

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Instincts lead OC deputy to arrest murder suspect

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

An Orange County patrol deputy checking on an SUV pulled off the side of the road late Monday morning ended up arresting a man who is accused of stabbing a man to death a few hours earlier in Harris County.

Orange County Sheriff's Captain Joey Jacobs said Deputy Summer Magnen stopped a little before 11 Monday morning to check on the gray SUV off North FM 1442 near Linscomb Road.

"As she pulls up, she's just going to do a welfare check, for like a disabled driver," Jacobs said. "She immediately sees blood and her gut instincts went off."

She asked the man to get out and notices he has blood on him and his speech is slurred. She called for Orange County detectives to come and arrests the man for public intoxication, which is a misdemeanor.

Captain Jacobs said the man told deputies he was driving from Houston to Louisiana. Orange sheriff's investigators worked to track down the owner of the SUV and made calls to the Harris County Sheriff's Office. They learned deputies there were looking for someone in connection with a stabbing death earli-



Orange deputies took 20-year-old Darrian Daquan Hall into custody.

er in the morning.

Jacobs said the owner of the car had a connection with the victim.

Orange deputies took 20-year-old Darrian Daquan Hall into custody. Harris County investigators came to Orange and got a search warrant. "There was evidence inside the car that tied back to the murder," Jacobs said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office reported the bloody body of 30-year-old Deandre Morris Nicholas had been found off a roadway in North Harris County about 3 a.m. Monday. He apparently had been stabbed at a nearby park, walked off and collapsed.

Jacobs said the Harris County investigators obtained an arrest warrant for capital murder against Hall

Murder Suspect Page 3A



The Orangefield UIL Academic team competes at A&M Consolidated Invitational

The Orangefield UIL Academic team traveled to College Station and toured The Texas A&M University. They also competed at the A&M Consolidated Invitational meet on Saturday.

New plant bringing construction boom

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

New construction is in full swing around the Greater Orange area with much of it tied into the construction of the \$8.5 billion ChevronPhillips chemical plant.

However, HEB has not gotten any permits or announced the start of building its acquired site off MacArthur Drive in Pinehurst. The Texas-based grocery giant worked with Pinehurst officials more than five years ago to begin site plans at the spot where the 1960 MacArthur Shopping Center stood for half a century.

Pinehurst Code Enforcement Officer Leonard Ross, though, said McDonald's, which acquired land next to the HEB site, has gotten a permit for signage, though the company has not applied for the building permit.

In West Orange, Porky's convenience store complex



Porky's, a 24-hour convenience store that will sell foods and beverages, along with a variety of goods, will be opening soon in West Orange at the corner of Highway 87 South and FM 105 catcorner to the new ChevronPhillips plant site. It is one of several construction projects in the West Orange-Pinehurst-Orange area.

is close to being completed on Highway 87 at FM 105. The store is on the northeast corner of the busy intersection and catcorner to where the ChevronPhillips Golden Triangle Polymer plant is being con-

structed.

West Orange Mayor Pro Tem Meritta Kennedy said the store is described as a "mini-Buccee's" and will include restaurant food along with fuels for big trucks, along with gasoline for reg-

ular cars and pickup trucks. It will be open 24 hours a day.

She said the store was set to open at the end of February, but has had delays.

Construction Page 3A

BCISD to hold groundbreaking for new CTE building

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Bridge City ISD will hold a ceremony to commemorate the groundbreaking of its new Career and Technical Education (CTE) building.

What: Bridge City ISD - CTE Building

When: March 6th at 5:00 PM

Where: 2690 Texas Ave, Bridge City, TX 77611

(Located on campus behind Bridge City High school)

Representatives from Bridge City ISD, G&G Enterprises, Claycomb Associates Architects and the public will gather Monday,

March 6th at 5:00 PM for the Groundbreaking Ceremony to launch the construction phase of the new CTE building.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will feature remarks from Dr. Mike Kelly, Superintendent of BCISD; Ms. Rebecca Rutledge, School Board President; Mr. Tim Woolley, Bridge City High School Principal; Natasha Garrett, CEO of G&G Enterprises; and Will Clayton, Project Manager at Claycomb Associates Architects.

"I would like to thank our staff, bond committee, G&G Enterprises, Clay-

BCISD Page 3A

Entergy Texas customers to benefit from cleaner energy resource

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Entergy Texas customers will soon benefit from a new, cleaner energy resource located in Polk County, Texas.

Longroad Energy, a US-based renewable energy developer, owner and operator, recently announced fi-

nancial close and commencement of construction of Umbriel Solar, a 150 MWac (202 MWdc) photovoltaics project.

Entergy Texas has entered into a long-term Power Purchase Agreement for Umbriel's total output, which is enough energy to power more than 30,000 homes.

"Umbriel marks a major milestone, as it will be our

first solar resource to come online, further diversifying our portfolio," said Abigail Weaver, Entergy Texas director of resource planning and market operations. "Our communities are increasingly asking for clean-energy offerings, and this facility will provide affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for years to come."

The renewable energy generated by Umbriel is projected to be the equivalent of avoiding approximately 250,000 metric tons annually of CO2 emissions, which is equal to taking approximately 55,000 cars off the road each year that the facility is in operation.

Entergy Texas Page 3A



My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

On February 24, 1836, William B. Travis wrote his famous letter from the Alamo. He wrote the defenders would never “surrender or retreat” and ended with the iconic line “Victory or Death.”

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Abbott announces emergency items

Last week, Governor Greg Abbott gave his State of the State address. In that address, he listed his seven emergency items that he is asking the Legislature to address this session. Emergency items identified by the Governor are special because the Legislature can begin to address and vote on them immediately rather than waiting the requisite 60 days for passing normal legislation. The seven items the governor identified include cutting property taxes, ending COVID-19 restrictions, expanding school choice, school safety, continued bail reform, border securi-

ty, and combating the fentanyl crisis. Outside of his emergency items, the governor mentioned several other priorities including increasing infrastructure funding, creating new economic development tools, and mandatory minimum sentences for illegal gun possession by criminals, among other things.

Now that the Governor's emergency items have been established, the Legislature can begin working on these issues. Committees should also begin meeting in the next few weeks and the bill filing deadline is on March 10.

2. Bill filed to move Stephen F. Austin State University to the UT System

This week, I filed Senate Bill 1055 which would formally place SFA within the UT System and sets up a framework for that to happen. The bill directly names the university as



Sen. Nichols

Stephen F. Austin State University, a member of the University of Texas System. It was important to the community that the university retain its name, colors, and mascot as part of its identity. An important note about the legislation as filed, the caption reads that the bill is “abolishing Stephen F. Austin State University.” I'd like the community to know that language is necessary for SFA to be eligible to receive certain funds in the UT System. This bill will not alter SFA's current presence or change much on a day-to-day basis for students and faculty. The transition to the UT System will take place over the summer at the direction of the UT Board of Regents. Both universities are excited about the transition and are working together to ensure a seamless transition. This is an exciting time for both SFA and the surrounding community.

3. Senate Finance work groups announced

The Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Joan Huffman announced work groups for Senate Finance this week. In the Senate, the Finance Committee breaks the entire budget down by article and assigns groups of senators to go through them line-by-line to make decisions on agencies and their appropriation requests. This session I am honored to again chair the work group on Articles 6, 7, and 8. Those articles cover agencies that relate to natural resources, business and economic development, and regulatory agencies. Joining me in our work group are Sen. Royce West, Sen. Charles Schwertner, and Sen. Charles Perry. Together we will oversee billions of dollars in appropriations. I look forward to working with my colleagues on making recommendations to the rest of the Finance Committee and Chair Huffman.

4. Texas A&M Forest Service offering grants for volunteer firefighter recruitment

This week, I filed Senate Bill 1055 which would formally place SFA within the UT System and sets up a framework for that to happen. The bill directly names the university as Stephen F. Austin State University, a member of the University of Texas System. It was important to the community that the university retain its name, colors, and mascot as part of its identity. An important note about the legislation as filed, the caption reads that the bill is “abolishing Stephen F. Austin State University.” I'd like the community to know that language is necessary for SFA to be eligible to receive certain funds in the UT System. This bill will not alter SFA's current presence or change much on a day-to-day basis for students and faculty. The transition to the UT System will take

place over the summer at the direction of the UT Board of Regents. Both universities are excited about the transition and are working together to ensure a seamless transition. This is an exciting time for both SFA and the surrounding community.

5. Texas ranked first in Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness

Texas once again came in first as the best state for Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness, according to PwC. In the publications ninth ratings report, the rankings considered key variables such as cost, labor, infrastructure, industry, economy, and tax policy. Texas ranked number one in tax policy and economy and number two in industry. Rounding out the top five were Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana. Texas is already home to several space-related organizations like Blue Origin, Space X, and NASA.

IS AMERICA GOING BROKE?

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record



Former State Senator Carl Parker

Almost without exception, first-time candidates for office promise improvements in necessities such as health care, education, fighting crime or reducing taxes. The number one answer given when asked how they plan on doing that is that they will be able to afford such ambitious programs by cutting waste. When asked about the definition of “waste” they intend to cut, they get somewhat ambivalent. Usually they give a lecture about our nation's creeping national debt. Many of them who give such lectures seem to have forgotten that they increased the national debt more than a trillion for

program, giving away billions of dollars to “fat-cat” corporations. They seem to agree with the argument that we are headed for socialistic government with programs like Social Security and Medicare

Given the courage there are a couple of ways we could take a big bite out of our country's national debt right away. First it is estimated the debt to Internal Revenue is 404 billion dollars estimated by independent organizations. IRS estimates the same deficit as a trillion. This is true even in the face of the fact that our congress refuses to equip the IRS with enough agents and investigators to take tax cheaters to task. My dad, who was a stickler for paying for what you owed,

would have been shocked at what we allow deadbeats to do were he alive today.

Another way to balance our national budget that fails for lack of courage and the thriving of hypocrisy is the fact that Congress is unable to levy a fair tax equal for everyone. Working people pay 35% of what they earn while most corporations pay 25% or less and unfortunately there are several multi-billion dollar corporations who pay nothing at all.

In any event, independent studies of financial experts demonstrate America will not go broke even at the rate that it is borrowing from itself. All we can do is pray that some modicum of hypocrisy along with our national debt goes away.

Carl Parker is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

more than a decade by voting for Donald Trump's tax

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of Orange County, Texas

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A new White Water car wash is planned for 16th south of Interstate 10 in Orange. The Orange City Council recently approved an EDC grant for the construction.

Construction boom From Page 1

Still, everything is complete on the outside, including new landscaping.

