

# Penny Record

Vol. 65 No. 04

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, June 19, 2024

## New massive pipeline to cross OC

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

A new, major 750-mile natural gas pipeline, described by the Pipeline Journal as “massive,” is being planned to cross Orange County as it goes from the Permian Basin in West Texas to Calcasieu Parish across the Sabine.

At the end of April, the company mailed letters to property owners informing them of the project and asking for right-of-entry permission to go on the property for surveys.

The 42-inch pipeline will carry “liquids-rich natural gas.” It is known

as the DeLa Express Pipeline and is to be built by Moss Lake Partners, a Houston-based corporation. It is to carry 2 billion cubic feet of the gas a day to the industries along the Gulf Coast.

The company says the project will create 5,300 short-term full-time jobs, plus 380 permanent jobs when it is completed.

Moss Lake Partners information says the pre-filing request for the pipeline and its route was made with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in early April this year. The company plans to file the permit in Feb-

ruary next year and get the federal agency’s draft environmental impact statement that month.

Then, the preliminary schedule calls for the federal agency to issue its final environmental impact

statement in December 2025. Then the timeline sets the agency’s final approval to begin construction in September 2026. July 2028 is the target date for the pipeline to be in use.

According to the company, the proposed pipeline will extend from the Permian Basin, originating at a point near Red Bluff in Loving County, Texas, to a termination point near Moss Bluff in

Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. There will be nine compressor stations proposed for construction in Winkler, Midland, Sterling, Runnels, Brown, Co-

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## OC Tax Assessor Karen Fisher to retire before term ends



Octavia Guzman



Karen Fisher

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher has publicly announced she will be retiring on July 31, months before her term in office ends.

Orange County Commissioners Court, by state law, will be required to appoint her replacement to the elected office. Fisher’s current four-year term does not end until December 31.

Octavia Guzman, a longtime employee in the tax assessor-collector’s office, ran unopposed for the position in the March Republican primary race. No Democrats are running locally on the ballot for the November general election; so Guzman is the expected winner of the position.

Commissioners courts in the past have usually primary winners with no

opponents to fill a position of the current elected official decides to retire early. A similar situation came four years ago, when incumbent sheriff Keith Merritt retired and Jimmy Lane Mooney, winner of the 2020 Republican primary, was appointed.

Fisher has some 30 years of experience in the county tax assessor-collector’s office, and is serving her second four-year term as the elected head of the department. She replaced Lynda Gunstream, who decided not to run and retired at the end of her term.

Guzman has 11 years of experience working in the office. That office collects property taxes for all the entities in the county and oversees property sales for delinquent taxes. The office also issues vehicle and boat titles, and new or renewed vehicle and boat licenses.



Madeline Istre strolled through the market with her mother and wasn’t sure about the baby goat she met at the booth of Chosen Weeds farm that sells soaps made from rich goat’s milk. RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

## BC draws people with Saturday farmers market

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Starting time is supposed to be eight in the morning. But by five minutes later, the parking lot is full and cars are stopping along ditches. Lines have already formed at booths.

The Bridge City Farmers Market is open on an early summer’s Saturday morning and drawing a crowd to the easy-going, family event where a wide variety of homemade and homegrown goods are found. But of course, it’s the tomatoes, cucumbers, yellow squash and corn in the shucks that draw the biggest lines.

The Bridge City Farmers market is the longest currently open farmers market in Orange County and may be soon be the only one. An unofficial market set-up in Pinehurst last week was run off of a private parking lot. A city official said any street sales in the city limits require a city-issued peddler’s license that needs the property owner’s permission. The group did not have a permit to operate at the shopping center owned by Phelan Investments of Beaumont.

Mauriceville has tried a farmers market for a couple of years on certain Thursdays. But last week, the event didn’t draw vendors or crowds last week. The Mauriceville market, set up by the community center on Cohenor Road, has announced one more try for this summer on Thursday, June 27. Then, a reorganization may be needed.

The Bridge City Farmers Market started about a decade ago and is set up off Parkside Drive off West

Farmers Market Page 3A



Buyers line up at long folding tables of one vendor who fills plastic bins with produce like green tomatoes, ripe tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, squash, green beans, and crowder peas.

## Shangri La hosts summer Sip and Stroll

**LARRY JOE JOHNSON**  
For The Record

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center invites the public to enjoy golden hour in the garden during their summer Sip and Stroll.

This special after-hours experience is offered in collaboration with Free State Cellars on Thursday, June 20, from 5-8 p.m. Admission to Sip and Stroll is free of charge.

“We are thrilled to offer a summer Sip and Stroll where visitors may explore the garden’s stunning summer blooms and savor local artisanal wines. This experience uniquely combines the sounds and sights of nature with live music from the highly talented David Justin Trio,” said Angie Mason, executive director of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center.

In addition to Free State



Angie Mason

Cellars’ signature spirits,

specialty picnic boxes, à la carte food items and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for visitors to purchase and enjoy in the garden.

To guarantee a picnic, boxes may be pre-ordered from Free State Cellars. The picnic boxes include a deli-style sandwich, charcuterie bites and more. Visitors are welcome to bring a blanket to sit on while they enjoy their delectable treats and beverages.

ages.

“This summer, we are proud to unveil new garden spaces including our newly installed Quilt Gardens and Petrified Forest pathway. Created in collaboration with the Stark Museum of Art’s special quilt exhibition, the Quilt Gardens showcase a fusion of traditional quilting patterns using plants as the medium. A new pathway through the Petrified Forest provides visibility

to more than 200,000 pounds of petrified wood from Lutch Stark’s collection that has been inaccessible to our visitors for years. Sip and Stroll provides a golden opportunity for our guests to enjoy both of these new spaces in a different light,” said Mason.

Please note that outside food and beverages will not be permitted into the venue. The last entry is at 7:30 p.m.

## Orangefield grad chosen for Kilgore Rangerettes



Recent Orangefield High graduate Georgia Jones last week auditioned successfully to become one of the famous Kilgore Rangerettes at Kilgore Junior College. She was a member of the Orangefield Sophisticats and held the position of captain her senior year. Last year, she was named a 'Kick Master' at the dance team's summer camp.



## Edward Jones branch office supports BC school supply campaign

### Staff Report For The Record

Karen Collier, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Bridge City, is supporting Bridge City schools by using her office as a drop-off location for a school supplies drive.

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

The branch address is: 1815 Texas Ave Bridge City, TX 77611.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's

more than 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$2 trillion in client assets under care at the end of December 2023. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society.

Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 54,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties and most Canadian provinces and territories, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com), and its recruiting website is [careers.edwardjones.com](http://careers.edwardjones.com). Member SIPC.

## Orange Public Library host reading programs

### Staff Report For The Record

The Orange Public Library is hosting a series of Summer Reading Programs for readers of all ages! Upon registration, participants will receive a reading log to record their reading and listening time. Readers will turn in their logs by July 25th to receive Library Bucks to be used at the Library Store during the Summer Program Carnival!

• **Preschool Read-to-Me: Wednesdays** from June 5th through July 24th from 10:45 am – 11:15 am, a different community member will read to children and their guardians in the Children's Room at the li-

brary.

• **Grades 1st – 5th: Wednesdays** from June 5th through July 24th from 10:30 am – 11:30 am, children going into 1st – 5th grades will participate in a different program each week, featuring art, agriculture, science, and wildlife!

• **Middle School: Tuesdays** from June 4th through July 23rd from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, middle schoolers going into 6th – 8th grades will spend time in the library participating in a different activity each week, including game night, a scavenger hunt, an escape room, and more!

• **High School: Thursdays** from June 6th through July 25th from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, high schoolers go-

ing into 9th – 12th grades will hang out in the library with a different activity each week, including video and board games, a murder mystery, an escape room, and more!

• **Adults: From June 1st through August 1st**, adult readers will enjoy some fun in the sun with the Adult Summer Reading Bingo Challenge! Bingo squares feature specific reading prompts and activities, and participants earn entry into a prize drawing for each Bingo they complete! Bingo cards are available for pick-

up at the library or to download on the library website.

Readers must sign up at the library for a Summer Reading Program to attend any of the weekly events. Attendance is not mandatory and is free of cost. Registration begins Tuesday, May 28th with the first program beginning on June 4th. For more information, please contact the Orange Public Library at 409-883-1086 or on our website at <https://orangetexas.gov/177/Library>.

**'The Record' Community News Online Anytime**

## 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](http://TheRecordLive.Com).

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# Farmers Market jump here From Page 1B



The Bridge City Farmers market is the longest currently open farmers market in Orange County and may be soon be the only one. The Bridge City Farmers Market started about a decade ago and is set up off Parkside Drive off West Roundbunch Road.



Harry Jacob is one of the people at the farmers market who likes to bring a wagon with him to carry all the fresh produce he buys like corn in the shucks.

Roundbunch Road. The grounds include the Bridge City library, community center, splash pad, and youth ball parks.

The event is the place to spend a leisurely Saturday morning visiting with old friends and acquaintanc-

es, along with making new ones. As a line wound around a series of long folding tables with bins of fresh vegetables, people chatted across the bins and waved at old friends.

Food trucks were set up in the parking lot offering

a variety of items including custom pizza and hot coffee. Nearby, bakers set out displays of fresh minicakes, rolls, breads, cookies, and soft, buttery cinnamon rolls with thick icing that require a wet napkin after eating.

Chosen Weeds Farm brought rich soaps made with moisturizing goat milk and brought an attraction to bring customers. A baby goat on a leash drew a lot of attention from children. The booth also had wooden cutouts of goats with holes to allow people to stick their heads through for a funny photograph.

Paige Price from Nederland provided easy-listening singing with acoustic guitar. She said she attends different farmers markets in the area to perform. The markets are the perfect way for people to get healthy foods, she said, along with others being able to make money from selling their goods.

She was eyeing a booth selling elderberry syrup. It was the best in the area, she said. Elderberry syrup is a popular homeopathic

help against cold, flu, and other respiratory problems.

