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TheRecordLive.com

The Penny Record

Vol. 61 No. 42

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Minus FEMA checks, cash flow bugs county

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners signed off on paying \$3.6 million of weekly bills Tuesday, most of it thanks to Hurricane Laura.

The \$2.7 million that went to AshBritt Environmental for hauling away debris from the Category 4 storm will be repaid by FEMA – eventually.

One of these days.

But the uncertainty of when the feds will open the money tap has Commissioners concerned.

They decided at their twice-monthly meeting to hold off spending \$27,500 to replace a pickup truck with 180,000 miles on it being op-



Gothia

erated by the Mosquito Control Department, worried about a cash flow problem.

The expenditure was approved in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget but was to be delayed until January, after much of the county's annual property tax payments have been deposited. But then Laura happened.

The purchase of more than \$300,000 of road equipment and trucks for Road and Bridge Department was also delayed.

"When we went into the budget season, we had a good reserve. But we've spent all of

it on Hurricane Laura," County Judge John Gothia said.

The judge has said in the past the county had about \$13 million in reserves last summer. That's about the amount it cost to pay AshBritt and monitoring firm

TetraTech to do the work required to haul debris out of neighborhoods.

"I don't want us to be in a situation where we can't service people because the equipment won't run," Gothia said. "Where the issues begin is if we get to the

end of the year and we haven't started receiving FEMA money yet."

County Treasurer Christy Khoury reported she accepted \$456,000 in sales tax receipts from the state in January. That represents 1/2 cent from each 8.25 cents per dol-

lar customers pay in state taxes.

Among the payments for the week ended March 23 was a combined \$197,000 for monthly insurance for employees and retirees.

Payments for the week of March 16 were \$101,000.

Quick reacting Chamber set for B.A.S.S.

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

After weather and pandemic setbacks, it's a miracle that B.A.S.S., the owners of the Bassmasters Elite fishing tournaments, are set to bring their \$1 million event to the Orange Boat Dock in a couple of weeks.

But the miracle of the April 8-11 tourney was the way the fishing tournament committee of the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce made so much happen in so short a time.

"If you'd have asked me if we could do this in a month, I'd have said no," said Ida Schossow, Chamber President.

"But we've been doing it all since 2013. We did in a month what usually takes a



Schossow

year." In addition to the fishing, the Chamber puts on the Orange County River Festival, which provides plenty of family fun beyond watching dramatic evening weigh-ins.

As always, that includes food booths, craft vendors, a carnival for youngsters, a Gopher Industrial-sponsored kids' fish tank and lots of live music.

"This is completely free, for people to come and enjoy," Schossow said, "and I think people are ready to get out at an event like this."

Joey Greer kicks off three

BASSMASTERS Page 3A

Thomas seeks new life for old center

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Bishop Charles Thomas, son of longtime Orange pastor Earl B. Thomas, is running for Mayor of Orange against incumbent Larry Spears, Jr.

"Ministry is my heart," said the leader of the One Way Outreach Ministry.

So is rebuilding the city he grew up in, so Tuesday he and leaders of two Florida-based companies and ministers from Houston and Florida were touring the vacant East Town Shopping Center at the corner of Turett and Simmons, near the Port of Orange.

Thomas' vision is to revive the old neighborhood by turning a food desert into a

thriving community.

Hubb Agra will be building a hydroponic farm on the slab that used to be home to Weingarten's Grocery, TG&Y dime store and S&H Green Stamps and Weiner's Department Store.

Redland Ahead, a non-profit that is veteran-founded and operated, will hire and teach the new farmers under a government grant.

"This is to replace old farmers, like me, whose average age is 69," said John Mills, a former mayor of Miami Lakes, Florida who is Redland Ahead's president.

"We can keep farming alive with hydroponics. What it used to take 8 of 9 acres to produce, can now be

NEW LIFE IN OLD Page 3A

'Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention' month proclaimed



Orange County Commissioners Court, back row, proclaimed April Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month, presenting the proclamation to representatives from CASA of the Sabine Neches Region, Codie Vasquez, Halee Watkins and Robert Currie, on Tuesday.
RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Negotiations move ahead on hospital deal

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange City Council moved a hospital and medical complex for Orange County closer to reality at its Tuesday evening meeting.

The vote was unanimous to approve a 10-year schedule of decreasing tax abatements for the project at Eagle Point being put together by Orange Multi-Specialty Real Estate Holdings, a partnership fronted by local physician Dr. Marty Rutledge, and NexCore Group, a Denver-based healthcare developer.

"This is a project that is long overdue," Orange Mayor Larry Spears, Jr., said. "We've all wanted a medical facility. This [abatement] is a way of saying, thank you for helping us establish this."

"I look forward to them getting it going. I'm ready. And so is the rest of council and staff."

Orange is the largest county in Texas without its own hospital since Baptist Hospital Orange closed its in-patient care in 2015 and shut



A rendering of the proposed Gisela Houseman Medical Complex, featuring a hospital with up to 20 beds, an ambulatory surgical center and doctors' offices, was presented to Orange city council members.

down its emergency room two years later.

A county-wide election to create a hospital taxing district aimed to prompt building of a new hospital was soundly defeated in December 2017.

In June of 2019, the Houseman Companies donated 20 acres of land in the Eagle Point area near the intersec-

tion of Interstate 10 and U.S. Route 62, on Orange's eastern boundary for the project voted on Tuesday.

Those plans were sent to the backburner just months later by Tropical Storm Imelda, and delayed by later storms and the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns in March of 2020.

The city has pledged mon-

ey to help build a four-lane Eagle Point Parkway to bisect the property.

The project will be named the Gisela Houseman Medical Center.

According to documents in Tuesday's agenda packet, the developers will invest approximately \$50 million in

HOSPITAL Page 3A



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My 5-Cents...

By State Senator Robert Nichols

This week in 1836 the Convention of 1836 adjourned abruptly as the Mexican army approached Washington-on-the-Brazos. The convention, which began on March 1, drafted the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution, organized the government, and named Sam Houston commander-in-chief of the military forces before the delegates had to be evacuated.

Here are five things happening around your state:

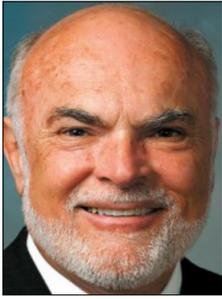
1. Texas to receive over 800,000 COVID-19 vaccine first doses

The Texas Department of State Health Services allocated over 650,000 first doses to at least 445

providers in 178 counties. An additional 200,000 first doses will be available to pharmacy locations and federally-qualified health centers. This is the third largest allocation Texas has received since December. Texas has now administered more than 7.6 million doses and more than 5 million people have received at least one dose. Over 2.7 million Texans are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, last week the department announced an expansion in eligibility for the vaccine to people 50 and older as well as teachers and child care workers. It's estimated that 12 to 14 million Texans are now eligible for the vaccine. You can find more information about vaccination hubs and providers at <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx>.

2. Broadband bill heard in Senate Transportation Committee

This week the Senate Transportation Committee, which I chair, heard Senate Bill 5. I filed this bill as an important step toward expanding broadband access statewide. During the hearing, 89 witnesses signed up to testify. Not one of them testified against this bill. It just goes to show how important this legislation is to the people of Texas and how committed we



Sen. Robert Nichols

are to establishing the Texas Broadband Office that will do vital work connecting Texas. While we're still working out some of the specifics of the bill, I'm confident the committee will vote on it soon and send it for consideration before the entire Senate. I am also very proud to work with Rep. Trent Ashby in the House, who is carrying House Bill 5, a very similar bill to my Senate Bill 5. He is having a hearing on HB 5 this week. Ensuring Texans have access to high-quality broadband internet is imperative as we move into an increasingly digital world.

3. DETCOG, other East Texas counties receive GLO flood mitigation funding

The Texas General Land Office approved over \$135 million in the second round of flood mitigation grants. There were 21 grantees in this round and seven of those were in Senate District 3. The Deep East Texas Council of Government, Jasper County, Newton County, San Augustine County, Tannah, and Zavalla were all granted funds for a wide range of flood abatement projects. The grants ranged in size from \$3.6 million to over \$9.5 million and total over \$32 million for the region. These funds will be essential for building projects that would protect communities and critical infrastructure against future damage from hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters. Protecting our coastal communities and communities with high flood risks is important for safety and disaster preparedness.

4. Nine million dollars awarded for North Newton County broadband project

The Deep East Texas Council of Government received a \$9.09 million grant from the General Land Office for its North Newton County Broadband Project. The project will focus on building a rural broadband network in northern

Newton County, an area where broadband access is lacking. DETCOG has also applied for a larger grant from GLO which, if approved, would allow the agency to construct a rural broadband network in all 12 of its member counties. Currently, DETCOG is working out the details for the Newton County project. DETCOG began its broadband initiative three years ago, so they are prepared to go to work with engineering and grants management teams already in place. While it will take some time to get broadband deployed, I'm excited about this project and the prospects for the future of East Texas.

5. Texas State Parks returning to full capacity

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced they're working on a strategic plan to open all State Parks back to full capacity. Most State Parks closed or had limited capacity for the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with Governor Abbott lifting capacity limits in his reopening order, TPWD is looking forward to welcoming Texans back to enjoy the great outdoors. All restrictions on group sizes have been lifted. However, TPWD is encouraging visitors to wear masks, especially when indoors or in areas where it is difficult to socially distance.

LCM board votes to give students, teachers 'choice' to wear masks

In its regular March meeting Monday, March 22, the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Board of Trustees voted 6 to 1 to allow staff and students the choice to wear or not wear masks at school for the remainder of the 2020.2021 school year.

The District would revert to everyone wearing masks, if the COVID-19 infection rate reached 5% of the District population; a total of 184 of 3688, the combined total of staff and students.

This also applies to UIL competitions unless the school where students are competing require masks. LCM teams will comply with the host school's requirement.

This is effective immediately.

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THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT ORANGE

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New life in old neighborhood From Page 1

produced in just 1 acre using hydroponics.”

Hydroponics is farming that does not require soil. It can be done indoors. Jose Matto, CEO of Hubb Agra, is pushing the concept of organic hydroponic greenhouses that was developed in Spain.

