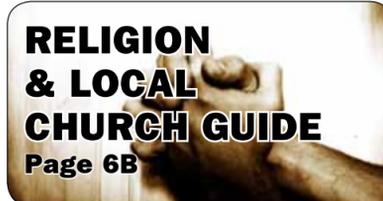




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The Penny Record

Vol. 61 No. 10

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Week of Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Covid, values hike trigger tax concern

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Property tax values on Orange County homes were up 4% on average as of Jan. 1, 2020 and if the tax rates set by local governments in August and September only stay the same as they were last year, the average homeowner will see their 2020 tax bill go up by the same 4%.

A rise in property values and a raise in tax rates would put a double whammy on taxpayers.

Orange County Commissioners voted 4-1 Tuesday to set their proposed tax rate at 58.648 cents per \$100 of taxable property value.

The tax rate will not be voted upon until after an Aug. 18 public hearing and would mean an increase of

about 4.45 cents per \$100 value from the rate of 54.2 cents per \$100, a rate that has remained steady since 2017.

The final tax rate may not be higher than the proposed tax rate but it can be lower.

Robert Viator, Precinct 4 Commissioner, voted against the higher number, saying, "I cannot support a rate higher than our current tax rate."

The proposed tax rate would increase country taxes for the owner of a house taxed at \$100,000 value \$44.50 a year, or less than \$4 more per month.

"My goal is not to get to 586," said County Judge John Gothia, who will work with department heads and County Auditor Pennee Schmitt on next year's budget. "My goal is 542. I just need to

know where my number is, where I need to start work at. "But it [the 58.648 per \$100 rate] does allow some flexibility if we need it. Hopefully, we don't."

Orangefield Superintendent Shaun McAlpin joined

Gothia in stressing that a proposed rate increase is only a worst-case scenario if August budget prep can't trim the number before it's finalized.

Orangefield school trustees voted Monday night to

propose a rate of \$1.15 per \$100, which is nearly 3 cents below last year's rate. But property values in OFISD went up 5.6%.

That means the owner of the average homestead exempted house worth \$91,650

last year saw his homestead value increased to \$96,879 for 2020 and will pay \$1,115.73 in taxes, an increase of \$35.77 per year or \$2.91 per month.

TAX CONCERNS Page 3A

Gothia gives fuel judge's future runs

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

John Gothia was not one of two politicians running for office in Orange County this year to raise more than \$30,000.

But he got close.

And the man who won the County Judge election with about 75% of the votes is the only one to have saved \$21,000 of his campaign dollars.

Meanwhile, Rex Peveto, judge elect for the 163rd District Court, spent more than \$60,000 to win a job that pays \$158,000, almost never draws a re-election challenge and has an awesome retirement plan.

All this comes from campaign finance reports filed with the state and county July 15.

While the general election is not scheduled until November, those who ran in the March 3 Republican Primary have no Democratic opponents in November, so March 3 was their election.

So what's Gothia doing with all that green?

"Well, I'll run some ads, but I can hold the money until my next election," he said. "I'll hold it until I decide to run again and then I can use it on the next one."

Campaign funds are restricted in their usage.

Gothia's opponent in the primary was Vidor blueberry farmer Ernest Bayard, who reported no fund-raising and only \$4,000 in expenses.

Gothia's primary expenses were for yard signs and a few newspaper ads.

Elected as County Commissioner in 2016, Gothia was appointed as County Judge on a fill-in basis last summer. His election to the



Gothia



Peveto

job that pays \$107,140 per year was for a two-year term that officially begins Jan. 1, 2021 to run through 2022.

Final election reports, due July 20, show Michael Catt and Rob Strause, unsuccessful candidates for 163rd District Court Judge and Sheriff, each topped \$30,000 in reported contributions while Gothia bagged up \$28,100 in contributions.

"I could have raised more," he said, noting he didn't list any incoming funds in his final report. "I asked them to quit sending me money."

Peveto, the son of a former Texas legislator, spent more than \$47,000 with DDM Marketing of Lumberton, a one-stop marketing firm that designed his advertising and displayed it on social media, billboards, television, radio and newspapers.

In the July report, he listed \$28,789 in expenses between Feb. 23 and June 30. That brought his campaign's total expenses to \$62,740, based on four filings in 2020.

His July report included checks of \$18,808 and \$2,942 to DDM. His last campaign filing in February included a \$25,510 check to DDM.

Peveto's July report showed \$1,500 in contributions, a pair of checks from Orange attorneys written after the election.

Catt's final report shows he raised \$8,750 in political contributions between Feb.

LOCALELECTION Page 3A

Cardinals Back On Campus

After months of uncertainty due to Covid-19 Bridge City goes back to school. Class of 2021 have their 'Last First Day.'



BCBS Student Body Executive Officers for the 2020 - 21 school year welcomed students on the first day of class on Monday, August 3rd. Seated on floor (left to right): Special Events Coordinator, Senior Madison Smith, Reporter, Junior, Brianna Zuniga, Secretary, Junior Kinley Dupuis, Vice President, Senior Chloe Huff, Director of Communications, Senior Madison Bonin, Chaplain, Sophomore Emma Briggs, Entertainment Coordinator, Senior Natalie Varney; Row 2: President, Senior Grant Boudreaux, Treasurer, Junior Ethan Oceguedra, Spirit Coordinator, Junior Lauren Richter, Campus Relations, Senior Cadence Underwood, Community Relations, Senior Adrienne Cunningham, Parliamentarian, Senior Parker Ellis Not pictured: Education, Senior Tuyen Le.

TxDOT draws fire from Orange leaders

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The Texas Department of Transportation has come under fire from both city and county officials in recent weeks.

Orange City Councilman Pat Pullen, a retired police captain, took on the state agency in a recent news conference to make public his pleas for streetlights along MacArthur Drive.

They are pleas that have so far met a brick wall.

Orange County Commissioner Johnny Trahan reported in a statement to the General Land Office his upset with TxDOT over its road projects which he says are hampering drainage in north Orange, also complaining about a lack of cooperation.

Asked for comments, Sarah Dupre, public information for TxDOT's Beaumont District, forwarded general statements.

"TxDOT is currently

working with local municipalities and the drainage district to determine projects which would improve drainage throughout Orange County," stated the email sent by Dupre.

Regarding MacArthur Drive, which Pullen says has been the cause of five nighttime auto-pedestrian fatalities since 2007, TxDOT's response was to remind of its announced plan to shut down the two outside auto lanes and convert them into bike/pedestrian lanes.

As it said when first announcing the upcoming project, the reply said lighting might be added later.

That's not what Pullen wanted to hear.

"I did some research and there's never been a fatality during the day," Pullen said of the stretch between 16th Street and the intersection of Strickland Drive.

"In each of the nighttime fatalities, illumination was a factor. Maybe all of those



Pullen



Trahan

people and children would be alive right now if there were lights."

Pullen listed the four auto-pedestrian incidents. The accident sites run from the NAPA Auto Parts Store to just west of Granger Chevrolet:

Jan. 24, 2007, 5:23 a.m., 2900 block of MacArthur, a 38-year-old man struck by car and killed.

Nov. 23, 2011, 6:35 p.m., 2500 block of MacArthur, a 22-year-old woman and her 2-year-old daughter, struck by a car. The adult survived, not her child.

Jan. 2, 2015, 8:05 p.m., 2200 block of MacArthur, a 26-year-old woman and her 6-year-old daughter, struck

by a car and both died.

June 22, 2020, 9:44 p.m., 1900 block of MacArthur, a 72-year-old man on a bicycle struck by a car and died a few days later.

"I've had several meetings with TxDOT and each time they told me they didn't have enough money for us," Pullen said. "Except the last time, they have a new supervisor. He wanted to tell us about the new sidewalk."

"There wasn't a warm welcome to that. If you put a bike/walk lane [in place of a traffic lane], they will just be closer to traffic. It makes no sense. Drivers turning right off MacArthur to go to a shopping center, or pulling out from one, will have to cross the sidewalk."

That stretch of MacArthur is in TxDOT's jurisdiction because it's also known as Texas 87. The north side is in the Pinehurst city limits and the south side is in West Orange.



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COVID-19 IN TEXAS

Why Texas' coronavirus data comes with caveats

Emma Platoff,
Edgar Walters and
Sarh R. Champgne
The Texas Tribune

Accurate and up-to-date coronavirus data is critical — not just for informing the officials making policy, but for parents trying to decide whether to send their kids to day care and business owners wondering whether to reopen their stores.

But Texas officials keep correcting the data — whether it's because of human error, shifting benchmarks or bureaucratic changes. Last week, Texas increased its coronavirus fatality toll by hundreds of people — then lowered it again, lending fuel to skeptics who question the accuracy of the government data. The state does not typically report complete hospitalization data, and during a recent week was reporting even less than usual. And a myriad of tests with varying accuracy have confused its metrics, with some local health departments including test results the state considers unreliable.

Experts say the state's coronavirus data is useful as long as users understand its limitations — and can identify misinformation campaigns that attempt to discredit it. Generating precise, comprehensive data about a previously unknown virus that has infected millions is next to impossible. Rapidly changing testing technology, inconsistent data collection processes and an evolving understanding of the virus' effects on the human body have complicated the state's herculean task of reporting health data that researchers, policymakers, journalists and the public devour each day.

"The overall data are reliable in showing what is happening with COVID-19 in

Texas, particularly when taken together," said Chris Van Deusen, a spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"What we collect and publish every day is provisional data that hasn't yet gone completely through those rigorous checks and is subject to change," Van Deusen said. "Because of that, not every piece of data will not be precise 100% of the time, and we don't expect it to be, but it is accurate enough to let us

plagued several important metrics that the state reports, mistakes that have the potential to mislead decision-makers about the virus' true course and to feed dangerous misinformation narratives. Those risks are particularly urgent at a time when epidemiologists are calling for protective measures such as mask-wearing and keeping distance from others.

"It's only with the data that I can make a prediction" or

providing fuel to incorrect claims made by virus skeptics who said that death tallies include fatalities of COVID-positive individuals who died by other means, like car accidents. They do not.

