

Penny Record

Vol. 65 No. 05

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

Week of Wednesday, June 26, 2024

County wants public aware of elder abuse

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Last year in Orange County, the Texas Department of Family Protective Services investigated 377 cases of abuse of the elderly or disabled, and filed against 260 cases.

Orange County Commissioners learned those statistics Tuesday as they signed a proclamation making June Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Abuse of the elderly and disabled can fall under a variety of categories, according to the state. Violations are a third degree felony punishable by two to ten years in state prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The Department of Family Protective Services reports different categories of abuse, including physical abuse that may cause scratches, cuts, bruises, broken bones, or bedsores. "It can also result in confinement, rape or sexual misconduct, and verbal of psychological abuse."

Forms of negligence like starvation, dehydration, over or under medication, unsanitary living conditions, or lack of personal hygiene are also considered abuse.

"Neglected adults may also not have heat, running water, electricity, medical care," according to the department.

The "exploitation" category includes taking or misusing money from Social Security, a joint checking account, or other loses of property or money.



Emergency Management Coordinator Joel Ardoin

The hotline for reporting abuse of the elderly or disabled is 800-252-5400. The local office for the Department of Family Protective Services at 2200 Gloria Drive in Orange off Interstate 10 East.

Other business Tuesday for the court was mostly routine, including some budget transfers as departments move money around to meet the needs of the current fiscal year, which will end September 30.

Commissioners will begin working on the 2023-24 budget this Thursday, June 27, with the first budget workshop set for 9 a.m. to noon in the Commissioners Courtroom, 123 Sixth Street. The county maintenance department is set for 9 a.m. and then the sheriff's office. The budget workshops are open to the public.

During Tuesday's meeting, the court approved moving \$120,000 from the road materials category in the Road and Bridge Department to equipment

County Page 3A



BC student Alex Amos wins Special Olympics medals

Bridge City Student Alex Amos won medals in the Texas State Summer Games for Special Olympics and was welcomed back home by cheerleaders from Bridge City Middle School. Alex won a silver medal in men's singles bowling in the East Texas regional competition, plus a gold medal in men's one-K modified cycling, and a silver medal in the men's 500M modified cycling.

BC hosts 'Red, White and You'

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Saturday night the sky in Bridge City will be filled with a light show never seen before in Southeast Texas as 200 drones in a colorful choreographed flight will help celebrate Independence Day.

The drone show is one of the highlights of the Red, White and You festival sponsored by the city of Bridge City and local businesses. The event will also spotlight local musicians and end with a concert by the popular New Orleans band Bag of Donuts.

The festival will begin Friday evening with the main show on Saturday evening at the city park and community center off West Roundbunch Road. Gates will open both days at 5 p.m.

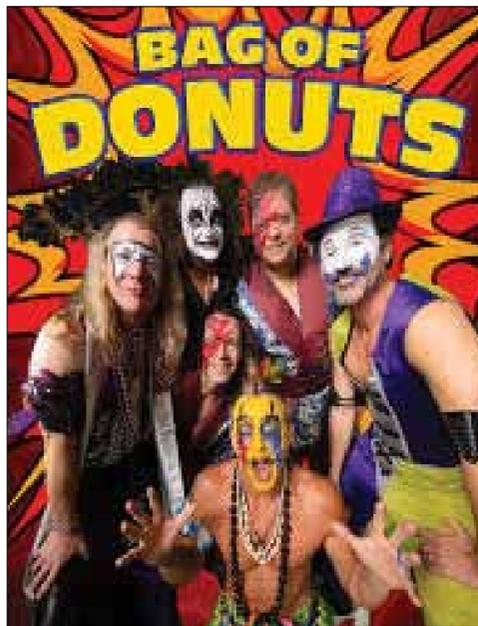
Lenzi Belcher is a mem-

ber of the city's "Quality of Life" committee formed to create events to bring families together. The committee with Mayor David Rutledge worked to organize the festivities.

"We came together and made it happen," Belcher said about Red, White and You.

The festival will help celebrate the USA Independence Day a few days later. Belcher said the 13-minute drone show does not have the loud bangs and booms, or smoke, like a fireworks display. It is friendly for people suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, particularly war veterans.

Belcher said the drones will fly over the audience in the park area and the show will have music coordinated to the drone patterns. The drone displays will include some



The event will also spotlight local musicians and end with a concert by the popular New Orleans band Bag of Donuts.

that look like traditional fireworks patterns along with patriotic themes like

the American flag, the Statue of Liberty, and the RED, WHITE Page 3A



Mark Chestnutt show rescheduled at Golden Nugget

The Mark Chestnutt concert scheduled for Friday, June 21, at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, La., has been rescheduled until Dec. 13, 2024. All tickets purchased will be honored at the new date. Refunds are available until 10 a.m., Thursday, July 18 at the point of purchase for those unable to attend the rescheduled date.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

For Complete Area Concert Listings
By Tommy Mann Jr. See Page 4B

Scientific history berthed in Orange

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

On a chilly, windy March Saturday in 1968, scientists, engineers, business executives and dignitaries gathered on the island of the Sabine River curve around downtown Orange for a ship launching. The Stark High Band played as the Glomar Challenger slid into the river in a formal christening ceremony.

Levingston Shipbuilding designed and constructed the vessel that went on to make scientific history. In the 1960s, the "space race" to get to the moon and explore space made lots of headlines. The scientific study to reach the core of the ocean didn't make the headlines, but was as important to scientists as the space exploration.

Basically, the Sputnik of the ocean was built in Orange by hundreds of



The Glomar Challenger, built by Levingston Shipbuilding in Orange, was the first scientific ship to explore the earth's crust beneath the deepest parts of oceans. The vessel was used for 15 years and parts of it are with the Smithsonian Institute. By the late 1960s, scientists were being able to study core samples lected by the Glomar Challenger to prove the geological theories of continental drift and plate tectonics. Those same samples are still used today for research.

blue-collar workers, along with the designers and engineers.

The information gathered by the Glomar's Ocean Drilling Project proved the tectonic plate and continental drift theories of geology. Core samples it gathered and preserved are still used today and are considered vital to climate change studies.

The testing and explorations of the Glomar also led to the discoveries of deep ocean salt domes that may contain oil, leading to some deep ocean oil drilling. The design of the Glomar helped in the creation of drilling rigs to reach the deep-sea oil.

The Encyclopedia Britannica online said the Glomar Challenger was active from 1968 through 1983. During those years, the ship investigated 624

HISTORIC SHIP Page 2A

Build trust, reach community with local media

Staff Report - For The Record

In today's digital age, it may seem like local businesses can solely rely on social media advertising to attract new customers and keep old ones coming back.

However, advertising in local media is still an essential component of any successful marketing strategy.

So, let's not waste your time with hyperbole and small talk, here are some simple reasons why local businesses must advertise in local media.

Reach the Local Community

One of the most significant advantages of advertising in local media is that it reaches local people.

Local media caters to a specific geographic region, the people on your doorstep who are most likely to advertise with you.

This means your local businesses can tailor their advertising to reach the people most likely to be interested in your products or services.

Establish Brand Awareness

Advertising in local media helps estab-

lish local brand awareness.

When a business consistently advertises in local media like the County Record and Penny Record, it becomes familiar to people, and they start to associate the brand with the local community.

This can be particularly effective for small, local businesses that are trying to establish themselves in a competitive market.

Build Trust

Advertising in local media can also help build trust with potential customers.

When people see a business's name and message repeatedly, they start to recognize it and begin to trust the brand, especially if those adverts are in a trusted and popular publication like The Record Newspapers.

This is particularly true if the business is also actively involved in the local community and has a positive reputation.

By building trust with potential customers, local businesses can establish long-term relationships that can lead to repeat business.

Cost Effective

Advertising in local media is cost-effective for local businesses.

Local media often offers affordable advertising options that are flexible for all budgets and if you use a digital publication, you will have access to the exact number of people who have seen your ads for better ROI reporting and campaign testing.

Additionally, local media outlets usually offer package deals or discounts for multiple ads, making it even more affordable for businesses to advertise to key customers consistently.

Support the Local Community

By advertising in local media, businesses are supporting their local community. Local media outlets rely on local business-

es to advertise to stay in business.

By supporting local media, businesses are helping to keep their community informed and connected with important news about what's happening on their doorstep.

This is alongside promotions about local businesses, events, and human interest stories which help promote the community around your business as a whole.

Advertising in local media is still a cost-effective yet essential component of any successful marketing strategy for local businesses.

By reaching the local community, establishing brand awareness, building trust, and supporting the local community, businesses can increase their visibility and attract new customers.

If you'd like to have a no-obligation chat about advertising designed to suit all budgets and targets, contact Janelle Sehon, Advertising Director for The Record Newspapers and www.TheRecordLive.com at 409-886-7183.



Historic science ship From Page 1



The testing and explorations of the Glomar also led to the discoveries of deep ocean salt domes that may contain oil, leading to some deep ocean oil drilling. The design of the Glomar helped in the creation of drilling rigs to reach the deep-sea oil.

sites in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, plus the Mediterranean and Red seas.

The ship's drilling derrick was 140 feet tall and was capable of drilling 5,570 feet into the core of the ocean floor.

The Smithsonian Institution has the ship's dynamic position system, the engine telegraph and thruster console stored.

The collected 30-foot cores, that were 2.5 inches wide, were split in half

lengthwise and are stored at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego and Columbia University. Half of the cores are still used by scientists and the other halves are archived for the future.

The Texas A&M University Ocean Drilling Project website says that on June 24, 1966, the National Science Foundation and the University of California Board of Regents approved the Deep Sea Drilling Project and its funding. The

University of California oversaw the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego.

