

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, July 31, 2024

New fertilizer plant to recycle waste

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange will be getting a new \$20 million plant to produce fertilizer using waste products from the seafood industry.

Construction of the plant is to begin “immediately,” according to news releases.

The plant will be the second for Tidal Grow AgriScience, which currently has a production facility in Pacific County, Washington. The Orange plant will be built with a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The products include brand names Oceanic and SeaPhos. They are considered “bioactive carbon-based” fertilizers.

Orange County Judge John Gothia said Tuesday the company has not asked for a tax abatement from the county and other entities.



Orange County Judge
John Gothia

He said he got word of the plant this week and went by property the company bought on Tulane Road. The site is outside the Orange city limits in county jurisdiction, about a quarter of a mile east of the intersection with State Highway 62 South.

The USDA in a press release said the Orange location was chosen because of being close to sources with the byproducts to produce the fertil-

izer, along with being good as a distribution center to send the products across the country.

The company's website and LinkedIn information

says it is privately held and based in Bellingham, Washington, and has up to 50 employees.

The Orange County site will be Tidal Grow's sec-

ond plant. The USDA is also providing a \$2.3 million grant to expand the company's Washington plant. The two grants will help the company triple

its amount of production.

The online publication FertilizerDaily.com reports the expansions show

New plant Page 3A

County Constables hold music festival to help students

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

When Constable Jeremiah Gunter isn't out busting illegal game rooms or smoke shops violating laws, he's been brainstorming a way to encourage more local kids to get a career in law enforcement.

His ideas have led to a way to raise scholarship money, showcase area musicians, and create a community gathering all at once.

This coming Saturday, August 3, the inaugural Orange County Music Festival will be held at the Mauriceville Community Center pavilion. Entry is \$10 and people are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and enjoy hours of live music. Food trucks and a beer concession will be available.

Constables from all four of the Orange County precincts area participating. Gunter said money raised will go to a graduating se-



Precinct 2 Constable
Jeremiah Gunter

nior from each of the county's five public high schools.

“It's our way to give back to the community,” Gunter said.

He's the Precinct 2 constable which mainly covers the Mauriceville area. Other constables participating are Lannie Claybar for Precinct 1, Brad Frye for Precinct 3, and Matt Ortego for Precinct 4.

Gunter said he thought about helping student go into a law enforcement career, but his precinct has

Orange Page 3A



Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher is finishing her career in the working for the office, including serving nearly eight years as the elected public official overseeing the operations. The office will be closed on Wednesday, July 31, as an audit, required by state law, is conducted as Fisher turns over the official duties to Olivia Guzman. Vehicle registrations due on that date will be post-dated.
RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

Retiring official rose with God from difficult childhood

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Karen Fisher jokes that she even hates herself when she writes her self a check to pay for her property taxes.

“I hate that Karen Fisher,” she jokes.

Fisher has been the elected Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector for nearly eight years and Wednesday is her last day after working in the office for 32 years.

It's been a tradition for decades for checks to pay property taxes and the vehicle registrations collected in the office to be written to the personal name of the tax assessor-collector. The funds go into an account overseen by the county.

But after joking about paying her property taxes, she said she's learned that people must pay them as a way to get public services like fire protection and law enforcement, along with upkeep of public roads. She's had a first-hand view of how those monies are spent.

Taxing entities also need to pay their employees, she said, and if those employees are not being paid good wages, they will go to

another job.

All those checks written during the past eight years would total an amount “beyond your belief,” Fisher said.

Even though she doesn't keep that money personally, having those kind of checks with her name on them was beyond the imagination of a young Karen, being raised as the youngest of five children by grandparents. Her grandfather was blind and her grandmother worked in a cafeteria.

She said her parents divorced when she was nine months old. “My mother didn't want me,” she said.

So all five children went to their paternal grandparents house in Jennings, Louisiana. Her alcoholic father had “a suitcase job.” He would leave for work on Monday morning and return on Friday evenings. “He would get dressed, go to the bars and he wouldn't return until Sunday night,” she said.

Every two weeks when the children visited their mother, the woman never wanted to play with little Karen and ignored her.

“I was raised by my grandmother. She taught me the values

that I live by now,” Fisher said. Those values include a strong faith in God. “I believe he had his hand on me from Day One,” she said.

When she was 16, Fisher broke her grandmother's heart by dropping out of school and getting married in 1973. She promised her grandmother she would get a GED, the equivalent of high school.

She and her husband soon had two children and had moved to Orange so he could work at the old American Bridge fabricating yard on the Sabine River.

But they divorced. “He was an alcoholic,” she said.

She got different jobs and started going to Lamar-Orange, first to get her GED and the studying to get a two-year degree in accounting. She started work at the county tax assessor-collector's office in August of 1992 and graduated in May 1993.

She made sure her grandmother came to see her get her degree and see her promise come true.

Fisher's son graduated from high school the same year she

Karen Fisher Page 3A

OCARC fishing is August tradition in Orange County

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The OCARC Fishing Tournament provides more than a chance for local amateur anglers to win money for their catches. The supports clients at the sheltered workshop and brings people together to celebrate the special adults.

The tournament is always held on the first Friday and Saturday of August and this Saturday will be the 36th. Thanks to local businesses, prize money this year is going up

with \$500 for the top prize in the four major categories, bass, speckled trout, redfish, and flounder. Second prize for those fish will be \$250 with \$150 for third place.

Entree fee is only \$30 and people can still enter by contacting Sandy McCormack of OCARC through 409-886-2839 from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day this week or at the office, 905 W. Park Avenue in Orange during the same hours, or through the group's website.

Fishing hours are from 5 p.m. Friday, August 2,

through 5 p.m. Saturday, August 3. Certifications will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 3, at the Orange Boat Ramp off Simmons Drive. The weigh-in will be at 5 p.m. at the Riverside Pavilion at the boat ramp, which is along the Sabine River.

This year vendors and food trucks are being added to turn attract more members of the public to attend. McCormack said OCARC is not asking for donations from the vendors, which will include Binky's Snocones and Stars of Gate City selling

brisket, ribs, fish, and funnel cake. Also, OCARC will be selling their traditional sack lunches of a hot link on bun, chips, and a soda for \$5.

Also, former fishing captain and guide Robert Vail will be selling his hand carved nature designs including fish and birds common in Southeast Texas.

A number of businesses have donated items and gift baskets to be part of drawings with chances for some prizes costing \$1 and some \$10. Gift baskets include one valued at \$200

from Mathews Jewelers Orange, plus one from Child's Ace Hardware.

OCARC is a non-profit local group started in 1956 to serve the needs of special adults and their parents or caregivers. The clients have a place to stay and socialize during the day, plus they work at producing goods to earn money.

OCARC products include a variety of printing and engraving, including printing signs and banners, and engraving plaques and trophies.

For a short time in the

1980s, OCARC began making fishing lures and tackle. That gave OCARC Director John Thomas the idea to hold a fishing tournament as a fundraiser, plus promote the new product.

Though the tackle project didn't last, the tournament has. And not only is it a fundraiser, it's a way for the clients to get out and enjoy the festival and the fish that are caught.

McCormack said all fish caught are used for a fish fry for the clients and their

OCARC Page 3A

★ TEXAS STATE NEWS

Meta to pay Texas \$1.4 billion damages

Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Facebook parent company in 2022, claiming it had used personal biometric data without permission.

DANTE MOTLEY
The Texas Tribune

Facebook's parent company Meta will pay Texas \$1.4 billion to settle a lawsuit that accused the company of using personal biometric data without users' authorization.

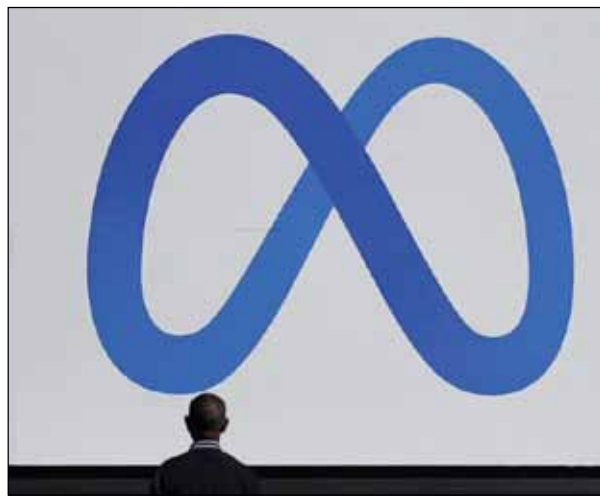
The 2022 lawsuit, filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in state court, alleged that Meta had been using facial recognition software on photos uploaded to Facebook without Texans' consent. Paxton announced the settlement on Tuesday.

Paxton's office said this is the largest settlement ever obtained by a single state, and the largest settlement related to privacy a state attorney general has ever secured. The settlement will

be paid over five years.

"This historic settlement demonstrates our commitment to standing up to the world's biggest technology companies and holding them accountable for breaking the law and violating Texans' privacy rights. Any abuse of Texans' sensitive data will be met with the full force of the law," Paxton said in a statement.

This was the first lawsuit Paxton's office argued under a 2009 state law that protects Texans' biometric data, like fingerprints and facial scans. The law requires businesses to inform and get consent from individuals before collecting such data. It also limits sharing this data, except in certain cases like helping law enforcement or completing financial transac-



A man stands in front of a sign of Meta, the new name for the company formerly known as Facebook, at its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, on Oct. 28, 2021.



Paxton's office said this is the largest settlement ever obtained by a single state, and the largest settlement related to privacy a state attorney general has ever secured.

tions. Businesses must protect this data and destroy it within a year after it's no longer needed.

