

County Record

Vol. 62 No. 11

Distributed FREE In Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, August 25, 2021



Part of new Bridge City football coach Cody McGuire's promoting his new program to players involves championship aspirations, as depicted by a Michael Jordan six-ring photo and game balls from Austin Westlake's back-to-back state championships.
RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Orange County football squads kick-off Friday

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The Friday night lights go on for keeps this week as the 2021 Texas high school football season kicks off.

At least one team – Bridge City – will be plenty familiar with the lights, though.

Under new head coach Cody McGuire, the Cardinals have been hitting the field for 5:30 a.m. workouts since school classes began two weeks ago.

No after-school workouts for these guys.

"It's the way Coach (Todd) Dodge did it in Austin and it's really good for the heat here," McGuire said. "Of course, it gets hot in Austin, too."

"The best part if we get off the field Wednesday morning at 7:30 and don't do anything until Friday night at 7:30."

McGuire was a member of Dodge's staff at Austin Westlake the past two seasons as the Chaparrals won back-to-back Class 6A Division I state crowns.

He was hired to lift up a program that finished 1-6 a year ago competing in Dis-

trict 11-4A-I.

While the Redbirds will kick off their season at Buna Friday night, Little Cypress-Mauriceville fans will travel to Hamshire-Fannett to see their new coach, Eric Peevey, coach the Bears for the first time.

Four-time state champion West Orange-Stark is hoping to have Coach Cornel Thompson on the sidelines Friday at Nederland after Coach "T" spent time this week in a Beaumont hospital after testing positive for COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Orangefield will be hosting Anahuac Friday and looking to continue its playoff streak after earning the final berth from 11-4A-I and making the post-season with a .500 record.

McGuire, a former second-team all-Big 12 Conference pick for Texas Tech, is hoping to do more than just copy Dodge's practice schedule.

Dodge, who grew up in Orange before becoming a Parade All-American in Port Arthur, played quarterback at University of Texas and has coached six state champs,

ORANGE COUNTY Page 3A

Capital Murder trial begins in Roque case

DEBBY SCHAMBER
For The Record

Trial testimony began Tuesday in the case of Yovahnis Roque, 28, who is accused of the February 2019 murder of his two-year-old daughter, Savannah.

The state is seeking Capital Murder charges. If found guilty, Roque could face up to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

However, Roque's defense attorney, Ryan Gertz, announced on behalf of his client, a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Assistant District Attorney, Bard Anderson, began opening statements by telling jurors, "I'm sorry." He added the information presented in court was going to be horrific.

Anderson then began laying out the facts of the case. He stated an officer was flagged down and was informed of the incident in the 500 block of Azalea. When the officer arrived at the residence, he found the defendant naked and covered in what was believed to be blood near the front door.

The officer ordered Roque down to the ground and crawl a short distance from the house before he was handcuffed. Officers entered the home to discover blood on various surfaces. They checked all the rooms before they went to the bedroom filled with little girl's toys which were strewn about. The door to the closet was open. Inside the closet is where they found Savannah's body next to a blood soaked pillow case, according to Anderson.



Yovahnis Roque, 28, of Orange, is escorted from the courthouse by deputies with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Roque faces Capital Murder Charges in the death of his two-year-old daughter Savannah. Trial testimony continues Wednesday.
RECORD PHOTO: Debby Schamber

As Anderson went over the details of the injuries Savannah received, Roque covered his face with his hands and sobbed loudly.

Anderson also told jurors the autopsy revealed Savan-

nah not only suffered from a large gash to her skull, but in addition had bruises, both old and new.

"Evidence will show he knew what he did was wrong," Anderson said at the

conclusion of his opening statements.

Gertz stood and faced the jury and began his case by quoting Dr. Edward Gripon, who was appointed by the

ROQUE Page 2A

Governments, schools scramble at COVID spike

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

As COVID-19 infected another 691 of its residents this week, Orange County signed up with Jefferson, Jasper and Newton counties to establish an infusion center in Beaumont to treat the infected before they have to go to the hospital.

Also:
* West Orange-Cove schools became Orange County's first school district to defy Gov. Greg Abbott's order against requiring students and teachers to wear masks.

* Orange County Commissioners voted unanimously to grant a 10-year tax abatement for the medical center and mini-hospital at Interstate 10 and Highway 62.

* West Orange-Stark football coaching legend Cornel Thompson was released Tuesday after being hospitalized in Beaumont with COVID-19, he said.

Because of the way the county reports COVID stats, it's difficult to compare apples to apples (no written version of Tuesday's Commissioners Court COVID report was available at press time), and while 691 new cases were reported, the total number of active cases wasn't.

On the other hand, the reports posted on the Office of Emergency Management Facebook page dated Aug. 10



A patient is assisted from a gurney to a wheelchair upon arrival at the Regional Infusion Center in Beaumont Monday morning. The center provides outpatient infusion treatment for adults ages 12 and up.
RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

and Aug. 18 don't specify "new" cases, only active ones.

The county was not posting reports for several months before Aug. 10. But if you consider the number of active cases reported Aug. 10 (388) rose by 258 (to 646) by Aug. 18, the addition of 691 ... that's a bunch.

Joel Ardoin, EM coordinator for the county, said Tuesday the number was so high because of a backlog. Of the 691, he said 91 were confirmed and 600 were "probable," which meant it was a case in which a patient had symptoms but did not have a

COVID test, or just a rapid test.

Ardoin said that 28 COVID sufferers from Orange County were hospitalized, and only two of those had previously taken the COVID vaccine.

The Texas State Department of Health Services reports Orange County had 957 active cases of COVID-19 as of close of business Tuesday. Nearly 10,000 county residents had recovered from COVID, while 162 have died. Only 31 percent of those 12 or over have been vaccinated.

While WOC avoided a board vote on its mask mandate which took effect Monday by including it as a "dress code" requirement, Orangefield's school district stressed that no decision regarding masks was on Monday's board agenda.

But four parents opposed to mask requirements made their opinions clear.

Most said they had older children who had their senior years "stolen" by COVID-19 shutdowns of graduation activities in 2019 or

COVID SPIKE Page 3A

LSCO's Wilkerson gets Congressional Recognition



LSCO student, Steven Wilkerson, received a Special Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Brian Babin's office for completing their 2021 Summer Intern Program this summer.

On campus, Wilkerson is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Speech and Debate Team. A graduate of West Orange-Stark High School, he hopes to go to law school and become an attorney.

Rogue murder trial underway From Page 1

court to assess Roque's mental health.

"If Yovhanis Roque was not insane, then no one is insane," Gertz quoted Gripon.

Gertz added Roque's mental issues are more than abnormal. He told jurors Roque is now heavily medicated and the dosage is beyond what is considered a "normal" dosage.

Roque has a long family history of mental illness. In addition, Roque has had his own struggles too. Savannah's mother, Rachel Taylor, was killed by a drunk driver. She had brought him gas after he ran out along a Florida highway and was struck by the passing car. Roque was injured too and spent time recovering in a hospital. Upon his release he was suddenly a single father to an infant who was just 20 days old.

According to Gertz, Roque has tried to commit suicide six times and suffered from PTSD, delusions and hallucinations.

The day before the murder, Roque was digging a hole in the back yard of the residence for himself and his daughter because he feared



Police mug photo of Yovhanis Roque at the time of his arrest in Orange, Texas.

the end of the world was imminent, Gertz said.

"No amount of blood photos will make him any less insane," Gertz concluded.

Admitted into evidence was a video from a police officer's body camera. While officers worked at the scene, Roque could be heard asking for clothes as he lay on the cold concrete. He also repeatedly said to his mother nearby, "I love you Mom, I am so sorry."

Issac Henry, an Orange Police Department Investigator, read Roque his Miranda Rights while still at the scene. After each step, he asked Roque if he under-

stood. His replies were mixed with a "yes" or "no" response. When asked if he understood his rights, Roque responded by saying, "Human rights."

Henry described how they uncovered Savannah's body in the closet amongst the other items. Photos admitted into evidence showed the blood spatter and her lifeless body.

Found among the items in the closet was the murder weapon, a claw hammer, which was covered in her blood. It too was presented for the jury in a small white box.

With each photo presented Roque covered his face with his hands, hung his head and sobbed loudly.

After Roque was transported to OPD, he was interviewed by Detective John Dee Taylor. The interview lasted approximately four hours. At times, Roque was crying hysterically and "heaving" which made the process difficult, according to testimony.

During the interview, Roque stated he was not on any drugs and had been without sleep for three days. Roque also stated he did not

remember the events but did remember things he had done to Savannah.

When Roque was asked if he knew the difference between right and wrong, he continued to deny killing his daughter, but said if he did it would be wrong.

"I did not kill my daughter," Roque said in the video.

During the course of the interview with OPD Major Sparky Robinson, when Roque was asked about his family or other things, he would talk. But, when asked about Savannah, Roque would start yelling or coughing, according to testimony.

During the course of the interview, "He showed remorse," Robinson said.

Roque did admit during the interview he had hit Savannah in the head with the hammer, Robinson said.

"I had remorse after I did it," Roque said in a video played for jurors of the interview. "It ate me up."

Roque would later add he was "going mad."

Trial testimony resumes 9 a.m. Wednesday in the 128th District Court.

For more details on the verdict, check out www.therecordlive.com

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Round The Clock Hometown News

AAUW hosts pizza social

Since 1949 the American Association of University Women in Orange, Texas has been encouraging higher goals for girls and women through advocacy, education and philanthropy. AAUW is open to anyone holding an associate (or the equivalent, e.g. R.N.), bachelor or higher degree from an accredited college or university.

AAUW will have an invitational pizza party on Sat., August 28th at 4:00 p.m. Those attending must have taken both COVID19 shots for everyone's safety.

To attend: please call or text by August 24th the one of the following ladies. Linda White at 337-589-3157 or email rick-rich@xspedius.net or Doris Hudson at 409-313-4727 or email at decodoris@sbcglobal.net. Please leave your name and the number of people attending the pizza party.

Daughters of the American Revolution meetings

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Dia-

mond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. To become a member, a woman must be 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. She must provide documentation, as well as the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.

DAR promotes Patriotism, Historical Preservation, Educational, Veterans and Women's issues. For additional information contact Bertie Herman, Regent, at 409-735-5253 or 409-960-4560

First Saturday At First Baptist

On September 4th First Saturday at First Baptist will be giving away free bags of groceries in the parking lot of First Baptist Church at 200 W Roundbunch Road in Bridge City. Bibles, candy, and helpful tracts will be handed out also. For those facing difficult health or family situations may request prayer, you will not need to leave your vehicle. Look for the blue canopy and balloons. We will be available from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We want to help you.



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COVID spikes in county From Page 1

2020 and all said they had small children still attending schools.

Juan Gonzalez said, "This whole county was locked down. We were in the same situation a year and a half ago, and nothing has changed."

