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The Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 5, 2021

County supports Coast Protection District

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a resolution supporting a bill in the Texas Legislature that is expected to make the long-discussed "Ike Dike" a reality.

"I'd say this is probably the most important event I've been around in 20 years dealing with Orange County and its cities," said Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte, who was mayor of Bridge City in 2006-16, helping the city recover from Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

"For all the 20 years I've been here, I don't think the State of Texas knew where Orange County was. I think the State of Texas knows now and I think we're doing the



Gothia

best thing in the interest of Orange County and the interest of the State of Texas."

Senate Bill 1160, which passed the Texas Senate April 14 and is under consideration by the Texas House of Representatives, would create the Gulf Coast Protection District.

It would be comprised of Harris County, Galveston County, Chambers County, Jefferson County and Orange County. It would be an ad valorem taxing entity with the authority to execute a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

to build and maintain a \$2.9 billion system of levees, flood gates and pumps to protect Orange County from flooding from both storm surge and major rainfall events.

The USACE timeline calls for the project be finished by

2027.

Tuesday's special meeting of Commissioners Court was called because the county leaders, with advice from Assistant County Attorney Denise Gremillion, weren't happy with the language in a supporting resolution that

was sent to them to vote on at last week's meeting.

"We wanted to make sure the language that we have worked on for several years now is consistent with the protection of our Orange County citizens in both the rain events as well as the

storm events," County Judge John Gothia said.

"We may never have this opportunity again, to have this funding provided for us. We don't want to pass up

COASTAL Page 3A

Delay on FEMA funds worries OC leaders

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Summertime, and the county's wallet is thin.

It's getting to be an annual refrain in Orange County thanks to an onslaught of weather and health disasters that keep draining the Rainy Day Fund.

This year looks like no exception.

Orange County's hurricane history was few and far between prior to 2017's Harvey but in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Ike in 2005 and 2008, County Commissioners had to borrow money to keep things running until disaster assistance arrived from the federal government.

Orange County had a \$12 million fund balance (sometimes called the "Rainy Day Fund") and used it in 2017, when Harvey hit. But lagging reimbursement promised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made budgeting for the future dicey and then County Judge Dean Crooks pushed for and got an emergency short-term loan of \$8 million to cover the insecurity.

The same thing happened after Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019 when current County Judge John Gothia pushed for and got a smaller emergency short-term loan.

It turned out neither loan was needed. Then.

Both times, FEMA beat the buzzer by releasing some last-minute checks.

"Generally, by now, we

would have started receiving some of that money back from FEMA on the debris," Gothia said at Tuesday's Commissioners Court meeting.

"The issue we're in is that we're getting ready to come into our next budget season [Fiscal Year 2022 begins Oct. 1] and we haven't started receiving any of those checks yet.

"A lot of that is due to COVID-related activities [at federal agencies], of people working from home and not everybody in their offices. It has slowed the process - but not on our end. We've turned all our stuff in."

Joel Ardoin, emergency management coordinator for Orange County, announced Tuesday that the county has received a \$1.7 million reimbursement from a different federal source on COVID emergency expenses from Congress' CARES Act that clears that account.

But that money doesn't fill what Gothia says will be a \$14 million hole in county finances to replace the \$14 million the county has spent and still owes for hauling debris off citizens' properties, the required monitoring of the process, and the final demolition of the debris.

The commissioners OK'd a payment of \$518,000 to AshBritt Environmental Tuesday for debris pickup.

"As soon as this [AshBritt] bill is paid that we approved

FEMA DELAYS Page 3A

Orangefield students compete in state UIL meet



On Saturday two students from Orangefield High School competed in the Conference 4-A State UIL Academic Meet. Bella Morgan competed in Headline Writing (Sponsor Rachel Taylor) and Jezlyn Matlock placed 4th in Computer Applications (Sponsor Misty Bellard).

Zoch, A-Roc defeat BC incumbents Orange County Election Wrap-Up

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Two-term Orange City Councilman Patrick A. Pullen said Tuesday afternoon he hadn't decided if he would seek a recount after losing his seat by seven votes Saturday.

Final election results were announced Tuesday after the May 3 deadline for receiving mail-in votes postmarked by election day.

A total of six new votes were added to Saturday's total, one each in six races. None affected the outcome of any race.

David C. Bailey, a former Orange County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy, defeated Pullen for the District 1 seat with 145 votes to 138 for Pullen.

Randy Branch will be Mayor of West Orange after capturing 68.7% of the vote against Jim Whittington in the election ending Saturday evening.

Misty Songe and Ronnie



Paul Zoch



Aaron Roccaforte



David Bailey

Herrera face a runoff for the position of Mayor in Vidor, after finishing 1-2 in a three-way race in which no candidate received 50% plus one of the total votes cast.

Branch, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, will take the place of long-time West Orange mayor Roy McDonald, who earlier this year announced his retirement after 26 years as his city's top elected official.

Incumbents Patty Collins of Bridge City ISD board, Carl Harbert of Bridge City City Council, Joey Vance of

the Pinehurst City Council and Pullen lost their re-election bids, according to final results released by the Orange County Elections Administration.

Paul Zoch defeated Collins 533-501 for the BCISD board.

Aaron Roccaforte, son of longtime BC councilman and mayor Kirk Roccaforte, defeated Harbert 484-259 in his first run for office and Vance finished fifth in a five-way race for three at-large seats.

AROUND THE COUNTY:

*Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. easily won re-election to a second three-year term, collecting 90.6% of the 1,612 votes cast in a race against Charles Thomas.

*Bridge City ISD incumbent Judy Cole doubled up challenger Caleb Hayes with 702 votes to 326.

* For City Council in Bridge City, incumbent Terri Gauthier defeated Kenneth

ELECTIONS FINALE Page 3A

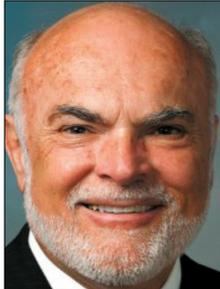


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My 5-Cents...

By State Senator Robert Nichols

Last week, the House passed its version of the state budget for the next two years. It differs in some significant ways from the budget the Senate passed. In order to reconcile our differences, we'll convene a conference committee with 5 members from each chamber to work out the details. I'm honored to once again serve as a conferee for the state budget.



Sen. Robert Nichols

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Texas to gain two new congressional seats

The US Census Bureau released preliminary data this week that outlined total population in the US and in each state and which states would be gaining or losing congressional seats. Texas is set to gain two new seats in the US Congress, the most of any state in the nation. That will bring Texas total congressional delegation to 38 congressmen and women. Florida, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon are each gaining one seat. Seven states will lose a seat, including California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. This data reflects a population shift from northeastern areas to southern and western regions of the US. Texas is now the second most populous state and saw the largest population increase, gaining nearly 4 million people over the past ten years. The rest of the Census data will not be released until this fall, at which time the legislature will start the process of redrawing US Congress, State House, State Senate, and State Board of Education districts.

2. Governor Abbott requests information from counties

Last session, the legislature passed Senate Bill 1511, a bill I authored that would pledge state resources toward saving the historic

about financial impact of border

Crisis This week, Governor Abbott sent a letter to county judges across the state asking them to assess the financial impact the current border crisis has had on their counties, including costs they have incurred and those they anticipate to incur. This information will be used to formally request that the federal government reimburse these costs in full, since decisions at the federal level led to the humanitarian crisis at the border. He also encouraged county judges to get a resolution of support for the State's request from their Commissioners Court.

3. \$11.2 billion in federal funds released to schools

This week Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and Speaker Phelan announced the release of \$11.2 billion in federal funds for Texas public schools. The funds are aimed at helping schools recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and address students' learning loss. These funds will support the recovery effort over the next three years. Due to federal requirements, only two-thirds of the funds are available immediately. The last third will be distributed when the US Department of Education approves it.

4. Battleship Texas restoration continues

Last session, the legislature passed Senate Bill 1511, a bill I authored that would pledge state resources toward saving the historic

Battleship Texas. The battleship is the last of the dreadnoughts that fought in both World War I and World War II. Since it's heyday, the ship has fallen into disrepair, with salt water corroding the steel hull. There is also a system of pumps constantly pushing water out of the hull, which is the only thing keeping the ship upright in the Houston Ship Channel. That pump system at one time was pumping 2,000 gallons of water an hour out of the ship. After repairs began, including filling the lower part of the hull with foam, those pumps only pump 3 gallons out an hour. In accordance with the bill, the ship will soon be floated to a dry dock in Galveston for further repairs. Meanwhile, an extensive restoration effort has been undertaken by volunteers in Pasadena. These volunteers are restoring the ship's artifacts like anti-aircraft guns and spotlights. Years of wear and tear left these precious artifacts with chipped paint and rust. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have worked countless hours to restore the Battleship Texas to her former glory!

5. Over 1.7 million doses of COVID vaccine coming to Texas

The Department of State Health Services announced that more than 1.7 million COVID-19 vaccines are headed to Texas next week. Over 700,000 of those doses are the first dose of the two-dose Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and were allocated to almost 1,000 providers in 129 counties. Those providers will also get over 570,000 second doses. The final 470,000 doses are first and second doses and were allocated to pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, and dialysis centers. So far, more than 23.4 million doses have been distributed in Texas and more than 36 percent of Texans have received at least one dose.

Family Fun Day at Orange Train Depot Museum reset for June 5

Depot Day, the annual family fun day scheduled for Saturday, May 1, had to be canceled because of the rainy weather. The Friends of the Orange Depot have rescheduled the event for Saturday, June 5, 10AM-2PM. Information can be obtained by calling Co-chairman Rose Simar at 409-330-1576, or by visiting the website www.orangetxdepot.org.

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Round The Clock Hometown News

CASA marks May, National Foster Care Month

Each May, National Foster Care Month, we take the time to raise awareness of the children and families involved in the foster care system and the need for more people to step up to support them.

Last year there were 47,913 children in the Texas foster care system, 699 of whom were in our service area of Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, Newton and Sabine Counties.

"There are 699 children in foster care right here in our communities, in our neighborhoods," said

Codie Vasquez, Executive Director of CASA of the Sabine Neches Region. "They need support from their community."

Children go into the foster care system when their family is in crisis. There is a common misconception that once these children are in foster care they're safe and no further help for them is needed. "This could not be further from the truth", Vasquez said. Foster care is

important for protecting children temporarily. It is not, however, meant to be a permanent solution.

