

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Storms lead to oil spill, flooding

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Thunderstorms last week caused problems in the Orangefield-Bridge City area, first with an oil spill down Cow Bayou, and then with a short, heavy rain burst that left street flooded and water going into houses.

Orange County Emergency Disaster Director Joel Ardoin said about 60 gallons of crude oil spilled into Cow Bayou in Orangefield after a lightning strike the night of Wednesday, May 29.

Also, Ardoin said six to seven inches of rain fell within a short time in Bridge City in the middle of the day on Saturday, June 1. The cell of a thunderstorm "just sat there" over the area.

The two minor disas-



Joel Ardoin

ters are results of a number of thunderstorms that have moved across Texas and Louisiana during the past month. One thunderstorm brought a tornado through Sulphur, Louisiana, near Orange and another storm brought golf ball-size hail to the Fannett area in Jefferson County to the west of Orange County.

Heavier rains in East

Texas north of Orange County on Tuesday brought the Sabine River Authority to begin opening gates at the Toledo Bend Reservoir dam. By the evening, all 11 spillway gates were open to

two feet each and both generators were operating with a total of 35,206 cubic feet of water per second being released.

Ardoin said lightning hit a crude oil storage tank along the bayou

north of the FM 105 bridge. The strike caused a hole and the oil leaked into a containment area designed for leaks. However, someone left a valve open on the containment area, which led to the oil

going into the bayou.

The tank and well are owned by an out-of-state corporation named Benchmark, Ardoin said.

By the time the spill was

STORMS Page 3A

BCISD's Kelly gets regional honor

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Bridge City ISD's Dr. Mike Kelly has been named Texas Education Regional 5 Superintendent of the Year. The designation puts him as the Southeast Texas nominee for the state honor.

The state has 20 Education Service Centers with Region 5 serving six counties with 34 school districts and two charter schools. Each region's honorees will qualify for a statewide honor.

Bridge City's individual campus teachers of the year are Heather Ivey for the elementary school, Michelle Laperolerie for the intermediate school, Lauren Bellard for the middle school, and Renee Luadders for the high school.

Laperolerie is the district's nominee for Region 5 elementary teacher of the year and Luadders is the nominee for secondary teacher of the year.

Kelly began as superintendent in 2021 during the Covid 19 pandemic. He has led the district to a successful bond election for numerous construc-



Mike Kelly

tion projects including a new middle school. He has nearly 25 years in Texas education, beginning as an English teacher and coach. He has also worked as a school bus driver, assistant principal, and principal.

Earlier in the year, high school engineering teacher Daniel Auchenbach was given the Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Award. The private foundation honors teachers in the region each year gives cash awards.

As the district finished the 2023-24 academic year, the retirees are Donna LaTurner, Deborah Reed, Leslie Anderson, Rebecca Stump, Melanie Woodruff, and Janet Brown.



American troops clamber into a landing craft before hitting the beaches along France's Normandy coast in June 1944.

Orange prayed as men fought in Normandy 80 years ago

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

As the fighting was raging on the shores of Normandy 80 years ago, people in Orange were going to churches.

The famous Allie invasion of France to drive German Nazis out of the occupied country began before dawn on June 6, 1944, along the Normandy coast. It was a surprise attack that every one knew would come some day and bring thousands of casualties. No one knew the date.

It was 9:30 in the morning French time for the invading troops when word began coming into Orange about the invasion. The Orange daily newspaper reported news arrived about 3:30 a.m. local time. At 4 a.m., a shipyard blasted its whistle to let the town know big news was breaking.

The churches soon opened their doors. "Before the sun rose, doors of churches throughout the city opened to those wanting to enter and pray for success of the invasion. Men and women with dampened eyes entered many of the churches to kneel at the al-

Normandy 80 years ago Page 3A



This landing craft was built in Orange and destroyed at Omaha Beach during the invasion.

New plant sets traffic watches for heavy hauls

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Chevron Phillips petrochemical plant under construction along Texas Highway 87 south has set more times to close traffic lanes for moving heavy modular components.

The \$8.5 billion plant, officially named Golden Triangle Polymers, or GTP in the 21st Century language of abbreviations, is being built from a number of prefabricated units, many of which are constructed overseas.

The heavy units are

shipped to the U.S. and then placed on barges that travel to Cow Bayou and then to a specially-constructed loading facility along the bayou. Heavy haul trucks then move the modules on Highway 87 to the plant site, about a mile away.

The construction site is about 2,000 acres along Highway 87 between Foreman Road and FM 1006.

When the heavy hauls are made, lanes in the northbound traffic could be affected or slowed. Traffic on both lanes may be affected in the area be-

tween Cow Bayou and FM 105.

GTP has given dates for the heavy hauls along with time frames for the roads to be affected. The hauls may be canceled because of rain or wet conditions.

The dates and time frames are Wednesday,

June 5, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 8 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Friday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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The last WWII vets converge on Normandy for D-Day



Centenarian vets are sharing their memories of D-Day, 80 years later

Staff Report
Associated Press

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP) — Under their feet, the sands of Omaha Beach, and in their rheumy eyes, tears that inevitably flowed from being on the revered shoreline in Normandy, France, where so many American young men were cut down 80 years ago on D-Day.

Veterans of World War II, many of them centenarians and likely returning to France for one last time, pilgrimaged Tuesday to what was the bloodiest of five Allied landing beaches on June 6, 1944. They remembered fallen friends. They relived horrors they experienced in combat. They blessed their good fortune for surviving. And they mourned those who paid the ultimate price.

They also bore a message for generations behind them, who owe them so much: Don't forget what we did.

"They probably wouldn't be here if we hadn't be successful," said Liliburn "Bill" Wall, who flew bombers in WWII and will celebrate his 101st birthday this week as world leaders gather in France to pay homage to the D-Day generation.

As decades pass, D-Day anniversaries in Normandy have become increasingly fun-fair like, clogging the region's leafy roads with WWII-era fans dressed in the uniforms and driving restored vehicles of the time. But the presence of an ever-dwindling number of veterans keeps the commemorations real, inevitably raising questions about whether the memories, pathos and lessons of WWII will fade when they are gone.

"There are things worth fighting for. Although I wish there was another way to do it than to try to kill each other. But sometimes you're called upon to do something and you just do it. You know? That's it. These people looked death in the face and just kept right on coming," said Walter Stitt, who turns 100 in July and fought in tanks — surviving the destruction of three.

"All those young men that never had a chance to go home and find a love of their life and hold their children in their arms," he said on Omaha, wiping away a tear.

On the bluffs above Omaha, at the Normandy American Cemetery with 9,387

immaculately tended graves, 100-year-old Bob Gibson paid tribute to comrades who fell on D-Day, when he landed on the other, less-bloody American landing beach, code-named Utah.

"You don't want other people to go through the same thing," he said. "Because I've seen a lot of these boys that never even made the beach, believe me. And we were all 18, 19 years old."

"I'm glad I made it. The old boy upstairs took care of me," he said, gesturing skyward.

Across the Normandy coast where the largest-ever land, sea and air armada punctured Adolf Hitler's defenses in western Europe on D-Day and helped precipitate his downfall 11 months later, Allied veterans are the VVIPs of this week's 80th anniversary celebrations.

More veterans were on their way Tuesday, traveling by ferry from southern England across the English Channel that 23,000 Allied airborne troops flew over to drop on D-Day into Normandy and which more than 132,000 others crossed aboard thousands of ships that stretched as far as eyes could see, landing on Utah

and Omaha and three other code-named beaches: Gold, Juno and Sword.

"It looked like you could walk across the Channel using boats as stepping stones," recalled 100-year-old Robert Pedigo, who was a nose gunner aboard a B-24 bomber that flew over the landing beaches on D-Day to pound German forces from the air. He was part of the veteran group that visited Omaha on Tuesday, brought to France

for the 80th anniversary by American Airlines.

Back at base on D-Day night, he was told the Allies had suffered thousands of casualties.

"Overwhelming," he recalled. Although his bombing mission that day proved to be among the "easiest" of 30 he flew over occupied France and Nazi Germany, "the emotional impact was the greatest."

More than 4,400 Allied troops were killed on

D-Day, including more than 2,500 Americans. The Allied toll grew appallingly in the Battle of Normandy that ensued, with 73,000 killed and 153,000 wounded.

Eight decades on, veterans are making more pleasant new memories to go with painful old ones.

The above article is written by JOHN LEICESTER, SYLVIE CORBET AND DANICA KIRKA of the Associated Press.

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Normandy 80 years ago From Page 1

tar and then quietly walk away," a reporter wrote.

Not all the town was sleeping at 4 a.m. Orange had grown from about 7,000 people in 1940 to an estimated 60,000 people during World War II. They came to work in the local shipyards, including the large Navy U.S. Consolidated Steel yard, the locally-owned Levingston Shipbuilding and Weaver Shipyard.

The shipyards were working 24-hour a day shifts to turn out ships, barges, and landing craft for the military. Some of

those vessels helped with the D Day invasion.

Because of all the shift workers, parts of downtown Orange, particularly its cafes and diners, were open all night. The Beaumont Enterprise at the time described the town as never sleeping.

Maybe some of the people going to the churches were on their way to work. Maybe some were getting off work. St. Paul's Episcopal Church set five services spread throughout the day.

A lot of those in prayer were family members of

military men who could be involved in the invasion. The local newspaper estimated 600 to 1,000 men might be taking part.

The U.S. Army website says 160,000 Allied troops participated in the invasion. More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft participated. In one day, more than 9,000 of the Allied soldiers had been killed or wounded.

Levingston Shipbuilding set aside 20 minutes during the for a service with company president Edgar Brown Jr., vice president Ed T. Malloy, yard



The faces of these brave U.S. paratroopers say it all as they fix their static lines for a jump before dawn over Normandy in France on D-Day, June 6, 1944.



The World War II operation was part of the massive Allied D-Day invasion to chase German forces out of France. An armada of landing vessels sits in the background under barrage balloons.

supervisor E.W. Dusch, and manager Frank Malloy attending. The Reverend Ed Barcus with First Methodist gave the opening prayer and Mrs. Betty Jean Cooper sang the national anthem. A Navy lieutenant commander gave a short speech and the Reverend Joe Bererich from St. Mary's Catholic gave the closing prayer.

