

# County Record

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Week of Wednesday, August 14, 2024

## TxDOT closing lanes on bridges

### Expect travel delays Thursday and Friday

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Bridge City can expect more traffic problems this week as the Texas Department of Transportation plans to close one lane of the Rainbow Bridge on Thursday and one lane of the Veterans Memorial Bridge on Friday.

TxDOT warns to expect delays in travel time and to be cautious of road crews. The closures are for contract inspectors to check the bridges.

The Rainbow Bridge lane closure will be from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, with the lane closure on the Veterans Memorial from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Fri-

day, August 16. That means travel from Bridge City to Port Arthur will be down to one lane on Thursday for the time frame. Then travel from Port Arthur to Bridge City will be down to one lane on Friday during the specific hours.

In March this year, TxDOT announced that the Rainbow Bridge would be closed sometime this year for renovations, the 1938 bridge's first major overhaul in 30 years. The original time start was given as late summer or early fall, but no announcement for the start of work has been announced. The project is estimated to require the bridge to be

closed at least 18 months.

When the total closure comes, TxDOT is planning to open the Veterans Memorial Bridge to two-way traffic to accommo-

date the closure. However, the Bridge City City Council complained to the state agency about the plans to direct traffic to the Veterans, saying the

change could confuse drivers and cause accidents.

The Rainbow Bridge, known as the tallest bridge in the South, was

opened in 1938 with big fanfare. It replaced a ferry crossing at the end of Bailey Road in what is now

**Bridge lane Page 3A**

## Pioneering paper mill to get state markers

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

The Texas Historical Commission has approved two new local historical markers, one for the City of West Orange, and the other for the Orange Paper Company, founded in the early 1901 that operated more than 90 years.

Meritta Kennedy, who is on the West Orange City Council and a member of the Orange County Historical Commission, did the research and wrote the application for the marker for West Orange.

Ken Steppe, a retired paper mill executive who helped open the Owens-Illinois containerboard plant north of Orange in 1967, did the research for the Orange Paper Company, later named Yellow Pine Paper and then Equitable Bag. The application was written by Jerry Pennington, a retired lawyer and judge, who also serves on the Orange County Historical Commission.

Kennedy's research shows that a town plat for

West Orange was made in 1902 on the west side of Adams Bayou, across from the city of Orange. Two houses still stand that were built in 1901, before the plat was finished. One is on Western Avenue and the other on Boston Street.

People first had to cross the bayou by raft or boat, but a wooden bridge was built soon after the plat was made. The bridge allowed horses, along with horse-pulled wagons and buggies to cross.

An early business was Peder Iron and Steel, which was a warehouse for bricks and rice.

West Orange also had the Doc Brown Dipping Station, a place where locals who raised cattle went to dip their animals to prevent a deadly tick disease. Kennedy's research showed the cattle were first dipped in crude oil, but a later preventative was a concoction that included arsenic.

The city also had a thriving agriculture busi-

**Pioneering Page 3A**

## Orange celebrates rebirth of Cove neighborhood

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Annette Payne lives in the Cove neighborhood of Orange and went to the old Cove school there. For years, she watched as the abandoned, sprawling school buildings deteriorated with broken windows.

But that decay is gone and Monday, she helped the city of Orange and local industries celebrate the rebirth of neighborhood with a sprawling park and recreation area on the land where the school once stood.

"We had a lot of people here that went to school here, that still live here, like myself. It's really exciting to know that they have things that people are going to be able to come and play on."

She said the area is a representation of the old school and will preserve its memory.

The city of Orange a few years ago bought the falling-down school campus and then paid to have it demolished. The land was cleared and playground equipment was installed. More amenities are planned, including a walking trail.



Kimberly Manning snaps a photo of Orange City Council members and other officials in some of the organizations responsible for the donations to make the Cove Recreational Area a reality.  
RECORD PHOTO: Penny Leleux

The city on Monday held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Cove Recreation Area along DuPont Drive.

Dow Chemical, which obtained

the DuPont company and DuPont Sabine River Works, a few years ago, has helped in the develop-

**Cove rebirth Page 3A**

## CASA support for youth in foster care during school year

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

The back-to-school season can bring excitement for young people as they prepare to see their classmates again, meet new teachers and students, and explore new subjects. For youth in foster care, however, starting a new school year can feel scary and uncertain, because the odds are stacked against them when it comes to their educational success.

Children enter foster care not because of any fault of their own, but be-

cause their families are in crisis. Once they're in foster care, they tend to face uncertainty and instability—moving from placement to placement, caseworker to caseworker and community to community. Too often, switching placements also means switching schools.

"Having to change schools causes youth in foster care to lose not only academic process, but also connections with friends and mentors. Couple this with the fact these youth are grappling with different types of traumas that

can influence their learning and behavior, and it's no wonder that they tend to have worse educational outcomes than their peers," said Codie Vasquez, Executive Director of CASA of the Sabine Neches Region.

CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, are everyday people from all walks of life who are recruited and specially trained to advocate for children in foster care and provide a consistent, reliable adult presence for them during a difficult time in their life.

They are appointed by a judge to one child or sibling group to advocate for their best interest in court, in school and in other settings. They get to know the child, and everyone involved in their life, such as their parents and other family members, foster parents, therapists, caseworkers and teachers.

Specifically, CASA volunteers can advocate for children's education by helping teachers, coaches, counselors and school administrators understand the child's foster care status and the unique chal-

lenges they face as a result. They can also advocate for placement and school stability for the children they serve, because it is best for them to stay in their school of origin whenever possible. In cases where a school change is inevitable, CASA volunteers can help ensure a seamless transfer between schools and lessen the negative impact of the school move on the child.

"Students in foster care face unique challenges, but they deserve every opportunity to thrive just like their classmates," said

Vasquez. "Our CASA volunteers can help by providing a consistent presence, communicating with their teachers about their situation, advocating for needed services and making sure the children they serve are set up to succeed."

In Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, Newton & Sabine Counties, there are roughly over 400 children in the child welfare system. CASA of the Sabine Neches Region has served 132 children this year, but

**CASA Page 3A**



★ TEXAS STATE NEWS

# Texas' overcrowded, understaffed jails send people awaiting trial to other counties, states

Staff Report  
The Texas Tribune

Two Saturdays a month, Sorcha Costigan climbs into her Jeep and drives 100 miles from Sabine County into Louisiana, all the while worrying about another vehicle part malfunctioning and how much the gas is going to cost.

Sorcha Costigan shows a photo of her husband, Jess Hampton, in his military uniform.

Sorcha Costigan shows a photo of her husband, Jess Hampton, in his military uniform. Credit: Hope Mora for The Texas Tribune

It's important to her, though, to see her husband as much as possible. Jess Hampton is being held at Louisiana Workforce, a private prison in DeQuincy, Louisiana, even though he is charged with child abuse in East Texas.

Hampton adamantly claims he's innocent, but he can't afford the \$250,000 bond to secure his release before his case is resolved. And the distance between where he's locked up and where his criminal proceedings are playing out has made it difficult to connect with his lawyers. Even after a Child Protective Services investigation found that the abuse Hampton is accused of committing never occurred, he couldn't get his bond reduced further.

His attorney at the time, based in Nacogdoches County, didn't show up to the hearing.

"He never presented one scrap of evidence, nor did he ever respond to any of my requests for contact," said Costigan, who has been advocating for Hampton during the nearly eleven months he has been incarcerated far from home.

Every day across Texas,

counties as large as Harris and as small as Sabine struggle to properly house the people held in their jails. So they spend millions in tax dollars transporting inmates, many of whom have yet to stand trial and are legally considered innocent. Some are sent to neighboring counties; others are bused across state lines.

A combination of factors is worsening the situation. Solutions prove elusive. And people like Hampton and Costigan are bearing the consequences.

The number of Texas inmates who were housed outside of their county of arrest surged from 2,078 in June 2019 to 4,358 in June 2024, according to a Texas Tribune analysis. The number of counties relying on outsourcing has also risen. In June 2010, 31% of Texas county jails housed inmates elsewhere. In June 2024, 41% counties did so, according to data kept by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

"Counties are having to think outside the box," said Ricky Armstrong, assistant director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. "We know there are some counties housing people out of state. It's not something we recommend or encourage, but we see that as a necessary evil."

Several factors are worsening the situation. The number of new jail cells in Texas isn't keeping pace with the state's explosive population growth. Several counties are still trying to dig themselves out of the caseload log jam the COVID-19 pandemic caused.

A 2021 state law limiting who can be released while awaiting trial is increasing the number of people in jails and lengthening the amount of time they stay



Sheriff Woody Wallace talks to inmates on June 4, 2024 at the Trinity County jail in Groveton. PHOTO: : Mark Felix for The Texas Tribune

there. So, too, is the overburdened mental health system in the state, which essentially forces jails to take on psychiatric care even though they are ill-equipped to do so.

And finding jailers is difficult — which exacerbates the problem because under state jail standards, fewer jailers means lock-ups have to lower the number of inmates they hold, even if there are cells available.

Meanwhile, violent crime rates did increase in recent years, but appear to have peaked in 2020 and have since gone down.

"It's very difficult to know exactly what is driving incarceration rates, but typically it's not crime rates," said Jeff Asher, a crime analyst, who cautioned against drawing a direct connection between the amount of crime in a community and the size of its jail population. "It's more about enforcement."

Law enforcement officials say jail space must increase, though residents opposed to tax increases to fund expensive construction costs hamper those efforts.

Civil rights advocates and defense lawyers argue that the state should invest more

heavily in mental health support and alternatives to incarceration. They also say the state should adjust its bail policies so decisions about who is freed until trial are not effectively based on a person's wealth.

"We are addicted to carceral solutions," said Krish Gundu, co-founder of the Texas Jail Project, which advocates for people in Texas county jails. "If we really cared about not having these people in jails, you'd look at why they are ending up in jail and solve the problem at the root." But Texas' Republican-controlled Legislature is unlikely to follow their advice. The state has a long history of relying heavily on incarceration to control crime and to maintain law and order. Texas locks up 751 per 100,000 of their residents, one of the higher rates in the United States, according to a recent report from the Prison Policy Initiative.

"Texas has been, and always will be a law and order state, and criminals must know that justice is awaiting them," Gov. Greg Abbott's press secretary, Andrew Mahaleris, told The Texas Tribune in an email. "Gov. Abbott will continue to work with the legislature

to end revolving door bail policies and keep dangerous criminals off our streets."

Abbott's office did not answer questions about how the state will respond to jail overcrowding. The governor appoints the nine members of TCJS, which conducts regular inspections of all county jails.

"Some of the ones that do have available beds struggle with staffing issues," Brandon Wood, the agency's executive director, said at a TCJS meeting this month. "We will continue to study the issue."

