

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Vidor couple loses house in Beryl



Hurricane Berl nipped Orange County with high waters inshore. Above is the flooded Sabine River boat ramp.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The old adage “We dodged a bullet” was heard across Orange County Tuesday morning after Hurricane Beryl, but not everyone was so lucky.

The county was on the far western side of the storm, which came ashore near Matagorda, south of Galveston.

“We’re very lucky that storm went where it did,”

County Judge John Gothia said.

Though the sustained winds here did not reach tropical storm force, they were strong enough to knock down numerous trees and limbs.

An older couple raising their grandchildren in Vidor had their house destroyed when a tree fell on it during the Monday storm. Precinct 4 County Commissioner Robert Vitor said the couple also

lost one or two of their cars. And they don’t have insurance.

Orange County Emergency Management Director Joel Ardoin said

Tuesday morning the Vidor house was the only residence reported with severe damage, with “several others having minor damage.”

Anyone with damage from the storm should report their damage to the Orange County Emergency Management Office so it can be recorded to add

to the total for possible FEMA assistance.

Low-level flooding was reported from storm

Beryl nips Page 3A



Michelle Justice (center left) celebrates with her family after being named Community Builder by Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas and presented by the Bridge City Masonic Lodge #1345 Monday night. Pictured left to right: Emilio Romero, Adia Romero, Alicia Romero, Michelle Justice, Al Justice III, Debbie Roy, Paul Roy, Brenda Justice and Larry Justice.

RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

Judice named Community Builder by BC Masons

PENNY LELEUX
For The Record

Monday night Michelle Justice of Bridge City was honored with the highest award given to a non-Mason, the Community Builder award, at the Bridge City Masonic Lodge #1345 by worshipful master Reese Forse.

The lodge committee distinguishes one community builder (one person that has made an impact on the community) at least once a year. Forse said the pandemic did prevent them from presenting one for a few years. Their selection is then passed on to the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco, where the award is sanctioned.

Judice was nominated for her many years in the teaching profession, not only at Lamar State College – Port Arthur, but for her years as a substitute teacher at Bridge City and as a teacher for the local criminal justice system.

“Today we celebrate Dr. Justice not only for her professional achievements but also for her unwavering dedication to serving others and reaching out to our community,” said Forse. “Thank you for being a shining example of



Michelle Justice was honored as the Masonic Community Builder for 2024 by the Bridge City Masonic Lodge #1345 Monday night. Pictured Left to Right: Worshipful Master Reese Forse, Michelle Justice, Al Justice II and District Deputy Grand Master Dist. 25-A Anthony Bingham.

RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

what it means to be a true community builder.”

Judice wasn’t sure how she came to their attention, she said she believed it was due to a surprise

award she received in May from Texas State Representative Christian Manual, whom she had previ-

Judice Page 3A

Mosquito control ready for post-storm

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Expect the post-storm mosquitoes to come out in another week and a half, Orange County Mosquito Control Director Patrick Beebe told commissioners court Tuesday.

But Beebe’s department is prepared. During the Tuesday meeting, Orange County Commissioners Court approved him moving \$50,000 from county contingency, or emergency, funds to pay for overtime salaries through the end of September.

Beebe has had to make budget adjustments for the current fiscal year because of influxes of mosquitoes, even during January, February, and March, which are usually months without many of the pests.

The county’s fiscal year runs October 1 through September 30. Already this year, the commissioners court approved Beebe spending an extra \$100,000 for insecticides for the county spray plane.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris Sowell said he was out when Monday when Beryl was blowing through and didn’t see a mosquito. However, he admitted the wind was probably blowing them away.

That’s when another commissioner asked about when to expect post-storm mosquitoes. Usually, salt water influxes from a storm surge will lead to a hatching of salt-water mosquitoes, a large variety than can bite through some clothing.

Commissioners said
County Page 3A

Orange area keeps adding new businesses, houses

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange will be getting a new pizza restaurant on Allie Payne Road and a new DuGood Federal Credit Union building on Interstate 10, according to building permits issued by the city in June.

Brown & Brown Pizza is owned by Randy and Kathy Brown of Orange and operates Domino’s Pizza franchises. The company got a permit to build a new \$850,000 building at 1715 Allie Payne Road near the inter-

section with Texas Highway 87 North. The contractor is Better Built Metal Buildings.

DuGood Credit Union plans to build a 3,250 square foot office valued at \$1.87 million at 6895 Interstate 10. The contractor is McInnis Construction.

Those are the latest in commercial and new residential building permits the city has issued during the first six months of 2024.

In May, permits for a \$300,000 building to

house the restaurant Insane Chicken at 1602 W. Hart Avenue off Sixteenth Street. Insane Chicken is part of the Insane Restaurant Holdings based in Louisiana. The contractor is Alcode Plumbing LLC.

Also in May, the city issued a permit for a \$178,000 new building for 2214 Interstate 10 for Texas State Rentals. The contractor is Better Built Metal Buildings.

The April permits included one valued at \$814,000 to Stovall Interest LLC for a Take 5 quick

oil change service at 1618 Barkins Drive at Sixteenth Street.

The city that month used Lendary Concrete to build a \$25,600 sidewalk at 2111 Park Avenue along the side of Shangri La Gardens to help accommodate foot traffic at the gardens, which included more than 50,000 people attending lighted Christmas nights in December.

Eight permits to build new residences were also issued in April with six by DSLD Homes Southwest

for houses on Little Cypress Loop in a new subdivision off Martin Luther King Jr. Drive by Little Cypress Junior High. Another new home permit went to J.D.Krig for a 2,865 square foot house at 6754 FM 1130, plus one to D.R. Horton for a house off Allie Payne Road.

A new food mart is going up at 6103 Highway 87 with the building valued at \$735,000, according to the March permits. Bright Block Construction is the contractor.

February’s permits in-

cluded 13 new residences. Eight of those were for construction by D.R. Horton on Spoonbill Lane off Allie Payne Road, where the houses average about \$250,000 to \$300,000. DSLD Southwest had one permit for a house on Little Cypress Loop. L&L Construction got a permit for a new house at 6108 Rosewood Drive. Dal Sasso Construction had a permit for a house at 2520 Golden Oak, and Riley’s Property Service had a permit for a residence at 1704 B Mississippi.

★ TEXAS STATE NEWS

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett doubles down on push for Biden to step aside

ISAAC YU
The Texas Tribune

WASHINGTON — Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, dug in his heels during a meeting of House Democrats on Tuesday morning, urging the party to rally around an alternative candidate to President Joe Biden.

Doggett, who was the first House Democrat to publicly call for Biden to step aside, told reporters as he walked out of the closed-door meeting that he made his case once again to his colleagues that Biden is too weak to defeat Donald Trump.

"The debate cannot be unseen," Doggett said of the June 27 debate, where Biden was raspy and at times incoherent. "The president has been running behind. We needed a surge, we got a



setback."

Biden is scheduled to visit Doggett's district on Monday, speaking at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin.

Doggett said Tuesday that he would support Biden in November if he stayed in the race. But Doggett said he had received a "tremendous outpouring" of support in his district after he initially called for Biden to step aside, and pledged to continue voicing his concerns.

"I share admiration for his work in office, but the dangers of a Trump presidency are so significant that we have to put forward our strongest candidate," Doggett said, though he did not name a preferred alternative candidate.

Caucus leaders sought to prevent leaks of the discussion and did not allow representatives to have cell phones inside the room. Most representatives declined to comment as they exited the meeting.

The caucus meeting and Doggett's latest comments come just one day after Biden sent a two-page letter to Democratic lawmakers insisting that he is staying in the race and that it's time to move on.

"The question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end. We have one job," Biden said.

Four Texas Democrats have yet to say publicly whether they still support Biden as the party nominee: Rep. Henry Cuellar of Laredo, Rep. Joaquin Castro of San Antonio, Rep. Marc Veasey of Fort Worth, and Rep. Colin Allred of Dallas, who is running for Senate in November.

Veasey said he did make a case at the caucus meeting but did not say which position he took. He had warned

fellow Democrats last week to be cautious and "chill a little bit."

"Everyone had an opportunity to have their voices heard," Veasey said on Tuesday. "I think that you're going to continue to hear from a variety of people on how they feel about this."

Castro stayed mum on Tuesday morning, though a campaign spokesperson said last week that Biden's speech in North Carolina the day after the debate was a "much stronger reflection of the leader Americans have seen over the last three and a half years."

Most other Democrats, meanwhile, have held the line for Biden. Rep. Veronica Escobar of El Paso, who is a Biden campaign co-chair, conceded last week that the debate wasn't what she had hoped for but emphasized the party's focus

on defeating Trump. Houston-area Reps. Sheila Jackson, Sylvia Garcia, Al Green and Lizzie Fletcher have all made public comments supporting the president, as did Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas, who said on MSNBC that "so long as the president says that he can do this job, then that is our ticket." Rep. Greg Casar of Austin said on KVUE that he would "support the president, or if the president decides for someone else to be the nominee, I'll support them until victory in November."

Rep. Vicente Gonzalez of McAllen, also expressing support for Biden, said on Tuesday that he believed the president could still win in November.

Asked if he thought Biden would stay in the race, Gonzalez said, "Time will tell."

Beryl updates: At least nine dead; power outages could persist for days

POOJA SALHOTRA
The Texas Tribune

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said President Joe Biden approved a Federal Emergency Disaster Declaration to aid Texans in the recovery from Hurricane Beryl. Following a phone call with Biden Tuesday, Patrick stated that he requested FEMA assistance to cover costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures.

"We are appreciative that the federal government will step in and they will pick up most of the cost as we go through recovery of the storm," Patrick said at a Tuesday press briefing.