Over at Consolidated Steel, the scheduled ship christening went on. The USS Rambach, a destroyer escort named in honor of a Navy lieutenant killed in the Pacific action.

Consolidated Steel in Orange that made the LCI landing craft, a flat-bottomed boat with a pilot house. The craft could carry 200 men up onto the beach. According to the U.S. Coast Guard history page, members of the Coast Guard often piloted the LCI.

Though the Higgins Boat built in New Orleans gained more fame at Normandy, the LCI landing craft model was also extensively used.

At least 12 of those built

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Storms flood area From Page 1



Water on roadways in Bridge City flooded some cars and came up to the doors on large pickup trucks. Ardoin said there were reports of water getting into some houses.

discovered the next morning, an estimated 60 barrels, or 2,520 gallons, of oil had begun traveling downstream toward Bridge City.

The Texas General Land Office sent emergency crews out for the spill and Ardoin on Tuesday said the spill had been contained. The emergency crew has set up its base along the shore of Cow Bayou in Bridge City near the large boat ramp at the Highway 87 Bridge.

Ardoin said the GLO is trying to stop boat traffic along Cow Bayou from the FM 105 Bridge in Orangefield to the north side of the Highway 87 Bridge in Bridge City.

Immediately after the oil spill was discovered, the FM 105 bridge and the small bayou boat ramp in Orangefield were closed. The bridge has been opened, but Ardoin said that boat launch is closed.

The large boat ramp in Bridge City at Highway 87 is open, but boats are supposed to travel only southward on the bayou. The bridge there has never closed.

The Saturday thunder-

storm surprised Bridge City residents and people traveling through. Even Texas Avenue, which is part of Highway 87, was flooded, along with FM 1442, or Roundbunch Road.

Water on roadways flooded some cars and came up to the doors on large pickup trucks. Ardoin said there were reports of water getting into some houses.

Social media posts were made by angry residents complaining that pickup trucks traveling along flooded streets were sending waves of water into their houses or shops.

Bridge City Mayor David Rutledge has asked any one in Bridge City who got water into their buildings to call city hall and report it.

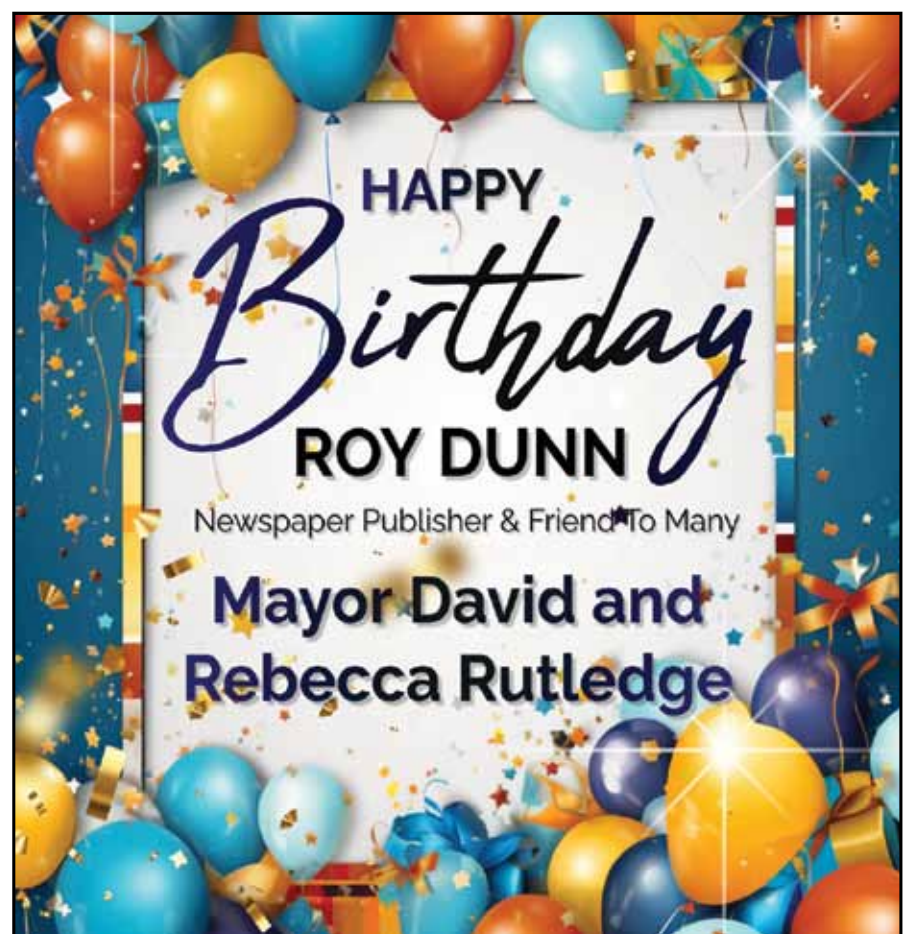
The city information will allow the city to track and assess problems.

The Sabine River, along with Adams and Cow bayous in its system, has been high for the past few weeks as lines of thunderstorms have hit the state. Areas north of Orange County in the Sabine rivershed have had more rainfall

than Southeast Texas.

The Sabine River Authority, which is mandated by federal law to keep Toledo Bend Reservoir at 172.5 feet, had been releasing water from the dam. Deweyville had flooding and schools even closed for a few days.

The dam gates had been closed, allowing the water levels downstream to go down. But lots more rain upstream has now brought SRA to begin sending 35,206 cubic feet of water a second rushing down the Sabine. Even with that much water being released, the lake level was at 172.96 feet.



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of Orange County, Texas

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Round The Clock Hometown News



From the Creaux's Nest

PHELAN NOW FACES BATTLE FOR HIS SPEAKERSHIP

Dade Phelan, who won his runoff by fewer than 400 votes, will need to mend GOP relationships, build coalitions and possibly even rely on Democrats to hang on to the speaker's gavel. He said he plans to see his campaign all the way through. Typically, speaker's races take shape in November, during or after the general election decides the makeup of the House. Currently, Republicans hold an 86-64 lead over Democrats. A candidate needs 76 votes to become speaker. State Rep. Jared Patterson, a Frisco Republican and Phelan ally, said he believes Phelan will be back for a third term next year, especially now that the speaker has the opportunity to support GOP candidates in the November election. Redistricting eliminated most competitive districts in Texas, but there are a few where Phelan could throw around his money or political weight to help Republicans get elected and maintain or expand their GOP majority. Patterson said he isn't sure if Phelan will be able to secure 76 Republican votes to win the gavel, but he noted that the caucus will choose their preferred candidate by secret ballot later this year. It's been widely discussed that Democrats supported Phelan, who may be seen as the most palatable option for the minority party. Democrats supported Phelan's past two runs for speaker. Phelan is confident, "I've done it twice, I'll do it a third time."

GUILTY

Former President Donald Trump found guilty of 34 felony charges. Sentencing will be July 11. He faces three other felony indictments, including the Federal case over his effort to overturn the 2020 election. A closer look at the choice facing voters next week.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Just a few facts about the recent Republican Primary that proves lack of interest and no movement by youth. Never before has a county judge been elected with so few votes. Only 5,565 votes were cast in the runoff. Out of 49,353 registered voters, averaging 49.5 years in age, less than 3,000 votes elected the county judge. The average age in the primary was 59.8 years but the voter was older in the runoff, 63.2 years. If 192 votes would have been cast differently, we would have had different results. Of the 3,571, the oldest was 100-year-old Clifton Arthur Mc-Gee, the youngest was Elizabeth Rachel Newell, who turned 19 on May 14, 2014. One thousand more voters voted in the congressional race than in the county judge race. Brint Carlton picked just the right time to run. A light turnout, out of nearly 50 thousand registered voters only 2,971 voted for the winner. Eighty-four thousand citizens will be represented by someone who got less than 3,000 votes. The Greater Orange Area Chamber is sponsoring the "Do It In Orange" third annual fishing tournament Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15. This year the event will also include a high school division. Those fishing events have brought many tourists to the area in the past and promoters are expecting many out-of-towners. Only New York has more Fortune 500 companies than Houston. Black Gold is Texas' trump card. Ronnie Johnson, former high school basketball star and member of the All Decade Team of the 60's, is in town visiting his ailing father, Grady "Guvnor" Johnson, former mayor of Pinehurst and owner of Johnson Ministorage. Ronnie, a published author and artist has several recent book published by Tate Publishers. Friday a big family crawfish boil was held for Dr. Amber Dunn, who was in from Ohio to celebrate her birthday. Her sister Jenna and daughter Delilah were here from Framingham, MA also. They are the daughters of Mark Dunn. The crawfish, from Big Daddy's, were cooked to perfection by Clint Britt. On Saturday they joined in the big birthday bash for their "Poppa" Roy. A special surprise guest was Mary Ottea, who has been a friend of Roy's for at least 57 years, and daughter Lisa were here from College Station. The Louisiana families brought many Cajun treats, even Grandma's old treat "fig tarts" made with special dough and homemade cracklins, boudain etc. On June 6, on this day our late friend Lannie Claybar was born in 1912. He died Sept. 6, 1969, at age 57.

20 Years Ago, 2004

A 70th birthday party for Roy was held at Dunn's Bluff on Cow Bayou. Many out of town family and an impressive group of friends helped him celebrate. Most all the county judges attended except Judge Pat Clark, who was given a pass for not attending. Pat had a legitimate excuse; he was attending a Clark family reunion at Fairmont, 15 miles from Hemphill. Clarkstown, where Pat's folks are from, doesn't exist anymore. Roy tried to talk Judge Carl Thibodeaux into taking his place when a sharp New Orleans gal

sat on his lap and sang "Happy Birthday," Marilyn Monroe style. Tib said there was just too much daylight. ****Mayne Ruth Williams Simar, 92, died Tuesday, June 1. She was preceded in death by her husband James Roy Simar and son Jimmy Simar. She is survived by sons Ronnie and John Simar and daughter Norma Gayle Campbell.

