

# County Record

Vol. 65 No. 15

Distributed FREE in Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, September 4, 2024

## Local elections office ready to answer questions

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

The 21st Century's leading adage is "you can't trust everything you read on the internet." That is especially true during a divisive, controversial time in national politics with a big election on November 5.

When it comes to seeking correct election information, the Orange County Elections Administration Office is the place to find answers to questions. The office, under the direction of Donna Alford, is at 206 Border Street to the west of the main courthouse. The number is 409-882-7973 with office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The presidential race is making the headlines, but for local state and county races, all Republican candidates are running without Democratic opponents.

However, some Orange County tax-supported entities will be having elections for their boards of directors. Alford said the Orangefield ISD will have spots open on the board of trustees. Also, Orange County Services District No. 1 for Vidor and Orange County Services District No. 2 for Little Cypress will be having elections to fill seats on

their boards. The emergency services districts provide fire and rescue services to their communities.

Social media has been warning of a "purge" taking people off the Texas registered voters list. Alford said anyone concerned about whether they are on the official voters list can check the Texas Secretary of State's website, or call the Orange County Elections Administration.

Alford has been working Orange County elections for 32 years and said the process for removing names from the voting roles has not changed. She said the statewide rules have names removed after the November national election in an even-numbered year. So the upcoming removal of names would be after November this year.

A name will be removed from the registered voters list if the voter's registration card was returned for the wrong address and then that voter went through at least four years of not voting.

If a voter who had not signed a change of address form and has a card rejected, that voter may still cast a ballot in the county. The polls would have the

**ELECTION 2A**



The cast of bandits on the set of "The Ecstasy of Gold." Orange County native Woody Almazan is pictured in the middle.

## Former BC resident hits Amazon Prime, Apple TV

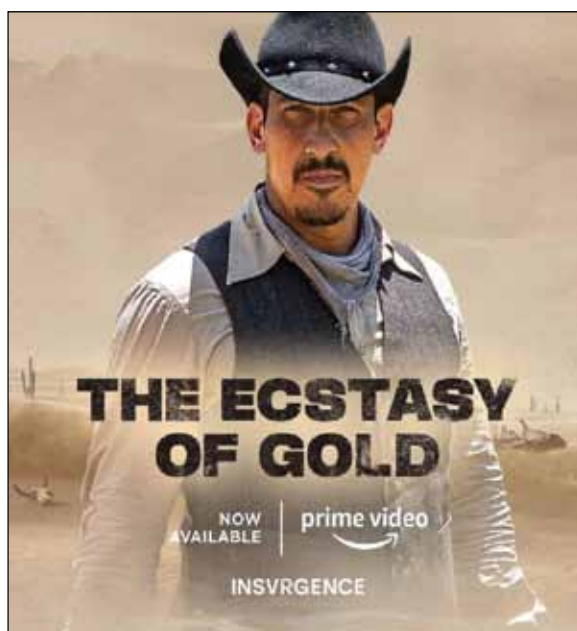
**PENNYLELEUX**  
For The Record

Woody Almazan, raised in Bridge City, and a former actor, as a teen, in many of Orange Community Players' productions, is hitting the big time with his first starring role in a feature film. "The Ecstasy of Gold: The Treasure of Jesse James" dropped on Amazon Prime and Apple TV Tuesday.

"In 90 days it will be on Roku, Tubi and Peacock," said Almazan. "Everywhere but Netflix."

The film is a "spaghetti" western. A genre made famous by Clint Eastwood. The term was used for westerns that were produced and directed by Italians. This film is by Federico Alotto.

Almazan said the funny thing was the Italians



Woody Almazan of Bridge City is featured on a poster for The Ecstasy of Gold: The Treasure of Jesse James.

came here to shoot the film in Austin instead of the actors going to Italy.

The synopsis of the film list on IMDb is as follows: "Colt Turner returns

home eager to embrace his beloved partner Annie. His homecoming is met with a tense atmosphere, as Colt holds valuable information about the loca-

tion of a legendary load of gold: the treasure of the famous Jesse James."

Almazan plays Jake Johnson, the leader of the bandits Colt formerly ran with. He said this may have been his "funnest" project to date. "I really got to be mean, romantic at times and funny," He said he really enjoyed playing the villain. Though stunts have been a big part of his career, Almazan said he really didn't have to do a lot of stunts in the film, though he was the fight coordinator (uncredited) in the film. He said crediting stunts isn't a big thing in Italy. He did ride horses in the film.

Almazan moved to Houston from Bridge City several years ago doing stunt work and bit parts in

**WOODY Page 3A**

## Old Spanish Trail brought car traffic to Orange

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

More than a century ago when long automobile road trips were rare, Orange leaders joined a unique group of business and civic leaders to build one of the first transcontinental paved highways through the U.S., the Old Spanish Trail.

The Old Spanish Train Association formed in 1915 when the businessmen met in Mobile, Alabama, to begin the private

effort to make a paved roadway for motoring traffic. Members paid \$100 a month, or \$3,115 in 2024 money, with the dues going to construction of the highway, which eventually went across the Southern U.S. from Pensacola, Florida, to San Diego, California.

The highway went through Orange and on to Beaumont. Orange leaders were such an important part of the project that the Association had its annual meeting here in



The highway went through Orange and on to Beaumont. When the Old Spanish Trail Association was formed, the Model T Ford was only seven years old.

1921.

"The route quickly assumed a leading role in Texas' emergency highway system in part, because it traveled not only some of the state's most important nodes of military installations and industrial centers, but also some of the state's best known tourist destinations, parks, and recreational centers," the Texas Historical Commission reports on its information about the highway.

When the Old Spanish

Trail Association was formed, the Model T Ford was only seven years old. The car was designed so the average middle-class American could afford an automobile and first sold in 1908. The Model T had a maximum speed of 30 mph, if the road was good. The condition of the roads was the problem for travel.

The leaders of the Old Spanish Trail Association knew that a paved high-

**OLD SPANISH Page 3A**





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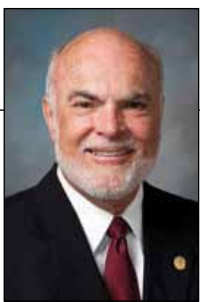
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★ TEXAS STATE NEWS

# My Five-Cents

A monthly column from Sen. Robert Nichols by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3



Fall is just around the corner! Which means the 2024-2025 hunting season is here. Dove hunting season opens this week-end. Be sure to get a license from Texas Parks and Wildlife and as always be safe.

Here are five things happening around your state:

**1. Business and Commerce Committee discusses Artificial Intelligence, Texas Energy Fund**

This week, the Senate Business and Commerce Committee held a hearing on two interim charges, one regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the other on the Texas Energy Fund. The charge asks the committee to recommend a responsible regulator framework for AI development, including data privacy, industry standards, consumer protections, risk mitigation, and compliance processes. The committee heard from higher education professionals that study AI about how AI works, the levels of AI, and how it's commonly used. Panels also discussed AI in the public sector at state agencies, AI in the private sector, and AI in media, like the press, music, movies, and broadcasting. Ultimately, the state should develop a framework that addresses

AI responsibly with the consumer in mind, but is not overly burdensome on new technology. It's an intricate, but important balance to strike.

The second charge the committee discussed was on the Texas Energy Fund (TEF). The TEF was created last session by Senate Bill 2627, by Sen. Charles Schwertner. It created four programs designed to incentivize the construction of more generation for the power grid. The fund was appropriated \$5 billion last session. This week, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) selected the initial projects that will be funded by one of the programs. Out of 72 applications, 17 projects were selected to move on to the due diligence phase of the program. These projects represent 9,781 megawatts of new generation and a technologically and geographically diverse portfolio. This is another critical step forward toward the state's commitment to enhancing the stability of the grid and increasing generation resources.

**2. One million ineligible voters removed from rolls**

Governor Abbott announced this month

that Texas has removed over one million ineligible people from the voting rolls since 2021. That year, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, by Sen. Bryan Hughes, which further enhanced election security and integrity. Of the 1 million people removed from the rolls, over 6,500 were noncitizens, over 6,000 had felony convictions, over 457,000 were deceased, over 463,000 on the suspense list, over 134,000 had moved, over 19,000 requested to cancel their registration, and 65,000 failed to respond to a notice of examination. The safety and security of our elections is paramount and it's our duty to maintain accurate voter registration rolls.

**3. TxDOT announces record \$148 billion ten-year plan**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Governor Abbott announced a record \$148 billion investment in Texas' transportation infrastructure. That includes a \$104 billion ten-year transportation plan and over \$43 billion for development and routine maintenance. This plan is a \$5.6 billion increase in total investment from the previous year. According to the department, many of the projects on the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) are roads included on Texas' 100 most congested roadways list. Also included in the UTP is \$17.3 billion for safety and \$1.7 billion in funding for rural corridors and key roadways in economic hubs.