She had some disappointing news on Tuesday, though. Moreaux Transportation Services, a Houston-based company with a site on FM 1006, known as Chemical Row, had planned to build a concrete plant at the northeast corner of Western Avenue and Foreman Road, which is also catcorner to the new ChevronPhillips plant.

Kennedy said a company spokesman told her the Orange County Drainage District was holding up its permit and the company has decided at this time to use the site for storing materials. Tuesday afternoon, piles of rock were on the land. The company will use another Orange site for the concrete plant.

City officials in West Orange are continuing to work on infrastructure, like roads, to attract more businesses, she said. The city is also condemning and demolishing dilapidated buildings. Recently, a long-vacant commercial building on Western Avenue that once had a kolache shop was taken down and the lot was cleared.

Over in Orange, a permit was issued in January for a 10-unit apartment complex at 3110 23rd Street at the north end of the Charlemont subdivision and off Interstate 10. The land was cleared several months ago at the site.

The project's value was listed at \$1.2 million with A2Z Global Construction as the contractor.

The city of Orange has also announced that BCS Capital Group of Houston will be building a White Water Express car wash on 16th Street south of Interstate 10 in the area by Chick-fil-A and Starbucks.

The city council and city's Economic Development Corporation board approved a \$200,000 EDC grant to help with costs of

Murder suspect arrested From Page 1

from a Harris County district court. Bond was set at \$1 million. Harris County and Orange County officials are working on getting him transferred to the Harris County Jail.

"I can't give enough praise to that patrolman," Jacobs said. If not for her and her instincts, a murder suspect may have gotten away.

the new building. Previously, a company had planned an oil change business at the site, but the plans changed.

The city is also giving Whataburger a \$300,000 EDC grant for a new restaurant in that same area of 16th Street.

That acreage was opened up for development after city officials spent more than a decade trying to get the Texas Department of Transportation to build an Interstate 10 access road across the railroad tracks there. For more than 60 years, Interstate travelers had to cross the tracks by an overpass with no access road. The agreement with Union Pacific to open two new traffic crossings led to the city closing old track crossings.

Construction on the new Whataburger has not started.

The city also announced last week that roadway

construction was starting for the new Little Cypress Grove subdivision off Martin Luther King Jr. Drive west of Little Cypress Junior High.

The road construction is being done in the evenings into the early morning hours and includes the use concrete trucks and installed light plants. Weekday road construction will not interfere with drop-off and pick-up times at the nearby school.

The subdivision is planned for 28 acres with 99 single-family houses.

Construction in Orange is also continuing on the new Gisela Houseman Medical Center in the Eagle Point development off Interstate 10 and Highway 62. A new residence-style hotel with furnished kitchens in rooms is being built east of the medical complex.

BCISD groundbreaking March 5

From Page 1

comb Associates Architects and the entire Bridge City community for helping today become a reality. Not only is this a great day for our students who will have access to incredible facilities and resources to prepare them for success well into the future, it is also a great day for the community of Bridge City and all of Southeast Texas. I'm excited to report that local subcontractor and supplier participation is just over 97% on the Career Technical Education building. This means that approximately 98% of the bond revenue on this project will stay local to Southeast Texas! We are excited to prepare students for high need careers in healthcare, maritime, welding, teaching, fine arts, law enforcement, engineering, information technology, as well as, refining and chemical process technology. Our desire is to educate, prepare, and



BCISD Superintendent Mike Kelly

graduate top tier students who will bring their talents and gifts back home to Southeast Texas to serve the community that has been so supportive of our school district." - Dr. Mike Kelly, BCISD Superintendent

"G&G Enterprises and Claycomb Architects have been nothing short of amazing during the planning process for the new CTE addition at Bridge City High School. From the beginning, they made every effort to in-

clude the BCHS classroom teachers to make sure the spaces for our students will prepare them for every learning opportunity or career after graduation." - Tim Woolley, BCHS Principal

The community of Bridge City is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

About the BCISD CTE Project

The new CTE building will be a 40,654 square foot addition to Bridge City High School that will allow for CTE programs to move from regular classrooms to functional lab settings, provide additional storage and common areas for a variety of programs including metal shop, wood shop, engineering, family consumer science, certified nursing assistant, flower factory and audio/visual production.

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From the Creaux's Nest

LYING FOR PROFIT—RATINGS OVER TRUTH

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of Fox Corporation, acknowledged in a deposition taken by Dominion Voting Systems that some Fox News hosts endorsed false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. Murdoch's remarks were made public in a legal filing as part of Dominion's \$1.6 billion lawsuit against Fox News. In his deposition, Murdoch conceded that Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro, Maria Bartiromo, and former host Lou Dobbs promoted the falsehood about the presidential contest being stolen. The filing also revealed that Murdoch referred to some of Trump's 2020 election lies as "bulls**t and damaging." In another filing made public earlier this month, a trove of messages and emails from the most prominent stars and highest-ranking executives at Fox News showed they had privately ridiculed claims of election fraud in the 2020 election, despite the right-wing channel promoting lies about the presidential contest on its air. The messages showed that Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and Laura Ingraham brutally mocked lies being pushed by former President Donald Trump's camp asserting that the election was rigged. The court filings have offered the most vivid picture to date of the chaos that transpired behind the scenes at Fox News after Trump lost the election and viewers rebelled against the right-wing channel for accurately calling the contest in Biden's favor. Fox ratings had fallen to third place. Murdoch testified it was "wrong for Tucker to host Mike Lindell to repeat those allegations against Dominion on January 26th, 2021," the documents said. When asked why he continued to allow Lindell, the MyPillow CEO, to make election fraud claims on Fox News, Murdoch said it was a business decision. "It is not red or blue, it is green," Murdoch replied, according to the court documents. "The man is on every night. Pays us a lot of money..." Murdoch also said he could have stopped Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell, former lawyers for President Trump and his campaign who alleged election fraud, from appearing on the network's programs, the filing said. "I could have. But I didn't," Murdoch said.

OUR CONDOLENCES

Norris P. Brandon

Norris P. Brandon passed away February 26, 2023. This Friday, March 3, he would have been 90-years-old. He was born on a houseboat in Bayou Barataria. The Louisiana native moved to Bridge City with his wife Pat 62 years ago. She became Bridge City, City Secretary and he put in 43 years at Texaco. He was a great guy with a great personality. His mind was always very sharp till his last day. He outlived most of his old friends but they, like me, considered him a guy to ride the range with. I called him the Mayor of Warner Street he had lived there so long. He will be missed. Condolences to his daughter Evelyn and son Paul, family and friends. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary.

Billie Don Carter

In the past week we lost several of our citizens, friends and neighbors. We were sorry to hear of the passing of Billie Don Carter, age 90, on February 18. Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 25, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, in Bridge City. We had known this special lady many years and was impressed with her athletic ability and beauty, going back to her water skiing days. She had inherited her mother Myrtle Winfree Granger's longevity and good genes. Her sister, Bobbie Jean Stakes, now deceased, was also a special friend of many years along with her son Calvin. Billie Don's son, Mark, is a longtime friend. Condolences to Mark, his siblings and large family. Please see obituary.

Frank William Skeeler

Frank William Skeeler, age 72, passed away February 22. A Rosary will be recited Wednesday, March 1, at 9:45 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church with a funeral mass to follow at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Orange. Please see obituary on our website therecordlive.com.

Michael Wayne Wiley

Michael Wayne Wiley, age 65, passed away February 22. Funeral service will be held Saturday, March 4. Visitation at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Even though he left us at a young age, he made the most of the years he had. He leaves behind his wife of 46 years, Sherri Dee, children and grandchildren, who called him "Papa." He never met a stranger and had man friends. Our condolences to the family. Please read obituary on our website, therecordlive.com.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

Pope Benedict resigns Feb. 28, the first Pope to resign in over 600 years. Blunders, scandals and claims of mismanagement said to plague the Vatican. Pope Benedict's intellect and successful role as a spiritual leader for the world's 1.1 billion Catholics is not in doubt. On Thursday at twilight, Pope Benedict XVI will board a helicopter and fly off into retirement, renouncing the throne. Pope Benedict will live nearby at Castel Gandolfo for the remainder of his life.***Billboard says Kree Harrison surged to the top in last week's competition. Billboard writer Kevin Rutherford said about Kree, who sang 'Up to the Mountain,' "Finally, someone I can talk about with growing admiration. Harrison really jumped out for the first time as a real contender on American Idol."*** We were sorry to learn that Charles Lee Pratt, 77 died Monday, Feb. 25. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Edith (Edee), son Charles Pratt Jr., grandsons Phillip Wayne and Chris Pratt and great grandson Aiden Rossettie.***Coach Chad Landry's Bridge City Cardinals have been logging many highway miles. Last weekend was spent at a tournament at Rockdale. The Cardinals recorded four strong wins but dropped two. Monday they were on the road again, a special trip for the youngsters against College Station High, played at Texas A&M's Blue Bell Stadium. Bridge City hammered out a 9-6 win, returning late Monday night. Starting Thursday, Bridge City will play in the LCM 'Don Gibbon' tournament through Saturday.***To my knowledge this is a first but it may not be. David Rainey, an Orangefield Bobcat, will be signing a soccer scholarship at 2:45 p.m. Friday, March 1, in the lobby of the new gym.***Over at West Orange-Stark, sophomore Deionte Thompson has been recruited by Coach Nick Saban to play football with national champions Alabama. Thompson must first complete two more years of high school. Alabama is picking players young. They also recruited a 14 year old, eighth grader. He is 6 ft. 2 in. and weighs 220 pounds. Next year he goes into high school.

20 Years Ago-2003

The headline in the Houston Chronicle reads, "Millions worldwide protest U.S. war with Iraq."***Gas at the pump expected to hit \$2 by the end of the year.***The first Mardi Gras parade comes to Orange Feb. 28. Stephen Lee and Randy Jarrell are co-chairmen.***The Home Builders Association of South East Texas named Mike Johnson "Home Builder of the Year." Johnson, 44, a native of Bridge City, owner of a home building company, has been framing houses since he graduated from high school in 1976. "My dad is a carpenter and his dad was too," Johnson said, "I've been exposed to carpenter work at all levels growing up.

45 Years Ago-1978

A drive to raise funds to pay for the 24,000 square foot Bridge City Community Center has been launched with a number of events slated. Residents will seek to raise \$200,000 for the structure.***Vidor Mayor Robert Watts publicly endorses Judge Grover Halliburton for the job of 260th District Court. Halliburton is facing Judge Don Burgess.***Pat Clark and Sharon Bearden dressed as angels in the Follies. Bearden insisted on wearing his boots. What a sight.***Sheila Beeson and Roy Dunn interviewed Kris Kristofferson and Muhammad Ali from Ali's suite at the Las Vegas Hilton. Dunn also received a call from Leon Spinks from the Ail-Spinks fight. Dunn's partner in Triangle Press, Gene Wright, is attorney for Ali and arranged the interviews. Larry Messier, president of Olympic Inc. and a Canadian friend of Wright's arranged the Red Fox and Spink interview. (Editor's note: Sheila was O.V.N. editor. I think she is still living in Vidor I wonder if she recalls these events.)