He showed a picture of people wearing Level 4 Hazmat suits and said that was the only dress code that would protect students and staff with 99% surety.

"There's tons of info out there showing that masks don't work," parent Dean Crooks said. "Since we don't have a silver bullet guaranteeing anything. But we're parents. Let us be responsible for our children's health."

"We cannot delegate our responsibility for our children's health, so we darn sure aren't going to delegate the authority for our children's health."

"Let us keep it." Misty Joneaux seconded that opinion.

"I ask the board to let us protect our kids from COVID," she said. "We don't need the government to tell us how to raise our children, including this school district."

She said she had personal experience with the dangers of COVID.

"I don't discount this disease," Joneaux said. "I've lost friends to this disease."

Bridge City schools superintendent Mike Kelly reported good news at his board meeting Monday night:

The tax rate for 2021 has been set at \$1.01 and 39/100ths of a cent per \$100 value, a decrease of 6.25 cents per \$100. The 2022 budget is balanced at \$29.574 million.

Then, COVID news: He told trustees attendance on the ninth day of the school year, Tuesday, was be-



Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick, center, is flanked by Orange County Judge John Gothia and Mike White, Jefferson County Emergency Management Coordinator, Monday as he announced the opening of a Regional Infusion Center in Beaumont. The facility provides monoclonal antibody treatment against COVID-19 as prescribed by local doctors. **RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers**

low 90%, which, if it held, would place the district below the break-even point relative to state payments based on average daily attendance.

"We feel like they (the Legislature) has to do something to make it right," he said.

Unlike last year, the state has said it won't pay for remote learning for students whose parents won't send them to school out of COVID fears, or while quarantining.

Asked after the meeting about the district's stance on requiring masks, Kelly said:

"Right now, parent choice is the model we're following now. It's too early to make a decision to put everybody in masks."

According to the DSHS Tuesday, the nine-county Trauma Service Region including Orange County showed its total available hospital beds 31% filled with COVID-19 patients.

In Beaumont Monday, the four area counties announced the opening of the infusion center at 5500 Eastex Freeway.

The goal is for doctors from throughout the four counties to send patients there for monoclonal antibody treatments that will likely keep them from getting sick enough to need to go to the hospital.

The Texas Department of Emergency Management set up the facility at a former standalone emergency clinic, staffing it with 10 nurses and a doctor.

It is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week for patients 12 and up. The establishment of the clinic is expected to increase the availability of this treatment to up to 150 patients per day, a boost of 500% to previous capacity in the region.

Patients with COVID-19 symptoms should contact their personal physician and those doctors will refer them to the clinic for treatment, if needed.

Those lacking personal doctors, may call 409-550-2536 to schedule the infusion. Press 1 for the infusion center.

Football From Page 1

four at Southlake Carroll and two at Westlake.

"It's a learning process," McGuire says of teaching a new system to those in a football program with its third leader in five years. "The kids have bought in to our strength and conditioning program, our new summer program, our spread offense and our 4-2-5 defense."

"It was good to get a head start on everything."

McGuire's coaching staff is totally new for him as well.

It includes offensive coordinator Kurt Zihlman (from West Brook) and defensive coordinator Clint King (Port Neches-Groves), joined by a flock of longtime gridiron vets.

"These guys are doing a great job, and the varsity players have been incredible," McGuire said. "We have talented kids who are willing to get after it."

Numbers are at a premium for the Cardinals as they start the year.

That was not a problem for Peevey. He said he averaged more than 70 of a possible 80 players for summer conditioning and football skills sessions.

"I was really excited about the way the kids bought into the system," he said. "That's the way the kids did at West Brook."

An Orangefield High graduate who once coached on the LCM staff, Peevey followed former Orangefield head coach Kevin Flanigan to Beaumont and replaced him as head coach in 2017.

In 2018, the Bruins won 13 games, a school record, and advanced to their second state title game and first since 1982.

They beat Dodge's Westlake team in the state semifinals.

"Not too many people know it, but we broke every school record offensively, both passing and rushing," Peevey said. "We scored 760-something points one

season.

"And getting Jeff Breaux, who was with me every year I was head coach at West Brook, to come be our offensive coordinator, was high praise for me."

Peevey also brought offensive coaches Chris Coates and Parker James from West Brook. He poached defensive coordinator John Davis from Orangefield's staff, along with his brother, Joe Peevey.

Ashton Landry, all-district last year, returns as LCM's quarterback. Da'Marion Morris should lead the running attack and Keaton Rives the receivers. Three-year starter Gunner Johnson anchors the O-line at center.

Amier Washington should be a natural defensive end as the Bears switch from a 4-3 to a 3-man line. Three-year starter Nich Granger roams the second level and the secondary should be strong with returner Carson Peet and newcomer Dwight Davis, the son of the defensive coordinator, moving after starting three years for Orangefield.

McGuire's Bridge City offense will be run by returning quarterback Ethan Oceguedra with J.T. Fielder, Joey Murty and Kyler Garlaska on the catching end.

Braylen Collins is back in the mix after missing last season.

A bright spot should be an offensive line led by Matt Livingston, Hunter Belanger, Ethan Ply and Isai Cantu.

Defensively, the Cardinals have linebacker Harrison Gauthier back with J.S. Bearden joining Nicholas Lejeune, Vance Thomas and Conner Ayers in the front seven. Dorian Pruitt, Deegan King, Gavin Garrett, Rayburn Hebert and Trey Hebert will patrol the skies.

West Orange-Stark, 8-1 a year ago out of 11-4A-II, is seeking to bounce back after the Mustangs failed to reach the regional finals for the

first time during Thompson's tenure.

The coach was doing well Tuesday afternoon, checking out of the hospital after experiencing breathing difficulties and being treated for blood clots in his lungs.

Nine starters return on offense, five on defense, with running back Elijah Gales jetting behind a veteran line led by center Demetrius Hunter and tackle Bryson Jordan. End Carmello Jones and linebacker Tyrone Brown are other top talents.

Orangefield, the smallest school in 11-4A-I, made the playoffs and went 4-5, "because my players were able to fight and scratch through COVID-19 and storms and all we had battle," Smalley said.

"It was one of the better jobs our coaching staffs and players have done."

OVERVIEW

When the 2020 alignment placed the Orangefield Bobcats in Class 4A, Division II after a two stint in Class 3A, Division I, many were forecasting gloom and doom for the Bobcats' playoff chances. However, Josh Smalley and his Bobcats sent the message that they were not going to be an easy mark as the 'Cats scratched out a 3-3 district mark and a place in the playoffs. Orangefield returns five starters on offense and eight on defense to keep the Bobcats in the playoffs.

Five starters return to the Orangefield Slot-T offense in 2021, including senior fullback Hunter Ashworth, junior halfback Cameron Dischler and an O-line including Hunter Norwood, Coby Coulter and Cutler Hubbard.

Linebackers Brayden Babiniaux and Macy Marze, linemen Norwood and Kayden Kibodeaux and cornerback Tyler Shearin anchor the defense.

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From The Creaux's Nest

TEXAS AND VOTER SUPPRESSION

Texas is preparing to pass a sweeping voter bill that is designed to hamper minorities and elderly at the polls. **Republicans** are using the specter of cheating at the polls to push through voting restrictions that are not needed. They are selling the story that our elections are under attack and that the only defense is to limit voting access. Its political manipulating based on a lie. **The bill will be awful.** While they claim it will be harder for citizens to steal elections, it will make it easier for politicians, with their maneuvering, to steal elections. That's where we're headed. **Rigged elections on the front end. It's called voter suppression.******This week's column is different, too many doctor visits. I haven't had time to research for **Happenings**. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

PFIZER VACCINE GETS FDA OK

The **Food and Drug Administration, FDA**, approved **Pfizer COVID-19** vaccine. **President Joe Biden** called on companies, non-profit groups, government agencies and schools to **"Step up vaccine requirements that will reach millions more people."** We elder people all lived at another time when vaccinations allowed people to stop worrying about smallpox, polio, measles, mumps and rubella. Vaccines will help do the same for **COVID-19**. With **FDA** full approval there is no good reason not to get vaccinated. It is a matter of life and death, staying well or becoming very sick. Many more people will die, simply because some people will not take the step to put themselves and their families out of harms way. The **FDA** has approved the drug, go take it. **You have nothing to lose if you do, plenty to lose if you don't.**

NOVA DEE WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED

It is said that when an elderly person dies, it is like a library burning down. That is certainly the case with Nova Dee Holts Strickland, age 87, who passed away at 7:20 p.m., August 19, 2021. Nova had lived during historical times going back to the Great Depression. She was a student of history and lived through the WWII years, Korean conflict, Vietnam and all other wars since. As a young Navy bride, stationed with her husband Jerry, she had traveled the country. Most of her life she had a front row seat to the grassroots of Orange County happenings beginning as a young secretary for Edgar Brown, one of the county's two most prominent men. Her local knowledge continued to expand when her father, Chester Holts, was elected sheriff in 1948. He went on to become the longest serving sheriff in Orange County. Nova was also very astute on state and national affairs. She had lived during 14 presidents. She, like her father, was very patriotic, both cried when John F. Kennedy was killed. One of the lowest points in her long life was the domestic invasion of our own nation's capital. She never got over that and was having a hard time letting it go. Nova and I had known each other well over 60 years. Together we had known all the movers and shakers of the county. We spoke often. She had a lot of stories, many from a long time ago. She would often call to ask the name of "some old boy" that had escaped her. Together we usually figured it out. She loved gathering with the Lunch Bunch, going back 25 years. She loved being around people and was very inquisitive always adding to her knowledge. She was blessed with two wonderful daughters Tanya and "Hootsie" and a loving family. Those two girls were constant with their mother's care. Over the last year, one or the other were almost always by her side with help from longtime friend Susie, who came from Japan many years ago. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Aug. 25, at Mauriceville Baptist Church at 2 p.m. She was a dear friend and we had shared many happy times. I will miss her. May she rest in peace.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