### Costs to counties

Trinity County Sheriff Woody Wallace can't help but feel like his department is wasting taxpayer money.

Nearly \$1 million — or roughly 10% — of the rural

East Texas county's budget has been sent to other jurisdictions that house inmates who can't fit in the jail, which was built in the 1930s to accommodate up to seven inmates. Today, it can hold up to 16 inmates. And in June, Trinity sent 17 inmates to other lock-ups, costing the taxpayers up to \$75 per inmate, per day.

Then there's the cost to transport the inmates.

"We are driving as far as 3.5 hours away," Wallace said. "I have a small jail staff, and we are having to scramble to find vehicles and people to take them."

Most people in jail haven't been convicted or sentenced, so they still have to return to their county of arrest for court hearings. In 2023, the county spent about \$91,000 in inmate

OVERCROWDED Page 5

## The Record Newspapers

### of Orange County, Texas

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# Bridge City's Chase Shugart moves up in MLB

Margaret Toal  
For The Record

Bridge City High graduate Chase Shugart moved up to Major League Baseball this week as the Boston Red Sox promoted him from their AAA team the Worcester Red Sox.

Local fans may get to see him soon as the Red Sox will be playing in Houston next week against the Astros. Games are set for 7:10 p.m. Monday, August 20, and Tuesday, August 21, then at 1:10 p.m. Wednesday, August 21, all at Minute Maid Park.

Shugart, 27, is a right-handed pitcher and for the past three years has been serving as a relief pitcher. He went to the University of Tex-



Chase Shugart

as and left before his senior year to put his name in the MLB draft.

The Red Sox chose him in the 12th round of the 2018 draft and he has worked his way up their system. Earlier this year, invited him to spring training camp as a non-roster player.

The Red Sox this week are hosting the Texas Rangers.

# Pioneering paper mill

From Page 1

ness and the Del-Dixi cannery that canned or bottled local crops including green beans, fig preserves, and its famous dill pickles.

The city's population was 2,539 in 1950, the years after a World War II shipyard boom and the opening of the DuPont chemical plant. By 1960, the population was up to 5,080. Now, the population is estimated at 3,444.

Leaders in the city tried twice to get citizens to incorporate, but voters rejected the idea. Finally in 1954, incorporation was approved by a margin of

381 to 90 and the city officially was formed.

The Orange Paper Company, later Yellow Pine Mill, was formed mainly by leaders in the local lumber business. It was a way to turn scraps from the lumber mills into paper, a marketable product.

Investors included William H. Stark, Dr. Edgar Brown, Leopold Miller, J.W. Link, and F.H. Farwell.

The mill was built on the east side of Adams Bayou at the end of Front Street in 1901 and an expansion was made by 1910.

Steppe's research showed it was a pioneer for developing paper mills across the South. By the 1920s, the paper mill had so many employees that 30 people lived on the grounds in nine single-family houses and what was described as a "tenement." A restaurant was also on the grounds.

The mill was sold to Equitable Bag about 1936 and continued to operate under that name for another 90 years.

Once the Texas Historical Commission historians approve a marker, they

compose the wording. The wording is then sent back to the local commission for approval before going to a foundry, where a heavy bronze plaque is cast with the inscription. The process takes months. Orange County had three markers approved last year, but none of the plaques have been received at this time.

The marker for West Orange is to be installed at West Orange City Hall on Western Avenue. The marker for the paper mill will be placed at Heritage House Museum on Division Avenue, about two blocks away from where the mill was built.

# Cove rebirth

From Page 1B

ment of the new parkland with grants. The park includes a covered kiosk with the history of the petrochemical industry in Orange with DuPont as the first to locate here.

Christina Babcock with Dow said the company has been working with the city, particularly Grants Director Rita Monson and City Planning Director Kelvin Knauf on the park development plans.

"We've just been excited to help them push this forward," Babcock said.

The Cove neighborhood is one of the oldest in Orange County. It lies south of the crescent of the Sabine River that winds through downtown Orange. The area is between the straight part of the river south of the Port of Orange and between Adams Bayou. At one time, it even had its own school district, which consolidated with the West Orange district in the early 1960s.

Some residents of the Cove, though, have felt like the ugly stepchild of the city when it comes to development. But in re-

cent years, the city has worked to improve the neighborhood and used grant money to demolish old buildings that had become eyesores and health hazards.

In addition, the city has given economic development grants to new businesses, including Tarver Performance Marine and the Cove Marina, both along Adams Bayou. New houses are being built and old ones are being restored.

Orange City Councilor Mary McKenna represents the Cove in her District 3. "Cove is a wonderful place," she said.

She attributed the improvements, including the new recreation area to "lots of people partnering" with the city to make the neighborhood a better

place to live.

Even though the Cove Recreation Area is in a neighborhood, it is for all

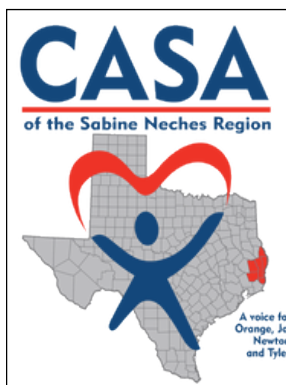
the community. It will also have a walking path on the south side of the city, several miles away.

# CASA support for foster youth

From Page 1B

there are still children without a CASA volunteer to advocate for their needs.

"CASA of the Sabine Neches Region urgently needs more volunteers, especially now that the back-to-school season has begun," said Vasquez. "Every child in foster care should have an advocate who is committed to helping them be successful. Become a CASA volunteer to help ensure that all children get the support they deserve both in school and beyond - giving them a



better chance at a brighter future."

For more information, visit [www.casasnr.org](http://www.casasnr.org). (409) 886-2272

# Bridge lane closings

From Page 1B

Bridge City and for half a century, carried two-way traffic on its narrow two lanes.

The Veterans Memorial Bridge opened in 1988 and was designed to allow travel in one direction, leaving the Rainbow Bridge to carry the traffic in the opposite direction.

However, the Rainbow Bridge was closed for renovations in the 1990s and was reopened in October 1997.

After a barge collision in Baltimore, Maryland, in March made the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse this past March, the New York Times did as

survey of major bridges across the country and whether they had barriers installed to protect against barges or ships making a direct hit on support beams. The Rainbow and Veterans Memorial bridges were reported as having the barriers for protection.

# Stark Cultural Venues announces Volunteer Round-Up for venues

Staff Report  
For The Record

The Stark Foundation is rounding up the best volunteers for a community wide Volunteer Round-Up for their four cultural venues which includes Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, The W.H. Stark House, Stark Museum of Art and the Lutchter Theater. The Volunteer Round-Up will be held on Tuesday, August 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lutchter Theater located at 707 Main in Orange, TX.

"From gardening to greeting, from history to hospitality, from art to Broadway, there is a place for everyone to volunteer at one of the four Stark Cultural Venues," said

Lynae Sanford, executive director of Stark Cultural Venues Marketing. "We encourage the public to join us and learn about the different volunteer opportunities we have available."

The Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1961 to encourage and assist education and to improve and enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas. The Stark Foundation seeks to continue the legacy of its founders through the programs of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, The W.H. Stark House, the Stark Museum of Art, the Frances Ann Lutchter Theater for the Perform-

ing Arts and the Miriam Lutchter Stark Contest in Reading and Declamation. These venues provide the community and region with rich resources and opportunities for study and enjoyment of the arts, history and nature.

"We encourage the community to volunteer at one or all of our cultural venues," said Sanford.

The evening will include a presentation with information on ways to become involved at each venue. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information on the Volunteer Round-Up or any of the Stark Cultural Venues, please visit [starkculturalvenues.org/volunteers](http://starkculturalvenues.org/volunteers).

# Meals on Wheels fundraiser set for Wed.

The Orange County Meals on Wheels program, which earlier in the year had financial problems, is having a barbecue fundraiser lunch Wednesday, August 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granger Supercenter, at 16th Street and Green Avenue in Orange.

LBS BBQ and Catering of Bridge City is partnering with the local non-profit agency for the lunches. Each lunch is \$15 and includes a chipped beef or pulled pork sandwich, along with chips, drink and a cookie.

Meals on Wheels delivers free nutritious, balanced meals to shut-ins across the county. In addition, senior citizens may buy a reduced-price hot lunch on weekdays at the Velma Jeter Community Center, on Division Avenue at Sixth Street in downtown Orange across from the Riverfront Pavilion.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION AUG. 19-22

Several prominent Democratic figures are set to speak at the **Democratic National Convention** in Chicago next week. **President Joe Biden**, former presidents **Barack Obama** and **Bill Clinton** and former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** have been confirmed as speakers at the convention. **Obama** and the **Clintons** delivered speeches during the **2020 DNC**, which was largely held virtually to prevent the spread of Covid-19 amid the pandemic. A source familiar said that former **President Jimmy Carter's** grandson **Jason Carter** is also confirmed to be speaking as a representative for his grandfather. The convention, which is scheduled for Aug. 19-22 in Chicago, takes place weeks after **Biden** announced his withdrawal from the race following widespread calls from **Democrats** to drop out after his disastrous June debate performance against former **President Donald Trump**. Vice President **Kamala Harris**, who ran unopposed for the Democratic presidential nomination after **Biden** dropped out of the race, secured the majority of delegate votes to win the nomination. The **Harris campaign** last week announced **Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz** as her running mate. **Harris**, who is the first **Black woman** and first **Indian American** in U.S. history to secure a major party's presidential nomination. The momentum leading up to the convention has surged since **Harris** announced her presidential campaign last month. Some people have waited a lifetime to elect a woman president. **Hillary Clinton**, the only other woman who had a chance was defeated by **Donald Trump** in 2016. The **Harris campaign** raised a historic \$310 million last month, and \$36 million in the 24 hours after she announced **Walz** as her running mate. Protests and demonstrations related to the U.S. government's **support for Israel** in their ongoing **invasion of Gaza** are expected to emerge while the convention is being held. Commentators have drawn comparisons between the upcoming convention and the 1968 convention, also held in Chicago, in which protests opposed to the **Vietnam War** turned violent when the city utilized extreme levels of police brutality to suppress the protestors.