In 2011, Meta introduced a feature known as Tag Suggestions to make it easier for users to tag people in their photos. According to Paxton's office, the feature was turned on by default and ran facial recognition on users' photos, automatically capturing data protected by the 2009 law. That system was discontinued in 2021, with Meta saying it

deleted over 1 billion people's individual facial recognition data.

As part of the settlement, Meta must notify the attorney general's office of anticipated or ongoing activities that may fall under the state's biometric data laws. If Texas objects, the parties have 60 days to attempt to resolve the issue.

Meta officials said the settlement will make it easier for the company to discuss the implications and requirements of the state's

biometric data laws with the attorney general's office, adding that data protection and privacy are core priorities for the firm.

"We are pleased to resolve this matter, and look forward to exploring future opportunities to deepen our business investments in Texas, including potentially

developing data centers," a Meta spokesperson said Tuesday.

Meta has about a month to pay the first installment of \$500 million to the state. Subsequent installments of \$225 million each will be paid annually from 2025 to 2028.

Last chance to experience: 'Black Pioneers Legacy in the American West' at Stark Museum of Art

Staff Report
The Texas Tribune

(ORANGE, TX) – The Stark Museum of Art encourages visitors to experience the final days of its acclaimed exhibition, "Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West." The exhibition, which has captivated audiences with its powerful portrayal of African American trailblazers, will conclude on Saturday, August 3, 2024. This is the last opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the stories and contributions of Black pioneers who shaped

the American West, as told through the medium of quilts and fiber arts.

"Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West" showcases an array of quilts that celebrate the resilience, ingenuity and cultural heritage of African American pioneers. From Esteban's dramatic story that marks the arrival of Africans in the American West and continues through the Civil Rights Movement, the exhibition highlights the often overlooked role of Black individuals in the expansion and development of the West-

ern United States.

"We are thrilled with the community's response to this exhibition and the engagement it has sparked among our visitors," said Jennifer Dickinson, executive director of the Stark Museum of Art. "The stories of these pioneers are a vital part of American history, and we are honored to have shared them with our community. We invite everyone to join us in these final days to experience and reflect on their incredible legacy."

"Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West" is

both an art exhibition and a history lesson. It is well worth a visit," said Andy Coughlan, local art exhibition news reporter.

The Stark Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 712 Green Avenue in Orange, Texas. Admission is free of charge.

For more information about the exhibition and related programming, please visit www.starkmuseum.org or call (409) 886-ARTS (2787).

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Karen Fisher From Page 1

graduated from Lamar-Orange. They had professional pictures made of them together wearing their caps and gowns. The photographer said he had never had mother-son graduates posing before.

Another accomplishment in her life is reaching out to her mother before her death. "God told me I needed to forgive my mom if I wanted peace with myself," Fisher said.

She went to her dying mother and told her "I'm asking you to forgive me for anything I've done wrong," she recalled. "She went limp, like a wet noodle." And so did Fisher.

"A relief came over me," she said.



Octavia Guzman

Fisher married a second time, but he passed away. She and her husband now have been married 20 years and he's already retired.

During her career at the county, she has seen many changes, and she always gives credit to the staff for making the office run.

Fisher began working in the Vidor office in the subcourthouse and learned things that needed to be improved there.

She has improved security at the main office and the Vidor office. At the Orange main office, she had counters lowered. Before, the clerks sat low and could not always see a customer walking up. By lowering the counter a few inches, clerks can see customers and vice versa. Covid grant money helped the office get windows for every counter.

But changes come quickly to the work in her office because of constantly changing rules and laws. The state legislature doesn't help by making last-minute laws.

Those changes are the reason she's retiring. Studying all new rules takes concentration and she's beginning to tire of the work. She told Commissioners Court that she always wanted to give 110 percent of her effort to the citizens of Orange. If she couldn't reach that level of work, it was time to go.



OCARC clients show off some of the items available for purchase during the 36th Annual OCARC Fishing Tournament set for Saturday. From left to right, Melissa Fisher shows a handcarved heron from Robert Vail, while Melissa Shaw and Vincent Ashton show this year's T-shirt. The tournament helps support the sheltered workshop that gives special needs adults a place to go and earn money.

New plant From Page 1

a national effort "to support climate-smart agricultural practices."

The USDA's investment is geared toward meeting the rising demand for domestically produced resilient and effective fertilizers, offering a sustainable alternative amid global supply chain disruptions.

The publication wrote that "Norm Davy, chief commercial officer at Tidal Grow AgriScience, emphasized the importance of this development for American farmers, who are increasingly in need of innovative solutions to enhance soil and plant health. The company's fertilizers, which are derived from up-cycled waste from the seafood industry,

aim to address some of the most pressing challenges in agriculture today."

The USDA press release said the grant is an investment from the Biden-Harris administration to meet the demand for U.S. made fertilizers. That need became evident in the past few years with the disruptions in the global supply chain.

Also, the use recycling bio-wastes once discarded helps the environment.

iGrow News reports Tidal Grow is investing another \$10 million to expand facilities and research to introduce new technologies and products during the next three to five years.

Orange County Music Fest From Page 1

only the Mauriceville Elementary and Middle schools. He didn't want to give a scholarship to students that young.

The Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School is in Precinct 1 and the scholarship he was thinking about should be given to a high school senior, he said.

So he got the other constables onboard to think of a way to encourage teens to seek law enforcement careers. They came up with the music festival idea to raise money for scholarships to be given to graduates in the 2024-25 school year.

He said the constables organized the fundraiser through the non-profit Mauriceville Heritage Association and donations are tax-exempt.

Admission is \$10 and the gates will open at 11 a.m. Saturday. Music will begin at noon and continue through the day.

Southeast Texas and neighboring Southwest Louisiana during the past century has produced a number of musical stars from all genres. Gunter said he likes to go to area festivals and bars to listen to the local talent and he has gathered popular local performers.

The at noon, Paige Price will begin and be onstage for about an hour and a half. After that will come Jace Nunnely, Seth Stevens, and Chris Hantz, with Royboy Collins and Killin' Time to finish at night with about two hours of playing.

People are welcome to come and go through the day. Food trucks will include Chuck's Chuck Wagon, Wing Junkiez, and the Bridge City Lions Club with funnel cakes. Gunter said there will also be a vendor specializing in beef jerky and another selling fruit cups. The War Wagon from Buna will be selling cigars and a beer booth will be set up.

He said the plans for the scholarships are flexible. Because a graduating senior is too young to enter the regional police academy, the scholarship may be applied to helping the graduate get certified in working in a corrections facility, a stepping stone to becoming a certified peace officer. Or the money could be used to help get into a two-year program to become a peace officer. Another way it could be used is for a student to apply it toward getting a four-year degree in criminal justice.

OCARC fishing From Page 1

parents or caretakers. Members of the Orange Boating Club take the fish from the tournament, clean and cook them to serve along with side dishes.

McCormack said in the beginning, people entering the tournament would volunteer to take a client with them fishing. But liability problems and insurance stopped that practice. However, some cli-

ents have family members take them fishing and they are allowed to enter the tournament. Last year, a couple of clients won cash prizes.

This year, the big prize sponsorships are Gopher Industries, Dow, Chevron Phillips, and Special Angels Rodeo, a local non-profit that holds a rodeo each fall for special needs children and adults.

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From the Creaux's Nest

2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

The United States women's gymnastics team has done it again. It is back on top with its fourth gold medal in the team event in the last 32 years of a medal-earning streak. Team USA had a glorious showing on all four apparatuses heading into the individual finals strong. It's no surprise Simone Biles hit her floor routine Tuesday, the last of 12 chances Team USA had to prove it was worthy of a gold medal. It'll head to the top of the podium with Biles' score of 14.666. Her teammates held hands ahead of their final team routine of the day and welcomed Biles off the mat with hugs and cheers. Up next for Biles: The individual all-around Thursday, then individual event finals for floor, vault and beam. The official Olympic standings are sorted by the country with the most gold medals, not just the most overall medals. So, tracking which countries win each event — not just the ones that make it to the podium the most — will be important. The United States won the most gold medals at the 2021 Tokyo Games with 39 total. That was one more than China's 38 gold medals. It could be a fierce battle to see which country ends up on top in Paris. As of Tuesday Japan was leading. Team USA has a great shot in coming events. Enjoy the Olympics.****I have to move on, come along, it won't do you no harm.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

At the Lunch Bunch gathering last week, Nova Dee Strickland brought a guest Carolyn Parker, the widow of Hollis Parker, who retired from DuPont before his death. Son Ricky is now a DuPont employee. Carolyn makes her home in Mauriceville. Our friendship with the Parkers goes back 50 years. Marlene Merritt was down in the back, usually it's her feet, Joel Steirman was on a cruise, Joe Parkhurst on a vacation trip. T.W. and Lyndia Permenter were celebrating their 54th anniversary.****August 2, finds longtime friend, a special lady, Joyce Dubose celebrating. She finally got John, the workaholic, to take off long enough to take her on a trip even though he cut off a couple of days.***Also a good guy, a special friend, Judge Roy Derry Dunn celebrates on this day.***"Mr. Lion" Stump Weatherford, everyone's friend and Dayle's other half, marks another birthday. (Editor's note: Stump passed away Jan. 11, 2024.)****On Aug. 3, a nice lady, Bridge City's first city secretary, Evelyn's mom, Pat Brandon, celebrates. ****Aug. 4, is a special day for the Mayhaw man, ultra conservative, John Harrington.****"Person of the Year," Lamar's president, Dr. Mike Shahan, marks another birthday on Aug. 5. ****Early Monday morning, the late Judge Grover Halliburton's former law office on Green Ave. (what once was called "Deep Elam") was destroyed by fire. Grover had spent a small fortune moving the old house to that location and remodeling it. He spent all that money just to get away from Charles Sexton, his former landlord, who occupied a law office next door.****Here's something Grover probably wouldn't believe. The New York Times has endorsed the legalization of marijuana. I recall us talking about some guy in Waco who got 35 years in prison for possessing a matchbox of pot. That's when one joint was prison time and a roach got you locked up.**** The sports world has gone crazy or some folks have more money than they can use. A Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M jersey, is expected to set a record for a college football jersey of \$100,000. It's the jersey Johnny wore in all six home games in 2012, the year he won the Heisman.****Also Michael Jordan has no problem with LeBron James returning to No. 23 in his second stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers. I don't know what Jordan could do if he did have a problem with it. Think about this, the two greatest basketball players ever will both retire as number 23 being the best ever.

