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Week of Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Voters to decide on big school tax cut

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Texas voters in November will decide on a proposed state constitutional amendment that could drastically lower school taxes for homeowners and small business owners or landlords.

The Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, and Governor Greg Abbott have approved the bill for the amendment. Under the amendment, the homestead exemption for homeowners would go up to \$100,000, meaning the homeowner could subtract that much from the taxable value. For instance, if a home is on the tax rolls for \$125,000, the school tax rate would be used for only \$25,000.

Homeowners 65 and older, along with the disabled, are eligible for another \$10,000 exemption. That means a senior citizen homeowner would get a to-



Overton

tal of \$110,000 removed from a home's property appraisal for the school tax. A homestead exemption is issued by a county tax appraisal office to people who register a property as their main residence. It is illegal to have two properties with a homestead exemption. Homestead, senior citizen, and disabled exemptions are filed through the local appraisal district.

Chief Appraiser Scott Overton with the Orange County Appraisal District said the new exemption will apply only for school taxes, and not for cities, the county, or special districts. Those entities each set a tax rate and homestead exemp-

TAX CUT Page 3A

Teachers already working, most students back next week

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Get the backpacks and lunch boxes ready because most schools in the county will be starting next week.

The Orangefield, West Orange-Cove, and Vidor school districts will begin classes on Wednesday, August 9. Bridge City and Little Cypress-Mauriceville districts have students scheduled to start

Wednesday, August 16, a week later.

New teachers in the three districts that begin next week reported to work in late July, as other districts have other teachers and staff returning to work this week.

Football teams and marching bands reported for practice and rehearsals on Monday and the students had to deal with heat

indices in the triple digits. Schools will begin football scrimmage games next week with the regular season set to begin August 25 or September 1 for local teams.

As the new school year begins, the Texas Department of Public Safety says drivers need to watch for school buses and be careful in school zones. A driver's use of a cell phone in a school zone is against the law in Texas, unless a hands-free device is used.

School zones are marked by roadside traffic signs with blinking yellow lights. Driving faster than the designated zone limit can bring a ticket with a \$200 fine.

School bus protection laws can bring even higher penalties. Passing a school bus with a blinking red

BACK TO Page 3A



The Bridge City High School Strutters attended the American Dance Drill Team line camp in Richardson this past week. Not only did the Strutters take home Super Sweepstakes, but they were named ADTS Grand Champions including over half of the team being named All-American. Named Outstanding Performer was Strutters Captain Olivia Romero. The All-American Dance Company award went to Romero and Lt. Zoe Buchanan. ALL AMERICAN DANCERS were: Cpt. Olivia Romero, 1st Lt. Addisyn Watts, Lt. Raely Ply, Lt. Marleigh Boyd, Lt. Zoe Buchanan, Bella Houston, Kaylee DeRouen, and Anaiss Torres.

OCARC Fishing Tournament

35th annual OCARC Tournament starts Friday

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Hopefully, the fish will be biting when the 35th annual OCARC Fishing Tournament is held the first weekend of August in Orange County. The tournament will give 32 fishermen cash prizes while also helping the clients of the OCARC.

The tournament will include door prizes for participants and cash awards for those anglers catching the largest fish in twelve different types. The OCARC Fishing Tournament starts Friday, August 4, with the weigh in at 5:00 PM on Saturday, August 5,



The OCARC Fishing Tournament carries \$4,450 in cash prizes for 12 categories of fish, some great door prizes will be raffled as well, and participants will get a free rod and reel.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

at the Riverside Pavilion off of Simmons Drive.

The fishing tournament started 36 years ago in 1987 and has been conducted ev-

ery year except the year of the pandemic. Usually 200 to 250 local fishermen enter the popular event.

John Thomas the director of OCARC said they originally started with producing fishing tackle specializing in spinner baits which led to the fishing tournament being created. The spinner baits are no longer produced, but the popular fishing tournament has continued instead every year.

The OCARC Fishing Tournament has Thomas excited about the first weekend in August. "It's just a great time. There should be a great amount of fish caught this year because the Sabine River is salty and there was actually a sting ray caught a mile

OCARC Page 3A

Trump indicted for efforts to overturn 2020 election

Staff Report
For The Record

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was indicted on felony charges Tuesday for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol, with the Justice Department moving to hold him accountable for

an unprecedented effort to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power, Associated Press reports.

The four-count indictment reveals new details about a dark chapter in American history that has already been the subject of exhaustive federal investigations and captivating public hearings. It cites handwritten notes from

former Vice President Mike Pence about Trump's relentless goading to reject the counting of electoral votes. And it accuses Trump and his allies of exploiting the disruption caused by his supporters' attack on the Capitol to redouble their efforts to spread false claims of election fraud and persuade members of Congress to further delay the

certification of Joe Biden's victory.

Even in a year of rapid-succession legal reckonings for Trump, Tuesday's criminal case, with charges including conspiring to defraud the United States government that he once led, was especially stunning in its allegations that a former

TRUMP Page 3A

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My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

A weekly column by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3

Summer is in full swing, but back to school is right around the corner. Be sure to stay cool during these hot Texas days!

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Property tax relief measures passed, signed by Governor Abbott

This month, the Texas Senate and House of Representatives came together and made a deal to deliver property tax relief to homeowners across the state. The \$18 billion package is the largest tax cut in Texas history. Senate Bill 2, by Senator Paul Bettencourt and Representative Morgan Meyer, includes an increase in the homestead exemption from \$40,000 for most homes to \$100,000. It will go into effect on this year's



Sen. Nichols

property tax bill if the accompanying proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the voters in November. The bill also includes \$7 billion for the reduction of school district maintenance and operations tax rates statewide. Senate Bill 2 also includes a 3-year pilot project for non-homesteaded property valued at \$5 million or under to receive a 20% circuit-breaker on appraised value increases. It also includes a change to County Appraisal District boards of directors to include 3 county-wide, elected director positions in counties with a population of 75,000 or more.

The accompanying legislation Senate Bill 3, by Senator Paul Bettencourt and Representative Charlie Geren, includes a doubling of the franchise tax exemption for businesses from \$1.23 million to \$2.47 million. An estimated 67,000

businesses will no longer pay a franchise tax. It also eliminates a "nuisance-tax" for 1.7 million business owners who previously had to file no-tax-due forms for franchise taxes. I was proud to co-author and vote for both bills and thrilled that the Governor signed the package.

2. Lamar State College Port Arthur opens new industrial training facility

This month Lamar State College Port Arthur opened a new \$6 million, 33,000 square foot industrial training facility that has been in the works since 2018. The facility will train to be soon-to-be electricians, pipe fitters, or other essential workers, including training for jobs at the nearby petrochemical facilities. Courses can range in length from one to six months and at the end of each course students will receive certificates, which

may open doors to new job opportunities. The space was once used as a National Guard armory and was converted using federal and city grants.

3. TxDOT, law enforcement launch Operation Slow Down

This month, TxDOT teamed up with law enforcement to urge drivers to "Be Safe. Drive Smart." – a speeding awareness campaign aimed at saving lives. According to TxDOT, speed was a contributing factor in more than 162,000 roadway crashes in Texas in 2022, resulting in 1,469 deaths. It is the number one factor contributing to roadway crashes in Texas. Safe driving goes beyond just observing the speed limit. It also means matching speed to road conditions if there is bad weather or road construction, slowing down and allowing for more space to stop when

traffic is heavy, and watching for road signs indicating reduced speed limits ahead. Operation Slow Down and "Be Safe. Drive Smart." are both components of #EndTheStreak-TX, an effort to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. The last deathless day on Texas roads was November 7, 2000.

4. Texas drawn hunt applications open for 2023-2024

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) opened applications for their drawn hunt permits program for the 2023-2024 season. The program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands statewide, issues almost 10,000 permits in more than 60 high quality hunt categories. Hunts available include white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator, and dove and guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep. Last year there were more than 278,000 applications. Application fees range from free to \$10, depending on

the hunt category. Applications are due by the 1st and 15th of each month between August 1 and November 1. A full list of categories, maps, and deadlines can be found online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>.

5. SFA hosts rural economic development forums

Stephen F. Austin State University Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation and the Texas Forest Country Partnership hosted forums on Rural Economic Development this month in San Augustine County and Polk County. Future forums are planned in Nacogdoches County, Angelina County, Trinity County, and Newton County throughout early August. The forums include discussions on workforce, economic development, education, industry, and community needs. I was happy to attend the forum in San Augustine and discuss important topics facing business owners and the community.

OCARC tournament this weekend

From Page 1

from Niblett's Bluff. That salt water has gone all the way up the river which means there are all sorts of salt water species of fish in the river," Thomas exclaimed.

After 49 years with OCARC, Thomas indicated the fishing tournament is a once a year event that let's everyone know they are still working to help their clients have a better life. Thomas reminded, "Our tournament is not a serious tournament. We want you to get out on the water, have a good time catching some fish, come to the weigh-in, and meet everybody."

Cash prizes and trophies are awarded in 12 fish categories with second and

third place awards in ten of those categories. Twenty-eight sponsors and thirty-one co-sponsors help with the over four thousand dollars in prize money and raffle door prizes.

The four big prizes are awarded for bass, speckled trout, redfish, and flounder each carrying \$750 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third. Those fish must be brought alive to the weigh-in on Friday or Saturday to be eligible for the prize money.

The "Tom Windham" Bass category is sponsored by Gopher Industrial. The Big Speckled Trout category is sponsored by DOW. The "Stan Armstrong" Redfish is sponsored by Inter-

national Paper. The Redfish must measure between 20 to 27 inches to be eligible. The Flounder category has the Special Angels Rodeo as its sponsor.

Other fish categories are "Sarge's" Catfish, White Perch, Sunfish or Perch, Croaker, Black Drum (must be 14 to 29 inches), and "Jane Borel" Grinnel. The cash prizes for these fish are \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place in each category of fish.

