



**Orange County High School Sports**  
Dan Perrine - Page 1B



**Kaz's Korner Sports Commentary**  
Joe Kazmar - Page 3B



**Hunting, Fishing & Outdoors**  
Capt. Chuck Uzzle - Page 5B

The Community Newspaper of Orange, Texas

TheRecordLive.com

# County Record

Vol. 63 No. 12

Distributed FREE In Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, August 24, 2022

## County tax rate goes down slightly

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners Court Tuesday approved a new property tax rate with a small decrease in the rate. However, tax payments may go up for many people because of an increase in property values.

The new rate will be 53 cents per \$100 valuation, changed from the current rate of 54 cents per \$100 valuation. A house valued at \$100,000 with the county's 20 percent homestead exemption will pay based on an \$80,000 valuation.



Gothia

Under the new rate, the homeowner would pay about \$424 for county taxes. At the old rate, the bill would be \$432.

But even though the commissioners voted on the new rate, it may still go down more as the court works to compile a new countywide budget for 2022-23.

County Judge John Gothia said commissioners

County Business Page 3A



Once a year, Orange's history comes alive as local high school drama students dress up and tell true stories from the past. The Heritage House Museum in downtown holds the Historic Ghost Walk in October. The date this year is Saturday, October 15. Anyone interested in helping to sponsor the community Historic Ghost Walk festival should contact Charlotte Alford at Heritage House Museum, 409-886-5385, or email at hhmuseumtx@gmail.com.

## Museum turns Ghost Walk into festival

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Once a year, Orange's history comes alive as local high school drama students dress up and tell true stories from the past. The Heritage House Museum in downtown holds the Historic Ghost Walk in October. The date this year is Saturday, October 15.

Because of the success of the past ghost walks, Heritage House is turning the event into a fundraiser and festival.

"We never expected the Historic Ghost Walk to become so popular," said Adam Conrad, president of the Heritage House board of directors. In 2021, nearly 350 people paid to do the walk downtown and more than 60 drama students participated. Along with volunteers, more than 500 people were in downtown that evening.



Families get to pose for special photos with a costumed drama student and prop at the Fifth Annual Historic Ghost Walk. The costumed high school drama students posed on the museum lawn in 2021.

Conrad said the high school drama students look forward to dressing up and presenting the fascinating local stories of events and people. Students from all five public high schools in the county

are expected to participate.

The presentations are made at the sites around the Sabine River where the history occurred. People on the tours walk from Heritage House Museum

on Division Avenue east on Division and along the river to Front Street and then circle back.

The walk goes around the crescent of the Sabine River, which carried the first non-Indigenous settlers to what was first called Green's Bluff. The town grew around the river with early settlers living nearby so they could carry water to their houses. The river also was the major traffic carrier, bringing explorers, pirates, settlers, and immigrants seeking to make new life.

Heritage House is rotating the in-depth stories of the shoot-outs and scandals around downtown. This year's stories will include the Orange County War of 1856, and how people rode "The End of the Line" railroad to Orange. Also there will be stories about illegal gambling across the river and how in

Historic Ghost Page 3A



**Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast**  
Orange County High School Football  
The Record's Joe Kazmar Predicts This Weeks Winners  
As The 2022 Football Season Gets Underway  
SEE PAGE 3B

## Bridge City school taxes go up for new construction

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Property owners in Bridge City will be paying more in school taxes this coming year, but the increase is nothing unexpected. Voters in May approved a \$72 million bond election to construct new buildings and improve other ones. The tax increase is to pay off the bonds, which are a kind of loan.

Based on calculations from the legal numbers provided by the Bridge City ISD, the owner of a home at the average value in the district will pay \$77.94 a year more. For someone making monthly mortgage payments with escrows, that would mean \$6.50 cents a month more.

The school board on Monday night approved the new tax rate, which will cover the 2022-23

budget year.

Based on the appraised values in the BCISD, the average market value of a house went from \$183,700 last year to \$202,100 this year. Homeowners with a tax homestead exemption would have taxes calculated to \$161,400 this year and up slightly this year to \$162,100.

The tax rate for last year was \$1.01 per \$100 of appraised value and the homeowner of the average house paid \$1,636.40. The new tax rate will be \$1.05 cents per \$100 valuation. The homeowner of the average house this year will pay \$1,714.34.

Taxing entities across Orange County are currently working on new property tax rates and budgets for their upcoming fiscal years. The entities vary by the place

Bridge City Page 3A

## Stark Museum of Art hosts Family Day Saturday

Staff Report  
For The Record

The Stark Museum of Art will have a free family day event with activities and crafts on Saturday, August 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is in downtown Orange at 712 Green Avenue.

Families can tour the museum's galleries and take a look at a special ex-

hibition of local artwork. Students from the museum's Summer Art Quest hand-colored pictures from a coloring book of places in the Stark Cultural Venues, which include the art museum, Shangri-La gardens, the Lutch-er Theater, and the W.H. Stark House.

Craft activities will include making a custom-designed photograph

frame. Volunteers from the Orange African-American Museum, the Orange Train Depot Museum, and Heritage House of Orange County will have stories and activities for participants.

A special "Tot Spot" will be set up for activities for children age 4 and younger.

Parents and their kids will get to play a scavenger

hunt to find the matching pictures within the museum's galleries. A prize will be given for children who complete the hunt.

Families will also be able to walk across Green Avenue to the 1894 Stark House and tour the downstairs of the 14,000 square-foot Victorian mansion with its original furnishing.



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# Three of Texas' 10 Most Wanted offenders back in jail

**Staff Report  
For The Record**

AUSTIN — Three of Texas' 10 Most Wanted offenders are back in custody following their recent arrests.

Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender Rodney Hunter, of Waco, was arrested August 9 in Waco. Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive Thomas Naranjo, of Houston, was arrested August 10 in Houston. Texas 10 Most Wanted

Sex Offender Bruce Clifton, of El Paso, was arrested August 15 in Mesilla Park, N.M. A Crime Stoppers reward will be paid in Clifton's arrest.

Rodney Eugene Hunter, 50, is a high-risk sex offender. He was arrested at a location in south Waco by DPS Special Agents. Hunter had been wanted since February 2022, when the McLennan County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for forgery. In July 2022, the



Waco Police Department issued a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

In 1992, Hunter was convicted of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and two counts of burglary of a habitation. He received three nine-year sentences to be served concurrently. In 1997, Hunter was convicted of two counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact following incidents involving a 7-year-old girl. He received two 15-year sentences in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facility. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Thomas Correa Naranjo, 41, is a member of the Texas Syndicate Gang. He was arrested at a location in north-central Houston by Houston Police Department SWAT. Naranjo had been wanted since May 2021, after the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles issued a warrant for a parole violation. In July 2021, the Harris County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for assault of a family/household member with previ-

ous conviction.

In 1998, Naranjo was convicted of attempted capital murder and aggravated robbery. He was given two eight-year sentences to be served concurrently. In 2008, he was convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and possession with intent to deliver cocaine. He was given a 10-year sentence and two 20-year sentences. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Bruce Orville Clifton, 56, was arrested at a storage facility in Mesilla Park, N.M. The multi-agency fugitive investigation involved members of the U.S. Marshals (USMS) Lone Star Fugitive Task Force from El Paso, including DPS Special Agents, along with members of the USMS District of New Mexico-Southwest Investigative Fugitive Task Force and New Mexico State Police-Fugitive Apprehension Unit. Clifton had been wanted since January 2022, after the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles issued a warrant for a parole violation. In Febru-

ary 2022, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

In 1988, Clifton was convicted of sexual battery/physical force in Florida after an incident involving a 34-year-old woman. In 2001, he was convicted of sexual assault of a child after an incident involving a 15-year-old girl in Dallas County. He was sentenced to 15 years of confinement in a TDCJ facility. In 2003, Clifton

was convicted of sexual assault of a child following an incident involving a 14-year-old girl in Harris County and sentenced to 20 years of confinement.

In 2013, Clifton was convicted of possession of a deadly weapon in a penal institution and sentenced to two years. He was released on parole in May 2021. For more information, view his captured bulletin.

Texas Crime Stoppers, which is funded by the

**Texas' Most Page 3A**

## Speeders coming to a 'Stop' in Victory Gardens, Little Cypress

**MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record**

After a citizen complaint about speeding in the Victory Gardens neighborhood outside Bridge City, the Orange County Commissioners Court is proposing to install a four-way stop sign.

Other stop sign installations to slow traffic are also in the future for two different Little Cypress neighborhoods off Highway 87 North.

The court will conduct public hearings on the proposed stop signs, as required by state law, on Tuesday, August 30, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom in the county administration building.

The four-way stop in Victory Gardens is planned for Patillo Road and Briggs Drive. The area is off Highway 87 South and is Precinct 3 with Kirk Roccaforte as commissioner.

After hearing the complaint about traffic in Victory Gardens last month, Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan said he had complaints about speeding traffic in two neighborhoods in his precinct. He is proposing a three-way stop at Little Cypress Drive at West Bluff Road, along with a four-way stop at Pine Park Boulevard and Timberlane Drive, a subdivision near the Sabine River Authority headquarters.

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## NOT BORING

**Sen. Carl Parker  
For The Record**

Early in my struggling law practice I was inclined to accept almost anything in order to gain a new client. I regularly swapped legal services for goods or services. On one occasion I was employed by a group of industrial painters who were charged with a rather serious crime. In view of the fact they were short of cash, I agreed I would represent them in exchange for them repainting a garage apartment behind my house.

As agreed, they showed up bright and early one morning with ladders, paint brushes, paint, and all necessary equipment to perform a job which I had discovered would have been rather expensive.

