

County Record

Vol. 65 No. 13

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Week of Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Officials hope swing bridge fixed by next week

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The East Roundbunch Road swing bridge should be ready to handle vehicular traffic next week if the county can get the parts to fix an electrical problem. Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte made the announcement Tuesday at a meeting of Orange County Commissioners Court.



Prc. 3 Commissioners
Kirk Roccaforte

The old swing bridge's mechanism broke again on Sunday, causing the county to open it so boat traffic on Cow Bayou could travel through, but cars and trucks could not use the bridge.

East Roundbunch Road with the swing bridge leads into FM 1006, also known as "Chemical Row." The road with bridge offers people living in Bridge City a popular way to get to work at the petrochemical plants along FM 1006.

The bridge is within Roccaforte's Precinct 3 boundaries. "I don't know who died and put me in charge," he quipped to other commissioners.

Because commuters could not use the bridge Monday and with the added traffic on Highway 87, some people living in Bridge City complained on social media that it took 45 minutes or more for them to get home after working at the chemical plants.

County personnel open

and the swing bridge when boats need to pass north on the bayou. Last month, the bridge was opened more than 60 times. A lot of the recent waterway traffic has been from big barges carrying in giant parts of the new Chevron Phillips Golden Triangle Polymers Plant being built on about 2,000 acres between Highway 87, FM 1006, and Foreman Road.

The prefabricated pieces of the \$8.5 billion plant a mainly built overseas and shipped to the Gulf of Mexico, then Sabine Lake and to the bayou. Chevron Phillips even built a large barge berth on the east side of Cow Bayou off Highway 87.

Commissioners held a tax rate public hearing for an hour before adjourning and then convening in a regular meeting. Roccaforte gave his information before the agenda business.

County business 3A



Cheryl Warren of the LC-M area asks questions to Commissioners Court about county budget expenses and taxes. More than two dozen citizens attended the tax hearing for the rate of the 2024-25 budget year, which starts October 1.

SEE ARTICLE BELOW

Find out what those family treasures are worth Aug. 24

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

A new event comes to Orange County, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Aug. 24 to the Orange County Convention and Visitor Center. "What's it Worth?" Is an "Antiques Roadshow" type of appraisal event presented by the Southeast Texas Arts Council.

The nonprofit organization that promotes art and the humanities in Orange, Hardin and Jefferson counties was trying to develop something new for Orange County when the idea of an appraisal event like "Antiques Roadshow" came up.

Checking "Antiques Roadshow" tour schedule online, it was discovered the closest the tour comes to this area was Arkansas.

"That was the only stop in the south they had this year," said Penny LeLeux,



Amy Lawch

the event's organizer. "Everything else was in the northern states."

Since it wasn't coming anywhere close, and knowing the popularity of the show, LeLeux felt an appraisal event of this type might be of interest to people in Southeast Texas.

"Everybody has a family heirloom they have always wondered if it was valuable and how much it was



Barbara Blades-Lines

worth. It just seemed like it might be something fun for the community while raising a few funds for SE-TAC to promote more projects," she said.

The Expo Center was chosen as the venue because of the ease to get to it from Interstate 10. LeLeux obtained a small grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts that will pay for the appraisers that are coming



Joanna Floyd

from the Houston area. Funding was also received from the H.H. and Edna Houseman Charitable Foundation Trust.

Barbara Blades-Lines is bringing her whole team from Houston, which includes Joanna Floyd, Bill Pickard and Abigale Frances Rigamonti.

Blades-Lines is a Senior Accredited Appraiser with

ANTIQUE Page 2A

County set to lower tax rate slightly for 24-25

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Judge John Gothia is proposing a property tax rate slightly lower than the current rate. During a tax rate hearing Tuesday morning, he suggested a rate of 51 cents per \$100 valuation, down from 52.2 cents per \$100 valuation.

Commissioners Court is set to vote on the new tax rate along with a general operations budget of

\$53.56 million during a meeting September 10. The new budget will begin on October 1 and the new property taxes will be due at the end of January.

Even though the tax rate will go down slightly, the tax bill will depend on the property valuations from the Orange County Appraisal District. Many properties had increased values this year.

Homeowners, senior citizens, the disabled, and



Orange County Judge
John Gothia

veterans may receive different breaks on their county taxes.

More than two dozen people interested in the hearing attended the hearing, with Judge Gothia opening the hour-long hearing with a quick basic lesson in county budgeting. He said the advertised proposed tax rate of 54.4 cents per \$100 is higher than what will become the actual tax rate. He said the county has

done it that way for the eight years he has been on the commissioners court.

The main reason, he said, is because the county must advertise a proposed tax rate before the completion of all property valuations.

State law allows a taxing entity to lower the advertised proposed tax rate, but the entity cannot make it higher. Gothia said he errs on the side of caution to make sure the

budget can be met with the estimated tax income.

The budget for 2024-25 will include a pay raise of \$1 per hour for all county employees, and a 50-cent an hour increase for elected officials.

Judge Gothia said the county has to deal with increases in insurance costs and utility rates just as homeowners do. The county has about 60

SALES TAX Page 3A

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County set to lower tax rate From Page 1

buildings and must pay for insurance and utilities, plus fleets of vehicles that must be insured, and health insurance for employees to be paid.

The new budget will include reserve savings helping the county to have six months of operating costs saved for an emergency. The state recommends entities keep reserves to pay for six months. He said that a few years ago, the reserves were down to \$400,000, which would not pay for a week of county operations. The goal is for \$26 million in reserves.

Disasters are a big reason for keeping savings, he said. In the past 19 years, the county has been hit by several tropical storms and hurricanes, plus river floods and two tornadoes. Gothia said if a hurricane knocks down trees blocking roads, the county needs to have money to pay for cleaning up.

For instance, the county spent \$15 million for the general fund to clean up after Hurricane Laura in 2020. Federal reimbursements for disaster costs are still not complete on that storm.

Even if FEMA reimburses the county for those costs, the payments for reimbursements can take years. He said the county recently received its last payment from Hurricane Ike in 2008.

The county keeping reserves also saves the need for the county to borrow money and pay interest. During the years the county had low reserve savings, commissioners borrowed money to pay for general operations during for October through January in the budget year. The loans, with interest, were the paid



Cheryl Warren of the LC-M area asks questions to Commissioners Court about county budget expenses and taxes. RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

back after January when most property taxes are collected.

The proposed budget is online through the County Clerk's section on the Orange County Texas website. The proposed budget was compiled after Commissioners Court conducted

The new budget will include reserve savings helping the county to have six months of operating costs saved for an emergency.

several public budget meetings with department heads to hear their needs and requests.

Gothia said no tax dollar is spent without it being made public.

The new budget has only two new positions, one is for a park ranger at Claiborne West Park off Interstate 10. The other is for another inspector in the health and code department.

One increase in costs will

be for overtime in the sheriff's office. Gothia said the jail staff has 14 to 15 vacancies. State regulations set guidelines for the number of staff a jail must have for each number of prisons. The Orange County Jail averages 250 inmates a day. Some of the current jail

staff must work overtime to meet state rules for staffing. The sheriff's office, which is the largest county department, is also getting four new radars, a tire changer for the maintenance garage, new computer system used by deputies in the vehicles, 26 new body cameras and new license plate readers.

Gothia said the county is planning to get a water well at Claiborne West Park to provide water to bathrooms

and drinking fountains. The county for many years has paid to use a private water company in an adjacent subdivision, but the water quality has gone down. He said he's hoping the Mauriceville Utility District will eventually be able to get water service to the park.

Major equipment for the Road and Bridge Department includes \$120,000 for a new patch truck, \$175,000 for a new dump truck and \$120,000 for a bucket truck or platform truck that could lift workers cutting dead trees and vegetation from the road right-of-way properties.

The county is not legally able to cut dead trees on private property not part of a public right-of-way.

ONLINE AUCTION
ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT
Auction Starts: August 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Auction Closes: September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM
A complete list and description of items will be available for viewing and bidding at www.the-record.com beginning on August 29, 2024 at 10:00 am. The auction will remain open for bidding until 10:00 am on September 12, 2024.

Komatsu PC78US-8 Trackhoe	Caterpillar D4K Dozer
Caterpillar 328FL Trackhoe	1987 Holden Trailer
Lincoln Welding Machine	Landa Pressure Washer
Caterpillar 320DL Trackhoe	Wylie Spray Unit
John Deere 6330 Tractor	Variety of Filters
John Deere 6105M Tractor	2005 Ford F250 Truck
2008 Ford F250 Truck	2010 Ford F350 Truck
Computer Monitors-Samsung, Lenovo	
Computer Monitors-Dell, HP, LG	
Printer/Scanner/Copier/Fax Machines	
2 Sets of 4 Tires - Firestone A/T LT245/75R17	
1 Set of 4 Tires - Firestone M/T LT245/75P16	
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 Tuesday, September 3, 2024 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Monday, September 9, 2024 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location:
 Orange County Drainage District
 6081 Old Hwy. 90 Orange, TX 77630 (409)745-3225

The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

The Record Newspapers- The County Record and the Penny Record- are published on Wednesday of each week and distributed free throughout greater Orange County, Texas. The publications feature community news, local sports, commentary and much more. Readers may also read each issue of our papers from our web site TheRecordLive.Com.

