

The Penny Record

Vol. 61 No. 14

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

Week of August 26 - September 3, 2020

President, Governor praise county's storm response



President Donald Trump visited with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and Orange County Judge John Gothia during a meeting with state and local officials held to discuss recovery efforts for Hurricane Laura, a storm with wind gusts up to 100 miles per hour in Texas causing roof and tree damage and loss of electricity throughout SE Texas. (PHOTO: WH.gov)

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Twice in three afternoons last week, Orange County Judge John Gothia spent parts of some of the longest days of his life in made-for-TV lovefest.

First it was the governor of Texas, Greg Abbott. He congratulated all the area leaders for getting citizens to evacuate early.

Then it was the President of the United States, Donald Trump, celebrating how relatively smoothly things went for Orange County which

ended up on the "good" side of Hurricane Laura early last Thursday night.

"When it hit, I think they say it was the strongest that they've had in Louisiana and Texas in 150 years," Trump said. "But the path was a little bit lucky. So we got a little bit lucky, so that's great."

They were historic days. When Abbott returned Saturday afternoon to greet Trump on the landing pad at Orange County Airport and join him at the Orange County Convention Center and Expo, it was the first time Orange had ever hosted

a U.S. President and Texas governor on the same day.

And more than a thousand local supporters turned out on the road between the Airport and the Expo Center to

celebrate the visiting President.

But nobody wants to host a hurricane in order to host a President.

"We're just good at this,"

Gothia said Monday morning, speaking of the county's storm prep and the act of restarting after a natural disaster. "It runs smooth. It all gets done. Everybody knows

what they're supposed to do." Gothia, who began his county service as commissioner in 2017, said last week

TRUMP VISIT Page 2A

Bridge City and Orangefield get glancing blow from Laura



Bridge City councilman Mike Reed extends his gratitude to Sgt. Guerrero of the Texas National Guard. The infantryman and his squad have been set up at the Bridge City Intermediate School distributing water, ice, tarps and MREs to local residents.

RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn

School return dates uncertain

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Area schools definitely will not be meeting for the rest of this week, but not all have ruled out next week in the uncertain landscape which is Southeast Texas/America in late summer of 2020, a year that will go down in history as, um, most challenging.

Lamar State College Orange will reopen on Monday, Sept. 14, Brian Hull, dean of student services, said in a Facebook video.

Hurricane Laura, which struck Orange County after five months of ever-changing class schedules altered by the

COVID-19 pandemic, knocked out electricity and did significant wind damage in most locations on the east side of the county.

Electric officials have said power should be back on in all of Orange County by Friday, Sept. 4.

As of Wednesday, Bridge City was the only school district with a definitive restart date for on-campus and virtual classes of Sept. 14.

The Orangefield, Little Cypress-Mauriceville and West Orange-Cove districts were still not saying when they would start back to class, only that they would be closed to students through at least Friday, Sept. 4.

Generator scares keep firemen busy

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

City of Orange Fire Chief David Frenzel told this week's emergency city council meeting his department has had "an immense amount of calls reported to carbon monoxide" because of improper use of gasoline-powered generators.

Fire Marshal John Bilbo updated that intel Wednesday morning: "We're still getting a lot of calls. Our preliminary thought is the death we had the other day is going to be called CO-related, but we won't know for sure until we get the report back."

Tyrone Heard, a 48-year-old man from Orange, died

early Tuesday morning at a hospital after he was found unconscious in his house in the city's Roselawn addition, Bilbo confirmed.

Frenzel said Monday afternoon some citizens in distress that the city had responded to had registered levels as high as 300 parts per million of the carbon monoxide, a tasteless, odorless and undetectable by humans gas, in their bloodstream.

As many as 8 parts per million could cause congestive heart failure in people with preexisting conditions. In high enough concentrations, carbon monoxide can

GENERATOR Page 5A



Members of the First Assembly of God in Bridge City distribute plate lunches and water to residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. Hundreds of storm weary residents lined up at the drive through location set up behind the church.

RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn

Presidential aircraft tip-off Trump's trip

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The Record Newspapers correctly predicted President Donald's Trump to visit Orange Saturday, but blew it on the Ospreys.

Photos from the Orange County Airport of two U.S. Marine Osprey Vertical Takeoff and Landing air-

planes, each reportedly costing about \$70 million to produce, and a green and white United States of America helicopter resembling the President's Marine One showed up at the County Record offices Friday.

At the time, a visit by the President had not been mentioned locally - in fact, there

was never an official announcement - and it was wrongly deduced that the photos were left over from Thursday's visit in Orange of Gov. Greg Abbott and U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz.

It turns out those aircraft were here in advance of the President's visit, County

Judge John Gothia confirmed this week.

The non-local state officials flew into Jefferson County Airport.

Gothia said the two Ospreys each carried three cars for the President's motorcade, including the Presi-

TRUMP TIP OFF Page 3A



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Trump visit From Page 1

was the sixth time in his four years as an Orange County leader to work during a disaster out of the "Thibodome," the hurricane-proof Expo Center designed to serve as Emergency Operations Center during and after hurricanes and built with a mix of federal and local money and much pushing and pulling by former County Judge Carl Thibodeaux.

who spent Sunday overseeing a roof repair on his twice-flooded Bridge City home. "But the one thing I know that won't stop is the resilience of this community to come back, put it back together and to continue to love Orange County for a great place to be and a great place to live. We just have to put one foot in front of the other. Sometimes I know that is very difficult.

duced some rain. Laura was predicted to make landfall as a Category 3 hurricane anywhere between Galveston and Morgan City, Louisiana. But it seemed to be bearing down on Orange and Port Arthur early Wednesday and everybody that hadn't run for the hills Tuesday had to be thinking twice now. The fact that it turned eastward during the late evening was a big

need to help them as we take care of ourselves." Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick remarked to the president Sunday how selfless Gothia had been in the Thursday meeting with the governor, when he offered to send unneeded hurricane supplies to Louisiana.

"Give the judge credit. We were here two days ago and the judge said, 'Look, we weren't hit as hard as some other areas. So whatever we have that other people need.' And so many Texans, we respect the Cajun Navy that came for us. We don't have a name for our volunteers, but I've seen on all the newscasts, thousands of Texans have gone over to Louisiana and that's the spirit of Americans working together."

The mind boggles at the logistics needed to get the President of the United States from Point A to Point B several times a day. A number of planes and squadron of helicopters travel ahead of him and with him.

Two Marine Osprey tilt-rotor planes brought motorcade vehicles and possibly the President's Marine One helicopter to Texas, then met Trump and his press corps that travels with him aboard Air Force One in Lake Charles. An Osprey flew the press corps to Orange, while Marine One did the honors for Trump.

After Trump's meeting at the Expo Center, where American and Texas flags were backlit expertly on either side of a Texas star and Orange County sign by the WH.gov camera crew, he and the press corps took a swift 25-minute motorcade ride back to Chenault International Airport in Lake Charles to reboard Air Force One and return to Washington.