Two special categories are the "Don Hubbard" Mudcat and the "Gopher" Appaloosa Red which both offer a first prize only. The biggest "Don Hubbard" Mudcat wins \$50 for the

fisherman that catches it. The "Gopher" Appaloosa Red prize is \$250 and goes for the Red Fish with the most spots on it. The record is 31 spots on the fish caught.

Door prizes for a raffle include a large capacity Igloo cooler. Other raffle entries will win a Milwaukee deluxe drill set and gift baskets from local sponsors.

Gopher Industrial is sponsoring a free rod and reel for all the young people that certify a fish during the weigh in. Gopher Industrial is also sponsoring a rod and reel for each participant that weighs in a fish during the tournament.

Souvenirs will be for sale at the OCARC offices locat-

ed at 905 West Park or during the tournament at the Riverfront Pavilion. T-Shirts with this year's official logo and hats will be sold for \$20 apiece.

The artwork of Tom Windham is once again featured on the T-Shirt. "Tom was just a fantastic artist. He's been doing T-Shirts for OCARC all this time. The image on the T-Shirt this year is his last painting, and I think it turned out great," Thomas observed. Windham passed away before last year's fishing tournament, and he drew the logos for each year's tournament.

OCARC began in 1956 with the Day Hab workshop starting in 1960. The original location was in the Thomen Center the former hospital on Park Avenue at Twentieth Street before moving to the current loca-

tion on Park Avenue at Eighth Street in Orange.

Registration for the OCARC Fishing can be done online at ocarc.com or in person at the OCARC offices at 905 West Park Avenue. The entry fee is \$30 a person. The office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The fishing officially starts at 5:00 PM on Friday, August 4. Participants may fish within a 40-mile radius of Orange. The tournament ends on Saturday, August 5, with the certification of fish starting at 3:00 PM and the weigh-in to follow at 5:00 PM in the Riverside Pavilion off of Simmons Drive where trophies, cash awards, door prizes, and rods and reels will be presented to participants in the OCARC Fishing Tournament.

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OCARC tournament From Page 1

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Door prizes for a raffle include a large capacity Igloo cooler. Other raffle entrees will win a Milwaukee deluxe drill set and gift baskets from local sponsors.

Children under the age of 16 may enter but must be signed up by an adult for the minor to be eligible to fish. Normally about 50 to 60 young people compete in the OCARC Fishing Tournament.

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Clients of the OCARC

will be selling \$250 gift cards to the public. The top four clients that sell the most gift cards will be awarded gift cards themselves.

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Tax cuts From Page 1

tion rate.

In addition, the proposed tax plan would limit appraised value increases to 20 percent a year on non-homestead properties valued at \$5 million or less. That would help lower property taxes for small business owners and landlords that do not qualify for a homestead exemption.

In addition, the proposed law will eliminate some of the franchise fees some businesses pay.

Another change will be on how members of the appraisal districts' boards of directors area elected.

The state appraisal district system was set up in the late 1970s by the state legislature under the "Peveto Tax Bill," named for its sponsor, Wayne Peveto, an Orange lawyer who represented Orange County in the Texas House of Representatives.

Each appraisal district provides a standardized property appraisal. Before the law, each school district, city, or county could do their own appraisals, often at varying values.

Currently, the boards of directors for each appraisal district are appointed by the taxing entities in each county. Each entity gets an assigned number of votes and then the city councils, county commissioners court, and school districts use their votes to choose appraisal board members.

Under the proposed system, the voters, in a general election, will choose

three members of each appraisal district's board. Each term will be for four years.

Overton said the Orange County Appraisal District currently has a board with five members. The state reports the average district board has nine members. He said OCAD will adjust its board to nine members with three elected. The soonest general election for that could not be until November 2024, at the earliest.

Industrial properties and large commercial properties will not be affected by the proposed changes.

Texas has some of the highest property taxes in the country, but the state has no corporate tax and no income tax. Forty-three of the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, have personal income taxes.

School taxes are usually the highest taxes in Texas. The legislature this year had a \$13.3 billion income surplus as sales taxes soared with inflation and post-pandemic spending. The school property tax bill was passed after the state house and senate agreed to send about \$7.1 billion of that surplus during the next two years to school districts, so they could lower property taxes.

The state money will be used by the districts to offset the loss of income from the local property taxes.

The state money to the

school districts will be used only for maintenance and operations, also known as "M&O." Those monies are used for daily operations, utility bills, staff salaries, and maintenance. Each school district has a separate fund for bonded debts that are used for new buildings and facilities improvements. Voters must approve those bond projects with the understanding their taxes will be increased.

The local taxing entities are currently preparing budgets and tax rates for their upcoming budget year. The tax bills are usually mailed in October.

However, with the proposed constitutional amendment to lower school taxes will be in November. If voters approve those changes, school tax bills will need to be recalculated and mailed out again by the office of Orange County Tax Appraiser-Collector Karen Fisher's office.

Property taxes are due each year in Texas on January 31.

Back to school From Page 1

light or stop sign displayed could make a violator face up to \$1,250 in penalties, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The red flashing lights or stop sign mean students are getting on or

off of a school bus.

All vehicles and all lanes are required to stop, even on major highways like Texas Highway 87 (Texas Avenue) in Bridge City or Texas 87 North by Little Cypress-Mauriceville

High. For instance, on a four-lane highway with turning lane in the middle, both sides of both lanes must stop if a bus has its red lights flashing on either side of the highway.

Trump indicted From Page 1

president assaulted the underpinnings of democracy in a frantic but ultimately failed effort to cling to power.

"The attack on our nation's Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy," said special counsel Jack Smith, whose office has spent months investigating Trump. "It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant targeted at obstruct-

ing a bedrock function of the U.S. government: the nation's process of collecting counting and certifying the results of the presidential election."

Trump's claims of having won the election, said the indictment, were "false, and the Defendant knew they were false. But the defendant repeated and widely disseminated them anyway — to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, to cre-

ate an intense national atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and to erode public faith in the administration of the election."

The indictment, the third criminal case brought against the former president follows a long-running federal investigation into schemes by Trump and his allies to subvert the transfer of power and keep him in office despite a decisive loss to Biden.

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From the Creaux's Nest

EXTREME HEAT AND DROUGHT CONTINUES

Never in my **lifetime** would I have believed we would see so many consecutive days at **99 degrees** and above. We have had more **100 degree days** in the last couple of weeks than we have had in the last few years. Today, **Tuesday**, at 3:15 p.m., our backyard temperature is **102 degrees**. With no rain in sight everything is burning up. It's hard to keep enough water on the plants. Our garden is gone but we still have a little hope for okra. This **record** heat is across the country although storms cover part of the nation. It's come on a bad summer and we haven't gotten by **hurricane season** yet.****I have to move on. **Come along**, I promise it won't do you no harm.

SAYING GOODBYE TO SKIPPER

We were sorry to learn that **Skipper Free**, age 89, our longtime friend, had passed away Saturday, July 30, in Austin. She was the only person we ever knew that was born at **Shangri-la**, in Orange. Her family lived on the Starks property during its hay-days and on January 1, 1934, **Constance Amelia Thrailkille**, "**Skipper**" was born. She graduated from Lutch Stark high school and through the years kept up with her classmates, never missing a class reunion where she was sure to furnish some entertainment. Skipper hung out with us at the old Opportunity Valley Newspaper and later at The Record. She also contributed her writings to the paper. She told stories about her and **Gordon Baxter's** nightclub entertaining and how they often had to dodge thrown beer bottles. Bax insisted that chicken wire be installed in front of the stage to catch the flying objects. Skipper was a born entertainer, she just needed the opportunity and at the drop of a hat she was on stage. Over the years she had many friends in entertainment, one of the best was longtime radio personality **Bill Clark**. She took care of him like one of her own family. Besides living a life filled with fun she found time to be married to **Murphy Free** and raised five children. She was the first woman to be a licensed barber in the state of Texas. She broke into what had been the men's game. Her children followed in her footsteps. Son **Keble**, her oldest, a onetime successful boxer, was a successful hair stylist. The Free children all excelled in their chosen fields. **Laura** is a beautician; **Eddie**, a long-time barber; **Scott**, also a barber, in his youth was an actor. They all picked up their mother's personality and fondness and caring for people. That was **Skipper's** greatest asset. She will be missed. A special celebration of her life will be held August 4, 3 p.m. at Claybar Funeral Home, in Orange. You don't want to miss this going away party in the true spirit of the life that **Skipper** lived. Please check obituary in this publication or on our website

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2013

Congrats to Little Cypress-Mauriceville's Trent Manuel, place kicker, who has been offered a full ride scholarship at **McNeese**. He is a senior at LC-M. Trent has worked out with pro-kicker Matt Bryant. Dad Ty and the family have reason to be proud of this young man. Best of luck with the Bears this season.****"Neighbor" Cox had been batching it for a couple of weeks but Ms. Ginny, with daughter Karen Duplichain, who will stay for a few days, is back home. Cox couldn't be happier. His bride of 65 years on Oct. 2, and his baby girl are home. It's better than Christmas. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cox have passed on.****Karen Jo said she visited with Judge Janice Menard who says her sister Mildred Lemoine is getting stronger every day. She said her mother always said, "Take your life one day at a time and put a smile on your face." Judge Janice said she never thought she's quote her mother as much as she does. **Mildred** has come a long way from the critical list.****If you ever picked cotton, not pulled bolls, you are at least 80 years old. The cotton picking machines came in the 1950's and the cotton sack was put away for good. **Judge Pat Clark** said he picked cotton in East Texas one summer. That convinced him to get an education.******Mickey Litton Tompkins**, longtime court reporter and everyone's sweetheart, retired last Friday from the 163rd District Court as **Judge Powell's** court reporter. The daughter of Moe and Helene Litton could write a book about the things she witnessed in her long career. Not only in the court room but also as **Rep. Wayne Peveto's** right hand in Austin. During those years she met the real political power brokers. She also got to know a young, upcoming politician, **Karl Rove**, who later became **President George W. Bush's** brains****We were sorry to hear of the death of Claude Thompson, **94**, who passed away at his home July 27. He was the father of coach **Cornel Thompson**.

