

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Covid cases decline, but county's death rate still high

Margaret Toal
For The Record

As the temperatures rose this week, people across Orange County could bare their arms, their legs, and their faces. Covid 19 has almost disappeared.

Orange County Emergency Management Director Joel Ardoin said on Tuesday that no confirmed cases were reported and only four unconfirmed cases marked during the past week. No new deaths have been added during the week.

But Covid 19 is not a disease to be forgotten, especially in Orange County, which has a high per capita death rate. The County Emergency Management Department at the end of April reported the county has had 375 deaths since 2020. That calculates to one death per

every 226 people in the county.

Two years ago on May 11, 2020, the county had only two deaths and 84 cases. Using averaging, the county has had 3.6 deaths per week in two years.

Orange County statistics show 37 percent of the population has been vaccinated, with people 65 and older having a 70 percent vaccination rate.

Texas has had 88,377 deaths, meaning at least one in 328 people have died. The statewide vaccination rate is 62 percent with 88 percent of the residents 65 and older getting their shots.

The United States is about 2,000 people short of reaching One Million deaths and according to the Johns Hopkins Covid data, at least one in every

OC COVID Page 2A

Smith, Traylor steer locals to grants



Melinda Smith, right, Vice President of Traylor & Associates and grant administrator for nearly \$150 million in federally funded Orange County mitigation and disaster relief programs, visits with Emergency Management Coordinator Joel Ardoin and co-worker Linda Atkinson-Petee outside Commissioners Court in Orange. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Dave Rogers
For The Record

When Melinda Smith takes care of business, Orange County gets better and better.

And her business has been very, very good for her employers and clients recently.

Smith, Executive Vice President & Director of Program Development for Traylor & Associates of Tyler, is a grant administrator retained by Orange County and its cities to help navigate the thorny

path to federal and state disaster funds.

So far, her fingerprints are on total awards of \$137.3 million for Orange County projects and she's hoping to double that with bigger projects that are currently pending review.

A \$100 million project proposed by the Orange County Drainage District to widen and extend the Sabine Relief Ditch along the northern part of the county from the Sabine River to Cow Bayou is

Smith, Taylor Page 3A



Dan Harris, left, receives a proclamation presented by Orange Mayor Larry Spears, Jr., as the city council proclaimed Tuesday, May 10 "Dan Harris Day," to honor the Orange rancher and longtime rodeo performer after he was recently inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

BCISD bonds biggest winner in recent OC elections

Dave Rogers
For The Record

Proponents for Bridge City's \$72.4 million school-construction bonds flipped 35 percent of the vote in the election that ended Saturday, May 7.

The previous two bond issues proposed by BCISD in 2014 and 2019 were 70-30 losers.

Seven days of early voting plus Saturday's ballots saw Proposition A for a new middle school and Proposition B for a career and technology center pass with just under a two-thirds majority of the 2,190 votes cast.

"I think the difference was people had the facts this time and, hopefully, felt educated about it," BCISD Superintendent Dr. Mike Kelly said Monday.

Besides school construction votes, the May 9 spring election included the election or - mostly

reelection -- of 20 office-holders in contested races for city or school district government.

Only one of the 15 Orange County office-holders in a contested race, Vidor councilman Jerry Aldridge, failed to be re-elected.

He finished third in a three-way race behind Ronnie Herrera and Michael Thompson, who will need a runoff to determine which will get Aldridge's Ward 3 seat.

Another Vidor City Council race could be decided by a recount. Incumbent Gary Herrera finished with just three more votes than challenger Anthony Foster in Ward 5.

Six Orange County incumbents were without challengers to their re-elections, a number that included Bridge City mayor David Rutledge.

Among those winning a new office was Sarah McClendon, who defeated

fellow city alderperson Johnny Asevedo 69.6% to 30.4% to become mayor of Pinehurst after the retirement of T.W. Permenter.

Since council terms for both McClendon and Asevedo run for another year, this was never a win-or-else race for either.

The others who won offices they were not currently serving include Patty Collins and Sherby Dixon, who joined Bridge City's City Council by defeating Kenneth Prosperie and Mike Boyd, respectively.

Also, in West Orange, Jay Odom and Lanie Brown won new seats as alderpersons.

Mike Shugart won reelection to the other of three at-large seats while former alderwoman Frances Drodgy-Lopez finished fourth.

Winning reelection in contested elections were Mary McKenna and Caroline Hennigan on Orange City Council; Demetrius

Hunter, Gina Simar and

Linda Platt-Bryant on the West Orange-Cove board; Mike Reed for Bridge City Council and Rebecca Rutledge on the Bridge City school board.

In Vidor, Nicole McGowan and Gary Herrera won reelection on city council and incumbents Kimberly Crossley, David Camp, Gina VanDevender and Mike Marion won their school board races.

Most races were not close with McKenna garnering 58.7% of the vote and winning outright in a three-way contest for Orange's Place 4 seat without a runoff.

Besides the Herrera-Foster three-vote difference in Vidor, the only other winner by 10% or less in a two-person race was Bridge City council incumbent Reed (55% to 45%) over Harbert, a former two-term councilman.

Big margins went in fa-

Local Page 3A

Largest new projects secured by Orange EDC

Margaret Toal
For The Record

The two largest building projects receiving permits in Orange for April have had help from city Economic Development Corporation grants.

A commercial fire sprinkler system valued at \$72,851 is going into the new medical center at Eagle Point. In January, a permit for the \$8.6 million Gisela Houseman Medical Campus was is-

sued for the area off Interstate 10 at Highway 62.

Also in April, Paul Dickerson with Orange Stationer, 701 W. Division in downtown, received a permit for \$46,000 for remodeling with Duhon Construction as contractor.

Other commercial projects receiving permits are Oscar LeBlanc, owner of Blue Bird Fish Camp, 102 Farragut, for a \$5,500 patio cover. In addition, a business at 1501 North

10th Street at the corner of Burton is also getting a patio cover.

The city of Orange has a permit for \$31,000 to build a sidewalk at 601 Morrell Street in Navy Park with Duhon Construction as contractor.

The city issued new home permits for 1062 Bassett in Little Cypress and 216 College Street in the Cove. Six residences are getting remodeling jobs and four are getting new roofs. Four permits

for electricity to new houses plus six permits for gas hook-ups to new houses were given.

Homeowners continued a trend to getting alternative power to houses for emergencies and everyday use. Five permits went for solar power systems. Nine houses got licenses for electrical hook-ups to generators plus nine permits for gas to generator connections.

New Projects Page 3A



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SEE OUR AD PAGE 1 SECTION B

Shangri La Welcomes New Executive Director Angela Mason

(ORANGE, TX) – Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is proud to announce Angela “Angie” Mason, as the new Executive Director. Angie comes to us from Chicago Botanic Garden where she was employed for the past 19 years. Angie most recently served as the Associate VP of Community Engagement and Senior Director of Windy City Harvest where she oversaw all facets of engagement with the community and directed the operations of Windy City Harvest, an urban agriculture education and job training program, with 200 participants and a \$3.8M budget.

Angie has been recognized with multiple awards and accolades, including the North Lawndale Spirit of Youth Development Award and the Illinois Governor’s Environmental Hero Award. Angie is a

graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she earned a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, and an M.S. in Plant, Soil and General Agriculture. During Angie’s early career she served as Adjunct Faculty in Horticulture, at the Harold Washington College in Chicago, Illinois.

Angie is known by colleagues as an outstanding and visionary leader, strategic thinker, collaborator, staff manager, and a national and international expert on urban agriculture. The Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Founda-



Angela “Angie” Mason

tion is most fortunate to have her join our multi-faceted leadership team bringing vision and the right combination of competencies to nurture and strengthen Shangri La Gardens, a world-class nature center and living museum rich in educational opportunities.

About Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center

Shangri La is a 250+ acre space in Orange, Texas, along the waterways of Adams Bayou that combines botanical gardens and an educational nature center in a unique way. Imagine a place where you can escape the routine

and stroll along garden paths surrounded by fragrant flowers. Birdwatch for hours and spend time with friends and family.

Shangri La is a program of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation, a private operating foundation that aims to encourage and assist education and to improve and enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas by providing significant resources for the study and enjoyment of art, history, nature, and culture.

Located at 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange, Texas, Shangri La Gardens is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday FREE of charge from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Timed tickets may be recommended or required for certain events. For more information call 409-670-9113 or visit www.ShangriLaGardens.org.

Deaths & Memorials

Walline Wynona Permenter, 86

Walline Wynona Permenter, 86, of Mauriceville, passed away on April 29, 2022, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont.

Memorial services will be 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Sister Ruth Burch.

Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m., Sunday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Walline was born in Gist, Texas, on September 25, 1935, she was the daughter of Walter and Willie Beatrice Clark.

She was a dispatcher for the Mauriceville Fire Department for forty years. Walline was a fan of Leave it to Beaver and old westerns on tv, but loved to sit outside and enjoy nature. She raised her children and grandchildren, and was famous for her koolaid. Walline loved her family more than anything and will be deeply missed by her family and friends.