"We're grateful to the many wonderful foster families who open their homes to children in our community. What some people don't understand, however, is that too often, these children have been taken away from everything and everyone they know," Vasquez said. "Research shows that kids do better when they can stay connected with their family and community, and kids in foster care are no exception."

This is where CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, from CASA of the Sabine Neches Region come into play.

CASA volunteers are specially trained and appointed by judges to advocate for a child or sibling group while they are in the foster care system. They advocate for the child in court, school and other settings; and get to know everyone involved in the child's life, including

their parents, foster parents, teachers, doctors, family members and others.

CASA volunteers advocate first and foremost for these children to be reunified with their parents whenever safe and possible. In fact, a core part of their role is to help create and strengthen a lifetime network of relatives, family friends and other committed adults who can support the child and their parents during their involvement with foster care and beyond - increasing the likelihood for reunification.

When reunification is not an option, they advocate for the child to live with another relative or family friend. They can also advocate for the child to be placed in a loving adoptive home. In all cases, CASA volunteers are steadfast, consistent presences for the children they serve, making sure they are safe and have the resources and connections they need to grow and thrive.

For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer visit CASAsnr.org, email info@casasnr.org.

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Coastal Protection District From Page 1

that opportunity but we also don't want to risk the safety of our residents in a rain event or a storm surge event.

"We wanted to make sure that language is in there. It is in there now. We have met I can't tell you how many times to make sure that language is consistent both at the state level and the federal level.

"So we've done our part." Hurricane Ike in 2008 flooded Bridge City with more than 10 feet of water and it backed up the Sabine River into Orange. Hurricane Harvey in 2017 was a slow-moving storm that was the country's biggest ever rain event, dumping as much as 60 inches of rain in a few days on areas of the county.

Plans were first developed for the "Ike Dike" to be a system of levees and flood walls extending from below Galveston to the Sabine. Pumps were added to the plan at the insistence of Orange County officials.

"The wording on providing interior damage is very crucial," said Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator, who represents Vidor and much of northwest Orange County. "If the wall holds water out, it holds water in.

"I'm still concerned about what it'll do on the west side of the county."

Wording in the resolution put forward Tuesday was lengthy and cited a USACE agreement that the project "provide drainage relief as it did prior to the levee system" in a 100-year (1%) rain event and that the interior drainage system (pump stations and minimum pump capacity) be designed for a 25-year rain event.

"Whereas," the last whereas paragraph states, "the Commissioners Court recognizes the low-lying nature

of major portions of Orange County as well as the complexities of the project design ... in light of the expressed willingness of USACE to address interior drainage, [Commissioners Court] finds that the opportunity for construction of the Orange County Project, which is wholly dependent on federal and state funding, may not be present again for decades to come ... it must act on behalf of the best interest of the County ..."

The terms of Senate Bill 1160 requires the district to hold an election before authorizing the imposition of an ad valorem tax not to exceed 5 cents per \$100 value.

Orange County officials were initially told several years ago the county's local 35% matching share of the federal government's funding would be more than \$800 million. Already, the county and the Orange County Drainage District have reached agreement with the Texas General Land Office for the GLO to pay \$74 million for Orange County's share of design costs.

Gothia points out that Orange County's population makes up only 3% of the population of the total five-county Gulf Coast Protection District, with Harris County dwarfing the rest.

That means Orange County will have little to no say in any district-wide election, although it is guaranteed at least one of the 11 directors' seats.

"That means we'll only be bearing 3% of the project's cost and we're benefiting from one-third of the total cost," Gothia said.

Under the Water Resources Development Act of 2018, the United States Congress authorized \$15 billion for construction funding for the Sabine Pass to Galveston

Bay, Texas coastal storm risk management project, which included the Orange County coastal storm risk management project as a separate element also known as the Orange County Project.

Federal law requires the Project costs be shared between the federal government and a local non-federal sponsor on a 65-35 percent basis.

"Without this district being formed this year, it will be two years until we can bring it up again," Gothia said. "For those two years, money will be pulled from USACE."

Consultant Duane Gordy, a Lumberton resident who has consulted with Pine Forest on drainage issues, was the only speaker to question the letter.

He cautioned that Senate Bill 1160 was too broadly written.

"We're creating a taxing district that will be as hard to get rid of as TxDOT," he said. "Special taxing districts are hard to get rid of.

"And if it's going to issue an ad valorem tax, it'll have to go to the district for a vote. But that's the entire district, which means rural Texas is going to be at the mercy of urban Texas.

"If they want to bring a project forward and they want to use that ad valorem tax to service that project, the population is going to dictate where those dollars go."

Gothia said he expects to hear many questions from county residents.

"I know there are a lot of questions people are going to ask, and they should ask," he said. "And we're asking those kinds of questions ourselves. I can promise you we're trying our best to make sure we're protected."

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FEMA delay cause of concern From Page 1

today, we will send that straight to FEMA and say: "We have paid this money. Now we need our reimbursement," Gothia said.

"And we've been doing that the whole way."

Gothia says the county expects 75% FEMA reimbursement, leaving the county on the hook for \$3.5 million once all the money is repaid by FEMA.

Gothia said Orange County has so far paid only \$6 million million of the debris bill from Laura.

"We had a budget surplus," Gothia said. "We still have some of it, because we haven't paid all those bills, yet. We're trying to manage some of that so we don't put ourselves in a bind.

"But the closer we get to September, the more in jeopardy that puts us."

Gothia said at last week's commissioners meeting that he had reached out to U.S. Congressman Brian Babin and Texas Department of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd to help kick-start the FEMA payments.

Gothia said: "The issue

with this is we spent all of our reserve funds to cover all of the debris cost, the coronavirus money and all of the glass [broken by Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020]. We haven't received any of it back yet.

"It's going to put us well into next year budgetary time frame that we don't have any of our reserves sitting there anymore, because it's still sitting there [awaiting reimbursement]."

"They will eventually pay us, but I've talked with the Congressman and made sure he understands our urgency here because we're one of the few counties - one of the only counties in Texas - that had a large debris bill from Hurricane Laura.

"We're going to try to make sure they understand our urgency so that come next year, we're not having to borrow money to be able to continue to operate our business."

While finishing up the 2021 budget last September, Gothia announced he was including \$1 million in big ticket purchases but would only OK those purchases if

conditions were good.

The county OK'd nearly a half-million dollars in those delayed purchases for Road & Bridge department on March 23, reasoning they needed new equipment to speed up work on road projects this summer.

That came less than 15 minutes after Commissioners took no action on a request from the Mosquito Control Director Patrick Beebe to purchase another delayed budget item, a \$27,487 F-150 pickup.

Beebe said it was to replace a vehicle with 190,000 miles of use. The Commissioners deemed it not to be "a necessary item."

In the bill-paying section of Tuesday's meeting, Commissioners OK'd a total of \$599,819 - most of it the \$518,662 for AshBritt.

In their last meeting held April 27, they paid \$44,325 in bills for April 20 and \$1,147,583 for the week ended April 27. The latter included about \$400,000 for a new jail roof and other Hurricane Laura repairs covered by insurance checks.

Elections finale From Page 1

Prosperie 427-315 for Place 5 and incumbent Tammi Fissette outpolled challenger John P. Nickum 440-304 for Place 3.

In West Orange, incumbent alderman Brent Dearing won re-election and former alderman Meritta Kennedy reclaimed a spot on city council in a three-person race for two at-large seats. Dearing collected 190 votes, Kennedy 183 and the other candidate, Jay Odom, finished with 171.

* In Pinehurst, where the top three finishers were

elector for three at-large alderman seats, incumbent Sarah McClendon earned 87 votes, followed by Johnny Asevedo (82), incumbent Michael Shahan (63), Troy Pierce (48) and Vance (43).

Incumbent Greg Willis defeated Kerri Donnaud Arington 83-62 for a one-year term as Pinehurst alderman.

* Songe finished with 47.8% of the total votes for Vidor Mayor with 340. Herrera finished with 227 and Seth LaPray 145. In the only contested Vidor council race, former Mayor Kelly Carder turned around a sev-

en-vote early voting deficit with a 116-106 edge in Saturday and Monday votes to win the race by three votes over Joseph Webb, 344-341.

CORRECTION: In a story about early filers for the 2022 Orange County elections last week, it was incorrectly reported that Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte was up for re-election next year. Roccaforte was an interim replacement for his job near the end of a four-year term in 2020 and won re-election until 2024 last year.

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From The Creaux's Nest

BIDEN RIGHT GUY AT THE RIGHT TIME TO BUILD BACK BETTER

While the European economy sunk and continues to sink, the **United States** economy got stronger and is still climbing. This week marks **President Biden's** 109 days in office. **U.S.** employees added 460,000 jobs in February and 916,000 in March, in what was supposed to be a dark winter after 306,000 jobs were lost in December. In April 2021, retail sales have leaped 9.8%, consumer confidence surges after a six year low in April 2020. Housing starts rise 19% in March; business investment is strong; manufacturing output post 2.7% since **Biden** was elected. Much of the surge in the economy can be traced to growing **COVID** vaccination. Under **Biden**, the rollout has been faster than anyone but **Biden** expected. In his first 100 days he promised and achieved 100 million shots. The rollout had stalled when **Biden** took office. From the moment he took office he made combating a raging pandemic the central focus of his presidency, deploying a wartime effort to distribute vaccines. Now other challenges have moved to the forefront. **Biden** is pushing the Federal government's social safety net the most in decades. He is proposing a **\$4-trillion transformation of the U.S. economy**, with plans to rebuild infrastructure, invest in green technology, expand care giving for seniors and subsidize child care. Some people say **Biden** has already achieved the success of **FDR** and **LBJ**. **Biden** is set to meet with house and senate leaders from both parties on May 12 to negotiate police changes. **Biden** said in his speech last week that for more than 30 years, politicians have talked about immigration reform. He said, "It's time to fix it." There's a lot more left to do, the unfinished business is larger than the finished business. **Sometime the right people come along at just the right time.** That is the case with **President Joe Biden**. No one has ever served as president with as much government experience about how the **U.S.** government is suppose to function. His work so far has been applauded and the voting public is giving him very high marks as his poll numbers continue to climb. With 48 years of experience he knows to walk and talk softly, while carrying the "Big Stick." He has been doing government negotiating and government work all of his adult life. He's just the right guy to pick the country up and build back better.