50 Years Ago-1973

John McDonald elected chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Livingston Shipbuilding.***Bridge City banker Fred Gregory raised hell with Hubert Marshal for depositing horse droppings on the new carpet in his newly remodeled office.***Helen Dunlap was named Woman of the Year at Wayside Inn banquet. BP&W members who arranged the program are president Helen Moore, Mrs. Albert Gore, Mrs. Gene Rutledge, Mrs. Joe Van-Breeman, Mrs. Jack Pulliam, Mrs. Carl Mazingo and Ms. Jesse Evans. Mrs. Dunlap is currently in charge of teaching and training vocational nurses at Stillwell Technical Center.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Another barbecue benefit is being held to help Lou Moore with his battle against cancer. The Orange Boating Club along Adams Bayou at 2206 DuPont Drive, will be selling pulled pork and links for \$10 a plate on Thursday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or when sold out). The benefit a couple of weeks ago raised more than \$7,000, including help from Orange's celebrity priest, Jim Sichko, who is based in Kentucky. He never forgets his hometown and friends here.***Phillip Welch and his sidekick, six-year-old Sterling, took themselves a cruise. They had a great time but all on board. The only rule Mom placed on them was they couldn't get off the ship and roam the island. While they were away a tornado hit their home on Tulane Rd. No one was hurt and Johnny Montagne's construction took care of the repairs.***Coach Wade Phillips and his Houston Roughnecks of the XFL League won their second game, defeating Arlington 23-14, coached by Bob Stoops. Wade's football team is now undefeated.*** Meetings were canceled and offices were empty as Orange County elected officials, chamber leaders, and others traveled to Austin early this week for the Golden Triangle Days at the Texas Legislature. It's a time for them to meet legislators, tell them about the region's needs, and lobby for support. Orange County started the lobbying tradition back in the 1970s and was known for throwing a great gumbo party. Orange County Days in Austin became the biannual event, but a few years ago, the region leaders turned the lobbying event into Golden Triangle Days. The Covid pandemic led to the gathering being canceled in 2021. Lawyer Rodney Townsend, who is running for coun-

ty-court-at-law judge, was one of those gathering at the downtown Austin historic Driskill Hotel. Also seen there were Orange City Councilor Brad Childs and wife, Terri, along with Port Commissioner Keith Wallace. County Judge John Gothia, who has even been known in the past to smoke a cigar with the bigwigs, was there hoping for financial support on local drainage issues. Others in Austin included West Orange Mayor Randy Branch, Leah Guillotte-Stark, plus Orange City Manager Mike Kunst with wife, Jill. County Commissioners Court and Orange City Council canceled their regular meetings so members could go to the Austin lobbying effort.***Precinct 1 Constable Lannie Claybar, who is an Eagle Scout, was the guest speaker at the Cub Scout Pack 311 Blue and Gold Banquet.***Janois Strause Grizzaffi and Mark Grizzaffi traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia, to see son Cody Strause jump out of a plane during a show for relatives for the graduating paratrooper class. Needless to say, they are proud parents.***The West Orange-Stark High 1400HP Drum Line won honors this weekend at Huntington High's drum competition in Shreveport. The drum line came in second place overall with the quintet section placing first in its competition. Drumline captains are Ashley Schwartz and Junaiya Winston. Jeran King is band director.***Over at Bridge City High, senior drama student Ava Gassen was accepted into the theater program at the University of Texas Austin.***Birthdays this past week included two local legends, Alexine Adams and Wanda Simar. Alexine turned 97 with a trip to Shangri La to see the blooms and friends. She was one of the old-time Bengal Guards when Lutchter Stark sponsored the famous girls drum and bugle corps. Wanda, who now lives in assisted living, celebrated turning 90 with lots of friends and family.***Bet blue icing stained some tongues of people eating cake for two legendary Mustang coaches. Coach T, Cornell Thompson, was 75. Randy Ragsdale is younger, but he's not saying by how much.***Melissa and Elvis Rushing helped granddaughter Olivia celebrate her fourth birthday by taking her on a trip to Houston's Galleria.***Doris Parks turned 78 and was treated to dinner at Spanky's by daughter Sheila Parks Faske. Of course Dave Parks and Keith Faske were also there.***Other recent birthdays included sheriff's office retiree Jean Parker, Scott Clark, Rachel Bryan, James Wickham, and Elizabeth Mathews. Charlsi Garrett turned 11 and Allisha Bonneaux hit the double-nickel, 55.***We checked in with our friends, 101-year-old, Pearl Harbor survivor, Cedric Stout and his lovely wife Cherry. They report that they are doing good. Neither drives now so that has ended much of their visiting. They are hoping someday to make it back to the Wednesday Lunch Bunch which meets each week, 12 noon, at Robert's Restaurant in Orange. Everyone is welcome.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating their special day. March 1: Jill Culp, Jennifer Thomas, John Gooch, and Robert Foster celebrate.***March 2: Happy Birthday to Kay Butler, Craig Nugent, Tommy Andrus, Brittany Waguespack.***March 3: Celebrating today are Lori Bonds, Joan Broussard, Andy Pryor, Donna Sullivan and Carolyn Miller.***March 4: Cassie Bearden, Vickie Parish, Darrell Evans, Travis Reeves and Carolyn Sheppard have birthdays today.***March 5: Happy Birthday to Jennifer Byrd, Cathy Kimbrow, Carolyn Hillsten and Don Bayless.***March 6: Sam Moore, John Philps, Kristen Ruker are a year older today.***March 7: Libby Mitchell, Tracy Howard Allison, Dana Bourque, Mike White.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Da mob in New Orleans wat controls da video poker games in Louisiana, found out dat dere bookkeeper in Lafayette had cheated dem out of millions. Da bookkeeper, Clarence Guilbeaux, is a deaf-mute, dats why dey hired him in da first place. He would not be able to testify against dem for wat he heard.

Da mob sent Bruno, dere best hench man to confront Clarence. He brought Lafayette lawyer, Joe Landry, wit him because he knew sign language, him.

Da mobster tells da lawyer, "Axe him where da money is?" Lawyer Landry, using sign language axe Clarence, "Where's da money?" He signs back, "I don't know watt you talking bout me."

Da Mobster pulls out his pistol and puts it to Guillbeaux's head and says, "Axe him again or I'll kill him?"

Lawyer Landry signs da message to Clarence. He started trembling and signs back, "Okay, you win, da money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind da shed at my cousin Sostan's house."

Da mob man axe, "Wat did he say?" Lawyer Landry replied, "He says you don't got da balls to pull da trigger you."

C'EST TOUT The DalSasso Brothers—Ray's passing

You can't tell the Orange Texas story without telling the DalSasso story and the family's contribution to the development of the city after WWII. Two Italian brothers, children of immigrants from Italy, were born in Clinton, Indiana. Both boys, Tony and Ray, had served in the F.B.I. Ray joined Tony in the homebuilding business, building thousands of homes, including Roselawn, apartment buildings and commercial properties for 50 years. They were the major developers in the Orange area, providing more homes than any other developer. Tony, a good friend of mine, passed away in 2009 at age 86. I have just learned, at the end of completing column, of the death of Ray, who passed away February 23. Gravesite service will be held March 3, at 1:00 p.m., at Hillcrest Memorial cemetery, one day before his 99th birthday. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Please read Ray's obituary in this issue. He and Tony are forever in the history of Orange and surrounding area. It is a fascinating story.*** My time is up, thanks for yours. Happy trails to you till we meet again. Take care and God bless.

Deaths & Memorials

Norris Paul Jacques Brandon, Sr., 89

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 3, 2023, at First Baptist Church of Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend Dale Lee. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will begin prior to the service at 12:30 p.m., Friday, March 3, at First Baptist Church of Bridge City.

Born in Barataria, Louisiana, on March 3, 1933, he was the son of August Frank Brandon and Ophelia (Verdin) Brandon. Norris dedicated his life to God and was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Bridge City. He proudly served in the United States Army and later went on to work in the Texaco refineries for 42 years before his retirement. Norris was an active member in The United States Jaycee's Foundation. He always wanted to spend his free time outdoors, either on the water or in the woods. He enjoyed fishing, crabbing, squirrel hunting, and he was an avid gardener. Norris also took great pride in his



Norris Brandon Sr.

poetry. He loved Bridge City Cardinal sports, but he especially loved football. He spent several years coaching for Peewee Football. Norris' family remembers him being a hands-on father, making sure to attend every practice, game, and event. He loved seeing people laugh and was always joking around. Norris' loved ones will always cherish the memories they have with him.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Patsy Brandon; parents, August and Ophelia Brandon; brother, August Joseph Brandon; and brother-in-law, Ed Quinn.

He is survived by his daughter, Evelyn Brandon and fiancé, Reverend Kelly Sharpton; son, Paul Brandon, Jr. and wife, Pauline; granddaughter, Ciara Brandon; sister, Mabel Quinn; and numerous other loving friends and family members.

Serving as pallbearers will be Paul Brandon, Randy Zampini, Reverend Kelly Sharpton, Joe Brandon, Chuck Brandon, and Paul Marcotte. Honorary pallbearers are Mike Ducote and Jim Brackin.

Richard Elvin Deason, 72, Orange

On Friday, January 27, 2023, Richard Elvin Deason, loving father of 3, passed away peacefully at the age of 72 in Orange, TX.

Richard was born on March 28, 1950, in Deridder, La. to Elvin Deason and Ruth (White) Deason.

He served his country in the United States Navy from 1968-1972, receiving The National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. After honorable discharge from the military, Richard worked as a sheet metal fabricator and was a member of Union Local 196.

Richard had the biggest heart and lived life to the fullest. He never met a stranger, and his pride and joy were his children and grandchildren. He was one of a kind and



Richard Deason

greatly loved by many. He was a friend to no end.

Richard was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth, his father, Elvin, and his sister Patsy and brother John.

He is survived by his love Dana Speed, his brother, Mike and wife Juanita Deason, his 3 children, Michael Shane and Barbara Deason, Nicole and Dusty Wendel, and Jodi and Jake Mitchell, 8 grandchildren, Madison, Rylin, Summer, Presley, Kennady, Trinity, Marlie and Makayla as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard will be remembered most by his grand sense of humor, loving heart, welcoming embrace and will be missed by all.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

Mario "Ray" Dal Sasso, 99, Orange

Mario "Ray" Dal Sasso passed from this life on February 23, 2023. He was born to Cristiano "Chris" and Madeline Dal Sasso on March 4, 1924, in Clinton, Indiana, after his parents had immigrated to America from Italy. His father worked in the coal mines to support them. It was a tough life, but Ray cherished his childhood, growing up surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. His family and friends in Clinton remained close to his heart throughout his life, as he attended as many Labor Day family reunions back in Clinton as possible, including the last one when he was 91 years old.

