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County Record

Vol. 61 No. 35 | The Community Newspaper of Orange, Texas | Week of Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Jury trials return to county courts

Judge Steve Parkhurst of the 360th District Court of Orange County, center back, explains the process of jury selection to prospective jurors Monday morning at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Jury trials are on the docket again in Orange County.

They restarted at the first of the year locally after a nine-month halt because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Still, judges are taking plenty of precautions.

The county's jury selection, which began its every other Monday schedule with more than 100 citizens this week, is taking place in the ballroom of the Orange County Convention & Expo Center, to allow plenty of social-distancing room.

"We've been having everything but jury trials," Steve Parkhurst, 260th District Judge, said when asked what he'd been doing since April.

"We've been going about it pretty much like business as usual."

Over a video call.

"Most of our hearings have been conducted by Zoom, criminal cases and civil cases as well. You turn on the computers and get on Zoom and conduct the case.

"We've been having several Zoom hearings a day," Parkhurst said.

"But the absence of jury trials has slowed things down."

The judge said it's been a good thing there hasn't been a lot of jail inmates who have requested trials.

"Now we're trying to get to those cases first, the people in jail that want jury cases," he said. "And what we're trying to do, especially at the start, is do the cases that aren't so complicated.

"We don't want people [jurors] sitting up there for hours a day. So far, it's worked out extremely well, I thought. Nobody complained."

Of the 100-plus who showed up for Monday's 9

JURY TRIALS Page 3A

Orange's first 'Yardi Gras' is Feb. 1-16

PENNY LELEUX
For The Record

Kenneth and Beth Wheeler decorate their "house float" in the Old Orange Historical District in preparation of Orange's first Yardi Gras Feb. 1-16. RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

When Beth Wheeler saw pictures on Instagram of "house floats" in New Orleans, La., she realized it would be a great COVID friendly alternative in Orange, in place of the cancelled parades. It is also an opportunity to showcase some of the beautiful homes in the historic district.

Her husband, Kenneth Wheeler, presented the idea at a committee meeting for the Old Orange Historical District and became the organizer for the event.

They are constantly updating a map as homes join Orange's first "Yardi Gras." Instead of standing on the side of the road watching parade floats go by, participants will get in their car and drive along a route to see homes decorated as floats; sort of a parade in reverse. "Everybody can drive through, like looking at Christmas lights. Nobody is going to be harassing you. Nobody is going to be in the streets throwing things at you, its COVID safe," Kenneth said. "There are seven just here on Pine Street."

Originally 10 homeowners agreed to decorate their homes, then, it jumped to 20.

"There may be 30 when it's all said and done," said Beth. The goal is to have all the houses decorated by Feb. 1. "People are already starting to drive by. We're definitely not finished."

They will print flyers with a map of homes soon said Mr. Wheeler. There will likely be more homes decorated than are on the map, because they will have to cut it off this week to get the flyers printed and distributed.

In New Orleans, the idea originally came about as a way to keep the multitude of Mardi Gras artists employed. Mardi Gras is their main source of income and this would be the second year of cancellations.

"We don't have a lot of float artists in Orange," said Beth, as she laughed. She said items from past floats can also be rented over there "So, those in New Orleans are going to be fantastic because of that." She said locally it might not be as impressive, but they are having a lot of fun with it. Mardi Gras decorations have been in short supply locally since things were cancelled. Most homeowners are making large decorations and have had to rely heavily of purchasing materials online.

For the Wheeler's home, they created large cutouts representing the age old tradition of the chicken chase or Courir de Mardi Gras, which is still held in some smaller communities of Louisiana. It was a tradition the Wheelers travelled to Iota, La every year to witness, until COVID-19 hit.

"It's something to see," said Beth.

Beth is also painting a pair of large alligators that will be perched over the porch.

The Wheelers are also decorating the old one room school house on 7th street. They purchased the home

ORANGE YARDI Page 3A

Pastors seek to lead area city councils

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Randy Branch, pastor of the Wesley United Methodist Church of Orange, wants to become West Orange's first new mayor since 1995.

Johnny Asevedo, pastor of non-denominational Destiny Church, is running for Pinehurst City Council with plans to sell the town as a go-to location.

Branch, a member of the West Orange city council the past three years, will face Jim Whittington, a former Louisiana Justice of the Peace, in the Saturday, May 1 election.

There could be others in the race, too.

The deadline for registering to run in the local elections for city council and most area school districts is Friday, Feb. 12.

Roy McDonald, West Orange mayor since 1995, recently announced he will not run for reelection.

"I was kind of hoping Roy would take another turn," Branch said, "but he's got to do what's best for him and Laverne, so …"

Branch said he's "kind of excited and kind of anxious," about taking the top spot.

"The people who really run

LOCAL ELECTIONS Page 3A

Districts seek priority for teachers' vaccines

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Orangefield Independent School District may or may not be the first in the county to do it but it sure won't be the last.

School board members voted 6-0 Monday night to approve a resolution requesting the state designate all public school district personnel as "essential frontline workers" and be given appropriate priority for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

"We mailed it today to Austin," Shaun McAlpin, Orangefield's schools superintendent, said Tuesday afternoon.

"A lot of districts are doing it. I think Bridge City already has sent a resolution and that Vidor and West Orange are planning to."

Currently, school nurses are the only educational personnel identified by the state of Texas for vaccination under Phase 1A or Phase 1B of the Texas COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.

The state hasn't released a list of who might qualify for Phase 1C, but in explaining why it put people 65 and over and those with higher risks in ahead of teachers, the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel said this:

"Because Phase 1B provides vaccine to higher-risk people regardless of their

TEACHER'S Page 3A

Birthday parade lifts spirits of WO man

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

You'd have thought Orange County law enforcement had surrounded Public Enemy No. 1 Friday morning.

But all the police cars and their blaring sirens were in West Orange to celebrate a very special 66th birthday for Randy Holston.

"Randy's nurse requested it," said Twyla George, volunteer coordinator for Compassion Hospice. "It was sweet how many people turned out."

More than a dozen police vehicles from throughout Orange County took part in the 10-minute car parade as Holston watched from his driveway, festive balloons tied to his wheelchair.

There was even a Highway Patrol car driven by a state

BIRTHDAY PARADE Page 3A

Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr., center, presents West Orange resident Randy Holston with a proclamation celebrating his 66th birthday. Friends and caregivers organized a car parade of law enforcement officers and others for the occasion.

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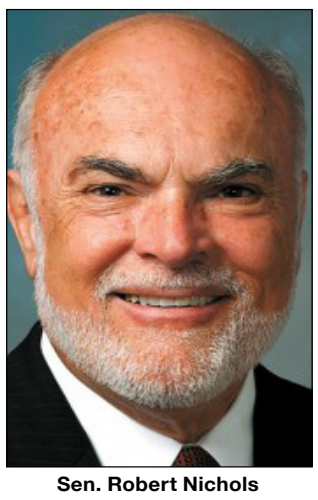
My 5-Cents . . .

By State Senator Robert Nichols


Sen. Robert Nichols

On January 25, 1839 the Lone Star flag was adopted by the Third Congress of the Republic of Texas as the national flag since Texas was an independent nation at that time. When Texas joined the United States as the 28th state six years later, the national flag became the state flag.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Senate Redistricting Committee to begin hearings

The Senate Committee on Redistricting will begin the important work of meeting to hear testimony from around the state regarding the redrawing of State House, Senate, State Board of Education, and US Congressional maps. Testimony will be open to the public, but will be virtual to adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines and ensure Texans all over the state have an opportunity to participate. Redistricting happens once every ten years. It follows the completion of the US Census. Though the Census was delayed this year due to the ongoing pandemic, we are looking forward to working on redrawing maps when we get the data. It's my honor to serve on the Senate Redistricting Committee and I look forward to being a strong voice for East Texas during this process.

2. NRA to move to Texas

The National Rifle Association announced it is filing for bankruptcy in New York last week and said they plan to reincorporate in Texas. The Association had been incorporated in New York for approximately 150 years. The decision to leave comes due to what they call a "corrupt political and regulatory environment" in New York. Meanwhile, Texas is home to over 400,000 NRA members and will host the NRA's Annual Meeting in Houston this year. The association will continue their work of promoting firearm safety and training, challenging anti-Second Amendment activity, and advancing public programs across the US. As a member of the NRA and a proud defender of Second Amendment rights, I'm happy to welcome the NRA to Texas.

3. Palestine Economic Development Corporation and Etex Communications partner to expand fiber broadband access

The Palestine Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) has partnered with Etex Communications to bring fiber broadband to Palestine and Anderson County. PEDC identified broadband as a key economic development issue and has worked over the last several months to study current internet access and plans to improve it. Part of the plan is to pull fiber, on Etex's network, from Jacksonville to Palestine. To do that, PEDC committed $1.1 million to fund a portion of the cost of construction. They are focused on bringing broadband to local businesses which is vital for creating jobs, supporting economic growth, and generating revenue to do additional broadband expansion into residential communities. The goal is for PEDC and Etex to reinvest revenue to expand the network as more customers come on board. If you're interested in learning more, PEDC and Etex encourages you to contact Etex Communications at (903) 797-1036.

4. Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Contest Opens

The Texas Department of Transportation in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful announced the opening of the Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship contest on January 4. The contest is open to any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private, or home school and planning to attend college in the fall. This contest recognizes Texas high school seniors who are taking a leadership role in litter prevention in their school or community. One $5,000 Grand Prize scholarship will be awarded and two $2,000 scholarships will be awarded in May. Applications must be received by 5pm on March 31st to be considered. Sponsors for this years contest are Buc-ee's and iHeart Media. To enter the contest, visit https://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/.

5. US Dept. of Labor issues guidance for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance continuation program

The US Department of Labor issued guidelines to assist the Texas Workforce Commission in continuing to implement Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. Congress passed the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 at the end of last year. The bill authorized up to 11 additional benefits weeks to Texans on unemployment due to the pandemic. The bill also extends CARES Act benefits through March 13 and includes an extra $300 per week for eligible claimants. TWC announced they will automatically enroll all Texans who are eligible for benefits under the act. There is no need for anyone to call or reapply. Importantly, this does not impact work search requirements. Most Texans will still be required to conduct work searches. The list of searches by county can be found at https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/required-number-work-search-activities-county.

Orange Depot Friends meeting

Because of the spike in Covid 19 cases in the Orange area, the annual meeting of the Friends of the Orange Depot is postponed until Thursday, February 11 at 1210 Green Avenue at 5:30 PM. A casual BBQ dinner will be served before the meeting begins. All safety protocols will be upheld: masks, unless eating, social distancing in the large room.

We are encouraging interested volunteers to attend the meeting to help with our future events and projects. If attending, please let Rose Simar know at 409-330-1576 so we will have the correct head count.

The organization wishes to thank the community for coming out in December for our Santa Drive-by. We look forward to visits on Santa's lap next Christmas season

LCM Bear golf team members Jack Burke and Patrick Miller.

The Bear golf team opened the season at the Jasper Bulldog Invitational held at Rayburn Country in Jasper. Led by a sizzling -2/70 by Senior Jack Burke, the Bears took 2nd place with a 329 in the team division behind the Kelly Bulldogs (315). Burke's under par round landed him 1st place overall in the tourney followed by Patrick Miller (74) of Kelly. It was the fourth straight year Burke claimed the individual title in the tournament. Scores for the Bears: Burke – 70, Wyatt Wozniak – 86. Timothy Weaver – 86, Will Van Pelt – 87, and Travis Love – 88.

The Record Newspapers
of Orange County, Texas

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

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CMYK

Jury trials return to county

From Page 1

a.m. jury call, nearly two dozen were dismissed in the first 30 minutes, leaving two jury pools of 40 prospective jury members for two separate trials to be held by Parkhurst and 128th District Judge Courtney Arkeen.

Questioning by defense and prosecution lawyers in a process called voir dire picked the two 12-person, one-alternate juries by noon.

Tuesday, the juries joined the lawyers and court staff back in the Orange County Courthouse, in the judge's normal courtrooms.

Only three jury members sat in the jury boxes, the rest were spaced apart on the front rows of the courtroom spectator seating. The county provided face shields for everyone.

The case in the 128th was over by lunchtime, the testimony short and the jury quickly reaching a verdict.

Parkhurst said his criminal mischief case included only three witnesses, but the jury needed a lunch break before reaching a not guilty verdict and clearing the courtroom about 2:30 p.m.

This was Parkhurst's first trial since the courts went virtual in the spring. The defendant in his trial set for Jan. 11 pleaded guilty at the last minute.

He said while the courts normally alternate between civil and criminal cases that criminal cases are at the forefront as they restart jury trials.

"If there are people in jail, we need to get their cases done," the judge said. "Plus, criminal trials are faster, usually, than civil trials.

"Some civil trials take three weeks. I'm just not ready to make people sit through that. I don't think it's fair to the jurors."

Orange 'Yardi Gras'

From Page 1

Kenneth and Beth Wheeler, organizers of Orange's first Yardi Gras, standing in front of decorated home of participants Robert and Carol Sims. RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

earlier this year and are in the midst of renovations. Silhouettes of jazz musicians and 2nd line dancers grace the porch and balcony along with a massive voodoo doll. The Wheelers are also waiting for cutouts that look like NOLA storefronts to arrive, to finish of the home's look.

The hope is Yardi Gras will become an annual event, even after the parades and other activities return.

"Now's the time to drive and rediscover downtown," said Beth.

"We've got several beautiful old homes around here for sale, as well," said Kenneth, "we'd like to get some more attention to that."

Homes will be decorated for viewing Feb. 1-16. There will be a few that will still be in progress due to shipping delays for decorations, so you may want to make more than one tour. The historic district runs from Green Avenue to John Street, then from 15th Street to Simmons Drive. The other portion that is considered the 'DuPont homes' runs from Burton Avenue to Park Street to 16th Street.

Birthday parade for Randy

From Page 1

trooper.

West Orange council members Randy Branch and Mike Shugart read a proclamation and Orange mayor Larry Spears, Jr., followed with one of his own.

County Judge John Gothia also attended.

George made the phone calls to organize the event but says she was helped immensely by former deputy sheriff Thomas Ray and West Orange city secretary Theresa Van Meter.

"It was just a few people doing a few things, and it all came together," George said.

"Randy was really happy about it. It made his day."

Local elections

From Page 1

West Orange are (city secretary) Therese Van Meter, (city manager) Mike Stelly and (public works director) John Sherwin. They're the ones that make things work," Branch said.

"I just feel like this [running for mayor] is the right thing to do. I know Roy will be around a while. I'll be looking to him for his experience and help."

In Pinehurst, five seats are up for grabs this year, including mayor. T.W. Permenter, the seated mayor, is running for reelection, along with alderman Greg Willis and Asevedo is the only other to have filed so far.

"My mission is to help restore and bring growth to our town," Asevedo said. "I love the city and I want to see Pinehurst reach its full potential."

Asevedo is 34, married and a father of three. He and his wife Karen launched Destiny Church. He said he sold two insurance concerns, each with a $1 million book of business, when he became a pastor.

"With my sales and business background, I can really sell Pinehurst as a place people want to come to, not just some place on the way to Orange," he said.

Asevedo said that in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura last summer, the City of Pinehurst was sending citizens to Orange for help. Meanwhile, his church off Strickland Drive was feeding 2,000 meals per day for more than a week because the church had planned the operation before the storm.

"We were the only non-government-funded distribution site in Orange County," he said. "Talking about a plan is one thing, but following through is a different conversation."

Following is a list of candidates who have filed for the May 1 election. Incumbents are marked (I).

City of Bridge City

Place 1: Carl Harbert (I), Aaron Roccaforte

Place 3: Tammi Fisette (I), John Nickum

Place 5: Terri Gauthier (I)

City of Orange

Mayor: Larry Spears Jr. (I)

District 1: David C. Bailey

City of Pinehurst:

Mayor (one year term): T.W. Permenter (I)

Alderman (one year term): Greg Willis (I)

Alderman (3 at-large seats with two-year terms): Johnny Asevedo

City of West Orange

Mayor: Jim Whittington, Randy Branch

Alderman: (2 at-large seats with two-year terms)

Bridge City ISD:

Place 1: Patty Collins (I)

Place 2: Judy Cole (I)

Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD

Place 4: Tammy Rountree (I)

Place 5: Aubrey Milstead (I)

West Orange-Cove CISD

At-Large (2 seats): Roderick Robertson (I)

Counties push for more vaccines

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Gothia

Orange County has joined a five-county Southeast Texas group in an effort to get more COVID-19 vaccines into the arms of its citizens.

John Gothia, Orange County judge, said the goal is to establish one or more permanent vaccination hub sites and possibly a mobile vaccine unit for use in Orange, Hardin, Jasper, Newton, and Jefferson Counties.

By combining their public health resources and populations, the resulting "consortium" covering a population of nearly a half-million residents would be able to guarantee the state that it has the ability to give out 22,000 vaccinations per week, which Gothia explained is a requirement to be considered a permanent hub.

In the meantime, residents 65 years of age or over, or those aged 16-64 with a chronic medical condition are urged to pre-register for vaccination online at vaccine.beaumonttexas.gov, or by phone at 409-550-2536.

"Registration will be done," Jeff Branick, Jefferson County Judge, said at a press conference in Beaumont Monday morning to announce the new coordinated vaccination push.

"But scheduling will not be done until we know we have significant vaccine for those in category 1A and 1B."

People under 65 who lack one of the following underlying conditions (cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies, solid organ transplantation, obesity and severe obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, type 2 diabetes) are asked not to pre-register at this time.

Gothia said the first permanent hub would be at Ford Park in Beaumont.

"But if we get the full 22,000 doses we're asking for, we could have a hub in Orange County," Gothia said

A mobile unit would be in one county for a day or two at a time as were the mobile testing sites in the spring and summer.

Members of the consortium named at the press conference were the public health authorities of Jasper, Newton, Hardin, Orange and Jefferson Counties, along with the cities of Port Arthur and Beaumont and the Riceland Healthcare Centers, which has operations in Beaumont, Winnie, Vidor and Woodville.

Teacher's vaccines

From Page 1

work sector or status, it will provide protection for a number of critical populations [that are] at an increased risk of getting COVID-19" and then lists teachers and school staff, social service workers, critical infrastructure workers "and other frontline workers who are unable to work remotely and so are more likely to be exposed."

Though already at the top of the list of critical populations above, teachers and school personnel definitely fit into that last group, too.