Paul Mattingly, whose father worked at Levingston, wrote a history of the shipyard and said the Scripps Institution was using a Levingston-built diesel tug from World War II and knew the quality of the shipyard's work. Levingston got the contract to build the unique ship designed to reach depths never recorded before.

The keel to the Glomar Challenger was laid on October 18, 1967. The name Glomar was taken from the

words "global" and "marine." The second part of the name was a tribute to the oceanographic survey vessel the HMS Challenger.

After spending seven years exploring, the Glomar then moved into a second phase, Project IPOD, which stood for International Phase of Ocean Drilling. The New York Times in December 1975 reported on the Glomar's work and its future.

Great Britain, Japan, the Soviet Union, and West Germany were joining with the U.S. to use the Glomar Challenger for more explorations. The other countries were contributing to the expenses.

Levingston Shipbuilding closed in the early 1980s

during the big oil recession that halted the need for offshore drilling rigs the company was making at time. The company's roots went all the way back to 1859.

In that year, three Irish immigrants, Brothers Samuel, David, and John Levingston bought an existing shipyard along the Sabine River in Orange. They specialized in wooden ships and boats for 30 years during a time when the river was likened to Interstate 10. e

"Captain" George Levingston, son of Samuel, started his own shipyard in 1919 along the river and expanded it in 1930 by buying five acres along Front Street at Mill Street.

Local industrialist and

lumber mill owner Edgar Brown Jr. bought Levingston in the 1930s as Europe was on its way to war and defense shipbuilding was becoming a priority. In 1939, he hired Ed Malloy from General Motors to become general manager of Levingston.

Levingston during the war produced a number of sea-going tug boats and other vessels used by the U.S. Navy as the country joined World War II in December 1941.

Malloy served at the shipyard for 37 years and became its president when he bought controlling shares of the company when Brown sold it in 1945 when the war was ending.

'The Record' Orange County News



The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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

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County business From Page 1

repairs and rental. County Engineer Corey Oldbury said the rented equipment was used to make repairs covered by grants from Hurricane Harvey damage. He said he is expecting another lump sum grant payment to help cover the costs.

Tax Collector-Collector Karen Fisher reported her office collected \$2.49 million in property tax payments in May, with the county's share \$377,384. Her office also collects and then disburses property taxes for cities, school districts, and special districts in the county.

The court agreed for the county to sign two inter local agreements with the Orange County Drainage District for cooperation in

issuing permits for land developments in the county.

"We've been working with the drainage district for some time," Emergency Management Coordinator Joel Ardoin told the court. The agreements will "make it official."

The agreements include sharing FEMA some restricted information between the county and drainage district.

Doug Manning, legal counselor for the drainage district, said the county, city, and district have been coordinating to ensure new developers comply with regulations.

"It's constantly a battle between economic development and protecting our community," he said.

The coordination between the entities works to assure that a new business or housing development's plan will not cause flooding to nearby property owners.

The court also approved a replat of 1.15 acres in Precinct 4 off Evangeline Drive. The replat will be for two lots of Magnolia Park, an unrecorded subdivision. The plans have been approved by the drainage district.

Other business included legal matters related to the work for Community Development Block grants related to storm recovery projects. Two of the contract amendments involved repairs from Harvey and two from Tropical Storm Imelda.



Employees of the Texas Department of Family Protective Services in Orange County on Tuesday accepted a Commissioners Court proclamation making June Elder Abuse Awareness month for the protection of the elderly and disabled. The county office last year investigated 377 reported cases. RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

Red White and You From Page 1

Constitution.

Veterans and those in the active military will be admitted to the festival for free. Otherwise, admission for adults and students is \$10 each on Saturday. Children enter for free. Tickets will be available at the gate or purchased through a link on PurplePass.com. Belcher said Facebook posts about the celebration include a QR code to use for tickets.

The festival will include an arts and crafts show

with vendors set up inside the air-conditioned Bridge City Community Center. Friday night the vendors will be set up from 5 to 9 p.m.

The main events will be Saturday with the gates opening at 5 p.m. Local singer Presley Faulker will sing the Star-Spangled Banner to begin events at 6 p.m. and then local Boy Scouts will present the flags. Bagpipe players will give a salute to the flag.

At 7 p.m., local musician

Paige Price will perform from the stage and at 8 p.m., another local band, Chip Darby and Vintage Soul will play.

Belcher said no outside food and drinks, or pets, are allowed. A beer garden will have cold brews and food trucks will offer a variety of eats. The trucks will include Taco Rey with tacos, fajitas and Mexican street corn, LBS with barbecue brisket with macaroni and cheese, Ice Cream Shack with cooling sweets,

and Old West Smoke Company.

The playground area at the park will be open for children to play, but the city splash pad will have the water shut off.

The big drone show is set for 9 p.m. The drones will take off from the Little League ball park and travel over the park area where visitors will be

Families should bring blankets or lawn chairs for sitting.

After the drone show, Bag of Donuts will begin their concert at 9:30 p.m. The members of the band dress in colorful make-up and costumes like the rock stars of the 1980s and play a variety of popular songs from that era. The band is the only cover band to be

inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

Bag of Donuts has a loyal following in Orange County after appearing at a Mardi Gras ball and some other events.

For out-of-town visitors and guests, the La Quinta, and Quality Inn and Suites are offering special Red, White and You rates for overnight stays.

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.



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From the Creaux's Nest

BIDEN-TRUMP DEBATE
THURSDAY, JUNE 27

CNN, with anchors **Jake Tapper** and **Dana Bash**, will moderate the 90-minute debate with two commercial breaks. The **Trump** campaign agreed to all conditions, even microphones being muted when it's not their turn to speak. I've been asked a few times who I believe will win this debate. The answer is both, depending on who you want to win. **Trump** may win the showmanship, plus he is the closer, last to speak. He might drop one of his **woppers** that he's famous for. Nothing is too far a stretch for **Trump**. **Fox TV** viewers will find that **Biden** is tougher, sharper and not feeble like they have been told over and over. They will find he's an expert in world affairs and U.S. government. **Biden** is sure to point out that **Trump** is a convicted felon, accused of rape and found to be responsible for millions in damages. **Trump** will also be on the attack. No one can predict where he's coming from. I'm sure he has a few surprises. **Trump** can't win if he tries to compare their records. **Roe vs Wade** will be a big issue for both sides. **Trump** will take credit for the **Supreme Court's** decision two years ago this week to reverse **Roe vs Wade** after 50 years and **Biden** will blame him for it. Depends on what side you're on. The debate will be fun to watch, but the only votes that will be changed will be some independents. Ask yourself, if **Trump**, a lifelong Democrat, was running as a Democrat, would you vote for him. The same with **Biden**, would you support him if he were running as a Republican? Don't lie to yourself. There's your answer, you are voting for the party not the good of the country. I wouldn't miss the debate. There is so much on the line. My most important issue, because of the offspring that will follow me, is our democracy. We live in the **world's greatest democracy**.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

The pride of **Big Mamou**, **Jimmy C. Newman**, 86, died Saturday, June 21 in Nashville after a short illness. His first top 10 hit was "Cry, Cry, Darling." That was 70 years ago in the summer of 1954. **Jimmy** was born in High Point, LA. near Mamou in 1927. A public memorial service was held at 10 a.m. June 25 at the Ryman Auditorium. He had been a member of the Grand Ole Opry for 58 years. Some of his many hits were "Lache Pas la Patate," "Alligator Man," "Joel Blond," "Diggy Liggy Lo" and many more. I recall in the early days stopping at a club near the bridge in Mermentau, on Hwy. 90, when **Jimmy** was the Saturday night featured band at the big night club.****Our buddy **Sean Gros**, **Karen's** middle son and **Roy and Ms. Phyl's** grandson, was sworn into the Coast Guard this week. He flew from New Orleans to Cape May, New Jersey to start a two month boot camp. **Sean** is a great youngster. We wish him the best in this four-year hitch but he will be missed.******John and Kerry Kimbrough's** son **Grant**, a U.U.T. Austin grad, is now a medical student at UTMB in Galveston. **Grant** came home for Father's Day just long enough to cook his dad **John** a steak. It takes total dedication to become a medical doctor. If they choose to specialize, it takes 12 years of learning and it ain't no easy road.**** **Bill Cosby** is bringing his "Far From Finished" tour to the Lutch on July 24-25.**** **Roy** writes in his "Life's Highway" column about **Walley Fowler**, one of the most interesting celebrities he ever met. He tells about **Fowler's** upbringing and the stars he helped hit the big times, the youngest of 14 children on a poor Georgia farm and how he and **Roy's** paths crossed.******Pat Clark** has been batching. He has been feeling sorry for himself. No one is looking after him. **Ms. Rosalie** is in Houston tending to their daughter who had surgery.******Donna Blalock**, 163rd. Dist. Coordinator, **Judy Mingle**, 260th. Dist. Court Coordinator, 128th. Dist. Court Judge **Courtney Arkeen**, 128th. Dist. Court Reporter **Holli Harrison** and the Court Administrator's office staff hosted a surprise lingerie shower for **Judge Arkeen's** Court Coordinator, **Latoria Leverett**, Wednesday during lunch hour. No one missed work and a great time was had by all.