LOCAL ELECTIONS BEHIND US

I'll start with the shameful turnout, I'm not sure but I believe the county turnout was around **16 percent**. Congratulations to Orange Mayor **Larry Spears**, who won with **91 percent**. I don't recall when any candidate ever won by that much.******David Bailey** won a city council seat by **seven votes**. Congrats **David**.******West Orange** has a new mayor after 25 years. We congratulate Mayor **Randy Branch**.******West Orange** citizens returned **Brent Dearing** to the council.******Bridge City** elected **Aaron Roccaforte** to city council. I recall when his father **Kirk** won his first race. **Shirley** would be proud. **Tammi Fiset** was returned to the council as was **Terri Gauthier**.******Pastor Paul Zoch** narrowly unseated **Patty Collins** for a seat on the **Bridge City School Board**. **Judy Cole** received the second most votes in the county behind Orange's **Mayor Spears** by receiving 702 votes to 326 votes for a seat on **Bridge City School Board**.******The City of Pinehurst** returned councilman **Greg Willis**.****Just last week we had mentioned our **Lunch Bunch** buddy **Misty Songe** running for **Vidor** mayor. In a three-way race **Misty** lead her closest opponent **Ronnie Herrera** by 112 votes. They will meet in a run off. **Misty** hopes to pick up some of **Seth LaPray's** 145 votes. Getting folks to go back to the polls is going to be a difficult job. Early Voting is the key.******Kelly Carder** won the council seat over **Joseph Webb** by two votes, 343 to 341.****Thanks to all the candidates who offered themselves to public service.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

May 7 will mark seventeen years since **Judge Grover Halliburton** died. While serving as county judge **Grover** made many improvements. He established **Claiborne West Park**, enjoyed and used by many Orange Countians. When the **Brown Airport** was acquired, his friends referred to the airport as **Halliburton International**, his critics called it a bad investment. **Grover** was a good attorney and wasn't afraid of a good fight. He was also responsible, with a group of guys, of starting the **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** that meets every week. It's a diversified bunch, including many of the elected officials, along with other vocations, retirees and folks from throughout the county. Anyone is always welcome to drop in, break bread, exchange ideas and enjoy the fellowship.******MacDonald Baptist Church** held it's 80th anniversary Sunday. A very large crowd of members and former members attended. **Keble Free** brought his mother **Skipper**, who was baptized in the church in 1945 by the **Rev. Kelly Terrell**. A video was shown of **Pearl Burgess**, 90, who presented the history of the church of which she is a lifelong member. Speaking of **Ms. Pearl**, in this issue, she is publishing her **Mother's Day poem**. The poem fits almost any mother, from a young bride, to grandchildren. **Pearl's poems** were always looked forward to.******Orange** native **O.A. Bum Phillips** was honored by the **Texas Senate** with a resolution honoring his life, from a boy in Or-

ange to present day. The resolution passed last week states, "**Bum Phillips**, to this day, is one of the most popular, respected and admired coaches in the history of American football. A rancher, a horseman and a true Texan, he is known for his dry sense of humor, his laid-back demeanor, his ever present cowboy hat and boots and his famous name, which he still explains is a nickname, not a description." **Sen. John Whitmire** added, "Senators were glad **Phillips** never ran for the Senate, his positive name ID would scare the dickens out of any elected official." Some thing may be in the works to honor **Bum** here at home.****Our friend **Gerald Morris** had a metal knee replacement two weeks ago and is already walking around the block, accompanied by his lovely wife **Julia**.****Longtime columnist **Leon Hale**, who I met in the late 1950's while he was writing for the **Houston Post**, turns 90. For the past 30 years he's been with the **Chronicle** and still writes a Sunday column. **Leon** taught journalism at **Sam Houston State**, where **Joe Parkhurst** was one of his students. His family is throwing a birthday party May 28, at the **Round Top Rifle Association Hall, in Round Top**. (Editor's note: **Leon** passed away in March, two months shy of his 100th birthday.)****Some of you may not be aware that we will have some redistricting state representative changes. We will lose both **Mike Hamilton** and **Joe Deshotel**. The good thing is that **Orange County** will be whole, under just one representative, **Rep. Ritter**. He recently jumped from the **Democratic Party** to the **Republican Party** in a move, I believe, made to secure that he would have a seat and not be shut out by the Republicans drawing up the maps. **Deshotel** has been given a minority district, **Beaumont, downtown, Port Acres** and **Port Arthur**. **Hamilton** will have to move to **Hardin County**, but they styled a district that is 70 percent Republican to assure his re-election.****After following the illness of our friend **Daniel Jacobs**, 70, we are sorry to report that "**Jake**" lost his battle with Leukemia on Friday, April 29, 2011. His funeral service was held Tuesday, May 3. **Daniel** was one of the toughest little guys we ever knew. Many times we wondered if the fight was worth it. However everyday that **Daniel** was able to hold on to life was special to him. He would be real sick and it seemed that he was on his last days only to bounce back. He was productive on the good days. He came by to see us a month ago and he put up about 104 pints of jelly just recently. We will never forget his kindness, his friendship and his fight to live just one more day. Our prayers go out to **Gloria and the family**.******Roger Reinert**, 69, passed away on Friday, April 29. He was a first class guy. He befriended us many years ago when he was manager of **Southlands**. He came from Iowa and married our dear friend **Wanda Beth Holt**. They lived a happy life despite at times both were in poor health. Service was held Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

23 Years Ago-1998

Essie Bellfield is elected mayor of Orange. She's the first woman and first black to ever be elected mayor of the city.******Ted Selman** is elected port commissioner. He beat incumbent **Joel Steirman** by one vote.****Newcomer **Michael Guilbeau** upset port commissioner **John Young**.******Bill Klein** is elected Orange city councilman. **Charlie Brown** beat **Stewart Olive** and **John Read** upset **Ken Phelps**. This is the year of the big "Against" vote.******Sue "MeeMaw" Gunn**, 85, named "Mother of the Year" by the **Record Newspapers**.******Kevin "Pup" Smith** brought his **Dallas Cowboy** show to Orange for basketball and golf games. **The Kevin Smith Foundation** is being set up to help the youth of Orange. (Editor's note: I wonder what ever became of that?)******Capt. David Peck** came down with some kind of crud that's going around. The Captain blacked out, cut his head and ended up in **Doctor's Hospital's ICU** for a couple of days. There are a lot of sick folks.****A young man named **Nations** has taken over **Romano's Shoe repair**.******Sharon Goodyear** is a nice looking waitress at **Heath's Golden Corral** where the **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** meets. **Sharon** takes special care of **Grover**. **Dunn** says, "It's because of his age."****Coming up in a few days, May 8, **Don and Alice Cole** will mark their 50th wedding anniversary. **Commissioner Don** celebrates his 72nd birthday this week. (Editor's note: That was 23 years ago when they celebrated. I can't believe it's been that long. I was there and it looks like **Don's** birthday was yesterday.****The beautiful **Michelle Judice** is retiring from her counselors office job at **Bridge City High School**. She will be attending college full time. (Editor's note: For several years now **Mrs. Al Judice** has been a teacher at **Lamar Port Arthur** and loves it. As so **Al**, he's still not doing nuttin.)******Sue Halliburton** will retire from teaching at **Little Cypress-Mauriceville**. The **Port Arthur** native has been teaching many years. (Editor's note: **Sue** died in January of 2018.)******Flaudry and Audrey, the Bonnin twins**, watched their cousin **Kent Desormeaux** win the **Kentucky Derby**, riding "Real Quiet." When he crossed the finish line he let out a Cajun yell. (Editor's note: Anyone can do a Cajun yell, here's how, just say AAA-EEE.)******Wayne Reeh** announces he will be a candidate for county judge.******Orangefield's Jacob Davis** cleared 19 feet for the **University of Texas** track team. He vaulted 19-8 but brushed the bar on his way down. His photo will appear on the cover of "Track and Field Magazine's" next issue. (Editor's note: I wonder what has become of **Jacob** and what he's doing 23 years later?)******Women's Club** awards memorial scholarships to **Tanya Duhon, Christine Woods** and **Haley Dardeau**.******Luke Durham**, 19, a 1997 Community School grad was killed in an auto accident in Bryan, April 26. He had joined the **United States Air Force** the day before his death.******VFW Post 2775** presents check for \$3,500 for constable **Keith Merritt** to acquire a new drug dog. **Merritt**, this year, lost his canine companion and co-worker **Ali**. For over nine years the 96 pound canine lived with **Merritt, his wife Marlene** and sons **Robert** and **Craig**. **Keith's granddaughter**, three years old **Easton**, spoke German, giving commands to **Ali**. **Merritt** said **Ali** was like a family member, like a son.

43 Years ago-1978

Attorney General John Hill defeats **Gov. Dolph Briscoe** in the Democratic May primary.******Pete Rannels** defeats **James Stringer** for county judge.***County Court at Law judge **Grover Halliburton** is defeated by judge **Don Burgess** in the 260th district court race.***Newly elected Court at Law judge **Pat Clark** is probably in this seat for the short run. His next move will probably be DA or a district judgeship. (Editor's note: That was a good prediction. **Pat** became judge of the 128th District Court and stayed 30 years. He retired and accepted an appointment

to his original county court seat he had won 43 years earlier.)****The **Orange County Bar Association** elects **Roy Dunn**, publisher of the **Opportunity Valley News**, as the recipient of the "Liberty Bell Award" for his contribution to the community. The award was presented at a ceremony held in the 128th District Courtroom.

48 Years Ago-1973

David Guidry, **Bridge City High School** track star, tied for third in the state tract meet in the 338 hurdles. The **B.C.** boy's relay team, coached by **Bobby Puentes**, won third place with a time of 3:7.4. Spotted at the meet were **Don Harmon** and sons.****The **West Orange Chiefs** won the school's first title in baseball, coached by **Ronnie Anderson**. They won **Dist. 10-3A** Championship in a game played against **Silsbee 6-3**. The slugging of **Jerry Caillier, James Long** and **Ronnie Rost** and the pitching of **Paul Lee Richardson** and **Ray Pousson**, make the **Chiefs** a hard team to beat.******Margie Black**, of **Orangefield High**, and **Mark Dunn**, of **Bridge City High**, were selected best writers by the **Press Club of Southeast Texas**. Their articles appeared in Sunday's **Port Arthur News**.******Billy Burrough** is installed as **Jaycee** president.******Gary Savoy** is elected president of the **Orange Optimist Club**. **Buddy Rhodes** and **Bob Dartez** were named vice-presidents.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Former House Speaker **John Boehner's** new book, "On the House, a Washington Memoir," is the book that he described **Sen. Ted Cruz** as "Lucifer in the Flesh;" The **Freedom Caucus** members as "Political Terrorists," and "Far-Right Knuckleheads." He calls **Cable TV FOX**, "Noise." He writes, "The week of **Jan. 6** was a dark and tragic week for America. I can't imagine any of us will ever escape the image of the **United States Capital** being invaded and ransacked after being urged on by the president. Some **Trump** supporters still believe he walks on water. The **Party of Lincoln** and **Reagan** is off taking a nap."