Once the declaration is finalized and issued, the state's homeowners and business will be able to access loans and grants to help with Beryl-related recovery costs. FEMA's public assistance program is divided into categories. Part A covers the costs of debris removal, while part B covers emergency protective measures like medical care, transportation and evacuation. Patrick said the federal government would be covering "most of the cost" associated with storm recovery.

The declaration includes 121 impacted counties, Texas Division of Emergen-



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, right, answers questions at a press conference about Hurricane Beryl on Monday at the State Operations Center, in Austin.

PHOTO: Olivia Anderson/The Texas Tribune
Cy Management Chief Nim Kidd said. Those counties include Brazoria, Galveston and Harris.

Kidd urged residents to adhere to local government

regulations if they start doing their own debris clean-up.

Debris will need to be separated into three categories. Vegetative debris in-

cludes leaves and plants; construction and demolition debris includes building materials; appliances and white goods are another category.

"Please don't put it all into one pile," Kidd said. "It only slows the recovery process."

On Monday, Biden spoke with Houston Mayor John Whitmire and said his administration is committed to supporting Texas, a White House spokesperson said.

"The U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA are on the ground and stand ready to support local response efforts," the spokesperson said. "They will remain with the people of Texas every step of the way."

The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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Become a Master Gardener

New Master Gardener training classes begin at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on FM1442. The requirements for the certification are 50 hours of education and 50 hours of volunteer time. Classes meet on Thursdays with speakers and programs about gardening that count for the 50 hours of education.

The cost of the class is \$150 which includes a book, supplies, speaker fees, and a banquet on the last day of class, Dec.12.

Applications for the class are available at the AgriLife office in the Expo Center, 11475 FM 1442, Orange. The Master Gardener training fee can be paid then or any time before the class starts.

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Beryl nips Orange County From Page 1

surge in the Bridge City area, Ardoin said. At one time during the storm, the electric company Entergy reported 8,600 outages across the county, with about 3,896 still without power Tuesday morning, he said. The company was expecting all of the service in the county to be restored by Tuesday evening.

County Judge Gothia said he issued a disaster declaration for the county before the storm hit. The declaration was "primarily for precaution," he said.

The local declaration is needed, along with a state declaration, to qualify for aid from the federal government, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Acting Texas Governor Dan Patrick added Orange County to the list of the counties on the state's Beryl disaster declaration.

FEMA will determine whether the areas Beryl hit qualify for federal help based on the amount of damage reported. That is one reason Orange County is asking for people to report storm-related damages. The Houston-Galveston area is expected to tally enough damage to qualify all Texas counties listed on the disaster declaration.

Commissioner Viator said the Vidor couple who lost their house and cars may be able to get some help if FEMA is approved.

Beryl became the second named storm of the

2024 hurricane season, which started on June 1 and runs through November 30. It made history as the earliest forming Atlantic storm to reach the top Category 5 intensity. After hitting part of Mexico, it dropped down to a tropical storm category.

As the storm went into the Gulf of Mexico late last week, people along the Texas coast were on edge with anticipation. Early predictions had Beryl coming ashore near the Brownsville-Corpus Christi area, but it began slowly going west.

Sunday evening, the National Hurricane Center added Orange County to the area under a tropical storm warning as the outer western bands of the

storm were becoming in range.

Tropical storms need sustained winds of 39 mph to 73 mph, with the minimum Category 1 hurricane sustained winds at 74 mph. Gusts in any tropical storm or hurricane may be stronger than the sustained winds.

The National Weather Service gauges at the Orange County Airport between Orange and Bridge City recorded periods of sustained winds of 23-26 mph, plus many gusts of 30-plus mph and some gusts up to 40 mph.

The storm winds began blowing about midnight

and grew stronger about 4 a.m. They kept blowing until about 7 p.m.

At one point, part of western Orange County was placed under a tornado warning, while the rest of the county was under a tornado watch as tropical storm winds can produce twisters. A tornado developed in Jasper and caused damage.

Orange County Judge Gothia said most of the reported damage here came from trees and tree limbs falling. He said the grounds have been saturated because of the rain this year, which caused some trees to blow over by their roots.

The summer of 2023 had record-breaking heat and a long drought, lead-

ing to many trees dying. Gothia said if the winds here had been stronger, many more trees would have been blown down.

The city of Orange Monday closed the Boat Ramp area off Simmons Drive because the storm surge had covered the launches along with part of the fishing pier. Gauges at the area show the Sabine River there went slightly above the flood stage level of four feet above sea level during the storm, but was down to 1.5 feet by Monday morning.

The gauge on Cow Bayou at the Highway 87 bridge in Bridge City showed the bayou went up two feet during the storm, but went down as the surge and winds ended.

Judice honored by BC Masons From Page 1

ously taught. She said it was a back-to-school meeting and they were told there was a guest speaker who wanted to come up and say a few words.

"Manual went up to the podium and started talking about a teacher that he had that made a big difference in his life and I started praying 'please God don't let it be me,'" said Judice.

It was. "His closing was about how challenging the class was and how high

the bar was set and then he ended with, 'I remember her closing words to me as I walked out the room,' and I was thinking, 'Oh please God no, let me have said something nice.'"

Manuel said, "She told me that wherever I went for the rest of my life that any writing I left behind or sent to anyone would speak and represent me and say who I was," he said, "and I've always remembered that."

Judice stated her hus-

band, Al Judice III, was discussing this and some of her other accomplishments with a friend, who happened to be a Mason. She thinks this is how it came about.

Forse said Johnny Montagne was the member that brought her name to the selection committee. Once the selection committee decides, the entire lodge votes on it then sends it up the ladder to the Grand Lodge.

Deaths & Memorials

Cullen Bradley Raspberry, 73

Cullen Bradley "Brad" Raspberry, age 73, of Vinton, Louisiana passed away on Saturday, June 29, 2024 in Orangefield, Texas. He was born on June 29, 1951 in Acadia Parish, Louisiana to the late Amos and Euna Raspberry.



Cullen Raspberry

Brad worked as a Union Pipefitter for Local 195 where he graduated the five-year apprenticeship program. His passion was breeding and raising race horses. He loved a night out of country dancing or time spent at the racetrack. He was an avid collector of Roy Rogers memorabilia and enjoyed spending his free time browsing flea markets and seeking out cast iron items and items that brought back memories of his childhood. Willie's Roadhouse was his favorite channel for old country and western music and would spend hours discussing classic country and old time rock-and-roll music with anyone willing to listen.

Brad fought diligently for one year and five months against terminal cancer diagnosis. Todd and Judy Longron, Donnie Bush, and Bubba Hogan would like to send a special thanks to Dr. Fay Johnson (colleagues and staff) of MD Anderson for their patience and assistance with

Brad's cancer battle. As well as Southwest Texas Home Health and Southwest Louisiana Home Health staffs for their assistance.

His presence at the race track will be missed along with his phone calls checking in or arguing with friends. He will be dearly missed by those he chose as friends and family.

Brad is survived by his sister, Bridget and her husband Dennis, son, Lane Raspberry and his Aunt Rosie.

Bridget wishes to gratefully thank Judy and Todd Longron of Orangefield, Texas, for the gift of the loving care they generously gave to Bradley while he lived in their home for the duration of his seriously declining health and ministered to his varied needs. "Their help was immeasurable."

Honorary Pallbearers are Todd Longron, Todd Longron, Jr., Donnie Bush, Lewis "Bubba" Hogan, Dalton Hogan, Duane Domingue, Armon Gill and Roxanne Davis.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in his name to a cancer foundation of your choice. Celebration of Life Services will be held at a later date.

BC Library seeks donations for Summer program

The Bridge City Library is seeking donations to support their Summer Reading Program. In return for monetary or item donations the library offers to advertise your business and mention it on their Facebook page. Donations are needed by July 11.

The program aims to encourage literacy, combat summer learning loss and foster a love of reading among young learners.

For questions contact Kelly at 409-474-3127. The Library is located at 101 Parkside Drive.


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From the Creaux's Nest

RIDEN' WITH BIDEN

Democrats need to vote for President Joe Biden. He's earned their support. No president since L.B.J. has accomplished more in his first term. Biden did it with a split government, many of his accomplishments due to his skill to bring together bi-partisan support from both Democrats and Republicans. In just three and a half years his record of accomplishments is really amazing. Congressional Democrats, Black Caucus and Hispanic Caucus unanimously support the president. Top Democrats in Congress indicated on Tuesday that they were 'ridin' with Biden,' at least for now. No effort was made to push aside President Biden. Both in public and behind closed doors, House and Senate Democrats from across the political spectrum have raised profound fears about Mr. Biden's viability as a candidate but no Democratic leader on Capitol Hill was willing to ask the president to withdraw. Instead, they emerged on Tuesday swearing allegiance to President Biden, if not exactly in enthusiastic or expansive terms. Don's count Joe out or count him short, he's a fighter.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Thanks to President Obama our unemployment is at its lowest in six years, 6.1 percent, down from 10.2 percent when Obama took over. Over 288,000 jobs have been added in the last month, seven million in all. The Dow is at an all-time high.**** Congratulations to Keith Ellis who just graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Keith is the son of Mark and court coordinator Jennifer Ellis.****Aurora Silveira is the "Fig Lady" at the County Courthouse. It seems Aurora occasionally surprises employees with bowls of fresh figs, making fig lovers very happy.****A few folks we know celebrating birthdays: Our buddy Donna Riley, who we have known since she was a bumbling teenager, celebrates on July 10. She has fared well.****On July 11, a lovely lady we've known through two lifetimes, Dayle Gunn Weatherford, celebrates. Celebrating also, a good ole boy, Cleon Hogan, notches another year. Lana Griffith is also a year older. ****On July 12, a nice lady, our friend Christy Khoury celebrates. ****On July 13, Coach Billy Bryant and Steve Sarver share this birthday. Two great guys.****Former educator Ella Stuebing, retired, celebrates, as does Dee's other half and David's big brother, Calvin Rutledge, celebrates on July 14.****On July 15, lovely Peggy Stringer Claybar celebrates a birthday as does Melissa Eshbach. ****Local Bullet Baseball team played a perfect game in Fort Myers, Florida. They won three games and lost three. The team finished 33 out of 88 teams. Coaches are Tony Dallas, Stephen Patterson and Roderick Robertson.**** I understand Commissioner Burton had a couple of stints inserted two weeks ago. It's getting to be if you don't have a stint you're not one of the "Jet" set. I hear Burton never missed a beat.