45 Years Ago-1979

The Bridge City High School Band is in Mexico for Fiesta '79. The band worked for a year to earn money for the 10-day trip. ****Bridge City grads earning 4.0 grade points as students at Lamar University in Beaumont are: Brigid Angelle, Elizabeth Chandler, David Daigle, George Durling, Kevin Hayes, Denise Lormand, Ronald Stokes and Susan Moon. ****The old Jimmy Ochiltree Sims home has been moved from Front and 8th Street to 905 Division to make room for the civic plaza. The Sims home will become the Heritage House. ****Becky Stoffer is chosen 1979 queen of the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo. She replaces Sherry Curl. ****A few of the names making the round in the Bon Ami CB Club are: Tugboat Mama, Sugar Granny, Drill Stem, Capt. Kangaroo, Honky Tonk Angel, Sambo, Rod Burner, Miss Kitty, Sundance Kid, Cat Mama, Sugar Bear, Crippie Nipple, Snuff Gully, Never Ready, Coon Skinner, Sugar Bea and Capt. Kirk. ****State Rep. Wayne Peveto is home after session in Austin. The Peveto Bill is a version of tax revolt. Peveto's final bill didn't have everything in it he wanted but the tax cuts were the "bright spot" of the session. ****Pretty, little Tanya Thibodeaux turned 10 years old on June 3, Mike McCadle was 18 on June 7 and Norma Davidson will celebrate her day June 12. ****Bernard Giarratano has been named executive director of Family and Children Services of Beaumont. He is the husband of Betty Em and the father of Scott. Betty Em and Bernard were both raised in Orange. ****The Houston Astros have new owners, John McMullen and David LeFevre. They bought the team from Ford Motor Credit Corporation. J.R. Richard, Bob Watson and Jose Cruse are on the Astro team.

Remembering WWII Vets:

This week, on June 6, we mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy in 1944. Known as the "Greatest Generation" we honor their sacrifices on this D-Day. Like people who lived when JFK was killed, every WWII vet left knows exactly where they were when word reached them about D-Day. If you know a WWII vet give them a call or visit. Just a few years from now none will remain. The youngest today is 96-years-old.

THE PUBLIC IS BELIEVING IN THE MAVRICKS

The Celtics are prohibitive favorites to win Thursday's Game 1 of the NBA Finals and odds are on Boston to hoist what would be its record 18th championship banner. But the money, at least at BetMGM Sportsbook, is pouring in on the Dallas Mavericks. Senior trader Halvor Egeland said Monday that 80% of the bets were coming on Luka Doncic, Kyrie Irving and the Mavs to win their second NBA title. Boston is a -225 favorite to win it all, meaning someone would need to wager \$225 to win \$100. As for the series opener, the Celtics are 6 1/2-point favorites, but 63% of the money has been on the Mavericks to cover the spread. Dallas is receiving 70% of the bets to win the game outright at +200. Jayson Tatum is a -120 favorite to be the Finals MVP. The odds at BetMGM favor the series ending in anywhere between five and seven games.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Ellen Nickum, a beauty from the four corners at Rye, TX., is marking 12 years of business at A&E Insurance Co. Bill hauled her to Bridge City many years ago and she is a proud member of the business community and we are pleased to have her. ****Summer, as we know in Orange County, doesn't begin with the solstice on the calendar. It started last week when the heat index already reached 110 degrees at the airport. But vacations are beginning as the dance recitals and graduations come to an end for the season. ****Peggy Claybar's grandkids spent the first days out for summer working their tails off for some real wags. Annabelle, Caroline, Keller, and Breelyn worked their annual lemonade and cookie stand to raise money for the local dog rescue group Traci's Texas Tails, run by Traci James. Grandson Walker was working with Peggy's son, David C. Claybar at David's Old Cafe making cookies for the event that created a bit of a traffic jam in the Old Orange Historic District with its tree-lined streets. The group this year raised \$5,146. ****Beth Wheeler was at Bolivar Beach, but it didn't look like the spot we know outside of Galveston. Was it in Greece with those blue seas? ****Krystal Smith Sanchez has been getting her sun and sea in Antigua. ****Becky and Johnny Trahan took a jaunt closer to home with Bilouxi, Mississippi. ****Michael and Angeliقة Catt started a vacation with grown son Alex in the Woodlands as they got to see Dave Matthews in concert. ****A local group crossed the Neches River to Beaumont to see singer Aaron Watson. They included Suzann Scott, Latouia DuBois, Brittany Elmore, Mandie Robinson, and Jamie Powell. ****The West Orange-Cove school district is continuing its Read and Roll summer program to help kids out for summer get books to read. The Orange Kiwanis Club donated \$500 for the project and Kiwanis member Harry Vine kicked in an additional \$250. What a great example of "It takes a village to raise a child." ****Rose Simar, who oversees all the events at the Orange Train Depot and helped restore the local landmark, put on another fun Sunday afternoon bingo fundraiser. Orange City Councilor Paul Burch called out the numbers. Board member Kacey Burnitt was also helping. City employees Jenn Pool, Rita Monson, and Patricia Anderson were among the players enjoying the games. ****St. Mary School will be celebrating its centennial this year and has announced the big formal fundraiser will have the theme "Met

Gala" with black and white attire. Father Jim Sikko, a papal missionary who grew up in Orange, will be back as the guest speaker. Sponsorship tables will go on sale June 29. ****The Stark Museum of Art is looking for volunteers interesting in history who would like to help with archiving. Contact Karen Leonard by email at volunteers@starkmuseum.org. ****Bob and Cheryl Sharpton Stalnaker had a anniversary event with their three grown children, plus grandchildren and friends at the Orange Train Depot. Word is there was some dancing going on. ****Orange native, Coach Wade Phillips, who is successfully coaching the San Antonio Brahms in the UFL looked like a big canary on the sidelines dressed in a yellow tee-shirt. I still believe "Bum" and Wade should be honored here at home. They are proud natives of Orange County. ****We spoke with Sherry Brack last week and Danny was still in ICU at Herman Baptist Hospital. He's fighting a tough battle. Please put him on your prayer list. ****Coach Sam Moore, West Orange native, had a successful baseball coaching career at different high school, the latest at Sulphur. Sam has retired from coaching and now has a great job in Lake Charles. However, he still is instructing baseball classes in Beaumont. "Bucket" is a great guy. ****Longtime news publisher Roy Dunn to be honored at a 90th birthday gathering at Robert's Wednesday, June 5, 11:30 to 1:30. He's looking forward to seeing friends. ****Well wishes for John Kimbrough, he is recovering from surgery. ****Tommy and Dana Skibo Mann marked their first wedding anniversary. Tommy is a local musician and music buff who writes about local concerts. ****Others with wedding anniversaries included Randy and Patricia Shaw Hebert, Mark and Terri Frey, Harold and Kathy Fuqua, and Tom and Becky Henry.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few friends celebrating birthdays in the next few days. June 5: Joyce Dowdle, Tim Hughes, Hunter Puckett, Brenda Howard, Patricia Mires, Nancy Ramsey, Aaron Bland, Gena Guyote, Jessica Freeman, Kevin Doss, Mary Jennings, Trey Wild, Chris Andes, Karen McDuff, Laura Silva and Roy Dunn. ****June 6: Ryan Gunstream, Lorrie LeBlanc, Ed Worthy Jr., John Bertrand, Sherilyn Brister, Lynn Fields, Gail Griffith, Kelsey Miller, Linda Sims, Sarah Williams. ****June 7: Shirley Zimmerman, Richard Granger, Ashley LaRose, Billy Frank Bradberry, Billy Killman, Logan Smith, Penny Robards. ****June 8: Shon Jones, Tana Hightower, Walter Riedel, Aubrey Reynolds, Crystal Wells. ****June 9: Jennifer Reves, Demmos Monk, Elizabeth Barfield, Debbie Vidrine, Gavin Birmingham, Deane Moran, Alston Reynolds, Dixie Armstrong, Charlie Blalack, Jessica Hilliard, Karli Choate, Paige Olive. ****June 10: James Ardoin, Jennifer Turner, Kevin Ernes t, Chrisleigh Longlois, Rayford Jimerson, Tyler Derouen, Caroline Hennigan, Chris Riedel. ****June 11: Harold Adkins, Lacey Wallace, Jacqueline Bourdier, Jane Minor. ****June 12: Lindsay Hallman, Ronda Dishon, Candice Steele, Magdalene Bryant, Jeanette Hubert, Frances Ragsdale, Jesse Waller. ****Lots of birthdays were celebrated this past week including Clyde Mize, who turned 89, and Julie Hurn at 81. ****Blake LeBlanc and his twin sister Maddi turned 27. Momma Liz McKee says they can't be that old, but Liz, you're soon to be a grandmother. ****Interesting that new District 1 Orange City Councilor Matt Chandler had a birthday on the same day as Patrick Pullen, who held the same spot a few years earlier. ****Eric Ellison, also known as Captain Cornbread in his fishing guide business, partied for his 50th at the Orange Boat Club. ****Others marking birthdays included 163rd State District Judge Rex Peveto, Kay Cox Jones, Antonio Lee Roberts, Barbara Jane Hanneman, Reagan Lofton, Matthew Broussard, Kathy Fuqua, Sara Ragsdale Nash, Glenda Thompson, Mary Hanauer Sapp, Janell Bray Duchamp, Ashley Gibson, Eric Nies, Keith McCaley, and DeAnn Lumpkin. ***(NOTE: Email therecordlive.com or call 409-886-7183 to post birthdays or anniversaries free of charge.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Comeaux's boy Alfred, in da Marines, was deployed to Afghanistan him. He got a letter from his girl friend, Camille, wat lives in Crowley. In da letter she explin to Alfred dat since he's been gone him, she had slept wit two fellows and dat she wanted to break up wit him because one of dem mens really sent her in orbit, him. She wanted Alfred to send back da picture of herself she had given him. For Alfred him, he did wat any squared. Cajun Marine would do. Alfred went to all his buddies and collected all dere unwanted photos of women's dat he could find. He den mailed all 25 of dem pictures of women's, some wit clothes and some witout, to his girl friend Camille wit the following note. "Me, I don't remember which one you are, please remove your picture and be kind enough to send da rest back to me, tank you."