Juana Matthews

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, T.J. Permenter; sons, Tommy Permenter, Monte Permenter, Mark Permenter; siblings, Freda Bland, and Walter Lewis Clark.

She is survived by her children, Mickey Permenter and wife Jeannie of Gist, Wynona Johnson and husband Bruce of Mauriceville, Randy Permenter of Mauriceville; honorary daughter-in-law, Eve Permenter; grandchildren, Tommy “Bubba” Permenter and wife Debbie, Crystal Frederick and husband Jay, Bucky Johnson, Dawn Martinez, Lisa Johnson, Jimmy Lemaire and wife Mindy; great-grandchildren, Brandon Johnson, Lilly Johnson, Adrien

Johnson, Shelbea Permenter, Caitlyn Permenter, Garrett Johnson, Ty Permenter, Mason Paul, Riley Permenter, Laura Lemaire, and Ashlee Lemaire; siblings, Malcolm Clark and wife Johnece, Bonnie Bean; as well as many other loving family and friends.

Gregory Eugene Gooch, 59, BC



A gathering of family and friends to honor the life of Greg Gooch will be held Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Melancon’s Funeral Home in Nederland, Texas.

The Funeral Service for Mr. Gooch will immediately follow the gathering on Tuesday and will begin at 2:30 p.m at the Funeral Home.

OC Covid death rate from Page 1

335 people have died. Nationally, 66 percent of people have had vaccines and 91 percent of senior citizens are vaccinated.

Orange County has had 17,894 reported cases of Covid, with Texas at 6.78 million cases and the U.S. with 81.9 million cases.

Even a year ago, the deaths were still low for the county. The May 12, 2021, report shows 8,545 total cases with 374 active and only 147 deaths. So in one year, the county had an additional 228 Covid deaths.

The virus was first reported by Orange County Emergency Management on March 27, 2020. The number of positive cases increased daily, and was up to 45 cases two week later.

The department announced the first death on April 24, 2020, and the county that day had had 66 cases.

County records show that another death was reported in June 2020, but cases still stayed low. The pandemic seems to have started here by the end of the month. On June 24, 2020, the county had 191 cases with 79 active and three deaths. Then a week later, the county had 304 total cases and 166 active ones. The death rate remained at three.

The second week of July 2020, the cases

went up to 317 active with 487 total and five deaths. By the end of July, the county had 14 deaths, 754 active cases with a total of 1,020. By that time, the county was setting up mobile testing sites.

August 2020 began with 991 active cases, 1,412 total cases and 21 deaths. In the middle of the month before Hurricane Laura hit, the county had 1,667 cases, 1,053 active cases and 28 deaths. President Trump visited on August 29, days after the storm hit. Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. who had been invited to meet with him, tested positive for Covid as part of the precautions and was not allowed into the gathering with the president.

The numbers steadily rose through the end of 2020 and into early January. The January 6, 2021, report had the county with 1,738 active cases, a total of 5,545 cases with 46 deaths.

Vaccines for limited groups of people became available in early February 2021, but cases and deaths continued to climb.

Covid declined in Orange County last summer, but picked up by August. After another surge, cases went down again. May brings a respite to the spread, though some areas of the country are seeing new variants infecting more people.

VFW hosts Orange County-wide 70’s party!

There will be a County Wide 70’s Party to be held on Saturday, May 21 from 6 pm to midnight at the VFW Hall on Hwy. 87 in Orange. The 4th Quarter Boys invite you to come join old friends for a night of fun, music, dancing and raffles. We will have beer and setups available through the VFW and you can BYOB. Advance tickets are on sell now for \$20.00 by calling 409-988-8290 or 409-217-2177. Tickets also available at the door.

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6. I feel left out in group conversations. Yes No
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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the May 'Student of the Month' for Bridge City is Briana Zuniga. Briana is ranked 2 of 189 with a GPA of 4.7. Pictured: Chloe Tucker, Sharon Brown, Briana Zuniga, Yamile Zuniga, Rudy Zuniga and Dr. Mike Kelly.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the May Student of the Month for Orangefield is Joli Ponfick. Joli is ranked 12 of 143 with a GPA of 4.59. Pictured: Shawn McAlpin, Rea Wrinkle, Britni Briggs, Joli Ponfick, Mr and Mrs. Ponfick and Christy Khoury.

Smith, Taylor From Page 1

awaiting federal review.

"They are doing an incredible job," Don Carona, general manager of the Drainage District, said. "I wish we'd have gotten Melinda Smith and Traylor a lot sooner."

Smith is a native of Gilmer, Texas, about a half-hour drive from Tyler, Texas, where Traylor & Associates has operated since 1985 under founder Gary Traylor.

Its specialty is doing grant prep and management for Texas' smaller cities. It now has about 15 employees, Smith said, spread between the Tyler location and a second office in Newton.

More than 100 local government entities are Traylor clients and they're in a tough, competitive environment when it comes to writing proposals and winning grant awards.

In Orange County, Traylor had a history of dealings with the cities of Vidor, Rose City, Pine Forest and Bridge City before Smith arrived. Now that list includes the Sabine River Authority, the Drainage District, Orange County, the cities of Pinehurst, West Orange and Orange, and Orangefield Water Supply.

Smith began her career with a dozen years as a legal secretary before a short time at a title company. She first did grant work for a third company for six years before jumping to work for Traylor two weeks before Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast.

"I came and ate lunch and met everybody in Vidor. It was when Mike Kunst (Orange's city manager) was there (doing the same job for Vidor). And then, just like everybody, I watched in horror on TV as Harvey happened."

"By the time Imelda got here, it was very personal. I knew whose homes those were. I knew whose businesses were going to be shut down and who was going to be without a job for months and months after Imelda."

Since Harvey in 2017, Orange County has faced disasters from Tropical Storm Imelda (2019), Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, the Great Freeze in 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

"We would have preferred a break from disasters for Orange County in particular," Smith said.

"This job, you either love it or hate it. There's no in between. There's a lot of late hours, long days, lots of miles driven, but I can't imagine doing anything else."

What Smith does is stay current on the latest grant opportunities and attend endless meetings to learn the ever-changing rules that go with every program, then works with her clients for the best results.

She works with the assistance of Traylor's Linda Atkinson-Petee to keep track of it all and, on a recent trip to Orange County, brought along engineer Kaitlin Fox Brown, who handles environmental site assessments.

Most disaster grants are paid as partial reimbursements for money already spent by a government. For instance, Orange County spent about \$15 million to clear debris left almost two years ago by Hurricane Laura. A FEMA check for \$10.4 million hit the county's bank account in late April. Another \$1 million or so is expected any day now.

That's slow, but actually a pretty fast recoupment of funds from FEMA. When Smith arrived on

the scene, the county was still awaiting reimbursements from 2005 and Hurricane Ike.

"Melinda Smith is just extremely dedicated and works really, really hard," Carona said. "It's just amazing what she's doing and not just for us; for the cities and Orange County."

As of the first of May, Traylor & Associates had more than 30 projects given the go-ahead by either FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the Department of Transportation.

That doesn't mean the

money has been disbursed.

"Being awarded only means you've been selected for the project to be funded," Smith said. "You get your money if you follow the rules. You don't get money in hand until that work is completed and OK'd."

Some of those funds filter through state agencies that have the final say on what goes where, agencies like the General Land Office, the Texas Department of Emergency Affairs or the Texas Water Development Board.

"A lot of residents get

impatient. I think a lot of time it's based on a lack of understanding these processes," Smith said. "We are in (county) Commissioners Court so frequently and talking about, 'Hey, this money is headed our way,' that residents think it's been sent, the county is holding it and we're just sitting on it."

"There's so much that goes on in the background. Even like a \$350,000 grant is like a three-year process between application development, environmental review, the Civil Rights documents, before we can ever begin construction."

Local elections in the books From Page 1

vor of the two Texas constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Proposition 2, which will raise the school homestead exemption from 25% to 40%, won 87.7% of the vote in Orange County and 84.2% statewide.

Proposition 1, which would allow those over 65 or disabled who have had their taxes "frozen," to take advantage of school tax savings from the change in homestead exemptions, won 87.7% locally and 86.9% statewide.

In Orange County, a total of 5,729 ballots were cast, 10.5% of the county's 54,393 registered voters.

Kelly, the Bridge City superintendent, said Claycomb Associates, the architect for a classroom addition at Bridge City Elementary School, is drawing up final plans for the bond construction as well.

Requests for qualifications (RFPs) are being posted in newspaper advertisements today and construction is expected to begin in January 2023

and wrap up 18 months later, in August of 2024.

Supply chain shortages are a major concern, though.

"There are definitely some things to work through, shortages and availabilities, to hit our timeline," Kelly said.

He said that Bridge City athletes and phys ed classes were already using the new artificial turf and track at the football field.

Work remains on gates, fencing and lighting, the superintendent said. In-

stallation of a new scoreboard begins this week.