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Next Sunday is **Mother's Day** but everyday that goes by I miss mine. If you are fortunate enough to have a **Mom**, you should take advantage of every opportunity you have to be with her or call her regularly. Do for her when you can because when the day comes when you lose her you will experience the deepest hurt you will ever know except for the loss of a child. **Mom** will always be the last one at your side. She would take a bullet for you. Don't forget her this **Mother's Day** and all other days.****Speaking of wonderful ladies, I got help from a few last week. Thanks to **Alice Hartsfield, Angie Breaux, Karen Fisher** and **Karen Dunn Gros**. If you need something done, you can trust a woman to do it. When I really need help for health reasons or other, I always know I can count on the girls. I also found one of the greatest gifts in old age is "a daughter." Sons are great to talk fishing, hunting and sports with but daughters are most often counted on.****A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days and other occasions. **May 5**, a young lady I met over 30 years ago, a teacher, **Debbie Gregg** celebrates today. So does one of **Dayle** and **Bussy Gunn's** lovely daughters **Bridget Toohey** and **Lindsey Dardau**.***This also would have been the birthday of **Jimmy Scales**.****On **April 6**, our longtime friend, first **Black** woman to be elected mayor of **Orange**, **Bessie Bellfield**, turns 89 today. **Gina Minnino**, educator, our friend over the years, marks another birthday today also **Brandon Bond, Mary** and **Neil's** son.***The late **H.D. Pate**, longtime **Bridge City** attorney died on this day in 2019.******May 7**, our buddy over the years, longtime **BCISD** assistant superintendent **Joe Chenella**, celebrates a birthday today. Also celebrating if former **WO-S, University Texas** and **NFL** star, safety **Earl Thomas** of **Orange** and **Bridge City's** own **Connie Angelle**.***On this day in 2004, 17 years ago, former county judge and lawyer **Grover Halliburton** died.****On **April 8**, pretty **Vickie Snell** celebrates.******May 9**, This special guy, who will do to ride the range with, is a long-time friend. **Ray Cotton** turns 91 today. We celebrated his 80th at his club and 11 years have already gone by. Best wishes for many more. He takes care of himself, making 100 very likely*** Also celebrating today are **Doug Haven, Justin Dupuis** and educator **Sharon Wolley**. What a nice lady.******May 10** finds pretty **Katie Hubbard** celebrating another birthday.******May 11, Sherry Walles** celebrates today also **Pat Collins** and **David Pitts**. Happy Birthday to all.****I had a nice phone visit Sunday evening with **Port Commissioner Keith Wallace**. I always get a nice visit from the **Reliable Cleaners** guy. I actually called to speak with **Logan** but **Keith** took up my time so I wouldn't get to tell **Logan** a secret **Keith** is keeping from him.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

These two Cajun truck drivers, **Cleo Thibodeaux** and **Rufus Comeaux**, has worked together as a team of drivers for years. They were never apart. Business got slow and dere was a cutback to only one driver per truck so **Cleo** and **Rufus** applied for a job at a bigger trucking company. Boat of dem pass da two tests. Dere was only one more test to take, da emergency test.

Da instructor explain to **Thibodeaux**, "You drvin down da road, you goin' down a hill, you goin' 80, 70 mile an hour, all of a sudden you brakes go out." **Cleo** hollar, "KeeYaw!" Da instructor continues, "Up da road dere's a one-lane bridge, wit a big dropoff on boat sides, an a 18 wheeler jack-knif across dat bridge, Mais wat you gonna do you?"

Cleo say, "Me, I'm gonna wake up **Rufus**." "How come you do dat hanh?" da instructor axe. "Well, said **Cleo**, because **Rufus** him, ain't never seen no wreck like dis before."

C'EST TOUT

This week **Roy** is publishing two columns, one the 10th anniversary of **bin Laden's** death and a "Down Life's Highway" column he is dedicating to **Joe Hudson**, a fan and collector of "Highway" columns.****Well, I'm done. Thanks for tagging along. I put a lot into this column. Tomorrow I get the results of last weeks test. Please pray for me. Have a **Happy Mother's Day**. Take care and God bless.

(Editor's note:) The views expressed in this column are those of the writer, not necessarily those of this publication.

Mom, Young Switch Road and the little shack that built me

Memories of the past are a reflection of the road we've traveled and where it brought us

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY
ROY DUNN
 For The Record

In my mind, from time to time, I go back to times of my youth. Raised on Young Switch Road, named after the railroad switch station, less than 150 yards from Mom and my grain storage shack we called home. It was salvaged from a farm and drug to our spot by a team of mules, pulling our shed on a sled. That little one-room building was our castle. It had room for one bed. I slept on a corn shuck pallet. Two boards nailed side by side was our table. Nail kegs, with feed sack covers, were our chairs. We had no utilities or indoor plumbing. A coal oil lamp and stove gave us light and a way to heat.



Roy Dunn

Mom was a wash lady who did laundry and ironing for the well to do in town. She washed on a scrub board, with homemade lye soap, mornings and hung the clothes to dry on the line. At night she ironed with a sad-iron way into the late hours. During cotton-picking time, she and I were in the field before the dew dried and picked all day. We then came home to chores. Five days a week. I woke at 4 a.m. and walked a half-mile to the Boudoins' place and milked two cows and fed the calves. I was paid with two gallons of milk a week, and a lifesaver it was. From it we got our butter, milk and clabber. I did other farm work also and during the sugarcane season, I cut cane. Being athletic, I was pretty good at it. I shucked corn and grained it all day and was paid with a bag of corn that I took to the mill for meal. They milled the corn, kept a portion, then netted out a small amount to me, which provided cush-cush, cornbread and a base for frying fish and so forth. The job I hated worse was pulling indigo in the rice field, standing in water, hip high all day. I got a job in town at a restaurant where I washed dishes and peeled potatoes. I made 50 cents a night and all the potato peelings I wanted. Mom would boil them and make soup.

Young Switch Road either had ankle-deep dust or mud on it. With a good wind, dust covered everything in sight. However, it wasn't only the wind, Young Switch was where sugar cane was loaded onto boxcars for the syrup or sugar mill. Horse drawn wagons or tractors could make dust clouds. I learned to drive horses, mules and tractor pulling wagons at that old station. The loads moved up slowly to the weight scales. I moved them up while the men visited in the shack. The job didn't pay anything but it was exciting and made an eight-year-old boy feel grown up and important. The biggest thrill was when a farmer taught me how to drive a tractor. There were few in those days, in fact, I just recall a couple. Horses and mules pulled most loads. The switch station had other uses. Livestock would arrive by train and be



Tools of Mom's trade. A simple life during hard times.

driven down Young Switch Road to the sale barn and slaughterhouse.

Early mornings Mom would wash a load of clothes for the town folks, hanging them on the line to dry while we spent all day in the cotton field. When we would get in evenings, she starched and ironed them for people to pick up. The next day we would repeat the process. One day, while we were away, a load of mustangs arrived at the switch station. The horses being herded to the sale barn kicked up clouds of dust as they thundered down that narrow dirt road. Very seldom had I seen Mom in tears during those hard depression days but this day she cried openly. All the clothes on the line had to be taken down, rewashed and hung again the next morning. She earned 35 cents a load, about what we made picking cotton and not only had we lost that load, a second load had come in and stacked up on her.

I remember vividly saying, "Don't cry Mom, I'll help you." A young, single mom when there was often little or nothing to eat had it pretty rough. Mom developed blood poisoning after a needle broke off in her thumb. Her arm got three times its size before Dr. Miller got to it. For weeks she couldn't work. We nearly starved; my little stomach was only a ridge. My legs were so thin that red and white blotches covered them. Later I came down with tuberculosis that I never knew I had until test revealed it

when I was an adult. I knew I had been awfully sick. I carry the scar tissue on my lungs today. Classmates recall that I always had a snotty nose.

Being raised in that little shack on Young Switch Road wasn't all bad, it had its rewards. The Pan-Am Oil Co. switched there and the conductor always had company comic books that he gave me. I loved reading even then. I spent many hours with the hobos who traveled the rails. They weren't bums, just in transit looking for work. They told many stories about home, their travels and the families they left behind. I loved their stories and still look forward to a good story today. Those hobos probably had a lot to do with spending most of a lifetime storytelling. I loved the sound of that old steam engine. I would climb to the top of the derrick and watch the train coming for miles. Smoke from its stack reaching high in the air. No amount of money could convince me to climb that derrick today.

I've told the following hundreds of times before but it's because I've searched, since I was a boy, for the rest of the words. It was a song sung by a young hobo, playing a guitar, which was rare in Cajun country, where mostly just accordions, fiddles, scrub boards and washtubs were played. Anyway, the guy I call Hobo Bill sang this song but I recall only the chorus. It went like this, "Well, I wondered home one day where I used to run and play, only to find I was too late. Old Rover was gone from his pallet on the lawn, the old folks had died or gone away."

Well, the old folks are all gone; the Young Switch station is no more, the dirt road is blacktopped and called Paul Hardy Road. I have only the memories of that wonderful Mom, Young Switch Road and that little shack that built me.

Sunday is Mother's Day. Mom will be gone 17 years, come Sept. 2. It's hard to believe it's been that long. Maybe it's because, in my mind and the memories of home, she still lives within me everyday. Mothers must be God's chosen people. If you have one, count your blessings. If your Mom is gone, think about her and give thanks for all she did for you. Thinking of you Mom. Happy Mother's Day to each and every Mom, May God bless you.

Mother's Special Day

by the late Pearl Burgess

My thoughts go back to my younger life
 When my true love asked me to be his wife.
 Together we were happy as we could be
 Time blessed us with children, there were three.

They stumbled and laughed as we watched them play
 Growing so fast each and every day.
 As they grew older, we were never apart
 The love for each other came from the heart.

Years went by, each left their nest
 To make a home like all of the rest.
 The families have grown and happy too
 I love each one, they know it is true.