The list of people who came to Orange for Gov. Abbott's meeting was impressive, starting with U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, U.S. Representatives Brian Babin and Randy Weber, Patrick, the head of regional FEMA efforts and chief of the

Texas Department of Emergency Management. Also, two state senators from this area, two state representatives and several mayors and county commissioners.

Saturday, Cruz and Abbott returned, along with Babin and Weber, Patrick and TDEM Chief Nim Kidd. Missing on return engagements were Cornyn and Orange Mayor Larry Spears. The mayor revealed on Facebook he had tested positive for COVID-19 before Trump's arrival. There was no word on Cornyn's absence but Trump did refer to "two of my favor-

ite people you are missing because of Covid," while talking to the Texas governor.

Beaumont Mayor Becky Ames and Orange County Sheriff Lane Mooney joined the dais, which included FEMA boss Pete Gaynor and Homeland Security Director Chad Wolf. Mark Meadows, Trump's latest chief of staff, appeared from off-stage to answer a non-storm question from the traveling press corps, and according to a list put out by the White House, advisor Hope Hicks was also supposed to be on the trip.



Elected officials sign documents extending Orange County's disaster declaration through Sept. 31 at Monday's emergency meeting of Commissioners Court held at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on FM 1442. At the head table, from left, are Precinct 2 County Commissioner Theresa Beauchamp, County Judge John Gothia and Precinct 3 County Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

"I've got to tell you, though," Gothia said, "I'd almost rather be up here telling you all that it's not going smooth because we don't know what we're doing. But we do know what we're doing."

Unlike Tropical Storms Harvey and Imelda, two of the wettest four or five storms ever to be recorded in the U.S., flooding was not an issue this time in Southeast Texas. Wind was. Gusts of about 100 mph snapped tall trees in half, tangling up power lines and leaving blue tarps where roofs used to be.

But we were on the clean side of the storm.

"We've been through a lot over the last bunch of years, and it seems like it just won't stop," said the county judge

"But I'll tell you, not only did we have a storm to deal with. But then we had a special guest [Trump] in that created a whole lot of work for a whole lot of people that stayed up all night long trying to make this thing happen, to make this fitting for the guest we had. I'd just like to reiterate what all of us feel up here about our employees and the stuff in this county, is that you're first class. I don't want to leave anybody out. Everybody's playing their roles. It makes me proud to be a part of it."

Thank you for that.

Laura was just one of two storms in the gulf at the start of the week. Marco was briefly a Category 1 hurricane but fizzled and mostly just pro-

vided relief for local residents whose giant sighs were not fully enjoyed out of concern for the neighbors in Louisiana.

"The fact is we truly dodged a major storm by about 15 miles," Gothia said. "All you've got to do is Google it, get on any [device] thing you want to get on, if you want to bring back some horrible memories and look at what Lake Charles and Cameron and Sulphur, that area, is looking at and see the damage they're in and it will remind you of what we were in when Rita and Ike hit us, because they got a combination of both."

"We'll do our best to help those folks as well, because they helped us when we were at our time of need and we

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Two Marine Osprey Vertical Takeoff and Landing tilt rotor aircraft landed at Orange County Airport Friday ahead of President Donald Trump's unannounced visit to Orange to meet with state and local officials. The planes were in Lake Charles at midday Saturday for the President's tour of Hurricane Laura damage and news conference there, then returned to Orange Saturday afternoon. Orange County Judge John Gothia said they carried vehicles for the President's motorcade to the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson

Local Dem chairman fires Trump zinger

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. wasn't the only elected official in the county that didn't get a visit with President Donald Trump Saturday afternoon.

Orange County Democratic Party Chairman Jack Smith didn't make it out to the President's private meeting with local and state leaders held at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center to review local damage from Hurricane Laura.

Unlike Spears, who tested positive for COVID-19 on a rapid test given by the President's advance team earlier Saturday and was sent home to quarantine, Smith was not invited.

But neither were the hundreds of Trump supporters who lined the roadways from Orange County Airport, where the President landed, and the Expo Center.

"I got my Trump flag and everything, and I was going out to Orange Airport to meet him, hoping I could shake his hand and stuff," Smith, an Orange attorney, said when asked his opinion on Saturday's doings.

"But it didn't quite work out and I'm very crushed over it. I really would have liked to have made it," he said, "but I had to rearrange my sock drawer."

The day was historic for Orange, County Republican Party Chairman David Covey noted. He said it was the first time in city history that the President of the United States and the Governor of Texas have ever come to town at the same time.

Smith is on record as being no fan of Trump.

He said nearly two years ago he decided to take on the



Orange County Democratic Chairman Jack Smith.

RECORD PHOTO: Larry Trimm

quixotic -- meaning both idealistic and unrealistic -- task of turning 80% Republican-voting Orange County Democratic blue, because he was "so outraged at the conduct of [President] Trump and the far right wing of the Republican Party. It's time to step out and do something more than put a sign on your car."

Spears, who as a city official doesn't have to declare himself Republican or Democrat, apologized to citizens that he couldn't represent Orange with the President.

"I am sorry, I did not want to let you down. I am not going to lie, I'm a little bit embarrassed, he said.

Spears said he tested negative for COVID-19 Thursday when Gov. Greg Abbott led a contingent of state officials, including both U.S. Senators from Texas and two U.S. Representatives, to Orange City Hall.

But that was not the case two days later. He said he will quarantine with his family, but seek a new COVID-19 test as soon as possi-

ble.

After the President left Orange Saturday afternoon, he made news again when it was discovered that a hot mic caught him offering some VIPs a special brand of disaster relief after he had wrapped up a tour and press conference about Hurricane Laura's damage in Lake Charles earlier in the day.

As an aide tried to pull Trump away, presumably to board Marine One for his trip to Orange, U.S. Senator John Kennedy (R-La.) walked up with a contingent of VIPs headed by Cameron Parish Sheriff Ron Johnson.

Trump signed autographs for them, telling Johnson, "Sell it tonight on E-bay, \$10,000."

A quick search Sunday of E-bay did not show any Trump autographs going for that much. An autographed photo of him and Michael Jackson from the 1990s is on sale for about \$500, the same price as an autographed photo of first lady Melania Trump kneeling on a bed in underwear and high heels.

Trump Tip Off From Page 1

dent's 10-ton bullet proof Cadillac One, also known as "The Beast."

It has eight-inch thick steel plates and five-inch thick bullet-proof glass to protect the President from assaults and special Kevlar, drive-flat tires. A second decoy Beast travels with the motorcade. A third vehicle, a heavily armored Chevrolet Suburban nicknamed "Roadrunner," carries Secret Service officers and a communication setup that includes a link to military satellites.

In addition to Air Force One, which flew into Lake Charles' Chennault International Airport shortly after 1 p.m. Saturday, the President's traveling party included the world's largest military cargo plane.

The C-17 Boeing Globemaster III, a fixture on all Presidential trips, is big enough to hold both an Osprey, its wings folded up neatly once its rotors are removed, Marine One and motorcade vehicles.