24 Years Ago-1999

In her column Vickie **Parfait** recalls the life of Virgie Mansfield Scales, born in 1912, in Duncan Woods, Orange County, Texas. Her parents **Bosie and Metina Mansfield** were Orange County natives and early pioneers of the area. Her paternal grandfather, Dr. Guy Mansfield, was the son of Dr. Sylvester Mansfield, the first M.D. in Beaumont. Virgie said in the column, "We were rich compared to most. I never knew there was a depression." Virgie is **87 years old**. She is the sister of former county commissioner **Asa Mansfield**. (Editor's note: **Ms. Virgie** passed away at age 103.)**** Amber Dunn is working at the Louis Dugas Law Firm trying to decide if she wants to be a lawyer or a doctor. (Editor's note: One summer working for **Louis** made up her mind. **She chose the medical field**. It took 14 years to become a specialist. Today she is an anesthesiologist, married to an orthopedic surgeon and is the mother of three sons, ages 7, 5, 3. She says, ("Thanks to Mr. Dugas, I made the right decision.")****Jeff Wright is the new baseball coach at West Orange-Stark. He also is the tight end football coach.

44 Year Ago-1979

Sheriff Ed Parker receives a state award at a ceremony in the jail. The Orange County jail, completed Sept. 30, 1978, is the only jail in the state to meet all standards. The jail also has a full-time nurse. ****Gary Worster, 21-year-old son of R.B. and Louise, brother of Steve and father of one son lost his life in a motorcycle/autor accident Thursday, Aug. 3. Gary was a BC **football star recruited by Lamar**. ******Judy Peabody** is sales manager at Bickham Lincoln Mercury.****Fanny Beaty is seen scooting around town on a yellow moped. ******Joe Kazmar** makes a 200-yard hole-in-one at the DERA Par 3 17th hole with a #5. ******Rush Wood** is selected sports information director at Lamar U. ******John Smith**, co-owner of Smith Lee Olds-Cadillac-Toyota, is jogging and dodging food. He's lost several pounds and can get in last year's jeans. ****Sammie **Perkins** and son Chad both celebrate birthdays on Aug. 6.****Juliette Patton and daughter Janet both celebrate birthdays this week****Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lackey celebrate their eighth anniversary. They have three children, **Tommy, Timothy and Terry**. ****A big day is coming Aug. 13. That's Janet and James Fontenot's anniversary.******Vickie Drake** is engaged to Frank Brown, son of **Edgar and Betty Brown**. Frank, who has a doctorate, is now teaching at the University of Texas. The couple plans a December wedding. (Frank and Vickie have both passed away.)****Frank Manchac Jr. will wed **Laura Ann Pachar** on Aug. 18. Her uncle, Neal Miller, will give the bride in marriage. ******Karen Leslie Smith** becomes the bride of **Mark Hryhorchuk**. Both attended Texas A&M.******Bill and Patsy Nacol** leave BC for Lafayette. They are opening a jewelry store there. ******Doug Ballard** is home from the hospital where he was treated for spinal meningitis.******Neal Bond** has surgery and is still hospitalized. ****Top Country songs are #1, "You're the Only One" by **Dolly Parton**; #2, "Coca Cola Cowboy" by **Mel Tillis**; #3, "Suspicious" by **Eddie Rabbit**; #4, "Save the Last Dance for Me" by **Emmylou Harris**; #5, "Family Tradition" by **Hank Williams Jr.**; #6, "Ghost Riders in the Sky" by **Johnny Cash**.******Carol Storvinon** is a good poet who has been publishing some lately.

89 Years Ago-1934

Julius David, only 15 years old, made a hole-in-one at Sunset Grove Country Club. He made it on Number 12, using a 5-iron. ******W.L. Shepherd** contests the election returns in two boxes. He was defeated by **Charles Cottle** in the tax assessor's race. ****A reward of \$5000 is issued for the arrest of **John Dillinger's Five Mad Dogs**. They are John Hamilton, **Charles Floyd**, "**Baby Face**" Nelson, **Homer VanMeter**, **Richard and "Tallman" Galatas**.****Funeral services are held for **Arthur S. Bancroft**, 82, Orange County pioneer.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

In answer to inquires about our friend and longtime sports writer **Joe Kazmar**, we have been in touch with his wife **Susan**. **Joe** came home last Wednesday from rehab, maybe a little too soon according to **Susan**. She has been able to get a hospital bed for **Joe** but is having a hard time helping him around. She's called for assistance. If you know **Joe or Susan** and are able to offer help give her a call.******County Commissioner Chris Sowell** and **Mindy Nance** officially tied the knot. Word is they are honeymooning in Mexico enjoying the beaches and sun. **Sowell**, who lives in Mauriceville and represents Precinct 3, is a widower. His first wife died in a car crash back in 2020. He and his new bride have been blending their kids' activities together for a couple of years.****The **Sowells** aren't the only ones vacationing in Mexico. **Skipper** and **Gina Simar Yeaman** went off to Isla Mujeres off on the Caribbean side. Activities included a trip in a glass-bottom boat across clear, aquamarine waters to see things like stingrays. ******Brandi Griggs** and **Justin Rieson** took off for more domestic beaches in Alabama and Florida.******Terri** and **Brad Childs** didn't have to travel far to get to Crystal Beach and the Bolivar Peninsula.******Sheila Faske** is off to Las Vegas and the desert to take in the sites.******Christine Hanchey** and husband went on a trip to New Orleans for fun and food.******Pat Kemp** once again attended the National VFW Auxiliary convention held this year in burning Phoenix.******Elvis** and **Melissa Anne Rushing** decided to play it cool with their oldest grandkids and took them to Houston to the Galleria, where not only is the grand mall air conditioned, but also as an ice skating rink.******Allisha** and **Gary Bonneaux** battled the heat at the Woodlands pavilion two nights in a row.

The first was to see the **Steve Miller Band**, and the next was for a concert with **ZZ Top**, **Lynard Skynard**, and **Uncle Kracker**.****Speaking of concerts, Orange County had good representation in Silsbee at **Honky Tonk Texas** where the immortal **Johnny Lee** performed as part of his **Farewell Tour**. The county was even represented on stage with Bridge City native **Britt Godwin** opening the show. The audience included **Terri** and **Todd Goss**, **Pam Chapman**, **Marie Lafleur**, **Kerri Droddy**, **Shirley Goss**, and **Brandon Wilcox**.****Orange native and work boxing champ **O'Shaquie Foster** will meet lots of kids Saturday at the **Golden Chick** on 16th Street from noon to 4 p.m. as the store has a **Back to School event** for students, including school supplies and 200 free meals.******Mike Hennigan** retired last year, but is now becoming unretired. As a certified peace officer, he had been working part-time as a deputy constable. He must have missed an everyday job and this week was named director of security for the **Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD**.****Save the date. **Orange County Disaster Rebuild** has announced its fifth annual fundraiser **Taste of the Holidays** is set for November 16. The benefit helps people in Orange County repair their residences after natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes.******Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove**, retired LCM superintendent and former cheerleader for **Stark High and Lamar University**, celebrated her **74th birthday**. Not only has she been an educator and church leader, she also has a reputation as a gifted inspirational speaker. Another birthday girl who turned 74 is the ageless **Artis Peterway**. Others with birthdays this past week included "**Jimi Jams**" **Jim Cash**, who can often be seen cruising in his boat along the Sabine with wife **Sandra**. Birthday wishes also go to **Fred Thompson**, **Olivia Davis**, **Margaret Frances Owen**, **Juliet Smith**, **Sam Willey**, **Francine Todd**, reigning Mardi Gras Queen **Becky Trahan**, **Janet Flores**, **Sally Peveto**, **Edie Burch**, **Melinda James**, **Sherry Flowers**, **Jeffrey Fuge**, **Mike Theriot**, **Chantel Frazier**, **Monica Ibarra Freeman**, **Joyce Permenter Sanders**, **Gina Yeaman**, and **John Blanke**.******State District Judge Rex Peveto** and wife, **Robin**, had their **32nd anniversary**.****Our friend **Nelda Burton** has been fighting some health problems. She goes in to the old **Baptist Hospital** for daily treatments. She says there are still a lot of services available at the site. **Nelda** also had knee replacement. She has a lot of praise for **Owen**, the old commissioner. She says he has really been a big help. He even fixed the bed. Great folks, good friends. We wish **Nelda** a speedy recovery.****Our website went wild last week for **Margaret's Emmitt Till** story. We got thousands of hits from around the country which continued throughout the weekend.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays. **Aug. 2:** Our friend **Judge Roy Derry Dunn** celebrates today, also the "little round man" **Wayne Morse** is a year older. The guy smart enough to marry **Dayle Gunn**, photographer **Stump Weatherford**, marks another year. Celebrating also are **Sherri Christiansen**, **Travis Fields**, **Chloe Halliburton** and **Debbie Desper**. Happy 55th anniversary to **Joyce and John Dubose**.******Aug. 3:** Happy Birthday to **Joe Elam**, **Glenda Delano**, **Lacey Monceaux**, **Bob Gephart** and **Frank Wiegrefe**. This is also **Tom Brady's** 47th birthday.******Aug. 4:** Former president **Barack Obama** celebrates his 62nd birthday today. **Jarrod Vogt**, **Kody Fisette**, **Vickie Wells** celebrate today.******Aug. 5:** A great guy **Dr. Mike Shahan** celebrates today, also hoping a beautiful lady **Micah Satin** has a great day today. Having birthdays are **Nan Briggs**, **Paul Jagen** and **Mitzi Peoples**.******Aug. 6:** **Pam Boehme**, **Randy Hickox**, **Sonya Villanueva** and **Gladys Ousley**.******Aug. 7:** Happy Birthday **Tessa Bailey**, **Rodney Hanks** and **Kimberly Sensat**.******Aug. 8:** Celebrating another birthday is **Coach Dwight Thacker**. He just keeps rolling along. Also having a birthday is **Fred Brent**. (NOTE: Call 409-886-7183 or email news@therecordlive.com to post birthdays or anniversaries free of charge.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Clovis Landry, him, was speeding from Church Point to Eunice, when a peace officer turn on his siren and bubble and pull Clovis over.