Also, bouquets of colorful zinnias and sunflowers, plus plants were on display for purchase. The Orange County Master Gardeners were there to give plant advice and hand out free wildflower seeds.

Vendors sold homemade jams, jellies, and salsas, along with creative blends of spices and seasons, and original sauces. Shoppers could find original windchimes and leatherwork. Even natural dog treats were on sale.

And speaking of natural, Eclectic Acres Farm based in the county had a variety of poultry, beef, and pork that were grown naturally and butchered in small shops. Their fare included a bag of dog treats consisting of dehydrated chicken feet for pups to

gnaw.

Farmers markets are a popular way for consumers to get items that are not overly processed in corporate manufacturing plants. In some cities, the farmers markets go back more than a century. But the popularity of the markets increased in at the turn of the 21st Century.

The city of Orange started a farmers market in October 2008, a month after Hurricane Ike flooded the southern part of Orange County, including the downtown Orange area where the market was first held.

When spring came, the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau, which organized the event, moved it to the parking lot at Lions Park. But within months, the city dropped the market.

However, the original plans for the Riverfront boardwalk and pavilion area included a design to hold a farmers market in downtown near the county courthouse.

After the city of Orange dropped its market, a group of growers then organized and set up a market along MacArthur Drive in the parking lot of the shopping center where Big Lots is located. The market was open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Through the years, the market became unorganized, but growers would still set up their goods on the parking lot on those days.

The same parking lot area grew to become a popular place for selling anything and everything. People driving along MacArthur Drive could see anything from used boats and cars for sale to large household-style garage sales on that parking lot.

## July 4th Concert and Fireworks

Celebrate Independence Day with the Explore Orange Convention and Visitors Bureau at the 2024 July 4th Concert & Fireworks Celebration.

Join us on Thursday, July 4th at the Riverside Pavilion, located at 708 Simmons Drive, for an evening of freedom, fun, and fireworks! With live music entertainment, food vendors, kid activities, and a spectacular fireworks display, this event is sure to be a blast. Schedule of Events: • 4:00 pm: Gates open • 7:00 – 9:00 pm: Live music by The Royal Dukes Band • 9:00 pm: Fireworks.

## Free 'Do Well, Be Well' Diabetes Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is having a Free Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes Series at the Extension office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on FM 1442, Orange. They will be held on July 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, and 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Join us in learning how to prevent type 2 diabetes, eat healthy, and much more to control your diabetes. You will need to attend all classes to get the full educational benefit. Call the Extension office at 409-882-7010 to reserve your spot.

Check in with yourself.

# Start breathing. Stay present.

Small steps can make a big difference when it comes to your mental health. Try this simple breathing exercise if you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed or stressed.

### FOUR STEPS FOR BOX BREATHING:

- 1** Start by placing one hand on your chest and the other on your stomach.
- 2** Breathe in through your nose for 4 seconds, feeling your stomach expand.
- 3** Hold that breath in for 4 seconds.
- 4** Exhale through your mouth for 4 seconds.

Repeat steps 2-4 until you feel more relaxed.

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turn to



## From the Creaux's Nest

### BIDEN-TRUMP DEBATE RISKY PLATFORM FIRST TO BE NEXT WEEK JUNE 27

**Biden, Trump** agree to ABC News and CNN debates. CNN said they won't be allowed to use any props or pre-written notes but will be given paper, a pen and water. The CNN debate is the first of two debates agreed on by the campaigns. The second will be hosted by ABC News on Sept. 10. CNN announced the rules agreed on by both **President Joe Biden** and **Donald Trump's** campaigns. They include microphone muting, a coin flip and more when the two candidates face off at the network's Atlanta studio on Thursday, June 27. The debate, which is being moderated by CNN anchors **Jake Tapper** and **Dana Bash**, will run for approximately 90 minutes with two commercial breaks. There will be no live studio audience, one major change from debates past. **Biden** and **Trump** will stand at podiums decided by a coin flip. Their microphones will be muted unless it is their turn to speak, the network said, which is likely to limit how much the candidates can interrupt one another. The **Biden** campaign set out some conditions for the debate, including that they be conducted by news organizations, not the bipartisan **Commission on Presidential Debates**, and **Biden, Trump** agree to ABC News and CNN debates. CNN said they should have no in-person audience to limit disruptions. This month's debate, the earliest ever in a presidential race, comes before the **Republican and Democratic conventions** later this summer -- when both **Trump** and **Biden** will officially accept their party's nominations.

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

**The invasion that never should have been.** Iraq finds itself in a civil war with the problem going way back when **Cheney** and **Rumsfeld** talked **Geo. W.** into invading and occupying **Iraq**, despite advice from his father, former **President Geo. H. Bush**, and military experts. The biggest con game was pulled on the American people with claims of **Saddam** having weapons of mass destruction. It was a lie, they knew it was a lie. We invaded, spent \$1 trillion and lost nearly **5,000 young lives**, with over **30,000 injured** but in the process we destroyed all **Iraqi military** and cheered when **Saddam** was hung in public. The truth is **Iraq** never was a threat to the U.S. **Saddam** had been our friend. **Iraq** had great universities and a high middle-class. **Saddam** ran a tight ship. No terrorist could survive under his rule. **Cheney** and **Rumsfeld** had their eyes on **Iraq's oil production**, plus most of the money spent to rebuild the country went to **Halliburton**.\*\*\*\*We were sorry to learn of the death of **Vergie Mansfield Scales**, 102, who passed away Monday night. Please see story and obituary in this publication.\*\*\*\*A little about the natives: **Donna** and **Judge Jimmy Scales** attended the wedding of son **Jared** and **Alyssa DeRamus**, in Key West Florida last week. I can't wait to hear **Donna's** version of that trip. She always tells a good story. In fact, when **Roy** retires she should take his place with **Life's Highway**.\*\*\*\*Former Orangeites **James** and **Janet Fontenot** were in town from Round Rock. They visited with brother **Ray** and daughter **Brenda** then had a **Lunch Bunch outing** with **Corky** and **Betty Harmon**.\*\*Sunday morning, during an early shopping trip to Market Basket, I met a guy, **Bobby Barras**, who introduced himself to me. He and his wife had moved to Waterwood 17 years ago from Port Arthur, he'd retired from Texaco Chemical and was also a great fan of **The Record** and had read most of the "Down Life's Highway" columns.. He told me he had graduated from **Bishop Byrne** in 1953. I learned he had attended school with some of the great folks I knew like **Roland Angelle**, **Donald Boneaux**, **Raymond Meyer**, **Gene Cropper**, **Don VanEten**, **Max Forster**, **Eddie**, **Kenneth** and **Gene Bourgeois** and a mess of others. **Bob Barras'** folks came from Loreauville, La. His mother was a **Braquet** and he knew all of the **Judices** and **Berard's**, **Oubre's** and such. Even though he lived in Port Arthur he keeps in touch with the folks back in the old Cajun country and visits often. It was an enjoyable visit. It's nice to find and old, new friends.\*\*\*\*The **San Antonio Spurs** defeated defending champions **Miami Heat** in five games. The **Spurs** put on a clinic, beating the **Heat** 104-87 in game five to win the team's **fifth NBA title**. No team in the league plays better as a team. No big names or outlandish stories.\*\*\*\*Chief Deputy **County Clerk Brandy Robertson** not only has two 15-year-olds, **Nathan Hayes** and **Payton Robertson**, with driving permits but also son **Payton** is playing on a local select team, **Bullet Baseball 16U**, coached by **Roderick Robertson**, **Tony Dallas**, of Dallas Insurance and **Stephen Patterson**, Superintendent of Orangefield ISD. The select team will be playing games in Lake Charles, New Orleans, Dallas, Austin and Florida.

### 20 Years Ago-2004

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: **Heubart "Snuffy" Smith**, 77, died Saturday, June 19. A native of Mississippi, he had lived in Bridge City many years. He was survived by wife **Rachel**, sons **Kenneth**, **John**

and **Grady**. Pallbearers were **L.K. Jarrell**, **Ed Osburn**, **Bill Kiihnl**, **James Perkins**, **John Banken** and **Tom Brooks**.\*\*\*\***John R. Moore**, 78, died June 18. He was a **WWII vet** and former **POW**. Services were held June 20 with full military rites. He is survived by wife **Tina**, sons **John**, **Donald**, **Wayne** and **Marlin** and daughters **Jane**, **Judy**, **Rita** and **Kellie**.\*\*\*\*Our friend **Patty Harris**, of Bridge City Bank, gave birth to her "Little Billy Goat" on June 17. Arriving early, **Land-on Reed Harris** weighted in at five-pounds, one-ounce and was 18 inches high. \*\*\*\*Former Bridge City football star **Luke Wolford** will be taking a bride on July 17. His bride-to-be is pretty **Ashley Womack**, a 2003 LC-M grad. **Luke**, who has been playing football at Southern Arkansas, will be attending Lamar next semester. \*\*\*\*The **Museum of the Gulf Coast** celebrated its first 10 years. **Jo-El Sonnier** was inducted and also performed.