20 Years Ago-2004

Todd Lindsey, 45, met a tragic death on July 13. ****The West Orange-Stark Mustangs drop down to 24 3-A. ****Parker P.T. Thompson gets three stints. Everyone seems to be getting them. Judge Carl Thibodeaux got one and had another one replaced. "Buckshot" Winfree got a couple and Franklin Scales got a couple, as did Curtis Lee. (Editor's note: Twenty years later Carl is the only one still living.)****A big party is planned for Jessie Brown's 86 birthday on July 18. Jessie and Nolton have been married 65 years. (Editor's note: Both have left us.)****The Bridge City Pony playoff action begins. Dustin Breaux, Clay Edwards, Anthony Cessac, Kyle Kressler, Blake Hubbard, Jared Raggio, Michael Seal, Sean Cade Gros, Grant Encalade, Eric Matthews, Justin Reynolds Carr are 13-year old All Stars. Coaches are Joey Encalade, Scott Raggio and Scott Snyder. (Editor's note: Not a bad group. I wonder where all those boys are today. They are now 33 years old.)****GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Patricia Delay Hall, 73, of Bridge City died July 5, 2004. A Lamar grad with an accounting degree, she was a superintendent of accounting at Dupont where she had worked for 33 years. She is survived by husband Miles Hall, several children and grandchildren.***

45 Years Ago-1979

Sue, Penny and H.D. Pate return from a vacation trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.****The Chapman's, Fred, Violet, Lisa and Fred, Jr., have returned from visiting the home folks in Florida.****Mark Dunn is recognized by the Texas Community newspapers Association as the recipient of the award for Best Original News Feature, of which there were over 2,600 entrants. The award winning feature story was titled, "Profile of Child Neglect, A Danger to Society."****Staudt's Jewelry holds big Christmas in July sale. Everything is 25 percent off.****Frenchie

Credeur, head mechanic at P.S. Tire and Supply, will put his "Wildman" Ford race car on the line July 22 and July 23 at the Lake Charles Dragway. The NHRA sanctioned Louisiana State Championship is on the line. Frenchie is ready to put the pedal to the metal. ****Now open: Orange Plumbing, 1301 Main St., Denis Cable is owner. **Paul's Paint and Body Shop, 2420 Texas Ave. in Bridge City, is owned by Paul Eason and has 24-hour wrecker service. ****Tony Griffin, native Orangeite and longtime business man dies. ****Ten years ago, on July 20, we put the first man on the moon. Neil Armstrong will forever be in the history books. "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were his first words as he stepped out of the space ship. ****Steve Worster, former Bridge City football player, University of Texas All American and father of a two-year-old son became the proud dad of a baby girl on June 8. ****State Representative Wayne Peveto was guest speaker at Bridge City Rotary. ****The Village Squire, 240 Dobbyn, Bridge City, celebrates fifth anniversary. "Today's fashions for men and women," is owned by Ed Cone. The unique clothing store is housed in a building that was originally built as the First Christian Church. ****Bridge City hires Andy Verrett as new police chief. The former Bridge City resident was hired from the Port Neches Police Department. ****The day after Gene Edergerly was released from the hospital with back surgery, his son Todd was involved in an auto accident. Willie Gregg is short a drummer with Gene out of commission.

50 Years Ago-1974

Jim Dunaway, 34-years-old, a native of Cleburne, Texas, runs for Orange City Council, Place 1. Dunaway, after graduating from Arlington State College, attended the University of Texas Law School and graduated in January, 1964. After working for the state comptroller for six months he became associated with the law firm Hurstmeyer, Harris, Dorman and Dunaway. (Editor's note: Jim was elected and later became mayor of Orange and is still practicing law.)**** Jerry Wilson, wife of Congressman Charlie Wilson, writes an exclusive weekly column, "Petticoat Politics," for the Dunn family owned Opportunity Valley News. Jerry writes a behind the scene report about Washington happenings not reported in the media. (Editor's note: Charlie and Jerry later were divorced. At one time, as youngsters, H.D. Pate and Jerry dated. She always remained a good connection for H.D. In politics you never know how some people are wired together.)****Bob Wills, who introduced western swing to the world, is in a Fort Worth hospital and not expected to live. (Editor's note: Bob Wills was the king. His music lived on.)****Some of the area folks doing tournament fishing are Tom Humphrey, Willie Hayes, Troy Woodall, Bob Zavada, Durwood Shull, Bill Gregory, Gary Glende, Gerald Thibodeaux, Jim Taylor just to name a few. ****Orange Savings Little League champs are Paul Remano, Kenny Smith, Sam Moore, Allen Townsends, Randy Boon, Gary Stephens, Sherrick Logan, Jessie Remano, Fredrick Brown, Duke Cotton and Kevin Newton. Coaches are Louis Moore, Billy Joe Smith, Earl Evans and Henry Cotton.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Dr. Michelle Judice was honored Monday night with the Masonic Community Builder Award at the Bridge City lodge. It is the highest award given to a non-Mason. She was awarded for her outstanding work as a teacher at Lamar State College-Port Arthur. Teachers are the ones that shape other community builders, so I guess you could call her a master builder. With the last name of Judice, course there was gumbo to celebrate afterwards and cake.****Penny's daughter-in-law, Lindsay Simon, will have her first solo art show, "Flights of Fancy" at the Texas Art Museum in Port Arthur with an opening reception Saturday night. Lawyer by day, artist by night, Lindsay works in pastels creating photorealistic works of waterfowl and racehorses, it's really something to see. You should go check it out. Her work will be on display into the middle of August.**** Lady Whistlebreux exhaled loudly on Monday evening after another storm, this one named Beryl after a gemstone. Please no more powerless nights. One can only hope this is our 'big one' for the season. One thing we learned this past week is that Brandi Griggs likes a man who can rock those creative Hawaiian shirts. Is the mom who can still rock a bikini going for the dad bods now? And while thinking of dad bods, do the names Chris Kovatch and Orange Mayor Larry 'Dubby' Spears come to mind? They love our community and are always thinking of ways to promote the OC. How about those two designing an Orange-themed Hawaiian shirt? Why Lady Whistlebreux her ownself would consider wearing one.****Mayor Spears presided over another family community event with the traditional fireworks show over the Sabine River. The city picked up the sponsorship of the event after local businesses stopped. Family barbecues and then fireworks at the river are the best way to celebrate love of a united country and community. The mayor had daughter Lara helping him with the festivities and momma Trisha and the baby relaxed a bit.****Brandi Griggs and daughter Kiley were there with friends. Lauren Leigh Stanley brought her son and daughter. Kelly and Monte Morpew were back at their house here to take in the Fourth festivities. Then they were back to their house in Galveston to ride out Beryl there. Others watching fireworks out along the river included Edie Burch and Richard Teague, Jamie and Tay Alexander with their two boys. Next year, baby sister Ke'ari Lynn should be joining them. Also seen were Kamryn Aucoin and Brittini Briggs.****Kerri Drodwy decorated her yard by spray-painting stars of red, white, and blue, on her grass.****First Baptist Church in Mauriceville also hosted Independence Day Fireworks. Nancy Peveto made it out there, as did Amy McIlwain and Amberly Craft.****Amie Smith spent her holiday week following her son's baseball team into Georgia. They also took in an Atlanta Braves game.****Orange City Councilor Terrie Salter helped Grover Lee Roberts III celebrate his Fourth of July birthday with a trip to San Antonio.****Carly Thibodeaux went kayaking on the Guadalupe River.****Marty Monogue went across the river to the Golden Nugget on Saturday to see the group Air Supply.****Leigh Anne and Brodrick Harrell are vayingcay in the U.S. Virgin Islands.****Angelique

and Michael Catt headed to Hawaii and missed out on Beryl. Michael pointed out that it did sprinkle on him Monday morning when he went out to get coffee.****And speaking of Beryl, no one holds a storm watch party like the Orange Boating Club along Adams Bayou. They fixed shrimp and fish tacos. Perhaps their watch was on their own parking lot. When the Boating Club parking lot is flooded, the water is up.****Delta Downs announced a visitor from Texas hit a jackpot of more than \$129,000 June 29 on a \$7.50 bet. The winner wishes to remain anonymous. There are a lot of Orange County residents that visit the casino regularly. Was it one of them? Watch your neighbors for signs of new found wealth.****We are happy to report that our friend Danny Brack, who is in rehab, is much improved, but still has a long way to go. Danny was knocking on "Heaven's door," really that low. He can at least sit up with some help now. Wife Sherry says someone is with him 24-7.****Dr. Tom Johnson, who has been burning the candle at both ends promoting Lamar Orange, got a chance to take a break over July 4th. He enjoyed the million dollar view from his porch at Lake Livingston with no TV, no social media, no nothing, just peace and quiet.****J. W. Dalton also took advantage of some time off to enjoy his beautiful lake house.****Janelle and George Sehon sold their Bridge City home and moved to the lake last week. They are now official "Lake" residents.****David Garcia of Strategists for Social Change stated Monday, "Hurricane Beryl's unseasonable earliness and intensity are unnatural, and climate change is squarely to blame. Experts predict this year's hurricane season will be one of the most aggressive on record, so Hurricane Beryl is a sign of what we can expect this summer." He's probably right, but let's hope they stay away from Southeast Texas this year. We got lucky just catching the outer bands of this one.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Birthdays being celebrated in the next few days. July 10: Donna Riley, Theresa Fukuda, Edye Patterson, Paula Auffurth, Kathy Fraccastoro, Bertie Seitz, Corrine Welker, Dawnie Wilkinson.****July 11: Dayle Gunn Weatherford, Peggy Hebert, Michael Brinson, Charlotte Stout.****July 12: Christy Khoury Roccaforte, Sue Bearden, Lana Griffith, Dera Breaux, Craig Simmons, Terry Meyer.****July 13: Coach Billy Bryant, Donna Peterson, Julie Kahia, Steve Sarver, Susan Everett, Mary Morton.****July 14: Calvin Rutledge, Brenda Ellender, Ella Stuebing, Jared Ganze, Joe Rion, Melani Woodruff, Lance George.****July 15: Mayor Larry Spears, Jr., Peggy Claybar, Melissa Eshbach, Cassey Polk, Martin McKinney, Mark Grizzaffi.****July 16: Preston Fuller, Carlis Roy, Phil Dickman, Lori Dubose, Mary Dorsey. Coach Jimmy Johnson turns 81 today.**** Birthday greetings for this past week go out to West Orange Mayor Randy Branch, Sue Craft, Wendy Young, Gay Richardson, DeLisa Bates, Staci Eatman, Carrie Bryant, Carolyn Curran, Jon T. Harman, Jean Whitaker, Kent Miller, Deana Laughlin, and Abbie Goss.****Celebrating anniversaries are Bohn and Tabitha Dorman, and Jerry and Holly Cope Lynn. Congratulations.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