**4. HHSC awarding \$3.3 million to rural hospitals for labor and delivery services**

This month, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced the Rural Hospital Maternal Care Operations Grant for rural hospitals that are not currently providing in patient labor and delivery services. The funding totals \$3.3 million and provides qualifying hospitals a one-time payment of \$35,000 to purchase neonatal equipment, supplies, and training for emergency labor and delivery services. Grant applications are open now and close on September 13.

**5. Big Time Texas Hunts open for applications, hunting licenses now available**

The Big Time Texas Hunts draw is open for applications. There are 10 premium guided hunt packages and new opportunity this year to win a chance to free-range hunt a mature male aoudad ram in the Trans-Pecos region. Also new this year, wild game chef Jesse Griffiths will join the draw winners of the Big Time Bird Hunt and give a private cooking lesson to the winner on the turkey hunt. Entries are available online for \$9 each or at a licensed retailer for \$10 each. The deadline to purchase is October 15 with winners announced within two weeks. Additionally, Texas hunting and fishing licenses also went on sale this month. Happy hunting!

## Two of Texas' Most Wanted now back in custody

Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces two Texas 10 Most Wanted offenders are back in custody. Authorities arrested Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive Dewarren Knowles on Aug. 17 and Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender Antioneo Sims on Aug. 27. A Crime Stoppers reward will be paid in Sims' arrest.

Dewarren Knowles, 36, was taken into custody in San Antonio by members of the U.S. Marshals Lone Star Fugitive Task Force, DPS Special Agents, and San Antonio



(Left to Right: Dewarren Donta Knowles, Antioneo Ryen Sims)

Police Department officers assigned to the Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) Center – all working off investigative information.

Knowles has previously been convicted of assault causing bodily injury to a

family member, theft of property and terroristic threat. Knowles had been wanted since Feb. 2024, after a warrant was issued out of Harris County for his arrest for sexual assault of a child. He is affiliated with the Tree Top Piru Bloods gang. More information on Knowles' capture can be found here.

Antioneo Ryen Sims, 43, was taken into custody in Houston. Following up on tip information, DPS Special Agents and Troopers located and arrested him.

In 2008, Sims was convicted of sexual assault of a child following an incident with a 14-year-old girl and

sentenced to three years confinement in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prison. He also has multiple convictions in the past for failure to register as a sex offender. Sims had been wanted out of Harris County since Jan. 2024 for failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements. More information on Sims' capture can be found here.

Funded by the Governor's Public Safety Office, Texas Crime Stoppers, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of Texas' 10 Most Wanted Fugitives, Sex Offenders or Criminal Illegal Immigrants. So far in 2024, DPS and other agencies have arrested 31 Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives, Sex Offenders and Criminal Illegal Immigrants, including 11 sex offenders, 10 gang members and 4 criminal illegal immigrants.

To be eligible for cash rewards, tipsters MUST provide information to authorities using one of the following three methods:

Call the Crime Stoppers

hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

Submit a web tip through the DPS website by select-

ing the fugitive you have information about then clicking on the link under their picture.

## Election questions

From Page 1

names of those with cards returned. The voter with an approved photo identification tells the poll worker their new address, they will be able to cast a ballot and then be registered with a new address.

The deadline for registering to vote for the November 5 election is Monday, October 7. Alford said any change in address should also be made by that date. To change an address within Orange County, people should go to the elections administration office on Border Street.

Someone moving from another county in Texas to Orange County may change their address on the secretary of state's website or through the local Orange

County elections office.

Voter registration may also be done online through the Texas Secretary of State. Alford said if anyone is concerned about their registration being accepted, to file one directly in the local off on Border Street.

Early voting will begin October 21 and run through November 1, including a Sunday. Early voting polls will be at the Orange Public Library, Mauriceville Community Center, Orange County Airport, and Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor.

The Record Newspapers will provide details of the hours for early voting closer to the dates.



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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



# Old Spanish Trail through Orange From Page 1



way would bring travelers through and help local businesses. Orange was also a center of local industry in Texas with its lumber mills, shipyards, paper mill, box factory, and rice mill. Orange at the time had a population of 9,212 and the local OST officials were W.E. Lea, who served as the national group's vice president, plus F.P. Dearborn.

The Texas Historical Commission said the highway was part of a nationwide "good roads movement." Eventually, the federal and state governments helped with the road, which became U.S. 90. Interstate 10 today still follows some of the same routes.

The Old Spanish Trail name was given because it was supposed to be a route where the Spanish conquistadors and explorers traveled. It is not to be confused with cattle trail in the Western U.S. that was also called the Old Spanish Trail.

The 1923 "Rand McNally Automobile Road Book" described the Old Spanish Trail as showing off "the riches of history, legend, sentiment and natural beauty."

The highway westbound crossed the Sabine River and went down Green Avenue, which at the time was one Orange's most prestigious residential street, lined with mansions and middle-class homes, plus the new ornate First Presbyterian and First Baptist church buildings.

Within a few years, many of those houses were demolished to make room for full service gasoline stations and cafes to draw travelers.

Green Avenue at the time ended at 15th Street.

The Old Spanish Trail turned northbound on 15th Street and then went a few blocks before turning west on Park Avenue, a route that lasted until the early 1970s, when the Texas Department of Transportation widened 16th Street and cut it through from Park to Green.

The Old Spanish Trail traveled along Park past what is now Shangri La Gardens and across Adams Bayou. Eventually it became U.S. Highway 90 and parts of it still run through Orange County. That road was the Old Spanish Trail, an early coast-to-coast automobile highway that went straight through Orange on Green Avenue, then down Park Avenue at 16th Street.

The 1923 Rand McNally book also reports "and through the road are members of the Old Spanish Trail Association who will find pleasure in making your acquaintance."

Tourist camps in Orange had tables, benches, ovens, toilets, shower baths and running water. The locations of the camps were not listed, but they had to be on or near the trail, which went through what is now the city of Pinehurst.

Information on Orange for the traveler included Sabine Battery Co., 103 Seventh St.; Gomez Cafe, Fifth and Main streets; and W.B. Roan Auto Co., Division and Sixth streets a building that a couple of years later became Farmers Mercantile, a business on Division Avenue at Sixth Street that still stands today.

The brochure also included a message to "vote for the highway amendment" on Election Day in Texas, July 28, 1923. "This amendment is necessary

to the continuance of Federal Aid to Texas and for the proper construction and maintenance of the state and interstate highways planned in the interest of the people." The amount was not listed.

San Antonio became the headquarters for the Old Spanish Trail Association and met regularly at the Gunter Hotel there. The highway was touted as the "shortest transcontinental route in the U.S." because it was shorter than the Lincoln Highway that went through the middle of the country.

Orange became known as of the last "bottlenecks" of the highway because in the early days, motorists had to cross the Sabine River by ferry. When a bridge was built at the end of Green Avenue, its dedication in 1927 was considered so important to the state and nation that Texas Governor Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson came to the celebration.

That bridge was demolished after Interstate 10 and a bigger bridge across the Sabine were opened about 1960. A concrete barrier at the eastern end of Green Avenue at the river where the bridge used to be now stops travelers. Some modern-day explorers have found a granite marker in the wetlands for the old bridge, but the metal plaque is missing.

By the time construction ended, the Old Spanish Trail traveled through eight state and 67 counties for 2,750 miles.

"The sense of pride that Texans have enjoyed and appreciated" about the Old Spanish Trail still lives today, the Texas Historical Commission writes.

"The enduring quality

say the Texas beginning is in Beaumont because Orange does not claim it and has no signage.

However, the Old Spanish Trail Centennial group did not forget Orange. The Covid pandemic of 2020 and business shutdown led to the group planning an Orange centennial celebration of the 1921 meeting to be held in 2022 instead. The group worked with the Orange County Historical Commission and planned three days of history events and a parade of old cars. Unfortunately, another outbreak of Covid caused the event to be canceled.

of the name Old Spanish Trail" has led to the term still being used in cities along its route, including the Beaumont, Houston, and San Antonio.



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# Woody Almazan From Page 1



Almazan was also recently reunited with his "Shhh" co-star, Reese Ravencraft, also an Orange County native. They recently shot a proof of concept for "Chasing Faith."

multiple shorts. In 2019 he came back to Orange County for his first starring role in "Shhh," an action romcom short film that was shot in Orange and Bridge City. The film received several awards in the festival circuit and even got Almazan a "Best Actor" nomination in a festival overseas. Following that role, Almazan started picking up more parts and even signed with a talent agent.

In April, 2023, Almazan moved to Austin to find more acting opportunities. "The Ecstasy of Gold" is the first western out of production for Almazan. It started filming the summer of 2023

"It was shot during the hottest week of summer, June I think," he said.

He found out when they had the red carpet premier in Austin a few

months ago that the director and producers really hadn't thought of him as the villain. They had already looked at a couple of people, but they were blown away by his audition. They rewrote the part to better suit him. "I had no idea," he said.