In the end, the state's reported coronavirus death toll grew by 8% after accounting for the new methodology and the subsequent correction.

"Of course, all data has limitations, and there are times we get updated or better information, and we make changes as quickly and transparently as possible," Van Deusen said. The amount of data officials are collecting during the coronavirus pandemic and the speed at which they're sharing it, he said, "is unlike anything public health has ever done before."

"In normal circumstances, there is a months-long process of reconciling information and doing quality checks before publishing final data on infectious diseases. That's not nearly fast enough for COVID-19, so we and our partners have to move much more quickly," he said.

The state's new method of counting deaths has created discrepancies with local tallies. The state is reporting hundreds more Harris County deaths than Harris County leaders are. It's just the opposite in Hidalgo County, where local leaders are reporting hundreds more dead than the state claims.

State health officials say local leaders may be incorrectly including deaths of people who did not live in Hidalgo County. Local leaders say the state's death certificates have been delayed, leading to incorrect reports — and that they weren't consulted before the state an-

nounced a major change in its reporting methods.

State officials have said they are doing their best under trying and unprecedented circumstances.

Even under the best circumstances, the state's data paints an incomplete picture of the virus' spread. Researchers estimate that the

true number of coronavirus cases could be more than 10 times the number of positive tests. As many as half of the people who contract the virus may never experience symptoms, making their cases hard to include. Death tolls are also undercounted, researchers agree — the question is by how much.

American Legion Orange Pork Loin Fund Raiser

The American Legion Post 49 located at 108 Green Ave. in Orange will hold a Pork Loin plate lunch fundraiser from 11 am to 1 pm on Thursday, August 6. The cost is \$9.00 and includes Pork Loin Steak, rice & gravy, corn, sweet potatoes, bread & dessert. Walk-ins welcome and delivery is available. Call 409-886-1241 after noon on Wed., August 5 and before 9 am on Thur., August 6 for orders or delivery. Coronavirus precautions observed.

Experts say the state's coronavirus data is useful as long as users understand its limitations.

know what's happening and guide our response."

The Texas Department of State Health Services coronavirus dashboard updates daily with new numbers of confirmed cases, tests performed, deaths and more, with limited demographic information and some numbers broken out by county. Texas fares well on data transparency in comparison with other states, earning an A for the quality of its data from The Atlantic's COVID Tracking Project, one of the most robust U.S. resources on the virus.

"From a purely informational point of view, the [state] dashboard is helpful. ... If you're actually working in data with COVID-19, trying to inform policy or disease modeling, those researchers are well aware of the limitations that we have right now," said Angela Clendenin, an epidemiologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health. "There's utility in it because we recognize that it's imperfect."

But over the past four months, data errors have

policy recommendations, said Rajesh Nandy, a professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at the University of North Texas Health Science Center who recently analyzed whether mask orders slowed viral transmission in North Texas.

"Of course we want the data as reliable as possible, but nothing is perfect," said Nandy, who as a public health researcher is used to adjusting for data discrepancies.

Last week, the state had to twice correct its tally of coronavirus fatalities.

On Monday, the state counted hundreds of previously unreported deaths after switching how it tallied fatalities. Previously, it had relied on local officials' records; now, it relies on data from death certificates.

By Thursday, state officials issued a mea culpa, removing several hundred deaths that had been erroneously counted because of an "automation error."

The significant correction set off a scramble for researchers. And the reaction on social media was swift,

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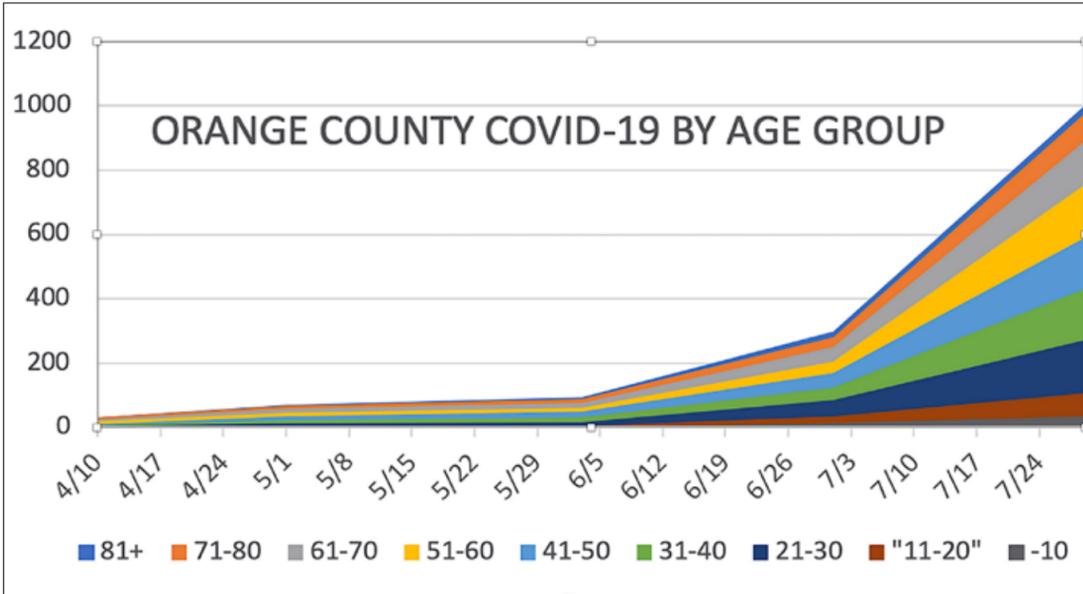
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As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases skyrocket in Orange County, the mysterious respiratory disease is affecting those under 30 years of age at a higher rate. It remains to be seen how the return of students to classrooms will move the numbers. COVID GRAPH: Dave Rogers

Local election spending

From Page 1

27, less than a week before the March 3 Republican Primary and March 24.

The money included eight \$1,000 checks, six from Beaumont attorneys and law firms, and it pushed him to \$33,839 in political contributions for the campaign.

The Orange attorney spent a total of \$43,160, which is more than \$10 for each of the 4,000-plus votes he got.

Pevelto, another Orange attorney, beat him in the battle for the open seat by a 59% to 41% margin.

Catt's July 20 expense report included \$31,970 in expenses for the period between Feb. 23 and July 15, including \$28,512 spent with Neil-Troy Advertising in Beaumont, and a \$500 late filing fine payable.

Lane Mooney defeated Strause in a tightly contested



Mooney

election to replace a retiring Sheriff Keith Merritt. The winning margin was 52% to 48%.

Strause reported \$15,773 in contributions on his first campaign filing in January and hit \$30,186 overall with his Feb. 24 filing.

Strause's final report was late arriving and not included in this report.

Mooney showed \$1,000 in contributions for the final period, bringing his campaign in at about \$25,000.

Tax concerns

From Page 1

"This rate will not be official until the board acts on it Aug. 31," McAlpin said, noting that's the night of the public rate hearing as well.

"For the homeowner, it's a fine balance. You want your home values to increase gradually, in case you decide to sell someday. It also allows your equity to increase. But nobody likes paying higher taxes."

Bridge City's city council voted Tuesday night to set its proposed tax rate at 54.08 cents per \$100, a decrease of 2.2% from last year's rate of 55.35. But with property values going up 4.5%, the average BC homesteader will see a minimal rise in 2020 city taxes of \$13.01 per year if that proposed rate is adopted.

West Orange-Cove school district starts its fiscal year in July, unlike other area districts that face a September deadline. Counties and cities start their fiscal years in Oc-

tober.

WOC saw a 2% decrease in homestead property values. It voted on a 1.25 cent per \$100 cut in tax rate, to \$1.31 per \$100. That will save the district's average homesteader \$16.48 in taxes.

Because of the national disaster that is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some local taxing entities won't rule out raising their tax rates as they prepare their 2021 budgets and seek to navigate the unplanned expenses brought on by the health crisis.

Texas taxing entities like counties, cities and school districts, were supposed to see tighter restrictions on raising tax rates go into effect for 2020, thanks to the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019.

But the new law included a provision that taxing units could apply the old rules for their 2020 taxes if their

county was hit by an official declared disaster.

Orange County has been the victim of two disasters – the ongoing coronavirus and Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019 for which school districts, cities and the county received no federal disaster reimbursement funds.

Last week, County Commissioners directed that the voter approval tax rate be calculated at 8%, invoking the disaster waiver. If not the voter approval tax rate, which used to be called the rollback rate, would be 3.5%.

Pinehurst City Council made the same move at its July 21 meeting.

The law in Texas had required counties or cities to get taxpayers' permission -- via an election -- if they wanted to raise their annual tax rates more than 8% of the effective tax rate -- the rate that would raise the same number of property taxes as were raised the previous year

(the effective tax rate is called the "no new revenue tax rate" under the act).

The rollback rate was 5% for schools; now the voter approval tax rate is 2.5%.

"The Legislature told citizens they were going to control tax rate and that's what they did," Gothia said. "Our intent is not to go up any. This [disaster waiver] is in case we need it."

"If we'd have been under the 3.5% rule last year, I'd have had to cut \$1.4 million out of the budget. The cost of operating the county as a whole continues to rise. Just like it does any business. Nothing goes down."

Orange County last week posted a schedule of salary increases for 10 of its 25 elected officials, but Gothia said the dollars reflected -- three-figure hikes in most cases -- were merely longevity pay, based on experience. Although those extra dollars are not optional, state law requires they be posted, Gothia said.

In five cases, salaries will be less this year because new office holders hold those jobs, replacing others who drew longevity pay.

Gothia said the county could not afford to give employee pay raises this year.

"We know our county employees are not paid anywhere where they need to be

but we can't give them raises this year, maybe not next year," the judge said. "If we give raises next year [under the 3.5% voter approval tax rate], we've got to go cut somebody."

"This is a tight year, but next year is going to be worse."

