visitors. They have also refused to display **President Obama's** photo. **Very Petty**. Meanwhile, going unnoticed is that **Trump** has put in motion a **secret police** like a **dictatorship**, **KGB**, **Gestapo**, etc. The secret police, with no identification, in unmarked cars, are grabbing up peaceful protesters in **Portland Oregon** and hauling them off. **Trump** deploying militarized federal agents has angered city and state officials. **Portland's** mayor demanded that **Trump** remove them. This is really scary stuff and un-American, just too much like **Russia**.\*\*\*\*A few folks celebrating their special day and other special events in the next week. **July 22**: Longtime friend, a great guy, **Jeff Anderson** is a year older.\*\*\*On this day a wonderful couple **Brown** and **Linda Claybar** celebrate their wedding anniversary. Also five years ago, 2015, a fine young man we had known always, **Daryl King**, died.\*\*\*\***July 23**: **Linda Brinson** celebrates a birthday. Also today **Lynda** and **T.W. Permenter** celebrate their anniversary. Best wishes for many more healthy years.\*\*\*\***July 24**: A special friend, a special lady, **Harry's** other half, **Margie Stephens**, celebrates her birthday. Time moves on. Best wishes. Also celebrating today is **Chassadi Decker**.\*\*\*\***July 25**: **Ryan Kimbrough** and **Misty Cappel** celebrate today.\*\*\*\***July 26**: Happy birthday to **Sherry Collins**. She shares a birthday with **Mick Jagger**, who turns 77.\*\*\*\***July 27**: **Matt Chandler** and **Ty Manuel** celebrate.\*\*\*On this day in 2003 **Bob Hope** died at age 100.\*\*\*\***July 28**: **Blaze Montagne** turns 21.\*\*Also happy birthday to **Regina Cameron**.\*\*\*\***Correction**: Our apologies to **Judge Chad Jenkins** whose name appeared as **Chris** in last week's paper. I want to correct that mistake as not to put next winter's deer sausage in jeopardy.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating birthdays in the next few days are **Rocky DeCuir**, **Florence Pelham**, **Keazie Cappel**, **Paige Dohm-ann**, **Albert Bates**, **Daniel Peet**, **Ralph Rucker**, **Renee Newsom**, **Sherry Collins**, **Matt Chandler**, **Lee Harris**, **Marie Burns**, **Marsha Brown**, **Mutt Eason**, **Bobby Batchelor**, **Evelyn Toney**, **Allison LeLeux**, **Marie Slaton**, **Doug Richter**, **Joseph Whitehead**, **Paula Richey**, **Angela Rhodes** and **Chaelynn Wilson**. Happy Birthday to all.

### CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

**July 22**: **Selena Gomez**, 28, Pop Singer; **David Spade**, 56, Actor; **Ezekiel Elliot**, 25, Football Player. **Alex Trebek**, 80, Game Show Host.\*\*\*\***July 23**: **Woody Harrelson**, 59, Actor; **Slash**, 55, Guitarist; **Paul Wesley**, 38, Actor.\*\*\*\***July 24**: **Jennifer Lopez**, 51, Pop Singer; **Kristen Chenoweth**, 52, Stage Actress; **Rick Fox**, 51, Basketball Player.\*\*\*\***July 25**: **Matt LeBlanc**, 53, Actor; **James Lafferty**, 35, Actor; **Meg Donnelly**, 20, Actress; **Jackie Christie**, 51, Actor.\*\*\*\***July 26**: **Kate Beckinsale**, 47, Actress; **Sandra Bullock**, 56, Actor, **Mick Jagger**, 77, Rock Singer.\*\*\*\***July 27**: **Jordan Spieth**, 27, Golfer; **Alex Rodriguez**, 45, Baseball Player; **Maya Rudolph**, 48, Actress.\*\*\*\***July 28**: **Lori Laughlin**, 56, Actress; **Pete Cullen**, 79, Voice Actor; **Manu Ginobili**, 43, Basketball Player.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK Seen on Facebook Mark Davis-Bridge City

You managed to bring back the **1918 Pandemic**, the **1929 Depression** and the **1968 Race Riots**, all at the same time. (Mark, that's wrapping up the package and putting a bow on it.)

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Ethel Thibodeaux** and **Ella Mae Comeaux** have been friends all dere lives. **Boat** were born in **Abbeville**, at da Palms Hospital, in 1932. **Boat** of dem moved to **Lafayette** many years ago. Dere husbands had **boat** died dem so once a mon'h dey got together for lunch at a restaurant. One day at lunch **Ethel** noticed something funny about **Ella Mae's** ear and she said, "Ella Mae, sha, do you know you got a suppository in you left ear?"

**Ella Mae** her said, "I got a suppository in my ear? Oh my God." She pull it out and stared at it den she said, "Well, I be darn Ethel, I'm so glad me dat you saw dis ting, now I tink I know me where to find by hearing aid."

### C'EST TOUT CONGRESSMAN, CIVIL RIGHTS ICON JOHN LEWIS

Monday, USA Today devoted a six page section to **John Lewis**, **Feb. 21, 1940 to July 17, 2020**. Born as one of ten children of an Alabama sharecropper, he became the youngest of the "Big Six" civil rights leaders who spoke at the march in Washington in 1963. Former Orange mayor **Essie Bellfield** and three other's from Orange County rode a bus to Washington to attend the event. **Lewis** left an indelible mark on history. Lawmakers and presidents honor a life of activism and service. **Lewis**, a civil rights icon, whose fight for racial justice began in the **Jim Crow South** with **Martin Luther King** and ended in the **Halls of Congress**, died Friday. He served in congress three decades, pushing the causes he championed as an original freedom rider at age 15. He challenged segregation, discrimination and injustice in the Deep South. All these years later he was known as the conscience of the United States congress. Arrested, jailed and beaten for challenging **Jim Crow Laws**, he became a national figure by his early 20's. **Essie** once told me about **John's** keynote speech at the 1963 landmark event. **John Lewis** was the last surviving member of the "Big Six," consisting of **King**, **James Farmer**, **A. Philip Randolph**, **Roy Wilkins** and **Whitney Young**. These men changed the country and led to **LBJ's Civil Rights Act**. Going almost unnoticed was the death of civil rights legend **C.T. Vivian**, who died on the same day as **Lewis**. Another civil rights leader in the congress **Elijah Cummings**, died last year.\*\*\*\*Take care, do you part, wear a mask. **God Bless**.