The old shopping center is owned by Friends Helping Friends.

“We’ve teamed up with a great bunch of guys and we’re taking this all over the United States,” said Paul Miller of Houston, chairman of Friends Helping Friends, an Apostolic ministry of 257 churches, he said.

Plans for the area include opening a farmers market and housing for veterans,

Thomas said. He’d like to offer a meeting place for drug rehabilitation, too.

“I want to be able to offer jobs when we get the greenhouse up and running,” he said. “I want to organize a campaign to clean our communities up.”

Spears has been a popular mayor since he won the office in an election against Thomas in 2018. He, too, has been leading a campaign to clean Orange up and in Tuesday’s meeting, he praised city employees working on a new “litter force” to clean up litter and debris.

The mayor said he was unaware of Thomas’ new venture but liked the sound of it.

“I don’t know what he’s doing, but I know that property

was for sale,” Spears said.

“Anything that is positive and healthy and uplifting for our community, we fully support it. But I haven’t been made aware of anything yet at this time.”

Running for mayor in 2018 was the first of four consecutive runs for a seat on Orange’s city council.

After getting only 20.7% of the vote against Spears in 2018, he finished third in a four-way council race in 2019 with 23.7% of the vote. Last year, he lost to incumbent councilman Paul Burch, garnering 47.2% of the votes.

April 19 is the first day of early voting for the May 1 local elections for school districts and city governments.



Bishop Charles Ray Thomas, a candidate for Mayor of Orange, is joined by Jose Matto, Paul Miller, John Mills and Spero Canton in surveying the former East Town Shopping Center as site of a new hydroponic greenhouse. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Bassmasters From Page 1

nights of music at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 8. Friday, Bag of Donuts entertains at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Britt Godwin opens for Neal McCoy at 7 p.m.

A month ago, the Sabine River Bassmasters Elite in Orange had been rescheduled from April to August because of the coronavirus pandemic. Plans were underway to postpone it all the way to April of 2022, County Judge John Gothia said a couple of weeks ago.

But Gov. Greg Abbott dropped Texas’ mask mandate and B.A.S.S. approached the Chamber to see if April was a possibility.

The timing was tied into TV time. Fox Sports signed a contract to televise all of the Bassmasters Elite tournaments live. They needed content and the governor’s timing was perfect.

“With the change to the original Bassmasters dates, the Chamber’s Bassmasters Committee has quickly ‘divided and conquered’ the different aspects of this event,” said Chris Kovatch, Chamber Chairman.

“From rolling out an ad-

vertising campaign to coordinating vendors to scheduling lights and sound to securing talent for the concerts and numerous other tasks, the team has been focused to produce an event that is safe and fun for all.”

Schossow ran down a list of people who have been working on the Bassmaster Committee since 2013, when the first event in Orange attracted a then record 30,000 plus fishing fans.

The list included co-chairmen David Jones, owner of Gopher’s, and Gothia, now the county judge. Kristen Placetie has handled publicity, Steve Jones logistics and Russell Bottley working backstage, and Maureen McAlister of United Way.

“David Jones always says, ‘When you get the A Team working on it, it’s easier,’” Schossow said.

In order to line up everything, after B.A.S.S. asked if Orange could quickly agree to the April timeframe, the core group of Gothia, Jones, Jones, Kovatch, McAlister and Schossow first met. Then the Chamber executive board. Then the full Cham-

ber board.

“To see if we could logistically put it together,” Schossow said. “We wanted to be sure we were safe, how to keep people safe now that everything’s opening up.”

The tournament grounds will include plenty of sanitizing stations, hand-washing stations and free face coverings, courtesy of Dow.

Coincidentally, the City of Orange is holding a pair of events in downtown – Art in the Park and the Orange Riverfront Car Show, just a few blocks away, Saturday April 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Steve Jones, a retired Orange Police major, says the hardest part of Bassmasters Elite logistics – his responsibility – is getting all the food booths lined up “trying to make everybody happy. It all works out in the end.”

With the addition this year of the new Riverfront Pavilion, all musical acts will perform under a roof, but the restroom facility built to accompany the pavilion won’t be finished in time. Portacans again.

Hospital negotiations move ahead From Page 1

Phase I of the project that will include a micro hospital, and ambulatory surgical center and a medical office building covering from 80,000 to 100,000 square feet, depending on demand.

Phase II would be of a similar buildout scale, the paperwork says, with additional medical office space and/or a senior housing component.

The property is currently valued at \$40,000 by the Orange County Appraisal District and papers filed for the city estimate the tax valuation will be increased by \$50 million during the 10-year term of abatement.

That total -- \$50 million -- is also listed as the value of construction, with a productive life of 50 years for the new structures. The paperwork calls for 100 existing healthcare jobs to be retained and another 100 created with a total annual payroll of approximately \$6 million.

The abatement agreed upon by council calls for a 100% tax abatement for two years, beginning in the calendar year of substantial completion.

The abatement will be 90% in Year 3, 80% for Year 4, 70% for Year 5, 60% for Year 6, 50% for Year 7, 40% for Year 8, 30% for Year 9 and 20% for Year 10.

“This investment will not only create short-term jobs, through the construction of buildings, but both the micro hospital, surgery center and medical office will bring significant well-paying jobs,” Dr. Rutledge said in the abatement request submitted in December, 2020.

“Furthermore, this investment in the healthcare of the community brings a desperately needed service back to Orange. Our ownership group has spoken with the local industrial plant managers and they recognize that these basic healthcare services offered at this campus

are critical to the long-term growth and sustainability of the community.”

Jay Trahan, Director of Economic Development for the City of Orange, noted Tuesday’s action leaves two more steps for formal approval of the abatement: a first reading of a resolution at the April 13 council meeting, followed by a second and final reading April 27.

The process to grant the abatement began in February with the establishment by council of a Reinvestment Zone at the project site.

In other action Tuesday, council approved an Orange EDC motion of intent for an incentive of up to \$95,000 for Water Tree Orange, located on N. 16th St., accepted \$357,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for 2021, and officially named former Beaumont mayor Guy Goodson the new city attorney.



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 <p>2016 Ford F-150 Lariat Truck SuperCrew Cab 3.5L 6 Cylinder Engine, Automatic Trans., Silver Exterior, Black Interior, 85594 Miles, Stock #: P2314</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$29,523</p>	 <p>2015 Ford F-150 Platinum SuperCrew 3.5L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Black, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 60797, Stock #: P2298</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$37,799</p>	 <p>2020 Honda Civic Sport Touring Hatchback, 1.5L 4 Cyl., Variable Trans., Platinum White Pearl Exterior, Ivory Interior, 7045 Miles, Stock #: 7931A</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$24,342</p>	 <p>2018 Toyota Tundra 2WD SR5 CrewMax 4.6L 8 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Silver Sky Metallic Exterior, Graphite Interior, 56546 Miles, Stock #: 8147B</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$29,674</p>

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From The Creaux's Nest

MAYBE NEW BEGINNING AHEAD

The end of March marks a year since I've lost my freedom. That's how long I've been in lockdown. It wasn't only the worst year in our country's history, health wise it's been an awful year for me. One health problem after another, a dozen doctor visits with three different doctors and two hospital stays. The worse was a bleeding ulcer that had me bled out. I nearly waited too long on that one. My problems continued to mount but at least I dodged the virus and now have both of my vaccine shots. I'm more on an even keel than I've been for awhile and hoping to be able to attend the first **Lunch Bunch** gathering in a year on Wednesday, April 14, at **Robert's**. I will tell you more about that in the next couple of weeks. I've even forgotten what **Christy Khoury** looks like. Since we last gathered **Rex Peveto** became **District Judge Peveto**. I have missed **Judge Chad Jenkins** and **Commissioner Johnny Trahan's** stories. What have **Marlene** and **Keith** been up to since **Keith** retired as sheriff. I have missed seeing **Karen Fisher**, we go back a long way. Of course it's always a pleasure to see 99-year-old **Cedric Stout** and **Cherry**. The old **Pearl Harbor** veteran just keeps on keeping on, marching toward 100. I haven't heard how **Nova Dee** is doing with her health. I hope she's up and about. I hope **Judge Price** will join us from Vidor. This will be a special occasion and award presentation. I'm counting on **Judge Gothia** and **Judge Thibodeaux** for their help. More later. For now I have to move on. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

TRUMP PUT ASIANS IN "BULL'S-EYE"

Least we forget the week after then **President Donald Trump** first used the hashtag "#chinesevirus" on Twitter, the number of people using the hashtag increased more than tenfold. Since then, anti-Asian bias and attacks have grown rapidly in conjunction with anti-Chinese rhetoric. **Trump's** use of that phrase in speeches, rallies and on Twitter, which was racist, preceded a cascade of its use by others online. The use of "#chinesevirus" rose by 8.351%. The hashtag used in conjunction with "#chinesevirus" expletives aimed at **Chinese** people and **Asians** in general, as well as hashtags that advocate killing **Chinese** people, are racist attacks on all things **Asian**. **Twitter** removed **Trump's Chinese virus tweet** and **Trump's** entire account on Jan. 8, citing concerns that **Trump** would incite further violence. After his supporters rioted at the Capital assaults escalated to attacks and violence against **Asian-Americans** and now it is almost a "**Daily Tragedy**," **Trump's** promoting of hate and telling **Proud Boys** "Stand up and stand by," led to the mob insurrection of the U.S. Capital by those who accepted his words, his message to them and likewise has led to the attacks on Asians. Calling **Mexican** immigrants drug addicts, rapist and murders, while taking babies from their mother's arms and separating them their parents and banning Muslims from coming to this country was very inciteful. We must put the blame where the blame rightly goes. For four years **Trump** advocated for hate and division, building a base of **White Supremacist**. That's not the first time that has happened. **Gov. George Wallace** built a coalitions of **David Duke**, **KKK** followers and ran for president in 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976. Like **Trump** he never did reach 50% support. Both averaged between 40 and 45 percent. I should note however, that in 1976, he carried **Jefferson County**, the most liberal county in Texas by advocating racial dialog and hate. That sells with a certain segment of our population. My bet is that the Electoral College went for it twice for **Trump** but won't go for it a third time. In **Trump's** win against **Hillary**, he lost the popular vote by **three million votes**. Against **Biden** he lost by over **seven million votes**, a third run would be far worse for **Trump** as more normal thinking voters wake up to the real facts and that divisions just work to a certain point, not over 50%. It's a strong base that puts **Trump** holding the ace in the hole that gives him a strong hand to be kingmaker or reap havoc on his adversaries. His hate base among **Republicans** is around 22% average; others are conservative voters he can't lead to the polls to vote. Most of those voters are now starting to see through **Trump** and that he doesn't have the best interest of the country at heart.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

