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**ORANGE
COUNTY
NEWS**



County Record

TheRecordLive.com

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The Community Newspaper of Orange, Texas

Week of Wednesday, March 3, 2021

LSCO's Johnson says 'Things are good'



Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan visits with Dr. Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange president, during Johnson's visit to the Capitol in Austin, where he reported last week on the school's progress and plans for the future to the Senate Finance Committee. Tuesday, Johnson had a virtual meeting with the Texas House Appropriations Committee, a routine happening for all state-funded schools.

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

It hasn't yet reached Cloud Nine but Dr. Tom Johnson definitely likes the path Lamar State College Orange is traveling.

The President of the two-year school in downtown Orange had just wrapped up his

second day in a week pointing out the school's successes to members of the Texas Legislature, when he mentioned to a visitor that the school had begun 2021 by sending two groups of students to national championship competitions.

A lot of people had heard about the school's two-year-

old bass fishing team, which is competing in its second national tournament this weekend.

But whatever success the two two-man teams of anglers have this weekend at the FLW National Collegiate Championships in Oklaho-

ma, Lamar State Orange has already scored a seventh-place in a different kind of national championship.

The LSCO team of Hunter Davis, Robert Simpson, Holden deWit and Cameron Tristan earned it in the National Academic Quiz Tour-

namment Community College Quiz Bowl.

"I'm really proud of these guys," Johnson said, speaking for both teams. "You've got to admit for a little school this year to have two teams in national tournaments, things are good."

The Gators' Jack Tindel and Brett Fregia finished seventh nationally in the Bassmaster College Nationals held in late 2020. They are joining classmates Trent Buchholz and Grady Doucet

LSCO'S JOHNSON Page 3A

Collins brings trained eyes to BCISD

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Patty Collins is running for a second term on the Bridge City school board but hardly considers herself a politician.

She's just continuing a career of service to education: Her day job is Executive Director of College Affairs for Lamar State College Orange.

"The fringe of politics. That's what I call the school board," she said. "I never really had a desire to be in politics, but I love serving our district."

BCISD stakeholders will go to the polls May 1 to decide two races. Collins is running against Paul Zoch for Place 1 while Judy Cole, another incumbent, is on the ballot along with Caleb Hayes for Place 2. BCISD board members serve for a three-year term.

"We have a full slate of contested races this year, so this will be a busy couple of months," Collins said.

Not that she hasn't always stayed busy with a career spent in professional and leadership positions. Collins, a Bridge City high school alum, was active assisting her hometown schools for many years before joining its school board in 2017.

"I have a servant heart and I felt called to serve," she explained. "I felt like the



Bridge City native Patty Collins, Executive Director of College Affairs for Lamar State College Orange, is seeking a second three-year term on the Bridge City school district board.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

school district was the best place to start serving."

With a bachelor's degree in business administration from Stephen F. Austin State University and a master's of science in organizational development from Abilene Christian University, Collins has spent much of her life devoted to continuous learning. That was one reason she became a volunteer with Junior Achievement to provide their programs in Bridge City schools.

She was a member of sev-

eral citizen committees under former schools superintendents Jamey Harrison and Mike King, including "Taking Stock" and facilities.

"I really took some time to get involved in the district before I ran for school board," Collins said. "When there was an open seat, I felt it was my time to run."

"Some might think you just show up once a month for a meeting, but being on the school board takes a lot of time and dedication."

The BCISD board is

meeting three nights this week for first-round interviews with candidates to replace retiring superintendent Todd Lintzen. A search firm was hired by the board to assist in developing a list of candidates.

"I feel like Bridge City has a lot to offer," Collins said. "But one negative is that living on the coast, you have to deal with hurricanes. It's important to me that our next superintendent understands the reality of a po-

COLLINS Page 3A

Tubbleville, cheers, tears top Orange Chamber awards

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Cheers mingled with tears at last week's scaled-down Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards luncheon that was topped by Michelle Tubbleville being named Citizen of the Year.

Tubbleville, the Special Projects Coordinator for the County of Orange, was honored for the 24/7 way she brings together people with needs caused by natural disasters with volunteers or government programs to meet those needs.

But she had to share the spotlight with the bitter-sweet memories of two past Chamber presidents awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards posthumously to former mayor Dan Mohon and auto dealer Dean Granger.

Additionally, third former Chamber regular who, like Granger and Mohon, passed away in 2020, Tim Schosow was honored by having the annual fundraising golf

tournament named in his honor.

Other award winners included CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocates Sabine-Neches Region receiving Non-Profit Community Service Award; Childs Ace Hardware taking home the Business Community Service Award; and Christy Khoury winning the Lifetime Ambassador Award.

The event at First Baptist Church-Orange, originally scheduled for December but rescheduled because of COVID-19, began with Maureen McAllister passing the gavel as 2020 Chamber Chairman to 2021 Chairman Chris Kovatch. Then Kovatch honored McAllister for her service. Sherry Hommel, a member of the Past Chairman's Council, assisted them in making the night's awards.

The annual banquet normally draws crowds of 300 or more. About 50 people attended the slimmed-down

GOACC AWARDS Page 3A

Abbott rescinding Texas mask mandate

PATRICK SVITEK
The Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that he will end Texas' statewide mask mandate next week and will allow all businesses to operate at full capacity.

"It is now time to open Texas 100%," Abbott said from a Mexican restaurant in Lubbock, arguing that Texas has fought the coronavirus pandemic to the point that "people and businesses don't need the state telling them how to operate" any longer.

Abbott said he was rescinding "most of the earlier executive orders" he has issued over the past year to stem the spread of the virus. He said starting March 10,

"all businesses of any type are allowed to open 100%." A spokesperson later confirmed that includes sporting events, concerts and similar events. Masks will no longer be required in public for the first time since last summer.

Meanwhile, the spread of the virus remains substantial across the state, with Texas averaging over 200 reported deaths a day over the last week. And while Abbott has voiced optimism that vaccinations will accelerate soon, less than 7% of Texans had been fully vaccinated as of this weekend.

More than 40,000 people have died in from the virus in Texas since the pandemic began.

Texas will become the

most populous state in the country not to have a mask mandate. More than 30 states currently have one in place.

Abbott urged Texans to still exercise "personal vigilance" in navigating the pandemic. "It's just that now state mandates are no longer needed," he said.

Currently, most businesses are permitted to operate at 75% capacity unless their region is seeing a jump in COVID-19 hospitalizations. While he was allowing businesses to fully reopen, Abbott said that people still have the right to operate how they want and can "limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols." Abbott's executive order said there was nothing stopping

businesses from requiring employees or customers to wear masks.

The lifted mandate raises questions for public universities, which have been requiring masks for in-person classes and other activities. Multiple public universities have said they are reviewing what the new order will mean for in person activities and will provide updates before the mandate is officially lifted. The University of North Texas said in-person graduation ceremonies this spring will still be "masked, socially distanced and will not include walking the stage." Some private universities including Rice University, said they have no plans to change their mask policies on campus.

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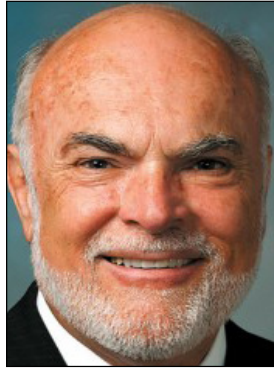
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My 5-Cents...

By State Senator Robert Nichols

As Texas recovers from the destructive storms last week, the legislature is back at work and focused on finding answers to what happened last week. This week we also resumed work on the budget in the Senate Finance Committee. We heard from Article III agencies, including TEA and all of our institutes of higher education. To finish the week, we will hear from Article II agencies, including Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services.



Sen. Robert Nichols

that this issue is a priority for all of us. We are working quickly and collaboratively in both chambers to address this issue.

The system is complicated and assessing the total cost of these energy bills is ongoing. I look forward to finding a solution to these issues and find ways the state can help mollify this extreme financial burden.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Six ERCOT board members resign

As of Thursday, six members of ERCOT's 16-member board announced they would resign Tuesday after massive blackouts affecting millions of Texans during disastrous winter weather left many without power in subfreezing temperatures for days. Five of the six board members that are resigning, including the chairwoman and the vice-chairman, live out-of-state, a fact that many Texans and legislators take issue with. Several legislators have filed bills to ensure that all ERCOT board members are Texas residents. ERCOT manages the flow of electric power through the state's power grid. Weeks before the storm, ERCOT assured stakeholders that power plants were prepared for winter storms. It's obvious that was not the case, and as the vice-chair of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee, I look forward to getting answers from ERCOT, the PUC, power generators, and other industry professionals about what went wrong and how to prevent such a catastrophic failure in the future.

2. Governor calls meeting of legislators about electric billing

Over the weekend, Governor Abbott convened an emergency meeting of a group of legislators to discuss the spike in Texans energy bills following the power outages across the state. As a member of that work group, I think it's important for Texans to know

3. Vaccinations get back on track after winter storms

Distribution for the COVID-19 vaccine was disrupted last week due to the intense winter weather Texas faced. Six million doses nationwide, including 450,000 doses bound for Texas, were delayed due to deferred shipments, impassable road conditions, and power outages.

However, vaccine providers are confident that Texas can rebound. This week 1.5 million doses are set to arrive in the state, including last week's undelivered doses. This comes as vaccine makers told Congress that a big jump in delivery of doses is coming in the near future. By the end of March, Pfizer and Moderna expect to have provided the government with 220 million vaccines. Moreover, both companies expect to deliver 300 million doses each by the end of the summer and Johnson and Johnson assured they would provide 100 million of their vaccines.

4. PUC issues moratorium on utility disconnection for non-payment

In an emergency meeting, the Public Utility Commission issued an order halting utility disconnections for non-payment. These orders are directed at investor owned utilities that fall under the PUC's jurisdiction, including Oncor, AEP, CenterPoint, and TNMP. Importantly, they do not apply to municipally owned utilities or electric cooperatives. This is welcome news as many Texas received high electric bills following the widespread power outages during the winter storms. Though

many Texans are on fixed rate electricity contracts with their providers, those that are not are facing sky-rocketing bills. The PUC strongly urged retail electric providers to delay sending invoices out, especially to residential customers.

5. Students learning virtually will not have to take the STAAR test

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath announced that Texas students who are learning remotely this semester will not be required to take the annual STAAR test. The state logistically can't administer the test remotely, so those students can opt-out. However, students who are learning in-person will be taking the STAAR test, but without any of the stakes attached. This year, the test is being used to gauge where students are at after a year of disrupted learning caused by the pandemic. There will be no accountability for school districts or campuses attached to the STAAR this year and it will not be used to evaluate whether or not students can or should progress to the next grade level.