Clovis, him, he jumped out of his car and he say, "Officer, me, I can explain."

Officer Broussard said, "Jus be quiet, you, I'm going to let you cool you heels in da jail until da Chief gets back, him."

Clovis, he's nervous, him, he says, "But Officer, I jus wanted to say..."

"I tol you to shut up and be quiet. Now for sure you going to jail," said Officer Broussard.

A few hours went by and da officer, him, looked in on his prisoner and said, "It's lucky for you, Clovis, dat da Chief is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood, him, when he gets back."

Clovis, him, he speaks up, "Don't count on it, I'm da groom, me."

C'EST TOUT

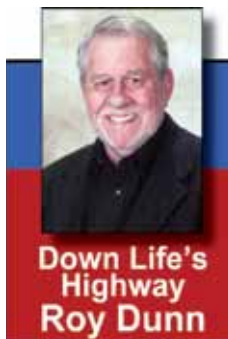
Donald Trump indicted by Grand Jury Arraignment Thursday

A federal grand jury indicted former President **Donald Trump** for a third time Tuesday, this time accusing him of organizing a conspiracy to steal the 2020 election from **President Joe Biden**, including the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021. The indictment handed down in a federal court in Washington, D.C. listed four counts against Trump: **Conspiracy to Defraud the United States; Conspiracy to Obstruct an Official Proceeding; Obstruction of and Attempt to Obstruct an Official Proceeding; and Conspiracy Against Rights**.**** Well, I've got to get out of here. Thanks for your time. **Take care and God bless**.

Dem Ol' Cotton Fields Back Home

The knowledge of mankind has fast-forwarded to unbelievable heights in the span of one lifetime as has today's temperatures reach record heights.

When I was a lad in the Cajun country in the late '30s and '40s, South Louisiana was no paradise. The heat and dust, along with humidity, was almost unbearable. With today's temperature it would be almost impossible to carry a sack. Dust so heavy it filled your nostrils, your body became covered with the mixture of dust and sweat.



Dirty work in the field was a way of life for Mom and me. When August came around, it meant cotton-picking time. I've always believed the Lord didn't intend for cotton to be planted in that part of His world. The cotton grew back breaking short, a half bale to the acre was considered a bumper crop.

Mom and I would rise early; fix some kind of lunch that we brought to the field in a syrup bucket. I toted the gallon water jug as we made our way the mile or so down the dirt road to the cotton field. I would place the jug under cotton plants to keep it from boiling. In my mind, I can still taste that very warm water. We would nurse that jug all day, wasting a little only to wash the dirt out of our eyes.

Mom wore a feed sack bonnet, long dress with a long sleeve shirt. I wore a straw hat and went barefooted, but the rest of my body was covered. We put cotton leaves in our head gear to prevent heatstroke. The straps on the cotton-picking sacks went around one shoulder and the neck. We dragged those long sacks behind us row after row until they were full. Then we would take them to the weigh-in man who marked down the weights and dumped the cotton in the wagon.

When the wagon was full he drove it



to the mill, mule-drawn, and had it baled. The backbreaking chore was mastered by some, but not Mom and me. The pay was 35 cents a hundred pounds, but we seldom went home with more than 50 cents for picking from sunup to nearly sundown. Even in that sorry cotton field, some people picked a couple of hundred pounds. I've seen some of the black women walk up and down those rows on their knees dragging the sack.

At the end of the day, they earned maybe a dollar each. Sounds like a lot of work for little money, but a little money bought a lot back then. Two gallons of coal oil cost a dime, sugar a nickel, 15 loose eggs were 10 cents, flour and corn meal cost just pennies. We picked six days, so two or three dollars went a long way toward feeding us. Our clothes were made from feed or flour sacks and my britches usually were hand-me-downs donated by someone.

We didn't have electricity or any of today's conveniences. We had a hand-pump water well that we would prime and draw our water from. I still have that same old pump today displayed in our courtyard. The sand settled to the bottom of the bucket, and we carefully scooped the water from the top for drinking and cooking.

Bathing was a different matter. The water was drawn in a No. 3 wash tub. If it wasn't a cloudy day, the sun would heat the water for bathing. We got our major baths on Saturday night. My grand-

mother, Availa, who lived next door to us, checked me out. If I didn't pass inspection, she would nearly draw blood with a bristle brush on my neck, ankles and knuckles. We used homemade lye soap. It burned like hell when it got in the eyes.

I never was fond of cotton picking, but I never complained. I was guilty of feeling sorry for myself at times. I do recall some fun times in the cotton patch; the black pickers sang and told funny Cajun stories. Mostly what's important was Mom and I doing something together. The morning walk to the field, just she and I, are memories that live on through the ages. Sometimes when we helped gather the cotton at other farms three or four miles away, they would pick us up, along with a dozen or so others, in a mule-drawn flat wagon. We often arrived back home at dark.

Cotton farms are no more in Vermilion Parish. Sugar cane fields have replaced cotton. Working the cane fields in October was my favorite farm job. Picking cotton was hard and dirty work, but I'd do it all over again just to share those times with Mom one more time.

Unfortunately, Mom, who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, passed away Sept. 1, 2004. What I find remarkable,

like many Alzheimer's patient, she had forgotten almost everything, even how to swallow, however the last time I saw her before her death I told her I loved her and remembered all of the times we'd had together. I then asked her when my birthday was. After a while she got it right. That has always amazed everyone.

A million incidents have occurred to me down life's highway since those long ago days. I'm not sure of the value I may have gained from living a life of poverty and hard work. I just know it was essential at the time, and you do in life what you have to do. I decided back then that I wanted to be the guy who drove the team of mules and wagon to the gin, bailed it and collected the money from the crop someone else had picked.

Life wasn't easy for a lot of people during those depression years, but for a single Mom, it was awfully difficult just to provide the bare necessities. Often she didn't make it. The flickering light from the coal oil lamp allowed her to do other chores at night. From my corn shuck palette on the floor I dreamed about tomorrow and a better life.

I left the cotton fields as soon as I could get away. The family values and the importance of pulling together that I learned has followed me all of my days. Strange as it may sound, I feel blessed to have lived then. When August comes around each year my thoughts turn to a simpler time with no frills, when a little money, that didn't come easy, meant so much.

Sometimes today I catch myself complaining about the heat and small difficulties of the day and repent by thanking the Lord for our many blessings that this easy life has led us to take for granted. I regret that we have become a shameless, lazy society that takes rather than gives. I marvel at how the world has changed. No one in my youth could have imagined it. I learned from those cotton days that even unpleasant things have a benefit. If the cotton was late, we got a lagniappe (bonus). We didn't have to start school until the cotton was all picked.

Deaths & Memorials

Constance Amelia Thrailkille Free 89, of Orange

Constance Amelia Thrailkille Free, 89, of Orange, Tx, passed away on 7/30/2023 at 12:34, at St. Davids in Austin, Texas.

In lieu of traditional Funeral services, we will be celebrating her life at 3 pm on August, 4, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, Tx. There will be snow cones and confetti. Bring your best whacky sunglasses and a silly hat.

Born in Orange, Tx, on 1/6/1934 she was the daughter of William Thrailkille and Ruby Hinch. She was a lifelong performer and entertainer, often featured onstage alongside Gordon Baxter in Port Arthur. She was the first female barber licensed in the state of Texas. She has done comedy bits on the radio, and loved to travel with good friends. Skipper wrote, often, for the Penny Record, and her name was mentioned over 200 times. The woman rode helicopters over volcanoes, and as grandkids we were sent out to catch bugs to feed the frog in Kebles commode. She often could be found sun baking crawdad mounds, and spray painting them gold. If it was fun, and



"Skipper" Free

messy, you can bet Skipper was ready to play. From the octagon shaped barber shop by Sprad's, to the great state Capitol of Austin she will be missed and cherished always.

She is preceded in death by her son, Chris Free, of Orange, Tx; and her brothers, sisters and parents.

She is survived by her Large family, consisting of children Keble Free, Beaumont TX; Eddie Free (Pam) of Orange, TX; Laura Free of Austin TX, Scott Free of Beaumont, TX. Her Grandchildren, Makani Couk, Kyra Thrillkill, Lana Wheeler, Ross Patek, Rachael Shakail, Noah Scott Free, Erik Daniel Free, Austin Chance Free, Taylor Mckenzie Free-Young, Jordan Scott Free, Tiffany Mckenzie, Kellen Free, plus several great grandchildren, any one who's been left out, blame Scott.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Skipper Free Queen of Texas on Facebook, where Makani Couk will be gathering the story, and writing her biography.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Thomas Norman Thayer, 76, of Bridge City

Thomas Norman Thayer, 76, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on July 14, 2023, in Beaumont, Texas.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, on May 14, 1947, he was the son of Francis Gervaise Thayer and Rena Alena (Jobe) Thayer. Thomas proudly served over 20 years in the United States Navy before retiring and going on to work as an Instrument Technician for BASF. Thomas was a jack-of-all-trades and was especially known for his ability to fix anything, help anyone, and taking pride in being an excellent troubleshooter. Thomas loved the Lord and was a member of First Christian Church in Orangefield. In his free time, Thomas took an interest in astronomy and ham radio and was involved in an amateur



Thomas Thayer

radio club. Thomas' loved ones will treasure the memories they have of him and miss him dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Alena Thayer; and sister-in-law, Jean Thayer.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Thayer; children, Matthew Wilder Thayer and wife, Nancy, Jennifer Charlene Thayer, and Ryan Thomas Thayer and wife, Jacquetta; grandchildren, Shaela Zerko and husband, Adam, Dylan Thayer, Kaitlin Thayer, Madison Thayer, Logan Owens, and Gabrielle Owens; and brother, Larry Francis Thayer.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

A memorial service for Thomas will be held at a later date.