20 Years Ago-2004

Mark Magnuson, hometown architect, creates the new Bridge City High School. The state-of-the-art school and gym is on track to be ready on school opening day, Sept. 1. BCISD superintendent Sam Lucia and assistant Joe Chenella have both taken active rolls according to Magnuson.****Suzanne Halliburton was visiting her mother Sue and family in Orange after returning from France where she covered the sixth Lance Armstrong's sixth win in a row of the Tour-de-France. She has covered them all. She someday plans to put it all in a book. I wonder if at any time Suzanne saw the turn of events in Lance's life causing him to have to give up all of those awards.

She knew Armstrong really well and there's a great book there. At the time she was writing a daily column in the Austin Statesman. Suzanne's first sports writing was for the Dunn owned Opportunity Valley Newspaper, while a student at LC-M. For years Suzanne traveled with the Dallas Cowboys and Coach Tom Landry. (Editor's note: At this time we are looking for students interested in writing a column covering their high school sports. Like Suzanne, you too may become famous. Call 409-313-6611 for an interview. Your byline and picture will run with your copy.)

45 Years Ago-1979

Texas A&M University has announced that a street on the new fire training field has been named in honor of the late Jack G. Methner of Bridge City who was an instructor at A&M Firefighting School for many years. He was also a retired DuPont employee.****Bridge City attorney H.D. Pate swears in new police chief Andy Verrett. Councilmen Richard Caillouct, N.J. "Vick" Vicknair, mayor Gordon Harvey and city manager C.R. Nash attended the ceremonies.**** The state announced traffic soon will flow smoother and safer in Bridge City with a \$600,000 project to remove concrete esplanade that runs the length of the city and will allow for new traffic lane. Palm trees were planted on the esplanade as a beautification project after Highway 87 (Texas Ave.) went from a two lane road to six lanes. The removal will make the road seven lanes. C.R. Nash credits Sen. Carl Parker for the expediency from the Highway Department. B.C. chamber president Bill Nickum said, "I hate to see the palm trees go but they have become a maintenance problem with grass growing between them. The new design will be more practical and safer as traffic continues to increase in our city.****Tropical storm Claudette cried over our area for three days dumping 10 inches of rain, knocking down trees and disrupting electric and telephone service.****Happy anniversary to Vivian and Fain Holbrook.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Those who braved the rain had a great time at Karen Fisher's retirement party at Robert's. Former tax assessor Linda Gunstream was a surprise guest. The incoming tax assessor Octavia Guzman was also in attendance. Alice Hartsfield served as Roy Dunn's chauffeur on condition that he visit St. Mary's Chapel with her.***Darrell Segura, who wrote Karen's first political statement, celebrated by buying several lunches. By the way, sponsors Judge John Gothia and former judge Carl Thibodaux failed to show up. Gothia had a good reason, Tib fell asleep waiting to attend and woke up when Roccaforte called to tell him he missed the party. It's hard for some old folks to stay awake. J.W. Dalton had a legit excuse, he was stuck in Colmesnel. ****We got to meet Judge Rodney Prices' new bride, Betty, at Karen Fisher's retirement gathering. She is a very intelligent and attractive woman. They have known each other through the years and were very compatible. Congratulations.****Monday in Austin, at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, President Biden unveiled three proposals aimed at reforming the U.S. Supreme Court. Biden noted, "We can and must prevent the abuse of presidential power. We must strengthen the guardrail of democracy." Biden was in Austin to mark the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.****Six years ago, on July 24, Dr. Tom Johnson got the call to come to Orange as president of Lamar State College-Orange. He got here as quick as he could. It's amazing how much he has accomplished and has plans for much more. ****Judge Courtney is so proud of the Bridge City Little League 10-year-old State Champs. She was seen wearing son's Chaplin Arkeen's championship ring in court. Something to be proud of. Congrats to coach Johnny Dishon and the gang. His son Easton is on the team. Johnny gave us several years of enjoyment as an athlete at Bridge City. He was outstanding in all sports.****We checked on our friend Danny Brack this weekend. He is still unable to do things on his own but is doing better. He is still in rehab and not expected to leave anytime soon. His wife Sherry spends days with him. Danny is tough. Raised in Starks, LA, you had to be tough. He welcomes your prayers.****Judy Shockley has been missing around Bridge City but we found out her son Donnie has built a barndominium home in West Orange and that's where these two B.C. natives now call home.****We received a nice thank you note from Michelle Justice for our story on her Masonic 'Community Builder' award, written by Penny LeLeux. Michelle, a longtime Lamar Port Arthur professor, is not only a very kind person, she's also the prettiest girl to come out of Maine. Al wasted no time latching on to her.****Lady Whistlebreaux is happy to see the sun out after all the days of rain, plus the winds from Beryl. Summer is back on but cooler this year than last year. Of course, that's not to say it's cool outside. But who would guess that the Orange Run Club would draw more than 100 people out on an early Saturday morning in late July to run. Yes. Orange is changing. People out running and artists painting murals.****Ken Greger hasn't lived in Orange for nearly 19 years, but he served many years in the Orange Fire Department, working his way up to deputy chief and emergency management director for the city. He left to become fire chief in Conroe, and now he is retiring.****Beverly Robinson headed out of town to Indianapolis for a sorority convention last week.****Edie Burch celebrated her birthday with a weekend trip along with Richard Teague, Jennifer Byrd, and J.C. Allan.****Tricia Gillis and Eric Ellison headed out to Florida. Lady Whistlebreaux heard she had a special outfit she modeled for him.****Brandi Griggs and Justin Rieison said bon voyage to Bridge City and headed out on a cruise ship.****Penny LeLeux has a goal of being on the big screen in all 50 states. Last week-

end, the short film "Death by King Cake" won best comedy at the JXN Film Festival in Jackson, Mississippi, bringing her one state closer with a new total of 13. She just snagged another role in a sci-fi feature that will be shot in Houston in 2025. She said she couldn't pass up the chance to be a space pirate queen. The way roles are falling in her lap she's bound to make her goal in the near future.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks we know having birthdays in the next few days. July 31: Celebrating today are Tifani Daigle, Amber Weidner, Jane Duchene, Kimberly Sieck, Laci Braus and Mary Bradford.****Aug. 1; Dr. Pauline Hargrave, Vickie Arkeen, Terri Romero, Missy Pillsbury, Megan Vogt, and Megan Leleux.****Aug. 2: Birthday wishes to our friends Joyce Dubose, Judge Roy Derry Dunn and Wayne Morse. Also having birthdays on this day are Nathanishe Foster, Sherri Christiansen, Travis Fields, Ayden Sanders and Cody Hollis. John and Joyce celebrate their 56th anniversary today.****Aug. 3: Joe Elam, Diana Tally, Glenda Delano, Lacey Monceaux, Par Beardin, Bob Gephart, Dena Cox, Ethel Hicks. and Frank Wiegrefe.****Aug. 4: Jean Ousley, Jarrod Vogt, Jeannette Edwards, Kody Fisette, Vickie Wells, Cetha Haure, Claire Williams.***Former U.S. President Barack Obama turns 63 today.****Aug. 5: Mike Shahad, Micah Satir, Garhett Bonneaux, Mitzi Peoples.****Aug. 6: Pam Boehme, Randy Hickox, Sarah Fisher, Sonya Villanouvea, Anita Decker, Jilly Rowley, Melanie Braus, Clare Calahan.****Birthday greetings also go out to Richard Terry, who turned 80, Anna Matthews, Chantell Frazier, Sally Ferrell Peveto, Sam Willey, Della Gallien, Melinda James, Mike Magnuson, Joyce Sanders, Michael Swope, Artis Petterway, Telisia Norwood, Coy Broomes, Orange City Councilor Matt Chandler, and Becky Trahan.***Gina Simar Yeaman had a real birthday, but who can tell. Appears husband Skipper treats her like every day is her birthday.****Retired Bridge City coach Terry Landry and his wife Jan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday with a papal blessing from Father David Edwards following Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church near Fannett. The special occasion was attended by a small group of family and friends who afterward, with Father David, joined the golden anniversary couple for dinner at Pappadeaux's.***Judge Rex and Robin Peveto had their 33rd anniversary, while Bryan and Gina Gross celebrated 21 years.***Marvin and Benitris Edwards marked No. 10.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Nunez, wat is 65 years old, goes to see a doctor in Lafayette for a check up. Dr. Dartezis amazed him, at da shape Nunez is in. He's straight, tanned and loaded wit muscles.

"To wat do you attribute you good health Joe?" the doctor axe.

"I'm an alligator hunter me, I get up before daylight and go to da Atchafalaya Basin and at daylight I chase and jump in da water and wrestle dem alligators into my boat. I do dis all day me."

Dr. Dartez says, "Well, I'm sure dat helps but dere has to be genetic factors. How old was you papa wen he died him?"

"Who says my papa is dead?" Nunez axe.