### CURRY DELIVERS GOLD

The **United States** is atop the international men's basketball world once again, after **Stephen Curry** scored 24 points and led the way to a 98-87 win over **France** in the final at the **Paris Games** on Saturday night. It was the fifth conservative gold medal for the **U.S.**, and the 17<sup>th</sup> in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans at the games. **Curry** made four 3-pointers in the final 2:43, including the one that just sealed the win with 1:19 remaining. It put the **U.S.** up 93-84 and he skipped down the court letting out a yell, shaking his jersey so everyone could see the "USA" across the front. If that wasn't enough, one more followed with about 30 seconds left, with the "go to sleep" move where he puts his hands on the side of his face. **Good night. Game over. Gold won. Again.**

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Oscar winning actor/comic **Robin Williams**, 63, was found dead in his Tiburon, California home around noon Monday, Aug. 11. Tiburon is across the Golden Gate Bridge north of San Francisco. His death was a suicide due to asphyxia (death by hanging). He had been battling severe depression of late. **Robin** was considered a comic genius, a versatile actor beloved by several generations. **Baby Boomers** first became acquainted with him in 1978 as **Mork** on TV's **Mork and Mindy**. Many remember him as a **D.J.** in 1987's "Good Morning Vietnam." He was one of the most beloved entertainers of our time. Depression is a desperate disease often unnoticed by others. A victim is often alone in a crowd. You never know those who might be suffering, **Williams** appeared to be an unlikely victim.\*\*\*\* We spoke with **Judge Derry Dunn**, in the hospital in Houston Tuesday. He says he is healing, off of strong antibiotics, but still can't put weight on his legs. He's very bored but thankful **Jane** has been with him. It may be sometime before he can operate his tractor. He's thankful to be recovering, back home and looking forward to the day when the gulf water bacteria is just a memory.\*\*\*\*We were sorry to learn that **Karen Jo's mother-in-law**, former Bridge City teacher **Sally Vance**, had broken her back. **Karen** is by her side in Dallas.\*\*\*\***Sharon Wooley** tells us that Bridge City High School teacher **Karen Tomlin** is in ICU with high fever and a bacteria infection. She is very ill\*\*\*\*We were sorry to learn of the death of **Jack Jones**, 86, who died Saturday, Aug. 9. **Jack** was a teacher, coach and principle at LC-M. He was a good man.\*\*\*\*Death on dirt track clouds NASCAR image. Driver **Kevin Ward, Jr.**, age 20, was killed by **Tony Stewart's** car when he ran onto the track. **Stewart's**

car struck and killed **Ward** Saturday night at Canandaigua Motor Sports Park, in New York. The death is being investigated by the sheriff's department. So far no evidence of a crime. **Stewart** has expressed sadness but this tragic death. \*\*\*\*Orange County Treasurer **Christy Khoury** returned over the weekend from a week long county treasurer conference in Amarillo. All elected treasurers in the state attended. **Christy** says it's a small world. One of the elected officials she met is **Nelda Burton's** first cousin. She said they were kept too busy to meet a West Texas cowboy.

### 20 Years Ago-2004

Buffalo from Louisiana swam across Sabine Lake and the Intracoastal Waterway before roaming the streets of Bridge City. Orange County **Animal Control officer Will Winfree** and volunteers rounded up the rogue herd of eight buffalo, three bulls and five cows. **Will** used **Sylvia's Rocking S pen** on Roundbunch, loaded the herd and returned the buffalo to the **Gray estate** in Cameron Parish.\*\*\*\***Ginny Cox**, "Neighbor's" better half is home after a few days in hospital. She is one of the first to receive a stint; a new heart ornament that saves lives. \*\*\*\*Crude oil jumps to \$46.58 a barrel, an all-time high. (Editor's note: That was the **Bush/Cheney years**. Before the oil men left office oil by the barrel went up to over \$100 never to come down again.)\*\*\*\*Health care and prescription drugs have gone up 49 percent between 2001-2004. \*\*\*\* The 2004 **Jerry Hughes Realty team** consist of **Jerry, Darla Bertrand, Sherry Hommel, Pat Cailavet, Loretta and Debbie Hughes, Wayne Potter, Gertie Ewing, Rana Miller and Charles Cessac.**\*\*\*\*GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: **Mary Louise Fitzgerald**, 88, died Aug. 5.\*\*\*\***Rosa Mae Lavergne**, 86, died Aug. 10.\*\*\*\***Dempsey "Ten Mile" Turner**, 86, died Aug. 13.\*\*\*\***Rosemary Shannon**, 86, of Mauriceville, died Aug. 9.\*\*\*\***Ada Bergeron**, 87, of Orange, died Aug. 13.

### 45 Years Ago-1979

**Julia Fudge** is back at work at the Bridge City Police Department after recuperating from surgery. She is working with the new chief **Andy Verret.**\*\*\*\***Fannie Beaty** can be seen running around town on a yellow Moped (bike). \*\*\*\*Last weekend **Joe Kazmar** hit a hole-in-one. It was his first and the first he had even witnessed. \*\*\*\***Rush Wood** is the new sports information director at **Lamar University.** \*\*\*\* **Karen Leslie Smith** became the bride of **Mark Hryhorchuk** Saturday, Aug. 4. They are attending Texas A&M. \*\*\*\***Mary Teresa Mott** became the bride of **Mark Couvillion** Aug. 4. \*\*\*\***Janet and James Fontenot** celebrated their wedding anniversary August 13. \*\*\*\***Frank Manchac, Jr.** will wed **Lara Ann Pachar** on Saturday, Aug. 18. The bride will be given in marriage by her uncle **Neal Miller, Jr.**, former Orange mayor.\*\*\*\***Vicki Curtis** is now engaged to **Frank Brown**, son of **Edgar and Betty Brown.** **Dr. Frank** is teaching Artificial Intelligence at the University of Texas. They plan a December wedding.\*\*\*\***Doug Ballard** is home from hospital in Houston after being treated for Spinal meningitis.\*\*\*\***Neal Bond**, Bridge City school employee is hospitalized for surgery.\*\*\*\*Congrats to **Lou and Arval Hebert** on the birth of their twins, **Michael and Anna.**\*\*\*\*Former West Orange and Texas Longhorn baseball player, **Andre Robertson** of Orange, was named to the **Sporting News All American Team** which is compiled by the nation's pro-scouting directors. **Robertson** was drafted by Florida State League where he is known as "Robbie." (Editor's note: Andre went on to play for the New York Yankees.)

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

**Chase Shugart**, 2015 Bridge City graduate, received the call of his dreams on Monday, Aug. 12 to make his MLB debut for the **Boston Red Sox**. Many of close family & friends made the trip to Fenway Park for the big day. **Shugart** was drafted by the **Red Sox** in 2018 after pitching at the University of Texas for three years.\*\*\*\*We have been hearing some good things about **Vision Quest**, a full service optical eye center. **Mark Weaver** and his staff do amazing work and are highly recommended. They are located at 1502 Strickland Dr., Orange. (See ad in this issue.)\*\*\*\* **Lady Whistlebreaux** is getting all excited about the next Bridge City event coming up. That city on the west side of the county has been coming up with unique community events and the **Hot Air Balloon Festival** is the latest after July's drone show. Tethered hot air balloons will be lit for display at the festival set for the evening of **September 14**. Mark your calendars.\*\*\*\***Cornell Thompson** was out selling and signing copies of his book on the **history of Mustang football** Tuesday evening at a stop on the newly formed **Orange Runners Club**. All summer, even in the heat, people have been gathering at the Starbucks on 16th Street to run, jog, or walk down the thoroughfare. The crowd gets bigger every week and you never know who will be out there. **Father Jim Sichko** suggests those who don't run can drive along playing "Eye of the Tiger" for encouragement.\*\*\*\*Speaking of **Sichkos** (or is that **Sichkoes**?) his sister **Thereze** was off with **Gina and Skipper Yeaman** to Houston last week to see **Luke Combs** in concert. **Logan Poluk**, founder of **The Hut**, went along to keep those three in line.\*\*\*\***Allisha and Gary Bonneaux** vacayed in Florida and took a night kayaking trip looking for manatees. Word was no sightings of one of the giant sea creatures was made and **Gary** made **Allisha** do the hard paddling.\*\*\*\***Brandi Griggs** took daughter **Kiley** in for hair highlights to start the new school year.\*\*\*\*boxing champion and Orange native **O'Shaquie Foster** was back home on Saturday with his second annual **Back to School Bash**, giving away backpacks, school supplies, and snocones to youngsters. Plus he poses for photos and signs autographs. The general consensus is that he was cheated by judges out of his defending his title and we know he'll be back to reclaim it. But no matter what, **he's always a champion** in his hometown for his generosity.\*\*\*\***Larry Hamilton** recently was spotlighted for his volunteer work with the **Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance**, another one of

our non-profit groups helping people get food and other necessities.\*\*\*\***Christy Smith** retired from the Orange County courts to teach court reporting at **LSCO** and recently graduated another class. **LSCO President Dr. Tom 'Bow Tie' Johnson** has instituted a number of programs that train people to get high-paying jobs.\*\*\*\***David and Sabrina Claybar** took their kids for a week at Crystal Beach. We haven't heard if they found their lost shaker of shark's teeth. That family has a knack for finding the teeth while beachcombing.\*\*\*\***Benitris Edwards** led a successful **Blues Festival** at the **Orange Riverside Pavilion** this past Saturday and the next one is already set for August 9, 2025. If there's an even at the pavilion, **Steve Jones** is a sure bet to be on hand. The retired **Orange Police Department major** has spent untold hours in the past few years helping plan traffic and set-ups for big community events. **Butch Campbell** was also on hand Saturday. **Orange Lions Club** worked with **Bernard. Ishmael Jack** provided **Chris Kovatch, Bill Smith, Jared Wilson, Chris Smith and Rusty Bernard** his MC talents for the festival.\*\*\*\*Congratulations to **Faith Moore**, daughter of **Chester and Lisa Moore**, for getting national recognition from a wildlife photography contest for her shot of a mountain goat.\*\*\*\*Ninety-five years ago this week, Aug. 11, **Babe Ruth** became the first baseball player to reach 500 career homeruns. Also on Aug. 12, 1994, baseball came to a halt and didn't return for 232 days. The **Major League baseball strike** that ended basketball superstar **Michael Jordan's** baseball career. **Bo Jackson, Sid Bream, Lloyd McClendon** and **Hall of Famer Goose Gossage** would never play again. That strike altered baseball history.\*\*\*\***David Ball**, longtime newspaper reporter who suffered a stroke a couple of years ago covered Commissioners Court for us last week. We were glad to see him back in action.\*\*\*\*For years my hearing has depended on **Brown Hearing Aid Center**. The older one gets, the more important hearing service is. **Eddie** and his staff go that extra step to assist elderly folks. You don't get that when you purchase over the counter hearing aids.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Celebrating birthdays in the following days are **Aug. 14: Diane Justice, Jerry Windham, Kevin Berry, Lindsey Schaffer, Myrtle Singletary, Bill Triggs, Britanie Long, Christina Myers.**\*\*\*\***Aug. 15: Tiffany Schlicher, Gavyn Fisher, Kristie Gunn, Valerie Richter, Brandi Arnold, Beth Holm, Christine Johnson.**\*\*\*On this day in 1765 a population known as **Cajuns** were exiled to **Nova Scotia.**\*\*\*\***Aug. 16: Gwen Boehme and Joe Sanders** celebrate birthdays. On this day in 1977 **Elvis Presley** died at age 42.\*\*\*\***Aug. 17: Brenda Gage, Johnny Stimac, Jordan New, Shandi Conner, Dagma Hood, Danielle Heil.**\*\*\*\***Aug. 18: Carolyn Ward and Ian MacCammond** celebrate birthdays.\*\*\*\***Aug. 19: Former Record employee Tammy Davis** celebrates today also **Pat Brown, Maggie Joubert, Ryan Prejean, Terry Ford, Braydon Denison, Brett Heil, Brett Johansson.**\*\*\*Former U.S. President **Bill Clinton** turns 79 today.\*\*\*\***Aug. 20: Kelsie Matlock, Melinda Ja'arah, Sarah Byers, Jimmy Findlay, Marilyn Guerrero.**\*\*Other birthday greetings go out to **Imogene Spross**, who turned 90. Word is her celebration lasted all weekend with family including daughters **Marla Blanke and Gayla Huff.**\*\*\*Also recent birthdays included **Sandra Cash, Melany Marie Monson, Sandy Haynes, Bonnie Bufford, Kyndall Harrison, the lovely Judy Lynn Smith, Pat Cailavet, Casey Harris, Mark Ricks, and Donna Rogers Holley.**\*\*\*\*Happy 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to **Micah and Judge Carl Thibodeaux** who celebrate on August 21.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

