

The Penny Record

Vol. 62 No. 34

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Week of Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Rainy day glorious day for hospital

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The weather outside was frightful but the occasion, so delightful.

While rain drizzled, icy winds blew, and trucks noisily roared past on Interstate 10, a group of about 100 invited guests huddled inside a tent and celebrated the groundbreaking for the Gisela Houseman Medical Campus Monday afternoon. "What a glorious day this is. Forget the weather," said Houseman, the Orange land baron who donated 25 acres for a healthcare development near the intersection of I-10 and Highway 62.

"Today is the culmination of over five years of work to bring healthcare back to the citizens of Orange County," she said, "and what we have here today is the perfect example of everyone working together."

U.S. Congressmen Dr. Brian Babin and Randy Weber joined Texas State Senator Robert Nichols and Bishop

David Toups of the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont in congratulating Orange County on the first phase of the planned medical campus, a two-story, 55,000 square foot building that will host a 24/7 emergency hospital and key outpatient diagnostic services.

Completion of the project is expected to take 15 months.

Orange Mayor Larry Spears, Jr. and Orange County Judge John Gothia served as hosts for the event put on by Christus Southeast Texas Health System.

Dr. Tom Johnson, president of Lamar State College Orange, was there with Mandee Tucker, associate dean of nursing.

"This hospital means a tremendous amount to Lamar State College Orange. It will help us with our health professions, in particular our nursing school," Johnson said.

"So we are extremely excited."

GIESLA HOUSEMAN Page 3A



Dr. Marty Rutledge, left, joins U.S. Rep. Randy Weber, Gisela Houseman and U.S. Rep. Brian Babin for Monday's groundbreaking ceremony for the Gisela Houseman Medical Campus.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

★ Bridge City-Orangefield Rotarians welcome RYLA ★



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club invited RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) students they sponsored for a recent leadership conference to share their experiences with the club. Pictured are Brittini Briggs and Crissa Bonnin - RYLA camp volunteers, Shea Pietz, Cade Smith, Emma Briggs, MacKenzie Haley, Students and Eric Andrus Rotarian camp volunteer.

Split WOC vote names Hickman coach

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

A divided school board voted 4-2 Monday night to name defensive line coach Hiawatha Hickman the fourth head football coach in West Orange-Stark High School's 46-year history.

West Orange-Cove board members Tricia Stroud and Tommy Wilson voted against hiring the nominee put forward by Superintendent Dr. Rickie Harris. Board member Roderick Robertson was absent.

Board member Gina Simar made the motion to hire

Hickman and it was seconded by Ruth Hancock. Linda Platt-Bryant, board president, and Demetrius Hunter joined them in voting to hire the new coach.

About 50 people - half the standing-room-only crowd present at the start -- stayed to the end of the 3-1/2-hour meeting and most cheered the new coach after the vote was final.

"We don't have any choice. It's done. We've got to support him," said Larnell Thomas.

He and Orange Mayor Larry Spears, Jr. were among six WOS grads who spoke



Hiawatha Hickman

against the hiring process and/or its result during a 30-minute public comment session early in the meeting. Some of the speakers and

dozens in attendance made it clear their choice for the new coach was Toby Foreman, a WOS grad and former Mustang assistant who is now the head coach at Class 6A Killeen Shoemaker.

At about 7:30 p.m., the board members went behind closed doors for about two hours of executive session that included the coach vote and five other issues, according to the night's posted agenda.

One of the other items was working on the retirement paperwork of former head

WOC Page 3A

Orange council approves election dates

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The City of Orange will hold its municipal election on Saturday, May 7, as are other cities and school districts in the county are doing. The City Council approved the election being held that day during its meeting on Tuesday.

There will be early voting conducted for the election Monday, April 25, through Friday, April 29, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Two additional days of early voting

will be done Monday, May 2, through Tuesday, May 3, between the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00PM.

Early voting locations for the municipal election will be the Orange Public Library at 220 N. 5th Street in Orange, the Mauriceville Community Center located at 7441 Cohenour Road, the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor at 385 Claiborne, and the Orange County Airport located at 2640 South Highway 87. Citizens may vote early at any of those locations.

Election day, May 7, the polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Voters will cast their ballots at the location according to their Orange County Precinct Voting Box, the precinct can be found on their voter registration certificate.

There will be three positions on the ballot for seats on the City Council in Orange. Single Member District 2 currently held by Brad Childs, Single Member District 4 occupied by Mary McKenna, and At-Large Place 5 with Caroline Henni-

gan holding that seat at present.

If any of the three elections warrant it a Run-Off Election will be held. The council approved Saturday, June 25, as the date of the Run-Off Election if necessary.

The City Council approved on final reading an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances pertaining to POD-type containers and Conex-type shipping containers. The new ordi-

ORANGE COUNCIL Page 2A

Orange's first Black mayor, Bellfield, remembered

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The night she was elected as Orange mayor in 1998, Essie Bellfield won by fewer than 100 votes. But she figured she deserved 100 percent of the ballots cast.

"I think everyone came (to vote) because of me," she said. "I'm female. And I'm Black."

"They came out to vote for me ... and they came out to vote against me. Everyone was a beneficiary." Bellfield passed away Sunday, Jan. 23 at age 89.

She was Orange's first and still only female mayor and she was the first African-American mayor in city history.

"I'm a double minority, but I don't think that way," she said that



Essie Bellfield

May 1998 night after she defeated future Mayor Brown Claybar with 51.56% of the vote. "I see all people as people. I don't see color or sex."

Bellfield's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 at Salem United Methodist Church, 402 W. John Ave.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, well-wishers should donate to their favorite charity in her name.

Though she's gone, no one who knew her will ever forget Bellfield. "She was my role model," said Rutha Clark, 80, who met Essie when she was 18 and chauffeured her around to club meetings across the South and, in recent years, to the store.

Bellfield was born May 6, 1932 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but grew up in Jennings, Louisiana, where her father was a lumberjack and her mother was housekeeper for owners of a rice mill.

Her family moved to Orange, where Bellfield's mother worked for some of the city's top families, including County Judge F.W. Hus-tymyre. Essie resided under those families' roofs and grew up among their children.

"Her mother's name was Ollie, but we called her 'Big Momma' and she worked at 'the big house,' said Clark.

"That's what we called the house. They had an upstairs apartment behind the big house."