The Presidential entourage



US Marine Corp helicopter lands at Orange County Airport.

RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson

for the trip to inspect damage from Hurricane Laura included Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and the bosses of the Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pete Gaynor.

The White House press corps had about two dozen members on the trip. At least four 15-passenger rental vans remained Monday morning in the parking lot of the Orange County Conven-

tion and Expo Center, site of the President's 30-minute meeting with local and state officials.

Turned out the Marine One lookalike helicopter was Marine One. The Sikorsky VH-60N "White Hawk" chopper is one of eight in use by Marine Helicopters Squadron One, along with 11 Sikorsky VH-3D helicopters. Whichever one is carrying the President is designated "Marine One."

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From The Creaux's Nest

THE TIMES ARE WHAT THEY ARE

You wouldn't believe the difficulty we have gone through getting this paper put together and published. We still have no electricity or internet service at our office and are working from a different location. Most of our staff still has no service and our delivery people are still out of town or dealing with major problems at their homes. I have nothing but praise for **Mark, Dave, Janelle** and staff who worked so hard putting this publication out under these circumstances. Fortunately we were spared the worse of the storm that hit our **Louisiana** neighbors to the southwest. **Ms. Phyl and Roy's** great grandson **Leland**, who lives in **Louisiana** with his mom **Brittney**, lost everything they owned in the total destruction of their home in **Hackberry**. Many others are in the same boat. That area from **Lake Charles** to **Cameron** will be a longtime recovering. Our lucky break came Wednesday night around 11:17 P.M. when **Laura** took a two degree shift to the east, moving over 30 miles. That spared a direct hit to the **Orange, Bridge City** area. That would have been the worse destructive hit ever. I'm disappointed in the help we are getting from the federal government but pray that the **Louisiana** folks are being taken care of. What are the odds? Five homes owned by the **Dunn's** all had trees fall on them. Fortunately only two had major damage. The scary part for me was evacuating during this pandemic. It was awfully hard to stay safe. I heard of a couple more local people who have died from **Covid-19**. I just now got lights and phone service and haven't been in touch with the natives. I do have absolute confidence in our **Orange County** leadership. I believe commissioner's court and Orange County staff will squeeze everything they can from the state. Our state government is the key. **State Sen. Nichols** and **State Rep. Dade Phelan** can help us more than anything we will get from the federal government.****I have to move on. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

LAURA AND DONALD BLOW INTO TOWN

Laura, the hurricane, packed strong winds that damaged homes, knocked down trees and turned off the lights. **Donald**, the president, brought only a bag of "hot" air. He lit up the national media's television cameras for a big government paid for **photo-op**. It cost a million dollars for **Trump's** stop off in Orange. It was worth millions to him in **Texas** to be photographed with **Gov. Abbott** and **Sen. Ted Cruz** visiting a disaster area in the state. **Trump** is tied with **Joe Biden** in **Texas** polls. His visit to **Orange** was far more beneficial to him than it was to the citizens of **Orange County**. **Trump's** visit didn't help or hurt anything. Our biggest ally is **Gov. Abbott**. **Trump's** visit was one for the ages; people for years will be talking about a serving president visiting **Orange**. It never would have happened if **Trump** was not in a tough re-election campaign with national polls showing him losing by 8 to 10 points. It was just a short hop from **Lake Charles** to **Orange** for the political photo-op. The entire show was orchestrated by the **Secret Service**. National news said **Trump** was surveying the damage in **East Texas**. He didn't see much from **Brown Airport**, where he landed by helicopter, to the **Expo Center** command post. Some people waited several hours in 98 degree heat just to get a glance of his motorcade. Some people wondered why in the **August** Texas heat **Trump** was wearing a jacket. You will never see him without some kind of coat that covers the 30 pounds he has gained in front and back. **Trump** is the heaviest president in my lifetime. I'm reminded of what his friend **Howard Stern** said, "The people that support **Trump** are the kind of people he despises the most because they are not wealthy." **Stern**, who has many hours of tapes on **Trump** says, "He absolutely has no empathy for people who are not rich." It's worth noting that according to **Fact Check**, on the day **Trump** stopped in **Orange** he surpassed **21,000** lies since assuming office. As for what **FEMA** has done for **Orange County** citizens to date is **NOTHING**. Within a week under **Geo. W. Bush** and **Obama**, **FEMA** had set up shop and getting assistance and money into the hands of our citizens, also our people without electricity or homes damaged were provided lodging. No such help under **Trump**. If our damage is not so great to warrant it then why did he make that expensive stop in **Orange**? I believe anyone with an ounce of common sense knows the answer. It was strictly a political stop, no more, no less.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2010

ORANGE NATIVE BUM WRITES LIFE STORY

Oail Andrew "Bum" Phillips, born on **John Street** in **Orange**, Sept. 29, 1923, has written his life story. He became **Orange County's** most famous native. The book, "Bum Phillips, Cowboy, Coach, Christian" is now on sale. **Coach Phillips**, in the first chapter, relives his days in **Orange**, the city he proudly claims as home. **Jim Nantz**, Emmy award winner at **CBS Sport's** says, "We can all learn from him and his remarkable life." **Mike Barber**, former **Oiler** tight end, says, "When you read this book it's like being on the sideline with **Bum**, who coaches you up as only he can do. I love the book and you will too." **Dan Pastorini**, **Oiler** quarterback, says, "I was honored to have shared my life with him." **Dr. John Bisagno**, pastor emeritus, **Houston's First Baptist Church**, says about the book,