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- Tilt Table Testing
- Nuclear Cardiology
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- Biventricular Pacemaker
- AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator)

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ESTATE SALE

Estate Sale this Thurs., August 3, 8:30 - 3:30, Fri., August 4, 8:30 - 1:00 and 3:00 - 6:30, Sat., August 5, 8:30 - 1:00. Cash Only at 7314 Brewer, off FM 1136, 77632

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale this Saturday, August 5th from 8 am - until at Sparkling Clean located at 3515 Mockingbird, Suite A, in Orange. This helps fund our back to school and school supplies for our area children. Lots of everything, to be held in parking lot.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROY ELLISON BENDY**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 31, 2023, in Cause No. P19740**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **WILLIAM CRAIG BELCHER**.

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.

William Craig Belcher, Independent Administrator
Estate of Glenda R. Belcher, Deceased

c/o:
Barron Law Office
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279

Dated the 31st day of July, 2023.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron
Attorney for Administrator
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279
Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

ACROSS

1. Itsy Bitsy Spider's tunnel
6. Operations, as in military
9. Carpenter's joint
13. Book, in Paris
14. Coach's talk
15. Long-necked wader
16. Did not go out to eat (2 words)
17. Chi preceeder
18. Top scout
19. *90s children's series "____ in Pyjamas"
21. *Alternative to stick
23. T-cell killer, acr.
24. Show worry
25. Knee-related acronym
28. Sushi restaurant's boozey offering
30. *Grilled cheese and ____ soup
35. Mouse to a snake
37. In ____, or together
39. Convicted one
40. *Pear or quince, botanically speaking
41. California and Nevada lake
43. Raja's daughter
44. Uncouth ones
46. Of two minds
47. RenÉ Descartes' "therefore"
48. Make wealthy

50. Use a surgical beam
52. Gingerbread creature
53. *When fruit is ready
55. Red-white-and-blue inits.
57. *"Hot" vegetable-shaped toy
60. *L in BLT
64. 3-D picture in a book
65. U.N. workers' grp.
67. Owned house or car, e.g.
68. Item on a cell phone bill
69. What's old is new again, prefix
70. Popular electric car
71. *Hair styling products
72. Scottish cap
73. British peers

DOWN

1. Block of concrete, e.g.
2. Pocket bread
3. Baker's baker
4. Dickens's Heep
5. Serena's sport
6. Prefers
7. *Fairytale princess test
8. Virgo's brightest star
9. Letter opener
10. Ship to Colchis
11. Airhead
12. The loneliest number?
15. Concerning this
20. Nautical "Stop!"

CROSSWORD

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Players, coaches battle heat as practices start

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The first day of pre-season practices for high school football teams was Monday, July 31, in Orange County. The summer heat was intense with the temperature around one hundred degrees in the late afternoon.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears practiced in the morning and then again in the late afternoon into the evening. The workouts were regulated to insure the players and coaches did not get overheated and experience any trauma because of the hot weather.

The head trainer Sherri Hoffpaur at Little Cypress Mauriceville is an active participant during the Bears' practices. "It is pretty hot even in the evening. We've had other summers that were hot like this. We just make sure the players get plenty of water breaks, cool off during breaks, make sure they get Gatorade, and get a twenty minute rest between the practice sessions," Hoffpaur elaborated.

During the workouts the coaches breakoff into separate groups with the players for their particular positions and work on techniques and skills for twenty to thirty minutes. Head Coach Eric Peevey then gives a signal for the coaches to stop their drills which allows the players

and coaches to get water and or Gatorade while standing near large fans that blow cooler air on them.

Precautions are a priority for Coach Peevey and trainer Hoffpaur so none of the Bears develop an illness from the heat. Hoffpaur explained, "Plenty of water breaks and we have a tent set up the players can get under with the fans blowing so they can cool down. We have iced towels in case anyone feels

PHOTO At RIGHT: LCM head trainer Sherri Hoffpaur and her student assistant trainers work to help keep the players and coaches healthy during the practices in the hot summer heat.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



overheated and we are fixing an ice bath so the players if they feel they are getting overheated can get in and cool off."

Heat related illnesses can be serious. "Heat exhaustion is the first problem and then heat stroke is later. Both of those are pretty detrimental. Heat exhaustion is easier to treat. We can get the person cooled down, get plenty of fluids in them, and then they would be out of practice for one day and then see how they are doing the second day," Hoffpaur responded.

PLAYERS, Page 3B

Bears and Bobcats hold youth football camps



LCM Bear coaches got to work with future Bears during their football camp held the last week of July.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Local high school athletes started their summer workouts for football with their coaches on Monday, July 31. The first games for most schools during the 2023 high school football season will be the week of Friday, August 25.

During the last week of July the coaches at Little Cypress Mauriceville and Orangefield held their summer football camps for their younger student athletes. Both camps had great turnouts for pre-high school aged students.

The future is bright for the LCM Battlin' Bears in football with over 140 incoming seventh, eighth, and ninth grade football players attending their camp on Monday through Thursday, July 24-27. Each day more campers showed up.

All participants went over special teams, offensive, and defensive fundamentals. They practiced in their particular posi-

tions for the upcoming season by sharpening their skills at the LCM football camp.

Head football coach Eric Peevey at Little Cypress Mauriceville was excited about this year's football camp. "This is such a great camp for us every year because it allows us to really get some quality one on one with our junior high and ninth grade Bears before the season gets started," Peevey replied.

The summer football camp has been a long standing tradition in Orangefield for incoming second through ninth grade students. The Bobcat football staff worked with 70 kids per day on Monday through Wednesday, July 24-26, each morning for two hours.

The campers at the Bobcat football camp learned the fundamentals of the game. They also competed in a punt, pass, and kick competition as well as running an obstacle course.

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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

This week's Texas Gulf Coast Fishing Reports was compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The Lakes

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water stained; 86-90 degrees; 1.94 feet below pool. The water level is 170.0 with both generators running 6 hours a day. Water temperature at the Dam is 88 degrees. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 86-90 degrees.

Crappie are still being caught in 12-20 feet of water depending on cloud cover and generator schedule. Small minnows are the preferred bait this time of year. Bass are good using topwater poppers, chuggers, spooks and frogs over vegetation early and late in the day. Another bass pattern is a 7-10 inch flutter spoon over humps and ledges. During the heat of the day bass are being caught in 20-25 feet over ledges with deep diving crankbaits. Texas and Carolina rigs have been producing in the outer swings of the creek bends.

Best colors for 7-10 inch worms are watermelon candy red, June bug red and Red shad. The night bass bite has been coming on strong with Texas rigged 10-12 inch worms in all black, black with a red glitter, black with a blue tail, Vudu magic super 7, and midnight special from Natural Forage Baits. Another great summer nighttime Bass bait is a spinnerbait in all black with a single spin Colorado blade 3/4 or 1 ounce, cadence slow off points. White bass have been producing on a black/blue back 1/2 ounce rattletrap, a jig-n-spoon in 1/2 and 3/4 ounce, and a medium diving crankbait.

Kayakers are catching blue and channel catfish shallow with the spawn going on in 1-6 feet of water with a floating cork and split shot from 3-12 pounds in the shallow flats close to deep water. Best baits are punch baits, squid, finger mullet, shrimp, and fresh lake shad.

Report from Master Captain Steve "Scooby" Stubbe, Mudfish Adventures LLC, Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide, and Mudfish Custom Rod Shop.

• Sam Rayburn Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 88-90 degrees; 2.17 feet below pool. Summer pattern is holding steady as the weather remains hot. As they drain water for repairs on the dam, fish will set up on the outside points in the current. Fish are staying near older wood where the PH is lower and the water continues to be off color. Bass are good with topwaters in the pencil grass and hydrilla. Bigger bass are on points and humps biting crankbaits and Carolina rigs. Crappie are stacking up on brush in 16-22 feet of water with bluegill mixed in biting on minnows or jigs. Catfish are good in 22-25 feet of water on brush and around creeks. White bass are schooling on points biting jigs and crankbaits. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

Galveston jetties are hit-or-miss for speckled trout, few slot redfish, black drum and sheepshead. Offshore bite is good for red snapper. Amberjack season opens August 1. Decent numbers of kingfish in state water, along with a few ling. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is producing catches of trout at night under lights on live bait or artificials. The rock Shoals southwest of the Dike are holding trout and redfish on live croaker, shrimp, or artificials. Look for bird action from Campbell's Reef to Virginia Point. The gas

wells across from Moses Lake are holding trout on live croaker. Moses Lake is holding fish by the gate on both sides. Dollar Reef is producing catches of trout on live croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Freeport

GOOD. 86 degrees. Fishing is good for redfish, trout and some flounder drifting with live shrimp under a popping cork in the mornings in Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay and the west end of Galveston. Wade fishing the guts in 3 feet of water catches of croakers.

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 90 degrees. Limits of trout can be had early in the morning on topwaters in the jetty, after the sunrises switch to a popping cork with live shrimp. Redfish and trout are good in outgoing tides inside the jetties on rock piles and bulkheads with a popping cork and live shrimp. Flounder are being caught in the Sabine Channel bulkheads with a 1/4 ounce jighead tipped with shrimp. In August the flounder start transitioning from the marshes to feed up before heading offshore in the fall. Slot redfish, trout and flounder are in the Intracoastal Canal biting live shrimp under a popping cork or 5 inch plastics with 1/16 ounce jig heads. Redfish can be had along rock piles from East Pass to Sydney Island. Redfish and trout can be caught in the morning drifting under the bird action on the north end of Sabine Lake. North Levy first and second pike continue to boast good catches of trout with an early morning topwater bite, switching to crankbaits and live shrimp under a popping cork as the day progresses. Expect bigger trout as we head into August. Trout are feeding on brown shrimp as they migrate into the Intracoastal behind Keith Lake. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• Bolivar

GOOD. 81 degrees. The surf is holding lots of black drum, shark, and some big redfish on cut bait or live on the bottom. The North Jetty Gulf side is holding limits of sheepshead and trout against rocks with an occasional redfish near the end with a popping cork and shrimp. The wreck is holding good numbers of trout on free-line shrimp or croaker close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout close and big redfish on the bottom. Sharks are at the end of the jetty on the gulf side. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 88 degrees. Bay wells are the best bet for those seeking speckled trout. In the open bay bull redfish have been working