I'll lay aside my favorite book
 It's a special day to bake and cook.
 The door swings open, I hear them say
 We love you very much,
 Happy Mother's Day!

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LSCO, GOACC honor student and teacher

Staff Report For The Record

Lamar State College Orange (LSCO) and the Greater Orange-Area Chamber of Commerce awarded an Employee of the Month and a Student of the Semester at the LSCO campus this past week.

LSCO President Thomas Johnson, Chamber President Ida Schossow, and Chamber Board Chair Chris Kovatch, among others, presented the awards to Becky McAnelley, LSCO Employee of the Semester, and Hannah Shearin, LSCO Student of the Semester.

Hannah is Secretary of the Student Government Association. She participates in every event on campus and helps promote the events throughout campus. Faculty members appreciate her regular contribution in classes and her "natural talent" for working well with other students.

Before coming to LSCO, Hannah completed enough Dual Credit hours while attending high school to earn her Associate's Degree, while also earning her high school diploma at the same time. Hannah continues to take classes at LSCO and plans to transfer to Lamar University to study Speech Pathology.

Faculty and staff describe Becky McAnelley, LSCO's Employee of the Semester, as always having the "best interest of LSCO students and community in mind." Her coworkers describe her as patient, tireless in her efforts, and a delight to work with.

Becky began her career at LSCO as a student worker and was later hired as secretary to the Dean of Student Services. She held the re-

cruiter/advisor position before moving into her current position as Registrar. In a career of over thirty years at LSCO, Becky has been an integral part of each student's success at LSCO.

LSCO congratulates these two Gator family members and is proud of their accomplishments.

American Legion Post #49 Election of Officers

The Lloyd Grubbs American Legion Post #49 located at 108 Green Ave. in Orange will hold Installation of Officers will be on Saturday, May 8th at 2 pm.

Pictured left are: Faculty and staff describe Becky McAnelley, LSCO's Employee of the Semester, and Hannah Shearin, LSCO Student of the Semester.

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jesus In The House

Pastor Charles Empey Columnist For The Record

Mark 2:1 "And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house."

Here in this passage we see the phrase, "...it was noised that he was in the house." Capernaum is the town where Jesus resided and ministered out of in His travels. What a great place to live where Jesus the Son of God dwelt.

Now what's my point today? Can it be said of your community that there are houses where the resurrected Christ dwells? Oh, it would have to be evidenced by those living there, but does He dwell in your house?



Pastor Charles Empey

Is your house a place of welcome to Jesus? When is the last time you said or heard someone say of a family in your community, a house in your neighborhood, that Jesus obviously dwells with that family? Can Jesus be seen in a house/family in your neighborhood? Are there families in your neighborhood who's life displays that Jesus dwells with them?

In the days that Jesus walked upon the earth, people were drawn to Him for His great love for others and readiness to minister that love in anyway that would bring victory over life and disease and hardship. All you had to do was go to His house in Capernaum, or go to Him wherever He traveled. There you would find God's love, grace and mercy to all who would enter in or come to Him.

Do we have those homes where Jesus has been invited to dwell and live through those living there? Do we have communities where there are homes who live out the love and grace of Jesus in them, where you can find refuge and loving counsel and help? Can you go to your neighbor, or can they come to your house and find the life of Christ lived through you to their care and love? Can your neighbors come to you and find a haven of safety and prayer? Is your house a haven of God's safety and care? Is Jesus in your house?

There was a day when I was a child that children could run up and down the streets and never fear, and every house on the street was a place of safety if needed. There was a day that the families who had invited Jesus in to live in their hearts and way of life were in abundance. The neighborhood was safe, even in the middle of the night. Neighbors new each other and spoke to each other, and even gathered on their driveways to fellowship. They were always helping to meet each other's needs, digging ditches together, repairing each other's homes together and charged nothing. They loved each other, and sometimes in spite of each other. Jesus was in enough of those homes that it influenced every house on the block and through the countryside. Farmers helped each other get their crops in and harvested. Jesus was at the house of enough of those people that it changed country sides and whole communities.

When people come into your home, do they say or at least be thinking, "Jesus lives there?" Did they see the life of Jesus demonstrated through the hearts and lives of those there? Homes that invite Jesus into their hearts and lives, are homes where you will find safety and love. Your children will be safe there.

The only thing that is going to change America town by town, neighborhood by neighborhood is when homes invite Jesus into their lives and their home becomes a haven of God's safety and love. You can't change the world, but you can change your home, and home by home America will be saved. These families will become those sitting in God's churches, praying and worshipping together, loving each other in spite of differences...one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

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

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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
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
8608 MLK • Orange • 886-1291
Pastor: Valerie Sansing
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Provided.
(www.faihorange.org)

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.,
Pastor Cody Hogden
Email: office@fbcof.com / Website: www.fbcocf.com

Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
Jon Brinlee, Pastor
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Children & Youth Activities - 6:00 pm

Orange First Church of the Nazarene
3810 MLK Drive, Orange
Lead Pastor Rev. Brad McKenzie
Worship Director: Alyssa Click
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Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
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Flounder taking up the slack

FISHING
CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

It comes as no surprise that it coincides with the opening of the Game Reserve, but nonetheless, the flounder catching is currently getting most of the attention. The size of the fish has been above average and the numbers are there as well.

It can be a little frustrating to rush straight to one of the narrow bayous leading into the Reserve only to discover that an armada set their alarm clocks a little earlier. On an outgoing tide, the mouth of the bayou can be as productive as the bayou itself, but make no mistake about it....most flounder addicts know the prime spots in the main channel.

Fortunately, more especially when the bite is as good as it is right now, there are other options that can be as productive as these bayous, if not better. In fact, I would conservatively estimate that eighty percent of the local flounder enthusiasts never bother to fish the Reserve.

In order to save words without getting bogged down on the best tide change, salinity and time of the year we'll accept that the flounder are here now and discuss what we can do to catch them. Keith Lake is a choice spot that you will have to carefully explore in order to best exploit. The Pass requires little scouting, but the back lakes require navigating a lot of shallow shell.

Hands down, the lion's share of flounder advocates anchor on the breaks bordering the ship channel or Intracoastal. It has been my experience that the flounder that hang on these breaks are larger on average and there is always a spot to fish no matter how late you sleep in.

We do well enough fishing both small tails tipped with shrimp or covered with a scent as well as Gulp curly tails rigged on a lead head heavy enough to deal with the tide. As a rule, we anchor shallow (5 to 8 feet) and cast out to the break. It is imperative that your jig be heavy enough to stay in contact with the shell for the entire cast.

On more than one occasion we have also done well casting toward the bank and fishing the shallow shell. A large percentage of the anglers that fish this type of water rely on finger mullet or mud minnows rigged on a Carolina rig.

In the event that you don't have access to a boat, I know of no other area more promising than the rocks that make up the north revetment wall on Pleasure Island. Most days you would swear that the only place to fish are the pipes leading into the spoil areas, but that isn't the case at all. I wouldn't pass them up if I was the first one there, but expect a crowd before you are done!

There are numerous spots along the wall where small piles of rocks lie within a cast of the shore in eight to ten feet of wa-

COLBURN Page 3B

Opinions vary on Texans, Cowboy's picks

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

Most of the country's sports journalists were right on the money when their mock drafts indicated that as many as four quarterbacks would be selected in the first 10 picks of last weekend's National Football League's 2021 draft.

There was no surprise whatsoever that Clemson's Trevor Lawrence would go the Jacksonville Jaguars as the No. 1 pick in the entire draft. And with BYU's Zach Wilson going next to the New York Jets and Trey Lance of North Dakota State going third to the San Francisco 49ers, it was still not shocking news.

But when it came down to the drafting success of the Lone Star State's two franchises—the Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys—there were widespread differences of opinions of how each team did, especially from the Houston Chronicle's Sunday edition.

The fact that four of the eight teams that tried to make a deal with Texans' first-year general manager Nick Caserio and new head coach David Culley for disgruntled quarterback Deshaun Watson—Jets, 49ers, Bears (Justin Fields) and Patriots (Mac Jones)—drafted quarterbacks in the early rounds quickly changed the thinking of the Texans' front office.

Instead of looking for the best available athlete for their first pick—which was No. 67 overall in the third round—Caserio spent the remainder of Friday's first round searching the draft for a quarterback that might be available Saturday when the Texans finally got their chance to pick.

Caserio chose Stanford's Davis Mills, a 6-4, 217-pound underclassman who opted for the NFL draft, and decided that he probably will need plenty of NFL experience and will be listed behind Tyrod Taylor and Ryan Finley on the quarterback depth chart



Stanford quarterback Davis Mills has been drafted by the Houston Texans.

to begin summer drills.

The few teams still interested in trading for Watson will wait until his 22 lawsuits are history before even talking to Caserio. There's a good chance Watson will be reprimanded, fined or even suspended by the NFL and perhaps even arrested by the Houston police department.

And while the Texans focused on replacing Watson and departed best-ever defensive end J.J. Watt, the Dallas Cowboys' idiot owner Jerry Jones went after much-needed defensive players and grabbed nine of his 11 picks on that side of the ball.

ESPN's First Take program Monday morning said the consensus of their commentators was that the Cowboys made the most improvement of any NFL team with last weekend's draft, especially at linebacker with Penn State's Micah Parsons and LSU's Jabril Cox.

The Chronicle's long-time NFL beat writer John McClain graded each team's draft and rated the Cowboys with a D+ (the second-lowest mark), explaining that Jerry Jones did not get the cornerback in the first round that he needed and also that the owner

took some players with character issues. And he gave the Texans a C+ on their five picks.

But McClain's two columnist compadres Jerome Solomon and Brian T. Smith saw the Texans' draft a lot differently and commented in Sunday's paper.

Solomon wrote that Houston's taking a middle-of-the-pack quarterback—who was the eighth one picked in the draft—for a team desperate for defense makes no sense at all. And the Texans' front office celebrated as if they had won the lottery.

"This isn't to slam Mills—who seems like a sweetheart of a guy—this is about an organization that continues to make questionable moves and offers very little explanation as to why said moves make any sense," Solomon stated.

Smith takes it one step farther after Caserio explained that drafting a quarterback was about creating as much competition as possible.