Congratulations to one of our "Sweethearts," **Annie Hargrave**, a 38 year employee of **Market Basket**, who was chosen **"Employee of the Month"** by the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce I believe she's the employee of the decade.**** I don't know any other **Orange County** sports team that has ever advanced to number three in the world. The **Bridge City 14-year-old girls** fell only one game short of playing for the World Softball Championship. We can't say enough about the great job coach **Julie Kahla** did managing the young ladies through a Texas state championship and going on to capture third place in the world.**** They made **Orange County** proud. Members of the World Class team are **Hannah Faulk, Kellyn Cormier, Brooke Derouen, Bailee Bacon, Faith Kaufman, Sabryn Crain, Kaleigh Carter, Skylar Kahla, Katelyn Dickerson, Kasey Frederick, Haley Mills, Harleigh Myers** and **Ashlyn Mitchell**. Coaches are **Hilton Bacon** and **Justin Frederic**. Manager is **Julie Kahla**.****For the first time in 38 years, when school started Monday at **Bridge City, Nancy Chenella** wasn't in attendance. A couple of weeks ago, despite loving her job, **Nancy** decided it was a good time to retire. Her husband **Joe**, after 45 years with **BCISD** retired last year. **Joe** had come up through the ranks, served as superintendent a couple of times and was a longtime assis-

tant superintendent. **Joe** had supervised the building of three new schools and had watched thousands of students graduate. Over the years, the **Chenella's** had weathered many hurricanes in **Bridge City, Ike** of course, being the worst but many were bad. **Joe** said, "I just don't want to go through any more storms. We've had a great life here but it's a good time for us to move on and we like the **College Station** area." In a couple of months **Joe** and **Nancy** will be moving to a nice subdivision east of **College Station**. **Joe** and **Nancy** have been good friends to the folks at **The Record** over the years. (Editor's note: **Joe** and **Nancy** moved away 10 years ago.)****On Saturday last, **Jack Huffman** turned 80. The former **Orange City Manager** was also longtime city manager at **Irving** and put the city on the map when he was responsible for getting **Cowboy Stadium**. A local boy from **Brunner Addition** who did good. He and his boy, **Jack Jr.**, took in **Gary's Café** for a big, long-shoreman's breakfast Saturday morning to celebrate.****Also spotted at **Gary's** where you always get a good breakfast were the **Joel Steirman's** and **Bobby** and **Devera Cormier**.****Folks celebrating birthdays this week. **Coach Dan Ray Hooks**, for the first time not on the **West Orange-Stark** sideline, celebrates his birthday Aug. 25.**** On Aug. 31st. **Pat** and **Rosalie Clark** and her twin sister **Mary Ann** and **John Scofield** celebrate their anniversaries. I'm guessing but I believe its number 42.**** Last week the **Lunch Bunch** dined at **Robert's**. A large group honored former deputy sheriff **Tucker Clayton** on his 90th birthday. Former sheriff **Chester Holts'** two daughters, **Nova Dee** and **Wanda Beth** and **Nova's** daughter, **Tanya**, attended. Stories by **Tucker, Nova** and sheriff **Keith Merritt** were told. Even judge **Thibodeaux** and **Karen Jo** showed up.**** Some people will disagree but I believe the facts and history will bare out that **President Obama** has maneuvered the best foreign policy since **Harry Truman**. The most gutsy call in my lifetime was going after **Bin Laden** and killing him. He gambled his entire career, had it failed or any **Navy Seals** killed in the operation, **Obama** was done.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2011

Jo Ann Carruth Van Pelt, 80, died Saturday, August 2. A graveside service will be scheduled at a later date. She attended St. James High School and Lamar State College where she graduated as a licensed vocational nurse. Jp Ann was preceded in death by Bruce Tuppen and Jennifer Lynne Carruth. She is survived by son James Tuppen, and Raymond Van Pelt; daughter, Neva Ann Sparks; step-children Robbie Fontenot and Richard Van Pelt. five grandchildren; one great-grandson******Charles "Charlie" Thomas Cunningham**, 64, of Orange, died Wednesday, Aug. 17. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Aug. 20. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a disabled veteran. Charlie was a mechanic and truck driver at Sabine Warehouse. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Cunningham; daughter, Susanna Cunningham; sons Russ Cunningham and Luke Cunningham; two grandchildren.**** **Mary Alice Morgan**, 76, died Wednesday, Aug. 17. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Aug. 20. Mary was a school bus driver at LCM CISD for 30 and a half years. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, C.C. Morgan; daughter, Patricia "Tissy" Dans; son, Clyde Morgan; grandchildren, Jesse Dans, Rachel Dans; six great-grandchildren; and sister, Catherine Zirlott.

22 Years ago-1999

Police investigate a murder/suicide in **West Orange**. According to assistant police chief, **Jason Miller** killed his father, 43 years old **Kenneth Ross Miller**, then turned the gun on himself. **Kenneth's** wife **Edith Miller**, 41, came home from work and found the bodies. The son had recently moved in with his father. There had been an ongoing conflict between the two. **Kenneth** was employed by **TDI-Halter, Inc.******The **Bridge City "Globetrotting Grandmas, Dot Eshbach**, 77, and **Margaret Saint**, 78, have just returned from a month long cruise and tour of Europe and Asia. (Editor's note: **Margaret** and **Dot** have since passed away.)**** Dateline: **Bridge City, Texas**: Local writer **Mark Dunn's** articles, written over several months in regards to **Ireland's "Good Friday Peace Accord"**, have been published extensively both here and abroad. This past week the latest article appeared in the **Las Vegas Sun, Indianapolis News, Austin American Statesman** and **The Irish Voice**, the **Irish** news in **Belfast, Ireland**. **Dunn** places blame on **British** government for the **"Historic Troubles"** in **Ireland** and the current impasse crippling the 1998 peace initiative. Since **June Dunn** has been published in **USA Today, Washington Post, Dallas Morning News, San Diego Transcript, Boston Herald, Ireland Today** and several other Irish publications. (Editor's note: I noticed that **Dunn's** work wasn't published in **England**.) Writing was always **Mark's** long-suit. Maybe some day he will write a book.**** **Jamie Bracken** a recent **Bridge City** grad has joined the **Navy**.******Brad Miller**, B.C. quarterback, reports to **Ange-lo State**. ******Chris Menard** is home on his first furlough after completing **Army** basic training. ******River Burton** is top grad at **Lamar** summer commencement. She's the daughter of **Owen Burton**. ******St. Louis slugger Mark McGuire** became the first player in major league history to hit **50 or more** home runs in four consecutive seasons. He got homerun number 49 and 50 Sunday against the **Mets**. One was a 502-foot blast that dented the scoreboard. (Editor's note: That's before we knew that he was filled with juice. They let the home runs stand but they won't put **Pete Rose** in the **Hall of Fame**, despite not doing anything wrong while playing.)

42 Years Ago-1979

Clarence Bell is principal at **Hatton Elementary**. He and **Ann Bryant** have been with **BCISD** for 25 years. **** **Keble Free**, 26 year old, will make a boxing comeback in an attempt to make the Olympic team. **Keble** is a former **Golden Gloves** welterweight state runner up. He lost to **Johnny Montagne** in the 1971 state championship. **Free** didn't start boxing until he was 16 years old. ******Jenny Baxter, Gordon** and **Diane's** little girl, turns two on August 26. (Editor's note: I guess that makes the little girl **Bax** talked about on the radio now 44 years old.)******Karen Lapeyrolerie** will celebrate her special day on Aug. 28. ******Dan Barker** has a birthday.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

A few folks we know who are celebrating in the next few days. **Aug. 25: Mayor David Rutledge, Coach Dan Ray Hooks, Ron Cowling, Dot Hutson, Mandi McDonald,**

Carlene Wheat all celebrate today.******Aug. 26:** Celebrating today are **Donna Scales** and **Michelle Flowers**.******Aug. 27:** Happy Birthday to **Frank Beauchamp, Stephanie Roberts, Peggy Larson** and **Jaycie Dardeau**.******Aug. 28: J.S. Bearden III** turns 17 today. According to **Beaumont Enterprise** football magazine, **Bearden**, a **Bridge City** running back is expected to be one of the spark plugs in the **Cardinal** offense. I bet granddad **Sharon** will be in the stands on Friday nights. Also celebrating are **Ruth Thurman, Meagan Carlin** and **Barbie Childress**.******Aug. 29:** Our buddies **Glenda Dyer, Janice Overman** and **Danny Cole** celebrate today. Also on this day in 2005, **Hurricane Katrina** hit **New Orleans**.******Aug. 30:** Our friend **Mike Cedars**, newly retired, celebrates today. Happy Birthday also to **Pamela Comer** and **Cristi Harper**.******Aug. 31:** Happy Birthday to **Ron Kincade, Erin Weianer** and **Buddy Cox**.****Happy Wedding Anniversary to our longtime friends **Rosalie** and **Judge Pat Clark**. I'm not sure, just guessing, this should be their 52nd anniversary. Best wishes for many healthy, happy years.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our friends **Glynis Gothia, Ken Kreger, Scott Deppe, Stanley Hubbard, Johnathan Aldridge, Michael Philen, Phetecia Rucker, Jerry Mercer Molly Abshire, David Green Nina Birdwell, Charlie Broussard, Randy Elkins, Theresa Wilson, Angie Jones, Bobbie Brown, Gary Turberville, Rick Beaulieu, Wanda Sanders, Blake Tally Lieta Primrose, Judy Marsolan, Patty Allred, Dorene Scott, Elise Domas, Alex Murphy, Jesse Grooms, Lauren Robertson.**

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 25: Actors **Blake Lively**, 34; **Sean Connery**, 91; **Chef Rachel Ray**, 53; Country Singer **Billy Ray Cyrus**, 60.******Aug. 26:** Basketball Player **James Harden**, 32; Actors **Melissa McCarthy**, 51; **Macaulay Culkin**, 41.******Aug. 27:** Gospel Singer **Yolanda Adams**, 60; Actors **Paul Reubens**, 69; **Chandra Wilson**, 52.******Aug. 28:** Country Singers **Shania Twain**, 56; **LeAnn Rimes**, 39; Actor **Jack Black**, 52.******Aug. 29:** Actors **Nicole Anderson**, 30; **William Levy**, 40; **Carla Gugino**, 50.******Aug. 30:** Entrepreneur **Warren Buffett**, 91; Actors **Cameron Diaz**, 49; **Michael Michele**, 55.******Aug. 31:** Actors **Chris Tucker**, 50; **Richard Gere**, 72; **Sara Ramirez**, 46; Pop Singer **Deborah Gibson**, 51.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Clotile axe her man, **Joe Premeaux**, "Wen you go to town babe, please go by **Robicheaux's** store and got me some eggs."

Joe answer, "Mais, sure I do dat me." He drove his old truck into **Erat**, does his little shopping at da feed store and goes by **Robicheaux's** store. "You got some eggs, Hanh?" he axe da clerk.

"We sure do, da very best eggs from **Dartz's** farm for \$1 a dozen."

Noticin a few cracked eggs **Joe** axe, "How much for dem cracked eggs right dere?"

Da clerk say, "Well, we got a few, and wen we got a dozen we sell dem for 15 cents a dozen.

Joe say, "Hokay, crack me two dozen."