"Bum's book blew me away. I'm still floored with the **Bum** I never knew. They just have to make this into a movie. It will leave you in awe of the real **Coach Phillips**. Three words will impact you forever, **The Lord, love and legacy**. It's much, much more than just one great read. **Bum's** book blew me away." **Dodie Osteen**, co-founder of **Houston's Lakewood Church**, says, "Bum's book will be a blessing to you. To me, his greatest accomplishment is the fact that he found the **Lord Jesus** as his savior at age 76. **Bum's** still has relatives in **Orange County**. His son, **Wade Phillips**, is also an **Orange native**. Those two **Phillips** boys make **Orange County** proud. **Bum** attended **Anderson** school and gives a great description of the school. It was the first school he attended. Now unfortunately, for the first time in 100 years, due to progress, the halls of **Anderson** will be empty. (Editor's note: I still believe 1442 at I-10 should be named the "Bum and Wade Phillips Highway.") Over the years it would be seen by millions of travelers who would know they are **Orange County** natives. **Long overdue**.****The beautiful woman I knew, at age 23, lived to be 73. **Bobbie Jean Stakes** died Friday, August 27. Services were held this Monday, Aug. 30. We will always remember this special lady. Our condolence to **Calvin** and his family. She will be missed dearly. She was the rock and the glue that kept everything together. We are proud to have known her. She's joined her young daughter **Terrie** and the great family members she came from. May she rest in peace. (Editors note: Since then **Calvin** has also passed away.)****Happy anniversary to **Tony** and **Karen Fusilier** on Sept. 1. Those two great Cajuns are celebrating their 21st. (Editor's note: Since then **Tony** has died.)******Sprad** and **Margaret Spradling** celebrate their 60th anniversary on Sept. 2. That lady is bound for Heaven. **Sprad** says a good thing about being married so long is you don't care where your wife goes as long as you don't have to go along. (Editor's note: They are now both gone.)******Pauline** and **Claude Wimberly** will mark 56 years of marriage on Sept. 4. (Editor's note: **Karen** and **Pauline** are the only two still living.)****Belated happy birthday to our buddy **Donna Scales**, who celebrated last Thursday, Aug. 26, after a day at **Houston** hospital Wednesday.****Some special folks we know celebrating birthdays in the coming week are **Mayor T.W. Permenter**, of **Pinehurst**, married to the lovely **Lyndia** for 50 years, marks another birthday Sept. 3. ******Cody Knight** is a year older. We knew the coach when he was just a puppy. ******Randy Godsy** also celebrates this week. ****On Sept. 6, **Sheriff Keith Merritt** marks number 59. He doesn't look old enough to be a great-grandfather but he is. Wife **Marlene** had a birthday a few days ago. I wonder who's the oldest?****Happy birthday to **Gerald LeLeux**, one great guy, married to our **Penny**, marks his special day on Sept. 7.****On television Sunday rookie **Earl Thomas**, of **Orange**, burst on the national scene with an interception of **Brett Farve**. Like a flash he returned it for an 86-yard touchdown for **Seattle**, their only score. **Minnesota** won the game but **Earl's pick-off** made the "Play of the Day." The hard-hitting safety is another **Orange County** star that shines. (Editor's note: Today **Earl** is out of a job after being cut by **Baltimore**.)****In high school football last Friday all **Orange County** schools won with the exception of **Vidor** who played very well against **Texarkana** but lost by one point. ******West Orange Stark** shocked **Mid-County** with a big win over **Nederland** 40 to 19.******Bridge City** was just too much for **Shepherd** but **Coach Stump** got to gain some valuable insight into his team and he liked what he saw. Final score was **B.C., 50, Shepherd, 0********Coach Huckabay** was proud of the way his **Orangefield Bobcats** fought back to win over **East Chambers**, 21-20.****Thursday night, **LC-M** looked like the **Bears** of old in a 24 to 14 defeat of **Goose Creek**. This looks to be a good year for the **Bears**. ****On a sad note we were sorry to learn of the death of **Grace Mae Linder**, 96, on Aug. 24. Services were held Saturday, Aug. 28. ****I'd hate to be in **Roger Clemens** shoes today charged with lying to congress. I hate that because I was a big fan and loved to watch him pitch. Looks to me with **Andy** going against him he's between a rock and a hard place.

45 Years Ago-1975

An ad run by **Joe Burke** in the **Opportunity Valley News** reads, "Land for Sale, \$395 per acre, **Little Cypress-Mauriceville School District**, high and dry, financing available. Buy 10 acres and start your own farm." Not bad, a farm for just \$3,950. (Editor's note: Today that property is like gold.)******Bridge City Day** will be Sept. 13. A parade will be held at 10 a.m. from the **Junior High** to the **K.C. Hall**. Festivities will be held all day at **Hatton Elementary School**. A dance begins at 8 p.m. Chairmen are **Bobby Smitherman** and **Tim Lieby**. Parade chairmen are **Jimmie Hanson** and **Glenn Pearson**. (Editor's note: I remember those fun times with auctions, food booths, arts and crafts booths and all kind of games.)******A.D. Martin**, is owner of **Sav-On Carpet**. ******Don McBride** is owner of **Don's Alternator**. ****The **Gulf States** strike is in full force. Nails have been pulled from **GSU** company tires. ******Bridge City Police Chief Wilson Roberts** has been slaughtering the red fish. During his time off he's been wetting a hook. ******Alvin Keown** has purchased a new 45-foot boat. He named it the "Skipper." (Editor's note: I remember the **Skipper** and **Alvin** too. Some folks may not know but the multimillionaire was once **Orange police chief**. That's when **Ace Amodeo** was the jailer. Famous attorney **Perry Foreman** had to come to the rescue of **Alvin, Uncle Henry** and others. **Ace** wasn't involved. **Amodeo**, age 95, is the only one still living. He is in a **Pinehurst** nursing home and recalls the story and prisoner that was murdered. The murdered young man had been working for **Roy Dunn** at **Pleasure Pier Island** in **Port Arthur**. He built fences, stock barns and pens for the **Shetland pony** ride on the fairway at the amusement park. **Dunn** was just a kid himself.)****Some of the **BBB Gray Ladies** at **Orange Memorial Hospital** are **Jamie Swearinger, Gloria Swan** and **Pat Reed**.******Don** and **Muffins** are splitting the blanket through mutual agreement. (Editor's note: I wonder what became of her and how her life turned out.)****Dinner theater presents "Last of the Red Hot Lovers." **Lowell Scribner** plays the lead, **Diana Hill, Paula Lee** and **Charlotte Smith** play the female roles.******Sarge Ledford**, manager of **Bonanza Siroloin Stockade**, leaves this week. **Sarge** is retired from the Navy. ****The **Bridge City Cardinals**, under coach **Andy Griffin**, is favored to win the east zone 10-AAA championship. The **Silsbee Tigers** might be their undoing. **Richard Slaydon** is the **Cardinal** quarterback but it's the **B.C.** defense everyone is talking about because of size and speed. **Silsbee** coach is **Stud McGallian**. **Artie Shankle** and **Derrick Shelton** are their horses but they lack a proven quarterback.****The **Stark Tigers** depends on quarterback **Craig Couvillion** and his favorite receiver **Reginald Kelly**.****The **West Orange Chiefs** have the passing ability of **Andre Robert-**

son and the rushing of **Lorraine Wills** and **Chris Ulery**.******Coach Ronnie Anderson**, known throughout the state for his great baseball coaching, is the **Chief's** defensive coach.****The **Little Cypress-Mauriceville Bears**, coached by **Randall Dorsett**, is depending on the talent of quarterback **Clint Plant** and receivers **Rick Smith** and **Buney Seago**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Ginger Ann Gunter**, age 67, a longtime **Bridge City** resident and owner of **Ginger and Company Hair Salon**. She passed away August 18 at her home. **Ginger** was a lovely lady with a smile for everyone. Our condolences to her family and many friends. She's a great loss to anyone who knew her. ****A few folks we know who celebrate in the next few days. Our longtime friend who we haven't seen in a couple of years, **Donna Scales**, celebrates Aug. 26. I've enjoyed several of her great cakes. No one can build as good a dish as **Donna**. ****Aug. 27: Coach **Frank Beauchamp, Stephanie Roberts** and **Peggy Larson** celebrate their special day. ****Celebrating Aug. 28 is **Barbie "Legs" Childress, Debbie Stark** and **Bobbie Brown**.****Aug. 29, finds our longtime buddy **Glenda Dyer** celebrating, also **Inez's** little princess, **Lyle's** better half, **Janice Overman** and everyone's friend **Danny Cole** is a year older.****Aug. 30, a great guy, **Mike Cedars** celebrates. We hope retirement is serving him well. ****On Aug. 31, we wish a happy anniversary to great friends **Rosalie** and **Judge Pat Clark**. Best wishes for many more healthy years ahead.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating birthdays in the next few days are **Jerry Mercer, Sheryl Guillory, Jaycie Dardeau, Charlie Broussard, Randy Elkins, Sierra Hutchison, Debbie Stark, Theresa Wilson, Angie Jones, Rick Beaulieu, Wendy Fontenot, Blake Tally, Judy Marsolan, Dotsie Robbins, Jonj Weidner, Patty Allred, Christi Harper, Dal Moreau, Dominic Nguyen, Dorene Scott, Mary Behnke, Paul Vandervoort, Ron Kincade, Buddy Cox, Jay Odom, Lauren Robertson, Paul Fournier, Cirginia White, Haley Aldridge** and **Pamela Layman**.