Texas will have its Primary Runoff Elections May 24, with three statewide runoff on the Republican side (Attorney General, Land Commissioner and Railroad Commissioner) and four on the Democratic side (Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, Land Commissioner and Comptroller).

Early voting for the Primary Runoff is Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 20.

New projects From Page 1

One residential add-on permit was issued along with one for a carport, three for residential concrete installation, and one for a garage.

As part of the city's ongoing effort to remove dilapidated buildings, permits for demolitions were issued for 104 Dahlia, 2622 Eighth Street, 2832 11th Street, 3331 Aster, 410 Hickory, 1800 Sholars Avenue, 21 Sunset Drive, 614 DuPont Drive, and 218 College Street.

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From the Creaux's Nest

GREMLINS GOT US LAST WEEK

Last week universal broadsheet newsprint went into effect, meaning all broadsheet newspapers will be the same size. We were the last in this market to change over. It's not much of a noticeable change, but it was enough to cause problems with our classified ads and this column. **No names were highlighted** in the column so copy all ran together and was hard to read. I hate that because it was one of my better columns in a long time. **Dan Perrine** is doing a great job covering high school sports. He has been on the road a lot. We always expect some good copy from **Margaret Toal**, the lady is a true professional. **Dave Rogers** and **Kaz** have 79 years between them of journalism experience. **Capt. Chuck Uzzle** has been a member of the **Record** staff covering outdoors hunting and fishing over 20 years. **Tommy Mann** covers entertainment always up to date. **Breaux** and **The Old Creaux** have been snooping around, digging up what they can and recording history over 50 years. It's a great team putting out a great, free newspaper every week. I've got to move on. **Come along I promise it won't do you no harm.**

A "SACRED OATH" PULLS NO PUNCHES

Mark Esper was **Donald Trump's** second Defense Secretary. **Trump** fired him six days after losing the 2020 election. **Esper** now delivers a damning, tell-all account. "**Sacred Oath**" depicts **Trump** as unfit for office and a threat to democracy, over 752 pages, memoirs of a secretary of defense during extraordinary times. One of the disturbing revelations in the book is that **Trump** wanted to "shoot" unarmed protesters. According to **Esper**, **Trump** said, "Can't you just shoot them? Just shoot them in the legs or something." "**A Sacred Oath**" was released Tuesday, May 10. It was vetted at the highest levels of the **Pentagon**. The book was reviewed, in whole or in part, by nearly three dozen four-star generals, senior civilians and cabinet members that had witnessed what **Esper** heard. This is not just another book, it is scary and sobering.

LAST MINUTE LONG SHOT WINS DERBY

Last week when I put this column together the list of horses to compete in the **Kentucky Derby** didn't have a horse named "**Rich Strike**." That horse was added to the **Kentucky Derby's Run for the Roses** contenders Friday at the last minute. The odds were 80-1 for the horse to win. The long shot "**Rich Strike**" passed favorites "**Epicercenter**" and "**Zandon**" down the stretch in the **Derby's** second biggest upset at **Churchill Downs** in the 148th **Kentucky Derby**. The long shot paid \$163.60, second only to "**Donerail**" in 1913, that paid \$184.90 for a \$2 bet. The jockey on '**Rich Strike**' was **Sonny Leon**, trainer **Eric Reed** and owner **Rich Dawson** who bought the colt for \$30,000 in a low level claiming race. The rest is history. The fastest two minutes in sports is often an upset but not as big as in the 148th **Kentucky Derby**.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 15 Years Ago-2007

I was saddened to learn about the death last week of Sue "**Mema**" **Gunn**, 94. We had known this wonderful lady since the early 1950s when she and husband T.L. first opened **Gunn's Studio** on Second. Street. Her late son, **Buzzie**, was a great friend for many years.**** Three Cajun boys, born and raised just a dozen miles from each other, were on top of mounts in the 133rd. **Kentucky Derby**. The South Louisiana jockeys were the oldest. **Mark Guidry**, born August 6, 1959, in Lafayette, rode "**Imawildandcrazyguy**," odds 50 to 1, came in 4th. **Kent Desormeaux**, born February 27, 1970, from Maurice, in Vermillion Parish, **Calvin Borel**, born in 1966, in St. Martinsville, just 10 miles away. He rode '**Street Sense**,' 4-1 odds, to win the 1-1/4 mile, \$2 million purse. **Calvin** came from the 19th spot to win the **Derby's Run for the Roses**. **Calvin** had finished no better than eighth on his four previous **Derby** mounts, even though he had won 4,000 races, many at **Vinton's Delta Downs** and other tracks around the state and country. His dream started 32-years-ago, on rough dirt **Louisiana** tracks. On the bayou, at age 8, he had hopped aboard a 2,000-pound quarter horse and was in love with the sport. One thing **Calvin** never learned to do was read. He didn't make it through the 8th grade. One wonders how he got that far. He can only sign his name. His brother and mentor **Cecil** said, "We don't have education no, we're not proud of it, but we are proud of what we've done." **Calvin**, the youngest of five boys, speaks broken English, in the **Cajun** twang, cutting off the tha's. His father taught **Calvin** to work hard and always point the horse's nose toward the opening in the pack. **Cecil** told **Calvin** before the big race, "**This one is for**

Papa." This 40-year-old, Louisiana boy, raised on Bayou Tech, near the Evangeline Oak, should never be embarrassed again that he can't read English. **Calvin Borel** won the biggest race on earth, witnessed by **Queen Elizabeth II**, of England. Not bad for a **Cajun** boy who will never see another poor day and has his fiancé' **Lisa** as security in case there is something he needs to read. From **Cajun** bayous to the **Winner's Circle**, Saturday, May 5, 2007, was a great day for all of us who have a little **Cajun** blood. All three of the jockeys have relatives in Orange and Jefferson Counties. **Desormeaux** is a cousin to the **Bonin** twins, **Audry** and **Flaudry**, lovely ladies from Vermillion Parish. **Kent** has three **Triple Crown** victories. In 1998 he won the **Kentucky Derby** and **Preakness Stakes** with "**Real Quiet**." He then won the 2000 **Kentucky Derby** with "**Fusaichi Pegasus**." At age 25, he became the youngest jockey to win 3,000 races, a record that still stands with over \$100 million in earnings. At age 30, he became the third youngest jockey to win 4000 races, behind **Bill Shoemaker** and **Chris McCannon**. He is married to **Sonia** and they have two boys. Well, that's my essay on three **Cajun** boys who have made **Cajuns** everywhere proud.**** Last week, in our County Record newspaper, **Margaret Toal** wrote a feature story on our longtime friend **Suzanne Halliburton**, a celebrated sports writer. A native of **Orange** and a **Little Cypress-Mauriceville** grad, **Suzanne** started writing sports as a junior in high school. She covered **Bear Sports** for the **Opportunity Valley News**, a **Dunn** owned publication. The **Austin American Statesman** reporter has covered all of **Lance Armstrong's** seven **Tour de France** wins. She was the on-the-scene reporter for the **Dallas Cowboys** when her friend **Tom Landry** was coach. Today, she covers all sports events for her alumni, **University of Texas**.****We understand that **Jackie Cormier** was injured pretty badly in a motorcycle accident and is in the hospital. That's the word around **Orangefield**.******John Patterson**, our guy in the **Major League**, could be out a month. The elbow on his pitching arm has fluid and inflammation. If anyone deserves a break **John** does. It's bad enough to be with a team that has little offense and the lowest in runs scored without battling an injury. I really hoped this would be his year.****Congratulations to the **Bridge City Lady Cardinals**, who led the 3-A polls at number one all season long. They lost 2 out of 2 to **Bellville** in a game played in **Texas City**. The loss came after six hours on a bus and two hours sleep in between. Congrats are in order also for the **Bridge City** boy's baseball team who will meet **Wharton** Thursday in Baytown. Special bouquets to **Jeff Stringer** who struck out 17 batters in a win over **Splendor**.**** **Matt Bryant** is getting special reorganization in **Florida** this week for his work against child predators. **Matt** will attend the **Bridge City** game against **Wharton** Friday night and will be in **Bridge City** Saturday.****Congrats to our friend **Mike Gentry**, **Orangefield** Superintendent, on his retirement. Lots of luck **Mike**.

45 Years Ago-1977

Harry Stephens, owner of **Harry's Appliance**, is presented the "**Award of Merit**" for outstanding service by the **Frigidaire Division of General Motors**. (Editor's note: **Harry** is still known for his great service 45-years later.)******Richard Corder** has become a pro being master of ceremonies at grand openings. Saturday he was in charge of the ribbon cutting at the new **Bridge City Recreational Vehicles**. ****The **Mike Pasternaks** hosted the monthly dinner club for cocktails at their **Beaumont** home. The **Orange** group then dined at **Patrizis**. **** **Joe Kazmar** picks "**Seattle Slew**" to win the **Kentucky Derby**. It did, and **Kaz** didn't brag about it in his next column.****The 1977, **Bridge City** graduating students chose "**Everything**" by super-star **Barbara Streisand** for their class song. **Arthur Maulsby**, a senior student, sent her an invitation to attend the ceremonies. She was unable to do so but sent this message to the students, "I wish you and all the graduates of **Bridge City High School** the very best of luck and happiness in your future endeavors." (Editor's note: The 1977 class marks 45-years since leaving old **Bridge City High**. I wonder how life has been for them.)