VFW Auxiliary Spring Garage Sale

The VFW Auxiliary 2775 Orange will be holding their Spring Garage Sale in the VFW Hall at 5303 N.16th St on Saturday March 13, 2021 from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. The cost per table is \$15.00, each cloths rack will be an additional \$5.00. For more information contact Mary Snapp(409-697-0380). Payments can be mailed to Mary Snapp at 7927 Sandra Lane Orange Tx 77632. Please makes checks out to VFW AUX 2775.

American Legion Post #49 to hold Election of Officers

The Lloyd Grubbs American Legion Post #49 located at 108 Green Ave. in Orange will hold nomination for Officers on Saturday, March 12, 2021 at 2 pm. Election for Officers will be on Saturday, April 10th at 2 pm and Installation of Officers will be on Saturday, May 8th at 2 pm. The American Legion Post #49 hold their monthly meetings the 2nd Saturday at 2 pm each month.

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of Orange County, Texas

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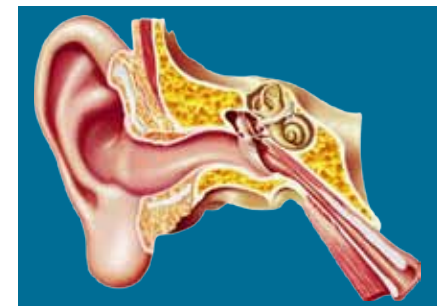
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GOACC awards From Page 1

luncheon prepared by BG Catering.

Dean Granger was represented at the gathering by his wife, Kim, and brother Al Granger, who partnered with Dean to co-own and operate Granger Chevrolet and Granger RV. Dean was cited as the driving force of the Chamber's Shop Local initiative.

Besides the Chamber, Granger was also on the committee for First State Bank and the Board of Directors for the City of Orange Economic Development Corporation, as well as serving in many positions for the United Way of Orange County, including Board Chair.

Al Granger broke into tears when it was time to talk about his brother and his sister-in-law Kim best summed it up.

"You know how when you're grieving, you have good hours, OK hours, hard hours and really, really hard hours," she said. "Today has been good and hard. We thank you for honoring him."

Mohon had the unique distinction of serving as mayor for two cities. He was Orange's two-term mayor from 1988-92 and was just re-elected as Pinehurst mayor before he passed away.

He was a native of west

Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech University, where he earned a business degree in banking and real estate. He and his wife, Manon, moved from Lubbock to Orange in 1974, with their two young sons, Monty and Marcus.

He served his community at First Baptist Church, then Trinity Baptist Church. He was a member of the board of the Lutch Theater, the Lamar State Foundation board, the Red Cross board, the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, and a past president of the Orange Rotary Club.

"Dan loved Orange and he loved serving," said Mohon's wife. "He and this community were like good friends. Thank you for that friendship."

Mohon's sons, Marcus and Monty, told of growing up listening to their dad's stories and slowly realizing the powerful connection between their dad and the city of Orange.

"I'm a son of Orange, a little knucklehead who grew up here," Monty said. "This is a good place, a solid place, just a lot of good people that have a lot of good stories to tell."

Schossow, a Bridge City resident and the husband of longtime Chamber President Ida Schossow, was "really the

unofficial third employee of the Chamber. He just never received a paycheck," McAllister said. "He's been on our board and involved in the Chamber for a very long time.

"He dedicated his life to whatever Ida told him to do, and he loved it. He organized the golf tournament. Our executive committee got together and wanted to do something special to recognize him."

"Tim would have loved this," Ida Schossow said of the honor. "Thank you for this beautiful honor."

Tuberville worked for the county's IT department until moved to her current job after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

"Commissioners Court saw how much of her own time she spent to make sure as many people as possible were helped," Commissioner Johnny Trahan said. "It wasn't even her job.

"So we decided to put her in a position to coordinate volunteer groups and aid coming into the county. She has brought so much aid and helped so many that would have ordinarily fallen through the cracks. There is nothing she wouldn't do to help our citizens."



Chris Kovatch, incoming Chairman of the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, presents a gavel on a plaque to 2020 Chairman Maureen McAllister during the Chamber's Awards luncheon held recently at Orange's First Baptist Church. The small ceremony replaced the more lavish banquet that was postponed by COVID-19 protocols. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Collins From Page 1

tential hurricane."

Everybody in the world is in their second year of dealing with another more deadly disaster, the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our district has done a great job administering COVID-19 safety protocols," Collins said. "That keeps the numbers down and students stay in school. The school district COVID-19 dashboard is very good."

Among Collins' duties at LSCO is campus COVID-19 coordinator.

"Between keeping up with the CDC guidelines, the state guidelines and the county guidelines, it's a challenge," she said. "But we're doing very well on our campus."

Collins is Title IX coordinator at LSCO, which includes promoting awareness of and investigation of com-

plaints of sexual misconduct on campus. She's also the school's emergency and risk management coordinator.

Before moving to LSCO four years ago, she spent 21 years at Industrial Safety Training Council (ISTC), where she was vice president of operations/human resources. She was general manager for Magnum Fire & Safety Systems before that.

She is an active member at Bridge City's St. Paul United

Methodist Church, which her grandmother, Della Collins, helped found.

When she gets the time, Collins loves the beach.

"I feel at complete peace when I can listen to the waves and feel the sand between my toes," she said.

"I love spending time with my family, including my two beautiful grandchildren and my four-legged fur-baby Abigail."

LSCO's Johnson From Page 1

the FLW Nationals.

LSCO's Quiz Bowl squad had one better finish in the school's history, say sponsors Eric Owens and George Scarborough.

Johnson's visit to Austin last week included late-night testimony as to the resilience of LSCO to maintain enrollment and student success during the pandemic and multiple hurricanes.

This week, he was in Port Arthur, joining Lamar State College Port Arthur President Dr. Betty Reynard in a virtual hookup to Austin with the House Appropria-

tions Committee.

"It was the same exact thing today," he said of his testimony.

Johnson said his requests of the legislators who create the state budget every two years came in four parts:

"No. 1 is parity," he said of Lamar State schools not having access to local taxpayer funds like schools that have community college taxing districts. The 2019 legislature delivered parity funding.

"That allowed us to bring down tuition 25 percent. It was so successful in that en-

rollment went up and we asked them to do it again."

Second is money for repairing storm damage and a \$1.5 million generator.

Third is \$1.5 million to build an Industrial Technology Academy to create a learning space for dual credit students and others to develop a trade or craft.

Finally, Johnson's funding requests included a \$40 million tuition revenue bond to build a new state of the art Academic Building.

"Just because I ask for everything doesn't mean I'll get everything. But I'm asking."

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">2017 Dodge Challenger R/T Coupe</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">5.7L 8 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Octane Red Pearlcoat Exterior, Black Interior, Mileage: 62385, Stock #: P2349</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$25,980</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">2017 Chevrolet Traverse LT SUV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.6L 6 Cyl., Automatic., Silver Ice Metallic Exterior, Dark Titanium Light Titanium Interior, Mileage 57959, Stock #: P2350</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$19,140</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">2019 Hyundai Tucson SE SUV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2.0L 4 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Coliseum Gray Exterior, Gray Interior, Mileage: 27952, Stock #: P2357</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$17,397</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">2017 Chevy Silverado 1500 LTZ Crew Cab</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">5.3L 8 Cyl., Automatic, Exterior Color: Iridescent Pearl Tricoat, Interior Color: Jet Black, Mileage: 85331 Stock #: 8003C</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$32,427</p>

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From The Creaux's Nest

GOOD NEWS ON ECONOMIC FRONT

Manufacturing in the U.S. hit a three-year high last month. A broad rally Monday sent the **Dow Jones Industrial** average more than 600 points higher and gave the **S&P 500**, its best day in nine months. Strong consumer demand for goods, increasing business investment, a roaring housing market and our global economic growth by the **Biden Administration** supporting our U.S. manufacturing, will benefit our total recovery. If passed by the **Senate**, the **\$1.9 trillion COVID-19 Relief Bill**, combating the pandemic and bolstering the economy, should give all citizens good reason to be optimistic about better days and times in the coming year. In the short run, the relief bill will help many of our citizens who are suffering now. We all have hope that the aggressive vaccination drive by our government will, **before the year is out**, make the pandemic history remembered only as a crippling blow that took over **515,000 lives** and affected millions more in the **United States**. Better days will only occur if everyone does their part and abides by the rules of health experts. I have reservations about **Gov. Abbott's** order to end mask mandate March 10. He made the mistake earlier to open the state too early and it backfired.

THE GOP BEYOND TRUMP

Donald J. Trump is a twice impeached, one term president and on Jan. 6, 2021, he became a has-been. That's when his political future as a successful candidate died, with the **White Supremacy** invasion of the **United States Capital** by a mob that **Trump** himself instigated. **Sen. Lindsey Graham** is right when he says the **Republican** nomination is **Trump's** if he wants it. The **CPAC** straw poll gave **Trump** 55% of the primary vote, knocking every other candidate out. However, the straw poll showed only 68% of **Republicans** would vote for **Trump** for president again. You however, can bet the farm that **Donald Trump** will never again be elected to public office. He will use it as a **"Cash Cow"** or to be a thorn to both **Republicans** and **Democrats**. His Sunday **"Big Lie"** speech at **CPAC** proved to me that **Trump** is done, stick a fork in him. You can bet the **GOP** will be looking beyond **Trump** after the midterm elections if not before.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

The events of the last few days, the death of **Staci Lisenby**, and the arrest of her young son is depressing to me because it's just so sad. We had no doubt; from the minute we heard the slightest details that this crime wasn't done by some murderer on the loose in the area. My heart bleeds for everyone involved, the **Lisenby family**, the **Hebert family**, **Staci's friends and co-workers**, as well as **her students and her son's classmates**. It's just all so senseless, unexplainable and terrible. It wasn't a difficult crime to solve but it was a case that had to be handled diligently and without error. I believe **Sheriff Keith Merritt**, his **officers**, the **DA's office** and other **assisting law enforcement** handled this case as well as it could be under the situation. The Sheriff was in a position that he was limited on what he could release. I personally believe **Sheriff Merritt**, with guidance from the **DA's office**, did a good job on a very touchy case. Remember there was a juvenile involved.****We were sorry to hear about the death of **Allene Yokum**, age 75, who passed away on Feb. 24. We had known **Allene** since the late 1950's. We enjoyed many hours of her picking and singing. She packed her guitar wherever she went and was ready to entertain at a moments notice. Her great voice could belt out almost any song you requested. One she always played for me was "The High Sheriff and Police are Coming After Me." She was otherwise a quite, soft-spoken lady. A good woman.****Our condolences go out also to the family of **James Otha Crumpler**, 84, founder of **Crumpler shipbuilding** in Orange and **Crumpler Machine Shop**, the oldest consistent business in Bridge City. Mr. Crumpler passed away Feb. 25. Service was held Sunday, Feb. 27. To his children who we have known throughout their young lives in Bridge City, daughters, **Sherilyn, Ann, Jana and sons James and Steve, their families**. He was a good man.**** **Roy and Betty Harmon** have a lot in common. Neither one could speak English when they started school, both mostly were raised by a grandmother and both had wayward dads who flew the coupe early. ****Speaking of Cajuns, our buddy **Jessie Domingue** is now retired from the oilrigs and has put a band together called **Jessie & Company**. He's back to his first love of singing and entertaining.****Special folks celebrating birthdays this week. Our friend coach **Sam Moore** marks another birthday on March 6. **Sam** operates **The Zone**, a baseball school where he teaches hitting and pitching.***A wonderful lady, **Pat Pate**, celebrates her day on March 8.*****Carolyn Sheppard** is also celebrating. She and **Buddy** have moved away from Bridge City. *****Franklin Scales** celebrated this week.*****Libby Mitchell**, a nice lady, very smart, who served on Orange City Council. **** Pinehurst city administrator **Robert Ewart** will resign in May and head out to the Hill Country and campout at his 15-acre place to watch the sun rise and beautiful sunsets. He will be a few miles out of Uvalde.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2021