According to reports posted on the Texas Department of State Health Services website, 42 students and 35 adult employees of the Orangefield district have tested positive for COVID-19 since September.

The total of educators and staff members from county schools who have tested positive this school year is about 175.

"Basically, it was a resolution to include educators and other school district employees in the tiered approach to vaccination," Orangefield's McAlpin said of his board's resolution.

"The whole point was to encourage them to consider us at least as an option to sign up. Just consider us so that school employees get signed up."

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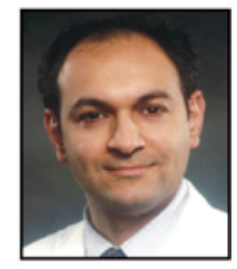
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From The Creaux's Nest

I'M WORKING BETWEEN DISTRACTIONS
A BRIEF SUMMARY

It's never a good time to be admitted to the hospital, but now is really a bad time. Beds are not available at will and the **ER** walls are lined up with people lying on stretchers. After about 16 hours I got lucky and in the middle of the night I made it to a room. I swear the hospital style bed, those that the head and legs go up and down and in the middle leaves your rear sitting in a hole, was the very worst bed I have ever laid in. **A real back kicker.** Some people have been waiting for a room for nearly a week and their families can't visit them. The alert is often heard loudly announcing **"Cardiac Arrest"** room so and so. Eighty-five percent of all **R.N. nurses** are travelers. One nurse I spoke with was from Miami, lives in a motel and eats at the local restaurants. Another nurse was from California. A young man RN was from Ohio. All hospital personnel work five days a week, 12-hour shifts and are very understaffed. Most admit that they are all very tired. They are professionals; they smile and try to accommodate the best they can. Arrangements had been made at **Medical Center** to transfer me to a Galveston hospital. Again, luck was with me, after a day of blood transfusions, **Dr. Alampur, MD,** agreed to do my procedure, **Dr. Abochamh, MD,** from the **Golden Triangle Cardio Group,** agreed to be my attending provider. I had been losing a lot of blood from somewhere in my belly and that had my blood pressure down to a very dangerous low. Finding a couple of other issues, it was determined that the blood was coming from a bleeding ulcer. The bleeding stopped but my blood pressure is hanging at a low ebb. This keeps me light headed and dizzy, worse yet because of three different problems. I am strictly on a bland diet, but if not for the ulcer I could be eating better. **Have you ever tried to drink "celery juice."** I don't know how many stalks they have to squeeze to make a cup that they call celery broth. I missed everything about the inauguration; the entire week was wiped out. From the tone of the positive news on the TV, it seems like old times before our government was at a four year **Trump** reality clown show. I did get home in time to catch the youngster **Patrick Maholmes** and the **Chiefs** win and move on to the **Super Bowl.** I watched the professor, **Tom Brady,** 43, beat **Aaron Rodgers** and the **Packers** to advance to the **Super Bowl.** What a game that should be, young legs against old experience. **Vegas** will probably make **Patrick** and the **Chiefs** a 3 to 4 point favorite but I've learned a long time ago not to bet against **Brady.*******Well, I will try to finish this column in spurts. **Come along, it won't do you no harm.**

THE WHITE HOUSE GOES TO THE DOGS

President Donald Trump was a boy that was raised without being allowed to own a dog. His niece, **Mary Trump,** said that her grandfather believed pets were for commoners. So **Trump** became the first president to not have a dog live in the **White House.** Sunday, two German shepherd dogs, **Champ** and **Major,** the **Joe Biden** dogs, moved into the executive mansion. The **Biden's** adopted **Major** in 2018 from the **Humane Association. Champ** joined the family in 2008 after the presidential election that made **Biden** vice-president. **Major** is the first shelter dog to live in the **White House.** Goes to show that even dogs can live the **American dream**.

CONDOLENCES

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Larry Lyle Garrison,** 75, who passed away January 21. Larry was a longtime resident of Orange. It was often said to know Larry was to like him. Our condolences to our friend and loyal helper here at The Record, his daughter Lisa Guyote and her family. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2011

University of Texas partners with **ESPN** to create a 24-hour, **$300 million** television network. The **Longhorn** network will launch in September. It will guarantee the university **$300 million** over 20 years. The **Longhorn** brand will be right there with **Oprah, FOX, ESPN** airing 200 live sports events per year.*****Another bonanza will be the men's NCAA Final Four at Reliant Stadium. Local businesses will profit with tens of thousands of hoops fans expected to leave $60 million in Houston.*****Special folks having birthdays: On Jan. 23, **Matthew A. "Ski" Korczynski** celebrated his 88th birthday. **Ski** lives in Deweyville and is an avid reader of **The Record**. Thanks to his daughter **Barbara Bernauer** for letting us know how **Ski** is doing.*** **Mark Walles,** of Orangefield, celebrated on Tuesday, Jan. 25.*** One of our great buddies **Nancy Vincent** celebrates another birthday Jan. 26. What a gal.***A great little guy, **Leland Clay Gros, "Scooter" to his Papa**, is two years old on Jan. 27. That boy is way wiser than his two years. With his smarts and good looks I smell trouble ahead.***Others celebrating this week are the **Todora** twins, **Rosalie Clark and Mary Ann Scofields**, **Lily fields, Marty Delano, Skipper's boy, Scott Free, Bill Dixon**, our longtime friend **Devra Cormier** and **Ace Amedo's** twin girls celebrate their 60th on Jan. 29.*****Pat** and **H.D. Pate** celebrate their anniversary this Wednesday, Jan. 26. **H.D.** says to mark the occasion he will take **Pat** to the **Merle Haggard** concert. Not bad **Hinney, Merle** is always a good gig. Best wishes. *****Our friend **Daniel Jacobs,** recovering from Leukemia, has taken a step backward but he's determined to start moving forward again. Our prayers go out to he and **Gloria**.*****Congratulations go out to **Giesla Houseman,** selected as the **Southeast Texas Person of the Year by SET** Regional Planning committee. Well deserved. *****Every time I hear a great human story I think of **"Buckshot."** He loved people stories.*******Arbor Day** is April 29. That date must have been set for **Yankees**. It's too late for us to plant. In fact, here on the **Gulf Coast,** we have completed planting by the end of March.*****The gold rush started 163 years ago, 1840, at Stutter Mill in northern California. *****The **"Godfather of Fitness," Jack LaLanne**, died Jan. 23 at the age of 96. He opened the nation's first health club in Oakland in 1936. In 1950, he moved to television with a women's morning exercise program. He said, **"Billy Graham** is for the here-after, I'm for the here and now."

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2011

Shaun Randall Taylor, 26, passed away on Jan. 12. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 22. He was a native of Orange; He was an American History buff and enjoyed working on computers; he volunteered in Houston repairing computers that were donated for children who could not afford one. He is survived by his mother, Sharon K. Marx; father, Stephen Taylor; and brother, Jayden Marx and paternal grandfather, Hyman Taylor.*******Charles William "Bill" Barrett,** 44, of Orange, died Tuesday, Jan. 18. Graveside service were held on Saturday, Jan. 22. Bill is survived by his sons, Nathan and Michael Barrett; sister, Missy Sonier; niece, Lauren Dyer; nephew, Zachary Sonier and great-niece, Kayle Ener of Orange.***** **Wilfred Leleux,** 79, of Bridge City, died Sunday, Jan. 23. Service was held Thursday, Jan. 27. He retired in 1993 from Teamster's Local 920. He was a member of St. Henry Catholic Church for 57 years and the Knights of Columbus where he had served as Grand Knight. He is survived by his sons Winfred J., Dexter and Michael; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.***** **Louis Duhon,** 93, of West Orange, died Tuesday, Jan. 18. Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 21. He served in the Army in World War II and retired from the Navy Base in Orange after 25 years. He also retired from the West Orange Cove Maintenance Department. Louis is survived by his wife of 72 years, Melba Duhon; daughters Juanita Smith and Charlotte Alford; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
22 Years Ago-1999