It looks like the target date for **Judge Pat Clark** to make his move is April 1. What will happen and who will take over 128th District Court is still unknown. The appointment, if one is made, to fill the post is **Gov. Perry's** call. The only new name being mentioned is **Courtney Burch Arkeen**, a Vidor attorney who practices family law. Courtney was associated with **Larry Hunter** before he joined **Uncle Walter's** law firm. Courtney, an active Republican, is a native of Orangefield. She also is on the Lamar Foundation board. She has strong ties to **Ron Lewis** and her husband is associated with **Mr. And Mrs. David Montagne** so she has the contacts. I'm not sure she has the experience, although she's a very smart, beautiful lady. I believe she threw her bonnet in the ring and has a fair shot unless the governor is looking for more experience. **** the shot heard around the area was that after 30 years, **West Orange-Stark coach Dan Ray Hooks** was calling it quits as Athletic Director and head football coach of the Mus-

tangs. No doubt stepping down was a heart wrenching decision for him to make. **Dan**, the staff and players are family. Their success is unprecedented. Why would anyone leave with a stable of tough Mustangs coming back? The team will be pretty salty next season. It looks like all the chips fell in place, opening the door for him to exit now. The second option **Dan** had to look hard at is the busting out pay that would be off the table past last Friday. **Coach Hooks** never asked for anything unreasonable and he always got what he asked for. I don't believe he would have liked the process coming in January. An Athletic Director's job is getting ready to be a tougher road to travel. Not **Dan's** cup of tea. As for who will replace him, the WO-S stable is loaded with experience, some of the state's best. I said before, they're a family. It would be hard as an outsider to mesh and keep the troops. If the principal and board go experience, there's **Cornell** and **Mark Foreman**. They can't find any who knows the winning system better that they helped build.**** We were sorry to hear about the death of **C.J. "Junior" Trahan**, age 81, who passed away on St. Pat's Day, March 17. Service was held Sunday, March 20. He was raised in Abbeville, La. but was a native of Henry, a small Louisiana town washed out in a hurricane. Known as "**Rompy**," as a youngster, he ran his late dad's service station. After moving to Orange, he went to work for U.S. Steel and later retired from Firestone. In 1955, he married **Charlene**, who died in 1994. He then married **Dixie, Joe Dupuy's** widow. They had a great second life for 15 years. I had known "**Junior**" for many years and never met anyone who didn't like him.**** Longtime J.P., Pct. 3, employee **Connie Burrow Garney** has retired. She recently married and moved to the Houston area. She will be missed. Her position with **Judge Janice** has been filled by **Penny Nguyen**.****We were pleased to visit with **Clara Clary**. She was dining at **Robert's** with **Marlene Merritt** and **Nancy White**. She is the widow of the late **Bob Clary**. Two of the greatest people I've known.****Hogan Steel and Erectors have been named Sportlight Business of the Month by the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce. ****Special thanks to **Mary and Ray Clayton**, who operate Clayton's Consignment on Texas Ave. In Bridge City. They sent **Roy** a photo taken many years ago of St. Mary Magdalene Church, the church he attended as a child. He treasures it. **** Some special folks we know who are celebrating birthdays. Our buddy **Johnny Dishon** turned 22 Monday, March 21. It seems like yesterday he was a 15-year-old freshman. *** Our longtime friend girl, **Louise Wood**, celebrates this week. We celebrated together when she was 38 years younger. What a gal. *****Atorney Joe Alford**, who we have known since he was a good size pup, celebrates this week. *****Euel Norwood**, who we've known for over 40 years and are proud to call a friend, is a year older. *****Rev. Leo's better half, Ivalyn Anderson**, celebrates this week. This lady is a jewel. *****Warren Claybar** celebrates also this week.***Celebrating also is **Natalie Sarver**, a great athlete. Happy birthday also to **Grant Kimbrough**. ***Some FaceBook friends marking birthdays: On March 23, **Cliff Hargrave** and **Annette Payne** March 24, **Kayce Gunn** and **Becky Jones**.***March 29 will be the big celebration for **Al Granger**.**** The Texas House takes up a bill requiring photo ID for most voters. GOP members have enough votes to rubber-stamp it**** We understand our friend **Rosalie Clark** came home Saturday from the hospital in Houston where she had her knee removed, spacers put in place and wrapped in a cast. In the next six weeks she should be getting a new knee. Eight weeks later, if all goes well, she will be ready to dance.****I've known **Donna Hinton Riley** since she was a teenager working at P.S. Tire Supply as a DE student. This was before she was a **Riley** and before her long school district career. She's now an administrative assistant with the Bridge City School District. I'm constantly amazed at her kindness and consideration, plus she was raised on the **Penny Record** and wouldn't miss an issue. It's required reading and she recommends it to others. "Wat a gal."

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2011

Linda Ann Mendoza Brown, 62, of Orange, died March 1. She is survived by her mother, **Mary Jo Mendoza**; brothers: **Sherrell Gene** and **Ronald Joseph Mendoza**; sons, **Michael Slade Brown** and **Walter Alan Brown**; and children: **Mason**, 5, and **Lauren**, 3, of Houston. **Linda** taught at Lincoln in Port Arthur and Anderson in Orange.**** **Donna Jean Trahan**, 53, of Orange, died Thursday, March 17. Funeral Services were held on Monday, March 21. **Donna** is survived by her husband, **Roger Dale Trahan**; parents, **Donald** and **Beth Burke**; daughter **Robin Davis** and son, **Roger Trahan Jr.**; grandchildren, **Matt Davis**, **Tyler Davis**, **Ryan Trahan** and **Logan Trahan**.**** **Eva Jane Granger**, 86, of Orangefield, passed away Thursday, March 17. Service was held Saturday, March 19. She worked as a caregiver caring for the elderly and she was a member of the Harvest Chapel Church in West Orange. She is survived by six grandchildren, her numerous great grandchildren and her two great great grandchildren.

22 Years Ago-1999

Donna Scales reports to work this week in her new position as Orange County Park Director. **Scales** has been in public service for 11 years, seven in the auditor's office and five in the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 office. Her family is involved in public service. Her mother **Vivian Dorman**, helped start the Employees Credit Union, uncle **Louis Dugas** is a former State Representative and District Attorney, brother **Johnny Dorman** is on the Orangefield School Board, brother-in-law **John Scales** is president of the Bridge City School Board and husband, **Jimmy Scales**, is an associate City Judge. No doubt **Donna** brings enthusiasm, a good work ethic and is qualified to do the job and do it well. ****Orange Savings Bank celebrates a grand re-opening. **President Darby Byrd** snipped the ribbon while **Ms. Nelda Stark** observed the proceedings. ******Pete Bean** and **Louis Dugas** head up the newly formed Southeast Texas Veterans Coalition. ******David Bernstein** is our freshman state senator. **Lolita Ramos** is a member of his staff. ****The City of Bridge City hasn't had an election since **John Dubose** became mayor. Time runs out for councilman **Kirk Roccaforte** and **Moe Litton**, **Robert Harvey** and **Joe Raburn**, who took over without opposition, will replace them. ******Sam** and **Jeff Hattman** celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. ******J.P. Thibodeaux** is owner of Orange Auto Center, the Oldsmobile and Cadillac dealership. **Mike Collins**, **Sue's** boy, is general manager. ******Conner Matthew Guillotte** celebrated a first birthday on March 12. Proud parents are **Greg** and **Tanya Guillotte**. (Editor's note: Today that boy is 23 years old.)

42 Years Ago-1979

Mauriceville Junior High basketball Panthers are district champs. Team players are **Mark Jones**, **Jeff Britian**, **Robert Harper**, **Billy Dunn**, **Danny Caruline**, **Wayne Frederick**, **Grey Perry**, **Danny Pearcy**, **George Shannon**, **Adam Vincent**, **Quain Benoit**, **Kenny Russell**, **Keith Burton**, **James Rash**, **Robert Hindt**, **Roger Gaudet**, and **Blake Barilleaux**. **E.R. Procelle** is Panther coach. (Editor's note: They must have had three teams, they had plenty to choose from. I wonder how many of the junior high boys are still around. Not many I bet.)****The Bridge City Community Center committee holds mock beauty pageant. "**Miss LaDonna**," **Don Breaux**, won the "Battle of the Sexes." "**Miss Geraldine**" was **Curtis Lee** and **Charlie Johnson** was "**Miss Charming Charmaine**." and **Tim Libby** was "**Fanny Bar**." Those were top vote getters.

A FEW HAPPENINGS A NOTE WORTH PUBLISHING

Roy, it does not seem as though I have been reading your words for 50 years. I remember very well the early editions of OVN and looked forward to reading the local news and history that the paper brought weekly. I often wondered what your office looked like with the number of cakes it had to have had laying around. I think my favorite columns in the past were **Gordon Baxter's**...loved reading him.

Congratulations for 50 years of doing what you have done so well. I thank you for giving me my start in the writing business. It has been fun. I miss the conversations we had when I worked for you.

I moved "way up north" to Livingston. I'm able to keep my writing going thanks to the internet and email. Thanks to the email I can "Read the Record."

Hope you stay at the roll top desk and yellow pad for a lot more years.

Take care of yourself.