Roy Roger Brown Sr, 62, of Bridge City, died Thursday, Feb. 24. Graveside services were held on Tuesday, March 1. Roy is survived by his mother, **Dorothy Sonnier**; daughter, **Rachel Renee Shields**; son, **Roy R. Brown Jr.**, grandchildren, **Eric and Hannah Shields**.******George W. Nett III**, 64, of Orange died Friday, Feb. 25. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 1. George retired as a railroad switchman for Southern Pacific Railroad after 27 years. George is survived by his wife **Melissa Nett**; son, **George W. Nett IV**; daughters, **Kimberly Tanner**, **Tracie Strother** and **Misty Fontenot**; ten grandchildren.**** **Judy Louise Angelle**, 69, of Orange passed away on Friday, Feb. 25. Service was held on Wednesday, March 2. She was employed at Dupont as a mail clerk for many years. She is survived by her daughters, **Cindy Kindle**, **Tena Walker**; son, **Ken Roddy**; eight grandchildren and one great grandchild

23 Years Ago-1998

Kelly Ray Thompson, age 30, a former resident of Orange, has been charged with the stabbing death of a Washington woman on Feb. 10. **Thompson** confessed to the murder of **Cathy Jean Jacks Webb**, 41, of Tacoma. **Thompson** also claimed to have killed her boyfriend, which turned out not to be true. Sheriff's deputy **Ted Betts** had stopped **Thompson** on suspicion of DWI when he confessed to the murder. Law enforcement, unaware there had been a murder, went to her apartment. A large, bloody knife was on the kitchen table and **Jacks Webb's body** was on the kitchen floor covered with a blanket. **Thompson** wove a chilling tale of murders in California, Colorado and Texas. In Orange, **Thompson** lived at 607 Orange Ave., worked at the Brown Center where the wedding to his wife **Penny**, a local Orangite, had taken place. Everyone was shocked at the news. **Kelly** was well liked by those who knew him. He had married and settled down to make Orange home when he abruptly disappeared in January. (Editor's note: We here at the newspaper heard from **Kelly** for a couple of years after the murder but haven't heard since. He is serving a life sentence.)******Vickie Edgerly**, chief deputy in the district clerk's office, is running for the office. ****County clerk, **Karen Jo Vance**, is running for re-election. She has 22 years experience in the offices, first as a worker then as the boss. ****The quote of the week comes from **Buckshot Winfree**, port board president. At the going away party of port director **Roger Richard**, while presenting a going away plaque, turned to port commissioner **Joel Steirman** and said, "Here **Joel**, you present this plaque, you had more to do with him leaving than anyone else."****Former Orangefield pole-vaulter **Jacob Davis** won first place at the Big 12, indoor championships, with a vault of 18.5 feet. He hopes to win the national championship for the **Texas Longhorns**. ******Shane Dronett** signed a two-year contract with coach **Dan Reeves** and the **Atlanta Falcons**. ****Former **West Orange-Stark** and **A&M** star **Kevin Smith** has his contract with the **Dallas Cowboys** extended to 2003. ****Celebrating birthdays are pretty **Vickie Brown** and her dad **Earl Drake**. Also celebrating is **Jerry Bell**. ******Modica Brothers** Tire dealers opens a store on 16th. **St. John Broussard** is the manager. ******Ted Selman**, 47, filed for port board. ******Wayne Reeh** announced his candidacy for county judge. ******Sheriff Capt. David Peck** is a candidate for Justice of the Peace, Place 1. ******Judge Marlin Shelton** asks for re-election to J.P. Pct. 3. ******A.R. Morgan** is candidate for county commissioner, Pct. 2. ****Republican **Cimron Campbell** seeks J.P. post, Pct. 2, against long-time **J.P. Marlin Shelton**. (Editor's note: **Campbell** won and was the first Republican elected in Orange County.)******Todd Lindsey** is candidate for county commissioner, Pct. 2.******Vanessa Meaux** seeks county clerk's office against incumbent **Karen Jo Vance**. ******Mary Lou Klinkhammer** opposes **Vickey Edgerly** for district Clerk.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, March 2, was **Texas Independence Day**. We forget that men who came here to find a new life and new opportunities instead found war. Their belief in Texas brought death to many but Texas inherited an indomitable spirit. Actually, we should celebrate an entire week because it is also the week the Alamo fell. Those brave men at the Alamo fought to preserve this state. Had **Santa Anna** overwhelmed the Alamo quickly, the outcome at San Jacinto might have been different. Maybe God predetermined that **Sam Houston** should lead Texas because you see; he too was born on March 2, in 1782, in Rockbridge County, Va. An Orange Countian, **Claiborne West**, signed the Declaration of Independence, at Washington on the Brazos, and has a park named in his honor in Orange County. The late **County Judge Grover Halliburton** established the **Claiborne West Park**. **Donna Scales**, former park director, honors **Halliburton** for his foresight. Texas is not only a state in the minds of many; it is a whole other country. Thanks to the brave men who gave their lives so Texas could be a great state.****Hard to believe that 41 years ago this week, Tuesday, March 4, 1980, the ribbing cutting and grand opening ceremonies for **Wal-Mart** 280th store and first in this area was held at Bridge City. Manager of the new store was **Frank Boren**. Over 100 city, county and area dignitaries attended. **Mr. Sam Walton** talked to the crowd. He commented that the Bridge City store was one of their finest and the response to the opening was the best ever. **Roy Dunn**, publisher of the **Opportunity Valley News**, served as Master of Ceremonies. In attendance were county judge **Pete Runnels** and Bridge City mayor **Gordon Harvey**, who took part in the ribbon cutting. **Miss Bridge City, Teresa Hearn** and **Mr. Sam** cut the ribbon. At the time **Wal-Mart** only went into communities with populations below 15 thousand. At the time **Mr. Sam** couldn't have envisioned how **Super Wal-Mart's** would end up being the largest retailer in the country and now all over the world. The Bridge City store is one of few small stores remaining in the chain.****A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **March 4**, **Cassie Bearden** celebrates today as does **Carolyn Sheppard**. On this day 10 years ago singer **Johnny Preston** died.******March 5**, **Jennifer Byrd** and **Lenzi Belcher** share birthdays.******March 6**, Two good old boys, **Sam Moore** and **Mark Brinson** celebrate.***This was the date in 1836 the **Alamo** fell.******March 7**, former sheriff **Mike White** is a year older, so is our friend **Libby Mitchell**. A good guy **Ricky Trahan** celebrates along with **Sharon Crumpler**.******March 8**, two special ladies, **Pat Pate** and **Liz Weaver** celebrate.

Both of these ladies have overcome health problems. **Happy Birthday** to all.**** According to **Orbin Ross** the following are some of the better boxers from the **Orange** area that fought from the **1970's** until the early **1980's**. They are as follows: **Norris Leger**, **Cris Leger**, **Carl Gene Shafer**, **Lee Sanders**, **David Fairchild**, **Edward Fairchild**, **Nolan Broussard**, **Craig Chesson**, **Mike Harrison**, **Ray Posey** and **Ed Block**. These guys were all exceptional athletes.****Our friends **Cherry** and **Cedric Stout** are hanging in there. **Cedric** age 99, is fortunate to have **Cherry** as his nurse, caregiver and cook. With her help he is weathering his elder years just fine and looking forward to year 100.****We ran into **Bob** and **Virginia Fox** at **Gulf Coast Cardiology**. She was **Joe Chenella's** secretary for several years and still keeps up with **Joe** and **Nancy**.******Judge Pat Clark** called the office to check on **Roy** yesterday. While on the phone with **Janelle**, we learned that **Pat Jr.** finished his **Master's in Education** at the end of 2020 and was just notified of a maintaining a perfect GPA. He also was just recently appointed as the **Special Education Department Chairman** at Spring ISD. The Judge's granddaughter **Whitney** graduated **St. Thomas University** in **Miami** last spring, and due to **Covid** just received her **Degree in Business**.****I can't get over how bad our place looks. That deep freeze did a number on our courtyard. Many large plants bit the dust, some over 10 years old. Many palms were lost along with the citrus trees. Hopefully they will come back but it will take probably more years than I have left. All homeowners face the same destruction. The best bet to re-landscape is to call **Pete** at **Coastal Landscaping**.****Be sure to check out the **Harbor Freight** insert in this paper for some great sale prices. Use the coupons in this circular and save on many items. **Harbor Freight** is set to open in Orange. Tell them we sent you.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating birthdays this week are **Joan Broussard**, **Andy Pryor**, **Donna Sullivan**, **Jo Young**, **Barron Nimitz**, **Carolyn Hillsten**, **Jerry Maldonado**, **John Philps**, **Genevieve Simon**, **Jennifer Barclay Misty Thurman**, **Leisa Miller**, **Shelly Granger**, **Christi Wiegrefe**, **Ryan Buker**, **Angela Burris Don Grooms**, **Santiago Baca**, **Jordon Doiron**.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

March 3: Actors **Julie Bowen**, 50; **Christian Oliver**, 48; **Natalie Kelly**, 35.******March 3**: Basketball player **Drayman Green**, 31; Actors **Patricia Heaton**, 63 and **Catherine O'Hara**, 67.******March 5**: Actor **Eva Mendes**, 47; **Magician Penn Gillette**, 66; **Model Niki Taylor**, 46.******March 6**: Basketball player **Shaquille O'Neal**, 49; **Comedian DL Hughley**, 58; Actor **Moira Kelly**, 53.******March 7**: **Comedian Wanda Sykes**, 57; Actors **Bryan Cranston**, 65 and **TJ Thyne**, 46.******March 8**: Actors **Freddie Prinze, Jr.**, 45 and **Camryn Manheim**, 60.******March 9**: Actors **Matthew Gray Gubler**, 41 and **Brittany Snow**, 35; TV Show Host **Steve Wilkos**, 57.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Marie Primeaux stop by **Dr. Mouton's** office. She had some bad bruises and maybe a broken jaw. **Dr. Mouton** ake, "Mais Marie, wat happen to you hanh."