Bellfield attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she stayed in the home of Willie Mae Benton, who spent time residing in both Orange and Baton Rouge and ultimately worked with Bellfield at Orange Memorial.

After getting her degree, Bellfield worked at the Galveston hospital before returning to Orange.

The future mayor headed up the housekeeping department for Orange Memorial Hospital for years.

The service to others exhibited by her mother and practiced in her hospital job was further exemplified by Bellfield's membership in a handful of women's service clubs and religious orders.

In her travels with those or civil rights organizations, or representing the city, Bellfield was always Orange's No. 1 salesperson.

"She was a person who was always interested in her city," said Clark, who was campaign treasurer for Bellfield's run for mayor.

ESSIE BELLFIELD Page 2A

Essie Bellfield remembered From Page 1

She loved her family. Bellfield outlived her youngest daughter, Colletta, who died at 64 in 2016. Magna, named after the Magna Carta, is 70.

"Essie loved her children and put them up on a pedestal," Benton said. "I have nothing but good things to say about her.

"You can write a magazine on Bellfield."

She outlived a husband, Wilford Collins.

"Even though she was married, she continued to use her name," said Richard Spector, a neighbor when he was a child who was her caretaker of late.

"She told me she liked

Bellfield and she wasn't going to change it."

Bellfield's winning election for mayor came a year after she had already been

She was also a clothes horse.

"One time she was on a trip to Japan and saw a fabric she liked," Spector recalled.

"Mayor Bellfield was always kind, loved her city and wanted what was best for the city," Oubre said.

named mayor. She was promoted from her City Council position as Mayor Pro-Tem following the death of Mayor James D. Gilliam.

In all, she served as Orange's mayor from 1997 through 2000. She served on city council before and after her years as mayor.

"The tailor delivered her new suit the next day.

"Essie got a swatch and sent it to New York and had a milliner there make a matching hat.

"She has closets full of suits and hats."

Clark says she and Bellfield "clashed a while, then

became friends who liked to clash," she said.

And they shared a family history in the Masonic Lodge, which kept them on the road a bit. Initially, they took turns driving.

"If she wasn't talking, she'd drive pretty good," Clark said. "But if she was talking, she'd forget she was driving."

Former Orange city manager Shawn Oubre worked with Bellfield from 2005 on.

"Mayor Bellfield was always kind, loved her city and wanted what was best for the city," Oubre said. "The things that I take away from her are her acts of kindness, her knowledge, and her love for others."

Free Diabetes Classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will be holding free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join us in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthy and much more to control your diabetes. The series will last for 5 classes on February 15, 22, March 1, 8, and 15 and will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. They will be held at the City of Orange Neighborhood Facilities Building at 303 N. 8th St, Orange, TX. To get the full educational benefit, you need to attend all 5 classes if possible. Call the Extension Office at 409-882-7010 to sign-up for this series.

Just Say You Saw It In 'The Record'

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Round The Clock Hometown News

Orange council sets election dates From Page 1

nance will allow one POD type structure per residence in certain zoned areas if there is damage to the primary structure in a declared disaster area. The ordinance prohibits all Conex shipping containers in areas zoned residential and some areas zoned commercial.

At the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission the council approved another ordinance regulating the installation of street lights in subdivisions.

The ordinance will change the requirement for street light locations to more than 400 feet between each of them.

Developers of the subdivisions will be responsible for installing the street lights, not the city. Properties served by the street lights will not have their valuation increased by one dollar per foot for tax purposes.

The regulation on fire hydrants installation was also approved following a recommendation by the Planning

and Zoning Commission. The new requirement is all areas of the subdivision are within 500 feet of a fire hydrant replacing the old standard that the hydrants were 750 feet apart.

Ashbritt was approved to work with the City of Orange for pre-storm disaster recovery services and Tetra Tech was approved for disaster recovery monitoring services. Traylor and Associates were approved as a grant writer/administrator to assist the city with its application for a Haz-

ard Mitigation Grant with the Texas Division of Emergency Management for Hurricane Harvey.

The meeting began with the recognition of the passing of Essie Bellfield who was the first Black mayor of Orange and the only female mayor of the city.

All of the council members had comments honoring Bellfield during the time for the City Council Report at the close of the meeting.

Hare gets labor endorsement for Commissioner Pct. 2

Staff Report For The Record

The Committee on Political Education (COPE) of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO has announced it will endorse Shawn Hare in the race for Commissioner of Orange County Precinct 2.

The Sabine Area Central Labor Council consists of more than 5,000 members in two dozen labor union locals which are affiliated with the AFL-CIO in eight counties in Southeast Texas.



Shawn Hare

Jeff Darby, President of the council said that Hare is the only candidate in this particular race that the organization is endorsing.

"We believe Mr. Hare will honorably serve the citizens of his Precinct and all of Orange County, and encourage our members to vote for him," Darby said.

Hare, a fifth-generation Orange resident and local business owner, said that he is grateful for the labor union's endorsement and acknowledges the responsibility that comes with it.

"I come from a long line of union workers and local farmers. Receiving this endorsement signals that the Sabine Area Central Labor Council is confident in me and my determination to represent the workers and businesses of Orange County Precinct 2," he said.

Sue Little, delegate for the Sabine Area CLC and Orange County resident, said that fully supports Hare's endorsement.

"I am Happy to support and endorse Shawn Hare for Orange County Commissioner PCT 2. Shawn loves his community and will work hard for the people," she said.

Little went on to say that she is happy to support someone who wants to make changes and help Orange County move forward. "It's time for Orange County to shine," she said.

Shawn Hare, a fifth-generation Orange resident comes from a long line of community-oriented farmers and ranchers. Hare served under

Senator Arlen Specter (R) in Washington D.C. in 1994-1995. Hare is an active member of the Press Club of Southeast Texas, the Texas

Cattleman's Association, and the American Angus Association. He is the owner of BAR HE Ranches and Shawn Hare Events and Design.



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ORANGE COUNTY

Gisela Houseman Medical Campus From Page 1

cited. It's a good day for Orange."

Area cities were represented by their mayors and city council members.

It was announced on New Year's Eve that Christus is the healthcare partner for the project and will lease a majority of the first floor.

The remaining space will be leased to independent physicians, including Dr. Marty Rutledge of Orange Medical Surgical Associates, the driving force behind the project.