"How old is he?" Doc axe.

"He's 83 years old, we alligator hunted dis morning us."

The doctor scratch his head, "How old was you papa's daddy wen he died him?"

"Who says my grandpaw is dead?" axe Joe.

"Your papa is 83 years old and his papa is still living, how old is he hunh?"

"101," Nunez aswer.

"I guess you gonna tell me he went wrestling alligators dis morning?" Doc axe.

"No, said Nunez. He got married him."

Doc him, he look at Nunez in amazement. "Got married, why would a 101 year old guy want to get married?"

Nunez answer, "Who says he wanted to?"

C'EST TOUT

As former President Donald Trump wrapped up his nearly 75-minute speech on Friday night, in West Palm Beach, he delivered a final pitch to the Christian conservative crowd, saying if they vote for him on Election Day, they would never be obligated to vote again. "I love you, Christians. I'm a Christian. I love you, get out, you gotta get out and vote. In four years, you don't have to vote again. Trump's comments made the rounds on social media as users suggested that his comments sounded similar to when he commented that he'd be a dictator, but just on "day one" and suggested that Trump was alluding to never leaving the White House, trading democracy for dictatorship. The Harris campaign is characterizing Trump's comment that if Christians vote this one time they won't have to do it anymore as a "vow to end democracy." Trump also suggested that Christians don't vote "proportionately," which Trump often bickers about on the campaign trail.****If mosquitos are keeping you indoors call Pestco at 886-4248. They'll help you out. ****It looks like I've used up my time. Thanks for yours and your loyalty to this column. Please read us cover to cover and do business with our family of advertisers when you can. They make us possible. Take care and God bless.

BCHS Strutters bring home American Dance/Drill Team awards



Top to Bottom (L-R): Chrislynn Duhon, Livi Smith, Alaina Wheeler, Caroline Pachar, Bryleigh Cummings, Tarah Bradley, Ava Propps, Lilee Underwood, Addyson Knight, Sgt. Izabella Sanchez, Director Chassadi Cude, Hadley Fults, Avery Hernandez, Sgt. Taylor Tran, Landry Theriot, Jaelyn Bandeau, Easley Stansbury, Karli Cooper, Madelyn Bryant, Kaylee DeRouen, Atalyn Hale, Brooklyn Landry, Anaiss Torres, Lt. Addisyn Watts, 1st Lt. Marleigh

The Bridge City Strutters earned many awards at the American Dance/Drill Team Camp adding to their list of impressive accolades and wins.

Varsity Awards Include:
 Varsity All-American Kick Company: Lt. Raelly Ply, Lt. Addisyn Watts
 All-American Dancers: Marleigh Boyd, Zoe Buchanan, Brooklyn Landry, Raelly Ply, Olivia Romero, Taylor Tran, Addisyn Watts
 All-American Honorable Mention: Kaylee DeRouen, Hadley Fults, Atalyn

Hale, Landry Theriot, Anaiss Torres
 All-American Dance Company (Best of the Best): 1st Lt. Marleigh Boyd, Lt. Zoe Buchanan
 Outstanding Performer (Best of the best leader and dancer): Lt. Raelly Ply
 Team Awards:
 All-American Team of the Week (Best All Around, Top Performing, Most Unity, Most Improvement)
 Diamond Sweepstakes
 Top Scoring Home Routine
 Spirit of ADTS

Chemical Leak: Law firm files action against Eagle Railcar

Staff Report
 For The Record

More than a week after a railcar leak of highly toxic chemicals at the Orange County Eagle Railcar facility, the company has yet to cooperate with the law firm who filed a restraining order to preserve evidence and allow for an onsite inspection.

This leak of toxic materials that resulted in a shelter in place order to several entire communities and sent dozens of people to local hospitals was not even reported to authorities as required by law. Once they were caught, they misrepresented the extent and scope of the problem based on what employees of the company have disclosed to us as concerned whistleblowers.

The Law Office of Brent Coon and Associates (BCA) requested access to the facili-

ty for 7 days and finally had to file an enforcement action against them on Friday. This will hopefully result in further court orders later this week. BCA has handled hundreds of similar releases and fires in the industrial sector for almost 40 years and they have never had a company resist these inspections like Eagle Railcar has done here.

"The community has a right to know what happened and we are determined to get to the bottom of it," said Brent Coon, whose law firm has undertaken the lead role online the matter and represents hundreds of victims.

For more information about the lawsuits and claims being filed please contact Jay Jackson, Communications Director, Brent Coon & Associates.

Become a Master Gardener register now classes start August 22

Staff Report
 For The Record

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. Several field trips are planned as well. Volunteer time can be done by working at the Master Gardener greenhouse, working at the yearly plant sale, and other AgriLife programs throughout the year.

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.

Master Gardener Training is provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. There is an additional online fee to comply with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service background check policy. The background check is to be renewed every three years but needs to be completed prior to training.

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.

The Orange Train Depot will host its bi-monthly Bingo Sunday, Aug. 4

Staff Report
 For The Record

The Orange Train Depot will host its bi-monthly Bingo game at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4. The Friends of the Orange Depot invite the public to enjoy the historic building at 1210 Green. Cost is \$25 for 20 games. Refreshments and Mimosas are included in the ticket price.

Only 95 tickets will be available so the public is encouraged to get their tickets

now by calling Rose at 409-330-1576. Tickets will also be available at the door until max is met.

The prizes will be gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$50, with a final overall game prize of a \$200 Walmart gift card.

Mayor Pro Temp Paul Burch will be chief Bingo caller, assisted by depot manager Rose Simar and president Alicia Booker.

Friends of the Orange Depot is a non-profit organization. Proceeds help maintain the building.

Edward Jones branch office supports BC school supply campaign

Staff Report
 For The Record

Local residents may help make a positive impact in the community by bringing items to our Edward Jones Branch - Taylor Perkins office in town during regular business hours from July 29, 2024 to August 9, 2024. Monetary gifts, including gift cards, cannot be accepted.

The branch address is: 715 Texas Ave, Suite D Bridge City TX 77619.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 fi-

nancial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.7 trillion in client assets under care at the end of March 2023. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

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GARAGE SALE

Multi-Family Garage Sale, Sat., 8/3 from 7 am to noon at 160 Shadowdale (Bridge City). Furniture, area rug, north face backpacks, designer clothes, home decor, kitchen items and lots of misc. Get ready for back to school.

Yard Sale this Fri., 8/2 and Sat., 8/3 from 8 am to 4 pm at 301 Elizabeth St. in Bridge City. Clothes, womens, men and childrens, paperback novels, air fryer, misc. Lots of goodies.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On July 26, 2024, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI") filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission" or "PUC") requesting approval of an amendment to ETI's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") permitting ETI to construct, own, and operate the Segno Solar Facility ("Segno"), a proposed 170 MW solar facility to be built in Polk County, Texas and the Votaw Solar Facility ("Votaw"), a proposed 141 MW facility to be built in Hardin County, Texas (together, the "Renewable Portfolio"). As part of its long-term electric supply resource plan, ETI has determined that it needs additional generating resources in the near future. The docket number and style of the application are PUC Docket No. 56865, *Application of Entergy Texas, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Portfolio of Renewable Generation Resources*. ETI is not seeking to change its rates in this proceeding.

Segno will be located on 1,168 acres of "greenfield" at a site in south-central Polk County, Texas, approximately 2 miles west of the unincorporated community of Segno and approximately 3.5 miles east of Texas State Highway ("SH") 146. The Segno project site is not within five miles of any municipality, and Sam Houston Electric Cooperative is the only neighboring utility providing utility service within five miles of the project site. Votaw will be located on 614 acres of "greenfield" at a site in the northwestern portion of Hardin County, Texas, approximately 0.5 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Votaw. The Votaw project site is not within five miles of any municipality, and Sam Houston Electric Cooperative is the only neighboring utility providing utility service within five miles of the project site. A map showing the locations of the Renewable Portfolio resources may be viewed at ETI's offices at 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, and is included with notices published in newspapers of general circulation in ETI's service area. A copy of the map may also be obtained by contacting tcr@entergy.com.

The total estimated cost of the Renewable Portfolio is approximately \$656 million, comprised of \$352 million for Segno and \$304 million for Votaw, inclusive of estimated costs of transmission upgrades and interconnection costs, contingency, an allowance for funds used during construction, and expenses related to seeking Commission certification. These costs are based on a February 2027 commercial operation date for Segno and a May 2028 commercial operation date for Votaw.

The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is September 9, 2024, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date. A request to intervene (original and ten copies) or request for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. The preferred method for you to file your request for intervention is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filing via the "PUC Interchange Filer" on the Commission's website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Interchange Filer are available at: https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing_Instructions.pdf. Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Interchange Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or helpdesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>. If you are unable to file your intervention request or comments electronically, you may mail your request or comments (and ten copies) to: Public Utility Commission of Texas, Central Records, Attn: Filing Clerk, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136.

A copy of ETI's application may be viewed by accessing the "filings - interchange" section of the Commission's webpage at www.puc.state.tx.us. In addition to the intervention deadline, other important dates may affect participation in this docket. Therefore, any orders or other filings already made in the docket should be reviewed. The control number for this proceeding on the Commission's webpage and in the Commission's interchange is 56865. Persons with questions or who want more information about this application may also contact tcr@entergy.com or by calling 866-981-2602 during normal business hours.

Notice map - Votaw Solar Facility

Notice map - Segno Solar Facility



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 USC 2714(c)), the Benchmark Oil and Gas storage facility, operated by Benchmark Oil and Gas Company ("Benchmark"), has been named as the source of a discharge of oil into the Cow Bayou at Texas 105 in Orangefield around 10 p.m. on May 29, 2024. As the Operator of the facility, Benchmark is accepting claims for certain uncompensated damages and removal costs.