C'EST TOUT

Biden Announces Order Limiting Asylum at Border President Biden took long-expected executive action Tuesday that will turn away migrants seeking asylum who cross the southern border illegally at times when there is a high volume of daily encounters. The order will be in effect when the seven-day average of daily border crossings exceeds 2,500 between ports of entry, senior administration officials said, meaning it will go into effect immediately. Biden issued a proclamation announcing the change under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Senior administration officials framed the order as a response to congressional inaction on immigration after a bipartisan framework in the Senate was blocked by Republicans for a second time. ****I've got to go now. Thanks for your time, mine is up. Have a great week, take care and God bless.



The season will kick off in October with an electrifying performance by the Bacon Brothers, featuring Kevin Bacon and his brother Michael, setting the stage for an extraordinary year of music, Broadway and more.

Bacon Brothers open 45th season for Lutcher Theater

Staff Report
For The Record

The Lutcher Theater is thrilled to announce its 45th season, featuring a star-studded lineup that promises to deliver unforgettable entertainment experiences. This milestone season will kick off in October with an electrifying performance by the Bacon Brothers, featuring Kevin Bacon and his brother Michael, setting the stage for an extraordinary year of music, Broadway and more.

"The Lutcher Theater is proud to celebrate its 45th season with a lineup that reflects our commitment to bringing world-class entertainment to our community," said Lynae Sanford, executive director of the Lutcher Theater. "We are excited to welcome both legendary musical artists and critically acclaimed Broadway productions to our stage. This season is a testament to the support of our patrons, sponsors and the community, and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all." The 45th season will open with the Bacon Brothers on October 19. The renowned brothers will perform their unique blend of folk, rock, soul and country. Known for their dynamic performances and undeniable chemistry, the Bacon Brothers will bring their distinctive sound and energy to the Lutcher Theater, ensuring a memorable start to this celebratory season.

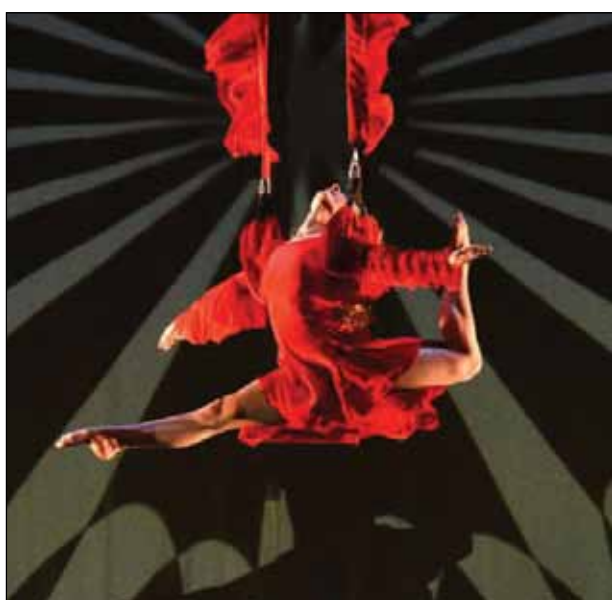
This upcoming year, music lovers will be treated to performances by some of the industry's most beloved artists. Country music superstar LeAnn Rimes will grace the stage on January 25, captivating audiences with her powerful voice and chart-topping hits. Additionally, Lonestar, one of country music's most iconic bands, will bring their harmonies and timeless songs to Orange, Texas on November 3.

Broadway enthusiasts are in for a treat as the Lutcher Theater presents an impressive array of Tony Award-winning shows. The lineup includes:

- **Cirque Dreams Holiday**, November 16: This family holiday spectacular dazzles with a brilliant and whimsical performance. As the longest running cirque holiday theatrical event, this annual tradition wraps a Broadway-style production around an infusion of contemporary circus arts.

- **"Dear Evan Hansen,"** December 17 and 18: This contemporary musical phenomenon tells a deeply personal and profoundly contemporary story about life and the way we live it.

- **"Come From Away,"** January 2: This moving and



featuring a star-studded lineup that promises to deliver unforgettable entertainment experiences

uplifting musical tells the true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them.

- **"Ain't Too Proud,"** January 14 and 15: The Life and Times of The Temptations, which chronicles the extraordinary journey of this iconic Motown group.

- **"Chicago,"** February 20: The longest-running American musical in Broadway history, known for its sizzling music and timeless story of fame and fortune.

- **Momix "Alice,"** March 7: Seamlessly blending illusion, acrobatics, magic and whimsy, Momix sends audiences flying down the rabbit hole in Moses Pendleton's newest creation, "Alice," inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic "Alice in Wonderland."

- **"The Cher Show,"** April 4: Follow the story of the legendary Cher, showcasing her incredible journey through stunning costumes, choreography and her unforgettable music.

- **"Hadestown,"** April 21 and 22: A haunting and beautiful retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical.

In addition to the star-studded line-up to celebrate their 45 years of incredible events, patrons will have the chance to experience the Lutcher en Light, a concert series offering a one-of-a-kind experience in a candlelit setting. Lutcher en Light will feature Twitty & Lynn, the grandson of Conway Twitty and the granddaughter of Loretta Lynn, on February 15, as well as the March 29 performance of the Gentlemen's Quartet, who offer a modern, elegant take on some of the most famous classical and popular music the world has ever known. From Beethoven to John Legend, their one-of-a-kind arrangements fuse multiple genres together in a perfect symphony of sophistication, virtuosity and humor. The Lutcher will also offer a sensory-inclusive performance of The Magic of Kev-

in Spencer, a show for people of all ages and abilities. It features award-winning magician Kevin Spencer in a fun-filled show that combines storytelling, stage magic and audience participation.

Season tickets will go on sale to the public in July and individual show tickets will be available for purchase in August. If you are not already a season ticket holder and would like to be, please join the waitlist at lutcher.org/waitlist to be the first to find out season information.

For more information about the Lutcher Theater, please visit lutcher.org. The Lutcher Theater is located at 707 Main Avenue in Orange, Texas.

Normandy 80 years ago From Page 3A

in Orange were used at Normandy. The USS LCI (L) 92 was lost in action at Omaha Beach. The U.S. Coast Guard website said the vessel was commissioned on February 15, 1943, in Orange at Consolidated Steel. The crew on D-Day was three officers, 21 enlisted and 188 troops. The ship was hit by enemy shelling and caught fire. It was landing next to another craft from Orange. Even though LCI (L) 92 was lost in D-Day action, the website said there were no casualties reported.

Levingston Shipbuilding had several ocean-going tugboats working off shore during the invasion, assisting with transporting fuel for ships and for use ashore.

The shipyards were also ramping up their efforts to sell war bonds, a kind of investment everyday people could make to loan the government money to pay for the war. Consolidated Steel sold \$20,000 worth of the bonds in the first couple of days of the invasion.

No local histories include the names of local men killed in action in Normandy, but several later prominent people in Orange were among those landing in the first weeks after the invasion. They included the late lawyer and Orange native Roy Wingate, and physician Dr. Howard Williams, who went on to write the history of Orange. They were young at the time and acquired their educations after the war.

Raymond Burdine grew up in Arkansas, but spent



Bloody scenes would immediately follow the landings in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, where 156,000 Allied troops descended on northern France in an effort to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. Baring severe wounds, men of the American assault troops of the 16th Infantry Regiment are attended to by medics after storming Omaha Beach during the invasion. The wounded soldiers are seen waiting by the chalk cliffs at Collville-sur-Mer for evacuation to a field hospital for further treatment.

his adult life in Orange. He had a serious leg injury from parts of a German mortar shell during skirmishes in the infamous hedgerows of France. He was only 19 years old at the time.

The French countryside and farms didn't use fencing, but had thick, brambling hedges of plants in rows to divide land. Those hedgerows made perfect hiding places for Germans to ambush the Allied troops.

Burdine never fought again and when he was discharged, he came to Orange, where his parents had moved to work in shipbuilding. He married Orange native Jeneane Serun-

time and they stayed here.

Most of the World War II veterans are now gone and the ones alive are around 100 years old. A few of the 1944 Normandy survivors will be attending ceremonies for the 80th anniversary, most of them in wheelchairs.

There may be none left for the 85th anniversary.

But in 1994, the 50th anniversary, hundreds of D Day veterans attended the ceremonies as they were in their late 60s and into their 80s. The now defunct Houston Post, when covering that ceremony, had a giant banner headline above a photograph of those veterans. "These Men Saved the World."

Cops N Kids picnic June 7

Once again, the Orange County Sheriff's Office is starting summer off for kids with the annual free big shebang at Claiborne West Park. The 28th Annual Sheriff's Office Cops N Kids picnic is set for Friday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney and the employees in the sheriff's office have been working to carry on the kid-friendly event that brings together first responders from across the area, along with local businesses and civic clubs.

Kids and their families will get free hot dogs, chips, drinks, and watermelon. There will also be free rides, games, and activities. But the most fun usually comes

from the children getting to talk to all kinds of first responders and see the vehicles they use.

The first responders will include all law enforcement agencies in Orange County like deputies, city police officers, and constables. Also, there will be game wardens from Texas Parks and Wildlife, who show off boats and airboats. The U.S. Coast Guard has previously had boats.

Ambulances, fire trucks, and other unique items used by first responders will be on display. Sometimes, there's even a helicopter.

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BURIAL PLOT

Two spaces at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Garden of the Good Shepherd, Lot 60, Blk B, spaces 1&2. These are valued at over \$5,400, make me a reasonable offer. 337-515-9296

Burial Spaces Hillcrest Memorial Gardens - Lot 71, Block C Spaces 1 & 2 \$2000 each (28% discount) 828-719-2284

PETS

5 cats available, 4 boys, 1 girl, 1 year old. All updated on shots and fixed. Rehoming fee of \$20.00, if interested please call 409-216-9330.

GARAGE SALE

Moving / Garage Sale this Saturday, 6/8 from 7:30 am to 1 pm at 1029 Vincent, 77630. (Off Hwy 408 in Bridge City) Lots of new stuff added this week, this will be last week. Kitchen Tables, Antique Pool Table, End Tables, other furniture pieces. Everything for your home. Home Decor, kitchen items, dishes, baby items, baby bed, LOTS of jewelry left, craft supplies, Christmas decor, lots of miscellaneous. NO EARLY BIRDS

Yard Sale this Fri., June 7th and Sat., June 8th from 8:00 am - till at 301 Elizabeth street in Bridge City. Womens / girls clothes, accessories, wheelchair, canes, tools, table saw, kitchen items, glassware, and much more.