TRUMP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF GOODYEAR TIRES

President Donald Trump is calling on his supporters to not "buy" **Goodyear Tires** after reports that the company's zero tolerance policy doesn't allow employees to wear **MEGA** hats and other political affiliated slogans or material. "Get better tires for far less," **Trump** tweeted Wednesday. **Goodyear** is an old **American** company that has 60,000 employees. **Trump** is suggesting cheaper foreign tires.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Clovis Marceaux him was having an affair wit his secretary, **Mavis Comeaux**. One afternoon dey went to her place. Exhausted, dey fell asleep dem and woke up at 8 p.m. **Clovis** dressed real quick and told **Mavis** to take his shoes outside and rub dem in da grass and dirt.

When he got home his wife **Clotile** axe, "How come you late you?"

"Clotile, I can't lie to you, me and my secretary **Mavis** are having an affair and we fell asleep," **Clovis** answer.

Clotile her, looked down at his shoes and said, "You lying **Cajun**, you've been playing golf."

C'EST TOUT

Voters yearn for opposite of Trump

Joe Biden accepted his party's nomination. He is the nominee because voters know he will not solicit foreign assistance in **United States** elections, exchange love letters with dictators, cripple the **U.S. Postal Service** to suppress votes or pay hush money to porn stars. **Biden** is a centrist, has been throughout his long career. He opposes "defunding" the police. He will be attacked for sometime having gaffs. **Democrats** need to display **Trump's** bloopers, from injecting disinfectants to calling **Apple CEO Tim Cook, "Tim Apple."** He has also said "kidney has a very special place in the heart." Meanwhile, adviser **Kellyanne Conway** announced she was getting out of the sinking ship drama and going back to being a **Mama**. **Trump's** sister, **Mary Trump Berry**, former federal judge, didn't have any kind words to say about him. In fact, she had nothing good to say about him. On Monday, his former national security advisor **John Bolton** said, "I'm very clear of the view that **Donald Trump** is not competent to be president, he's not up to the job." **Seventy-three other former** **GOP** national security officials announced they would not vote for **Trump** again and would support **Biden**. Former **Trump** advisor **Steve Bannon** became the eighth **Trump** advisor to be indicted and charged with federal prosecution, along with three others, for skimming millions of dollars from the \$25 million raised for **Trump's** border wall. **Bannon** posted \$1.75 million in cash to secure a \$5 million bond and was required to surrender his passport. The **GOP** senate intelligence committee came out with a seething report stating **Trump's** cabinet officials were conspiring with **Russian** spies. **Trump** has a lot to overcome, he's facing strong head winds. ****My time is up. Stay safe. Hope your life is back to normal soon. Beware that **Trump's** **China** hoax is still very much with us. Many more people will still die because of a failed leadership that was a disaster. It didn't have to be this way. Everything good or bad happening today is on **Trump's** watch, he owns it. There is no one else to blame. Ask yourself "Is our country better off today than it was four years ago?"****Take care and God bless.



Generator scares From Page 1

kill within minutes. It claims hundreds of lives each year and survivors of CO poisoning can be left with psychological and neurological symptoms

Carbon monoxide poisoning has been linked to several deaths in both Port Arthur and the Lake Charles area after Category 4 Hurricane Laura blew through the area after midnight Wednesday night, knocking the power off for 291,000 Entergy Texas customers from the north side of Houston to the state line. More than 35,000 outages were initially reported in Orange County.

Additionally, Frenzel reported a structure fire in north Orange was caused by a generator that was too close to a house. Exhaust from the generator set the house on fire.

Bilbo couldn't access figures telling exactly how many calls his department had answered from one of its three stations because of computer outages.

"Our internet has been spotty and all our alerts are kept on a cloud-based system," he said. "We've had a lot of calls that haven't been put into our system yet."

"But it's kept us hopping,

to say the least. And whenever they do turn the power on in a house or business, things start to popping."

Entergy Texas reported that 20,575 total customers remained without power Wednesday morning, almost 18,000 of those in Orange County. But it is sticking to its timetable saying all those outages will be back on line by end of Friday, Sept. 4.

In the meantime, citizens should beware of generators and take proper precautions, Bilbo said.

Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows and vent openings.

Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.

Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.

Be sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home, following manufacturer's instructions for proper placement.

Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a genera-

tor while it is hot. Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose, outside of living areas.

For public safety, curfews remain in effect for all of Orange County from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m., because many areas still do not have lighting after dark.

Entergy Texas reported it restored power overnight Tuesday to main areas in Mauriceville and Bridge City, and will be working Thursday in McLewis, Victory Gardens south of Texas 87 and east of Cow Bayou and in Roselawn, south and west of FM 105 and Strickland Drive

Point of Distribution (PODs) will remain open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through at least Thursday.

The four POD sites being serviced by the military and secured by the Orange County Sheriff's Office are at the Orange Boat Ramp, Bridge City Intermediate School, the old Market Basket location on Texas 62 in Mauriceville and at Turning Point Church in Vidor.

They will offer residents drive-through service for water, ice and meals ready to eat (MREs).

Deaths & Memorials

Paul N. Gennusa, 77, formerly Bridge City

Paul N. Gennusa passed away at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston on August 11, 2020. He was born on July 31, 1943 and grew up in Port Arthur, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1961. He lived in Bridge City until he retired from Total Refinery after 30 years of service. He then relocated to Spring Branch, TX.



greatest joy was spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by wife Janeth Gennusa, son Paul Gennusa III, daughters Lindy Gennusa, Kara Rose & spouse Kevin Rose, brother Ragan Gennusa, sister Lanell Mikeska & spouse A.J. Mikeska. He is also survived by grandchildren Kagan Rose, Koral Nimentz, Madison

Kirk, Jaxson Hicks, great-grandson Bentley Moody, nephew Michael Mikeska and niece Tracey Mikeska. Services will be limited to immediate family.