Removal costs and damages which may be compensated include removal costs performed in accordance with the National Contingency Plan; damage to natural resources; damage to or loss of real or personal property; loss of subsistence use of natural resources; loss of government revenues; loss of profits and earnings capacity; and increased cost of public services.

Claims should be in writing, signed by the claimant, for a specified amount, and describing the damages alleged to have been caused by the accidental discharge. The claims should include all evidence to support the damages. Claims presented may include claims for interim short-term damages representing less than the full amount to which the claimant ultimately may be entitled. It should be noted that payment of such a claim shall not preclude recovery for damages not reflected in the paid or settled partial claims. Claims should be mailed to the following address:

Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry
Attn: Ms. Tara LeDay
1200 Smith St., Suite 1400
Houston, TX 77002
Re: Benchmark Oil and Gas Company

Office hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Claimants may call Benchmark counsel's office at 713-654-9648 for information.

Any claims which are denied, or which are not settled within 90 days after the date of submission to our claims representative may be submitted via email to:

HQS-SMB-NPFC-ClaimsInfo@uscg.mil

Alternatively, claims can be mailed to this address:

Director
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Texas drawn hunt enrollment now open

**Staff Report
For The Record**

Austin, Texas -- Hunters will have new opportunities and scenery this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program.

The program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas, is now accepting applications for a shot at nearly 9,400 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

"The opportunities offered through our online Public Hunt Draw System give hunters a tremendous variety to hunt and see Texas at an affordable cost" said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. "Throughout the state, we have seen lack of access to land being a major barrier of entry for folks interested in hunting. The public hunt program gives everyone

an opportunity to hunt without the costly investment."

Among the offerings available through the Texas Public Drawn Hunts system: hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep. There were 292,000 applications last year.

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit (APH) to apply. APH permits go on sale annually on Aug. 15. Last year, the sale of 58,417 APH permits generated approximately \$2.7 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area. All applications, fee pay-



Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina. TPWD PHOTO

ments and permit issuance are handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID

number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees range from free to \$3 or \$10, de-

pending on the hunt category. Adult hunters who are selected may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as

the youth-only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. Aug. 1 is the deadline for all alligator hunt categories and private lands dove hunts. Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina.

A full list of category deadlines can be found on the Drawn Hunts Deadlines webpage. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. CST on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505.

Outdoor activity increases risk of heat stroke

**Staff Report
For The Record**

Summer temperatures are rising and so is the threat of a heat-related illness. To help reduce this risk, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts offer tips on how to keep your cool and stay safe in the heat.

"Heat exhaustion can occur when the body heats up faster than its ability to cool down," said Mike Lopez, DrPH, AgriLife Extension specialist in family and community health, Bryan-College Station. "It is the body's response to excessive loss of water and salt, which can cause symptoms like heavy sweating, faintness, dizziness, fatigue, rapid pulse, headache and nausea."

Heat exhaustion, heatstroke can be serious

Without prompt treatment, Lopez said heat exhaustion can lead to heatstroke, a life-threatening condition. Heatstroke occurs when the body reaches a temperature of 104 degrees or higher.

"Some symptoms of heatstroke are confusion, altered speech, nausea or vomiting, rapid breathing, and a racing heartbeat," he said. "We recommend everyone, especially if they are at a high-risk for heat-related illness, be aware of the symptoms of heat stress, especially heat exhaustion and heatstroke."

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Left untreated, it can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

"The body naturally heats up during outdoor activity but normally keeps itself cool by sweating," said Debra Kellstedt, DrPH, AgriLife Extension specialist, Bryan-College Station. "But sometimes the body is not able to cool itself off adequately and this greatly increases the risk of heat-related illness. However, there are some actions you can take to stave off the most dangerous and debilitating effects of prolonged heat ex-

posure."

Here are some precautions these and other experts offer for anyone headed outside during the hottest months of the year:

• Pace yourself and reduce activity during the hottest parts of the day

Avoid strenuous activity in hot weather. Drink plenty of fluids and rest frequently in a shady or cool spot. Be mindful of the heat index and schedule more intense physical activities for the morning or evening.

• Get acclimated to the heat

Limit the amount of time spent working or be-

ing active in the heat until you're conditioned to it. This is especially important for people not used to hot weather.

• Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing

Your body doesn't cool properly when wearing excess clothing or clothing that fits tightly. Quickly cool down by drenching clothing with cool water.

• Protect against sunburn

Protect yourself outdoors with a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen because sunburn can reduce the body's ability to cool. Protect your skin using an SPF 30 or greater sun-

screen applied generously. Reapply every few hours afterward, especially if you are swimming or sweating a lot.

• Drink plenty of fluids

Stay hydrated to help your body sweat and maintain body temperature. During outdoor activity or work, keep a drink with electrolytes handy to help replenish fluids, salt and other substances lost through sweating.

• Take extra precautions with certain medications

If you take medications, ask your doctor or a health care professional if their side effects might affect your ability to stay hydrat-

ed and/or dissipate heat.

• Never leave children, impaired adults or pets unattended in hot vehicles

About 40 children under the age of 15 die annually from being left unattended in a vehicle. Never leave a person or pet in a parked car in warm or hot weather, even if the windows are cracked or the car is in the shade. Keep your car locked and the keys in a secure location to prevent children from getting inside when it is parked

• Be extra cautious if you're at increased risk for heatstroke

If you have a condition that increases your risk of

heat-related problems, avoid the heat as much as possible and act quickly if you notice symptoms of overheating. Those engaged in a sport or other strenuous activity in hot weather should be aware of the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and be sure medical services are readily available in case of a heat-related emergency.

"Summer should be a time for having outdoor fun and enjoying the warmer weather," Kellstedt said. "But you need to listen to your body when it tells you it's too hot and take the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of heat exhaustion or heatstroke."

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



Chuck Uzzle

For many local anglers the annual OCARC Fishing Tournament symbolizes "summer fishing" and for the past 36 years that's exactly what it's done. This long running event captures the essence of our local community and provides both support for a great organization as well as bragging rights for some lucky anglers. Tournament director John Thomas and his staff do an exceptional job running the event as well as making sure everyone, especially the kids, has an opportunity to not only participate but to actually win.

The tournament, which starts at 5pm on August 2nd, has 12 different categories encompassing both fresh and saltwater species. Obviously, the glamour divisions such as Largemouth bass, speckled trout, redfish and flounder garner the most attention and have the highest payouts. For many, the results from this event are a great barometer as to the state of the local fishery. This year the biggest influential factor will be the amount of freshwater that has inundated the area for much of the late spring and early summer. Run off from the big lakes, Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn, has really done a number on the saltwater side for the folks who fish the north end of the lake and the Sabine River. Easily the best bite in town is at the jetty and I would be willing to bet the better fish will come from that area.

This years tournament will have a little different twist to it as the speckled trout regulations have changed. No fish between 20 and 30 inches may be kept so the winning fish will be the heaviest 20 inch trout that can be found. Now that the Speckled trout division has a slot limit it will be exactly like the Redfish division which has been very competitive thanks to the slot limit. Now if an angler catches one of those 30 plus inch "trout of a lifetime" they can weigh it in but the odds on that are less than good. I personally would love to see one of those fish show up just to let us all know we still have trout like that in this area, but it is truly a long shot.

The entry fee for this terrific event is just \$30 and you can pick up the forms at OCARC on Park street. The final weigh in will be held on August 3rd at the pavilion near the Orange Boat Ramp. Fish certification begins at 3pm with the final weigh in starting at 5pm. If you have never experienced this event you owe it to yourself to check it out.

Locally the fishing has taken a slight step backwards after the heavy rains from last week. The bite at the jetty remains the best bet in town for saltwater folks while the freshwater program continues to struggle. Look for some nice redfish to be caught and some sneaky good flounder. I would expect a trout around 3 pounds or perhaps a shade heavier to take home top prize in that division. The largemouth bass bite has been a toss up at best for most local fishermen. I did see some very nice fish caught within the last two weeks so they are still out there if you are fortunate enough to find them.

Good luck to everyone fishing the tournament and congrats to the OCARC for continuing such a wonderful event.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 86 degrees. Good catches of redfish in Sabine Lake making long drifts in 8-14 feet of water. Key on mullet to locate redfish and trout in Sabine Lake. The lake is muddy on top but the salinity is improving on the south end of the lake and upper end. Black tip sharks are along the banks mixed in with the redfish. South re-vent wall is good for nice catches of trout with crankbaits and slow sinking baits, or imitation shad.

Nice trout and jack crevalle on the first and second pike with live shrimp with a popping cork. Hurricane Beryl moved the bait into the system. There is good trout action at the ends of the jetties early in the morning with artificials, but when the sun rises the bite is over. Catching nice speckled trout on the inside of jetties and Sabine Channel rock piles and flats. Jack crevalle and sharks at the jetties. Hooked a tarpon at the jetties. Many smaller sized trout on soft plastics at the bottom around the platform. Trout are being caught drifting over mud and shell along the beach. Catches of ling at the short rigs mixed in with the trout.

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 85 degrees. Numbers of redfish, croakers, sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with plenty of stingrays and sharks. The surf is producing redfish and black drum, gafftop, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula with high activity towards Gilchrist or High Island. Finger mullet and croaker have been popular baits. Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.