20 Years Ago-2004

Dominating the news is the turning over of Iraq's sovereignty. The **Bush administration** declared victory by freeing the people of Iraq. The reason given for invading Iraq in the first place by **Bush/Cheney** was the idea that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and was a threat to the **United States and Iraq's** neighbors. That's what so many young **Americans** were killed, wounded and maimed for. Now the **Bush** team is doing a victory lap. (Editor's note: That was one of the biggest lies told to the **American people** in my lifetime. Today those same liars are trying to shift the blame to **President Obama** claiming he owns the problems in Iraq. The truth is we had.******Nolton and Jessie Brown**

are recognized at the **State Democratic Party** convention as **Mr. and Mrs. Democrat of Orange County**. (Editor's note: Both of these fine people have died in the past 20 years. It was my great pleasure to have known and worked with them on political issues. They were true grassroots.)******Mark Carter**, 49, is named new **Orange County Democratic Chairman**. He is the son of **Leon and Billie Carter**, nephew of **Judge Flo Edgerly** and is a lifelong Democrat.******GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Lee Fults**, 76, died June 23. Service was held at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City on June 26. **Fults**, a Korean War vet, is survived by wife, **Ethel**, daughter, **Sharon Gearhart**, sons, **Randy, Larry, Wayne** and their families. ******James Smith**, 76, "Mr. Lock and Key" died June 26. He was in the Calvary during WWII. He is survived by wife, **Thelma**.

45 Years Ago-1979

New **Bridge City Bank** on Roundbunch nears completion.******Bridge City Rotary** held installation at **Wayside Inn**. **C.R. Nash** was installed as president replacing **Albert Gore**.******Leon Smith** gives disco lessons in **Beaumont Club** to lovely ladies **Beth Dugas**, **Marty Conway**, **Phyllis Dunn**, **Betty Harmon**, **Martha Hughes** and **Virginia Gilbeaux**.**** A collector's item being sought is a recording of "McDonald's Place," released by county judge **Pete Runnels** in the early 1960's. The recording did not make the top 100 and **Judge Runnels** is not planning to re-release. ******Allen (Bull) Middlebrook**, **Ronald Smith** and **Nolan Wayne Gaspard**, three young **Bridge City** men, were killed in a car train accident in Port Arthur. Also killed was a young lady from **Jefferson County**. ******Harmon Chevrolet** is scheduled to move into their new location on **MacArthur Drive** on July 6. ****June 30 always seems to be an important historical day. That is the birthday of lovely **Barbara Mulhollan**. We knew her when she was a young girl in the D.A.'s office. She was **Jim Morris' "Girl Friday"**. ******Dallas Cowboy "Too-Tall" Jones** switches from football to boxing.

50 Years Ago-1974

Wally Fowler brings **International Gospel Music Festival** to **Orange Sheriff's Posse Arena**. Ten Nashville groups, including **The Stamps**, performed at the sundown to sunup show. A packed house attended the all night concert. ******Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Willard Franks** will celebrate their 37th anniversary on July 7. He writes beautiful poetry.******LaPlace** on 6th Street, owned by **Ernest and Ann McCollum**, now serves Orleans beignets.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

On June 28, **Capt. Danny Gray** was killed at **Orange City Jail** in a shoot-out with **Billy Wayne Dowden** and **Clifford Blansett** in an attempt to break **Dowden's** brother out of jail. A stray bullet caught **Gray** in the head and killed him. **Danny** was one of the rare breed you hear about. At age 31, he was highly respected throughout the area. A ten year veteran of **OPD**, he had advanced rapidly through the ranks and was furthering his professional career by attending law enforcement classes at **Lamar**. Hundreds of officers from throughout **Texas** and **Louisiana** paid homage at his funeral rites, proving how well he was thought of. (Editor's note: Those involved, with the exception of **Blansett**, who died in prison, were prosecuted by **D.A. Sharon Bearden** and are still in prison serving life sentences.) In the early 1970's were trying times in **Orange County** for law enforcement and the **D.A.'s** office as many brutal crimes of murder and drug related offenses took place. Today, **Bearden**, a longtime criminal attorney who practices with his son, **Jim Sharon**, has worked both sides of the street. If I could pick only one person to have my back, it would be **Bearden**. I also know the stock from which he came.****Don't forget to head out to the **Bridge City Park** on Friday and Saturday for the big **Independence Day** festival with a drone show on Saturday night. **Mayor David Rutledge** can't wait for this big community event to take off. Admission is only \$10 with kids free. Bring some lawn chairs...Lots of locals were disappointed in the outcome of the **College World Series with the A&M Aggies** losing out to the **Tennessee Volunteers**. However, **Tony and Nancy Dallas** were still cheering **Tennessee** because their son, **Chad 'Cheddar' Dallas**, now playing in the minor leagues, pitched for **Tennessee**. Granddaughter **Honey Harrell** wore orange and white **Tennessee** overalls to watch the games with her grands. **Honey**, who is barely walking, later took her first dance class.****The classic rock groups **Foreigner** and **Styx** drew a big crowd to the **Woodlands** this past weekend. Local fans attending the concert included **County Commissioner Johnny Trahan** with wife, **Becky**; **Parrish Bird** and **Tim Talbert**; plus local music writer and photographer **Tommy Mann**.****Congratulations to **Benitris Edwards** for her special award from the **Order of the Eastern Star** in recognition of her community service through the **Stars of Gate City No. 57**.******Jody Chesson** and **Adam Conrad** attended **Shangri La Gardens Sip 'n Stroll** last week, though they may have done more sipping than strolling. For the weekend, they headed out to **Toledo Bend**, where **Adam** refused to get up and watch the sunrise over the lake.******Cliff and Sally Hargraves** got in some Gulf beach time, a break from their bayou-fronting home in **Bridge City**.******Brandi Griggs** was once again tubing in cool **Hill Country** rivers and finding time to go to a **New Braunfels** watering hole, the saloon kind, not the swimming kind. Joining her were **Justin Rieson**, **Christina** and **Pat Standley**, **Julie Gerkin**, and **Cindi Gipson**. **Kelsey Mullen** and **Lauren Reed** don't have to travel far to the **Hill Country** these days. They live there.****The **Special Angels** **Rodeo** auction and banquet benefit has been set for **September 28**. If anyone is interested in tickets or making donations, just call **Farmers Mercantile** and ask for **Jo Harris**.****Once again, drivers in **Orange** are proving it's hard to break old habits. The **Texas Department of Transportation**, after months, years, and what seems like

decades, finally opened up the **Interstate 10** ramps at **Simmons Drive**. However, there's now a four-way stop. People are cruising through without stopping.**** **Judge Buddie Hahn** rode with **Sharon Bearden** to **Roy's** 90th birthday party. Thanks to **Bearden** they soon found out they were a week early. On **June 5**, **Bearden** made the party with attorney **Eric Peveto** but **Buddie** was having a medical procedure and couldn't attend. Longtime friend **Buddie** sent **Roy** his regrets.****Speaking of **Bearden**, twice he rode to **Bridge City** to shop the farmer's market that **Dunn** told him about. Both times **Sharon** found the park empty. Those two old boys sound like the "Blind leading the blind."****Wednesday, **July 8**, would have been **Pete Runnels** birthday. **Roy** was campaign manager when **Pete** was elected **County Judge**. Hard to believe **Pete** is gone.****On **June 25**, the **Korean War** started in 1950.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **June 26: Becky Hodgkinson**, **Marie Williamson**, **Reggie Rogers**, **Jan Henry**, **Judy Cagle**, **Rodney Davis**, **Sherby Dixon**, **Barbara Whitrock**, **Bridgett Teaff**, **David Kimbell**.******June 27: David Ball**, **Jody Raymer**, **Claudine Hogan**, **Jessica Simon**, **Lynn Nell Guidry**, **Judy Lewis**, **Kristin Lollar**, **Shanna MacCammond**, **Shanna Scott**, **Trevor Kimbell**, **Jeff Bourdier**, **Jeri Whitmire**.******June 28: Kelly Kimbrough**, **Karen Tomlin**, **Kourtney Derouen**, **Leighia Barron**, **Tina Bernard**, **Brett Barclay**, **Connie Berry**, **Eric Broom**.******June 29: Ann Lieby**, **Wayne Rice**, **Jana Fisette**, **Nancy George**, **Cobey Sonnier**, **Rebecca Griffin**, **David Sandlin**, **Katie Keneson**.******June 30: Dave Rodgers**, **Mayor Roy McDonald**, **Angela Schram**, **Chris Huebel**, **Nancy Wood**, **Beverly Haggard**, **Sonya Jarreau**, **Deanna Shuford**, **Betty Derrick**.******July 1: Shirley Dougher**, **Marcy Strahan**, **Wendy Young**, **Reilly Shaw**, **Dian Arnold**, **Jeff Eby**.******July 2: Nancy Dupuis**, **Marla LeMoine**, **Kristy Davis**, **Lisa Wilson**, **Sonja Cooper**, **Maria Garcia**, **Brennon Mitchell**, **Elizabeth Williams**, **Mary Martell**.****Other birthdays celebrated. Happy Birthday to local theater icon **Diana Hill**, still looking beautiful and going strong to promote the arts and **Orange Community Players**.****Others celebrating another year around the sun included **County Clerk Brandy Robertson**, **Gary Stelly** (next year will be a big one for him), **Scott Raney**, **Linda Richardson**, **Patty Mouton**, **Tank Gross**, **Lauren Bonneaux**, **Casey Peveto**, **Anna Marroquin**, **David Worsham**, **Anne Rasmussen Edwards**, **Jordan Bates**, **Becky Hare Snell**, **Theresae Kovatch**, **Betty Merchant**, **Patricia Shaw Hebert**, **Thomas Sigler**, and **Aiden Bosio**.****Those celebrating wedding anniversaries last week included **Larry and Renee Fisher** with No. 37.*** **Billy and Wendy Young** also married 37 years.*** **Ron and Sandra Theriot** at No. 30, along with **Hammond and April Willey**, **Nick and Kayla Cheek**, and **Aaron and Roxy Scarborough**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tophile Robicheaux was in his early 70's was having him some drinks at **TeeBoy's Bar and Grill** Saturday wen dis beautiful young woman came in and sat at da bar two stools down from him.

He tole **TeeBoy** to put the lady's drink on his tab.