50 Years Ago-1972

The first part of June, 19 **Bridge City High School** athletes will go to two conferences of the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**, one at **Estes Park, Colorado** and the other in **Russelville, Arkansas**. Going to **Estes Park** are **Langston Fall**, **Mark Dunn**, **Mike Hill**, **Chuck Majors**, **Mike VanBreeman**, **Danny Blacksher**, **Bubba Ridley**, **Jimmy LeComb**, **Steve Miller**, **Rusty Wilson**, **David Mire**, **Craig Morris**, **Mark Hryhorchuk**, **Elmer Ernest** and **David Guidry**. Those going to **Russelville** are **David Riddling**, **Roger Esterling**, **Terry Burd** and **Larry Hagler**. **Bill Godwin**, **Bridge City** principal and **Coach Chief Wilson** will accompany the boys. **Wilson** will speak at **FCA**. **Coach Tom Landry** and **Dallas Cowboy** quarterback **Roger Staubach** will also speak and take part at **Estes Park**. Other pros in the **NFL** and other sports will attend. (Editor's note: Hard to believe that was 50 years ago. They were a great bunch of boys and damn good athletes.)******Stark High** honorees: **Lee Bishop**, and **Susan Leslie Grubbs** valedictorian; **Greydon Gordon Baldwin, Jr.** salutatorian; honor students **Elizabeth Ball**, **Joe Fulford**, **Mary Ann Lesmeister**, **Robert Wayne Murphy**, **Donna Katherine Larson**, **Karen Simonton**, **Mary Diane Spoot**, **Beverly Ann Stuntz** and **Ellen Ross Williamson**.****Banker **Fred Gregory** and attorney **Roy Wingate** are both sporting new broken arms. **Roy** broke his arm ice skating in **Houston**; **Fred** fell off of a ladder. **H.D. Pate** says with **Fred** in a cast, he's lost his tennis partner.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

J.W. Dalton will soon be holding the **Grand Opening** of his large, beautiful, "**Top Deck**" **Flooring** Company. More on that later. This week, the **Dalton's** are having their annual **Jambalaya** gathering at their lake house on **Toledo Bend**. He throws these shindigs for all the neighbors but

Thursday, if you are in the area stop by, they love people and will welcome you. **J.W.** says last week-end's **Mauriceville Festival** was a success thanks to a great bunch of volunteers, vendors and patrons.******Lamar State College Orange** is hosting an open house for **Class A CDL, Class B CDL** and **Ordinary Seaman** program from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, which will be free and open to the public. To book an appointment, email workforce@lsco.edu. Open house is located at 320 Green Ave. in Orange.****This past Saturday the **Bridge City Farmers Market** was bustling and in **Orange, Depot Day**, at the historic **Southern Pacific** train station, drew crowds. **Orange City Council** member **Paul Burch** joined with his friends from **Orange Community Players** to sing tunes as part of the entertainment. He wasn't up for election this year, but supported the two incumbents, **Mary McKenna** and **Caroline Hennigan**, as they won.****The **Orange Public Library** is hosting another family movie event from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, where "**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**" will be shown. The movie will be screened in the **Ira Williamson** meeting room of the **Orange Library** at 220 5th St.******Orange County's two power couples** (each hold public office) were celebrating this weekend. In **Bridge City**, the **Rutledges** were celebrating **Becky's** reelection to the **Bridge City** school board, plus the overwhelming support for the school bond issue. **Mayor David Rutledge** did not have an opponent this year, but supported his wife and the school improvements.******County Clerk Brandy Robertson** went to Galveston for a conference and then spent the weekend at the beach with husband **Roderick Robertson**, a **West Orange-Cove** school trustee, as an early anniversary. They were married on May 10. Neither had their names on ballots this time around.******Jane Branch**, First Lady of **West Orange**, was joined by daughters and grandchildren to mark her 70th birthday. **West Orange Mayor Randy Branch** is welcoming some new council members, including **Lanie Brown**. She's planning festivities for her 60th birthday on May 22.******Beto O'Rourke's** train is picking up steam in his run for **Texas** governor. Tuesday he was on the **View** after a big rally in **Houston** over the weekend. The race with **Abbott** is neck and neck. **Beto** is being viewed by many **Texans** as a breath of fresh air on several issues.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays. **May 11:** Happy Birthday to **Pat Collins**, **Scott Andes**, **Tami Vanderheiden**, **Sherry Wallis** and **West Orange** grad, actress **Frances Fisher**.******May 12:** My buddy, **Tammy Yawn** celebrates her birthday today. I haven't seen her in a long time. Wonder what she's up to these days. Also celebrating are **Brian Sandifer**, **Jerry Hardee** and **Justin Roberts**.******May 13:** Our longtime friend, the '**Bar-be-Que King**,' longtime **Ag** teacher, **WWII** soldier, **Orange County** native **J.B. Arrington** turns 97 years old today. We salute this great American. Also celebrating are **Kristie Hughes**, **Mike McNair** and **Brian Bolt**.******May 14:** Happy Birthday to **Madison Lyons**, **David Gauthier**, **Brad Johansson**, **James Birdwell** and **Cortney Spring**.******May 15:** Celebrating birthdays today are **Deborah Ellender**, who gets prettier with each year, longtime educator **Nancy Chenella** celebrates at her home in **College Station**. Happy Birthday also to **Heather Brinson** and **Kenneth Prosperie**. ******May 16:** I have known through all these years that **Judge Pat Clark** and **Sam Frank Lucia** were born on the same date, but I'm not sure about the year, so Happy Birthday to both of these great guys. Also celebrating are **RaeAnn Chapman**, **Mark Simmons**, **Norman Gaspard**, and **Clay Sims**.******May 17:** Happy Birthday to these lovely ladies **Pam Hudson**, **Jennifer Clarke**, **Nickie Wall** and **Angela Breaux**, **Don's** better half.****Next week will be **V.J. Robert's** birthday. I mention it now in case I forget next week. (Notice: Having a birthday or anniversary let us know at 409-735-5305 or online therecordlive.com.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

May 11: Football Player **Cam Newton**, 33; Actors **Coby Bell**, 47; **Pam Ferris**, 73.******May 12:** Actors **Emilio Esteves**, 60; **Kim Fields**, 53; **Malin Ackerman**, 44.******May 13:** R&B Singer **Stevie Wonder**, 72; Show Host **Stephen Colbert**, 58; Singer **Darius Rucker**, 56.******May 14:** Director **George Lucas**, 78; Actor **Cate Blanchett**, 53; Country Singer **Dustin Lynch**, 37.******May 15:** Football Player **Emmitt Smith**, 53; Actress **Sarah Hadland**, 51; Football Player **Ray Lewis**, 47.******May 16:** Pop Singer **Janet Jackson**, 56; Actors **Megan Fox**, 36; **Pierce Bronsan**, 69; **Tori Spelling**, 49.******May 17:** Basketball Player **Tony Parker**, 40; Actor **Nikki Reed**, 34; Dancer **Derek Hough**, 37.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tee-Nonk Comeaux's young, beautiful daughter, **Edna Marie**, was planning on marrying young **Jules Boudreaux**. First, however, **Jules** had to talk to her **Papa**. **Tee-Nonk** and **Jules** dem sat on a bench under da big oak tree to talk about **Edna Marie** and **Jules** marriage plans.

Tee-Nonk axe da young man, "Tell me, **Jules**, are you able to support a family?"

Dat surprised da young man and he replied, "Well, no **Mr. Comeaux**, wit my little job, I was jus planning on supporting **Edna Marie**. **Da** rest of you will jus have to fend for yourselves."

C'EST TOUT

Congratulations to a couple of longtime friends on their election victories Saturday. **Patty Collins**, our neighbor as a little girl, was elected to the **Bridge City** council with 67.2 % of the vote.*****Becky Rutledge**, who we share many great stories about some great people, is the First Lady of **Bridge City**. She is a long time member and president of the school board, with over 400 hours of special schooling. If I was going to run against "**Bear**" I'd wait for another opening.****Read us cover to cover. **Take care and God bless.**

Ideas from the past put to good use in today's Orange



The Youth Center opened in June 1958, with its glory days through the 1960s and 1970s, when it named the Thomen Center in honor of Mayor Martin Thomen Sr.

Margaret Toal For The Record

The current Orange City Council is taking an idea from the past and making it new again. The new recreation center set to open this summer will have two basketball courts and activities, but it won't compare with the Orange Youth Center, built from a remodeled World War II hospital.

The Youth Center opened in June 1958, with its glory days through the 1960s and 1970s, when it named the Thomen Center in honor of Mayor Martin Thomen Sr., whose son and grandson also served on the council through the years.