HALL OF FAME COACH SLOCUM FACES ODDS

I drove **Judge Sid Callivet** and **Joe Blanda** to **El Campo** when the **Orange Stark Tigers** met **Pharr-San Juan-Alamo** in a playoff game. On that team were some great guys you might remember. Just a few of them were **Frank Beachamp, Dickie Colburn, David Foster, Billy Fisetet, Quincy Procell, Dan Sears** and **R.C. Slocum**. The coach was **Ted Jefferies**. **Slocum** is who I want to tell you about but first let me remind you about some of the stars on a national level that came out of **Orange County**. Going back to **Ernie Ladd, Rocky Colvin, the Boyett brothers, etc.** and sports stars who made their mark on the world of sports. Coaches **Bum** and **Wade Phillips**; All American stars **U.T's Steve Worster**; **Aggie** and **Dallas Cowboy Kevin Smith**; **NFL All Pro Earl Thomas**; **NFL kicker Matt Bryant**; **NFL Shane Dronett**; **NFL Jason Matthews**; Major League pitcher in opening game of **Washington Nationals John Patterson**; Major Leaguer **Bruce Aven**. All were good at their sport but none better than **Richard Copeland "R.C. Slocum"**. As head football coach of **Texas A&M** from 1989 to 2002, **R.C.** won more games (123) than anyone else in **Aggie** football history. In **December, 1988**, coach **Sherill** was forced to resign and **Slocum** was named head coach. During his 14 years he led the **Aggies** to a record 123-47-2. During his career **Slocum** never had a losing season and won four conference championships. He posted a record four consecutive seasons without a loss at home. **Slocum** reached 100 college wins faster than any other coach. He has the best winning percentage in **SWC** history, one spot ahead of **Darrell Royal**, who is number 2. At **Kyle Field** he only loss 12 games in 14 years, seven seasons without a home loss. His **"Wrecking Crew"** defense led the nation in total defense 1991-1997. There is more, much more. **Slocum** was inducted into the **College Football Hall of Fame** as a coach in 2012. **R.C.** graduated from **Stark High** in 1963, earned a degree at **McNeese** in 1967 and started a long coaching career with many highlights, including **Kansas State** and **U.S.C.** Today, home boy **R.C.**, one of our biggest stars, is battling lymph node cancer. He has received four of 12 treatments and lives on his ranch out of **College Station**. **R.C.** is a man of faith who believes in the power of prayer. **Quincy Procell** spoke with him Sunday and he's in good spirits but says he could use our prayers. I've had the pleasure of knowing **R.C.**, his dad, mother and brother. Someone once told **R.C.** you're pretty naive if you think you can win without cheating. Today **R.C.** says he can look himself in the mirror and say he did it the right way."

C'EST TOUT

Don't sell **President Biden** short, he took on an impossible task removing all **Americans** and those **Afghanistan** interpreters who worked with the **United States** military. Come **Aug. 31**, **Biden** would have evacuated nearly 100,000 people. **Fox News, Hannity, Tucker** and **Laura** will find one family he missed and accuse **Biden** of stranding people and leaving them at the hands of the **Taliban**. **Joe** knows what he's doing. He knows more than **Jim Jordan** and the **Fox** experts. Meanwhile, **Nancy** will get the infrastructure bill passed. **Don't ever sell her short**.****My time is up. Thanks for your readership. **Take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Nova Dee Strickland, 87, Mauriceville

Nova Dee Strickland, 87, of Mauriceville, passed away on August 19, in Beaumont.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 25, at First Baptist Church in Mauriceville. Officiating will be Reverend Kevin Brown. Burial will follow at Morse Cemetery in Buna.

Visitation will be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 25, at First Baptist Church in Mauriceville.

Born in Lemonville, Texas, on October 13, 1933, she was the daughter of Chester Holts and Iva (Carroll) Holts. Nova lived an extraordinary life. After graduating from Litcher-Stark High School and attending Lamar College, she began a secretarial job working for Edgar Brown. It was during this time she, by chance, met the love of her life, Jerry Strickland, whom she married six weeks later. The two were inseparable. They ran a dairy farm in Gist for a while until they decided to settle down in Mauriceville, where she became a school secretary for Mauriceville Elementary before retiring after 26 years.

Later in life, Nova wrote a book, at the age of 75, titled "Bugscuffle, Are We There Yet?". What started out as a family history written for her daughters, became a chronicle of Mauriceville and Orange County history. When she wasn't hosting a family gathering or planning her famous Easter Egg Hunts, Nova enjoyed collecting antiques from different garage sales, thrift stores, and estate



Nova Dee Strickland

sales. She also had a passion for cooking that made her a household name in Mauriceville. Her chicken and dumplings, chocolate cakes, and banana pudding were favorites at family and church gatherings. She was one of the longest members of First Baptist Church in Mauriceville and enjoyed tending to her yard, before settling in and watching old movies with her daughters. Nova will be dearly missed by all those that knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents Chester and Iva Holts; her beloved husband of 44 years, Jerry Strickland; brothers, Morgan Ray Holts, and Howard James Holts and special friend, Pete Frederick.

Nova is survived by her daughters, Tanya Kaye Barnwell and husband Tommy of Mauriceville, and Jerri "Hootsie" Strickland-Hurt of Mauriceville; grandchildren, Tanner Barnwell, Taylor Friend and husband Jonathan, and Lily Hurt; great-grandchildren, Lawson Barnwell, Audrey Friend, and Nathan Friend; sister, Wanda Reinert; nieces, Iva Switzer, Dianna Herman, and Donna Buffington; and nephews, Joseph White, Robert Holts, and Brad Holts.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jon Sherwin, Richard Buffington, Chad Jenkins, Randy Hebert, Martin Clark, and Brad Holts. Honorary pallbearers are Roy Dunn, Roger Holmsback, and Melvin McGuire.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

Geraldine Louise "Gerry" Ford, 80

Geraldine "Gerry" Ford of Richmond, Texas, longtime resident of Bridge City and former member of Liberty Baptist Church, passed away at home August 11, 2021, peacefully in the presence of her loving family. She was born in Port Arthur, Texas, to John "J.C." Darby & Imogene Darby Swiney November 5, 1940. She was the oldest of eight children.



Geraldine Ford

Sharing of memories and a celebration of her life is scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 6:00 PM at Liberty Baptist Church, 2717 W. Round Bunch Rd. Bridge City, Texas. Visiting and fellowship with the family will begin at 4:00 PM prior to the service.

Geraldine is preceded in death by her parents, her son Mark Kevin Ford, granddaughter Rachel Taryn Ford, grandson Brandon Ryan Levins at infancy, her five brothers, John Darby Jr., David Darby, Rene "Jack" Darby, Grady Darby, Claude Darby and sister Lattie Jo Heflin.

Geraldine is survived by her husband John Ford of sixty-four years and 2 days, daughter Vicki Stein and husband Bill, son John Ford,

Jr. and wife Melinda and her children Morgan and Dillon Becker and sister Zilda Bland. She was grandmother, "Gran", to Rebecca Baker, Mark Kevin Ford, Jr., Jonathan Levins and wife Rachel, Daniel Ford and wife Lynae, Kristen Edmond and husband Joseph and Ben Stein and wife Amanda; also "Gran" (great grandmother) to Allison Baker, Olivia Levins, Penelope Levins, Spencer Levins, Ryleigh Ford, Taryn Lynn Ford, Peyton Stein, Evelyn Stein and Charlie Stein along with a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Geraldine truly will be missed as her love, legacy, kindness and memories continue to grow through all those she touched throughout her eighty years. She loved the Lord and you clearly knew that by the way she lived her life and the choices she made. She was the perfect wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Her beautiful brown eyes, along with her smile and kindness would melt your heart. She also had the gift of cooking and sharing that gift, especially her gumbo and chili, which was over the top. Her most precious gift was her gift of kindness.

Billie Jean Sterns Downey, 87, Bridge City

Billie Jean Sterns Downey, 87, of Bridge City, went home to be with her Lord on August 17, 2021, in her home, surrounded by her beloved children.



Billie Jean Downey

Born in Sikes, Louisiana, on October 30, 1934, she was the daughter of Quincy and Lessie (Mayes) Sterns. Billie was a longtime resident of Bridge City. Her career included work in the legal field, title/abstract offices in Orange, Great Lakes Carbon in Port Arthur and finally retiring from Bayer Corporation in Orange. Billie was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, and mother. Her talents were many, including sewing from her own patterns, gardening, frying the best fried chicken, playing the accordion and piano, singing, as well as photography. She was an accomplished and skilled genealogist.

Billie came to know Jesus at a very early age. She loved and served Him faithfully during all her days. As a young woman, she traveled with an evangelist across Texas and Oklahoma. Billie played the accordion and sang during services and revivals; sharing her faith and the goodness of God was the very foundation of her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Downey, Jr.; parents, Quincy and Lessie Sterns; and brother, Jimmy Ray (Bud) Sterns.

Billie Jean is survived by her children Tina Nezat and husband J. D., Nina Birdwell and husband James, Nanette Graham and husband Greg, and Keith Downey; grandchildren, Britni Nezat Givens, Sarah Nezat Bardsley, Wesley Nezat, C. J. Birdwell Poth, Katie Birdwell, and Chloe Downey; great-grandchildren, Avery Bardsley, Charlie Bardsley, Tenley Givens, Preston Shaw, Martin Nezat, Quinn Poth, and Emory Poth; sisters, Betty Jo Voight and husband Pat, Judy Escagne and husband Allen, Jan Leonard; brother-in-law, Thomas W. Downey; sister-in-law, Marie Kea; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Private family services will be held at Claybar. For those friends and loved ones not attending the funeral services, Billie would be honored by an act of service or kindness done in her memory.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to her home church, Restoration Church, 3212 Concord. Suite E., Orange, TX 77630.

6th Annual Michael Hoke Memorial Outdoor Awareness Program for Kids

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is having The 6th Annual Michael Hoke Memorial Outdoor Awareness for Kids. This program teaches kids about the outdoors with activities like Camp Cooking, Duck Dog Demo, Nature Trails, how to identify Skulls and Furs, and other activities. It is for ages 8 to 14 and is on September 18th from 9 am to 2 pm with check-in starting at 8:30. Cost of this program is \$10. The location will be at Claiborne West Park at 4105 North St, Vidor, TX. We recommend closed toe shoes only, no sandals. To register go to Orange.agrilife.org and click on the registrations link. Dead-

line to register is September 10th, 2021. If you have any questions call the Extension office at 409-882-7010.

Free Diabetes Classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will be holding free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join us in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthy and much more to control your diabetes. The series will last for 5 classes on October 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, and 19th and will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. They will be held at the Raymond Gould Community Center at 385 Claiborne St, Vidor, TX. Call the Extension Office at 409-882-7010 to sign-up for this series

Texas' biggest county saw a sixfold jump in vaccine rates offering \$100

KAREN BROOKS HARPER
The Texas Tribune

A week after public health officials in Texas' most populous county started handing out \$100 cash cards to locals getting their first COVID-19 shot, the number of daily vaccinations has shot up to six times its previous rate, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said Tuesday.

"We had an inkling that something was going right when I started my announcement [about the incentive] at noon, and by the time I was done, 30 minutes later, there was a line of cars waiting to receive the vaccine," Hidalgo said. "We haven't seen those lines for months."