Almazan hopes this leads to more starring roles in the future. He has a few other projects in the works. He has a guest starring role in "Old Wild Mob" produced by the same production company as "Ecstasy" that should be coming out in a few months. A short film, "Bloody Tears" is currently in the festival circuit and another feature, "Death Bike," a horror comedy is set to finish shooting in Houston as soon as schedules allow. He is also in the upcoming season 2 finale of the Par-

amount series "Lioness."

He was also recently reunited with his "Shhh" co-star, Reese Ravencraft, also an Orange County native. They recently shot a proof of concept for "Chasing Faith," a faith based film that is being pitched to Angel Studios by Studio 220 Film in Jefferson County.

Almazan hopes to continue getting larger projects and syndicated series in the future. He is currently looking for a new agent.

Just a little fun fact... "The Ecstasy of Gold" is also the title of a musical composition by Ennio Morricone that is part of the music track of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," another famous Spaghetti Western featuring Clint Eastwood that was directed by Sergio Leone.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### HOSTAGE DEATHS SPARK RENEWED CALLS FOR CEASE-FIRE

A nationwide strike has begun in Israel, with the country's biggest union **vowing to shut down the economy** in a furious push for the government to agree to a cease-fire deal after the deaths of six hostages taken during Hamas' Oct. 7 terror attack. The strike is expected to bring much of **Israel's economy to a grinding halt**, and to shut government offices, schools and private businesses. Flights were also briefly halted from Israel's international airport this morning. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in cities across Israel last night, in one of the biggest eruptions of anger since the war began. A funeral will be held on Monday for **Israeli American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23**, whose body was recovered along with five other hostages from tunnels underneath Rafah. **Goldberg-Polin** was among those taken during the attack on the Supernova music festival in the Israeli desert. His parents have been visible and outspoken advocates for bringing the hostages home via a cease-fire deal, making an impassioned plea for his release at the **Democratic National Convention last month**. In a live press conference on Monday night, **Prime Minister Netanyahu** defied anyone to demand more concessions from **Israel** in its negotiations over a hostage and ceasefire deal, brokered by the US. **"These murderers executed six of our hostages;** they shot them in the back of the head," he said. "And now, after this, we're asked to show seriousness? We're asked to make concessions?" He said no-one who was serious about achieving peace and freeing the hostages, including **US President Joe Biden**, would ask him to make more concessions. A short while earlier, **President Biden**, when asked by reporters, said he didn't think **Israel's prime minister** was doing enough to secure a ceasefire deal. **Prime Minister Netanyahu**, protected by his parliamentary majority, seems to believe he can ride out the demands for a deal being made from the street, at least for now. But the demands from **his own defense minister**, from the **US president**, could prove harder to ignore.

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

This week finds some people marking a special day that is tied to longevity, good health, happiness and good fortune. That's about all we can ask for and are truly blessed to have it. Our friends of many years, **Judge Claude Wimberley** and his pretty wife **Pauline** celebrate 60 years of marriage on Sept. 4. In 1954 both were so young they headed down the path of life not having any idea where it would take them. Partners in whatever life brought they worked together to get ahead. They were blessed with their beautiful daughter **Paula** and grandchildren. **Pauline**, over the latter years, has lived with a heart condition but it never altered her good disposition and low-key attitude. Their 60th wedding anniversary arrives and they are thankful for the many blessings, memories and friends that have crossed their path. (Editor's note: **Judge Claude** left us Oct. 9, 2011. **Ms. Pauline** is still a resident of Orange.)\*\*\*\*Sept. 9, will be a special day for good friend **Millard "Billy" Neighbor Cox**. He will celebrate his 90th birthday. If age has slowed him down any he still motivates at a quicker pace than most many years his junior. He's been married to the same wonderful woman 67 years. **He and Jenny** have two children and a mess of grandkids that they are proud of and now they have great-grandchildren. A **World War II veteran**, he retired from **Texaco** over 20 years ago. That's when we became buddies. I've enjoyed many great times with that old guy when the **Creaux's Nest** was located in **"Mr. Cox's Neighborhood."** I'm proud to call him my friend from the **Greatest Generation**. (Editor's note: **Ms. Ginny** and **Cox** are both gone now.)\*\*\*\* **Pinehurst Mayor Judge Pete Runnels**, **City Administrator Judge Joe Parkhurst** and the city staff put on another great **Senior Citizen Labor Day picnic**. **Robert's Market and Restaurant** again fixed up the vittles that were enjoyed by everyone. The music by **Doug Childress** and his crew of talented musicians were very entertaining. Some of the folks spotted were **Constable David Cagle**, **Michael Cole**, democratic candidate for congress, and his campaign manager, **John Baker**; **Berry Burton** was seen picking up a meal for his mother; **Edward Lockwood** was celebrating his 84th birthday; Our friend, the old vet, **Bobby Vincent** and **Dayle Weatherford** looked cute in her cowgirl outfit. **"Stump"** despite wearing knee braces, was still managing to shoot some pictures. **Harold Welch** was making rounds and visiting with friends. **Pete and Joe** were staying busy and working up a sweat. They saw over 250 folks were fed.\*\*\*\*The **Rainbow Bridge**, the South's tallest bridge, turns 86

years old on Sept. 8. I recall crossing it not too long after it was completed. We went from **West Orange**, down 105 to **Orangefield**, took the unnamed road, (408), to **Bridge City**, down **Ferry Drive** to new Highway 87, then the new bridge. Previously **Ferry Dr.** extended down **Lake Street** to the ferry crossing at **Bailey's landing**. It felt very much like the first time I went up to **Pikes Peak**.

### 20 Years Ago-2004

Bridge City war hero **W.F. "Pete" Zoch** dies Sept. 3. He served in the Coast Guard during WWII and also the Marine reserves. He was called to duty in 1950 and sent to Korea where he was wounded in the fierce Chosin Reservoir battle. He was awarded the **Purple Heart**. He leaves behind his wife **Angie**, sons **Pastor Paul Zoch** and **Dr. Fred Zoch**, one daughter **Bonnie Albright** and five grandchildren. **Pete** was a longtime active member of the V.F.W. He always was out front fighting for veteran's rights. Services were held Sept. 9 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bridge City. Interment was held at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Houston.\*\*\*\***Pinehurst Labor Day picnic** held. **Vada Tinsley**, 102, was the oldest in attendance. **Clyde Teet**, 100 years old was the oldest man. **Eula Hoffpauir**, 94.5 years old was the third oldest, **Victoria Sullivan** received the **"Rocking Chair"** donated by **Robert Ramirez**. Despite the terrible heat, 770 seniors attended. Meals were prepared by **Robert's Restaurant**. \*\*\*\***Margie and Harry Stephens**, who just moved into their new appliance store location, have taken off for a few days after **Harry's bypass surgery**. They kindly used this time to spend with **Roy and Ms. Phyl** at the funeral of his mom, **Marie**, who passed away Sept. 2. They also attended the service and burial on Sept. 5. **Roy** said their effort is heartfelt and will never be forgotten. (Editor's note: **Harry** passed away April 21, 2024, **Margie** now runs the appliance store and continues to offer great service and great prices.) \*\*\*\***Jason Menard** is fighting in Iraq.\*\*\*\***Cody Duplechin**, of Bridge City, won another tennis tournament in Beaumont. He is considered a rising star in the world of tennis. He's the son of **Karen and Keith Duplechin**.\*\*\*\***Rex Peveto** is the Democratic candidate for state representative, a seat his dad **Wayne** once held.\*\*\*\***Texaco Community Federal Credit Union** changed its name to **Five Point Credit Union** on Sept. 7.

### 45 Years Ago-1979

**Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Glenn Gisclar** named their new son, born July 27, in Alamosa, Colorado, **Dalton** and **"Beaux"** for a nickname.\*\*\*\***Coach Buddy Gillis** passed away two weeks ago. He touched the lives of many youngsters during his years as a coach at Bridge City High.\*\*\*\*Graduating from Lamar last week were: **Sheila Goodwin**, **Vikki Lowe**, **Phillip Williams**, **Michael Angelle**, **Margaret Waldrep Dumas**, **Nina Perkins**, **Linda Echols** and **Carolyn Dixson**.\*\*\*\***Janice Overman** celebrated a birthday last week, Aug. 29.\*\*\*\* **Judge Pat and Rosalie Clark** celebrated 10 years of marriage Aug. 31. **Vivian and Fain Holbrooks** celebrated on Aug. 30. \*\*\*\***Todd Edgerly** turns 16 on Sept. 2.\*\*\*\***Boxer Keble Free**, 26, to make comeback. **Free**, former welterweight state Golden Gloves runner up, plans to make a try for the 1980 Olympics in the 147 pound class. (Editor's note: **Keble** fought **Johnny Montagne** in a Golden Gloves battle. The best I recall, **Keble** won on points, then went on to the state's Golden Gloves competition where he and **Bubba Busceme** got Southeast Texas on the map of amateur boxing. **Montagne** turned pro and put together a winning career and was once listed number four in the world in his weight class.)\*\*\*\* **Debbie Fusilier** was showing off her two week old son **David, Jr.**\*\*\*\*Beautiful and personable **Debbie Alburn** moved away this week to relocate in Portland, Oregon, in sight of Mt. Hood. Someday she may return to her roots. \*\*\*\***Joe "Fats" Molly** is the guest chef at the **Boarding House Restaurant** this week.\*\*\*\*Orange County's first County **Court-At-Law judge**, **Charlie Holcomb**, who now practices law in Rusk, is visiting Orange and will play in the sunset Grove Labor Day Golf Tournament.\*\*\*\***Bobby Hoosier**, who survived an oil well explosion in the Gulf of Mexico will be 22 on Sept. 11.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