Marie say, "Well, it's like dis **Doc** everytime **Tee Man** come home drunk him, he beat me up."

The doctor said, "I believe I have a good remedy for dat me."

"Wat's dat," **Marie** ake.

"Well do wat I say," said da doctor. "Wen he come home and he's been drinking, jus take a glass of sweet tea, swish it around in you mouth, jus swish but don't swallow until he goes to bed and fall asleep."

"O.K. **Doc**, I'll so dat me," **Marie** said.

About four or tree weeks later, **Marie** come back to da doctor's office.

"**Doc**," she say, "Dat was da best idea, everytime **Tee Man** come home drunk, I swish dat sweet tea until he go to sleep an he don't touch me. See, I got no bruises."

Da doctor look at **Marie** and he say, "Marie, now you see how keeping you mouth shut helps."

C'EST TOUT Recalling Mardi Gras Days

Mardi Gras in my youth was a long time ago. I've traveled a lot of miles since those early days in that little Cajun town. All the good people of those **Mardi Gras** and **Lenten** days are now gone. The **Mardi Gras** celebration didn't happen this year because of **COVID-19**. It doesn't even feel like the **Lenten** season now. Over the years the **Mardi Gras** one day celebration had really changed but this year, due to the pandemic, not even small celebrations were held. For country folks, **Mardi Gras** day began early in the morning with masked horseback riders going through the countryside collecting chickens for a big gumbo to be enjoyed later in the day. It was a day filled with laughter, fun, games and pranks. While the gumbo was simmering, a made up band furnished the music. The gumbo was brewed on an open fire using the chickens the men had gathered and the women had plucked and prepared. The women always did the chores except when a big iron pot was cooking cracklins. The men attended to that. The lard would later be used for soap makings. Too many hot cracklins could very well serve as a purgative. Even today, I can still taste how good those big, meaty cracklins were. The band always had an accordion, fiddle, and a harmonica, a bass fiddle made with a washtub, string and broomstick. Someone always played the scrub board, while others played the spoons, two big spoons were bounced off a leg, clinking together. I don't ever recall seeing a guitar. **John Thibeaux** had a big house and the furniture was moved outdoors and the living room became a dance floor. The party lasted all day and into the night. When the weather was bad, the celebration moved into someone's barn. The youngsters played games like hide and seek, marbles, lagging washers, skipping rope, playing hopscotch and others. Older boys hid behind the barn to smoke corn silk or grape vines. The celebration was a Cajun tradition. Schools were closed and businesses shut down. **Mardi Gras** is instilled in the hearts of every Cajun kid who ever took part. Those old Cajun people of my youth would never believe how high society their one-day celebration has become. **Mardi Gras** celebrating was started by Cajuns in the 1800's.****My time is up. Take care, stay safe and God bless America.

Gauthier announces candidacy for BC City Council

The following is a statement by Terri Gauthier announcing her candidacy for City of Bridge City City Council:



Terri Gauthier

My name is Terri Gauthier. Many of you may already know me as I have served our city on the City Council since 2015. I am running for re-election for my fourth two-year term as Bridge City Councilmember - Place 5 in the upcoming May 1st election.

For the citizens I may not have met yet, I am a lifetime resident here in Bridge City. My husband David and I have been married 42 years and have two children, Aaron & Victoria, who both graduated from BCHS. Aaron is an infantry combat veteran who served in the Afghanistan war and is now raising his family here. Victoria is currently working as a Certified Technician & Assistant Director at Total Impressions Beauty & Wellness Cryotherapy Center that we have developed here in Bridge City. In 1997 we made a decision to make a big investment into our community by developing Grace Plaza Retail Center. Total Impressions Salon has served our city for over 30 years.

I have always had an intense passion for community involvement and public service. Knowing the importance of using your gifts and talents to help meet the needs of others. Beginning in 2001, I organized and directed a very successful Community Christmas program, Project GLOW, 'Go Light Our World'. Many organizations in our commu-

nity were brought together to get involved to help make this program a great success. This has been an event for many years to begin our Holiday Season by giving to those in need. The event has always raised significant funds for our Bridge City/Orangefield Ministerial Alliance, which our city is so faithful to support. Our slogan being; "Performance with a cause, not just applause".

As a Council member, I have had the honor of serving on several Boards & committees to represent the City of Bridge City. I have served on our Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors since 2014. I served as President in 2018. After Hurricane Harvey, I was so inspired by the strength and determination of our citizens to help one another and continue to move forward. I presented to the Chamber board a project of re-branding our city and hanging new banners throughout our community; "Growing Stronger Together". The banners were a visual declaration of strength & unity and new imagery to encourage & remind our citizens of how strong we are as a City!

I also have the privilege of representing Bridge City on the Orange County Economic Development Executive Board. The Board's mission is to develop and support policies and programs directed at improving the business cli-

mate through specific efforts directed at creating and retaining jobs that facilitate growth. While we do not specifically recruit residential development, our efforts to create jobs drives the need for residential, and residential saturation drives retail development. Bridge City has experienced tremendous residential and business growth.

I am committed to serving on the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Executive Board. This past month I have been re-appointed as 2nd Vice President. This position allows me the opportunity to represent Bridge City. SETRPC is the organization by which the "Method of Distribution" is developed and decided upon for State and Federal money that is distributed to the counties and cities of our region. SETRPC releases funds and coordinates many other Government assisted programs to help meet the needs of the citizens of the region of Southeast Texas.

Having the opportunity to serve these organizations, I have come to know and understand the importance of our entire region working together to develop plans for mitigation and improvement of issues that are a great concern to our citizens.

I am very dedicated and loyal to serving our City. I believe it is extremely important for our Council and City Manager to work together to provide the best for our citizens. As I continue to research & study the dynamics of City growth and development, I am a firm believer in new ideas and possible changes that can be real-

ized to encourage growth & enhance quality of life for our citizens.

As a leader, I know the importance of keeping our citizens well informed of City

matters. I have been very proactive in helping manage and share city news and information on social media. Great leadership encourages community members to connect with their City by discovering the most beneficial course of

action to get involved.

I am asking for your support in voting for a candidate who is very committed and passionate about being a strong servant and making the best decisions for our citizens and our City!

Branch announces for Mayor of WO

The following is a statement by Randy Branch announcing his candidacy Mayor of West Orange:



Terri Gauthier

My name is Randy Branch and I live in and am a homeowner in West Orange. I am running for the office of Mayor or this year in the election that will be held on May 1st. I write this short auto biography to give the people of West Orange an idea of who I am since they will be voting this year on electing a new Mayor. I grew up in Little Cypress, graduated from Little Cypress High School in 1968 and went to Blinn Jr. College. I married the love of my life, Martha Jane Johnson, in 1971 on February the 20th and we will celebrate our 50th year together. We have two daughters who both went to school in the WOS school system. We are very proud of our daughters and really enjoy spending time with them and our five grandchildren.

We moved to West Orange in 1975, bought a home on the very east end of Bonham Street and lived there until we bought one of the Building and Trades built homes on Smith Street in 1986. We have lived in West Orange and paid taxes to the city for the past 45 years.

I currently am serving as Senior Pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church. I have been serving there since 2008. Prior to my service at Wesley I served as Associate Pastor of St. Johns United Methodist Church for 4 years on Western Avenue. I received my license to preach in 2004. My plans are to retire from the Church on June 30th this year. I will continue to look for ways to serve God and my Savior Jesus Christ as they lead me into

this new phase of life. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will lead me in God's Wisdom in all that I do. This retirement

will allow me to spend more time working as the citizens' Mayor and spend more time with my children and grandchildren.

I worked for Dupont on Chemical Row (FM 1004) for 35 plus years. I worked as a maintenance mechanic and was promoted to supervisor in 1987. I worked in both the Adipure Plant and Ethylene Plant. I also served as a construction liaison on a major project when Dupont built a plant in Singapore. While we lived in Singapore for a year and half we maintained our residence here in West Orange. I retired from Dupont in 2008.

I currently am an Alderman on the City Council of West Orange. In 2018 I was appointed midyear by Mayor Roy McDonald to serve out the term of Frances Lopez because of her resignation from the City Council. I was chosen from a field of 5 citizens who were nominated for this appointment. I ran for election in 2019, was elected and have been serving since.

During my time on City Council as Alderman we have received grants for improvements such as:

*drainage improvements (surveying has been done and bids are out now for selecting contractors)

*a new Fire Truck for the Volunteer Fire Department

(bids are out now for new truck)

*generators for water wells and lift stations so that they will remain in service during inclement weather and hurricanes (bids will be going out soon)

*street improvements

*Assistance to citizens who suffered damage to their homes during hurricanes

The above list is just a few of the items we have ongoing. As Mayor we will continue to work on these items as well as look for better ways to communicate what the city is doing for its citizens and to hear what the citizen's needs are from the city. I will work towards making the City of West Orange a more ascetically pleasing place to live. We need to do this to attract people and businesses to West Orange which will expand our tax base so that we can do more towards this endeavor. We need to work on drainage issues within the city which suffers from street flooding during heavy rains. (remember the grant project). Our volunteer fire department is growing and we will continue to support the volunteers to make sure that they are able to protect our homes in the safest manner possible (bids are out for a new fire truck). I have been a strong proponent of removing derelict housing and have found that this can be done but must be done by following existing laws as well as taking into account the budgetary issues this costly work will incur. In other words it is a slow process but will be followed up on.

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



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Biden mentions Our Lady of Guadalupe in meeting with Mexican president

Washington D.C.- President Joe Biden cited Our Lady of Guadalupe and displayed his rosary beads in a conversation with the president of Mexico on Monday, according to the Catholic News Agency.

In the virtual conversation with Mexico's President López Obrador, Biden—a Catholic—claimed a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe from his previous travels to Mexico as vice president.

"During my visits, I got to know Mexico a little bit and its people, and paid my respects to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

As a matter of fact, I still have my rosary beads that my son was wearing when he passed," Biden said according to a White House transcript of the event. He noted that he visited Mexico four times as vice president.

Biden has previously referenced his son Beau's death from brain cancer as an incident where he relied upon his faith. In a 2020 campaign ad, he said that his faith supported him through tough times, noting that "I go to Mass and I say the rosary. I find it to be incredibly comforting."



Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas,

given the title by Pope St. John Paul II.

Biden is just the second Catholic U.S. president, and the U.S. bishops' conference has noted the unique circumstance of having a Catholic president who upholds Church teaching on policies such as immigration and fighting poverty, but contradicts Church teaching on life issues, marriage, religious freedom, and gender ideology.