"So, here's a free tip to the new GM who received a six-year, \$30 million contract to take over the football side

KAZ'S KORNER Page 3B



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26 OC athletes selected for SETX Coaches All-Star games

**Mark Dunn
For The Record**

Twenty-six Orange County athletes have been selected to compete in the upcoming 2021 CHRISTUS All-Star Classic by the Southeast Texas Coaches Association. The East versus West popular showcase returns with a full slate of games to shine a light on the region's top high school athletes, trainers and coaches.

Orange County athletes selected as softball All-Stars are Madeline Stephenson, Bailey Frenzel, and Karson Friar all of Little Cypress-Mauriceville; Codie Sorge, Emma Humplik, Ryden

Stanfield and Olivia Grant all from Orangefield. Chosen from West Orange-Stark was Taliyah Washington. All will be playing for the East Team.

Baseball All-Stars include Sam Carpenter of Bridge City, Bryce Bergeron and Tyler Washington of Orangefield as East Team players.

Volleyball All-Stars from Orange County are Bridge City's Waverlee Cooper and Emma Humplik of Orangefield for the East Team.

All-Stars selected for Boys Basketball are Gabe Castillo, Bridge City, Quintin Proctor and Bryan Keller of West Orange-Stark and Jesse Doucette from Little Cypress-Mauriceville.

Football East Team All-Stars from Orange County include Cody Howard and Oscar Carranza of Bridge City, Ethan Tant, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Mason Sampson, Orangefield and from West Orange-Stark are Miquel Villeda, Braden Gant, Jasachin Harris and Braden Gant.

All-Star Softball and Baseball games will be held at Barbers Hill High School on Wednesday, June 16.

All-Star boys and girls basketball games will be held at East Chambers High School on Thursday, June 17.

The All-Star Football East versus West game will be held Friday June 18 at Beau-

mont ISD Memorial Stadium.

Coaches are also ready to guide these stellar student-athletes during their respective games. In softball competition, Rebekah Ragsdale of the Orangefield Lady Bobcats will coach the East Team, while Garrett Gates and the Huffman Hargrave Lady Falcon coaching staff will lead the West Team. The All-Star baseball showdown will feature the East Team led by Jacob Walton of the West Brook Bruins going up against David Denny of the Barber Hills Eagles leading the West Team.

The All-Star Volleyball game will feature Maci

Wilmore from Deweyville coaching the East Team against the West Team led by Jonathan Snipes of East Chambers.

On the basketball side, the boys' All-Star competition will have David Green of Beaumont United coaching the East Team facing off against Todd Sutherland of East Chambers leading the West Team. The All-Star girls' basketball game will feature Kara Skinner of Port Neches-Groves HS leading the East team and Troy Carrell of Woodville HS coaching the West Team.

The All-Star football game will have Marcus Graham of Beaumont United HS lead-

ing the East Team up against Greg Neece of Anahuac HS coaching the West Team.

"We value our continued partnership with the Southeast Texas Coaches Association and are excited to see the return of the CHRISTUS All-Star Classic," said Curtis Thorpe, MD, Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon, CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Sports Medicine and Beaumont Bone and Joint Institute. "Because of our ongoing commitment to keep local athletes healthy, it is rewarding to see the hard work of these student-athletes on full display during this tremendous event."

Audubon Supports U.S. House Bill to Fund Wildlife Recovery

**Matt Smelser
National Audubon Society
Public Relations**

"The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will be an important part of how we respond to the loss of 3 billion birds in North America since 1970," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy, National Audubon Society. "The

dedicated funding provided in this bill will help state wildlife agencies proactively conserve vulnerable species, like the Golden-Winged Warbler and Black Tern."

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) reintroduced the Recovering America's Wildlife Act today. The legislation, often referred to as RAWA, passed the House

last year as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, but did not move further. RAWA enjoys broad bipartisan support – with 10 original co-sponsors from across the United States.

"Congress has the opportunity to not only help wildlife, but also create jobs in communities across the country," said Greenberger.

The Recovering America's

Wildlife Act will dedicate \$1.3 billion for states and territories and \$97.5 million to tribal nations annually for proactive, on-the-ground conservation projects. It is estimated that RAWA will create over 30,000 jobs and generate over \$93 billion in total economic activity.

Current funding for state Wildlife Action Plans, col-

lectively about \$70 million per year, is less than five percent of what is necessary to conserve the species most at risk. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act aimed to help fill the gap. It provides 75 percent of the cost, which equals the \$1.3 billion per year outlined in the bill. Each state would be responsible for coming up with the other

25 percent.

Today the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife submitted a letter signed by more than 350 organizations and businesses, including the National Audubon Society, to the U.S. House encouraging support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Texas State Parks Provide Physical, Mental and Economic Benefits for Texans

**Staff Report
For The Record**

AUSTIN, TX — Each year over 8 million people visit Texas State Parks, a number that continues to increase. Texas State Parks provide more than just recreation but also help enhance the well-being of Texans. Studies have shown that time spent outdoors can help improve mood, problem-solving abilities and physical health.

Texas State Parks are a major economic engine for Texas. The recreational industry, of which Texas State Parks are a significant part, generate 327,000 jobs and \$35.9 billion to the Texas economy. Texas State Parks have \$891 million in economic value, create 6,801 jobs, and generate \$18 million in sales tax revenue. Cooper Lake State Park, near the Dallas-Fort Worth Me-

troplex, alone generates 23.4 jobs locally with \$1.4 million in economic value and \$33,000 in sales tax revenue.

Cooper Lake State Park receives over 112,000 visits each year, 54% of which are from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Cooper Lake State Park has two unique park units that comprise over 3,000 acres of parklands to explore, with a 20,000-acre lake in between to recreate. The park has around 20 miles of trails, two swimming areas, over 200 campsites, six day-use areas, and multiple boat ramps. Cooper Lake State Park provides multiple activities to all visitors including the opportunity to share meals and stories around a campfire, kayaking throughout the lake and fishing in multiple locations. Crappie, bluegill, bass and catfish are often caught at both park units. A fishing li-

cence is not required if fishing from the bank or fishing pier within the state park. Other popular park activities including hiking, playing on the playground, swimming and simply relaxing and enjoying the outdoors.

Cooper Lake State Park has a \$5 entrance fee for adults and kids 12 and under are always free. Senior Texans 65 or older will only pay \$3 to enter the park daily with a Senior Pass. A Texas State Park Annual Pass can also be purchased for \$70. Texas State Park Annual Passes are valid for 12 months. More information about Cooper Lake State Park can be found on the South Sulphur Unit Facebook page, on the Doctor's Creek Unit Facebook page, on the park website or by calling 903-945-5256 or 903-395-3100.



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Too much spring wind forces local anglers to adjust

Outdoors Captain Chuck Uzzle For The Record

In all my years on the water I would have to think hard to remember ever having this much wind for this long during the spring. It has just absolutely howled for nearly a month straight and according to the forecast it doesn't look like it plans to let up any time soon.



For obvious reasons the folks wanting to get out on Sabine Lake or Calcasieu has been pinned down to very small areas that offer the most protection. These spots tend to get crowded in a hurry which only adds more misery to the equation. For a few anglers these poor conditions have been just what the doctor ordered to force them to spend some time fishing water they normally wouldn't look at.

For plenty of local anglers the wind has completely shut them out and forced them into doing yard work or picking up the golf clubs. Those

that just have to fish have been probing the river and surrounding bayous and finding some really good fish, especially largemouth bass.

There have always been a few dedicated anglers who never left the protection of the river for the wide open spaces of the lake. These guys are the ones you never really pay attention to as you run by them and they like it that way. These guys never leave the river and there is a good reason for that, they are catching good fish and don't really feel like sharing that with the rest of the world.

Now anyone who has done much fishing locally has run into a few bass here and there but that's not the case right now. I have seen a couple of local 5 fish stringers in the past several weeks that would lead you to believe they came from Toledo Bend or Sam Rayburn, I'm talking about 20 pounds plus! These fish are typical river and bayou fish that relate to all kinds of structure.

Boat docks, brush piles, and just about anything else you could imagine are holding fish in good numbers and size. A couple of guys I know well have a very defined

route in which they fish both natural and man made structure as of late. Small spinner baits, crank baits, and wacky worms have been the best producers day in and day out with a few good fish coming on small top water plugs as well.

Easily the biggest key is to find some structure and have a decent tide change working in your favor. Those two elements are a must if you want to catch some of these better fish.

Easily some of the best bass I have personally seen caught in local waters have been full of shad so it's not

hard to figure out what to key on. The huge schools of small shad have lead many anglers to productive areas that they normally don't fish; they have just been following the bait and fishing these areas thoroughly.

I'm sure they will keep hustling these good fish as long as the wind keeps them pinned down and the fish continue to cooperate. The combination of good fish close to home is a tough pattern to top.

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B



Houston Texans new head coach David Scully

of a franchise that officially still features the embattled Deshaun Watson as its starting quarterback," Smith wrote.

"Texas fans aren't idiots, Nick. They're not dumb. They're not stupid. They proudly live in the great state of Texas and, thus, believe in and swear by the life-affirming power of football. And many of the truest and most dedicated Texans fans traced their NFL love back to the Oilers," Smith continued.

"So, cut the baby-food coachspeak, Nick. And at least show a little personal and professional respect for a fanbase that your battered franchise will soon be begging to semi-fill NRG Stadium in less than five months," Smith concluded.

KWICKIES...

After losing to a shutout last week, Orange's Chad Dallas enjoyed the plethora of runs his Tennessee Volunteer teammates gave him and coasted to a 14-4 victory over the Kentucky Wildcats last Thursday to improve his record to 7-1 for the season.

Dallas pitched six innings, gave up four runs (three earned), six hits, two walks and struck out seven to raise his strikeout total to 79.

And while on the subject, the Lamar Cardinals split the four-game series with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with a 6-3 victory Sunday afternoon to remain in the same position in the Southland Conference standings at 11-13. Chad's older brother Jack Dallas was credited with the save.

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers keeps telling the front office that he doesn't want to play there anymore and to trade him, but like with the Texans and Deshaun Watson earlier this year, it's falling on deaf ears.

The Southland Conference champion Sam Houston Bearkats advanced to the semifinal round in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs by upsetting defending champion North Dakota State 24-20 Sunday in Huntsville before a rowdy crowd of 5,000 fans at Bowers Stadium. The Bearkats (8-0) are two victories from

their first FCS national title and the first of any kind since they split an NAIA championship in 1964. They will play James Madison Saturday at a site yet to be determined.