Garage Sale at 2205 Sunset Oaks Dr. in Orange on Fri., 6/7 & Sat., 6/8 from 8 to 4. (Shriners Lil Red Car) Honda generator, new dishwasher, Lg. runs, curtains, pillows, pictures, accent chairs, Lots of womens, mens childrens clothes, tennis shoes & sandals, jeans, t-shirts, lots of asst. home goods. Don't miss this one.

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www.tdlr.texas.gov

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NO VIN/NO PLATE HOMEMADE TRL HOMEMADE \$471.35
NO VIN/NO PLATE GMC TANK OWED \$39,640.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN ROBERT MAY, SR., DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration were issued in the Estate of JOHN ROBERT MAY, SR., DECEASED on May 20, 2024, in Cause No. P19974, in the County Court of Orange County, Texas, to: LORRI JEAN MAY.

The address of such Administrator is c/o Douglas C. Sikes, Provost Umphrey Law Firm, LLP, P.O. Box 4905, Beaumont, Texas 77704.

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.

Dated the 21st day of May, 2024.

LORRI JEAN MAY, Administratrix of the Estate of John Robert May, Sr., Deceased

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOAN SHIRLEY WILSON ALBA, Deceased, were issued on the 14TH day of MAY, 2024, in Cause No. P19977, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: RICHARD WAYNE WILLETT.

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.

DATED the 21st day of May, 2024.

Eric Pevelo
Eric Pevelo
Attorney for:
Richard Wayne Willett
State Bar No.: 24004859
118 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0220
Email: emily@pevetolaw-firm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES LEROY BLOOMFIELD, Deceased, were issued on MAY 28, 2024, in Docket No. P20006, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: GLENDA GAYLE BLOOMFIELD.

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.

DATED the 23rd day of May, 2024.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda
Attorney for:
Glenda Gayle Bloomfield
State Bar No.: 00789915
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409) 883-4357
Email: pfukuda@lawoffice@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of GEORGE D. THOMPSON, Deceased, were issued on the April 29, 2024, in Cause No. P19892, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: JEFFREY WADE THOMPSON.

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.

Dated the 1st day of May, 2024.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CLYDELLE R U D E S E A L, Deceased, were issued on MAY 22, 2024, in Cause No. P20004, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: Clytie Lea and Ronald Rudeseal.

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.

Dated the 1st day of February, 2024.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Clytie Lea & Ronald Rudeseal
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

LEGAL NOTICE

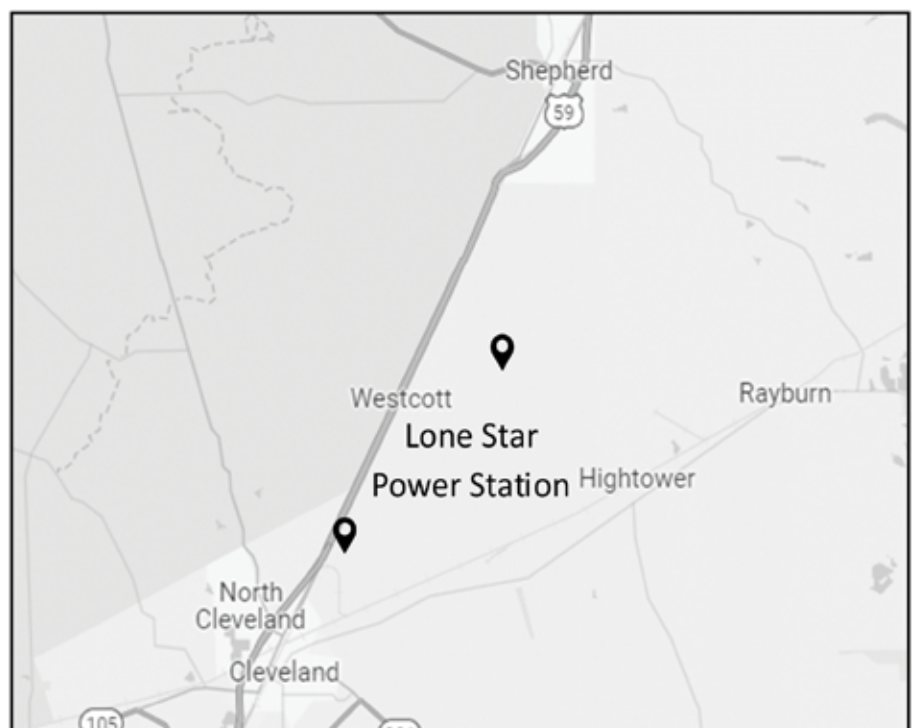
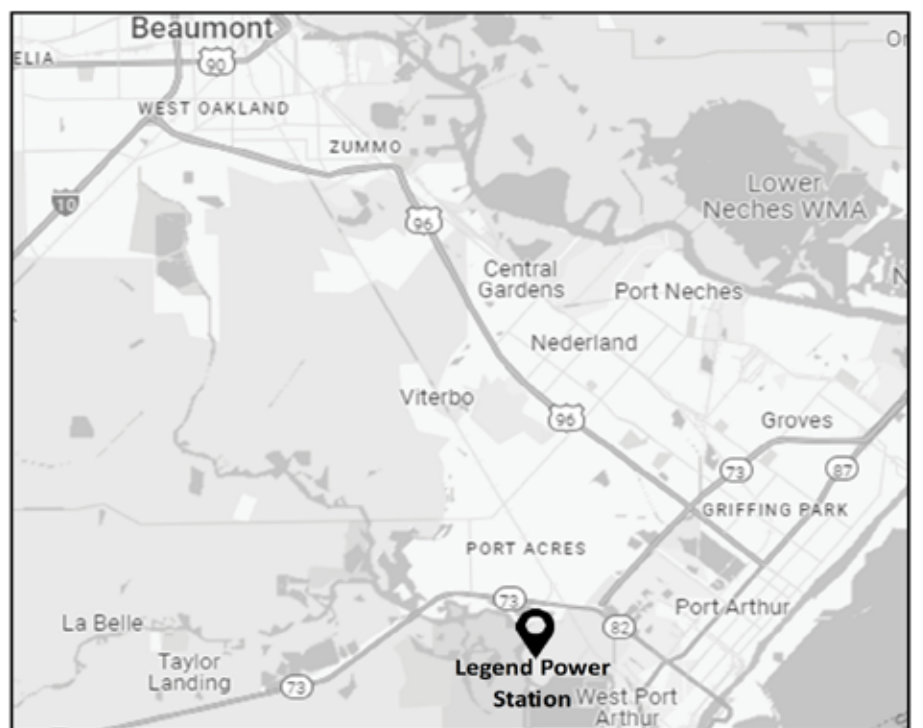
The three properties, the first commonly known as 4310 Memorial Drive, Orange, TX 77630, the second commonly known as 200 Shiloh Ridge Road, Vidor, TX 77662, and the third one commonly known as 3047 Jackie Street, Orange, TX 77630 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 07/02/2024 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On June 4, 2024, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI") filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission" or "PUC") requesting approval of an amendment to ETI's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") permitting ETI to construct the Legend Power Station, a combined-cycle combustion turbine generating unit with a nameplate rating of 754 MW to be located in Jefferson County, Texas, and the Lone Star Power Station, a simple-cycle combustion turbine generating unit with a nameplate rating of 453 MW to be located in Liberty County, Texas (together, the "Dispatchable Portfolio"). As part of its long-term electric supply resource plan, ETI has determined that it needs additional generating resources in the near future. The docket number and style of the application are PUC Docket No. 56693, Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Portfolio of Dispatchable Generation Resources. ETI is not seeking to change its rates in this proceeding.

The proposed Legend Power Station would be constructed near ETI's Legend Substation approximately 1 mile south-southwest of Texas State Highway 73 in Port Arthur, Texas. Port Arthur is the only municipality within five miles of the project site. The proposed Lone Star Power Station would be constructed near ETI's Jacinto Substation approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Cleveland, Texas. Cleveland and North Cleveland are the only municipalities, and Sam Houston Electric Cooperative is the only neighboring utility providing utility service, within five miles of the Liberty County project site. A potential alternate site for the Lone Star Power Station is in San Jacinto County, approximately five miles from ETI's Jacinto Substation, adjacent to County Road 2201 northeast of Cleveland, Texas. Cleveland and Shepherd are the only municipalities, and Sam Houston Electric Cooperative is the only neighboring utility providing utility service, within five miles of the alternative project site. A map showing the locations of the Dispatchable Portfolio resources may be viewed at ETI's offices at 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, and is included with notices published in newspapers of general circulation in ETI's service area. A copy of the map may also be obtained by contacting tcr@entergy.com. The total estimated cost of the Dispatchable Portfolio, based on a mid-2028 commercial operation date, is approximately \$2.198 billion, comprised of \$1.463 billion for Legend Power Station and \$735.3 million for Lone Star Power Station, inclusive of estimated costs of transmission upgrades and interconnection costs, contingency, an allowance for funds used during construction, and expenses related to seeking Commission certification. The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is July 19, 2024, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date. A request to intervene (original and ten copies) or request for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. The preferred method for you to file your request for intervention is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filing via the "PUC Interchange Filer" on the Commission's website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Interchange Filer are available at: https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing_Instructions.pdf. Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Interchange Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or helpdesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>. If you are unable to file your intervention request or comments electronically, you may mail your request or comments (and ten copies) to: Public Utility Commission of Texas, Central Records, Attn: Filing Clerk, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136.

A copy of ETI's application may be viewed by accessing the "filings - interchange" section of the Commission's webpage at www.puc.state.tx.us. In addition to the intervention deadline, other important dates may affect participation in this docket. Therefore, any orders or other filings already made in the docket should be reviewed. The control number for this proceeding on the Commission's webpage and in the Commission's interchange is 56693. Persons with questions or who want more information about this application may also contact tcr@entergy.com or by calling 866-981-2602 during normal business hours.