Da young woman tanked him and dey struck up a conversation.

Before long, **Robicheaux** and dat young beauty walk out of da bar. A block down from **TeeBoy's** dey walked into **Fontenot's Jewelry Store**.

Robicheaux tell **Fontenot**, "I'm looking for a nice diamond ring for my girlfriend."

Fontenot take out a \$5,000 ring.

Robicheaux say, "Look, you don't understand, I want someting very unique me."

Fontenot say, "Here's a stunning ring dat cost \$40,000.

Robicheaux look at da young woman and he axe, "You like dat one Babe?"

Her eyes sparkled, "Mais yea, I like dat me."

Robicheaux say, "**Fontenot**, I'll take dat one me."

"How you gonna pay for it?" **Fontenot** axe.

"I'll write a check me and you can phone da bank Monday

morning, den I'll come fetch da ring me."

Monday morning **Fontenot** was mad, mad, him, wen he called **Robicheaux**. "You lied to me; dere is no money in dat account."

Robicheaux say, "Mais, I know, but boy **Fontenot**, can you imagine wat a fantastic weekend I had me.

C'EST TOUT TRUMP'S MONDAY EMAIL

Former President **Trump's** campaign in a Monday fundraising email criticized his treatment at the **Fulton County Jail** in **Georgia**, saying he was "tortured" while getting his **historic mug shot** at the jail. **Trump** has frequently sought to raise funds from the mug shot. "I want you to remember what they did to me. They tortured me in the **Fulton County Jail**, and **TOOK MY MUGSHOT**. So guess what? I put it on a mug for the **WHOLE WORLD TO SEE!**" the fundraising email said. **Trump** has repeatedly seized on his arrest and mug shot and began selling merchandise shortly after the booking. The merchandise included **T-shirts**, **mugs**, **koozies** and **bumper stickers** that featured his mug shot. **Trump's** case in **Georgia** is one of four criminal cases he has been charged in, including one the former president was convicted in last month in **New York**. He was found guilty on all **34 counts of falsifying business records**. My question, "If so, where were his **Secret Service officers?** He has **24-hour protection.**" **Trump Campaign** now claims error on email.****Read us cover to cover and please check out our advertisers who bring you this publication free each week. Shop with them when you can and tell them we sent you. Give us a call at **886-7183** or email at **ads@therecordlive.com**.****My time is up; thanks for yours. **Take care and God bless**.

'Mr. Gospel Music,' Wally Fowler comes to town

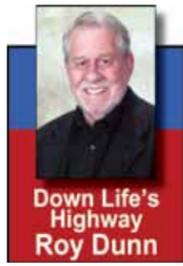
From Possum Trot, Ga. to the Grand Ole Opry and beyond, Wally Fowler blazed musical trails. I'm proud to record those times in the pages of history.

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

The year was 1948, Dudley J. leBlanc, the inventor of Hadacol, had come up with a great promotional idea, a Hadacol caravan featuring the biggest entertainment talent in the country. The show traveled the United States and admittance was free. Just one box top from a box of Hadacol is all that was needed to catch the biggest show in the country.

The truck caravan consisted of over 80 large trucks. Entertainment was furnished by 40 of the biggest stars from Hank Williams, Mickey Rooney to Red Foley, Wally Fowler and many musicians and movie stars in between. I got my chance to work with the caravan through Dudley, who was a senator and resident of my hometown of Abbeville. I had earlier traveled for one of his re-election campaigns. On the caravan I had met Fowler, "Mr. Gospel Music." Fast forward to early June, 1974 and the subject of this column.

Wally Fowler called me from Beaumont. He had been given my name by Sheriff Buck Patillo and Wally wanted to meet with me the next day. He didn't remember me but I did him. He wanted to put on a show in Orange and sought my help. Wally did his own advancement promoting and everything else. I agreed to help him. The show would benefit the Sheriff's Posse. On July 3, 50 years ago, the International Gospel Music Festival of Nashville, running from sundown to sunup, was held at the rodeo arena. Ten great gospel acts, including J.D. Summer and the Stamps Quartet, direct from the Elvis Presley show and the Los Amigos entertained a large crowd all night.



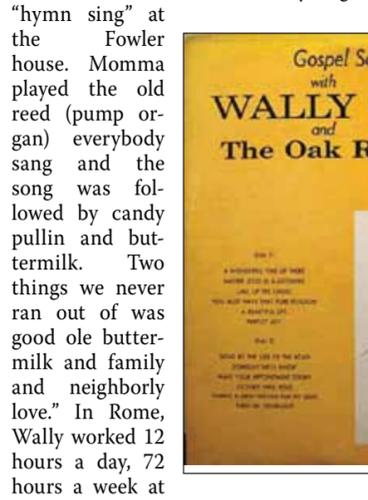
Barbara Runnels, OF Orange, emceed the show. Kathy Gray was the 1974 Rodeo Queen, Gus Alborn was posse president and chief deputy Charlie Morvant helped with the event. Wally and I, over the month bonded and spent many hours together. For years afterward, when he came down the Interstate he stopped for a visit. I met a lot of entertainers and talented people down this Life's Highway but Wally's life story and his rise to the top fascinated me.

He wasn't born into money, in fact, he was born into no money. I had a chance to interview him. He was 57 years old in '74 and the youngest of 16 children. He was born on a cold winter morning, Feb. 15, 1917, to Mary and Joseph Fowler in Bartow County, Possum Trot Community in Georgia. Born in the shadows of Turkey Knob Mountain, Wally said, "We was as far country as you could get. Poor, red land, new ground share crop farmin." At age 14 he got a break when he and his mom and dad moved to the big city of Rome, Georgia. "No more walkin two miles to the oneteacher, mineral spring school, with the number 12 Oliver and the two ole stubborn, wore out mules. Plantin, choppin, layin by and pickin cotton and takin it to the gin at Adairsville, to get it all baled up to pay for the Guano (fertilizer) and a few other scarce items that were bought on credit last year when we went to the gin, then we do it all over again."

Wally continued, "Yes, on to Rome and no more choppin cord wood, going to the field during the night and waitin for it to get light enough to work. No more pullin fodder, shuckin corn and livin in the old house with holes in the wall, big enough to throw a good sized hound dog through. No more studying school lessons by the glow of burnin pine knots in the old iron grate fireplace." He also said, "There were some good memories made, like swingin out of the saplins on the hill overlookin the river at Moccian Bend and divin out into the middle and winnin the prize for bringin up the biggest handful of sand

from the bottom.

Huntin 'n' fishin and all day singin at Cedar Creek churches. A few other things like walkin to school with Wylene and best of all, Saturday night "hymn sing" at the Fowler house. Momma played the old reed (pump organ) everybody sang and the song was followed by candy pullin and buttermilk. Two things we never ran out of was good ole buttermilk and family and neighborly love." In Rome, Wally worked 12 hours a day, 72 hours a week at Puyeur Florist for 10 cents and saved an extra 20 cents for a Harmony and Composition book to study music by mail. From the meager beginning, Wally went on to become a Grand Ole' Opry star. He got his start in 1935 at age 18 with the John Daniel Quartet. In 1945, he founded the original Oak Ridge Quartet that included Chet Atkins. The group became the Oak Ridge Boys. Wally brought Hank Williams to the Opry, introduced him, and Hank gave an impromptu concert with a borrowed guitar.



Wally also brought Atkins to the guitarists first recording session in 1945 in Atlanta. He saw Chet with a guitar and he needed a picker so he asked him, "Can you play that thing?" Atkins answered, "A little bit." Wally starred coast to coast on NBC with Red Foley, Rod Brasiek and Minnie Pearl. He also formed the very first phonograph record distributing company. He wrote Eddy Arnold' first recorded song, "Mommy please Stay Home With Me." He composed Eddy's first million seller, "That's How Much I Love You, Baby." Wally is the guy who discovered Patsy Cline and kicked her career off. She joined him in

many concerts. In 1974, Wally wrote, "I Couldn't Believe It Was True," recorded by Willie Nelson. He also wrote, "I bowed On My Knees and Cried Holy," recorded by Michael English, which won the Dove Award in 1993. He composed over 1,000 musical compositions, formed four publishing companies, five record labels, while traveling over three million miles bringing the Gospel message in song to small churches, auditoriums, stadiums, Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden and the Posse Arena in Orange.

Wally performed his songs, "This Ole House," "How Great Thou Art," "Daddy Sang Bass," "Wings of a Dove," "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," "Green, Green Grass of Home," "Wasted Years," which was recorded by 52 groups and also Louisiana Gov. Jimmie Davis. Wally sold millions of records and tapes. I had, before Ike, many of his autographed works. In 1967, the Library of Congress accepted him as the man who majored in both the Gospel and country field of music. I love the human interest stories.

Against the odds, Wally blazed trails and made life successful. I have been fortunate to have known many stars but Wally was one of the most interesting and fascinating. On June 6, 1994, Wally, age 77, died in a freak drowning accident while fishing from the dock at Dale Hollow Lake, northeast of Nashville. His daughter Hope Kimmer thought he may have suffered a heart attack. I've been blessed down this road I've traveled to have met Wally Fowler, a good, talented man, with a thousand great stories.

His early experiences and accomplishments are an example that dreams are possible, no matter what your background.