One day, **Marie**, wat lives way out at Pecan Island, sent her little boy **Tee-Ned** down to da pond to get some water for cooking dinner. As **Tee-Ned** was dipping da buket in da water him, he saw two big old eyes looking back at him. He dropped dat bucket and high-tailed it back to da kitchen as fast as his little legs would carry him.

**Marie** axe, "Tee-Ned, where's my bucket of water, hanh?" **Tee-Ned** cried out, "I can't get no water from dat pond **Mama**, dere's a great big ol' alligator down der!"

**Marie** answer, "Tee-Ned, don't you mind dat ol' gator, he's been dere for many years him, and he ain't never hurt nobody. **Cher**, he's probably as scared of you as you is of him."

**Tee-Ned** replied, "Well **Mama**, if he's as scared of me as I am of him, den **Mama**, dat water it ain't fit to drink no!"

### C'EST TOUT WHAT IS PROJECT 2025

**Project 2025** is a set of radical, dangerous and unpopular policy proposals. The conservative **Heritage Foundation's** 900-page blueprint for a second **Donald Trump** presidency would remake government by, among other proposals, replacing thousands of civil service employees with **Trump loyalists**, eliminating the departments of Commerce, Education and Homeland Security while giving **Trump** power over the federal government. Roughly 3 in 4 American adults believe the upcoming presidential election is vital to the future of **United States democracy**. The poll finding suggest that many **Democrats** continue to view **Trump** as a threat to democracy after he tried to overturn the results of the **2020 election**, embraced the rioters who attacked the **U.S. Capitol** on Jan. 6, 2021 and threatened to seek retribution against his opponents if he wins re-election. The poll shows the stakes of democracy in the election are felt more by older adults rather than younger ones. About half of adults 45 and older say the outcome of the election is extremely important for the future of democracy, compared to about 4 in 10 adults under 45. \*\*\*\*My time is up, thanks for yours. Please read 45. \*\*\*\*My cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers when you can. **Take care and God bless.**



# A poor youngster's childhood memories

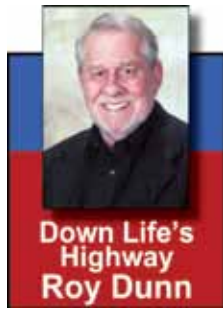
## All in one lifetime

**Roy Dunn**  
Down Life's Highway  
For The Record

The roots of my raising in low cotton and the knowledge of mankind has fast forwarded to unbelievable heights in the span of one lifetime. When I was a lad in the Cajun country in the late '30s and '40s, South Louisiana was no paradise. The heat and dust, along with the humidity, were almost unbearable. Dust so heavy it filled your nostrils, your body became covered with the mixture of dust and sweat. You could have raised cabbage in your belly button. Dirty work in the field was a way of life for Mom and me. When August came around, it meant cotton picking time. I've always believed the Lord didn't intend for cotton to be planted in this part of his world. I'm thankful, however, that He chose to put the Cajun and the crawfish down in the same place.

The cotton grew back breaking short; a half bale to the acre was considered a bumper crop. Mom and I would rise early; fix some kind of lunch that we brought to the field in a syrup bucket. I toted the gallon water jug as we made our way the mile or so down the dirt road to the cotton field. I would place the jug under cotton plants to keep it from boiling. In my mind, I can still taste that extra warm water. We would nurse that jug all day, wasting a little only to wash the dirt out of our eyes.

Mom wore a feed sack bonnet, long dress with long sleeve shirt. I wore a straw hat and went barefooted, but the rest of my body was covered. We put cotton leaves in our headgear to prevent heatstroke. The straps on the cotton picking sacks went around one shoulder and the neck. We dragged those long sacks behind us row after row until they were full. Then we would take them to the weigh-in man who marked down the weights and dumped the cotton in the wagon. When the wagon was full, he



drove it to the mill, mule-drawn, and had it baled. The backbreaking chore was mastered by some, but not Mom and me. The pay was 35 cents a hundred pounds, but we seldom went home with much more than 50 cents for picking from sunup to sundown. Even in the sorry cotton field, some people picked a couple of hundred pounds. I've seen some of the black women walk up and down those rows on their knees dragging the sack. At the end of the day, they earned maybe a dollar each. Sounds like a lot of work for little money, but a little money bought a lot back them. Two gallons of coal oil cost a dime, sugar a nickel; 15 loose eggs were 10 cents. Flour and corn meal cost just pennies.

We picked six days, so two or three dollars went a long way toward feeding us. Our clothes were made from feed and flour sacks, and my britches usually were hand-me-downs donated by someone. I recall wearing knickers that were popular in the 1920s, and this was 15, maybe 20 years later. They were new to me. I wore them proudly. We didn't have electricity or any of today's conveniences. We had a hand pump water well that we would prime and draw our water from. The sand settled in the bottom of the bucket, and we carefully scooped the water from the top for drinking and cooking. I still have that old pump and it's one of my prized possessions. Bathing was a different matter. The water was drawn in a No. 3 wash tub. If it wasn't a cloudy day, the sun would heat the water for bathing. We got our major baths on Saturday night. My grandmother, Availa, checked me out. If I didn't pass inspection, she would nearly draw blood with a bristle brush from my neck, ankles and knuckles. We used homemade lye soap. It burned like hell when it got in the eyes.

I never was fond of cotton picking but I never complained. I was guilty of feel-

ing sorry for myself at times, but I do recall some fun times in the cotton patch. The black pickers sang and told funny Cajun stories. Mostly what was important was Mom and I doing something together — the morning walk to the field. Just she and I are memories that live on even though they started over 85 years ago. Sometimes when we helped gather the cotton at other farms three or four miles away, they would pick us up, along with a dozen or so others, in a mule-drawn flat wagon. Often we arrived back home at dark.

Cotton farms are no more in Vermilion Parish. Sugar cane fields have replaced cotton. Working the cane fields in October was my favorite farm job. Picking cotton was hard and dirty work, but I'd do it all over again just to share those times with Mom one more time. Until her death and before her Alzheimer's sickness slipped past those memories, we would often relive those times. A million incidents have occurred to me down life's highway since those long-ago days. I'm not sure of the value I may have gained from living a life of poverty and hard work. I just know it was essential at the time, and you do in life what you have to do. I decided back then that I wanted to be the guy who drove the team of mules and wagon to the gin, bailed it and collected the money from the crop someone else had picked. Life wasn't easy for a lot of people during those depression years but for a single Mom, it was awfully difficult just to provide the bare necessities. Often she didn't make it.

The flickering light from the coal oil lamp glowed brightly with love in our

little one-room shotgun shack. From my pallet on the floor, I dreamed about tomorrow and a better life. I left the cotton fields as soon as I could get away, however the family values and the importance of pulling together that I learned have followed me all of my days down this trail. Strange as it may sound, I feel blessed to have lived then. When summer comes around each year, my thoughts turn to a simpler time with no frills, when a little money that didn't come easy meant so much.

A time when crime and molestation didn't exist and honoring one's parents was a way of life.

Sometimes today I catch myself complaining about the heat and small difficulties of the day and repent by thanking the Lord for our many blessings that this easy life has led us to take for granted. I regret that we have become a shameless, lazy society that takes rather than gives. I marvel at how the world has changed. No one in my youth could have imagined it. I learned from those cotton days that even unpleasant things have a benefit. If the cotton crop was late, we got a lagniappe (bonus). We didn't have to start school until all the cotton was gathered from the fields. So we should always look for something good from all the bad, as difficult as it seems.

Having traveled this long trail into the fourth quarter I'm most thankful for the many people I've known and for all the loyal friendships that I have been fortunate enough to have accumulated. So many have moved on to the Beyond and although I'm saddened, I recall each individual that meant so much to me Down Life's Highway.



## Deaths & Memorials

### Sherry Lynn Griffey Britnell

Sherry Lynn Griffey Britnell, 65, of Orange, Texas, passed away on Aug. 8, 2024, at home. Memorial services will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at VFW Post 2775 in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on Nov. 16, 1958, she was the daughter of Steve Laughlin Jr. and LaDonna Laughlin (Webb).

Sherry's talents extended far beyond the walls of her home. Her green thumb was evident in her greenhouse, where she could be found tending to her plants with care and dedication. Whether she was harvesting fresh vegetables or nurturing colorful blooms, Sherry found solace and joy in her garden. Sherry took care of many chickens as well, and she loved them dearly. Family meant everything to Sherry, and she cherished every moment spent with her loved ones. Her presence at gatherings brought a sense of



Sherry Britnell

warmth and unity, as she had a way of making everyone feel special and loved. May her spirit live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to have known her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, LaDonna and Steve Laughlin Jr.; siblings, Ricky Laughlin and Rodney Laughlin; and son-in-law, Juan Acuna.

She is survived by her loving spouse of 27 years, Ricky Britnell; children, Nadalya Roach, Virgil Griffey, Victoria Acuna, Tamisha Curtice and husband Colton, Amber Watkins and husband Seth, Jesse Freeman, and Seth Griffey; numerous grandchildren; siblings, Steve Laughlin III and Greg Laughlin and wife Renée; as well as other loving family and friends.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

## Overcrowded jails From Page 2

transportation costs, according to county records.