To accommodate and encourage the increased demand, the county will be opening an additional mass vaccination site and expanding its mobile vaccine program, Hidalgo said.

"You have to be creative, and we're seeing the results and we're doubling down on it," Hidalgo said.

Harris County officials began the incentive program last Tuesday in a bid to jumpstart stalled vaccinations in Houston and surrounding areas, and to provide relief to the region's stressed hospitals during what health officials say is the worst surge of infections the area has seen since the pandemic began last year.

For the three weeks before the program started, Hidalgo said, Harris County Public Health was administering an average of 431 first doses per day. The day the announcement was made, the number jumped to 914. The next day, 1,596 people sought the first doses from public health providers.

On Saturday, four days into the program, some 2,700 people got their first injection, Hidalgo said.

Demand for vaccines began to slow down in April and May in Texas and across the nation because of vaccine hesitancy and many people's assumption that the pandemic was over as infections and hospitalizations plummeted, health officials said. At the time, less

than a quarter of the Texas population was fully vaccinated.

The rapid emergence of the delta variant in the early summer is now fueling a surge that is sending mostly unvaccinated Texans, who make up around 45% of the state's population, to hospitals in numbers not seen since January, before the vaccines became widely available.

Experts say that while mask-wearing and social distancing will stem the rush on hospitals in the short term, mass vaccination is the only answer to beating the pandemic in the long term.

"To the extent that people get vaccinated, this surge is going to end faster," Hidalgo said.

President Joe Biden has encouraged cities and counties to dip into federal stimulus dollars to pay for \$100 incentives like the one Harris County offers. In Texas, Austin Public Health is offering H-E-B grocery store gift cards, while San Antonio is weighing its own similar program and Bexar County recently announced health insurance rebates for employees who get the shot.

Also on Tuesday, Harris County opened a new mass vaccination site in Sheldon ISD's Panther Stadium, about 20 miles northeast of Houston, with the ability to administer 1,500 vaccine doses per day, Hidalgo said.

Harris County officials have set aside \$2.3 million for the county's vaccine incentive program — enough to put first doses in about 23,000 arms.

The local incentives, combined with the daily drumbeat of grim news about overwhelmed hospitals and climbing infection rates among children and in nursing homes, are being credited for a small upswing in vaccination rates across the state in recent weeks.

As of Sunday, daily vaccines were up by 20,214 doses compared with the 30-day average a month ago. An average 77,047 vaccine doses were reported each day in the last month. Just over 46% of Texans are fully vaccinated.

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- AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator)

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Orange County Church Directory

Let Fear Deliver You from Fear

Marshall Segal
Staff writer,
desiringGod.org

The Bible is uncomfortably comfortable, even happy, with promoting a particular kind of fear.

For many of us, any experience of fear feels like an enemy to be fought and freed from. And God does free us from our fears: "I sought the Lord," Psalm 34:4 says, "and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Well, all our fears but one. Just three verses later, King David writes, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him. . . . Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints" (Psalm 34:7, 9). So, trusting God casts out a certain kind of fear and kindles another — even commands another: You who would be free from your fears, fear the Lord.

A significant part of maturity, then, is learning to not fear what we should not fear, and to increasingly, even gladly, fear the one whom we should.

Acquainted with Fear

When David penned these lines in Psalm 34 about fear, he had just escaped more fearful circumstances than the majority of us will ever face. The most powerful man in the land, enflamed with intense and violent jealousy, was hunting him like prey (1 Samuel 20:33). King Saul was so determined to kill David that he attempted to spear his own son to death for standing in the way.

Desperate to escape, David fled to the Philistines, that awful enemy he had warred against for years. When he entered their town, rumors spread quickly: "Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his



ten thousands'?" (1 Samuel 21:11). David realized he had crawled out of harm's way only to find himself in equally dangerous hands. Terrified by what the Philistine king might do to him, David pretended to be insane to make himself seem pitiable and harmless (1 Samuel 21:13). Whatever fears might plague us, we have not yet needed to feign madness to survive.

And this was only one scary scene of hundreds that David faced — he fought off lions and bears by hand, he defied the giant when no one else would, he fled and hid in caves from his own king for years, he endured a betrayal and rebellion led by his own son. This man was well-acquainted with fear — with untamed, persistent, and desperate fears. And God used those fears to teach him, and us, the fear of God.

Teach Me to Fear

As David experienced freedom from his darker fears, he learned a deeper, sweeter fear. "Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (Psalm 34:11). The Christian life is filled with paradoxes, but is any more surprising than that we find freedom from fear by learning to fear?

The fear of God is a heart-level embrace of the intensity

of his holy and sovereign authority over all. It is an admission that God is worthy of our admiration, devotion, reverence, and awe — but it is far more than an admission. It is a face-to-the-ground, trembling-in-the-soul, all-of-life submission to that God — a heart that senses how small, sinful, and undeserving we are next to him, and yet still dares, in Christ, to draw near to him. Those who fear God have received his grace and mercy without diminishing or marginalizing all that makes him terrifying to sinners.

In fact, the very things that would frighten us apart from grace only heighten our experience of his grace. Yes, the fear of God does humble us (Psalm 34:2), reminding us how low and sinful we are before him, but it also inspires us to seek him more. Verse 4: "I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Verse 15: "The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry." Verse 18: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

We can hardly conceive of a God who is both dreadful and yet compassionate, severe and yet gentle, just and yet forgiving, wrathful and yet approachable, exalted and yet

available. The one who fears God refuses to forfeit what unsettles him about God, because he wants to know, enjoy, and serve the true God. He expects any God worthy of his devotion to unsettle him.

We Delight to Fear

This fear of God is not, as many wrongly assume, at odds with our joy in God, but is the weight and intensity of joy in its fullest, most beautiful bloom. Notice how closely Psalm 34 intertwines the fullness of happiness with the gravity of godly fear:

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him have no lack! (Psalm 34:8-9)

The man who fears the Lord does not find him unapproachable or unappealing. The Lord's glory and power and wisdom and justice and mercy are all fearful to him — far above and beyond anyone or anything else in all creation — but they have also become sweet to him. All that makes God fearful now tastes and appears good, because the man trusts in him. He knows the fearful God fights for him. The fearful God protects him. The fearful God provides for him. The fearful God forgives him. The fearful God loves him. Faith has made the terrifying fearfulness of God lovely and safe.

This fear-filled joy and joy-filled fear is not isolated to just one psalm. Psalm 112:1 says, "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!" Nehemiah prays, "O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant,

and to the prayer of your servants who delight to the fear of your name" (Nehemiah 1:11). And Isaiah prophesies of Jesus, "his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:3). And Jesus prayed that his delight would be in us, and that our delight would be full (John 15:11).

Most Intense Joy

We get to watch the apostle Peter learn this art of holy fear, after he caved more than once to the fear of man, even denying that he knew Jesus. Peter had himself "tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:3) — rejoicing with a joy that is "inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8). And yet he charges the church, "Fear God" (1 Peter 2:17). And "conduct yourselves with fear" throughout your time here on earth (1 Peter 1:17). He had discovered that our joy in God and our fear of God are not only reconcilable, but inseparable.

We cannot experience fullness of joy and abundance of life if our hearts do not tremble before his greatness. Michael Reeves writes,

"This right fear of God, then, is not the minor-key, gloomy flip side to proper joy in God. There is no tension between this fear and joy. Rather, this trembling 'fear of God' is a way of speaking about the sheer intensity of the saints' happiness in God.

In other words, the biblical theme of the fear of God helps us to see the sort of joy that is most fitting for believers." (Rejoice & Tremble, 61)

What if we haven't experienced greater happiness in God because we've resisted anything that might make us fear him? What if we have forfeited greater intensities of intimacy because we've shielded ourselves from aspects of him that make us uncomfortable? What if love has been harder and sanctification slower because we have subtly made God smaller, nicer, and more accommodating instead of approaching him as the consuming fire that he is?

The pathway to deeper joy and intimacy with God may be a surprising one: learn to fear him. As the prophet Isaiah says, "Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary" (Isaiah 8:13-14). Let him carry you as you wade deeper into the wild, overwhelming waves of what he has revealed to you.

Marshall Segal (@marshallsegal) is a writer and managing editor at desiringGod.org. He's the author of Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness & Dating. He graduated from Bethlehem College & Seminary. He and his wife, Faye, have two children and live in Minneapolis.

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FISHING

Melting down for Reds

FISHING
CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

It was probably a dead heat as far as the amount of water we had consumed versus the amount of gas we had burned while hoping to locate a few redfish and it wasn't getting any cooler.

There wasn't a breath of wind which actually helped the cause. I was all but ready to call it a day when John Miller, a visiting construction foreman from Atlanta, pointed in the direction of a handful of terns and a lone gull circling a small area.

Before I could even make out what he was pointing at, he excitedly announced, "There are fish splashing underneath them!" We covered the relatively short distance quickly enough and Miller immediately fed an over-sized red a bone diamond Assassin.

The line was peeling off his spinning reel at an alarming rate so I hooked up on two rods just in case he broke his fish off or ran out of line. He eventually caught not only his fish, but both of mine while I finished another bottle of water and cheered him on.

The school surfaced three more times before we lost inter-

COLBURN Page 2B

'Real' Football Begins

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

Bragging about winning the state and national championships has just a couple more days to go until high school and college athletes kick off their respective football seasons when the talk stops and the playing for real begins.

The sudden trend to form "super conferences" has already begun in the Southeastern Conference as the Texas Longhorns and Oklahoma Sooners decided last month they wanted in on the big money games that exist in that league.

The same thing happened in the Southland Conference this summer when five teams left, with most of them hooking up with the Western Athletic Conference, including Lamar University in Beaumont. This dissolved one of the Cardinals' most intense rivalries against McNeese State University, who opted to remain in the Southland.

High school football kicks off Friday night with a couple of big rivalries slated for the first game of the season.



Local golfer Lauren Cox finished in an 11-way tie for 38th in last weekend's LPGA qualifying tournament and earned her way into Stage 2 of the event set for October in Florida.

The big one in Beaumont pits West Brook against United while the state-ranked West Orange-Stark Mustangs travel to Nederland to take on the Bulldogs.

Other area games sure to affect the

state rankings finds Port Neches-Groves hosting Jasper, Silsbee at Vidor and Woodville at Newton.

Only five Zero Week college games

KAZ'S KORNER Page 4B

Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast...

★ **WEST ORANGE-STARK over NEDERLAND**

This season opener usually pits the Mustang against the toughest team they will meet during the regular season in the Bulldogs and this year doesn't look any different. The 'Stangs manage to pull out wins in this rivalry most of the time and they should do it again Friday night.

★ **LITTLE CYPRESS-MAURICEVILLE over HAMSHIRE-FANNETT**

The Battlin' Bears looked really good in their final scrimmage last week against Bridge City and need to pick up where they left off. However, the Longhorns play well at home and Friday night should be no different, so the Bears must bring their "A" game.