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Round The Clock Hometown News

Antique Roadshow From Page 1

the American Society of Appraisers (ASA) and is a Certified Personal Property Appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers (ISA). As a generalist appraiser, she has a broad background in appraising Colonial to contemporary furniture, silver, decorative art, and fine art – paintings & sculptures, collectibles, historical artifacts, and handbags.

Floyd is an Accredited Appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers (ISA). As a generalist appraiser, she has a broad background in appraising European and American decorative art, fine art, early 20th-century glass, brilliant cut glass, and collectibles.

Pickard has been collecting and brokering sporting items for over twenty years. Since 2019, he has assisted the start-up of Blades Appraisals & Art Resources, LLC, and has been instrumental in its growth as the project manager and by providing appraisal assistance for automobiles, firearms, weapons, and sporting items. In 2023, he joined the International Society of Appraisers and is in the process of obtaining his credentials.

Rigamonti has been working in the art industry since graduating in 2021. She has been working as an appraiser assistant and has completed her first year in the AAA (Appraisers Association of America) program to obtain her appraisal credentials. Abigale is developing her specialty in fine art, focusing on Texas regional art, ultra-modern art, collectibles, and luxury items.

For those fine jewelry items we have Amy Lawch, owner of A. A. Benjamin Ltd.

Lawch is a graduate gemologist specializing in antique and period jewelry. She works with banks, attorneys, and private individuals for estate/probate work, museum donations, and private clients for insurance. Previously, Ms. Lawch was a Representative for Bonhams, Selkirks and Phillips. She lectures on jewelry and the auction process and is an Accredited Member of the International Society of Appraisers, an international member of the Jewelry Valuers Association (UK), a Senior Gemologist with Accredited Gemologist Association and a member of the American Society of Appraisers. She has a BA from Northwestern University and an MBA in finance from the University of Houston.

Scott Smithhart started Comics Kingdom in Beaumont in 1986. He has 38 years of experience in buying and selling comic books, sports cards, toys and collectible card games like Magic and Pokémon. Toy specialties include Star Wars, Transformers, GI Joe and miscellaneous Sci Fi and pop culture collectibles.

"This is your chance to find out what those Star Wars toys and posters are worth, or that Mickey Mantle trading card," said LeLeux.

"We also have an antique broker, Lisa Deborde from Houston."

LeLeux said if the item you want appraised is too large to bring, such as a wardrobe, the appraisers said you can bring pictures instead, just make sure you get pictures of any details and any makers marks if you can to aid in the appraisal.

"Ms. Lawch will need to




leave by 3 p.m. that day so be sure to bring those diamonds and rubies early in the day," said LeLeux. Lawch will also offer a presentation titled, "What's hot and what's not in your family jewelry box and what to do with it."

Some of the other presenters will be discussing topics such as how to spot a counterfeit collectable, where to sell your property – auction vs. estate sales (the difference between replacement value, fair market value and sentimental value.) and Recent pricing trends by category – pre and post pandemic. (antiques, silver and silverplate, watches and other collectables.)

Heritage House volunteers will be staffing the kitchen offering breakfast and lunch options, including gumbo.

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Orangefield High School 'Ready, Set, Teach!' students will be interns at the other campuses. Interns will demonstrate professional standards/employability skills, and have the opportunity to earn an Educational Aide I Certification upon successful completion of the program. Pictured: Front L-R: Lanie Rush, Lili Sanford, Kinslei Carter, Maci Waguespack; Back L-R: Madison KC, Izabella Lee, Leland Conley, Blake Steele, Jessica Madrid.

BC elementary, intermediate students get free meals

The Bridge City school district this year is letting all students at the elementary and intermediate school have a free breakfast and lunch each day, thanks to a program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the community eligibility program.

Students at the middle school and high school will need to apply and meet family income or special needs like being in foster care to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

BCISD Food Service Director Maggie Joubert said in a press release the free meals not only assure students of getting nutritious foods, the program also helps school administrators. With every child getting meals at no charge, the schools do not have to collect and review applications or collect money for paid meals.

For the middle and high school students, applications for free or reduced-price meals are available online. Students or parents may also pick up paper applications at each school or at the BCISD Food Service Department, 1031 West Roundbunch Road.

Applications for free or reduced-price meals may be made at any time during the school year.

YMCA in PA offers Homeschool P.E.

Fall semester registration for swim and gym homeschool p.e. classes is now open. Program meets 1-2 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 10 - Nov. 26. Program cost is \$105 for members and \$135 for non-members. Spaces are limited. Students will engage in sports, fitness and games to help with physical fitness PE credits. The YMCA of Southeast Texas is located at 6760 9th Ave., Port Arthur. For more info call 409-962-6644 or check out their website www.ymcasetx.org.

County business

From Page 1

That business included approval of an agreement that will allow construction of the Tiger Creek Detention Pond that is designed to hold rain water draining from the north part of the county from suddenly flooding parts southward.

The interlocal agreement approved is with the Orange County Drainage District using a \$31 million grant from the Texas General Land Office. County Judge John Gothia said 650 acres have been acquired and the detention pond will be 500 acres.

The project is in Precinct 4 and the precinct's County Commissioner Robert Viator said the area of the pond will help North Vidor including the Texla Road and Dixie Road lands.

Detention ponds hold water that would otherwise begin flooding areas. After the rains and heavy flows end, the water can be slowly released downstream without flooding.

Gothia said it's "been a long process" to get the plans, apply for the grant, and be approved for the grant. He described it as "shovel ready," meaning construction can now begin.

County Tax Asses-

sor-Collector Octavia Guzman reported her office collected \$2.2 million in property taxes in July. Her office also collects property taxes for the cities, school districts, and special districts. The county's share of the July collections was \$302,100.

She said the county has now received 96.5 percent of total property taxes for the year. That percentage is average with the past few years collection rates.

Commissioners also approved annual county donations for community projects, including \$45,000 to the Meals on Wheels program. Earlier this year, the program that delivers balanced meals to shut-ins and senior citizens had financial problems. The group even did not deliver meals for days before the citizen governing board fired the group's paid director.

Another \$40,000 is going to Spindletop MHMR Services, a state agency that provides mental health services to Orange County, plus \$2,500 for CASA, a group that trains adults to work with children in the foster system and lead them through their legal processes.

Judge Gothia said the county is now paying the Orange County Disaster

Rebuild \$20,000. The group was founded by the county with a county employee to coordinate local, state, and national volunteers after disasters with local people who needed help. He said the group is now set up as a non-profit with the county helping to support it.

Also, \$1,000 is going to the Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Conservation, and \$10,000 to the Gift of Life program, which provides free mammograms for women who do not have insurance, and free health screenings for men.

Payments for bills were approved with \$109,000 from the general fund to the Texas Association of Counties for monthly group medical and dental insurance for employees younger than 65, and \$86,600 from the general fund to pay for monthly insurance for retirees age 65 and older.

Another payment is \$57,700 from the general fund to Silsbee Ford for a 2023 Ford 250 Super pickup for the county's maintenance department. Three funeral homes, Claybar, Memorial, and Sparrow, each are getting a payment of \$1,150 to cover the costs of an indigent funeral expense.

West Orange accepting booth reservations for 2024 Holiday in the Park

Booth registrations are now open to the public beginning for this year's "Holiday in the Park" festival hosted by the City of West Orange. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 in the park next door to West Orange City Hall (2700 Western Avenue; West Orange, Texas). This home-town, community festival brings in people from around the area wanting to kick off the holiday season. The event will have food booths, craft booths, children's activities and will feature local entertainment. Non-electrical booth spaces (14' x 14') are available for \$40 each, while electrical booth spaces (20' x 14') are \$65 each. Booths are rented on a first-come, first served basis. The City of West Orange reserves the right to the sale of all carbonated beverages. NO alcohol of any kind will be sold at, or allowed on, the festival grounds. Rules and regulations, as well as a site map and registration form can be found on the City's website located at www.cityofwestorange.com. For further information, or to reserve a booth space, contact West Orange City Hall at 409-883-3468.

YMCA in PA offers Homeschool P.E.

Fall semester registration for swim and gym homeschool p.e. classes is now open. Program meets 1-2 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 10 - Nov. 26. Program cost is \$105 for members and \$135 for non-members. Spaces are limited. Students will engage in sports, fitness and games to help with physical fitness PE credits. The YMCA of Southeast Texas is located at 6760 9th Ave., Port Arthur. For more info call 409-962-6644 or check out their website www.

ymcasetx.org.