By the time I returned home late that afternoon, as promised, my new-found clients and professional painters had done an excellent job and completed the paint job. My wife greeted me with smiles and revealed that during the



**Former State Senator  
Carl Parker**

**Carl Parker has practiced law in Port Arthur since 1958. He is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.**

day she was so impressed by their hard work and how polite they were, that she had prepared a large pot of stew along with cornbread and drinks and served them to the painters. She expressed to me how nice these fellows were and what a good job they did; then she asked, "What were they charged with?" I

could see the shock on her face when I told her murder! She hesitated as though she didn't want to speak to me anymore for having made such a deal. I then reminded her, however, of what she had told me early on in our marriage.

About the time we became engaged, Beverly told me that she did not fear that we would break up, that I would cheat on her or that I would not be a good husband and father. She did, however, express her greatest fear was that being married would be very boring. Well, after a few of my clients such as these I reminded her that whatever our marriage was, it would be hard to describe it as boring.

Most of the guys were later acquitted, only one was convicted of manslaughter and he was not the bad guy in the bunch.

During the course of beginning my law practice my various fees consisted of new tires, paint jobs, groceries on occasion, lawnmowing, carpentry, and linoleum laid in a bathroom. All in all, whatever can be said about my law practice, it was never boring. I would compare my law practice as being more varied and exciting than almost any other lawyer I know. Certainly, I have no complaints from my bride of sixty plus years about being bored.



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## County business From Page 1

had to set the tax rate before the budget was completed because of state laws requiring times the property tax rates must be publicized. He said the county only a few days ago had complete tax appraisal valuations to calculate.

This will be the first year in the past few years that the county may not have to borrow money to operate between the October 1 start of the budget year and January, when taxes are due. The county had spent more than \$15 million for debris pickup after storms, including Hurricane Laura in 2020. Gothia said FEMA only recently reimbursed the county for those expenses.

Gothia warned though, that the budget savings account, or surplus funds, may need to be used if another hurricane or tropical

storm hits. The county has been slammed with a number of damaging storms since 2005.

Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed tax rate and four people asked questions. Carl LeBlanc, who lives in Precinct 3, complained about the county giving tax abatements to business and industry, but not to homeowners.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan said Chevron-Phillips has not announced construction of a plant here, but the company has been doing site preparation work along Highway 87 South for months. Trahan said the company is paying more property taxes on that land because of the improvements.

Gothia said expenses have been going up for the county at the same rates as

costs for individual consumers. He said two years ago, a Gradall machine for ditch and road work cost \$350,000. This year, the same equipment will cost \$478,000.

When an audience member commented about commissioners buying "toys," they all objected. Trahan said equipment breakdowns cost the county time for paying employees as the machinery gets fixed. Also, patrol vehicles for the sheriff's office have increased in cost, "if you can get them," the judge said. According to Gothia, the county is having to pay for the overall price increases in gas and fuel for vehicles and equipment.

An upside is that the values on oil and gas production across the state have increased, bringing in another kind of tax to the county.

County officials, includ-

ing the auditor and the treasurer, have not completed a budget, however Commissioners Court approved a pay raise. Regular salaried employees will get a raise of \$1 per hour.

Gothia said some employees at the lower end of the pay matrix will get more than that, probably \$1.70 an hour more. He said the county pay is not competitive with private business pay and the county is having trained workers quit to go to better-paying jobs.

Each of the five members of the Commissioners Court will get raises of \$100 a month, or \$1,200 for the year. The cost to the county will be a total of \$6,000 for all the commissioners.

LeBlanc said commissioners should not get a raise this year. He said he surveyed salaries of other commissioners in similar-sized counties and they make less.

## Bobby Orozco album release planned Oct. 8 at LSC-Port Arthur



**Bobby Orozco, Pianist/Composer will be performing a piano concert with artist, Ines Alvidres, on October 8 at 7:00 pm at the Sam and Linda Monroe Performing Arts Center at Lamar Port Arthur.**

Bobby is a native of Bridge City. Over the past decade, he's written a numerous amount of piano compositions after moving to the Dallas area.

Bobby will also be releasing new arrangements of 3 American Civil War songs arranged for piano and cello and 6 pieces written and recorded by The Driftin' Outlaw Band, also arranged for piano and cello. Bobby has drummed and played bass in The Driftin' Outlaw Band since 2016.

For more information and Tickets please visit his website at [www.bobbyorozcoshop.com](http://www.bobbyorozcoshop.com).

The event will be held at 1500 Proctor St, Port Arthur, TX 77640-6604 in Port Arthur, TX.

## Bridge City taxes From Page 1

where a person lives, however every property owner in the county pays to Orange County, plus a school district, the county port district, and the county drainage district. People

who live within incorporated areas also pay property taxes to their cities.

Many residents in the county also pay property taxes to one of the four Emergency Services Dis-

tricts that provide fire protection service.

When all the representatives of the entities approve their budgets, the Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector gathers the rates and will then mail statements to every property owner in the

county with their tax bills. People with mortgages through financial lending services usually pay into a monthly escrow account and the mortgage company pays the complete tax bill from the account.

## Historic Ghost Walk From Page 1

1988, Constable Jack Thompson in his trademark red Camaro had a high-speed chase through downtown with a serial killer driving a stolen Corvette.

Heritage House will use the Historic Ghost Walk as a fundraiser to help with the regular operations and the mission of the museum, which is to preserve local history and educate people about Orange County's past. Conrad said the museum board this year voted to award \$500 scholarships to two of the participating drama students.

The crowd last year has also led to a reorganization of the Historic Ghost Walk

schedule. Conrad said the history tour can be done only one day because of the difficulties in scheduling all the schools. So this year, two different walks will be held on the Saturday, October 15, date.

The first version will have groups leaving every 15 minutes during the hours of 3 to 5 p.m. Conrad said those tours will be more family-friendly and the costumed people from the past will not come near the children.

Tour tickets with times will be given. As people wait on their times, they can purchase food from food trucks, which will be

announced. Free State Winery will sell to adults glasses of their local vintages and famous frozen sangrias. Heritage House will have tables and chairs set up on the back lawn. Lawn games and children's activities will also be offered as a way to pass the time.

Heritage House will give the students a dinner break back at the museum. During the break, singer-musicians Hailey and Brett Cooley will perform on the museum's back deck from 5 to 7 p.m. Free State is sponsoring the show.

After the break, from 7 to 9 p.m. as darkness has descended, more tours will begin. Conrad said the night walks will include

some more ghostly costumes and the ghouls will walk closer to the groups.

One main event sponsorship will be available for \$5,000. The honor will include two reserved tables, walk admission for 15 people, VIP entrance, and two bottles of wine.

Lawn banner sponsorships are \$500 and will allow the business or individual to have a 3x5 foot banner with business logo and information.

Anyone interested in helping to sponsor the community Historic Ghost Walk festival should contact Charlotte Alford at Heritage House Museum, 409-886-5385.

## Texas Most Wanted From Page 2

Governor's Criminal Justice Division, offers cash rewards to any person who provides information that leads to the arrest of one of Texas' 10 Most Wanted Fugitives or Sex Offenders. So far in 2022, DPS and other agencies have arrested 44 Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitives and Sex Offenders, including 17 gang members and 24 sex offenders. In addition, \$72,000 in rewards has been paid for tips that yielded arrests.

## OC Master Gardener training classes

The Orange County Master Gardener training classes will begin Thursday August 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Expo Center on 1442. The cost of the class is \$150 which includes a book, background check, supplies, speaker fees and a banquet on the last day of class December 8, 2022.

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## From the Creaux's Nest TOP SECRET DOCS NOT ACCIDENTAL Robinson Once Luther Theater Guest

*Eugene Robinson, a Washington Post columnist and associate Editor, has covered the White House for decades. In the past, Robinson, was a speaker at the Luther Theater, in Orange.*

“Former President Donald Trump had to be determined to grab top secret files to hide them away in his Florida home. Presidents don’t accidentally end up with such sensitive files among boxes and boxes of documents hauled out of the White House at the end of their term,” Robinson told MSNBC’s ARI Melber on Friday. (They’re not supposed to take any documents, which belong to the National Archives.) The fact that agents carried out 11 sets of classified documents after their search of Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home Monday, according to the warrant and property receipt used by the FBI to conduct the search, is “Unprecedented, unthought of,” Robinson said. “Every president I’ve ever known or watched or observed or reported on, every administration has been very extremely, meticulously careful with top secret information, with classified information,” Robinson added. “When you get to top secret, you get to top secret/SCI, the most sensitive information, that stuff doesn’t lie around in the White House. It doesn’t lie around in the Oval Office. It doesn’t lie around anywhere, much less in the basement of Mar-a-Lago. It just doesn’t,” he said, using the acronym for “sensitive compartmented information.” “It’s handled very carefully,” he explained. “It’s looked at and examined and talked about and then it’s tucked away into secure carriers and taken back to whatever vault it’s kept in.” Some of the seized classified information was top secret, which is supposed to remain only in a secure government facility. Sources told the Washington Post in a report Thursday that some of the classified documents were believed to be related to nuclear weapons, which reportedly was a key reason for the urgent search. The warrant indicated that Trump is under investigation for a possible violation of the Espionage Act, obstruction of justice, and removing and destroying official documents. No specifics were provided in the documents. The Espionage Act prohibits anyone from obtaining defense information with the possible intent of using it against the U.S. or to further the interest of a foreign country. Robinson noted: “This is another way in which, again...the Donald Trump administration was like literally no other administration in the history of this country. No other administration would have, and certainly no other administration did, treat classified information like this.”

## OUR CONDOLENCES EUEL NORWOOD

We were sorry to learn of the death of Euel Norwood, age 91, who passed away on August 16. Funeral services were held Monday, Aug. 22. We had known Euel and his wife Dorris since the mid-1960’s when they arrived in Bridge City. That was during the time that the Bridge City High School Cardinal football team was ranked as one of the top teams in the state. Euel and Dorris were strong supporters of the school and city. The Norwood’s raised two children, daughter Rynda and son Mark, who were graduates of BCHS. Euel and Dorris, married 67 years, were the ideal couple, great parents, good neighbors and friends. To Dorris and her family, we extend our sincere condolences.