### 45 Years Ago-1979

**President Jimmy Carter** and **Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev** signed the **SALT II treaty** limiting the nuclear arsenal of the **United States** and the **Soviet Union**.\*\*\*\***Billie Sol Estes** in the news again for violating his parole agreement. In question are strings placed on him preventing him from entering private businesses. \*\*\*\***Junior Bruce** is a target of local daily newspaper. The stories are seen as a vendetta.\*\*\*\***Betty** and **Corky Harmon** host the monthly dinner club. After a cocktail and visit at their home, the gourmet group also visited a Beaumont restaurant.\*\*\*\*Orange baseball star **Andre Robertson** signs a contract with the **Toronto Blue Jays** and is assigned to Dunhedin of the Class A Florida State League. He was signed off the **Texas University** campus. (Editor's note: **Andre** went on to star with the **New York Yankees**.)\*\*\*\*Beaumont's **James "Bubba Busceme**, who hasn't fought professionally in three years, will fight **Robert Tijerino** of Dallas. The fight will be held in Beaumont. The 10-rounder will be taped by cable television. Also boxing on the card will be **Wilfor Sypien** of Port Arthur. **Busceme** 27, a 1972 Olympic quarter-finalist, had a 116-11 amateur record and 12-2 as a pro with 11 knockouts. He will weigh in at 135 pounds for the junior lightweight class.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Our friends of many years **Karen Fisher**, Tax Assessor/Collector, who worked for us many years ago, is retiring in July. She has only five months left in her term. Over the years she has been a great representative for the people. We will miss our friend. She will be replaced by **Octavia Guzman** who was elected in the primaries and with an early appointment by Commissioner's Court.\*\*\*\*Clear your calendars for June 29, a Saturday, for **Bridge City's inaugural Red, White and You** celebration with a fun family evening including the first lighted drone show. For anyone not familiar, drone shows have lighted, flying drones synchronized to put on colorful displays of patterns. It's similar to a fireworks show, but without the smoke and noise. Not only will there be a drone show, but the popular '80s **band Bag of Donuts** will be playing after the drone show. The big event will be at 105 Parkside off West Roundbunch Road. Gates will open at 5 p.m. **Food vendors and crafts booths** will be set up. It's a bring-you-own-chair event for the family.\*\*\*\*For many years our friend **Clint Landry** has been coaching **Babe Ruth** baseball in Nederland. His players come from different area schools, Orangefield and Bridge City are represented. I will have the players names at a later date. The team will be playing in the **World Series** playoff and championship in August in Missouri.\*\*\*\***King George Strait** set a record concert audience record on Saturday in College Station at Kyle Field. **The King** drew 110,905 to the audience that included a number from Orange County. A preliminary list includes mothers-in-law **Debbie Hughes** and **Pam Cheek**. They went with daughter and veterinarian **Dr. Kayla Hughes Cheek**. Also there were **Christi** and **Larry Moerbe**, **Kody Smith**, **Dana McMillan Strokos**, **Phyllis Case**, **Kim Bonnin Smith**, and **Kathy Mullins-Brown**. **Parrish Permenter Bird** went with companion **Tim Talbert** and her daughters, **Marlee Bird** and **Morgan Latio-lais**, plus son-in-law **Brian Latio-lais**...The next night, **Alanis Morissette** played at The Woodlands. **Margie Stephens** and daughter **Stephanie Duval** made the show and even traveled behind the famous singer's travel bus after the show.\*\*\*\***Skipper Yeaman** took a tumble off a ladder last week and had to get some stitches put in at the new Christus emergency room. Luckily, he was in good enough shape to accompany wife, **Gina**, to her conference with the **Texas Association of School Boards** in San Antonio. **Gina**, who is a trustee with **West Orange-Cove**, went along with other board members, including **Roderick Robertson**. He was accompanied by his wife, Orange County Clerk **Brandy Robertson** and they worked in a night boat ride along the **Riverwalk**.\*\*\*\***John** and **Marla Blanke** took an impromptu trip to the beach in Galveston to see how their rescue dog **Trooper** took to the sun and sea. Looks like the retired empty-nesters may be taking **Trooper** for some more beach time.\*\*\*\***Brandi Griggs**, who is always on the go, along with daughter, **Kiley**, took in their ocean creatures at **Sea World** in San Antonio. Congrats to **Kiley** for earning more honors at **Tiger Rock Martial Arts**.\*\*\*\*Orange City Councilor **Caroline Hennigan** and husband, **Mike**, welcomed new grandson **Jaxxon Estes**.\*\*\*\***Ellisia** and **Jay Carpenter** with daughter **Mckinlee** spent some time at **Ellisia's** old haunts at Plum Ridge. **Mckinlee** is on the Bridge City High fishing team and got to practice some skills.\*\*\*\***Ross** and **Eva Smith** helped introduce new granddaughter **Athena** to some good **Swamp Pop** by **Crossroads** band. Grandparents **Denisha** and **Matt LaFleur** were also there for the big event.\*\*\*\*West Orange City Councilor **Lanie Brown**, who works for U.S. Representative **Brian Babin**, went to Washington, D.C., and got to meet some bigwigs, including Speaker of the House **Mike Johnson**.\*\*\*\***Julie** and **Sam Patronella** also traveled to D.C. They took in lots of sights with the special trip to see grandson **Rustyn Ackerman** graduate from high school.\*\*\*\***Judge Derry Dunn**, on the LCM school board, last week attended a meeting in San Antonio about what school districts are dealing with in the state. It's mandated that uniformed police officers are on every campus but **Derry** said they give the districts just enough to pay for one officer. He thinks they might increase that. The new law is why Pinehu-

rst Police Chief **Chris Humble** left for the LCM job.\*\*\*\*Former commissioner **Owen Burton** grew plenty tomatoes but now he's pulled up all his plants before I got the first 'mater.' Also deer got in his pinto bean patch and ate up half of it. Not a good gardening year for **Owen**.\*\*\*\*I hear **Renee Dillion's dad** raised a good crop. I have feelers out to try to get some.\*\*\*\*A large **Farmer's Market** will be held July 13 at the **Bridge City Community Center**. Fresh crops of summer vegetables.\*\*\*\*Thursday June 20 is the first day of summer.\*\*\*\*Our friend sports writer **Dan Perrine** has retired. We will miss him. He did a great job covering high school sports. We need a sports writer. In the next few weeks we hope to find one.\*\*\*\*Speaking of sports, **Coach Cornell Thompson** has finished his book. It has gone to the publisher and should be on sale in September. I can't wait to get my copy. It covers a great time in high school sports and one of the state's most successful programs.\*\*\*\***Danny Brack**, who was in ICU in a Houston hospital, is now in a Groves rehab center. He is expected to be there about a month with hopes to continue to improve. I spoke with him for a few minutes last week. We go back many moons, through good and bad times. Best wishes to **Danny** and **Sherry** for better days ahead.\*\*\*\***Boston Celtics** defeated **Dallas** in game 5 to become basketball champs.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days: **June 19: Taylor Landry, Christie Kasko, Betty Norwood, Wyetta Carter, Shelby Permenter, Chelsie Moerbe, Cortnie Moerbe, Marianne Choate, Myrtle Howell**.\*\*\*\***June 20: Trish Williams, Cindy Overman, Keith Kay, Marie Norton, Justin Roberts, Debbie Johansson, Gregory Darbonne, Loretta Beck**.\*\*\*\***June 21: Dr. Clay Greeson, Dustin Hartsfield, Shelly Arceneaux, Jane Johnson, Tyler Bailey, Sarah Claybar, Sharon Wright, Wesley Darbonne, David Dubose, Melanie Broussard. Wade Phillips** will be 77 on this day.\*\*\*\***June 22: Don Finley, Paul Richardson, Gean Hammett, Caitlin Wells, Charlene Braus, Nora Anne Minor, Phyllis Nimitz**.\*\*\*\***June 23: Laurie Louvier, Ken Johnson, Roberta Overstreet, Sissy Braus, Betty Merchant, Jeania Craus, Kim Turbeville, Jaden Trahan**.\*\*\*\***June 24: Brian Holmes, Kathy Marsh, Blake Amy, Ronnie Broussard, Barbara Garza, Wesley Smith, Amanda Adams, Judy Gerrald**.\*\*\*\***June 25: Rowan Knox Greeson, Gary Stelly, Chris Humble, Elise Becker, Cher Becker, Erin McFarlane, Linda Taylor**.\*\*\*\*Also birthday greetings this past week to celebrants including **Carole Nance, Don Hartsfield, Bob Murphy, Brook Lemley, Louise Adele Barns, Rachael Parker, Jerod Barnes, Kaitlyn Guillory, Stephanie Robinson, Kim Boyd, Adam Caillavet, Eric Bonnin, and Desia Davis**. Two Orange city councilors, **Paul Burch** and **Caroline Hennigan**, had birthdays two days apart.\*\*\*\*Lots of June wedding anniversaries. **Ronnie** and **Margaret Peveto** celebrated No. 55.\*\*\*Orange native **Carrie Joiner Woliver**, who led the preservation of the historic train depot, marked 57 years married to her husband, **Ron**.\*\*\***Pat** and **Patty Cook** were at the baseball park for their 51st anniversary to watch a grandson play. It's something they love.\*\*\*Former Orange residents, and natives, **Alan** and **Myra Sanders** had their 47th anniversary.\*\*\*\***James** and **Lisa Kay Foyle** had their 11th year in of marriage.\*\*\*New Orange City Councilor and church minister **Matt Chandler** has now been married to **Brittany** for 15 years. And he has one heckuva honeymoon story to tell.\*\*\***Donna** and **David Rively** celebrate 49 years of marriage.\*\*\***Nolance** and **Irene Blanchard** celebrated 69 years of marriage on **June 16th**, congrats.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Alcid Thibodeaux**, wat is 76 years old, went to see **Dr. Remus Comeaux** for his annual check up. **Doc Comeaux** axe, "Mr. Thibodeaux, how you feeling you?"

"Doc, I've never felt better me, I got me an 18 years old bride wat is pregnant and having my child. Wat you tink bout dat Doc?" **Thibodeaux** axe.

**Doc Comeaux** him, he tink bout dat for a moment den said, "Mr. Thibodeaux, let me tell you a story. I knew dis guy name **Walter** who was an avid hunter him. **Walter** never missed a hunting season but one day he went out in a bit of a hurry and his mind wasn't as sharp as it once was and he accidentally grabbed his umbrella instead of his gun." **Doc Comeaux** continued, "So **Walter** him was in da woods and suddenly one of dem big, black bears appeared in front of him. **Walter** was so frightened and nurvoes him, dat he raised up his umbrella and pointed it at dat big, ugly bear and squeezed da handle. Do you know wat happen **Mr. Thibodeaux**?" **Doc** axe.