YMCA Afterschool Program for BC and OF

The YMCA will be offering an after school program in Bridge City at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W. Roundbunch. Orangefield students will be hosted at the Orangefield Elementary School. Registration is \$30 for one child or \$50 for a family. Weekly rates: YMCA member rate is \$65 for the first child and \$55 for each additional child. Non-member rate is \$80 for the first child and \$70 for additional children. In-service and early dismissal dates are included in the weekly fee for school care. The YMCA offers financial assistance to participants designed to fit their financial situation. The YMCA utilizes the two different types of financial aid available: for more information call 409-962-6644. To register, visit their website at www.ymcasetx.org.

Kids World Academy enrollment open

Wide World Academy is currently accepting enrollment for the 24-25 school year. They have Texas school ready certified teachers, small classes, age appropriate curriculum, play based learning, Bible class, library, snacks provided. They offer half day, extended day and full day.

Christian Pinnacle Preschool now enrolling

Pinnacle Christian Preschool, located at 975 W. Roundbunch Road in Bridge City is currently enrolling 18 months old through Kindergarten. They offer music lessons, chapel, weekly P.E., Library, Abeka curriculum and small class sizes. Call 409-241-3920 for more information.



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- Pacemaker Implantation & Services
- Preventive Cardiology
- Tilt Table Testing
- Nuclear Cardiology
- Inferior Vena Cava Filter
- Biventricular Pacemaker
- AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator)




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From the Creaux's Nest

JOE BIDEN'S LEGACY

Awash in his party's love, **President Joe Biden** finally did become that bridge to a new generation of leaders. He movingly performed the most profound act a politician in a democracy can undertake, willingly handing over power, as he ceded the leadership of the party to **Kamala Harris** Monday at the **Democratic National Convention**. He capped a half-century long career, as a senator, a vice president and finally president, by citing a verse of a song called "American Anthem" that he said was important to his family. "What shall our legacy be, what will our children say, let me know in my heart when my days are through, America, America, I gave my best to you," he said. His legacy will continue to grow. In my lifetime he has been the best first term president, accomplishing more than most two term presidents. He did it with a **GOP** congress. **President Biden** has never exactly been a **liberal Democrat** or a **conservative Democrat**, he has instead stayed in his party's mainstream. When the party moved right in the 1990s, he moved with it. When it moved left in the 2010s, so did he. But **Biden** has not simply gone with the **Democratic flow**. Over his more than 50 years in politics, he has periodically shown strong opinions about how his party should change, and helped it do so. Monday night in Chicago, **Biden** took a big step in his long political goodbye, delivering a 52-minute speech at the **Democratic convention**. **Biden's** political career began in 1972, at age 29, when he defeated an incumbent **Republican** senator in Delaware even as **Richard Nixon** won a landslide. **Biden** ran as a subtly different kind of **Democrat**. Five decades later, **Biden** became the most **populist Democratic president** in modern times. **Biden** loves to talk about how he has proved his doubters wrong. He has signed **bipartisan bills on infrastructure, semiconductor chips, Ukraine aid and TikTok, as well as on anti-Asian hate crimes, the aviation system, the electoral process, gun violence, the Postal Service, same-sex marriage and veterans' health**. In a polarized Washington, **Biden** has demonstrated that **bipartisanship remains possible**. **Biden** called picking **Harris** as his **running mate** the best decision of his career. He joked that "like many of our best presidents, she was also vice president." Introduced by his daughter **Ashley Biden**, dabbed tears as convention delegates held signs reading "We Love Joe." Speaking earlier, **Hillary Clinton** said, "On the other side of that glass ceiling is **Kamala Harris** raising her hand and taking the oath of office." Several speakers contrasted **Harris's background** with **Trump's felony convictions**. **Clinton** smiled and nodded as the audience chanted "lock him up." Tuesday's speakers were **Barack and Michelle Obama**. Wednesday former president **Bill Clinton**, Speaker Emerita **Nancy Pelosi**, Transportation Secretary **Pete Buttigieg** and Vice president nominee **Tim Walz** are expected to speak. On Thursday **Kamala Harris** will accept the convention's nomination for president.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Last week, **Ms. Pearl Burgess** had a fall in her home and broke her hip. She underwent surgery Friday at Baptist Beaumont. **Pearl**, who is fighting other health issues didn't need to be bed ridden, but like always, her spirits are high. She's always on a stage and keeps everyone entertained. I love her outlook on life, death and longevity.**** **Gov. Rick Perry** was indicted on two counts; coercion of a public servant and abuse of power. **Perry** appeared on **FOX News** Sunday attacking the integrity of the grand jury system.*****Local attorneys **Sharon Bearden** and **Tommy Gunn** have bragging rights since Baylor, at number 10, is the only Texas team listed in college football's top 20. A&M is at #21.*****A few folks celebrating their special day in the next few days: On Aug. 20, our buddy **Tammy Davis** is a year older but she has aged well. Another nice lady, **Debbie Guilhas Harris**, celebrates on this day.*******Judge Carl and Mikia Thibodeaux** celebrate their anniversary on this day. I'm a little surprised **Carl** would get married in the dead heat of summer.

20 Years Ago-2004

The man who is credited with turning around a placid Bridge City Independent School District, **Sam Lucia**, has resigned as superintendent effective Dec. 31. Sixty year old Lucia said he wanted a life less stressful than the past 35 years he has spent as a teacher, coach, principal and school administrator. He became BCISD superintendent in 1998, inheriting a district in poor financial condition and operating in deficit.*******Dr. Mark Messer**, of Bridge City, has been nominated in a field of 19 for the prestigious "Texas Dentist of the Year" award. The award is the highest honor a Texas dentist can

achieve in the state. He was nominated by the Sabine District Two Dental Society.*****A memorial service and dedication of a monument for the late **Judge Grover Halliburton** is set for Monday, September 13, at **Claiborne West Park**. A statement released by **County Commissioner James Stringer** names **Judge Buddy Hahn** as MC, **Rev. Leo Anderson** will give the invocation and **Grover's daughter, Suzanne**, will speak along with **Roy Dunn, C. Delle Bates** and **Judge Claude Wimberly**. Recognized will be the **Halliburton family, Johnnie Spencer of Texas Marble and Granite, Veronica Roberts, Les Anderson** and **Donna Scales**, county parks director. The **Wednesday Lunch Bunch**, that **Halliburton** helped form, will also be recognized.*****The "Red Haired Stranger" **Willie Nelson** will appear at the **Lutcher Theater** Oct. 25.*******Joy Dubose** married **Robert Simonton** Saturday, Aug. 21 at Bridge City First Baptist Church.*****Bridge City star in the NFL, **Matt Bryant**, kicked two field goals for the **Dallas Cowboys** to help the **Cowboys** beat **Oakland**. (Editor's note: I wonder how many teams **Matt** has kicked for and how many field goals he has made,

45 Years Ago-1979

State Rep. Wayne Peveto reappointed to the Texas Legislative Council. **Peveto** was appointed by **House Speaker Bill Clayton** and **Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby**, who chairs the committee. The council is the governing body for the legislature. **Bill Clements**, a Republican, is governor. **Peveto** is serving his fourth term in the Legislature. ***** Aug. 12, 1979, **Dr. Wynne Pierce**, 82, died at his home. His pallbearers were all old-line Orangeites **Taylor Sells, Judge James Neff, Judge Graham Bruce, Homer Stark, Tom Rogers, Edgar Brown, III, Major Inman, Jr., Albert "Cowboy" Adams** and **Wayne Arrington**. **Dr. Wynne's** dad was a doctor in Orange before him. The family came to Orange in 1900. **Dr. Wynne** served in World War I. Him and **Clay Dunn, Roy's** dad, both served in the 38th Field Artillery and marched through France together. **Dr. Wynne**, a 1914 graduate of Orange High School, set up a family practice in 1926. For many years he was also co-owner of the **Frances Ann Lutcher Hospital**. He delivered many babies free or for very little. Many were named **Wynn**. He never turned down anyone in need of medical service.***** **Will Frey** was guest chef at the Boarding House Restaurant. Spotted in the crowd were **Mavis and Joe Powell**, with daughter **Holly**, of New York, **June and Jessie Gunstream, Claire and Don Covington, Rex and Betty McCorquodale, John and Karen LeCroix, Houston and June Baker, Elizabeth and Stronnie McBride, Eddie and Martha Blankenstein, Sharon and Lynn Fuller, Janet and James Fontenot, Beth and Louis Dugas**, with special guest from England, **Beth's** brother **Ed and wife Gladys**. (Editor's note: Did you know any of these folks.)***** **David and Debbie Fusilier** became parents of their first born, **David Wynne, Jr.**, arrived at 3:56 a.m., weighing in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces.*****Actress **Dolores Cantu** of West Orange is home for a visit from Los Angeles. The actress will be playing the part of **Nita** in the new cartoon "Shmoor," starting in Sept. on NBC.*******J.D. Stanfield** celebrated his birthday Sunday, Aug. 19. He also is a new employee with **Dal Sasso Enterprises**.