## SANDRA PRICE

We were saddened to learn of the death of Sandra Price, wife of our friend, Judge Rodney Price. She passed away last Wednesday, August 17 at age 76. Sandra was a retired teacher and native of Houston. She and Rodney, a longtime attorney and justice of the peace, were residents of Vidor. Sandra was known as a devoted Christian woman who openly practiced her faith. Funeral service was held Saturday at First Baptist Church of Vidor. Gravesite service was held Monday, August 22, in Houston. Our thoughts are with Rodney and family.

## TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2012

August 21<sup>st</sup> is the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and Isaac followed the same path, with New Orleans in its sights. In 2005, Katrina killed 1,800 and drowned 80 percent of New Orleans, which hasn’t fully recovered. Hurricane Isaac comes to New Orleans much milder and the city was much better prepared. Southern Mississippi is the place that doesn’t have seawalls and will see damage. I visited Bay Saint Louis, Diamond Head, etc. a week after Katrina. I will never forget the devastation, even after living through Ike right here at home. New Orleans and Mississippi got lucky. A category one storm is no picnic but it’s not a Katrina, the costliest

disaster in U.S. history with \$135 billion in destruction. We also got lucky with a high pressure in our backyard. There wasn’t much chance that the storm would come our way unless the high moved at the last minute like it did for Ike. Tuesday evening, every hotel in Orange was full with Louisiana and Mississippi folks escaping Isaac and workers on the way to the hurricane areas.\*\*\*\*Our dear friend Dorothy Eshbach, 90, died Thursday, Aug. 23. On Aug. 12, Dot came down with a virus, until then she was as fit as always. She apparently was dehydrated and was admitted to the hospital. She passed away while being hooked up to an I.V. To know Dot was to love her. In the 40 some years I had known her, I never heard an unkind word about anyone. She loved people and was extremely proud of her family. Over many years, Dot and her friend Margaret Saint traveled extensively in their motor coach throughout the country, just two fun loving widows discovering America. That wasn’t enough, they then set out to see the world, traveling throughout Europe and visiting Russia. The entire community was her family. She was Bridge City’s mother and grandmother.\*\*\*\*I was watching a small, black and white television, showing the Apollo II command center. I remember feeling a rush when I heard the words, “Houston, the Eagle has landed.” Neil Armstrong, commander and his co-pilot, Col. Buzz Aldrin, steered their lunar landing craft Eagle near the Sea of Tranquility. Neil Armstrong said, “Houston, Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed.” The United States had beaten Russia to the moon. A few hours later, Armstrong came down the ladder of the landing craft. Planting his feet on the moon’s surface he said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Forty-four years after that walk on the moon, at age 82, our national hero Neil Armstrong, died on Aug. 22, 2012, from complications after heart surgery. In all, 12 American astronauts have walked on the moon but there is only one first.\*\*\*\*Capt. Dickie Colburn was the first to mention the Sabine River fishing in the area in last week’s column. By now, you’re aware the Bassmaster broke the news that their first post-classic fishing tournament will be held in Orange, Texas. The Sabine River and area waterways will host championship fishermen from across the country. Already the booking of rooms is occurring for the advance people that will plan for the March 14-17 elite series.

## 28 Years Ago, 2002

E.J. “Buddy” Rasberry is out of the hospital after beating West Nile, St. Louis, Echo and Cocksackle virus. Buddy is a tough guy. He says one day in the hospital his brain just woke up and he knew he was going to get better.\*\*\*\*David McKay, a 1999 Bridge City grad, has been modeling abroad and will be part of the largest fashion show ever in this area at the grand opening of Foley’s in Parkdale Mall. Since high school David has been acting in a television soap opera, “The Guiding Light” but a screen actor’s guild strike caused his character, Brandon, to be written out of the script. Now he’s home in Bridge City. It gives him a chance to visit friends Raum Bryant, Bryan Wiggins, Guy Whithead, Jeremy Duckley and Jared Williams. (Editor’s note: That was 28 years ago. I’d like to know what became of David and where his life took him. Does anyone know? \*\*\*\*Danny Brack is back at his original location on Western Ave.\*\*\*\*Mark Dunn has moved daughter Amber back to Austin where she will be a senior at U.T. (Editor’s note: After graduating from U.T. she attended Texas Tech Medical School. She is now an anesthesiologist living in Vero Beach, FL. and the mother of three boys.

## 45 Years Ago-1977

After 24 years as judge, Homer Stephenson prepares to leave the bench as Associate Justice of the 9th Court of Civil Appeals on Sept. 1. The 61-year-old has served on the appeals court since July 1, 1961. Before the justice post, he served as district judge of the 128th court. He received his law degree in 1937 at the University of Texas. He will associate council with Marlin Thompson and Martin W. Dies law firm. Judge Stephenson has several business ventures, including Bancroft Paper Co., Northway shopping Center and First Savings and Loan.\*\*\*\*Delores Cantu, West Orange grad, is now making national commercials. She is the daughter of Mrs. Edward Perez. The vivacious, dark-haired beauty can be seen in McDonald’s, Timex, Calgon, Palmolive and other commercials. She also has a part in a Woody Allen movie. She was selected as Miss Hospitality in the Miss Universe Pageant in Puerto Rico. She has lots of other things going.

## A FEW HAPPENINGS

Social calendars were full of events this past Saturday night with dances and performances. The Orange Mardi Gras krewe held their annual summer dance at the same time as the Orange Community Players had their Yee Haw musical fundraiser and Britt Godwin brought his Remember When Orchestra to Mackenzie’s Pub in Beaumont. Gina Simar Yeaman considered the Mardi Gras dance her first anniversary party. The retired LSCO dean and her husband, Skipper, tied the knot in grand fashion a year ago with Father Jim officiating. The dance drew together old friends and new friends for the casual party as they begin planning for the 2023 ball and parades. Parties included Orange City Councilor Brad Childs and wife, Terri. Cindy and Ambrose Claybar made the rounds at the tables. Kelly and Monte Morpheu, who now live in Galveston, crashed the party. They had been in town to check on their restored house in the Old Orange Historic District and when they heard about the Mardi Gras crew party, decided to go. Dyan Morris, Lori Ardoin, Sherry Hommel, Terri and David Gauthier were seen. Leslie Williams was the party hopper. She made an appearance at the Train Depot to support Orange Community Players. Leslie then went to the Mardi Gras dance.\*\*\*\*Paul and Raul Burch are usually Mardi Grasing with the krewes, but Paul was one of the stars of the Yee Haw country music review. Everyone had sequins on their outfits and they glittered in the spotlights of stage. Others singers were Codie Vasquez, Rico Vasquez, and Cydney

Vasquez, plus Judy Smith, Janet Bland, Amy Picard, Jason Rodrigue, and Tanya Guillot. The dinner-performance was a fundraiser to help complete a new theater to replace the longtime one in downtown that flooded twice in recent years. The group purchased the old movie theater off Edgar Brown Drive and is remodeling it to become a performing arts center named after the late Jeff Hattman, a high school drama teacher who was instrumental in keeping community theater in Orange for more than 50 years. Robert and Mindy Curry smoked the meat for the dinner. They won rave reviews for the biggest, and most tender, chicken breasts anyone had seen before. Latoya Overstreet was helping to serve and make sure guests had plenty of beer and wine. Diana Hill, an OCP mainstay, was there sitting at a table that had Pam Stelly, Diana and her longtime friend, Rose Simar, also serve on the Train Depot board. They both hustled to make sure everything was going smoothly. Billy Jack McKinney hustled all night to make sure his wife, Karen, had sweet tea and others at his table, like Rosie Hurst and Margaret Light, had wine in their glasses.\*\*\*\*Stump and Dayle Weatherford opted to go to Beaumont to see Britt Godwin and his Remember When Orchestra. They took along Dayle’s daughters, Bridget and Lacey Gunn. Stephanie Roberts from Orange County dressed up to enjoy Britt’s crooning Sinatra classics backed by a big band. Britt will be appearing solo with his guitar Wednesday evening in the Orange VFW cantina.\*\*\*\*Tracie James dog rescue group got a plane to fly from Jack Brooks Regional Airport to New York with an abandoned mother dog and her pups so they could be adopted. The flight was sponsored by the Today Show on NBC and was featured Tuesday morning.\*\*\*\*Robert and Betty Vail, some of the best anglers to ever fish Sabine Lake, are keeping the family tradition going. Their great-granddaughter, Kathy, won second place flounder in a recent kids fishing tournament.\*\*\*\*On the last day of August, the 31<sup>st</sup>, Rosalie and Judge Pat Clark will celebrate a wedding anniversary. That’s next Wednesday but I mention it now as insurance against forgetting. Congratulations to these great, longtime friends and best wishes for many more healthy, happy years.\*\*\*\*Warren Buffett, who will turn 92 on August 30, is still very active. Buffett’s company, Berkshire Hathaway, that owns 20 per cent stock in Occidental, has been cleared to continue buying up shares of the petroleum company. The legendary investor signals confidence in the future of energy and is betting on stocks to stay high.

## BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know who will be celebrating in the next few days. Aug. 24: Happy Birthday to our friend Marlene Merritt. For years she kept me supplied in chocolate. COVID ended that. Also celebrating are Debbie Adaway, Ben Ezell and Carol Cupe. Also Happy Anniversary to Commissioner Theresa and Frank Beauchamp.\*\*\*\*Aug. 25: Some great folks are celebrating on this day. Judge John’s beautiful wife, Glynis Gothia, has a birthday as does Bridge City mayor, David Rutledge, Carlene Wheat, Dot Hudson, Milton Briggs, Jr., Trevor Schaffer and a great guy, Coach Dan Ray Hooks.\*\*\*\*Aug. 26: Happy Birthday to everyone’s friend Donna Scales. I miss seeing her and hope she’s doing well.\*\*\*\*Aug. 27: Celebrating today is a special lady Stephanie Roberts, Peggy Larson and Frank Beauchamp.\*\*\*\*Aug. 28: J.S. Bearden, Hutch’s big brother, celebrates today. Also Happy Birthday to Darla Daigle, Meagan Carlin and Barbi Childress, Jerry’s widow. Hope she’s doing well.\*\*\*\*Aug. 29: Katrina was born on this day in 2005. Other folks who dropped in on this day are longtime friend Glenda Dyer, Janice Overman, Kira Amy and our buddy Danny Cole. Danny does great tractor work for very little money. Give him a call.\*\*\*\*Aug. 30: Happy Birthday to a great guy, Mike Cedars, now retired. Also celebrating are Pamela Comers and Jon Weidner. (Email us at [news@therecordlive.com](mailto:news@therecordlive.com) or call 409-735-5305 for upcoming birthday or anniversary announcements.)

## CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK A LETTER FROM SOSTAN

Dear Simple,  
I know I rote you de utta day bout Tee-Boy but I rite again because me and Sugar Bee will be gone for three or two weeks. I wanted you to know in case you plan to stop and see us wen you go to da LS&U game, plus I got some news me. Our aunt, Lucille, da old maid, died las week in Crowley. She was my papa and you papa’s youngest sister. She was 72 wen she die. She never have a man her. She requested in her will dat she have no mens for pall-bearers. She wrote in her long-hand, “Dey wouldn’t take me out while I was live, I don’t want dem to take me out wen I’m dead me.”

You Cuz  
Sostan

## C’EST TOUT

Why so many deaths on Highway 62  
The Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers are investigating a fatal crash on state Highway 62, just south of Tulane, on August 22, 2022. The preliminary investigation indicates that at a 2019 Kia passenger car was traveling south while a 2014 Honda passenger car was traveling north. It is reported that the Honda traveled into the oncoming lane and struck the Kia head-on. The driver of the Kia, 23-year-old Brittnie Eldridge of Nederland, was pronounced deceased on scene. The driver of the Honda was transported to St. Elizabeth Hospital where she were pronounced deceased by medical staff. She has been identified as 59-year-old Sheila Lavallo of Orange. For a long time it has been baffling to me why so many people have been killed on that stretch of highway. I personally have known several of the youngsters who lost their lives on Highway 62. It is a wide road that certainly should not have head-on crashes. The number that have died on the stretch from IH-10 to Highway 87 is staggering.\*\*\*\*Thanks for your time, mine is up. Till next time take care and God bless.

## Gulf Coast 'ghost wolves' cause a stir in wildlife world

Larry Joe Johnson  
For The Record

The Texas Gulf Coast is home to a wide range of wildlife, including so-called "ghost wolves," a hybrid of a coyote and red wolf roaming coastal areas near Galveston.

Residents and visitors of Galveston Island have increasingly reported sightings of possible ghost wolves, according to the City of Galveston Facebook page, with public interest and the rise in sightings resulting in a town hall meeting in Galveston with Animal Services supervisor Josh Henderson and Gulf Coast Canine project researchers Bridgett vonHoldt and Kristin Brzeski this month.

Researchers presented their plans to assess the genetic ancestry of the ghost wolves, goals to understand the ecology and behavior with efforts to inform conservation and educate management practices for both coyotes and the hybrid species.

The ghost wolves "harbor an ancestral genetic variation, this ghost variation," a gene previously thought to be extinct, Bridgett vonHoldt explained in a New



DNA of extinct Red Wolves discovered.

York Times report.

Canids are the scientific term for the biological family of dog-like carnivores that communicate via scent signals and vocalizations. The canids or ghost wolves researched on Galveston carried genetic variants not present in any other North American canids researchers analyzed, including the contemporary red wolves, vonHoldt told the New York Times.

The last known red wolves were captured in Southwestern Louisiana and Eastern Texas in 1980 to establish a captive breeding population, according to a study published in Science Advances.

The theory is that the genetics were passed down from the wild red wolves

roaming the region and that some red wolves evaded the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service "dragnet" back in the late 1970s. According to the research, red wolves or their descendants bred with local coyotes in Texas and Louisiana.

"There was surely a little slippery one that got away or a couple," vonHoldt told the New York Times.

Body size and weight are two ways to differentiate between coyotes and red wolves. According to a study published in Science Advance, coyotes with higher red wolf ancestry were, on average, heavier animals.

Coyotes across Galveston Island have been found to carry red wolves genetics in their DNA, though not all coyotes have the DNA, according to the study published in Science Advances, some of the animals researched carried as high as 69% of the red wolf genetic ancestry.

The previously captured coyotes and ghost wolves in Galveston are now collared with GPS devices to help better understand these animals, according to a

report from the Gulf Coast Canine project. The GPS device program is funded in partnership with Princeton University and Michigan Technological University to study the data collected from the GPS devices for conservation efforts.

Researchers are identifying ways to preserve the critically-endangered red wolf species, including methods such as "bio-banking," according to the research presented during the Town Hall in Galveston.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife department, while it's been nearly 40 years since a genetically pure red wolf was confirmed in Texas, the rediscovering of a creature with such a high percentage of red wolf genetics offers a glimmer of hope that somehow the red wolf has hung on against the odds. Just last summer, a wild-caught, captive-raised coyote in the Panhandle was genetically tested and shown to have as much as 35 percent red wolf genetics.

In the world of red wolves, there seem to be more questions than answers. Brzeski says that's the "fun" part of science: trying to solve ecological mysteries in the unlikelyst of places.

## Deaths & Memorials

### Patricia Pollard Lawson, 83, BC

Patricia Pollard Lawson, born May 24, 1939, to William E. and Annie Jane Pollard, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2022, in Groves, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Patricia was a 1957 graduate of Bridge City High School and later that year she married Charles E. Lawson. From this union they had two children, Lisa and Eric. After raising their children in Groves, she and Charles moved back to



Patricia Lawson

Bridge City in 1991. Patricia was a wonderful wife, mother, sister, and friend who will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; her grandson, Colby A. May; and her two sisters, Charlotte Poland and Beverly McQuady.

Those left behind to cherish her memory include her daughter, Lisa Arenas and husband Johnny of Groves; son, Dr. Eric D. Lawson of Biloxi, Mississippi; grandchildren, Frances Lawson and Anabelle Lawson of Mississippi, Pollard Lawson of North Carolina, and Jefferi Arenas and wife Kristen of Tampa, Florida; her two great-grandchildren, Andi and Colby; as well as her beloved cat, Pearl, that she adored.

### Sandra Price, 76, Vidor

Sandra Price, age 76, died Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont, Texas.

Sandra is a native of Houston, graduating from Bellaire High School, and had made Vidor her home for the past half century. She was a magna cum laude graduate of Houston Baptist University, was a teaching assistant at Baylor University, and was retired from teaching.

Sandra was never shy about asking strangers, including other patients in the waiting room on the morning she passed away, if they knew Jesus and if she could pray for them.

She is survived by her husband, Rodney Price, daughters Mary Majors and son-in-law Mike Majors, daughter Amy Angelo



Sandra Price

and son-in-law Eric Angelo, and grandchildren, Sarah Majors, Ethan Majors, and Marissa Majors, all of Vidor, grandson Reed Galloway and his wife, Cara Galloway, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and sister Carol Read and brother-in-law Charles Read of Houston, Texas.

Visitation will be at the First Baptist Church of Vidor from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, August 19, 2022, with funeral service at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, also at First Baptist Church, Vidor. A graveside service will be at 2:00 p.m., on Monday, August 22, at the Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Vidor Mission Fund.

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# Lady Mustangs readying for a new volleyball season

OCSPORTS BEAT  
DAN PERRINE  
For The Record

Workouts for the West Orange-Stark volleyball team began last week. Prospective Lady Mustangs attended three days of tryouts at the high school to make the team.

Sheradan Starnes begins her second year as the head coach of the West Orange-Stark volleyball team. Enthusiasm for the volleyball program can be reflected in the increased number of young ladies that are trying to make the varsity.

Starnes recapped last year her first as the head coach of the Lady Mustangs. "We had nine seniors on the team, we had a veteran team returning. I thought the season went rather well. Our record may not have reflected how well the season went, but we actually had some milestones by taking some teams to five games that we didn't normally take to five games. The girls learned how to actually battle through and come back up from the downside of the roller coaster in a game. I was very proud of them for that," Starnes reflected.

Four of the Lady Mustangs return from last year's team. T'Era Garrett is a vocal leader on the team and is always a positive influence on the other players.

Garrett will probably be the libero for West Orange-Stark. Starnes



Sheradan Starnes starts her second season as the head coach of the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs volleyball team.



T'Era Garrett is the libero for West Orange-Stark volleyball team and a defensive leader on the court.



Ciara Dunn is the tallest of the Lady Mustangs on the volleyball team and is a good middle hitter.



Bryanah Burnette has great jumping ability and is a valuable hitter in the middle for West Orange-Stark.



Reagan Pitre is a six-rotation player who may become the backup setter for the Lady Mustangs this season.

shared, "Because she's all over the place all over the floor, she's not going to let the ball hit the court. T'Era works really well with everybody else, and she's one of the main components that we need defensively."

Reagan Pitre returns for the Lady Mustangs as a six-rotation player. Pitre may have a new role as a backup setter this year which Reagan has expressed she is not terribly thrilled with doing. "We're going to work on it and it's going to be a great thing," Starnes believes.

The two middle hitters are back from last year for the Lady Mustangs with Ciara Dunn and Bryanah Burnette. This should be a big asset for West Orange-Stark this season.

Burnette has great jumping ability. Starnes elaborated, "Bryanah Burnette can jump through the roof. She has a very high vertical jump, and her timing is coming around so she's going to be

a pretty valuable hitter for us."

The tallest girl on the Lady Mustangs is Dunn. Ciara has very good anticipation skills, and she hits the ball really well also. "We're very excited about those four returners," Starnes expressed.

Another source of excitement for Coach Starnes is the quality of her new coaching staff this year. Assistant coaches this season will be Jaden Spell and Aaliyah Griggs for the Lady Mustangs.