Dumfounded, old man **Thibodeaux** replied, "I don't know me."

**Doc Comeaux** continued, "Well, dat bear dropped dead, rat dere in front of him."

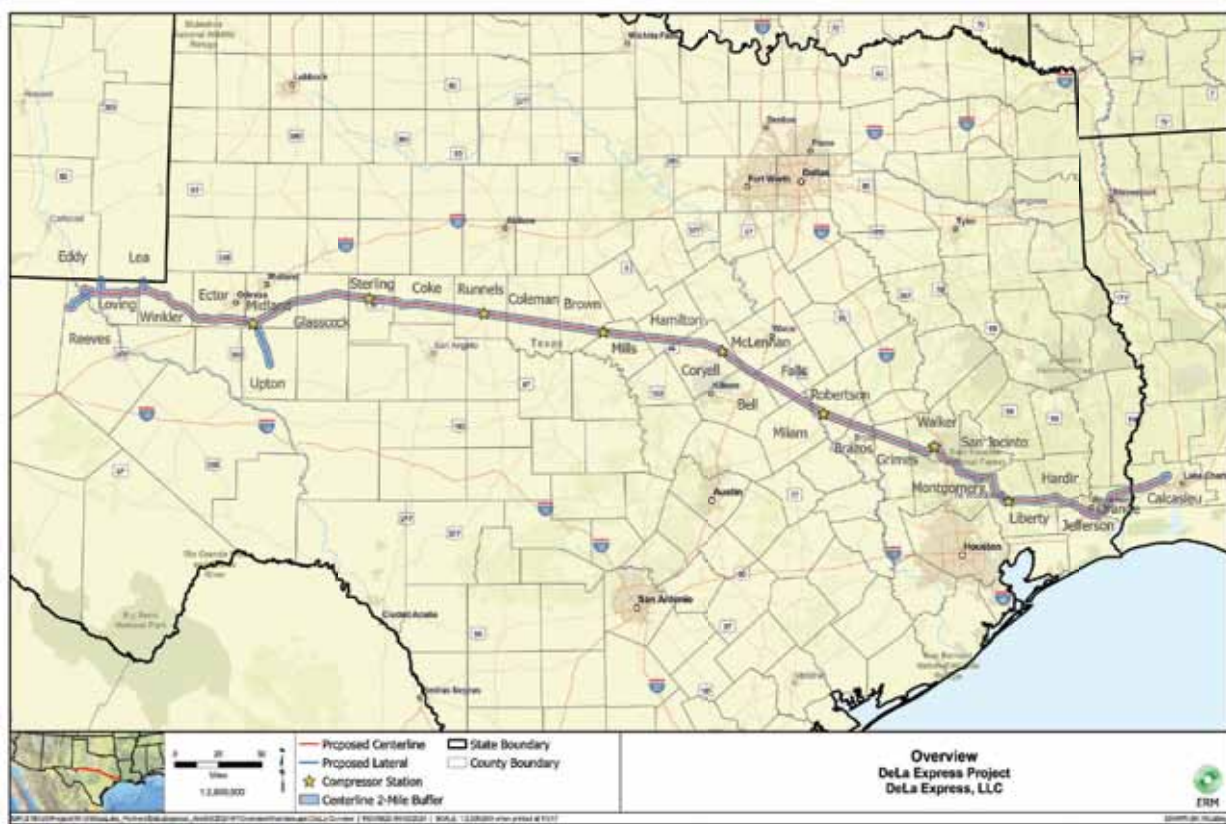
"Dats impossible, said **Thibodeaux**, somebody else must of shot that dere bear."

"Dat's kind of wat I'm getting at," replied da doctor. (Editor's note: I love this story.)

### C'EST TOUT TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR 'DREAMERS'

**President Biden** on Tuesday announced sweeping new protections for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have been living in the United States illegally for years but are married to American citizens. **President Biden**, introduced by **First Lady Dr. Jill Biden**, detailed the policy at the White House on Tuesday while marking the 12-year anniversary of the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA**, which protects people who came to the United States as children from deportation. Under the policy, undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens will be shielded from deportation, provided work permits and given a pathway to citizenship. Officials said the announcement could amount to the most sweeping unilateral move by a president to provide relief to unauthorized immigrants since **President Barack Obama** implemented **DACA**. **The President** also announced new ways to help people in **DACA**, known as **Dreamers**, gain access to work visas.\*\*\*\*Gotta go. Thanks for your time. Read us cover to cover, take care and God bless.

# Gas pipeline to cross OC From Page 1B



ryell, Robertson, Walker, Ector, and Liberty counties in Texas.

Also planned are six lateral pipelines totaling 65 miles with most of those lateral lines in West Texas. However, a pipeline of about 6.2-miles long and with a 42-inch-diameter delivery lateral is set for Calcasieu Parish.

The map posted on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) website shows the pipeline will cross from Jefferson County into Orange County south of the Vidor area. It will then take jagged turns before going northward across Orange County Precinct 2 and Precinct 1. It will cross the Sabine River near the Newton County line and then go through Calcasieu Parish before ending near the Moss Lake area.

Open houses for information and comments were posted on the FERC website and held earlier this month. The hearings included ones in Beaumont and Vinton. Other hearings were held in Cleveland, Gatesville, Moody, Hearn, and Huntsville.

The pipeline is in the preliminary stages and routes could be changed based on surveys and other information. It might also be affected by this year's presidential election as Republican candidate former-President Donald Trump has campaigned on making it easier for companies to produce and transport oil and natural gas.

"Liquid-rich" natural gas is also known as "wet gas" and is a product of the fracking method. Its uses include as a feedstock for the petrochemical industry to turn into plastics, and for blending into gasoline used for cars and trucks.

# Texas' the next Full Moon is the Strawberry Moon

## NASA News Release

The next full Moon will be Friday evening, June 21, 2024, appearing opposite the Sun (in Earth-based longitude) at 9:08 PM EDT. This will be Saturday from Greenland and Cape Verde time eastward across Eurasia, Africa, and Australia to the International Date Line in the mid-Pacific. Most commercial calendars will show this full Moon on Saturday, June 22, the date in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The Moon will appear full for about three days around this time, from Thursday evening through Sunday morning.

In the 1930s the Maine Farmer's Almanac began publishing "Indian" names for full Moons and these names are now widely known and used. According to this Almanac, as the full Moon in June this is the Strawberry Moon, a name that comes from the relatively short season for harvesting strawberries in the north-eastern United States. Other seasonal names that I have found in various sources (sometimes

with conflicting information about whether they are of European or Native American origin) are the Flower Moon, Hot Moon, Hoe Moon, and Planting Moon.

An old European name for this full Moon is the Mead or Honey Moon. Mead is a drink created by fermenting honey mixed with water and sometimes fruits, spices, grains, or hops. In some countries Mead is also called Honey Wine (though in others Honey Wine is made differently). Some writings suggest the time around the end of June was when honey was ready for harvesting, which made this the "sweetest" Moon. The word "honeymoon" traces back to at least the 1500s in Europe. The tradition of calling the first month of marriage the "honeymoon" may be tied to this full Moon because of the custom of marrying in June or because the "Honey Moon" is the "sweetest" Moon of the year. There doesn't appear to be enough evidence to support a 19th century theory that the word entered English from



the custom of gifting newlyweds mead for their first month of marriage. The bright object appearing

closest to overhead will be the star Arcturus at 69 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon. Arcturus is the brightest star in the constellation Boötes the herdsman or plowman. It is the 4th brightest star in our night sky and is 36.7 light years from us. While it has about the same mass as our Sun, it is about 2.6 billion years older and has used up its core hydrogen, becoming a red giant 25 times the size and 170 times the brightness of our Sun.

As this lunar cycle progresses the background of

stars will appear to shift westward each evening (as the Earth moves around the Sun). June 30 will be the first evening that the bright planet Mercury will be above the west-northwestern horizon as evening twilight ends and the first evening that the bright planet Venus will be above the horizon 30 minutes after sunset (an approximation of when Venus will start emerging from the glow of dusk. Mercury will shift to the left low along the horizon, reaching its highest above the horizon (just 2 degrees as twilight ends).

## Evening Sky Highlights:

On the evening of Friday, June 21, 2024 (the evening of the day of the full Moon), as twilight ends (at 9:49 PM EDT), the rising Moon will be 7 degrees above the southeastern horizon. The bright planets Venus and Mercury will be below the horizon, with Venus setting 21 minutes and Mercury setting 43 minutes after sunset. Mercury may be visible from about 30 min-

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### LEGAL NOTICE

The three properties, the first commonly known as 4310 Memorial Drive, Orange, TX 77630, the second commonly known as 200 Shiloh Ridge Road, Vidor, TX 77662, and the third one commonly known as 3047 Jackie Street, Orange, TX 77630 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 07/02/2024 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

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- WEDDINGS •
- ANNIVERSARIES •

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### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GERALD L. SEARS**, Deceased, were issued on **JUNE 17, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19997**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **LINDA S. SEARS**.

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 17th day of June, 2024.

*George E. Barron*  
George E. Barron

Attorney for Executrix  
State Bar No.: 01817500  
P.O. Box 279  
Orange, TX  
77631-0279  
Email: [george@barronlawoffice.net](mailto:george@barronlawoffice.net)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY DIANA BOWMAN, DECEASED.**

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration were issued in the Estate of **MARY DIANA BOWMAN, DECEASED** on June 17, 2024, in Cause No. P20024, in the County Court of Orange County, Texas, to: **Davey Joe Bowman**.

The address of such Administrator is c/o Douglas C. Sikes, Provost Umphrey Law Firm, LLP, P.O. Box 4905, Beaumont, Texas 77704.

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

Dated the 17th day of June, 2024.