Ray graduated from Clinton High School in 1942 and then enlisted in the Marine Corps, like many young men of his time. He served tours of duty in both the Philippines and China. Upon returning home from the war, he enrolled in the University of Indiana and graduated. Ray married Rosemary Loy also of Clinton, Indiana in 1949, and they were together for 54 years until her passing in 2003. After graduation from IU, he worked for Stewart Warner Corporation, and later joined the FBI. Following his service in the FBI, he moved to Texas to join his brother Tony in the homebuilding business, constructing thousands of homes, apartments, and commercial properties over a 50+ year career in the Orange, Texas area.

Ray and Rosemary were blessed with two children, Rodney and Lynn. Ray was a



Mario Ray Dal Sasso

lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs-he was known for his ability to recite the entire lineup of the 1938 World Series team. He loved Indiana Hoosiers Basketball, and auto racing, particularly the Indy 500. His greatest passion was golf, and he enjoyed playing with friends and family at Sunset Grove. In the 70s, he also began racing thoroughbred horses, which became a 50-year passion that brought much joy to him and his loved ones. In later years, Ray found love and companionship again, marrying Wanda Ferguson in 2014. He treasured their time together and was grateful for the happiness and love they shared in his final years.

Ray was the last surviving member of his immediate family, predeceased by his parents, Chris and Madeline Dal Sasso; brother, Tony Dal Sasso; and sister, Mafalda "Lynn" Slagle; as well as his first wife, Rosemary Dal Sasso.

He is survived by his children; nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; and, most notably, his cherished wife, Wanda Dal Sasso.

Graveside services take place at 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 3, 2023, at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange. Officiating will be Lynn Ashcraft.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Serving as honorary pallbearers are Jerome Go, Sid Caillavet, Kurt Slagle, Chris Slagle, Gerald Eddlemon, and Carroll Holt.

Billie Don Carter, 90, Orange

Billie Don Carter, 90, of Orange, Texas, passed away on February 18, 2023, peacefully at home with her family around her.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 25, 2023, at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend Mark Bunch. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Orange, Texas, on August 10, 1932, she was the daughter of O. E. Granger and Myrtle (Winfree) Granger. Billie was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She devoted her life to taking care of her family and acted as scout leader and a den mother for her sons. In the summertime Billie enjoyed cutting watermelon by the pool with her family. Billie was a longtime member of St. Paul United Methodist Church and enjoyed spreading the love of the lord. Billie was a life master bridge player and spent many years competing in



Billy Don Carter

softball and bowling leagues. She loved water skiing and even performed in ski shows. Billie also enjoyed scuba diving, her favorite dive being 90 ft. off the coast in Ixtapa, Mexico. Billie will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Lacy Leon Carter; parents, O. E. and Myrtle Granger; and sister, Bobbie Jean Stakes.

She is survived by her sons, Dale Carter and partner Nancy, Mark Carter and wife Ronda, and Danny Carter; grandchildren, Cimaron Carter and wife Sarah, Shaun Carter and wife Summer, Jason Smith and wife Shannon, Melissa Thompson and husband Michael, Heather Carter, Matt Carter and wife Brittney, and Marla McCracken and husband Alex; great-grandchildren, Jaxon Carter, Anna Carter, Gemma Carter, Luke Carter, Kaitlyne Jagneau, Hunter Smith, Lane Smith, J.S. Bearden, Hutch Bearden, Hallie Bearden, Keenan Thompson, Braylen Carter, Micah Carter, Amelia Carter, and Noah McCracken; as well as other loving family and friends.

Garage Sale & BBQ Benefit

Garage Sale & BBQ Benefit for the Marcantel Family on Sat., March 11th from 8 am to 3 pm in the parking lot of the New Anointing Church located at 10681 N. Hwy 87 in Orange. BBQ to include link, drink & chip for \$8.00.

Proceeds from event will go to help the Marcantel family from Orangefield to rebuild what was completely destroyed by a tornado last month. Donations can be made at <https://gofund.me/7870866c>.

Do Well Be Well with

Diabetes classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will be holding free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join us in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthy and much more to control your diabetes. The series will last for 5 classes on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 and will be from 6 PM to 8 PM. They will be held at the Orange County Extension Office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on 11475 FM 1442, Orange, TX. To get the full educational benefit, you need to attend all 5 classes if possible. Call the Extension Office at 409-882-7010 to sign-up for this series.

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Garage Sale this

GARAGE SALE

Fri., March 3 from 10 am to 2 pm and Sat., March 4 from 8 am to noon at 6007 Hazelwood Dr., Orange, 77632 (Cypress Bayou). Furniture, lift chair, pool/ping pong table, tools, 5th wheel hitch, Vintage items, lots of miscellaneous.

Neighborhood Garage Sale with 15 houses this Sat, March 4 and Sun., March 5 (big sales) from 7 am - till at 7842 Patricia Lane in Greenwood Acres in Mauriceville. Lots of classy junk.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **LEONA SIMS**, Deceased, were issued on the **JANUARY 31, 2023, in Cause No. P19598**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DUSTIN CHASE SIMS**.

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

c/o:
Dustin Chase Sims
2660 Roosevelt
Vidor, TX 77662

Dated the **23rd day of February, 2023.**

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Dustin Chase Sims
State Bar No.:
08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Adam Lee Johnson, Respondent:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of Twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

The petition of Jacqueline Cockerham, Petitioner, was filed in the County Court At Law #2 of Orange County, Texas on October 13, 2022, against Adam Lee Johnson, Respondent, numbered 220613-D and entitled "In the Interest of S. M. C., a child."

The suit requests the Termination of the parental rights and granting of the adoption of a stepchild. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit:

Name of Child	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
S.M.C.	09/06/2007	Beaumont, TX

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding upon you, including the termination of the Parent-Child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this February 9, 2023.

Anne Reed

Clerk of the County Court at Law, Number 2
Orange County, Texas
By Ashley Brady, Deputy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **LEE R. WILSON**, Deceased, were issued on the **JANUARY 17, 2023, in Cause No. P19538**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JEFFERY ROY WILSON**.

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

c/o:
Jeffery Roy Wilson
P.O. Box 2100
Buna, TX 77612

Dated the **23rd day of February, 2023.**

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Jeffery Roy Wilson
State Bar No.:
08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

FAMILY COURT DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PATERNITY OF:

EZRA KNIGHT, a minor child,
by and through **CARTER KNIGHT**, Father, Natural Guardian,
and next friend, and **CARTER KNIGHT**,

NECESSARY THIRD PARTY, Petitioner,
vs. Case No. 1V 2022 DM 000725
ARYANNA LASHEY SMITH Respondent

BENJAMIN EVAN NELSON Necessary Third Party
Presumptive Father

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO **BENJAMIN EVAN NELSON** AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the above-named Court praying for an order and decree of said Court finding that Carter Knight is the father of E.K., born in 2021. A Motion has been filed asking the Court to terminate the parental rights of the presumptive father, Benjamin Evan Nelson.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 27th day of April, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. to the District Court of Leavenworth County, Kansas at the Justice Center, 601 South 3rd Street, Leavenworth, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. You should participate in person or by Zoom. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition and Motion.

HARRIS & HENDERSON

/s/ Terri L. Harris
By Terri L. Harris, #11790

511 S. 5th Street
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048
Telephone: 913-727-1729
Facsimile: 913-553-5290
Attorney for Petitioner

NOTICE TO IMPLEMENT REVISED FIXED FUEL FACTOR

Entergy Texas, Inc. hereby publishes NOTICE that, pursuant to Section 36.203 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (codified in TEX. UTIL. CODE) and 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.235(b), it filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (the "Commission") on February 22, 2023, a tariff to implement a revised fixed fuel factor. All of Entergy Texas' retail customers whose fuel charges are calculated under the Texas fixed fuel factor tariff – including but not limited to Residential, Small General Service, Large General Service, Large Industrial Power Service, and Street and Outdoor Lighting Service – will be affected by the Commission's approval of the revised fixed fuel factor. The revised fixed fuel factor, if approved, will affect only the fuel portion of the rates charged by Entergy Texas and will have no effect on non-fuel base rates.

Entergy Texas seeks Commission approval to revise the fixed fuel factor effective with the first billing cycle of the March 2023 billing month. Entergy Texas proposed that the fixed fuel factor be changed pursuant to a semi-annual filing to be made each February and August, with revised fuel factors to be effective with the first billing cycle of the March and September billing months, pursuant to a methodology that changes the fuel factor based upon changes in the published price of natural gas. This methodology was authorized for use in Docket No. 32915.

The revised fixed fuel factor, differentiated by voltage level, is as follows:

FACTOR BY VOLTAGE LEVELS	
Delivery Voltage	Fixed Fuel Factor
Secondary	\$0.0284888 per kWh
Primary	\$0.0277267 per kWh
69kV/138kV	\$0.0268907 per kWh
230kV	\$0.0265664 per kWh

The revised fuel factor would result in a decrease in Entergy Texas' annual Texas retail fuel and purchased power revenues by approximately \$519.6 million, or 57.0% on an annual basis. Compared to the fixed fuel factor approved by the Commission effective September 2022, a residential customer using 1000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month would see an approximate decrease of 46.7% annually, or \$24.38 on average per month, on his/her electric bill. The fixed fuel factor rate is designed to pass through to customers the actual fuel costs incurred by Entergy Texas to serve customers. Entergy Texas is not allowed to make a profit on fuel costs. These changes will be subject to final review by the commission in the electric utility's next reconciliation. Entergy Texas expects the revised fixed fuel factor to be in effect for the billing period of March 2023 through August 2023.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact Entergy Texas at Attn: Customer Service – Fuel Factor, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call (866) 981-2602 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this petition is available for inspection at the address listed above. Persons may also email tcr@entergy.com with questions or to request more information.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 54674 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The property commonly known as 3396 Martha Dr., Orange, TX 77632 is scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 03/07/2023 at 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, 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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BC baseball gears up for next district title

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Bridge City Cardinals had a good year in baseball for 2022. It included a playoff appearance last season and sets the stage for a run at another district title this year.