Moe Litton, former city councilman, coach and athletic trainer, joined by **Bum Phillips**, coaches **Darrell Shaffer, Alex Dudley, Joe Washington,** was inducted into the Southeast **Texas Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Litton** was selected in only the third year of balloting. **West Orange-Stark coach Dan Hooks** is president of the organization.*******Bridge City star Shane Dronett** is headed to the **Super Bowl.** He had a great game in the **Falcons** 30-27 win over the **Vikings.** The **Falcons** will meet Denver in **Super Bowl XXXIII** on Jan. 31.*******Hal Ridley** celebrates a birthday last week and it also was he and Laverne's 45th wedding anniversary. (Editor's note: **Hal and Laverne** have since passed away. It seems it was just a few years ago when they were the life of the party and also threw many of them.)*****Nine Bridge City football players made recruitment visits last weekend. Eleven to 13 boys are expected to be offered scholarships. No one works harder to get his athletes scholarships than **Coach Les Johnson.** Over the past four years, 30 youngsters have received scholarships in all sports. *****A **"Down Life's Highway"** column, written by **Roy Dunn** was picked up by the **Associated Press.*********Capt. David Peck** flew to **San Angelo** to watch daughter **Amber** star in a basketball game and also to meet a future son-in-law that daughter **Jacelyn** plans to marry.*******Big Brother and the Holding Company** excited the crowd at **Janis Joplin Bash. B.J. Thomas** showed his great voice but it was **Jivin' Gene** who stole the show. He put on his dad's old hat and knocked them dead with his medley of **Bobby Charles** songs. **Charles Alan** and **Warren Storm** kept true **Swamp Pop** alive.*******Misty Segura**, a 1994 Bridge City grad, completed her first semester at **South Texas College of Law. Misty** was a 1998 honor grad at **Lamar.** Proud parents are **Darrell** and **Sharon Segura.** Grandmothers are **Ann Segura** and **Mildred Piggott.*********Bridge City Chamber** honored **Charlie Waldon** as it's **Citizen of the Year. Fred Gregory** brought him to **Bridge City** 33 years ago with a job offer. He worked at **Bridge City Bank** one year and joined **Bayer**, on **Chemical Row,** where he has been ever since.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week **District Judge Courtney Arkeen,** who is not hard to look at, sentenced a felon to 25 years of hard time in the joint. When it was done, he was asked if he had anything to say. He answered, **"Yes, you're the most beautiful judge I've ever seen."** He has a long time to recall that image.*****Can you believe it's been 30 years since **Desert Storm?** The **United States** launched the first air strike on Jan. 17, 1991, after **Iraq** had invaded **Kuwait**. On Feb. 24, 1991, the ground war began. On Feb. 28, just four days later, a cease fire was declared. The mistake we made was going back and invading **Iraq**. The first battle was **President George H. Bush**, the second invasion was **President George W. Bush's war.** We were told we wouldn't occupy the country but 50,000 U.S. troops did.*****Jan. 22, marked 48 years since the **Roe Vs. Wade Supreme Court ruling.** Over the years protest, mass marches and even the murdering of doctors have taken place. Today, the abortion activist have made a dynamic switch and are reaching out to women considering abortion with more compassion, trying to convince them to do otherwise.*****It's been 60 years since **President Kennedy's** famous **State of the Union** speech. Today it's not what you can do for your country, it's what you can do for your party.*****It is said when an elder person dies its like a library burning down. I have heard but know nothing for sure, that some weeks ago, **D.J. "Ace" Amodeo** had passed away. Last I had heard he was in a Pinehurst nursing home. **Dennis** would be 96 years old and he was a library full of **Orange city history.** At least two famous trials were held where **Percy Foreman** was defense attorney. **"Ace"** was a police dispatcher when **Zeke,** a Black guy, was killed in the city jail and his body dumped in Louisiana. **Percy** successfully defended **Henry Stanfield** and others on the police force. **"Ace"** took with him a world of knowledge**.*******A few folks we know celebrating their special day. **Jan. 27, Leland Clay Gros** turns 12 years old. He's **Roy** and **Ms. Phyl's** great grandson.*******Janelle'e** new little sweetie, Lil' **Arya Perritt** turns 5 today.*****Also, our late friend **Judge Janice Menard** celebrated on this day. She passed away in 2020.*******Jan. 28,** Longtime friend **Mary Stanton** celebrates today, also **Judge Bill Dixon** and **Judge David Dunn** share birthdays today.*******Sidney Longron,** everyone's friend, turns 89 today.*******Jan. 29,** A wonderful lady, **Devra Cormier,** celebrates today.***Also celebrating is **Wyman Ogden.*****The **Amodeo** twins celebrated on this day. **Lynn,** I know, has passed away, I'm not sure about **Leslie Smith,** her twin.*******Jan. 30,** My calendar shows this is **Rosalie Clark's** birthday. The list **Janelle** sent me shows her birthday as 28th but I'm going with my calendar.***Also celebrating on this day is former Major League pitcher **John Patterson.*******On **Feb. 2,** longtime **Aggie,** one of **"Bear" Junction Boys, Don Kachtik** celebrates. **Happy Birthday to all.*** Feb. 2** is also **Ground Hog Day.*********Community Bank of Texas** has reopened its Orange location on **Edgar Brown Drive**. Please see their ad in this week's paper as we welcome them to our family of advertisers.***** Our friend **Pat Pate** stopped by the Orange office on Tuesday morning to check in on **Roy** and family. She is doing well.*******Lamar State College Orange** is hosting day two of the **LifeShare Bus** till 2:00 pm at the **Orange campus** today. The **Life Share Blood Center** also has **COVID** antibody tests available.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Natives celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Kimberly Barclay, Mick Weidner, Lori Lummus, Cheryl Gonzales, Chase Rendall, Jim Snider, Sheryl Richard, Virginia Robinson, Paula Perkins, Rachel Beaulieu, Ricky Miller, Carolyn Martin, Jeanie Kreger, Amy Campbell, Lily Fields, Marty Delano, Regina Gaspard, Wayne Sullivan, Jake Williams, Bobby Anderson, Vance Thomas.**

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 27: Actors **John Witherspoon,** 79; **Patton Oswalt,** 52 and **Alan Cumming,** 56.*******Jan. 28:** Actors **Elijah Wood,** 40 and **Alan Alda,** 85; Pop singer **Nick Carter,** 41.*****Jan. 29: Actors **Tom Selleck,** 76 and **Sara Gilbert,** 46; TV Host **Oprah Winfrey,** 67 and Pop singer **Adam Lambert,** 38.*****Jan. 30: Actors **Christian Bale,** 47 and **Wilmer Valderrama,** 41; Rock singer **Phil Collins,** 70 and Politician **Dick Cheney,** 80.*****Jan. 31: Pop singer **Justin Timberlake,** 40, Actors **Minnie Driver,** 51 and **Bobby Moynihan,** 44.*****Feb. 1: MMA fighter **Ronda Rousey,** 34, Pop singer **Lisa Marie Presley,** 53 and Actor **Pauly Shore,** 53.*****Feb. 2: Reality star **Duane Chapman,** 68; Modeel **Christie Brinkley,** 67; Actors **David Jason,** 81 and **Emily Rose,** 40.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Little **Norris Badeaux** was sitting on da church steps him, wit a bottle of turpentine. He was shaking and watching all da bubbles. **Fatter LaSalle** came along and he axe **Norris,** "Wat you got dere hanh?"

Norris answer, "Well **Fatter**, dis here is da most powerful liquid in da world, it's call turpentine."

Da priest him said, "No **Norris**, da most powerful liquid in da world is **Holy Water**. If you rub jus a little bit on a women's belly, she'll pass a healthy baby her."

Norris him tink about dat, den he replaied, **"Fatter,** if you rub a little bit of dis here turpentine on a cat's ass, he'll pass a **Harley-Davidson** him."

C'EST TOUT

We lost two giants of my generation in the last few days. **Larry King,** age 87, had been under **COVID-19** care since Jan. 4. A Brooklyn boy he became a newsman who interviewed newsmakers. In his 25 years on **CNN, Larry** conducted over 50,000 interviews on television. He also did a lot of radio. I can recall in the 1980's he had an all night radio show. People from around the country would just call in and talk about anything. He was married eight times, seven times to different women. Everyone liked **Larry**. He was one of our true icons during a period I was fortunate to have traveled. "**R.I.P. Larry King."*******I was saddened to learn of the death of **Hank Aaron**, who died Friday Jan. 22. I had followed his baseball days, I was a real fan. He symbolized the very best of the game. A Black kid from Mobile, Alabama, in 1974, on April 8, he broke **Babe Ruth's** homerun record with his **715th homerun** off of **Al Downing.** I was fortunate enough one month later to obtain a commemorative bat with a plaque signed by **Henry** (Hank's given name) **Aaron**. Only 500 copies of **Hank's** record breaking bats were released by **Magnavox**. It is one of my proudest possessions. He grew up a poor kid who faced racism but never let the hatred he get the best of him. A legend in every sense of the word, he was one of the greatest baseball players of all time. A champion for civil rights, he was a roll model for every youngster. He was given a hard time by **White Supremist** for breaking **Babe Ruth's** record. **Hank** ended his career with **755 homeruns**, a record later broken by **Barry Bonds. "Hammerin Hank, R.I.P. #44."*******My time is up for this week. Take care, wash hands and wear mask. **God bless**.

Deaths & Memorials

Charlotte Slaughter, 74, Orange

Charlotte Slaughter, 74, of Orange, passed away on January 18, 2021, at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont. Funeral services were held on Friday, January 22, 2021 at the Bridge City United Pentecostal Church Family Life Center, 2056 W Roundbunch Rd Orange, Texas 77630. Officiating was Pastor Murray Ray of Bridge City United Pentecostal Church. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange. Visitation was held prior to service at the Bridge City United Pentecostal Church Family Life Center.