Sam Burns took advantage of a ball hit in the water by Keegan Bradley that broke the first-place tie and went on to his first PGA Tour victory in the Valspar Championship Sunday at Palm Harbor, Fla. Today he is \$1,242,000 richer from the win.

And a bit closer to home, Mike Wier won the Insperty Invitational Sunday at The Woodlands beating John Daly by two strokes and finishing with 66-68—134.

JUST BETWEEN US...

The Kentucky Derby's winningest trainer Bob Baffert (7) and winningest jockey John Velazquez teamed up to take a small cheap horse like Medina Spirit with 12-1 odds and win Saturday's 147th running of the classic event at Churchill Downs which made good money for those railbirds who believed in those two horse racing geniuses. The horse ran a great time of 2:01.02 and paid \$26.20 to win on a two-dollar wager. Baffert said he will announce this weekend whether Medina Spirit will compete for the Triple Crown by running in the Preakness Stakes on May 15.

Colburn From Page 1B

While live shrimp or finger mullet get first call around the pipes, most of the more successful fishermen get it done with small Swim Baits or jigs when fishing the submerged granite.

The only drawback is the footing so be extra careful when selecting your spot. When fishing plastics do not be surprised if trout and redfish crash your party.

Mainly because the technique is so akin to bass fishing, but I prefer to take my chances working the flooded grass on the east shoreline of the lake with three-inch

Swim Baits, four-inch Sea Shads or quarter ounce spinnerbaits.

I don't fool nearly as many flounder with the spinnerbait, but a redfish prowling the same stretch of shoreline cannot resist the flash and vibration of the blade. For years I relied strictly on the small plastics tipped with a piece of shrimp, but my go-to lure today is the three inch Usual Suspect Swim Bait.

It, too, will attract both redfish and trout, but it is a great choice for covering more water at a slower pace and you can even allow it to

sink to the bottom to interest more flounder. There are a variety of colors that work well, but I have a lot of confidence in Bunker Shad and Soldier Shad.

When the grass is flooded, I keep my bait closer to the shore, but it is not unusual to find those same fish ten feet off the grass on a low tide. The sensitivity of braided line is an advantage as well.

Give it a try as there are lots of places to get it done, even on the windiest of days. It won't be this user-friendly a month from now!

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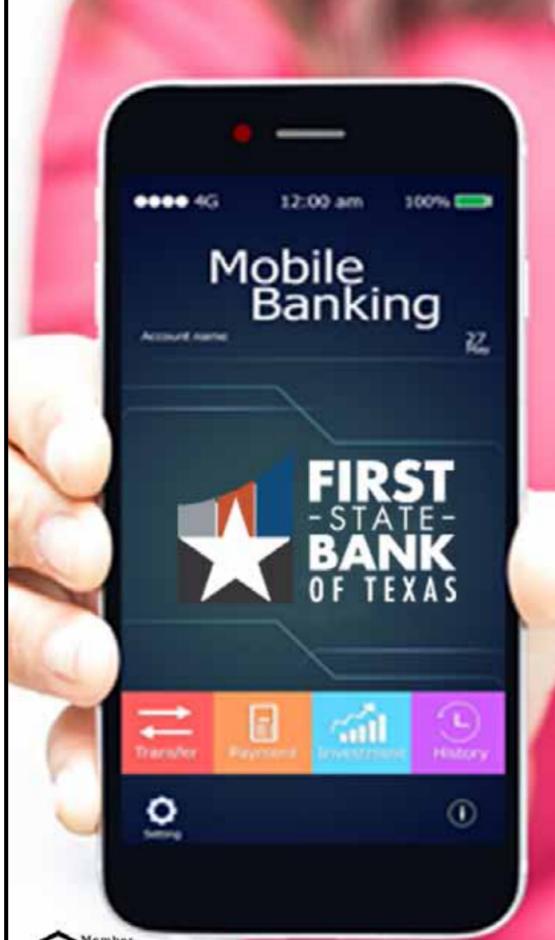
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Deaths & Memorials

Thomas Penn Johnson, 87, Orange

Thomas Penn Johnson, 87, of Orange, passed away on May 2, 2021, in Port Arthur. A visitation will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 7, 2021 at First Presbyterian Church in Orange. A memorial service will follow at 11:00 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Orange. Interment will follow services. A gathering of family and friends will be held after services, with a lunch to remember the well-lived life of Thomas. Born in Austin, Texas, on October 31, 1933, he was the son of Thomas Edward Johnson and Elizabeth (Penn) Johnson. His aunt and uncle operated the largest river boat in Texas on Lake Austin, and at the age of 14 he learned to pilot the boat, and was the youngest person licensed in the state of Texas to pilot a boat, quickly excelled in maneuvering it. Penn graduated college from the University of Texas. He worked for Levingston Shipbuilding Co. for many years as a structural engineer and designer. In 1976, he started Penn Engineering and was in business for 36 years. Even though Penn Engineering employed many people Mike Nies was



Thomas Johnson

the only employee from the beginning to end and was like a son to Penn. Penn was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church in Orange, where he served his Lord faithfully. He belonged to numerous professional organizations related to engineering where he developed and grew several friendships and served on numerous committees. Penn led a life full of hard work, dedication, and service and will be deeply missed by all those he came to know and love. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Johnson; loving wife, Jane Johnson; brother, Marion Johnson; sister, Sissy Lawshae; and grandchildren, Sarah Patten and Jack Penn Patten. He is survived by his children, Cheryl Lynn Johnson Robertson and husband John, Scott Johnson, and Elizabeth Marie Johnson Cooper and husband Scott; grandchildren, Elizabeth Duhon and husband Erik, Laurie Echols and husband Colin, Jane Gaspard and husband Blake, and Thomas Cooper; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The Record Announcements . . .

Donna Peterson III Performs at Julie Rogers Theater

At just a little over 3-years old, Donna Peterson III of Orange performed in her second dance recital on Sunday night at Julie Rogers Theater in Beaumont. She was a dancer during Studio Seventeen's annual dance recital. She is the daughter of Donna Peterson of Orange.



Mclain Molley earns Eagle Scout Award

Mclain Molley received his Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor recently. Mclain is the son of Tanya and Robin Molley and the grandson of Judge Carl and Micaela Thibodeaux. His brother Mikail is also working on qualifying for his Eagle Scout award.



Friends of the Orange Depot board meeting May 13

The next meeting of the board of the Friends of the Orange Depot will be held on Thursday, May 13 at 5:30PM at the Orange Depot, 1210 Green Avenue. All are urged to attend because we are currently planning on having Depot Day on Saturday, June 5, 10am-2pm, which was postponed because of rain. We encourage interested volunteers to attend the meeting and learn about our future plans.

There have been two additions to our museum exhibits: the scrim shades on the windows in the reception room, printed with in-

teresting historical photos, and recently, the Southern Pacific model train which has been installed around the wall in the reception room.

During Depot Day, these new exhibits will be on display for the first time to the public. Guided tours will be held from 12-2pm that day.

Any other information about the meeting can be obtained by calling Rose Simar at 409-330-1576. Other information can be found on the website, www.orangetxdepot.org

Family Fun Day at Orange Train Depot Museum

Depot Day, the annual family fun day scheduled for Saturday, May 1, had to be canceled because of the rainy weather. The Friends of the Orange Depot have rescheduled the event for Saturday, June 5, 10AM-

2PM. Information can be obtained by calling Co-chairman Rose Simar at 409-330-1576, or by visiting the website www.orangetxdepot.org.

American Legion Post 49 Orange, BBQ Fund Raiser

The American Legion Post 49, 108 Green Ave, Orange, TX will hold a BBQ Leg Quarter plate lunch fund raiser from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on May 6. Cost will be \$9.00 each. The meal will consist of BBQ Leg Quarters, Pot-

to Salad, Baked Beans, Bread and Dessert. Call (409) 886-1241 after noon on 5 May and before 9:00 a.m. on 6 May for orders to be picked up or delivered. No minimum on delivery orders.

Victoria-Thy Doan receives 'Dream Award'

As college students persevere despite ongoing challenges due to COVID-19, Scholarship America continues to provide financial support through scholarships. The Dream Award is an annual scholarship program for deserving students who have overcome significant barriers to make it to college.

This year's diverse Dream Award recipients include: Victoria-Thy Doan from Orange, Tex. (graduate of Bridge City High School), who attends University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio

The daughter of Vietnam War refugees,



Victoria has always been dedicated to giving back, even when times were tough. She has spent countless hours volunteering at her church, leading university organizations, and helping out at her family's plant nursery when she is home from school. She exemplifies the resilience of her family, for they have endured cancer in her mom and

grandfather, six hurricanes, and most recently, the Texas winter storm. With encouragement from her family and help from the Dream Award, Victoria is working to complete her biochemistry degree, go on to medical school and become a physician.

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Commentary:

OBAMA GOT OSAMA

Ten Years Ago This Week

Roy Dunn
Columnist
For The Record

I was watching CNN just before 10 p.m. Sunday, May 1, 2011, when a newsbreak announced President Obama would be addressing the nation. A newsbreak this late on Sunday made it evident to me that this was going to be something big, but I didn't imagine how big.

Osama bin Laden, 53, Al Qaeda leader and chief architect of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States was shot in the head, killed and his body buried in the ocean. It was a great plan, over many months, carried out by a handful of Navy Seals. President Obama authorized the operation that took place in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Osama had been there for years defying belief that the Pakistani people didn't know of his whereabouts. Breaux had stated in his column that if we ever got bin Laden it would be in Pakistan. History records this as a leadership moment in our

country. It was a gutsy call by the President.

If the operation would have failed and our men killed at that compound, Obama would have been done. It worked and justice was served. It took nearly 10 years to do it but the head of the snake has been cut off. A rich man, from a very wealthy Saudi family, Osama could have spent his life in luxury. Instead he chose to kill. In the end he got what he sowed and the world is better off today. Many words have been written and spoken about this event. President Obama and aides followed the raid by video while it unfolded. The raid finished in 40 minutes.

I know their hearts must have skipped a beat when the Blackhawk helicopter malfunctioned. It is said that Vice-President Joe Biden kept his Rosary ring out and silently recited it throughout the operation. President Bush, Cheney and Rove say Obama deserves the credit, however some congressmen still can't being

themselves to praise him, giving credit only to the raiders. Five plans were presented to the President. He made the call after several months of secret meetings and training at a replica facility in the U.S.

The government has shot down the spin that water boarding led to Bin Laden. Not so they say. It was a textbook operation, pulled off by brave young Navy Seals.