The Record's outdoors columnist Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a hefty redfish caught near the shoreline on Sabine Lake.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 87 degrees. Shell humps along the ship channel producing decent size speckled trout on soft plastics. Upper Bay Spoil Island are good for black drum and redfish on live shrimp. Few trout showing up on the middle bay gas wells. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Trinity Bay. Trout are being caught consistently on docks by Dow Reef with live shrimp and artificial WAC assassins in the roll-over moon color. Redfish are being caught on live shrimp, swimbaits in dark and chartreuse color on rock shorelines. Drum and sheepsheads are being caught on live and dead shrimp in rocks and reefs in the main channels. Watch your weather prior to your trip and always wear your kill switch. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 86 degrees. West shoreline producing good

numbers of speckled trout. Gas wells seeing mixed catches of trout and black drum. Spoil Islands are still fair for trout, black drum and redfish. Best bite on live shrimp, followed by soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Bolivar surf full of speckled trout. East Bay producing fair numbers of trout for those wading and drifting over open bay reefs. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Plenty of various sized speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, and redfish caught on live shrimp, croakers, and top water lures. Alligator gar are abundant. Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.

Surface water temperature is 86 degrees. As in previous weeks, the water clarity is stirred up in the majority of East Galveston Bay, with clearer water as you get closer to the west-

ern portion of the Bay, with a distinct line as you venture closer over to Galveston. We are finding a few trout and redfish in the Intracoastal around the structure. Water is clear at the jetties and there is a solid trout bite utilizing MirrOlure suspending hard baits, swimbaits, and tails with 1/8 ounce heads in light colors. Success using Fish Smack Popping corks with a 1 to 2 foot leader above shrimp imitation lures, as well as Salt and Pepper Tails by WacAttack. The Topwater bite has still been good on early morning and late afternoon trips, so if you like throwing walking baits now is a great time to get on the water and make it happen. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Lower Bay is still good for trout, black drum, sheepshead, and the occasional redfish along the causeway bridge and rocks. Good numbers of trout over deep shell fishing with croaker. Waders are still catching trout and redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **Freeport**

GOOD. 84 degrees. Fishing is consistent in the surf for trout and redfish in the morning on topwaters and down south lures. Bastrop Bay, Chocolate Bay, Christmas Bay have been steady under the birds with trout and redfish. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

• **Texas City**

GOOD. 85 degrees. The Texas City Dike is still closed for repairs after Hurricane Beryl. Trout are being caught off the levee road, all the way to the flood gate. Jetties producing boxes of trout, black drum, and slot redfish. Lots of big sharks just past the jetty rocks. Surf has been good for speckled trout. Report by Captain

SALTWATER Page 5B

'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 91 degrees; 1.80 feet below pool. Fishing is slow during the day but great at night. The forecast predicts 4-5 inches by the weekend, and the creeks are running strong. Water temperatures are back down in the high 80s, so when the weather finally settles the bass fishing should improve during the day with all the freshwater. Topwater baits, chatterbaits and spinnerbaits will be good in 1-5 feet around the bay grass and edge of flooded bushes. It will take a few days for the deeper fish to start to bite after all the rising water. Best baits will be mid range crankbaits and Texas rig, worm or baby's brush hog. The best bite has been at night with catches up to 10 pounds with buzzbaits and spinnerbaits on main lake points then Texas rigs and Carolina rigs out in 10-16 feet. The crappie fishing has been slow but should improve. Best fishing has been deep brush and standing timber 12-18 feet with live bait. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 83 degrees; 3.58 feet above pool. The bite for all species seems to improve when the water is being generated. This stirs the water, breaking up the thermocline. Bass are slow in shallow water with many smaller fish being caught on frogs, and spinnerbaits. Deeper bass bite is fair with Carolina rigs. Crappie are slow in the morning, but improve midday. Catfish are all over the lake in 20 feet of water and in 12 feet of water in the creek channels. White bass are on points in the south end of the lake near the dam. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. As the lake continues to drop fish are going to be moving to traditional summer locations pending the thermocline depth. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

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Researchers launch first-ever study for genetic improvement of Texas' red drum stock



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service researchers are launching the first-ever study focused on genetic improvement of Texas' commercial red drum aquaculture stock.

Sarah Fuller
Texas A&M AgriLife

Foodies have reason to celebrate the latest project led by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service aquaculture experts. They are advancing the sustainable supply of red drum fish from Texas' Gulf Coast, where the majority of the U.S. supply originates.

AgriLife Extension researchers are launching the first-ever study focused on genetic improvement of Texas' commercial red drum aquaculture stock.

The stock improvement program is supported by a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Southern Regional Aquaculture Center, SRAC.

The project is led by Todd Sink, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension aquaculture specialist and associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, and Brittaney Chesser, AgriLife Extension aquatic vegetation management program specialist and lead diagnostic scientist at AgriLife Extension's Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory. Sink and Chesser are based in Bryan-College Station.

Texas leads the nation in red drum aquaculture

The origins of red drum aquaculture can be traced back to the 1980s when consumer demand and overfishing led to a population collapse in the Gulf of Mexico's red drum fisheries.

"Within a decade, commercial fishing basically wiped-out red drum from the Gulf," Sink said. "The industry had to scramble to develop red drum aquaculture techniques to not only meet the demand for food fish but also assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in stock restoration programs in the Gulf."

Since then, red drum fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico have recovered and are a critical component of the state's recreational fishing industry, which annually contributes more than \$1 billion to the Texas economy.

The aquaculture industry contributing to the red drum fisheries recovery has also grown. According to the USDA 2018 Census of Aquaculture, Texas is home to eight of the 12 red drum farms in the U.S.

"If you buy farm-raised red drum at a supermarket or order it at a restaurant

anywhere in the U.S., there's a very good chance that it was produced in Texas," Sink said.

Using data from the 2018 aquaculture census as well as a 2021 internal industry report, Sink estimates the red drum industry in Texas — from farm to restaurant to consumer — has an annual economic contribution of more than \$220 million.

Research seeks to diversify, improve commercial red drum genetics

All the broodfish used in red drum aquaculture were captured from the wild, and because it is a long-lived species, Sink said many of those same fish have spawned on the same farms since the early stages of the industry.

"A large farm might produce 5 million food fish a year, and all of those fish might be from six to eight parents," Sink said. "If something happens to one of your broodfish, you're severely impacting not just that farm but the entire industry."

Sink and Chesser's work seeks to remedy this.

Together, the team will collect genetic information from at least half of

the existing state and commercial hatcheries to generate new stock. This new broodstock will then be selectively grown out and genetically tested for ideal traits, including growth rate, improved feed conversion and cold tolerance.

Sink said cold tolerance is of great importance for producers following dramatic losses incurred during Winter Storm Uri and additional cold snaps in subsequent years.

"Since the industry started, producers typically would expect a damaging freeze about every 10 years, but we've seen three catastrophic freezes in the last six years," Sink said. "They are in dire need of cold-tolerant fish."

Project to produce guiding document on implementation of breeding plan

Sink said the three-year turnaround for this project is a very short timeline compared to the decades-long genetic improvement programs seen in catfish and striped bass.

During this time, the research team will also develop a guiding document for producers detailing the non-technical back-

ground, design and resources making it possible for them to implement the breeding program within their own operations.

"Breeding values, representing the value of each fish, and pedigree data will be used to create a breeding plan for producers to create the next generation of broodstock that will maximize genetic

gains of desired traits while minimizing inbreeding," Sink said.

The guiding document will provide multiple strategies from SRAC experts for producers' red drum selective breeding programs. Sink said he hopes this work will improve efficiency and continued success in Texas' red drum production with

the ultimate goal of industry expansion.

"The SRAC works under a producer-focused model that keeps them engaged in the research and decision-making process," Sink said. "This project was determined by the producers, and we will have a deliverable guide available to them by the end of the project term."

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Advocating for the good of the Orange County community, Tommy is a former President of the Bridge City Independent School District school board and a past President of the Bridge City-Orangefield Rotary Club. He is also a former Director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and serves as City Attorney for the City of Pinehurst since 1988. At present, Tommy is a former director and Chairman of the Board of Orange Savings Bank and First Financial Bank.



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Feds aim to preserve historic shipwrecks

Although most of the 4,000 shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico cannot be identified, researchers believe that some of them may hold valuable clues about the region's history.

GABRIEL TYNES
Courthouse News Service

In late 2011, technicians for the petroleum company Shell were surveying the Gulf of Mexico for potential drilling sites when they came across an anomaly.

About 274 miles south of Galveston, Texas, and roughly 4,300 feet below the surface, sonar illuminated a rare sight. It was the hull of an 84-foot long sailing ship, its masts broken and cast to the sides.

The techs reported their discovery to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, an agency within the Department of Interior which currently manages a database of around 4,000 shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico, plus thousands more on the East and West coasts. The agency partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to explore the shipwreck. Researchers ultimately found two more sunk ships in the vicinity, naming them Monterrey A, B and C.

The Monterrey shipwrecks are now among 13 sites nominated by the BOEM for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Texas State University, which helped with Monterrey excavation, has called the find "one of the more significant shipwreck sites discovered in the Gulf."

The BOEM recently published a series of videos showcasing the findings from each site — the result of a comprehensive study that was part of the nomination process. Authors

hope their study will serve as a template for future nominations.