Y'ALL COME

Saturday the **Southeast Texas Arts Council** is hosting an "Antiques Road Show" type of appraisal event called "What's it Worth?" down at the **Orange County Expo Center**. They have six appraisers coming in from Houston and a comic book dealer coming in from Beaumont to cover just about any kind of family treasure you have. One of them is a fine jewelry appraiser that is a gemologist. One fella can even tell you if your great-grandfather's fishing pole or rifle is of any value. **Who knew there could be value in old fishing gear?** Anyway, check it out. See the story and ad in today's paper.

TEXAS HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES ON SALE

New hunting/fishing licenses went on sale Thursday for the 2024-25 season. Current year licenses expire at the end of August. Texas purchase more than **3.9 million hunting and fishing licenses** each year, which funds conservation efforts and recreational opportunities including fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration and public hunting leases, the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** said in a news release. A hunting license is required of any person, regardless of age, for hunting animals, birds, frogs and turtles. The only exceptions are feral hogs, coyotes and fur-bearing animals if the hunter already has a commercial trapper's license.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

We were glad to hear that **Judge Chad Jenkins** dad, **Jimmy**, was out of ICU, the hospital and was in rehabilitation. **Jimmy** is looking forward to the day he can get back to his home in the country surrounded by his folks. Best wishes for continued improvement.*******Lisa Reeves**, head of Orange County's MIS (Management Information Systems) can finally say 100 percent of county employees have taken the online cybersecurity course. Apparently **County Judge John Gothia** was the one keeping the county from reaching 100 percent. It's not a joke these days, what with US security saying Iran hacked into former president **Donald Trump's** campaign emails. Even the Muleshoe, Texas, water system had a cyber hack in April when **Russians** used it as a test to get into utility systems. Be careful what you click on.*******Orange Mardi Gras Krewes** got together at the **VFW** Saturday night for their annual casual summer dance party. The hall was full of revelers. **Lady Whistlebreaux**, though, wants to know about the ripped T-shirt fashion. **Gary Boneaux** was wearing. Will this be a fashion trend for men? **Paul and Raul Burch** found time to party between doing all their jobs plus decorating their latest house. **Mayor Larry Spears** and wife, **Trish**

were there. **Pam and Rusty Honeycutt** were sporting bright yellow outfits. Others seen in the crowd included **Andre and Lanier Robertson, Gina and Skipper Yeaman, Jillian and Jason Yeaman, Caroline and Mike Hennigan, Russell Bottley, Keith Hebert, James Simar, Tammy Stark, Susan and Jerry Pennington, Troy Johnson, Lori Ardoin, Erica Beasley, Tina Robertson, Freddie Champine, Eric Ellison, Minda Nichols, Dianne Hebert, and Freddie Champine**.*******Nancy and Tony Dallas** took a trip to the Jersey Shore and relaxed with some baseball. Son **Jack Dallas** has been playing minor league ball there. He and wife **Reid** spent time with them along with **Rhonda and Jason Miller**.*****August 20th has always been a special day for **Dr. Tom Johnson**, Lamar Orange president. On this date 40 years ago he went to work for the **Houston Police Department**. He retired after 20 years, went to work for **Congressman Charlie Wilson** and six years ago, on Aug. 20, he accepted the job at **LSCO**. He says he's never been happier and besides loving **Orange County** he has been accomplishing great things at the school. **Dr. Tom** will do to ride the range with.*****There are a few folks we haven't heard from in a long time and we're wondering what became of them. **Van Choate**, Constable **Brad Frye, Quincy Procell, and Keith Wallace** do you still live here?*****We did speak with **Shaun and Tammy Davis**. It was a nice visit. Monday was **Tammy's** birthday. They keep up with what's going on by checking our website **therecordlive.com**.*******Sheriff Chester Holts** died 40 years ago, Aug. 18, 1984. Hard to believe. Some of us will never forget him.

BREAIK BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Celebrating birthdays in the next few days are **Aug. 21: David Jones, Olga Graham, Kimberly Hubbard, Shirlyn Findlay and Alexandra Wild**.*******Aug. 22: Mari Ellen Jacobs, Johnny Montagne, Karen Fisher, Mike Johnson, Brian Shepard, Connie Forse and Jason Delano**.*******Aug. 23: Keble Free, Corey May, Michele George, Pat Gunter, Ron Hopperton, John-David Walles, Ryan Moreau, Zach Jeter**.*******Aug. 24: Marlene Marritt, Ben Ezell, Carol Cupe**.*******Aug. 25: Coach Dan Ray Hooks, David Montagne, Amber Juneau, Ken Kreger, Milton Brigg, Jr., Ron Cowling, Phelicia Rucker, Bree Fontenot**.*******Aug. 26: Donna Scales, Jerry Mercer, Molly Abshire, Sheryl Guillory**.*******Aug. 27: Stephanie Roberts, Sydney Eby, Jaycie Dardeau, Nina Birdwell**.*****The Goss family wins for most birthdays in a week. **Patriarch Ross Goss** turned 89, while **Todd Goss** and his wife **Terri** also had birthdays.*****Michelle Belcher** hit 60 this week while **Liz Combs McKee** marked No. 50.***Others celebrating included **County Commissioner Chris Sowell, LaToya Overstreet, Regina Marple, Max Pachar, Violet Sparks, Valentin Catt, Loretta Warnell, Jackie Gislar, Betsy Bachelor Bland, Deborah Bednar, Rebecca Flickinger, Myra Sanders, Greg Garrett, Natalie Smith, Cassie Grizzaffi, Norma Bergeron, Ryan Ragsdale, Phyllis Hennigan, and Myra Sanders**. (Note: To post birthdays or anniversaries in this publication call 409-886-7183 or email **news@therecordlive.com**. No charge.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Gilbeaux walk into **Tee Boy's Bar and Grill** and he axe, "Do anybody in here got da number for 911?"
Tony Comeaux say, "Wats da emergency?"
Gilbeaux say, "Is dat you red truck wit da **Great Dane dog** in it?"
Comeaux answer, "It sho is, wat about it?"
"Mais, I got some bad news for you me, my dog done killed your **Great Dane**." **Gilbeaux** answer.
Comeaux axe, "Wat kind of dog you got hanh?"
Gilbeaux say, "I got a little **Chihuahua** me."
Comeaux him started laughing, "You must be drunk you, explain to me how your **Chihuahua** dog can kill my **Great Dane**?"
Gillbeaux says, "He got stuck in his throat."

C'EST TOUT WHAT'S AT STAKE

Project 2025 is a 887-page mandate for leadership. **The conservative promise**. This very scary manifesto asserts that the president should control the entire executive branch. Their executive theory would reclassify tens of thousands of federal civil service workers as **Trump loyalists**. Heavyweight billionaires have provided **Trump** with a road map establishing an authoritarian government ruled by **Trump cult members**. Some of the more disturbing ideas are taking control of the Department of Justice, the FBI, the FCC and FTC, Homeland Security. Funding for **Medicare and Medicaid** would be cut out and abortion outlawed nationwide. The **Affordable Care Act** eliminated. That's just a small sample of what a **Trump dictatorship** would be like. A good reason to be very afraid. The freedom of all our grandchildren and those that follow are at stake.*****I've gotta go. Thanks for your time. Shop our family of advertisers and tell them we sent you. **Take care and God bless**.



Southeast Texas Arts Council presents: WHAT'S IT WORTH?



AN "ANTIQUE'S ROADSHOW"
TYPE
APPRAISAL EVENT

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Family Heirlooms, Jewelry,
Paintings, Collectables, Memorabilia
and more to find out.

MEET THE APPRAISERS



Barbara Blades-Lines

As a generalist appraiser, she has a broad background in appraising Colonial to contemporary furniture, silver, decorative art, and fine art – paintings & sculptures, collectibles, historical artifacts, and handbags.



Bill Pickard

Bill has been collecting and brokering sporting items for over twenty years. He also helps with appraisals for automobiles, firearms, weapons, and sporting items.



Amy Lawch

Amy is a graduate gemologist specializing in antique and period jewelry. She works with banks, attorneys, and private individuals for estate/probate work, museum donations, and private clients for insurance.



Joanna Floyd

Joanna is an Accredited Appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers (ISA). As a generalist appraiser, she has a broad background in appraising European and American decorative art, fine art, early 20th-century glass, brilliant cut glass, and collectibles.



Scott Smithhart

He has 38 years of experience in buying and selling comic books, sports cards, toys and collectible card games like Magic and Pokémon. Toy specialties include Star Wars, Transformers, GI Joe and miscellaneous Sci Fi and pop culture collectibles.



Abigale Frances Rigamonti

As an appraiser assistant she has completed her first year in the AAA program to obtain her appraisal credentials. Her specialty is fine art, focusing on Texas regional art, ultra-modern art, and luxury items.