He landed NexCore, a Denver-based national healthcare real estate developer who has committed to building and managing the site.

"Over five years ago, Dr. Rutledge and I started talk-

ing about getting a new hospital for Orange County," Houseman said.

"When I made the offer of the land to the City of Orange, the mayor and city

District, the doctors, the lawyers, the healthcare providers and potential developers.

"Dr. Rutledge continued his efforts to bring premiere

right healthcare provider. We not only hit a home run with Christus Southeast Texas committing to the project, we hit a grand slam."

Orange Memorial Hospital on Strickland Drive opened in the 1950s and was later purchased and remodeled by Baptist Hospital. But Baptist, citing financial concerns, incrementally reduced its services in Orange, finally closing its emergency room in January, 2017.

Since then, Orange County has been the largest county in Texas without a hospital.

"A little over 10 years ago, before the hospital ever closed, Dr. Rutledge called me," Sen. Nichols said. "He said, 'I'm very concerned about this county and this

hospital, because I think they're going to close this hospital."

"And we did a lot, but not enough, to keep this hospital going, and they finally closed it."

"We looked at a lot of different things to do, but it was the community that came together and the opportuni-

ty that Gisela Houseman gave by donating the land that gave the people the opportunity to pull together at all corners of the county."

Christus Southeast Texas' participation in the project brings along CMS certification, meaning emergency services will be available for Medicare and Medicaid.

It was announced on New Year's Eve that Christus is the healthcare partner for the project and will lease a majority of the first floor.

council immediately committed \$1 million to build a roadway to the proposed site. At that point, we were off and running.

"The next few years were absolutely consumed with meetings with the city, the Orange County Drainage

doctors and specialists on board, because we knew everything had to be the right fit for Orange County and when NexCore came in and offered to build a hospital, we knew that we had hit a home run.

"The final piece was the

WOC names Hickman as new Mustang coach From Page 1



School district board members and Superintendent Dr. Rickie Harris, third from left, pose with Hiawatha Hickman, center, after he was named West Orange-Stark athletic director and head football coach at Monday night's meeting.

coach and athletic director Cornel Thompson.

Thompson followed Dan Hooks as Mustangs head coach and, like Hooks, guided the team to two state championships. The pair of coaches made WOS the school with the top winning percentage of all Texas high school football programs.

Thompson announced his retirement in December. Hickman, a native of Silsbee, was defensive coordinator for Silsbee High where he

was an assistant for 10 years before joining Thompson's staff.

Thompson will stay on the WOC payroll through June 30. Hickman will be acting head coach and AD until July 1.

Spears and Terry Johnson, a WOS grad now living in Schertz, Texas, were among 16 members of a committee asked to review resumes and applications submitted by coaches seeking the job. The committee met only once.

"I was honored when Dr. Harris asked me to be on that board, but the things that took place by certain individuals in there were very unprofessional and immature," said Spears, the first to speak on the coach search and hire.

"Normally I don't say nothing. This is my first time ever speaking out about something I'm not happy with."

Spears was just getting warmed up. He said, "I can't keep going out there and continuing to fight the good fight and telling people it's OK to live in Orange. People in positions have to be held accountable just like teachers and students."

Johnson was not happy that the district forced the committee to consider at least three applicants that had never been a head coach at the 4A level, which was one of the requirements listed on ads posted by the district.

"That's either ineptness or that's foul play," Johnson said. "As a committee member there was extreme not

transparency shown in this committee."

Hickman has never been a head coach at the 4A level.

A lack of openness from district administrators was remarked upon by Erick Guillory, who asked board members to do more.

"This committee was such a major secret. Why is everything such a secret now?" Guillory asked.

"I'm asking you (school board) to be more involved. We're asking you to know what's going on so we can know what's going on."

Tiffany Bell echoed Guillory's thoughts on the school board and doubled down:

"We elect people to speak for us," she said. "I feel like some of you are continually failing us. If you think you can sit up here and do what you want to do, go find another school. Don't run again."

Bell and Bianca Garrett supported the hiring of Foreman.

"We are asking you to reconsider his application," Garrett said.



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From The Creaux's Nest

STARTING WEEK WITH MY BOAT FULL

I had great intentions for this week's column but my boat filled up before I knew it. Between doctors visits and falling way behind, I'm playing catch up. Besides that, I just heard my friend of over 60 years **Essie** just died. I need to do something on that in her honor. She deserves it. I received a gift from **Pat Pate** recently. She sent me **Eddie Lovelace's** book. He now goes by the name **Eddie Love**. He and **Christina Ledbetter** wrote the book, 'The Saint, The Sinners and Eddie.' I read it over the weekend and intended to write my take on it but I can't find the time this week. **Pat** called me Monday morning from Tyler and I told her some of what I know about the characters in the book. They are not depicted by their real names and some of the details are off but in all the story is in the ballpark. Two people, **Lloyd Gilbeaux** who was the bartender at the **Jack Tar Hotel** in the '60 and '70, and **D.J. Ace Amodeo**, who was in the know on everything in Orange, both dead now, could have really added some good stuff. ****I need to get on down the road. I'll have more to say about it later. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

REMEMBERING MAYOR ESSIE BELLFIELD CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER

I got word Friday that **Essie Bellfield**, age 88, my friend for over 60 years, was giving up the fight. She had recently overcome **COVID** and after a hospital stay, she was sent to **The Meadows Senior Center**. She expressed that she was tired and had done all the fighting to live she wanted to. She gave up all medication and requested to be put on Hospice. "I'm ready to go home," she declared. She had sent me word that she would see me on the other side. **Essie** and I had been friends since our 20's. She called me her white brother. Through the years we always kept up with each other. She was a single mom with two small girls I would babysit with when she had chores to run. At the time she owned a confectionery on Second St. and Cherry Ave. Born in Pittsburgh, she was raised in Jennings, LA. **Essie** never met a stranger and made friends over the years with state and federal government officials. She never failed to call on them if need be. She was a **Civil Rights** pioneer. In March 1965, when **LBJ** was president, she made the **Civil Rights** march over the **Edmund Pettis Bridge** with **Velma Jeter**, **Fred Early**, **James Rogers** and **Zay Roberts**, and future congressman **John Lewis**. **Lewis** and others were beaten, blooded and tear gassed. The March lasted less than a half-mile. Two weeks later, after a federal judge overturned an order by **Alabama Gov. George Wallace** that declared the march illegal, **Lewis** and **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, accompanied by 3,000 marchers, finished the 54-mile march from **Selma** to the state capital in **Montgomery**. **Essie** made many bus trips to civil rights events. Over the years, she and **John Lewis** remained friends. As a high school graduate **Essie** was refused admission to **L.S.U.** and had to attend a **Black** college. That was her civil rights inspiration. She was elected to the **Orange, Texas City Council** and in 1997 she was elected as the **first woman and first Black mayor** of the city she loved. That elected seat opened doors to many friendships which included **Texas Gov. Ann Richards**, **U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee**. **Essie Bellfield** rode buses and marched all over the country with the **NAACP**. She was truly a faithful in the **Civil Rights** era of the 1950's and 1960's. **Richard Spector**, a devoted friend, has been looking after **Essie** the last couple of years but has been a friend for many years. **Essie Bellfield** died Sunday, January 23, at the age of 89. It is said when an elder person dies, it's like a library burning down. Nothing could be truer with the passing of **Essie**, her home is like a museum. I will really miss her. May she rest in peace. Services to be announced.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 15 Years Ago-2007