Griggs is a graduate of West Orange-Stark in 2016. She played volleyball, basketball, and ran track when she was a Lady Mustang.

Spell played college basketball and coaches girls basketball at West Orange-Stark. Starnes exclaimed, "The two of them are real young, they're real energetic, and so they're bringing something to the program that we haven't had. They're getting the girls out and they're get-

ting the girls excited. Jaden and Aaliyah participate with the girls, they're playing, they're really trying to get the girls to buy into a winning culture here which is what we're trying to get to."

The record of wins and losses for the Lady Mustangs over the last few years it is somewhat misleading according to Starnes. "It's not great, we don't have that many wins, but we've improved so much. Our goal this year is we are going to win some games, and I've got the coaching staff to help me do that," Starnes promised.

Improvement is needed in multiply areas on the team Starnes admitted. The Lady Mustangs are working to improve their passing to make it more accurate and reliable. The coaches are also working to get the Lady Mustangs' serves more consistent.

There are a lot of young freshman coming out for the volleyball team at

West Orange-Stark. Only one freshman played last year, but a lot more are trying out this year. Starnes exuded, "Everybody so far is excited to be here. They're wanting to be here, they're putting forth all the effort, and they're learning really quickly. We've added some stuff too, so the room for improvement is there but I think we're already on the right track to get there."

Coach Starnes would love to have an opportunity to play for a chance to be in the post season. Last year West Orange-Stark took a couple of its opponents to five games, and Starnes admitted it was just a matter of the Lady Mustangs not knowing how to win in those kind of games because they have not been in that position very many times during recent seasons.

The goal is for the Lady Mustangs to be in more of those five-game matches and the experience will turn to the positive for

them. "Hopefully, we're going to get to the point when we get to a game five we know it's ours and not an oh what do we do or I don't know if we can do this kind of thing. The girls just were not used to it. Had we taken some of those game five matches we got in we would have made the playoffs last year," Starnes asserted.

The potential for a winning West Orange-Stark volleyball program is there the coach assures. "We have an enthusiastic group. My expectation is that win-loss record is going to look a little bit better, but besides that we're going to be building an actual program so that even next year and the year after and the year after that we can continue to build and build and build and make the Lady Mustangs' volleyball something to contend with so that people sit back and say wow we've have got to play West Orange-Stark now and that's the goal right now," Starnes concluded.

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# Football season kick-offs with 'Bayou Bowl'

OC SPORTS BEAT  
DAN PERRINE  
For The Record

Kick-off for the 2022 high school football season is Friday. Here's a look at our Orange County football squads and what to expect this weekend.

## Cardinals hope to grab Bayou Bowl

The second season for Coach Cody McGuire at Bridge City has entered Week One of the football season. McGuire and his Cardinals play their cross-county rival the Orangefield Bobcats in the first game of the season.

A final preparation for the opening of the season was to be a scrimmage with the Woodville Eagles last week. The weather was rainy and postponed the start of the scrimmage for two hours, and the Cardinals did not handle the delay as well as the Eagles when it finally did begin.

The Cardinals did play hard, but did not execute what they were coached to do. "I'm looking forward to it being real this week, and I think the kids are too. So, we're excited to be playing Orangefield in the Bayou Bowl," McGuire replied.

In the three weeks prior to Week One the Cardinals have progressed nicely. Mason Pruitt will be a great leader on defense for Bridge City from his inside linebacker position and played very well in the first scrimmage with Vidor.

JS Bearden was all-state last season but missed the first three weeks of practices with a hamstring injury. Bearden began practicing on Monday of this week and will be huge lift for Bridge City's defense according to McGuire.

A late addition to the Cardinals was Braylen Collins. He could be a starter on defense as a linebacker or secondary position.

Sophomore Merik Aras and junior Aden Lapeyrolerie have impressed the coaches enough to both start as outside linebackers. McGuire indicated, "We're young in the secondary with sophomore Austin Bellanger and junior Stephen Stone who will be great players for us. Bobby Drake is a senior who has not played a lot but will contribute also."

The Cardinals defensive line will be anchored by Nick LeJeune at noseguard. McGuire believes LeJeune is a great player. LeJeune is joined in the defensive line by a former Orangefield player Kayden Kibodeaux and Bryce Linder who are expected to be a solid front for the Cardinals on defense. "CJ Cane is a back-up right now, but CJ is going to be a great player for us and he's going to help us," Coach McGuire thinks.

Three seniors lead the offensive line for Bridge City. Matt Livingston, Sebastian Sandino, and Nabor Sanchez will be moving opposing defenses. Juniors Victor Ortiz and Lorn Little are battling for the starting center spot.

At least one Cardinal will play two-way. Cornerback Rayburn Hebert will also see time at running back because of his all around ability.

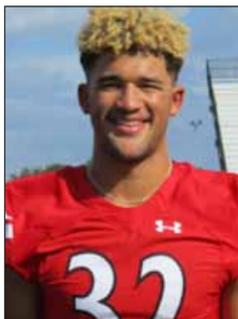
Bridge City is stocked with quality receivers starting with Gavin Bodin. The coach's son Case McGuire is working hard to get a starting position



Dan Perrine

as a wide receiver. Jerris Brown should do some great things with his speed for the Cardinals. Collins will play both ways including at wide receiver.

Leading the offense is sophomore Hutch Bearden at quarterback. McGuire stated, "He's a great kid, great leader, and the more reps he gets the better he



Braylen Collins could be a two-way starter for Bridge on the Cardinals' offense and defense.

gets." The Orangefield offense



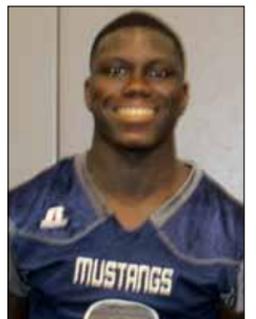
Senior tight end Koen Maddox for the Bobcats is a veteran leader on an otherwise very young offensive line.

is the Slot-T mafia according to McGuire who added



Brady Wright is the starting center for the Bears and has done an excellent job with his snaps from the shotgun.

the Bobcats will be physical, and they are going to



Jalen Gilmore has been a starter at linebacker for the Mustangs and will now handle all the kicking duties.

get after the opposing de- OC FOOTBALL Page 2B

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# Orange County football season openers From Page 1B

fense. The Bobcat offense is led by running back Cameron Dischler who McGuire called a stud. "He's their homerun hitter. They want him to get the ball quite a bit," McGuire pointed out.

Another dangerous Bobcat runner is speedster Gavin Perry-Koci who can go the distance on any carry. McGuire expressed concern about Bobcat freshman Mason Manning who looked good in the Orangefield scrimmages running the football.

The Orangefield offensive line is young but is not to be taken lightly. McGuire stated, "They're always going to be physical, and they're always going to be coached will."

Stopping the somewhat unique Slot-T used by Orangefield will be the key for the Cardinals' defense. "When you play the Slot-T a lot of teams try to do stuff they're not normally accustomed to doing. If you just play your base defense and play your basic rules you're usually fine, but you've got to match the physicality and you've got to make sure that you don't get caught up looking in the backfield. You've got to take care of your responsibility," McGuire emphasized.

The defense used by Orangefield is a 3-4 similar to that at Bridge City. The Bobcat defense like their offense is well coached, and the players are where they are supposed to be and doing their job.

McGuire watched the scrimmage between Orangefield and Silsbee, and the Bobcats held the explosive Tiger offense to fourteen points. McGuire observed, "They do a great job over there at Orangefield. The kids always play hard and they're coached well, and so it's always going to be a challenge."

Bridge City will be striving to get the victory over Orangefield. McGuire teaches to the Cardinals there are five ways they can get on the football field to help the team win any game.

The first way is playing hard every play in practice and in a game. Number two is the knowledge of your assignment as a player. If you do not know what you are to do the coach cannot put you on the field.

The third is a true fundamental for Coach McGuire are you tough. "Football is a tough game, you've got to be physical, you've got to be tough, mentally tough and physically tough," McGuire preaches.

The fourth key is are you a great teammate by encouraging each other. McGuire stipulated, "The

last thing is your God given ability. Do you make plays when you're out there. If you're doing those five things that we evaluate every kid in our program on we're going to be fine."

Friday's game for the Cardinals maybe non-district but it carries a lot of significance for Bridge City as the Bayou Bowl. The winner gets to take possession of the Buzzie Gunn Trophy which Orangefield has held for the last few years.

This is only the second Bayou Bowl for Coach McGuire but he already knows the impact a Cardinal win over Orangefield will have on the football program at Bridge City. "These kids grow up together, and it means something to everybody. Coach Smalley and I talked about it last year, and he said our communities expect us to play so let's play. We're going to get after it. I think the Bayou Bowl has been over there for a few years, so hopefully we can bring it back to Bridge City," McGuire concluded.

The Bayou Bowl will be Friday night at 7:30 between the Bridge City Cardinals and the Orangefield Bobcats. The game will be at Orangefield's F. L. McClain Stadium.

## Bobcats to defend the Bayou Bowl

This is Week One of the Texas high school football season. Two local teams kick off the year with a great rivalry game between the Orangefield Bobcats and the Bridge City Cardinals.

Orangefield completed its last week of preparation before the start of the season with a scrimmage against the Silsbee Tigers. The Bobcats had a tough battle going against the Tigers who come into the new season ranked in the top ten of a higher classification than Orangefield.

Coach Josh Smalley said the Bobcats played well during the scrimmage with Silsbee. "I was happy with the intensity, happy with how physical we got after it," Smalley responded.

Running back Cameron Dischler broke a couple of long runs for Orangefield in the scrimmage. Gavin Perry-Koci ran the ball hard for the Bobcats. The passing game clicked several times for the Bobcats with quarterback Brayden Parker throwing the ball and split end Morgan Sampson catching it to show some versatility to the predominantly running attack of the Orangefield Slot-T Offense.