Sabine Lake is good for trout and redfish making slow drifts over shell in 4-7 feet with popping cork. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

over bait. Birds pinpointing their location. Rocks lining the ship channel produce catches of black drum, sheepshead, and redfish. Best on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 88 degrees. Speckled trout fishing remains on the slow side. Some big redfish schooling in the middle. Water conditions are fair. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temps 88 degrees, water clarity varies, as previous weeks, the further west you venture the clearer the water becomes. Winds have been out of the southwest and west all week in the 8-18 mph increasing as the day progresses. This limits reef fishing efforts. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks have still been producing the most bites for our anglers, and Blue Moon has worked well with 1/4 ounce jigheads, in the upper portion of the water column. Birds are still working in the bay, as fish are still feeding on shrimp, so if you can find them the action can be fast and furious but does not last very long and then they are gone. On our live bait trips, live croaker has worked well in helping us pull in some giant bull redfish. Please remember to drink plenty of water and bring plenty of sunscreen, as we have ven-

tured into the time of year when it gets extremely hot on the water, and it is critical you stay hydrated and do not get overheated or sunburned, as after 10am you really begin to feel the effects. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Little Hanna's holding speckled trout, and an occasional flounder, or redfish, Yates Bayou drain still holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Siever's Cut holding redfish near grass lines. Hanna's, Deep Reef, Moody's Reefs look for birds and slicks. Gas wells A1 to Eagle Point, holding some trout with live croaker. Goat Island holding Redfish under popping cork with shrimp or Carolina rigged live mullet finger mullet. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 91 degrees. Gas wells have been good for speckled trout on live shrimp, but there are still a lot of undersized fish. Rock groins producing black drum and sheepshead, along with the occasional redfish. Best bite on live shrimp. Some speckled trout on shallow reefs, best bite on soft plastics, or live shrimp under corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The piers on the island are good for redfish, sharks, and jack crevalle. When water and waves permit, Pleasure

Pier to Surfside is hot for redfish, speckle trout, pompano on Live bait, artificial. Live shrimp under a popping cork, croaker on an OCTO Circle with small Chatter weight. The South Jetty is holding some big redfish with a few nice slots, and some nice sharks at the end. The gulf side is on fire for speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks on popping cork with live bait, free-lined shrimp, Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker. Channel side holding trout close to rocks popping cork with live shrimp. Catches of jack crevalle and bull redfish off the 61st and 91st Piers on cut bait. The railroad bridge is holding redfish, drum and a decent number of speckled trout early on live bait. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Water clarity is improving. Those wading for speckled trout are successful with live croaker. Boat anglers finding a few trout on deep shells with live shrimp and croakers. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. West Bay's south shore is producing good numbers of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers around the coves and grass lines from south of Deer Island to San Luis Pass on both sides of Bird Island. Bird Island flats are holding good numbers of speckled trout, and some redfish for wade anglers. North shorelines between Carancahua Reef and Confederate Reef are holding good trout and redfish with an occasional flounder drifting croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Texas City

FAIR. 87 degrees. Daytime action along the dike is slow. Better catches of speckled trout at night un-

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Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) law enforcement reports. Images of individual field notes are available upon request from the TPWD press office.

• You Never Even Called Me by My Name

While patrolling Cedar Creek Lake, Anderson and Henderson County Game Wardens investigated a potential Boating While Intoxicated case. The violator gave consent for a blood sample resulting in an arrest.

The wardens assisted with returning the boat to shore since the other occupant was not familiar with operating a boat. Once on shore, one warden walked into the boat ramp parking lot.

A vehicle sped into the lot and parked in a handicapped space. The driver then yelled an obscene greeting at the warden, who thought maybe the driver failed to recognize his uniform in the dark. The warden turned on his flashlight to ensure the driver saw his badge.

Sitting in the passenger seat, the driver's son commented on his mother's regretful choice of greeting. The warden conducted sobriety tests and determined the driver, now belligerent, was intoxicated.

The local police department arrived and transported them to a hospital, where the driver consented to a blood specimen. The test determined that along with her intoxication, she was also suffering from low blood sugar.

Her sugar level was treated, and she was placed in jail for a DWI.

• Boat Over Troubled Water

After a long period of heavy rainfall in Trinity County resulting in high water, swift currents and excessive debris, a Trinity County Game Warden received a call from dispatch regarding a boater who was sinking in a nearby river.

The warden spoke with the distressed boater and advised him to put on a life jacket immediately. He then called the local fire department for backup. The boater dropped an accurate pin for his location, and the warden quickly found him hanging on the top bow of a vertically floating vessel, half submerged. The warden pulled up to the vessel, allowing the boater to jump in.

The vessel then completely submerged. However, the warden successfully tied the boat's bowline to a nearby tree stump, saving the vessel, which was later towed to a local boat ramp. Together, the warden and boater recovered an ice chest with fish and a couple of fishing poles. The boater explained that there were a lot of floating trees in the swift water. While he was fishing, a huge floating tree came over his motor, pushing the back of the vessel underwater.

The boater was very appreciative and tired.

• Playing Possum

A Karnes County Game Warden received a call from a witness who discov-

ered a man lying on the ground next to a dead deer.

The complainant found the man after hearing a shot from a nearby county road and yelled at the man to ask what he was doing. The man stood up and ran into the brush. Wardens coordinated with sheriff's deputies and witnesses to identify the subject.

When interviewed, the subject indicated that, after partaking in a couple of beers, he shot the deer illegally for food. The warden issued a citation and restitution fee. The deer was donated to the witnesses for food.

• Riding Shotgun

While Potter and Deaf Smith County Wardens patrolled the Canadian River Off-Highway Vehicle Area, they received information from multiple parties about adult males off-roading and shooting rifles illegally near the hiking trails around Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Rosita Creek Flats.

Walking through the flats, the wardens located three adult males who displayed multiple anti-police tattoos and clothing. One of the individuals carried two rifles, an AK-47 and a .308 caliber, as well as paper targets.

Some of the individuals were from out of state; the wardens additionally observed that their vehicle did not display a Texas OHV decal. Upon checking with the Potter County Sheriff's Office, the

wardens learned that one was a convicted felon with outstanding warrants for various charges. The wardens arrested the individual without incident.

A National Park Service Ranger arrived on scene and issued a federal citation to the individual who had been illegally target shooting.

The owner of the vehicle also received a citation for failing to display proper decals required by law.

• Never Split the Party

A Williamson County Game Warden responded to multiple reports of two men spearfishing and keeping a large quantity of fish. The warden contacted the individuals as they were exiting the woods and returning to their vehicle. During their conversation, he noticed they did not have any fish or spears in their possession.

He learned that the reporting party threatened the men with calling the police. Nervous about police interference, they said they released the fish and stashed their spears in the woods. The warden followed the men into the woods to retrieve the spears. During their walk, one of the gentlemen walked slowly while the other walked further ahead at a quicker pace.

Realizing that they were trying to split up, the warden ran to catch up to the man furthest away, catching him with two spears in his hand and a bag with 70 speared and gutted fish including sunfish, bluegill, Rio Grande cichlids, fresh-water drum, undersized black bass and channel catfish. Neither man possessed a fishing license.

The warden issued multiple citations.

Players, coaches battle From Page 1B

Hoffpaur added, "For heat stroke we usually have to call the ambulance. It is much more serious." Heat stroke can be fatal if not treated quickly enough according to Hoffpaur.

There are signs or indications that trainers like Hoffpaur remain alert to observe in the players and coaches before a situation gets critical. "The person quits sweating, feels chilled, vomiting, sees black spots, or has difficulty breathing. We just watch out for those symptoms," Hoffpaur informed. "We encourage the players to take care of themselves by making sure they're eating a good meal and getting plenty of water and fluids and then

to pay attention to the signs their body is giving them."

Keeping the players hydrated is imperative when they are sweating so profusely during the hot workouts. "We use Powerade and then we have some electrolyte popsicles that if we need to we can give them that, and that's what we use to keep them hydrated," Hoffpaur said. Some schools still use salt tablets to help retain salt levels for the individual but LCM does not.

Hoffpaur is not alone in working to keep the players healthy during the workouts as she has six students who serve as assistant trainers or managers that work with her.

Hoffpaur admitted, "I couldn't do without them, they are invaluable."

"It's just hot! It helped we had summer workouts so the players are pretty much acclimated to it. Several of our players work outside with their parents or other relatives during the summer so they're more acclimated to it, so that helps a lot.

We work to keep their nutrition and hydration up. Another hint we give them is to add a little extra salt to their food, not a lot, just a little bit to kind of replace some of those electrolytes that they're losing," Coach Hoffpaur concluded.



Players are given plenty of opportunity to stay hydrated with water breaks during the two practices a day at Little Cypress Mauriceville. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Extreme temperatures but Texas state parks can be a respite

WILLIAM MELHADO
The Texas Tribune

On a recent sweltering afternoon, Doug Cochran stood outside the visitor center of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area and pointed an infrared thermometer gun at the black tarmac in the parking lot. The display read 141 degrees. He swung it over to a nearby patch of dry soil. Even hotter: 163 degrees.

"Heat Warning! Feels Like 110," read a sign at the entrance to the park, famous for its exposed rock domes that have essentially spent the summer baking in the sun. "Know your limits!"

As superintendent of the park just north of Fredericksburg in Central Texas, Cochran likes to see well-prepared visitors come to Enchanted Rock in the summer. But he's also happy when Texans opt for other outdoor experiences, often with water access, instead of the minimally shaded grasslands and bare granite.

"We can't tell them, 'You can't go,' but we want them to make wise decisions," Cochran said about warning park visitors of the heat. "We've had 39 people get injured this year and we don't want you to become number 40."

Texas has already seen several heat-related deaths in state and national parks

this summer, though it's not alone. A 17-year-old hiker died after he was rescued from the Lighthouse Trail at Palo Duro Canyon State Park on June 21. Two days later, a 14-year-old died while hiking the Marufo Vega Trail in Big Bend National Park in 119-degree heat. His stepfather died while trying to get help.