Paul loved fishing and hunting, but his

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OC 'POD' site locations

Staff Report For The Record

After accessing the need of the citizens of Orange County the Points of Distribution (POD's) site will be extended through Thursday.

PODS are open today from 10 am to 6 pm—

- Orange Boat Ramp – 408 Pier Road, Orange Texas 77630
- Bridge City Intermediate School – 1029 Roundbunch Road, Bridge City Texas 77611
- Mauriceville – 11916 Highway 62 North, Orange Texas 77632
- Vidor – Turning Point Church, 3600 North Main St. Vidor Texas 77662

The amount of supplies that have been distributed through the POD's yesterday (Tuesday)

-Orange Boat Ramp – 975 cases of water, 1008 cases of MRE's, 2 tarps, 1000 bags of ice, 980 vehicles.

-Mauriceville – 750 cases of water, 784 cases of MRE's, 0 tarps, 800 bags of ice, 780 vehicles.

hicles.

-Turning Point Church – 675 cases of water, 840 MRE's 0 tarps, 600 bags of ice, 724 vehicles.

Important Information:

- Curfew remains in effect for all of Orange County from 9 pm to 5 am. Officials will be accessing the need for the curfew as power is getting restored.

- The Debris Mission has been approved by Commissioners Court. The debris mission will not begin until after the electrical workers have all the power up and are out of the area, due to safety of all involved.

-Orange County Citizen's Collection Station - Commissioners Court approved today to keep the Citizen's Collection Station, 11265 FM 1442, Orange Texas 77632 open from 7 am to 6 pm every day until further notice. The fees are waived. Spoiled goods will be accepted along with the following guidelines:

Acceptable Items - Metal, Cardboard, Paper Products, Household Waste, Construction, Demolition, and Appliances (without Freon)

Not Acceptable - Dead Animals, Commercial Waste, Appliances (with Freon) Brush or Vegetation, Propane Bottles, Paint, Hazardous Waste, Tires, Batteries and Shingles

- Building permit fees have been waived by Commissioners Court.

- All non-emergency Orange County offices, are closed until further notice due to damages from Hurricane Laura in many of the County Buildings.

- The Disaster Declaration has been extended by Commissioner's Court until September 30, 2020. At that time they will consider another extension.

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Hurricane Laura leaves footprint in Orange County

B



One of the many historic homes north of Orange's downtown had a close shave Thursday, at least from this tree that fell across the front yard of the address at the corner of 6th and West Orange Streets. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers



Telephone poles and downed power lines lay on the grounds of the Heritage House Museum in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers



Metal from the roof of a destroyed Stark Foundation warehouse is draped over power lines at the corner of Front and 7th Streets Thursday afternoon. The building was a total wreck while a tall radio antenna behind it appeared unharmed by Hurricane Laura. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers



The look down 7th Street Thursday afternoon from Orange's old City Hall to the Orange County Courthouse was a bumpy one, highlighted by downed electric lines, bent over utility poles, a destroyed Stark Foundation warehouse and a damaged front of the courthouse. The white dish in the center is a television satellite truck supporting a crew doing remote broadcasting.



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 <p>2019 Nissan Armada SL SUV 5.6L 8 Cyl., Auto. Trans, EPA-Est MPG: 14/19, Exterior Color: Mocha Almond Pearl, Interior Color: Charcoal, Mileage: 42573, Stock #: P2245 \$33,029</p>	 <p>2018 Toyota C-HR XLE SUV 2.0L 4 Cyl., Variable Transmission, Exterior Color: Red, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 34865, Stock #: C1063 \$17,523</p>	 <p>2018 Nissan Altima 2.5 SL Sedan 2.5L 4 Cyl., Variable Trans., Exterior Color: Gun Metallic, Interior Color: Charcoal, Mileage: 47653, Stock #: P2234 \$14,203</p>	 <p>2015 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW Lariat 6.7L 8 Cylinder Engine, Auto. Trans., Exterior Color: Magnetic Metallic, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 117301, Stock #: P2236A \$34,961</p>
 <p>2020 Ford F-150 Lariat Truck SuperCrew Cab 3.5L 6 Cyl., Aut. Trans., EPA-Est MPG: 18/23, Exterior Color: Black, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 13780, Stock #: P2254 \$48,454</p>	 <p>2018 Ford F-150 Lariat SuperCrew Cab 5.0L 8 Cyl., Auto. Trans., Exterior: Black, Interior: Black, Mileage: 99085, Stock #: P2230 \$30,823</p>	 <p>2018 Subaru Impreza Premium Sedan 2.0L 4 Cyl., Variable Trans., Exterior: Magnetite Gray Metallic, Interior: Black, Mileage: 45715, Stock #: P2236 \$16,871</p>	 <p>'18 Jeep Grand Cherokee Upland SUV 3.6L 6 Cyl., Auto. Trans, Exterior Color: Bright White Clearcoat, Interior Color: Black Mileage: 38269, Stock #: 7885B \$28,113</p>

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Ronda Dishon and staff at High Tides prepare poboy sandwiches for City of Bridge City employees in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn



Hurricane Laura swept this portable storage unit into the street in Orange. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers



Sgt. Guerrero of the Texas National Guard directs residents forward to receive hurricane relief supplies at the Bridge City Intermediate School. RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn



Orange residents line up down Simmons Dr. to receive supplies from the POD location at the Orange Boat Ramp location. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

17 deaths in La. attributed to Laura

LOUISIANA - At least 17 deaths in Louisiana have been attributed to Hurricane Laura, according to the Louisiana Department of Health, which reported another two deaths, both in Beauregard Parish, Wednesday.

- LDH has verified the following deaths:
- 14-year-old female, Vernon Parish, fallen tree
- 51-year-old male, Jackson Parish, fallen tree
- 68-year-old male, Acadia Parish, fallen tree
- 64-year-old female, Allen Parish, fallen tree
- Male, Calcasieu Parish, drowning
- 24-year-old male, Calcasieu Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 56-year-old female, Calcasieu Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 61-year-old male, Calcasieu Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 81-year-old female, Calcasieu Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 72-year-old male, Calcasieu Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 84-year-old male, Allen Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 80-year-old female, Allen Parish, carbon monoxide poisoning from generator
- 57-year-old male, Calcasieu Parish, head injury after falling from roof

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“In survival mode”: How some evacuees are still dealing with the dual challenge of a hurricane and a recession

Many Southeast Texans were already struggling through a pandemic and its parallel recession. Then came Hurricane Laura and officials' evacuation orders.

Juan Pablo Garnham
The Texas Tribune

After fleeing her home in Vidor to escape a dangerous hurricane, Susan Collier sat in a hot camper trailer in Killeen on Friday with \$4 to her name. Her family's 2004 Lincoln Aviator sat outside with almost no gas.

Money has been tight for Collier, her two kids and her partner since the coronavirus pandemic's economic wallop took away her job. But after Hurricane Laura struck the Gulf Coast as a deadly Category 4 storm, she was even more desperate. She missed her home 280 miles away, was sweating in 100-degree weather, and had just lunch meat and bread to feed her children.