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DISCLAIMER: These are general verbal appraisals only and not certified. These are expert OPINIONS only. Southeast Texas Arts Council, and any of its sponsors are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any appraisal or advice offered by the experts in attendance.

Funded in part by Texas Commission on the Arts and the H.H. and Edna Houseman Charitable Trust

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ESTATE SALE

Estate Sale Wed., 8/21, from 2 pm to 8 pm; Thurs., 8/22, 10 am to 6 pm; Fri., 8/23, 9 am to 4 pm & Sat., 8/24, 9 am to 2 pm at 8265 Maple St., Orange, 77632. It is located off Hwy 87, before Hwy 12. You don't want to miss this, 4500 sq. ft. LOADED!

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DIVORCE CITATION BY PUBLICATION(NO CHILDREN)-CDVPUBWD
THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: ANTHONY RENE SOTO, JR.
Wherever He May Be Found.
Respondent, NOTICE:
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of Kellie Elizabeth Soto, Petitioner, was filed in the County Court at Law 2 of Orange, Texas on, 20th day of June, 2024, against Anthony Rene Soto, Jr., Respondent, numbered. 240360-D and entitled.

"In the Matter of the Marriage of" Kellie Elizabeth Soto and Anthony Rene Soto, Jr.

The suit requests a divorce.
The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this August 14th, 2024.

ANNE REED, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas

BY:/S/ RAMEE FOWLER, Deputy

DIVORCE CITATION BY PUBLICATION(NO CHILDREN)-CDVPUBWD
THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: NANCY REYES LONG
Respondent, NOTICE:
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of Robert Allan Long, Petitioner, was filed in the 260th District Court of Orange, Texas on, 27th day of June, 2024, against Nancy Reyes Long, Respondent, numbered. 240395-D and entitled.

"In the Matter of the Marriage of" Robert Allan Long and Nancy Reyes Long

The suit requests a divorce.
The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this August 13th, 2024.

ANNE REED, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas

BY:/S/ MEGAN MOSES, Deputy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of JAMES C. JOHNSON, Deceased, were issued on JULY 2, 2024, in Cause No. P19810, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Orange County, Texas, to: KURI FRANKS JOHNSON.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Barron Law Office P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 2nd day of July, 2024.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron Attorney for Administratrix State Bar No.: 01817500 P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279 Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT L. NOLAN, Deceased, were issued on AUGUST 12, 2024, in Cause No. P20064, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: HELENA RAY HENRY.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Barron Law Office P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 12th day of August, 2024.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron Attorney for Executrix State Bar No.: 01817500 P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279 Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

THEME: MUSIC 101

1. Meat chunks
6. Calendar square
9. "___" signature, or notation that describes #34 Down
13. Hiya or howdy
14. Down Under runner
15. West Point student
16. At full speed
17. Big Apple
18. Flounder's domain
19. "Complementary notes sung simultaneously"
21. "Not sonata
23. Debate position
24. Painter Chagall
25. Munchhausen's story
28. Casino chip
30. "R in R&B
35. Spanish earthen pottery
37. Lobed organs
39. Nest for an eagle
40. Bona fide
41. "Adagio or moderato, e.g.
43. What a willow did?
44. "Type of piano technician
46. Flock member description
47. Fill beyond full
48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
50. Jon Krakauer's book "___ the Wild"
52. High craggy hill
53. Church congregation
55. Hole punching tool
57. "A ___, or without accompaniment
61. "Fast
65. Not asleep
66. 2000 lbs.
68. Acquisition through marriage
69. Rubber tree product
70. Director's cry
71. "Five lines
72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
73. 168 in 1 week
74. Housed

DOWN

1. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
2. Dharma teacher
3. Resembling wings
4. Good Year balloon, e.g.
5. Mexico City state
6. Say it isn't so
7. Winehouse or Schumert
8. New Mexico's state flower
9. Diplomat's asset
10. It comes to mind
11. Not in Impossible Burger
12. European erupter
15. Shell-like anatomical structure
20. "Nine instruments, e.g.
22. Bobby of hockey
24. Halle Bailey's 2023 role
25. "Loud or strong
26. Part of small intestine
27. Sometimes follows sauvignon
29. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
31. Coniferous trees
32. October 31 option
33. On top of trends (2 words)
34. "Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
36. Sheltered, nautically speaking
38. "Wheel of Fortune" move
42. Based on number 8
45. Automatic reaction
49. "Fa follower
51. Solemn and wise?
54. Gate holder
56. "Slow
57. Pay a visit
58. Not home
59. Goose liver dish
60. Augments, usually with effort
61. Social insects
62. Air of allure, slangily
63. Five-star review
64. Was in the hole
67. Possessive pronoun

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Quantifying potential impact of feral hog predation on coastal alligator nests

Roughly half of the 28 alligator nests monitored in the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area were predated by feral hogs.

Sarah Fuller
Texas A&M AgriLife

Researchers with the Wildlife and Fisheries Management are keeping a watchful eye on American alligator nests to shed light on the potential impacts of feral hog predation and to understand how these reptiles use habitat across an ever-changing Texas landscape.

While American alligator populations in the U.S. are healthy overall, some fare better than others regionally. Researchers are working to answer the many questions that can help guide management actions and ensure healthy populations into the future, said John Tomeček, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

To help answer some of these questions, Tomeček's graduate student, Alyssa Freeman, has been collecting copious amounts of data.

Freeman, who is pursuing a master's degree in rangeland, wildlife and fisheries management, spent the last two summers equipping active alligator nests with game cameras at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 25,852-acre J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, WMA, documenting instances of nest predation and the species responsible.

In addition to nest monitoring, Freeman and biologists attached GPS transmitters to breeding-size male and female alligators to monitor their movement and habitat usage.

"Aside from longer-term changes in climate and



Texas A&M AgriLife researchers are investigating the potential impacts of feral hog predation on coastal American alligator nests, as well as how the reptiles utilize their habitat. (Courtney Sacco/Texas A&M AgriLife)

habitat, human modification of coastal marshes and wetlands can change the dynamics of alligator nest selection sites, potentially exposing nests to increased rates of predation," Freeman said.

The GPS transmitters send location readings every hour of the day to Freeman's computer, allowing her to remotely

monitor and map the animals' fine-scale movements.

This data will provide Freeman and Tomeček with key insights into habitat use and nesting site selection.

"From nest predation to habitat use and selection, this project is looking at a wide array of factors that will enable us to better

manage alligators now and into the future," Tomeček said.

During her two summers of data collection, Freeman monitored 28 active alligator nests throughout the WMA. Her initial assessment indicated that roughly half were predated by feral hogs.

"Although alligators

evolved alongside native nest predators, such as raccoons, this additional pressure from a non-native species is an added threat to an already low nest survival rate," Freeman said.

Freeman said a 2012 survey of licensed alligator farmers from Louisiana found that over half of the farmers reported losing alligator nests to feral hogs the previous year. Roughly 590 nests were damaged or destroyed on 36 separate properties across the state.

Even if the feral hogs don't eat the eggs, the nest disturbance and exposure to warmer ambient temperatures can alter the sexual composition of the remaining clutch.

"Alligators experience temperature-dependent sex determination, meaning the incubation temperature directly affects whether the animal will hatch as a male or female," Tomeček said.

While eggs incubated at roughly 86 degrees and

ALLIGATOR Page 5B

Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on sale now

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – Fall is drawing near and that means the beginning of new hunting and fishing seasons. Prior to venturing to the water or hitting the field, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reminds hunters and anglers to purchase their new licenses for the 2024-25 season.

Current-year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expire at the end of August. Licenses for the 2024-25 season are now on sale.

Texans purchase more than 3.9 million hunting and fishing licenses annually, directly funding a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses through the official TPWD website, or in-person at retail locations throughout the state or TPWD offices. They can also purchase by phone at (800) 895-4248 during regular business hours, though they may experience long hold times during peak calling periods such as the beginning of the season. A \$5 administrative fee applies to phone and online purchases.

Resident hunters and anglers continue to have the option to purchase a fully digital license for several license types, including the super combo (Items 111, 117), youth hunting (Item 169) or lifetime combo (Item 990), Hunting (Item 991), or Fishing tags (Item 992). Customers can also purchase other products such as the exempt angler tag (Item 257), bonus red drum (Item 599) and spotted seatrout tags (Item

596). Customers purchasing a physical super combo license should note that the new spotted seatrout tag prints on a second document. For anglers purchasing a physical saltwater or all-water license, the spotted seatrout tag prints on the license document.

The digital license option is available through online purchase only. Digital license holders will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available via mobile device

while in the field. Digital tagging is required of digital license holders through the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app. The license can be viewed through the Texas Hunt & Fish and TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process. This speeds up the sale of new licenses by allowing customers to re-purchase licenses bought in recent years.

