



I CALL HIM LUCKY One of the many babies born this year at Lonesome Dove Wildlife Safari outside Jefferson, this Scimitar Oryx calf first put his hooves on the ground on one of the coldest days in January and could not find his mother. Find out why Safari owner Jimmy Moore calls him, "Lucky," in this touching Mother's Day story on Page 3.

Rain, Rain Just Won't Go Away; NWS Calls For Wet, Hot Summer

By **BOB PALMER** *Jimplecute News Editor* Brandi Richardson, National Weather Service in Shreveport Senior Meteorologist, told the *Jimplecute* this week Marion County can expect more rain.

"Another wet 10 days are coming," Richardson said.

The forecast for additional precipitation is for more than the next couple of weeks.

The NWS has made a seasonal outlook for the next three months of above normal rainfall, as well as above normal temperatures.

"They are issuing El Niño advisories," Richardson said of the weather pattern. "We are in a weak El Niño, currently. They are thinking it will continue through the summer of 2019."

In the *Jimplecute's* semi-annual look at local weather trends, Richardson predicted last fall heavier than normal precipitation this winter. If you think this area has already received a lot of rain, you are right.

According to Richardson, Marion County has received 24.62 inches of rain as of May 6. That is 33 percent higher than the 16 inch average that is normal. Last year, Marion County received 21.03 inches during the same months.

April was the wettest month this year so far and had 8.44 inches of rain. The average monthly rainfall for Jefferson in the spring is about 4 inches per month.

"I can comfortably say, we are well ahead of average," Richardson said.

LOCAL EVENTS AFFECTED

Residents may recall how the second weekend of the Candlelight Tour of Homes was rained out in December, the motorcycle races were rained out, the WOJO Rabbit Run was rained out and last weekend's Pilgrimage and the Battle for Jefferson were impacted.

Re-enactment organizers say, however, the weather failed to dampen spirits.

"Despite the weather we had a pretty successful event," Wes Hamilton said.

Some out-of-town re-enactors chose not to come this year.

"Participation was not as large as normal," Hamilton said. "A lot of people from out of town were real cautious."

Hamilton noted, however, 600-700 spectators watched the "battle" on Saturday with another 300-400 on Sunday.

"We were pleased," Hamilton said.

IMPACT ON LAKES

Walt Sears, Jr., executive director of Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, said Lake O' the Pines is more than eight feet above the desired lake level and that Caddo Lake should reach flood stage this week.

"We are in a wet episode that will impact the water elevations in Lake O' the Pines for at least the next two months," Sears said.

Last week, more water entered Lake O' the Pines than left it. Today, there is about 191,818 acre feet in the flood pool at Lake O' the Pines.

"That is enough water to about fill Lake Bob Sandlin from empty," Sears said. "That is a lot of water."

The Lake O' the Pines elevation is slightly above 237.2 feet which is 8.76 feet above the water supply top. It is using about 1/3 of its flood storage.

Lake O' the Pines is on maximum release (3000 c.f.s.). When the water elevation is 236 or higher, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) releases 3,000 c.f.s. According to the release program of the USACE, the release will remain at near maximum until the lake's elevation recedes to below 236.

"With only 3,000 c.f.s. being released, it will take weeks for the elevation to recede to near normal elevations even assuming modest to little rainfall," Sears said.

With the reported flow into Caddo Lake exceeding 10,000 c.f.s., the majority of the water entering into Caddo Lake is not coming from Lake O' the Pines. Little Cypress and Black Cypress feed into Cypress Bayou below the Lake O' the Pines dam to boost the flow into Caddo.

The impact from the heavy rains is felt downstream.

"Red River in Shreveport is less than 1 foot away from flood stage," Sears said.

Man Gets 80 Years for Beating Death of His Mother

By **BOB PALMER** *Jimplecute News Editor*

District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced Zachary McDaniel, 26, to 80 years in prison following a bench trial last week.

McDaniel pled guilty on Tuesday to a murder charge stemming from the 2017 death of his mother, Tonya Roxanne Kilgore, of the Berea Community. A bloody baseball bat was found near the body.