## Deaths & Memorials

### Frances Marie "Pud" Hogg, 69, Orange

Frances Marie "Pud" Hogg, 69, of Orange, passed away on July 18, 2020, in Nederland. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Pastor Jimmy Ponton. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation was held Tuesday, July 21, 2020. Born in Orange, Texas, on November 22, 1950, she was the daughter of Jeffery William Trahan, Sr. and Geraldine Faye (Marburger) Trahan. Frances was a graduate of Little Cypress High School. She took great pride in her work as a newspaper distributor for 30 years and loved all of her customers dearly. Frances adored and spoiled all of her nieces and nephews and their children, and in return received their unconditional love and support back. She



was a huge Trace Adkins fan, thoroughly enjoying time spent listening to his music. Frances will be forever remembered in the hearts of all those who loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jeffery and Geraldine Trahan; husbands, James Sexton and Donald Hogg; brother, Jeffery William Trahan, Jr.; sister, Becky Hatfield; and brother-in-law, Steve Hatfield. She is survived by her sisters, Bernadette Price and husband Eugene of Brookwood, Alabama, and Tina Delk and husband Donald of Orange; along with many beloved nieces and nephews. Serving as pallbearers will be Greg Trahan, Dillon Trahan, Joe Delk, Jay Delk, Aaron LeBert, Corey LeBert, Kyle Hogg, Rodney Goins, and Chuck Long.

### Grace Marie Hall Guillot

Claybar Funeral Home announces the Memorial Services for Grace Marie Hall Guillot will be conducted on Saturday, August 1, 2020.

The Memorial Services will be conducted at the First United Methodist Church at 502 N.6th Street, Orange, Texas. Senior Pastor Lani Rousseau will Officiate the Ceremony. The visitation will be from 12:30 PM until 1:00 PM.



The Memorial Services will begin at 1:00 PM until complete. Burial Services will follow at the Trout Creek Cemetery located in Call, Texas. (corner of Highway 87 and FM 1004).

All Family, Relatives and Friends are encouraged to join in the Celebration of Life of Grace Guillot. To prevent the spread of the Coronavirus disease, please wear MASKS.

### Some high schools can start football, volleyball practices as soon as Aug. 3

STACY HERNANDEZ  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

High school athletes who attend smaller public schools in Texas can start practicing volleyball and football as soon as Aug. 3. But bigger schools, which are more likely to be in more populous areas, will have to wait longer, according to new guidelines released by the University Interscholastic League on Tuesday.

Due to the continued coronavirus pandemic, the UIL, which is the organization that governs high school sports in Texas, created two separate calendars based on school size for resuming football, volleyball, tennis and cross country. Schools with the 1A to 4A designation can start meeting for games and meets in mid-to-late August. Schools in 5A or 6A, which are the biggest schools, will have to wait until September.

Marching bands across the state can begin their curriculums on Sept. 7.

The organization also issued guidance on face coverings, protocols for individuals exposed to COVID-19 and how to set up meeting areas like band halls and locker rooms.

Anyone 10 years or older must wear a face covering or face shield when in an area where UIL activities are underway, including when not actively participating in the sport or ac-

tivity. People are exempt from the rule if they have a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, while eating or drinking or in a body of water.

Some schools won't have to follow UIL's face covering rule if they are in a county with 20 or fewer active COVID-19 cases that has been approved for exemption by the Texas Department of Emergency Management. In that situation masks can still be mandated if the local school system implements the requirements locally, according to the press release. UIL still "strongly" encourages face coverings in exempt schools.

The decision comes as discussions remain heated among parents, teachers and local and state officials about how and when to reopen schools. Just last week Texas education officials relaxed a previous order that would have given public schools just three weeks from the start of the fall semester to reopen classrooms for in-person instruction.

But the UIL acknowledged that "not all schools will be able to start at the same time" and left some room for schools to decide for themselves when they'll begin scheduling sports, according to the press release.

UIL will work directly with schools whose scheduling concerns aren't addressed in the plan so they can participate in "as many contests as possible."

### Jerome (Jerry) R. Lanni, 81, Bridge City

Jerome (Jerry) R. Lanni, 81, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020. He was born in Warsaw, New York to John and Doris Clark Lanni. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bridge City. Reverend Mark Bunch was the officiant. Burial followed at Antioch Cemetery in Buna at 1:00 p.m. Visitation was held prior to the service, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at St. Paul United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers, John Lanni and Dave Lanni. He is survived by his wife, Sherry Lanni; his son, Jeff and wife Lamanda Lanni; grandsons, Matthew and wife Koti Lanni, Aaron Lanni and Daniel Lanni; great granddaughter, Eliana Lanni; brothers, Jim and wife Barbara Lanni



and Joe Lanni; extended family, Jack and Sheila Schoolfield and John, Cleo, and Hendrix Schoolfield; family in New York, Jim and Bev Stothers, Timmy and Karen Stothers, Judy and Ed Marquart and Dennis and Liza Stothers; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Jerry was a sprinkler fitter/pipe fitter and his work brought him to Bridge City in 1976. Jerry attended St. Paul United Methodist Church and after retirement, enjoyed volunteering at Bridge City Orangefield Ministerial Alliance, where he made many new and lasting friendships and enjoyed the Christian fellowship. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to the Bridge City Orangefield Ministerial Alliance, 200 West Roundbunch Road, Bridge City, Texas 77611.