Head baseball coach Chad Landry evaluated the Cardinals performance last season. "I thought last year was a good year for us. We had some guys that got some experience and younger guys that really stepped up for us. We had the district most valuable player Ethan Ocegüera who really stepped up and carried us through district into the playoffs. Our playoff run was not what we're used to, but sometimes it's not about what you have it's about who you're playing and Huffman got us in that first round. Overall, I was happy with the way that we developed and our young guys really got some experience they needed," Landry recalled.

That experience earned last season is paying off already this year with the returning Cardinals. The fundamental leader for Bridge City is behind the plate in Justin Abate. He's done a really good job growing into the position of catcher that he inherited as a sophomore.

Abate has worked hard with Coach Hunter Uzzle

to improve his skills as a catcher. Landry added, "Justin's a leader, stuff that we can't coach that he kind of has inherently in him. The other Cardinals gravitate to him because he works so hard."

A leader on the mound for Bridge City will be Braylen Collins who has really stepped up for the Cardinals with his strongest outing to date against Hardin-Jefferson before the recent tournament at Bridge City. "He's matured physically at 6-3, 210, and is just a gifted athlete. I think he's realized what he needs to do on the mound to get outs which is huge for us," Landry pointed out.

Centerfielder John Van Huis is a baseball rat Landry described him affectionately. Landry elaborated, "Van Huis is a gamer, and I love watching him play. It's really been fun to watch him grow and mature. John's just a really good kid and a great ball player."

JS Bearden is a returner for the Cardinals who plays mostly in the outfield. Bearden can play second base as well, but will definitely see some time on the mound this season.

There is a huge group of 21 freshmen in the Bridge City baseball program. Two of those freshmen Hunter Ford and Austin Frederick are on the varsity getting their feet wet

with the upper classmen and learning the pace of the game at that upper level.

Coach Shea Landry has been working with Ford and Frederick giving them repetitions which has earned the two starting positions for the Cardinals as middle infielders. "Both are very talented, young, hungry players, and we're expecting big things. We would not have put that pressure on them if we didn't think they could do it and they have done a great job. It's been fun, it's been good to watch them

BC BASEBALL Page 4B

Orangefield baseball working for another successful season

DAN PERRINE
For The Record



Coach Tim Erickson and the Orangefield Bobcats will be seeking a third straight district title in baseball but in a lower classification this season.

The Orangefield Bobcats won their second straight district championship in baseball last season. The Bobcats advanced to the fourth round of the state playoffs before being eliminated by China Spring.

Coach Tim Erickson had a lot of returning lettermen from the district champions the year before and appreciated the great work done by those Bobcats as they defended their district

title. "I had a really good team last year with a lot of upperclassmen, guys with experience, and we were expecting big things from them and that's what we got. We ended up going four rounds in the playoffs, so a very successful year. We looked back and I think we set a school record for winning percentage and were one game off the record with 28 for total wins in a season," Erickson reminded.

Graduation did take

BOBCAT Page 5B

LCM Bears hope to add to list of play berths

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The success of the baseball program at Little Cypress Mauriceville can be seen in the lengthy list of playoff appearances made over the years. The Bears will do everything they can to add another season to that list this spring.

Coach Hunter Hagler will guide the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears again this season in their hunt for the post season which was just missed the year before. "Last year came down to the wire. We had a play in game in which Vidor beat us to give the Pirates the fourth spot in the playoffs. Things happen for a reason, you learn from them, you get better from them, and you move on," Hagler reminded.

There are Bears back from that team last year that almost made the playoffs who will be leaders this season. Dean Reynolds, Cameron Bilbo, and Pierce Brown are all seniors who made major contributions and should play significant roles as the season progresses.

Reynolds can play anywhere on the field but his specialty is on the mound as a starting pitcher and in the outfield. Dean pitched a gem for Little Cypress Mauriceville against Splendor the last week of February and more of the same is expected from the righthanded ace of the Bear staff.

Bilbo is moving from being primarily a designated hitter to be the regular catcher and a second or third pitcher for Coach Hagler. Brown is shifting



Hunter Hagler head baseball coach at Little Cypress Mauriceville is working to get the Bears ready for a good baseball season and a shot at the playoffs.

back to second base a position he is familiar with having played there coming up before being moved to the outfield.

Seniors that will see more playing time this season than before are Easton Gibbens, Dylan Istre, and Evan Landry. Hagler commented, "As far as seniors go a lot of guys are starting to step up that will help on the mound, provide spot plays in the field, and different stuff like that filling in where we need them."

There are returning starters to Little Cypress Mauriceville who are not seniors but will be leaders again this season. Newcomer of the Year in the district last year was the Bears' Parker Seago who played shortstop, batted in the leadoff position, and will do more pitching this season.

Another underclassman is Marco Bandiero who will continue to hit in the middle of the batting order for the Bears. Bandiero will play first base and

LCM BEARS Page 4B



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Astros begin exhibition games much aware of MLB's new rules

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record

Major League Baseball's three new rules that will be enacted during the 2023 season are already being scrutinized by the 30 teams, especially by the Houston Astros and their manager Dusty Baker during the opening weekend of the exhibition season in Florida and Arizona.

The 73-year-old likeable and respected Astros manager, who should be a shoo-in for Baseball's Hall of Fame when he finally does retire for good, spent most of Saturday's opening game against the New York Mets fixated on the scoreboard in right-center field.

"I was watching the clock every batter," Baker told the writer for the Houston Chronicle. "It got down to two and three seconds a bunch of times."

However, no Astro let it expire as the team completed its spring training opener with a 4-2 win over the pitching-rich New York Mets in an almost unbelievable time of two hours and 33 minutes without a pitch-clock violation.

But Baker had the upper hand in the situation because he played a lineup of mostly minor leaguers, who spent all of last season with the clock that their major league brethren will face in the 2023 season.

"Houston's starting battery of Brandon Bielak and Korey Lee spent most of last season in Class AAA Sugar Land with a pitch clock in use. All but one of the seven relievers that followed Bielak were minor leaguers for most of last season. The lone veteran, non-roster invitee Austin Davis, got through the fourth inning without violating any of the rules," the article pointed out.

More of Baker's concern was centered around the hitters, who must be in the batter's box and engaged with the pitcher before the clock reaches eight seconds.

"Atlanta Braves prospect Cal Conley did not during the ninth inning of his team's Grapefruit League game against the Boston Red Sox. With a full count and the bases loaded, the umpire called an automatic strike against Conley, ending the game," the Chronical article stated.

"It will be baseball like we've never seen it in the past 146 years," pointed out a baseball writer for USA Today Sports Weekly. "Pitch clocks in a sport that used to pride itself on having no clock. Base bags the size of pizza boxes. Position players who are actually playing in their natural positions."

"This is going to be the biggest change in baseball that we've seen in our lifetimes," MLB executive



Joe Kazmar

vice president Morgan Sword says.

MLB realized that its game was starting to bore its fans. The average game last season was 3 hours, 7 minutes—more than 30 minutes longer than games played in the 1970's. There were 60,765 infield shifts last year. MLB believes the pitch clock will reduce the game by 30 minutes.

According to MLB, the enlarged bases—increasing from 15 inches to 18 inches and shortening the distance by 4 ½ inches from first to second and second to third—will encourage more stealing and reduce injuries while the ban on shifts will showcase more defensive prowess.

MLB also is certain there will be a whole lot of complaints all spring, figuring it will take about a month for the players to get accustomed to all the changes.

"Certainly, it will be a massive adjustment to the veterans, but 47 percent of players have experienced the new rules in the minor leagues—including rehab assignments," the USA Today article concluded.

The minor leagues, which certainly serves as a guinea pig for all the MLB proposals, will be experimenting with the electronic balls and strikes during the 2023 season, but will have real live umpires for three days a week, with hopes it will work out as well as this year's three proposals and be ready for the major leagues in the very near future.

KWICKIE

If you are strapped with the Jefferson County daily newspaper that doesn't even cover Lamar baseball very adequately, the Cards are off to their best start in many decades and were 8-0 going into last night's game against Alcorn State.

The Chicago Bears are thinking very seriously of trading away their No. 1 pick in the upcoming NFL draft in hopes of finding a team that will trade several draft picks for that precious No. 1 pick, according to ESPN Monday morning.

Northern Kentucky's designated hitter Liam McFadden-Ackman belted two first-inning grand slams last weekend as his team (6-1) destroyed Western Michigan (0-6) 27-4. He finished the game five-for-six with a double, triple, 4 runs scored and 10 RBIs. He completed hitting for the cycle in the sixth inning.

Orange native Wade Phillips remained an undefeated head coach in the new XFL as his Houston Roughnecks defeated the Arlington Renegades 23-14 Sunday, running their



Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker.

record to 2-0. Arlington's final six drives resulted in three punts, a missed field goal and two touchdowns. It looks to me like Wade's first team defense is plenty salty.

The Big 12 is thinking about added four more schools to the conference with Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders' Colorado Buffaloes in the group. The three other schools include Arizona State, Arizona and Utah.

Chris Kirk's tap-in birdie on the first extra hole earned him a victory in the Honda Classic Sunday at Palm Beach Gardens, FL. It was his first PGA Tour win in eight years as he defeated Eric Cole who each finished the 72 holes tied at 266, Kirk earned \$1.512 million while Cole settled for a nifty \$912,600 check.

JUST BETWEEN

AT&T SportsNet Southwest—you know, the network that carries the Houston Astros game we can't watch as a Spectrum customer and before that Time Warner—informed both the Astros and the Houston Rockets --games they also carry--on Friday of its plans to exit the regional sports network business because it is on the verge of financial collapse. The main question as the Houston Astros prepare for their season opener next month and

the Rockets wrap up their NBA season is which channel the games will air and who will pay production costs for telecasting the games. A spokesman for AT&T SportsNet Southwest said that they "will not have sufficient cash to pay the upcoming rights fees and that unless it can transfer ownership of the network by March 31, the only realistic option is to file for Chapter 7 liquidation."



WOS head baseball coach Sergio Espinal is working to get the West Orange Stark Mustangs competitive this baseball season.

WOS baseball looks ahead to 2023 season

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The West Orange Stark Mustangs are putting last year's baseball season behind them. The Mustangs are working to achieve some good memories for this new season.

The Mustangs' head coach Sergio Espinal talked briefly on the 2022 baseball season at West Orange Stark. "I really don't like to talk much about last season it's behind us. I told my kids I'm not going to bring it up. Hopefully, it was a learning point for them. We did

have a few bright spots, but not too many. Tyrone Wilson hit pretty well, he also pitched pretty well, and also Grayson Gregory pitched pretty well. After that it was kind of growing pains," Espinal recapped.

West Orange Stark was young and inexperienced last year. The Mustangs did not have a single senior on the roster and very few of them had played on the varsity the previous season.