**Davey Joe Bowman**, Independent Executor of the Estate of Mary Diana Bowman, Deceased

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SUMMER  
BLOCKBUSTERS

### ACROSS

1. Molten rock in earth's crust
6. Scarlett Johansson's 2013 voice only role
9. Jezebel's idol
13. Not silently
14. Pro vote
15. Italian bowling
16. Proclaimed as true without proof
17. Rob Manfred's org.
18. Savory taste sensation
19. \*Tom Cruise's 1986 blockbuster
21. \*It featured the song "What Was I Made For?"
23. Wrath, e.g.
24. Milton Bradley's "The Game of \_\_\_\_"
25. General Post Office
28. A woodwind
30. Group of trained professionals, pl.
35. Icy precipitation
37. Concert units
39. Charles Dickens' Heep

### DOWN

1. Bonkers
2. Sir Mix-\_\_\_\_
3. Kind of boots in the '60s
4. One M in MMR vaccine
5. Slowly and gracefully, in music
6. Mass number
7. Snake-like reef dweller
8. Teacher of Torah
9. \*\*Oppenheimer" subject
10. Popular smoothie berry
11. Pinnacle
12. Hula dancer's necklace
15. B in FBI
20. Open up
22. Half of NFL
24. a.k.a. Hansen's disease
25. \*1990 Swayze/Moore blockbuster
26. Trattoria staple
27. Petroleum tanker
29. \*It premiered in the U.K. on 6/6/76, with The
31. Chemical cure
32. Revered Hindu
33. Drawing support
34. \*2001 blockbuster ogre

### 36. Type of rich soil

38. "Keep this information" button
42. Name-chooser
45. Wyatt Earp and such
49. Cuban dance syllable
51. Letter-resembling supports
54. End of a poem
56. Primary
57. Like certain china
58. Malaria symptom
59. Ankara native
60. Gangster's pistols
61. Cosine's buddy
62. U2 member
63. Vigor's partner
65. It would
67. Comic book cry of horror

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### DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPCVD

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Kara Alyce Jones Griffin, Respondent,

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 Amy LaCap, Petitioner, was filed in the 128 th District Court of Orange, Texas on 16th day of May, 2024, against Kara Alyce Jones Griffin, numbered 240297-D and entitled In the Interest of Loreli Alyce Lacap, A Child. The suit requests Original Petition to Terminate Parent-Child Relationship and for Adoption of a Child. The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

Loreli Alyce Lacap 9/2/2021 Beaumont, Texas

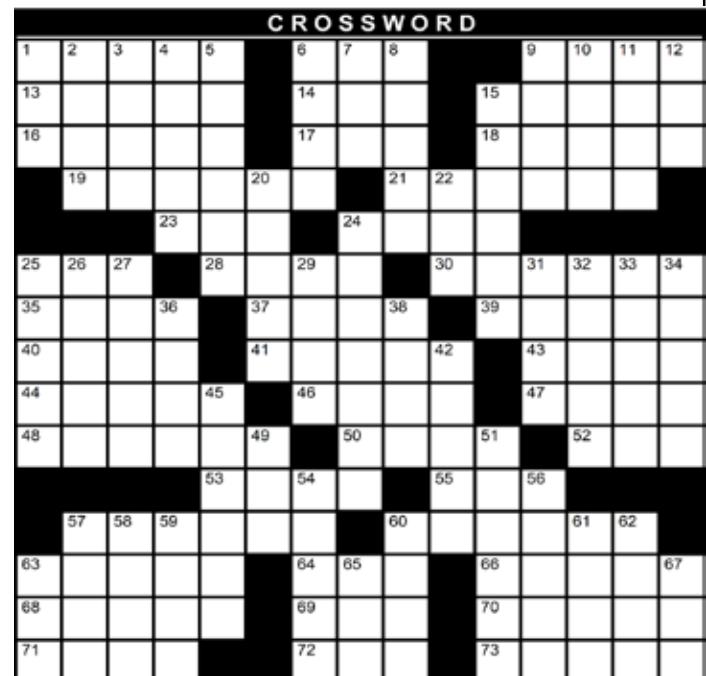
The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this May 30, 2024.

*Anne Reed*

Anne Reed, District Clerk  
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By: /s/ MEGAN MOSES, Deputy



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# Next best opinion: the perfect day fishing

## Predictable summer patterns are now in place

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

I would bet a sizable sum of money that if most saltwater anglers were to be asked to describe what a picture perfect fishing scenario looks like that I could easily describe it before they even started.

The classic thigh deep flat with clear green water dotted with potholes and very defined grass edges. Or perhaps an even shallower flat with a little less grass so visibility would be at a maximum in order to see cruising fish or even a few tailing reds. These are the images that are con-



Chuck Uzzle

tinually portrayed to us but just how many of us actually get to experience those scenarios on a regular basis? My guess is that it's far fewer than most think and in all reality only a small percentage of anglers actually ever get to experience them. In fact, instead of stepping into a "coastal version" of a Norman Rockwell painting most of the fishing community actually looks for the "next best option". I'll be the first to admit

that at times I am ridiculously jealous of my friends on the middle and lower coast. I'm just like the average guy who sees all the videos and pictures on social media depicting the perfect conditions that many anglers would kill to have. The one that gets me the most are when its blowing 20-25 mph in a video and it looks like barely a ripple because the water that's being fished is so shallow.

Take the same conditions on the upper coast and you need to have the Coast Guard on speed dial to be sure you can get back to the dock. I would love to have that type of environment to fish in but the upper coast is a different animal, not worse, just different.

On our home waters of Sabine and Calcasieu the conditions are far from



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

the classic scenario that was described earlier, in fact its almost 180 degrees different. Basically we have deeper and dirtier water with little to no grass and very little sand so even when the water is clear it looks muddy due to no contrast. The option to go wade fish grass flats with potholes turns into drifting scattered shell along muddy bottoms. Although the patterns differ so greatly from venues farther to the south we make it work despite the conditions.

Speaking of patterns, the heat has finally set in on us and the predictable summer patterns are now in full swing. One particular pattern that draws attention on upper coast venues, especially Sabine, is chasing flocks of gulls

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

# Embracing 'the local' at farmers markets

## What to know about nutrition and safety

**Susan Himes**  
**Texas A&M AgriLife**

Unless you are lucky enough to have a vegetable garden of your own, you'd be hard-pressed to find produce that tastes fresher or lasts longer than what your local farmers market has to offer, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

In addition to accessing delicious food, shopping at a local farmers market can also be a good way to support local agriculture and keep your dollars in the local economy.

"It's likely that the farmer is going to pick their produce at peak quality because they're going to sell it right away," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Nutrition. "So, by shopping at a farmers market you'll typically get the produce at peak quality when it's in season."

Anding said while most Texans come up severely short in the amount of vegetables they consume each day, the produce at a farmers market may taste better, so they may eat more of it. Going to the market is also a great way to get children more excited about eating vegetables by letting them pick out what they want and perhaps pique their interest in trying something new.

## More than just vegetables

In addition to the vegetables and fruits, the variety of products sold at many farmers markets has increased, which creates the need for consumers to be more careful and informed, the AgriLife Extension experts said.

"Farmers markets can be a good place to buy things like honey, jams and jellies, and eggs, but consumers need to keep safety and consumer common-sense in mind," said Rebecca Dittmar, AgriLife Extension program specialist for the food safety education program in Kerrville.

From what to look for to what to avoid, our AgriLife Extension experts shared what consumers should know before they grab their basket or shopping bags and head out to



Texas-grown watermelons are a favorite for summer eating. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

a farmers market.

## Think nutrition

"Generally speaking, the nutritional content of

fresh produce bought at a local farmers market is higher because it is usually harvested and then immediately sold," Anding



Honey is one of many local products you can often find at a farmers market. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M AgriLife)

said. "For example, one study found that three days after harvest, some produce has lost 30% of its vitamin C. That is also a

good reason not to buy more produce than your family will eat, especially if nutrient quality is a concern."

Anding said if you know you aren't going to eat all of what you bought immediately, eat what will not freeze well first. The sooner you freeze fresh produce, the more nutrients it can retain.

"The longer produce stays in storage and the longer it takes to get to the grocery store and then into a consumer's home, the more nutritional quality is lost," Anding said. "But at the end of the day, any vegetable is better than no vegetables. If you don't have access to a farmers market, then the frozen and canned vegetable options at a grocery store are usually cheaper

FARMERS Page 5B

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## OUTDOORS

# TPWC's new deer carcass disposal rules approved

## Staff Report - For The Record

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved statewide deer carcass disposal regulations during its May meeting in an effort to reduce the risk of transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) across the state. For most hunters, these new regulations do not change how they currently care for their deer after harvest.

"Proper disposal of all potentially infectious material is critical for reducing the risk of disease transmission," said Blaise Korzekwa, TPWD White-tailed Deer Program Leader. "These new regulations provide hunters more options when it comes to processing their deer to reduce that risk. If CWD is not managed and efforts are not made to mitigate potential spread of the disease, the implications for Texas and its multibillion-dollar ranching, hunting, wildlife management and real estate economies could be significant."

The new regulations, which will take effect during the upcoming hunting season, will allow hunters to debone a carcass at the site of harvest, provided proof of sex and tags are maintained until the hunter reaches the final destination. By leaving the unused parts at the site of harvest, the chance of spreading CWD to other parts of the state is greatly reduced. Meat from each deboned carcass must remain in whole muscle groups (i.e. not chopped, sliced or ground) and maintained in a separate bag, package or container until reaching the final destination.

These disposal measures apply only to unused carcass parts from native deer (i.e. white-tailed deer and mule deer) harvested in Texas that are being transported from the property of harvest. If carcass parts from native deer species are not being transported from the property of harvest, these carcass disposal rules would not apply.

Since many hunters take their harvest to a commercial processor, it will be the processor who then properly disposes unused parts for them. For hunters processing deer at home, disposal in a commercial trash service is preferred, but other options are available.