There is so much sickness going around. A lot of sore throats, etc., but worst of all is the stomach virus, causing cramps, vomiting and loose bowels. At some time or other most everyone here at the Nest has been affected, including the **Creaux**. Today our **Girl Friday**, **Debbie**, is on her second bout. **Ace reporter**, **Margaret Toal**, is grounded and had to cancel Monday interviews and covering commissioner's court. **Roy** used the sick excuse not to pen a **Life's Highway** column. **Mark** and wife, **Sharon**, have been knocking at death's door from winter crud. **Harrington**, the other pharmacist, and the doctors are loaded with patients. I'm ready for a real hard freeze to kill all the germs and for sunshine and spring to get here. This up and down weather, hot today, cold and rain tomorrow, along with the air we breathe here in 'cancer alley,' is taking its toll. We're operating with a skeleton crew. **** It's the **Bears and Colts** in the **Super Bowl**, Feb. 4.****Gas prices have come down. **T. Bone Pickens** said he miscalculated back in August.**** Things are looking great for the future of **Orange County** with lots of major projects coming. The **Stark property** on Hwy. 87, from Hwy. 105 to the airport has recently been sold. A **big housing project**, **restaurant** and maybe a **Lowe's** on the way. **Cowboy's Coach Bill Parcels** leaving the **Cowboys** is not really a big surprise. **** Our friend **Shaun Davis**, who is now putting in time

in **Austin** working for **State Rep. Allen Ritter**, has a thousand **Charlie Wilson** stories. **Shaun** was once an employee and longtime friend of the Congressman. **Shaun** and wife **Tammy**, an account executive for **The Record**, tells us **Charlie** is having a ball traveling from **East Texas** to **Hollywood** and even to **Morocco** advising on the film, "**Charlie Wilson's War**." The film is expected to open next Christmas and will star **Tom Hanks** and **Julia Roberts**. It depicts **Charlie's** campaign to arm the **Afghan Mujhadeen** for their battle against **Soviet** occupiers in the 1980s. **Charlie** is counseling **Tom Hanks** on how to play **Charlie Wilson**. The **East Texan** has told friends that **Hanks** is the perfect actor to portray him and has the **Charlie Wilson** swagger. **Con. Wilson** has many friends in **Orange County** and was the best friend **Orange Countians** could have in **Washington** up to his retirement in 1996. Film director **Mike Nichols** says, "We're aiming for an Academy Award."****We were saddened to learn about the death of **George Clary**, 50, on January 17. He was too young to be parting this life. **George** came from a great family. Parents, **Laura** and **Bob**, real salt of the earth people.**** Attorney **Sharon Bearden**, former district attorney and judge, along with the late **Louis Dugas**, has been one of the most successful criminal attorneys in the area. Since leaving the D.A.'s office he has been in private practice flying solo. That will change this week when the firm becomes **Bearden and Bearden Law Firm**. **Sharon** is being joined by his son, **Jim Sharon** and the father-son combo brings a new dimension to the firm. **Jim Sharon** has vast experience in the civil law field and as a general practitioner in all aspects of the law.**** Congrats to **Judge Carl Thibodeaux**, the recipient of the 'Monk Award.' It's a big honor and well deserving. He also has been picked unanimously by **Jefferson, Hardin and Orange** counties to serve as **Regional Incident Commander**, a position created by the governor. No doubt he'll do a good job.****Best wishes also to **Commissioner John Dubose**, new president of **Southeast Texas Regional Planning**. He will be in **Washington** on Feb. 2 to meet with our senators, congressman and committee members. ****Over the years, **Orange County** has had some colorful elected officials. Present County Commissioner **Owen Burton**, a native who has a vast knowledge of present and former citizens, is quite a storyteller. **Owen** tells the story of **Joe Heinen** buying the county mosquito plane after **Junior Bruce** was forced to get rid of it. According to **Owen**, **Joe** sat on a five-gallon bucket to fly it and **Amos Roy** was the only person around with nerve enough to fly with him and sit on the other bucket.**** **President Bush's** approval poll numbers are now at 34 percent.

45 Years Ago-1977

Bridge City Chamber holds its annual banquet. **Roy Dunn** served as **Master of Ceremonies**, former **Sen. D. Roy Harrington**, who replaced **Harry Hubbard** as guest speaker, spoke on the need for better communication between labor and management. **Dr. Mark Messer** was welcomed in as new president. **Bobby Smitherman** chosen as **Bridge City 'Citizen of the Year'**.****The new **Orange Noon Lion's** club is chartered. **Robert Nelson** is it's first president. Other officers are **Victor Campbell**, **W.E. Pritchett**, **Oscar Dominguez** and **Lennart Carlson**.****Former sheriff **Chester Holt** is hospitalized after suffering a massive heart attack. He is on his way to recovery and was praised as one of the state's best sheriffs. When he left office there were no major unsolved crimes in **Orange County**.******Mike and Sis Keogh** and the **H.D. Pates** attended the **Union Station Presidential Inauguration Ball**. **President Jimmy Carter**, **Vice-president Walter Mondale** and their wives visited the ball. The **Keogh's** and **Pates** were part of the 973 **Texas** delegation to the inauguration.******Rocky Holt** came down from **Arkansas**, where he is stationed with the **Air Force**, to visit his grandfather **Chester**, who is in the hospital.****Construction starts again on **Lynwood Sanders'** office after being destroyed by fire.******Mildred Alborn** is in **Orange Memorial** intensive care unit. Her condition is not very good.******Waggoner Carr**, former **Texas Attorney General**, writes a book on the **Sharpstown scandal**. **Carr** has a lot of good friends in **Orange County**, including **W.T. Oliver**. **Carr** was Speaker of the House when **Oliver** served in the House. **** **Don Campbell** is appointed 'Go-Texan' ambassador for 1977 **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo**. His **Orange County** committee includes **Don Kachtik**, **Elaine Meyers** and **Wayne Frederick**. **Singer Mac Davis** will perform during **Orange County Night**.