Senior tight end Koen

Maddox was a leader in the very young Bobcat offensive line blocking extremely well. Smalley analyzed, "Up front I think our guys improved from the LCM scrimmage to the Silsbee scrimmage. Obviously, we're not exactly where we'd like to be up there. They're still learning, but I did see some improvement so that was good."

The Bobcats' defense faced a really big challenge in Silsbee's Dre'lon Miller who did catch some passes but none of them were deep take it to the house type plays. "As far

as the overall scrimmage, I was happy with our effort," Smalley stated.

Going into Week One Orangefield is still a work in progress. Smalley evaluated, "Our special teams need a lot of work, we need to get better at punting, and be more consistent at extra points and field goals. We've still got some spots in the offensive line that we've got to shore up. Outside defenders did a better job of getting off blocks and coming downhill to make tackles, but we're still lost in space sometimes as far as finding receivers."

The Bobcats open the regular season with their neighbors the Cardinals. The two teams were district opponents the last two seasons until Orangefield had its classification lowered this year by the University Interscholastic League.

Bridge City operates its offense out of the Spread. The Cardinals like to throw the ball a lot using three receivers on one side and one wide out to the other while shifting sometimes to dual receivers on both sides of the ball.

The Cardinals do run the ball on occasions. Coach Smalley pointed out they actually had some designed runs for

their sophomore quarterback Hutch Bearden in the Bridge City scrimmage with Woodville. "They look like they're getting him a little more involved in the offense. You can see a lot of greatness in him when you see him play. He throws the ball well, he's got good feet, he's going to be a really good football player as he gets more and more reps and more exposure in varsity situations," Smalley observed.

Bearden does have some good receivers to throw the ball. Gavin Bodin makes a lot of catches so is somewhat the Cardinals'

OC FOOTBALL Page 4B

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# Start of football still exciting to me

**KAZ'S KORNER**  
**Joe Kazmar**  
**For The Record**

I've been following high school football for a newspaper since my days of wearing a crew cut at McNeese State in Lake Charles. And that's a LONG time ago.

But the start of another season is as exciting to me as it was back in 1960 when I was working weekends at the Lake Charles American Press, mainly taking results of the many high school games and writing a couple of paragraphs about each one.

I can even remember my first week of covering high school football for the Orange Leader as my "real" job.

The first game was on a Thursday night at the Stark High Stadium covering the St. Mary's Hornets. I don't remember who won or who came to town to play the Hornets, but I do remember the weather was very hot and George Barrow was the head coach.

The next day I went less than a mile to watch the West Orange Chiefs play at their old field on Western Avenue, because their new field on Newton Ave. wasn't quite ready.

I also remember their star receiver named Barry Schahn broke his arm and was out for the season, Jackie Stine was the Chiefs' quarterback and that Bob Frank (who is now my neighbor) was the head coach.

The third school I was assigned to follow was the Little Cypress Bears which played on what is now the junior high school stadium and Bill Hoffman was the head coach.

Our three-man sports staff worked really hard writing features on the team we were following. Each week a player was highlighted, with up to the minute statistics and district standings. It was a lot of work, but you don't see much of that anymore.

A week before the high



Joe Kazmar

school football season began, our Orange Leader sports staff would host a party for all of the

area coaching staffs, with local merchants contributing chicken, links, soft drinks and even beer from the Beaumont distributors. The bash usually was held at Sussex Manor around the swimming pool.

There always were about around 30 coaches attending, even from Vinton, Buna, Kirbyville, Newton and Burkeville, all of which we covered.

The favorite part of my job was writing Kaz's Korner, which was "born" Sept. 12, 1966, and making my football predictions of most Southeast Texas high schools and colleges plus the National Football games which still is Kaz's Fearless Forecast.

I kept track of each week's results which over the years averaged between 82%-85%--a pretty fair winning percentage.

I happened to look at what the competition thinks about the local district races and singled out Sapphire Cervantes and Ashly Elam of Channel 12, whose show aired Friday night.

Perhaps Sapphire might be able to blame The Kingfish for some of her weird choices and Ashly must be related to actor Jack Elam who would always play the "bad guy" in Western movies.

Although this Dynamic Duo would half-heartedly admit that the West Orange-Stark Mustangs and the Newton Eagles were the most consistent winners year in and year out in the Southeast Texas area, they both agreed that Silsbee was going to unseat the 'Stangs in District 9-4A this season, which would break a string of district championships too long to

count. If one were to research the annals of state champions in football since 1986, they would discover there were eight state champions from Southeast Texas since then—four for West Orange-Stark (1986-1987, 2015 and 2016) and four for the Newton Eagles (1998, 2005, 2017 and 2018).

And that's why I still get excited at this time every year!!!

### KWICKIES...

I'm glad NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell balked at the six-game, no-fine suspension given Cleveland quarterback Deshaun Watson by Federal Judge Robinson and split the difference on the number of games (11) he will have to sit out without any paychecks. Goodell wanted Watson suspended for the entire 2022 season, but the NFLPA finally agreed to the 11-game suspension. This should make the Browns' fans wait at least another year for the Super Bowl championship they're sure Watson will produce.

I hope the Houston Texans don't get too excited about being 2-0 so far this preseason. I watched more of that game Friday night than I usually do and what I didn't see much of was something called offense. The Texans had less than 300 yards of total offense and if Davis Mills really is their starting quarterback in two weeks, we're going to be in for another 4-13 season, or worse!!

Another winner in last week's exhibition schedule was the Baltimore Ravens' 24-17 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. It marked the 22nd straight preseason win for the Ravens, which extends their record streak.

Good receiver/lousy hitting Martin Maldonado will be catching for the Houston Astros in 2023 after playing in his 90th game this season on Sunday. The two-year extension he signed in 2021 con-

tained a \$4.5 million option that would vest if Maldonado played 90 games in 2022.

The New York Yankees are lucky they had such a huge lead over second-place Tampa Bay because their record is 10-21 over the last few weeks. They did lose the distinction of having the best record in the American League, as the Astros took over last week and stood at 78-45 going into last night's game against Minnesota.

Patrick Cantlay won the BMW Championship for the second straight year as the field for the battle for the prestigious FedEx Cup was narrowed down to 30 players for this week's final round. Cantlay won by one shot over Scott Stallings with a two-under par 69 Sunday.

And while on the subject, the golfing world lost a Mr. Nice Guy when Tom Weiskopf died Saturday, losing his two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. I remember watching Weiskopf and Jack Nicklaus playing together during the practice round of the Houston Open many years ago.

### JUST BETWEEN US...

The Houston Astros did something last week that's never happened this season—they didn't win the seven-game road trip to Chicago and Atlanta for the first time in 10 road trips. The team had to scramble by winning games three and four against the White Sox but then lost two of three to the defending world champion Atlanta Braves last weekend. One thing that made Manager Dusty Baker happy was they won the final game of the road trip 5-4 Sunday which he believes is very important to start the home stand that began last night against the Minnesota Twins and features turncoat defector Carlos Correa.



## Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast

### ★ WEST ORANGE-STARK over NEDERLAND

I missed this pick last year when I didn't figure in the monsoon that canceled the game in the second half with the Mustangs slightly behind on the scoreboard. This is always a tough game for WO-S, but I'm picking the Mustangs for two reasons: 1. Their rock-ribbed defense 2. Their homefield advantage. 'Nuff said!!

### ★ LITTLE CYPRESS-MAURICEVILLE over HARDIN-JEFFERSON—

The Battlin' Bears had a better season than predicted in 2021 while the Hawks didn't live up to expectations. Tomorrow in Beaumont the Bears are expected to be strong while H-J still has a long way to go.

### ★ ORANGFIELD over BRIDGE CITY—

Dropping down to Class 3A won't help the Bobcats in this cross-county rivalry for the Buzzie Gunn Trophy, but they are bringing back several players from their 7-4 team last year and should ride to a narrow victory in this home opener.

### ★ VIDOR over SILSBEE—

The Pirates look really strong again this year after posting an 8-2 record winning the district championship in 2021. But don't count out Silsbee, which has been picked by Channel 12 Sports to win District 9-4A and break the Mustangs' mile-long streak.

### ★ DEWEYVILLE over MOUNT ENTERPRISE—

This gritty bunch of Pirates are bound and determined to better their 5-5 record of last season. They are expected to be led again on offense by the Berry Brothers—River at quarterback and Nathan at running back.

### ★ OTHER AREA HIGH SCHOOL GAMES

Beaumont United over Brazoswood, Beaumont West Brook over Houston Lamar, Port Arthur Memorials over Port Neches-Groves, Lumberton over Hamshire-Fannett, Jasper over Kinkaid, Huffman over Spring, Newton over Anahuac, Kountze over Hull-Daisetta, Warren over Hardin, Woodville over Franklin, Corrigan-Camden over Buna, Kirbyville over Trinity, East Chambers over Beaumont Kelly,

KAZ'S FEARLESS FORECAST PAGE 5B



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## OC football season openers From Page 1B

possession receiver. Jerris Brown has very good speed and is the big play pass catcher for Bridge City including a touchdown last year against Orangefield. Sophomore Case McGuire should have some passes thrown to him.

Other Cardinals that will catch passes are letterman Braylen Collins and Cale Breaux who tore his ACL last year but has recovered to do a good job at wide receiver. Smalley added, "They've got receivers and skill all over the place. Running back wise they've got a kid named Caden Welch that runs for them and Rayburn Hebert has taken some snaps for the Cardinals on offense."

Bridge City's offense moves the ball behind a good line led by senior Matt Livingston. New Offensive Coordinator Jason Aubry has only been with the Cardinals since the summer, but Smalley indicated there is evidence the Cardinals are improving week-by-week and getting more comfortable with their offense under Aubry's direction.

Last season Bridge City ran an even front on defense while this year the Cardinals have gone to an odd front similar to Orangefield's 3-4 look. Coach Cody McGuire and assistant coach Shea Landry have taken an active role in coordinating the Cardinals' defense.