Mike Louviere

****A few folks we know who will be celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **March 22**, finds **Coach Joe Blanda** and our longtime friend and journalist, **Louise Wood**, celebrating, also ******March 25**, **Claybar Funeral Home** CEO **Warren Claybar** celebrates as does **Kim Faulker** and our neighbor, a very nice lady, **Savanna** and **Gabe's** mom, **Stephany Ball**.******March 26**, Happy Birthday to **Sherry Stevens**, turning 56 today, **Karen Bozman** and the "**Postman**" **Billy Leleux**.******March 27**, **Bo Berry** turns 56 today, also **Art Mason**, **Dorothy Keith** and **Ruth Platt** all celebrate on this day.******March 28**, **Phyl** and **Roy's** oldest grandson, **Garrett Gros** celebrates today. He's the oldest of **Karen's** three boys.******March 29**, A Happy Birthday to **Al Granger**, a good guy. Also celebrating is **Kay Dee Wingate** and **Julie Norwood**.******March 30**, one of **Mark Dunn's** five grandsons, **Chase "Tank" Ballou**, celebrates his fifth birthday. Also celebrating is longtime educator **Terry Stuebing**. Happy Birthday to all.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

March 24: Football player **Peyton Manning**, 45; Actors **Jim Parsons**, 48 and **Alyson Hannifin**, 47.******March 25:** Rock Singer **Elton John**, 74; Actress **Sarah Jessica Parker**, 56; Race Car Driver **Danica Patrick**, 39.****

March 26: Soul Singer **Diana Ross**, 77; Rock Singer **Steven Tyler**, 73; Country Singer **Kenny Chesney**, 53.******March 27:** Pop Singer **Mariah Carey**, 51; Singer **Fergie**, 46; Director **Quinton Tarantino**, 58.******March 28:** Pop Singer **Lady Gaga**, 35; Country Singer **Reba McEntire**, 66, Actor **Vince Vaughn**, 51.******March 29:** Movie Actors **Scott Wilson**, 79; **Lucy Lawless**, 53, **Brendan Gleeson**, 66.******March 30:** Pop Singer **Celine Dion**, 52; Country Singer **Thomas Rhett**, 31; Guitarist **Eric Clapton**, 76; Rapper **MC Hammer**, 59.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Harry Comeaux, him, was married to Agnes Boudreaux. She was very homely her, but worse den dat, she nag and nag over everything. One night, Agnes woke up and Harry was missing from da bed. Agnes got up an pass herself all over da house but she couldn't find him. Den she heard sobbing coming from da outside porch. She pull da light chain and find Harry curl up in a ball crying uncontrollably.

"Harry, wat da hell wrong wit you, hanh?" **Agnes** wanted to know.

Between sobs **Harry** answer, "Agnes, you remember 20 years ago wen I got you pregnant me, and you papa told me, Harry you got two choices, marry Agnes or go to jail."

"Yeah, I remember dat me," **Agnes** say.

Harry took him a deep breath and say, "Well Agnes, tonight I would have been release and been a free man."

C'EST TOUT Suspect Jailed in Sicknick Assault

A West Virginia man accused of assaulting Capital Police officer **Brian Sicknick**, who died after the Jan. 6 riot, was ordered jailed pending trial after a contentious court hearing where prosecutors presented video clips showing the officer and two other colleagues being doused with chemical spray and struggling to recover. Describing the video as "surreal" U.S. Magistrate **Michael Alois** said that he was "very satisfied with the government's evidence" against **George Pierre Tanios**, a 39-year-old restaurant owner from Morgantown. **Tanios**, who is charged with **Julian Eli Khater**, 32, of Pennsylvania, faces decades in prison if convicted on 10 criminal counts.

"We have created a culture radicalized by hate," **Alois** said. "There were no songs or joy and peace (on Jan. 6) – nothing but hate and anger... I understand this is a one-time event, but there are people serving life sentences for a one-time event."****My time is up. Thanks for coming alone. Take care and God bless.



The Dunn's of Eastland County, Texas

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY ROY DUNN For The Record

The Civil War had come to its conclusion. The year was 1865. Dr. Stephen Dunn had been one of its casualties. He was survived by his wife, Sarah Jane, and one eight year old son, Allen. Alone and penniless, the mother made a decision to take her young son and travel to Eastland County, Texas, where she had a brother.



Roy Dunn

Allen, his mother and an aunt traveled by covered wagon from Searcy, Arkansas. The trek took several months and they were met with many hardships and delays. They camped along the way where water and wild game could be obtained. One place they camped, where everything was plentiful - flowing springs, creeks and much grass for the stock, etc., became Allen's home the latter part of his life but that is a story in itself.

When the Dunn's, arrived in Eastland County the biggest fear that existed, was that of raiding Indian tribes.

Allen later married a local girl from Dublin - Laura, who also had the family name of Dunn. As far as I know, no kinship was ever connected among all these Dunn's. Allen was a Dunn, his father was a Dunn, his mother was a Dunn and now his wife. My dad used to say all Dunn's are kin.

Laura's mother was a Blair, the daughter of C. C., for whom Ft. Blair at Desdemona, in Eastland County, was named. The fort was primarily one that patrolled for wild Indian



My Irish kin were all raised around Rising Star and are buried there in the Sipes Springs cemetery. My father would be 127 years old. He died on Feb. 19, 1959. RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn

renegades. They also fought to protect the white settlers from the raiding tribes. The fort was begun after Laura's mother was captured by a handful of Indians. She was rescued; the fort continued for several years and a historical marker still marks the spot.

Laura and Allen raised a family consisting of eight kids, six boys and two girls; my dad Clay was the fifth born. Allen, at the age of 15, became a scout and Indian fighter.

Later, to provide for his young family, he became a trader and merchant of sorts. With

a pair of oxen and a wagon he would travel the 400 miles to Galveston, where he carried furs and traded them for goods. The goods he brought back were sold once he got home.

The children, who attended school five miles away at Rising Star by horseback, remembered their father's departure as a minimum trip taking three months. Often making two trips a year meant Allen was gone from his family at least half of the year. Many times, due to rivers being up, he would be delayed at the banks for several weeks.

Allen Dunn raised an intelligent and industrious group of children. Allen's intelligence however was never surpassed by any of his offspring. He died at the age of 96 and to the very end he was still sought out for his advice because of his keen mind. I'm one of few living whose grandfather lived during the Civil War.

Laura contributed the strengths. She'd become a bride at the age of 14. She had her family while she was still fairly young. She'd taught every one of them perseverance. As far as I know, I'm the only remaining Dunn, along with my children, from those ancestors even though granddaughter Amber says her research shows some English among the Dunn's. I suspect its Grandma Laura's, side of the family.

The late King Dunn's family, often referred to as the 'Mauriceville Dunn's,' claim to be English. Judge David Dunn's dad, Ponce, also claimed to be English. Granddad Allen was referred to as 'Black Irish' due to his dark-skin. Clay was very proud of being Irish. Ironically, the marker on his grave says he died March 17, actually a month after his death, Feb. 19, 1959.

Following this St. Patrick's Day, I thought I'd give you a glimpse at the Irish side of me. I'm not rightly sure what you get when you cross a full-blooded Irishman with a Cajun. Maybe it's not unique, but it is certainly unusual. As far as I know, I'm one of a kind but I'm thankful to have been a part of and shared in both customs. They are two total extremes. Hopefully, my path is somewhere in the middle.

Last week I got to celebrate my Irish side and a belated Happy St. Patrick's Day to you also, regardless of where your roots come from.

Kennedy sites candidacy for Alderman Councilwoman, City of West Orange

The following is a political statement issued by Meritta Kennedy on her candidacy for Alderman/Councilwoman in the City of West Orange:



Meritta Kennedy

I, Meritta Kennedy am running for one of the 2 seats for Alderman/Councilwoman for the City of West Orange.

It's my belief that public service is a responsibility that we all share and we should all be willing to participate toward the well being of our community.

Having lived in West Orange for 60 years and presently live on the street I grew up; I am well aware of the needs, available resources and community concerns that face our city. My previous service to the community combined with my nursing career has taught

me operations, leadership, educational, teamwork, cooperation, compromise, empathy skills and patience.

My commitment is to serve the citizens of West Orange and contribute to it's growth and prosperity. My goals are to support public safety, encourage continued improvement of the city infrastructure, new economic development while supporting our local businesses and improve the communication between city leaders and the citizens.

I pledge to help the citizens of West Orange by promoting to work wherever and whenever possible to keep West Orange moving forward and a great place to live.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or if would like to meet with me at merittakennedy@yahoo.com. I also have a FB page at fb.me/2021election.

Thank you, Meritta Kennedy

American Legion Post 49 Fish Fry, April 1

American Legion Post 49 located at 108 Green Ave. in Orange will hold a Fried Fish plate lunch fund raiser on Thursday, April 1 from 11 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$9.00 and the meal consists of Fried Fish, potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, bread and dessert. Walk-ins welcome and delivery is available. Call 409-886-1241 after noon on Wed., March 31st and before 9 am on Thur., April 1 for orders and delivery.

Master Gardeners present seminar March 27

The Orange County Master Gardeners presents "Part 2 Healthy Living with Plants" a

Nutritional Infusions and Teas Seminar this Saturday, March 27, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Expo Center Ballroom. Bring your own mug to taste the teas. For more information please email ocmg1990@gmail.com or call 409-882-7010 to sign up for the class.

P.E.O. Statehood Trunk Sale March 27

P.E.O. Sisterhood plans a Trunk Sale on Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church parking lot (1401 W. Park, Orange). This trunk sale will benefit the local chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the advancement of women by sponsoring them with scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and the stewardships.



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Prelude to Palm Sunday: Look, the World Has Gone After Him

Jon Bloom
Staff writer,
desiringGod.org

We know from the apostle John why Palm Sunday happened:

The crowd that had been with [Jesus] when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. (John 12:17-18)

The Sunday parade of palms was a celebration of a resurrection.

A Confusing Providence

But that resurrection was preceded by a confusing death.

Lazarus had died. We don't know what he died of, only that he was "ill" (John 11:1). The Bible rarely provides grisly details. But death by illness in the first century, with none of the medical aids we modern Westerners take for granted, was no doubt horrible.

His death brought profound grief to his sisters, Martha and

Mary, who had nursed him as best they could. And Jesus, their dear friend, who also happened to be the greatest healer in the history of the world, had not come. This added grief upon grief for the sisters (John 11:21, 32). Jesus had not even made it for the funeral. When he finally did show up, Lazarus's corpse had already begun to decompose.