50 Years Ago-1972

Jim Sharon Bearden, first assistant district attorney since 1967, announced Jan. 26 that he will seek the office of district attorney in the **Democratic Primary**. In a statement he said, "After having served in the county attorney's office as first assistant under **Roy Wingate**, **Feagin Windham** and **Louis Dugas, Jr.**, I wish to announce my candidacy for the office." **Bearden** is a lifelong resident of Orange, a 1957 graduate from **Lutcher Stark High School**, **Lamar University** with a BS degree in government in 1962 and a law degree from **Baylor** in 1965. He is married to the former **Carolyn Mease**. They have one child, **Tyler**, who is two months old. **Bearden** will announce his platform at a later date.****Special thanks to **Corky** and **Don Harmon**, **The Comproph Corp**, **Tom Herline**, **Frank Manchac** and the **Shreveport Journal** for making our **Super Bowl VI** trip possible.******Mr. Edgar Brown, Jr.** is a new subscriber to the **Opportunity Valley News**. He sent a nice complimentary note with his request for subscription. Other noted subscribers lately are **Mrs. Eunice Beckinstien**, **Edgar Brown III**, **Sen. John Tower**, **Sen. Lloyd Benson**, **Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes**, **J.K. Conn**, **Alvin Keown**, just to mention a few.******Attorney Jim Graves** is voted on the board of directors at **Orange Bank**. (Editor's note: What became of that 6 ft. 7in. guy anyway?)****Orange boxers winning over **Lake Charles** and **Menchaca Boxing Club** of **Port Arthur** were **Delano**, **Norris Leger**, **Keble Free**, **Oscar Dominguez**, **Mark Hogden** and **Roy Hogden**.

75 Years Ago-1947

This week in 1947, **Ike Khoury**, the darling of Orange's wrestling fans, in a major championship match, defeated the 'Machete Chop Merchant' **Gorila Macias**, in the best two out of three falls. (Editor's note: Later in life I got to know this wonderful man. He was such a pleasure to be around. He spoke with a slight accent. I don't know what nationality he was. He was county treasurer **Christy Khoury's** grandfather.****Prices at the **Navy Store**, 2007 N. 5th. St., Cigarettes, \$1.59 a carton, any brand. **Admiral coffee**, 43 cents pound.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to everyone who played a part in bringing back to **Orange County** a full hospital health care center. That will provide around the clock emergency room, diagnostics, a full lab and a women's center. For years **Dr. Marty Rutledge** has been the driving force for a complete health facility in Orange County. Many others worked on the project, none any more than **County Judge John Gothia**, but the key to success was **Gisela Houseman**, widow of **Tony Houseman**, who would be proud of **Gisela** and the success of this important health project. **Mrs. Housemen** donated the land that will house the new **Gisela Houseman Medical Campus**, located at IH10 and State Highway 62. **Christus Southeast Texas** will manage the new health campus. Thanks to everyone who played a part, even a small part, it took everyone's effort to make it happen. (Editor's note: I wonder about the big vacant **Baptist Hospital** building on Strickland. I still believe it would be a great V.A. facility for Southeast Texas veterans care.)****Best wishes and congrats to new **West Orange Stark** head football coach **Hiawatha Hickman**. He brings to the job many years of experience. He has spent the last six years as a defensive assistant under coach **Cornell Thompson**, plus the previous 10 years as assistant defensive coordinator in Silsbee. I once heard former **WOS** coach **Dan Hooks** say about hiring an assistant, "If he's good enough for **Cornel**, he's good enough for me." Well about **Coach Hickman**, "If he's good enough for **Cornell**, that's good enough."****We are glad to announce that **Robert's Meat Market** and **Deli** is now open. The restaurant will be ready to open in April. Meanwhile, **Robert** will be making two trips to Houston for checkups. **Robert** is a good guy and we wish him good results.****Please welcome **Angela Schram** and her business, **Hearing Resolutions Center**, to our family of advertisers. She opened on 16th Street a few weeks ago. Be sure to look for her ad this week.****A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Jan. 26: Marilyn Roccaforte** celebrates number 96 today. Much younger, longtime friend, **Nancy Vincent**, also celebrates as does **Mike Faulk**, **Ron Huebel** and **Frank Richardson**.******Jan. 27: Happy Birthday to Tommy Wolford**, **Tori Lummus**, **Mick Weidner** and **Kimberly Barclay**.******Jan. 28: Today** is a special day for **Leland Clay Gros**, he becomes a teenager. Thirteen years have gone by quickly. **Leland** is **Garrett's** son, **Karen's** grandson and **Phyl** and **Roy's** great-grandson. Also celebrating is **Mary Stanton**, a friend who made great memories. We haven't seen her since **Don** passed away. **Judge David Dunn** is a year older today. He seems to have disappeared. **Sidney Longron** turns 89 today. Happy Birthday also to **Judge Bill Dixon**, **Justin Gearhart**, **Colin Briggs**, **Chase Rendall** and **William Carpenter**.******Jan. 29: Wyman Ogden** celebrates along with **Bobby's** better half, pretty **Devra Cormier**. Also **Caitlyn Eubanks**, **Traci Anderson** and **Ricky Miller**.******Jan. 30: A** great friend, lovely lady and wonderful person, **Rosalie Clark** celebrates today. She's the longtime bride of **Pat Clark**. We wish her many more healthy years. Also celebrating are **Jason Myers**, **Brenda Dubose** and **Amy Campbell**.******Jan. 31: Skipper's** youngest, **Scott Free** celebrates as does **Regina Gaspard** and twins **Lucas Adams**. His twin celebrates the next day. **Feb. 1: Mason Adams**, **Theresa VanMeter**, **Gera Benoit**, **Garrett Kerger**, **Jake Williams**, **Brittany Leonard** and **Lisa Monceaux**.****We were happy to hear from **Wade Gillet**, who pointed out two mistakes in our 50 Years Ago portion of this column. It seems **Tody Smith** was called **Toby Smith**. **Wade** also informed us **Tody** was raised in Orange and only attended school in Beaumont. Thanks **Wade** for keeping us straight.****We want to send our sincere thoughts and prayers to one of our own, **Penny Leleux** and husband **Gerald**. **Gerald's** brother **Bill** passed away on Tuesday. He had lived with them for 19 years.****One thing I haven't heard mentioned is that **Essie Bellfield** was famous for giving out \$2 bills. Every new baby she saw got one, also hundreds of people have an **Essie \$2** bill. I have two in my wallet.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tee-Man Comeaux was driving down old Highway 90. Bout da time he get to Esterwood, a policeman pull him over for speeding. He axe Comeaux for his drivers license. Comeaux fumble around and finally got it out. All dis time da policeman him, was looking him over. Den he say, "Mr. Comeaux, I can't help but notice your eyes, dey are bloodshot dem. Have you been drinking, hanh?"