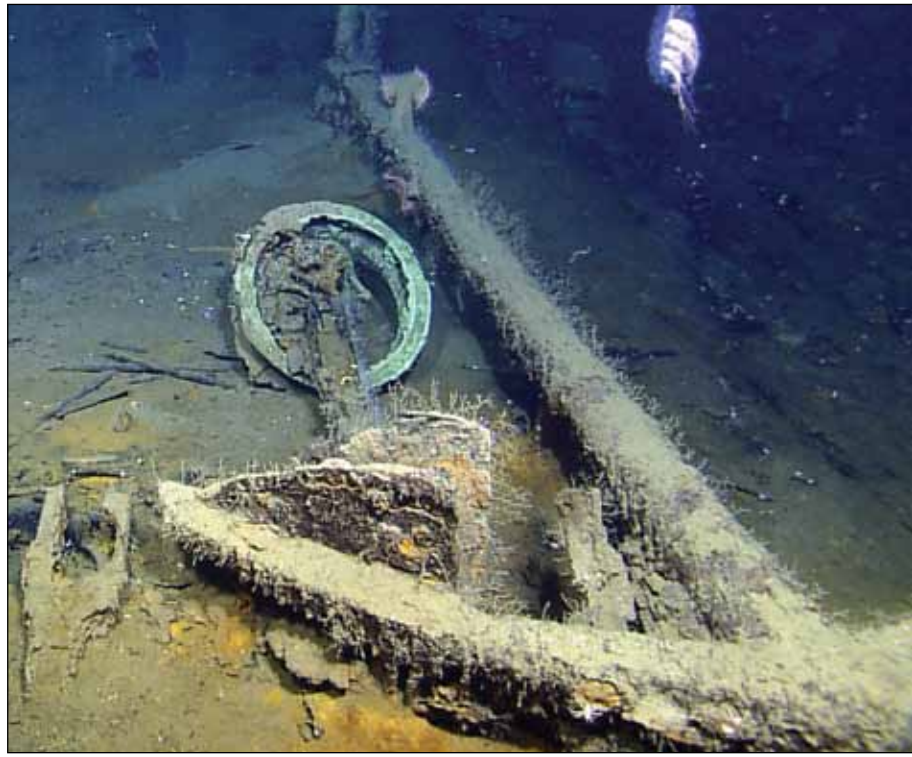
"Not all shipwrecks are created equal," said James Delgado, a marine archaeologist and senior vice president at SEARCH Inc., who researched and wrote the study along with his colleagues. "They all have their own significance for their own reasons."

Along with two other BOEM-nominated shipwreck sites, the Monterrey shipwrecks appear to be early 19th century ocean-going commercial traders.

Five other sites date from later in the 19th century and were likely used to rebuild the Southern economy after the Civil War. At least one of the nominated vessels was used in the commercial fishing industry. Another, the S.S. New York, was a luxurious water taxi that also transported small goods around the Gulf Coast.

In the case of Monterrey A, its wooden hull was still intact below the water line, thanks to a copper sheathing commonly added to vessels of the period to prevent corrosion. Researchers on the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer maneuvered a remotely operated submersible around the site, finding at least five cannons and several crates of muskets.

Among the personal items recovered from Monterrey A were personalized dining sets and toiletries. There was also a medicine chest which still contained a vial of ginger for combating seasickness, as well as a bowel pump for constipa-



Lying next to an anchor are the remains of the capstan from the Monterrey C site in more than 4,300 feet of water. In the background are fragments of the hull's copper sheathing. The wreck is one of three sites investigated by scientists from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, NOAA, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. Image courtesy of the Ocean Exploration Trust/Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University.

tion. The findings indicated the ship sank sometime after 1815, but its identity and mission remained a mystery.

Then, in 2012 and 2013, researchers discovered two other shipwrecks in the same vicinity.

They called the shipwrecks Monterrey B and C. Monterrey B was a sailing ship filled with a cargo of rolled hides, ceramic vessels and white blocks of a fatty substance, which scientists believed could be beef tallow. Monterrey C was heavily damaged and apparently did not have cargo. Still, researchers did discover one of the earliest commercially produced chronometers on the ship, which would have been an advanced navigational instrument at the time.

None of the three ships were positively identified, but the research team was able to surmise they were possibly sailing together before they sank, likely due to

a large and violent storm. With its cannons and muskets, they think Monterrey A likely served as an armed escort for the other two vessels, all of them involved in international trade.

As part of the U.S. Department of Interior, BOEM is one of the smaller agencies of the federal government.

While mainly focused on managing 3.1 billion acres of submerged lands for domestic oil and gas exploration, it also maintains a list of shipwrecks as authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act. Of its 2024 budget of \$260 million, the agency spent around \$30 million on an environmental studies program that includes oversight of shipwreck sites.

"These sites represent different aspects of Gulf of Mexico history," said Mela-

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Saltwater fishing From Page 1B

David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike remains closed for clean-up and repairs. People are fishing along the levee towards Moses Lake tidal gate. Anglers are still catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder every day with some occasional black drum, sheepshead, sand trout, and gafftop. Live shrimp and finger mullet have been the best baits. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Matagorda Bay**

SLOW. 84 degrees. The bay is full of trout and drum, but the unsettled weather makes for unsettled fishing. The bite is usually great on the upswing of a full moon, but the changing wind direction slowed the bite last week. When the winds are out of the southwest or out of the east the bite should improve. The best bite has been wading with croakers. Slot trout are possible, but catches are primarily undersized or oversized. Flounder giggers are doing well. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• **Port O'Conner**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Trout are biting around Alcatraz Island, Honey Hole, outside of both jetties and in the surf with live croaker or

shrimp fished off the bottom. Bull redfish are on the flats between Bird Island and the back of the jetties with live piggy perch and Spanish sardines. Slot redfish are biting Spanish sardines and blue crab on the outside of the north and South Jetty. Few catches of drum halfway down the inside of the South Jetty on dead shrimp. Black tip and spinner sharks are in the surf. Report by Captain Marty Medford, Captain Marty's Fish of a Lifetime Guide Service.

• **Rockport**

GOOD. 84 degrees. Trout are great on croaker along grass and rocks in 3-4 feet of water with a popping cork and shrimp have been producing in flats while drifting. Redfish are fair on shrimp, cut skipjack or mullet in flats. Black drum are great on live or dead shrimp and fish bites in drains and sand pockets and along oyster beds. Report by Captain Kenny Kramer, Kramer Fishing Charters.

• **Port Aransas**

GOOD. 84 degrees. Redfish are good on shrimp and cut bait. Trout are good with croaker or shrimp free lined along rocks. Surf fishing has been producing good redfish and trout in the first and second gut with an occasional shark. King fish are at the first rigs

and have been good on ribbon fish. Jack crevalle are showing up at jetties. Report by Captain Kenny Kramer, Kramer Fishing Charters.

• **Redfish Bay**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Schools of black drum floating, under the surface of the water, on dead shrimp. Trout are in abundance over oyster reefs or grass lines biting piggy perch. Redfish are around structure biting cut mullet. Captain Aerich Oliver, Rockport Paradise Outfitters.

• **Corpus Christi**

GOOD. 81 degrees. Schools of black drum floating, under the surface of the water, on dead shrimp. Trout are in abundance over oyster reefs or

grass lines biting piggy perch. Redfish are around structure biting cut mullet. Report by Captain Aerich Oliver, Rockport Paradise Outfitters.

• **Baffin Bay**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Big female flounder catches up to 4 pounds with gulp. Big

trout are good in the back of the bay in the white sand with pink and silver and bone and silver topwater plugs. Trout are spawning. Redfish are good schooling shorelines and spoil islands hitting gold spoons. Report by Captain Cliff Webb.

• **Port Mansfield**

GOOD. 92 degrees. Fishing is good for redfish and trout. Trout have been consistent along the flats near the channels. Additionally, a few flounder have been located in the same areas. BTS and junior Wigalo's have been effective. Small pods of redfish.

Master Gardener classes start Aug. 22

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. Several field trips are planned as well. Volunteer time can be done by working at the Master Gardener greenhouse, working at the yearly plant sale, and other AgriLife programs throughout the year. The cost of the class is \$150 which in-

cludes a book, supplies, speaker fees, and a banquet on the last day of class, Dec. 12.

Master Gardener Training is provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. There is an additional online fee to comply with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service background check policy. The background check is to be renewed every three years but needs to be completed prior to training.

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.

Historic shipwrecks From Page 1B

nie Damour, a BOEM marine archaeologist and environmental studies coordinator. Each site "tells a fascinating story of what life was like at sea within a particular time period."

"They all have some sort of story to tell us about Gulf of Mexico history — and a lot of that information can be captured in a National Register listing," Damour added. That was true regardless of each ship's purpose, whether it was used for wartime activities, fishing or transporting passengers around the Gulf.

The National Park Service will review the nominated shipwreck sites to determine whether they are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places — a move that would protect the sites from development or disturbance and offer other benefits. There are more than 90,000 sites currently listed on the register, including a number of World War 2-era shipwrecks nominated by BOEM in 2007.

Scott Sorset, a BOEM marine archaeologist who worked on the current nominations, said that excavating and exploring shipwrecks was an important part of building a historical record.

"These are non-renewable resources," he said. "Once you dig up a site, you can't grow a new one or put it back together again."

Delgado, the archaeologist who wrote the recent BOEM study, said that by studying the Monterrey shipwrecks, researchers "were able to tie it together into a more comprehensive narrative" about seafaring in the Gulf of Mexico.

"A lot of history isn't about big folks and big events," Delgado said: "It's about the rest of us who make a living and do our thing every day."

Delgado recently documented the sunken wreckage of the Clotilda, America's last slave ship, for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. He said the regulatory process to approve a new historic site can take around five or six years.

Nonetheless, Delgado is hopeful his report on the Gulf wrecks can be reproduced for future discoveries.

"Anybody wanting to move forward with another shipwreck can use this as a basic guide," he said. "It takes away the need to go and spend a lot of time doing a lot of additional historical research."