### Jane Abrego Carmack, 84, Houston

Jane Abrego Carmack, 84, of Houston, Texas, passed away on July 17, 2020, in Houston. A graveside service was held at noon on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Orange, Texas. Born in Orange, Texas, on September 10, 1935, she was the daughter of Frank Abrego, Sr. and Pueblita Abrego. She was a lifelong resident of Orange, Texas until relocating to Houston, Texas in 2012. Prior to her relocation, she was an Office Manager at Little Giant Manufacturing for 25 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family and will be missed by all of those who knew and loved her. Survivors



include her son, Robert Carmack, Jr. of Houston; siblings, Delia Villarreal of Houston, Amelia Lugo of San Bernardino, CA, and Siguel Abrego of Orange; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert (Bob) Carmack; parents, Pueblita and Frank Abrego, Sr.; and siblings, Mary Pachuca, Connie Sanchez, Ruby Denman, Amparo Abrego, Victor Abrego, and Frank Abrego, Jr. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Park Manor Westchase, 11910 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77082, for the purchase of personal protection equipment (PPE).

"Our goal in releasing this plan is to provide a path forward for Texas students and schools," said UIL Executive Director Charles Breithaupt in the press release. "While understanding situations change and there will likely be interruptions that will require flexi-

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Amy Townsend, M.D.

## The Farmer's Wife ...

**LOU HARRIS  
For The Record**



Hello Everyone,  
I hope this week finds you better than last week. Whether we are going through rough storms in life or we are living in peace, the peace of God's presence lights our way. God is our strength and our deliverer. Always look to God in troubled and in peaceful times.

You Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. Psalm 18:28.

### Planting Roses

Remove any grass and debris from the rose bed or planting area. Mix any soil additives with your existing soil. Dig a hole twice the size of your container. The top of the root should be level with the surrounding soil. Do not plant too deep. Stand the rose in the middle of the hole. Fill the hole with parent soil if it is loose. If it is not loose, fill with amended soil. Fill to the same level as the top of the root ball. Apply water, if the soil settles apply more soil. Apply bark, mulch, wood chips or pine straw around the bush, leaving about 2 inches from the base. This helps to keep weeds away and keeps the soil loose, cool and damp. It also encourages earth worms which are good.

### July 22- Do not plant, destroy weeds

July 23,24,25,26 - plant above ground crops, annual flowers, cultivate and kill pest.

### July 27, 29- Transplant

## How to Eat to Feel Strong While Social Distancing

With social distancing orders in place in many areas across the country, you may be doing your grocery shopping with shelf stability in mind. Here are three things to know about eating to feel strong while sheltering in place:

1. Empty Calories Should Get the Boot. Many products designed to last a long time don't contain the vital nutrients your body needs, and instead, contain artificial ingredients that lead to quick energy and crash cycles. While empty calories will keep you alive, they won't allow you to thrive, promoting fat over muscle and actually weakening your body's ability to defend itself.

2. Nutrients Ignite Your Body's Natural Power to Defend. The COVID-19 crisis highlights the fact that those with compromised immune systems and those with chronic dis-

ease are often the most vulnerable to viral infection. Fortunately, you can help to boost your immunity and defend against certain chronic diseases with a nutrient-packed diet. Why? Nutrients nourish your cells, defend against free radicals, give you energy, and aid muscle growth and repair.

3. Eating to Thrive is Easier Than it Sounds. Getting the "Big Five" -- protein, vitamins, minerals, omega-3s and fiber -- doesn't have to be a challenge during difficult situations. To get all your essential nutrients in every meal, consider stocking up on products supported by research, such as Nutrient Survival, a line of nutrient dense foods and drinks that are simple to make. Developed by a team of food scientists. To learn more, visit NutrientSurvival.com. (StatePoint)

### July 28- irrigate and cultivate

#### Receiptes of the Week

##### Sock-it-to-me-Cake

1 pkg yellow butter cake mix, less 2 Tblsp.  
2 Tblsp brown sugar  
2 tsp. Cinnamon

1 c. chopped nuts  
1/3 c oil  
4 eggs  
1 c sour cream  
1/4 c water

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease and flour a bundt cake pan. In a small bowl combine 2 Tblsp cake mix, brown sugar, nuts and cinnamon. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl, mix cake mix, oil, eggs, water and sour cream. Mix well. Pour half the mixture in prepared pan, sprinkle cinnamon around the cake. Pour remaining batter over the top. Bake 45-55 minutes. Cool and turn out.

##### Glaze

1 c. Powder sugar  
1 Tblsp milk  
1/2 tsp vanilla  
Mix until smooth and drizzle over cake.

##### Meatballs and Gravy

1 1/2 lbs lean ground round  
1 med. Onion, chopped fine  
1 bell pepper, chopped fine  
2 eggs, slightly beaten

1 Tblsp worcestershire sauce  
1/4 c cracker meal  
1/3 c milk  
Season to taste.

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well. Shape into 2-3 inch meatballs. Fry

in hot oil until Brown on all sides. Remove and set aside. Add flour to drippings and make a light brown roux. Return meatballs to skillet add water to make a gravy. Cover and lower heat. Cook 30 minutes. Add more water if needed, adjust seasoning to taste. Serve over rice.