“We evacuated on a tank of gas and \$50 dollars. Now we have no money,” the 44-year-old said Friday. “Right now I don't even know how I'm going to go home, how I'm going to feed my kids.”

For many of the thousands of Texans who had to evacuate, Hurricane Laura added another tenuous layer to lives that have already been disrupted by a pandemic and its parallel recession. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, the number of people who have filed for unemployment in Orange County, where Collier lives, has almost quintupled since the pandemic began, compared with the same period last year.

Collier, like many others, had relied on unemployment benefits and a support network of family and friends to find jobs or borrow money. But as the pandemic has worn on, those friends and relatives were also feeling the effects of a prolonged financial crisis as evacuation orders were issued.

“There's a segment of each community that lives in survival mode, paycheck to paycheck, and they are the ones most impacted from a crisis like this,” said Janie Johnson, CEO of United Way of Mid & South Jefferson County. “If their car has a problem or they have a flu and have to be off work for a week, they go from survival mode to financial devastation. And it takes more of them to get back on their feet.”

Collier lost her job as a home nurse in April, and her partner, Donald Bass, hasn't been able to get a lot of work as a carpenter since March. She used to get \$600 a week in extra unemployment benefits that Congress approved during the pandemic, which she used for paying bills. But those funds expired, and Collier is among the Texans who didn't make enough money to qualify for a new \$300 weekly additional payment meant to partially replace the original \$600.

“I just wish things could go back before COVID. I was working 10-hour shifts, I had a good job. Things were different,” Collier said.

Recently, Collier started taking care of a relative who has cancer and has been able to bring home \$75 a week. Bass has been fixing floors in the apartment complex where they

live.

“My husband was finishing a floor job when we had to leave. We were supposed to get \$1,300,” Collier said.

But the landlord was out of money.

“He gave us \$75 in quarters from the Coke machine,” she said.

They spent that in gas and left for Killeen, where they had a cousin living on a property with some trailers. They weren't sure where they would end up sleeping, so they tied an old mattress to the roof of their Aviator and drove off to Central Texas.

At home, Orange County was getting ready for a potentially catastrophic situation. On Wednesday evening, the National Hurricane Center had predicted “unsurvivable storm surge” and “hurricane-force winds” in the area. Gov. Greg Abbott had already declared state of disaster in more than 60 counties and said that there would be no rescue efforts from Wednesday night to Thursday morning.

“I wasn't going to leave [Vidor], but our apartment manager told us that when the hurricane would hit, they would have to flip all the energy breakers, there would be no AC or light,” Collier said. “If I stayed, I wouldn't be able to handle the heat. I didn't have a choice but to leave.”

Although some buses left Vidor on Wednesday to take evacuees to hotel rooms paid for by the government, Collier never heard that this was an option. Even if she had, a bus would have been a tough option for her daughter, who is on the autism spectrum, and her pets.

Hurricane Laura ended up battering Louisiana far harder than Texas, and on Thursday, Abbott said that the damage on this side of the state line “could have been far worse.” Still, more than 100,000 Texans did not immediately have power in the East Texas counties of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin, local media reported. Some streets flooded, and fallen trees damaged power lines and blocked roads.

While Southeast Texas missed the brunt of the storm's damage, Collier and her family were still desperate. They still didn't have money for gas, and they were hearing that power wasn't reliable in Vidor. They tried to find assistance through the Red Cross and an emergency operations center in Austin but were told they couldn't help. Most of the emergency operations were being dismantled by that time, as most people were heading home.

“Their challenges are exacerbated by the pandemic because agencies are already stretched so thin,” said Blake Fetterman, an executive director with The Salvation Army of North Texas.

By Saturday evening, when temperatures reached 104 degrees in the Killeen area, the family found help from the nonprofit Catholic Charities. The organization paid for a



Donald Bass Jr. and Susan Collier fled Hurricane Laura with \$50 and haven't had enough money to get back home to Vidor. PHOTO: Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune

room in a local hotel and gave them some gift cards for food. Collier heard that power might not be back in her apartment complex until Friday, so she will need to be thrifty with the help they got.

“I have to try to maintain and save what we can from this. Make sure that we have [money] for food and gas,” she said. “But we are much better.”

As recovery teams are removing trees and debris in Orange County, Collier is still pon-

dering the next move, unsure about electricity at home during the summer heat, short-term job prospects and restabilizing the family financially.

“We have bills coming in, and now we will have to get there and start playing catch-up,” Collier said. “We are going to have to get home at some point and try to get as much work as we can. The hardest thing to do is to catch up.”

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Metal from the roof of a destroyed Stark Foundation warehouse is draped over power lines at the corner of Front and 7th Streets Thursday afternoon. The building was a total wreck while a tall radio antenna behind it appeared unharmed by Hurricane Laura. **RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers**

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The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. Any woman who can establish a direct family line to a patriot in the American Revolution can join. The Daughters of the American Revolution promotes Patriotism, Education and Historical Preservation. We had members that can help you find your Patriot. If you need any questions answered you can call Jackie Hucakbay, Regent @ 409-719-6478 or Registrar, Katy Latiolais @ 409-720-9834.

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- Faculty member, for short

DOWN

- Rekindled
- Western omelet ingredient
- Trailblazer Daniel
- Not a minor
- Spud bud
- Nonsense
- *Colorful autumn attraction
- *Popular fall decor item, pl.
- Leave speechless
- Thailand money

DOWN

- Belfry dweller
- Dwarf buffalo
- Eccentric one
- 2nd word in fairytale?
- Overnight lodgings
- Marilyn Monroe's given name
- Between a trot and a gallop
- *Pressed beverage
- _____ Blanc
- Type of saltwater fish
- Like a broken horse
- Larger-than-life
- Sound setup
- *"CliffsNotes," e.g.
- Fifth note
- Genueflecting joint
- *_____ he drove out of sight..."
- *Back to what?
- *_____ weather
- Cell dweller
- Tokyo, pre-1868
- Out of the way
- Be needy
- Sticky stuff
- Conical dwelling
- Heidi's shoe
- Asian capital
- Move furtively

DOWN

- Standard's partner
- Crucifix
- Change for a five
- Funny Poehler's funny friend
- Himalayan kingdom
- Relating to genes
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Boo-boo wrap
- *Next spring's flowers
- To the left, on a boat
- Safari hat
- Fonzie: "Sit _____!"
- Top of the Capitol
- *Fall bounty
- Prenatal test, for short
- *Pumpkin garden
- Not far
- Big rig
- Stitch again
- Vietnam river
- Lennon's widow
- *Celebrant's bagful
- Lament for the dead
- Artist's tripod
- Exchange for money
- Greek muse of history
- Before Kong
- Any time now
- #70 Across, alt. sp.
- Biblical paradise
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God Uses Everything

WHY OUR SUFFERING IS NEVER WASTED



Vaneetha Rendall Risner
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org

Recently I was hurt by a friend over an insensitive comment she made. My first response was to get upset, and then I began mentally cataloging a list of grievances — remembering all the other times I'd been hurt by her.