The USCCB formed a working group in November to advise the conference on how to work with Biden; the working

group made two chief recommendations before stopping its work in early February.

One of the recommendations was for USCCB president Archbishop Jose Gomez to send a letter to Biden that was pastoral in nature, but clarify areas of agreement and disagreement with the conference—especially his contradiction on the "preeminent" issue of abortion.

At the bilateral meeting on Monday, both presidents discussed the COVID-19 pandemic, economic cooperation, and climate change.

During his conversation with Lopez, Biden also noted that he has a bust of Catholic social activist César Chávez in the Oval Office.

In response to Biden's remarks on Monday, President Lopez thanked him through an interpreter "for your confession regarding your devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe."

"We, as Mexicans, respect and admire two symbols," he said, one being "the Virgin of Guadalupe" and the other being former president Benito Juárez.

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY PULL THE MASK OFF OF FEAR

Kristen Tabb
Guest Contributor
desiringGod.org

I shot eye darts at the van driver in the rearview mirror from my seat behind him. We were traveling down a treacherous East African road booby trapped with deep potholes, and the speedometer reflected that we were going well over 70 kilometers an hour. I clutched at my nonexistent seatbelt and stared at the metal bars placed at forehead level in front of our seats.

But when the driver flippantly began to play chicken with other drivers who were headed toward us at equally insane speeds, I snapped. I pointedly shared a few choice reflections with him regarding his fatalistic driving choices. Our native host cleared his throat awkwardly, and a couple of passengers glared at me. It didn't matter in the moment.

Fear was in my driver's seat, and it was taking me for a ride.

Fear Reveals Our Trust

We live in a broken world where really bad things really do happen, even (and sometimes especially) to people who really love Jesus. Fear exists because sin has broken this world

and distorted it, leaving much beyond our control. We are finite creatures, and fear has become part of our makeup. We can't avoid fearful feelings in our dependent state.

But there is hope; the story of our fear is the story of who is in control. And for believers in Jesus, this story always has a happy ending.

It is not wrong to feel afraid, but it is a problem when we open the door to fear, allowing it to dwell in our hearts and homes, controlling our thought life, decisions, relationships, and parenting. What we do with our fears affects our testimony to a watching world.

When Fear Comes Knocking

Often, in our attempts to manage fear, we find ourselves grasping for control, thinking that this is the antidote for our fearful feelings. We research what could go wrong, analyze statistics, assess probabilities, and consider possibilities so that we can manage our fear, avoid it (or its sources), or control what might cause it.

But what if, instead of settling for mere fear management, we decided to fight it? What if we took our hands off the steering wheel of fear and said, "I'm not

in control, and that's okay, because my heavenly Father is in control."

1. Identify It

When the masked man of fear shows up at our doorstep, we need to acknowledge his presence.

Let's say, for example, that as I lather my kids up in PABA-free sunscreen, about to add wide-brimmed hats and long-sleeved shirts, I come to realize that I am scared of them going without sunscreen. This sounds like a small step, but it's not. It is possible to go through life with the bedfellow of fear and not once look at him, talk to him, or identify his existence. This doesn't mean that fear isn't in control. It simply means that the driver of the car is never acknowledged.

Facing our fear can take courage, which God can give us if we ask him. So I notice my fear, and I admit, "I'm afraid."

2. Name It

Once we've looked the fear in the face, we identify what is driving it.

Usually, we are not actually afraid of the thing we think we're afraid of (going without sunscreen), but rather of a possibility that something might

happen to us as a result. In the example above, the driving fear behind not lathering the kids in sunscreen might be that they will develop skin cancer, or perhaps that they will develop another form of cancer due to chemicals in a non-PABA free sunscreen.

Here is where a group dynamic to fear sometimes enters. One person names such a fear among a group of mom friends at the beach. Another friend chimes in, voicing a similar fear. All of a sudden, the woman in the group who has never feared using PABA-filled sunscreen begins to wonder if she should. And fear is born, and reborn.

3. Pull Its Mask Off

We reveal fear as a liar, and fight back, by believing and declaring Jesus to be more powerful than the thing we are afraid of.

Cancer is a horrible result of living in a fallen, broken world, but Scripture is clear that God governs the details of my life (Luke 12:7), and that he causes all things in my life, including cancer, to work together for my ultimate good (Romans 8:28). God can protect my kids from skin cancer (Psalm 91:3), but if he chooses not to, he will walk with us through that experience

(Hebrews 13:5).

I could spend my whole life fearing skin cancer and never have to confront it, wasting my mental energy on something Christ has already conquered, rather than on the mission to which he has called me (2 Corinthians 10:5). And so we preach to ourselves about Jesus, time after time, until we slay the fear.

Jesus took on our flesh and lood "that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Jesus pulled the mask off of fear, for you and for me, and here is how he did it: He used the driving fear of death, which holds all humanity captive, as a vehicle by which he would de-

feat its power.

Since death empowers the fear that drives the human race, Jesus killed death's power, defeating it by dying himself, and then rising as Victor over it. He is the ultimate Conqueror. He did so to "deliver all those who through fear or death were subject to lifelong slavery" — you and me.

It doesn't mean we'll never fight the battle of fear again, but it does mean that we're staying the course in our fight for faith as we declare him a trustworthy champion over our enemy, Satan, and the fearful darts that he throws. The fight is in our souls, and it matters. Our neighbors and children are watching. Our friends are following our lead. And most of all, our Father is delighted as we put our trust in him.

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Watt to go to work for Arizona

KAZ'S KORNER - JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

To no one's surprise, when the final gun sounded and ended a 4-12 season for the Houston Texans, it would be the last game J.J. Watt would play in a Texans uniform.

The 10-year Superstar felt he had some good productive years left in the tank at age 32, but he wanted a Super Bowl ring.

And playing for a team that hadn't even gotten out of the Division Round of the playoffs, it wouldn't happen for Watt in Houston.

So, before a new general manager and head coach were hired, Watt and Chairman/CEO Cal McNair made some sort of "Gentlemen's Agreement" for his release so J.J. could select the next team he wanted to play for that has a good chance of fulfilling his Super Bowl desire before free agents can sign with another team later this month.

Watt could see the writing on the wall that the 2021 edition of the Texans would not be competing for the Super Bowl but most likely throwing the helmets into the ring for the right to next year's No. 1 overall draft pick.

Sharing the honor of being the best football player to ever play in Houston with Oilers star running back Earl Campbell, the city will really miss J.J.

Besides being named the NFL's Best Defensive Player three times—along with Lawrence Taylor and Aaron Donald—Watt has done many off-the-field wonders for the City of Houston.

When the city was ravaged with the floods caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, Watt personally raised \$41.3 million—mostly just on his name and his appearances at the flood scenes—which helped build 1,183 homes, 971 Childcare and After School programs, helped more than 108,000 kids and distributed over 239 million meals to victims of Hurricane Harvey.

When analyzing NFL teams and where Watt could end up, issues like a team's scheme, coaches, needs on defense and the salary cap situation should be taken into consideration.

And for one who has made more than \$100 million with the Texans plus his endorsements, money definitely will not rule Watt's decision. He still wants football to be fun for him.

The most fun the game for him would be to join his two brothers, T.J. and Derek, at Pittsburgh. But with aging Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback, the Super Bowl seems to be a stretch. Besides, the Steelers must shed around \$32 million in salary cap to be compliant by the time the new league year

KAZSKORNER Page 2B

It's certainly not for everybody

OUTDOORS
Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

You ever wonder what a 64 pack of Crayola crayons, 31 flavors of ice cream at Baskin Robbins, or bags of assorted candy have in common?

The answer is they offer something for everyone because we all don't have the same taste. If everyone did things exactly like everyone else then life would be ridiculously boring and mundane. It's choices and options that give each individual the opportunity to succeed and sometimes those options and choices are a little different than what some people consider to be the best or only way to go about things. Taking a quick glance at the calendar right now means different things to different people, especially fishermen.

If you flip through the pages of most fishing magazines it won't be hard to figure out what the prevailing thought on most people's minds is this month, its big trout. More often than not its pursuing big trout while wade fishing and throwing artificial lures. I'll be one of the first to raise my hand and say "I'm all for that". I will, on the other hand, also be one of the first to say "that's not the only way to catch those big fish" and that's where choices and options come in to play.

One year I was at one the fishing shows standing around with a group of guides and tournament anglers having a great conversation and swapping stories on various subjects and inevitably the style or different methods of fishing became the topic. I listened intently and heard basically the same story over and over of how this group of anglers spent their time on the water. After several stories it was more than apparent that these guys took it for granted that everyone



True trophy trout, like this one Carlin Leavelle caught, pushing 10 pounds and 30 inches long are what saltwater fisherman dream about.

fished exactly like they did and the thought that someone wouldn't was just borderline blasphemy.

I can understand why they would think like this, especially when all the other fishermen they routinely hung out with did the same things they did. I can remember the look on their faces when I told them "you realize you are a very small fraction of the fishing population and 10 times as many people fish differently than you do". It was a Kodak moment to say the least. I invited them to go to their local sporting

goods store and watch other fishermen to see what they buy.

Contrary to their beliefs there would way more folks buying terminal tackle, cast nets, and "fresh dead" shrimp than ultra high end gear. The percentage of anglers who exclusively hunt trophy fish with the latest gear pales in comparison to Joe Public who just goes out to get a bite and maybe catch supper. Just a little something to think about.

UZZLE Page 4B

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Area Anglers Are Still Thawing Out

FISHING
DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record

I have seen enough pictures of dead fish over the past couple of days to last me a lifetime. We lost some fish in the immediate area, but nothing compared to the devastation along the lower coast.



The majority of the fish in the pictures and videos I have seen were shad, mullet, sand trout and lady fish, but a staggering number of game fish were frozen as well. In the Sabine Lake and Galveston areas, redfish and drum took a significantly bigger hit than the trout. We will never know how many are currently decomposing in deeper water, but the visual accounting has been better than expected.

Area anglers have all but quit even talking about trophy trout on Sabine since Harvey buried us in fresh water which makes it even harder to look at the numbers of 25-inch plus trout washed up against the bank south of East Matagorda. A

client of mine sent me a picture of a wheel barrow full of 25 to 30 inch trout they had picked up in less than an hour! It is a phenomenal waste of a resource, but all the conservation measures known to man cannot overcome an irate Mother Nature.

I am convinced that the saving grace for our fish was the easier access to deeper water and the fact that surface temperatures had started cooling before our world

"I am convinced that the saving grace for our fish was the easier access to deeper water..."

froze over. Because the water was already blown out, it was a short swim to safer depths. Redfish and black drum are notoriously bad about their propensity for never abandoning the shallow marshes and a high percentage of them invariably pay a heavy price. I have gotten two bad reports concerning reds and black drum from the Keith Lake chain, but we have found very few dead fish on the north end of Sabine thus far.