"Tee-Not" Arceneaux, wat works for Joe Primeaux at da lumber yard in Erath, was pushing a board through da buzz saw wen he accidentally shears off all ten of his fingers.

No one else was around. "Tee-Not" he jump in his car and drive to da hospital in Abbeville and goes to da emergency room. Da young doctor say, "My god, dis is bad yea. Well, give me da fingers and I'll see wat I can do me."

"Tee-Not" answer, "But Doc, I don't got dem fingers me."

Da young doctor says, "Wat you mean, you don't got da fingers? Man, it's da year 2004, we got microsurgery and all kinds of incredible techniques. I could have put dem fingers back on you like new. Why in da hell didn't you bring da cut off fingers, hanh.?"

"Tee-Not" was furious him. He axe, "Now tell me how in da hell Doc, was I suppose to pick up dem damn fingers, hanh.?"

C'EST TOUT WILL PHELAN HANG ON TO SPEAKERSHIP

Things have been awfully quite about the house speakership. After a knock-down, drag-out race and millions being spent to beat speaker Dade Phelan in his district. Phelan was able to narrowly win re-election thanks to the help of friends like former governor Rick Perry, former U.S. senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, political strategists Karl Rove and wealthy business executives. Attorney General Ken Paxton, an early endorser of David Covey, had vowed revenge against Phelan for supporting his impeachment. Phelan's win was a major blow to the party's ultraconservative faction led by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Paxton and financed by mega donors like West Texas oil magnate Tim Dunn. Can Dade Phelan hold on to the speakership in 2025? If not it would be a big loss for southeast Texas. Paxton has warned state representatives who are considering supporting Phelan as speaker, "You will not return if you vote for Dade again. Ask your colleagues who lost re-elections how they feel about their decision?" Whether Phelan can hold on to the speakers gavel is unclear. So far it seems Phelan has kept his caucus together despite one of his own committee chairmen, Rep. Tom Oliverson, of Cypress, declaring his candidacy for speaker back in March. Area public officials who supported Phelan know how important his help is to our little part of Texas and are pulling for him to hold on to the speakership. One county official said, "He is such an asset to all of us who serve in public office throughout our counties and city governments."****It's time for me to fold this tent. I've probably stirred up enough for one week. Thanks for your time. Please read us cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers when you can. Have a nice week. Take care and God bless.

County business From Page 1



Magen Lee with the local Texas AgriLife program gave Orange County Commissioners Court an update on the group's many activities, including adult sewing classes, youth cooking classes, 4-H, and the annual Senior Citizens Day Rally.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

they need to make some new considerations for mosquito control when preparing for the 2024-25 budget year.

Magen Lee with Texas AgriLife program presented a quarterly report to commissioners. Some of their activities from April, May, and June included holding 12 adult sewing classes, eight diabetes education courses, 11 jam and jelly canning classes, and hosting 109 kids at youth cooking camps.

Also, they had 358 senior citizens at the annual May Senior Citizen Rally Day. Lee said Justice of the Peace Chad Jenkins fixed a meal for 500 people, including the volunteers at the event.

She told commissioners the spots for the youth cooking classes fill up usually within 10 minutes of registration being announced. More volunteers are needed for the cooking classes if they enrollment is to be expanded.

The AgriLife Depart-

ment includes 4-H and Clover Leaf activities.

County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher reported her office collected \$2.3 million in property taxes for the month of June. Her office also collects property taxes for the cities, school districts, and special districts. The county's share of the June collections was \$333,195.

Bills approved included \$106,330 from the county's general fund to the Texas Association of Counties for group medical, dental and life policies for employees younger than 65. Also, \$83,012 from the general fund to Amwins Group Benefits for June insurance for county retirees aged 65 and older.

A payment of \$47,050 was approved to Silsbee Ford for a 2023 Ford F150 4x4 pickup for the Maintenance Department. Another bill was for a monthly payment of \$21,653 to the University of Texas Medical Branch for contract medi-

cal services at the county clinic on Tenth Street.

Flood buyout contracts for \$322,450 for 140 Nagel Street, and \$81,450 for 195 Loving Drive were also approved to be paid. Those monies come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will buy houses and properties that have repeatedly flooded. The county will have the houses demolished and then the county will own the land.

The buyout process takes several years and County Judge John Gothia said the vacant properties are considered to be in flood zones and no future construction can be built on the lots.

The court renewed a contract with KMY Consultants to monitor the Local First Program for another three months. Commissioners Court worked with the new Chevron Phillips officials to set up the Local First program as part of its tax abatement contract for the new \$8.5 billion petrochemical plant under construction.

The Local First Program has included the company setting up a special hiring office, plus having job fairs and contractor fairs for local residents to get jobs and local businesses to get contracts with the corporation.

County Engineer Corey Oldbury asked to get permission to spend \$2,000 each for another four new employees to get commercial drivers licenses (CDL) through the LSCO training program. He said it has been hard to hire qualified employees who already have a CDL, which is needed to operate some of the equipment in the county's Road and Bridge Department. Commissioners said they want to add the CDL training program to Oldbury's budget for the upcoming fiscal year.



The Peterson family of Orange spent Independence Day last week on a Caribbean Cruise. The occasion also set the stage for a birthday celebration for Donna Peterson. In the photo above little Donna and Maria pose with Lady Liberty during the holiday trip. The cruise ship, however, could not meet it's Port of Call dodging Hurricane Beryl. The family group safely returned with happy memories and stories to tell.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

BETTY RYAN LINCOLN, Deceased
Cause No. P20054
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 2nd day of July, 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of BETTY RYAN LINCOLN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on the 2nd day of July, 2024.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy
Danielle Kendrick

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **NANCY LOUISE STEVENS**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 9, 2024, in Cause No. P19886**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JOSEPH BISHOP STEVENS, III**.

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

c/o: **Joseph Bishop Stevens, III**
301 Elizabeth St.
Bridge City, TX 77611

Dated the **9th** day of **July**, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Joseph Bishop Stevens, III
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
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- Paid player
- Not Miss or Ms.
- First-rate
- Mattress with memory?
- Be of use
- "It's time!" signal
- ____-de-camp
- Like an unhealthy dog
- *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
- March Madness org.
- Bring upon

- Orange Lava-burst drink
- *Rita _____, first Latina to win Academy Award
- Winter rides, in Russia
- Brewery order
- Unties or unbuttons
- Nearly Japanese immigrants
- Good times
- Rheumy
- Tel _____, Israel
- Bequeath
- Once known as
- West African country
- *Chuck _____, first to break speed of sound

- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- City near D,sseldorf
- Short for Dorothea
- *First artificial satellite (2 words)
- Clay and silt deposit
- Marine eagle
- Mercantile establishment
- Singer Piaf
- Concert series
- Indian nursemaid
- Craggy peak
- Little troublemaker
- Solitary

- DOWN
- Give in to gravity
 - Weaver's apparatus
 - The "I" in "The King and I"
 - Carrots or peas, slangily
 - French soldier in WWI
 - Speed gun
 - *First horror film about Damien Thorn, with The
 - Supernatural life force
 - Capital of Latvia
 - Canny
 - Han Solo's "Millennium _____"
 - Prenatal test,

- *The first one helped combat smallpox
- Tedium
- 120 mins.
- #8 Down, pl.
- Martini garnish
- Pine product
- Midterm, e.g.
- a.k.a. Tibetan wild ass
- Feel the same
- Timider
- Deadly challenge
- Military moves
- *Mount first conquered by Hillary and Norway
- 10 to 12-year-old
- Ewe's cry

- Half-shell delicacy
- Grind with teeth
- Fauna member
- Erasable programmable read only memory
- Break of day
- List of chores
- Prince of Wales to King
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Dallas Cowboys, Dak Prescott at crossroad

10 QB prospects the Cowboys could draft to replace Dak Prescott

Reid Hanson
The Landry Hat News

The Dallas Cowboys and Dak Prescott appear to be at a crossroads. Set to hit free agency in 2025, Prescott could be playing his last season in Dallas. The eight-year veteran is coming of his best season as a pro. He finished second in MVP voting and posted the second-best EPA/play + CPOE composite score (measures effectiveness and accuracy) in the NFL.