First thing Smalley noticed on film of the Cardinals is their intensity on defense. The Cardinals run and get after opposing ball carriers. "It's eleven hats to the football. They play a physical, aggressive style of defense," Smalley described.

Standouts on the Bridge City defense start with senior linebacker Mason Pruitt who was one of the team's leading tacklers last season.

All-state last year at outside linebacker was JS Bearden. He has been recovering from an injury, but if Bearden suits up he will cause problems for the Bobcat offense according to Smalley.

Ayden Sanders an inside linebacker has played well in the videos Smalley has watched of the Bridge City scrimmages. Safety Rayburn Hebert is all over the field making tackles for the Cardinals.

Anchoring the Bridge City defensive line is noseguard Nicholas LeJeune. Former Bobcat Kayden Kibodeaux can cause problems for the Orangefield offense from his position in the d-line. Smalley attested, "They've got a lot of good players defensively. What makes them really good and a threat to us is the intensity they play with and the physical style they play. They don't mind blitzing. They'll come after you through the A-gap as many times as they need to. They played Vidor which runs the same Slot-T as we do really well for a half."

Friday night is another edition of the Bayou Bowl between Orangefield and Bridge City. The Buzzie Gunn Trophy will be awarded to the winning team. The Bobcats won last year 23-14, but the Cardinals have won nine of fifteen games played between the two schools since the trophy was created in 2001.

Season openers are always important to get the season off to a good start but this game has even more significance. "Both communities take a lot of pride who wins this game.

Whoever goes out there and plays the best on Friday night is the one that's going to walk away the winner, and then you've got nine more games still left on your schedule to play. Win or lose there's still a season after this game. Is it important? Yes! So, that's why we want to win it, not necessarily because of who we're playing but because we are playing a football game and we want to win," Smalley concluded.

The Orangefield Bobcats play the Bridge City Cardinals at F. L. McClain Stadium in Orangefield on Friday. The kickoff will be at 7:30 PM.

### LCM Bears have high expectations for new season

The expectations are high for the start of the football season at Little Cypress-Mauriceville. The Bears are the defending co-district champions, and they are getting a new football field to play on this year.

The installation of the artificial turf at Battlin' Bear Stadium is still in progress but the season does kick off on Thursday for Little Cypress-Mauriceville. Coach Eric Peevey is excited about the start of a new season for his Bears.

A final preparation for the Bears was a scrimmage or maybe more correctly said scrimmages with Port Neches-Groves. The weather including lightning caused the scrimmage to be stretched out over two days on

Thursday and Friday of last week.

Before the interruption of the scrimmage on Thursday LCM got twenty plays in. Quarterback Dean Reynolds looked very good. Reynolds passed the ball well and the Bears scored quickly.

The LCM defense played strong especially in the defensive line. "Port Neches' offensive line was huge, but we stood stout and did well. We had some guys really come out like Jarves Riley and Jose Molina up front. I thought Luke McDow our mike linebacker played really well on defense," Peevey assessed.

Peevey agreed to play three quarters when the scrimmage resumed on Friday. "I thought we played great for the Indians to give us their best shot. We did a really good job with the offensive line having come a long ways. Brady Wright at center has done a really good job, and I felt some of our younger players in the lineup have done a good job. It was a great scrimmage. We got exactly what we needed out of it against a bigger school, and I feel like it got us ready for this week," Peevey recapped.

There were no injuries from the scrimmages with Port Neches-Groves. Peevey was waiting earlier this week for the MRI on DJ Roberts' knee which was injured in the first scrimmage against Orangefield. Roberts is an experienced two-way player who will be missed by the Bears if he is unable to play this season.

Because there were no

freshmen nor junior varsity scrimmages Peevey and his coaches got to toss a lot of younger Bears into the mix against Port Neches-Groves. Peevey added, "We've got our eyes on a lot of guys just to check with our depth."

The Bears' opponent for Week One are the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks which have a new head coach and have installed a different offense. Zach Bass has replaced Dwayne Dubois who retired and switched from the Slot-T to the Spread.

The change means there is not a whole lot of film footage concerning what the Hawks do on offense. Peevey had only a video of twenty plays from a scrimmage for Hardin-Jefferson against Livingston and a basic scrimmage film versus Tarkington to study with his coaches in preparation for the Bears' game against the Hawks on Thursday.

Peevey summarized, "They basically run the same offense we do. Spread with H-Back formation, but personnel wise in a scrimmage they're all wearing white jerseys, so we really don't know where they're putting their kids just kind of what they look like."

Six starters are returning for Hardin-Jefferson on offense. Luke McCullough rushed for 482 yards with four touchdowns last season. Ends C. J. Demas and Logan Hodges are both back and should be key receivers in the Hawks' new Spread Offense.

Caleb Cheshire returns as the quarterback for Hardin-Jefferson. Sophomore Carter Mouton could also see some plays

under center for the Hawks when they have the football.

On defense Hardin-Jefferson lines up with a three-man front. "We just don't know if it's based more out of a 50 front or if it's based more out of a true 3-4 or more of a Bear front," Peevey advised.

In the Hawks' first scrimmage against Tarkington which runs the Slot-T they basically played it like a Bear front. The next week against Livingston which throws the ball frequently Hardin-Jefferson slid into a slightly different look.

Peevey stated, "We have an idea of how they're going to lineup and what they're going to do, but we really don't have a hundred percent film of what they're going to do, so we've pretty much just got to worry about ourselves this week, and our kids practice against all fronts. We've got to be ready to make changes on the fly as the game goes on."

For this opening game of the season for Little Cypress-Mauriceville the Bears have got to do their assigned jobs while also blocking and tackling well. "In a game like this where a lot of people are picking you to win that goes out the window. We've really just got to focus on us and what we do and knowing that we don't have a hundred percent tendencies on them. We've got to be prepared for everything, and this is a great Week One game to go into because throughout the weeks of practice we've had we've shown the kids everything so now they've got to recall that, get ready to go, and be ready to make adjustments

during the game," Peevey evaluated.

Although winning the first game of the season is always the goal Peevey has his expectations on reaching the playoffs again by being successful in the district. Peevey stated, "We've got to continue to get better in running our base offense. We've still got to see what players can do, and we're going to pin multiple players in different game time situations that we haven't seen yet this year because we're worried about district and we're worried about the future."

The first game of the season usually sets the tone for the rest of the year for most teams. Coach Peevey is hoping for a victory in the season opener for the Bears. "It's always good to start the season with a victory. Even though it's not at home this is still considered a home game for us. It's very important for us to set the tone for the entire year with this first game. What type of team we're going to be, who we're going to be, and play the entire four quarters. This is the first full four quarters of the season we're going to play. I need to see our kids play an entire four quarters just so we can continue to get in game shape and see how they react and how they play for an entire four quarters," Peevey concluded.

The game date and location have been changed because of the renovations being done at Battlin' Bear Stadium. The game has been moved to Memorial Stadium in Beaumont which Coach Peevey is

OC FOOTBALL Page 5B

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**ORANGE COUNTY**

# Wingshooters need practice to maximize performance in the field

## OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

Tell the truth, you know that at the end of last hunting season you cleaned up your favorite bird gun, stored it away and haven't touched it since.

Don't be embarrassed because you are not alone, as a matter of fact you are in the great majority of hunters. Year in and year out all too many hunters never practice near enough to keep their shooting skills sharp, as a matter most never practice. Every year you get a big push of hunters shooting rifles before deer season, sighting in their guns and praying that nothing has happened to their scopes over the off season.



Chuck Uzzle

The deer hunters usually are the only ones who even shoot their weapons before the season

starts. Duck, dove, and goose hunters almost never break out their shotguns and head for the range in the off season. That being said it's easy to understand why so many hunters get the "red face" on the opening day as they miss bird after bird.

The off season for many bird hunters is spent working dogs and doing various chores on their respective leases, few ever bother to work on their shooting skills. A trip to the shooting range every now and again will make a



Local hunters hoping for full straps need to put time in on the range to help ensure success.

RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

huge difference in how well you shoot simply because of repetition. A round skeet, trap or especially sporting clays will help knock the off season rust from your form and help you get back into the groove. Most shooting ranges offer some instruction and various courses for all types of shooting sports, a shotgun shooters course can help you identify flaws in your form and make you a much more consistent shooter.

With all that pre-season shooting talk being said let's focus on the upcoming hunting season because it's almost here. The central and north zone dove seasons open up on the 1st of September while hunters south of IH-10 will have to wait until September 14th. Waterfowl hunters will get their fix

starting on the 10th as early Teal season gets underway. The prospects for local hunters appear to be good, several big flights of teal have already entered our area and the next full moon should bring plenty more. The local marshes are starting to show some grass, hopefully this trend will continue and the weatherman will bring us some cool weather in September.

Next month's season openers are much anticipated by many Texas hunters, the opening days are almost sacred to them if you can comprehend that. Make the most of the time in the field by practicing before you head out and by being safe every time you pick up your firearm, the combination of these two will ensure you an enjoyable time.

## OC football

From Page 1B

very familiar with from his days when he coached at Beaumont West Brook. The game between the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Bears and the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks will kick off at 7:00 PM on Thursday now, not on Friday as originally scheduled.

### Mustangs open with Nederland

The 2022 season marks the beginning of a new era in West Orange-Stark football. Hiawatha Hickman will have his first game as the head coach of the Mustangs this Friday night.

Hickman led the Mustangs through their final preparations for the upcoming season with a scrimmage last week against the Vidor Pirates. This has been a longtime rivalry for the two teams which have been district opponents in their past histories.

West Orange-Stark played very well with the Mustang defense actually shutting out the normally potent running game of Vidor. "If you had told me that before that scrimmage I wouldn't have thought that would have happened. I think our kids rose to the occasion. We challenged them that we knew Vidor would be a physical, run right at you team that will hit you in the mouth, and I think our kids responded to the challenge defensively especially," Hickman praised.