The Youth Center opened in June 1958. It included a skating rink where youth members could check out boot-skates to roll around on a expansive wooden floor. A jukebox nearby took nickels to play the latest popular 45 rpm records. The area had a concession stand selling snacks along with ping-pong tables and an area with tables and chairs. A perfect set-up for a teenager in the Baby Boom era.

If someone didn't like skating or ping-pong, they could go to the Billiard Room next door where several pool tables were set up. Cues, balls, and chalk were provided.

The first summer the Youth Center was open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Teens ages 13-19 were given free city membership cards to use the facilities. At the time, the city of Orange had a population of 31,556, compared to 19,324 in the latest census.

But the center wasn't for teens only. The first public library was on the grounds. OCARC started

there and with its workshop and offices. The Orange Junior Rifle Club had a rifle and pistol range. The Orange Service League operated a county history museum with educational programs.

The Orange Community Band had a rehearsal hall and music library. The Civil Air Patrol for boys had a space, as did the Junior Police, the Cancer Society and Camp Fire Girls. The Orange Art League had a studio and gallery. The Orange Bridge League had spaces to play cards.

The Youth Center had more than 30,000 square feet that had originally been constructed during World War II as a city hospital. When local industry, along with business leaders and Orange County built Orange Memorial Hospital on Strickland Drive, the city hospital closed.

The sprawling old hospital was built on a triangular area at the intersections of Park Avenue, Burton Avenue, and 20th Street. The was booming with new houses constructed after the war. Las Sabinas Historical Journal, published by the Orange County Historical Society, reports the city council appointed a special commission to study needs for a community center. Two high school students were chosen to be on the commission.

The public and civic groups all became involved and shared their ideas. Not only did the clubs and groups give their suggestions, but they held fundraisers to help with the remodeling.

Mayor Herb Meeks oversaw the conversion of a wood frame hospital into the youth-community center. The remodeling

cost \$75,000, or about \$747,000 today, according to the U.S. Department of Labor inflation calculator.

The Orange Public Library opened in the building constructed as a polio ward during the early 1950s during an epidemic.

Another 8,970 square feet were for recreation. That left 20,000 square feet for lots of other purposes.

An area outside had a playground and a grassy area for neighborhood touch football games (avoid the big ditch running through it). The ditch was filled in by the time big Easter egg hunts were held annually beginning about 1980. A large, white gazebo was built on the lawn in the late 1970s and was popular for photographs and gatherings.

Through the years, the center was used for public and private meetings, birthday parties, bridal and baby showers, teas, and even elections. Classes for arts, crafts, cooking, and a variety of other studies used the rooms. A double-sized room was referred to as "The Elephant Room" because it had a slide shaped like an elephant with children sliding down the "nose."

Everything was basically free at the community center. The Beaumont Enterprise reported in September 1981 the city wanted to start charging small room rental fees. People protested and promised to raise money to continue to support the center. The city held back on the fees.

Times, though, changed and the population moved into rural areas. The community center wasn't used as much. Some city offices were moved there in the 1980s, but the community wasn't using it as much. Areas were closed off and

grew into disrepair.

Hurricane Rita in 2005 blew parts of the roof off and caused enough damage that the city decided to abandon it. The property was sold to the Stark Foundation and the com-

munity center was demolished to make room for the Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center parking lot.

The city kept a piece of the property and has a small, neighborhood play-

ground there.

Now, a new generation of Orange youth will be having fun and making memories at the new Orange Recreation Center, which is on the site of the former city natatorium.

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A Day To Remember: 2022 Crawfish Bash in Mauriceville



Sophia Trammell of Orangefield takes a spin on the mechanical bull at the Mauriceville Crawfish Bash Saturday, May 7. **RECORD PHOTOS: Dave Rogers**



Getting the perfect degree of spicy in your crawfish is not a feat for the weak. Luckily, Bridge City Automotive had plenty of muscle stirring up its Cajun Hot brand at Saturday's Mauriceville Crawfish Bash.



Joyce Simon of Buna and Joyce's Jellies and More had the veggie concession at the Mauriceville Crawfish Bash Saturday. Joyce said she'll be selling her homemade yummys from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday's in front of Big Lots in Orange.



Junior Miss Orange County Aubrie Kate Woods tosses candy to parade watchers Saturday morning, May 7, as the Mauriceville Crawfish Bash started an all-you-can-eat day with a parade down Highways 12 and 62.

Wesley United Methodist Church
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 or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.
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 www.fumcorange.org
 Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
 Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

Deweyville First United Methodist Church
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 Sunday Worship: 9 A.M.
 Pastor: Kelly Sharpton
 Email: lks454@aol.com

In-person Sunday Worship & Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
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 See Facebook "Cowboy Church of Orange County Arena & Rodeo"

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 Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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 Nightly Service 6 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.
 Pastor: Ruth Burch

Starlight Church of God in Christ
 2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
 Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
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 Worship Director: Alyssa Click
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 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
 Ofcnazarene.org or find us on Facebook

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 www.fbcbc.org
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 Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
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 Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting
 Youth & Children's Activities
 Pastor: Keith Royal

Winfree Baptist Church
 19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
 Jon Brinlee, Pastor
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Lady Cardinals and Bobcats advance in playoffs

OC SPORTS BEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The state playoffs have completed two rounds in girls softball and one round for the boys in baseball. Two local teams remain alive in their quest for a state championship with the Bridge City Lady Cardinals and the Orangefield Bobcats sweeping their respective playoff series last week.

Both the Lady Cardinals and the Bobcats entered the post season as first seeds having won their district championships. The Bridge City Cardinals baseball team was a number two seed entering the post season and was elim-



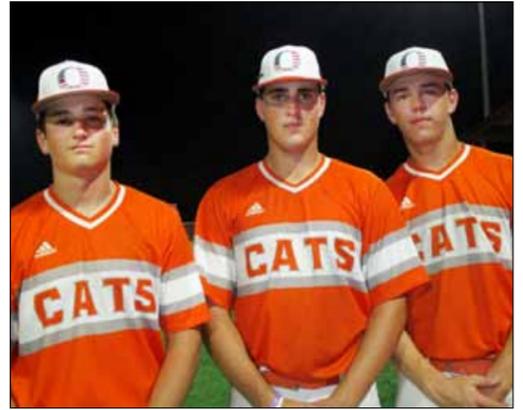
Dan Perrine

inated in the bi-district round losing a tough three game series to the Huffman Falcons. Bridge City is now the area champions in softball. The Lady Cardinals were undefeated in district winning all twelve of their district games, they swept the Hardin-Jefferson Lady Hawks two games to none in the bi-district round, and defeated the Wharton Lady Tigers in both games played Friday and Saturday in Baytown to advance to the third round of the



Carson Fall, Lexi Nugier, and Nicole Sasser were stars in the opening game win over the Wharton Lady Tigers.
RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

post season. The fortunes of the Lady Cardinals have been riding the outstanding pitching of Carson Fall who is



Orangefield got great pitching from Coop Longron, Trent Eaves, and Kolbie Sowell in the Bobcats sweep of the Liberty Panthers.

only a sophomore. Fall was the best pitcher in District 22-4A this year, and she has continued to shine in the post season. In the series against Wharton, Fall pitched two shutouts, struck out 27 Lady Tigers without issuing a walk, and surren-

dered a lone hit in each game. The only hit in the first game was on a bunt.

OC Playoff Page 2B

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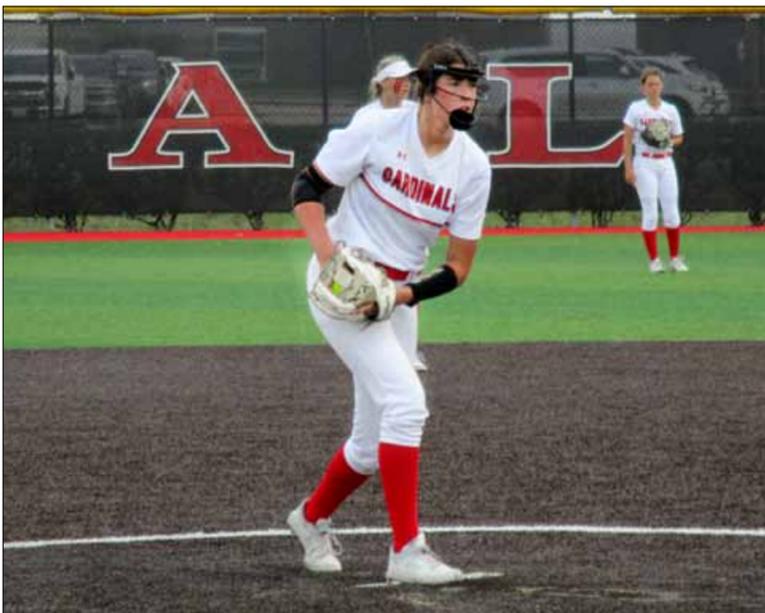
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OC playoffs action From Page 1B



Bridge City's Carson Fall pitched two shutouts as the Lady Cardinals swept Wharton in the Area Playoff round. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**



Lady Cardinal Kaylyn Dosch had two hits driving in four runs in the second win for Bridge City against Wharton. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

Coach Raven Harris of the Lady Cardinals said Carson Fall took care of business in the circle for Bridge City. "She was very controlled, she hit her spots, and didn't throw a lot of extra pitches so that was awesome too," Harris evaluated.