Comeaux him, he bolt up and gets really indignant and says, "Let me axe you something Mr. policeman, I couldn't help but notice me, dat your eyes are glazed, have you been eating doughnuts?"

C'EST TOUT A FOOTBALL WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

A great weekend of NFL football, four games, three upsets. The last team to have possession of the ball won the game. What made all the games so special for me is that I had no favorites playing. Without **Dallas** and **New Orleans**, I just lay back and enjoyed the talent and excitement. One thing that the four games proved is that the older, great quarterbacks will soon be history, replaced by youngsters in their mid-20's. The epic game of all time was the AFC title game between the **K.C. Chiefs** and the **Buffalo Bills**. The lead changed hands three times, with 25 points scored in the last 13 seconds and won in overtime by **Patrick Mahomes** and the **Chiefs** with a 49-yard touchdown. It was the fourth straight AFC title win for **Mahomes**, 42-36. **Bills** quarterback **Josh Allen** was also very impressive. This weekend we saw 44-year-old **Tom Brady** and the defending **Super Bowl** champions **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** bite the dust 30-27 to the **LA Rams**. Meanwhile, **Aaron Rogers** and the **Green Bay Packers** were knocked out of the playoffs 13-10 by the **49ers**. Talk is that **Rogers** and **Brady** may have played their last game. I don't believe that, but I do believe that neither will again play in a **Super Bowl**. Next Sundays playoff games features **AFC Bengals** at **Chiefs**, 2 p.m. on **CBS**. The NFC championship game, **49ers** at **Rams**, 5:30 on **FOX**. I don't care who wins but I admit I'm hooked and can't get enough of **Mahomes'** great talent and look forward to watching him do his magic for two more games so I'm pulling for the **Chiefs** to be in the **Super Bowl** All that being said, the real unsung heroes are the great receivers who make stars out of quarterbacks. They run five miles a game and may get to make only a few great catches thrown their way. The fans say, "What a great throw." **What about the catch** that made the quarterback a star.

****Special thanks you for your loyalty. Read us cover to cover and check our website daily. See you on the next turnaround. Take care and God bless.

Vote-by-mail rejections are testing integrity of voting law

ALEXA URA
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Barely started down the path toward the first elections conducted under voting restrictions enacted last year by Republican lawmakers, Texas voters and local election officials have found themselves enveloped in a fog of errors, delays and miscommunications as they navigate new rules for casting votes by mail.

Only a small slice of the state's electorate is allowed to cast absentee ballots, and the trickle of requests for mail-in ballots that began in early January is now swelling into the usual pre-election flood.

But hundreds of applications are being rejected — in many cases because voters appear to not know the new rules. Local election workers themselves are still deciphering the procedures, and say they've been hampered by a paucity of help and information from the Texas secretary of state's office.

Meanwhile, the state is scrambling to provide training under the crush of advising counties on implementing a multitude of election changes.

Signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in September, the voting law known as Senate Bill 1 contained an array of new restrictions on the state's voting process and narrowed local control of elections.

Among its many provisions — and the earliest to be tested — are new rules for voting by mail. Absentee voters are now required to include a state identification number like a driver's license number or a partial Social Security number on their applications for a mail-in ballot. Those numbers must match information in a voter's record or their application will be rejected.

Regular mail-in voters must submit new applications each year, and when counties began accepting them this year, the rejection rates were staggering. Hundreds of applications were deficient, in some cases missing

an ID number. In other cases, voters had listed a number that didn't appear to be on file with the local elections office.

The secretary of state's office has been working to backfill its records to include both driver's license numbers and Social Security numbers for most voters, but various Texas counties — including some of the state's largest — did not know they were supposed to check the state's database along with their own when trying to validate an application.

Election officials across the state said they either weren't aware the driver's license numbers had been uploaded to the state database, known by election administrators as TEAM, or weren't aware that the new numbers would not sync with their local databases. To them, it appeared the numbers were missing from a voter's record.

In a statement this week, the governor's office put the blame for issues with the new rules on county officials "erroneously interpreting the law" instead of asking the state for assistance.

"The bottom line is that counties should not be rejecting valid mail ballot applications," said Nan Tolson, a spokesperson for the governor. "The Secretary of State's office will continue to work with counties across the state to combat the misinformation being spread by county election officials and ensure that all valid mail ballot applications are processed."

But beyond the confusion over how to match numbers, early figures released by some of the state's largest counties showed that a bigger problem was applications coming in with no ID numbers on them at all.

County officials said they were also hamstrung in how much education they could provide voters about the new requirements. In SB 1, Republican lawmakers made it a state jail felony for an election official to "solicit the submission" of an application to vote by mail if the voter did not request it — a

broad prohibition election officials said has made them fearful that once unremarkable voter outreach efforts could now be construed as criminal.

SB 1 also made it a state jail felony for local election officials to proactively send applications to voters who did not request them, even if voters automatically qualify to vote by mail because of age. Political parties can still send out unsolicited applications on their own dime.