That aspect of the team has changed for the positive this year. West Or-

WOS BASEBALL Page 4B

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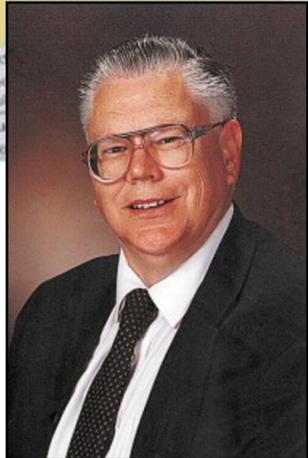
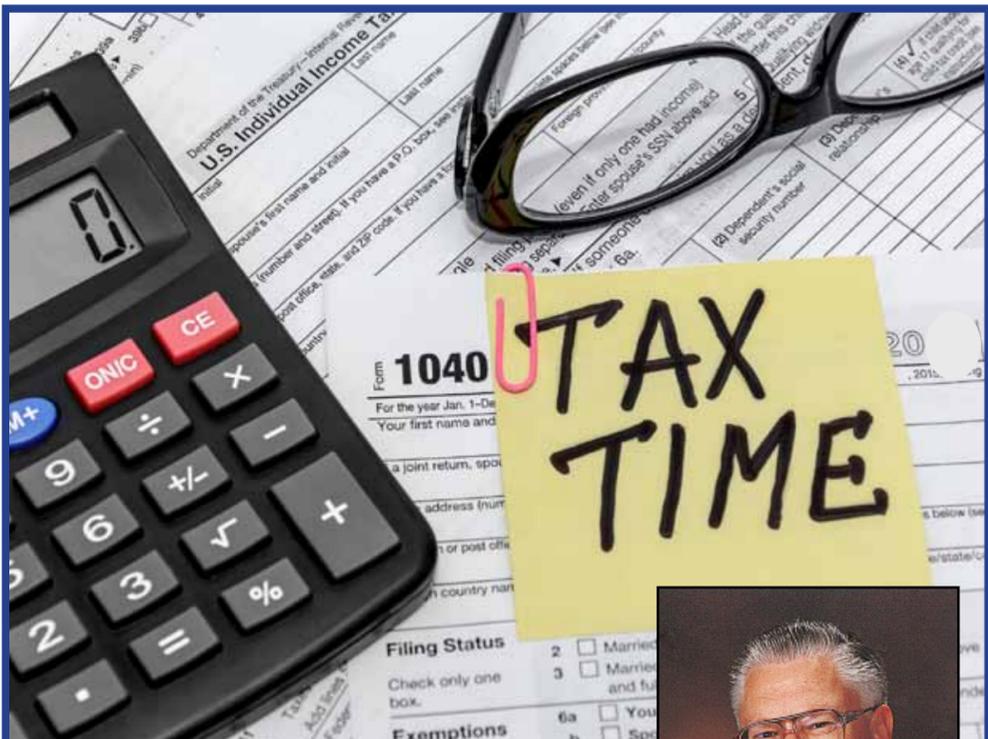





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Orange County softball teams prepare for district

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Local softball teams played in tournaments the last week of February in preparation for the start of district games. The Class 3A Orangefield Lady Bobcats played their first district game on February 28 against Kountze while the schools in Class 4A start district Tuesday, March 7. Orangefield participated in the Port Neches-Groves Softball Tournament over the past weekend. The Lady Bobcats won one game, lost three, and had two ties over the weekend.

The first game was a tie on Thursday with Anahuac in which Charlee Sanches had two hits and three runs batted in. Orangefield lost its other game on Thursday to Vidor.

The Lady Bobcats defeated the host Port Neches Groves Lady Indians 5-2 on Friday. Pitcher Abigail Curphey had a great performance giving up just one earned run on three hits while striking out seven. Orangefield got its offense from several Lady Bobcats including Aubree Beck who had a double, scored a run, and drove in a run.

Later on Friday Orangefield tied Hamshire-Fan-

nett 4-4. Sanches pitched and did well allowing two earned runs on five hits with a strikeout. Beck hit her first career homerun and Harleigh Rawls had a double and a triple.

The Lady Bobcats lost two on Saturday. They lost 7-2 to Lumberton and later were beaten by Nederland.

Orangefield opened district at home against Kountze on Tuesday. The Lady Bobcats next district game is Tuesday, March 7, at Kirbyville.

The West Orange Stark Lady Mustangs hosted a tournament. The Lady Mustangs captured the third place trophy going 4-2 over the weekend.

West Orange Stark won its first two games on Thursday beating Kelly 7-5 and East Chambers 6-3. Kensley Wall pitched striking out five and got the win against Kelly. Lady Mustangs Erika Jordan hit a triple while Nataleigh Sims and T'Era Garrett both had doubles to spur the offense.

Sims won the second game with East Chambers throwing two and a third perfect innings striking out two in a superb relief effort. Tessa Turner hit a triple and finished the game with two runs batted in and two runs scored. Peyton Zimmer-



The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears competed in the very tough Sweeney softball tournament and split their three games.

man went two for two with three runs batted in.

On Friday the Lady Mustangs split a pair losing to Kirbyville 12-0 before rebounding and popping Port Arthur Memorial 7-1. Tessa Turner won the second game for WOS pitching two innings and allowing just the one run with four strikeouts. Sims got the save retiring all three batters she faced striking out two of them. Garrett swung the big bat for the Lady Mustangs smashing a triple and a

homerun driving in two runs and scoring two times.

On Saturday West Orange Stark lost its opening game 16-1 to Warren. Then the Lady Mustangs used six walks and nine stolen bases to beat East Chambers for the second time 5-1 to earn third place in the tournament.

The Lady Mustangs play in the Anahuac Tournament the first weekend of March. West Orange Stark opens district on Tuesday, March 7, at Vi-

dor. The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears participated in the Sweeney Tournament. The Lady Bears went 3-3 over the three days after losing twice on Thursday.

Friday was better with the Lady Bears winning twice taking the first game 6-2 over Danbury. Ella Stephenson was the winning pitcher. Later Little Cypress Mauriceville got a one hitter from Jacelyn Cook in an 8-0 shutout against Tidehaven. Asia

Woodson hit a two-run homer and Eden Frenzel had two hits, two runs batted in, and a run scored.

The Lady Bears split their two games on Saturday losing 7-5 to Rockport-Fulton before defeating the host team Sweeney 4-3. Freshman Tessa Erickson was the winning pitcher pitching six and a third shutout innings in the game.

Little Cypress Mauriceville plays one more tournament this weekend. The Lady Bears open the district with a bye and then play at home on Friday, March 10, against Bridge City.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals got some good news the last week of February with the return of pitcher Carson Fall to the lineup. Fall had a leg injury that kept her out of the circle for a couple weeks.

Carson pitched shutout ball upon her return. The Lady Cardinals also got shutouts from Kaydena Corkran and Cambree LaComb during the Jasper tournament.

After a tournament this weekend Bridge City will open district play on Tuesday, March 7. The Lady Cardinals open with Silsbee at Bridge City.

LCM Bear baseball From Page 1

throws left handed on the mound.

Landon Richards played in spots last year but will get more action this season. Coach Hagler said Richards should play primarily at third base and have a significant role in the Little Cypress Mauriceville lineup.

The Bears have depth on the bench that can be called on. "There's another whole slew of guys after that who could potentially show up and do some different things," Hagler added.

These include freshmen Parker Freeman and Justin McCarver. Freeman is big, tall, strong and lanky allowing him to throw the ball with some tenacity.

Hagler elaborated on McCarver and the other young Bears. "He's a guy who can play the outfield, he can catch, he can play the infield, he's just an all-around grinder like a hard-nosed kid that just loves the game, and that's what we're starting to learn with a lot of our guys, they're starting to really enjoy being out here every day, they're starting to really enjoy competing together, they're loving

that atmosphere of producing what we're starting to produce which is exciting to me," Hagler described.

Clay Raney is another Bear that will fill spots to allow others guys to play certain positions. Raney is a defensive specialists who can play shortstop when Parker Seago is pitching or when Landon Richards pitches Clay can go to third base to play. Raney can even play in the outfield when called to do so.

Hitting started a little slow for Little Cypress Mauriceville but in the last week or two the Bears have begun to find their niche in swinging their bats. They are learning a team offense that will include some small ball and executing plays that work to produce runs.

The Bears are starting to accomplish some offensive goals established earlier. Hagler explained, "Here lately we've been meeting a lot of our in game offensive goals which has me real excited to see this early because normally you don't get that until maybe after the second or third tourna-

ment where you've really seen a lot of pitches and you have twenty or thirty at bats under your belt. We attribute this to the Bears buying into the system, enjoying it, loving the competition of it, and then just competing together as a group."

The team offense scheme has seen the Bears taking on different roles to help the team produce runs. "Guys that kind of play the leadoff role, guys that are bat skill guys, and guys that are driving runs in. These past three or four scrimmages those guys are doing their job and that's what's important and what we try to preach that team role like everybody has their role and as long as you know your role correctly you can better benefit the team inside that role," Hagler described.

Discussion of pitching at Little Cypress Mauriceville starts with senior Dean Reynolds. He will be the lead pitcher for the Bears now, during the tournaments, and especially when the district starts in March.

Reynolds will be followed by Marco Bandiero

the left-hander, Parker Seago, and Landon Richards who have all pitched on the varsity level previously. This should give Little Cypress Maurice-

ville a quality pitching corps with some depth.

There are other question marks concerning pitching in Coach Hagler's mind. Hagler explained,

"In district it gets narrowed down to one, two, maybe three guys that are going to start for you. In

LCM BEARS Page 5B

LCM Bears, Orangefield Bobcats in third round

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears and the Orangefield Bobcats are area champs after winning their opening and second round games in the state basketball playoffs. Both the Bears and the Bobcats advanced to the third round of the post season.

Little Cypress Mauriceville got a monster game from Ben Elliott on Friday, February 24, to defeat Bullard 63-60. Elliott scored a fantastic 40 points in the win for the Bears.

Orangefield used a balanced attack to defeat Crockett 62-52 on Friday, February 24. Jaden Scales was the Bobcats high scorer with 21 points as Pete Ragusa tallied 15 and Brayden Parker added 14. Zane Wrinkle had a good night with 10 rebounds and 5 points.

On Tuesday, February 21, the Bears beat the Huffman Hargrave Falcons 58-31, and the Bobcats blasted the Hemphill Hornets 70-49.

LCM had three Bears score in double figures and two of them had double doubles. Ben Elliott had 16 points with 10 rebounds while Da'Marion Morris tallied 14 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and handed out 6 assists. Alanthon Winn was second high scorer for LCM with 15 points.

Orangefield's Jaden Scales led the Bobcats in scoring with 25 points as the won their bi-district game with Hemphill and followed that up with 21 points to lead the Bobcats over Crockett.