In fact, much to my surprise, we have had no problem limiting on trout on the last three trips. They were

once again camped out in three to five feet of water as were a few scattered redfish. Most of the trout have been 16 to 21-inch fish, but the reds have been much too large to keep. At least for us, catching has been all about staying in a small area and waiting out the bite. For that reason, paying attention to tide changes and the solunar table is even more important. We have all but left the trout twice in a row before eventually limiting in a very

short period of time. Even when they are actively feeding, strikes have been very much on the light side. That is not all that unusual when fishing Corkies and mullet imitations, but they are hitting five-inch tails the same way.

I think the few wade fishermen we have seen are doing better than we are when drifting, but wading is not for everyone. They have a game plan before they ever climb over the side of the boat, while most drift fishermen are into covering more water and making lots of casts.

There has been little or no visual help in locating the fish as I don't think I have seen the first school of shad or mullet on the surface. Our best two patterns have been anchoring and fishing the break in one of the Passes on the north end or slowly drifting the shoreline until we catch the first fish. At that point we are burying the Talon and tying on a Corky, Softdine XL or a rat tail Assassin.

In the event that you lean to the impatient end of the scale and have no problem with battling more thick shouldered reds than trout, there is a more effective way to target them. Make the exact same drifts with a Gulp shad or Lil' John rigged under a cork or cover even more water with a Trap or Hoginar.

You will get bit and you will have your drag tested.....the reds have been too big! I don't know if they are selling tickets at the door, but a call to Taylor Rick at 713-626-4222 will answer that question. The Sabine-Neches GCCA Chapter will be hosting their annual crawfish boil at 6:00 p.m. at the Bob Bowers Center in Port Arthur Thursday night.



Because eradication is thought to be impossible once CWD becomes established in a population, it is imperative that TPWD work with landowners, hunters and other agencies to contain the disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease Discovered in Lubbock County

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been discovered in a free-ranging 8 ½-year-old mule deer in Lubbock County, marking the first positive detection of the disease in the county. In coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is working to develop a containment & surveillance zone in the area.

The tissue samples were gathered as part of routine deer mortality surveillance and revealed the presence of CWD during testing at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station on Feb. 26th.

Because eradication is thought to be impossible once CWD becomes established in a population, it is imperative that TPWD work with landowners, hunters and other agencies to contain the disease within a limited geographic area and prevent it from spreading further among Texas deer populations.

"Although a new CWD discovery is always concerning, it's

TEXAS DEER Page 3B

Kaz's Korner

From Page 1B

starts. The Texans defensive coordinators that Watt really liked and respected, Anthony Weaver and Mike Vrabel, who is now head coach of the Tennessee Titans, who are desperate to improve their pass rush that recorded only 19 sacks.

Watt could step in and contribute immediately for the defending AFC South champions and as a bonus get to play twice a year against the Houston Texans.

And Weaver, now head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, has a veteran defensive coordinator in Wink Martindale, whose players love to play for him, according to a recent article in the Houston Chronicle.

The fact that Watt grew up in Wisconsin, owns a home there makes Green Bay a top choice. Head Coach Matt LaFleur would love to add Watt to his defense after losing the NFC Championship Game in each of the last two seasons.

Veteran players used to flock to New England because they knew that quarterback Tom Brady would lead the Patriots to a Super Bowl. Now Brady did just that at Tampa Bay last season and J.J. Watt could very

well be at the head of the line as the Buccaneers are the early favorite to repeat the world championship.

Don't rule out the Chicago Bears because Watt's wife, Kealia, plays for the Chicago Red Stars of the National Women's Soccer League. J.J. spent a lot of time in Chicago since she was traded by the Houston Dash.

Other teams that have shown interest include Buffalo, Cleveland, LA Rams San Francisco 49ers, Miami and Seattle (an acquisition of Watt's caliber might pacify quarterback Russell Wilson).

But Watt made the media prognosticators look silly by deciding to sign a 2 year, \$31 Million contract with the Arizona Cardinals Monday afternoon, with \$23 Million dollars guaranteed.

The determining factor for moving to the desert was former teammate DeAndre Hopkins, who told Watt to "finish what we started" meaning the Super Bowl. It should be a slap in the face for the Texans, who lost the best offensive and defensive players in franchise history to the same team for peanuts, as far as NFL deals are concerned.

When Watt was drafted by Houston in 2011, Orange na-

tive Wade Phillips was the Texans' defensive coordinator and was asked then if he thought J.J. would be a bust. "Yeah," Phillips replied, "a bust in the Hall of Fame."

Phillips must be clairvoyant because five years after J.J. Watt retires as a player he should be getting a bust in Canton Ohio as a first-ballot selection for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, according to the Chronicle's article.

KWICKIES...

Many PGA Tour golfers saluted Tiger Woods Sunday by wearing his traditional red in the final round of the WGC Workday Championship at Bradenton, Fla. Young Collin Morikawa won the event by three strokes and thanked his childhood idol Tiger for making the game lucrative for today's pros. Tiger is recovering from an auto accident and mentioned that the support from his fellow golfers made him feel much better.

The University of Houston Cougars blasted past South Florida 98-52 Sunday for their 20th win of the season against three losses. Veteran head coach Kelvin Sampson believes his team is ready for March Madness later this

month. On the other side of the coin is the Houston Rockets who were demolished at home Sunday by the Memphis Grizzlies 133-84 for their 11th straight setback.

Baltimore Orioles' infielder Troy Mancini was cheered by both benches and the fans as a colon cancer survivor. Mancini, who missed the 2020 season while recovering, laced a single in his first at bat but his team lost 5-4 to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

JUST BETWEEN US...

When Major League Baseball's spring training season opened Sunday at Florida and Arizona the Grapefruit League ruled that spring training games through March 13 can be shortened to either five-or-seven-inning games upon agreement by both managers. Games after March 13 can only be condensed to seven-inning games if both managers agree. The Houston Astros played seven innings Sunday and were defeated 6-1 by the Miami Marlins.

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Initial Texas agricultural loss estimates from Uri exceed \$600 mil

Paul Schattenberg
Texas AgriLife

Winter Storm Uri, which blasted through the entire state of Texas, caused at least \$600 million in agricultural losses, according to preliminary data from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agricultural economists.

"A large number of Texas farmers, ranchers and others involved in commercial agriculture and agricultural production were seriously affected by Winter Storm Uri," said Jeff Hyde, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director, Bryan-College Station. "Freezing temperatures and ice killed or harmed many of their crops and livestock as well as causing financial hardships and operational setbacks. And the residual costs from the disaster could plague many producers for years to come."

AgriLife Extension estimates of some of the state's biggest agricultural losses by commodity were:

- Citrus crops: At least \$230 million.
- Livestock: At least \$228 million.
- Vegetable crops: At least \$150 million.

Another agricultural sector that experienced significant losses was the green industry. AgriLife Extension,



Winter Storm Uri left iced-over grapefruit tree in Rio Grande Valley. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

in collaboration with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, developed and distributed a loss assessment survey to more than 4,000 nursery, greenhouse and other green industry-related businesses requesting input on the type and extent of losses encountered. It will be several weeks before there is sufficient data to provide an assessment of those losses.

How agricultural losses were estimated

"The data we used to determine these agricultural losses came from farmers, ranchers and other commercial producers throughout the state as well as others involved in or supporting pro-

duction agriculture in Texas," said Mark Waller, Ph.D., associate head of Texas A&M University's Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station.

Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension program director for disaster assessment and recovery, said the data related to agricultural

losses was acquired through the agency's extensive statewide network of agents and specialists.

"Our people collaborated with agricultural industry groups and other stakeholders to get the most accurate and up-to-date information available at this time," Dozier said. "Then the information was assembled and analyzed by agricultural economists and other agricultural experts from Texas A&M AgriLife using a standardized approach."

Waller said currently the agency can only provide a general range of loss or estimated overall loss for the state's agricultural sectors.

"There are still many as yet unknown and lingering effects of Winter Storm Uri," he said. "What we can say is these figures are conservative and we expect more losses as a long-term effect of this disaster."

The citrus situation

"The Texas agricultural sector that suffered one of biggest overall losses from Winter Storm Uri was the citrus industry," said Luis Ribera, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station.

Ribera said citrus producers in the Rio Grande Valley lost virtually all of their Valencia orange crop and more than 60% of their grapefruit crop.

"Even more citrus crops would have been lost had many not been harvested before the storm," he said.

Ribera said the AgriLife Extension estimate for citrus losses came out to around \$230 million and was based primarily on losses in the Rio Grande Valley during the storm.

"That estimate also included longer-term losses from next year's crops, but it did not include the cost of citrus plants that could die or remain badly damaged

by the freeze and have to be replaced," he said. "If they must be replaced, it will be several years before those new citrus trees are able to bear fruit, so the losses could be much more."

Juan Anciso, AgriLife Extension horticulturist based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, said about 200 acres of lemons and limes produced in South Texas were destroyed completely because those plants were more sensitive to cold weather than other types of citrus.

"If those producers choose to replant, it will be three to five years before those new plants will begin to yield fruit," Anciso said.

Ribera said while the effects of the storm likely will impact grapefruit availability and prices in the future, it probably won't have a signifi-

TEXAS Page 3B

Texas Deer From Page 3B

important to realize that CWD is still not widespread in Texas," said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. "The years of work and vigilance by our staff and partners and the help of hunters and landowners, continue to be well worth the effort. It remains vital that we keep on task to protect our native deer, which are important for our outdoor heritage and the economy across our state."

TPWD conducts CWD sampling efforts statewide throughout the year. Quick detection of CWD can help to determine the presence of the disease among herds in a given area and further mitigate the spread. During this sampling season TPWD collected more than 13,000 samples across the state and confirmed CWD in 11 free range mule deer and 5 white-tailed deer, all in previously identified containment or surveillance zones.

CWD was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado. CWD has also been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 26 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border, and has since been detected in 213

white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk in Dallam, El Paso, Hartley, Hudspeth, Kimble, Lavaca, Medina, Uvalde and Val Verde counties, 148 of which are connected to deer breeding facilities and release sites.

CWD is an always fatal neurological disease in deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family, known as "cervids," that commonly results in altered behavior because of microscopic changes that occur in the brain of affected animals. An animal may carry the disease for years without outward indication, but in the latter stages, signs may include listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns, and a lack of responsiveness. To date there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or non-cervids. However, as a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend not to consume meat from infected animals.

TPWD and TAHC are analyzing existing data to define containment and surveillance zones and will soon begin reaching out to the Buffalo Springs and Ransom Canyon communities, as well as neighboring landowners, in a public forum to provide awareness and education on CWD, best man-

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Texas agricultural loss may exceed \$600 mil From Page 3B

cant impact on orange prices due to large supplies available from Florida and California.