★ **BRIDGE CITY over BUNA**

The Cardinals looked pretty raw in their scrimmage last week against cross-county rival LC-M and should have a much more solid effort Friday night on the Cougars' home field.

★ **ORANGFIELD over ANAHUAC**

The Bobcats are always ready to put out their usual 100 per cent effort once the bell rings to start the regular season and have the home field advantage Friday night against the visiting Panthers.

★ **VIDOR over SILSBEE**

This match-up has been a grueling contest for both teams

and usually tells a lot about how the rest of the season may go. Although this game is at Pirate Stadium, it doesn't always mean the home team will come out on top. But it should happen Friday night.

★ **DEWEYVILLE over WEST HARDIN**

Don't know much about either team but the Pirates have a couple of real talented skill people coming back with at least a year's experience and that should carry them to their first victory Friday night.

Area HIGH SCHOOL—Beaumont West Brook over Beaumont United, Port Arthur Memorial over Lancaster, Port Neches-Groves over Jasper, Houston Waltrip over Lumberton, Coldspring over Hardin-Jefferson, Huffman over Liberty, East Chambers over Rusk, Hemphill over Kirbyville, Hardin over Kountze, Newton over Woodville, Evadale over Beaumont Kelly.

COLLEGE—Nebraska over Illinois, Fresno State over UConn, UCLA over Hawaii, New Mexico State over UTEP, Utah State over Southern Utah.



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Alligator Gar Harvest Drawing Opens Sept. 1

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will begin the Alligator Gar Harvest Authorization drawing application process on September 1.

From Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, anglers holding a valid license-year or year-from-purchase fishing license can enter the drawing for an opportunity to harvest one alligator gar over 48 inches from a section of the Trinity River using the My Texas Hunt Harvest mobile app or online. Anglers can choose to apply as an individual or as part of a small group. Winners of the random drawing will be notified by Oct. 15. Harvest authorizations will be valid from the date issued through Aug. 31, 2022.

Anglers can use any legal means or method to take an alligator gar over 48 inches day or night from a section of the Trinity River from the I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County, includ-



The Trinity River has become one of the most popular destinations in the world to catch a large alligator gar.

ing Lake Livingston and the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard. This includes the following counties: Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto,

Trinity, and Walker. "This segment of the Trinity River has become one of the most popular destinations in the world to catch a large alligator gar, but concerns have been raised about the potential for overharvest and its risks to fishing quality," said Craig Bonds, In-

land Fisheries Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "With this drawing system, we are able to give 150 anglers the opportunity to harvest the fish of a lifetime while also meeting our management goal to conserve this unique resource for current and fu-

ture generations of anglers."

In addition, all alligator gar harvested, including those harvested using a harvest authorization, from public freshwater and saltwater waterbodies (other than Falcon International Reservoir) must be reported to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within 24 hours of harvest on the My Texas Hunt Harvest mobile app or online.

"In order for us to manage our alligator gar populations among growing angler interest, it is crucial to know how many are being harvested in Texas," Bonds said. "By gathering data on alligator gar harvest through the My Texas Hunt Harvest app and online, our fisheries management team gains a better understanding of this species' distribution, sizes, and numbers and can use that information to help manage for quality fishing in the future."

Other Trinity River alligator gar regulations that remain in effect include a 48-inch maximum length limit for alligator gar from the

I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County, including Lake Livingston and the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard (see above for list of affected counties). Additionally, a ban on the take or possession of an alligator gar by means of lawful archery equipment or crossbow is in effect on the same section of the Trinity River between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise (unless using a harvest authorization through the drawing system).

A one-fish-per-day bag limit remains in effect for alligator gar statewide except for Falcon International Reservoir, where a daily bag limit of five fish and possession limit of 10 fish remains in effect.

The My Texas Hunt Harvest app can be downloaded free from the Apple App Store and Google Play. For more information about alligator gar fishing regulations, visit The Outdoor Annual online.

Colburn: Fishing From Page 1B

est in battling another fish. That free-for-all kicked off about 1 p.m. and we had not seen the first sign of a fish prior to that. We had already fished our way through a good outgoing tide, but apparently the fish in the open lake could have cared less.

Nothing about this bite is surprising other than the fact that I am not seeing the massive schools of shad that usually attract these reds. I have seen a few shrimp, but the bait must be there for the gulls to hold over a small area.

By the time we were in no hurry to fool another fish,

we were both throwing a Hoginar exclusively. If the fish were on the surface the bait never made it to the bottom, but we caught several fish crawling it across the bottom after they went down.

We called in another boat at one point and the man and his wife were throwing shrimp under a popping cork. You can imagine how that went. Very seldom were they able to pop the cork even one time before it plunged beneath the surface.

The couple said that they had not caught a single red or trout just drifting the live

shrimp. For that reason and because gafftop love them, I see no reason to buy live shrimp right now.

We finally found our redfish about a mile off the north revetment wall, but I have gotten reports of schooling fish from Blue Buck to Coffee Ground Cove. The water clarity is much better south, but that doesn't seem to make much difference.

I haven't checked it out yet, but I did get two very encouraging reports from the Causeway reef. A home owner on the water said that for the past week the trout

bite has steadily improved for him. He is catching smaller trout under the birds, but some very solid fish bouncing a purple demon Lil John off the bottom in 12 to 14 feet of water.

He was quick to add that his better trout were coming during a strong incoming tide or at night under the lights. He was also kind enough to share that the fish holding in deeper water were not slamming the bait. "Your line just gets tight like you are hung on shell and then you feel the surge of the fish."

We are currently on the tail end of a full moon and that can make catching a little more difficult. Unlike

what I have experienced while bass fishing over the years, a good trout bite usually falls off some immediately following a full moon. The fish you do catch are not really aggressive and the bite itself is very light. Braided line won't find the fish for you, but it will make the lightest of strikes much more discernable.

Thirteen boats fished the

recent Sabine River Shoot-out Championship and Dagan Bradshaw and Gavin Deshotel saved the best for last with a very solid 13.43-pound stringer. Alan and Clayton Fontenot took home the big bass pot with a 3.99-pound bass. Eleven of the teams weighed in limits.

Remember...your Texas fishing license expires at the end of the month!

Giant rubber ducky takes flight; where will it land next?



A giant rubber ducky floats in Belfast Harbor, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, in Belfast, Maine.

BELFAST, Maine — A 25-foot inflatable duck named Joy disappeared over the weekend, as mysteriously as it arrived, after bringing days of delight to a seaside Maine community, the Associated Press reports.

The rubber ducky was removed from the harbor sometime Saturday, likely because of concerns about Tropical Storm Henri, Belfast Harbor Master Katherine Given was

quoted as saying in the Bangor Daily News.

Despite the weather concerns, Given said, people were upset to see the duck leave the harbor.

The duck's arrival in the harbor two weekends ago was, and remains, a mystery. But Given said she received an anonymous letter from someone claiming to be responsible.

"JOY simply is fowl play. In

this day in age of such bitter divisiveness in our country, we wanted to put forth a reminder of our commonalities instead of our differences," the letter said. "Nothing embodies childhood more than being in a warm bath with your rubber ducky — the joy

of not having a care in the world other than having to remember to wash behind our ears."

Will the ducky return? That's not known — but the letter alluded to the duck landing somewhere else after Belfast.

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Trout, teal and doves take center stage



Blue winged teal have begun to show up in many areas locally. September promises to be a good one if the conditions hold up, as shown here by Hunter Uzzle from last season.

RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

Outdoors Captain Chuck Uzzle For The Record

It doesn't make any difference if you're a hunter or a fisherman because this time of the year has something for everyone and it's all good. The brief cool down from near triple digit heat has both hunters and fishermen alike thinking of what's in store for the coming weeks. The very first hint of hunting season starts with teal and dove season in September and if you look at the calendar that's not too far off. Hunters of all shapes and sizes flock to the field to take advantage of the first opportunities to get back into the sport they love, the whole episode is like "big kid therapy".



forward to the arrival of the bluewing teal because they will be the first ducks to visit our area on the annual migration south. This year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved a proposal to set the teal season to run Sept. 11-26 after the bluewing population reached the 16-day threshold. Federal waterfowl hunting guidelines allow Texas a 16-day teal-only season when the bluewing population index exceeds 4.7 million birds. If the bluewing population is 3.3 million to 4.6 million, current federal guidelines allow Texas a nine-day teal season.

The next full moon will usher in big waves of teal into our area and that trend will continue for the next couple of weeks. We just had the full moon in August and it ushered in some great numbers of birds, especially this early.

The next full moon in September will bring the really

big groups of teal to our area and that conditions along the Central flyway could not be better for this time of the year as constant rains have made everything to the north of us green and fertile unlike last year. Locally our marshes are in tremendous shape as the big flush of freshwater has certainly sweetened up our marshes and promoted plenty of growth. On a recent pass through some local marshes I noticed several areas that had begun to grow a couple of different types of grass that had not been in there in a couple of years. The rich fresh water has been a blessing all the way around for everyone except the fishermen in Sabine Lake but that will hopefully change as we get closer to the fall where things in the lake should begin to get back to normal.

Speaking of normal it's

first little cold front towards the end of September and the north wind blows all the water out of the marsh Sabine Lake will hopefully go nuts with schooling activity and the fishing will be as hot as the summer was.

I know that first front seems like a long way off so I guess we will have to pass the time by shooting a few doves as the season opens for the North and Central zones on September 1st. Several hunters I have spoken with recently have

been reporting large numbers of doves in our area which always seems to be the case before opening weekend. Historically we get a huge rain or some goofy storm come through and blows all the birds out, hopefully that's not the case this year.

The coming weeks are full of promise and the seasons will overlap causing sportsmen to make a choice to either hunt or fish, either one will certainly be a winner.



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First Saturday At First Baptist

On September 4th First Saturday at First Baptist will be giving away free bags of groceries in the parking lot of First Baptist Church at 200 W Roundbunch Road in Bridge City. Bibles, candy, and helpful tracts will be handed out also. For those facing difficult health or family situations may request prayer, you will not need to leave your vehicle. Look for the blue canopy and balloons. We will be available from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We want to help you.



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NASA Tests Ways to Reduce Stress in Plants Growing in Space

By Linda Herridge
NASA's John F. Kennedy
Space Center

When astronauts embark on long-duration missions in the future, crews will grow food to supplement what they can bring with them. More than 20 years of continuously living and working in space aboard the International Space Station has provided many opportunities for crews and researchers to observe the challenges of growing plants in the stressful conditions of microgravity.

One experiment on NASA SpaceX's 23rd Commercial Resupply Services mission to the space station will help determine the effect of plant stress responses to the microgravity environment. The Advanced Plant Experiment-08 (APEX-08) will grow *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a plant scientists routinely use for research. The study includes making genetic alterations that elicit a response in the pool of polyamines, a group of organic compounds that modulate plant responses to environmental stress.