Born in Orange, Texas, on November 3, 1946, she was the daughter of Leroy Forse and Vivian (Franklin) Forse. Charlotte was devoted to GOD, a faithful soul who always took the opportunity to be a witness to those she met. She loved going outside to work in her garden & flowerbeds, feeding & watching the birds and squirrels. Charlotte played piano & guitar and had a beautiful singing voice which she used for many years in church and at home. Christmas Holidays were her favorite time of year, always looking forward to her family singing and playing instruments. Her cooking and baking were not overlooked as Chicken & Dumplings were the family's favorite. Spending time with friends and family meant everything to her and she bragged about her kids and grandkids constantly. She was a kind & loving wife, daughter, mother, sister, friend and a Nonnie. Thru her journey GOD molded her into the perfect Wife and Mother. Irreplaceable, she will truly be forever loved and missed. She was preceded in death by her parents Leroy and Vivian Forse, and sister Frances Heflin. She is survived by her loving husband, Johnny Slaughter; children, Chris Slaughter and wife Brandy, of Bridge City, Keith Slaughter, of Orange, Rebecca Hampshire and husband Chad, of Lumberton; grandchildren, Ariel Nabor and husband Noe, Skylar Slaughter, Chazz Slaughter and wife Chelsy, Blaine Slaughter and wife Kaitlyn, Carissa Slaughter, Johnathon Smith and wife Bailey, Zachary Slaughter, Tine Hampshire, Tori Hampshire, Tana Hampshire and Trip Hampshire; great-grandchildren, Camden, Ayden, Stetson, and Aubrey; and sister, Janice Saltzman and husband Lavergne. Pallbearers: Chazz Slaughter, Zachery Slaughter, Blaine Slaughter, Johnathon Smith, Tine Hampshire and Jeff Jones. Flowers can be sent to Claybar Funeral Home, 504 5th Street, Orange, Texas 77630.

Gloria Ann Breaux, 94, Orange

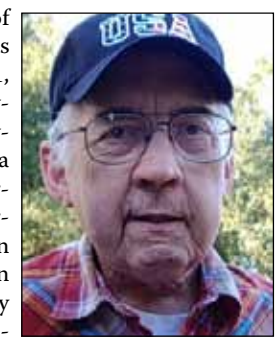
Gloria Ann Breaux, 94, of Orange passed away peacefully Sunday, January 24 at Focused Care of Orange, Tx. Funeral services will be held Friday, January 29, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Orange. Officiating will be Father Sinclair Oubre. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery in Orange. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 29, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Orange. Born November 7, 1926 in Orange, TX to Sylvia and Gilbert Breaux, she lived with her parents until their deaths. A graduate of Stark High School, she was a retired telephone operator from Southwestern Bell. Gloria was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and then St. Francis of Assisi in Orange. She always found family and church as the central focus of her life. Gloria never married nor had any children but her 10 nieces and nephews were her pride and joy. She treasured all her times spent with them, especially Stephen, watching football games on Sunday. She loved to travel with them and took some on vacations. Her favorite pastimes were crossword puzzles and playing bingo. Cherishing her love and memories will be her nieces and nephews: Robert and Katie Breaux of Maitland, FL, Beverly and Dale Thames of Bay City, TX, Stephen Breaux, Yvonne and Charles Bigler, Don and Angie Breaux, Colleen Fowler, and Daniel Breaux all of Bridge City, TX, Dianne and Caro DelBarto of Fort Meyers, FL, Peggy and Bobby Hammock of Cleveland, TX, Sheryl and Mark Davis of Hemphill, TX, and her many great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

Gloria is preceded in death by her parents, Sylvia and Gilbert Breaux, and her brothers, Thomas, Leroy and Johnny. Serving as pallbearers will be Daniel Breaux, Daniel W. Breaux, Jr., Charles Bigler, Nathan Fowler, Glynn (Bubba) Fowler, Stephen Breaux, and Darrin Bigler.

Brenda Gale Bergeron Brimer, 72, Orange

Brenda Gale Bergeron Brimer left this world to be with the Lord on January 22, 2021, at the age of 72. She was born in Orange on August 17, 1948 to Joe and Myra Bergeron. Brenda was a native of Orange where she attended school in the Cove. She lived in Orangefield for most of her life and worked for many years in Orange. Brenda was also a self-taught seamstress and made beautiful handmade dresses including her daughter's high school prom dress. In later years she was happy taking on both old and new adventures with her husband Billy. They were always together, gardening, fruit trees, raising chickens and rabbits, and tending to her dog, Rebel. Brenda loved being outside. They frequented flea markets and antiquing. She had just taken up fishing and caught her first fish only 2 years ago. Brenda was also a good cook, renowned for baking, including her "Famous Old-Fashioned Fudge." Family was extremely important to her. She was a doting mother and grandmother and worked to pass on her wisdom and talents to the next generation. The grand daughters were often close in tow behind her gathering eggs, feeding rabbits and helping with yard work. She is survived by her father, Joe Bergeron of Orange; husband, Billy Brimer, Sr. of Orangefield; sister, Darla Bertrand of Bridge City; her daughter, Sherry O'Neil Stanley of Buna; her son, Thomas O'Neil of Orange; grandchildren, Joseph Stanley, Mariah Stanley Gaston, Justin O'Neil, and Matthew O'Neil; great-grandchildren, Alexis Leblanc, Leia Leblanc and Ava Stanley; and a multitude of cousins. She was predeceased in death by her mother, Myra Bergeron; and son, Joseph O'Neil. Funeral services will be from 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 30, 2021 at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. In lieu of traditional flowers, the family requests Brenda's favorite, fruit trees or potted plants.

Larry Lyle Garrison, 75, Orange



Larry Lyle Garrison, age 75, of Orange, Texas, passed from this life on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. The family will be having a private Memorial Service at a later date to honor Larry's life. Arrangements were entrusted to Dorman Funeral Home. Larry was born on Sunday, January 6, 1946, in Beaumont, Texas to parents, Tiny Lee (Hampshire) and Lyle Garrison. Larry was a longtime resident of Orange, Texas where he was known and loved by many. He made his career as a welder and a draftsman while working for, Exxon Mobile, from which he later retired. Larry was a true comedian with a dry sense of humor that never failed to tell a joke, no matter the current situation. He thoroughly enjoyed going bowling, watching the pro bowl on television, motorcycles of all kinds, as well as, hunting deer, rabbit and ducks when he was younger. He had two special little four legged friends that he loved very much named, Mady and Chloe, whom never left his side. Larry loved his family unconditionally and looked forward to every single moment that life allowed them to spend with one another. Larry was a loving husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend, whom will forever be loved and missed by all who knew him. Left to cherish his memory are his loving daughter, Lisa Guyote; loving sisters, Barbara McMillon, as well as, Frances Read and husband Forest; grandchildren, Cody Roberts and wife Amber, as well as, Ty Roberts and girlfriend Brigette; great grandchildren, Steelye Roberts, Ryker Roberts, Baelyn Roberts and Azzy ; great nieces and great nephews, Jeramey and wife Alleya, Ryan, Neve, as well as, a host of additional nieces and nephews. A very special, Thank You, to great niece, Penny and Richard, as well as, Elgin Kneese and Anissa Read, for being such wonderful help to Larry and the rest of the family when it was needed most. Larry is preceded in death by his loving wife of over 20 years, Pat Garrison, as well as his parents, Tiny and Lyle Garrison.

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The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of Lola's Beauty Shop owned by Alana Corkern. Lola's is located at 2496 MLK King Jr. Drive Orange. At Lola's there are many services that the ladies offer and specialize in. Hair services include cuts, color styling and extensions. Business hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-6pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm.

The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of Boujie & Co. Couture, LLC on Thursday January 21, 2021. This boutique is located at 1502 Strickland Drive Orange. You can't miss it, owner Kimberly Casmore has painted the store front turquoise blue with stylish black accents. Open Tuesdays-Fridays 10am-6pm, & Saturdays from 10am-3pm.

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

God's Sheep Are In The Care Of The All Powerful Shepherd

Pastor Charles Empey
Columnist
For The Record

Psalm 23:1-2 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Psalm 23 is the most popular Psalm for a reason. It meets the need of comfort for all of God's sheep, true believers. The needs of God's children in a hostile world where Satan is constantly seeking whom he can devour and rip apart their life. His constituency, men and women without Christ in leadership and even simple citizens who cannot be trusted, are ready to respond to his bidding that seeks ours and their own destruction.

The Shepherd/sheep analogy is simple. The shepherds job was to feed and water and comfort and keep alive the sheep. God applies that analogy to the reality of the care Jesus gives all who come unto Him in saving grace. The shepherd stood between the wild animals and the sheep at his own risk of death. Jesus said that the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The Best of the good shepherds in history is Jesus, who took the death of all deaths for all of us, and whosoever flees to Him will be saved from death and the second death (hell) and brought finally into the presence of our Father in heaven. He took ownership of that condemnation for us and now offers instead of death and hell, eternal life and eternal happiness to all who will flee unto Him. Verse 4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Pastor Charles Empey

Death and the grave are never far from one's thoughts and view. There is ours to consider, our family and remembrance of those who have gone before us. Then we see it on TV daily either in programs and movies, or real, live news. Even our animal kingdom remind us of death constantly. Sin brought death by Adam and righteousness and salvation from sin and death came by Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Our Shepherd went to our death and got up to ever live, to ever give us the victory over it.

This world does not offer that, even with all the medical expertise and pharmaceutical genius. Death always eventually comes.

When is the last time the world really offered and came through on its promise of peace, peace, peace? Maybe a moment of solitude or peace here and then a little there, but it always returns to real life. The world is offering us less peace everyday.

With the Good Shepherd, that is, having Jesus Christ the Lord as your Lord and Savior, you find the only hope of true peace, even in the presence of our enemies, no matter how vicious they are. Verse 5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." The anointing of the oil is representative of the assurance and peace we have in the presence of our King of kings, Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He prepares a life of provision in the face of that and those that strive to take it away, and that comes with a final promise in Verse 6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." From "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..." to Verse 6, constant restoration of our soul and our physical life is assured with PEACE all the way to His house, eternal heaven. Look to Jesus. All else is failing us.