### Acceptable disposal options include:

- Directly or indirectly disposing of the remains at a landfill permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to receive such wastes,

- Burying the carcass at a depth of no less than three feet below the natural surface of the ground and covered with at least three feet of earthen material, or

- Returned to the property where the animal was harvested.

For more information visit the CWD page or contact a wildlife biologist.

## 'The Lakes' Fishing

### • Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.77 feet above pool.

The lake level is over full and flood gates are back open. They have five gates open at 1 foot each. It is flooding north of the lake now, so lots of water is still to come. Bass fishing has been fair, lots of fish being caught in the flooded bushes and hay grass from 1-4 feet with topwaters, frogs and spinnerbaits been best.

There are still lots of fish out in 10-18 feet, but with water back on rise, they have got harder to catch. Crankbaits and Texas rigs will catch these. We just need some sunshine for a week or so to get it back to normal. Crappie fishing has been hard. Most reports are 12-18 fish per boat. Deeper docks and brush piles are the best with jigs and live bait.

Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

### • Sam Rayburn

GOOD. Water stained; 85 degrees; 7.67 feet above pool. Due to the rise in lake level there is a lot of submerged vegetation scattering the fish. Those anglers that like to flip brush for bass this is your time to shine. Small bass are biting off points with Carolina rigs and jigs. Some crappie are shallow in flooded brush, and in stand ups in 12-15 feet of water.

White bass are good on points with jigging spoons. Catfish are in deeper creek channel points. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. After the recent rains the water is still on the rise, but we should start to see the lake level off because there is a break in the rainy weather. Bass are shallow in flooded bushes and trees in 4-10 feet of water.

Large population of fish off shore on primary and secondary points in 12-18 feet of water in relation to shoreline flooded bushes. Use Texas rigs, spinnerbaits, chatterbaits and topwater frogs shallow. The offshore bite is on deep diving crankbaits, Carolina rigs, and jigs.

Report by Captain Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

### • Sabine Lake

GOOD. 86 degrees. Limits of speckled trout at the jetties with good numbers of sheepshead, drum and redfish on live shrimp under a popping cork. During incoming tides work your way along the shell flats and rock piles in the Sabine Channel for nice catches of redfish and trout.

Another influx of freshwater in Sabine Lake has pushed redfish and trout into the marshes. Some catches on the points and drops in the bayou live shrimp under a popping cork. Very little bird action on Sabine Lake.

A North Levee between the first and second pike produces nice speckled trout, redfish and flounder. Watch the weather forecast for inclement weather.

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

### • Bolivar

GOOD. 82 degrees. Water levels are perfect with tides and low wind this week changing back to four tide days over the weekend. Still some fresh water on the bay side but it hasn't affected the bite. People are still catching plenty of redfish of varying sizes everywhere! Small croakers along with sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with plenty of stingrays and sharks. Pompano and Jack Crevalle are still running.

The surf is producing redfish and black drum, gafftop, lots of stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula. The sargassum, seaweed, is thick in spots and it is less if you move 100-200 yards. People are using a variety of bait this past week with awesome results.

Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

### • Trinity Bay

SLOW. 85 degrees. Trinity Bay is still recovering from the influx of freshwater and is dirty and off-colored. The ship channel and spoil islands are holding some black drum, sheepshead, a few redfish and trout. The best bite is on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Water is muddy and still really fresh due to the influx of freshwater. Few people are catching fish but really having to work hard for them. We should see a change coming in the next couple weeks as the discharge rates for San Jacinto and Trinity River have declined tremendously.

Reports of good trout and redfish being caught by redfish island and by the ship channel free lining shrimp. Report of a few reds being caught in Anahuac mid to lower East shoreline. Trinity Bay is at 1.8-2.2 PSU on salinity levels. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

### • East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 86 degrees. The bay is off-colored water, but anglers throwing dark colored soft plastics are catching speckled trout over the reefs and on the shorelines. Report by Cap-



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

tain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. East Bay and Intra-coastal waterway are holding plenty of small speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, and redfish caught on live shrimp, croakers, and top-water lures. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

Surface water temperature 83 degrees in East Galveston Bay. As in previous weeks, the water clarity is still stirred up more than usual with all the freshwater entering the bay system from the heavy rains up above us. We are still finding good numbers of trout on the protected shorelines over shell pockets, and are having to weed thru a large number of small fish to find the solid females, as well as redfish along the grass lines and over shell with the higher tides, and a few nice flounder busting bait up around grass lines with good current flow.

If you see nervous bait flipping on the surface the fish are close by, if not, you are best to move on to another spot, after making a few casts. The lighter the jig head the better 1/16 to 1/8 ounce, determined by the wind and current, and tails with paddles, are still

### • Galveston Bay

SLOW. 85 degrees. Salinity levels are on the rise and anglers are finding a few speckled trout along the west shoreline. Better numbers of black drum and sheepshead being caught on live shrimp. Re-

port by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

### • West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 87 degrees. Speckled trout bite has slowed, but anglers are still reporting steady catches. A few black drum and reds are being caught, along with some jackfish. Live bait supplies have been limited, with live croaker being the hardest to find. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

### • Freeport

GOOD. 85 degrees. Trout, redfish and flounder are good around the San Luis Pass. Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay and the west end of Galveston Bay has been producing trout, gafftop and redfish fishing under the birds using shrimps under a popping cork or gulp shrimp. Wade fishing has been good in the guts at the pass with croaker and shrimp for catches of trout, redfish and a few flounder mixed in. The Freeport Harbor has been steady for sheepshead, drum, redfish and mangrove snapper free lining shrimp with a split shot. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

### • Texas City

FAIR. 84 degrees. Good numbers of speckled trout being caught in lower Galveston Bay. North jetty producing limits of trout, a few redfish, sheepshead, and black drum on live shrimp. Red snapper catches have been good 50 plus miles offshore. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Anglers continue to catch plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder everyday with some occasional black drum, sheepshead, sand trout, and gafftop. Limits can be caught near Mosquito Island and the Moses Lake Tidal Gate. Along the dike has been successful near shrimp boats, docks and piers. Live shrimp and finger mullet have been the best baits.

Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty

SALTWATER Page 4B

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# Protect pets during the dog days of summer

## Experts share considerations for summer heat safety

**Sarah Fuller**  
Texas A&M AgriLife

With the sweltering dog days of summer fast approaching, Texas A&M AgriLife experts encourage Texans to incorporate precautions to protect pets from heat stress.

“Much of the advice we give pet owners is common sense, but there are definitely special considerations depending on the animal’s age and breed, as well as the activity you are engaged in,” said Catherine Campbell, DVM, veterinary diagnostician with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, Bryan-College Station.

### Water, shade and ventilation are key

Proper hydration is vital for animal health, but it is just one component of ensuring proper thermoregulation.

“Access to cool, clean water is critical, but it is also imperative that they are given shade with adequate airflow,” Campbell said. “This can be provided by trees or a structure like a patio, but I don’t recommend a confined doghouse as that environment can become stagnant.”

The same principles also apply to livestock animals that may be confined to a structure, such as backyard chickens.

“I’ve actually assembled

a water misting system in my chicken run that comes on during the hottest parts of the day,” Campbell said. “It significantly drops the temperature, and the chickens love it.”

Another backyard-friendly option is to use the shallow, hard plastic children’s pools sold at retail stores. Campbell said these are a great option for dogs as long as they can safely exit the water. Frozen plastic jugs of water that an animal can lie against also provide relief.

### Limit pet activity based on temperature

While exercise is important for pet health, Campbell recommends avoiding strenuous activities during the heat of the day.

“Limit walking pets to the early morning or late evening hours,” Campbell said.

In urban areas that contain more pavement, ambient temperature isn’t the only concern.

“Pavement and blacktop can easily be 30 or more degrees hotter than the surrounding air temperature,” she said. “Paws exposed to hot concrete or asphalt can easily burn.”

One way to test pavement for heat safety is to place the back of your hand on the surface for



Experts with Texas A&M AgriLife encourage Texans to incorporate safety measures to protect pets from heat stress. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M AgriLife)

7-10 seconds. If the pavement temperature is uncomfortable or too hot for your skin, it is too hot for your pet.

Although owners can purchase protective shoe-like covers to protect paws, Campbell recommends leaving pets at home if attending events where this exposure is possible, such as summer festivals.

### Needs vary based on age, breed

Even in the safety of a backyard, some pets require extra consideration.

“Heat index and humidity are a special concern, especially with older pets, those with heart conditions or brachycephalic breeds,” Campbell said.

Brachycephalic animals are characterized by wide heads and shortened or snub-nosed snouts. This includes popular dog

breeds such as French bulldogs, English bulldogs and Boston terriers, as well as cat breeds like Persian and Himalayan.

“These animals are not able to tolerate heat very well,” Campbell said. “They have a very shortened airway, small tracheas, and they cannot adequately transfer air to drop their body temperature.”

Humid conditions can exacerbate this difficulty breathing.

“They are very susceptible to heat stress and heat stroke, even with temperatures in the upper 80s,” she said. “You’re better off leaving them inside of your house when possible.”

Campbell said while heavy breathing is a normal response among dogs and cats attempting to cool off, excessive and prolonged panting is a certain sign of stress.

“A very rapid respiratory rate, rapid heart rate, staggering or drooling are definite signs that your pet is very distressed and requires attention,” Campbell said. “Immediately take them indoors or in the shade, provide water and try to keep them calm and still.”

If the animal’s condition does not improve or deteriorates, seek medical attention from a veterinarian.

### Cyanobacteria awareness

Although natural waterbodies provide respite from heat for both animals and humans, fatal cases of cyanobacteria exposure among dogs have caused many pet owners to think twice before allowing their pets to take the plunge.

Brittany Chesser, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Service aquatic vegetation management program specialist and lead diagnostic scientist at AgriLife Extension’s Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory, said while the presence of bright green or blue mats is an indication of cyanobacteria presence, it should not be the only characteristic pet or livestock owners look for when assessing a waterbody.