Customers can provide proof of licensure in sev-



Hunter Uzzle of Bridge City shows off a beautiful group of ducks taken during a hunt last season.

eral ways other than your physical license: (1) an electronic photo of their licenses, (2) an emailed receipt of their purchases; (3) their account in the online license sales system; (4) via license lookup in the Outdoor Annual app or Texas Hunt & Fish.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2024-25 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, or the Outdoor Annual mobile app. The mobile app is free, and once

HUNTING Page 3B

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Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

"Pssst.....hey buddy? I got what you need, GPS coordinates, reef names, secret spots full of shell guaranteed to give you what you're looking for. I got it all." In a wide eyed frenzy the unsuspecting and overly enthusiastic angler who's hungry for information does exactly what you would guess, he buys it all. Anything for an edge and everything for a big fish. The quest for these big fish drives many folks to extreme measures and often different locations. The biggest key to success is just simply knowing the what, when, where, and how of each location and all that starts with information.

Gathering information for a fisherman takes on many forms. For years it was a difficult task to find out anything truly helpful on a new body of water without spending the time to get to know it. Anglers went to great lengths to acquire local knowledge. Hiring local guides to give a "Readers Digest or Cliffs Notes" version of a particular area was the most logical way to get your feet wet. For those a little more adventurous there was the overhead method, taking a plane or helicopter for a ride with a camera and a map. Lots of B.A.S.S. guys employed this method for many years since you could cover so much area in such a short amount of time.

Fast forward to today and the all the electronic wizardry that's available and you can just about make the claim that there are no more "secret spots". Websites like Google Earth will show you just about anything out there in clear vivid detail. Companies like Navionics make GPS and mapping chips that are so detailed it's ridiculous. They even make them updateable from their website so you get the latest and greatest information available.

Now with all this electronic help it's awful easy to get lulled into a false sense of security. Several years ago I saw a boat on Sam Rayburn that had run aground and flipped over on what was supposed to be a submerged hump. 2 anglers from out of state armed with a high dollar GPS were involved in the crash. Yes they were on the right route. Yes they were following the coordinates. No they didn't realize the lake was 10 feet below pool at the time so they crashed. A GPS doesn't make you invincible nor will it guarantee you that you will be fine if you follow the track. This is where local knowledge and plain old common sense comes in to play.

There is no substitute for local knowledge or time on the water, it's just plain priceless. If you are so fortunate to find someone willing to share some information by all means respect their areas and do your best to reciprocate the exchange of information when you can. The exchange of information between fishermen can be the difference in struggling and success. On a recent trip to Gulf Shores Alabama I couldn't help but want to fish the surf in front of our condo as it appeared to be alive at times with bait and all sorts of activity. I took a trip to the local tackle shop, J and M Tackle, and got all the info I needed to make my trip a success. These folks were really nice and very willing

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 86 degrees. The lake continues to be full of freshwater so fishing patterns are similar. ICW and intracoastal canal are holding speckled trout and redfish on incoming tides on the points, drops and shell flats in 4-14 feet of water with shrimp under a popping cork and Carolina rigged live shrimp in the deeper water.

Later in the day working glo chartreuse plastics off the edge. Sheepshead and drum are mixed in on the rock piles. The reef bite on the south end of the lake has slowed. Jetties are full of sharks, you can barely put any bait in the water without attracting them. Triple tail can be caught on the beach with many undersized fish mixed in. Gafftop, Spanish mackerel and sharks on the short rigs. Offshore rigs in 30-35 feet of water with LSU plastic jigs to catch speckled trout. Rig hop to avoid sharks and catch limits.

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

• **Bolivar**

EXCELLENT. 85 degrees. People are catching plenty of fish everywhere! Redfish are feeding in the surf and jetty. Lots of speckled trout, redfish, croakers, sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty plus plenty of stingrays and sharks. Did I mention redfish? The surf is producing limits of speckled trout, lots of bull redfish and black drum, gafftop, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula with high activity towards Gilchrist or High Island mainly. People are using all kinds of different things for bait with awesome results. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 89 degrees. West shoreline holding good numbers of redfish on live shrimp. Trout bite is good on soft plastic and croakers along the ship channel spoil banks. Spoil islands holding good numbers of black drum, redfish and sheepshead on live shrimp under popping corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Trout are on rock lines around the ship channels early being caught in popping corks with live shrimp. Redfish are on flats around structures being caught in popping corks with live shrimp both shell reefs and lay downs. The trick is to set up close to a channel with moving water. Drum and sheepshead are also in these areas. Good luck and remember, always wear your kill switch. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Surface water temperature 86 degrees. The water clarity remains pretty much the same for the majority of East Galveston Bay, with clearer saltier water as you get over by the Yacht Basin, and especially as you venture closer over towards Galveston. We are locating more trout, redfish, and black drum, in the intracoastal



It may be hot but local anglers willing to tough-out the heat are taking home slot size redfish in area waterways.

relating to structure, as well as a few fish over shell on the South Shoreline on tails with 1/8 ounce heads, with darker colors performing the best in the areas with stained water. We are catching a few fish in the marsh, but it has not been that consistent for keepers. We are still 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 swimbaits, 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 foot 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. The crowds are starting to slack up some, so now is the perfect time to get out on the water and make it happen. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 90 degrees. Better numbers of speckled trout showing up along deep shell on the shorelines and spoil islands along the ship channel best bite on live shrimp. Plenty of black drum and sheepshead over any type of structure. Report by Captain David Dillman,

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'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 91 degrees; 2.93 feet below pool. Water temperature has returned to the low 90s and the bite is tough, which is normal mid August. The best bite is at night and with the full moon coming the night bite will only improve. Bass are biting Texas rigged big worms and big thumper spinnerbait. Most of the night bass are coming in 8-14 feet, with a few being caught around lighted docks, but with water temp being so hot, the deeper bite is best. There are few bass schooling in mid lake area, but most are small, few 2 pounder being caught under them on Texas rigs, shallow running crankbaits, and 1/2 ounce jiggging spoons. Be safe on water and remember to keep those running lights on all night while ur fishing! Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 89 degrees; 3.74 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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Frito Pie for Friday night lights, a Texas original

The recipe has morphed – and gotten more portable – since its debut in 1949.

W.F. Strong
The Texas Standard

Fritos pie – or Fritos chili pie, or simply Frito pie, as some refer to it – is a much-loved delight often spooned up under Friday night lights here in Texas and beyond. Frito pie season is upon us again.

The first version ever served, believe it or not, was at the Dallas Dietetic Association conference in 1949. The original recipe, which came from Fritos itself, called for putting a layer of Fritos in a casserole dish, covering it with chili, and then covering all that with liberal amounts of cheese and onions. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

You can see how this got MacGyvered into just pouring chili into a bag of Fritos for efficiency and transportability. Today, you'll also find it with the added ingredient of a mound of jalapeños on top.

But no staple of the Texas diet of this magnitude could have Fritos' origin claims go uncontested. I've heard many baby boomers claim that their mother invented Frito chili pie out of necessity to feed incessantly hungry kids back in 1945 or 42. I've heard claims that their grandmothers had been making something like Frito pie since the 20s, which would have been a neat trick since Fritos weren't invented until 1932.

They are a Texas original, though. Charles Doolin of San Antonio created them, putting his own spin on a fried chips recipe he bought from a Mexican restaurant there: He cut out the masa and cooked them in strips. It's interesting that most Texans now associate the chip with piles of meat, as Doolin was a vegetarian.

Doolin called them "fritos" after the Spanish



Fritos pie – or Fritos chili pie, or simply Frito pie, as some refer to it – is a much-loved delight often spooned up under Friday night lights here in Texas and beyond.

word for fried. (He also invented Cheetos, by the way, which have morphed into Flamin' Hot Cheetos, the breakfast of teenage champions these days.)

My mother in the 60s made something she called "creamed tacos," which was a cheesy chili con carne poured over a plate of Fritos instead of tortilla chips. Exceptionally filling, and no doubt

came from Frito-Lay itself. Though Fritos had their own brand of chili by then, my mother, like Hank Hill, preferred Wolf Brand Chili, another Texas original. Still love their slogan: "Neighbor, how long has it been since you had a big steaming bowl of Wolf Brand Chili? Well, neighbor, that's too long."

This type of mixing and matching was encouraged

in the early days of Fritos, as they were not marketed as a stand-alone snack. They were sold as an ingredient one would purchase to add to casseroles, like a sweet potato casserole, for instance.

The inventor's wife – who even experimented with pouring chocolate over Fritos and baking

them on a cookie sheet – is also credited with coming up with the original chili pie recipe, according to her daughter, Kaleta Doolin, who wrote the most thorough history on the subject you can find. "Fritos® Pie: Stories, Recipes, and More" is an incredibly detailed history that provides all the nature of recipes for Fritos you have never imagined. Maybe there is another classic waiting to be popularized in this world of super spicy snack foods?