Texas election officials have had a relatively short window to implement SB 1's raft of requirements. The legislation was passed in the fall, instead of the spring's regular legislative session; the state and counties were also redrawing political boundaries that election officials then needed to incorporate into their systems.

Interpreting the law and providing guidance on how to enforce it falls to the secretary of state, the state's chief elections officer, whose office in the last few months has been responsible for updating hundreds of election forms, revising various handbooks for election workers, creating checklists and advisories to address various changes to the ballot counting process, and providing technical and legal support to both party and county officials ahead of the primaries.

The compressed timeline has specifically compounded the challenges around the new ID requirements.

The state was responsible for the creation of a new online portal mail-in voters can use to track and fix issues with their applications and ballots. But when the new online system launched mid-January, counties had not yet received training from the state on how to use it.

The office had also created a new form for county officials to use to inform voters of defective applications with instructions on how to fix errors, including through the new tracker on the state's website.

Deaths & Memorials

Bella Marie Lubbering, 91, Orange

Bella Marie Lubbering, 91, of Orange, passed away on January 22, 2022, in Port Arthur.

Funeral services will be 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 26, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Officiating will be Deacon Steve. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

A rosary will be held prior to the service starting at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Winnie, Texas, on September 22, 1930, she was the daughter of Pierre LaPoint and Emilie (Cormier) LaPoint. Bella was one of the friendly faces that greeted you at Walmart in Bridge City for over 20 years. She enjoyed reading and was a faithful member



Bella Lubbering

of St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City. Bella made a lasting impact on many lives and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Pierre and Emilie LaPoint; husband, Robert (Bob) Lubbering; and 8 of her siblings.

She is survived by her sister, Gladys "Tahnie" Broussard of Bridge City; niece, Beth Hanks and husband Don; great nephew, John Hathaway; great niece and God daughter, Carrie Richard and husband Shane; great nephew, Cory Turlington and wife Crystal; as well as numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Shane Richard, John Hathaway, Jacob Aylor, Austin Hathaway, Don Hanks, and Marvin Barulich.

Martha Jo Wingate Martin, 69, Orange

Martha Jo Wingate Martin, 69, of Orange, passed away on January 13, 2022, in her home after her 13 year battle with cancer.

Memorial services will be 11:00am, Saturday, January 29, 2022 at the Cowboy Church of Orange County. Officiating will be Pastor Dale Lee.

Born in Orange, Texas, on July 8, 1952, she was the daughter of David Bill Wingate and Marjorie Helen Wells. She was considered Super Woman by many. She was incredibly caring and loving, but at the same time unbelievable strong and protective. She worked as a director of quality control at Inteplast Group for several years, her co-workers called her Mama Martha. Being such a great cook, she loved cooking big meals for her family along with southern tea, that was her favorite. She lived in Talbott, Tennessee for 14 years and Edna, Texas for 16 years.

She loved all animals but especially cows and horses, she volunteered for the 4-H in Jackson County, Texas. She was always the most stylish in the room. Her grandkids that she adored called her Nonna. She was very loved and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.



Martha Martin

She is preceded in death by her parents, David Wingate and Marjorie Helen Wells; and her brother-in-law, Robert Zavada.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Martin; her children, Claudine Nynette Doyle of Starks, Thurman "Porky" Doyle, Jr. and wife Kimberly of Fred, and Tony Joe Doyle and wife Kristi of Edna; her eleven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren including one on the way; and her sister, Darline Zavada of Orange, Molly Mayfield and husband Terry of Florida, Dottie Ann Robinson and husband Van of Orange, and Patsy Perry and husband Michael J of Dallas.

VOTE FOR CHRIS SOWELL
COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

**LEADERSHIP
HONESTY
INTEGRITY**

Former Orange County Republican Chairman, David Covey, explained in his endorsement, "Chris is the candidate we know is a solid Conservative Republican and has the experience and leadership to serve Precinct 2. We don't have to wonder what he will do when elected because he has a record of serving the community already."

Chris Sowell is also a lifelong resident of Precinct 2 and the President of the Mauriceville Heritage Association Board. Whether it is volunteering on the MHA Executive Board, serving meals to senior citizens, or working tirelessly on hurricane recovery, Chris has the experience and record to serve Precinct 2 as our next Republican County Commissioner.

**Early Voting Feb 14-25th
or Vote March 1, 2022**

Political Advertisement Paid for by Chris Sowell Campaign

First Saturday at First Baptist BC

First Saturday at First Baptist in Bridge City will be giving away diapers and wipes to people with babies or those expecting on Saturday, Feb 5 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Look for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd. Also, we want to pray for you and your baby.

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Orange County Church Directory

Suffering Under an All-Powerful Love

Abigail Dodds
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org

As I sat atop my lofted dorm-room bed and turned the page from Romans 8 to Romans 9 in my small, tattered Bible, I went from a chapter familiar enough to be easily skimmed to a chapter that I had no recollection of ever reading before.

Both chapters emphasized the sovereignty of God — his sovereign love and his sovereign power. At 19 years old, I had not thought much about God's sovereignty. I believed what I'd been taught as a child — that God was in control, that he knew every hair on my head, that he had the whole world in his hands. But I also believed that salvation was a choice I had made — that God chose me because he knew I'd someday choose him.

When I entered college, however, the issue became inescapable. My college campus swirled with discussions about whether God elected people to salvation and whether he could know the future at all. Even my theology class was getting ready to host a debate between an Open Theist (someone who believes God doesn't fully know the future until it happens) and a Calvinist (someone who believes God knows and ordains the future, including who will believe and be saved).

It was only by chance that I had been reading Romans 8–9 the night before this debate. Or was it?

God in Control

That night, my beliefs began to change. I read of God's

relationship with his chosen people:

Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:29–30)

Could it possibly be true that this foreknowing, predestining God didn't know the future? It could not.

Or was it conceivable that the God who said, "It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy," was merely looking ahead in the future to see who would and wouldn't choose him (Romans 9:16)? It was not. And furthermore, God declared that he was working all things together for the good of those he'd called (Romans 8:28). Could God work all things together for good if all things were not genuinely under his control?

My 19-year-old heart began to swell with joy and relief. This God was not back on his heels, trying to figure out what to do, nor was he waiting for me to figure him out. He was bringing his good plans to pass. He called me, he saved me, and he would keep me in every circumstance.

Does God's Goodness Miscarry?