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<p>2013 Honda Accord Sdn Sport Sedan 2.4L 4 Cyl., Variable Trans., Exterior Color: Gray, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 64841, Stock #P2233 \$12,443</p>	<p>2018 Ford F-150 Lariat SuperCrew Cab 5.0L 8 Cyl., Auto. Trans., Exterior: Black, Interior: Black, Mileage: 99085 Stock #: P2230 \$30,823</p>	<p>2018 Subaru Impreza Premium Sedan 2.0L 4 Cyl., Variable Trans., Exterior: Magnetite Gray Metallic, Interior: Black, Mileage: 45715 Stock #: P2226 \$16,871</p>	<p>2015 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ SUV 3.6L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans., Exterior: Tungsten Metallic Interior: Jet Black, Mileage: 47021, Stock No. P2215 \$15,491</p>

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From The Creaux's Nest

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Our tax assessor and friend **Karen Fisher** underwent heart surgery Tuesday morning to repair a valve in her heart. She feared the procedure done at **Baptist Hospital** in Beaumont would include having to crack her chest. The doctors were able to make the repair by going through her groin. She was out of surgery by 9:00 A.M. and in recovery. Her husband was able to visit with her later. By afternoon she was resting well. **Karen** is expected to be out from work for about three weeks. What a great lady. We're glad for her that all went well.****I never would have dreamed that after not being an at home husband for over 65 years, I could stay locked in for going on three months. I can't wait to get on the road again making memories with my friends. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

PROBE OF TRUMP'S TAX RECORDS GOES BEYOND SEX HUSH MONEY

President Donald Trump's main concern about his re-election is to run out the clock on time limits for prosecution. Manhattan District Attorney **Cyrus Vance Jr.** suggested Monday that an investigation into **President Trump** ranges far beyond disguised payments to alleged mistresses prior to the 2016 election. As part of a continuing fight to obtain eight years of **Trump's** personal and business tax records, **Vance's** prosecutors asserted in court documents Monday that their grand jury subpoena was issued at a time when the **Trump organization** was at the center of "allegations of possible criminal activity dating back over a decade, not payments made to adult film actress **Stormy Daniels** and former **Playboy** model **Karen McDougal**, who claimed affairs with **Trump** before he was elected." The battle for **Trump's** tax returns and financial records has raged on since the **Supreme Court** ruled last month that the president lacks immunity from criminal investigation, paving the way for **Vance** to resume an effort to obtain the documents. **Carey Dunne**, general counsel for the **Manhattan DA's office** noted that the subject of the investigation, **Trump Organization**, is based in **New York City**. Since the **Supreme Court** decision, the fight has moved to a **New York federal district court**.

TRUMPS TEAM VS HANNITY AND TUCKER

There are two games going on in **Trump's** re-election campaign. The team running the campaign wants to highlight accomplishments and focus on a platform in the second term. They are being rebuffed by **FOX** hosts **Tucker Carlson** and **Sean Hannity**. A couple of weeks ago, **Sean** said, "In the last 100 days we are going to run an earth scorching campaign against **Joe**. We'll dig up 50 years of voting records, we won't leave a stone unturned." I figure what we will see is more of the same on **Biden's** adult son **Hunter**, **Burisma**, probably more on **China** and tying **Joe** to some **Obama** policies. Both of the **FOX News** host are attempting to throw **Trump's** son-in-law **Jared Kushner** under the bus, claiming he has been giving **Trump** bad advice. The **AP** reports the **Trump** campaign has spent **\$6.5 million** to air the "**Biden is slipping**" ad. Since then polls show that **52.7%** of voters believe **Biden** is mentally and physically prepared to be president versus **43%** for **Trump**. A **Biden** spokesman said, "I think **Trump** at 35 was unfit to be president and he's 74 now and even more unfit. **Biden** was writing laws when he was in his twenties." What I believe will backfire on the **Trump** bunch is that they have heightened expectations for **Trump's** debate performances while lowering the bar for **Biden's** performance. On substance **Biden** is far more astute. He has served in every committee in the senate and was chairman of several. **Biden** is considered an expert in foreign affairs. **Trump's** stabbing to paint **Biden** mentally unfit will backfire on the debate stage because it will be **Biden's** knowledge against **Trump's** showmanship. At other times, being a clown might have worked for **Trump** but not this time. **The country is in a crisis, citizens are suffering and dying.** They are in no mood for loud lip service. Voters are looking for real leadership. **Biden** will win debates on personal qualities like trustworthiness. Remember **Trump** literally suggested Americans inject disinfectants to cure **Covid-19**. **Joe** won't let him run from that. My bet is that **Joe** wins all three debates.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2010

Friday, Aug. 6, found real estate magnate "**Sleepy**" **Smith** on a big ship pulling up to the dock in Alaska. It was his birthday and he planned to make it a big day. He and his traveling buddy **Stevie Ray** were going down for breakfast, then a seven-hour train ride through Alaska. Friday evening they would celebrate **Sleepy's** birthday in a large restaurant. **Sleepy** wanted us to contact **Cochise** to wire him some money. He hadn't figured on drinks costing \$8 each. Alaska had been a longtime dream so he chose his birthday for the trip. His contact to meet with **Sarah Palin** was

Levi Johnson but he had flown the coupe for California so **Sleepy** had to settle for a couple of Eskimo gals.****Saturday night found a few natives dining at **Delta Downs'** buffet. **George Navarro**, wife and friends, **Harry and Margie Stephens**, **Yank Peveto**, **Roy** and **Phyllis Dunn** were spotted visiting with Lafayette friends **Richard** and **Jo Douglas**. Also, **Gerald Arrington** and **Kyle Dixon**, who put a hurt on the snow crabs served on the buffet. **Roy** says the okra and seafood gumbo was the best he's eaten since his grandma's special okra brew.******Resident Record poet Pearl Burgess**, with daughter and son-in-law, **Beverly** and **Jody Rayer**, were spotted dining at **Tuffy's** Friday night. The restaurant had a capacity crowd, with a 30-minute wait.******Gene Smith** attended the **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** gathering at **Robert's**.****On Friday, Aug. 13, former Bridge City resident **Crystal Bryce Clemmons** will receive her bachelor of science degree in geography, with a minor in political science from Texas State in San Marcos. **Crystal** is the daughter of **Phyllis Fukuda** and **Doyle Clemmons**, both now living in Houston.****A few friends having birthdays this coming week are **Monty Eschbach**, **Miss Dot's** little boy*** **Kristie Gunn**, **Chris** and pretty **Cindy's** young daughter.*****Charlotte Conn**, who has a thousand **J.K. Conn** stories, celebrates another one.*** **Bill Triggs** and **Nancy Finchum** are a year older***One of the coolest guys I've ever known, **Henry Bland**, celebrates this week.****I read with interest about the wreck of Nov. 8, 1954, written by **Edith Pratt** in last week's issue. The story, with pictures, was well documented. I remember it like it was yesterday. When the news media mistakenly announced to **Edith's** mother that her daughter had been killed, it was discovered she had loaned her jacket to **Joyce Scott**, 16, with had **Edith's** identification in it. That led of officers to believe it was **Edith's** body. The death of **Scott** was a shock to her parents also, who believe she was asleep in her room. One survivor, **Allen Peltier**, was **Roy's** roommate in a Port Arthur boarding house. He hung onto life and stayed in the hospital for several months. He went back to Abbeville and married **Deanna Boudion**, raised a family, retired. (Editor's note: **Roy's** classmate died several years ago.) **Charles Brevell**, another survivor, was in the hospital for a week. He is married and owns **Brevell's Barber Shop** in Port Arthur. Two other Orange girls were killed in the accident, **Janelle Tucker** and **Norma Jackson**. All were members of the **Bengal Guards** with **Edith**. In all, six young adults were killed, four in the front seat and two sailors in the oncoming car. **The sailors had just arrived on leave and were on their way home.** The crash caused **Broussard's Curve** on Texas 69 to be straightened. It had been the scene of several wrecks.

45 Years Ago-1975

Myra Forse is in Park Place Hospital where she had surgery.******Linda**, **Earl Wright's**, wife had open-heart surgery Thursday at Methodist in Houston.******Traci Taylor** returns from a month long trip to Tennessee.******Ed Clark** leaves Orange Bank for greener pastures.******Sharon Bearden**, district attorney, is on vacation.****The chief chef in charge at **Sabine Yacht Basin** is **John Wade**.******Dan Green** and his buddy **Don Jacobs** are both reporter-photo gophers for the Beaumont Enterprise. They replace each other on the police beat. Good thing it wouldn't do to have them two working together. **Dan is also the husband of new reporter Louise Green.********Perry LaPointe**, formerly from Orange, is featured on the **Louisiana Hayride** in Shreveport where he now lives.****The Orange **Stark Tigers** will feature quarterback **Graig Couvillion** throwing passes to little brother Steven.******Gasow Motors**, 807 Simmons Drive, is the Fiat car dealer. **John Paul Gasow** operates the dealership.