"This experiment will test a range of genotypes of *Arabidopsis* plants for modified abilities to respond to the microgravity environment," said Dr. Patrick Masson, principal investigator, University of Wisconsin-Madison. "We altered a poly-



The Veggie growth chamber at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Nov. 6, 2020. The test is part of the process for demonstrating readiness for space research ahead of its flight on SpaceX's 23rd Commercial Resupply Services mission to the International Space Station.

Credits: NASA/Lucy Orozco

amine metabolic pathway previously implicated in plant stress responses, and we'll look for variations in growth and alterations in gene expression profiles be-

tween genotypes."

Pools of polyamines in plants, particularly a major group called putrescines, could be manipulated in space and on the ground to

reduce stress reactions. Masson, along with co-investigator Dr. Shih-Heng Su, selected six distinct genotypes of *Arabidopsis* plants for the study.

"The lines used in the APEX-08 experiment were modified to affect the ability of the plants to either synthesize or degrade putrescine," said Su, associate scientist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "By regulating the expression level of certain genes, we can change the putrescine within the plants, which may change the ability of plants to respond differently to stress."

Inside a laboratory at Kennedy's Space Station Processing Facility (SSPF), the payload development team, including NASA researchers, the principal investigators, and contractors, placed the *Arabidopsis* seeds in an agar medium on Petri plates for the journey to the orbiting laboratory.

Upon delivery to the space station, crewmembers will install the plates in the Veggie plant growth facility and activate them by exposing them to Veggie LED lights, which will help them germinate. Crew members will photograph the seedlings at the end of the growth period for biometric analysis.

At the end of nine days, the plants will be harvested and preserved with a chemical fixative before they are placed in cold storage for their return journey to Earth. The plants will be delivered to the investigators for gene-expression analysis.

Inside the SSPF, a team will initiate a ground control experiment that mimics space station conditions about 52 hours after astronauts initiate the experiment on the station.

"By comparing the samples from the space station with the ground experiment results, we should have a good idea of how altering the pool of putrescine and derived compounds within the seedlings can potentially affect plant responses to the stress encountered in microgravity," Masson said.

The results of the experiment will be sent to NASA's GeneLab database for other researchers to use and compare with their studies.

As NASA project manager for APEX-08, Lucy Orozco coordinated the APEX-08 activities including scheduling, pre-flight tests, and operation support to ensure the mission success.

"It's important to understand the fundamental biological factors that affect plants and how they grow in microgravity," Orozco said. "By identifying effective solutions for sustainable plant growth, NASA will be able to support human deep space exploration from the Moon to Mars and beyond."

For more information about space station research, visit https://nasa.gov/mis-sion_pages/station/research.

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

are on tap Saturday which will have little significance on the Top 25 Polls—Nebraska at Illinois, UConn at Fresno State, Hawaii at UCLA, UTEP at New Mexico State and Southern Utah at Utah State.

Most collegiate action takes place in Week One as everyone will be shooting to dethrone No. 1 Alabama, which whipped through the 2020 season with an unblemished 13-0 record. Head Coach Nick Saban is well aware of the old adage about Marie Antoinette—"Uneasy is the head that wears the crown."

This week's edition of USA Today Sports Weekly lists the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Top 25 College Football Poll with comments about 2021 teams that were snubbed in the preseason poll and those who are overrated.

Michigan tops the list, especially those fans who think the Wolverines should be rated at the top of the Big Ten because Head Coach Jim Harbaugh's team has finished in the Top 20 four of the last five seasons before last year's pandemic-altered campaign ended with a 2-4 mark.

One of last season's big surprises, North Carolina State, finished with an 8-4 worksheet despite having an unsettled quarterback situation which has Devin Leary at full strength after starting only three games for the Wolfpack last season. The running game looks solid and should be much better with 19 starters returning.

Arizona State (2-2) was poised to have a breakout season last year before the team was limited to only four games. The Sun Devils return just about everyone and should contend for the Pac-12 title. Boise State (5-2) and Central Florida (6-4) also should do better than predicted.

The Sports Weekly also lists the five most overrated teams, which includes No. 19 Texas, mainly because of the Longhorns' quarterback situation.

With four-year starter Sam Ehlinger now in the NFL, the Longhorns' new head coach Steve Sarkisian has to choose between Casey Thompson and Hudson Card, who are both virtually untested to

live Big 12 action.

Throw in the fact that Sarkisian's offense isn't an exact fit for what was run the past four years under Tom Herman and one can see the cause for alarm as the 'Horns get ready for No. 23 Louisiana-Lafayette next weekend, the article points out.

No. 7 Notre Dame gets the Sports Weekly's top overrated tag, mainly because of Wisconsin transfer Jack Coan named as the Fighting Irish's starting quarterback and new defensive coordinator Marcus Freeman, which may get the team off to a slow start.

Other teams the article lists as overrated included No. 14 Southern California, No. 15 Miami (Florida) and

No. 25 Ole Miss.

The AFCA Coaches Poll is similar to the one by the Associated Press with Alabama, Clemson, Oklahoma, Ohio State and Georgia the top five teams with Texas A&M a close No. 6.

The picture should be clearer when the snow flies and Santa's sleigh has gone back to the North Pole.

KWICKIES...

The Houston Astros' offense, which is either feast or famine, must get more consistent as the season winds down to its final five weeks. Houston walloped Seattle 12-3 and 15-1 before blowing only their second ninth-inning lead after being 65-1

when leading in the ninth inning and ending up losing 6-3 in the 11th inning Sunday. Kansas City came to Minute Maid Park Monday for a three-game series with the Astros seeking revenge for losing 3-of-4 at Kaufmann Stadium last week.

And while on the topic of the Astros, on Friday Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa hit back-to-back triples and on Saturday newcomers Taylor Jones and Jacob Wilson also hit back-to-back triples. It was the first time in 31 years since the Astros had their first back-to-back two triple games. It last happened Aug. 2-3, 1990.

Local golfer Lauren Cox finished in an 11-way tie for 38th in last weekend's LPGA qualifying tournament and earned her way into Stage 2 of the event set for October

in Florida.

The original Honus Wagner baseball card recently sold for \$6.6 million, the most ever for a sports card.

The NFL said that it is going to bear down and flag taunting this season, an infraction that has been overlooked for so many seasons.

Tennis star Naomi Osaka pledged her recent tournament winnings to Haiti relief because her father is a native of Haiti.

Former Houston Texans defensive coordinator Mike Vrabel tested positive for the Coronavirus last weekend. All of his assistants have had both of their vaccine shots but have been quarantined.

JUST BETWEEN US...

Those sports wags that said there was no way the

Houston Texans would win a single game this season may be looking for a little crow they can eat when that doesn't happen. They certainly must have underestimated the defensive wizardry of coordinator Lovie Smith, who immediately changed the 3-4 defense to the 4-3, where the players don't have those sophisticated keys to read and just go after the football and force turnovers. In two exhibition games the Texans have accumulated seven turnovers and nine quarterback sacks, beating Green Bay 26-7 and the rival Dallas Cowboys 20-14 Saturday night. It must be pointed out that these defensive gems were against mostly non-starters. We'll see how they fare this week against Tampa Bay and (maybe) Tom Brady.

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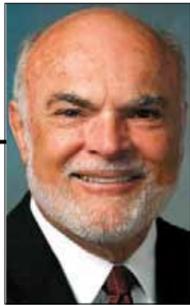
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State Senator Robert Nicholds



On August 17, 1786 frontier icon and brave defender of the Alamo, Davy Crockett was born in Tennessee. Throughout his life, he acquired a reputation as a sharpshooter, hunter, and outdoorsman. He left his home state of Tennessee when he was 49 and set out for Texas. He arrived here in February 1836 and joined the Texas Revolutionaries at the Alamo. On March 6, 1836, he died during the Battle of the Alamo.

Here are five things happening around your state:

• Proposed amendments to Texas Constitution

This week, Governor Abbott announced a special election date for the eight proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. That election will be held on November 2, 2021. To be put on the ballot, a joint resolution has to be passed by at least two-thirds of the members in both the Texas House and Texas Senate. The proposed amendments are:

PROPOSITION 1: The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct

charitable raffles at rodeo venues.

PROPOSITION 2: The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county.

PROPOSITION 3: The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations.

PROPOSITION 4: The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge.

PROPOSITION 5: The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office.

PROPOSITION 6: The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential

caregiver for in-person visitation.

PROPOSITION 7: The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death.

PROPOSITION 8: The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

• Hunting and fishing licenses now available

Hunting season is right around the corner and licenses are now available from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Annually, Texans buy over 2.7 million licenses. Those purchases fund a variety of conservation efforts at TPWD. You can purchase your 2021-2022 license online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov>.

• COVID-19 vaccine information

This month, the CDC released data about how effective the COVID-19 vaccines are at preventing severe cases of COVID-19 that could lead to hospitalization or death. Currently the "breakthrough" cases are still rare and a small percentage of fully vaccinated

Texans are getting sick. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are very effective at preventing hospitalization. The current increase in hospitalizations is driven primarily by unvaccinated Texans. In one survey of hospitals, 95 percent of people in the intensive care unit beds who are sick with COVID-19 were unvaccinated. Over 13 million Texans are fully vaccinated and I'm one of them. I received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine earlier this year and have had no complications at all.

• Census data released

This week, the US Census Bureau released raw population data for the entire country. These data will be used later this fall when the Legislature begins the process of redistricting. Texas added 4 million people the last decade and will add two new US congressional seats because of it. The detailed information that will help the redistricting committee redraw the boundaries will be available next month and we will start that process then.

• Special session continues

We are still in the second called special session of the 87th Legislature. On the days I do not have to be at the Capitol, I have made it a priority to travel to the district to visit with constituents. This week I was in Houston County, Trinity County, and Polk County. In the past three weeks, I will have visited 18 counties. It's been great to travel around East Texas and visit with all of you about what you think we need to be working on.

Texas House speaker says "absolutely no deals made" to bring back absent Democrats

CASSANDRA POLLOCK
The Texas Tribune

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said Tuesday that there were "absolutely no deals made" to lure Democrats back to the Capitol and end their weeklong quorum break, while emphasizing that he sought to handle the standoff without inflicting permanent harm on the chamber.

That could have happened if the impasse got to the point of members being physically detained and brought to the Capitol, Phelan said in an interview Tuesday morning with The Texas Tribune. The interview came hours after the chamber decisively restored a quorum, with 113 members present — the most since more than 50 Democrats broke quorum in July in protest of the GOP's priority elections bill.

Phelan was insistent that he let bill authors "run their own legislation," and he said neither he nor his lieutenants appealed to Democrats with any promises involving committee leadership or redistricting.