This year's brutal summer — even by Texas standards — poses serious risks including heat exhaustion, heat stroke and, in the most serious cases, death. But the blistering heat, as sweat-inducing and uncomfortable as it is, hasn't deterred nature lovers from enjoying the collective diversity of Texas' 89 state parks, historic sites and natural areas this year.

There was no dramatic decrease in the number of visitors to state parks in May and June, despite record-breaking temperatures in some parts of the state. In June, state parks collectively logged 1 million visitors — the third highest number for that month since 2016 — despite recording an abnormally intense period of extended high temperatures that month.

While some parks become less hospitable in the hot, summer months, others have attracted more visitors because of aquatic amenities.

"It might drop at Stephen F. Austin Park where there's not a water feature, but at Galveston Island their visitation is increasing to counter that," said Justin Rhodes, a deputy director in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Rhodes, like Cochran, is happy Texans are opting for parks with places to cool down, given the risks extreme heat can pose to the public at parks.

"We're seeing more and

more new users come to Texas state parks who may not have experience in the outdoors and they're dipping their toes in the water, if you will, and just may not realize those dangers exist," Rhodes said.

Just southeast of Austin, McKinney Falls State Park typically offers the antithesis of Enchanted Rock for park visitors. Cool water pours from limestone cliffs into a wide pool, which brazen youth jump into when water levels are

high.

But a persistent drought paired with the heat wave has left the swimming holes of McKinney Falls with less — and warmer — water.

When Onion Creek runs through McKinney Falls at lower levels, the pools warm under the relentless sun. Yet for some Central Texans, the allure of relief from the triple-digit temperatures is enough to draw them to McKinney Falls.

By Saturday, the park was drawing more people.

Burning rays of triple-digit sunlight reflected off empty cars' foldable silver sun shades. Sounds of splashing water resounded in the near distance. A group of 11 unpacked a truck with the essentials for the day: a blue inflatable kayak, a clear inner tube with pink flamingos and a cooler full of drinks on ice.





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Lutcher Theater Spotlight Packages are on sale now

**Staff Report
For The Record**

The Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts is proud to announce Spotlight Season Ticket Packages are currently on sale to the public for their 2023-2024 season. Spotlight Packages include the purchase of tickets to four or more shows.

"The advantages of purchasing a Spotlight Package are the choice of four or more shows, access to the best available seating before single show tickets go on sale, discounted handling fees and first access to additional special events throughout the season," said Lynae Sanford, Lutcher Theater executive director.

For their 44th season, the Lutcher Theater presents 12 incredible events, including multiple National Broadway Tours, a holiday a cappella sensation, one of country music's best-loved artists and a new Candlelight Concert Series!

"We are very proud of the caliber of performances we are able to bring to Southeast Texas," said Sanford. "The shows you see at the Lutcher are the same tours that perform in Houston, New Orleans and other larger markets."

The 2023-2024 season includes Craig Morgan, "Mean Girls," STOMP, Voctave - Spirit of the Season, "On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan," "Pretty Woman The Musical," "Little Women," "Come From Away," "Annie" and "Chicago." In addition to the regular season,

the Lutcher Theater will present a new Candlelight Concert Series featuring The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra and Scott Mulvihill.

The Lutcher Theater is a 1,500 seat, state-of-the-art, world class performing arts facility and the prominent presenter of Broadway, national and international tours, award-winning artists, renowned dance and acclaimed children's performances for Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. Each season, the Lutcher offers a world class experience and unforgettable memories to each and every audience member.

For more information on the Lutcher Theater, their 2023-2024 season or to purchase a Spotlight Package, please visit lutcher.org.

**Craig Morgan
Sunday, October 15
- 7:30 p.m.**

A multi-faceted entertainer, CRAIG MORGAN has made a name for himself as a country music icon, TV personality, celebrated outdoors-man and patriotic Army veteran. One of country music's best-loved artists, Morgan has charted 25 songs on Billboard.

**Mean Girls
Saturday, November 4
- 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.**

*Show contains mature content

Featuring a book by Tina Fey, MEAN GIRLS tells the story of a naive newbie who falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies. Entertainment Weekly calls it "A



A multi-faceted entertainer, CRAIG MORGAN has made a name for himself as a country music icon, TV personality, celebrated outdoors-man and patriotic Army veteran.

MARVEL: dazzling and hilarious!" and USA Today says, "We'll let you in on a little secret, because we're such good friends: GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!"

**STOMP
Friday, December 8
- 7:30 p.m.**

Saturday, December 9, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.
STOMP is an explosive, provocative, sophisticated, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show updated and restructured. See what all the noise is about!

**Voctave -
Spirit of the Season
Sunday, December 17
- 7:00 p.m.**

A cappella sensa-

tion VOCTAVE'S 11-member vocal ensemble brings incredible harmonies to some of the most beloved songs and have been inspiring their millions of social media fans since 2015. From holiday favorites to Disney showstoppers and beyond, "The Spirit of the Season" is a seasonal treat for musical lovers of all ages.

**On Your Feet!
The Story of Emilio &
Gloria Estefan
Tuesday, January 9-
7:30 p.m.**

ON YOUR FEET! is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent—and each other—to become an international sensation. Featuring some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century, including

"Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga," "Get On Your Feet," "Don't Want To Lose You Now," "1-2-3" and "Coming Out of the Dark." Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

**Pretty Woman
The Musical
Friday, February
2 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 3 -
2:00 p.m.**

*Show contains mature content

PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL, based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories of all time, will lift your spirits and light up your heart. Are you ready to fall in love all over again? Don't make a "big mistake" by missing this one!

**Little Women
Thursday, February 15**

- 7:30 p.m.
Produced nationally and internationally, LITTLE WOMEN has been praised by critics for its ambition in bringing the timeless, captivating story to vivid musical life onstage. Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and my March, each determined to live life on her own terms.

**Come From Away
Thursday, March 14-
7:30 p.m.**

On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. This stirring and inspiring musical takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of the small town in Newfoundland that opened their homes to 7,000 stranded travelers on 9/11. During that fateful week, cultures clashed and nerves ran high - but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Celebrate the best of humankind and the best in all of us at COME FROM AWAY.

**Annie
Thursday, April
- 7:30 p.m.**

Holding onto hope when times are tough can take an awful lot of determination, and sometimes, an awful lot of determination comes in a surprisingly small package. Little Orphan ANNIE has reminded generations of theatergoers that sunshine is always right around the corner.

Biden takes aim at Hunter Education

**OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record**



Chuck Uzzle

The Biden administration announced recently that schools who teach programs like Hunters Education, archery, or any sort of competitive shooting will have their federal funds from the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) blocked by using a loophole in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The Education Secretary, Miguel Cardona, moved to block funding citing such programs violate the BSCA by providing training in the use of "dangerous weapons". Several Senators, including some who actually voted for the BSCA have voiced concern that the administration "misinterpreted" the legislation and is now using it to go after those who support the Second Amendment. The withholding of federal funds is seen as a backdoor attack on the nation's hunting and recreational shooting traditions and heritage.

outdoors and participating in such programs have long been recognized by many in both the medical and psychological world. Despite the obvious and known benefits of the outdoors it seems as if more and more kids spend fewer time outdoors, instead, they turn to "screen time" and different social media platforms which have been proven contributors to psychological and other health disorders. Defunding programs designed to make kids lives better, both mentally and physically seems to be counter productive at best but that also seems to be the mantra of the current administration. Tens of thousands of students participate in these school programs every year and there is no evidence that shows they are more likely to do harm with a firearm. In fact the benefits of being in a structured activity help to combat several contribut-

ing factors, such as alienation and social isolation that are commonly associated with students who carried out criminal activities including mass shootings. The lessons learned in these various programs go a long way towards helping kids in all aspects of life and it would be a huge disservice to any and all who participate in them. Sadly though this administration is set on eradicating anything that resembles strong, confident individuals who value life in the outdoors and like to share those activities with others. 2024 cannot get here soon

enough.
Here at home we have finally gotten a slight reprieve from the brutal winds that plagued us throughout July. The constant howling out of the southwest made life on the open lake a disaster. This past week we got out early and were treated to some calm seas and absolutely gorgeous water color and clarity. The reports from all over the lake have been promising as anglers from the jetty's to up in the Sabine river have been catching fish on a variety of baits. The early topwater

bite has been steady and those choosing live bait fished under a cork or on the bottom have also been catching their fair share of fish. There have been a few birds in the lake over schools of ravenous lady fish so you have to go through the numbers in order to find a keeper. The best redfish have been doing their thing during the hottest part of the day and they show up in random locations so they are terribly hard to predict. If you are willing to burn some gas and go look you may be rewarded with finding an active school blowing holes in the water while eating everything that swims in front of them. With no ap-

preciable amounts of rain in the forecast look for things to get nothing but better.
Please don't forget the annual OCARC Fishing Tournament this weekend, it's a yearly tradition that shouldn't be missed. The tourney starts on Friday at 5pm and the weigh in will be Saturday at 5pm at the City of Orange Boat Ramp. You can register until August 4th at 5pm and the cost is 30.00. There are 12 categories with both fresh and saltwater fish available. You can register at the OCARC on 905 West Park in Orange. For more info or questions please call 409-886-1363

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Top American cyclist Magnus White, 17, dies after being hit by a car

Laurel Wamsley
National Public Radio

A rising star in American cycling, 17-year-old Magnus White, has died after a driver hit him while he was cycling on the shoulder of a highway in his hometown of Boulder, Colo. on Monday.

White had been preparing to head to Glasgow, Scotland, to compete in the Junior Men's Mountain Bike Cross-Country World Championships next week.

A member of USA Cycling's junior men's national team, White won the 2021 USA Cyclocross Junior Men's National Championship. He represented the U.S. in his first cyclocross world championship last year in Fayetteville, Ark., and competed in his second earlier this year in

the Netherlands. (USA Cycling describes cyclocross as a combination of "road cycling, mountain biking and steeplechase.")

"Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the tragic loss of our beloved son, Magnus White," his parents Michael and Jill White said in a statement Monday.