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Proposed Elected Officials Salaries from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025

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The Commissioners' Court of Orange County, Texas comprised of John H. Gothia, County Judge, Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Pct. 1, Chris Sowell, Commissioner, Pct. 2, Kirk Roccaforte, Commissioner, Pct. 3, Robert L. Viator, Commissioner, Pct. 4, all of Orange County, Texas hereby give notice the County and State, of the proposed salaries of the following elected officials, for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

* Posting reflects only the designated elected officials that will receive longevity pay and elected officials that have a State or Federally mandated increase.
**Posting does not show other elected officials' salaries due to no changes in compensation.

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District Judge, 125th Judicial District	from	\$18,300.00	\$532.00				\$18,832.00	
	to:	\$18,300.00	\$670.00				\$18,970.00	
District Judge, 153rd Judicial District	from	\$18,300.00					\$18,300.00	
	to:	\$18,300.00					\$18,300.00	
District Judge, 250th Judicial District	from	\$18,300.00					\$18,300.00	
	to:	\$18,300.00	\$277.00				\$18,577.00	
County Court At Law 1	from	\$185,000.00	\$1,732.00				\$186,732.00	
	to:	\$185,000.00	\$2,128.00				\$187,128.00	
County Court At Law 2 Incumbent	from	\$183,400.00					\$183,400.00	
	to: (3 months salary)	\$49,399.88	\$3,484.28				\$52,884.16	
County District Attorney Incumbent	from	\$18,300.00	\$2,998.33				\$21,298.33	
	to: (3 months salary)	\$4,539.24	\$2,334.15				\$6,873.39	
County Judge	from	\$110,420.80	\$220.00		\$2,400.00		\$113,040.80	
	to:	\$117,460.80	\$276.00		\$2,400.00		\$119,136.80	
Commissioner, Precinct #1	from	\$77,536.00	\$240.00		\$2,400.00		\$80,176.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$276.00		\$2,400.00		\$81,252.00	
Commissioner, Precinct #2	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00			\$2,400.00		\$80,976.00	
Commissioner, Precinct #3	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$136.00		\$2,400.00		\$81,112.00	
Commissioner, Precinct #4	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$234.00		\$2,400.00		\$81,210.00	
Sheriff Incumbent	from	\$109,360.00	\$1,355.33	county phone	county vehicle		\$110,715.33	
	to: (3 months salary)	\$28,324.62	\$1,452.33	county phone	county vehicle	\$692.33	\$30,470.67	Total Compensation also includes \$727.20 for benefits earned prior to being elected to office. Senate Bill 22 is a State Funded Grant
Newly Elected	to: (3 months salary)	\$82,900.00		county phone	county vehicle	\$2,337.89	\$85,237.89	Senate Bill 22 is a State Funded Grant
District Clerk	from	\$82,340.00	\$2,275.33		\$600.00		\$85,215.33	
	to:	\$83,980.00	\$2,359.33		\$600.00		\$86,939.33	
County Clerk	from	\$82,340.00	\$1,434.33		\$600.00		\$84,374.33	
	to:	\$83,980.00	\$1,538.33		\$600.00		\$86,118.33	
County Treasurer	from	\$82,340.00	\$1,548.33		\$600.00		\$84,488.33	
	to:	\$83,980.00	\$1,620.33		\$600.00		\$86,200.33	
Tax Assessor-Collections	from	\$82,340.00	\$2,971.33		\$600.00		\$85,911.33	
	to:	\$83,980.00	\$670.00		\$600.00		\$85,250.00	
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1	from	\$77,536.00	\$240.00		\$1,200.00		\$79,976.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$276.00		\$1,200.00		\$80,052.00	
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2	from	\$77,536.00			\$1,200.00		\$78,736.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$234.00		\$1,200.00		\$80,010.00	
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3	from	\$77,536.00	\$312.00		\$1,200.00		\$79,048.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$370.00		\$1,200.00		\$80,146.00	
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4	from	\$77,536.00	\$1,330.33		\$1,200.00		\$79,736.33	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$1,380.33		\$1,200.00		\$80,956.33	
Constable, Precinct 1	from	\$77,536.00	\$237.00		\$2,400.00		\$80,173.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00	\$257.00		\$2,400.00		\$81,233.00	
Constable, Precinct 2	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00			\$2,400.00		\$80,976.00	
Constable, Precinct 3	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to:	\$78,576.00			\$2,400.00		\$80,976.00	
Constable, Precinct 4 Incumbent	from	\$77,536.00			\$2,400.00		\$79,936.00	
	to: (3 months salary)	\$19,346.22	\$1,738.33		\$600.00		\$20,684.55	
Newly Elected	to: (3 months salary)	\$58,932.00	\$1,738.33		\$1,000.00		\$61,670.33	

For Mothers of Future Men

Abigail Dodds
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org



If you look at the beginning of Proverbs 31, you might find a surprise. The chapter includes not simply the famous portrait of an excellent wife but also the teaching and influence of a godly mother on her son. Proverbs 31 begins with the recitation of a king. And what is he reciting? He's reciting "an oracle that his mother taught him" (Proverbs 31:1).

What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?

Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. (Proverbs 31:2-5)

Verse 10 begins the more famous portion of Proverbs 31, but it's worth noting that King Lemuel is continuing to recite his mother's teaching.

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. (Proverbs 31:10-11)

If our sons were asked about the most common teaching of their moms, what might their answers be? What sort of teaching characterizes our commands?

What Does Mom Say Most?

Our most common commands might be mainly safety-oriented: "Always wash your hands before

you eat." "Wear sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher." "Don't forget your bike helmet or seatbelt." Those are not necessarily bad commands. But if they are the primary teaching of a mother to a son, they will not keep a son safe, but handicap him.

Perhaps your teaching is mainly practical: "Be sure to clean your room and make your bed every day." "Finish all the food on your plate." "Always be on time." "Waste not, want not." These are not bad commands; often they're good and helpful. Yet, if those commands are left to themselves, without a foundation of weightier instruction, they will provide only earthly help without eternal benefit.

King Lemuel's mother taught him two very important lessons: (1) how to avoid temptation so he could rule as king, and (2) how to find and value an excellent wife. In other words, his mother taught him how to be a man. And sons today still need mothers who can help teach them how to be wise, just, loving, good men, if not quite kings.

Our sons need to learn how to be heads of a household — perhaps also leaders of businesses, churches, or governments — and men who know what to look for in a wife. That means they need moms who can instruct them in how to judge between right and wrong, true and false, good and best. And between an excellent

wife and an evil woman — because evil women actually exist, and our sons need to avoid them.

"There are a lot of sons today who need mothers who can help teach them how to be wise, just, loving, good men."

Mothers instruct their sons in the importance of being a son, a boy, a man. Mothers help sons know what clothes are fitting for a boy versus a girl. They help them know what manners and mannerisms are appropriate for a young man. While our sons are young, and especially during the teenage years, mothers should keep an eye out to help their sons become godly men — not mom's protégé, not mimicking her femininity. Moms remind sons that their broad shoulders are not meant to slouch, but to carry heavier loads for the sake of others.

Guarding from Sexual Confusion

Mothers need to wisely, shrewdly translate the wisdom of King Lemuel's mother to the world we live in today, where it's not just a king-destroying woman or the dangers of drunkenness he needs to avoid — it's all manner of perversity and addiction. We need to help our sons avoid the enticements of the LGBTQ+ madness, to learn self-control when it comes to phones and technology, to avoid the deceitful euphemisms that have found their way into

some churches, like "pronoun hospitality" or "gender-affirming care" or "reproductive freedom."

Our sons may not be solicited on the street by a prostitute, but they will likely meet with some sinister images or a person who tempts them online. Without the warnings and cautions and roadblocks, and the faith-filled prayers of their godly mothers restraining them, they will be tempted to respond to the sexual advances of perverse men and women who seek them out in the unseen places of the Internet. Or, at the very least, they will be tempted to make light of those who do indulge such perversity — they will be tempted to affirm what God calls an abomination (Romans 1:32).

Home as a Mirror of Mothers

We mothers also need to show our children, and perhaps especially our teenage sons, the respite and safe haven of a Christian home, where God's ways are normal, and the gospel is for them, and repentance and forgiveness are quick and ongoing, and God's friendship is for those who fear him. We need to be mothers like the excellent woman in Proverbs 31, the one King Lemuel's mother told him about:

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (Proverbs 31:25-27)

God calls us mothers to look well to the ways of our household. We make and keep the home, so home is often a reflection of us, of our own godliness, maturity, submission to our husband, and conformity to Christ — or the lack of all those things. The atmosphere

inside the home can be stale and tense and smothering or full of clean air and light hearts. The rhythms of our home will either indulge or discourage idleness.

We can wear the strength and confidence and dignity of a mother who fears God and entrusts herself to Christ, or we can make anxious people-pleasing or selfish strife our default setting.

From Teenage Sons to Godly Men

Remember that our homes are testifying and speaking to our children. It's likely that our sons will not verbally give us up-to-the-minute details of all that is in their hearts, but their hearts are either being softened to God and his ways or hardened to them. Our home life either authenticates the gospel and the goodness of God's commands, or it misrepresents those things and becomes a stumbling block through our own hypocrisy. We can speak the words and warnings of life to our sons, or we can prefer safety-oriented rules and practical instruction over the weightier goal of godly manhood.

It's easy to think that our growing teenage sons don't really need their mothers. And certainly they don't need us the same way they did when they were little. They don't need our constant physical care; they need the wise and godly oracles of their mom telling them how to avoid worldly temptations, and what true justice is, and how to find a good wife. They need to know the respect and love and friendship and counsel and prayers of their godly mother.

They don't need to be smothered or controlled or manipulated or used. They don't need to be pitied or babied or coddled. But they do still need their godly mothers to offer wise and repeated instructions on how to be a man while showing them the contagious joy of a woman who fears the Lord.

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