The Mustangs were led on defense by Andrew Wilson at defensive tackle who played well causing a couple Pirate fumbles. Linebacker Jalen Gilmore played well inside making numerous tackles for West Orange-Stark.

In the secondary Jailen Brown and Jamaal Shaw came up and tackled the Vidor runners when called upon to do so. Hickman reiterated, "Defensively, I was really, really pleased with the effort that our kids gave. There's still a lot to fix. It was a good evaluation tool, but the effort was where it needs to be. It looked like a Mustang defense."

Offensively Hickman was pleased with the way the Mustangs ran and threw the football. The battle for the starting quarterback position is still very tight with the first game of the season just days away.

Junior Keyshawn Robinson who was the Mustang starter at the end of last season is facing a real challenge from sophomore Marcus Turner to be

the quarterback. Both played well in the scrimmage with Vidor.

The offensive line played well and the receivers did a good job. Dakarion Judge caught a touchdown pass and ran the ball as well. "Overall I thought the offense played well again. We held some things back, and we hope to spring them this week on Nederland," Hickman evaluated. The Nederland Bulldogs are the opening game opponent for West Orange-Stark. The Bulldogs run out of the Spread Offense much like the Mustangs. They try to spread opposing defenses out in order to run the football. Nederland like West Orange-Stark has a duel between two Bulldogs to determine who will be the starting quarterback when the season starts against the Mustangs. The Bulldogs used both of the underclassmen in their two scrimmages.

There are some very good receivers to throw the ball to which ever of the Bulldogs becomes the starting quarterback. Reeve Barrow caught 20 passes last year for 270 yards and three touchdowns. Noah Kendrick made 21 receptions covering 258 yards resulting in two scores. Coach Hickman had video from the Nederland scrimmages. The numbers were different from the roster provided to West Orange-Stark for this week's game program making it difficult to lock in on which Bulldogs were playing in many of the other positions.

The Bulldogs have an outstanding blocker in the offensive line with Jack Bieber who stands 6-4 and weighs 330 pounds. Hickman pointed out, "Like always they've got a big offensive line. They're going to run the ball and take some shots using play action passes. Coach Monte Barrow has always been a big screen guy and likes to run the screen and then take some deep shots with the pass."

Being in Class 5A the Bulldogs have much fewer two-way players than the Mustangs. This should be an advantage for Nederland over the course of the 48 minutes for the game. Hickman reminded that Barrow and his staff do a good job coaching the Bulldogs.

Defensively the Bulldogs base out of an even front kind of a 4-2-5 or a 4-3 look. Nederland plays zone in the secondary. The Nederland front four on defense are good with two returners from last season. Landon Caywood at defensive end is 225

pounds and very quick registering five sacks this past year. Brady Corcoran is the other letterman in the front line. A top sophomore is Taveon Chatman in the defensive line.

Gage Driskell returns at linebacker. He had over a hundred tackles for the Bulldogs and is always around the football.

The secondary is a little bit different according to Hickman from what Nederland showed last year. Bulldogs that are back in the secondary include Travis Roman at cornerback and junior Nolan White who is a ball-hawk grabbing four interceptions last season.

Last year Nederland missed the playoffs for the first time since 2016. Hickman believes the Bulldogs are still a very tough team. "They'll present some challenges for us on defense. They're a 5A solid defense and it'll be a good challenge for us," Hickman said.

Winning is the tradition at West Orange-Stark, and the Mustangs like every team want to get that first win in the season opener. It has been said that to win a football game a team must be solid in all three phases of the game offense, defense, and kicking.

Special teams have improved in the weeks since the Mustangs have been preparing for the new season. Linebacker Jalen Gilmore has shown that he can kick extra points effectively. Hickman is not sure if Gilmore can boot any 40 to 50 yard field goals but believes Jalen can make the kick after touchdowns.

Gilmore will also be helping the Mustangs with their punting. Hickman advised they have changed the punting formation to more of a rugby style punting to try to pin opponents deep. Hickman elaborated, "He's been a good find for us at kicker, and I think he'll be handling the kickoffs as well for us."

West Orange-Stark with the winningest record in Texas high school football will look to improve on that mark again this season. Since the establishment of the high school in the late 1970s the Mustangs have won over eighty percent of their games.

The Mustangs have achieved that excellent record not by playing an easy non-district schedule every year, but instead by traditionally playing strong higher classification teams like the Nederland Bulldogs in the non-district. "We believe in the philosophy iron sharpens iron. You've got to play good people to be good. On the flip side of

that sometimes it's not by choice, not everybody wants to play West Orange-Stark in the non-district so we take what we can get. Those 5A schools we feel like we can compete with them and get us ready for what we're going to see down the road in the playoffs," Hickman concluded.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs open their season at home in Dan R. Hooks Stadium. The game with the Nederland Bulldogs begins at 7:30 on Friday night.

## Kaz's Fearless Forecast

From Page 1B

Evadale over Tarkington, Richland Springs over High Island, Galveston O'Connell over Chester, Sabine Pass over Frassati Catholic, North Shore over The Woodlands, Cleveland over Splendora, Barbers Hill over Magnolia West, Coldspring over Liberty, Crosby over C.E. King, New Waverly over Shepherd.

### ★ COLLEGE FOOTBALL THIS WEEK

Alabama Sate over Howard, Western Kentucky over Austin Peay, North Carolina over Florida A&M, Florida State over Duquesne, UNLV over Idaho State, Stephen F. Austin over Jacksonville State, Morehead State over Mercer.

## Orange County Drainage District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Orange County Drainage District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on September 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the OCDD Administration Building, 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas, 77630. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	Russell Covington	Hal LaPray
	James Scales	Larry Ancelot, Jr.
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	Brent Peveto	

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.13410/\$100	\$0.13410/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$135,086	\$148,089
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$27,017	\$29,618
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$108,069	\$118,471
Tax on average residence homestead	\$144.92	\$158.87
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$13.95
and percentage of increase (+/-)		9.63%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of the Orange County Drainage District proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of funding the costs associated with multiple planned drainage improvement projects.

### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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 NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

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### BOAT MOTOR

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### BURIAL PLOT

**2 Cemetery Plots** at Hillcrest Cemetery, Garden of the Good Shepherd. \$1000 off the pair. Please call 409-670-6674.

**Cemetery Plot** for sale at Hillcrest Gardens in Bridge City. Please call 409-313-4404.

### PETS

**Small white 13 wk** toy male poodle, CKC registered, Vet approved, shots and groomed, housebroken. \$1200 in BC 409-504-8879

**Free Male Kitten**, 8 weeks old, adorable. Needs a good home, cannot keep. Please call 409-920-5656

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 Vin#1XKYD9X2LJ290681  
 20 KENWORTH  
 OWEID S34,469.15  
 Vin#NO VIN/NO LP  
 22 BAGS OF PELLETS  
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### GARAGE SALE

**Rummage Sale** this Fri., Aug. 26th from 10 am to 3 pm and then leftover sale on Mon., Aug. 29th from 10 am to 3 pm at Harmon Used Cars located at 320 Henrietta in Orange, 77630.

**Garage sale** Wednesday only, 8/24 from 8 am (no earlier) to 2 pm at 5946 Bessie Heights (off 1442). Lots of stuff, a lot of antique dishes (milk glass), toys, clothes etc.

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### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **CRAIG WILLIAM BOUDREAU X**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 27, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19208**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **CRYSTAL K. YOCHAM**. 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: **Barron Law Office**  
 P.O. Box 279  
 Orange, TX  
 77631-0279

Dated the 27th day of July, 2022.

*George B. Barron*  
 George B. Barron  
 Attorney for Administratrix  
 State Bar No.: 01817500  
 P.O. Box 279  
 Orange, TX  
 77631-0279  
 Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

### THEME: SCIENCE

#### ACROSS

1. Out of harm's way
5. Street, in Paris
8. \*Citric or sulfuric one
12. \*Female gamete
13. Comedian Carvey
14. Excessively fat
15. Trunk extension
16. Wading bird
17. Savory jelly
18. \*Distance per unit of time
20. Prep a salad
21. Omit or suppress
22. Hair goo
23. Preterm infant, colloquially
26. Free from slavery
30. Rapid escape
31. Lady slipper, e.g.
34. Ruptured
35. Goodbye, in Puerto Vallarta
37. Long, long time
38. Greek Bs
39. "Cheers" regular
40. Sheep's coat
42. Over the top, in text messages
43. Tangle up
45. a.k.a. sea hawk
47. U.N. workers' grp.

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  - WEDDINGS
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48. Xbox user, e.g.
50. Zero, on a court
52. \*Vertical distance
55. Pavarotti, e.g.
56. \*Radical, in math
57. Smidgen
59. \*Chemically inactive
60. With competence
61. Countess' husband
62. \*Ammonia or baking soda, e.g.
63. \_\_\_ canto
64. Proofreader's mark

- #### DOWN
1. Source of light, in Spanish
  2. Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
  3. Cloud of particles
  4. Bald Eagle to Americans, e.g.
  5. Fanatical
  6. Rallying cry to the workers of the world
  7. \_\_\_-peasy
  8. \* \_\_\_ zero, lowest possible temperature
  9. Large edible mushrooms
  10. Osiris' wife

11. Yuletide mo.
13. Chancier
14. Like Cheerios
19. Mixtures
22. Cowboy's shoe prod
23. \*Two-dimensional shape
24. \*Radioactive noble gas
25. Middle Eastern V.I.P.s
26. Collier's office

27. \*Energy-converting device
28. Very angry
29. Easily irritated
32. \*Basic unit of life
33. Tiller's tool
36. \*Plant- and animal-eater
38. Continually annoyed
40. Back, to a pen-dulum
41. State of harmony

44. Heads-up
46. Prigs
48. Shakespeare's theater
49. \*Model of Earth
50. Diva Horne
51. Change for a five
52. Saudi, e.g.
53. "Doggone it!"
54. Hibernia
55. \*Tebibyte abbreviation
58. Deli order

CROSSWORD										
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