The trial in 115th Judicial District Court was to determine the sentence.

"It was just a family tragedy," McDaniel's attorney Rick Berry said. "The relationship between the mother and Mr. McDaniel had many ups and downs."

According to Berry, McDaniel had been raised by his grandmother and an aunt.

"Just when things were coming together, this happened," Berry said.

McDaniel testified his mother said some shocking things to him and he reacted by hitting her with a baseball bat.

"I thought Judge Fowler was fair," Berry said.

The *Jimplecute* contacted District Attorney Angela Smoak

for comment on the case. Smoak has not returned our call.

"On August 4th, at approximately 4:30 A.M., deputies received a call that initially reported a missing person," Sheriff David McKnight stated in a press release at the time.

Friends found a trail of blood leading toward the back door of Kilgore's trailer. They decided it was time to call the Sheriff's Department.

The responding deputy discovered a large amount of blood inside Kilgore's residence and notified investigators.

At approximately 7:30 A.M., the body of Ms. Kilgore was discovered, dumped inside an abandoned camper trailer in the woods just north of the residence.

The victim had severe apparent blunt force trauma injuries to the head, McKnight revealed in the press release. McDaniel was arrested on the scene and charged with murder.

Family members stated mother and son had disagreed over him wanting to move his girlfriend in with them.

Grand Jury Indicts 12; 15 Cases Resolved in April

The Marion County Grand Jury indicted 12 persons on 14 charges in April.

One person was indicted on three counts of sexual assault of a child.

Two people were indicted on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, one for assault of a public servant, one for burglary; three were charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one for assault family/house member violence.

Two people were charged with theft and fraud in claiming a lottery prize and one on a charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

One person waived their right to a Grand Jury hearing and pled guilty to a charge of possession of a controlled substance, receiving a one-year sentence.

The state filed motions to revoke probation against Dvontae Kentreil Hood, who had been found guilty on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and one who had been convicted of burglary of a habitation.

In April, district court action resulted in three cases of amended probation, one probation discharge and probation revoked on six persons.

One person was convicted on a charge of prohibited substance in a correctional facility, one for two charges of burglary of a building.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charges against Jason Ray Gilmore were dismissed.

Total fines assessed came to \$2,600. Court costs were \$1,986.

Sheriff Takes 'Full Responsibility' For Satiric 'Elmer' Facebook Post

By **BOB PALMER** *Jimplecute News Editor*

Marion County Sheriff David McKnight told the *Jimplecute* this week he accepted responsibility for a post to the "Marion County Sheriff's Department" Facebook page that many found offensive.

"I take full responsibility," McKnight said when given a Texas Freedom of Information request last week by the *Jefferson Jimplecute*. "It's my department and I'm the sheriff."

McKnight said he would deny the FOIA request since the Facebook page was not an official government location.

"It's attached to a private email," McKnight said. "Anyone can take a picture of a sheriff's car and create a Facebook page."

Asked whose email was linked to the page, McKnight admitted the email was his.

Previously, McKnight in media statements had asserted the Marion County Sheriff's Office Facebook account had been hacked.

"We use the page to go on and post weather updates and things of that nature," McKnight said. "We didn't make this post, someone had to have hacked into the account somehow but I took it down."

On April 24, a post on the Marion County Sheriff's Facebook page announced the employment of Elmer as the department's new animal control officer.

"We would like to introduce Elmer," the announcement read. "Elmer will specialize in animal control and will be a perfect fit with our constituents who are concerned with our furry friends. Elmer says, 'If you want them caught, fed or skint, just flag me down.'"

The language of the post and its accompanying picture of what was later identified as an unkempt homeless man quickly stirred reactions from animal rights advocates.

"Ideally, all law enforcement officers would understand that animal welfare, public trust in the integrity of our judicial branch, and appropriate use of technology by those public servants are serious issues," Kimberly Parsons, Friends of Jefferson Animals president, said. "Everyone makes mistakes - but people of character admit their errors, apologize and make amends."

The social media incident follows six months of controversy over the lack of sufficient animal control solutions in Marion

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