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Orangefield bows out in baseball

Orangefield Bobcats lose state playoffs bout

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

A marvelous season for Orangefield baseball concluded on June 1 in Lufkin. The Bobcats were eliminated from the UIL state playoffs in the Region III Finals.

Orangefield advanced to the fifth round in the baseball post season for the first time since 1990. The Bobcats won seventy-five percent of their games finishing with a 30-10 record for the season.

The regional final pitted the Orangefield Bobcats the champions of District 22-3A against the Franklin Lions the winners in District 20-3A. The teams played a best of three game series at the Lufkin

High School baseball facility which is a completely synthetic turf field.

The first game was scheduled to start on Thursday night, May 30, but a torrential thunderstorm began about six o'clock and lasted for almost three hours causing the game to be postponed. A doubleheader was setup for Friday afternoon between the Bobcats and the Lions.

Orangefield was the designated home team for the first game, so Franklin batted first and jumped into the early lead scoring two runs in the first inning off Bobcat starting pitcher Brycen Tait. Lead-off Lion batter Josh Atomanczyk singled to center, was sacrificed to second, and scored the initial run



Matthew Johnson hits a grounder that went as a base hit that brought in the tying run for the Bobcats in the bottom of the seventh inning of the first game.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

on a hit by Court Lowry. A courtesy runner later scored for Lowry to make the score 2-0 in the first. The Lions made it 3-0 in

the second inning getting the leadoff man on again who scored on a one out double to left. A nice fielding play by Bobcat

shortstop Caleb Fregia ended the inning to keep the deficit at three runs. The Bobcats cut the lead to two runs in the bottom

of the third when Adam Tran opened the inning by bouncing a single over the head of the Lion third baseman. Kane Smith bunted for a single before Mason Houghton sacrificed Tran and Smith into scoring position. Logan Cheek brought Tran home with an infield hit changing the score to 3-1 in favor of Franklin.

In the top of the next inning the Lions attempted a squeeze play with runners at third and first, but Orangefield's Matthew Johnson at third gloved the ball quickly enough to flip to catcher Carson Worthy for the tag out at the plate. Despite that good defensive play Franklin still scored two more runs to go up 5-1 through three and a half innings.

A comeback by the Bobcats started in the fifth when Smith drew a base on balls to begin the in-

BOBCATS Page 3B

Mosquito Season Is Here: How To Beat The Bite

Adam Russell
Texas A&M AgriLife

That familiar buzz and bite means mosquito season in Southeast Texas is here, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife entomologist.

Dr. Sonja Swiger, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist and professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology, Stephenville, said biting mosquitoes are a seasons-long problem that often changes based on the environment.

Swiger said the species present and whether mosquitoes are simply a nuisance or a disease vector likely depends on the environmental conditions. Temperature plays a role in mosquito emergence, but water availability is a major contributor to what mosquito species might be reproducing around your home.

The Annual Boom

Rainfall, especially with multiple storm systems that have saturated and flooded areas around the state, can significantly contribute to a boom in mosquito populations, Swiger said.

"People are seeing, and should expect to see, quite a bit more mosquito activity in the next days and weeks," she said. "Our focus is going to be disease carriers that typically become a problem in late summer and early fall. However, all this rain has created plenty of habitat for floodwater and container species."

Swiger divides mosquitoes into three categories – floodwater, container and stagnant – with emergence related to the environment they prefer.

Some mosquitoes prefer clear floodwater that collects in ditches. Others prefer to develop immature larvae in water that collects in items around the house like wheelbarrows, buckets and bird-baths. Stagnant puddles in hot, dry weather are the preferred developmental environment for other mosquitoes, including species that carry diseases like West Nile virus.

"Mosquitoes come in waves and can overlap as the season progresses,"

she said. "It can help to understand what type you are dealing with, how to do your part to control them around your home, and how to protect yourself and your family because we are in mosquito season."

Floodwater Mosquitoes

Floodwater mosquitoes are the first to emerge after rain events, Swiger said.

Heavy rains leave the ground saturated and create standing puddles in ditches and low spots in fields and lawns. The larvae emerge quickly after water becomes available.

Eggs are placed there by females and wait for water, sometimes two to five years before rainfall reaches them depending on the species, Swiger said.

Floodwater mosquitoes are typically larger and more aggressive. These types are often the persistent biters from dawn to dusk, Swiger said.

"The potential for standing water could make their habitat more widespread, which will make them a greater issue for more people than normal," she said. "Any location that is holding water, even in saturated grassy areas, could be a breeding ground."

Swiger said females lay



"Mosquitoes come in waves and can overlap as the season progresses," she said. "It can help to understand what type you are dealing with, how to do your part to control them around your home, and how to protect yourself and your family because we are in mosquito season."

more eggs in the moist soil around puddles, and either more larvae emerge or they go dormant and wait for water to return. Subsequent rains can wash larvae downstream but can also trigger dormant mosquito eggs.

Container Mosquitoes

Container mosquitoes, which include the Aedes species identified by its black and white body and white striped legs, typically emerge next. Female mosquitoes lay eggs in anything holding water – from tires, buckets and


MOSQUITO Page 5B

JUNE 05 2024

ROY DUNN

Happy Birthday


We wish you a very happy 90th birthday. With sincere thanks we acknowledge your lifetime of dedication to publishing a local and credible source of community news and advertising for residents and small businesses of Orange County. Six decades ago you started out as a trailblazer and took us with you "Down Life's Highway." And we're still with you along the way.



Down Life's Highway
Roy Dunn

ROY DUNN

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OUTDOORS

Structure is what you make it

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

In many ways our freshwater counterparts have it made; no tides to worry about, no fish stealing sharks, and you couldn't step on a sting ray if you tried. The saltwater folks on the other hand have plenty of positives as well like how many hard pulling species of fish one can encounter on a single trip, or the simple fact that you have the potential to hook a creature that may indeed be bigger than your boat. Both sides have great arguments that back up their claims to being the best bite going. One thing the freshwater folks have that we don't is an over abundance of fishable structure, or do they?

Saltwater structure varies in many ways and can be as simple or complex as you want to make it. For instance let's talk shallow structure, small very minor depressions in a flat can be called structure because they fit the mold. Structure is something different in an area that fish relate to or use for certain purposes like food or shelter. The small depressions can offer fish an opportunity to escape a stronger tide or aid them in ambushing baitfish, they are structure. More noticeable structure could be grass lines or other vegetation growing in or near the water. Some grass can actually help you find certain types of structure like underwater points. Along the banks of the Sabine River we have a certain spartina like grass that grows along the shore, each place where this grass grows usually indicates a shallow point that runs out into the river. Points like these are fish magnets; we have had some incredible days fishing the down current sides of these areas and we continue to use them still.

Now a more classic version of structure for saltwater fishermen are reefs made from various types of shell such as oyster, clam or mussel. These areas are perhaps the most targeted pieces of structure in all the bay systems along the gulf coast. A good productive reef can and will attract plenty of attention from both fish and fishermen. Each bay has its own big name reefs where fishermen congregate regardless of whether the fish are biting or not, it doesn't matter because everyone knows the area so consequently it must be good. The real hidden gems in any bay are the small reefs that not many folks know about because they receive little pressure and often produce big fish. I know guys who guard these areas like they were gold; they will often abandon the area if a boat gets near only to return when the area is vacant. GPS numbers to small hotspots like these are closely guarded and rarely shared with someone outside "the circle" of close fishing partners. If you are fortunate enough to find a place like this you would be wise to keep it to yourself.

Now what about finding one of those hidden gems, one of those "go to" spots that seem to always attract and hold fish. There are all kind of methods to locating a reef or pile of shell and they all have one thing in common, they take time and effort. Many anglers will use the winter months to locate shell because the fishing is slower during that time of the year. I have seen people drag chain, conduit, or some other contraption that will make noise when it hits shell. Others will car-

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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



Searching out overlooked areas can provide some outstanding fish as The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays here.

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 78 degrees. The word must be out on the good bite because there is increased boater traffic and anglers on the water. Freshwater flushed the shrimp into Sabine Lake, so birds are feasting on the jumping shrimp leading to limits of redfish. Cast ¾ ounce gold spoons. Threadfin shad, mullet, and mud minnows are in abundance. Expect bird action to continue for a month. Limits of redfish with flounder, drum and sheepshead mixed in along the banks with shrimp under a popping cork. Also, along the bayous, points and drops on glo chartreuse plastics, something fish can see in the brackish water. Water continues to be too fresh for speckled trout. Winds have been too high to fish the channel but when the weather allows trout, flounder, and redfish can be caught on the rock piles, shell humps and flats with glo chartreuse or live shrimp under a popping cork. Shoreline anglers are reeling redfish, flounder, sheepshead and drum from the south and north levee walls with live shrimp popping cork and Carolina rig.

Report by Captain Ran-

dy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 78 degrees. Water levels are fluctuating with tides and wind this week changing back to four tide days on Friday. Still lots of freshwater on the bay side dumping from up north. The best bite conditions this week will

be on edges of the deeper spots holding saltier water. People are catching plenty of redfish of varying sizes everywhere! Small croakers showed up along with sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with more stingrays and sharks. Pompano and Jack Crevalle are running. The surf is producing reds and black

drum, gafftop, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula. The sargassum, or seaweed, is thick in spots. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 85 degrees. Bay is still hampered by freshwater runoff. Dam release has dropped significantly. Few catches of fish coming from the edges and rocks of the Houston ship channel. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The bay is stained like chocolate milk, but starting to bounce back near the ship channel. Drum are being caught on rocks and structures. Trinity River rate of release slowed down, so salinity level should start to return. Redfish are being caught by the ship channel deep. Be safe, be prepared and pay attention to the weather. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 86 degrees. Wind and freshwater have the open bay stirred up. Few catches of black drum, redfish, and an occasional trout coming from protected, green pockets of water. Report by Captain

SALTWATER Page 5B

Happy Birthday

Heartfelt & Joyous Wishes for a **Happy "90th" Birthday** to **Roy Dunn**

The Record Newspapers

Orange County Judge **John Gothia**

'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.05 feet below pool. The lake is full pool, with five flood gates open at 1 feet each and both generators running 24 hours a day. More rain is in the forecast. Bass are good in 1-15 feet of water hitting just about how ever you like to fish, from top water frog, spinnerbait, chatterbait, anything around the flooded bushes. Other fish come on Texas rigs and crankbait in 8-15 feet, main lake ridges and points. Crappie fishing has been just ok, with the water still fallen and still getting these bugs storms, it is really needed to calm down before it really helps. Still some being caught on bushes and around docks close to deeper water. Both live bait and jigs are working. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 78 degrees; 5.56 feet above pool. Bass are in the flooded bushes and trees with soft plastics. Few bass are on points and creek Carolina rigs and crankbaits. Some crappie are shallow and some are roaming in open water. Crappie are best on brush in 12 feet of water, but while the lake level is high the brush points are 16-18 feet deep. Catfish are good on creek channels and deeper points with minnows and cut baits. White bass on deeper points Jahn jigging spoons and little George's. Navigate with caution watching for floating debris. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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12 Bobcats Named All District in Baseball

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats were the baseball champions of District 22-3A in 2024. Twelve of the Bobcats were selected as all district in baseball.