"Why?" "Where were you?" These were the implied agonizing questions both sisters expressed to Jesus. They weren't the only ones asking. Others present were muttering, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" (John 11:37) He had saved others. Could he not have saved Lazarus? To Martha, Jesus gave an ambiguous hint of his purpose (John 11:23), but he was too troubled in spirit to say much to Mary (John 11:33).

And then within a matter of minutes Lazarus, Martha, and Mary were in a tri-fold embrace, weeping together with unexpected, ineffable, awe-filled joy! Jesus had done ex-

actly what he foretold: "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25).

A Plan of Prescient Precision

But so much more was going on than the happy siblings, or the stunned observers, or even Jesus's disciples understood. Not only did this resurrection demonstrate with unprecedented power the reality of who Jesus was; it also set in motion the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Word of Lazarus's resurrection naturally spread like wildfire. The Jewish authorities' serious concern over Jesus escalated to alarm. They plotted to murder him (John 11:47-50).

Jesus laid low for a few weeks, and then reappeared in Bethany to share one last and remarkable supper at the Bethany home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. The remarks got out quickly, and soon a large crowd gathered to

get a glimpse not only of Jesus but also of the newly resurrected and probably reluctant celebrity (John 12:9). Being a celebrity for rising from the dead was ironically proving to be deadly, since the authorities were planning to take Lazarus out along with Jesus (John 12:10-11).

A Prophetic Procession

And so the news spread, and so the crowd swelled to receive in procession the One who had raised a man from the dead. Could there be any doubt that he was the Messiah? Doubts would come, but few doubted it that day. People grabbed palm branches, a symbol of Jewish nationalism, and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13).

Few if any recognized in the euphoric moment the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is

he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

But Jesus recognized the moment. And so he "found a young donkey and sat on it" (John 12:14).

I said few doubted Jesus that day. But the few who did wielded a lethal amount of earthly power. As the Pharisees watched this potent moment with unmistakable implications unfold, they said to each other, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). But this was not resignation. The crowd's jubilation only hardened the authorities' resolve to kill the dead-raising Son of God.

A Prophetic Precursor

And Jesus knew this. In the midst of the prophetic, palm-waving party, Jesus knew it would trigger the fulfillment of another prophecy:

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his

wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Jesus knew Lazarus's expiration would result in resurrection; he knew this resurrection would result in the crowd's celebration; he knew this celebration would result in the council's homicidal determination; he knew this determination would result in his unjust condemnation; and he knew this condemnation would result in his own brutal expiration by crucifixion.

And he knew that his innocent, yet guilt-imputed expiration would result in the imputation of his righteousness to many (Isaiah 53:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21), and in a resurrection far more glorious and world-shaking than Lazarus's.

Palm Sunday was a celebration of a resurrection. But it was only a prophetic precursor. One week later, a resurrection occurred whose celebration has continued two millennia hence.

And look, the world has gone after him.

Published April 9, 2017 at desiringGod.org

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 28, 2021

Staff Report
For The Record

Easter is on its way, along with all the spring decorations, basket stuffers, and beautiful desserts that the holiday entails. But before it's time to bake the ham, there's Holy Week — seven days of religious significance in the Christian faith, and the final countdown to Easter. This year, Holy Week takes place from Sunday, March 28, 2021, to Saturday April 3, 2021. The first day of Holy Week is Palm Sunday; that means that this year,

Palm Sunday takes place on March 28, 2021.

What is Palm Sunday and why is it celebrated?

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, a seven-day span that culminates the day before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphant arrival in the city of Jerusalem for Passover, where he was greeted by a crowd of people laying palm branches at his feet. According to Christianity.com, his welcomers hoped

that Jesus would overthrow the Roman government in Jerusalem. They shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David," "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," "Blessed is the king of Israel," and other words of praise.

Nowadays, there are still palms involved in the Palm Sunday mass. Each year, palms are blessed and distributed, and many believers tie them into the shape of a cross. According to the World Catholic Library, "Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as

trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the follow year's Ash Wednesday observance."

When is Palm Sunday in 2021?

This year, Palm Sunday is on March 28. The rest of Holy Week is as follows:

- Palm Sunday: March 28
- Maundy Thursday: April 1
- Good Friday: April 3
- Holy Saturday: April 3

• Easter Sunday: April 4

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper; Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion; Holy Sat-

urday commemorates the vigil that Jesus' followers held outside of his tomb; and Easter Sunday celebrates the day Christ rose from the dead.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
www.slccogorange.org

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

First Baptist Church
Bridge City, Texas
200 W. Roundbunch
735-3581
www.fbcabc.org
Sunday schedule: Bible study 9:15 a.m.,
Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
Adult, Youth, Children
Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Faith United Methodist Church
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Pastor: Valerie Sansing
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Wednesday evening services: Youth and Children 6:00 p.m.,
Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.,
Pastor Cody Hogden
Email: office@fbcof.com / Website: www.fbcof.com

Winfree Baptist Church
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Jon Brinlee, Pastor
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Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Wednesday: **Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm**
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FISHING
CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

Surprise, surprise...the LCM bears dominated yet another SETX high school bass tournament on Rayburn Saturday and it resulted in well-earned paydays for several of their teams. They not only took home first and third place money, but celebrated three other Bear teams earning scholarship money as well.

The feat is more impressive considering the fact that they were competing in a field of over 400 other anglers. I have suggested several times over the past year that an LCM bass fisherman has to look no further than a team mate to know who he has to beat to win a tournament.

While every volunteer team Captain enjoys his commitment for the day, it is hard to imagine that any of them had more fun than Tony Brister. He nervously shared the excitement of the strike and landing of every bass only to have to sweat out the final weigh-in at the end of the day as well.

I can assure you that even the most experienced pro cannot eyeball two stringers and tell you which one is two-hundredths of an ounce heavier. When all was said and done, Tony's winning team of Spencer Brister and Aiden Loftin had captured first place honors by less than a small crawfish!

Their winning total of 21.62 pounds earned both youngsters some serious scholarship money and bragging rights as well. Braxton Rambo and Cameron Dougharty took home third place money while finishing very much in the hunt with 20.16 pounds.

Also earning scholarship checks were Justin James and Gavin Cooper (25th), Dakota Posey and Brendon Brones (27th) and Jacob Longlois and Tanner Stewart (39th). That is owing the day when five teams from one school finish in the top ten percent of a field that large.

The Bassmaster Elite pros will be back in town in two weeks and they could be looking at ideal conditions for the first time. The playing field narrowed drastically in acreage when it was decided that Louisiana waters were off limits, but area bayous and both the Sabine and Neches rivers are in good shape.

You can expect the weigh-in crowds to be large so wearing

COLBURN Page 4B

Moving water equals active fish

OUTDOORS
Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



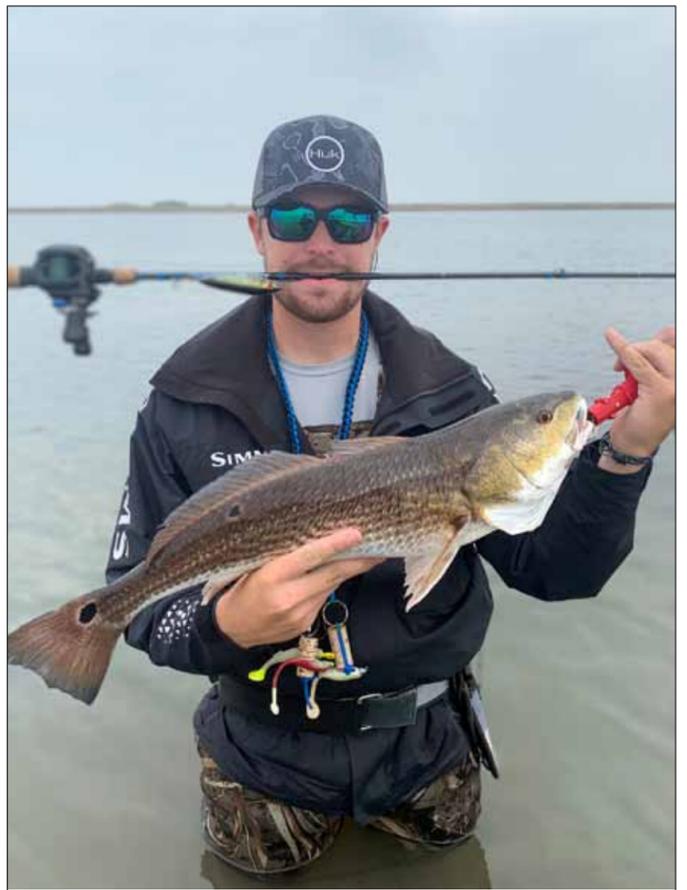
Chuck Uzzle

Most any fisherman who spends time on our local waters has a theory about how the tides work and where they need to be to catch fish during those tides. Surprisingly enough there are plenty of people who don't understand how important the tides really are, or for that matter what a tide is.

According to Webster's dictionary, tide is the periodic variation in the surface level of the oceans, bays, gulfs, inlets, and estuaries caused by gravitational attraction of the moon and sun. The influence the moon has over the tides is extreme to say the least. During the the first and third quarters of the moon phase the tides are the weakest and have the smallest differences between the highs and the lows. These small tide changes are called "neap tides". On the other end of the spectrum are the "spring tides", these occur when the moon is new or full.

During the spring tides the differences between the high and low tides are the greatest. By thinking about these patterns you can understand why so many people plan fishing trips around the moon phases. The full or new moon phases mean more moving water because the tides are more extreme, this translates into more active fish.

Now that we have established what the tides are and how they get there energy we need to know what effect they have on the fish. During certain periods of the year the tides mean different things. For example, in the spring most fishermen like strong incoming tides because they tend to bring in good saltwater from the gulf. During the fall it is opposite, outgoing tides help bring the bait into the lake



Parker Shelley duped this solid redfish during an afternoon incoming tide.

RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

as they empty the marshes. Either tide will help you catch fish, the main thing is to at least have some tidal movement. The periods between the tides are referred to as "slack", during these times the fishing tends to be much slower. The tides trigger most fish into becoming more active, it is almost like ringing the dinner bell so to speak.

Now the tide schedules you see in the newspapers and magazines will give you an idea when the tides will occur. These schedules do not take into account what kind of weather or wind conditions may be present so you need to use a little common sense. For example, if the schedule calls for a weak outgoing tide and the wind is

UZZLE Page 5B

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Game Warden Field Notes:

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) law enforcement reports.