Bear Head Coach Brad Jeffcoat was full of praise for his players and his assistant coaches after the victory. "Our kids were very locked in defensively to-



Ben Elliott scored 40 points for LCM in its three point win over Bullard in the area of the playoffs.



Da'Marion Morris of LCM registered a double-double with 14 points, 10 rebounds, with 6 assists in the Bears bi-district win over Huffman.



Orangefield's Jaden Scales led the Bobcats in scoring with 25 points as the won their bi-district game with Hemphill and followed that up with 21 points to lead the Bobcats over Crockett.



Zane Wrinkle contributed 10 rebounds and scored 5 points in Orangefield's area round win over Crockett.

night and really limited good shots for Huffman. Coach Daspit and Coach Smith did a fantastic job getting the Bears ready for Huffman and it paid off," Jeffcoat responded.

The Bears were patient on offense and it paid off for them. Jeffcoat elaborated,

"We took care of the basketball ball and took good shots, and when you take good shots you usually get good results. I'm proud of how our kids showed up today. We played with lots of emotion, but were still very focused and sharp."

Orangefield was led by Jaden Scales with 25 points and Pete Ragusa was right behind him with 24 points. Zane Wrinkle tossed in 11 points for the Bobcats. Cameron Dischler and Koen Maddox were the top

Bobcat rebounders with 6 boards apiece.

Orangefield (28-8) played its third round game against Hitchcock the last day of February at Barbers Hill. Little Cypress Mauriceville (26-11) faced Center in its third round game.

Bridge City baseball From Page 1B

grow," Landry responded.

Last year the Bridge City offense was disappointing and frustrating for Coach Landry. The Cardinals' team batting average was only about .215 which Landry said was not good and resulted in a lot of one-run games.

There are some new Cardinals in the mix with some experienced players that should help boost the Bridge City bats for this season. Dax Latiolais is a sophomore who play first base and designated hitter. Landry likes Dax at the plate and how aggressive he is with the bat.

Landry has been impressed with JS Bearden and the way he has cleaned some things up in his swing. Bearden is also being aggressive in a positive way when hitting the baseball and has really improved which Landry expects to

continue as the season progresses.

The coach shared the strategy for Bridge City hitting. "We're just trying to find barrels on balls with our guys, and the more barrels we can get in the game the better, and we're just going to put the guys in positions that we feel can get us the most barrels per game," Landry analyzed.

The Cardinals' ace pitcher last year was Ethan Ocegüera, but he has graduated so Bridge City must establish a new number one on the mound and several backups for this season. In the scrimmages and the season opener against Hardin-Jefferson Coach Landry has thrown twelve different pitchers.

Braylen Collins is obviously the number one right now having signed to play for the University of Houston next year. Collins' great

work in that season opener solidified his position as the number one starter for the Cardinals.

Landry observed that after Collins the Cardinals have some good arms that mix up their pitches well. Landon Reeves was used primarily out of the bull pen last season and has done a great job picking up where he left off the previous year. Aidyn Mulhollan will likely be a starter for Bridge City in some capacity.

"Mr. Reliable" as he was labelled by Coach Landry, JS Bearden will probably throw in excess of thirty innings this year. Parker Norwood has moved up from the junior varsity last year and has come on in recent weeks to become a pitcher that just gets outs. Landry said he likes the way Norwood competes.

Freshman Austin Freder-

ick will also get some innings as a pitcher. Lefty RJ Esquivel saw time in several district games last season and will have the opportunity to pitch again this year for Bridge City.

Landry evaluated the Cardinals pitching as the season began. "We've got some guys that we trust, and we don't have a problem with using any of them at any moment," Landry admitted.

The number "26" on the right field fence at Chuck Young Field represents the district baseball championships won by the Bridge City Cardinals. As a result the expectations every year in Bridge City are always for another title to be won by the Cardinals.

A bit of a change for the district action this season is the scheduling of opponents. Instead of playing each district opponent once and then repeating that same schedule but at the other team's field, Bridge City will play the same

school in back to back games only switching the location. The belief is this will not allow team's with just one good pitcher to save their ace for games against the other top team in the district.

Landry stated the goal is always a district title and then go as far and as long as the Cardinals can in the playoffs "I feel like we're going to compete really well. There's a lot of young guys in our lineup so we don't really know how they will do. We've got three and a half more weeks to figure it out. I feel like we match up very well and with the new district rotation the schedule is a little different. You really have to have a real bullpen to make that work and you really have to have a number two pitcher if you want to have a chance at a district title, and that's our goal, a district title. We're trying to get number twenty-seven in the school's history," Landry concluded.

Bridge City hosted the

Team Granger Cardinal Invitational the last weekend of February. The Cardinals were 2-2 in the four games they played.

Aidyn Mulhollan pitched four shutout innings for Bridge City to earn the victory in a 9-0 win over Buna on Thursday. Justin Abate had two of the hits in the game for Bridge City.

Friday morning the Cardinals rallied from a three-run deficit to beat Hampshire-Fannett 10-5 with John Van Huis scoring runs in each of the three innings Bridge City batted. JS Bearden had a two-run double that put the Cardinals in the lead to stay.

The game was not so good for Bridge City on Friday night as their Cow Bayou rival Orangefield overwhelmed the Cardinals 11-0. Saturday the Cardinals lost a close one 4-2 to Port Neches-Groves. Landon Reeves pitched four innings with six strikeouts but took the loss on the mound for Bridge City.

WOS Mustang baseball From Page 2B

ange Stark's leader and number one player is senior Tyrone Wilson who returns as a starting pitcher and shortstop.

Outfielder William Lee is a junior who did play significant innings last season and will be hitting in the four or five hole in the batting order. Senior Carlos Calana is primarily first base but will also play some third base and will do some pitching for the Mustangs. Coming out of basketball at West Orange Stark and looking pretty good is junior Christian Anderson.

Those four players have all been on the Mustangs varsity at least a couple years each. Espinal believes, "These guys should be contributing. They've been

with us now for three or four years and this is their time to shine. How well they do depends on them. I'm confident in them that they're going to do well."

There are some new Mustangs that have Coach Espinal excited about seeing what they can do for the program. Two freshmen Diego Ibarra and Noah Robles will be starting immediately for West Orange Stark and should make an impact defensively and with their pitching.

Ibarra is a left-handed pitcher and first baseman. Diego has a lot of talent according to Coach Espinal.

Robles' older brother William Robles played for the Mustangs a few years ago. "Noah brings a lot of

utility purposes for the Mustangs. He can play many different positions, and he is also a pitcher. Adding those two guys, Diego and Noah, to our pitching staff is going to really improve our stats and improve our situation that we've been having the last few years," Espinal promised.

Maybe the most improved player for the Mustangs since last year is junior Zach Nation who will be the starting second baseman for West Orange Stark. He has grown a little bit and put some good pounds on his frame. Espinal observed that Nation looks good at

second base turning double plays, he is making good adjustments, and is actually hitting the ball pretty well.

A sophomore who played on the varsity for West Orange Stark as a freshman is Grayson Gregory. Finding the best position to use Gregory is the problem. Espinal analyzed, "Grayson has made tremendous improvement behind the plate at catcher. He really pitched well for us last year as a freshman. We really need him as a catcher and he really needs to step up a whole lot, but he's young, he's getting better. Hopefully, this year and in the years to come he'll be where we need him to be. Right now he's still growing."

Espinal is counting on

Tyrone Wilson to swing a big bat for the Mustangs this year. Wilson had success last season and was the team's only .300 hitter. Continued improvement is expected from Tyrone with the bat.

William Lee, Carlos Calana, and Christian Anderson should be able to hit the ball and get on base more. Espinal said, "These are upper classmen that need to be successful for this program."

The pair of newcomers has Espinal very excited about the boost to the Mustangs' offense. "I'm so impressed with the two freshmen that I have that are definitely going to be impact players for us now and in the future. Diego Ibarra

and Noah Robles are swinging the bat pretty good, they give us more depth in the lineup, and they are going to be playing," Espinal praised.

Two real negatives for West Orange Stark last season was pitching and fielding. The pitchers had difficulties throwing strikes and when they did throw strikes the opposing hitters normally put the ball in play but the Mustang fielders had problems catching the ball and throwing it to retire the batter.

This year during the scrimmages and the practices the Mustangs have made tremendous improvement defensively. Coach Es-

WOS BAEBALL Page 5B

Great topwater alternatives

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

The slick surface of the lake was disrupted by skipping shrimp and the familiar sound of trout crashing the helpless crustaceans. Each cast with a soft plastic was met the familiar thump of an aggressive fish that thought they were much larger than they really were. One small trout after another continued to hammer the jigs and also continued to be too small.

The next logical thought for catching bigger fish was to go to a topwater plug, which usually works well under these circumstances. Again the topwater plugs were struck repeatedly by the small fish and occasionally by what appeared to be much better fish. The problem with the topwater plug was the better fish would not come all the way up to the surface and completely take the offering, instead they would just blow up on the



Chuck Uzzle

plug leaving each angler waiting in suspense to see if the fish would actually come back and finish the job.

One blow up after another without a hook up on a better fish was more than anyone could stand, there had to be another lure that would produce more hook ups and better fish. At long last an old favorite was brought back out of retirement; the stick bait was now the lure of choice. This particular bait was a Bill Lewis model called a "Slapstick", there are others like "Long A's" and "Rogues" that work just as well. Stick baits can be worked in variety of different ways from just under the surface to as deep as a couple of feet.

These plugs have a lip on the front of them that causes the bait to dart un-



Captain Chuck Uzzle shows off a nice Sabine Lake redfish.

der the surface and have a side to side wobble that drives fish crazy. Under these conditions when the fish wouldn't take the surface offering the stick bait works like magic.

For many years anglers down south have been weighting their topwater plugs so they would sit down in the water with just the top of the plug above the surface when the plug was not being retrieved. This was done so fish that would not commit to coming all the way to the top of the water would still have an opportunity to strike. Instead of going through the hassle of weighting the plugs and re-engineering the bait many anglers just went back to old saltwater favorites and some other freshwater options. For many years anglers caught a ton of fish on chrome and blue or chrome and black broken back minnows from Rapala. Freshwater anglers have long known the fish catching abilities of the Rogue and the Long A so it was a natural progression to many anglers to use these style of baits.

As the popularity of these plugs grew many more saltwater manufacturers began to make their own variations of these plugs, now there plenty to choose from. There are always some really big trout that are caught each year on the stick baits and for whatever reason most of those fish are caught during the summer. Truth be known these plugs can be used anytime during the year and produce results.

I am not sure why these plugs are not used more during the winter and early spring, they do well getting sluggish fish to give a reaction strike. I guess with the popularity of the baits like the Corky, Mirrodine, and others made the versatile stick bait a second stringer.