It might have ended there, but when I came across these words from A.W. Tozer, I started thinking differently about the situation:

When I understand that everything happening to me is to make me more Christlike, it resolves a great deal of anxiety.

Everything that is happening to me is to make me more Christlike. Nothing is excluded. Joy and pain. Peace and turmoil. Fullness and emptiness. Suffering and ease. People who love and care for me. And people who hurt or ignore me.

God Governs Every Detail

Being aware that God is using everything to make me more Christlike does make me less anxious. My struggles, in Christ, are not God's condemnation (Romans 8:1). God is always for me (Romans 8:32). He designs all my circumstances for my everlasting good (Ro-

mans 8:28). Everything in my life can direct me to Christ. Indeed, it should.

Suddenly, I stopped fretting about my friend's comment and pondered why God might have brought this situation into my life. It was a simple question, but the answers revealed more about my heart than hers. My friend's actions were an avenue for God to reveal a layer of sin in my life that I otherwise would have glossed over. As I saw the sin in my response, I was able to confess it to God and repent.

Whenever I feel annoyed or frustrated or angry, perhaps God is inviting me to examine my own heart instead of focusing my attention outward. Perhaps my irritation is an invitation from the Lord to go deeper with him. God may be doing something far more important and more lasting in me than what is happening to me.

And because God governs everything that comes across my path, no experience is ever wasted. It can all be used to turn me to Christ because ultimately he works all things for good. My difficult circumstances can cultivate a dependence on Christ. Teach me to pray more fervently. Give me the opportunity for ministry. My successes can lead me to praise and thank God. To give him glory. To see my sin of pride and con-

fess it. To learn humility by taking the low seat even in the limelight. Everything can be a stepping-stone to holiness.

Blessed at the End of Your Rope

Being hurt by a friend's thoughtlessness is a world apart from being betrayed by a spouse or suffering from a debilitating disease, but the invitation from God is the same. I have experienced all three trials, and I can testify that God has used each of them, though it's often through tears, to draw me closer to him. And as I draw closer, and I'm embraced by my Lord, I become more like his Son.

Eugene Peterson's interpretation of the Beatitudes echoes this idea beautifully. In his Message paraphrase, Matthew 5:3-4 reads, "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you."

Blessed at the end of your rope. Blessed when you've lost what's most dear. In the eyes of the world, that sounds insane. It is the opposite of the world's definition of "blessed." To the world, being blessed is having everything you want and more.

It is having your dreams come true. It is not being at the end of your rope and not losing everything that is dear to you.

But in God's economy, being blessed takes on new meaning. We are blessed when we have no human resources. When we have nothing of our own to turn to. No human to rely on. When nothing seems to be going well. That is when God and his rule increases in our life. There is less of us. And more of God. When we lose what is most dear to us on earth, we value our heavenly Father's embrace even more. His embrace is more dear, more precious, more spectacular than anything we could possibly have lost.

See His Loving Hand

Madame Guyon, a French Catholic writer from the 1600s, had a difficult life, marked by illness, neglect, and humiliation. At age 16, her father tricked her into marrying a man who was 22 years older and afflicted with gout. She became his nurse and cared for him tirelessly, living in her mother-in-law's home, even after she spread vicious lies about her daughter-in-law.

Guyon's prayers reflected her deep faith and trust in God's character. She wrote, "O my God, you had my father deceive me when I wanted to be a nun so I would turn to you and let you love me." She also penned, "O my God, you allowed my mother-in-law to spread those lies about me so that I would turn to you in humility and see how much you love me."

Rather than growing bitter at the pain she'd endured, questioning the goodness of God, she chose to see God's loving hand in it. She saw all her life as in God's hands and all her circumstances as opportunities to draw closer to him. She was willing to trust God completely and surrender everything to him.

All Things His Servants

Psalm 119:90-91 says, "You have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants." All things are God's servants. All things can, and will, be used by God to accomplish his good purposes for the everlasting joy and glory of his people.

Everything that we face can make us more holy. Our annoyances can reveal our sin. People who hurt us give us opportunities to forgive. Our physical ailments teach us to depend on God. Our rebellious children train us to pray without ceasing. Everything that is hard and seems wrong in our lives is a divine invitation to turn to God.

To fully live out that perspective, we need to be present to each moment. To actively seek out and ask God what he is trying to show us. To be aware that God is always at work in our lives and to trust that every circumstance can draw us closer to him.

For everything that happens to us can make us more like Christ.

Vaneetha Rendall Risner is a freelance writer and regular contributor to Desiring God, who blogs at danceintherain.com. She is married to Joel and has two daughters, Katie and Kristi. She and Joel live in Raleigh, North Carolina. Vaneetha is the author of the book The Scars That Have Shaped Me: How God Meets Us in Suffering.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409-735-4573
Worship Services: Tradition 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m.,
Contemporary Service 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m.,
Wednesday 'Compassionate Friends' 10 a.m.,
Thursday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Paul Zoch 409-988-3003 - golutheran.org
Our church family invites you to join us. We are a friendly, caring church of the future.

Orange First Church of the Nazarene
3810 MLK Drive, Orange
Lead Pastor Rev. Brad McKenzie
Worship Director: Alyssa Click
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Ofcnazarene.org or find us on Facebook

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ
611 N. 9th St. • Orange
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Supper 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGE
1819 16th Street • Orange • 886-1333
We Welcome You To Join Us.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Nursery Provided

Cove Baptist Church
1005 Dupont St. • Orange
Sunday: Life Groups 9:15 AM / Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 5 PM
Wednesday Evening 6 PM / Wed. Youth Meeting 6 PM
Charles Empey - Interim Pastor
We Love You And God Loves You.

Harvest Chapel
A Full Gospel Church
1305 Irving St. • West Orange • 409-313-2768
Sunday Worship 10 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Nightly Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Pastor: Ruth Burch

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGEFIELD
9788 F.M. 105 Orangefield 409.735.3113
Sun: Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,
Wednesday evening services: Youth and Children 6:00 p.m.,
Praise and Prayer 6:00 p.m.,
Pastor Cody Hogden
Email: office@fbcof.com / Website: www.fbcof.com

Colony Baptist Church
13353 FM 1130 • Orange
PASTOR SAM ROE
Music Director: Tim McCarver
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Service: 10:30 am / Sunday Evening: 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 6 pm

COWBOY CHURCH OF ORANGE COUNTY
673 FM 1078 • Orange • 409-718-0269
Sunday Services: 10:30 AM
Bible Studies for Men and Women • Monday 6 p.m.
Co-Ed Bible Study • Sunday 9:15 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study • Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
Bible Studies & Youth Activities • Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Starlight Church of God in Christ
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
www.slccgicorange.org

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

First United Methodist Church Orange
502 Sixth Street 886-7466
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Service - Traditional Worship in the Slade Chapel
Sunday School For All Ages 10:00 a.m.
www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

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