Since 2022, at least eight counties — Sabine, Harris, Wilbarger, Newton, Chambers, Tyler, Loving and Liberty — have sent their overflow jail population out of state to Louisiana, Oklahoma, Colorado and Mississippi, through contracts costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

Before the child abuse accusations, Hampton lived a quiet life in Sabine County's Rosevine community with his partner, Sorcha, and his son. Hampton worked as a farrier and blacksmith, trimming and balancing horses' hooves. He also sold firewood that he cut and split by hand. In his free time, he enjoyed hiking national forests and kayaking on the lake.

"My philosophy was work hard, play hard and live life," Hampton wrote in an electronic message from prison.

After a dispute, a family member accused Hampton of sexually abusing a child. A Child Protective Services investigator who followed up on the accusation multiple times and interviewed the child found that the abuse did not occur, according to an August report that Costigan provided The Tribune. An agency spokesperson said the case had been closed and that its details are confidential.

A military veteran, Hampton has fought wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. A few years

ago, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after his time in combat. Hampton said he learned how to regulate the effects of the disorder, but he's now noticing a regression.

"Since I've been locked up I find it much harder to regulate," he wrote.

Back home in Rosevine, Costigan does what she can to help with his defense, advocate for his release before a trial, visit him and keep their home running. But it's not always easy.

"The stove is out, the refrigerator just died, my dryer doesn't work," Costigan said.

Hampton could probably fix them. But nobody seems to know how long he'll be behind bars. After missing an arraignment hearing, Hampton's lawyer was one hour late to another court date. Costigan filed a grievance against the attorney, who did not respond to The Tribune's requests for comment but disputed Costigan's accusations in a filing to the state bar association.

Hampton is now represented by a court-appointed attorney, who vows to get Hampton's bond reduced and at least one of the charges against him dismissed.

For now, it's just a waiting game 100 miles from home.

"I just don't understand how they are shuttling pre-trial people to Louisiana," Hampton said. "Do you know how hard it is to prove yourself innocent here?"

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### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

**MARK ALLEN CHILTON, Deceased**  
Cause No. P20068  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed **AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** in this estate on the 30th day of JULY, 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **MARK ALLEN CHILTON, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on the 31st day of July, 2024.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy  
Danielle Kendrick

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### STATEPOINT DOWN

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**ACROSS**

- Soothing concoction
- \*The Magic School ride
- Mama's husband
- Dwarf buffalo
- Moneyed one
- "M\*A\*S\*H" extra
- Soon, to Shakespeare
- Sheltered, nautically
- \*Abacus user, e.g.
- \*School jacket-wearer
- TV classic "Happy \_\_\_\_"
- What hoarders do
- Speech-preventing measure
- \*Pencil end
- Deep regret
- Indian restaurant staple
- What cobblers often do
- Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
- Embedded design
- \_\_\_ Khan
- Contending
- \*Don't forget to cross them
- Plural of flora
- Rolodex abbr.
- Sultry or carnal
- \*Rydell High School movie
- Defensive one on the gridiron
- Oodles
- \*Some PTA members?
- \*It involves elements
- Cuban dance
- Burkina Faso neighbor
- Opera solo
- Boot-shaped European country
- Oil org.
- Review a service
- Say "No!"
- Animal's nose
- Perceives with an eye

- Jezebel's idol
- Beheaded Boleyn
- Plunder
- Certain rays
- Plural of #1 Across
- Part of an eye, pl.
- Witnessed
- \*Field of education
- \_\_\_ Walker, American Girl doll
- \*Inspiration for circular charts, pl.
- Acronym, abbr.
- Zimbabwe's capital
- Address to a woman
- Nail salon file
- Toothpaste type
- \*Marks in English
- Hindu queen
- "Hannah and Her Sisters" director
- End of line
- Yogurt-based dip
- \*Opposite side over hypotenuse, pl.
- Bald symbol
- \*\_\_\_ monitor
- Bigheadedness
- \*All-school get-together
- Giuseppe \_\_\_ of opera fame
- Temporary craze
- Parthenogenic
- Recant or retract
- \*English homework, pl.
- \*Circle, e.g.
- Paparazzi's target
- Remote control option
- Middle Eastern sultanate
- "Follow me!"
- Genealogy plant
- Agitate
- Puppy barks
- Antonym of keep

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# Baby bull sharks are thriving in Sabine

**Young bull shark numbers have been increasing in estuaries like Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay over the past 40 years**

**Gemma Ware**  
**The Conservation**

In late spring, estuaries along the U.S. Gulf Coast come alive with newborn fish and other sea life. While some species have struggled to adjust to the region's rising water temperatures in recent years, one is thriving: juvenile bull sharks.

We study this iconic shark species, named for its stout body and matching disposition, along the Gulf of Mexico. Over the past two decades, we have documented a fivefold increase in baby bull sharks in Mobile Bay, Alabama, and a similar rise in several Texas estuaries, as our new study shows.

Despite the bull shark's fearsome reputation, baby bull sharks are not cause for concern for humans in these waters.

While adult bull sharks are responsible for an occasional unprovoked attack, baby bull sharks haven't fully developed the

skills needed to hunt larger prey. And you're still far more likely to be killed by bees, wasps or snakes than sharks.

**The fascinating life of a young bull shark**

Most sharks are fully marine and spend their entire lives in the ocean. Bull sharks, however, are one of a handful of shark species that use freshwater environments as nurseries.

Baby bull sharks have been found in the Alabama River, 75 miles north of the ocean, and up the Mississippi River as far as Illinois. They have evolved to tolerate fresh water by reducing the need for salts and urea in their bodies compared to marine sharks, and actively taking in more salts through their food and across their gills.

In Texas, young bull shark numbers have been



A scientist checks on a young bull shark in Texas.

PHOTO BY: Philip Matich

increasing in estuaries like Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake over the past 40 years, particularly where rivers like the Trinity, Sabine and Neches intersect with these ecosystems. These areas may offer protection from predators, such as bigger sharks.

The presence of bull sharks in these estuaries also contributes to their health and stability.

Because bull sharks frequently move between freshwater and marine ecosystems, they can act as mobile links that con-

nect these two aquatic environments. Bull sharks often feed in one environment, salty water for example, and then rest and excrete nutrients in freshwater bays. Feeding and resting in different locations can improve the ability of these ecosystems to withstand disturbances like warming weather conditions, because if one habitat is disturbed, the other is still supported.

Like a spider web, food webs are connected by many intersecting threads. The more threads, the

stronger the web. The use of both freshwater and marine habitats by bull sharks increases the number of these threads through their predator-prey interactions, thereby strengthening the ecosystem.

**Waters are warming**

As the planet warms, coastal ocean temperatures are rising. In the Gulf of Mexico, water temperatures have risen more than 3 degrees Fahr-

enheit (more than 1.5 degrees Celsius) due to climate change.

On a global scale, warming waters are harming more fish species than they are helping. Higher temperatures increase food requirements and stress levels, while making fish more susceptible to disease and reducing the survival of their young. A variety of fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico, including mullet and flounder, have declined as warmer conditions affected their spawning.

At the same time, the waters used by baby bull sharks have expanded in part due to this warming, creating a dynamic habitat.

An easy way to understand how sharks use dynamic habitat is to capture them with nets and measure the characteristics of the surrounding environment. In our sampling data, we could see that the mean annual water temperatures on the Alabama and Texas coasts increased at the same time the bull shark populations rose.

In coastal Alabama, we

**BULL SHARKS Page 5B**

# Naming hurricanes; experts offer insights

**Susan Himes**  
**Texas AgriLife**

The state of Texas is no stranger to hurricanes and damaging storms. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Disaster Assessment and Recovery, DAR, continues to assist Texans recovering from Hurricane Beryl amidst what is expected to be an above-average Atlantic hurricane season.

Anyone who has ever been through a hurricane or witnessed the aftermath can certainly recall the storm by name.

"Back in 2008, probably the first time AgriLife Extension did a major emergency response was for Hurricane Ike," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., DAR program director, Bryan-College Station. "That was the first time we engaged as an animal responder to that magnitude, and it was one of the largest livestock recovery operations ever in the history of the U.S. And when Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017, we worked well into the following year helping Texans recover and rebuild."

The DAR unit works in partnership with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, part of The Texas A&M University System. Even before the formation of DAR, AgriLife Extension agents were a key part of the emergency assistance network ready to serve Texans in the wake of hurricanes.

"They are names you never forget," Dozier said. "They are also names you never want to hear again."

**Naming protocol changes over the years**

Before they ever made landfall, the names of Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Harvey and many others were known. But that wasn't always the case.

Originally, hurricanes were named after the fact. They were also typically assigned their name according to where and when they made landfall, such as the Galveston

Hurricane of 1900 or the Galveston Hurricane of 1915.

As the science of weather forecasting advanced, storms were identified by their latitude-longitude, but this confused most people. When tracking and flying into hurricanes increased, the NATO phonetic alphabet came into use – think Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo and Foxtrot.

It wasn't until 1953 when the National Hurricane Center started the first name list. Initially, all

hurricanes were given female names. This changed in 1979 when male names were added to the list.

Today, storms receive names in alphabetical order as they form. With Hurricane Beryl, for example, the name tells us it was the second-named storm of the Atlantic season following Tropical Storm Alberto in June.

"This year, the NOAA National Weather Service outlook for the Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to Nov. 30, predicts an 85% chance



A toppled tree was among the damage Hurricane Beryl left behind when it came ashore in July.

PHOTO: (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

of an above-normal season," said John Nielsen-Gammon, Ph.D., Texas state climatologist and Regents Professor in the Texas A&M College of Arts and Sciences Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

What each storm will be named is known well in advance, as there is a master list in use each year. The list of storm names for the North Atlantic is recycled every six years, which means the names

**NAMING Page 3B**

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MY OPINION

# Beware of Harris-Walz

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



Chuck Uzzle

As if Kamala Harris' record wasn't already bad enough considering her disaster at the southern border, being voted as "the most liberal Senator in congress" by Gov Track, her history of convicting hundreds on marijuana charges, being a supporter of defunding the police and raising bail money for protesters during the riots in Minnesota and promoting the "woke agenda" she now has added attacking the Second amendment to her resume'. During her past failed attempt at becoming the democratic nominee in 2020 Harris proclaimed "upon being elected, I will give Congress 100 days to get their act together and have the courage to pass reasonable gun safety laws. And if they fail to do it, then I will take executive action". In her first campaign speech since the Democrats ousted Joe Biden during his re-election bid Harris said she "will pass red flag laws, universal background checks, and an assault weapons ban". After hearing this it's no stretch of the imagination to think she won't stop there.