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

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 4TH OF JULY

ACROSS

- South American palm berry
- Chi preceider
- Tatted cloth
- **Knee high in July?
- Hole-making tools
- Sign in (2 words)
- Discharge
- Violin's Renaissance predecessor
- Nursemaid in India, pl.
- *On the grill on the 4th?
- Tropical tuber
- Propelled like Argo
- "Fresh Prince of ___-Air"
- *18 Across, picnics and such
- Yellow ride
- Not well
- Heavy lifting injury
- "Brave New World" drug
- Feudal estates
- Storm center
- Rand McNally book
- Singer-song-writer Amos
- Deserving veneration
- Giant "Master

Melvin"

- Y on Periodic Table
- Unkind one, slangily
- Clairvoyant's gift, acr.
- "___ under the rug"
- Cry like a baby
- *Number of stripes on Old Glory
- Birch bark vessel
- Object of Frodo's obsession
- Norse war god
- Cut mission short
- Fairy tale beginning
- Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
- MTV's "___d" (2003-2015)
- Like Willie Winkie
- "Team" homophone

DOWN

- Fighter pilot
- Toothy groomer
- Operatic solo
- Openings
- Between once and thrice
- Viva voce
- Maroon's home
- *As opposed to Patriot
- Lab culture
- Type of salmon
- Short for ensign
- Not sympathetic

- Potentially allergenic glove material
- Tubs
- Farm cry
- *Number of stars on Old Glory
- "The Waste Land" poet
- Heads-up
- Wedding cake layer
- 2-dotted mark
- Stradivari competitor
- Moisten, as in a turkey
- 500 sheets
- *Largest Fourth of July pyrotechnics display loc.
- *Celebratory combustible
- Highly skilled
- Break bread
- Come into view
- Even smaller than #7 Down
- Dined elsewhere (2 words)
- Use a shoe polish
- Grimace in pain
- Hindu Mr.
- Before long, to Shakespeare
- Think, arch.
- Part of a seat
- World's longest river
- Upper limit
- Jodie Foster's "___'s Island"

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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Summer fishing options to beat the heat

Fishermen will need to make some adjustments

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

“Be careful what you wish for because you just may get it” is what I was often told as a kid. Things that seem like great ideas at the time will often turn out to be unwanted nuisances that are worse than the original option.

For months Texas anglers, myself included, cursed the constant high winds and prayed that they would stop in order to make the bay systems more user friendly. Well, the winds have subsided and the now the temperatures have just gone



Chuck Uzzle

through the roof making it almost impossible to spend an entire day on the water without a cooler the size of a stand up refrigerator stocked with refreshing liquids. As the mercury continues to climb fishermen will need to make some adjustments in order to combat the heat and come out a winner.

Easily the most reasonable option to deal with the heat is to go early or late and avoid the mid-day

melt down. For quite some time anglers here on Sabine have been making the pre-dawn trek to the jetties and just having their way with some quality fish. This pattern is both solid and exciting as the action on good tide changes is almost non-stop on some days. The topwater bite along the rocks is as vicious as you can imagine and only magnified when it happens in the dark or during low light. Once the sun breaks the horizon you can switch over to shallow running crank baits or stick baits and continue the assault until about an hour after sunrise when this program plays out. After the sun gets up the bite usually slows considerably and makes sticking it out under the beaming sun much less desirable. Anglers who use the inverse pat-



Both the temperatures and the local fishing are heating up so be prepared for both. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

tern, going at sunset and staying after dark, will also get their string stretched as the bite gets cranked up as the sun goes down. Fishing in the dark requires some preparation and more attention to detail than during daylight hours. Everything from fish to boat problems are magnified in the dark so plan accordingly and take all necessary precautions to stay safe.

Boaters are not the only ones who take advantage of the darkness during the summer, wade fishermen will adopt the same patterns as well. Being waist deep in the water for a pre-dawn wade over a protected flat under the right conditions is what dreams are made of for many anglers. The potential for a truly big fish hangs thick

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

Keep your family safe from summer ticks

Summer months mean increased risk for people, pets

Susan Himes
Texas A&M AgriLife

As warmer weather draws more and more Texans outdoors, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts want people to be aware of the danger ticks pose and offer some advice on how to avoid them.

“Ticks are blood feeders in all life stages and can transmit pathogens that can lead to disease transmission,” said Sonja Swiger, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension entomologist, Stephenville.

Although ticks are active year-round in Texas, there is increased activity during the warmer months when tick populations swell, typically peaking in the summer and then declining in the fall. Swiger said we are at the start of their “plentiful season.”

Where ticks are found

Since ticks can't fly, the only way to be exposed to them is by entering their space or being in contact with an animal that has picked them up, Swiger said. Unfortunately, ticks can be found pretty much anywhere outdoors.

“They can be in overgrown brush, a field, forest, park, tall grasses and anywhere there is wildlife,” she said.

With school out and people spending more time outside, people are more at risk. And even though ticks primarily live outdoors, they are happy to relocate inside if they can hitch a ride on a human, dog, cat or any other animal that's headed indoors.

“Even in a concrete jungle, there can be ticks,” Swiger said. “All a tick needs is a blood source.”

Ticks need blood to survive in three of their four life stages. Some types die pretty quickly without a meal, while others can survive for years.

Texas ticks

There are 11 common species of ticks found in Texas. The black-legged

tick, brown dog tick, Lone Star tick, Gulf Coast tick and American dog tick are the species most likely to be encountered. Texas A&M AgriLife's The Tick App for Texas and the Southern Region is a helpful resource and tick identification tool.

Ticks typically like to latch on to people's head, hair, chest, armpit, groin, waist and back of the knees, so be extra vigilant when checking these areas. Headwear and light-colored clothing that protects as much skin as possible is a good idea if you'll be where ticks might be present. Light-colored clothing makes it easier to see the ticks that may have hitched a ride. Pants



A Lone Star tick bite can cause Alpha-gal syndrome where people develop a red meat allergy. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

should be tucked into socks and boots to minimize the odds of an unwanted bloodsucker at-

taching. “Check yourself after being outdoors,” said Swiger. “Also check your

pets if they have been outdoors.”

Swiger said people who let their pets sleep in their bed with them need to be extra vigilant.

Consult your veterinarian about the best preventative measures for your pets, such as pills or topicals that repel ticks. There is also a shot that can be given to dogs to repel ticks.

Tick-borne diseases in Texas

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the U.S., with an average of 30,000 cases reported across the U.S. each year to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, CDC.

But Texas is a low-incidence state, recording less than 100 cases per year. Lyme disease can also affect pets.

There are numerous other diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia that ticks can transmit to people. Ticks are also responsible for deadly diseases in livestock such as cattle fever.

“While we do see tick-borne disease here in Texas, our rates are much lower than many other states,” Swiger said. “However, people need to be aware and vigilant here and when traveling to places with higher rates of

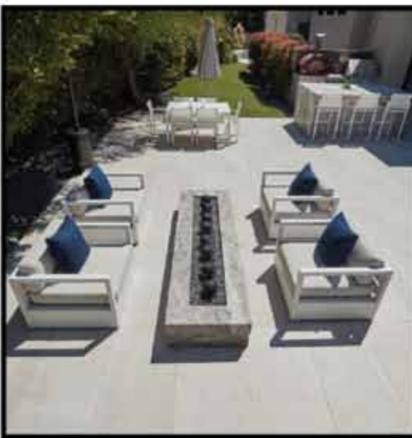
TICK Page 3B

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OUTDOORS

Texas State Parks Offers Seven Heat Safety Tips

Staff Report - For The Record

AUSTIN – Rising temperatures and the month of June signal the arrival of the dog days of summer. With heat-related illnesses on the rise, Texas State Parks is sharing seven tips to help Texans beat the heat and enjoy their time in the outdoors safely.

Last year, 48 state parks reported 156 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets, but this year could well eclipse that. State parks have already fielded 51 heat-related incidents since Jan. 1, compared to 32 reported by this time last year.

Here are the top six heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

- **Hydrate-** It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour to prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

- **Block the Rays-** Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

- **Dress Smart-** Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

- **Stay Salty-** Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

- **Buddy System-** Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

- **Plan Ahead-** Study the map and have it with you. Avoid relying on your phone for maps since service may be unavailable in back-country areas. Average hikers move at two miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

- **Pup-Safety-** Dogs are as susceptible to heat as their humans are, so it is good practice to ensure that you bring enough water and snacks for four-legged hiking buddies to last the entirety of the trip.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 86 degrees. Inclement weather leading into the weekend will limit fishing efforts. North winds were blowing this last week creating tough conditions on Sabine Lake. Catching limits of speckled trout with redfish mixed in early in the morning at the jetties. Sabine Channel shell flats, banks and rock piles producing catches of redfish and trout with live shrimp under a popping cork. Speckled trout are good along the beach under the birds early morning. Trout and bull redfish can be caught at the rigs.

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. 87 degrees. Water is beginning to clear along the west side of the bay. Catches of speckled trout and black drum, along with a few redfish coming from reefs and Spoil Islands. Winds will be a problem until late this week. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

We just cannot catch a break with the weather. Water stained and redfish are slowly returning being caught in live shrimp under a popping cork. Trout are slowly showing up being caught in chartreuse WAC Assassin and under a ping cork using live shrimp. Drum are plentiful around Fred Hartman free lining live shrimp. Do not know how severe these storms will impact an already fresh water system but one day we will be enjoying the variety we are used to. Be safe, pay attention to the wind and weather and always wear your kill switch. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 88 degrees. North Jetty Bait Camp. Surface water temperature 85 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 solid trout on the protected shorelines over shell pockets, in areas with better looking water, as well



The Record's outdoor columnist Capt. Chuck Uzzle brings in a nice speckled trout caught in Sabine Lake casting along small isolated pieces of structure using a popping cork.

solid fish show up on reefs in the middle portion of the bay, which should get better as the summer progresses. We also found a few birds working in the middle portion of the bay, and found some solid trout under them, as well as Gafftop, which is typical for this time of the year. The fishing pressure has been higher than normal for East Bay, which is a result of all the Freshwater in Trinity Bay, so if you can go any day other than Saturdays, that would be my recommendation for your fishing pleasure. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 85 degrees. It has been a while since we can say this, but fishing is good in the bay. Speckled trout, black drum, sheepshead, and redfish, all cooperating on shell and any type of structure. Tropical weather will put this on hold until winds subside. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

as Redfish along the grass lines and over shell, and a few nice flounder busting bait up around grass lines and over shallow shell beds, 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. This will be determined The Topwater bite has also been good when utilized on our early morning and late afternoon trips, so if you like throwing walking baits, now is the perfect time to get on the water and make it happen. We are starting to see some

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'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.46 feet above pool. Water still high with more rain coming, the lake is right at normal pool. Historically, the lake level is typically 1.5 feet below pool or lower this time of year. Water temperature is running in the mid 80s at daylight and rising to the low 90s by afternoon.