Topping the list of Orangefield players being honored is senior shortstop Caleb Fregia who was chosen the District MVP. Senior outfielder and lead-off hitter Kane Smith of the Bobcats was named the Offensive MVP.

Also receiving special recognition were sopho-



Coach Tim Erickson
Coach of the Year



Caleb Fregia is the
District MVP



Kane Smith is the
Offensive MVP



Kaleb Menard is the
Pitcher of the Year



Carson Worthy is the
Newcomer of the Year

mores Kaleb Menard as the Pitcher of the Year and catcher Carson Worthy as the Newcomer of the Year for the Bobcats. Tim Er-

ickson of Orangefield was voted the Coach of the Year by the coaches of the district.

Chosen to the First

Team were senior pitcher Brycen Tait, senior first baseman Camden Fountain, sophomore third baseman Matthew John-

son, senior outfielders Logan Cheek, and Cameron Dearing. Making the Second Team was senior second baseman Adam Tran.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to freshman pitcher Carson Gonzales and senior utility player Mason Houghton.

Bobcats come home From Page 1B



Bobcat reliever Garrett Rawls pitched a scoreless eighth inning to get the win in Game 1 for Orangefield against Franklin. **RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine**

ning and then stole second base. Houghton also walked and the Franklin relief pitcher just brought in was called for a balk advancing the two Bobcats to third and second. Smith scored on a wild pitch to cut the Lion's lead to 5-2 after five.

Camden Fountain began the Bobcat sixth with a walk, and Johnson did the same. Worthy sacrificed the Bobcat base runners up, and Tran brought Fountain home with a sacrifice fly to left to narrow

the score to 5-3 going to the seventh.

Atomanczyk was at second base with one out and attempted to go to third on a grounder to Fregia at short who threw to Johnson at third for an important tag out. The next Franklin hitter doubled which would have scored Atomanczyk but still left Lions at third and second. A walk loaded the bases, but Tait got out of the jam unscathed when the next batter flew out to Smith in centerfield.

Down two runs with three outs left the Bobcats' chances looked desperate. Cheek was hit by a pitch with one out to keep the light glimmering. With two outs pinch hitter Carson Gonzales imitated the lightning from the previous night lining a white bolt to the centerfield fence for a double to drive in Cheek and cut the margin to just one run.

Kyler Green ran for Gonzales and went to third on an errant pitch when Fountain walked

again. Johnson hit a grounder in the hole between third and short which the Lions could not convert into an out as Green scampered home with the tying run to knot the game 5-5 forcing extra innings.

New life was breathed into the Bobcats, and a new pitcher Garrett Rawls came on to throw in the top of the eighth. Rawls walked the first Lion batter who got to third with one out but was stranded there as Garrett registered a strike out and a ground out to Tran at second to end the inning.

In the Orangefield half of the eighth inning Smith singled to center with one out. Houghton sacrificed Kane to second. Cheek was hit by a pitch again and Fregia was walked intentionally by Franklin to

get the chance to face the Bobcat pitcher Rawls instead with the bases loaded.

Rawls patiently watched three pitches before swinging and fouling off the fourth delivery to even the count at two and two. As the fifth pitch was on its way to the plate Smith dashed home from third sliding head first just evading the catcher's tag to score the winning run in dramatic fashion for the 6-5 victory.

"We had some chances to make some plays and didn't, left some people on base in big spots, still just hung around, kept scratching, and then finally found a way to win in the end. That was a really good win," Bobcat Coach Tim Erickson exclaimed afterwards.

As it turned out that

steal of home by Kane Smith would be the last run of the series for Orangefield. Franklin got shutout pitching from Josh Atomanczyk during Game 2 later that Friday evening the Lions winning 7-0, and a no hitter from Cadyn Shaw in the third game played Saturday afternoon through two lengthy weather delays ending in the sixth inning when Franklin took a 10-0 lead.

"At the end of the day between two really good teams, it's supposed to come down to a game three. I thought we did a great job the first game just staying in the game, and then they got settled in on the mound in game two and again in game three just throwing outs," Coach Erickson concluded.

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Federal forecasters predict the highest number of storms ever for 2024 season

ALEJAN MARTINEZ
The Texas Tribune

Federal forecasters are predicting between 17 and 25 named storms will form this hurricane season — the highest number of storms the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has ever predicted before the start of the season on June 1.

The agency announced Thursday at a press conference that Texas and the rest of the Gulf and East coasts are most likely to see an “above-average” hurricane season in 2024.

NOAA defines an average Atlantic hurricane season as one with 14 named storms, of which three are stronger hurricanes, based on data from 1991 to 2020.

Of the storms predicted this year, four to seven could be hurricanes rated

Category 3 or higher, meaning they will have wind speeds of at least 111 miles per hour.

NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad said the “extraordinarily high, record-warm water temperatures” in the Atlantic are energizing the ocean, which can fuel storm development. Warming seas are linked to climate change, which can cause stronger hurricanes and heavier rains.

Another important factor influencing this year’s hurricane season is La Niña, a climate pattern that causes surface ocean water temperatures to cool and tends to lessen wind speeds, allowing more storms to develop.

“La Niña can lead to weaker trade winds ... this type of environment can be more conducive for tropical



Evacuees ride in the back of a pick-up truck on Aug 29, 2017 after Hurricane Harvey caused catastrophic floods along the Texas coast. PHOTO: The Texas Tribune

cyclone development,” Spinrad said.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30,

though storms can also form before and after that time frame.

The Texas coast is vul-

nerable to the impacts of storms, which are aggravated by rising sea levels. According to Spinrad, during

last year’s hurricane season, tropical cyclones caused more than \$4 billion in damages, even with most Atlantic tropical activity remaining offshore and not striking land.

“The key this year as in any year is to get prepared and stay prepared,” Spinrad said. “It’s the best way to reduce risk, especially the risk of potential loss of life.”

Ken Graham, the director of NOAA’s National Weather Service, said residents should plan a potential evacuation route, create a disaster supply kit and consider buying home and flood insurance. “You can’t wait ‘til the storm surfaces because you may not have the time,” he said. “Then you’re competing to get water. You’re getting in the long lines for evacuations, the traffic. So the earlier you can prepare the better.”

Home rehab: steps you can take to address mold in Southeast Texas

Staff Report
For The Record

Homes in Southeast Texas that experience flooding are at risk of developing mold because of the excess moisture and standing water during storms like those experienced recently.

Mold, of course, can pose a risk to everyone entering a home with it. But it’s especially dangerous to people with asthma, allergies, and to those with compromised immune systems.

So what can you do to make sure your home is mold-free?

Ryan Nickerson, who reports for the Houston Chronicle, said a house only has to be flooded for about 24 hours before mold starts to form.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a home has 24 to 48 hours to dry out, or it’s assumed to have mold growth,” he said. “Humidity is a big factor, but also any sort of standing water can create mold growth as well.”

Nickerson said the best thing to do if your home floods is hire an expert to check for mold.

“If you do have water

flood damage in your home, it’s best that you not go in it in the first place, and you get a qualified professional to check for mold growth,” he said. “But if you want to take it upon yourself, first you need the proper equipment.

You need to make sure you have gloves and protective eyewear, and an N95 mask, so you’re not breathing in those spores. So you should definitely check in between cupboards and inside your kitchen and in your bathroom as well, for any sort of mold growth or damage.”

Mold is most dangerous for people who are immunocompromised, especially in their lungs.

“If you have any sort of lung disease or anything that affects your immune system, when you’re breathing in those mold spores, you can get sick,” Nickerson said. “You get sick because the spores begin eating away at your lungs and create little cavities. So they’ll have problems breathing. And you’ll start feeling symptoms like the flu and related symptoms like that.”

Nickerson said checking with your insurance com-

pany or with a government agency is a good way to find a contractor who is qualified to do a mold check.

“The CDC also has a renters guide to see if you can find any qualified professional to investigate your home,” he said. “You definitely want to continue on with any sort of governmental (list), from county, federal or city wide websites to figure out how to find those qualified professionals, because you’re really dealing with a matter of life and death, especially if you have immunocompromised people in your home.”

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Mosquito season From Page 1B

wheelbarrows to gutters, unkept pools and trash cans. They prefer clearer, fresher water, and females are constantly looking for good sites for larvae to develop.

Container mosquitoes like *Aedes* are daytime feeders but can be opportunistic at nighttime when large groups of people gather, Swiger said.

“Any time after a rain, it is good to make a round on the property to look for anything that might be holding water,” she said. “It just takes a matter of days for these mosquitoes to go from egg to biter, so they can become a problem pretty quickly.”

Culex Mosquitoes

Culex, a mosquito species that prefers stagnant pools of water with high bacteria content, typically emerge as waters recede and dry summer conditions set in and create development sites in low-lying areas. These are the disease carriers that concern the public and health officials, Swiger said. It is not easy to forecast



Culex mosquitoes predominately transmit the West Nile virus and Western equine encephalitis.

their emergence because their ideal environment can be washed away by additional rains or dried up by extreme heat and drought, Swiger said.