**Keri Michutka**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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**CMYK**

## Deeper bite very productive



Albert Bates shows off his nine pound bass.

### CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN For The Record



Dickie Colburn

I can't imagine that we will see another 12.4-pound bass caught this summer, but Toledo Bend did give up at least two more double digit fish this past week. Both fish were caught in the afternoon hours.

Jason Simms' lunker hit a Carolina rigged watermelon-red flake Centipede in twenty-six feet of water and Carol Duplantis duped his prize with a deep diving crankbait in fourteen feet of water. Jason's fish weighed 10.02 pounds and Carol's bass weighed 10.42 pounds.

You certainly can't fault Duplantis for falling in love with his new found weapon. "I won a little tournament back in March with a Norman DD22 crankbait and I am still fishing it most of the time. I can't stand dragging a Carolina rig around when I can't find any grass and this lure will catch them over a bare bottom."

He added that he fishes only two colors. "A crawdad pattern was good when it was colder, but I haven't fished anything but Sexy Shad all summer," added Duplantis. "The best part of using this lure is that I don't have to navigate the wooded creeks. I have fished the deep points on major flats like Tennessee Bay all the way to McGee's and caught fish."

You'll also have to pardon Simms if he doesn't agree with Duplantis' assessment of the Carolina rig. "I don't get to fish a lot and I have never found a better technique for fooling bass in deep water. A little grass or brush helps, but I have a lot of confidence just dragging it around while drifting open flats and deep tree lines."

The south Houston angler said that he has caught several bass over eight pounds on both Toledo Bend and Rayburn the past three years, but was beginning to think he would never break the ten pound mark. "The only time she cleared the water was when I lifted her up on my scales before easing her back in the water. Maybe I'll catch her again next year in the Big Bass Splash!"

Albert Bates has been on a mission this summer to do whatever it takes to locate and fool big bass on the two impoundments and it appears that he is closing the gap very quickly. A month ago he texted me a picture of an 8-pound fish that he had just caught at night on Toledo Bend and last week yet another picture of a nine pound fish he had caught and released on Rayburn.

He said his two most important findings are that there is no substitute for learning to use quality electronics and that, in his opinion, only a few areas consistently attract big bass. "I have found that I can fish the exact same structure and depth in one area and never catch a bass over three pounds while another similar area continues to hold larger fish."

Bates said he has yet to figure out that part of the equation, but there is no doubt that he is quickly shortening the learning curve. The same day he caught his nine pound fish he released two more over the six pound mark. That would be a good start to a winning five fish limit in a tournament!

Everett Johnson recently told me that he has never seen this much fishing pressure in the Matagorda area. Long waits at the launches and boats constantly running around are the new norm. In spite of that, they are still catching quality trout.

That has not been the case here on Sabine Lake. It gets a little crowded south of the Causeway and along the north revetment wall on occasion, but very few folks are even looking around in the main lake.

While the trout we have located in the main lake have been more numerous, size has still been a problem. The catching has been a lot more fun, but limiting on keeper size fish has been a challenge.

All of this could change, however, in the very near future. On the positive side, we are starting to see larger schools of shad all over the north end and it usually doesn't take the Ladyfish and redfish long to find them.

On the negative side, we are now looking in the face of what has been an exceptionally wet time of the year for us ever since Harvey devastated the area and too much fresh water is a game changer. In fact, we have consistently gotten beaten up so badly ever since Harvey that more area fishermen are concerned about their homes flooding than the size of the trout.

Wear your mask!

## Live bait choices make fishing interesting

### CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE OUTDOORS For The Record

No matter how hard lure manufacturers try they will never be able to create a lure that works better than real thing, period. The typical profile of the weekend angler is not that of the high end trophy trout hunter who chunks artificial lures for hours on end looking for one big fish, it's the fisherman who takes a quart of live shrimp or a bucket of mud minnows and looks for anything that will bite. Much has been made of the big trout phenomenon and all the hoopla that surrounds that style of fishing; I personally have devoted plenty of articles to the subject as well as many days on the water. On the other hand I devoted plenty of time on the water fishing with live shad



Chuck Uzzle

or mullet and I enjoy those trips just as much or maybe even more on occasion. There is something very calm and social about anchoring up in the mouth of a little bayou or in the river and peacefully anticipating the next bite for whatever species shows up next. Some of the best conversations I ever had with my son were on the back of boat as we sat fished live bait. The laid back mood associated with this style of fishing is a welcome change from the hectic world that we live in; it's a shame that more anglers aren't willing to participate for fear of their macho image being tarnished. I feel sorry for those folks because they don't know what they are missing.



Redfish and trout alike stay on the prowl for their next meal making live bait a great option.

Here in the Sabine area we are very fortunate to have such a great supply of free live bait, virtually anyone who can throw a cast net can catch enough bait to fish without spending a dime. Most anglers who live here locally have no idea about how much money weekend

anglers on other bay systems spend on live bait, it's crazy. Live shrimp by the quart ranges anywhere from 12 to 20 dollars a quart! Now if you plan on fishing all day you probably will buy at least 3 quarts, that's an extra of 40

UZZLE Page 2B

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## TPWD estimates 5.5 million deer in Texas notching up hunter success rate

Staff Report  
For The Record

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

"From a statewide perspective, hunters might expect to see a higher proportion of bucks in the 6.5 to 8.5-year age classes as a result of above average fawn crop in previous corresponding years while other age classes reflect a more even distribution," Cain said. "While doe harvest has been down slightly in the last couple of years, which is likely contributing to a widening ratio of does to bucks, the good news for hunters is that there should be plenty of carriover from previous years."