Other crops blasted by freezing weather

Along with their citrus losses, Rio Grande Valley and other South Texas producers also suffered some significant losses in terms of both cold- and warm-season vegetable crops.

Cool-season vegetable crops like leafy greens, beets, cabbage and celery were lost. There were also warm-season crops of potatoes and watermelons planted for early harvest devastated by the freezing weather.

Samuel Zapata, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Weslaco, said there were notable vegetable losses throughout the area.

"The main vegetable crop damage we saw was to onions, then to leafy greens, including spinach, collard greens and kale, and then to watermelons," he said.

Zapata said a low estimate based on losses from sales of those and other vegetable crops in that part of the state alone would be at least \$150 million.

"Working with the Texas International Produce Association, we estimated a loss of more than \$42 million in sales of onions, more than \$27 million in sales of leafy greens, more than \$20 million in sales of watermelons and more than \$15 million in sales of cabbage," he said. "We also estimated at least another \$42 million in additional vegetable and herb sales losses for these large vegetable crop-producing areas. Of course, producers lost vegetable crops in other areas of the state as well, so we determined the \$150 million figure to be a minimum."

Zapata said sugarcane is another major South Texas crop that took a hit from Winter Storm Uri.

"According to the sugar industry, minor damage is expected to the 2020-2012 sugarcane crop given that most of it was already harvested before Uri," he said "However, a significant drop in yields is expected for next year's crop as pretty much all cane plants were destroyed and producers will have to start over. It is too early to know the magnitude of the damage."

According to Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist - grain marketing, Bryan-College Station, corn and grain sorghum crops planted in South Texas and the state's Coastal Bend before the storm will need to be replanted. The cost of this replanting will need to be determined at a later time.

"The most significant grain crop at risk during the storm was wheat, especially wheat that had started to grow," he said. "But wheat that was still in a dormant state likely survived and will produce."

He also noted there were statewide losses of livestock grazing materials such as oats, rye grass and triticale, which were included in the estimate.

Livestock losses will likely linger

Livestock losses include not only cattle, sheep and goats and their offspring that died or were badly injured during the freeze, but also damage to the livestock industry infrastructure, said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock economist, Bryan-College Station.

Anderson noted the livestock loss estimate also included initial poultry losses and costs related to bird loss, damage to housing facilities and increased heating costs to keep the animals warm.

"Beef cattle losses include estimated value of death



Beef cattle producers had to chip through a top later of ice so their livestock could drink. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Tiffany Lashmet)

losses, additional feed use, lost winter small grain grazing, lost weights and feed efficiency in feedlots, and losses due to delayed marketing," he said. "Sheep and goat losses include estimated death losses, and dairy losses include cattle death loss, lost milk production and the value of milk dumped due to transportation problems and processing delays."

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said some Texas dairy operations were losing as much as \$8 million a day because trucks were unable to pick up and deliver milk for processing. Anderson, who collaborated with Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Amarillo, said the overall livestock loss for Winter Storm Uri is estimated to be around \$228 million.

"A rancher will typically feed two or more round bales per cow during winter, so if hay isn't available, they still have to purchase some type of supplemental feed — and all this is costly," Benavidez said. "You also have to consider any physical damage to the operation as well as additional costs such as extra fuel or electricity to run heaters to keep the animals warm."

Benavidez also noted that because the storm hit during calving season, many newborn cattle were not able to survive the cold. Many lambs and kids were also lost due to the freezing weather.

"However, those overall livestock losses could have been far worse had it not been for the quick action by ranchers before the temperatures reached freezing," Benavidez said.

Anderson noted that livestock producers who lost animals to the storm in effect not only lost a single generation but also potential subsequent generations of their offspring.

"It will take some time before many producers are able to replace their livestock," he said. "And when they do, it's going to be costly."

Green industry losses pervasive statewide

Extended freezing temperatures killed or badly damaged landscape plants, shrubs and trees in nurseries, garden centers and greenhouses throughout the state. They also froze sales of landscaping and gardening tools and supplies.

"The green industry will experience increased labor, fertilizer and other costs as part of the price of replacing the plant material that was lost during the winter storm," said Marco Palma, Ph.D., horticultural marketing expert in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Palma said AgriLife Ex-

tension and the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, TNLA, are awaiting responses from their statewide-loss assessment survey before venturing an estimate of green industry losses.

"It will take some weeks before we get a full picture of the immediate losses, but they will easily be in the tens of millions and probably in the hundreds of millions of dollars," he said.

Amy Graham, president and CEO of TNLA, said survey results will be helpful to estimate losses and identify potential assistance programs for stakeholders.

"The green industry has had severe damage, especially in some of the larger metropolitan areas such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin," she said. "We have a lot of nursery plant growers in East Texas and quite a few of them have reported total losses. In some cases, complete greenhouses collapsed. In other instances, plants died because there was no propane for heating greenhouses."

Graham said while the green industry will be able to recover and provide replacements for some of these plants, there likely will be a shortage of landscaping trees for some years to come.

"Another consideration is that growers won't be able to determine the extent of the damage, including root damage, to a large number of their plants until we get warmer weather," she said.

Assistance for agricultural producers

"While assistance for producers should soon be on the

way from the December 2020 COVID stimulus, it's still too early to tell if the federal government will provide additional targeted assistance in the form of direct disaster relief," said Bart Fischer, Ph.D., director of Texas A&M University's Agricultural and Food Policy Center.

However, he said, there are a number of existing programs in place that producers can access, depending upon the problems encountered. By far, the most popular tool is the Federal Crop Insurance Program. For crops with no crop insurance, there is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, available through the local Farm Service Agency, or FSA.

"The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program reimburse producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals killed or badly injured by a natural disaster or loss of feed," Fischer said. "And the Tree Assistance Program provides cost-share assistance to rehabilitate, replant or clean up damage to orchards and vineyards if trees, vines or shrubs were killed or seriously damaged in a disaster. This is different from NAP or Federal Crop Insurance as these typically cover the crop loss and not plant loss. Producers can reach out to their local FSA office for additional information."

Uzzle From Page 1B

Now, regardless of which end of the spectrum you may reside at there are some outstanding options for you to choose from in order to catch both numbers of fish and better quality fish. For many folks the thought of climbing out of a sleek bay boat to wade a pristine flat in search of that career fish is about as close to perfect as one can imagine. Yes, there will be plenty of good fish caught by waders during this time of the year and there will also be plenty of pages and print

thought. Perhaps the most important is good electronics and the ability to read them. Finding and interpreting bottom structure is an art that pays big dividends to those who understand how to do it. For years I've watched 2 of the best, Dickie Colburn and Johnny Cormier, take skills they learned locating fish on freshwater lakes early in their careers and apply them to fishing in saltwater. Subtle changes in depth or bottom contour can make all the difference and

"The early spring is a fantastic time to locate those better fish in a little deeper water outside of the shallow flats."

dedicated to that method as well. For others the thought of crawling out of a perfectly good boat into cold water is about as foreign as ordering a bologna sandwich at a south Texas BBQ house. It doesn't make any sense but for some it's what they like.

For myself I can honestly say I enjoy both fishing out of the boat and staying in, makes me no difference as long as I'm fishing. However, I must admit that in my career on the water I have been fortunate enough to put my hands on several true 30 inch speckled trout and every one of them was caught while the angler was still in the boat. Perhaps that's because here on Sabine and Calcasieu we tend to spend a little more time in water that's too deep to wade unlike other venues down the coast.

The early spring is a fantastic time to locate those better fish in a little deeper water outside of the shallow flats. We spend much of our time in 4 to 6 feet of water making really long drifts that are usually parallel to structure or the shoreline. Often times we are in even deeper water as we probe the breaks along the Sabine River and ICW where some magnum trout and redfish stage up and avoid any traffic or pressure.

Making the most out of water that's too deep to wade requires a certain set of skills, tools and a little bit of

these guys certainly know how to find them.

Once you locate an area that has all the right ingredients it's important to be able to stay put or control your drift. A quality trolling motor is a must, that goes without saying. Having the ability to hold your location with either a manual anchor, Power Pole, Talon, or some sort of stake out is another factor to be considered. Once you get on a drift and locate fish it's much better to be able to sit in one position and see if there are more in the area rather than continue on the drift and come back to try and locate the same fish a second time. Many people are often surprised at how many more bites they are able to get in an area if they just take time to stop and thoroughly check it out.

Waders and folks who fish from the boat will share common lure choices for the most part but there will be few advantages for both sides.

Waders will obviously be more quiet while boat fishermen can cover more water. Both types have pro's and con's and they each offer the angler an outstanding opportunity to catch fish. Neither method is right or wrong at this time of the year either. By being open to other options anglers will certainly put not only more odds in their favor but certainly catch more fish.

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LCM Lady Bears took the win in Silsbee, take on Vidor next

Staff Report
For The Record

The Lady Bears traveled to Silsbee for their match against the Lady Tigers on Tuesday night, and brought home their third win in five days.

The score remained 0-0 for the majority of the first half even though the Bears maintained great field position on the Tiger's half of the pitch. Annabelle Fisher scored on a penalty kick late in the first to bring the score to 1-0 going into half. The Lady Bears buckled down and went to work in the second half by putting four goals on the board. Semma' Alhatri started the second half by finding the back of the net from behind the 18 off of an assist from Lili Moullec.

Moullec then decided that she wanted a goal of her own, and brought the ball up the right side to put another in the goal for the Lady Bears bringing the score to 3-0. The Lady Tigers retaliated by sneaking a goal of their own in, putting the score at 3-1. McK-

enzie Freeman saw an opportunity and took it by sending a beautiful cross to the left side of the field where Presley Rives was waiting to put it in the goal for the Bears.

The Lady Bears saw the chance to make a goalie change, and Kaylee Potter took over for the last fifteen minutes of the second half. Goalie Matalyn Hill used her time on the field wisely and made a goal of her own off of a nice send up from defender Lauren Tinsley. Combined goalie effort by Matalyn Hill and Kaylee Potter helped seal the win for the Lady Bears. Defensive standouts were Loren and Amanda Rodriguez, Kaylee Potter, MaKenzie Holland, and Semma' Alhatri.

Overall this was a solid team effort and win by the Lady Bears as five different players scored, two athletes played in the goal, and the defense held down the backfield.

The Lady Bears are now 6-2 in district and will face the Lady Pirates in Vidor on Friday. JV will begin at 5 PM with Varsity following at 7 PM.



The Orange County Sheriff's Office and Pct. 4 Constable Matt Ortego were recognized by VFW Post 2775 for their work in the Orange County community. District 2 Commander Kevin Bost and Post Chair Robert LaFleur presented the certificates of appreciation and a plaque to Sheriff Mooney. Sheriff Mooney, Constable Ortego and Deputy Bost received certificates for their continued work in the community. Sheriff Mooney also accepted two certificates of appreciation on behalf of Deputy John Badeaux who had worked several years with the VFW.