Bass are good shallow to deep all over the lake however you like to fish. The best baits for shallow water are frogs, pop r's, buzz baits and senko. The mid range fish are good on Texas rig and mid running crankbait in 8-12 foot range. The deep fish are coming on big crankbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. With the full moon coming, the night fishing will be back on fire with buzz baits and spinnerbaits around the shallow water. Watch for snakes in the flooded bushes at night. Crappie are fair while there continues to be a current from the influx of freshwater coming down the lake. Fish deep docks and lighted docks at night and shallow brush piles with jigs and live bait. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 8.03 feet above pool. Bass are good on topwaters, or flipping soft plastics into submerged brush and points, or deeper humps and points with Carolina rigs. Crappie are in 12-16 feet of water, 20-30 feet on timber and brush. Catfish are in 22 feet of water in the creek channels. White bass are in 26 feet of water off of points on jigging spoons. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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These Six Health Risks Increase on Hot Days

Beth Ann Mayer
Healthline

While heat and summer go hand in hand, research and experts indicate that rising temperatures and health risks do, too.

One 2022 study Trusted Source of more than 219 million U.S. adults ages 20 and older suggested a link between extreme heat and all-course mortality. The most significant risks were to older individuals. However, health experts say it's critical for everyone to understand the health risks that can come with extreme heat.

"It is easy in the summer to be distracted by lots of fun outdoor activities, but heat can impact your health and make you very ill, especially if you are not paying attention to signs from your body or are at extremes of age," says Dr. Jo Anna Leuck, MD, the associate dean of educational affairs at Burnett School of Medicine at Texas Christian University. "There are easy ways to prevent this impact, so it is important to understand the dangers of heat and how to avoid them."

This awareness is especially critical as the planet warms due to climate change. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2023 was the warmest year on re-

cord. Early indications are that 2024 will follow suit. April was the warmest month on record, marking the 11th straight time a month has set a new high mark.

To help you prepare for the warmer season and the years ahead, doctors shared six ways the heat can increase health risks and tips for staying cool.

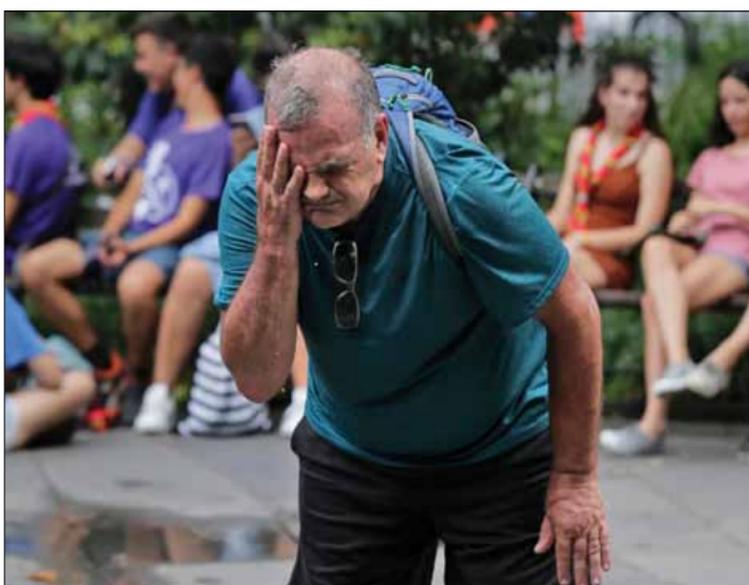
6 Health Risks That Rise With Hot Weather

Christopher F. Freer, DO, the senior vice president of Emergency and Hospitalist Medicine at RWJBarnabas Health in New Jersey, explains that specific populations are at higher risk of experiencing health issues in hot weather.

These populations include:

- Infants and young children whose bodies can't regulate temperature as well or request/access fluids on their own
- Older adults, particularly those with underlying conditions
- Pregnant people
- People with chronic health conditions

Still, no one is immune to heat-related health issues, and understanding the signs can help you protect yourself (and anyone



Heart attack, stroke, and several other health risks can increase significantly on hot summer days.

around you who may be at a higher risk for more severe outcomes).

The following are six of the most common health risks that can increase when temperatures are higher.

Migraine attacks

Data Trusted Source indicates that migraine attacks affect 12 to 15% of the general population. The effects can be debilitating.

"Migraines are not 'bad headaches,'" says Dr. Joshua Feinstein, MD, an emergency medicine physician at Memorial Her-

mann. Recent research suggests that heat might raise the risk of an attack. For instance, an observational study based on daily diary records of 660 migraine patients presented at the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Headache Society, held June 13-16, indicated that heat could increase migraine attack risk.

However, the findings have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

A 2023 observational study Trusted Source of more than 40,000 respon-

ders, including more than 15,000 people with migraine, suggested that different weather types, including high humidity, increased headache occurrences.

"Heat adds to inflammatory effects that can prolong migraines," Feinstein says. "Furthermore, people may be dehydrated, which decreases their ability to work to fight a migraine."

Feinstein suggests people with migraine — whether it's exacerbated by the heat or not — work long-term with a neurologist or other healthcare professional to minimize attacks and find relief

when they occur.

Heart attack

Research Trusted Source published in Circulation in 2023 suggested that cardiovascular disease deaths caused by heat could surge by an estimated 162% by mid-century (2036-2065).

Another 2023 Trusted Source Circulation study of more than 202,000 heart attack deaths in Jiangsu, a province in China, indicated a significant link between a person's chances of dying from a heart attack and extremely hot and cold temperatures.

"When we are exposed to heat and especially temperatures higher than our body temperature, the heart has to work a lot harder and beat faster, as it needs to circulate the blood out toward the skin to allow for sweating and other mechanisms the body utilizes to protect from heat," Leuck says. "The increase in work can lead to heart attacks and other heart problems in those at risk."

Feinstein says chest pain or pressure is the most common heart attack sign, but others include:

- Arm pain
- Shortness of breath

HEAT HEALTH Page 4B

Tick allergies

From Page 1

transmission. That is the only way to stop them."

Ticks and red-meat allergy

A disease caused by tick bites that has been in the news more lately is Alpha-gal syndrome, AGS. AGS is associated with a tick bite from the Lone Star tick in the U.S., though it has been associated with other tick species abroad.

A close-up of a male Lone Star tick. It is brown and orange.

A Lone Star tick bite can cause Alpha-gal syndrome where people develop a red meat allergy. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

AGS, also known as a red meat allergy or tick bite meat allergy, is a potentially life-threatening allergy to red meat that can occur after a tick bite. Symptoms occur when an affected person eats meat or is exposed to other animal products such as gelatin.

Anyone who suspects they have developed this allergy and is experiencing symptoms should immediately contact their health care provider and seek medical help.

Most reported cases of AGS in the U.S. are in the South, East and Central states — areas where Lone Star ticks are found. The majority of cases are seen in adults. The CDC reported there were over 110,000 reported suspected cases between 2010 and 2022, but that number could be significantly higher because reporting cases to the CDC is not required.

Tick prevention at home

Around your home, keep lawns mowed, brushy areas trimmed and weeds whacked. Be especially diligent about areas around swing sets, sand boxes and children's play areas.

Since rodents are part of the tick-borne disease cy-

cle, eliminate places they like to live and hide. Try to avoid having brush piles and keep any building materials and gardening supplies off the ground.

Essentially the neater your yard, the fewer places ticks and the animals that carry them can hide and thrive. A free Texas A&M AgriLife Learn download on ticks is also available online.

Tick removal and when to be concerned

If a tick is found on a person or pet, it can be removed with tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the head as possible and pull straight out. Do not

touch the tick with your bare hands and apply an antiseptic to the skin after removal. The Tick App can offer additional guidance and removal methods.

If the head breaks off under the skin and cannot be removed, or if any pain, lesion or rash develops, contact a doctor. You should also inform your doctor if fever, headache, joint pain, muscle pain or swollen lymph nodes occur within 30 days of a tick bite.

"I don't want people to worry, I just want people to be aware," Swiger said. "Take precautions to protect your family and pets and enjoy being outdoors. Just be smart about it."



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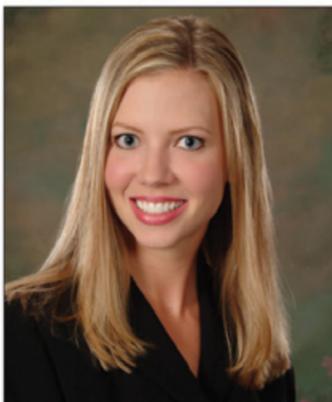
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Summer concerts feature big names

Pat Green, Jamie O'Neal, Gatlin Brothers coming to area

Tommy Mann Jr. For The Record

Summer has arrived and the regional concert scene is red hot as national acts perform from Houston to Lake Charles just about every week. Scan the list below and check out the full schedule online at www.therecordlive.com

• **June 27**

Thomas Mac, The Wildcatter Saloon, Katy

• **June 28**

Pat Green, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **June 29**

Lynch Mob, Scout Bar, Houston; Jamie O'Neal, The Venue at Belle Oaks, Beaumont; The Gatlin Brothers, Delta Downs Event Center, Vinton, La.