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

TPWD wants to remind

**"From a statewide perspective, hunters might expect to see a higher proportion of bucks in the 6.5 to 8.5-year age classes."**

hunters that mandatory harvest reporting is required when taking an antlerless deer during archery, youth-only, muzzleloader or the 4-day doe days during general season in the following counties: Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Waller, Washington and Wilson. Counties also included are Goliad, Jackson, Victoria and Wharton counties north of U.S. Highway 59 and Comal, Hays and Travis east of IH-35. Harvests must be reported within 24 hours of taking an animal via the free My Hunt Harvest app. Public land hunters can also use the My Hunt Harvest app to complete their on-site registration electronically.

All season dates by animal, along with regulations, harvest means and methods and more, can be found online in the Outdoor Annual. The 2020-21 Outdoor Annual will only be available digitally for the upcoming hunting and fishing season. Hunters will have the ability to print copies of relevant portions of the

Outdoor Annual before heading to the field. Hunters can also download the free Outdoor Annual mobile app on iOS and Android.

White-tailed deer and Mule Deer are Chronic Wasting Disease-susceptible animals. As such, prior to hitting the field, TPWD asks that hunters review CWD information to find area testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions in CWD Containment and Surveillance Zones. New for the 2020-21 season, a CWD zone has been established in Kimble County. Additional information about CWD can be found on the TPWD website.

## Uzzle From Page 1B

to 60 dollars a trip on top of 2 dollar, a gallon gas prices. Anglers who fish with guides on places like Calcasieu or Galveston bay not only pay guide fees but they also are expected to pay for the live bait as well, that price gets steep in a hurry. I don't know how many horror stories I have heard from anglers who went out with a guide and paid for live shrimp only to have the bait die half way through the trip due to a bad live well system or some other problem only to have to go back to the bait stand and by more shrimp. My wallet hurts just thinking about it all.

The other high dollar live bait that we really don't have in this area is croaker, the big trout bait of choice on the lower coast. Live croaker cost around 6 dollars a dozen on average and will usually last all day with minimal care. The live croaker as bait industry is a huge money making business, the numbers of live croaker sold on Saturday at the big bait camps are staggering. Many in the fishing community attribute the de-

cline of the croaker to the emphasis on them as bait instead of a game fish. Live croaker are lethal on trout in the summer, while artificial only guides struggle to put together a decent box of fish many "croaker guides" limit out in 2 or 3 hours and get back to the dock well before lunch. There have been plenty of cleaning table alterations surrounding this practice but regardless what some may think using croaker for bait is perfectly legal.

While we don't really have a consistent supply of live shrimp or croaker in our area we do have live bait that is every bit as good if not better, live shad. The small pogies and menhaden that thrive in our waters are great baits for almost any and all species of fish that can be caught in our area either fresh or salt. Besides being readily available for those who can throw a cast net the best thing about them is that they are 100% free. The summer months are tailor made for drifting shad under a cork or fished along the bottom on a Carolina rig.

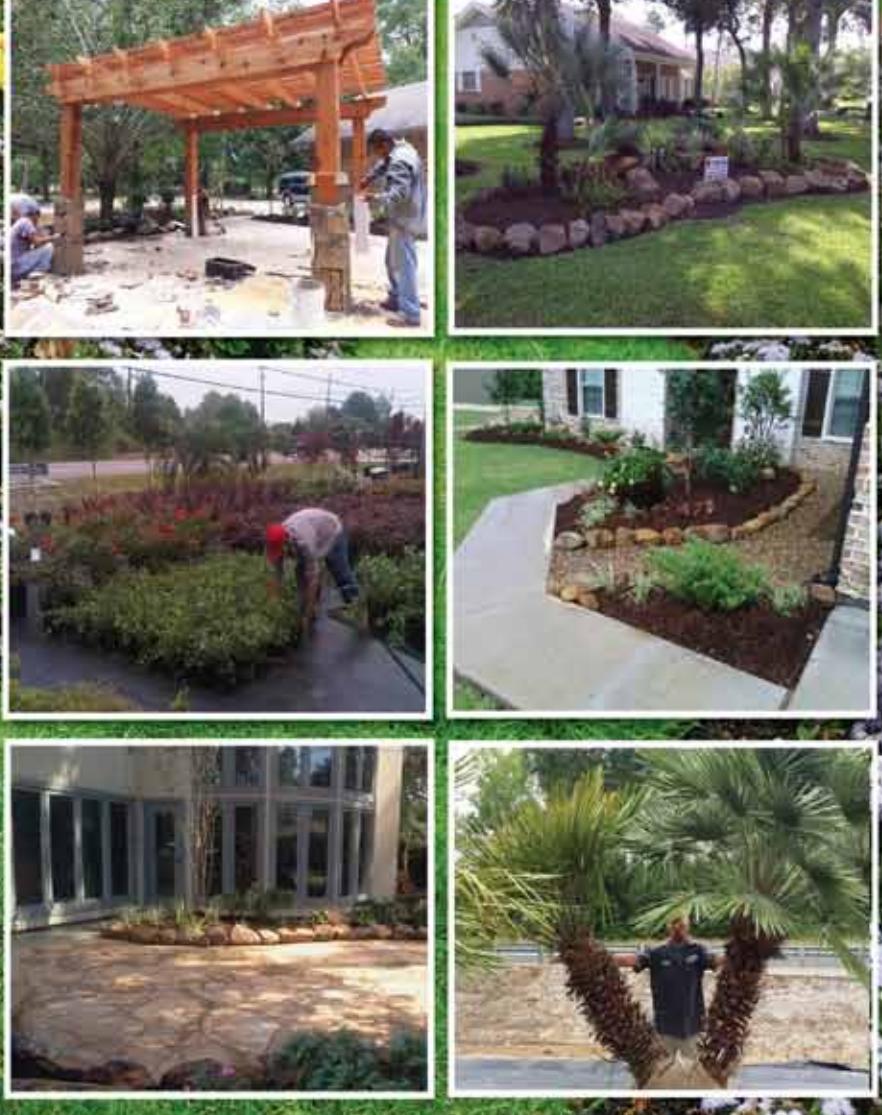
both are popular methods and each works well. If there is a draw back to fishing shad it's their durability, shad are difficult to keep alive for long periods if you don't pay attention. Most anglers try to put too many shad in their live well; this is a recipe for disaster. All the shad in the same small space produce waste and deplete the oxygen in the water which usually kills all the shad really quick. In order to make the most of your shad don't put too many in your live well, change your live well water frequently, and keep the water in you live well cool by adding frozen water bottles or some other means. By taking a few extra precautions you can keep your bait fresh and lively for a really long time.