95 Years Ago-1925

Orangefield is leading the **Gulf Coast** in oil production, with **20,000 barrels daily**. A new gusher, at 4,700 feet, and several others at that depth, are being drilled and should increase production drastically. The **Orangefield School** is again being moved to make way for oil drilling rigs.******Henry Ford**, the automobile wizard, came to Orange and acquired nine steel hull steamships held in storage here. The ships are called **Lake BenBo**, **Berdan**, **Callicon**, **Dyner**, **Lasang**, **Fossil**, **Fran Concia**, **Frio** and **Granley**.******W.E. Lea** has negotiated the agreement between **Texas** and **Louisiana** for the construction of the **Sabine Bridge** here. **Bill** has returned from law school in Lebanon, Tennessee. (Editor's note: I believe there were five **Lea** boys. Three were lawyers, **Bill**, **Hugh** and **Dick**, who I believe is the only survivor. Their dad was mayor of Orange and put the deal together to get the **Rainbow Bridge** built. The **Lea** boys attended the bridge's 50th anniversary celebration.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

In the month of July more **Texans** died of **Covid-19** than in any other state. Two of those virus deaths were **Orangefield's Pentecostal Church Pastor Jeffrey Sanders** and his wife of 38 years **Valerie**. They were both only 57 years old. He died on July 25 and she passed away two days later. Services were held August 4.****Many more people will die from **coronavirus**. New evidence suggest that the virus could cause long lasting heart damage and other harmful side effects.****As I sit here on Tuesday, May 4, I realize today marks two months since my friend **Neighbor Cox** left us. Every evening I still expect a call from him. For years he let me know when he was getting ready to turn in. I'll be a long time getting over his passing.****Speaking of old folks, I checked on **Nova Dee Strickland** who is having a lot of bone problems. She said even though her girls rub her down the hurt in her shoulder is almost unbearable. She won't get to see a bone doctor until Aug. 11.****I also touched base with **Cherry and Cedric Stout**, who is 98. Both are hunkered down and doing pretty good, no major ailments to talk of.****A few folks we know who will be celebrating in the next few days. One of the good guys, **Dr. Mike Shahan**, who guided **Lamar Orange** through some productive years, celebrates a birthday Aug. 5.***Another great man born on this day was the first man to walk on the moon **Neil Armstrong**, born in 1930.****Everyone's friend, **Sleepy Smith** celebrates **Aug. 6**. I'm not sure if it's 86 or 87. You can read more about **Sleepy's** birthday Alaskan trip in **10 Years Ago**.****Two great guys I know celebrating on **Aug. 9**. **Judge Dennis Powell**, retiring at the end of the year and moving to the

hill country as district judge has served us well. He is a good Christian man. We wish he and his family's dreams all come true.***This next guy will do to go to the matt with. **Coach Dwight Thacker** is one of those guys that if you didn't like him you wouldn't like anyone. He's accomplished more with his one hand than most folks can do with three hands. He's from **Nederland** but **Bridge City** adopted him many years ago.******Aug. 10**, would have been our good friend **Judge Joe Parkhurst's** birthday. I just wanted to remember this great guy who left a lot of friends.****The old train engineer, the **Arkansas plow boy**, my buddy and a great guy, **William Bill Smith**, celebrates his 90th on **Aug. 11**. Best wishes.****Belated Happy Birthday to a kid I knew as a teenager. On **July 30**, **Danny Stevens** turned 71. **Danny's dad**, **James "Steve" Stevens**, would have been 95 on **Aug. 3**. He died 15 years ago. What a great guy. It's hard to believe all those youngsters, **Steve Worster**, **Darrel Segura**, **Alice Hartsfield**, **Jerry Burd**, etc, who were around when **Bridge City** won the state championship in 1966, are now in their 70's. Please see complete birthday list.****Polls in Texas find V.P. **Joe Biden** leading in the **Dallas Morning News** poll by **5 percent**. Other **Texas** polls show **Biden's** lead is in the margin of error by **1 percent to 2 percent**. **Trump** carried the state by **9 percent** over **Hillary Clinton**.****In the next couple of years you will notice more two-tone new vehicles. Today three in every four cars are white, silver, gray or black. That might be coming to an end as two-tone paint options will take us back to the **1950's**. Remember you heard it in **The Creaux's Nest**.****Now we know why **Senator John Cornyn** was concerned about his re-election before he knew who his opponent was. What we know now is that his poll numbers are underwater at **46 percent**. Anytime an incumbent is under **50 percent** he has reason for concern. He has to find voters he doesn't now have. He was betting that **M.J. Hager** would beat **State Senator West**, a **Black** man. That's why **Cornyn** walked in the "**Black Lives Matter**" march in Beaumont and introduced a bill to make **Juneteen** a national holiday. **Cornyn** won't have the advantage of straight party voting that has been done away with. **Trump**, at the head of the ticket, won't be any help. He might even hurt. **Cornyn** is polling better in **Texas**, than **Trump** and about **8 points** ahead of **Hager**. Her big state blowout will start on **Labor Day**. She will have plenty of money to make a good short run.. She has a good story to tell. **Cornyn** should win if **Trump** doesn't take him down with him.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating birthdays in the next few days are **Katelyn Defrates**, **Garhett Bonneaux**, **John Holm**, **Mike Preston**, **Randy Hickox**, **Sonya Villanouvea**, **Anita Decker**, **Gladys Ousley**, **Clare Calahan**, **Rodney Hanks**, **Don Lyons**, **Katie Allen**, **Fred Brent**, **Jim Finklea**, **Billie Carter**, **Paige White**, **Jada Montagne**, **Edie Anthony**, **Joe Allen**, **Max Powell**, **Timmy Bryd**, **Bill Loyd**, **Louise Kent**, **morgan Taylor** and **Deborah Bayliss**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Arceneaux and **Clovis Fontenot** was working at da **Fruit of De Lume** factory in St. Martinville when it shut down. Dey went to da unemployment in Lafayette together. **Arceneaux** went in to meet with da unemployment of-fice first. Da man axe him wat his occupation was. **Arceneaux** answer "**Me, I'm a panty stitcher**, I sew da elastic onto da ladies cotton panties."

Da clerk looked up panty stitcher. Finding it classified as unskilled labor and gave **Arceneaux** \$300 a week in unemployment compensation.

Arceneaux say, "Thank you." And sent **Fontenot** in to see da man.

He axe **Fontenot** wat his occupation was. **Fontenot** answer, "**Me, I'm a diesel fitter.**"

Da clerk looked up diesel fitter and it was classified as a skilled job. He gave **Fontenot** \$600 a week in compensation.

Fontenot said, "Thank you," and went and tol his friend **Arceneaux** his good fortune.

Boy, dat made **Arceneaux** some mad. He storm back in dat office and axe dat clerk why **Fontenot** was getting double his benefits. Da clerk him explain, "**Panty stitchers are unskilled labor and diesel fitters are skilled labor.**"

Arceneaux yelled, "**Wat skill?** Me I sew da elastic on dem panties. **Fontenot** him puts dem on his head and says, **Yeah, DISAL FITTER.**"

C'EST TOUT

Virus surpasses Deaths from Wars

The national death total from **COVID-19**, which was avoidable with a national alert program, to date has risen to 157,000 and is expected to go much higher. Experts agree that the **coronavirus** death toll is likely being under counted, meaning the number of cases and deaths is higher than reported. More Americans have died from **coronavirus** than did in battle throughout several major military conflicts in **American** history. The human cost of the **pandemic** is more severe than all other **188 countries** affected with the virus with no end in sight. According to the **Department of Veterans Affairs**, **53,402 Americans** died in combat during **World War I**, **33,739** during the **Korean War**, and **47,434** during the **Vietnam War**. These statistics match records from the **Defense Manpower Data Center** inside the **Department of Defense**. **The Department** states **3,528** military personnel were killed in action during **United States** operations in **Iraq** from 2003 to 2011. The **DOD** also reports that **1,833** troops were killed in action in **Afghanistan** from 2001 to 2014. The **United States** maintains military operations in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan**, which may mean there are further casualties not included in the **DOD's** official numbers for operations in those countries.****My time is up. Thanks for yours. Please follow the rules, wear mask, practice distancing and wash your hands. **Take care and God bless.**



Deaths & Memorials

John Michael Virva, Sr., 65, LaGrange

John Michael Virva, 65, of LaGrange, Texas, passed away on July 31, 2020, in Houston, Texas.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 7, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, Texas. Officiating will be Father Ernie Carpio of St. Henry Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a recitation of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on July 1, 1955, he was the son of Frank W. Virva, Sr. and Florence Anne (Verrett) Virva. John graduated from Bridge City High School in 1973. He was a hardworking man and dedicated electrician for Valmont in Brenham for over 20 years. John also volunteered as a fireman in Bridge City for many years. He loved taking in the beauty of nature and was especially fond of the wildflowers around LaGrange in the springtime. John also enjoyed boating, sailing, and was an amateur radio operator.



He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Florence Virva; his wife, Lynn Virva of LaGrange; and his siblings, Susan Anderson and David Virva, both of Orange.

He is survived by his children, John Michael Virva, Jr. and fiancé Amy Kirkendall of Kountze, Kyle Virva and wife Alyson of Henderson, Nevada, and Dillon Virva of San Francisco, California; his siblings, Frank W. Virva, Jr. and wife Glenda of Bridge City and Nancy Stutes of Orange; his six grandchildren, Shawn Allen, Zack Curtis, Lillie Kirkendall, Dustin Holmes, Brandon Gordon, and Nolan Virva; and his two great-grandchildren, Morgan Dunston and Izaiah Crumpton.

Serving as pallbearers will be Frank W. Virva, Jr., John Michael Virva, Jr., Shawn Allen, Zack Curtis, Dustin Holmes, and Brandon Gordon. Honorary pallbearers are Bill Rose and Shaun Virva.

God's Sheep Are In The Care Of The Perfect All Powerful Shepherd

PASTOR CHARLES EMPEY
Columnist
For The Record

Psalm 23:1-2 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Psalm 23 is the most popular Psalm for a reason. It meets the need of comfort for all of God's sheep, true believers. The needs of God's children in a hostile world where Satan is constantly seeking whom he can devour and rip apart their life. His constituency, men and women without Christ in leadership and even simple citizens who cannot be trusted, are ready to respond to his bidding that seeks ours and their own destruction.

The Shepherd/sheep analogy is simple. The shepherds job was to feed and water and comfort and keep alive the sheep. God applies that analogy to the reality of the care Jesus gives all who come unto Him in saving grace. The shepherd stood between the wild animals and the sheep at his own risk of death. Jesus said that the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The Best of the good shepherds in history is Jesus, who took the death of all deaths for all of us, and whoever flees to Him will be saved from death and the second death (hell) and brought finally into the presence of our Father in heaven. He took ownership of that condemnation for us and now offers instead of death and hell, eternal life and eternal happiness to all who will flee unto Him. Verse 4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Death and the grave are never far from one's thoughts and view. There is ours to

consider, our family and remembrance of those who have gone before us. Then we see it on TV daily either in programs and movies, or real, live news. Even our animal kingdom remind us of death constantly. Sin brought death by Adam and righteousness and salvation from sin and death came by Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Our Shepherd went to our death and got up to ever live, to ever give us the victory over it.

This world does not offer that, even with all the medical expertise and pharmaceutical genius. Death always eventually comes.