• **June 30**

The Doobie Brothers, The Robert Cray Band, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 6**

Sarah McLachlan, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land; Air Supply, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **July 7**

Powerman 5000, Sponge, Tantric, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston; Air Supply, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land; Sir Mix-a-Lot, House of Blues, Houston



Pat Green will be performing at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles on June 8.



Jamie O'Neal will be in Beaumont June 29 at The Venue at Bell Oaks.

• **July 10**

"Totally Tubular Festival" feat. Thomas Dolby, Modern English, Men Without Hats, The Plimsouls, 713 Music Hall, Houston; That Mexican OT, Maxo Kream, Droid, The Roxy Event Center, Beaumont

• **July 11**

Lacey Sturm, Islander, Amethyst Michelle, Scout Bar, Houston

• **July 12**

Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Cage the Elephant, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 13**

New Kids on the Block, Paula Abdul, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 16**

Chris Brown, Muni Long, Toyota Center, Houston

• **July 18**

Aaron Lewis, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **July 19**

Isley Brothers, Anthony Hamilton, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land

• **July 20**

Missy Elliott, Ciara, Busta Rhymes, Timberland, Toyota Center, Houston; Corey Kent, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.;

Chris Janson, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.

• **July 2**

Lamb of God, Mastodon, Malevolence, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **July 22**

The Kid Laroi, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **July 24**

Exciter, Midnight, Wraith, Hellwitch, White Oak Music Hall, Houston; The Marias, Automatic, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **July 26**

Peso Pluma, Toyota Center, Houston; Lindsey Stirling, Walk Off The Earth, Saint Motel, Smart Finan-

cial Centre, Sugar Land; Stoney LaRue, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **July 27**

Zach Bryan, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Levi Turner, NRG Stadium, Houston; Everclear, Camp Margaritaville, Crystal Beach; The Hunger, The Roxy Event Center, Beaumont

• **July 30**

Hot Freaks, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

• **July 31**

C-Kan, Neto Pena, Yoss Bones, Toser One, House of Blues, Houston

• **Aug. 1**

Blues Traveler, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **Aug. 2**

As I Lay Dying, Chelsea Grin, Entheos, House of Blues, Houston

• **Aug. 3**

Third Eye Blind, Yellowcard, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Megadeth, Mudvayne, All That Remains, 713 Music Hall, Houston; Chris Lane, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Pallbearer, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

• **Aug. 4**

YG, Doe Boy, DJ Vision, House of Blues, Houston

• **Aug. 9**

Luke Combs, NRG Stadium, Houston; Black Stone Cherry, Nonpoint, The Roxy Event Center, Beaumont; Three Dog Night, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **Aug. 10**

Luke Combs, NRG Stadium, Houston; The Gaslight Anthem, White Oak Music Hall, Houston; SIR, House of Blues, Houston; Grupo Frontera, Toyota Center, Houston; I Prevail, Halesstorm, Hollywood Undead, Fit for a King, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Ashley Cooke, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

Heat health risks From Page 2B

- Nausea
- Lightheadedness

"If you are experiencing these symptoms, you should immediately call 911 and get out of the heat if possible," Feinstein says.

Stroke

One 2020 study indicated that weather conditions, including high temperatures, are becoming a novel stroke risk factor. The authors noted that there can be a lag period of one to six days between weather exposure and stroke.

Another published Trusted Source in the same year but has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, suggested that stroke severity went up by more than two-thirds (67%) for every 9°F uptick in the average temperature range over three days.

Leuck points to the same reason as heart attack risk as the primary one for the increase in stroke severity.

"Extreme heat puts stressors on the body, especially in the elderly, and this can lead to an increased incidence of stroke, especially those with other risk factors such as high blood pressure," Leuck says.

Heatstroke

"Heat increases the risk of stroke both through causing 'regular' strokes through dehydration, but also in causing Heat Stroke by elevation of body temperature," Feinstein explains.

Like strokes, Freer says that heatstroke is a medical emergency.

"The signs of heatstroke are confusion, altered behavior, a change in speech, and even seizures," Freer says.

Heat stroke is not the same as heat exhaustion, but the two are related.

"Heat exhaustion is your body's warning sign that it's overheating," Freer says. "Symptoms like headache,

dizziness, and nausea signal the need to cool down and rehydrate with fluids and electrolytes...Seek shade, rest, and apply cool compresses."

Freer also recommends steering clear of caffeine and alcohol, which can make dehydration worse.

Worsening of kidney disease

Kidney disease affects an estimated 37 million Americans Trusted Source, and research published in 2022 suggested a significant association between kidney disease-related emergency room visits and extreme heat exposure.

The study is based on more than 1 million kidney disease-related emergency room visits in New York from 2005 to 2013. There was a stronger association between visits and people with acute kidney injuries, kidney stones, and urinary tract infections.

"The kidneys help our body regulate fluid, and with excessive heat, leading to excessive sweating in addition to the other stressors on the body, kidney problems can worsen," Leuck says.

Additionally, kidneys need fluids to function, and dehydration risks are higher in the heat, Feinstein explains.

Higher or lower blood pressure

Heat can cause blood pressure to become too low or too high.

"Hot weather can trigger low blood pressure for a few reasons," Freer says. "When you sweat heavily, your body loses fluids and blood volume. This decrease in volume can lead to a drop in blood pressure."

Freer says this issue can become more pronounced when changing positions, such as standing up after lying down. Dizziness and lightheadedness are symp-

toms associated with low blood pressure.

Freer adds that dehydration's strain on the kidneys can also decrease blood pressure, especially in dehydrated people.

On the flip side, some people may experience increased blood pressure.

"Heat can cause higher blood pressure because the body has to work harder to circulate blood to try to keep cool and allow for sweating and evaporation that is needed so that the body temperature does not get elevated, as can happen in heat stroke," Leuck says.

Leuck says high blood pressure can be asymptomatic but could also trigger headaches and dizziness.

Takeaway

Heat can play a role in increased health risks, including heart attack, stroke, worsening kidney disease symptoms, blood pressure changes, and heat stroke.

People who are older, pregnant, have underlying health conditions, and

young children are at a higher risk for experiencing health issues in the heat, though anyone can.

You can protect yourself

and loved ones by remaining hydrated, seeking shade or air conditioning, avoiding physical exertion in sweltering temperatures,

and seeking medical care if you are concerned about your health or that of a loved one.

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When weather gets hot, tempers also flare

Courtenay Bond
Behavioral Health

If your temper is flaring as the temperature has been spiking, you are not alone.

Heat is a “stressor that makes people vulnerable to intense emotions and irritability,” which can make people “more apt to engage in impulsive behaviors,” said Mark Bingel-McKillips, a licensed clinical social worker with Thrive-works in Philadelphia. He specializes in helping people with behavioral challenges, anger and stress.

When people are excessively cold, they shiver, and when they are excessively hot, they sweat. “In both cases, we seek relief,” Bingel-McKillips said. “In both cases, anxiety will increase if we’re prevented from seeking relief.”

Aggravating matters is the fact that sweating can make people feel uncomfortable. “It’s kind of like a domino effect: excessive

sweat can lead to feelings of insecurity and shame and secondary emotions such as anger,” Bingel-McKillips said.

Craig Anderson, a psychology professor at the Iowa State University, who has studied the effects of heat on violence for decades, has written that “hot temperatures increase aggression by directly increasing feelings of hostility and indirectly increasing aggressive thoughts.”

And studies show that assaults, mass shootings and terrorist attacks occur more frequently in the summer and when temperatures rise.

A 2022 study from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research found that extreme temperatures – hot or cold – increased online hate speech.

Analyzing billions of tweets Americans posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, researchers found that temperatures above 86 degrees

were consistently linked to increases in online hate across all climate zones and socioeconomic differences such as income, religious beliefs or political preferences. Even in high-income areas, where people could afford air conditioning, researchers observed an increase in hate speech on extremely hot days.

“Our results highlight online hate speech as a new impact channel through which climate change can affect overall societal cohesion and people’s mental health,” wrote Leonie Wenz, who led the study. “So that means that curbing emissions very rapidly and drastically will not only benefit the outer world. Protecting our climate from excessive global warming is also critical to our mental health.”

Bingel-McKillips said some of the people he sees in his practice express significant anxiety about climate change. “Your world is



Heat waves increase anxiety, irritability and aggression, leading to more violence and crime. But there are ways to mitigate these feelings.

on fire, literally,” he said. “A lot of my clients bring up their fear of catastrophe and what is to come.”

To cope with the anxiety, irritability and anger that

heat waves can induce, people can seek relief in air-conditioned places, whether it is in their homes, public spaces or cooling centers, Bingel-McKillips

said. They should stay hydrated and dress in loose, light-colored clothing that does not retain heat.

People also can reduce mood disturbances by “taking charge of what (they’re) thinking about and using distraction and trying to reframe the negative to a positive,” Bingel-McKillips said.

One technique used in behavioral modification therapy to help people interrupt anxiety and panic attacks is to press bags of ice to their cheeks. This slows the heart rate and takes people out of fight-or-flight mode. “It will trick the brain into thinking it is cooling faster,” Bingel-McKillips said.

People who are feeling overwhelmed in the heat or struggling to cope can seek help by calling their doctors or going to the nearest hospital, health experts advise. They also can reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling 988.