Sportsmen everywhere are paying attention to the huge mainstream media push that's going on right now in order to clean up Harris as a worthy candidate. Most, if not all, of Harris' sub par political past has been re-framed by the media and made out to be a success when in fact that is far from the truth. Having Harris use gun control as one of her talking points to go along with other extreme items on her agenda should be more than enough to generate a strong presence at the ballot box from sportsmen everywhere.

Now if the glaring mistakes, mismanagement, and media push are not enough to get sportsmen concerned about the election the potential vice presidential candidate, Tim Walz should be. Walz, the democratic governor of Minnesota, is even being branded as "midwestern" and "moderate" which is far from the truth when you look at his record and policies. Walz, if you can believe it, is it even farther left and more liberal than Kamala Harris and that was put on display during the riots in Minnesota where his judgement as to how long it took him to deploy the National Guard in order to help local police has come under heavy criticism by state and local authorities. Walz is now embroiled in controversy as he has led many to believe that actually served in a combat area while in the military. Walz, while recently campaigning for the ban on assault weapons, made the statement "weapons of war that I carried in war" has been fact checked and proven he never was in a combat area. In fact when Walz found out his unit was to be deployed he mysteriously retired, "he went behind everyone's back" said Thomas Behrends who took Walz's place as Master Sargent in the summer of 2005. Walz has come under heavy scrutiny from the National Guard and other veterans groups about his military record as he tries to backtrack on previous statements and claims he "misspoke". Make no mistake about it, Tim Walz has a clear agenda around gun control and gun

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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



Outstanding fish are being caught on Sabine Lake. The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays one of his catches here.

• **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 86 degrees. The lake continues to be muddy due to the influx of freshwater. Expect fishing to be tough until the water settles. Start fishing for flounder, redfish, drum and sheepshead off points and drops until the freshwater run-off runs to the gulf and green water returns. Sharks are heavy in the channel, rigs and jetties. Redfish are scarce, with some bull redfish schooling at the end of the jetties.

Flounder are scarce. Trout, drum, sheepshead are biting in the jetties on popping cork with live shrimp or quarter ounce glo chartreuse glo soft plastics fished off the bottom. Then target trout at the short rigs, along the beach under birds, and offshore on the rigs in 18-30 feet of water quarter ounce jigs to the bottom working up and down. The best color was LSU with a chartreuse tail.

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

• **Bolivar**

EXCELLENT. 85 degrees. Fishing is excellent and patterns are holding steady. 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.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 87 degrees. Speckled trout fishing is only fair along the ship channel shell humps on soft plastic lures. Upper west shoreline of the bay holding some black drum, the occasional redfish and speckled trout for those anglers fishing near the bottom with live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Green light guys and gals. Trout are showing up on the rigs deep on the pads being caught on live shrimp and artificial using the wacky Showtime wacky shad X. Redfish and drum are on rocky banks, and on reefs early being caught on live shrimp under a popping cork and swimbaits. Sheepshead are deep on rocks Freeling shrimp. Re-

port by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 89 degrees. West winds hampering effort in the bay. Bolivar surf has been good for speckled trout. A few catches of redfish and black drum in the intracoastal canal. 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 86 degrees. Not so sound like a broken record, however; the water clarity remains pretty much the same for the majority of East Galveston Bay, with clearer and salti-

er water as you get closer to the western portion of the bay, with a distinct line as you venture closer over towards Galveston. We are locating more trout, redfish, and black drum, in the intracoastal relating to structure, as well as a few fish over shellon the South Shoreline on tails with 1/8 ounce heads, with darker colors performing the best in the areas with stained water. We are once again burning a good deal of fuel and time taking the ride over to the Jetties to find better looking water and a solid trout bite on artificials. We are utilizing MirrOdines, Rattle Traps, ¼ ounce soft body swim-baits, and Tails with 1/8 ounce heads in light colors on the shallower ends and ¼ ounce when we are fishing in deeper water. Our clients are still enjoying solid success using Fish Smack Popping corks with a 1-2 feet leader above shrimp imitation lures, as

well as Glacier White Tails by WacAttack and shrimp color Rat tails by Deadly Dudley. The Topwater bite has still been excellent when utilized on our 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, and the color does not seem to be that critical, with bone being one of our favorite colors we have the most confidence in. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 89 degrees. Speckled trout bite is slow due to the low tides and off-colored water from the freshwater runoff. Best action has been on black drum, sheepshead, and redfish on live shrimp under popping corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 89 degrees. Good catches of speckled trout still being taken around the causeway bridge and rocks near Texas City. Those in west Galveston bay doing very well on speckled trout and redfish. best baits have been live croaker followed by shrimp under popping corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **Freeport**

GOOD. 84 degrees. Lots of fresh water in the bays so fishing has been moderate on trout and redfish fishing the Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay and Chocolate Bay complex. The surf has still been good early in the morning throwing lures and using croaker for trout and few

FISHING Page 5B

## 'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 91 degrees; 1.63 feet below pool. Fishing patterns are consistent. Lake is stained in some of the main creeks, but still clear out on the main lake. Crappie fishing is slow with a few catches on deep brush and lighted boat docks at night using live bait. Bass are fair with very few bites on topwater now that all the clouds are gone, best bite still has been from 8-14 feet on Texas and Carolina rig worm and mid-running crankbait. There are few small fish being caught out deeper in 18-25 feet on drop shot and spoons, these fish are small and most are Kentucky bass. With no moon and poor weather the night fishing has slowed down this past week, but a big Texas rigged worm at night in 14-20 feet is hard to beat, especially with the hot daytime temperatures. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 89 degrees; 5.35 feet above pool. No water is being released, stoned in the creeks. 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. Bass are feeling the heat as well. Lake level is fluctuating due to recent rains. Bass are biting on finesse baits, dropshot or jighead minnow or Carolina rig. Mid lake to north lake is the most productive areas. Lots of fish schooling on main lake flats and ledges. Falling water creates current so fish congregate and now that the lake is risen again the fish are scattered. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

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# Minimize the risk of West Nile virus infection

## Stay safe from mosquito-borne disease by preventing bites

Ashley Vargo  
Texas A&M AgriLife

With West Nile virus present in Texas, mosquito bites escalate beyond an itchy annoyance to a potentially deadly threat.

In response to the virus's continued presence throughout the state and U.S., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts advise residents to be mindful of areas with reported cases in humans, birds, horses and mosquitoes.

Tracking data is available on the Texas Department of State Health Services, DSHS, website.

"Staying informed about local mosquito activity and taking preventive measures can help keep you and your family safe from the potential dangers of West Nile virus," said Sonja Swiger, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension entomologist and professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental U.S.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not experience symptoms. About one out of five infected people become ill with flu-like symptoms, and about one out of 150 infected people develop serious and potentially fatal illness from the virus.

Symptoms of West Nile virus disease in humans

include:

- High fever.
- Skin rash.
- Fatigue.
- Headache.
- Neck stiffness.
- Disorientation.
- Muscle weakness.
- In extreme cases, convulsions, numbness, paralysis and coma.

Mild symptoms of West Nile virus disease typically last a few weeks, but fatigue, muscle weakness and joint pain can linger for months.

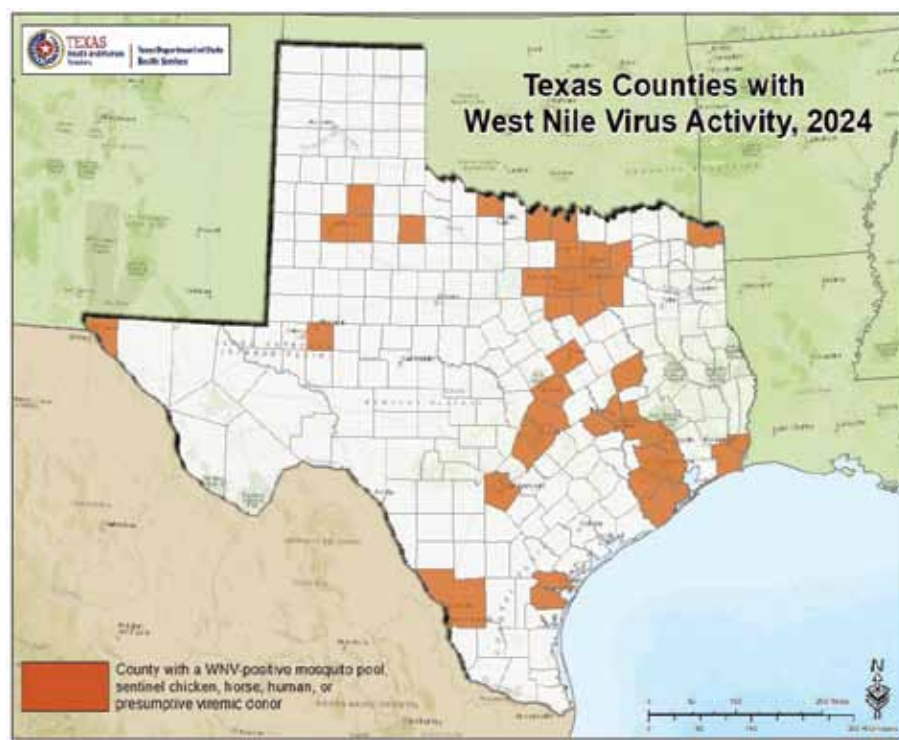
### How does West Nile virus spread?

Swiger said West Nile virus is circulated in the environment between birds and mosquitoes in the Culex family, which are found throughout Texas.

Infected mosquitoes can spread the virus to humans, horses and some birds, leading to a range of disease symptoms and negative health effects. The virus cannot spread from person to person or between animals, except in rare cases of direct bodily fluid transmission like blood transfusions.

Vaccines are available to prevent illness in horses, but the only protection for humans is to prevent mosquito bites.

An oval metal trough filled with water, set on a patch of dry, yellowish grass. The water reflects some bars of a metal fence. Subtle ripples and debris



This Texas Health and Human Services maps shows counties where West Nile virus activity has been recorded.

are visible on the water's surface, indicating it may be stagnant.

Overhead view of a stagnant water area showing a blend of green algae, clear and bubbly spots on the surface, and sediment-rich water with earthy tones. Various natural textures and elements are visible. This can be a prime location for mosquitoes to breed and then transmit West Nile

Stagnant water in buckets, flower pots, wheelbarrows and troughs provide an optimal environment for West Nile virus carriers to lay their eggs near homes. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

### Protecting yourself and your family

Swiger recommends Texas residents stay vigilant of their surroundings to reduce the risk of transmission.

While mosquito populations generally boom following heavy rainfall,

those that carry West Nile virus reach higher populations during dry conditions. Swiger said pooled water becomes stagnant and opportune for virus

carriers to lay their eggs.