Nothing to Stand On

An Orange County Game Warden was traveling along the Tony Housman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) when he observed a vehicle driving along the right-of-way in the construction zone that appeared to have a shotgun on the dashboard. The warden was able to exit the interstate at the state line and make his way back along the right-of-way to investigate. As he approached the vehicle, he observed a male subject carrying a shotgun coming from the woods, which is a closed area of the Tony Housman WMA. During the contact, the subject claimed that he was hunting hogs and was looking for a stand that his friend had erected next to the interstate. The warden found the stand erected on the WMA property within just a few feet of the interstate. The subject was issued citations for no annual public hunting permit and no hunting license. Two wardens followed up with the friend who had illegally placed the stand in the WMA originally. That subject confessed to placing the stand in the closed area of the WMA and was issued a citation as well. Cases are pending.

Good Samaritans

A Marion County Game Wardens responded to Lake O the Pines regarding a cap-sized vessel. Several fishermen close to the incident rescued an 80-year-old male and his son and transported them to a boat ramp. EMS arrived on scene and then transported the older male to the hospital for observation.

A Little Mud on the Tires

A Polk County Game Warden received a call from dispatch regarding individuals loading up a deer. A Polk County deputy was in the area and assisted the warden in patrolling the area based on the original call. An ATV drove by on a public roadway and the deputy initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the ATV fled, and a pursuit ensued. The ATV turned and went off-road on muddy terrain, so the warden followed the pursuit in four-wheel drive until the path ended and then gave pursuit on foot. The warden guided the deputy to where he expected the ATV to return. The deputy apprehended the subject and the ATV which was discovered to be stolen.

In a Slough of Trouble

A Trinity County Game Warden and a K9 Warden were investigating a slough in the national forest that was suspected to be baited with corn. The Wardens found fresh corn in the water and other evidence of baiting down a trail, including the tear-off top to a corn bag and spilled corn. The next day before daylight, wardens sat nearby listening for shots in the slough and not long after sunrise, hunters began shooting in the slough. The Wardens located two hunters

who were approximately 20 yards from the corn in the water. After a short interview, the hunters admitted to hunting over bait and putting the corn out a few days before. Citations included place bait to attract, hunt over bait, possession of lead shot and some tagging violations for deer from earlier in the season. Five wood ducks were also seized and civil restitution for each duck is pending.

Check Please!

A Gregg County Game Warden received a call from the White Oak PD regarding an illegal dumping complaint at a local restaurant. The restaurant owner reported numerous rancid bags of trash, accompanied by a decaying white-tailed doe carcass missing only its backstraps, piled around their business and dumpster. Information regarding the individual's identity was gathered and it matched an individual that the game warden was already investigating on unrelated hunting violations. The warden and local officers responded to the subject's residence where he and fellow tenants advised they had deemed the spoiled doe inedible via damages from a vehicle vs. deer incident. An impromptu necropsy suggested otherwise, prompting a full confession of how the doe was shot out of season and allowed to waste. During that interview, an additional confession was also collected regarding the warden's original hunting investigation. That individual confirmed the illegal harvest of two other bucks found with antlers entangled from sparring along a late-night roadway. Exhausted and struggling to flee danger, both deer were fatally stabbed by the individual. Civil restitution and multiple subjects were charged. Charges included: Hunt/Possess Deer from Public Roadway, Untagged Deer, Illegal Means and Methods, Waste of Game, Hunt During Closed Season, Exceed Bag Limit, No Archery Stamp, and No Harvest Log. Additional charges are pending investigation.

Mystery Machine

A Harris county Game Warden received a call about an abandoned boat on the San Jacinto River. When the warden reached the stripped vessel, he ran the HIN to find the owner's information. The owner, an individual in Alvin, TX, had no idea that his boat was missing. He had given the boat to his son, who kept it in a local storage unit. When the son was notified, he was surprised to find the boat was not located in its stall. The son then began to search social media platforms to look for the stolen boat's motors, electronics and miscellaneous items. The warden worked with a local deputy to have the stolen boat entered into the Boat Registration Information and Titling System. The warden then received a call from the son, exclaiming that he had found the two 225 horsepower Yamaha motors for sale on Facebook Marketplace. The warden then called a Game Warden Sergeant and a Harris County Warden to assist in the identification and location of the two motors advertised for sale. The Wardens arrived at the location and identified the stolen motors and a center console from the "abandoned" boat. Thanks to the warden's quick thinking and investiga-

tion, he was able to return the recovered stolen items to the original owner in one afternoon. Cases are pending.

Called Out

A Travis County Warden received a call from a processor reporting a man with a deer intact (not gutted) and most likely spoiled. The individual stated to the processor, "I guess I'll go dump this then". The warden was unable to find a local address for the suspect but was able to call him while he was returning to Houston. The individual said his friend shot an eight-point buck the previous afternoon. The warden contacted the landowner, who shot the deer, and informed him he faced a waste of game charge for leaving the "ungutted" buck for over 24 hours in temperatures exceeding 70 degrees. The warden also made the landowner aware that the general season ended two weeks prior and the buck was taken illegally. The violator then responded with an expletive-laden statement indicating his guilt. The warden seized the antlers from a taxidermist. Charges and civil restitution pending.

Sticky Situation

A McLennan County Game Warden was responding to a trespassing call from a landowner when the warden came upon the suspect stuck in the mud. The warden interviewed the suspect and discovered that they had also burglarized a vehicle while trespassing. The landowner identified the stolen

property and it was returned. The suspect was arrested for burglary of a vehicle and criminal trespass.

Helping Hand

A Washington County Warden received a call of a suspicious boat discovered by a realtor and landowner. A TX number was provided to Austin Dispatch where it was flagged as stolen. The warden made it to the scene and verified the HIN of the boat and VIN of the trailer. Both were confirmed stolen out of Harris County. Investigators from the Marine Theft Investigation Unit were contacted, the original owners were contacted, and the property is being returned. The investigation is ongoing.

Mistaken Identity

A DeWitt County Game Warden received a complaint about a hunter suspected of taking a deer out of season. When the suspect was contacted, her husband's tag was on the deer. The husband initially claimed to have shot the deer. After interviewing both individuals, it was determined that the initial subject had in fact shot the deer. It was not taken out of season, but it was taken without a license. When all was said and done, violations included hunting without a license, hunting under the license of another, allowing another to hunt under one's license, no proof of sex, and no hunters education. The deer was seized and donated. Restitution is pending.

BCHS Strutters Spring Revue tickets on sale

The Strutters Spring Revue is an exhibition of the Fine Arts programs at Bridge City High School. It will be held at the Julie Rogers Theatre in Beaumont, Texas, on April 1st and the show begins promptly at 6:30 with the Strutters opening number. Tickets may be purchased beginning March 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. from ticketmaster.com for \$10.00 + a service fee or at the Julie Rogers

Theatre Box Office for \$10 and no service fee. All online tickets are for reserved seats. Performances include Jazz Band, Cardinal Singers, Theatre Arts, Cheer, and Strutters as well as many guest performances from students and faculty. Our emcees are Noah Story and Zeke Champagne. Get your tickets now for this is "the best variety show in SETX."

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Texans QB fiasco superceded any NCAA tourney news

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



While most of the sports fans around the country were paying attention to the NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament and how they were doing on their personal bracket, fans in the Southeast Texas and Houston areas were focused on the daily soap opera about the Houston Texans' unstable quarterback situation.

Because starting quarterback Deshaun Watson has been adamant since January about never wanting to play another down of football for the Texans since, General Manager Nick Caserio finally figured out that he really meant it and signed 10-year veteran quarterback Tyrod Taylor to at least serve as a knowledgeable back-up for Watson.

The Texans last week finalized a one-year contract with the former Los Angeles Chargers starter with a maximum value of \$12.5 million if all incentive clauses are triggered and carries a base value less than \$6 million.

Taylor has an 89.5 career passing rating and has the third-lowest interception rate since 2011 with interceptions thrown on just 1.4 per cent of his passes, with 20 interceptions during a decade in the NFL. Taylor is a multi-dimensional quarterback who can beat defenses with his feet as well as his strong and accurate arm.

The Texans management also began to listen to some of the trade offers being registered daily by the many teams interested in obtaining Watson. They hope to receive three first-round draft picks, two second rounders and at least one defensive starter in a trade for Watson and have teams competing for him like he was on an auction block.

Ironically, less than 24 hours after signing Taylor last Monday, news filtered out about lawsuits filed against Watson by two massage therapists accusing him of sexual abuse.

By Friday, that number had grown to seven women who have alleged Watson assaulted or harassed them at different points in 2020, according to a front-page article appearing in Saturday's edition of The Houston Chronicle.

The seven lawsuits against Watson all have been filed by Houston attorney Tony Buzbee, who plans on filing five more lawsuits for sexual assault and harassment in the very near future and has spoken to 10 more women he is representing, bringing the total to 22. Buzbee said he has vetted each women's claims, including the first plaintiff who came to him.

As usual, there have been some people who have already discredited the lawsuits as false reporting, the article contends. Watson's agent, David Mulugheta commented

BC-OF Ministerial Alliance Open House, April 10

The Bridge City / Orange-field Ministerial Alliance invites you to join them for their Open House on Saturday, April 10th from 2 to 4 pm to celebrate the opening of their new building. They are at the same location, 285 W. Roundbunch in Bridge City.

'Everybody Reads The Record!'

about the cases last weekend on Twitter.

There also have been rumors that Buzbee and Houston Texans owner Cal McNair have conspired to bring these lawsuits against Watson after the quarterback said he was willing to sit out next season if the team does not trade him.

Buzbee, who lives on River Oaks Boulevard near the McNair family, claims he wouldn't know McNair if he saw him on the street.

The NFL also is investigating the lawsuits and the events leading up to the filing with Buzbee for possible violation of the league's personal conduct policy. If the NFL finds Watson has violated the personal conduct policy, it could fine him or even suspend him without pay for a number of games.

If the allegations are true, Watson's value on the trading block would tumble, although there probably are some teams so desperate for a franchise quarterback, they would be willing to disregard the incident.