Last heard, the Cowboys and Prescott have made little progress in negotia-

tions. Stephen Jones, Dallas's chief negotiator, and Todd France, Prescott's hard-nosed agent, have never been on the best of terms. In Prescott's last deal, signed in 2021, France included a no-trade and no-franchise tag stipulation that removes most of the Cowboys' leverage.

With virtually all leverage on Prescott's side the Cowboys are unlikely to escape anything short of market-setting money on his next deal. Dallas may not be in a great salary cap situation but it's more than manageable. Even

with CeeDee Lamb and Micah Parsons also seeking market-setting money, Dallas can responsibly afford to keep all three without major repercussions. The question at hand is, do they want to?

It's possible a deal will be struck just before the season kicks off this September. But if the Cowboys decide to ride out the year with Prescott unsigned, he'll be all-but-certain to leave next March.

If the Cowboys re-sign Prescott, they'd be unlikely to target a top QB prospect in the upcoming draft. But if no deal is struck, the Cowboys will most assuredly be looking at all the top QB prospects in the 2025 NFL Draft to fill the massive vacancy at the QB position.

Much can change between now and next April



With virtually all leverage on Prescott's side the Cowboys are unlikely to escape anything short of market-setting money on his next deal.

but here are some of the top draft prospects the Cowboys will be looking at if they're unable to re-sign Dak Prescott to an extension.

No. 1: Carson Beck, Georgia

The top name on most draft boards is Georgia's Carson Beck. Playing on one of the most talented rosters in college has advantages and Beck certainly profits from those advantages. Beck boasts a 1.19 wins above average park per PFF. The metric tracks how well he plays in different facets of the game and their direct impact on wins.

The Georgia offensive line rarely yields pressure, giving Beck a clean pocket and distraction-free experience as he scans the

COWBOYS QB Page 3B

Can Coffee Grounds Really Repel Ants?

Here's what the pest pros say about battling this common pest.

Kristine Gill
Better Homes & Gardens

The summer months are full of sunshine, heat, and, unfortunately, pests. Ants in particular are marching across our picnic tables and into our homes more frequently during the warmer season.

Many gardeners and homeowners prefer not to use poisons to get rid of ants, which has people considering more natural remedies. One frequently suggested ant repellent is coffee grounds. But does it actually work? We turned to the pros to find out.

"Most people search for a 'silver bullet' or simple step they can take to solve an ant problem," says Ian Williams, a board-certified entomologist and Technical Services Manager at Orkin. "Ants are complex social insects that arrive in massive numbers and without a comprehensive plan are very difficult to control."

Do Coffee Grounds Repel Ants?

The short answer to this question might be "not really." Some gardeners and pest control experts note that ants don't seem to like coffee grounds, but whether or not the grounds effectively repel the insects is up for debate—though Williams has noted some short lived success with the method.

"There have been studies in labs that indicate coffee grounds can have some repellent effect on household ants, at least in the short term," he says. "Coffee grounds, and other spices with strong odors, like cinnamon, can have some repellent effect."

Longterm, however, he says they can't likely solve an infestation, and others agree with that assessment. "A lot of home remedies are merely repeated on the Internet with weak anecdotal success," says Linda Ly, a gardener and blogger at Garden Betty. "Coffee grounds seem to get caught up in a lot of

them, for some reason—they're also claimed to be effective for slugs, which they're not."

When Ly used coffee grounds in her own garden, she found that the ants simply went around them or moved the grounds out of the way. The smell didn't seem to deter them at all, and Ly said the ants go right up to them. The slugs even seemed to like them. "In fact, when I tested this in my own garden with trails of coffee grounds around my plants, I found slugs practically bathing in them like they were getting a spa scrub," she says.

Wizzie Brown, a board-certified entomologist and program specialist in entomology at Texas



Some gardeners and pest control experts note that ants don't seem to like coffee grounds, but whether or not the grounds effectively repel the insects is up for debate.

A&M studied coffee grounds and red ants after hearing anecdotes about

DIY methods of pest control. She said she wanted "actual data instead of tes-

timonials on the various methods," so she decided to put coffee grounds to

the test in a report published in the 2010 Urban IPM Handbook.

"I have done field trials testing if coffee grounds kill red imported fire ants and found that they did not," she said. "The ant mound would move to a new location about 1-2 feet away from the original mound location." Brown said the study did not look at whether the coffee grounds effectively repelled the ants, and that the study only looked at the red imported fire ants species.

So, where did the idea for using coffee grounds come from? "Other foods are known to help mask scent trails, so that's likely

COFFEE Page 5B

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OUTDOORS

“No, your other left”

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

For the majority of upper coast anglers the thought of actually seeing a fish before you cast to it is more of a foreign concept than going to a restaurant that doesn't serve sweet tea, it's just not natural. In the minds of most anglers who fish with me the thought of water with clarity good enough to see fish in is usually reserved for venues farther south or some Caribbean island where the white sand is nearly blinding, not the upper coast of Texas or Louisiana.

Now don't get me wrong, the water I frequent will never be mistaken for Belize, the Florida Keys, or even South Padre but it certainly will surprise you. The water itself is just as clear but the lack of contrast from the darker muddy bottoms makes it appear to be not clear. Once you actually see some shell or drop a bait to the bottom and realize just exactly how clear the water is all most folks can do is shake their head. It's places like this where I choose to spend the majority of my time guiding and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Fishing in areas where you are able sight cast to individual fish is both an acquired taste and skill that once you are properly introduced to it you often times can't get enough of it. Over the past decade or so I have basically gone to sight fishing exclusively for myself and for the clients I guide. I still enjoy getting out in the open bay and chasing fish out there but the thrill I get from actually seeing fish and coaching clients to catch fish is about as good as it gets for me. To stand on a poling platform and tell a fisherman on the front deck exactly where to throw and watch it all unfold before your eyes as a fish comes crashing down on the lure or fly is what gets me out of bed each morning, I can't get enough and it never gets old.

I can remember years ago when Mark Castlow would bring his famous Shallow Water Fishing Expo to Houston and some of the best guides in the world of light tackle fishing would be in attendance. It was a "free for all" of knowledge as they freely shared techniques and stories of success and hard knocks. I was relatively new to the sight fishing game at the time so anything I could pick up to help make me better and make my trips better for clients was like finding gold. I couldn't wait to take my new found knowledge home and apply it to my own water.

Easily the most important piece of information that all those great guides stressed was to have the ability to coach your clients and communicate to them in a way that was easy to understand. In order to practice that I enlisted the help of my son Hunter who was 7 years old at the time.

I figured if I could teach him how to chase these fish then it would be a snap to do it with adults. It would also make our days on the water even more enjoyable as we spent more time in the boat to-

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Texas City**

GOOD. 88 degrees. All eyes on the gulf this week with Hurricane Beryl entering southern waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Good catches of big red snapper 60 miles out of Galveston. Speckled trout action remains good along the jetties and lower Galveston bay on live shrimp. Black drum, sheepshead, and a few slot redfish being caught too. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Fishing has been good to excellent! Anglers are still catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder everyday with some occasional black drum, sheepshead, sand trout, and gafftop. Successful wade fishing around Mosquito Island and the Moses Lake Tidal Gate in the mornings and late afternoons. Along the dike has been productive by the shrimp boat docks and piers. Live shrimp and finger mullet have been the best baits. Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **East and West Matagorda Bay**

SLOW. 84 degrees. Trout are good drifting with live shrimp. Waders are having success for trout with croaker or artificials. Expect the fish to feed in anticipation of the forecasted inclement weather.

Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide.

• **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 86 degrees. Limits of trout at the jetties and channel using glo or glitter imitation glass minnows and live shrimp under a popping cork. The bite is best during incoming tides. Limits of drum with a Carolina rig. Jetty rock piles, underwater points for a mixed bag of speckled trout, drum, redfish and sheepshead. Very nice catches of trout on the south end of the lake reefs in 8-12 feet of water. Fish are staging up in flats or tight to the bank in 2-3 feet of water with live shrimp under a popping cork. North Levee is good when the winds out of the north for speckled trout and flounder. Limits of redfish in channel rocks. ICW redfish and trout up against bulkheads, rocks, and shell banks. This is a good indication that the salinity levels are good in the waterways.

Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 82 degrees. Water levels are normalizing with tides and low wind this week plus 4 tide days. The salinity has normalized as well. People are catching plenty of redfish everywhere! There are plenty of croakers along with sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with stingrays and sharks.

Pompano and the occasional jack crevalle are still running. The surf is producing redfish and black drum, gafftop, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula with high activity towards Gilchrist and High Island mainly. The sargassum, seaweed, remains sporadic in spots per normal. People are using all kinds of different things for bait this past week with awesome results.

Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 88 degrees. Tabbs Bay is producing decent numbers of trout and black drum on live shrimp. Spoil Islands further up the channel holding redfish, sheepshead, and black drum on live shrimp under popping corks. East shoreline is still slow to clear. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Redfish and trout are starting to show back up more and more on the north end daily. Blue Water Atoll is holding good trout and redfish being caught on WACKy Shad XL in the chartreuse color. Limits of redfish are being caught at HL&P Spillway on fresh caught shad and trout are being caught by Fred Hartman on live shrimp under a popping cork.

The recent tidal surge really pushed the Trinity River outflow to Baytown but with that receding, fishing is starting to heat up. No founder to talk about yet but drum and sheepshead are in abundance being caught in live shrimp free-lining on the bottom. Pay attention to the weather and always wear your kill switch. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.