“Cyanobacteria can appear in many shades, including purple or red,” she said. “Depending on species, they may exhibit as different colors, an oily sheen on the water, or have no color at all.”

Aside from color, the presence of dead or dying aquatic organisms such as fish, frogs or turtles should raise concern.

“You may see fish die off in a localized area of more shallow, stagnant waters,” Chesser said. “That could be an indicator that a bloom may be present.”

Chesser and Campbell said while they don’t want to impart unnecessary fear regarding the possible presence of cyanobacteria, sickness and mortality can occur in pets and livestock, so it is best to be aware of potential indicators or news reports of blooms in your area.

“It’s important to remain mindful of your pets as well as potential environmental dangers wherever you go this summer,” Campbell said.

“Pay attention to the signs your pet is giving you, use common sense and seek medical assistance for your animal when needed.”

## Farmers Market

From Page 1

and can have more nutrition than a grocery store’s fresh options.”

### Think local

Make sure what you’re buying is actually local if you aim to support agriculture in your area. Don’t hesitate to ask the seller where it was grown and what farm it came from. Even if they are not the producer, they should be able to give you that information.

Nobody wants to buy produce that was just repackaged from a big box store to look local. Produce can cost more at a farmers market too, so make sure what you buy is as advertised.

Do keep in mind, though, that not all regions in Texas grow the same produce and some types may need to be brought over from a different region.

“For example, it costs money to truck produce to San Angelo that’s been grown in Poteet,” Anding said. “There is an added cost to get those strawberries up to the Concho Valley, and the consumer needs to take that into account that producers have to price accordingly.”

And while some things may cost more at a farmers market, some things may cost less. It is a good idea to check prices at your usual grocery store, so you have a reference point. Organic fruits and vegetables may be cheaper than what you’d find in the market, so don’t be afraid to question if something is organic or not. If so, you need to ask how the growers define that term.



There are about 400 acres of planted strawberries in Texas. (Sam Craft/Texas A&M AgriLife)

### Think seasonal

A farmers market isn’t typically going to have as wide of a selection of produce as your local grocery store. But farmers markets will have in-season produce that hasn’t been shipped from out of state or even from another country. The freshest fruit and vegetables are the ones most recently picked, so embrace what is growing in Texas each season.

“You’re probably not going to see a whole lot of cut leafy greens right now because it’s more of a winter vegetable,” Anding said. “But warm season produce like tomatoes, cucumbers and squash, and fruits like blackberries should be bountiful.”

Your local farmers market might also be a great place to explore a veggie or fruit you haven’t tried before. Sellers are almost always happy to offer advice on how to cook or prepare that unknown, alien-looking squash.

### Think food safety

Produce is protected by its skin. Look for a fruit or

half of a watermelon. Just as you’d clean produce bought from a grocery store, take the same care with what you buy at the farmers market.

If buying eggs, Dittmar said they must always be kept below 45 degrees. It’s OK if a seller has a carton on display just for looks, but make sure what you are buying is taken from a refrigerated unit. Also check to ensure the eggs are clean and there are no breaks or cracks in the shells. If you discover one after purchase, make sure you discard it. Egg sellers must have a temporary food establishment license and eggs must be properly labeled as “ungraded” with safe handling instructions.

To be an informed con-

sumer, know the rules established by the Texas Department of Agriculture that sellers must follow. For example, raw milk and any products made from raw milk cannot be sold at a farmers market. For homemade products like honey and jam, the cottage food industry rules apply.

“I think consumers educating themselves before they go shopping is critical,” Dittmar said. “Having a basic understanding of the rules and knowing what questions to ask is

important to keep your family safe.”

She said it is also fine to ask about how the produce provider controls weeds and pests and the type of water used to irrigate crops.

“Farmers markets are a great opportunity to get to know producers in your area,” Dittmar said. “Local growers take great pride in their products and care about their reputation, but it’s always good to use common sense, and it’s never wrong to ask a question.”

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# Time is everything when storing tomatoes

## Tips to keep tomatoes, from 'breakers' to ripened red

Susan Himes  
Texas A&M AgriLife

One of the simple joys of summer is access to great-tasting tomatoes.

Whether grown and picked at "color break" from a home garden or bought fully ripened at a local farmers market or grocery store, tomatoes are a treat.

Green tomatoes on a vine growing against the red of a fence

There are some tips and tricks to help you get the most from your tomato harvest or purchase, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Joe Masabni, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension small-acreage horticulturist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas and professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, shared his expert advice on storing and extending the life of tomatoes without compromising taste.

### Timing is everything

Nothing will taste as great as a tomato at its peak, so timing is a major factor to consider when ripening tomatoes.

They can ripen in days or weeks, depending on the variety and stage at which they were picked, so buy or



Any tomato that has reached the breaker stage is considered vine ripened and can be picked. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M AgriLife)

pick accordingly.

If all your tomato plants are full simultaneously and there is no possible way to eat them as fast as they need to be picked, there are ways to space out the ripening process to allow for extended use.

Any tomato reaching the "breaker stage" will continue to ripen off the vine, Masabni said. This is the

stage where the bottom of the tomato has started to change from green to yellow.

Five tomatoes in a row shown in different stages of ripening from left to right starting with green and ending with bright red

The best place to let tomatoes ripen is on your kitchen counter. Ideally, ripe or ripening tomatoes

prefer temperatures around the mid-60s, but Masabni said room temperature in most homes is fine.

However, breaker-stage tomatoes can be stored in a refrigerator to halt the ripening process. This allows you to pull them from the fridge and let them ripen as needed.

Once the tomatoes are at room temperature again, they will usually continue the ripening process over several days.

If you've picked an entirely green tomato, it will not ever ripen. It's best to use these for a favorite recipe, like a relish or fried green tomatoes.

### Vine ripening, or not

Tomatoes in various shades of green and red ripening on the vine.

Once a tomato is at the breaker stage, it can be classified as vine ripened. Even though it doesn't look ripe yet, it has all the sugars and essential compounds necessary for it to reach its mature color and full flavor.

"Once it's physiologically ripe, it is considered vine ripened and can be picked and marketed as such," Masabni said.

For gardeners, while it may seem like a good idea to keep the tomato on the vine until you are ready to

eat it, the longer it is on the vine, the more likely it is to be eaten by birds or bugs.

If you can protect your tomato plants from pests that is best, but don't have any qualms about picking your tomatoes and allowing them to finish ripening off the vine, because they will still have that same wonderful flavor.

### Best way to store tomatoes

Make sure you store the tomatoes with a little space between them on the counter or in a container to allow air circulation, Masabni said.

"Tomatoes should be stored how you see them at the market – out in the open," he said. "Consumers often do it wrong – they treat onions like tomatoes and tomatoes like onions when it comes to storage. Keep your onions in the refrigerator, not the counter or the pantry."

Do not keep tomatoes in a closed bag unless you want to hasten the ripening process. Ethylene gas produced by tomatoes ripens them quicker when held in the bag.

Tomatoes will also ripen more quickly if left in warmer temperatures, like on a porch or in an outbuilding. This can happen quickly, so you'll want to

check on them daily in temperatures above 80 degrees.

### Refrigeration can alter taste

As a rule of thumb, Masabni suggested not refrigerating ripe tomatoes whenever possible.

"Do not refrigerate ripe tomatoes unless you just can't eat them," Masabni said. "Refrigerators can affect the taste and texture of a ripe tomato, so let them ripen on a counter and then eat or cook with them."

But for gardeners who have more than they can eat or share with friends and family, refrigeration is a way to extend the shelf life.

### Let no tomato go to waste

If you have more tomatoes than you can eat, consider using them in salsa and other recipes. If they are just a little past their prime, they can also be turned into sauces.

Romas can be used to make tomato paste, but detecting if a Roma is still good is tough since they stay firm even after they go bad inside. Whole tomatoes may also be frozen to use in stews or cooked dishes.

"The only time a tomato is garbage is if it's starting to be mushy," he said.

## Saltwater fishing report From Page 2B

Bait Camp.

### • East and West Matagorda Bay

SLOW. 84 degrees. Fishing has vastly improved with the weather. Reefs are producing trout, with drum mixed in with live shrimp

under a popping cork. Most of the redfish are in the back lakes. Water is off colored along the shorelines. Red snapper season is open with good catches reported offshore. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

### • Port O'Conner

GOOD. 84 degrees. Trout are biting early in the morning at Bird Island on live croaker. Slot redfish are biting Spanish sardines and live shrimp near Alcatraz Island. Bull redfish and jack crevalle are in the back of

the jetties between and Bird Island on live croaker or Spanish sardines. Drum outside of the north and south jetty within the first 100 feet on live or dead shrimp. Report by Captain Marty Medford, Captain Marty's Fish of a Lifetime Guide Service.

### • Rockport


GOOD. 84 degrees. Fishing patterns are consistent

with reports of a few sharks also being caught in the bay system. Trout are great on croaker along grass in 3-4 feet of water and on popping cork and shrimp in flats. Redfish have been fair on shrimp and cut menhaden or mullet in flats and along channel edges. Black drum are great on live or dead shrimp and fish bites along channel edges drains and in sand pockets. Report

by Captain Kenny Kramer, Kramer Fishing Charters.

### • Port Aransas


GOOD. 84 degrees. Water clarity has been good. Spanish mackerel and kings should be here anytime. Redfish are good on shrimp, blue crab and cut bait. Trout are good with croaker or shrimp free lined along rocks.




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# Capt. Chuck Uzzle From Page 1B

and terns that feed over schooling speckled trout and redfish. For some reason the schooling activity seems to be more consistent for keeper sized fish on upper coast bays compared to those farther south. In fact, many guides in places like Matagorda won't even stop and fish under the birds because the catch to keeper ratio is decidedly not in their favor. A flock of working gulls on Sabine or Calcasieu could mean a school full of fish pushing 20 inches or better so we never pass up that opportunity. I have even seen speckled trout over 8 pounds caught under the birds so as you can imagine if I have any say in the matter we will always make a stop and investigate.