**United Way of Orange County** had the annual campaign kickoff breakfast last week in the Gillespie Building of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Orange. **Executive Director Maureen McAllister**, who is set to get a big award from the **Better Business Bureau** in Beaumont, was there to greet all the campaign coordinators. Her staff is **Kristina Evans** and **Laci Gibbens**. The **Salvation Army's Captains Dante and Tiffany Salgado** were there as was **Mary McKenna** from **Southeast Texas Hospice**. Both non-profit groups are supported by **United Way donations**. Also seen in the crowd were **Joe Love** and **Matt Chandler**. Wondering if they will be entering the **Dean Granger Memorial 5K run** to benefit United Way. This year's professionally-timed run is Saturday, September 21.\*\*\*\***Phillip and Pat Caillavet** did some bucket things for his 70th birthday on a trip across the pond. They went to England and saw a 'football' game, better known to us as soccer then headed to Spain where he is rumored to have tasted the wine on his special day.\*\*\*\***Leah Guillotte-Stark and friends** spent some end of the summer beach time on the white sands in Alabama.\*\*\*\***Jim Beardson** is one busy dad between keeping up with his young pre-school children and his older ones in high school. At least he can see son **Hutch** play at quarterback and watch daughter **Hallie** cheer at the same time during **Cardinal football games**.\*\*\*\*We scored a big mess of okra that **Dow Gene Anderson** personally picked. It's a different kind of okra

developed by **LSU**. It's dark green with a slick coat, not fuzzy, and has small seeds. We smothered some, fried some and boiled the smaller ones. I'm told it won't grow from seed, (chicken or the egg theory). **Dow and Charlotte** are such great folks. She is still pretty as ever and very talented.\*\*\*\*We spoke with **Danny Brack** briefly yesterday. It was disappointing to learn that he is still in rehab but is being well cared for. He says he has been eating a little better. He needs our prayers.\*\*\*\*I did hear from our friend **Van Choate** through a third party. A picture was sent showing **Van** had lost weight and looks great. Maybe this time he can keep the fat off.\*\*\*\*Sunday we watched the **Boston Red Sox/Detroit** game. Bridge City's **Chase Shugart** pitched in relief, facing six batters in two endings, striking out two. He allowed no base runners. Everyone here at home is proud of him. **Chase** said, "The first few days at **Fenway** were nothing short of a dream." The 27-year-old says it still doesn't seem real. "I just can't help but think about the people who got me here and all the work I put in to get here. It's a good feeling."\*\*\*\*On Sept 5, 2004, **Harry and Margie Stephens** drove to Abbeville to attend **Roy Dunn's** mother **Marie's** funeral. She died Sept. 2.\*\*\*On Sept. 6, 1988, 55 years ago, **Lannie Claybar** passed away.\*\*\*On Sept. 8, 1938, the **Rainbow Bridge** opened. Also on that date in 2022, **Queen Elizabeth** died at age 96.\*\*\*On Sept. 9, our late friend **Neighbor Cox** would have turned 100. I still miss him.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the next few days. **Sept. 4: Ginger Williams, Jamie Forse, Shirley Choate.**\*\*\*\***Sept. 5: John Tarver, Mark Formon, Jason Toal.**\*\*\*\***Sept. 6: Keith Merritt, Corrin Gonzales, Jessica Mobbs, Robert Vidrine.**\*\*\*\***Sept. 7: Gerald LeLeux, Keith Buker, Quida Simonton, Paul Rhodes, Randy Godsy, Billy Fisette, Karen Morse, Laina Sparks, Terri Childs.**\*\*\*\***Sept. 9: Janet LeLeux, Sharon Gearheart, Hudson Hoffman, Slade Landry, Darla Cricchio, Ronnie Bullion, Thelma Powledge, Durwyn Simon.**\*\*\*\***Sept. 10: Tanya Birdwell, Mason Pruett.**\*\*\*\*Other birthdays celebrated **Marie Zeto** celebrated her 85th birthday and former Pinehurst mayor and local legend **T.W. Permenter** took another trip around the sun. He is ageless and still living the life with his sweetheart, **Lydia**. Others with birthdays have been **Jill Windham Turner, Meritta Kennedy, Mckinlee Carpenter, Ambrose Claybar, Carolyn Curran, Bobbie Jo Howeth, Xavier King Sr., K.J. Staudt, Tiffany Overstreet, Sheena Magee, Keller Claybar, Nicole Peterson, Pattie Sorrels, Shirley Holstien Storm, Matt Himel, Joe 'Buppy' Luna, Gary Bonneau, Cristy Smith, and Kody Paul Marple.**\*\*\*\*Congratulations to **Kelly and John Kimbrough** on their wedding anniversary.\*\*\*\*(Notice: To post birthdays or anniversaries in this publication free of charge email to [therecordlive.com](mailto:therecordlive.com) or call 409-886-7183.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Las duck season **Felix Boudreaux** told his 10-year-old grandson, **Pistache**, dat he would take him out and teach him how to kill some duck him.

Sitting in da duck blind, rat after daylight, **Boudreaux** spotted dem ducks coming. **Felix** say, **"Pistache**, here come some of dem ducks, now you watch **Paw-Paw**. I show you how to kill dem duck me."

**Boudreaux** him, he stand up and **BOOM! BOOM! Boom!** He shoot all his shots and dem duck, dey fly away dem. **Boudreaux** him, he wait a minute den he say, "Boy, **Pistache**, you a lucky little boy you, for sure."

"How's dat **Paw-Paw**," **Pistache** axe him.

"Because my little man, you jus witness a miracle. You jus saw a dead duck rise from da dead, jump up and fly away him."

### C'EST TOUT EVERYONE IS WAITING ON THE DEBATE

The next presidential debate, the first featuring **Vice President Kamala Harris**, is scheduled to take place Tuesday in Philadelphia. [The Sept. 10 debate](#) at the National Constitution. Center will be former president **Donald Trump's** second of the campaign but the first against **Harris**, who officially accepted the **Democratic Party's nomination** last month at their convention in Chicago. Though this is the only debate for the presidential candidates currently on the schedule, their running mates, **Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz** and **Sen. JD Vance**, are set to square off on Oct. 1. While the rules of the debate are still being finalized, there is one sticking point for **Trump**. He reported won't agree to microphones being live for both candidates during the entire debate. I don't look for a **Trump** knockout in this one. Should be interesting. ABC's managing editor and "World News Tonight" host **David Muir** and ABC News anchor **Lindsey Davis** will moderate the debate. It's unclear if they will take a more active role in the debate. CNN anchors **Jake Tapper** and **Dana Bash** were criticized after the **Biden-Trump** debate for not pushing back on false claims made by the candidates. At this point, it's unclear if this will be the only debate between **Trump and Harris**. It's likely that both camps are waiting to see how the Sept. 10 debate plays out before committing to more head-to-head contests. \*\*\*\*I've got to get out of here. Thanks for your time and loyalty. Please read us cover to cover and support our family of advertisers when you can. **Take care and God bless.**

**"I SAW IT IN THE RECORD!"**

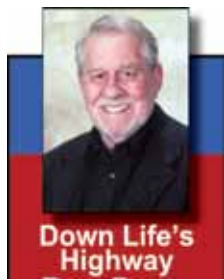


# Mom, Life, The Glass Ceiling: America's Story

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

Oh how the years have flown by. It just doesn't seem like twenty years have gone by since Mom died, Sept. 2, 2004. Her funeral service was held in the little Cajun town of Abbeville, on Sept. 5. For many years I had written about my life with Mom in the Cajun area during the depressed years and the hard times we faced just trying to survive.

For a decade I had chronicled her life as a victim of Alzheimer's disease. At that same time President Ronald Reagan was suffering through the same disease so there was much being written about it. Mom didn't react to the disease according to what I was reading. She remained good natured, positive, never complaining. When asked, she was al-



ways "okay" and flashed that cute little smile.

In a fatherless home, during the depression years, life in our little shack often had little or no food to eat. After a hard day of picking cotton in the fields thankfully there was always Mom. She earned money as a wash lady; often she ironed clothes way into the night with a Sad iron. During those difficult days, Mom and I bonded into a relationship beyond the normal. We relied on each other against a cruel existence.