In rural areas, bogs, pooled creek beds or standing water in large containers such as barrels, trash cans or wheelbarrows can make a good habitat for *Culex*. In the city, mosquitoes can develop in small pools in dried up creeks or other low spots, but most urban issues occur underground in storm drains where water can sit and stagnate.

“It’s difficult to predict when or where these mos-

quitoes might become a problem,” she said. “Widespread heavy rain makes it even more difficult to predict.”

How To Repel Mosquitoes

Swiger said reducing mosquito numbers in your location and the use of spray repellents are a good start when it comes to protecting yourself from bites. Covering exposed skin with long-sleeved shirts and long pants help as well.

Making recommendations for protecting people or locations from mosqui-

toes can be tricky, Swiger said. She does not recommend any repellents or mosquito repelling products that are not approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Anecdotal evidence exists that alternatives like essential oils repel mosquitoes, Swiger said. Spatial repellent devices like Thermacell are popular, however some people may balk at the chemical particles the units emit to create a barrier around a person or space.

Plants like citronella, geraniums, lemongrass, lavender, and petunias have been shown to repel mosquitoes, but Swiger said the distribution limits effectiveness for protecting a space. The number of plants and the location among other factors would weigh heavily into their effectiveness.

Candles and other smoke-based repellents fall into a similar category as plants, Swiger said.

“Protecting yourself with any spray-on, CDC-approved repellent like DEET, picaridin or lemon eucalyptus oil is my best recommendation anytime you go outside for an extended period,” she said. “Personal protectants are the only certainty against bites.”

Swiger said pets should be removed from areas with mosquito infestations. Small children should not be taken outdoors for long periods if mosquitoes are an issue because they can have adverse reactions to mosquito bites, and spray products should be used sparingly on them, especially babies. There are age restrictions for most repellents; no repellents on babies less than 2 months old and do not use lemon eucalyptus oil on children 3 and under.

“This time of year, it’s just best to limit their exposure to mosquitoes,” she said.

Control And Prevention

Controlling mosquitoes after widespread, heavy rains is difficult because their habitat can be so unpredictable, Swiger said. Container mosquitoes are a bit easier – remove the habitat by dumping the water or treat the water with granular or dunk larvicides.

Empty containers filled with water as much as possible and look for standing water that can be drained or where dunk larvicides can be effective,” she said. “It’s just a matter of, how far

do you take it before other options are necessary?”

Sprays or barrier treatments that kill adult mosquitoes are another option, but effectiveness is limited, Swiger said. Products that homeowners can apply only last 24 hours. Professionals can apply longer-lasting barrier products – typically pyrethroid-based or organic products – but their effectiveness degrades with time.

Some groups and municipalities initiate mosquito abatement programs, especially when major outbreaks occur or mosquitoes become a health risk, but they are temporary as well, Swiger said. They typically spray at night to kill adult mosquitoes, and the residue burns off in the sunlight after dawn.

“Some cities and counties do a pretty good job staying on top of mosquito control, but it can be an overwhelming task, and weather can hinder effectiveness,” she said. “The best thing to remember is to protect yourself when outdoors for extended periods, reduce sites where mosquitoes can develop as much as possible in your space and then be mindful of areas nearby that might become problematic.”

Captain Chuck From Page 2B

ry a push pole or some conduit and randomly probe the bottom as they drift an area. I have spent hours watching oyster boats work and recording GPS numbers on places where I never knew there were oysters. You can use all kinds of methods as long as you are willing to put in some time because that is the key.

Now back to our freshwater friends and one advantage they have over us in the salt, they can build their own structure. I am sure most folks have heard about anglers up on the lakes

sinking Christmas trees or other forms of structure to attract crappie and other fish, the technique is simple and it works. Saltwater folks have to contend with a few more rules so this technique is a little more difficult to pull off. It is my understanding that you just can’t go out and start dumping shell or rocks in a bay and make an artificial reef, if this was legal you can bet there would be some folks out there who would just go crazy with the practice. I will say however I have found wooden pallets, box

springs, bathtubs, and even commodes make great artificial reefs when you find them sunk in a particular area. How these items got to where they are I don’t know, all I can say that they hold fish and can certainly be classed as fishable structure. I can just see it now the next time I catch a bunch of fish telling everyone “yeah that commode and bathtub pattern is really holding strong”. Only an upper coast Cajun could appreciate a report like that.

Saltwater fishing report From Page 2B


David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 86 degrees. South shoreline reefs holding speckled trout, best on soft plastic. Those using shrimp catching a mix of trout, black drum, and gafftop. Waders on the south shoreline finding better action on speckled trout with soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. East Bay and Intracoastal water-


way are holding plenty of small speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, and redfish caught on live shrimp, croakers, and top water lures. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp. Surface water temps 81 degrees, water clarity stained in most places for East Galveston Bay. Still a large amount of freshwater in the Bay system, however we have been able to locate trout without running too far from the launch spot. Winds have been less than 20 mph for the most part, allowing us

to fish pretty much wherever we choose, which has increased our success rates over the past week. We have been able to find a good number of baitfish and shrimp over shell and grass lines, and the predators have been close by. We have been utilizing live shrimp, under a popping cork, as well as paddle tails and ¼ ounce jig heads on our artificial only charters. WacAttack Purple with Chartrouse worked well for us again this week. We have been able to catch trout, redfish, and flounder.




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What Risks Can Moms Take?

T. Kim
Guest Contributor
 desiringGod.org

For years, my husband and I each prayed for God's timing and the right opportunity to move overseas to work among the unreached.

For many reasons, God did not open doors while we were single. And for many reasons, he did not open them in the first years of marriage either. The door finally opened when we had the most to lose, humanly speaking — a home, young children, unique educational opportunities for them, stability and favor in an interesting career, and a church family we loved and gladly gave ourselves to. That was when God called us to go.

My husband had visited the country once before, but I knew almost nothing of the place we were moving to except that the need was great and that the culture was both suspicious of foreigners and hostile to Christ. Some loved ones questioned our judgment, our value system, even our sanity. Do you have to go to such a risky place? Should you be doing this when you have a young family?

Some even sought me in private, appealing to my mother's heart. Why make the kids suffer? Why are you throwing away so much? Indeed, why? We asked the same questions of ourselves and of God in prayer. Father, is this really what you are calling us to do? As we searched Scripture and wrestled in prayer, we sensed God asking us in return, Do you trust me?



Am I worth what it will cost?

Will You Trust Me?

When I was in high school, my uncle took my brother and me backpacking in a beautiful alpine mountain range. On our way back, unbeknownst to us, we took a trail that required us to cross a ravine. The only way forward was across a fallen tree high above a river rushing with snowmelt. The trunk was narrow and its strength untested. If we fell in, especially with our heavy backpacks buckled to us, we could have showed up in the local obituaries. But we had little fear. We accepted the challenge and ambled across.

Motherhood has changed the way I think about that tree. I probably would not take the same risk today with young children who depend on me (much less ever lead them across it) — unless God himself promised to go with us.

Some gospel risks feel like this tree, suspended above real dangers and yet the only path between

where we stand and where we think obedience lies. Every mother who has been reconciled to Christ and entrusted with "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) feels at times the tension between fear and gospel obedience.

God, how can I move to that part of town, even if it's for a church plant? How can I open the safety of my home to complete strangers? Don't you know how difficult life will be if my husband takes on more ministry? What if my neighbor never speaks to me again after I share the gospel with her? Do you know how messy the foster-care system is? Why would we walk alongside that troubled family, and invite trouble into our home?

Even believing mothers can want to shield their families from all risk, but only a false gospel preaches that we can follow Jesus and avoid pain and loss in this world.

Christ requires that his followers (yes, even mothers) deny themselves and take up their crosses (Mat-

thew 16:24). Only those who fully trust his next words would dare to follow: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). Even if obedience results in immediate loss, do we trust its end will be life and gain, as he said?

The greatest question in the face of risk is not what we might lose but whom we will believe. And our trust has no better — no other — resting place than "our Father, our Redeemer from of old" (Isaiah 63:16). He is good and does good (Psalm 119:68). With him is wisdom, might, counsel, and understanding (Job 12:13). He holds the outcome of the dice and the whims of the king in his hands (Proverbs 16:33; 21:1).

And she who hopes in God will not be found cowering in the basement, shielding her children. She will be in armor out on the battlefield, asking in the face of danger, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" (Romans

8:35). Whether she is in a tree-lined suburb, a concrete city, or some foreign country, she will teach her children not to run from the risks of serving Christ, but instead to pray, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3).

nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). In Christ, the apostle saw such a magnitude of worth that even his very life was worthless by comparison.

Am I Worth Your Risks?

Before our move, I acknowledged with conviction God's worth and, by extension, the worth of his gospel message and church. I trembled, but I confessed he was worth all we were about to risk.

Over a year in, as the real stresses of living in a foreign culture took their toll (and as I hoped to shut the chapter on the sickest year of our lives), I found myself nursing my family through even more rounds of severe illness. I found myself in the emergency room again, holding my smallest child, with no answers as to what was ailing her. Listening to the doctor try to explain to me that she might also have a problem with her kidneys, I lost sight of his worth.

In 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, Paul describes some of what he suffered as a servant of Christ: labors, imprisonments, bodily injury, deprivation of basic needs, and the dangers he faced from both people and nature. In Philippians 3:3-6, he further details what he lost for the sake of Christ: birthright, pedigree, identity, education, accomplishments, and the commendation of men.

Even when the Holy Spirit testified to him that "imprisonments and afflictions" awaited him in every city, he declared, "I do not account my life of any value

Your Next Risky Yes

We cannot dismiss Paul's choices as less practical or easier just because he was an apostle (and a single man with no dependents). Paul's valuation of Christ transcended his season of life and calling in life.

Holding my child in the hospital, I was looking only to things seen and had lost sight of Jesus, "the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). I had to pray — and ask others to pray — that God would enlighten the eyes of my heart (Ephesians 1:18) so that I could endure "as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27).

How then do our risks weigh against the worth of Christ? They are but light, momentary afflictions preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Fellow mom, though I may be oceans away, neither of us raises our family in the country of our citizenship. You also face many risks as you serve Christ. Do you trust him? Is he worthy? If so, what is a faithful, risky yes you can say to him today?

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 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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