When is the last time the world really offered and came through on its promise of peace, peace, peace? Maybe a moment of solitude or peace here and then a little there, but it always returns to real life. The world is offering us less peace everyday.

With the Good Shepherd, that is, having Jesus Christ the Lord as your Lord and Savior, you find the only hope of true peace, even in the presence of our enemies, no matter how vicious they are. Verse 5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." The anointing of the oil is representative of the assurance and peace we have in the presence of our King of kings, Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He prepares a life of provision in the face of that and those that strive to take it away, and that comes with a final promise in Verse 6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." From "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..." to Verse 6, constant restoration of our soul and our physical life is assured with PEACE all the way to His house, eternal heaven. Look to Jesus. All else is failing us.

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

Schools supplies donated to Bridge City schools



Edward Jones of Bridge City, Karen Collier's branch office and Taylor Perkin's branch office, held a school supplies drive this summer and donated everything to Bridge City ISD at the start of school on Monday. Pictured are: Madison Lyons representing Karen Collier's branch, Tara Fountain of Bridge City Independent School District and Carol Leone representing Taylor Perkin's branch office.

St. Mary School registration underway

Since opening its doors in 1924, Saint Mary School in Orange has been a highly respected and recognized institution of education for providing academic excellence over the past 96 yrs. The school is fully accredited and offers curriculum for Pre-K3 thru 8th grade. Tuition is fair, affordable, and financial assistance is available. Catholics and Non-Catholics are welcomed.

Some of the key benefits of a Saint Mary Christian education include excellent academics, moral character strengthening, focus on integrity and individual responsibility, strong parental involvement, a happy environment, and state-of-the-art technology. Classes are 5 days a week and After-School Care is available.

Our students, past and present, stand out in the crowd. Teachers at area high schools say, "We can always tell a Saint Mary Student from the rest." Once leaving Saint Mary 8th grade, our students go on to attain a 99% graduation rate from their respective high schools with an impressively high rate of valedictorians, salutatorians, and honor students. The national average graduation rate in 2019 was 84.6%, according to the National Center for Education statistics.



Smaller class sizes provide more one-on-one 'teacher to student' attention, and it pays off in student achievement. Also, in this time of Covid-19 the school has large classrooms, easily configured for social distancing between students in order to meet Diocesan Guidelines for the handling of the virus. In-house classes as well as virtual classes are offered.

Contact St. Mary School at 409-883-8913 and speak with the Principal, Katie Sanders. Or visit our website at www.stmaryschooltx.org

Bailey's Trash Off

Bailey's Trash Off is scheduled for August 8th from 8am until 10am. We will be meeting at the 90 degree turn at 7:45 am and getting started at 8am. Please bring the following items with you a cooler with ice, water, a grabber, gloves and rubber boots if possible. If you would like to become a sponsor please contact Joseph Henry at 409-221-5033.

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LCM plans for non-traditional meet the teacher and orientation events

Little Cypress-Mauriceville Schools are announcing plans for non-traditional meet the teacher and orientation events. Mauriceville Middle and Little Cypress Intermediate will release that information when plans are firm.

The plan for Mauriceville Elementary depends on your child's age group. The District asks that parents be patient as each campus is having to start from the ground up for planning how to start school.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Meet the Teacher will be held Thursday August 13. One adult per enrolled student may enter the building. All visitors will be health screened per TEA guidelines, and masks are required per the Governor's Executive Order for those 10 years and older.

Meet the Teacher will be held with small groups each hour. Parents will be contacted by teachers to notify them of the student's time and class number.

1st-5th grades will have Virtual Meet the Teacher on Wednesday August 12 and Thursday August 13. Parents will be contacted by homeroom teachers once class rosters are completed to arrange a time to meet virtually. Students in grades 1-5 should bring school supplies over the first week of school in manageable amounts. Please start with pencils, scissors, glue and crayons.

All parents - please be prepared to confirm with your child's teacher "How is my child getting home?" so we can insure their safe return to you after school each day. If you have questions, please call MVE at

409.745.1615 or check their webpage at <https://mve.lcmcisd.org/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MVE-Panthers/>.

Little Cypress Elementary will hold Meet the Teacher for Grades PK and K face-to-face on August 12, and August 13. Principal Kayla Casey listed the guidelines for meeting the teacher, depending on the grade level of the student.

- We ask that only one parent attend with the student.
 - 10 years and older are required to wear face masks covering nose and mouth.
 - Adults will be health screened before entering the building.
 - Please park in the back lot and enter through the designated doors.
 - Students may bring their supplies at this time.
 - Students who purchased supplies through PTO will have them in the classroom when they arrive for Meet the Teacher.
- Designated times for PK and Kinder Meet the Teacher are:
 August 12
 1:30-2:00 Last names beginning letters

- A-F
 3:00-3:30 Last names beginning with letters G-L
 August 13
 1:30-2:00 Last names beginning letters M-R
 3:00-3:30 Last names beginning with letters S-Z

Meet the Teacher for LCE grades 1-3 will be virtual. On August 6, teachers will call parents to schedule a time for their child's virtual Meet the Teacher. Virtual Meet the Teacher will be held on August 12 or August 13 depending on your child's scheduled time. Students may bring school supplies over the first week of school in manageable amounts. Students who purchased supplies through PTO will have them in the classroom when they arrive on the first day of school.

For questions, call 409.886.2838 and the webpage is <https://lce.lcmcisd.org/>
 All of Little Cypress Junior High's before school activities will be virtual. Mr. Yeaman reports, "Ours will all be done virtually, through school messenger, Facebook, and on the website."

The Farmer's Wife ...

LOU HARRIS
 For The Record



I hope this week finds you better than last week. Remember, miracles happen when you truly believe and do not doubt.

The bible tells us that this is true if you believe that, with God, nothing is impossible. "I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you received it, it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Have a Blessed and Safe week.

August 5 - 11

August 5 - kill pest and cultivate

August 6 - 7. Plant root crops, biennials, perennials, trees and shrubs.

August 8,9,10 - Cultivate, irrigate and prepare seed beds.

August 11 - Transplant.

Stink Bugs

Stink Bugs are one of the most prevalent pest in our area. They are sucking insects that prey on fruit and vegetables. They also attack many weeds. If the fruit or vegetables are attacked at an early age, pitted holes will occur. These feeding spots are surrounded by callouses, causing the fruit or vegetable to become distorted or dimpled. If your tomatoes turn up with "zits" or your okra pods grow in a curlicue like a pig tail, then you probably have stink bugs. A good Pythrin or Permethrin spray for fruit and vegetable will help to eliminate stink bugs.

Recipes of the Week Cowboy Beans

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 c celery, chopped
- 1 lb. Ground meat
- 1 small jar salsa

- 1/2 c ketchup
- 3 cans pinto beans, drained
- 1 large container beef broth
- Salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder to taste.

In a large pot, saute onion and celery until tender. Add ground meat and cook till done. Add all other ingredients and simmer about 45 minutes. Season to taste. Serve over rice with corn bread and a big glass of sweet tea.

Coconut Bars

Bottom Layer

- 1 c flour
- 1/2 c butter
- 1/2 c brown sugar

Mix with a pastry blender or fork until crumbly. Press into bottom of 9" square pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees set aside.

Top Layer

- 2 eggs
- 1 c brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 c chopped nuts
- 1 1/2 c shredded coconut
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder

Beat eggs, brown sugar and vanilla, set aside. Mix flour, salt and baking powder.

Sift over coconut and chopped nuts. Add to egg mixture, mix well and spread over first layer. Bake 20 minutes at 375 degrees. Cool and cut into bars.

Sweet Creations, etc.

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EMAIL US:
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www.setexasrain.org

Fishing demands cautious approach

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

"Either we are fishing in the wrong place or we are the only people on the lake," said Ray Bayliss on a very hot afternoon last week. I feared when it rained earlier in the day that it would at least feel hotter than usual after it stopped due to the humidity and the fact that the thermometer was hovering around the 93 degree mark.

With the light wind I also assumed that the boat ramp would be packed with local fishermen hoping to squeeze in a few hours of thinking about something other than Covid-19. The past week apparently did little to quell those fears, however, and launch time was not an issue.

"I had two good friends test positive recently and I am afraid to even answer the phone anymore," added Bayliss. "Connie and I wear our masks when we walk to the mail box and she sure wasn't happy about me asking you to go fishing. She threatened to move in with her Mother if we took our masks off before we got to the middle of the lake!"

"Connie....I promise that we kept our masks on both coming and going and probably even met social distancing recommendations thanks to the all of the floor space in Ray's 25 foot Majak.

I appreciated the brief outing as an opportunity to do something other than mow grass and walk the dog, but I still had red fish on the half shell on my mind. We were fishing on a short clock and undoubtedly fished a little too fast the first hour. We also spent way too much time catching and releasing twelve inch trout that were all over a huge school of small menhaden shad.

We finally settled down and found the redfish running a shoreline just south of Three Bayous. As far as we could see, small groups of redfish were blowing shad up in the cane. A four inch black-chartreuse Swim Bait proved to be the ticket, but without fail, every redfish was either too large or too small to make the trip home.

One of the benefits of fishing the open lake is that you can usually get some idea of where the fish might have been judging by areas getting pressured the most.

Ray eventually won his tug of war with a flounder large enough to feed both he and Connie and we called it quits to minimize any problems we might experience on the return trip. My only problem with fishing late evenings is breaking down after dark and I have done that more than once!

While putting the boat on the trailer we learned that Ray's earlier diagnosis was on the money. We had indeed fished in the wrong place.

Two friends of his hollered at us as they were pulling their rig out and said that they had just killed the trout all afternoon long. They proudly hoisted a couple of solid keepers, but Ray grabbed my arm and said that we couldn't look at the rest of their fish or walk over and visit them.

"They don't have masks on," he warned aloud and it doesn't matter if they have a Great White in their cooler. Connie would lock the doors and divorce me if she found out we visited with them!"

He called me later that evening and said that they had called and given him a report on the way home. They had run south around noon to avoid a small thunderstorm and ran across a school of surface feeding reds near Blue Buck Point.