Charles Empey is the Pastor of Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.

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Catching bass is no accident

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record

Dickie Colburn

The early morning call from Jay was a little unexpected as I had not heard from him in over a year. "News travels slowly up here, but Lisa just told us about your Mom. Our neighbor recently died from Covid-19 so I guess there isn't any place to hide from it." His condolences were appreciated as was his invitation. "I caught my first double digit fish of the year last Thursday and I think you ought to take a little break and come fish with me next week."

I do not consider it to be a stretch to say that catching double digit bass on Toledo Bend has been a regular occurrence for Jay Hughes over the past seven years. "Regular" is a relative term, but his daily records tell the story. I would not expect anyone to believe the number of big bass he has caught and released over that span of time, but it merits listening when he says, "Now is the time to get it done!" He also casually mentioned the fact that fourteen of those fish were caught between the middle of January and the end of February.

Fourteen is a staggering number in itself, but Jay is quick to point out that several of those fish may not have quite made the ten pound mark as he seldom weighs them and there is also the possibility that he may have caught one or two of them more than once. "The current conditions could not be better," he added. "Longer days, the lake level is perfect and this little warm spell is just what the doctor ordered. Maybe I'll catch my first twelve pounder this year."

A single ten pound fish in a life time would satisfy most fishermen. Hughes actually started targeting big bass only nine years ago. "Once I pinpointed when my chances were the best, I began bass fishing only those months and crappie fishing the rest of the year."Jay openly laments the fact that his eldest grandchild, Lisa, is headed to LSU next fall and she is the only other person that knows most of what he knows about big bass. "She accidentally caught an eight pounder on a shiner while crappie fishing when she was twelve and she has been hooked ever since. I would have to look, but I think she has caught three bass over ten pounds."

Lisa now fishes with her "Big Poppa" only during his two prime times of the year for duping over-sized bass. And what is that second prime time? "Depending on lake level and water temperature, I prefer night fishing in the summer over the early spring bite, revealed Hughes. "Big bass are creatures of habit and they spend much of the summer in 20 to 23 feet of water. Their hold-ups are very isolated and that means more time spent fishing than boat riding. ""We have actually

COLBURN Page 3B

Happy Deshaun Watson is like Super Bowl LV win in Houston

KAZ'S KORER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record

Joe Kazmar

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers may be happy to get into Super Bowl LV Feb. 7, but they may not be overjoyed to be the first out of the last 108 Super Bowl teams to be playing in Raymond James Stadium—their home field—because they reached the ultimate encounter by winning all three NFL playoff games on the road.

But the team appreciates the move the front office made last winter to obtain 43-year-old Tom Brady as their quarterback for the 2020 season.

After all, this will be Brady's 10th Super Bowl he will have played in, with six of them resulting in World Championships—all with the New England Patriots—whose head coach Bill Belichick felt he was too old to play well enough to even reach the 2020 playoffs.

Belichick was half right because his team did NOT reach the playoffs for the first time in a decade, but this time without Brady, who kept his decade-long streak intact by leading his new team not only to the 2020 playoffs, but also to the Super Bowl.

Brady led his four-point underdog

Deshaun Watson's feelings were bruised deeply when he found out Nick Caserio was hired away from the New England Patriots couple of weeks ago without being asked anything about the move. The fourth-year quarterback said he did not want to play another down for the Texans, but did not demand a trade at the time.

Buccaneers to an impressive 31-26 win over the top-seeded Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field to win the National Football Conference championship and punched their ticket to play

KAZ'S KORNER Page 3B

Memorial service held for Hammerin' Hank

ATLANTA -- Brian Snitker choked back tears as he remembered Hank Aaron's affection for those who didn't possess his unparalleled talent on the baseball field.

During his post-playing career running the Atlanta Braves farm system, the Hammer had a penchant for looking beyond the can't-miss prospects.

''He always wanted to move a player up, and he preferred that it wasn't the so-called bonus babies,'' said Snitker, who has managed the Braves since 2016 and got his start in the dugout thanks to Aaron. ''He wanted to get that grinder guy, the guy who was overachieving.''

Snitker was among those who spoke Tuesday at a memorial service honoring Aaron, who died last week from natural causes at the age of 86.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, Hall of Famer Chipper Jones and former Braves outfielder Marquis Grissom were among those who spoke at the ceremony, which was held before a small, socially distanced crowd - including Aaron's widow, Billye, and other family members - on the concourse directly behind home plate at Truist Park.

The remarks were delivered in an exhibit known as Monument Garden, which prominently features a statue of Aaron delivering the swing that produced 755 homers.

Aaron's famed No. 44 was painted in the dormant grass of center field. Braves Chairman Terry McGuirk noted the unseasonably warm January weather - the temperature climbed into the upper 60s - as a sign from above honoring one of the game's greatest icons.

Noting the 10 Baseball of Famers who have died in the past year, Manfred said the Aaron ''belongs on our sport's Mount Rushmore. .''

Final weekend woes for duck hunters, look to snow geese

Outdoors Weekly
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

Local waterfowl hunters finish off their main season this weekend and for many it will be welcome sight. Ducks and geese locally been beyond sparse and just down right non existent in many areas. A few hunters are still grinding away at some smaller concentrations of birds and having a few good hunts but those are few and far between. The biggest majority of the birds still hanging around locally are mostly green winged and blue winged teal without h a few gadwall thrown in for good measure. Overall the numbers are slim but you can't shoot them while sitting on your coach so get all you can because it'll be months before we get to chase them again.

Normally when regular duck season ends there is a big push of attention thrown towards the snow goose conservation season. Areas in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and even farther north become magnets for hunters wanting to cash in on some non stop action. In most of those states mentioned they don't hunt the snow geese during the regular season, instead they let those numbers of birds build to huge concentrations and then once the regulations are eased they move in for some impressive shoots. If you have never done a snow goose conservation hunt you owe it to yourself to do it, you won't be sorry.

Most local hunters have been taking advantage of the numbers of teal in our area to fill straps.

Once the snow goose conservation season begins many hunters will opt outfit their shotguns with extended magazines in order to take advantage of the new rules. Shotguns must not hold more than 3 shells, 1 in the chamber and 2 in the magazine, during the regular waterfowl season. Once the conservation season kicks off you can carry as many shells as you want, popular models will hold as many as 10 shells. Of course the magazine extensions are legal at the moment and have been for quite some time but who knows what will happen in the future with this administration and their dislike for gun owners. At this point in time all of those, myself included, who have been described as "Bubba Trump" are being targeted for a whole host of new laws and restrictions surrounding weapons and magazines where huge fines could be levied against those in possession of certain guns and ammo. The future of the shooting sports is definitely facing some irrational challenges from the left and that will play itself out in the coming future.

For the time being local hunters will hit the marshes for the last weekend of the regular season before either heading north to take advantage of the conservation season or just shutting it down until next September when we start again. I'm quite sure a few of those hunters who have been after it all season will welcome February and the opportunity to start fishing again, at least for a while until they start thinking about next season and what to do when it gets here.

Orangefield gold team tees-off for 2021 season

The Orangefield Varsity boys golf team competed in their first tournament of the year last week. The tournament was hosted by Hardin-Jefferson at Idylwild golf course, in Sour Lake. Orangefiel Sophomore, Xander Parks took first place, shooting a 77 with the team finishing in the top 5, 1st place PNG (333), 2nd Place Westbrook (360), Hardin-Jefferson (370), Orangefield (388), and Bridge City (391). On Monday the team will be traveling to Rayburn Country to compete in the Jasper Invitational.

Online fruit propagation program Feb. 5

Staff Report
For The Record

A grape, berry and fruit tree propagation workshop will be held online from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 5 on the Zoom platform.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program is $20 per person, and registration is required. Deadline to register is Feb. 3.

Speakers will be Michael Cook, AgriLife Extension viticulture specialist, Denton, and Tim Hartman, AgriLife Extension horticulturist, Bryan-College Station.

Cook said this annual workshop is filled with good information for people interested in learning more about getting off to a good start with fruit and nut crops. He said it is a very good time in the growing season to learn these skills.

"Join us as we discuss how to prune and propagate fruit and nut crops in North Texas," Cook said. "This is a great opportunity for backyard gardeners as well as commercial farmers to brush up on their skills in pruning and plant propagation."

The program will include opportunities for participants to ask questions, but the online program will be recorded and accessible to registrants at their convenience.

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Gulf of Mexico marine sanctuary nearly triples in size

Charlotte Runzell
National Audubon Society

This week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced it will expand the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary to nearly triple its current size. Situated on salt domes rising up from the seafloor, Flower Garden Banks is one of only two marine sanctuaries in the entire Gulf of Mexico. Its brightly colored coral reefs are an important feeding ground for seabirds like Northern Gannets and Magnificent Frigatebirds.

After many years of gathering input from the fishing, diving, and conservation communities as well as the oil and gas industry, NOAA will expand the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary from 56 to 160 square-miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. The Gulf of Mexico is still recovering from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster 10 years ago, which began in the deep sea. From the smallest plankton, to the biggest whale sharks, the BP oil disaster affected the entire northern Gulf ecosystem. As the $20 billion BP settlement is spent to restore the Gulf, marine protected areas like this one allows the Gulf's marine life a safe space to rest and feed, free from human disturbance.