Take a few minutes before you hit the water this month and make sure you have everything you need to be a successful live bait fisherman. The little details can mean the difference between a great day on the water and one that would better forgotten.

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# 2020 MLB shortened season starts tomorrow

**KAZ'S KORNER**  
Joe Kazmar  
**For The Record**

There won't be any peanuts or crackerjacks and nobody will care if they ever come back because there will be major league baseball starting tomorrow but in a shortened format.

The season was supposed to begin on March 26, but due to the coronavirus pandemic it was put on hold until further notice.

That notice came from MLB without the approval of the Players Association a couple of weeks ago with all 30 teams seeing action either June 23 or 24.

It's the shortest season since the 60-game slate since 1878, the second year of the Rutherford B. Hayes administration, according to Sunday's edition of the Houston Chronicle.

However, public health experts have mixed feelings about opening the season tomorrow, although the nature of the sport produces less on-field risk than football, basketball or hockey.



JOE KAZMAR

The biggest problem I see is for the baseball players staying safe away from the ball park is teams traveling to

and from hard-hit places like Texas, California and Florida, according to the Associated Press article in Sunday's editions.

MLB has provided each team with a 113-page operations manual detailing protocols for its pandemic-shortened 60-game regular season.

Players will be tested every 48 hours with masks and social distancing a must at all times except when on the field.

Some of the "normal" baseball habits such as high-fives, sunflower seeds, spitting and licking the fingers are taboo. Even the team mascots won't be allowed to get close.

There also are protocols for air travel, bus travel, private cars and hotels, along with general guidance to

avoid contact with people outside the baseball world, the article points out.

Once the games begin tomorrow, MLB will pipe in crowd noise and teams will have cutouts of fans behind home plate and other various parts of the ball park. The Houston Astros plan to have cutouts in the outfield and Crawford boxes in left field to compensate for a crowdless game.

In extra-inning games each half-inning will begin with a runner on second base and if the runner scored, it would be ruled an unearned run.

Pitchers coming out of the bullpen now must face a minimum of three batters unless they retire the side earlier.

In a 60-game schedule, there will be less distance from the game's top teams and the cellar-dwellers. USA Sports Weekly has projected the three division winners of each league.

Our Houston Astros should win the AL West with a 35-25 record, one-game ahead of Oakland (34-26),

the Mighty New York Yankees are again favored in the AL East while the Minnesota Twins are the pick in the AL Central.

If the Astros make it to October still in first place, new manager Dusty Baker will become the first skipper in major league history to guide five franchises to the playoffs. He has taken San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds and the Washington Nationals to the playoffs.

In a surprise, Atlanta is picked over World Champion Washington in the NL East, the St. Louis Cardinals are the choice in the NL Central while the LA Dodgers are an overwhelming favorite in the NL West.

The Astros open the season at home on Friday against the Seattle Mariners for a four-game series with the LA Dodgers coming in for two games Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 2019 Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander will pitch the opening game for the eighth consecutive year and 12th of his career. It will

be his third straight opening day with the Astros.

Verlander needs to pitch just 18 innings to become the only active player to log 3,000 innings and already leads active pitchers with 3,006 strikeouts.

## KWICKIES...

The Toronto Blue Jays won't play their home games in Toronto this year because Canada's government doesn't think it's safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States, one of the countries hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.

LeBron James' rookie card was sold for a whopping \$1.845 million.

Oakland Raiders' owner Mark Davis is leaning toward no fans in the stands in the NFL games this fall. "I don't even know it's safe to play," he told ESPN on Monday.

Quarterback Donald Hammond III, who led Air Force to an 11-2 record last season, could miss the 2020 season because he has fallen out of good standing at the Academy.

Alex Rodriguez, who is among four groups of bidders for a possible purchase of the New York Mets, has called for baseball players to accept the type of revenue-sharing system that is tied to a salary cap and sparked quick opposition from the player's union.

Jon Rahm became the new No. 1 pro golfer in the world Sunday after winning the PGA Tour Memorial Tournament last weekend at Dublin, Ohio by three strokes over Texan Ryan Palmer last weekend. The tourney was founded by Jack Nicklaus and usually attracts the world's top golfers. Rahm became only the second Spaniard to attain No. 1 status since Seve Ballesteros several decades ago.

## JUST BETWEEN US...

Those of you who looked at me like I was some kind of idiot for running my July 8 column again on July 15 must understand that it was just a mistake by the very hard working, but small production staff at The Record. Sorry about that.

## Kids are online more, here's how to keep them safe

**Staff Report**  
**For The Record**

Children are spending more time online due to social distancing measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. And while the internet can be an amazing gateway to knowledge and a tool to connect with family and friends, if parents and caregivers don't follow certain precautions, it can also pose safety hazards.

Fortunately, there are effective actions parents can take to help keep kids safe online so that they can continue to reap the educational and social benefits of online use.