But most franchises would want Watson's legal issues to be resolved and that he's been cleared to play by the NFL and want to know the results of its investigation before taking over his huge contract. And they probably would offer only a fraction of what the Texans wanted for the trade.

The article concluded that in a best-case scenario, another franchise quarterback would be part of the trade package to sell the fans, including those who purchase sponsorships, suites, club seats, personal seat licenses and season tickets.

It looks to me right now like a frustrating season as the team rebuilds with very few victories. The Houston Texans most likely will be in the running for the 2022 No. 1 overall draft pick that goes to the team finishing the season with the worst record in the NFL.

KWICKIES...

Matt Jones protected his large lead in Sunday's final round of the PGA Tour Honda Classic to win the event by five shots. At times he was leading the pack by seven strokes and finished with a 2-under 68. The margin of victory matched the largest in tournament history, tying the mark

set by Jack Nicklaus in 1977.

The Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament was loaded with upsets, with a total of 11 just in the South and Midwest regionals. The Women's NCAA Tournament, on the other hand, had zero upsets in the entire first round. Does that mean women's bracket is easier to fill than the men's, or are there just smarter folks doing the women's bracket?

Loyola of Chicago continues to heed the prayers of 101-year-old Sister Jean as they took down No. 1-seeded Illinois 71-58 in Sunday's second round and led the entire contest and earned a berth in the prestigious Sweet 16. However, more than 75 per cent of the fans' brackets had them making the Sweet 16. It also must be pointed out Loyola head coach Porter Moser loves defense and it pays off because his team leads the nation in defense.

Some of the Texas Longhorns fans are referring to head basketball coach Shaka Smart as Shaka Dumb after his team was upset by No. 14 Abilene Christian 53-52 in the first round Saturday night. Smart's Longhorns are 0-3 in

three tournament appearances as his seat gets hotter each year.

Baylor, the No. 1 seed in the South Regional, and the University of Houston, the No. 2 seed in the Midwest Regional, could possibly meet in the Final Four in two weeks. Baylor is at the top of its regional while U of H is at the bottom of theirs.

Houston Astros ace pitcher Justin Verlander began throwing last week, five months after Tommy John surgery. The 38-year-old right-hander had reconstructive surgery on his right elbow Sept. 30. But he'll miss this season because the usual recovery period is 12-14 months.

JUST BETWEEN US...

Lamar University's athletic director Marco Born can put another notch on his belt after wielding his well-used axe to end the tenure of veteran basketball coach Tic Price last weekend. Although the Cards were 10-18 this season affected by COVID-19, Price had his team fired up to win the final four games and get a first-round bye in the Southland

Conference Tournament. Their season was ended in the quarterfinal round by Abilene Christian who incidentally

beat the No 3-seeded Texas Longhorns Saturday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament as a No. 14 seed.



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Texas tops all U.S. states in exports for 19th consecutive year

PAUL SCHATTEBERG
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

For nearly two decades, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEA, has ranked Texas as the No. 1 exporter among U.S. states.

"Texas shipped \$279.3 billion worth of goods around the globe in 2020," said Luis Ribera, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist, Bryan-College Station. "The state outperformed all other states, with the value of its exports accounting for 19.5% of overall U.S. exported products for 2020."

Texas' 2020 exports amounted to more than the sum total of goods exported by the next three largest exporting states.

Mexico and Canada received the largest portion of Texas' exports, with Mexico accounting for almost 32% of the total and Canada for just over 8.3%. However, goods from the Lone Star State are exported all over the world.

"The COVID-19 pandemic had a detrimental effect on 2020 exports nationwide, but this impact was less on Texas due to the state's diverse and resilient economy," Ribera said.

He also noted while the economic impact of Winter Storm Uri had a negative impact on first-quarter 2021 exports, the state is poised for a quick recovery and to provide not only sufficient commodities and consumables for its own residents but to also export to others.

"Texans saw some supply chain disruptions and temporary shortages of food and other needed supplies during the winter storm and in its aftermath," he said. "But once issues affecting fuel availability, transportation, workforce availability, stymied agricultural production and other challenges normalize once again, the state more than likely will remain ranked as the top exporting state in the country."

A resource-full state

Many of the products Tex-

as exports literally come straight out of the ground.

"Natural resources, whether renewable or nonrenewable, are found throughout the world and have been extracted for human use for tens of thousands of years," said Roel Lopez, Ph.D., director of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, San Antonio. "They are valuable not only in the development of commodities for providing income and revenue, but also for sustaining life and improving the quality of life."

Texas is a large state with an abundance of natural resources, Ribera said. And from an energy perspective, primary fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas are among the state's most exportable natural resources.

"Crude petroleum oils account for about 22.2% of total Texas exports," he said. "Crude oil, along with miscellaneous petroleum-based products and liquefied propane, are among the state's top exports, contributing greatly to our total economic output or real gross domestic product, or GDP."

Agriculture exports smaller but still vital sector

Ribera also noted that while other items that come out of the ground, specifically agricultural products "don't crack the top 10" in export sectors contributing the most to the state's overall economic output, Texas still ranks fifth overall among U.S. states for those exports.

"Our energy resources and agricultural production are of great importance — not only to the state, but also to the nation and to people throughout the world," he said. "Texas leads the nation in number of farms and ranches. And the fact that it has so much agricultural production, yet agricultural exports are no longer near the top for contributing to the state's GDP, shows just how diverse and exceptional the Texas economy has become."

Ribera said while over time

agriculture has become a smaller portion of the state's exports as the Texas economy has evolved and become more diverse, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service estimated its agricultural exports in 2020 at an impressive \$6.5 billion-plus.

Among U.S. states, Texas is second in total animal product exports and sixth in total plant product exports. In terms of revenue generated, Texas's top five agricultural products are cotton, beef cattle and veal, feed grain products, dairy products and sorghum.

"We are the No. 1 cotton exporter in the U.S. and rank second in both beef and wheat exports," Ribera said. "We are also first in sheep and goat production, second in overall animal exports and among the top five U.S. states in exportation of pecans, sorghum, rice and dairy products."

The leading fruits produced in Texas are watermelon, cantaloupe and grapefruit, which is also the official state fruit. Texas is also a top producer of onions, potatoes and spinach, and is the nation's No. 1 producer of cabbages.

Ribera said the state also ranks among the top 15 exporters in the nation for animal feed as well as broilers, fruits, corn, pork and vegetables.

"About 37% of our agricultural exports go to Mexico, making it our largest international trading partner for agricultural products," Ribera said.

Ribera also noted that the state's food processing sector is the third largest manufacturing sector in the state, producing beverages, baked goods, preserved fruits and vegetables and meat as well as other consumables for export.

Beyond oil and cattle: [Micro]chips with your salsa?

When most people think high-tech, they typically think California and, in particular, Silicon Valley.

"But Texas has also been the No. 1 exporting state for technology products for several years in a row," Ribera said. "In 2020, we had \$44.8 billion in technology-related exports, while California was in second place with \$37.5 billion in those exports."

He said other top 10 exports include aircraft and computer parts, integrated circuits, modems and other reception and transmission devices, and semi-conductor manufacturing equipment.

"Texas has been growing steadily as an exporter of high-tech-related products and equipment," Ribera said. "Technology is one sector people don't often associate with Texas because they tend to associate us primarily with oil and cattle. And while those are important to the state and a source of great pride, we manufacture, produce and export of a wide variety of other products and goods needed and desired by consumers worldwide."

Ribera also noted other reasons for Texas being the

leading exporter among U.S. states.

"The size of the state, its business-friendly environment and solid infrastructure, the fact it has no state

income tax and boasts the nation's second largest workforce, as well as the can-do attitude of Texans, all help keep Texas in this enviable position," he said.

"Everybody Reads The Record!" In Print & Online

Colburn From Page 1B

a mask and social distancing when possible is encouraged. I knows it is a tad early for most of us, but attending just one of the blasting off ceremonies is worth the inconvenience. The pre-dawn lights reflecting off the water and the opportunity to watch the pros navigate through the armada is impressive.

It seems as though every southeast Texas fisherman is still consumed with the spawn, but they could be missing a terrific crappie bite in the process!

Nelson Procter, a mid-lake camp owner on Toledo Bend and retired guide claims this is his favorite time of the year on the Bend. "On most decent weather days I can catch all of the bass I want to catch and finish it off with a mess of crappie," says Procter.

I knows my chances of catching a double digit bass are slim when spending all of my time fishing a Wacky worm or spinner bait in the shallows, but the action is faster and some very large crappie are right there with them. "For that reason, Procter keeps two bass rods, a crappie rod rigged with a small jig and a twelve foot crappie pole lying on his deck.

"I can't tell you how many times I have had a bass on and hooked a slab crappie on my jigging pole at the same time," says Procter. He is also quick to point out that he fishes only two colors in the jig and two in his choice of Wacky worms. "I can take all the lures I'll need in one sandwich bag!"

"If they are biting something else I'll be eating waffles for supper, but that is seldom the case," says Procter. "I like watermelon and black-blue tail in the worm and back-chartreuse and pink-white for my jigs."

I spoke with Nelson Monday night and he was watching March Madness and eating white perch tacos at the time. "We got out late this afternoon and caught only eleven bass before the crappie really turned on. We kept sixteen nice slabs, eight for each of us, and got back in time for tip-off."

I have talked with two other local anglers that have done well recently fishing virtually the same crappie program in the back of Six Mile and Clear Creek. They were both fishing a jig about two feet beneath a cork, but chartreuse-silver flake was the ticket for them!

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Texas opens COVID-19 vaccine to everyone 16 and older on March 29

KAREN HARPER
The Texas Tribune

Everyone age 16 and older, regardless of occupation or health status, will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas starting March 29, state health officials said Tuesday.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is still asking providers to prioritize appointments for people who are 80 and older, and to prioritize walk-ins from anyone in that age group who shows up without an appointment. The vaccines are not limited to Texas residents, and citizenship is not a requirement for the vaccine.

"We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services and the chair of the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel.

Until now, eligibility for the vaccine was mainly restricted to a few groups: health care workers, people ages 50 and older, those with certain underlying health conditions who are 16 or older, and employees of schools and day care centers. Texas began receiving vaccines in mid-December.