The offense for Bridge City was potent against the Lady Tigers. Several Lady Cardinals contributed with their bats in the two games.

Amaris Larkin got things started for Bridge City in the first inning of the opener on Friday with a single. Larkin came around to score the first run of the game on a base hit by Makenna Carey.

Five Lady Cardinals scored in the second inning. Nicole Sasser came to the plate with the bases loaded, and she smashed a hit scoring all three runners. Sasser later scored as did Larkin again to give Bridge City a 6-0 lead after two innings.

Two more runs were added in the third with Laurie Barg scoring on a triple by Hannah Murchison who later scored on a ground out. The rally could have been more except Lady Tiger center-fielder Zoey Johnson robbed Kaylyn Dosch with a leaping catch in front of the fence with the bases loaded.

After failing to score in the fourth Bridge City ended things quickly in the fifth as Murchison led off with a single and Kyleigh Hamilton courtesy ran for her. Lexi Nugier followed with a bunt single on which Hamilton went all the way to third and then scored on an error by the Lady Tiger catcher. Sasser singled to drive home Nugier with the Lady Cardinals' tenth run and Nicole's fourth run batted in of the game to wrap up the 10-0 victory.

Sasser was praised by Coach Harris after the game. "She really did a very good job today hitting the ball. We usually use her for bunting, but she got in there and hit a ball right up the middle and that's everything you could want as a coach,"

Harris exclaimed.

Game 2 of the series was played Saturday also at Goose Creek Memorial in Baytown. The result was more of the same like the first game as Bridge City won 8-0 to finish the sweep.

Kaylyn Dosch had to have been frustrated after the first game when she hit a liner to third that was turned into a double play before seeing her long drive to center being snared near the top of the fence. Dosch more than made up for it in the second game with two hits and driving in four runs for the Lady Cardinals.

Brooklyn Drodody had two hits in the game to help the Bridge City cause. Marlie Strong and Hannah Murchison both had runs batted in during the

game.

The next opponent for the Bridge City Lady Cardinals will be quite the test. Bridge City plays the defending state champion Liberty Lady Panthers. The Lady Cardinals will return to play the best of three series with Liberty at Baytown's Goose Creek Memorial High School. Game 1 is Thursday at 6:00 PM, Game 2 is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Friday, and a third game if necessary will be on Saturday at noon.

The Bridge City boys played all three games in their series against Huffman at Chuck Young Field in Bridge City. The first game was Friday night before a doubleheader on Saturday.

The Huffman Falcons got a superb game from their pitcher Cade Walker who shutout the Cardinals 7-0 in the first game. First baseman Ramiro Meza had a double in the third to put the Falcons up 3-0 before Huffman exploded for four runs in the fourth to secure the win.

Cardinal pitcher Ethan Ocegüera had a tough night suffering only his second loss since the district games began back in the middle of March. Ocegüera only lasted on the mound into the fourth inning.

For Game 2 on Saturday Bridge City called on Landon Reeves to start on the mound. Reeves had been used throughout the season in relief primarily the closer, but he adjusted very nicely to being the starter.

Reeves threw six and two thirds inning allowing three runs all of which were unearned. He gave up just three hits, walked two, hit a batter, and struck out four Falcons.

Cardinal Coach Chad Landry commented on the clutch performance by Reeves in his starter's role. "We knew that we were going to have to mix things up with good curve balls all day long and he did it. He battled his tail off, that's the longest outing of this career in a big spot and a must win game," Landry emphasized.

The Cardinals who were the designated visitors for this game scored early and often in the first three innings. Catcher Justin Abate singled with one out in the first and courtesy runner Trey Lovelace

scored when Ethan Ocegüera walked with the bases loaded to give Bridge City a 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

Bridge City tacked three more runs on the board in the second as Abate hit a two-out three-run homer to left field. Landry applauded Abate, "He's definitely our most improved player on the team this year. He's worked so hard. Coach Uzzle and he have an incredible relationship, and honestly every pitch called today was Justin's."

Huffman scored all of its runs of the game in the bottom of the second. The Falcons took advantage of two errors by the Cardinals to cut the Bridge City lead to 4-3 after two innings.

The two brothers Bearden helped get two of those runs back in the third. Hutch Bearden began the inning with a hit that glanced off the third base bag into left field. He was forced out at second on a grounder by Reeves, but older brother JS Bearden blasted a double to right center field that scored Reeves and John Van Huis who had singled between Reeves and JS to put the Cardinals up by three runs.

The Bridge City bats bopped the ball again in the seventh scoring four runs. Deegan King walked to get the rally started. Aidyn Mulholland hit a scorcher just inside the bag at third for a double that plated King and Ocegüera who had reached on an error. JS Bearden got the last two runs home with a single that scored Mulholland and Van Huis who had been hit by a

pitch and stole second base making the final score 10-3 when the Falcons failed to score in the bottom of the seventh.

The win by Bridge City forced a third game in which the Cardinals were the designated home team as they were in the opening game on Friday. Unlike the earlier game on Saturday the third was a pitchers' duel.

RJ Esquivel started for Bridge City and gave a superb performance for five and two thirds innings. Esquivel yielded just one unearned run, one hit, four walks, and struck out eight Falcons.

The one run Huffman scored against Esquivel came in the third when Jacob Eccles walked and was sacrificed to second. Eccles came home when a fly ball to left field glanced off the glove of Hutch Bearden. It was ruled an error, but it would have been a very good catch by Bearden if he hung on to it.

Ramiro Meza had been a hitting hero for Huffman in the first game on Friday and was the star of the third game. Meza threw a two-hit shutout walking only the first Cardinal batter John Van Huis until controversy erupted in the bottom of the sixth inning.

With two outs in the Cardinal half of the sixth JS Bearden hit a high fly ball deep to left field. The ball was curving towards the foul pole. The third base umpire went out towards the fence and signaled with his hand that the ball was fair and was a

OC Playoffs Page 4B

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ORANGE COUNTY

Sport of horse racing gets much needed boost

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record

Before Saturday's Kentucky Derby, the sport of horse racing was virtually on oxygen getting ready to perhaps sing its Swan Song.

The sport was under intense scrutiny after the industry had been rocked by scandal in recent years, including the disqualification of last year's Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit for failing a post-race drug test after crossing the finish line first.

The Medina Spirit disqualification resulted in a horse-doping conspiracy involving trainers and veterinarians and the punishment of its highest-profile trainer Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, who is currently serving a 90-day suspension imposed by Kentucky racing officials which kept him out of Saturday's Derby.

East Coast trainer Jorge Navarro is serving five years in prison for his role in a horse-doping conspiracy. He also was fined \$25.8 million. Trainer Jason Servis is set for trial next year as part of the same case, according to an article appearing last week in the Houston Chronicle.

The sport had a difficult time policing itself, which got the federal government involved in 2020. The result was the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, which is set to go into effect July 1.

"The Act will be implemented in stages, with the racetrack safety program starting immediately. The antidoping and medication rules aren't expected to begin until early 2023 leaving states in charge for now," the article points out.

How Rich Strike even got into the race will probably never happen again. Before the draw for post position began early last week, Churchill Downs officials announced that Un Ojo would not be entered after his trainer Ricky Courville said the horse had a bruised right foot.

Un Ojo's withdrawal allowed Ethereal Road to take the No. 20 post position. But on Friday, Ethereal Road's old leg injury still bothered the horse and he had to be scratched from the field, making way for also-eligible Rich Strike, who was in the No. 21 position and rounded out the 20-horse field.

Saturday morning's early line had No. 21 Rich Strike as a 99-1 shot to win the 148th Kentucky Derby.



Joe Kazmar

By post time his odds "improved" to 80-1. His jockey Sonny Leon had been planning to visit relatives in Florida with his family for the Mother's Day Weekend when he knew he wasn't on a horse in the original 20-horse Derby field.

But the little-known Leon gladly put his travel plans on hold when Rich Strike got the call to run for the roses.

I usually make a few small bets and drive over to Delta Downs to place them before the race starts. I always make what I call a "stupid \$2 Exacta Box bet" involving the horse with the longest odds and the favorite.

But my mistake was using the 20-horse field that appeared in Friday's newspaper and bet on No. 17 Classic Causeway at 78-1 with favorite No. 3 Epicenter at 4-1.

If I had glanced at Saturday's paper, I would have placed my money on a 21-3 Exacta Box. The \$2 Exacta paid a whopping \$4,101.20, which would have more than paid for my gas over to the Vinton track. Anyone who bet on the 21-3-10-13 Superfecta would be \$741,018.90 richer today.