This spring there will come a time when you just can't get those fish to commit to a topwater and you know there are some big fish in the area. This is a perfect time to pull the old stick bait out of retirement and go "old school" on the fish. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised at the results.

Bobcat baseball From Page 1B

many of those Bobcats from the last two seasons, but there are still players that will contribute their experience this year for Orangefield. The leading two are Kyle Michael at first base and Caleb Fregia who will be moving from second base to shortstop. Both are juniors.

The move of Fregia from second to short was a tough decision. Erickson explained, "I was kind of hesitant about that move, not because Caleb couldn't do it but he just played such a good second base for us last year. Caleb has looked really good in scrimmages so making that move I have no doubts about it now I think it was the right move to make."

A third Bobcat with a wealth of talent and experience is Jason Bodin a senior. Bodin will be the key fixture on the mound for Orangefield. Jason gained a lot of experience last year and will be the leader of the pitching corps.

Bodin's battery mate was Rusten Traxler in previous seasons. Traxler will be counted on a lot more as a senior to catch the bulk of the games for the Bobcats this season.

Two Bobcats that will be moving into bigger roles are Camden Fountain and Cameron Dearing. "They were part of what we did last year as courtesy run-

ners for the most part, but are stepping into bigger roles this year so we're expecting a lot from them," Erickson stated.

A newcomer to the Orangefield varsity is Brycen Tait as a pitcher. Erickson believes Tait will probably be the Bobcats number two starter behind Bodin. Brycen did pitch in one varsity tournament last year and did really well earning him a spot on the bench during the Bobcats' playoff run last season.

Coach Erickson said Tait had valuable innings on the mound pitching in junior varsity and has looked good so far this year with the varsity. Erickson added, "We know what Brycen can do, he's going to be consistent for us, so we're expecting big things from him."

A junior Logan Cheek has really swung the bat well in the early going for the Bobcats. Cheek is recovering from a hand injury that kept him out for two weeks. Logan is working his way back in and should contribute offensively for Orangefield.

Great batting and power hitting were primary reasons for the outstanding success of the Orangefield Bobcats the last two seasons, but they may change a little bit this year. "I think we're going to be a team that just handles the bat pretty well, I'm not sure

we'll swing as good as we did last year one through nine," Erickson indicated.

One Bobcat that should be a strong hitter is Kyle Michael who comes off last year being the district's most valuable player. Michael will be expected to be the big producer of runs batted in for Orangefield like he was last year.

Another hitting star who is expected to produce at the plate for the Bobcats is Logan Cheek. Erickson pointed out, "Rusten Traxler has swung the bat really well through scrimmages, and we know what he is capable of, but he has really shown it so far early this season."

Caleb Fregia hit better in the playoffs last year than he did in the regular season. He has picked up his hitting and looked good through the scrimmages.

Coach Erickson evaluat-

ed the Orangefield offense. "We're counting on those big guys to drive in runs, and then a lot of other guys to just handle the bat well with situational hitting to get on base," Erickson answered.

After being a very effective number three starter the last two years Jason Bodin will be the Bobcats' number one pitcher this season. Erickson stated, "Jason has made a name for himself that everybody knows who he is in the area. The opponents know if it's a big game that's who we're going to have on the mound, and he's looked outstanding so far pitching as good as I could ask throughout the scrimmages, so we're expecting big things from him, and I think we're going to get big things from him."

The other arm Erickson is counting on is Brycen Tait just to be consistent.

Tait should be the number two starter throwing every other game in district.

The rest of the pitching staff is still a work in progress in an effort to see who can do different jobs on the mound. Colton Myers will throw some innings in relief and has been effective through the scrimmages. Garrett Rawls is coming from basketball so he is just starting to work his way back into a pitching groove, and has a lot of movement on his pitches. "Those are two guys we'll look for in innings from out of the bullpen I think especially once we get into district," Erickson asserted.

Orangefield enters a new district this season with the reclassification implemented by the University Interscholastic League which dropped the Bobcats from Class 4A to Class 3A. The change in classification

does not change the goals for the Orangefield Bobcats.

Two district championships in a row is a habit the Bobcats are not ready to quit enjoying. Erickson commented, "We're to the point where the district championship is our goal and almost an expectation. The fine line between those two things I feel like we're capable of it."

This coming weekend Orangefield will play in the Certa-Bearden Classic at West Orange-Stark. The Bobcats will play Little Cypress Mauriceville at 4:30 on Thursday afternoon. On Friday Orangefield plays Liberty at 11:30 AM and Beaumont United at 4:30 PM. The final game of the tournament will be Saturday night at 7:00 PM between the Bobcats and the host West Orange-Stark Mustangs.

WOS baseball From Page 2B

pinal indicated Robles can play multiple positions and he can field well at all of them. He added Robles and Ibarra give the Mustangs so much more flexibility on defense.

The Mustangs did win three out of four scrimmages in February and the defense was solid in all of them.

Pitching for West Orange Stark has improved to the point where Espinal is confident that if the Mustangs can produce five or six runs they can win a lot of games. Espinal summarized, "Our pitching with upper classmen along with the two freshmen that we have can pitch pretty good. Diego Ibarra is a left-handed pitcher that throws pretty good. Tyrone Wilson has also done a fabulous job, and if he keeps just pounding the strike zone I think we'll be okay."

The expectation for this season at West Orange Stark is improvement. "We're going to take it one game at a time just like most coaches do. My gut feeling is that we're going to be so much better than last year. How many wins we're going to have, I don't know. We're going to go all out one game at a time, give it all we've got, and I know for sure we're a whole lot better than we were last year," Espinal concluded.

The Mustangs lost another close game on Friday 4-2 to Warren. Tyrone Wilson pitched well in the loss allowing 4 hits in 6 innings, striking out 11, walking one, and not allowing an earned run. Wilson also went two for three with a run batted in. William Lee went one for two and walked twice.

West Orange Stark will host the Certa-Bearden Classic the first weekend in March. The Mustangs will play four games on Thursday through Saturday at Ronnie Anderson Park. The Mustangs will play at 7:00 PM on Thursday and Friday, and they will play at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM on Saturday.

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ORANGE COUNTY GARDENING: The Finishing Touch: Raised Garden Beds

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Orange County
Master Gardeners

A raised hügelkultur bed is a gardening marvel which makes good use of yard debris (green waste). It will provide years of enjoyment requiring little effort to maintain other than top-dressing seasonal amendments before planting (courtesy HGTV.com).

Gardeners, our local weather forecasters are telling us to expect daytime temperatures to be ten degrees above-average for the next several days. What my brain is telling me, not in so many words, spring has arrived in SETX. Naturally, my thoughts run contrary to the Farmer's Almanac, stating we have a couple weeks longer to wait. Through my past gardening experiences, I know the consequences of planting a garden too soon but also in case you do plant now, of being prepared for a "final cold snap". This gardener is taking advantage of our warmer weather and planting flower beds and vegetable gardens this weekend. Enough about my gardening habits! Let's get started with the final portion of the German gardening method series known as hügelkultur.

In our last discussion I stated it's best to avoid allelopathic types of wood, or limbs, and leaves when layering the hügelkultur bed. Avoid using black walnut, red maple, red oak, sycamore, goldenrod, American elm trees, and others. This

step completes the 'hügelkultur' part of the raised bed! The next and final steps begin by adding back the soil initially removed from digging the bed. Make certain to evenly cover the entire surface of the bed, being mindful to completely encapsulate the filled material layers with natural garden soil. Once the garden soil has been returned to the bed, top-dress the bed with abundant amounts of organic material, use materials which retain moisture. This is the process I have used for many years with great success yielding bountiful vegetable harvests and prolific flowers. My recommendation is creating your own organic mix, utilizing components and soil amendments most of us have on hand. This is where you can save time, while reducing the financial burden of purchasing pre-made bagged soil to fill newly installed raised beds.

My preference is utilizing by-products (manure) provided to me by livestock, with the majority coming from sheep and goats. The 'green manure' is composted or cured for approximately a year before use in gardens. Add a 2-inch layer of composted manure to cover the top of the garden soil layer. Any composted manure will work. Composted manure can be purchased from local farmers by the trailer-load (cost effective) or by the bag from a local store.

Warning: This step requires a considerable



A raised hügelkultur bed is a gardening marvel which makes good use of yard debris (green waste). It will provide years of enjoyment requiring little effort to maintain.

amount of physical energy, be safe, take breaks often and stay hydrated! Working in batches, mix equal parts composted manure, coconut coir and topsoil. I used a cement mixer to combine the amendments since I was filling ten raised hügelkultur beds, but for smaller beds this can be accomplished using a garden spade and wheelbarrow. Purchasing topsoil from a local "dirt" pit (cost effective) will cost around \$15/cu yard (you provide the trailer), more if delivered or purchase bags from a local

store of choice. SETX soil types are numerous but most of us have some type of clay soil. I always recommend having a soil analysis performed when installing new garden beds, especially if using garden soil. A soil analysis report provides the gardener with specific information to address problems with exacting details of amendment types needed with corrective action steps. The cost of a soil analysis is minimal.

The final step to ensuring you have the right organic

mix is the water test. The goal is to have the top 6 to 8-inch soil amendment layer retain moisture, but to drain off excessive water. In other words, you don't want water to pool on the soil surface, so before filling the raised bed, fill two or three pots with the mix and thoroughly soak with water. If water remains on the surface for more than two minutes, add in some coarse sand or perlite to provide better drainage.

Once the raised beds are filled with your organic soil mix, let's begin the final

step and in my opinion the best part-planting! Weeds are the bane of ever gardeners existence, so to minimize them from the start, use mulch, which I've stated numerous times in the past, a gardeners best friend. Once plants are in place, cover the remaining soil surface area with a 2 or 3-inch layer of mulch. Grass clipping, pine straw, leaves, compost, cardboard are notable few mulch types. Note that hügelkultur raised beds help retain water once the wood decomposes. But like all raised beds, you want to minimize moisture loss in the upper few inches of soil.

With a new bed, in the first two growing seasons the addition of a thick layer of mulch will slow evaporation from the soil surface. Lastly, your new raised hügelkultur bed is so much simpler to maintain, now you don't have to bend down as far, making it easier to weed and water. I love gardening in raised beds for this very reason, and perhaps you will too. Let's go out and grow ourselves a greener, more sustainable world, one plant at a time! Happy Gardening!

For gardening questions answered or detailed information: email me: jon-green57@gmail.com or contact the Orange County Master Gardeners Helpline: (409) 882-7010 or visit our website: <https://txmg.org/orange>, Facebook: Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association or Email: extension@co.orange.tx.us.

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Jeremiah 29:11-13

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