Dow Gene Anderson of Bridge City figured out the pattern for the redfish and it turned into a great day on the water.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 90 degrees. Been awhile to say this, but the middle of Galveston Bay has finally cleared up enough to produce catches of speckled trout in the gas wells and along the channel. Black drum, sheepshead, and trout, along with the occasional redfish coming off Spoil Islands near the channel. Shoreline action for trout good early on live bait and soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 89 degrees. Plenty of various sized speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, and reds caught on live shrimp, croakers, and topwater lures. Alligator gar has been abundant. Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp. Surface water temperature 85.9 degrees in East Galveston Bay. The Bay is still very off-colored, with better looking water over by the Ferry Landing, but fishing is continuing to improve for us in the Bay over the last week or so. You will need to weed through a number of undersized trout to find the better fish. We are still catching them around protected shorelines over shell pockets, as well as redfish along the grass lines and over shell, and a few nice flounder busting bait up around grass lines and over shallow shell beds, with good current flow. The lighter the jig head the better, 1/16- 1/8 ounce, determined by the wind and current, and tails with paddles, performed the best for us

Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 89 degrees. Good number of speckled trout drifting and wading with live croakers, when you can find them. Live shrimp producing scattered speckled trout, black drum, and sheepshead, along structure such as hard shell, rocks, and bridge pilings. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **Freeport**

GOOD. 88 degrees. Fishing been steady for trout, redfish and flounder around the San Luis Pass, Bastrop Bay, Christmas

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'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 92 degrees; 0.27 feet below pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Fishing patterns are holding steady with a tougher bite this week. Bass are good shallow to deep all over the lake however you like to fish. The best baits for shallow water are frogs, pop r's, buzz baits and senko. The mid range fish are good on Texas rig and mid running crankbait in 8-12 feet range. The deep fish are coming on big crankbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. With the full moon coming, the night fishing will be back on fire with buzz baits and spinnerbaits around the shallow water. Watch for snakes in the flooded bushes at night. Crappie are fair while there continues to be a current from the influx of freshwater coming down the lake. Fish deep docks and lighted docks at night and shallow brush piles with jigs and live bait. Thanks Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 90 degrees; 6.56 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Water level is slowly dropping, but fishing conditions and patterns are holding steady. Summer bite is just around the corner when we will see the bass draw to deeper water points and white bass schooling. Bass are good on topwaters, or flipping soft plastics into submerged brush and points, or deeper humps and points with Carolina rigs. Crappie are in 12-16 feet of water, 20-30 feet on timber and brush. Catfish are in 22 feet of water in the creek channels. White bass are in 26 feet of water off of points on jiggging spoons. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Water temperatures are rapidly rising to the mid 90s. Thermocline is 15-25 feet of water depending on where you are in the lake. Morning until 10 a.m or after 3 p.m. Largemouth bass are good on submerged main lake points and ledges in 16-24 feet of water with crankbaits, jig head minnow or Carolina rig. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

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Be aware of heartworm risk as temps rise

Mallory Pfeifer
Texas A&M AgriLife

Rising mosquito activity in the summer months poses an increased risk of transmitting heartworm disease to dogs, which can lead to damage of the heart, lungs and arteries if left untreated.

Cathy Campbell, DVM, veterinary diagnostician at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, in Bryan-College Station, explains the heartworm life cycle, the best time for testing, and tips for prevention.

What are heartworms and how are they transmitted to dogs?

Heartworm disease is caused by the parasitic worm *Dirofilaria immitis* and is transmitted to animals through mosquitoes, according to the American Heartworm Society. Mature heartworms can live within dogs for up to seven years.

"When a mosquito happens to bite an animal infected with heartworms, it ingests microfilariae, or baby heartworms, through a blood meal," Campbell said.

Those microfilariae morph into larvae inside the mosquito in 10-14

days. That infected mosquito tends to fly around and bite a dog, transmitting the larvae to a new host. Once transmitted, the larvae enter the dog's bloodstream and migrate to the heart.

"Larvae set up housekeeping in the heart and grow into sexual maturity in six to seven months," Campbell said. "Mature worms produce microfilariae, which are released into the bloodstream where they await another mosquito to come and bite the dog, take up a blood sample and continue the cycle."

It takes six to seven months in the heartworm's life cycle before they can be detected on a test. Therefore, most veterinarians recommend testing dogs for heartworms around 6 to 7 months of age.

Testing to detect heartworms in dogs

TVMDL offers two different approaches to testing.

The first approach is to detect the baby heartworms produced by adult heartworms in the heart. TVMDL's clinical pathology section can detect microfilariae using either a filter method or through a modified Knott's test.

However, not all heartworm infections produce



Heartworm disease is caused by the parasitic worm *Dirofilaria immitis* and is transmitted to animals through mosquitoes, according to the American Heartworm Society.

baby heartworms, so it is best to include an "occult" heartworm test using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA — the second testing approach.

Technicians at TVMDL use the ELISA test to detect antigens associated with pregnant female heartworms. A positive result indicates adult female heartworms are present. This is the primary testing method to detect heartworms.

TVMDL's role in testing for heartworm disease

Most private veterinary clinics can perform heartworm antigen/ELISA testing in-house, Campbell said. TVMDL primarily conducts confirmatory heartworm testing with a different antigen test after these clinics have gotten an initial positive result.

Confirmatory testing is performed for several reasons. The first is to confirm a dog truly is positive for heartworms prior to undergoing treatment, because the treatment drug used for heartworms can have significant side effects and should not be used unless adult heart-

worms are present.

The second reason is to document heartworm prevention drug failure. Several manufacturers guarantee coverage of treatment for a dog that has been on their product but developed heartworms despite well-documented testing and dispensing of medication by a licensed veterinarian. There is evidence of a preventative-resistant heartworm variant, primarily in the Mississippi delta region of the U.S.

Lastly, sometimes test results can be unclear. TVMDL can offer a differ-

ing testing option to help support or confirm findings.

Although TVMDL serves a confirmatory role for most antigen heartworm tests, the agency typically conducts initial testing for the heartworm antibody test in felines. Due to the infrequency with which this test is needed in private practice on cats, many veterinary clinics do not perform this test in-house and defer testing to TVMDL.

Prevention recommendations

TVMDL encourages veterinarians to educate their clients on the benefits of giving year-round heartworm preventatives to both their canine and feline patients and supports annual testing of canines.

"Texas' mild climate lends toward year-round mosquito activity," Campbell said. "Missing a dose of heartworm preventative, or even administering a dose late, may allow a window of opportunity for mosquitoes to infect pets."

For additional information on heartworm disease, visit the American Heartworm Society.

For more information on testing, visit TVMDL's testing services or call the TVMDL laboratory nearest to you.

Cowboys QB prospects From Page 1B

field. Beck's numbers on early downs are particularly impressive.

At 6-foot-4, 220-pounds, Beck looks the part of an NFL QB. He has good arm talent and excellent anticipatory skills delivering the ball. He can throw on the run when he has to and rarely makes mistakes.

No. 2: Conner Weigman, Texas A&M

Conner Weigman is a high variance player who could go at the top of the first round or the end of Day 2 depending how the 2024 season unfolds. The former five-star recruit is making his way up draft boards and has a legitimate claim to be at the top of the class.

Weigman is one of the more exciting prospects in the class. On one hand you have a QB who was dazzling in his 2023 season. On the other hand, you just have only a few games of data which is an irresponsibly low sample size for a prospect.

Playing just 3.5 games in 2023, Weigman posted a 4.5% big-time throw rate compared to a 2.1% interception worthy rate (per PFF). His competition was suspect but he was the rare combination of safe and aggressive as a passer.

No. 3: Shedeur Sanders, Colorado

Shedeur Sanders, son of Deion Sanders, is a polarizing figure in the draft. Benefiting from his father's name and reputation, Sanders is likely to go extremely early in the 2025 draft even if there are some significant concerns in his ability to play QB in the NFL.

At 6-foot-1, 215-pounds, Sanders is small for a QB prospect. His 4.65 speed is better looking on paper than it is on the field. He's a pass-first QB who even when given green space in front of him is looking down field for the bigger

play.

No. 4: Quinn Ewers, Texas

Quinn Ewers is a tough read as a prospect and his 2024 season will likely be vital to his ranking in the 2025 NFL draft. Ewers has developed consistently throughout his time at Texas. At 6-foot-2, 200-pounds, he's not the ideal size for an NFL passer.

Ewers knows how to put the ball in the hands of his playmakers. He delivers on-target passes that allow his receivers to catch the ball in stride and with good YAC potential. He's an excellent play-action passer which isn't a bad thing by any means but could serve as a red flag to teams that don't typically use run fakes in the attacks (like Mike McCarthy's Cowboys).

No. 5: Graham Mertz, Florida

Graham Mertz might not be a popular name on many top-5 lists, but he's moving up boards and has the potential to make up ground in 2024. The Wisconsin transfer did well in his transition to Florida and looks like one of the more poised passers in his class.

Mertz, 6-foot-3, 215-pounds isn't spectacular in any one area of the game but he's efficient across the board. Sort of a dink-and-dunk passer, he's accurate and safe with his passes and focuses on ball placement and timing to provide YAC.

Also like Prescott, Mertz makes excellent pre-snap reads at the line and thrives under pass rushing pressure. His arm is average so he struggles a bit delivering to the wide side of the field but it's not a major hinderance. He has a quick release, doesn't take sacks but leans on a lot of play-action and RPOs, which, as mentioned earlier, can be a red flag.

No. 6: Jalen Milroe, Alabama

Jalen Milroe, 6-foot-2, 220-pounds, is a name at the top of many lists even if it's largely based on potential. The Alabama QB has the intangibles of an NFL star. He has dual threat speed and a rocket arm that can make all the throws. An elite passer on 3rd-and-long, Milroe can step up in big moments and doesn't shrink from the limelight even if he throws a high volume of dangerous passes.

No. 7: Cam Ward, Miami

At 6-foot-2, 223-pounds, Ward brings decent size and good athleticism to the NFL. He has the potential to go early on Day 1 or late on Day 2 depending how his 2024 season unfolds. He threw a staggering 21 turnover worthy passes last season, highlighting his recklessness as a passer.