The reason Rich Strike wasn't in the original 20-horse field was because it had won only one race and finished third twice and its earnings were \$111,000 and 21st in winnings.

Epicenter was breezing along, leading at the top of the home stretch, with No. 10 Zandon—the early favorite—right behind. All of a sudden Rich Strike comes out of nowhere and blows past both of them near the finish line. The \$2 bettor collected \$163.60 to win, \$74.20 to place and \$29.40 to place.

Rich Strike will "more than likely" run in the upcoming Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Racetrack in Baltimore, according to his trainer Eric Reid.

And if I bet on him, it certainly won't be on my "stupid \$2 Exacta Box bet" unless Rich Strike is the favorite!!!

KWICKIES...

It's a shame the West Orange-Stark Mustangs have enough talent to make it to the fourth-round of the state playoffs for the past four years, but don't have enough talent to even make the Willie Ray Smith Award finals. If

I didn't know better, I'd think there were some politics played in keeping Mustangs out of the final voting!!

Detroit Tigers veteran Miguel Cabrera, who got his 3,000th hit last week, hit his 600th double last weekend against the Astros. Cabrera, a native of Venezuela, joins Hank Aaron and Albert Pujols as the only players in major league history to total 3,000 hits, 600 doubles and 500 home runs. Cabrera, Aaron, Pujols, Alex Rodriguez, Willie Mays, Rafael Palmeiro and Eddie Murray are the only seven players with 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

Texas Aggie head football coach Jimbo Fisher is already publicly saying what he expects out of his 2022 team this fall. Last week he spoke to the Houston Touchdown Club and the Houston A&M Club Coach's Night. Fisher believes talking early about his upcoming team will help him with recruiting and football camps in July. His Momma didn't raise no fool!!

Max Homa outdueled Keegan Bradley in Sunday's final round of the PGA Tour Wells Fargo Championship to win by two strokes and eight under par.

JUST BETWEEN US...

When the Houston Astros began their current nine-game road trip against the Minnesota Twins last night, it pitted two of the hottest teams in the American League. The Astros won seven games in a row at Minute Maid Park and eight of their last 10 while the Twins have swept three of their last five series and have won 14 of their last 17 games after starting the season 4-8. Last night the Twins got their first taste of Astros' ace Justin Verlander since 2019. Houston did most of its winning with brilliant pitching, timely homers and walk-off victories during the homestand. But they still haven't regained first place in the American League West Division because the LA Angels are just as hot.

Federal Red Snapper season opens June 1 with new DESCEND Act regulations

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN- The private recreational angler red snapper season in federal water opens Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Red snapper fishing is open year around in state waters. Bag and size limits will remain unchanged. The regulations are 2 fish per person daily with a 16-inch minimum size limit in federal waters, and 4 fish per person daily with a 15-inch minimum in state waters. Red snapper caught in federal waters count as part of the state bag limit of 4 fish. No more than 2 red snapper in federal waters and 4 red snapper in state waters may be in your pos-

session while fishing.

Also, new federal regulations are now in effect as of January 2022. The DESCEND Act requires all commercial and recreational anglers to possess a venting tool or a rigged descending device on their boat while fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Research shows that properly releasing reef fish reduces mortality for reef fish species like red snapper.

Since 2018, the National Marine Fisheries Service has granted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) the authority to establish the opening and closing of the red snapper fishery in federal waters off the Texas coast for private

recreational anglers fishing from their own vessels. However, Texas must close the fishery when the state's allotted poundage is reached.

The federally permitted for-hire sector continues to be managed in its current structure set by the federal government.

The public will be notified of the private recreational season closing date by the Coastal Fisheries Division before the state's allotted catch limit has been reached. When a closing date is determined, all communication platforms will be updated including the Outdoor Annual, website and social media accounts.

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OC playoffs action From Page 3B



Justin Abate of the Cardinals watches as his long fly to left was a three-run homerun to give Bridge City an early advantage against Huffman in Game 2 of their series. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

homerun.

Bearden trotted around the bases with the apparent tying run for the Cardinals. The four-man umpire crew then held a discussion which lasted a couple of minutes after which the umpire who made the initial call of a homerun changed his mind and said the ball had curved foul before clearing the fence and the top of the foul pole.

Bridge City and Coach Landry were not happy with the change in the umpire's call. "The explanation given to me was total hog wash. It's a travesty that a moment like that the guy can talk himself

man and the series two games to one for the Falcons.

The one seed Orangefield Bobcats of District 22-4A played the fourth seeded Liberty Panthers out of District 21-4A at Baytown in a doubleheader on Friday. The Bobcats were designated the visitors for the first game.

Orangefield scored three runs in the third to take the initial lead in the game. Trent Eaves was hit by a pitch to start the rally. Caleb Fregia bunted for a single and Kameryn Henderson singled to load the bases. Tyler Shearin drove Eaves and Fregia home with a single to right be-

talled the final run on a hit by Lecoq to make the final score 7-3.

Jason Bodin replaced Longron on the mound in the sixth and closed out the game getting the last six outs without allowing a run. Longron was the winning pitcher and Bodin earned a save for the Bobcats.

The second game followed on Friday night with Orangefield the home team. Trent Eaves started on the mound for the Bobcats. Liberty scored once in the top of the first with two hits and a Bobcat error.

Orangefield answered



Bobcat Tyler Shearin lines a single that scores the first two runs for Orangefield in Game 1 against Liberty. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

in the bottom of the first. Tyler Shearin, Kyle Michael, and Kolbie Sowell drew three successive walks to load the bases. Bodin singled to center to drive in two runs and give the Bobcats a 2-1 lead after one.

The Bobcats had opportunities but failed to add runs despite triples by Kameryn Henderson in the second and Eaves in the third. Ten runners were left on base by Orangefield in the game.

Eaves found his groove after the opening inning striking out ten Panthers, walking three, giving up three hits, and most importantly surrendering no more runs. He was replaced on the mound by

Jason Bodin to start the seventh.

Bodin who was great in the first game could not find the strike zone in the second game. Bodin threw ten pitches and walked both Liberty batters he faced.

With the tying run at second and the go ahead run on first with nobody out Orangefield made another pitching change. Kolbie Sowell went to the hill to face the top of the batting order for Liberty. Sowell was overpowering striking out all three batters to end the game in capping the 2-1 victory and giving the Bobcats a sweep in the series.

Tim Erickson the head coach of the Orangefield

Bobcats was proud of how his team battled a very tough Liberty ball club. "You look at it as a one versus four, people think no big deal, but we knew what we were getting into with Liberty they're very well coached, they put a little pressure on you when they are swinging it the way they do," Erickson analyzed.

Next Orangefield will play the Navasota Rattlers. Game 1 of the best of three series will be Thursday at 7:00 PM at Sitton Field on the Humble High School campus. Game 2 will be 5:00 PM on Friday also at Sitton Field with Game 3 to follow there if necessary.



Landon Reeves pitched the Bridge City Cardinals to a victory in Game 2 of their series with Huffman on Saturday.

out of the call," Landry replied.

The umpires also forgot what the count was on Bearden when he hit the long foul. After the next pitch Bearden was issued a base on balls by the home plate umpire despite apparently having a two balls, two strike count before that.

Abate was the next Cardinal batter and hit a high foul pop up to the screen by the stands on the right side of the plate. The Falcon catcher appeared to have difficulty seeing the ball, but the pitcher Meza accustomed to pop ups when he plays first base calmly reached out and made the catch to retire the side.

The Falcons added a superfluous run in the seventh to take a two-run lead. Bridge City went down in order in the bottom of the seventh securing the 2-0 win for Huff-

fore Kyle Michael hit a sacrifice fly to score Henderson.

Bobcat starting pitcher Coop Longron shut down Liberty the first three innings. The Panthers pounded four hits in the fourth and scored three runs to tie the game.

Fregia reached on a base hit to start the Orangefield fifth. He went to third on a ground out and a Liberty error. Shearin beat out an infield hit for a run batted in that scored Fregia giving the Bobcats a 4-3 lead.

The advantage was two runs for Orangefield with a run in the sixth. Kolbie Sowell was hit by a pitch, went to second after a walk to Brannon Lecoq, and scored on a single by Macoy Marze.

The Bobcats got insurance runs in the seventh with Henderson opening with a single. Michael singled Henderson home and



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Bridge City Little League will hold their 2022 - 2023 Board of Director Elections on May 21st from 10 am - 2pm. If interested, please sign up in the BCLL Board Room or see a board member.

Fishing provides humor

**BY STEVEN
CLAY, Staff Writer
For The Record**

For some fishermen, the most exciting time during the season is not when they are out on the water, but when they are in the boat. This is the time when they can relax and enjoy the view, the sun, and the breeze. It is a time when they can forget about the stresses of life and simply enjoy the moment. For many, this is the best part of the fishing experience.

When you are out on the water, you are in a unique environment. The water is calm, the sun is shining, and the breeze is gentle. It is a perfect setting for a day of relaxation. Many fishermen enjoy the solitude of the water, away from the noise and distractions of the land. They can enjoy the beauty of nature and the tranquility of the water.