"Absolutely not, absolutely not," Phelan said. "I specifically said we're not discussing that. I mean, that to me is off the table. We're not discussing any of those issues. Again, if this is about policy, come inside this building, we'll talk policy. But no, there was absolutely no deals made."

Instead, Phelan said, there was "no insider baseball" and Democrats "showed up on their own volition," repeating that his message was they could return to the Capitol and "debate policy." Phelan added that he did not know "who was gonna show up on any given day" and simply exercised patience, likening the approach to the one his predecessor took toward Democrats' 2003 quorum break over redistricting.

"You can try to push too hard on 149 type-A members of the House and get an outcome that's decidedly worse, but sometimes it just takes time," Phelan said.

The 113 members who showed up Monday included over a dozen returning Democrats who appeared on the floor after a quorum had already been established, signaling a more certain end to the impasse that appeared to end when the chamber last met Thursday.

Navigating the quorum break, Phelan said he was especially mindful of not doing "un-repairable harm" to the chamber, indicating that could have happened if members were physically detained and



"You can try to push too hard on 149 type-A members of the House and get an outcome that's decidedly worse, but sometimes it just takes time," House Speaker Dade Phelan said during an interview with The Texas Tribune on Tuesday.

PHOTO: Eddie Gaspar/The Texas Tribune
brought to the chamber. While the House authorized such arrests and Phelan signed 52 warrants, the roundup never got beyond the sergeant-at-arms and law enforcement visiting members' homes and delivering the warrants.

"The big question is, what do you do with somebody once you detain them?" Phelan asked. "Once you bring them back to the House, what do you do with that individual? And that's something that no one's answered to date. So there was a balance there of how you compel attendance, and we never got there [to physically detaining members]."

"I think many members saw that if we were gonna go there," Phelan added, "they were gonna be the ones maybe possibly causing this harm to the House, and that's why I think you saw a lot of members show up."

Phelan said another complicating factor for the arrests was a legal battle over temporary protection from district courts that many of the quorum-breaking Democrats had received. That raised the possibility that the sergeant-at-arms could have been put "in contempt of court had he physically detained somebody," Phelan said.

Phelan also expressed optimism that the House can pass legislation tied to Gov. Greg Abbott's 17-item agenda with less than two weeks left of the special session, saying he felt confident the chamber would pass items such as the elections legislation "in the coming week or so." The speaker also pointed to House rules that allow for an expedited timeline during special sessions.

The elections proposal, advanced Monday night by a House committee, has been dubbed by Republicans as an election integrity measure to protect the voting process

from fraud, even though there is no evidence it occurs on a widespread basis. Democrats and voting rights activists say the legislation would undermine voting access for marginalized groups. The bill would bolster access for partisan poll watchers and further tighten the voting-by-mail process, among other changes to the state elections.

The elections legislation first died in the final hours of the regular session that ended in May after Democrats orchestrated a walkout from the chamber. It was again defeated in the first special session called in July when Democrats abandoned the Texas Capitol to camp out in Washington, D.C., for several weeks. The Legislature is in its second special session to pass the elections bill and other GOP priorities.

Asked if the House should change its rules to punish Democrats who remained absent from the chamber — a sentiment that some Republicans have pushed amid the quorum break — Phelan deferred to the members, saying it was only his job to enforce the rules.

Phelan did say he had two requests should members change the chamber's rules: Ensure it's a member-driven process and avoid placing more power into the speaker's office.

"Be careful what you ask for because I know in the past, members have been very reluctant to give the power of removing positions of leadership on a whim to the speaker," he said. "You can imagine what that means in the committee process — 'hear this bill or I'm removing you tomorrow' type of stuff. ... I would be very hesitant to give that type of arbitrary power."

Phelan said the state's "Big Three" — the speaker, Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who heads the Senate — "have a

good working relationship" and that the past few months have helped people better understand how the House operates differently than the Senate.

"We don't always agree,"

Phelan said, "but we do have a healthy relationship."

While the quorum break posed the toughest test for Phelan as speaker yet, he said it did not change his mind about seeking another term

behind the gavel.

"It may change my wife's mind, but not my mind," he said with a laugh. "It's been a challenge, but it has been well worth it. I absolutely expect to be sitting here in 2023."

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF ENTERGY TEXAS, INC. FOR A FINANCING ORDER

On July 9, 2021, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI") filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") an application for a financing order to securitize system restoration costs (the "application") as allowed by Subchapter I of Chapter 36 and Subchapter G of Chapter 39 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act ("PURA"). As proposed, the financing order will:

- authorize the issuance of system restoration bonds in an amount currently estimated to be approximately \$294.5 million;
- approve the proposed securitization financing structure proposed by ETI;
- approve system restoration charges sufficient to recover the principal and interest on the system restoration bonds and to recover the ongoing qualified costs of supporting and servicing the system restoration bonds;
- approve the tariff to implement the system restoration charges; and
- approve a separate tariff designed to flow through to customers accumulated deferred federal income tax effects associated with the incurrence and recovery of system restoration costs.

Pursuant to Chapter 36, Subchapter I of PURA, ETI is authorized to recover qualified costs related to the restoration of utility service incurred in connection with Hurricanes Laura and Delta and Winter Storm Uri accrued through February 28, 2021, certain estimated costs and carrying costs, and the projected balance of a regulatory asset containing Commission-approved system restoration costs related to Hurricane Harvey, through nonbypassable system restoration charges which support repayment of system restoration bonds. The estimated amount of approximately \$294.5 million, which ETI seeks to securitize, is composed of the system restoration costs the Commission authorized for recovery in Docket No. 51997, along with other qualified costs to be established by the Commission approval of the proposed financing order.

ETI's application, if approved, will affect all classes of ETI's 473,000 customers who currently take or will take retail electric service from ETI. If retail competition begins in ETI's service territory, ETI proposes to recover the transition charges from retail electric providers ("REPs") and other entities which are required to bill, pay, or collect system restoration charges under the terms of the financing order or the tariffs approved thereunder, and through them from the retail customers. ETI proposes that the Commission include terms in the financing order to ensure that the system restoration charges are nonbypassable and will be collected from retail customers regardless of whether the customer receives service from ETI or from a competing REP or other entity (including on-site generation). ETI proposes that the system restoration charges for the customer classes be calculated based upon the allocation to such classes of the qualified costs using the methodology and billing determinants described in its application. ETI proposes that periodic adjustments be made to the system restoration charges to correct for prior over- or under-collections and to ensure the expected recovery of amounts sufficient to timely provide for all payments of debt service and other required amounts and charges in connection with the system restoration bonds.

Persons with questions or who want more information about the Application may contact ETI at Attn: Customer Service – System Restoration Costs, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call (409) 981-2602 during normal business hours, or email: trc@entergy.com. Persons who wish to intervene or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the commission. However, because PURA § 36.405(d) requires the Commission to issue an order in this proceeding no later than 90 days after the filing of the application, ETI has proposed an intervention deadline on the 30th day after ETI filed the application, August 9, 2021. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 52302.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the preferred method for you to file your request for intervention or comments on the Application is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address (and/or fax number if available) on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filings via the "PUC Filer" on the Commission's website can be found at:

<https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>.
Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at: http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/New_PUC_Web_Filer_Presentation.pdf.
Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or helpdesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DONALD EDWARD ODOM**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 18, 2021**, in Cause No. P19124, pending in the County Court of Orange County, Texas, to: **Janeen Aldredge Odom**.

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: **Janeen Aldredge Odom**
 735 Concord
 Vidor, TX
 77662

Dated the 18th day of August, 2021

Janeen Aldredge Odom
 Janeen Aldredge Odom
 735 Concord
 Vidor, TX
 77662

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **TOMMY JOE PARROTT**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 3, 2021**, in Cause No. P19082, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Leah B. Parrott**.

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: **Leah B. Parrott**
 1150 Highway 1131
 Vidor, TX
 77662

Dated the 3rd day of August, 2021

Leah B. Parrott
 Leah B. Parrott
 1150 Highway 1131
 Vidor, TX
 77662

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **BETTY C. THEIS**, Deceased, were issued on **August 16, 2021**, in Cause No. P19148, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Russell E. Theis**.

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

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

Dated the 16th day of August, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
 Tommy Gunn

Attorney for: **Russell E. Theis**
 State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
 Fax: (409)882-0613
 Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **IMOGENE BROWN**, Deceased, were issued on **August 16, 2021**, in Cause No. P19086, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Gladys Thompson**.

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

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

Dated the 16th day of August, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
 Tommy Gunn

Attorney for: **Gladys Thompson**
 State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
 Fax: (409)882-0613
 Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DOROTHY BREAUX ROUGEAU** aka **BETTY JO DOROTHY MAE PREJEAN**, Deceased, were issued on **August 15, 2021**, in Cause No. P19040, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Taska L. Rougeau Ventura**.

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: **James R. Dunaway**
 Attorney at Law
 P.O. Box 100
 Orange, TX
 77631-0100

Dated the 18th day of August, 2021.

James R. Dunaway
 James R. Dunaway
 Attorney for:
 Taska L. Rougeau Ventura
 State Bar No.: 06208000
 P.O. Box 100
 Orange, TX 77631-0100
 jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **BETTY J. ROLLINS** aka **BETTY JO ROLLINS**, Deceased, were issued on **April 13, 2021**, in Cause No. P18986, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Dennis J. Hankins**.

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: **James R. Dunaway**
 Attorney at Law
 P.O. Box 100
 Orange, TX
 77631-0100

Dated the 6th day of May, 2021.

James R. Dunaway
 James R. Dunaway
 Attorney for:
 Dennis J. Hankins
 State Bar No.: 06208000
 P.O. Box 100
 Orange, TX 77631-0100
 jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

LONNEY L. LAWRENCE aka **LONNEY LEE LAWRENCE**, Deceased
 Cause No. P18995
 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 PROBATE COPY OF WILL AND FOR ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY in this estate on **MARCH 01, 2021**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **LONNEY L. LAWRENCE** aka **LONNEY LEE LAWRENCE**, 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.

Issued and 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 24, 2021.

Brandy Robertson,
 County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: **Samantha McInnis**, Deputy
 Samantha McInnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is having The 6th Annual Michael Hoke Memorial Outdoor Awareness for Kids. This program teaches kids about the outdoors with activities like Camp Cooking, Duck Dog Demo, Nature Trails, how to identify Skulls and Furs, and other activities. It is for ages 8 to 14 and is on September 18th from 9 am to 2 pm with check-in starting at 8:30. Cost of this program is \$10. The location will be at Claiborne West Park at 4105 North St, Vidor, TX. We recommend closed toe shoes only, no sandals. To register go to Orange. agrilife.org and click on the registrations link. Deadline to register is September 10th, 2021. If you have any questions call the Extension office at 409-882-7010.

AI-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. AI-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange, TX 77632. Call Angela at 474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info.

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 Rev. 1: 5 & 6 Ecclesiastes 8:4

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