Jay Odam seeks seat at Alderman West Orange City Council

The following is a statement released by Jay Odom seeking the seat of Alderman on the West Orange City Council:

Hello, my name is Jay Odom. My wife and I, Mary Touchstone Odom and I are both 1973 graduates of West Orange High School. Careers moved both of us out of the area after graduating. After retirement I moved to Rayburn Country in Brookeland, TX and shortly afterwards moved back 'home'.



Jay Odom

I want to be involved in our community and being retired, I certainly have the time to put into serving you on the West Orange City Council as Alderman.

In the past I served as the Deeds and Restrictions Chairman in Pinehurst HOA in Baytown, TX.

While serving as the Deeds and Restrictions Chairman I worked diligently to protect the value of our neighborhood and the rights of the individual homeowner.

Living in Brookeland, I served on the HOA Board of Directors in Rayburn Country because I felt it was very important that our HOA work to provide an the best lifestyle possible while also protecting the value of our homes in Rayburn Country.

It is my desire to work with fellow Aldermen, the Mayor and residents to define specific goals that will ensure the safety and welfare of our neighborhood and the families that reside in West Orange, TX. I also want to assist our city by interfacing with other local leaders and officials to help us to achieve our goal to make West Orange a better place to live.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- President Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Appliance Repair
- Secretary West Orange Lions Club
- Past member of West Orange Volunteer Fire Department
- Board member West Orange Bass Club
- Fire Brigade Levingston Shipbuilding
- Associate Degree in Occupational Safety & Health, Lamar University
- Emergency Response, Gulf/Chevron Chemical
- Program Chairman, Orange Boat Club
- Mission Trips with my church for the past 24 years
- Deeds and Restrictions Chairman, Pinehurst HOA, Baytown, TX
- Board of Directors Rayburn Country HOA
- Volunteer Boat Driver for Shangri La in Orange
- Volunteer for Annual Orange County Trash Off

VFW Auxiliary Spring Garage Sale

The VFW Auxiliary 2775 Orange will be holding their Spring Garage Sale in the VFW Hall at 5303 N.16th St on Saturday March 13, 2021 from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. The cost per table is \$15.00, each cloths rack will be an additional \$5.00. For more information contact Mary Snapp(409-697-0380). Payments can be mailed to Mary Snapp at 7927 Sandra Lane Orange TX 77632. Please makes checks out to VFW AUX 2775.

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NOTICE TO IMPLEMENT REVISED FIXED FUEL FACTOR

Entergy Texas, Inc. hereby publishes NOTICE that, pursuant to Section 36.203 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (codified in Tex. Util. Code) and 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.235(b), it filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (the "Commission") on February 19, 2021, a tariff to implement a revised fixed fuel factor. All of Entergy Texas' retail customers whose fuel charges are calculated under the Texas fixed fuel factor tariff - including but not limited to Residential, Small General Service, Large General Service, Large Industrial Power Service, and Street and Outdoor Lighting Service - will be affected by the Commission's approval of the revised fixed fuel factor. The revised fixed fuel factor, if approved, will affect only the fuel portion of the rates charged by Entergy Texas and will have no effect on non-fuel base rates.

Entergy Texas seeks Commission approval to revise the fixed fuel factor effective with the first billing cycle of the March 2021 billing month. Entergy Texas proposed that the fixed fuel factor be changed pursuant to a semi-annual filing to be made each February and August, with revised fuel factors to be effective with the first billing cycle of the March and September billing months, pursuant to a methodology that changes the fuel factor based upon changes in the published price of natural gas. This methodology was authorized for use in Docket No. 32915.

The revised fixed fuel factor, differentiated by voltage level, is as follows:

FACTOR BY VOLTAGE LEVELS		
Delivery Voltage	Fixed Fuel Factor	
Secondary	\$0.0297139	per kWh
Primary	\$0.0289960	per kWh
69kV/138kV	\$0.0281858	per kWh
230kV	\$0.0277478	per kWh

The revised fuel factor would result in a decrease in Entergy Texas' annual Texas retail fuel and purchased power revenues by approximately \$7.7 million, or 1.6% on an annual basis. Compared to the fixed fuel factor approved by the Commission effective August 2020, a residential customer using 1000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month would see an approximate decrease of 1.38% annually, or \$0.41 on average per month, on his/her electric bill. The fixed fuel factor rate is designed to pass through to customers the actual fuel costs incurred by Entergy Texas to serve customers. Entergy Texas is not allowed to make a profit on fuel costs. These changes will be subject to final review by the commission in the electric utility's next reconciliation. Entergy Texas expects the revised fixed fuel factor to be in effect for the billing period of March 2021 through August 2021.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact Entergy Texas at Attn: Customer Service - Fuel Factor, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call [1-800-368-3749 (once you hear: "Welcome to Entergy" select option 1, then press 5, then press 7)] during normal business hours. A complete copy of this petition is available for inspection at the address listed above.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 51815 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

ENTERGY TEXAS, INC.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS FOR THE BAYOU WATERWAYS DEBRIS REMOVAL PROJECT

March 1, 2021

Prospective Contractors ("Offerors") are notified that the Orange County Drainage District ("District"), located in Orange County, Texas, will receive Competitive Sealed Proposals for the Bayou Waterways Debris Removal Project (the "Project"). The successful Offeror(s) shall furnish all labor, material, transportation, tools, supplies, equipment, and appurtenances for the satisfactory completion of the Project.

PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS ("DOCUMENTATION"). Parties interested in submitting a Competitive Sealed Proposal to provide services for this Project will find the required documentation for this Project on the District's website at: <https://www.ocddtx.com/Bayou Waterways Debris Removal RFCSP 2021 01> and on CIVCAST, <https://www.civcastusa.com> (on CIVCAST, search for "Bayou Waterways Debris Removal Project"). Offerors utilizing CIVCAST must register on that website in order to view, download and print the documentation along with any addendums and other important information related to the Project. There is no charge to view, download or print the documentation from either the CIVCAST or District's website.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE. The District invites Offerors to attend a voluntary pre-bid conference to be held at the offices of the Orange County Drainage District, 8081 Old Highway 90, and Orange, Texas 77630 on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

DEADLINE. Competitive Sealed Proposals for this Project will be received until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021, at the District's Administration Building, located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas, 77630, at which time and place such proposals will be publicly opened.

BID BOND OR OTHER SECURITY. The Offeror shall provide a certified or cashier's check on a responsible bank, or a bid bond, in the amount of thirty-four thousand six hundred dollars (\$34,600.00), which represents two percent (2%) of the estimated project budget set forth in the documentation. Checks or bids bonds submitted by unsuccessful Offerors will be returned when award is made. The bid bond of the successful Offeror will be returned when the formal contract and the required performance and payment bonds are received and approved.

QUESTIONS. If you have any questions regarding this Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals, or are in doubt as to the meaning of any part of these documents, or find discrepancies in, or omissions from, any of the documentation referenced herein, please contact Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser at: jescobedo@orangecountydrainage.com and include "RFCSP No. 2021-01-Bayou Waterways Debris Removal Project" in the subject heading of the e-mail. Offerors may submit questions online through CIVCAST at: <https://www.civcastusa.com> which shall be the equivalent of contacting the District directly. The District will attempt to provide a response to such inquiry within three (3) business days.

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• Penny Record Office: 333 West Roundbunch, Bridge City
• County Record Office: 320 Henrietta, Orange
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Cemetery Plot for sale at Hillcrest Gardens in Bridge City. Call 409-313-4404.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

The VFW Auxiliary 2775 Orange will hold their Spring Garage Sale at the VFW Hall at 5303 N.16th St on Sat., March 13 from 8 am to 2 pm. The cost per table is \$15.00, each cloths rack will be an additional \$5.00. For more information contact Mary Snapp(409-697-0380).

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **HELEN REESE, Deceased**, were issued on **FEBRUARY 22, 2021**, in Cause No. **P18944**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DEANNA CRULL**.

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

c/o: **Paul M. Fukuda Attorney At Law 312 Border Street Orange, TX 77630**

DATED the 22nd day of February, 2021.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda
Attorney for **Deanna Crull**
State Bar No.: 00789915
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-4357
Fax: (409)883-6263
Email: pfukudalawoffice@

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

DANNY CARL DEARING, Deceased
Cause No. **P18984**
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on FEBRUARY 23, 2021, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Danny Carl Dearing, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on February 23, 2021.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, COUNTY

Plaintiff(s) (Name and Address):
Capital Auto Credit, Inc.
1300 E. Washington Ave.
Address: _____
City: _____ State: WI Zip: 53704

Defendant(s) (Name and Address):
Jenica Marie _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: WI Zip: 53704

Small Claims Publication Summons And Notice
Case No. 2021SC00276

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing
TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: (608)266-4311
Courtroom/Room Number: 2300
Address: 215 S. Hamilton St.
City: Madison, State: WI Zip: 53703

on the following date and time:
Date: March 18, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m. a.m. / p.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Plaintiff's Name: _____ Date: February 25, 2021
Plaintiff's Signature: _____ County Clerk's Name: _____
Plaintiff's Address: _____ County Clerk's Address: _____
Plaintiff's Phone Number: _____ County Clerk's Phone Number: _____

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NOTICE OF JOB OPENING

The Orange County Drainage District is seeking applicants for the position of Assistant Manager of Special Projects.

Position Summary:
The Assistant Manager of Special Projects shall assist the General Manager and/or Assistant General Manager in the management of special projects, as directed by the General Manager or Assistant General Manager.

The essential job functions and required education, experience, knowledge, skills, abilities, and other job requirements are set forth in the Notice of Job Opening posted on the Drainage District website found at www.ocddtx.com.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.
Benefits: Health Insurance, Pension, Paid Vacation and Holidays.

An application, along with a resume that sets forth the qualifications and experience of the applicant, must be submitted to the Drainage District. An application may be obtained at the Drainage District office or on the District website: www.ocddtx.com.

Applications and resumes will be received at the Drainage District office, located at 8081 Old Hwy 90, Orange, Texas through 5:00 p.m. on **March 12, 2021**, or until the position is filled.

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	3		9	7	1	8
			8	3	6	9
	4			9	2	3
	1					

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2	6	3	5	1	7	9	4	8
4	8	7	6	3	9	1	5	2
1	5	9	4	2	8	3	6	7
6	7	4	3	8	5	2	9	1
9	1	8	2	6	4	7	3	5
5	3	2	9	7	1	4	8	6
7	2	5	8	4	3	6	1	9
8	4	6	1	9	2	5	7	3
3	9	1	7	5	6	8	2	4

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