They managed to box two limits before electing to drift the deeper shell north of the Causeway. The trout bite wasn't just crazy good, but they saved two limits of fish up to three pounds. All of their fish hit either a five-inch glow-chartreuse Down South tail rigged on a quarter ounce head or bone-chartreuse Die Dapper.

Ray added that they felt like they missed part of the bite due to drifting too deep early on. They started in 10 to 14 feet of water, but caught all of their fish in six to eight feet of water once they figured things out.

One of the benefits of fishing the open lake is that you can usually get some idea of where the fish might have been judging by areas getting pressured the most. That can help eliminate a lot of water and cut down the time spent searching.

That benefit has all but disappeared, however, since Covid-19 found its way into our area and rightfully so. Lots of concerned wives could care less about their favorite fisherman catching a fish right now!

NFL Preseason Cancellations: Good or Bad?

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

National Football League players reported to their respective training camps the past few days and now must adhere to the restrictions and concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic before they are allowed to prepare for the 2020 season.

First, the players face a five-day period that will determine who will advance to the second phase which includes admittance into the team's training facility, according to last week's edition of the New Jersey Record.

All players must produce two negative PCR tests for COVID-19 results over the first four days in a schedule that includes test of Day 1, quarantine at home on Days 2 and 3 and a second test on Day 4.

The article stated that on Day 5, if both tests were negative, the player will begin daily testing and can enter the facility.

Daily testing will continue for two weeks and would then move to every other day if the positive rate is below 5%.

The second phase that begins on Day 5 includes physicals and equipment fittings. If an asymptomatic player tests positive, he must leave camp and not be allowed to return to the facility for 10 days. If he continues to be asymptomatic, he can return to camp after two negative tests within a five-day period.

When football activities finally begin, the non-contact



Those who will be hurt by the canceled preseason games include new head coaches such as Mike McCarthy of the Cowboys.

organized team activities have been superseded with traditional camp practices that feature pads and limited contact.

A two-week acclimation period will include eight days of strength and conditioning and the first padded

practice of training camp can't happen before Aug. 17 following five days of sessions with just helmets.

There is a maximum of 14 padded practices before the start of the regular season,

KAZ Page 2B

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Park Rangers Statewide Recognized

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN— Every year on July 31, World Ranger Day is an opportunity to take a moment to recognize the unwavering commitment towards park stewardship by the many park rangers at the 89 Texas State Parks that make up our state park system. Initially created by the International Ranger Federation, World Ranger Day celebrates the work park rangers do daily to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.

Throughout Texas, Texas State Park rangers cover a multitude of roles to keep parks functioning smoothly for visitors to enjoy. These roles include maintenance, welcoming and orienting park guests, natural and cultural resource management, outdoor education and outreach, and state park law enforcement, just to name a few.

Park rangers from different regions in Texas spoke about what a typical day

looks like, what their path to becoming a ranger was, what advice they would give to aspiring park rangers and what they like most about being a park ranger in Texas.

"Every day as a ranger for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is different and I really enjoy that about my job," said Javier de León, Park Superintendent at Estero Llano Grande State Park. "Today I may talk to a scientist studying spiders in the park and learning spiders can spin seven different kinds of spider silk – each silk with a different purpose. Tomorrow I may respond to a medical emergency at the park. Later in the week, I may help with a school field trip and I can teach the students what I learned about spiders earlier in the week. I really enjoy talking to people and getting them as excited as I am about the plants and animals in our park. One never stops learning and I enjoy teaching others about how unique our habitat and critters are in the Rio Grande Valley.

Paige Green, Assistant Superintendent at Cedar Hill State Park, said her path to becoming a park ranger began with a love for nature and the outdoors as a child. "I became a high school teacher for Houston Independent School District right out of college, teaching Human and Child development," said Green. "Throughout my 10-year career in education, I was the teacher who would bring the classroom outside; taking opportunities to teach children of all ages about our natural world. It was no surprise to my staff when I announced the decision to change careers and work with Texas State Parks. I began a new adventure with TPWD in February 2016 at Lake Bob Sandlin State Park as an Office Manager."

Ever since, added Green, I have enjoyed being a part of something bigger than myself. I feel deeply connected to the Texas resources and being a park ranger has allowed me the opportunity to contribute to the mission of resource conservation in Texas.

"I don't think a Park Interpretive Ranger has a typical day," said John Herron, Park Interpreter for Huntsville State Park. "We are called to so many tasks that have to be done in the park that adaptation is one of our biggest skills. There are typical tasks like taking care of the nature center, conducting educational programs, and keeping up with the natural and cultural resources of the park. Beyond those normal roles, we work in customer service, and we conduct maintenance in the park and help with upkeep."

Additionally, added Herron, we also do wildlife rescues and relocation, and help game wardens by educating the public on the hunting and fishing regulations in the park. "We can assist Law Enforcement by educating the public on the why of our rules when we notice behavior that negatively impacts

the park," said Herron. "A park ranger's typical day will consist of more projects than we have time for, but sometimes allows for an afternoon of sitting and studying the migratory birds that fly in."

Kaz From Page 1B

so consequently there is not much time for exhibition games, the article concluded.

These preseason games in August for some veterans means the chance to be vindicated and extend a career, according to an article in this week's USA Today Sports Weekly.

For many low-profile rookies these games may be the only chance to be noticed and steal a roster spot.

Last year's conference championship game participants (Super Bowl LIV champion Kansas City, San Francisco, Green Bay and Tennessee) all return much of their same players, front office and coaching personnel and should do fine in the regular season without the benefit of exhibition games in August.

Teams such as the Baltimore Ravens, who won an NFL-best 14 regular-season games in 2019 riding MVP Lamar Jackson's arm and legs, a league-high 33.2 points per game and a single-season league-record 3,296 rushing yards, should do great without exhibition games.

Although the Ravens' Earl Thomas-led defense failed them in the playoffs, it still was one of the NFL's top-rated units and will be beefed up in 2020 with the addition of veteran defensive lineman Calais Campbell and first-round linebacker Patrick Queen.

"The Ravens could be even better given the rosters and the fact their opponents didn't have a standard off-season to try to decode the Jackson-triggered offensive assault," the article pointed out.

Established NFL starting players will benefit because they normally only play sporadically in the preseason games.

But those who will be hurt by the canceled preseason

games include new head coaches such as Mike McCarthy (Cowboys), Ron Rivera (Washington), Joe Judge (NY Giants), Kevin Stefanski (Browns) and Matt Rhule (Panthers) who would normally get an offseason head start on the competition as coaches new to their respective organizations.

Rookies like Cincinnati's new quarterback Joe Burrow and new quarterbacks like the Colts' Philip Rivers and Tampa Bay's Tom Brady won't show their stuff until the starting bell rings next month.

KWICKIES...Philadelphia Eagles head Coach Doug Peterson tested positive for the coronavirus last weekend which probably will be the first of many positive cases in the NFL.

Houston Texans head coach Bill O'Brien describes his team's training camp building as "the cleanest building in Houston. I mean, you could eat off the floor in here. It's that clean and it's scoured every single day. When I say scoured, it's disinfected every single day and cleaned every day."

I was saddened by the sudden death of Mike Kelley last weekend. I covered many of his football and baseball games for the Little Cypress Bears as a beat writer. I also visited with him several times after church activities where all he wanted to talk about was sports. He will be sadly missed.

College Power 5 conferences who have decided to play only league games this fall include the SEC, Big Ten, ACC, Pac-12 and Big-12. This will eliminate some of the cupcake victories against weaker teams and make the weekly polls more accurate.

Justin Thomas fired a 65 in Sunday's final round to win the PGA Tour FedEx St. Jude

Invitational in Memphis by three strokes and the \$1.82 million paycheck. It was Thomas' 13th PGA Tour title. At 27, he became the third-youngest player since 1960 to reach 13 wins, trailing only Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus.

Steve Levy, Brian Griese and Louis Riddick will be the new announcer team for ESPN's "Monday Night Football"

JUST BETWEEN US... The Houston Astros went into last night's game against the Diamondbacks in Arizona with a ho-hum 5-4 record but tied for first place with Oakland in the AL West Division. But two of those losses came in extra innings that involved a depleted bullpen due to either injury or illness. However, Houston won its first extra-inning game Sunday at Los Angeles and split the four-game series with the Angels, who also have a problem with their relievers. Astros players currently on the Injured List include closer Roberto Osuna, ace Justin Verlander, plus pitchers Joe Biagini, Rogelio Armenteros, Austin Pruitt, Brad Peacock, Cionel Perez, Jose Urquidy and designated hitter Yordan Alvarez and infielder Aledmys Diaz.

the park," said Herron. "A park ranger's typical day will consist of more projects than we have time for, but sometimes allows for an afternoon of sitting and studying the migratory birds that fly in."

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My 5 Cents

STATE SENATOR ROBERY NICHOLS
For The Record

The history of East Texas is rich with stories of Texans fighting for our states independence. In July of 1832, an order was given requiring Texans to surrender their weapons to the Mexican army. In response, a band of settlers in Nacogdoches attacked the town's Mexican garrison. To some historians, the Battle of Nacogdoches not only freed East Texas from Mexican military rule, but also served as the starting point of the Texas Revolution and led to the independence of our great state.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Comptroller Projections Earlier this month Texas State Comptroller Glen Hegar released his projected



forecast for the states biennial budget. Due to economic troubles caused by the global pandemic, Texas is predicted to have \$11.6 billion less than was originally estimated. This means the states budget could have a \$4.6 billion deficit when the biennium ends in September 2021. Texas relies on state sales tax revenue as its single largest source of funding. Revenue for sales tax in April, May, June was approximately 9.7 percent lower compared to the same time last year. While Comptroller Hegar will release an updated fore-

cast before we go into the 87th Legislative Session this coming January, this latest estimate will help the state budget writers as they begin to prepare for this coming session. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I will be working with my colleagues to ensure we are efficiently allocating funds, while ensuring we have a balanced budget for the state.