"Magnus was dedicated to his family and friends and loved to surround them with laughter. He had an amazing smile that always lit up the room, bringing joy to those around him."

White's passion for cycling started at the age of two on a strider bike, they said, and he began racing at age 8. He grew up in Boulder and trained with Boulder Junior Cycling. He was also an avid skier and a committed student who aspired to attend business



Magnus White, a 17-year old on the U.S. national cycling team, was killed Saturday while biking in Boulder, Colo. He is seen here competing at the Cyclocross World Championships in January in Hoogerheide, the Netherlands. USA Cycling

school, according to his website. He planned to graduate from high school a semester early so he could focus on international competition in spring 2024.

In addition to his parents,

White is survived by his brother Eero. A family friend has set up a GoFundMe to support the family, USA Cycling confirms.

"Magnus was taken from us while doing what he

loved most, riding his bike," writes Christine Lipson, the fundraiser's organizer.

"He began cycling when he was eight and quickly rose through the cycling ranks. Magnus's journey in cycling was driven by a tireless work ethic and a deep desire to achieve his personal best. He was proud to represent his community and country around the world," writes Lipson, whose son was a close friend and teammate of White's.

White was riding on the shoulder of Highway 119, known as the Diagonal, in Boulder on Saturday afternoon when he was hit by a 23-year-old woman driving a Toyota Matrix. The driver crossed from the right-hand lane onto the shoulder, striking White from behind before she crashed

into a fence, according to an incident report from the Colorado State Patrol. White was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead. The car's driver was uninjured.

Neither drugs, alcohol nor excessive speed are suspected factors in the crash, according to the state patrol.

USA Cycling said in a statement Sunday that White was a rising star in off-road cycling and "his passion for cycling was evident through his racing and camaraderie with his teammates and local community." "We offer our heartfelt condolences to the White family, his teammates, friends, and the Boulder community during this incredibly difficult time," the statement continued.

"We ride for Magnus."

Entertainment: 'Parti-Gras 2023' tickets on sale

TOMMY MANN JR.
FOR THE RECORD

The summer concert season is underway and, just like the temperatures, it is already red hot. More big shows are on tap in the coming weeks, so be sure to check out the schedule below for upcoming shows and see the full listing of events online at www.therecordlive.com

• **Aug. 3**

Big Time Rush, Max, Jax, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Kenny Loggins, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

• **Aug. 4**

Thomas Rhett, Toyota Center, Houston, Black Flag, House of Blues, Houston

• **Aug. 5**

Great White, Slaughter, Golden Nugget Casino,

Lake Charles, La.

• **Aug. 6**

George Clinton, House of Blues, Houston

• **Aug. 8**

Post Malone, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 10**

Underoath, Revention Music Center, Houston

• **Aug. 11**

Boy George and Culture Club, Howard Jones, Berlin, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 12**

Foreigner, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Stevie Nicks, Toyota Center, Houston

• **Aug. 13**

Mudvayne, Coal Chamber, GWAR, Nonpoint, Butcher Babies, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 14**



Rocker star Bret Michaels is bringing the "Parti-Gras 2023" tour to Ford Park Pavilion on Friday, Sept. 22. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., Friday, July 14 at the Ford Park box office, all Ticketmaster locations and online. Tickets are \$40-\$75 each and special guests include Jefferson Starship and Frank Ray. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

REO Speedwagon, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

• **Aug. 17**

Pantera, Lamb of God, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Trapt, Scout Bar, Houston

• **Aug. 18**

Ted Nugent, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont, Sam Hunt, Lily Rose, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 19**

Rick Springfield, The Hooters, Paul Young, Tommy Tutone, LAuberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La., Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa, Too Short, Warren G., DJ Drama, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 20**

Beck, Phoenix, Weyes Blood, Sir Chloe, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 21**

Lil Durk, Kodak Black, Toyota Center, Houston

• **Aug. 22**

Ice Nine Kills, Set It Off, The Plot, Revention Music Center, Houston

• **Aug. 24**

50 Cent, Busta Rhymes, Jeremih!, Toyota Center, Houston

• **Aug. 25**

LL Cool J, The Roots, Big Boi, Juvenile, Goodie Mob, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Toyota Center, Houston

Aug. 26


Jodeci, SWV, Dru Hill, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

Sept. 1

Yngwie Malmsteen, House of Blues, Houston

Sept. 2


Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Lionel Richie, Earth, Wind and Fire, Toyota Center, Houston, Ghost, Amon Amarth, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands




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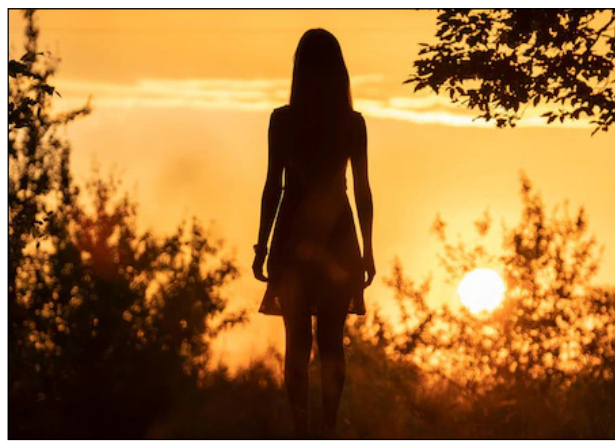
"You are not alone."

Just hearing those words when we're in pain can cause a subtle shift within us, moving us toward hope where we had seen only despair. Suffering can be one of the loneliest experiences, separating us from people we love and, at times, from a sense of God's nearness. We long for presence — both the presence of God, who draws near in our pain, and the presence of others who can minister his grace. Yet sometimes it's hard to find or experience either.

Sunday After He Left

Though I'd been part of the local church for decades, I didn't want to go to church the Sunday after my husband left. I was convinced it would be painful and awkward. Most people didn't know what had happened, and I wasn't sure what I would say. Afraid that I'd break down in tears, I wanted to pull the covers over my head and not face anyone. Nothing felt safe. But after wrestling in bed, I finally got up and drove to church with my daughters, praying that God would meet us there.

Some friends were waiting for us in the back. They had saved seats for us. I was relieved we wouldn't be sitting alone.



As we stood for the first hymn and began to hear our voices harmonize with those around us, I felt a strange swell of emotion. We were part of a community, and even though our world had collapsed, there were people around us who would hold us up. I still remember leaving encouraged that day, thankful that I had been worshipping in God's house, hearing God's word, surrounded by God's people.

I couldn't have known when I walked through the doors that Sunday how much I would rely on those people in the coming years.

With Me in the Fire

It was in the church where I felt nurtured and known. Hearing God's word preached every Sunday grounded me, reminding me of the truths I needed as anchors. I remember a particular sermon on the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3. My pastor pointed out, vividly and memorably, that God

is with us in the fire. He emphasized our witness in trials and how people can see our faithfulness and God's sufficiency in our weaknesses. I needed to hear, again and again throughout Scripture, that God will never leave or forsake us.

In those long, hard days, I also heard truth from friends and people in my small group who individually encouraged me, prayed with me, and wept with me as they pointed me to Jesus. It was through their faithfulness that I experienced firsthand the church as the body of Christ, redeemed people who love, serve, and sacrifice for each other. Their love came in many forms — providing for our practical needs, sharing testimonies of how God had met them in their own grief, and reminding me of truth when I was tempted to doubt.

The response from our church was overwhelming — people fixed our computers, brought our family meals, and even changed light bulbs in our house.

Families invited us to dinner, reminding us that we were part of a larger community that was going to support us.

What If the Church Hurt Us?

Though I was nurtured and loved by my local church, I do know others who have been hurt by fellow Christians in the wake of suffering, feeling unknown and uncared for in their pain. For some, members of the church showed up right away, but then the support quickly evaporated and they were left to grieve on their own. Others have felt judged or minimized as people have sought to fix them rather than mourn with them. They have left the church disillusioned, discouraged, and disappointed. Their experience in church has seemed to only intensify their loneliness, rather than lessen it.

So how do suffering people move forward when we have been let down by the church? While everyone's situation is unique, and there is no universal answer, God has chosen the church as the place where his children heal, serve, and grow. In his manifold wisdom, God makes himself known through the church (Ephesians 3:10). The church is the body of Christ, his hands and feet in the world. When one member suffers, all suffer together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

When we already feel

weak and wounded, it takes courage to tell others, especially in the church, how they have hurt us. As we bravely move forward, we can pray that God would direct us, help us overlook or forgive when appropriate, and give us wisdom on what actions to take next. In some circumstances, we may deem it wise to leave our local church and look for another, but God will never call us to leave the church altogether. It is one of his greatest means of grace in our lives, and all the more so in suffering.

Do We Really Need Church?

The inevitable questions arise: Why do we need the local church in suffering? Why is it worth finding one where we can belong and trust? Why can't we just do this on our own?

We need the local church in our suffering because, without it, we might become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13). When our suffering lingers, and our prayers seemingly go unanswered, we may begin to wonder if God cares — if he can really be trusted. Our fears may feel greater than our faith. When that happens, we can lean into the faith of the saints around us and let them carry us (Hebrews 10:24-25). We can entrust them to pray for us when we have no words ourselves. And we can rest knowing that even if we stumble and fall, someone will be there to pick us up and help us find our strength

in God.

As we share our suffering with those in the church, we not only allow them to minister hope to us, but we also minister to them through our pain.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

When we hide our wounds and weaknesses, we not only distance ourselves from others, but we also subtly reinforce the lie that the Christian life promises continuous victory, pain-free bodies, and material prosperity. Letting our brothers and sisters in Christ into that sacred space of our suffering, sharing our failures and weakness, our pain and our despair, brings a rare closeness that reminds us all that we are not alone.

Suffering can be one of the loneliest experiences, making us feel estranged and isolated from our friends, from our community, and from God. Yet paradoxically, as we let the church minister to us in our pain, leaning into God and into our friends, letting them carry us when we are weak, we often will find a deeper intimacy than we have ever known. God himself whispers to us, through Scripture and through fellow believers, that we are beloved, seen, and known, even in the valley.

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Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner
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