• Have a Dialogue: While you may be working remotely or otherwise occupied, if possible, try to spend time in the same room as your kids during the day so you can keep tabs on them. An open dialogue can go a long way toward establishing mutual trust between generations.

Parents should have a respectful discussion with children about what kinds of activities they are engaging in online and who they are communicating with. This discussion should include what constitutes inappropriate content. Let kids know they can come to you if they are being sent images or messages that fall into this category.

• Steer Children to Quality Content: From free educa-

tional gaming apps to the online educational resources offered by museums and your local library, actively encourage your kids to explore the wealth of positive content designed for students and young people.

• Update Devices: Be sure to keep your family's devices safeguarded from hackers and malware by installing the latest updates.

• Use New Tools: New tools can help parents effectively keep screen time in check. For example, by using OurPact, a screen time management solution, parents can limit app access automatically for recurring activities like school or bedtime, and can block or grant internet access on a child's device any time. With the app, parents can even view screenshots of kids' digital activity on Apple devices (this feature will be available on Android soon.)

"These abilities allow families to create and maintain a well-balanced schedule, while also offering parents a valuable tool for protecting their kids from unsafe content and people," says Michele Havner, director of marketing for Eturi Corp., makers of OurPact.

While the current crisis has created new online hazards that families should be aware of, parents can be proactive about keeping kids safe.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **SHARON LYNN SEGURA**, Deceased, were issued on the 14th day of JULY, 2020, in Cause No. P18774, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **Darrell A. Segura**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**Darrell A. Segura**  
P.O. Box 368  
Bridge City, TX 77611

DATED the 20th day of July, 2020.

#### Misty Segura

Misty Segura  
Attorney for:  
Darrell A. Segura  
State Bar No.: 24033174  
1221 Lamar Street, 16th Fl.  
Houston, TX 77010  
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JOHN STEVEN BYERLY**, Deceased, were issued on the 14th day of JULY, 2020, in Cause No. P18783, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **NATHAN WADE BYERLY**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**Nathan Wade Byerly**  
9412 FM 1130  
Orange, TX 75632

DATED the 15th day of July, 2020.

#### Rex Peveto

Rex Peveto  
Attorney for:  
Nathan Wade Byerly  
State Bar No.: 00791437  
118 Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: (409)883-0220  
Fax: (409)883-0259  
Email: liz@peveto律师事务所

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **JOHN ROY FREDERICK**, Deceased, were issued on the 8th day of JULY, 2020, in Cause No. P18695, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **ERCELL ARNOLD FREDERICK**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**Ercell Arnold Frederick**  
7238 Frederick Lane  
Orange, TX 75632

DATED the 15th day of July, 2020.

#### Rex Peveto

Rex Peveto  
Attorney for:  
Ercell Arnold Frederick  
State Bar No.: 00791437  
118 Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: (409)883-0220  
Fax: (409)883-0259  
Email: liz@peveto律师事务所

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT INTERIM FUEL REFUND

On July 15, 2020, Entergy Texas, Inc. (ETI) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to implement an interim fuel refund to refund over-collected fuel and purchased power costs as of April 30, 2020 (Application). This filing was made pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.237(a)(3)(B). ETI's filing affects only the recovery of fuel and purchased power costs and does not affect base rates that are currently in effect. All residential, commercial and industrial customers whose electric service rates include charges for fuel pursuant to Rate Schedule FF, entitled "Fixed Fuel Factor and Loss Multipliers," in all territories served by ETI, are affected by the Application.

The total amount of over-recovery balance to be refunded through the proposed interim fuel refund is approximately \$25.5 million, including interest. According to the Texas Utilities Code and Commission rules, ETI may not earn a profit on fuel and purchased power expenses and may only pass actual fuel and purchased power costs through to its customers. ETI's fuel and purchased power expenses will be subject to final review by the Commission in a future fuel reconciliation proceeding. The effect of the refund on customers' bills will vary depending on the rate schedule under which they take service. ETI proposed that the refund be implemented beginning with ETI's first August 2020 billing cycle over a three-month period for all Rate Schedule FF customers, except for customers on Rate Schedules GS, LGS and LIPS at a delivery voltage of 69-kilovolts (kV)/138-kV or 230 kV, LIPS at a primary delivery voltage and seasonal agricultural customers whose refund ETI proposes to make in the billing month of August 2020. For a residential customer using 1,000 kWh a month, the interim refund will result in a \$4.67 reduction in the customer's bill for each month of the refund, or a net decrease of approximately 4.1 percent as compared to current charges.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact Entergy Texas, Inc. at Attn: Customer Service - Fuel Refund, P.O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, or call 1-866-981-2602 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the filing is available for inspection at ETI's Beaumont office located at 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 51037 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding or who wish to express their comments regarding this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120, or toll free at 1888-782-8477. Hearing- or speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) at 1-800-735-2989.

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#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas  
To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of

**RICHARD DURA YAW, Deceased**

Cause No. P18681  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Counter-Application for Letters of Administration and Counter-Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on JULY 10, 2020, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Richard Dura Yaw, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on July 21, 2020.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Samantha McInnis, Deputy

Samantha McInnis

#### ENGAGEMENTS • WEDDINGS

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CMYK

**ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY****Why We Long for Intimacy with God**

**Ed Welch**  
Counselor, CCEF  
[desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

We often think of relationships in terms of distance. They can be close or distant. To be human is to be close to the ones we love. I consider it a problem if I am with my wife for an hour and we never touch. I want to be close, and that closeness includes physical proximity, personal openness, and seeking Christ together.

This simple observation declares much more, of course. The triune God is intimate and close within himself, and he created us to be close to him. This heavenly pattern endures in our everyday life and relationships. It is built into our creation and re-creation.