Captain Chuck From Page 2B

in the air as the anticipation washes over your every thought. Once the silence is broken by that first vicious strike and subsequent thrashing along the surface all that’s left to do is enjoy the moment. That magical hour or two before the sun comes up is well worth the effort it took to reach that destination. Some of the best trout I’ve ever seen caught were taken in the pre-dawn hours by wade fishermen so I have a great appreciation for this pattern. Just like the boat anglers who fish late and stay past sunset the waders will also take their fair share of good fish as well. There is something about how the water calms down as the traffic lightens up and the light begins to fade that

cranks these fish up to become active feeders. By taking advantage of the reduced traffic and better feeding conditions anglers can beat the heat and increase their odds exponentially of tangling with a big fish while escaping the heat at the same time.

Now if a stealth mission in the dark is not your idea of a good time you have other options too. For years we have made great use of the deep water patterns in the Sabine and Neches Rivers. During the summer months the run off from Toledo Bend, Sam Rayburn, and all the other miles of watershed area becomes minimal as saltwater begins to creep farther up the rivers. When these conditions exist those who know how to take advantage of

them are often rewarded with some of the easiest and most productive fishing possible. The live bait pattern really shines under these circumstances. Most local anglers will cast-net live shad and fish them on a Carolina rig along the breaks and depth changes. Underwater structure that causes eddy’s or current changes will concentrate big numbers of both speckled trout and redfish into relatively small areas. Being precise as to where you anchor in proximity to the depth change or structure is vital so paying attention to your depth finder is a must. Once you set up correctly you can absolutely wear out the fish and enjoy some truly relaxing fishing. If you set up wrong you may

ert. This deep water pattern is a favorite of mine because of how simple it is and how productive it can be. I have spent many days posted up on anchor dunking shad whilecatching just as many fish as the folks running by me headed for the open lake. This program works and is so easy that it’s almost funny. Easily a great way to beat the heat.

Well so far we have discussed how to stay out of the heat and still catch fish, a common goal for most anglers for sure. There is one more pattern for this time of the year that is without a doubt not for the faint of heart or health but is certainly an exciting option. If you are healthy enough to stand the heat you can patrol the open lake about mid-day when most anglers are heading in to find some air conditioning. Many

times during the summer the lake will just go completely flat and resemble a big bowl of mercury. Any surface commotion can be seen or heard from great distances. Often times the shrimp will get bunched up and the speckled trout and redfish will go on a vicious feed while giving away their location. It’s during these times a careful angler can stay with a group of schooling fish for a long time. During other times the shad and pogies will get herded together by big schools of oversized redfish and that’s exactly where the big party starts. If you’ve never stumbled up on one of these big gangs of redfish and watched that carnage you can only imagine the chaos. Those big reds will blow holes in the water that will take 2 minutes fill back up, they are incredible. An-

glers willing to brave the temperatures and spend a little time looking around can usually find an active school of fish that will keep them busy for as long as they want. With temperatures creeping close to triple digits it doesn’t take long to get your fill.

Now that you are armed with plenty of options for beating the heat you can take your pick and enjoy any of them. Regardless of which pattern you choose please take proper precautions. Staying hydrated and protected from the sun are keys along with being aware of how you feel. Many times it’s after the trip before you really feel the effects of a day in extreme heat. Enjoy the consistent weather pattern and the great fishing that summer presents because it’s truly a great time of the year.



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The Seeds None Could Afford

Joe Rigney
Teacher
desiringGod.org

When the emperor Nero blamed Christians for starting the fire that destroyed much of Rome in AD 64, persecution became official policy for the first time. Though it remained sporadic, many early Christians never knew when they might be forced to pay the ultimate price for their faith.

Pictures of such Christians facing lions in the Colosseum or being burnt at the stake are familiar to many of us. Those who lost their lives in this way are venerated as martyrs, a term that originally meant witnesses but that is now reserved for those who died for their beliefs. To be sure, some of the stories told about the early martyrs have been exaggerated. (We need not believe the legend of Dionysius, for example, which says he was put to death in Paris but managed to walk ten miles or so with his severed head!)

Nevertheless, there were certainly many people who went to their deaths because they refused to renounce their devotion to Christ. Why was this? The church father Tertullian (c. 155–c. 220) offers a fascinating window into early Christian martyrdom — and how God used it to build his church.

Jesus's Unique Death

The idea that someone might be put to death for his or her beliefs was not entirely unknown in the ancient world, but such deaths were uncommon and generally

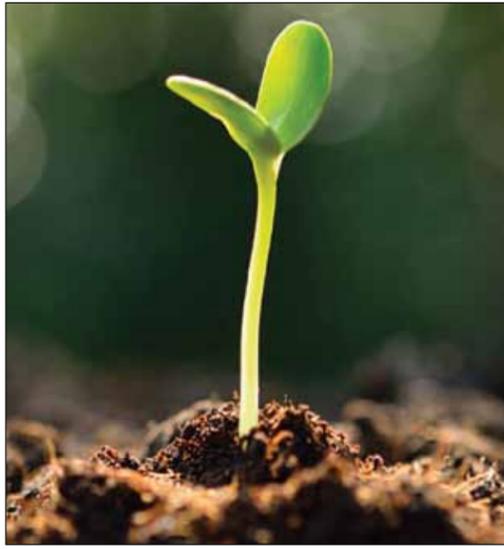
disapproved of. The classic case is that of Socrates, the Athenian philosopher who was executed in 399 BC by his fellow citizens because they thought he was an atheist who was leading young people astray. The scandal caused by that injustice was so great that nothing like it ever happened again in Athens.

Though some have compared Jesus to Socrates, the early Christians saw him differently. They knew Jesus had suffered because Jewish leaders had accused him of blasphemy, and the Roman authorities in Palestine were too cowardly to resist their calls for the death sentence. Jesus was no mere philosopher. He didn't die as a victim in the cause of free speech. His death was a sacrifice that God had foreordained as the fulfillment of his promise to the Jews that he would save them from their sins. The men who condemned him were certainly guilty of shedding innocent blood, but they were also unwitting agents of a divine plan that they did not understand (Acts 4:24–28).

Jesus died to pay the price for our sins, but he did not stay in the grave. Three days later, he rose again from the dead — and forty days after that, he ascended into heaven.

Christian Martyrdom

The disciples of Jesus were unpopular, particularly with the Jewish establishment, which thought they were destroying Judaism by claiming that Old Testament sacrifices were no lon-



ger valid. Many of the earliest Christians were arrested and subjected to severe beatings. Some even lost their lives at the hands of their Jewish persecutors (Acts 7:58–60; 12:1–2), though these occurrences were rare. And then, after fire consumed Rome, persecution became a matter of imperial policy.

Curiously, neither the Christians nor their persecutors could explain what the crimes were. Christians were typically model subjects of the Roman Empire and did nothing to offend anyone beyond refusing to worship the pagan gods. The Romans disapproved of that, of course, but Jews did not worship the gods either, nor did many of the philosophers who regarded all religion as superstition, and nobody tried to put them to death.

Educated Christians did not hesitate to write defenses of their faith in which

they pointed out how wrong it was for pagans to persecute them. Among them was Tertullian, a North African convert to Christianity. Tertullian, who seems to have escaped execution, wrote a number of books in which he expounded his faith to unbelievers and encouraged martyrs to stand firm as witnesses to Christ, even regarding their martyrdom as proof that what they believed was true.

Tertullian's Witness

Tertullian was the first Christian to write specifically about martyrdom and persecution, though there is no sign that he suffered either himself. He wrote a couple of short books to other Christians who were facing martyrdom themselves or who were tempted to run away from persecution and save their lives. In *To the Martyrs* and *On Flight in Persecution*, he told them to stand firm and sacrifice

themselves for the spiritual truth that they cherished more than life itself. As he put it, Jesus had died for them, so it was a privilege to be able to die for him. It was also a sign to unbelievers that Christians meant business. Just as Jesus came back from the dead, so too they would rise again to a higher life with him in heaven.

Tertullian's most important treatment of the subject, however, was in his *Apology*, a lengthy argument addressed to the pagans who were putting Christians to death. Many pagans were blaming Christians for causing earthquakes and floods, an absurd charge that was easy to refute. Natural disasters had been occurring long before the coming of Christ, so how could his followers be responsible for them? On the contrary, Christians prayed for the welfare of all people, and when disasters occurred, it was they who helped the victims, not the pagans.

Moreover, people who saw Christians going to their deaths, often praying and singing as they went, were moved by their courage and tempted to examine their beliefs more carefully, which was the exact opposite of what the persecutors wanted. In fact, it was often the martyrs' witness that persuaded others to believe in Christ. The world was against them, but Christians had nothing to fear, and they demonstrated their faith by being willing to die for it.

'I Will Build My Church'

Tertullian was grieved by the injustice inflicted on his fellow believers, but he was able to see beyond the horrors of persecution to the

purposes of God that lay behind it. As he explained to his pagan contemporaries, the more they persecuted Christians, the more their blood bore witness to the truth of their faith. As modern writers have paraphrased his words, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church."

Many people who saw what was happening were not indifferent to the wrongdoing they witnessed. The martyrs who went to their deaths willingly, often joyfully singing hymns, were sending a more powerful message to bystanders than even the Christian preachers they may have heard. That believers acted this way led many to think there must be something to this faith. Imperceptibly and incrementally, the church began to grow. One by one, people who were hostile or indifferent began to ask questions and, as they got answers, became convinced of the truth of what they were seeing and being told.

Tertullian did not hesitate to remind his readers of the legendary heroes of early Rome, who had stood up against the city's enemies and rescued it from destruction. Centuries later, their devotion had produced a worldwide empire.

As Christians today, we naturally do not want to suffer for our faith any more than they did, but we can see from their example that our sufferings have a purpose in the mind of God that will be revealed in his good time, to the honor and glory of his holy name. Like the martyrs of old, we walk by faith, knowing that death in this world is but the gateway to eternal life in the world to come.

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