Even then, despite the hardships, Mom's good natured antics remained constant and carried on through her ill-

ness. Since Mom's death, her two sisters have passed away. Eve was 105 and Annie Mae, 88. I've also lost many friends over the span of the last 20 years. I also feel much older and in fact am 20 years older. Mom's death is the hardest blow I've had to endure. I still miss her each day. I wish her great-great-grandkids, who came along since her passing, would have gotten to know her.



She ran for president against Donald Trump, who had no government experience. She won the popular vote but lost a close electoral election.

After her loss I was almost certain there would never be a female president in my lifetime. The odds changed when President Joe Biden gave up a second term and endorsed his vice-president, Kamala Harris, a

person I had predicted years ago could someday be president. She is running against former president Donald Trump who had beaten Hillary.

Harris has a good shot but still is the underdog because she is a woman. She has better odds than most female candidates because many of the votes won't be for her but against Trump. I beat the odds by still being here and come November, in my 90th year, I may have lived to see history made. No doubt Harris is qualified to be a good president but don't bet on her being elected. It's the woman thing. But a lot of things have changed for women in our lifetime so maybe now the "Glass Ceiling" Hillary talked about might finally be broken. What a great day that would be for Mom and other women of her generation who had to take a back seat to men despite qualifications.

I can only imagine that cute little smile on Mom's face. Only 20 years after her death, in my 90th year, even though much progress has been made, history will record that in the year 2024, 237 years after George Washington, the first female was elected president of the United States of America and I would have seen it happen in my lifetime. "Madam President." Well, in America at least it's possible.

(comments: new@therecordlive.com)

## Deaths & Memorials

### George A. Cruse, Jr., 70, BC

George A. Cruse, Jr. was born July 28, 1954, and passed away August 26, 2024, at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife, Kirby Cruse; sons, George A. Cruse III and wife Cameron and Justin Ridley Cruse; grandchildren, Colt Cruse and Riley Cruse; and sister, Debbie Soiett and husband Dana.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George Allison Cruse Sr. and Peggy Cruse; and sister, Connie Dickey.



George A. Cruse, Jr.

Family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until the time of the funeral service at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, August 31, 2024, at First Baptist Church, Bridge City, Texas.

### Mary Jo Wiler McClain, 98, BC

On Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, Mary Jo Wiler McClain, 98, of Bridge City transitioned to Heaven, peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City, with Pastor Samuel Karunanithi officiating. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 6, at the same location. Burial will be at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Bridge City.



Mary Jo Wiler McClain

Formerly of Brashear, Texas in Hopkins County, Mrs. McClain was born January 24, 1926. Mrs. McClain was the daughter of Thomas Malcolm Wiler, Sr. and Bessie Omega (Abercrombie) Wiler. She was a caring wife and devoted Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. She received a Masters of Education with a major in music at East Texas State Teacher's College in Commerce, Texas. Throughout her life she taught school for 28 years, along with being a Sunday School teacher and playing the organ at Orangefield Baptist Church for many years. She also taught piano lessons off and on to many. She was an accomplished pianist, teacher, seamstress and so much more. She started school very young and could spell hippopotamus and rhinoceros at age 4. She graduated HS at 16. She had red hair and got picked on because of it. But it was that beautiful red hair that got her noticed by the love of her life, Forrest Lee McClain. At 21, he saw her walking down the street in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Before they ever met, he pointed to her and said, "I'm going to marry that red-headed woman." He loved her dearly and they were married for 46 years. He sold a cow to buy her a wed-

ding ring. In 1950, they moved to the McLewis community and began their teaching careers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Forrest Lee McClain, son, Marion Lee McClain, brothers, Thomas Malcolm Wiler, Jr., Lathan Wiler and wife, Carrie Mae.

She is survived by son, Mark McClain and wife, Alane, of Little Cypress, and daughter, Melodie McClain, of Bridge City. Grandchildren Amy Jo Wagner and husband, Bruce of Fort Worth, Derrick Lee McClain and wife, Leigh Ann of Colorado, Telisha Kuykendall and husband, Lennon of Bridge City, Brandon Lee McClain and wife, Maria of Nederland, Kevin McRae Hanks, Brooklyn Hanks Johnson and husband, Jacob, Elaine Medina Kattawar and husband, Michael, Patrick Forrest Medina, all of Bridge City. Sister-in-law, Frances Wiler, of Arlington. Sixteen Great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Jo McClain was a beacon of light for her family and all that knew her. Grounded in her religious beliefs, she attended the Living Word Church for over 20 years. Kind and generous to everyone, she had a beautiful smile and that will be fondly remembered.

Mark McClain, Brandon McClain, Kevin Hanks, Novah Richardson, Michael Kattawar, Lennon Kuykendall will serve as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearer will be Jacob Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Living Word Church of Orange.

### Florence Winifred Bales Ward, 80

Florence Winifred Bales Ward, 86, of Orange, Texas, passed away on Aug. 30, 2024, at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.



Florence Winifred Bales Ward

Visitation will begin prior to the service from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Galveston, Texas, on Oct. 10, 1937, she was the daughter of Wayne F. Bales and Anna Bell (Gidley) Bales. Florence's professional journey was notable; she dedicated 26 years as a Secretary for Gulf States Utilities and further served as the Secretary at Lamar University. Having enjoyed beautiful moments living in Florida with her husband, John A. Ward Jr., Florence created memories that would last a lifetime. She cherished the peaceful days spent fishing and the delightful meals shared with her sister, Frances. She found joy in her hobbies, crocheting and embroidery projects, carefully woven together with love and thoughtfulness. As we celebrate her life, we remember

Florence not just for her achievements and interests but for the love she shared with all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy of affection and warmth will continue to resonate in the hearts of her family, friends, and everyone she touched.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Anna Bales; her devoted husband, John A. Ward Jr.; and her sister, Beverly Wallles.

She is survived by her sister, Frances Burton; nieces and nephews: Michael Wallles and wife Kristinna, David Wallles, Ross Burton and wife Lera, Joanna Read and husband Blane; and her brother-in-law, Wilford Wallles; as well as other loving family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Humane Society of Southeast Texas at <https://humanesocietyofsoutheasttexas.org/donations>.

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Large Multifamily Garage Sale this Sat., Sept. 7 from 7:30 am till 1:00 pm at 2309 Bear Trails, Orange, TX, off 1130 in LCM area. Lots of misc., kitchen, linens, adult clothes, Christmas and Halloween decor, all kinds of good stuff. Great prices. Dont' miss it. 7:30 till 1:00

Garage Sale this Sat., Sept 7th from 8 am to 2 pm at 505 Meadowlawn in Bridge City. Gun cases, lots of women's clothes, Christmas items, bedside toilet chair, men's coat, jackets, Stacie Adams shoes, books, puzzles and much more. Cash Only

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- TV's "man named Brady"
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- French "place"
- 6th sense
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- What cruelty and crush have in common
- \*Dairy aisle package
- \*S&H Green \_\_\_\_\_
- Non motor\_\_\_\_\_ized vessel
- I have
- Nev.'s neigh\_\_\_\_\_bor
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- Mediterranean Strip
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- Pen juice
- Home to Sa\_\_\_\_\_rajevo
- Port city in Japan
- Like marines in slogan
- Cowboy's bedding
- Flip-flop
- Plural of aura
- Adam Sandler's "\_\_\_\_\_ Gems"
- Manual com\_\_\_\_\_munication ges\_\_\_\_\_ture
- High school ball
- Bert's TV buddy
- Ice in a cock\_\_\_\_\_tail
- \*TV's "Super\_\_\_\_\_market \_\_\_\_\_"
- Tropical tuber
- \*Sliced items section

- Choose a president
- "\_\_\_\_\_ we stand, divided we fall"
- Tokyo, once
- Adenine's partner in RNA
- Chilled (2 words)
- Savory taste sensation
- \*Rolling su\_\_\_\_\_permarket carri\_\_\_\_\_er
- Dwarf buffalo
- Type of canal, in dentistry
- Ego's main concern
- Surveyor's map
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# Friday Night Spotlight . . .

## Opening shots in the 2024 season



Bridge City Cardinal quarterback Hutch Bearden cruises down the sideline to score in their 54-6 season opener at home over the Buna Cougars. The Cardinals travel to Kirbyville to play the Wildcats in a non-league battle on Friday. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



The Bridge City Cardinal cheerleaders along with Big Red prepare to usher in the 2023 football season at Larry Ward Stadium on Friday. The Cardinals defeated Buna 54-6 in their home opener. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Bridge City Cardinal Bryce Breeden leaps from the sideline after a spectacular pass re-ception near the goal line in the 54-6 home victory over Buna. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Ashton Sumrall rambles to the endzone for a Bridge City Cardinal touchdown on opening night against the Buna Cougars. Bridge City defeated Buna 54-6. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

# Goodbye Big 12: UT Texas gets tough in SEC

**Still confused about Texas joining the SEC? You're not alone . . .**

Sarah Asch  
Reported by  
The Texas Standard

Longhorns football kicked off the 2024 season last weekend with a home game against Colorado State.