The Seal who fired the shots, once though the left eye and then the chest, will be revered for the rest of his life. There is no question this was a critical accomplishment of the Obama administration. We have had some terrible things happen in our country over the last 10 years, things we are not proud of that will also go down in history.

That's how I remember the events. I also recall every minute of 911 that bin Laden caused and I won't soon forget the insurrection on our nation's capital, led by a provoked mob, on Jan. 6, 2021.



Situation Room is a photograph taken by White House photographer Pete Souza in its namesake, the White House Situation Room, [1] at 4:05 p.m. on May 1, 2011. The photograph shows President of the United States Barack Obama along with his national security team, receiving live updates from Operation Neptune Spear, which led to the killing of Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda.

Derek Chauvin Files For New Trial

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was convicted last month of murdering George Floyd, filed an appeal for a new trial on Tuesday.

His attorney, Eric Nelson, petitioned the court, alleging that Chauvin's constitutional rights were violated when Judge Peter Cahill refused to change the venue of the trial, and that the pretrial publicity deprived the officer of a fair trial.

Nelson also cites "prosecutorial and jury misconduct; er-

rors of law at trial; and a verdict that is contrary to law."

Chauvin, who jammed his knee into Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds as the Black man lay in a prone position on the ground, was convicted on one count of second-degree murder, one count of third-degree murder and one count of second-degree manslaughter.

It took the jury about 10 hours over a two-day period to return a guilty verdict for the white police officer, who had worked for the Minneapolis

Police Department for around 19 years.

Chauvin is now awaiting sentencing, which could come as early as this month or sometime in June. State sentencing guidelines recommend 12.5 years in prison for a conviction on unintentional second-degree murder for someone with no criminal history. But prosecutors say they want an additional penalty, called an enhancement, because of certain aggravating factors. Ultimately, it will be Cahill's decision.

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NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID REQUEST: Exterior Cleaning & Painting
905 Pier Rd. - Buildings A & B

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, May 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM Local Time
Bid Opening: Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 10:05 AM Local Time
Location: Port of Orange Administration Building - Boardroom
1201 Childers Road
Orange, Texas 77630

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference
Date / Time: Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 9:00 AM Local Time
Location: Port of Orange Administration Building - Boardroom
1201 Childers Road
Orange, Texas 77630

SEALED BIDS in duplicate, clearly marked and addressed to Port of Orange, "Attn: Stephen LeBlanc, Exterior Cleaning & Painting at 905 Pier Rd.", 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 the date and time set above; and then publicly opened and read aloud in the Port of Orange Administration Office Boardroom, 1st Floor, for "Exterior Cleaning & Painting at 905 Pier Rd.". Bids received after 10:00 AM local time will be returned unopened. Project is located in Orange County, Texas on 905 Pier Rd.

Bid Packets may be obtained at the Orange County Navigation and Port District, 1201 Childers Road, Orange, Texas 77630.

The Exterior Cleaning & Painting project consists of cleaning, preparing, priming, and painting of the exterior of Buildings A & B. Furnish all material, labor and equipment per the Description of Work and attached specifications.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the 905 Pier Rd at 9:00 AM local time on Thursday, May 6, 2021. All prime contractors are required to be in attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference. Questions pertaining to the project and bidding procedures will be discussed. The bid packets will be available at the mandatory pre-bid conference and a job site inspection will be offered to interested attendees.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, payable without recourse to the order of the Orange County Navigation and Port District, or a Bid Bond for at least five percent (5%), of the total amount bid, and the bank or bonding company certifying the same shall be liable therefore to the Orange County Navigation and Port District in the event such successful bidder shall fail or refuse to enter into proper contract therefore or shall fail or refuse to furnish bonds therefore as required by law and as hereafter mentioned within ten (10) days after receipt of NOTICE OF AWARD. Bid surety of all except the three (3) lowest responsible Bidders will be returned when award is made; when the contract is executed, the surety of the two (2) remaining unsuccessful Bidders will be returned; that of the successful Bidder will be returned when formal contract, bonds and insurance are approved, and work has commenced within the time specified.

The successful bidder must furnish PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS on the forms furnished with the bid documents, in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price. All insurance companies issuing PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS and any reinsurance companies utilized by such insurance companies, in order to issue PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS to the Owner, shall have at least an "A" rating according to the Best's Key Guide and must be authorized to transact business in Texas. Additionally, such insurance companies shall be on the current list of "Companies Holding Certificates of Authority as Acceptable Sureties on Federal Bonds and as Acceptable Reinsuring Companies" as published in Circulars 570 (as amended) by the Audit Staff, Bureau of Government Financial Operations and United States Treasury Department.

Bidder is hereby advised that the work shall be subject to equal employment opportunity requirements, local prevailing wage rates, and Executive Order No.11246 as amended. In conformance with applicable statutes, the general prevailing wage rates in the locality in which the work is to be performed have been ascertained, and such rates shall be minimum paid for labor employed upon this project.

In accordance with Texas State law, including Local Government Code Chapter 176, each BIDDER MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT WITH THEIR BID A COPY OF THE VENDOR'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE CONTAINED IN THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

The Owner is a sales tax-exempt governmental entity. A sales tax exemption notice will be issued to the Contractor when the contract is awarded in order that that he does not have to pay sales taxes on labor and/or materials utilized in or consumed in connection with the Owner's project.

The Contractor performing this contract must issue to his suppliers an exemption certificate in lieu of the tax, said exemption certificate complying with all applicable State Comptroller's rulings along with a copy of the sales tax exemption notice issued to him by the Owner.

The Orange County Navigation and Port District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities 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.

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Estate Sale Fri., 5/7 & Sat., 5/8 from 8 am to 2 pm at 3646 Mockingbird St., 77630. Wedding & event items, wrought iron candle stick holder, plant stands, unusual decor items, floral containers, decorations, huge flower pots/urns, vintage furniture, sewing, crafts, glassware, cookbooks, vintage pedestal sink, old doors, ladders & tools. Cash Only.

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Estate Sale this Thurs., 5/6 & Fri., 5/7 from 10 am to 6 pm & Sat., 5/8 from 9 am to 2 pm at 10298 FM 1130 in Orange. Prominent Community Leader, bronze/pewter sculptures, primitives, western/Indian decor, antiques, coca-cola, franciscans, outdoor furniture, hand tools, kitchenware, pictures, singer sewing machine, knick knacks, washer / dryer and much more.

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Want to hire someone to clear small backyard and deck. Overgrown weeds, grass & small trees. It might take a small crew to do this job. Also front yard needs to be mowed and weed eaten. Please email me at jeribarras@gmail.com to make an appt. to see the yard.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this April 6, 2021.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION (OTHER) - COPUBWD THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Donald G Reid Respondent, NOTICE:
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of City of Pinehurst, Texas, Petitioner, was filed in the 260th District Court of Orange County, Texas on 11th day of February, 2021, against Donald G Reid, Respondent, numbered 210060-C. The suit request:

The Court foreclose on the lien and award fee simple title in the property to the CITY OF PINEHURST, TEXAS

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this April 6, 2021.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Vickie Edgerly

CITATION BY PUBLICATION (OTHER) - COPUBWD THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Jerry Glass Respondent, NOTICE:
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of Robert Holston, Petitioner, was filed in the 260th District Court of Orange County, Texas on 8th day of April, 2021, against Jerry Glass, Respondent, numbered 210150-C. The suit request:

That Plaintiff be awarded fee simple title to the property and for all other relief to which he may be justly entitled, both in law and in equity.

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this April 14th, 2021.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Vickie Edgerly

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GLENDA L. WHITLEY**, Deceased, were issued on the **APRIL 27 2021**, in Cause No. **P19003**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Jean Whitley**

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
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

Dated the 27th day of April, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn
Attorney for:
Jean Whitley
State Bar No.:
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6. Economic measure acronym
9. "Beverly Goldberg's schmoopie"
13. Use an EpÈe
14. Neither here _____ there
15. Tall ancient monument
16. Daisy-like bloom
17. Much of it about nothing?
18. Commotions
19. "She's 'Bow' to Dre in TV sitcom 'Blackish'"
21. "Mother to Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth March in novel and movie
23. Before tac
24. Ripped
25. Part of Super Bowl entertainment, pl.
28. Homesteader's measure
30. "Game of Thrones" Lannister and mother to Joffrey, Myrcella and Tommen
35. Douses
37. Adjutant
39. Article of faith
40. Gunflecting joint
41. "TV mother to Alexis and David, 'friend' to Jocelyn Schitt
43. "Will be," as sung by Doris Day
44. Perform in a play
46. Load sixteen tons, e.g.

DOWN

1. Way, way off
2. _____ Verde National Park
3. Naysayer's favorite prefix?
4. What bloodhound is after
5. Croatia's neighbor
6. Nibble away
7. Affirmative action
8. Movie trailer, e.g.
9. Elementary particle
10. "Claire Dunphy and Mitchell Pritchett's mother
47. Peacock's pride
48. "Mowgli's adoptive mother
50. Apartment
52. Skeleton in a lock
53. Part of a jousting outfit
55. Spelling competition
57. "Mother to Carlton in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"
60. "Well, I'm a-standin' on a corner in _____, Arizona," from the Eagles "Take it Easy"
64. Country's LeAnn _____
65. Hoover's agency acronym
67. Piano practice piece, e.g.
68. Church song
69. What Usain Bolt did
70. Poisonous substance
71. "Wife to Papa, mother to Baby
72. Sum it up
73. Go on a buying spree
11. Soothing lotion ingredient
12. Bell and Barker, e.g.
15. Christopher Kimball's "Milk _____"
20. _____'s razor
22. Part of a circle
24. Tiresome
25. Questioner
26. "Mamma Mia!" mamma
27. Do this or forever hold your peace
29. '80s band "Quiet _____"
31. Catch one's breath
32. _____ a peak
33. Bone-chilling
34. Europe's "boot"
36. Short for seconds
38. "She played Ricky Schroder's stepmom on "Silver Spoons"
42. Defendant's excuse
45. Religious belief
49. _____ Khan
51. Plural of #39 Across
54. Below, prefix
56. Impede
57. "Everywhere you want to be" credit card
58. Muslim holy man
59. Plural of velum
60. "Ellen, Scarlett's mother in "Gone with the _____"
61. Like the best accommodations
62. War god in Norse mythology
63. Make one's way
64. Dashboard acronym
66. "Kunis, Hahn and Bell as _____ Moms"

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