Along with her mother, Kaleta gives credit to another woman for popularizing the dish. She writes with admiration that Teresa Hernandez sold thousands of Fritos chili pies at the Woolworths counter in Santa Fe, N.M., in the 1960's. She reportedly sold 56,000 bags in one year there.

And at the same time it was all the rage in San Antonio and across Texas at football games as fundraisers for civic and student groups. Who knows how many kids were sent to college on the profits from Fritos pie?

Hunting, fishing licenses From Page 1B

downloaded, it works without internet connectivity, making it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more. A limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices. Hunters and anglers are encouraged to call their local offices to check availability.

The Texas Hunt & Fish (previously called My Tex-

as Hunt Harvest) mobile app enables electronic submission of mandatory harvest reports, including alligator gar harvest reporting, and supports digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey, oversized red drum and spotted seatrout for certain license holders. The app also allows hunters to complete their on-site registration for many TPWD public hunting lands.

Hunters can hunt on more than one million acres of public land with the purchase of an annual public hunting permit.

When buying their li-


cence, resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, at any license retailer or by phone. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans As-

sistance.

Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.



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YMCA Afterschool Program available for Bridge City and Orangefield students

The YMCA will be offering an after school program in Bridge City at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W. Roundbunch. Orangefield students will be hosted at the Orangefield Elementary School.

Registration is \$30 for one child or \$50 for a family. Weekly rates: YMCA member rate is \$65 for the first child and \$55 for each additional child. Non-member rate is \$80 for the first child and \$70 for additional children. In-service and early dismissal dates are included in the weekly fee for school care.

The YMCA offers financial assistance to participants designed to fit their financial situation. The YMCA utilizes the two different types of financial aid available: for more information call 409-962-6644.

To register, visit their website at www.ymcasetx.org.



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Top music stars booked for local venues

ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP OF CONCERTS & EVENTS

TOMMY MANN JR. FOR THE RECORD

September is on the way and the regional concert scene is announcing new shows with 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

• Aug. 22

Future, Metro Boomin, Toyota Center, Houston; Toni Romiti, Scout Bar, Houston; Stone Temple Pilots, Live, Soul Asylum, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• Aug. 23

Sammy Hagar, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• Aug. 24

Chris Stapleton, Miranda Lambert, Grace Potter, Minute Maid Park, Houston; Asake, Toyota Center, Houston; Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; John Anderson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• Aug. 25

REO Speedwagon, Train, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Black Flag, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston

• Aug. 26

Ice Spice, Cash Cobain, RiotUSA, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• Aug. 28

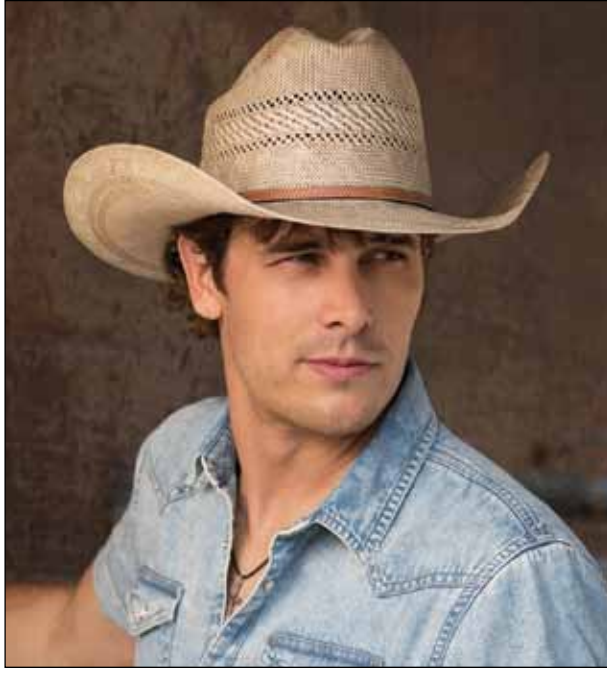
TEMS, Naomi Sharon, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• Aug. 29

30 Seconds to Mars, AFI, Poppy, KennyHoopla, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Squeeze, Boy George, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• Aug. 30

Falling in Reverse, Dance Gavin Dance, Black Veil Brides, Tech N9NE, Jeris



Randall King will perform on September 6 at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles.



Dwight Yoakum will be in concert at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles on September 14.

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 Yoakum, 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;

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www.setexasrain.org

Alligator nest damage From Page 1B

below result in female hatchlings, eggs exposed to warmer temperatures result in males.

Tomeček said this is a serious concern for conservationists considering the ripple effects it could have on reproduction and healthy alligator populations in the future.

Alligators — a conservation success story

While the Southeastern U.S. now supports robust populations of the American alligator, these prehistoric reptiles came perilously close to joining the ranks of the hundreds of wildlife species that have gone extinct since the turn of the 20th century.

Unregulated hunting, driven largely by a demand for exotic, luxury products, led to a precipitous decline in alligator populations across their native range. This, coupled with habitat loss, brought the species to the brink of extinction by the mid-1960s. American alligators first received federal protection under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, a predecessor to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Tomeček said state and federal partnerships, as well as restocking contributions from alligator farms, enabled the population to recover over roughly two decades.

Currently, alligator population estimates range from 400,000 to 500,000 in Texas, with the majority located in the southern and



Researchers are keeping a watchful eye on American alligator nests to shed light on the potential impacts of feral hog predation on the Texas gulf coast.

eastern portions of the state.

Freeman said alligators are currently listed as a species of least conservation concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. But proactive research like this is important as scientists continue to better understand and monitor the species as it faces urbanization, changing sea and salinity levels in coastal wetlands, invasive species pressure and more.

"We assume alligators are fine because we recovered them from historic overharvest, but they may be facing different challenges now that are harder to see," Tomeček said. "Alyssa is working to untangle some key questions. We have to figure out how we can better manage these animals to ensure healthy populations into the future."

Living alongside alligators

While American alligators are apex predators and should never be approached, both Tomeček

and Freeman said they typically try to avoid human interactions and are much less aggressive than their evolutionary relative — the saltwater crocodile.

Although documented alligator attacks in Texas are extremely rare, situational awareness and proper precautions when recreating in and around alligator habitat are important.

"If you know alligators frequent a certain area, do not swim there," Freeman said. "Additionally, do not allow your dog or small children to go near the water because they resemble common prey animals for alligators."

Additional precautions include:

Acknowledge and obey signage warning of the presence of alligators.

If fishing, avoid disposing of harvest scraps in the water or along the bank, as this can attract alligators.

Never feed alligators. This can result in food conditioning, where wild animals begin to associate humans with food. In some

cases, this can lead to aggression and danger for both humans and the animal.

More Texans may see alligators as communities expand along habitats such as bayous or community reservoirs, but Tomeček

said a sighting doesn't necessarily equate to a safety issue.

"It is important for folks to understand that just because they see an alligator out and about, it doesn't mean that it's a threat to anyone," Tomeček said.

"Before calling authorities, people should ask themselves if the animal is truly causing a safety issue.

They're valuable to our ecosystem and are an iconic part of the Southeastern U.S. They're something to be proud of."

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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Re: Benchmark Oil and Gas Company

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

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

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Alternatively, claims can be mailed to this address:

Director

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WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7605

TPWD launches new mobile app

Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has launched an updated version of the official mobile app used by hunters and anglers across the state for harvest reporting, electronic onsite registration, digital license display, and more.

Formerly named My Texas Hunt Harvest, the mobile app will have an updated look and a new name, Texas Hunt & Fish, but will have all the same great features users are familiar with from the previous version of the app.

With the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app hunters and anglers can satisfy mandatory reporting requirements for wild turkey, white-tailed deer and alligator gar harvest, as well as complete electronic on-site registration for most public hunting sites accessed when using the Annual Public Hunt (APH) Permit. Fully digital license holders must use the Texas Hunt & Fish app to execute digital tags for deer, turkey, oversized red drum and spotted seatrout.

One of the newest features, launched during the 2023-24 hunting season, is

the app's ability to show Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) zones relative to the hunter's location if they have the location services turned on.

A full list of features includes:

- Online and offline functionality — use the app regardless of data service once it has been installed and your account is connected
- Connect and display your hunting and fishing license (note that paper license holders must still carry physical tags when pursuing tagged species)
- Perform mandatory hunt harvest reporting for wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and alligator gar
- Digitally tag harvested game and fish (requires purchase of an appropriate digital hunting and/or fishing license)
- Track and view your harvest history
- Perform electronic onsite registration (eOSR) for many public hunt areas
- Download maps of many public hunt areas for use with or without data service
- View CWD Zone boundaries and, with location service enabled, determine your position in relation to the nearest

zone.

Get the free Texas Hunt & Fish app in Apple and Google Play stores (links to download also available at tpwd.texas.gov/huntandfish).

Capt. Chuck From Page 1B

to help an out of state angler like myself. It's very rare when you can't get a good tip or piece of information at the local tackle shop; it's the first place to start asking around when you go to an unfamiliar body of water.