2. STAAR Test Each Spring, students in third through twelfth grade must take the STAAR exam. For fifth and eighth graders, they must pass these exams to be able to move to the next grade. If they do not pass the first time, they have an opportunity to retake it later in the semester, or over the summer. Governor Greg Abbott announced recently that the reading and math tests for fifth and eighth grade would only be offered one time this coming year. Local school officials will have the discretion to determine

whether a student should be promoted to the next grade, whether they passed or failed the STAAR exam.

My five cents... A monthly column from Sen. Robert Nichols by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3

3. Federal Funding for Higher Education At the beginning of July, the State of Texas announced it will invest \$57 million in federal funding to help the states need-based financial aid programs to help students to be able to stay enrolled in their colleges and universities. In addition to this, an additional \$118 million has been allocated for higher education from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law by President Trump. This funding includes allocations to assist students, whose families have been severely financially impacted by COVID-19, to

stay in their higher education institutions. It will also provide financial aid for upskilling and reskilling displaced workers in high-demand fields, including workers who have earned some college credit but no credential, allowing new paths into the workforce with higher earning potential.

4. November Early Voting In light of the many issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Greg Abbott has issued a proclamation which allows for an extended time period for early voting for the upcoming November elections. Early voting for the November 3 election will now begin October 13 instead of Oct. 19. The end date will remain on October 30. The proclamation also allows for those who are eligible for a mail-in ballot to hand deliver their ballots to the early voting clerks office before election day.

5. Tax-Free Holiday Mark your calendars for this years sales tax holiday, which is held on August 7 - 9. Timed to help families during back-to-school shopping, the law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Layaway is also available for the purchases of qualifying items. All sellers in the state are required to honor the sales tax holiday, so it's a great time to get prepared for the upcoming school year while saving some money in the process. Due to COVID-19, you can buy qualifying items online, by telephone, mail or custom order during the tax-free weekend if the order is paid for and delivered during the weekend, or if the order is paid for, and the seller accepts it for immediate delivery, even if it is delivered after the tax-free weekend.



Pictured: from left to right: Pastor Paul Zoch, Mathis Gonzales, Ann Hall, Danielle Gonzales, Miles Gonzales, David Gonzales, Bridge City Ambassador Stephanie Roberts, Carl Owen, Charles Hall

Ribbon Cutting for Pinnacle Christian Preschool and Mother's Day Out

Staff Report
For The Record

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce conducted a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Pinnacle Christian Preschool and Mother's Day Out on July 27, 2020. Directors, David and Danielle Gonzales are pleased to announce the opening of Pinnacle Christian Preschool and Mother's Day Out. They also offer Classical Kindergarten.

The purpose of our 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 outreach to the community.

Pinnacle Christian Preschool is a joint ministry between the Gonzales family and the Good Shepard fami-

ly. For more information, please call (409) 241-3920, pinnaclechristianpreschool.com or you can reach them through Facebook.

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NISOD Excellence Awards honor LSCPA faculty

Staff Report
For The Record

Three faculty members from Lamar State College Port Arthur were recently honored with selection as recipients of the annual NISOD Excellence Awards. Honorees for 2020 include English professor Dr. Michelle Judice, Software Developer and Game Design Program Coordinator Sarita Medhekar and Surgical Technology instructor Truman Hare.

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) presents its Excellence Awards to recognize men and women each year who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. In 1989, in connection with a University of Texas at Austin national study of teaching excellence, NISOD hosted its first ceremony honoring NISOD Excellence Award recipients. The response to that ceremony was so positive that NISOD began what has become the largest and most inspiring gathering that recognizes the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 conference was cancelled with award recipients being given their awards by individual campus leadership. LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard presented the NISOD Excellence Awards during an informal get-together on



Three Lamar State College Port Arthur faculty members were recently honored with NISOD Excellence Awards for their outstanding performance in the classroom. Pictured are, from left, English professor Dr. Michelle Judice, Software Developer and Game Design Program Coordinator Sarita Medhekar, LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard, and Surgical Technology instructor Truman Hare.

Tuesday, August 4.

"We are aware of the excellence exhibited by our instructors and professors at Lamar State College Port Arthur," Dr. Reynard. "To see them recognized beyond our campus is truly satisfying. These in-

structors deserve every bit of credit they receive for doing such a wonderful job for our students."

Excellence Award recipients are typically celebrated during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leader-

ship Excellence in Austin, Texas. During the Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration, held in conjunction with NISOD's annual conference, each Excellence Award recipient receives a specially cast, pewter medallion hung on a burnt-

orange ribbon. The names, titles, and colleges of all Excellence Award recipients are included in a special booklet that features congratulatory ads from many of the recipients' colleges. In addition, presentations at the conference involving Excellence Award recipients are indicated in the Conference Program with a special icon.

"Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their colleges' mission is something we look forward to doing each year," said Dr. Edward J. Leach, NISOD's Executive Director. "The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for the communities in which they live and work. We're honored to be able to play a part in celebrating their achievements."

About NISOD

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is a membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. For community and technical colleges that want to make the most of their professional development dollars, NISOD provides budget-friendly, high-quality, and faculty-focused programs and resources. For over 40 years, NISOD's customer-focused approach has helped align our wide array of benefits with the needs of our members.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GERALD ARTHUR GRAY, SR.,** Deceased, were issued on **MAY 12, 2020, in Cause No. P18608,** pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **RICHARD WILLIAM GRAY AND GERALD ARTHUR GRAY, II.**

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

c/o: **George B. Barron**
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279

Dated the **29th** day of July, 2020.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron

Attorney for **RICHARD WILLIAM GRAY** and **GERALD ARTHUR GRAY, II**
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

RAYMOND THOMAS HENRY, Deceased
Cause No. P18821
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed **AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** in this estate on **AUGUST 3, 2020,** requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Raymond Thomas Henry, 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 August 3, 2020.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: *Samantha McInnis*, Deputy
Samantha McInnis

CIVIL CITATION - CCPUBWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **ANDREW RIEDEL,**
12962 HWY. 12
ORANGE, TX 77632

Respondent, NOTICE:

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

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being September 14, 2020.

Said ANSWER may be filed with the District Clerk's Office, Orange County Courthouse, 801 W. Division Ave, Orange Texas 77630.

Said Plaintiff's Original Petition and Request for Disclosure was filed and docketed in the Honorable 163rd District Court of Orange County, Texas at the District Clerk's Office at the Orange County Courthouse, 801 W. Division Ave, Orange, Texas, on September 19, 2019 in the following styled and numbered cause:

The suit requests Defendant, Andrew Riedel, be served and cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon final trial of this cause, Plaintiff be awarded judgement against Defendant.

CAUSE NO. 190392-C
John Allen Decker VS. Andrew Riedel

The name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff otherwise the address of Plaintiff is:
Michael J. Lowenberg
5433 Westheimer Road, Suite 900
Houston, TX 77056

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this July 30, 2020.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas

Vickie Edgerly

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **RAYDA SUE NESWICK,** Deceased, were issued on **JULY 28, 2020, in Cause No. P18784,** pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JILL ELIZABETH HANCOCK.**

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

c/o: **George B. Barron**
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279

Dated the **28th** day of July, 2020.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron
Attorney for Executrix
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

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• Penny Record Office: 333 West Roundbunch, Bridge City
• County Record Office: 320 Henrietta, Orange
Note: Offices Closed On Wednesday

- Garage Sales
- Birthdays
- For Sale
- Weddings
- Rentals
- Memorials
- Services
- Engagements

APPLIANCES

HARRY'S APPLIANCES - Used appliances starting at \$99.95, 302 10th. St. (10th. & main) Orange. We also buy used appliances, Call or come by 409-886-4111.

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1 & 2 BR Houses for Rent in the Orange / Little Cypress area. All bills paid, appliances & A/C included. No deposit. Please call 409-330-1641 or 409-988-9336.

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Mausoleum for two caskets in covered section at St. Mary Cemetery in Orange, TX. \$5000.00 Call 409-883-9748

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Couch, Taupe fabric, 3 cushions on the front and back, 7-8 ft long. Very nice, good condition. Please call 409-886-2264

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Jeans Hemmed, adult & childrens masks, special orders. Please call 409-238-1230.

GARAGE SALE

Multi Family Garage Sale at 2103 Bonnie Ave, West Orange, on Friday 8/7, Saturday 8/8 & Sunday 8/9 from 8 am - 5 pm. Household items, tools, toys, antiques, clothes, lots more.

Large Garage Sale on Friday 8/7 & Saturday 8/8 from 8am to noon at 3312 Pineridge in Orange. Clothes, kitchen items, crafts, house décor and much much more.

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Estate Sale Of Yank and Peggy Mortimer 5621 Pine Needle St. 77632 Friday-Monday, Aug. 7-10, 2020 8AM-4PM. Leather couch with 2 end recliners, matching love seat, entertainment center/tv stands, Victorian sofa, chairs, end tables, lamps, sofa tables, large selection of Tiana glassware, clear glass, milk glass, early American hutch, large china cabinet, curio cabinets, large 2 leaf dining table w/6 chairs, round table w/4 chairs, kitchen wares, small appliances, dolls, figurines, office desks, jewelry cabinet, costume jewelry, singer sewing machine, singer serger, linens, bedding, clothes, seasonal decorations, John Deere mower 43" cut 17 HP, generator 4,000KW, med size limb shredder, sm misc hand tools, wrought iron planters, cast iron pot belly stove, much more. Take Hwy 87 N turn onto Allie Payne RD. Turn left onto Pine Needle St. You can contact either Patsy Chambers @ 409-735-5705, 409-330-5080 or Agnes Chambers @ 409-625-0679 936-590-8655

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and uncertainty of use of school facility the 2020 Classic Cardinal Reunion has been cancelled. All activities will resume far 2021. Bridge City High School Alumni Association address is P.O. Box 1066, Bridge City, 77611 and chairpersons are Darrell Segura, 409-720-9999 and Charlotte Chaisson, 409-697-0050.