Once the expansion takes effect, fishing gear will be limited, which decreases seabird bycatch and minimizes

NOAA will expand the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary from 56 to 160 square-miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

the amount of fish taken out of the ecosystem, providing seabirds with more fish to eat. Additionally, limiting oil and natural gas extraction will reduce the threat of additional oil spills in the Gulf. Without disturbance, populations of marine animals are healthier and more robust. Creating spaces in the ocean with little to no threats for the entire ecosystem to thrive has implications beyond the area of protection. As fish populations grow in number, they spillover to other areas of the ocean, creating more fish for fishermen to harvest and seabirds and other marine wildlife to eat.

With the increasing amount of human disturbances to our oceans and coasts, marine protected areas are more important now than ever for seabirds and other wildlife. Global seabird populations and North American shorebird populations have both declined by 70 percent in under 70 years. Human-caused threats such as development, harmful fishing practices, oil spills, and more have contributed to this decline. To reduce threats, marine protected areas provide spaces in the ocean and along our coasts for sea- and shorebirds to thrive.

When there are adequate protections in an area, the related coastal economies also get a boost. For example, marine protected areas provide ecosystem resources that are far higher than what they cost to operate and monitor these areas. For every $1 spent on establishing and monitoring marine protected areas, $20 is returned. That's because these protected areas in the ocean benefit fisheries, improve tourism, sequester carbon, and host coastal ecosystems that provide neighboring communities storm protection benefits. Flower Garden Banks in particular supports a vibrant scuba diving industry on the Texas coast.

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

at home in Super Bowl LV.

The Packers had a chance to tie the game with less than three minutes left, but on a fourth-and-goal from the Bucs eight-yard line, first-year head coach Matt LaFleur opted to kick a 26-yard field goal with Green Bay trailing 31-23, hoping they could stop Tampa Bay after failing on an on-side kick.

LaFleur's decision was a direct slap in the face to quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who besides leading the Packers to a 12-3 record, is also the leading candidate for the 2020 NFL Most Valuable Player Award.

Today Rodgers is still upset and is thinking of wanting out of Green Bay after playing there for 17 seasons, especially after the Packers drafted a quarterback in the first round last April.

And speaking of wanting out of town is Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson, who had his best season on a lousy (4-12) team and is very distressed because he was told by owner Cal McNair he would have some input on the hiring of a new general manager and new head coach.

Watson's feelings were bruised deeply when he found out Nick Caserio was hired away from the New England Patriots couple of weeks ago without being asked anything about the move. The fourth-year quarterback said he did not want to play another down for the Texans, but did not demand a trade at the time.

He did say he'd prefer the team to hire Kansas City's offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy or Robert Saleh, but Saleh was named the new head coach of the New York Jets last week. Bieniemy could not be able to be hired until after the Feb. 7 Super Bowl.

ESPN announced on its First Take show Monday morning that Watson said he would like to play for Saleh's New York Jets as his first choice and the Miami Dolphins next. But at this writing, he has not said publicly that he wanted to be traded.

Caserio may be treading on dangerous waters by wanting to hire a new head coach first and then try to pacify Watson later. I don't think it's going to work that way. Caserio and McNair need to meet with Watson immediately and give him some input on the head coaching situation.

Caserio and McNair could very well already have a new head coach hired by the time this Korner hits the streets Wednesday. Then they definitely would have to find a new quarterback.

I think it would be neat if the Texans hired Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay replaced him with Watson.

But I believe that leaving a 12-3 team for a 4-12 team would be giving Rodgers the short end of the stick.

KWICKIES...

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Hammerin' Hank Aaron last weekend. He was my hero and could be the only legitimate player to surpass Babe Ruth's long-standing record of 714 home runs. In fact, I used his model bat in three years of high school baseball and then four years at McNeese State. I'm glad there is a movement in the Atlanta area to change the team's mascot from the Braves to the Hammers in Aaron's honor.

2020 was a banner year for the sports fans in the Tampa Bay area with three teams reaching the championship finals during the past year. The Lightning won hockey's Stanley Cup in sic games against the Dallas Stars, The Rays lost the World Series in six games to the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Buccaneers are an early 3½-point underdog to the defending world champion Kansas City Chiefs on Feb. 7, despite having the home-field advantage.

The Lamar Cardinals have waited almost a year wondering if their season would ever take place and finally last Friday, they had their first practice at Provost-Umphrey Stadium, which marked the first of 24 practice sessions set to take place before their season opener Feb. 24 against Northwestern State. The Cards will play a six-game Southland Conference schedule, with the conference champion earning an automatic bid into the FCS playoffs.

Houston Astros general manager James Click spent the last two weeks adjusting the roster for the 2021 major league baseball season. After losing one of the best players in George Springer to the Toronto Blue Jays, he re-signed Michael Brantley, last year's leading hitter, to a two-year, $32 million contract. Click also signed relievers Ryne Stanek and Pedro Baez to bolster the bullpen and former first-round pick Jason Castro, to back up starting catcher Carlos Maldonado.

JUST BETWEEN US...

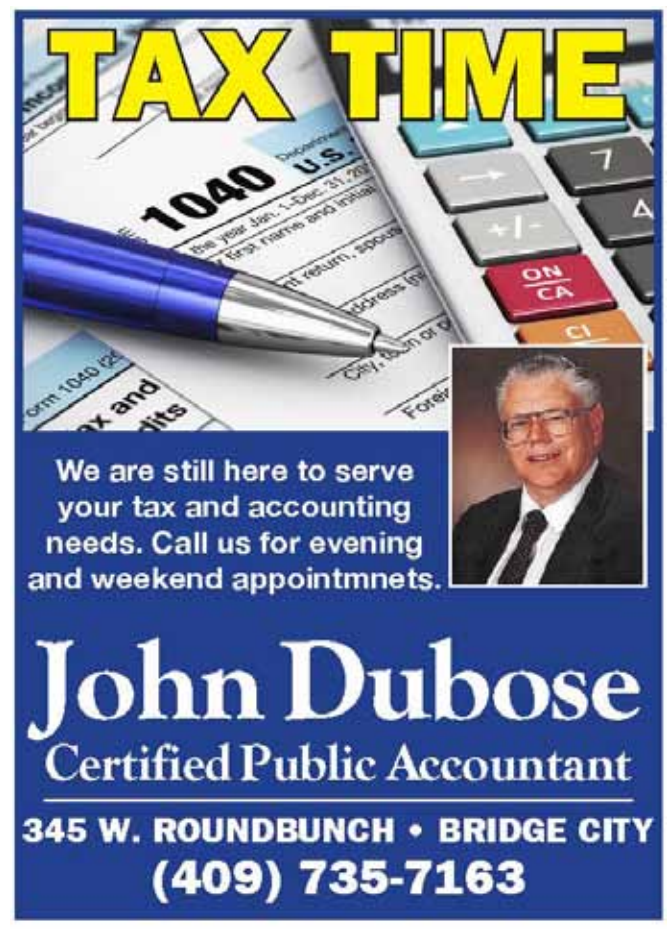
In a recent edition of Parade Magazine, Terry Bradshaw was asked if he had a choice would he want to play in today's NFL. "There's two reasons I'd want to play in today's game: Number one, I'd be (he shouts) filthy rich! Two, it would be fun to throw the football 40 times a game and throw it all over the field. I'd own a private jet. I'd have my own yacht. And then we'd win Super Bowls, and I would be a hero, and I would have hair plugs and beautiful wavy hair," the former Louisiana Tech and Pittsburgh Steelers star chortled.

Colburn From Page 1B

caught more nine to ten-pound bass in the summer than the early spring, (five just last summer), but we have longer to get it done and the weather is much more forgiving. Lisa sunburns easily so this is perfect for her.

He was also quick to point out that you can learn a lot about your granddaughter while sitting in a bass boat in the dark all night long. If you are yet to catch your first ten pounder, you may want to make a note of a few of the findings Jay was willing to share. In the early spring its longer days and warmer water. Off colored water can actually help as the fish hold a little tighter to cover. If the lake level doesn't drop or rise significantly, spend your day in eight to twelve feet of water. Grass isn't nearly as important as depth change. "A little ditch or small hump often attracts more than one big bass," says Hughes. He also says you can leave all those tackle boxes at the camp.

Every big pre-spawn bass I have caught hit either a jig and craw worm or a half ounce single spin spinner bait. A number six or seven Colorado blade and a pork or plastic trailer renders the spinner bait even more effective. S-L-O-W is always better for big bass! "In the summer, its isolated depth changes as there is very little grass at the depths we fish," states Hughes. "Pay attention to the major feeding periods and fish big baits. We fish a ten inch power worm with a rattle almost exclusively and Lisa is convinced a little dab of crawfish scent is a difference maker." "Yes," I accepted his invitation!



Big Thicket Heritage Trust helping grow and protect nature

Staff Report
For The Record

The Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust continues to help grow and protect the Big Thicket National Preserve and conservation lands across Southeast Texas. In these difficult times, the natural world continues to bring solace.