The whole history of redemption can be summarized as God bringing those who were once far off near forever by the blood of his Son (Ephesians 2:13). He gets the glory, and we get fullness of joy in his presence (Psalm 16:11). Just as faith enables us to see that "the heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1; see also Hebrews 11:3), so faith enables us to see how our natural desire for human closeness declares much about God.

Most of us would agree that this theology-of-closeness can be drawn from Scripture and has a place in our theological system.

The question is, how important is it? Not all theology is created equal. Though equally true, not all its parts are equally significant. Love and mercy take precedence over sacrifice (Matthew 9:13). Our call to pursue others with peace is more prominent than our concern that we might be casting pearls before swine (Acts 20:24).

The question I want to consider is this: How important is Scripture's teaching on relationship and closeness? If it is merely acknowledged, the teaching remains on our shelves and rarely informs daily life. If it is among the foundational themes, it changes everything.

The role that carries this theme in Scripture is our identity as priests of God. A priest's work is to be in God's house, enjoy his fellowship, and grow closer and closer to him.

**Priests Who Are Pursued**

Sin and separation would seem to be the logical end of the story — unless you remember that God's plan was that his people would be with him, and that the Lord always accomplishes his purposes.

Death entered the world but didn't end it. Life persisted, and whenever life persists the Lord of life must be close.

His nearness, at times just barely out of sight, certainly had its more obvious and vivid moments. People like Enoch and Noah walked with God; Abraham was a friend of God. The priestly role persisted. If there was any doubt that the Lord would remain near to his people, he erased them by binding himself to them through covenant.

Then, as out of nowhere,

Melchizedek appeared (Genesis 14:18), and he was later cited as evidence of the priestly line fulfilled in Jesus. We too are in that line.

Jacob was an unlikely priest. He was a deceiver, yet he rested at a place where heaven touched earth by way of a ladder (Genesis 28:10–17). To commemorate the place, he renamed it Bethel, or House of God, and laid a rock that would anticipate God's later temple in Israel.

Jumping ahead to the exodus from Egypt, each head of household functioned as a priest during the first Passover: the people offered sacrifices and had a fellowship meal, and God came close. The entire nation was identified as "a kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6). Sin would not foil God's plan for his people-priests. He would pursue them and be close to them.

**Priests in God's House**

We can mistakenly begin the priestly story when God's tabernacle became a regular feature of Hebrew life and priests were temporarily identified as men from the tribe of Levi. The priestly role, however, was not new. The law from Sinai added details to the priesthood. Holiness, for example, became key for humanity. For God to be close, his people must be holy.

Holiness is about distance. The tabernacle was the center of God's earthly presence. Gentiles who lived apart from God's words were far from him. The unclean were also far. The clean could approach God's house and bring sacrifices.

The priests who had been both cleansed and consecrated, or made holy, could actually enter into God's outer apartment — the Holy Place. On the Day of Atonement, one priest could go farther in and represent the people at the place where heaven and glory were most fully concentrated on earth. The regulations of the tabernacle taught the people how they could draw near to the Lord.

**Great High Priest**

The priestly tradition seems to end with Jesus. While Jesus ful-

filled every detail of temple work and worship in his death and resurrection, references to God's people as "priests" are scarce.

Paul wrote that he was "in the priestly service of the gospel of God" (Romans 15:16). Peter wrote that we are "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). Revelation identifies us as "priests of God" (Revelation 5:10, 20:6). Yet even though these are among the few explicit references to priests, our priestly identity remains at the heart of New Testament teaching.

We track this identity through the more inclusive title saint, which substitutes for and enhances the title priest. Saints are holy ones, cleansed and sanctified by the blood of Jesus, invested with priestly robes of righteousness. They belong to God and are close to him. Now the pleasure of God's presence is forever ours. We are even his very tabernacle, and he dwells in us (1 Corinthians 3:16). We are one in Christ and one with Christ. This goes far beyond any closeness we could have imagined.

**'I Am with You'**

It turns out to be a short step from a simple observation about human nearness to our mission as royal priests. Our interest in closeness exists because intimacy and fellowship are so fundamental to the character of God. The imprint of this nearness is so strong that it overflows through humanity and creation. It is why we struggle with extended times of isolation. God has established his kingdom by drawing near to us and uniting Jews and Gentiles in himself. Together, we grow in unity on the far side of the torn veil as God's priests, his saints. From that intimate place, we are a people sent out toward others, to invite them to draw near to the reigning Lord.

This priestly closeness even reaches into our understanding of sin. Sin is lawbreaking, resulting in distance from God. As in human relationships, sin disrupts unity. Secrets and guilt create walls and isolation. Confession and renewed obedience serve to increase our communion with God. He draws near to us, and he invites us to draw ever nearer to

him.

Priests are often underemphasized in our present discussions about prophet-priest-king. Perhaps their New Testament reputation inhibits our interest. But they are the human identity most attached to God's nearness and presence. As such, the role has weight and priority. It is filled with implications for daily life and gospel invitations.

In Christ, you are a royal priest. You were created to be close to God, and he has done it. "I am with you" is now a certainty and is the summary of all his promises to you.

*Ed Welch is a counselor and faculty member at The Christian Counseling and Education Foundation. He has been counseling for more than thirty years and has written extensively on the topics of depression, fear, and addictions. His most recent book is *Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships*.*

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5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer: Rite II (Wednesday)  
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Jon Brinlee, Pastor

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Rev. Mark Bunch Email: [office@stpaulfamily.org](mailto:office@stpaulfamily.org)

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Prayer Meeting  
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**9788 F.M. 105 Orangefield 409.735.3113**

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Pastor Cody Hogden  
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