Fishing is not just a hobby, it is a way of life. For many, it is a time when they can connect with nature and find peace. It is a time when they can forget about the pressures of the world and simply enjoy the moment. Fishing provides a sense of freedom and a chance to escape the daily grind.

For some, fishing is a family tradition. They spend their weekends out on the water with their loved ones. It is a time when they can bond and create memories. Fishing is a time when they can teach their children about the outdoors and the importance of nature.

Whether you are a seasoned fisherman or a beginner, fishing provides a unique experience. It is a time when you can relax, enjoy the view, and connect with nature. It is a time when you can forget about the stresses of life and simply enjoy the moment. Fishing is a hobby that provides a sense of peace and a chance to escape the daily grind.



STEVEN CLAY

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Native Plants, Texas Superstar: Make Gardening Easy

**John Stone
Executive Vice President, Marketing
Orange County Public Schools**

Whether you are in the middle of spring, late summer, or early autumn, the different colors of native plants are a beautiful sight. From the vibrant reds and oranges of the Texas Superstar, to the bright yellows of the Black-eyed Susans, there are many options to choose from. These plants are not only beautiful, but they are also easy to care for and can thrive in a variety of climates.

Native plants are a great choice for your garden. They are adapted to the local climate and soil, which means they require less water and fewer pesticides. They are also more resistant to pests and diseases, making them a low-maintenance option. Plus, they provide a natural habitat for local wildlife, including bees and butterflies.

One of the most popular native plants is the Texas Superstar. It is a bright yellow flower with a dark center, and it is known for its long, vibrant blooms. It is a great choice for a sunny garden and can be used as a border plant or in a mass planting. Other popular native plants include the Black-eyed Susans, the Texas Bluebonnet, and the Texas Redbud.

When choosing native plants for your garden, it is important to consider the local climate and soil conditions. Some plants are better suited to certain climates, while others are more drought-tolerant. It is also important to choose plants that are adapted to the local soil type, as this will help them thrive and require less maintenance.

Native plants are a beautiful and easy-to-care-for option for your garden. They provide a natural habitat for local wildlife and are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. Whether you are looking for a bright yellow flower or a vibrant red one, there are many native plants to choose from. So, make your garden easy and beautiful with native plants.

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Call 735-5305

Your ads published in both newspapers, the County Record and the Penny Record plus on our web site TheRecordLive.com

- Penny Record Office: 333 West Roundbunch, Bridge City
- County Record Office: 320 Henrietta, Orange
- Note: Offices Closed On Wednesday

APPLIANCES

HARRY'S APPLIANCES - Used appliances starting at \$99.95, 302 10th. St. (10th. & main) Orange, We also buy used appliances, Call or come by 409-886-4111.

FOR RENT

For Rent 2 bedroom, 1 bath in Orangefield School District. \$850 month, \$500 deposit. Call for more info 409-313-4338

For Rent 2 BR, 1 Bath with Laundry hookups and CA/H at 1125 Dayton St. in West Orange. \$725 month w/\$725 deposit. Call 409-250-0943

RV SPACE FOR RENT

RV Space available. High and dry, private property off Hwy 87 N. \$350 for 30 amp, \$400 for 50 amp. Price includes water, sewer and electricity. Call 409-779-1492

AUTOS

2010 Nissan Pick Up 4 door, with leather interior, running boards, special kind of wheels. Has around 160K miles. Asking 9,000.00. For more info you can please call 409-313-7732

American Legion Post 49
409-886-1241
Hall Rental

GARAGE SALE

Multiple Family Garage Sale on Saturday - May 14 from 7 am to noon at 9165 Parkwood, Off of Hwy.1442, Orange, 77630. No early birds please.

Multiple Family Garage Sale this Sat., May 14th from 8 am -1pm at 910 Carolina Drive in Bridge City. No Early Birds. Clothes, household items, home decor and much more.

Moving Sale this Fri. & Sat., May 13-14 from 9:00 - 5:00 on Morrison Circle in Orange off FM1442. Men's FR clothes, tools, ramps, jack, chains, ropes, Kenmore Window AC Unit, Total Gym, treadmill, vintage cedar chest, small kitchen appliances, misc. kitchen items, men's, women's and some children's clothing, vintage women's dresses, vintage decorations just to name some of the items. You don't want to miss this sale.

BURIAL PLOT

is located at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Call 409-988-0684

2 Burial plots for sale in HillCrest Memorial Gardens Orange Texas Lot 172 Block C Spaces 2 & 3 in Garden of Christus \$4000 for both. 409-882-8964

MOBILE DETAILING

Bobby's Auto Shine by appointments only. This is your mobile detailing, shampoo, wax, chrome polish, leather conditioning, some headliners, claybar, compound, engine cleaning. Must get everything out of vehicle. Call 409-926-7756

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CHARLES E. WRIGHT aka CHARLES EDWARD WRIGHT**, Deceased, were issued on **APRIL 20, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19343**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **RICHARD WRIGHT, SR.**

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: **James R. Dunaway** Attorney at Law P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100

Dated the **3rd** day of **May, 2022.**

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Richard Wright Sr.
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **HARVEY GLEN STERLING**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 5, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19376**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **THELMA R. STERLING.**

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.

Thelma R. Sterling c/o: Attorney, **Bradley Featherston** 20333 SH 249 Suite 200 Houston, TX 77070

Dated the 5th day of May, 2022

Bradley Featherston
Bradley Featherston

TX Bar Number 24038892

Featherston Tran PLLC
20333 Sate Hwy 249 Suite 200 Houston, TX 77070
Tel: 713-338-9891
Fax: 888-451-5866

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **SALLIE VILLERY**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 5, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19379**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DANIEL DWAYNE JONES.**

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: **George B. Barron** Attorney at Law P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 5th day of May, 2022.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron
Attorney for Executor
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
FULL TIME & PART TIME GROCERY STOCKERS GROCERY CHECKERS - DELI WORKERS

APPLY IN PERSON ONLY - NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

K-DAN'S SUPER FOODS
9604 FM 105
DANNY'S SUPER FOODS
2003 WESTERN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER-AT-RISK BRIDGE CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BRIDGE CITY, TEXAS

Proposal Information

Sealed proposals will be received by (Dr. Mike Kelly, Superintendent of Schools), Bridge City Independent School District, 1031 West Roundbunch Road, Bridge City, TX 77611, and shall be received until 2:00 p.m. (CST) on **Thursday, June 2nd, 2022**, at the above address, to provide Construction Management at-Risk services for the Bridge City ISD May 2022 Bond projects. A total of ten (10) copies of all submitted material are requested. The proposals will be opened at that time - 2:00 p.m. (CST) on **June 2nd, 2022.**

The successful firm will be required to enter into an Owner/Construction Manager Agreement, AIA Document A133-2019, as modified by Supplementary Conditions to the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager with the Bridge City Independent School District and to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds through an approved bonding company duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas and currently listed in the Department of Treasury Federal Register in an amount of not less than 100% of the contract price, conditioned upon the performance of the contract.

Attention is called to the fact that the Construction Manager must comply with all Federal, State and local labor laws, including Chapter 2258, Texas Government Code, Title 10, and the prevailing minimum wage rates as set by the Bridge City ISD Board of Trustees.

All parties acknowledge the right of the Owner to reject any or all of the Proposals and to waive any informality or irregularity in any Proposal received. By submitting a Proposal, each Bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the Owner, the Architect/Engineer and their respective employees arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation or recommendation of any Proposal.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 2269, Subchapter F, it is the intent of the Bridge City ISD to select a **Construction Manager-at-Risk** via a **ONE STEP PROCESS**. The Owner shall use the following criteria for selection of a Construction Manager: reputation of vendor, past relationship with the District, experience with similar projects, price to District for services, safety record (including number of citations by OSHA, lawsuits due to safety violations), references from past jobs, change orders, history of past jobs, timely completion of past jobs, proposed personnel and financial stability.

Applicants may obtain an information packet with general details concerning the proposed projects after **June 11th, 2022** at 2:00 p.m. (CST) from:

Dr. Mike Kelly (Superintendent of Schools)
Bridge City ISD
1031 West Roundbunch Road
Bridge City, TX 77611
Telephone: (409) 735-1500
Fax: (409) 735-1512

BUSINESS CARD LISTINGS

409-886-7183 or 409-735-5305

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409-670-2040

LEGAL NOTICES

OBITUARIES
ENGAGEMENTS
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ANNIVERSARIES

Please call us at
409-735-5305
409-886-7183

Sweet Creations, etc.

Gifts • Candles • Candy • Flowers

It is time for those graduation parties, summer get togethers or maybe to just freshen up your home's look.

Stock up on scented oils, oil lamps and of course our Incredible Plant Stands will add color to your decor or let us make one for a gift!

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WEEKLY SPECIALS AND FOOD ITEMS FOR YOUR PARTIES!

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