This marked the university's first game as part of the Southeastern Conference, better known as the SEC.

The Longhorns rolled to a 52-0 win over Colorado State in the season opener Saturday at Royal-Memorial Stadium.

We know many of our readers are avid football fans who've been following what this change will mean for us and for college football more broadly. But we also know there are still folks who have some basic questions about what all this means and how it will affect the season and the program going forward — and for that matter, football in Texas writ large.

Danny Davis, who covers UT sports for the Austin American-Statesman, said one of the biggest pieces of this change is the return of the rivalry between UT and Texas A&M.

"That's something that a lot of people are excited about," Davis said. "My wife is a Longhorn grad and she doesn't like Okla-

homa, but she hates Texas A&M, so she's really happy to go get that rivalry game back. ... That's kind of a Thanksgiving tradition around here and houses divided and in state forever and all that fun. So that game in Col-

lege Station that Saturday will be so much fun. I'm looking forward to it."

Davis said the decision to move the Longhorns to the SEC comes down to money.

"Money decides everything. Texas, a couple

years ago, started to look at the landscape of college football, where college football was going," Davis said. "They knew their TV deal was up in the Big 12, and they started to look around because they wanted a better TV deal.

They wanted more financial security. And the SEC is the big dog of college football. The SEC is the Taylor Swift of college football. ... Texas just wanted a piece of that."

Because Texas is a big program with a lot of fans,

Davis said they had their pick of which conference they wanted to join. That said, there is still a formal process to make that happen.

"It comes down to uni-

UT IN SEC Page 3B

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## OUTDOORS

# Dove hunters get first shot at season

## OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

The sleek silhouette coasted over the tree line with that familiar darting flight pattern, the volley of shots only confirmed the obvious and the dove continued on its way toward the stock tank to get a much needed drink. This scene is played out thousands of times in the state of Texas as hunters take to the field suffering the effects of a long off season without much, if any, practice. Shooting these fast flying birds is enough of a challenge without any other interference, like most dove hunters already know there are plenty of other things to get in the way.

Without a doubt the biggest challenge for local hunters when it comes to dove season is finding real estate to hunt on. The state of Texas has plenty of public land to hunt and some of these areas hold good populations of doves if you know where to look. The only problem with public land is that you are competing with every other person who is in the same situation and those really aren't good odds. The alternative to public land is leased property, both season and day. Now if you have spent any time in the field in this part of the world the thought of leasing land for dove hunting is about as appealing as driving down the road and emptying your wallet out the window. Quality dove leases in east Texas are about as common as unicorns so when hunters find a good one they tend to guard them fiercely. The day lease option is probably the best choice for local hunters; many reputable land owners will give a fair assessment of the dove population and make choosing a field a simpler task.

Another one of the difficulties that face dove hunters is the heat; September is not a cool month in our neck of the woods. Both hunters and dogs need to go into the field prepared for some hot temperatures, and all the things that go with heat. Plenty of water is a necessity, especially for your dog because they can overheat quicker than you realize.

Other nasty critters that thrive in the heat are insects such as ticks, mosquitoes and the ever popular snakes. Insect bites are one thing, snake bites are a whole different problem. If you plan on taking a dog in the field with you be prepared with a first aid kit, it could really be a lifesaver. Many south Texas hunters take the initiative to have their dogs "de-snaked" by a professional trainer. The dogs are conditioned not to pick up snakes or get near them; the training is great insurance against a possible bad situation.

Now with all the bad things that can happen and all the things that make this hunting season tough dove season is still an enjoyable experience. Dove season signifies the beginning of the new hunting season and multitudes of Texas hunters in the North zone took advantage last weekend as they opened with fantastic results. South zone hunters hope to duplicate that stellar start in a few days as they get their turn to crank up the new season.

The thought of heading to the field for an afternoon session of dove hunting with friends is one of the most enjoyable experiences hunters can have. The fellowship and conversation that takes place in a dove field is like nowhere else. Dove hunters don't need to be overly quiet, super camoed, or even scent free because it really doesn't matter. Hunters talk freely among each other and often carry on good natured "trash talking" sessions about one another's shooting skills. The environment is completely casual and sometimes the hunt takes a back seat to the camaraderie. Despite all the challenges that dove hunters face the sport still has a special place in many Texans hearts.

## 'The Lakes' Fishing

### • Toledo Bend Fishing Report

FAIR. Water normal stain; 92 degrees; 3.60 feet below pool. With the moon on the fall, the night fishing has slowed down. Few fish are still being caught on Texas rig big worms in 12-18 feet, but for most part, it is slow at night. The day fishing continues to be tough, just very little to no early topwater bite at all. A few good reports of fish schooling in the afternoon, this is happening when we get few clouds around the lake, not many good fish, but reports saying good numbers and some large groups are showing up all around the lake. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

### • Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports

GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.40 feet above pool. Water is off-colored like the lake is trying to turnover. Water is being released. Hydrilla is surfacing and could be a good place to cast for bass. Bass are slow in shallow water in brush with many smaller fish being caught on frogs, and spinnerbaits. Deeper bass bite is fair with Carolina rigs. Crappie are slow moving to and from the brush to timber. Catfish are all over the lake in 20 feet of water and in 12 feet of water in the creek channels.

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

### • Sabine Lake

GOOD. 88 degrees. Starting at 6:00 a.m. at the jetties for trout, redbfish and drum with live shrimp under a popping cork. When the sun rises the sharks show up. Move to the channel for catches of trout and redbfish during outgoing tides using salt and pepper with a chartreuse tail artificials on rock piles and shell flats. There is finally some bull redbfish schooling on the south end of the lake. Threadfin shad are coming out of the marshes, this is usually a sign the bull redbfish are coming. The best bite has been during the incoming tide. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

### • Bolivar

EXCELLENT. 85 degrees. Black drums are feeding off the surf and jetty. Lots of speckled trout, redbfish, croakers, sand trout, a few flounder, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty plus lots of stingrays and sharks. The shark tournament this past week produced some almost 10 foot sharks. The surf is still producing limits of speckled trout, lots of bull reds and black drum, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula. 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. 88 degrees. Fish are moving up the channel, and the best bite is on the spoil islands lining the Houston ship channel. A few speckled trout showing, but a good number of black drum and redbfish on live shrimp under popping corks. Those throwing soft plastics over shells near the channel are picking up fair numbers of speckled trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Trout are on structure in the shallows early especially around rocks being caught on live shrimp and artificial shrimp rigged weedless. Redfish are in the shallows in a high tide moving to current and cooler waters when the water heats up hitting live shrimp and artificial shrimp. Drum and sheepshead are right to rock groins and reefs in both the middle of the bay and right to the bank being caught on live shrimp. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

### • East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 88 degrees. The water clarity is improving slightly for the majority of East Galveston Bay, with clearer and saltier water as you get over towards Elm Grove Basin, and beautiful water the closer you venture over towards Galveston. We are spending more and more time locating trout, redbfish and flounder in the intracoastal relating to structure, in areas closer to deep water with active bait in the area. We are starting out on the jetties, to find a solid early morning trout bite with artificials on most outings when the wind cooperates. We are still having good success on MirrOdines,



Chance Hobbs took advantage of a late afternoon summer bite.

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 salt and pepper tails by WacAttack and blue moon rat tails by Deadly Dudley. After the sun rises, we are venturing over to the reefs and that bite has started to heat up for us, as the water continues to improve. The Topwater bite has still been strong 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, with bone being one of our favorite colors we have the most

confidence in. The crowds are starting to slack up now that summer is winding down, so now is the perfect time to get out on the water and make some memories. Until Next Time Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

### • Galveston Bay

SLOW. 87 degrees. Scattered good catches of trout, along with a few sheepshead, and black drum from the gas wells in the middle of Galveston bay. Best bite on live shrimp. Rock spoil islands are still producing speckled trout, black drum and a few sheepshead, along with the occasional upper slot redbfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

### • West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 90 degrees. Live croakers and live shrimp have been the ticket to good catches of speckled trout and redbfish, along shoreline guts and over deep shell reefs. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

### • Freeport

GOOD. 89 degrees. Fishing been steady for trout, redbfish, and flounder around the San Luis Pass, Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay and the west end of Galveston Bay. Wade fishing has been good in the guts at the pass and in west Galveston bay with croaker and shrimp for trout and redbfish with a few flounder mixed in. The Freeport Harbor is steady for sheepshead, drum, redbfish and mangrove snapper free lining shrimp with a split shot. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flat-tie Daddy Fishing Adventures

### • Texas City

GOOD. 91 degrees. Texas City Dike to the Galveston causeway bridge remains productive for speckled trout and the occasional redbfish. Galveston jetties are good for speckled trout and redbfish. Shark catches remain steady in the near shore waters. Anglers are still finding good numbers of red snapper offshore. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Anglers are catching plenty of speckled trout, more redbfish, and a few flounder every day with some occasional black drum, sheepshead, sand trout, and gafftop. Live shrimp and finger mullet have been the best baits. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

### 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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1200 Smith St., Suite 1400  
Houston, TX 77002  
Re: Benchmark Oil and Gas Company

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

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

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Alternatively, claims can be mailed to this address:

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Bridge City Cardinal receiver Austin Bellanger leaps to bring down a pass against the Buna Cougars. The Cardinals opened the 2024 football season at home posting a 54-6 victory.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

The Bridge City Cardinals began the Josh Smalley era at Bridge City with a 54-6 run-away win at home over Buna to open the season. Above: Coach Smalley gathers his team after the victory. The win was a spectacular way to welcome Coach Smalley back to Cardinal Land.