No. 8: Drew Allar, Penn State

At 6-foot-5, 243-pounds, Allar is a physical specimen at the QB position. His strong arm and sturdy build will keep him in many conversations regardless of how the 2024 campaign unfolds.

He has a funny sidearm release that will lead to batted passes but he has a playmaking intangible that sets him apart from others.

No. 9: Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss

Jaxson Dart, 6-foot-2, 220-pounds is another Day 2 prospect who should fall into the Cowboys range. A true dual threat QB, Dart doesn't have elite speed but he has a knack for the run. He scrambles well but takes too many sacks.

10. Jalon Daniels, Kansas

Jalon Daniels, 6-foot, 215-pounds, was a breakout player in 2022, passing for over 2,000 yards

and rushing for over 400 more. He threw for 18 touchdowns and rushed for another seven enroute to a surprise bowl game for the Jayhawks.

CONCLUSION

Given the talent on the Cowboys roster in 2024,

they will likely be picking at the end of the draft. As such, the top prospects will be out of reach. In a relatively poor looking QB class, no one is truly worthy of the top-15 selection but at least a couple will go there given the value of the position.

Presumably picking in

the 20s, the Cowboys could be looking at the QB3 of the class when they go on the clock in the first round. Since many of these prospects are scheme specific and/or limited in their abilities, some may not be options depending on who's coaching in Dallas.

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Corey Kent will be performing at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles on July 20.



Stoney LaRue will perform July 26 at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles.

- **July 11**
Lacey Sturm, Islander, Amethyst Michelle, Scout Bar, Houston
- **July 12**
Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Cage the Elephant, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 13**
New Kids on the Block, Paula Abdul, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 16**
Chris Brown, Muni Long, Toyota Center, Houston
- **July 18**
Aaron Lewis, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **July 19**
Isley Brothers, Anthony Hamilton, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **July 20**
Missy Elliott, Ciara, Busta Rhymes, Timberland, Toyota Center, Houston; Corey Kent, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Chris Janson, LAuberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **July 2**
Lamb of God, Mastodon, Malevolence, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **July 22**
The Kid Laroi, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **July 24**

- Exciter, Midnight, Wraith, Hellwitch, White Oak Music Hall, Houston; The Marias, Automatic, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **July 26**
Peso Pluma, Toyota Center, Houston; Lindsey Stirling, Walk Off The Earth, Saint Motel, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land; Stoney LaRue, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **July 27**
Zach Bryan, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Levi Turner, NRG Stadium, Houston; Everclear, Camp Margaritaville, Crystal Beach; The Hunger, The Roxy Event Center, Beaumont
- **July 30**
Hot Freaks, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **July 31**
C-Kan, Neto Pena, Yoss Bones, Toser One, House of Blues, Houston
- **Aug. 1**
Blues Traveler, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, 713 Music Hall, Houston

- **Aug. 2**
As I Lay Dying, Chelsea Grin, Entheos, House of Blues, Houston
- **Aug. 3**
Third Eye Blind, Yellowcard, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Megadeth, Mudvayne, All That Remains, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Chris Lane, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Pallbearer, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 4**
YG, Doe Boy, DJ Vision, House of Blues, Houston
- **Aug. 9**
Luke Combs, NRG Stadium, Houston; Black Stone Cherry, Nonpoint, The Roxy Event Center, Beaumont; Three Dog Night, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 10**
Luke Combs, NRG Stadium, Houston; The Gaslight Anthem, White Oak Music Hall, Houston; SIR, House of Blues, Houston; Grupo Frontera, Toyota Center,

- Houston; I Prevail, Halestorm, Hollywood Undead, Fit for a King, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Ashley Cooke, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 11**
Limp Bizkit, Bones, N8NOFACE, Corey Feldman, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 14**
Def Leppard, Journey, Steve Miller Band, Minute Maid Park, Houston
- **Aug. 15**
Mountain Grass Unit, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 16**
Kings of Leon, Toyota Center, Houston; Homixide Gang, House of Blues, Houston; The Fray, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 17**
Santana, Counting Crows, Toyota Center, Houston; Deep Purple, Yes, Cynthia Woods Mitchell

- Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 20**
AWOLNATION, Neon Trees, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Young Miko, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Aug. 22**
Future, Metro Boomin, Toyota Center, Houston; Toni Romiti, Scout Bar, Houston; Stone Temple Pilots, Live, Soul Asylum, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 23**
Sammy Hagar, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 24**
Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, Grace Potter, Minute Maid Park, Houston; Asake, Toyota Center, Houston; Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; John Anderson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 25**
REO Speedwagon, Train, Cynthia Woods Mitchell

- Pavilion, The Woodlands; Black Flag, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston
- **Aug. 26**
Ice Spice, Cash Cobain, RiotUSA, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 28**
TEMS, Naomi Sharon, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 29**
30 Seconds to Mars, AFI, Poppy, KennyHoopla, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Squeeze, Boy George, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 30**
Falling in Reverse, Dance Gavin Dance, Black Veil Brides, Tech N9NE, Jeris Johnson, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Crown the Empire, Dark Divine, Capstan, Oni, House of Blues, Houston; Parmalee, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 31**
Jennifer Lopez, Toyota Center, Houston; Coal Chamber, Fear Factory, Twiztid, Wednesday 13, Black Satellite, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 1**
America, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Sept. 3**
Flor Bertotti, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Sept. 4**
Twenty One Pilots, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 5**
Bush, Jerry Cantrell, Candlebox, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 6**
Hoodoo Gurus, House of Blues, Houston; Nothing More, Set It Off, From Ashes to New, Bayou Music Center, Houston; Imagine Dragons, Cynthia Woods

Rainfall fueling pesty horsefly populations increase

Adam Russell Texas A&M AgriLife

Be on the lookout for an especially nasty and tenacious biting insect pest – the horsefly – as it hunts for its next blood meal. Sonja Swiger, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist in the Texas A&M Department of Entomology, Stephenville, said she expects reports of horsefly infestations to increase over the coming weeks.

Despite the name, horseflies are not host-specific to horses. They will feed opportunistically on available human and animal hosts. “Like mosquitoes, only female horse flies bite because they need the host’s blood for egg production,” Swiger said. “Horseflies only bite and feed once every few days, but their need for blood meals makes them relentless biters.”

What makes horsefly bites especially savage, Swiger said, is they cut their host’s skin with knife-like mouthparts and then consume the blood that pools around the wound.

Horsefly season is upon us

Swiger said consistent rainfall over recent months and the widespread deluge from Tropical Storm Beryl could mean higher-than-normal horsefly populations in Texas this summer. This could spell problems for Texas livestock owners because this persistent biting fly is difficult to control.

Horseflies are larger than common flies, such as stable or horn flies, growing

up to an inch long. Some are all black while many have colored patterns on their abdomen and wings. They also have very colorful eyes that vary with species.

“I would expect higher numbers than the past two years because of the rain,” Swiger said. “Their larvae need mud to develop, so I would expect an emergence. I also suspect some locations in East Texas are already getting eaten up by them.”

Where horseflies develop, hunt

Swiger said the relentless pests typically stay in shaded areas such as along tree lines. They consume carbohydrates in the form of nectars and honeydew, but females will range away from cover to hunt hosts for blood meals.

A horse with open wounds from horsefly bites. Livestock owners should monitor their animals for signs of horsefly infestations. Traps can help, but animals should be moved from areas with horseflies to protect them from these persistent blood feeders. (Katie Hancock/Texas A&M AgriLife)

Female horseflies typically lay eggs over winter and in early spring in shady, semi-aquatic to moist areas, including around the edges of ponds or water tanks, she said.

“They can be in any number of locations, and that makes them hard to treat effectively,” she said. “The larvae are maggots, but they look like maggots on steroids. Maggots are also very predatory and eat each other, so there will only be one larva in a 10–20-foot radi-



Female horseflies can be stubborn, aggressive blood feeders.

us.”

Horseflies have a maximum range similar to most flies – five to 10 miles – though most fly popula-

tions remain relatively close to the breeding ground where they emerged, she said.

How to reduce

horse fly impacts n animals

Controlling horseflies is difficult, Swiger said. There is no available data focused on the effectiveness of pour-ons designed to curtail the pest.

Pyrethroids, especially synthetic pyrethroid-based pour-ons, have been shown to provide temporary relief, but most synthetic pyrethroid products are not labeled for use on horses.

“There’s just not much labeled for horses, and even on cattle, those chemicals don’t do much to deter horseflies,” she said. “Permethrins may work, but again, it’s going to be limited relief.”

Swiger said the best defense for livestock is to move them from the infested area into a barn or to cover them with lightweight summer sheets designed to stop biting flies and mosquitoes, she said.

Traps specifically designed for horseflies can reduce numbers in infested areas, she said.

“They are visual hunters so many traps have a black ball, which mimics the belly of an animal,” she said. “We trapped 350 horseflies and 200 deerflies over 10 weeks in two counties for a study. So, they do work. We just don’t have enough data yet to say how effective they are.”

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Capt. Chuck Uzzle From Page 1B

gether. Some of our earliest lessons were comical, especially to the neighbors who happened to be watching. In order to teach Hunter how this style of fishing worked I took my skiff on the trailer and parked it in our vacant lot next to our house. Next I went out and placed 2 liter bottles at different spots on the lawn to simulate fish, the neck of the bottle was determined to be the face of the fish so Hunter knew which way the fish was facing.

Once our "target practice course" was set up I grabbed a piece of chalk and wrote the numbers from the clock on the floor of the skiff so Hunter would know which

way to line up when I gave him directions. This game was a hit, Hunter enjoyed the competition and I loved watching him. Once we got the hang of how to cast ahead of the fish and to bring the bait in the strike zone we upped the difficulty a little bit. Instead of throwing at bottle sitting still I now would walk around the yard as if I were a fish swimming and Hunter had to work with a moving target. Occasionally I'd stop, stand on one foot, and bend over only to tell Hunter I was "tailing" so he had to read the direction and make a proper cast.