She recommends removing water from any items near households, such as flowerpots, buckets and wheelbarrows.

Backyard pools that are not in use should be drained or covered as a precaution.

"Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus feed at dusk and throughout the night, having peak activity from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.," Swiger said. "If you can help it, avoid going out at those times as much as possible, and try to monitor mosquitoes coming inside late at night after taking pets out. While this mosquito is active outdoors at night, it will come inside the home in search of a blood meal."

Light-colored long-sleeve shirts and full-length pants also help to protect against mosquito bites, along with repellents like DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or 2-undecanone, which are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and approved by the CDC to protect against biting mosquitoes.

### Notice of Meeting and Agenda August 8, 2024



John H. Gothia, County Judge  
Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Precinct One  
Chris Sowell, Commissioner, Precinct Two  
Kirk Roccaforte, Commissioner, Precinct Three  
Robert L. Viator, Commissioner, Precinct Four

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Proposed Budget and Tax Rate NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS AUGUST 20, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners' Court of Orange County, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Orange County Budget and Proposed Tax Rate on Tuesday, AUGUST 20, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Orange County Administration Building, 123 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange, Texas for the following purpose to-wit:

#### HEARING PURPOSE:

A Public Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Orange County Administration Building, 123 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange, Texas. This is a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Orange County Budget and Proposed Tax Rate. This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$2,477,462 or 5.75% and of that amount, \$566,567 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Any taxpayer of the county may attend and participate in the hearing.  
(John H. Gothia, County Judge)

Dated this 9th day of August, 2024.

Posted at 3:00 p.m.

*John H. Gothia*  
JOHN H. GOTHIA, COUNTY JUDGE  
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

## Naming hurricanes From Page 1B

we hear in 2024 will reappear in 2030, with a few exceptions.

Retiring a hurricane name

The World Meteorological Organization decides if a particular hurricane is of sufficient historical interest to have the name retired, Nielsen-Gammon said. There are names it would not be appropriate to use again.

Hurricane names are retired due to human and property losses associated with the storm. That's why you will never see another hurricane named Katrina or Harvey.

"There are anywhere from zero to four or five names retired each year, depending on how active and impactful any given season is," Nielsen-Gammon said.

If it is a particularly busy storm season, tracked storms may use up the names designated for that year. This happened in both 2005 and 2020, and the Greek alphabet was then utilized for the remaining storms, which caused confusion. Zeta, for example, is the sixth letter of the Greek alphabet but people could understandably think it was the last. Now a list of backup names is kept at the ready.

In other parts of the world like the Central Pacific, once the list of names runs out, they continue onto the next list.

With a presence in all 254 Texas counties, AgriLife Extension is prepared to embed local disaster response teams in commu-

nities when needed. This comprehensive network positions DAR as one of the most unique and effective disaster response infrastructures in the na-

tion. Naming is crucial for preparation and planning, Dozier said. Names keep everyone on the same page.

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Tommy Gunn graduated West Orange High School as Valedictorian. After graduating top of his class at Baylor Law School, Orange native Tommy Gunn began practicing law in Orange County in 1976. As an attorney he has devoted his life to providing legal assistance to Orange County residents and businesses in virtually every aspect of general law.

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.



Tommy Gunn

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# Concert events heading to SE Texas area

## ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP OF CONCERTS & EVENTS

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August is here and the regional concert scene is red hot as national acts perform from Houston to Lake Charles just about every week. Scan the list below and check out the full schedule online at [www.therecordlive.com](http://www.therecordlive.com)

- **Aug. 14**  
Def Leppard, Journey, Steve Miller Band, Minute Maid Park, Houston
- **Aug. 15**  
Mountain Grass Unit, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 16**  
Kings of Leon, Toyota Center, Houston; Homixide Gang, House of Blues, Houston; The Fray, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 17**  
Santana, Counting Crows, Toyota Center, Houston; Deep Purple, Yes, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 20**  
AWOLNATION, Neon Trees, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Young Miko, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Aug. 22**  
Future, Metro Boomin, Toyota Center, Houston; Toni Romiti, Scout Bar, Houston; Stone Temple Pilots, Live, Soul Asylum, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 23**  
Sammy Hagar, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 24**  
Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, Grace Potter, Minute Maid Park, Houston; Asake, Toyota Center, Houston; Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; John An-



Carlos Santana and Counting Crows will perform on August 17 at Toyota Center in Houston.



John Anderson will be in concert at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles on August 24.

derson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.


- **Aug. 25**  
REO Speedwagon, Train, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Black Flag, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston
- **Aug. 26**  
Ice Spice, Cash Cobain, RiotUSA, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 28**  
TEMS, Naomi Sharon, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 29**  
30 Seconds to Mars, AFI, Poppy, KennyHoopla, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Squeeze, Boy George, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Aug. 30**  
Falling in Reverse, Dance Gavin Dance, Black Veil Brides, Tech N9NE, Jeris Johnson, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Crown the Empire, Dark Divine, Capstan, Oni, House of Blues, Houston; Parmalee, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 31**  
Jennifer Lopez, Toyota Center, Houston; Coal

- Chamber, Fear Factory, Twiztid, Wednesday 13, Black Satellite, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 1**  
America, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Sept. 3**  
Flor Bertotti, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Sept. 4**  
Twenty One Pilots, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 5**  
Bush, Jerry Cantrell, Candlebox, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 6**  
Hoodoo Gurus, House of Blues, Houston; Nothing More, Set It Off, From Ashes to New, Bayou Music Center, Houston; Imagine Dragons, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Randall King, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Sept. 7**  
Dylan Gossett, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 8**  
Childish Gambino, Willow, Toyota Center, Houston

- **Sept. 12**  
Creed Fisher, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Sept. 13**  
The Mavericks, Asleep at the Wheel, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land; Chris Botti, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Jelly Rolly, Warren Zeiders, Alexandra Ray, Cajundome, Lafayette, La.
- **Sept. 14**  
Creed, 3 Doors Down, Finger Eleven, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Alec Benjamin, Matt Hansen, Bayou Music Center, Houston; Dwight Yoakam, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Sept. 15**  
Rob Zombie, Alice Cooper, Ministry, Filter, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; The Mummies, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 17**  
Loveless, Beauty School Dropout, Julia Wolf, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 18**  
Marianas Trench, Casadee Pope, PIAO, House of Blues, Houston

- **Sept. 19**  
Five Finger Death Punch, Marilyn Manson, Slaughter to Prevail, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Niki, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Omar Apollo, Malcolm Todd, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 21**  
Glass Animals, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 22**  
Signs of the Swarm, Cane Hill, Ov Sulfur, 156 Silence, A Wake in Providence, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Sept. 28**  
Weezer, The Flaming Lips, Dinosaur Jr., Toyota Center, Houston; Zedd, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Brooks Nielsen, House of Blues, Houston; Brett Young, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Sept. 29**  
Sum 41, The Interrupters, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Friday Pilots Club, House of Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 3**  
Lorna Shore, Whitechapel, Kublai Khan TX, Sanguisugabogg, House of


- Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 4**  
Rival Sons, Clutch, Black Stone Cherry, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **Oct. 5**  
Justin Moore, Randy Houser, 713 Music Hall, Houston, Architects, We Came as Romans, Brutus, House of Blues, Houston; Danny Ocean, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **Oct. 6**  
Jinjer, House of Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 8**  
Zheani, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Oct. 9**  
Sub-Radio, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Oct. 11**  
Jon Pardi, Priscilla Block, Larry Fleet, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 13**  
Meghan Trainor, Paul Russell, Chris Olsen, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; tian Nodal, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Oct. 16**  
Jeff Lynne's ELO, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Oct. 18**  
Testament, Kreator, Possessed, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Oct. 19**  
The Bacon Brothers, Lutch Theater, Orange, Tx
- **Oct. 20**  
Korn, Gojira, Spiritbox, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 22**  
Judas Priest, Sabaton, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Oct. 24**  
Breaking Benjamin, Staind, Daughtry, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; 10 Years, Conquer Divide, Scout Bar.




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# Texas Fishing Hall of Fame nominations sought

## Staff Report For The Record

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee is seeking nominations for next year's induction into the hall of fame. Nominees can be either individuals or organizations who've made important contributions to fishing in Texas.

Applications are being accepted through Nov. 1. "The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is made up of a growing list of 39 individuals and organizations who have made a significant impact on freshwater fishing in the state," said Kelly Jordon, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. "Whether it's an outdoor writer, pro angler, fishing

club or industry leader, we look forward to continuing to honor and recognize everyone helping to make Texas fishing the best it can be."

The nominees will be evaluated by the hall of fame committee, which is made up of anglers, industry professionals, fisheries biologists and organizations involved in Texas freshwater fishing.

The committee will choose the inductee based on the following criteria: ethics, leadership and commitment, unselfish contributions to the sport, scope of impact on freshwater fishing, fishing/fisheries management expertise and overall impact. The honoree will be announced in spring 2025 and be officially inducted during a special ceremony

and banquet in the fall.

"We are excited to review all of this year's nominations and welcome the newest inductee into this prestigious group of individuals and organizations who have contributed so much to the world-class fishing that Texas offers," Jordon added.

"Pond Boss" Bob Lusk of Granbury – the 2024 inductee – will officially be inducted at the annual Hall of Fame banquet this October at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC). Lusk helped build the private fisheries management industry in Texas and throughout the United States and is widely considered the top pond management expert in the country.

He generously shares his knowledge and advice



Wally "Mr. Crappie" Marshall of Anna, Texas, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2023.

through the Pond Boss website, magazine, Facebook page and online forum.

Following his induction, a video highlighting Lusk

will be available at TPWD's YouTube Channel on the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame playlist. The video will also air on the Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS television show.

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Its mission is to "recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing." The TFFC is temporarily closed for major renovations until the spring of 2025. This closure also necessitated the temporary closure of the hall of fame exhibit.

## Captain Chuck From Page

ownership rights that he will push for at every opportunity to go along with his far left beliefs on a wide range of other social topics.

A few final thoughts on the Harris-Walz ticket that should make you sit up and

take notice regardless if you are a sportsman or not. As of this column it has been almost three weeks since Kamala Harris and the behind the scenes powers of the Democratic party "nudged" Joe Biden out the door and she still has not

## Bull sharks From Page 1B

found that the relative abundance of baby bull sharks has increased fivefold over the past 20 years. Slight increases in temperature over that time provided the best explanation for this population increase.

Of all the temperatures recorded in that study, there was no maximum temperature threshold detected for baby bull sharks. So far, at least since 2003, it's been "the warmer the better" for a baby bull shark.