Fishing under the birds is not fool proof and it does have its drawbacks so be prepared. If you have a crowd in your boat be sure to position yourself where everyone is casting out of the same side in order to minimize risk. Also using single hooked lures, such as soft plastics on a jighead, with the barb pinched down is preferred. The single hook is much easier to deal with in both a crowd or



Live bait produced this nice redfish during a recent Sabine Lake fishing trip with Capt. Chuck Uzzle.

during a frenzy when the fish are active. Nothing is more annoying than digging hooks out of a landing net or each other when you could be catching fish instead.

Another unwanted hazard that usually comes with chasing fish under the birds

is inevitably catching a catfish, usually a gafftop or sometimes a hardhead. Take great caution when landing and unhooking these fish as they will flat ruin your day if you get stuck with one of their fins. Be sure to clean any wound thoroughly and apply prop-

er first aid, especially with the threat of both infection and potentially the vibrio virus.

If for some reason the birds are uncooperative another pattern that draws plenty of attention during the summer is fishing structure. On top of the list of pieces of structure has to be the jetties, hands down. The jetty systems are fish magnets and can provide some outstanding fishing when conditions are right. Tide changes are without a doubt the key to probing the jetty as they are usually the first places in the lake or bay to feel the influence of the moving water. A good

tide change right before first light is one of my favorite times to be on the rocks with a big topwater or swimbait. Casting parallel to the rocks tends to produce better but a perpendicular presentation will also work well, especially when throwing jigs and allowing them to bump the rocks all the way down.

Perhaps one of the most overlooked pieces of structure on either Sabine or Calcasieu are the shell pads that surround many of the well heads in each bay. Many anglers never even attempt to look for these hidden gems much less fish them. I was introduced to

this pattern years ago by good friend Jim Leavelle one day while we fished Trinity Bay and I am a believer in the technique.

Just because you may not have the picture perfect set up doesn't mean you can't pattern and find fish on your own water. There are plenty of options out there as long as you are willing to think outside the box and put in the time to get it figured out. Once you run across one of these new unexplored areas and begin to have some success it will motivate you to find more areas which in turn will your time on the water that much more successful.

## Gift of Life screenings set for Orange this summer

Margaret Toal  
For The Record

Men in Orange County will get a chance for free medical screenings on Saturday, July 13, with the Julie Rogers Gift of Life program. Plus, women have a chance for free mammograms during special days of the summer.

Norma Sampson, executive director of the Southeast Texas charity, went before Orange County Commissioners Court Tuesday to talk about the group's medical programs because June is National Men's Health Month.

The Gift of Life program provides free screenings, referrals, and help with cancer screenings for people with no health insurance or assistance that provides the screenings.

Sampson the men may also use the screening program if they have insurance, but it does not cover the costs of the screenings.

The July 13 screenings for men will start at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the former hospital on Strickland Drive. She said the tests are non-invasive, with the prostate screening test being able to show whether the man needs more intense testing.

The tests will also include a cholesterol panel, plus checks for infectious disease, blood pressure, and blood glucose. A physician will be on site for consultations, if needed.

Appointments may be made through the website [giftoflifebmt.org](http://giftoflifebmt.org), or by calling 409-833-3663. Walk-ins will also be welcomed.

Sampson said that not

only will the men get free screenings, but they will also get a free lunch along with a \$25 HEB gift card.

The Gift of Life also offers free mammograms for people who live in Southeast Texas, have limited income, and do not have private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare.

The mammograms are usually for those age 40 or older, but exceptions may be made.

The mammograms will be offered on Wednesdays June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 11. The hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will be at 610 Strickland Drive, Suite 184, in Orange. More information is available through 409-833-3663, or the website [giftoflifebmt.org](http://giftoflifebmt.org).

## July 4th Concert and Fireworks Celebration

Celebrate Independence Day with the Explore Orange Convention and Visitors Bureau at the 2024 July 4th Concert & Fireworks Celebration.

Join us on Thursday, July 4th at the Riverside Pavilion, located at 708 Simmons Drive, for an evening of freedom, fun, and fireworks! With live music entertainment, food vendors, kid activities, and a spectacular fireworks display, this event is sure to be a blast.

Schedule of Events: • 4:00 pm: Gates open • 7:00 – 9:00 pm: Live music by The Royal Dukes Band • 9:00 pm: Fireworks.



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# Resisting Grumbling Obedience

**Joe Rigney**  
Teacher  
desiringGod.org

If you were giving an exhortation to an obedient people, what temptations would you urge them to guard against? Most of us would likely highlight the danger of pride and self-righteousness. And we'd be right to do so.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul is addressing an obedient people. Unlike the Galatians or Corinthians, Paul does not write to them in order to rebuke and correct substantial failures and errors. Outside exhorting a few quarreling women, there isn't a hint of "You foolish Galatians!" (Galatians 3:1) or "Are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?" (1 Corinthians 3:3). Instead, to the Philippians, Paul says, "As you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence" (Philippians 2:12). The Philippians are an obedient people.

So how does Paul exhort them? What does he see as a key danger for this obedient people?

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (Philippians 2:14-16)



## Grumbling and Disputing

A major temptation for the obedient is to murmur and grumble in our obedience. That's why Paul says to do everything without grumbling or disputing, without murmuring or complaining, without sulking or arguing, without whining or backtalk. A temptation for an obedient people is to offer frustrated, grumbling obedience.

In other words, Paul is clear that how we obey matters. The spirit beneath our actions matters. God's standard and expectation for us isn't merely to obey.

This means that partial obedience is disobedience. Delayed obedience is disobedience. And grumbling obedience, irritated obedience, frustrated obedience is disobedience.

## Confronting Reluctance

We each have various sources of hardship and frustration in our lives. It might be a boss or a co-worker. It might be a tone of voice or an annoying habit from your spouse or child or parent or sibling or friend. It might be a deep unmet desire, like the desire to be

married.

Whatever the frustration, how often do you find yourself attempting to obey God while muttering and murmuring about the hardship? How often is there a hitch in your obedience, or an edge to your obedience, or self-pity in your obedience?

Now some of us grumble directly about God. "Why is he doing this to me?" Or we grumble about our circumstances, conveniently "forgetting" the truth that nothing comes into our lives except by his hand. Others of us grumble about people. We disguise our complaints against God by focusing them on the people around us.

This is precisely where we must press. It is important to distinguish faithful groaning from ungodly grumbling, lamenting from sulking. Groaning and lamenting can be good and right. They can be faithful responses to real pain. So what distinguishes them from grumbling and sinful complaining? Often, it's honesty. Do we take the pain to God directly, or does it come out sideways, as complaints about God's wisdom

disguised as observations about other people?

## Murmuring in Marriage

We can press this truth into our marriages. Simply put, grumbling obedience is a marriage killer. Mumbling exposes that you're in the comparison trap and that you're keeping score. Which of us has the tougher job? Who has sacrificed more? Grumbling and complaining is an outworking of self-pity, that subtle and sneaky form of selfishness.

And we sometimes wield such self-pity as a tool of manipulation. We wield our sacrifices as a weapon to get our way. We try to steer others by our complaining. We recognize this when we're the target of the manipulation. We know that someone is seeking to steer us by throwing a pity party. And we should ask ourselves hard questions about it. Has such manipulation ever brought us deeper into joyful fellowship with the grumbler? Did it ever call forth the gratitude and joy that it supposedly sought? Of course not.

But seeing such manipulative grumbling in our

spouse is the easy part. The hard part is recognizing it in ourselves, removing the log from our own eye, and treating others the way that we want to be treated.

So ask yourself, "How am I doing with my marital obedience? How am I doing with those marital vows? Having and holding, in sickness and in health?" Husbands, how is your leading and loving? Wives, how is your honoring and obeying? What's the spirit beneath your obedience? Grumbling and disputing? Or glad-hearted and grateful?

Is there a hitch in your efforts to love and give yourself to your spouse? Are you keeping score? Or are you keeping short accounts? Will the record of wrongs from last week follow you and your spouse into next week?

## Frustrated in Families

We can widen and press this into family and parenting. If you're a father, try this scenario. You're in one room working on something. Could be your job, could be the honey-do list. From the other room, you hear the quarreling break out. Or you hear your kids talk back to your wife. And you listen for a minute to see if it will resolve itself. And it doesn't.

And so now you must interrupt your work to go deal with it. You're the head of the home, and it's your responsibility to reprove, correct, and discipline. You've resolved to obey God. But will your obedience shine? Are you going to walk into a big mess of sin and bring more sin? Because grumbling obedience, frustrated obedience, exasperated obedience is disobedience.

As parents, we're called to

bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, in the teaching and admonition of Christ. Do we pursue that task with joyfulness and gladness of heart? Do we do it heartily, as unto our Lord? Or are we regularly asking irritably, "How many times do I have to remind you to pick up your room or take out the trash?"

## Gladness in All Things

We could go on. Do we show hospitality without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9)? Most of us have enough social tact to avoid grumbling at guests, but do you harbor resentment and bitterness toward your husband (or wife) or your kids because of all of your labor? Do you have an edge about you? Do you find yourself thinking, Nobody appreciates all that I do. Nobody appreciates how many details I manage, how much time I spend trying to make everything special?

Of course, this isn't to excuse ingratitude and selfishness in others. But we may not use the failures of others to justify our own disobedience. A difference exists between addressing sin and grumbling about unaddressed sin.

In the end, we remember a simple truth: God loves a cheerful giver, not a grumbler. He loves cheerful obedience, not murmuring and complaining obedience. Such obedience, especially when things are hard, signals God's grace to us, a sign that he is at work within us to produce an obedience that shines, an obedience that makes apostles proud and God happy. So as you obey, do so all the way, right away, with a happy heart.

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