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

American Legion Post 49 Hall Rentals Call for info @ 409-886-1241

NOTICE: Vehicle stored at Gilbert's Towing and Transport Inc. 058449 VSF 16527 Hwy 62 S. Orange, TX 77630 PH (409) 886-0007
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Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. Al-Anon meets Sun. & Wed., 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 held on Thurs. at 7 p.m. in the Library at St. Henry's Catholic Church Education building, at 475 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. For more information, please contact Cindy at 409-749-9036 or Mike at 409-718-0333.

The Bridge City / Orangefield Ministerial Alliance has moved to their temporary location until the new building is complete. Our temporary location at Fellowship Baptist in Bridge City located at 1965 Miller Dr. (Off 408) in Bridge City.

The hours of operation are Monday & Wednesday from 9am-12pm. For more information please contact our office at 409-735-8296.

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409-735-7305

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF ORANGE									
The Commissioners' Court of Orange County, Texas, comprised of John H. Gothia, County Judge, Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Pct. 1, Theresa A. Beuchamp, Commissioner, Pct. 2, Kirk Roccaforte, Commissioner, Pct. 3, Robert L. Viator, Commissioner, Pct. 4, all of Orange County, Texas, hereby give notice the County and State, of the proposed salaries of the following elected officials, for the fiscal year 2020-2021.									
* Posting reflects the newly elected officials salaries and the designated elected officials that will receive longevity pay.									
**Posting does not show other elected officials salaries due to no changes in compensation.									
		BASE SALARY	LONGEVITY	CELL PHONE	CERTIFICATE PAY	AUTO ALLOWANCE	TOTAL COMPENSATION		
District Judge, 128th Judicial District	from:	\$18,000.00	\$300.00				\$18,300.00		
	to:	\$18,000.00	\$336.00				\$18,336.00		
District Judge, 163rd Judicial District	from:	\$18,000.00	\$1,120.00				\$19,120.00		
Incumbent	to: (3 months salary)	\$5,123.09	\$1,547.68				\$6,670.77		
Newly Elected	to: (9 months salary)	\$12,876.96					\$12,876.96		
County Court at Law 1	from:	\$171,000.00	\$1,464.00				\$172,464.00		
	to:	\$171,000.00	\$1,536.00				\$172,536.00		
County District Attorney	from:	\$18,000.00	\$2,660.00				\$20,660.00		
	to:	\$18,000.00	\$2,744.00				\$20,744.00		
Sheriff	from:	\$106,080.00	\$1,788.00	county phone		county vehicle	\$107,868.00		
	to:	\$106,080.00	\$700.00	county phone		county vehicle	\$106,780.00		
District Clerk	from:	\$79,560.00	\$2,632.00				\$82,192.00		
	to:	\$79,560.00	\$2,716.00				\$82,276.00		
County Clerk	from:	\$79,560.00	\$880.00				\$80,440.00		
	to:	\$79,560.00	\$1,040.00				\$80,600.00		
County Treasurer	from:	\$79,560.00	\$1,050.00				\$80,610.00		
	to:	\$79,560.00	\$1,110.00				\$80,670.00		
Tax Assessor-Collector	from:	\$79,560.00	\$2,275.00				\$81,835.00		
	to:	\$79,560.00	\$2,359.00				\$81,919.00		
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3	from:	\$74,256.00					\$74,256.00		
	to:	\$74,256.00	\$204.00				\$74,460.00		
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4	from:	\$74,256.00	\$608.00				\$74,864.00		
	to:	\$74,256.00	\$656.00				\$74,912.00		
Constable, Precinct 2	from:	\$74,256.00	\$2,464.00				\$76,720.00		
	to:	\$74,256.00					\$74,256.00		
Constable, Precinct 3	from:	\$74,256.00	\$2,422.00				\$76,678.00		
	to:	\$74,256.00					\$74,256.00		
Constable, Precinct 4	from:	\$74,256.00	\$652.00				\$74,908.00		
	to:	\$74,256.00					\$74,256.00		

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ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

When God Withholds Sleep

How to Handle Restless Nights

Stacy Reaoch
Guest Contributor
desirgGod.org

2:40am. The red numbers glare at me through the darkness of the room, taunting me to try to get back to sleep. As I toss and turn, trying to get comfortable, my mind clicks on like the rooster just crowed. Before I know it, my thoughts are off and running, trying to figure out the carpool schedule for the week, or calculating when I'll have time to finish a task, or replaying a difficult conversation. Eventually I'm left feeling exhausted and frustrated at the same time. Doesn't God give sleep to his beloved (Psalm 127:2)? Why has this become a routine trial for me?

Sleeplessness has been the thorn in my flesh for a handful of years. Somewhere in the midst of waking up in the night to nurse babies or care for a sick child or tend to someone who had a nightmare, my sleep cycles were significantly altered. Being a mom has trained my ear to wake up at the slightest noise, and once I'm up, my mind turns on, and it's hard to shut back down.

Awake in the Night

Whether the cause is children, evening work shifts, or anxiety, the battle with sleeplessness is a common trial. I've tried natural remedies, exercise, limited screen time, reading, and even prescription medicine to try to solve the problem. But most of the time, nothing seems to have a long-lasting effect. A frequent prayer request of mine is for better sleep. Some nights, that prayer is answered. I feel like a new woman when I sleep continuously for six or more hours. I've grown to be deeply grateful for a good night's sleep. But the majority of the time, consistent sleep through the night has

been a struggle — a struggle that can leave me feeling exhausted and discouraged.

At times, the words of Psalm 127:2 have stung: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep." In my worst moments, I've questioned God's love for me. Why would he make this promise and then allow me so many restless nights?

But what if God shows his love for us not only through the gift of sleep, but through the gift of sleeplessness? Might he use sleepless nights to draw us closer to himself? To depend on him each moment of the day?

When Nighttime Falls

If you've struggled with setting your mind to rest and falling asleep at night, you've likely experienced some pre-bedtime anxiety. Another restless night could make it difficult to care for your children, make it through the board meeting with your eyes open, or have the clarity of mind for an interview.

But as nighttime falls, God already knows our needs. Jesus reminds us not to be anxious about our life (Matthew 6:25-34) — and that includes the next eight hours. If God cares for the tiniest creatures around us, how much more will he care for us? Worrying profits nothing, but robs us of peace, joy, and often, more sleep.

Instead of drowning in the cares of tomorrow, we can meditate on the promises of God to care for us. God already knows how many hours of sleep we need in order to function the next day. He is our good and faithful Father. We can trust him with our sleep, or lack thereof. We can lie down to rest, entrusting ourselves to the One who never slumbers

nor sleeps (Psalm 121:4), and asking him to fulfill for us the words of David, "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

Midnight Battle

Maybe you're like me. I usually have no trouble falling asleep. The events of the day and four children leave me completely exhausted at bedtime. It's those middle-of-the-night noises that rouse me awake and get my mind running like the engine of a car. What can we do in such moments? We've prayed for a good night's rest, but here we are again, awake.

Psalm 119:147-148 gives us a picture of how we might fight our midnight battle:

*I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.
My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.*

It's easy to wake up and begin trying to solve our biggest problems, or at least the dinner menu for the week. Why not instead join the psalmist in crying for help? Rather than letting our minds carry us away from our much-needed sleep, perhaps we might pray that God would help us entrust our worries to him. And whether sleep comes or not, we can meditate on his promises instead of dwelling on our problems.

Another psalmist wrote, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?" When we open our eyes in the middle of the night, we might ask the same question. From where does our help come in the darkest hours of the night? "[Our] help comes from the Lord, who made heav-

en and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

Our hope isn't in a perfect eight hours of sleep, but in a faithful God whom we can trust to sustain us the next day. He promises to give us strength in our weakness and provide us with his all-sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Blery-Eyed Morning

My constant prayer to sleep through the night has caused me to lean into the promises of God like nothing else has. In the midst of my bleary eyes and lagging body, I'm pushed to rely on Christ for strength. My lack of good rest has made me depend on God in ways that I wouldn't if I normally got seven hours of good sleep.

I find myself dependent on him for strength to get up and serve my family when I really want to stay in bed another hour. Dependent on him for patience with my kids when I am feeling extra irritable. Dependent on him for self-control when I'm tempted to consume a mountain of sugar and caffeine to keep going. Dependent on him for the time and focus needed to finish a project or prepare for Bible study. In each of these moments, there's a beauty to seeing our own inadequacies and realizing our need for the grace of God to uphold us.

Our joy does not come from the strength of a full night of sleep, but from the strength that God gives us in himself: "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion" (Psalm 84:5).

Our Past and Future Hope

Jesus can sympathize with our sleeplessness. The night before his crucifixion, he spent an agonizing night awake in the garden of Gethsemane, pleading with God for the cup

to pass (Mark 14:32-42). His own friends and disciples failed him by falling asleep when he asked them to stay awake to pray. The daunting events of the forthcoming day kept Jesus awake throughout the night. He understands our angst, our weariness, our frustration. His sleepless night came on the cusp of him facing the most excruciating event of all time — taking on the sin of the world.

And because of his great love and sacrifice, we have hope that one day our sleeplessness will be exchanged for perfect rest in eternity. As our earthly bodies battle fatigue, we remember in heaven we'll no longer be tired. God will give us new bodies that will be perfectly rested in him.

In the meantime, God has a purpose in our sleeplessness. He can use our weakness to make us dependent on him, showing us his love and care with each passing minute of the day. He can use our weariness to push us to lean on him as the all-sufficient, all-wise, and all-powerful God, and to know that when we are weak with sleeplessness, then we are strong in him.

Stacy Reaoch (@StacyReaoch) is the author of Wilderness Wanderings: Finding Contentment in the Desert Times of Life. She also writes regularly at her website. She and her husband, Ben, live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with their four children.

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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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.,
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(Nursery provided)
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Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
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Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Starlight Church of God in Christ
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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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Pastor Cody Hogden
Email: office@fbcof.com / Website: www.fbcf.com

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Nursery Provided.
(www.faihorange.org)

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PASTOR SAM ROE
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Sunday Service: 10:30 am / Sunday Evening: 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 6 pm

First United Methodist Church Orange
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9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Service - Traditional Worship in the Slade Chapel
Sunday School For All Ages 10:00 a.m.
www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
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