Bridge City Cardinal Connor Smith gets a grip on a Buna Cougar ball carrier during game action on opening night at Larry Ward Stadium. The Cardinals travel to Kirbyville to play the Wildcats in a non-league battle on Friday.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

The Bridge City Cardinal cheerleaders keep team spirit and pride echoing through the stadium as the Cardinals romped over Buna 54-6 to start the 2024 football season.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

# Doves are prevalent in Texas TPWD offers tips for hunters

Staff Report  
For The Record

AUSTIN – Dove hunters have much to look forward to, with significant increases in both mourning and white-wing dove populations. The season opened Sept. 1.

While hunters prepare to take to the field for their shot at the most popular game bird in North America, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Game Wardens have some recommendations for a memorable but safe experience.

**Have valid hunting licenses, stamps and permits:**

Hunters must purchase valid hunting licenses for the 2024-25 before hitting the field. Hunters must also have a Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification to hunt dove.

In addition to obtaining the above licenses and endorsements, purchasing an Annual Public Hunting Permit (APH) gives hunters access to more than one million acres throughout the year to hunt multiple species. This must be purchased in addition to a hunting license.

**Have Hunter Education Certification:**

Game wardens across the state say the number one problem they run into is the lack of hunter education, which is required for anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971. TPWD's Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Texas also honors Hunter Education certification obtained in other states but hunters must



Dove hunters have much to look forward to, with significant increases in both mourning and white-wing dove populations.

be able to provide proof requirements, exemptions upon request. Hunters can find more information on card at no cost online.

"I highly recommend everyone stepping out into the field to hunt, whether they are exempt or not, obtain their Hunter Education Certification," said Roel Cantu Jr., Hidalgo County game warden. "Many of the safety issues and violations we run into are topics covered in the course that could have been easily prevented if the hunter had received that prior education."

**Know your firearm and handle it safely:**

The safest practice  
HUNTER TIPS Page 4B



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# Willie Nelson, Randall King among many ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP OF CONCERTS & EVENTS

## TOMMY MANN JR. FOR THE RECORD

September is rock'n and the regional concert scene is announcing new shows with national acts performing from Houston to Lake Charles just about every week. Scan the list below and check out the full schedule online at [www.therecordlive.com](http://www.therecordlive.com)

- **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 Ben-



Willie Nelson and Family will perform on October 20 at Ford Park in Beaumont.



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

- jamin, Matt Hansen, Bayou Music Center, Houston; Dwight Yoakam, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Sept. 15**  
Rob Zombie, Alice Cooper, Ministry, Filter, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; The Mummies, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 17**  
Loveless, Beauty School Dropout, Julia Wolf, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 18**  
Marianas Trench, Casadee Pope, PIAO, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 19**  
Five Finger Death Punch, Marilyn Manson, Slaughter to Prevail, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Niki, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Omar Apollo, Malcolm Todd, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 21**  
Glass Animals, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion,


- The Woodlands
- **Sept. 22**  
Signs of the Swarm, Cane Hill, Ov Sulfur, 156 Silence, A Wake in Providence, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Sept. 28**  
Weezer, The Flaming Lips, Dinosaur Jr., Toyota Center, Houston; Zedd, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Brooks Nielsen, House of Blues, Houston; Brett Young, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Sept. 29**  
Sum 41, The Interrupters, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Friday Pilots Club, House of Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 3**  
Lorna Shore, Whitechapel, Kublai Khan TX, Sanguisgabogg, 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; Tiantian Nodal, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Oct. 16**  
Jeff Lynne's ELO, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Oct. 18**  
Testament, Kreator, Possessed, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Oct. 19**  
The Bacon Brothers, Lutch Theater, Orange, Tx
- **Oct. 20**  
Willie Nelson and Family, Ford Park in Beaumont, TX

- Korn, Gojira, Spiritbox, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 22**  
Judas Priest, Sabaton, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Oct. 24**  
Breaking Benjamin, Staind, Daughtry, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; 10 Years, Conquer Divide, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Oct. 25**  
Cody Johnson, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Sammy Kershaw, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Oct. 26**  
Tyler Hubbard, Alana Springsteen, House of Blues, Houston; Cody Johnson, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 31**  
Whiskey Myers, JJ Grey and Mofro, Colby Acuff, Lake Charles Event Center, Lake Charles, La.


## 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](http://www.cityofwestorange.com). For further information, or to reserve a booth space, contact West Orange City Hall at 409-883-3468.




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Orangefield Bobcat Mason Manning is the lead blocker on this play against the Woodville Eagles in their season opener at home. Orangefield goes on the road next week for a game against the New Waverly Bulldogs on Friday. RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



Bridge City Cardinal teammates greet running back Ashton Sumrall in the endzone after scoring a touchdown against the Buna Cougars. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Orangefield Bobcat Kaleb Menard looks over the field as the clock runs out on their season opener against the Woodville Eagles. The Bobcats lost the hard fought contest 27-7. RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



Bridge City Cardinal Abraham Munguia finds running room against the Buna Cougars during opening night at home. The Cardinals had a remarkable night defeating Buna 54-6. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

## Hunter tips from TPWD From Page 3B

when handling firearms of any kind is to treat them like they are loaded. Maintain muzzle awareness, avoid pointing at any accidental targets and always have the safety engaged until you're ready to fire. It's also important to make sure you use the correct ammunition for your shotgun. Using the wrong size shell can result in accidents and injuries.

"Accidents can happen quickly and can result in very unfortunate outcomes," said Kevin Frazier, Frio County game warden. "I've seen things as simple as not being aware your shotgun is loaded while packing the ATV or falling while walking through the field carrying a gun with the safety off end in injuries to others or the hunters themselves."

### Hunt with a legal firearm:

A shotgun is the only legal firearm for hunting mi-

gratory game birds. It also must not be larger than 10-gauge, and if applicable, must be plugged. When purchasing a new shotgun, pay attention to what is in the box, wardens caution. While manufacturers sell shotguns with plugs, they may not be installed in the gun.

"Because our very mission statement is to conserve wildlife resources for present and future generations, many of our laws and regulations are based upon the 'fair chase principle,'" said Drew Spencer, Lubbock County game warden. "One such example pertaining to dove hunting is that shotguns cannot be capable of holding more than three shells at any given time, including one in the chamber."

### Know your target and what's behind it:

Stay within your lane of fire so you aren't shooting toward anyone else. Don't

shoot toward people or homes and know how far your shot can travel. While not required on private property, Fraiser recommends wearing hunter orange clothing if hunting in a group for high visibility.

"With many of our area properties being rural and unfenced, I occasionally see hunters getting lax regarding shooting over or across our many dirt county roads," said Spencer. "Those are still public roadways and still a public safety issue. We want to encourage mindfulness when it comes to shot angles and direction."

### Don't trespass:

Hunters are responsible for knowing property boundaries and making sure they have landowner consent. This applies to hunting and retrieving birds from neighboring properties. If pellets cross onto another property, that is considered trespass by projectile, which is a viola-

tion and potentially unsafe. "If you are invited on a hunt or book one online, do your homework first," said Frazier. "I've run into instances where hunters book a hunt online, believing they have landowner consent to hunt a property when in fact, it was a scam neither the landowner nor hunter were aware of. I recommend doing some research to make sure things are legitimate."

### Follow state and federal regulations, including daily bag and possession limits:

Be aware of what zone you're hunting in and what the daily bag and possession limits are. Hunters must also keep their birds separate and identifiable from other hunters' birds. This will make interactions with wardens smoother and faster and is required by law while in the field and absent proper documentation.

Hunters in the South Zone should be aware of dates for the special white-

wing dove days, which can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual. Additionally, hunters are responsible for knowing whether they're hunting a baited area or not. Hunting over a baited field is prohibited by federal and state law.

"A fairly common violation we run into is hunters trying to 'double dip,'" said Cameron Ramsey, Coleman County game warden. "Fifteen birds per day means 15

birds per day. Not 15 birds every time you go out to the field. If you reach your limit in the morning, you can't hunt again until the next day."