The vaccine is still in short supply as the announcement makes about 22 million people eligible on Monday. The state has been allocated more than 14 million doses since distribution began in December — far short of the supply needed to fully vaccinate everyone right away.

As of Tuesday, Texas had administered more than 9.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine. More than 6 million people have received at least one dose, and more than 3 million have been fully vaccinated, according to state health officials.

On March 10, the state-wide mask mandate was lifted and businesses were allowed to go back to 100% capacity, even as health experts cautioned that Texans should not let their guard down as emerging variants threaten another potential spike in cases. New coronavirus cas-



Everyone age 16 and older, regardless of occupation or health status, will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas starting March 29.

es and hospitalizations are at lows not seen since October, according to state health figures.

Texas health officials have been grappling over whom to include in each new eligibility group, under pressure from public-facing workers such as grocery store employees, restaurant staffers and transportation workers whose jobs put them at higher risk of contracting the virus than those who work from home.

Meanwhile, counties are attempting to ramp up vaccinations for communities of color, which have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and appear to be behind white residents in getting the vaccine.

While local governments are coming up with creative ways to address the inequities in the distribution, the state is "still struggling with that" and opening up the eligibility doesn't address that problem, said Kazique Prince, interim executive director for the Central Texas Collective for Racial Equity and a policy adviser for Austin Mayor Steve Adler.

In Austin, for example, vaccine locations have been added to the areas more accessible to communities of color, and the city has engaged the help of Meals on Wheels to reach more residents, he said.

But the state still has work to do, he said.

"Economics will play into this whole situation, where folks who are less able to access the resources are going to have a harder time getting it," Prince said. "The concern

I still have is how do we meet the demand in an equitable way, and right now I think we're still struggling with that."

By eliminating the age restrictions, there is the potential to vaccinate more Black and brown residents, said Adewole Adamson, an assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. On average, white people tend to live longer, while younger generations have higher proportions of Black and Hispanic people.

"At every age level, there's a disparity in outcome associated with getting the virus," he said. "Folks of color are [still] at risk and we should prioritize their access to the vaccine."

Health experts have said that between 70% and 90% of Texans must be vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity and stop the spread of the virus. Texas has about 29 million residents, nearly a quarter of whom are under 18. Of the three vaccines available, only the two-dose Pfizer vaccine is available for ages 16 and up. The others, manufactured by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, are available for ages 18 and up.

President Joe Biden recently directed states to make the vaccine available to all adults by May 1. Several states have already opened their eligibility to all adults or announced plans to do so soon.

The state is also launching a website next week for people to sign up for vaccines at public health centers and state-run clinics. The Texas Public Health Vaccine

Scheduler will alert participants to upcoming events and available appointments. For those who do not have access to the internet, the state will also be creating a hotline for appointments by phone, officials said.

Some counties, including Brazoria and Galveston, responded by immediately in-

cluding anyone 16 and older who wants the shot to sign up on local waiting lists now.

"We want to make sure that people sign up and are ready to get vaccinated as our supply increases and state guidelines are updated," said Dr. Janak Patel, director of health care epidemiology and infection con-

trol for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, which has administered about 150,000 doses. "Signing up now means that you are already on the list when the criteria are changed to allow more people to be vaccinated."

Marissa Martinez contributed to this report.

keri michutka
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bridge city, texas 77611
office 409.735.3535
fax 409.735.4339
keriepa@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

BID REQUEST: Administration/Annex Chiller Replacement Damages sustained during Winter Storm Uri

OWNER: Orange County Navigation and Port District; dba Port of Orange

Location: Port of Orange Administration Building
1201 Childers Road
Orange, Texas 77630

Bid Deadline: Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time
Bid Opening: Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:05 A.M. Local Time
Location: Port of Orange Administration Building - Boardroom
1201 Childers Road
Orange, Texas 77630

SEALED BIDS in duplicate, clearly marked and addressed to the Port of Orange, "Attn: Stephen LeBlanc: Administration/Annex Chiller Replacement", Orange County Navigation and Port District (the "Owner"), will be received at the Port of Orange Administration Office, 1201 Childers Road, Orange, Texas, 77630 until 10:00 A.M., local time on April 1, 2021; and then publicly opened and read aloud in the Port of Orange Administration Office Boardroom, 1st Floor, for Administration/Annex Chiller Replacement. Bids received after 10:00 A.M. local time will be returned unopened. Owner is located in Orange County, Texas. It is the bidding party's sole responsibility to provide for the timely and proper delivery of its bid.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Orange County Navigation and Port District, 1201 Childers Road, Orange, Texas 77630. These Documents may be faxed or emailed to a party interested in potentially submitting a bid, upon request by calling (409)863-4363 or by emailing sleblanc@portoforange.com.

All Bid Proposals must comply with the Contract Documents. No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days, subsequent to the opening of bids, without the written consent of the Owner.

The Owner is a sales tax-exempt local governmental entity. A sales tax exemption notice will be issued to the successful bidder when the purchase is awarded.

The Orange County Navigation and Port District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive formalities in bidding to the fullest extent permitted by law. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in any bid, the OWNER reserves the right to consider and accept the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid.

Orange County Navigation and Port District of Orange County, Texas

Uzzle From Page 1B

blowing strong from the south you may not see any change in the water level. The big south wind will essentially hold the water up from leaving. The exact opposite happens in the winter months when you have an out going tide and a strong north wind, the water levels fall dramatically. There are different factors to take into account, just be aware of the conditions.

One other important piece of the tide puzzle deals with correction factors for the tides. Your evening news may call for tides at Sabine Pass to take place at 1 a.m., that time will be different if you fish in another part of the Sabine area. What you need to know is what is the correction factor for your area. The time difference between Sabine Pass and Sydney Island is just over an hour depending on the conditions. So if the tide is supposed to change at 1 a.m. at Mesquite Point it should start to change at Sydney Island around 2:00 a.m. under normal conditions.

Now the visible movement may not be evident but the influence is there. The marshes on the other hand are tougher to gauge when it comes to tides, things like wind and runoff can make it almost impossible to calculate the tides correctly. All you can do is keep good records and watch the conditions in order to get a better feel for how the water will react to certain conditions.

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GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Sat., March 27 from 7 am-12 noon at 12363 FM 105 in Orange. Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator, Furniture, Smoker, Ladies & Children's Clothing (Infant-5T), Household Items, Baby Items, & Toys.

Garage Sale on Sat., 3/27 from 8:00 a.m. till, at 9450 Oliver Rd, Orange (N 1442, across from Turtle Rd). Furniture, clothes, home décor, kitchen items, lots of paperback books, and miscellaneous items.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AA meetings are being offered on Tuesday (open) and Thursday (closed) mornings at 9:30 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, located at 945 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. For more information, please call or text at 409-221-0704 or email lolabell.102360@gmail.com.

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

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

American Legion Post 49
409-886-1241

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **DARREN ROSS MAY**, Deceased, were issued on the **FEBRUARY 10, 2021**, in Cause No. **P18811**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Shelby R. May**.

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 1st day of **March, 2021**.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Shelby R. May
State Bar No.:
08623700 202
S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

JAMES LEE PICARD, Deceased
Cause No. **P18992**
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed on March 16, 2021 in this estate an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of James Lee Picard, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on March 16, 2021.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas
By: **Samantha McInnis,** Deputy
Samantha McInnis

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

LYNDA JO PREVOST, Deceased
Cause No. **P18768**
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRS, OPEN INTESATE ESTATE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATRIX AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in this estate on FEBRUARY 02, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Lynda Jo Prevost, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on February 2, 2021.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas
By: **Samantha McInnis,** Deputy
Samantha McInnis



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CITY OF ORANGE HURRICANE HARVEY CDBG-DR ACQUISITION PROGRAM

The City of Orange is conducting a voluntary acquisition project for homes damaged during Hurricane Harvey. The project will be administered locally and overseen by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development & Revitalization Program (CDR). The project is funded through a Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).

The application period will open on March 17th, 2021 and is scheduled to close on May 17th, 2021. The Intake Beneficiary Application, along with application instructions and frequently-asked questions are available on the City website at <https://orangetexas.net/>. Paper applications are also available at Orange City Hall at 812 N 16th St, the Neighborhood Facility, 303 N 8th Street, and at the Orange Public Library, 220 5th Street, all located in Orange TX 77630.

Completed applications can be submitted to the following address:
Grants Management, CDBG-DR
City of Orange
PO Box 520
Orange, TX 77631-0520

Or completed applications may be submitted online at grants.orangetexas.gov.
Citizens with special needs or those who would like technical assistance may contact 512-202-1306.



AVISO PÚBLICO

AVISO DE OPORTUNIDAD PARA SOLICITAR EL PROGRAMA DE ADQUISICIÓN DEL HURACÁN HARVEY CDBG-DR DE LA CIUDAD DE ORANGE

La ciudad de Orange está llevando a cabo un proyecto de adquisición voluntaria de casas dañadas durante el huracán Harvey. El proyecto será administrado localmente y supervisado por el Programa de Desarrollo y Revitalización Comunitaria (CDR) de la Oficina General de Tierras de Texas (GLO). El proyecto se financia a través de una Subvención del Bloque comunitario de desarrollo para la recuperación ante desastres (CDBG-DR).

El plazo de solicitud se abrirá el 17 de marzo 2021 y está previsto que se cierre el 17 de mayo 2021. La Solicitud de Beneficiario de Admisión, junto con las instrucciones de solicitud y las preguntas más frecuentes están disponibles en el sitio web de la ciudad en <https://orangetexas.net/>. Las solicitudes de papel también están disponibles en el Ayuntamiento de Orange en el 812 N 16th St, el Neighborhood Facility, 303 N 8th Street, y en la Biblioteca Pública de la ciudad de Orange, 220 5th Street, todos ubicados en Orange TX 77630.

Las solicitudes completadas se pueden enviar a la siguiente dirección:
Grant Management, CDBG-DR
City of Orange
Po Box 520
Orange, TX 77631-0520

O las solicitudes completadas pueden presentarse en línea a grants.orangetexas.gov.
Los ciudadanos con necesidades especiales o aquellos que deseen asistencia técnica pueden comunicarse al 512-202-1306.

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