If he threw too close I'd run off and tell him he had

blown the cast and spooked the fish, it was hilarious and I would not have traded it for the world. When we finally took our game to the real world on the water Hunter was a machine, he followed all the directions and became a really good fisherman. I'd say "redfish at 2 o'clock going right to left at 40 feet" and he'd look down at the numbers in the boat, align himself, make a long cast, and ask me when to start expecting the fish. It worked like a charm and enabled us to have some absolutely epic days on the water. I now had my game plan and was ready to implement it on all my new clients.

As the list of fishermen who fished with me began to grow in length I continued to learn and evolve a few of the techniques. For instance now I always ask my clients how they would like me to measure distance for them, in feet or yards. Most fly fishermen like their distance in feet while conventional anglers seem to prefer yards. I also like to get a feel for how good most of the fishermen are at judging distances so while we work to get in position I often ask them how far they think a particular target is.

It's really easy to spot the ones who bow hunt or play golf as they tend to be surprisingly accurate while some other folks need a little more practice. Being able to follow a guides directions is crucial to success when chasing fish in skinny water. Nobody is perfect and bad casts or problems will always be a part of the equation but for the most part when a client is willing to follow your di-

rections it makes for a much better day. On occasion I can heckle some fishermen every now and again when they get a little "big for their britches". I had one guy who continually kept missing the target and I finally told him to get off of Pacific time and get on Central as soon as he could because when I said 1 o'clock he kept casting to 10. Or when a client casts to the tail of the fish instead of the head I may give them the old "your other left" to get my point across. Most of these comments are met with a laugh and usually get the point across without any hard feelings.

I really enjoy watching folks after they begin to get a feel for this style of fishing, they begin to really pay attention to any type of movement in the water and get genuinely excited each time a redfish presents itself. Some get a little over zealous and swear every mullet swirl or mud boil made by a sheephead is a

redfish as they cast towards the disturbance with high hopes. That's where the next lesson comes in about reading the fish and what the signs are that point to success.

When anglers begin to get the hang of that I feel like I have done my job. These days I seldom bring a fishing rod on my trips as I spend all day on the platform scanning the water for the next fish and doing my best to give my clients an opportunity to catch that fish. It's exactly the type of fishing that I enjoy the most. I can with all honesty say that I'm truly happiest on the poling platform teaching or coaching other anglers to catch fish. To see the whole episode play out in front of me and to know I helped put that together is an amazing feeling of accomplishment.

This style of fishing is not for everyone but I don't know many who will turn it down.

Coffee ground repellent From Page 1B

where this myth came from," Williams says. "Similar myths include using human hair or ultrasonic sound machines to repel rodents, grits to prevent fire ants, and dryer sheets to repel various pests including mosquitoes and spiders. None of these items prevent or repel pests."

Coffee does have certain properties which make it an interesting candidate for possible pest control, though. "There are some studies that show coffee grounds contain a variety of compounds that have insecticidal properties, such as flavonoids, alkaloids, and tannins, however the exact mode of action is not understood," Williams says.

Natural Pest Control Options That Are More Effective

If you're trying to avoid using chemicals and poisons to repel ants, there are plenty of other methods of natural pest control that can be more effective than using coffee grounds. Ly suggests a mix of half borax and half plain white sugar.

"You can sprinkle this

mixture around the ant hill or wherever you see an ant colony forming," she says. "Borax is a household ingredient that's safe for humans, but very toxic to ants if they eat them. The ants will carry the sugar—and thus the borax—back to the colony, where it will then kill other ants."

Just be careful if you're looking into homemade remedies. "In my experience, people try to find household items to get rid of the pests that they have," Brown says. "This can be a dangerous thing to do depending upon what products they choose to utilize. It is also typically more expensive to concoct your own 'pesticide' than if you use [integrated pest management] strategies to keep pests outside where they belong."

Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is a method of pest control that looks at how to prevent pests and remove them in an environmentally friendly way. Keep in mind, there are some devices on the market that fall under the IPM category that don't work. "Sonic devices are used for a variety

of pests and none have been shown to repel them," Brown says.

Instead, the key to avoiding an ant problem is keeping ants out of your home in the first place.

"The best natural solution is prevention by sealing up a home, maintaining sanitation and proper landscaping to reduce access and the likelihood of ants thriving around the home," Williams says. "DIY options like baits and sprays can also help homeowners in the early stages of an ant problem, and there are commercial sprays available that utilize essential oils to repel and kill insects, however they typically do not last as long as the conventional pesticides available to homeowners."

Brown suggests checking the seals around your doors and windows and that your window screens are in good shape. She suggests repairing water leaks and rotten wood in the home and never leaving human or pet food out in the house. It's also a good idea to make sure trees and shrubs don't hang over the house, creating an ant highway.

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How to Love an Immortal

Marshall Segal
Staff Writer
desiringGod.org

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest, most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which — if you saw it now — you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. — C.S. Lewis



thy of your attention, concern, respect, love.

The quote took on even more meaning, though, when I realized that Lewis doesn't limit the point to strangers.

No Ordinary Spouses

Keep reading, and the spectacular reality comes uncomfortably close to home:

All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another — all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit — immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. (The Weight of Glory, 45–46)

When I've read or heard these words over the years, I've typically thought of strangers. "It's a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses" — standing at the bus stop, waiting in line at the grocery store, walking by on the street (all the people I'm tempted to see but never notice). We're surrounded by immortal souls, all the time — but we're often tempted to treat them like houseplants. Like nice houseplants, beautiful even, but not like humans — not like eternal souls who will stand before the living God and be ushered into a perpetual, unchangeable paradise or a terrifying home of never-ending torment.

Wake up! Lewis says. You've never met a mere mortal. Those strangers walking by are not houseplants; they're wonders wrapped in flesh and blood and need. That's a good application. Every "random" person you encounter is an eternal marvel — a miracle in the making, or a nightmare, an immortal life wor-

we may also be glorified with him.

If the Spirit dwells in you, by faith, then you are a child of God. And if you're a child of God, you will be glorified with God. Have you realized that? You will be like him. God will glorify "ordinary" people like you and me — to the glory of God.

We are miracles in the making. The oceans, mountains, and stars are lined up outside to get a glimpse of what we'll become. If you love and follow Jesus, that's true of you. And here's the critical turn that Lewis takes: if the dull, uninteresting, ordinary persons you live with (or work with, or coach soccer with, or go to church with) love and follow Jesus, it'll be true of them too. If you could see what they will be in 150 years, you would see them differently. You would treat them differently. Wouldn't you?

Nightmares in the Making

Lewis didn't only say everlasting splendors, though — everlasting splendors or immortal horrors, future miracles or nightmares. Have you reckoned recently with the never-ending destiny of those in your life who will not love Jesus?

For as little as we might think about the blinding glory coming to those who believe, we might think even less about the awful terror awaiting those who don't. "As for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars" — that is, those who won't bow and

Eternal miracles or nightmares. What dawned on me is that I'm not only tempted to overlook the spiritual potential and destiny of strangers; I'm tempted to do so even with my closest relationships — my friends, my family, my bride, my kids.

Sometimes it's the people we know the best that we most struggle to see in the light of spiritual reality. They're almost too familiar, too predictable — too, well, ordinary. But there are no ordinary friends. There are no ordinary classmates or roommates. There are no ordinary students or teachers. There are no ordinary boyfriends or girlfriends, husbands or wives. It is a serious thing to live beside immortals.

Miracles in the Making

Where would Lewis get an idea like everlasting splendors? From verses like Romans 8:16–17:

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that

follow Jesus — "their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). One purpose of the vivid imagination and visions of Revelation is to make the depths of hell feel more real. They force us to imagine real people in fire and sulfur and torture, because people we know will really suffer like that, and worse, forever.

Part of being awake to one another's immortality is to remember that any of us could be deceived and hardened and destroyed by sin. And if we let sin have its way in us, it will mutilate us. It will make us hideous — "a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare." If we could see what sin does to a person — for now, on the inside, but one day, for all to see — we would pursue and exhort one another more than we do. We'd exhort one another every day.

How to Love Immortals

The truth is that Lewis exposes us. We often live and work and study and play and date functionally oblivious to both heaven and hell — as if we didn't know that everyone we meet, everyone we love, will spend eternity in one or the other. But there's no "spiritual Midwest" lying out there between paradise and agony, between the everlasting splendors and the immortal horrors — just heaven and hell, forever.

So, what might all of this mean for our closest relationships? What might this mean for a home, like mine, with a wife and three small kids? First, and perhaps most humbling, it reminds

us to pray. Their immortality reminds us how painfully little we control in our relationships. All the things we want most for our spouse, our children, our extended family and friends are things God must do. That doesn't mean, as we often assume, that there's nothing we can do. There's just nothing we can do without God.

Having first prayed, though, what else can we do? We could use more of our interactions to remind loved ones of their immortality. For those who do not yet believe in Jesus, these will likely be unnatural and awkward conversations. How they feel about the conversation doesn't change the truth. One day soon, they will be an everlasting splendor or an immortal horror. Immortality is worth an enormous amount of awkwardness and friction.

Even those who do believe in Jesus, though, still need regular, sometimes forceful reminders of their immortality. "Exhort one another every day." Christians who sense the reality and urgency of eternity don't tolerate patterns of sinfulness in one another.

Perhaps the simplest way, then, to apply the prospect of these two mouth-stopping eternities — future miracles and future nightmares — would be to seek to be (and stay) uncomfortably Christian. Modern life, at least in America, resists this kind of Godwardness. We quietly agree to keep our conversations to what we can see and hear and touch, but everything we can now see and hear and touch will pass away. And when it does, you and everyone you know will become the wonder or horror you will forever be.

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