We observed a similar trend in coastal Texas from Sabine Lake to Matagorda Bay, where warming estuaries supported increased abundances of baby bull sharks up to eightfold over the past 40 years. Warmer waters allowed baby bull sharks to remain in their natal estuaries longer during their first year before overwintering in the Gulf of Mexico, increasing their survival to the next life stage.

Collectively, our recent studies indicate that warming waters are currently beneficial for young bull sharks. But just like your favorite dessert, too much of a good thing can be detrimental.

All animals, including bull sharks, have maximum and minimum temperatures at which they can function. If temperatures get too hot or too cold, this can lead to problems,

whether through direct stress on the shark's bodily functions or on its ecosystem at large.

Some of our previous work from Florida shows that baby bull sharks will leave coastal nurseries in response to episodic cold snaps to avoid cold-stress. Sharks that didn't leave died. The same may be true for hot temperatures, although conditions have not yet reached that point in the Gulf of Mexico based on our research.

### A changing world

It's clear that climate change is altering coastal ecosystems. Our work shows the direct benefit to young bull sharks, but how the observed population growth is affecting other species in the coastal estuaries remains to be seen.

The rise in bull sharks may affect other fish species, including bull shark prey like mullets, drums, herrings and catfish. More bull sharks could eventually mean fewer of the fish that humans rely on. In warmer water, sharks burn more energy.

Ultimately, tracking how the distributions of species like bull sharks change over time remains a critical priority for understanding future shifts in fish populations and the health of our coastal ecosystems.

held a press conference where she had to answer questions and not speak from a script on a teleprompter. Also let's not forget that the same candidate, Kamala Harris, who opposes voter ID laws says you must present a valid government issued ID in order to attend her rally. You truly can't make stuff like this up. Finally and perhaps most importantly, remember the same people who told you for three years that Joe Biden was great and had no cognitive issues are the same ones telling you how amazing Kamala Harris will be if elected. Let that sink in before you cast that ballot.

## Fishing reports

From Page 1B

redfish. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

### • Texas City

GOOD. 87 degrees. The Texas City Dike has reopened for the anglers. Catches off the Galveston jetties include shark, black drum, speckled trout and the occasional redfish. Offshore fishing has been good for red snapper, vermilion snapper, some dorado, a few kings and the occasional ling. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter

Fishing. The Dike should be open this weekend. People have been fishing along the levee and Moses Lake tidal gate. And I have thrown a couple shrimp and topwaters at the boat dock with great results. Anglers are still catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder everyday 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 East & West

FAIR. 84 degrees. Calmer weather and the surf is good for fishing. Trout and redfish are good in the surf and jetties with live shrimp under a popping cork, or wade fishing with croaker. Fewer catches of drum. Flounder gigging is excellent. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

### • Port O'Conner

GOOD. 86 degrees. Trout are biting north and south of the surf on live croaker. Slot redfish are good at the end of the north jetty.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Little Cypress Municipal Utility will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 26, 2024, in the TCM Administration Building, 4386 FM 1130, Orange, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and accurate rates set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revision of the

Maintenance Tax	\$8.12081000 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.24604100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (as defined in the amount budgeted) for the proposed fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current fiscal year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	5.8112 % increase
Debt Service	0.0161 % decrease
Total expenditures	5.1926 % increase

### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value of all property	\$2,624,521,135	\$2,775,929,542
Total appraised value of new property**	\$ 19,936,347	\$ 18,969,990
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,908,722,221	\$1,754,959,552
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 17,275,308	\$ 15,321,357

\* Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(1), Tax Code.

\*\* New property is defined by Section 26.01(2)(7), Tax Code.

\*\*\* Taxable value is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonds of indebtedness: \$10,800,000

\* Outstanding principal.

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund**	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.8412	\$0.220208	\$ 1.0614	\$4.818	\$8,111
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.06789	\$0.245584	\$ 1.31347	\$5.582	\$7,316
Proposed Rate	\$0.84120	\$0.245508	\$ 1.08671	\$3.858	\$7,861

\*\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or debt. The bonds and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds was approved by the voters of this district.

### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$1,125,901	\$1,205,999
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$1,125,901	\$1,125,901
Total Market Rate versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.0612	\$1.0867
Taxable Value on Average Residence	\$1,125,901	\$1,125,901
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$(81.05)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.4347. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.4347. The district is not proposing a rate that exceeds the Voter-Approval rate.

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not accompanied with a corresponding debt obligation. Estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment. A school district may not increase the district maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance*	\$1,154,196
Interest & Sinking Fund Balances**	\$1,619,205

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# Leave the Throne of Guilt

Pastor Scotty Smith  
desiringGod.org

*Calloused knees. Prayer closet. Answered prayers. Prayer warrior.*

These four phrases don't exactly trigger me with spiritual PTSD, but they do represent markers in my journey of moving from prayer-guilt into the grace of praying. For many years, I felt more like a D-student in the school of prayer than a beloved son in the presence of God. I was afraid to not pray, but I had very little delight in actually praying.

As a young believer in the late sixties, the joy of my new life in Christ was palpable and plenteous. But pretty soon, I started to feel the pressure of a new burden to "get it right." I had consistent quiet times, underlined verses in my Bible (in three different colors), and engaged in Scripture memory. I fellowshiped, witnessed, and prayed. Unfortunately, these crucial spiritual disciplines functioned more as a means of guilt (or pride) than as a means of grace.

A part of the problem — no, the biggest issue — was that I began the Christian life with a limited understanding of what happened when God gave me faith to trust Jesus and hid my life in his Son.

### United Forever with Christ

In Christ, all riches were already deposited into my account, but I was clueless about them. I knew Jesus died for my sins and that I was fully forgiven. But only years later did I come to understand my union with Christ, the imputation of his righteousness, and my adoption into God's family — to name a few of the glorious benefits of our life in Christ.

I don't blame anyone for not teaching me about union with Christ. I'm just eternally grateful I finally learned about it, came to



rest in it, and now live out of its glorious implications. It wasn't a game changer, but an everything changer — not a new day, but a new forever.

Our union with Christ is the foundation and fountain for knowing God, and the spiritual disciplines — including prayer (when shaped and fueled by the gospel) — are the means by which we deepen our knowledge of God and learn to "glorify and enjoy him forever." Though the gospel has freed us from all earning, it certainly doesn't free us from all effort.

Moving on from guilt and fear, I now focus on three callings that have radically transformed how I engage in prayer.

### • Fellowship with Your Father

"Fellowship with your Father" is exactly how my spiritual father, Jack Miller, reframed prayer for me, keying off of Jesus's glorious invitation to say, "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). How many times did I hear (and need to hear) Jack say, "Scotty, our Father wants to spend time with you more than you are even confident and comfortable in his presence. He loves you. You'll never shock him, and he'll never shame you. He knows your need is greater than you realize, and his provision for you in Jesus is exponentially more than you have yet grasped."

Indeed, the gospel frees us from

thinking of prayer as a way to get God's attention — an effort to convince him of something we need or something we want him to do. Prayer is God's nonstop welcome to us — a grace-subpoena into his presence (Hebrews 4:16).

Our Father is always initiating and resourcing our communion with himself. As we spend both quality and quantity time with him, all the incomplete and wrong notions we've had about him get exposed and expelled. He also re-parents us through unrushed time in his presence. Abba is the Father we always wanted, and he alone can be to us what no human father could ever be.

The better we know God as our Father, the more we begin to embrace how big and good his prayer-answer vocabulary actually is. Answered prayer is no longer equated with a yes to our petitions. We begin to rest in our Father's multiple wise answers, like no, not yet, and yes, but not exactly as you are asking. The burden is off our shoulders. We can ask with abandon and trust with even greater abandon. Our Father is always doing all things well, even when he doesn't do all things easy. Our Father's no is sweeter than any yes we can imagine — or demand. We start giving more yeses to him rather than "needing" yeses from him.

Jack also made it abundantly

clear to me, "The more you fellowship with your Father, the more you will rejoice in his plan for the nations and live as his partner in world evangelism."

### • Behold Jesus's Glory

The apostle Paul's words are as riveting as they are compelling: "We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Many centuries earlier, King David expressed a similar heart orientation and single passion — even making it his number-one prayer request: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord" (Psalm 27:4).

Prayer as contemplation of Jesus's glory reorients us away from prayer as consternation about getting results. Adoration of Jesus must not be relegated to the first letter of ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Adoration is the meaning and essence of each and every other aspect of life. Indeed, fixing our gaze on Jesus isn't a warm-up exercise to prayer; it is prayer.

As we marinate in the truth, goodness, and beauty of Jesus, we are changed — we become more like Jesus, which is the goal of our salvation (Romans 8:28–30; 1 John 3:1–3). Our hope is fueled, because we discover more fully what the Scriptures mean when they declare Jesus to be the emphatic Yes! to every promise God has made (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our praying becomes less about claiming God's promises and more about seeing how God's promises claim us — and all of history. We think less about becoming prayer warriors, and we rest in Jesus as the prayer-warrior extraordinaire — ever living to make intercession for us and in us by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:26).

Adoring Jesus also deepens our

intimacy with him and intensifies our longing to be with him in eternity — the better-by-far-ness Paul writes about in Philippians 1:23. It also fuels our courage to go with Jesus into a life of missional living and loving.

### • Listen to the Spirit's Testimony

Lastly, thinking of prayer as listening to the Holy Spirit's testimony helps us include in our prayer times not only talking but hearing. In Romans 8, Paul highlights just how vital this aspect of our fellowship with God actually is: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs" (Romans 8:16–17). The Spirit is always preaching the gospel to us — nonstop, 24/7. As we linger over God's word, do we take time to listen?

In fact, it is by the Spirit's voice we most clearly hear God singing over us with great rejoicing (Zephaniah 3:17). How is this so? Because the Spirit is always making much of Jesus and is constantly applying his finished work to our hearts. As we experience the wonder of God's great delight in us, we move more fully into the true blessedness of the convicting voice of the Spirit, the voice that is now and forever void of any condemnation (Romans 8:1). Confession and repentance become a way of life and a liberating joy.

Unfortunately, too much of the time we allow other noises and voices to drown out the Spirit's voice. We tune the frequency of our hearts to our fears, disappointments, and anger. We indulge the whispers, shouts, and lies of the devil. We let the siren songs of our world and our lusts mute the peace-giving, joy-fueling, hope-enlarging testimony of the Spirit. Let's get still and know that our God is God (Psalm 46:10). He does all that he pleases, all the time and everywhere (Psalm 115:3). Hallelujah, it has pleased him to make us his beloved daughters and sons through the work of Jesus.

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**Jeremiah 29:11-13**  
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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Sunday Service: 10:30 am and 6pm  
Wednesday Service: 6 pm  
We Love You And God Loves You.