Now an even helping of electronic help and local know how will certainly put you on the right path to success but don't ever rule out bringing your own se-

cret weapon. Many times I have seen anglers show up at an unfamiliar body of water and use a technique that the locals never dreamed of and be successful. I guess that's what makes the sports so interesting, the fact that there are no absolutes and anything can happen. Here's hoping you find all you need on the information highway and each stop along the way.

Please take notice that on August 12, 2024, Texas Connector Pipeline, L.L.C. ("Texas Connector Pipeline") filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") an application to amend its authorization pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act ("NGA"). Texas Connector Pipeline is seeking an amendment to the existing authorization issued by the Commission on April 18, 2019, in Docket No. CP17-21-000 to construct and operate an additional new natural gas pipeline system designed to deliver a proposed maximum of 2,000,000 Dth/d of natural gas per day to serve as another source of feed gas for the PALNG Phase II Liquefaction Project (Texas Connector Project).

Through this Amendment Application, Texas Connector Pipeline is requesting authorization to make minor modifications to the approved Project that will improve construction efficiencies modify construction methodologies (such as waterbody crossing methods); address landowner concerns and requests; avoid newly identified pipelines and structures; and ensure the overall constructability of the previously authorized Texas Connector Project at various specific locations.

Texas Connector Pipeline respectfully requested the Commission grant authorization of this amendment request by May 8, 2025.

The Commission has assigned docket number CP24-512-000 to the Amendment Application. The Amendment Application is on file with the Commission and available for public inspection.

A map showing the general location of the Amendment is available online at <https://SempraInfrastructure.com/TXConnector>.

More specific descriptions of the nature and location of Texas Connector Pipeline's proposed Amendment are set forth in the Amendment Application, as filed with the Commission and available for public inspection. The Commission has published a pamphlet, "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land?," describing, among other things, the FERC pipeline approval process and outlining the rights of landowners. The pamphlet is accessible on the Commission's website at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/gas/gas.pdf>.

An electronic version of the Amendment Application is available for viewing and download within the eLibrary portal on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov. The application is also available for public viewing at the following locations:

Jefferson County Public Library
801 Pearl Street, Beaumont TX 77705-9295

Orange County Public Library
220 N. Fifth Street, Orange, TX 77630

In addition, information regarding the Amendment Application may be obtained by contacting the following person:

Michael Taylor
Director - Permitting & Compliance
On behalf of Texas Connector Pipeline, LLC
1500 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1000
Houston, Texas 77056
Direct: (281) 630-2187
E-Mail: mtaylor@sempraglobal.com

Questions about the rights of landowners or other interested parties regarding the Application may be addressed by visiting the Commission's internet website (www.ferc.gov) or by calling the Commission's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-3372 (toll free). Port Arthur Pipeline will be mailing to each identified landowner and governmental entities a separate, more detailed notice and description of the Amendment Application.

Wise Women Build Homes

Scott Hubbard
Editor
desiringGod.org

“Do you ever remember your mom helping you put your clothes on?”

The question came from my wife, a mother of two young boys who have not yet mastered the art of getting dressed. I thumbed through the files of those early years and came up blank, the thousands of pant-pull-ups and shirt-put-ons lost to conscious memory. My wife came up blank too.

It was a humbling moment, as we imagined our boys, thirty years from now, remembering almost nothing of these everyday routines. It was also a moment — and they seem to come often these days — that put motherhood in a new and hallowed light.

“The wisest of women builds her house,” Solomon tells us (Proverbs 14:1) — and house-building, I am learning, is both beautiful and forgettable. Essential and often unnoticed. One of the world’s most important tasks, and one of the most easily overlooked. Clothing children, feeding children, teaching children, disciplining children — this is brickwork: painful and painstaking, slow going and mundane.

But if you follow godly men and women back to their beginnings, you will often find a mother pulling a foot through a pant leg, reciting a psalm from a smudged index card, and through ten thousand other small moments, building a



house whose walls gleam with godly wisdom and whose floors rest on the fear of the Lord.

Two Women, Two Homes

The book of Proverbs, like much wisdom literature, describes two ways to live. And at the heart of these two ways are two women and two homes: Lady Wisdom and “her house” (Proverbs 9:1), Woman Folly and “her house” (Proverbs 9:13–14). Both women call out to the simple (Proverbs 9:3, 15); both invite the young and immature to “turn in here” (Proverbs 9:4, 16). But while those in Wisdom’s home find life (Proverbs 9:6, 11), Folly’s door leads to death (Proverbs 9:18).

We might assume these women are no more than creative literary devices, personifications of two life paths. But Proverbs invites us to see more. In this book addressed mainly to sons, one of the greatest recurring dangers appears in the figure of the “forbidden woman,” a real-life temptress who seduces simple men (Proverbs 7:5, 21).

Proverbs portrays her as Folly incarnate (Proverbs 7:11; 9:13), the ruin of many sons (Proverbs 7:26).

Meanwhile, however, Lady Wisdom also appears in bodily form, ultimately in the figure of the godly wife. Just as wisdom crowns a man (Proverbs 4:9), so too does an excellent wife (Proverbs 12:4). Just as “whoever finds [wisdom] finds life and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 8:35), so “he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22). Proverbs ends with a poem portraying such a woman, who not only “opens her mouth with wisdom” (Proverbs 31:26) but is Lady Wisdom in wifely form (Proverbs 8:11; 31:10).

Yet before a man meets Lady Wisdom as wife, he is meant to meet her as mother.

Mother Wisdom

The book of Proverbs culminates with a mother’s teaching to her son (Proverbs 31:1). Long before Proverbs 31, however, the book teaches us to see a

godly mother as Lady Wisdom’s first embodiment. Note the similarity between Proverbs 9:1 (about Lady Wisdom) and Proverbs 14:1 (about wise mothers):

• *Wisdom has built her house. (Proverbs 9:1)*

• *The wisest of women builds her house. (Proverbs 14:1)*

More is happening in the small moments of motherhood than meets the eye. As an imperfect but God-fearing woman builds her house, she becomes for her children Wisdom’s first face, first voice, first touch. Through her daily presence, children learn what Wisdom looks like and feels like; through her daily words, children hear Wisdom’s plea: “O sons, listen to me. . . . Leave your simple ways, and live” (Proverbs 8:32; 9:6).

At the crossroads between life and death, then, Proverbs would have us picture a woman, a mother, teaching and calling and living such that her children choose the fear of the Lord, choose wisdom, choose life. Her voice may not sound as loud as Woman Folly’s (Proverbs 9:13);

she may often be hidden from public view; her work may sometimes seem as forgettable as fastening a Velcro strap on a toddler’s shoe. But over time, her home becomes the very womb of Wisdom, forming children who scorn the house of Folly.

Heart of the Family

Of course, a father stands at the crossroads between life and death as well. Much of the direct teaching in Proverbs, in fact, comes from a father to his sons. Like Lady Wisdom, he too instructs and warns and pleads with his children to choose life (Proverbs 3:13–18), and he appears throughout chapters 1–9 as the family’s primary teacher and exhorter (Proverbs 1:8; 3:12; 4:1; 6:20). Even still, Proverbs personifies wisdom as a woman and then embodies her in the real-life figures of wife and mother. Why?

Surely in part because a father’s influence in the home, though deep and foundational, is also limited by the typical calling God places upon him. In Proverbs 31, the husband and father is standing “in the gates” (Proverbs 31:23), away from home, while the wife and mother “looks well to the ways of her household” (Proverbs 31:27).

This father, no doubt, spends much time at home — and this mother, we know, is not afraid to venture into the marketplace (Proverbs 31:18, 24). But in the complementary union of husband and wife, his daytime calling leans more toward society, while hers leans more toward family. And therefore, as

home-builder, home-maker, home-keeper, she is wisdom’s steady presence through so many hours when her husband cannot be.

Even in families where a mother sometimes works outside the home, Herman Bavinck’s observation still often holds true: A mother’s profound influence on her children, then, comes not in spite of her seemingly small work in small places, but precisely because of it.

When Her Children Rise My young sons do not yet grasp the gift God has given them in this mother “who fears the Lord” (Proverbs 31:30). In all likelihood, they will not remember how she lifted them onto the potty or gently sang God’s praises this morning. But day by day, they are feeling the touch and hearing the voice of Lady Wisdom. And when, God willing, they learn to embrace her for themselves (and the Christ she represents), they will no doubt add their voices to the children of the wise:

The praiseworthy hero, as often happens in God’s kingdom, is not the one our society would expect: not the big, but the small; not the well-known, but the obscure; not the woman wrestling men in the movies, but the woman wrestling a T-shirt over a toddler’s head. When we rise up and call her blessed, we anticipate the day when everything hidden will be revealed and the forgotten labors of every wise mother will be proclaimed from the housetops.

“The wisest of women builds her house,” Solomon tells us. And our wisdom is to rejoice in such a woman.

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www.fumcorange.org
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“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

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

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