With the help of generous donors and utilizing a Federal Highway Administration National Recreational Trails Fund grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Trust closed on a 39 acre property in Tyler County just east of Woodville that contains the Dogwood Trail. The trail is located in a beautiful wooded tract that has not been logged in over 100 years. The former timber company property will be donated to the Texas Forest Service. They will rehabilitate the trail, manage the forest resources and provide educational programs. The Trust appreciates the additional financial support acquired from The Edaren Foundation, The Damuth Foundation, The Pineywoods Foundation, Ms. Maxine Johnston, Texas A&M Forest Service, The Conservation Fund, the Texas Conservation Alliance, and individual donors.

Big Thicket view of property from Kirby Nature Trailhead.

The Trust initiated purchase on a small parcel directly in front of the Kirby Nature Trail entrance. Developers purchased the 500-acre property adjacent to FM 420 and the Turkey Creek Unit and are selling parcels. The purchase will at least protect a portion of the view shed. This completes a land acquisition project with funds acquired from a TLL Temple grant.

In partnership with the National Environmental Education Foundation, the Trust completed the removal of hurricane debris- appliances, boats and household trash- from 6.75 miles of Pine Island Bayou

On Martin Luther King Day 2020, the Trust co-sponsored the 10th Anniversary of the National Parks Conservation Association's longleaf tree planting. On this National Day of Service for the Preserve, the non-profit fed pizza to 150 volunteers who planted 12,000 seedlings.

Under the leadership of President Ellen Buchanan, the Trust continues to participate in advocacy. The organization works with counties to review land conservation and natural infrastructure to ensure communities receive the best tools to address flooding following natural disasters. Counties are urged to consider donating buyout properties to the National Park Service where feasible and appropriate.

To enhance the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust's presence in the social media world, a new Facebook page was developed. The website was re-designed, https://bigthickettrust.org.

Trust members are passionate about protecting and preserving the lands, waters, plants and wildlife of the Big Thicket area. For ways to support the non-profit's Big Thicket land conservation efforts, check out bigthickettrust.org or join the Trust on Facebook. Email bigthickettrust@gmail.com for more information.

The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce attended the Grand Re-Opening and ribbon cutting for Lions Park Located in the heart of the City on Main Street last week. This new park boast many unique features. The Lions Park also made sure to include ADA compliance features for an inclusive play experience. There are even areas throughout the park that musical activity stations for those children with sensory issues. The City of Orange still has many plans to make even more improvements.

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	6	7	4					
					2	1	7	
	8	1					6	
4								7
	3					2	4	
	7	5	6					
					4	7	2	
			5	3		9		

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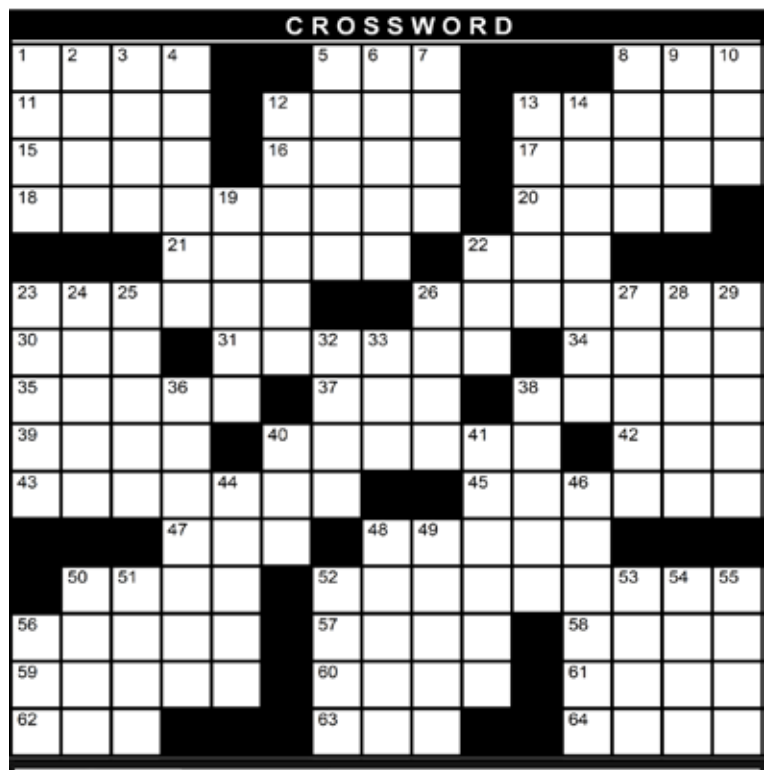
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

CROSSWORD



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VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS
1. "You're the ____!"
5. Horse color
8. Interesting person, acr.
11. *Feeling of the heart
12. Nevada city
13. City in Belgium
15. Use a whisk
16. Greek H's
17. *Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
18. *"Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
20. Ballpark calls
21. Strong adhesive
22. Greek letter N, pl.
23. Lord's subordinate
26. Given to drinking
30. Ovine mom
31. Old storage medium
34. Fairy-tale beginning
35. Politician Pelosi
37. Tokyo, once
38. Bone hollows
39. Sky bear
40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
42. "Ever" to a poet
43. With more seeds
45. Attic
47. Summer sandwich?
48. Fraternity letter
50. Medieval headdress
52. *Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
56. Like blue sky
57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
58. Samoan money
59. *Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
60. Affirm
61. Give off
62. Plays for pay
63. *Color of Valentine's Day
64. *Lovers' reunion

DOWN
1. Cry like a baby
2. Canyon sound
3. Convict's weapon
4. Conical dwellings
5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
6. Opposite of binary
7. Like a gossipmonger
8. Exterminator's target
9. Change for a five
10. Part of T.G.I.F.
12. Like an abridged classic
13. Tiler's paste
14. *"I Will Always Love You" singer
19. Stupefied
22. Us, in Mexico
23. *Cupid's mother
24. In the know
25. Common thing?
26. Smoke plus fog
27. Lay to rest
28. Rocks at mountain base
29. *Symbol of Valentine's Day
32. Infantry's last row
33. Roulette bet
36. *Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
38. ____ apple
40. Risk something
41. Between eggy and eggiest
44. Feeling worse than before
46. Gave away
48. Thin piece
49. Annoyed
50. Russia's alternative to caesar
51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
52. Burn to a crisp
53. MADD member, colloquially
54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
55. Fill beyond full
56. Pharaoh's cobra

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The Bridge City Middle School ATSSB All-Region Band members are Emily Black, Kaylee Britten, Abbie Mendoza, Savannah Smith, Mallory Bailey, Ashlee Langdone, Jaylin Hock, McKenzie Trosclair, Christian Shafer, Sarah Langston, Kaden Smith, Grant O'Quinn, Gracin Weldon, Carter Lane, Andrew Moore, Kyler Smith, Novah Richardson, Zack Braneff, Austin Handley, Blaze King, Trystan Davidson, Jonah McElroy, Max Pachar, Gavin Hartje, Kaitlin Oliver, Emily Jones, Michael Carey, Jacob Maldonado, Atticus Moore, Lennon Wheeler, Thomas Walpole, Mason Bradford, JR, Hannah Edwards, Konner Lebert, Michael Roush, Braeden Lambert, Aaden Bush, Addison Woods, Chloe Matt, Landon Leleux, Kaylee Derouen, Abby Mendoza, Michael Roush, and Novah Richardson.

BCMS band members make All-Region

Bridge City Middle School is proud to recognize the following Bridge City MS Band students for earning a seat in the ATSSB All-Region Band. These students began working on audition music back in August, recorded their audition in November and received results over the Thanksgiving Break. They competed against several hundred ms band students from our Region. Despite Covid, these students worked diligently before, after and during school to learn very difficult music that, at times, can be beyond their musical knowledge. Because of the difficulty of the tryout music, this is the highest honor a middle school band student can earn.

BCE Kindergarten 'Cardinals of Charecter

BC Elementary School Kindergarten Cardinals of Charecter are: Kindergarten- Chandler Sanchez, Tucker Tally, Marixa Collazo, Bella Fredeck, John LaFleur, Oliver

BCE Names "Cardinals of Character"

BC Elementary School first grade Cardinals of Charecter Are: Logan Boynton, Pailyn Bollich, Carston Hamilton, Scarlett Peddy, Liam Jones, David Douglas, Jaycee Duplissey, Hayleigh Clopton, Matthew Lopez, Mia Rovira, Owen Helm, Julian Garcia, Amelia Hayes

BC Elementary School second grade Cardinals of Charecter are: Lyllian Speicher, Natalie Collazo, Kailyn Mire, Eva Terrell, Emory Leblanc, Cameron Hagan, Paisley Cordoba, Alayna Duncan, Miller Toups, Jax Ernst and Ace Mire.

Free Diabetes Classes offered by AgriLife OC

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 weeks (on Mondays) starting on March 1st and end on March 29th and will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. They will be held at the Extension office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. To get the full educational benefit, you need to attend all 5 classes if possible. Call 409-882-7010 to sign-up for this series.

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$29,048

2018 Ford F-150 XL SuperCrew Cab

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$48,933

2016 GMC Yukon Denali SUV

6.2L 8 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Sparkling Silver Metallic, Interior Color: Cocoa Dark Atmosphere, Mileage: 79944, Stock #: 8008B

$34,382

2018 Ford F-150 XLT Truck SuperCrew Cab

3.3L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Silver, Interior Color: Medium Earth Gray, Mileage: 11908, Stock #: P2299

$34,953

2015 Ford F-150 Platinum SuperCrew

3.5L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Black, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 60797, Stock #: P2298

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