### Bring the kids:

Involving children in hunting is vital to continuing the hunting heritage of Texas. Wardens recommended eye and hearing protection for children and adults.

## UT Longhorns in SEC From Page 1B

versity presidents. And, you know, there's always some politics behind the scenes. That was the big case when the Big 12 was formed. Texas, and Oklahoma as well, when they applied to go to the SEC, that had to be approved by the 14 SEC schools. Their presidents had to sign off on that," Davis said. "The conferences try to fill out their standings and get enough teams to actually be a formidable conference. But at the end, the presidents are making the call."

Davis said the game stays the same, but the competition for the Longhorns is going to be tougher.

"The teams across almost all sports are tougher in the SEC than the Big 12. I think Texas won 15 conference championships last year, either regular season or tournament. They're probably not going to do that this year in the SEC just because

the competition's a lot tougher," he said. "But aside from some new places to visit and new teams to learn to hate or have new teams hate Texas, that's probably the biggest difference Texas fans are going to see."

Texas won't play Alabama — a powerhouse team that often dominates the SEC — this year, but there are some good rivalries on the Longhorns' schedule.

"They do have Oklahoma, which is a given. I mean, they're not going separate Texas and Oklahoma. Arkansas is not a good team this year, but the Razorbacks hate Texas. If you're an old-school Texas fan, you know about that Arkansas rivalry," Davis said. "They get to play Florida. Georgia's obviously coming here. There's some tough tests on that schedule. It's going to be really interesting to see how the Longhorns do."

Davis said that this change also marks a potential new era for college football, as teams switch conferences to follow the money. Namely, Davis said he thinks that the SEC and the Big Ten will come to dominate the sport.

"You have the SEC and then you have the Big Ten, which is where Michigan and Ohio State and some of those northern schools are at. And they've brought in some of those West Coast schools — USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington just moved over there this year. I think you kind of have two mega conferences," Davis said.

"The Big 12 is trying to hold on. They have some decent schools in their conference. ... But I think most people kind of view this as the SEC and Big Ten deal. And everyone else is trying to fight to stay relevant."

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# What Grief Taught Me About Love

**Vaneetha Rendall Risner**  
Regular Contributor  
desiringGod.org

*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:21, 32)*

To me, this passage from John 11 is one of the most poignant in all the Gospels. It reflects the heartbreak of sisters who had been sure Jesus would save their brother — women who loved Jesus and sacrificed for him, a family that needed his help and called to him in their distress. Yet Jesus did not respond to his friends' urgent request. He sent no answer, but simply showed up after their brother was dead.

On the surface, this story is shocking. It doesn't fit with our definition of love. To us, love rescues and runs. Love doesn't wait. Love does everything possible to keep the beloved from pain. Yet in understanding how Jesus loved this family, I have seen the depth of his love for me in my own suffering.

## Lazarus's Last Breath

Days before the words above were spoken, Mary and Martha had sent a message to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was ill (John 11:3). They likely expected that Jesus would leave immediately to see his dear friend, or perhaps even heal him right there with a word. They knew he was the coming Christ, the Son of God, and that God would give him whatever he asked (John 11:22, 27). They had

witnessed Jesus heal countless strangers, responding without delay to their requests for help. Surely he would show up for his friends.

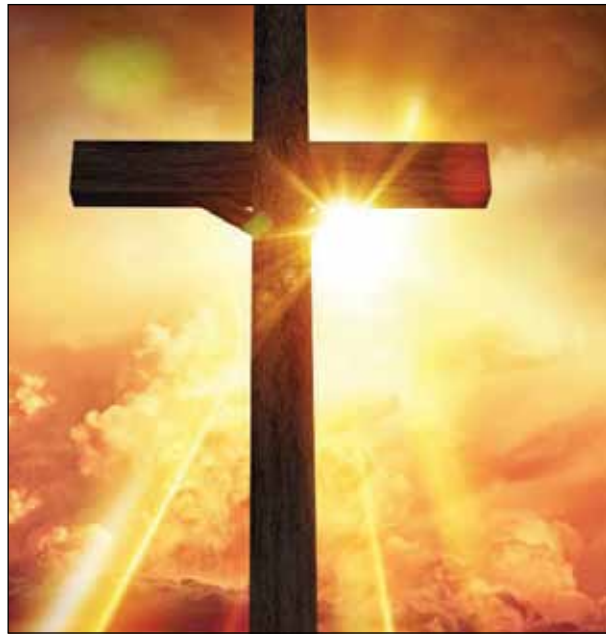
Yet Jesus didn't respond to their urgent need, choosing to stay where he was for two whole days (John 11:6). He told the disciples that Lazarus's illness was for the glory of God, that he himself would be glorified through it, and that others would believe because of it (John 11:4, 14-15). At the same time, Jesus knew his intentional delay would bewilder his friends.

I imagine the sisters waiting by the window where Lazarus lay dying, straining to see if Jesus was coming. I picture them reassuring each other that Jesus would surely arrive in time to heal Lazarus. I wonder what each was thinking as Lazarus took his last breath. Were they disappointed and disillusioned with Jesus, even questioning their relationship with him? Did they wonder if Jesus even cared? Did they doubt whether Jesus was the Savior they hoped him to be?

Whatever inner turmoil they were feeling, the sisters had to go on. They needed to bury Lazarus and prepare their home, which would be flooded with people who would come to console them.

## Jesus with the Sisters

In the middle of their grieving, Jesus arrived. The sisters independently met him and uttered the same plaintive words: "Lord, if



you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21, 32). Though they had lost hope of ever seeing their brother again, neither ran from Jesus in their despair, or stayed aloof to protect themselves, or pretended his inaction hadn't hurt them. Instead, they went to Jesus, directly telling him how they felt.

Jesus responded differently to each sister, knowing what each needed. Martha needed truth; she needed to understand and reaffirm her belief in Jesus as God's Son. Jesus told her that he was the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believed in him would never die (John 11:25-26). And later, he assured her that if she believed, she would see the glory of God (John 11:40). Mary, on the other hand, needed tears and comfort, and she wept at Jesus's feet as soon as she saw him (John 11:32). Jesus

wept with her (John 11:35). Then, of course, Jesus told them to remove the stone, and he commanded Lazarus to come out. And Lazarus walked out of the grave (John 11:38-44)!

## Following Mary and Martha

I remember reading the Bible one night when my world was splintering. I had been crying in the dark, wondering how I could go on. The unthinkable had happened, and I couldn't understand why God hadn't stopped it. I had been faithful. I loved Jesus and knew he loved me. So why hadn't he rescued me from my nightmares?

I got up, pulled on my robe, and opened my Bible to John 11. As I reread this familiar story, I identified with Mary and Martha's words to Jesus. If Jesus had shown up for me, this never would have happened.

Since he didn't respond to my pleading, my begging him to fix it, it seemed like he had abandoned me when I needed him most.

Yet I saw that even in their despair, the sisters went directly to Jesus, their words intimating their unspoken question: Why didn't you come? I realized that I needed to go to him too. I told him my frustrations and fears, my utter disappointment that he hadn't shown up for me. I asked him to help me, to meet me as he met these sisters, that I might see the glory of God as well.

## Glory in My Grief

I approached Jesus feeling desperate, full of raw emotion, terrified of the free fall I was experiencing. Nothing felt stable or familiar. And yet, in that moment, God came near. I felt the unmistakable sense of his presence and love, coupled with the absolute assurance that everything was under control. There was purpose to my pain, even when I couldn't understand it, even when all I could see was loss.

I realized that God was giving me a sight of his glory. I sat in the stillness of the night, bent over my Bible, tears streaming down my face. This glimpse of God's glory was far better than a pain-free life. Being with God, having his guidance, knowing he will one day receive me into glory was all I needed. I finally saw why letting Lazarus die was the most loving thing Jesus could do for this family. He knew that helping them see the glory of God firsthand was the greatest gift imaginable. It would

cement their belief in him, their certainty that he was indeed the Son of God, and their assurance that Jesus had power over death.

## God's Greatest Act of Love

The most loving thing God can do is to show us his glory. All physical healing is temporary since we will eventually die (unless he returns first). But anything that helps us see and experience God's glory will last throughout eternity. It will change us. It will help us treasure Christ and will give us lasting joy. Believing in Christ, seeing the glory of God, is a gift. Not everyone sees it. Those who have experienced it will view their life and their suffering with new eyes, in light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

From this story, we see that God's love does not shield us from suffering. The pain of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, people whom Jesus dearly loved, was real and intense. They had to wait in the dark, wondering why Jesus hadn't shown up. He cared about their pain, weeping with them as he saw their grief, all the while certain that their grief would turn to joy.

Our grief will also turn to joy — on earth, as we see and are satisfied in God, and ultimately in heaven, when we see him face to face.

The most loving thing that God can do is to increase our faith in him, to show us his glory, to help us find our satisfaction in him. Truly, if we believe, we will see the glory of God.

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