My understanding of God's sovereign grace grew as my knowledge of God's word grew. And I loved his sovereignty — in theory at least. I loved that my God was so powerful and big and

in charge. When I saw others go through difficult circumstances, I sympathized with them, but I also had a settled sense that God had a plan born from his love. It wasn't until I was up against my own difficult circumstance that the thought flashed in my mind: perhaps God was working something not good in my life.

As a young wife and mom, I never considered the possibility of miscarrying. So when it happened, I was shocked that my own womb could become a place of death. All I knew of God flooded my mind, almost as a reproach.

As I faced the loss of our little one, I wasn't tempted to doubt his power but his love. I knew he could have kept our baby alive, so why didn't he? Yet Romans 8 was there to keep me grounded, reminding me that not even death could separate us from his love. Paul's words were an anchor:

I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39)

As the years rolled on, God's sovereignty over all things was the buoy that kept me afloat in every season. I was learning to trust God's love as he carried us through job loss, babies received and one lost, moves, and new ministry. Yet it was the birth of our youngest son that brought the deepest challenge to my trust in God's power and plans.

With our son's arrival, we

faced uncertainty regarding his future, a future that, in the best case, would involve disability and health difficulties. During the chronic trials that ensued, including our son's sleep disorder, seizures, and eating difficulties that involved years of almost daily vomit, a different sort of temptation occasionally crept in — the thought that God might love us, but he maybe couldn't help us. Night after night after night, year after year after year, we would pray for relief. But relief didn't come.

Different Sort of Power

I was looking for God's power to come in the form of physical relief from our trials. I was tired and worn. I wanted to be free of the difficulties of nighttime G-tube feedings and regular vomit clean-up. If God answered those prayers, I reasoned, that would be a sign of his power. Yet which is more difficult: to change someone's circumstances from hard to easy, or to change the person in the circumstances from floundering to flourishing despite it all?

Would God have shown more of his sovereign power if he had put down all his enemies once and for all, preventing the cross and the resurrection? Or is God's power more greatly displayed through his planning from before time to crush his Son, defeat sin, and then raise his Son from the dead, so that he could make his enemies his friends? Any tyrant with a large army can squelch his enemies, but only our gracious and powerful God turns enemies into sons through the folly of the cross

and the empty tomb.

As Paul testifies, God often manifests his power through our weaknesses. It was Paul's thorn in the flesh that occasioned God's sovereign power resting upon him:

I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9–10)

In a world where almost everyone seems obsessed with power — whether they have it, how they can get it — God's word shows us the deeper power: the power of his Spirit.

God's power is ours when we entrust ourselves to him amid weakness. We need not demand power from the world. We need not seek position or platform. The sovereign power of God rests on his people, not to remove their thorns, but to teach them of a stronger power — the power of God that contents us with trials, so long as we have Christ's Spirit.

No Trite Slogan

All those years ago as a college sophomore, Romans 8 and 9 showed me the sovereign love and sovereign power of God.

In Romans 9, I met a God to whom back talk was not permitted:

You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its

molder, "Why have you made me like this?" (Romans 9:19–20)

In Romans 8, that same fearfully powerful God was also utterly committed to my good in all things, so much so, that his Spirit intercedes for me as he works on my behalf (Romans 8:26–28).

Some believe that Romans 8:28 is a trite way to comfort the afflicted — that it shuts up the grief of the hurting, as though telling a suffering saint that God is working their hardship for good makes a mockery of the pain.

As we are imperfect people, we should consider that possibility. But for me, no truth is as precious.

Knowing that God is working all things for my good has been the dearest and deepest comfort, even, and especially, in the darkest of seasons. God is working all things for my good when our son is in the hospital (again), or when my husband is dealing with chronic pain (still), or when betrayal and slander touch my life or the lives of those I love. It's a reality that keeps my heart whole even as it's breaking, and my mind clear even in the fog of confusion.

He is good. He is strong. Not one thing happens to us apart from his perfect plan. God's sovereign love and power mean that we can trust him — now and forever.

Abigail Dodds (@abigail-dodds) is a wife, mother of five, and graduate of Bethlehem College & Seminary. She is author of Bread of Life: Savoring the All-Satisfying Goodness of Jesus through the Art of Bread Making.

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153 County Rd. 4145 • Deweyville • (409) 224-6484
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Pastor: Kelly Sharpton
Email: lks454@aol.com

In-person Sunday Worship & Children's Church 10:30 a.m.

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OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

Now for most people the thought of chasing fish in the months of January and February seems a little on the foreign side, even crazy at times. The cold water and dreary days don't really motivate the casual angler like bright skies and springtime conditions when everybody wants get on the water. Well the calendar has now become our friend and the good days are outnumbering the bad.

If you are thinking about tackling trout or redbfish any time soon you need to be properly armed with an assortment of proven fish producing lures. Along with the lures it's paramount that you also dress appropriately and take all the necessary precautions to stay safe in the unpredictable spring time conditions.

Here's a list of some of the proven big fish producing plugs that no late winter or early spring fisherman should leave the dock without.

Perhaps the most famous plug along the gulf coast for early spring fishing is the B and L Corky, this plug is responsible for the state record trout on rod and reel caught by Jim Wallace which tipped the scales at 13 pounds and 11 ounces. The legend of the Corky has spread with each huge trout that falls for this super subtle and ultra life-like bait.

The standard Corky is made of rubber and has a wire body inside that connects the two treble hooks. The density of the rubber gives the plug a slow sink rate that tantalizes saltwater

UZZLE OUTDOORS Page 4B

Three 3-point games, upsets in weekend playoffs

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

If the nation's cardiologists knew ahead of time how the four National Football League Divisional Playoff games would be played, they would have instructed all of their patients to watch the Disney Channel or something much less exciting than any of those four games.

Three of the four games were decided by field goals as time expired, and the other went into overtime on a Kansas City field goal after Buffalo went ahead 36-33 with a mere 13 seconds left in regulation time.

Using their 3 timeouts perfectly, quarterback Patrick Mahomes marched his team downfield and into field goal range, which was made to send the game into overtime.

The Las Vegas Boys are probably out buying new Mercedes or Jaguars today after watching three of the

four games turn out to be upsets. All that money bet on the favorites (Tennessee, Green Bay and Tampa Bay) turned out to be gravy for the sports books.

Only Kansas City was able to cover those 1½ points by which the Chiefs were favored. And those who picked the Chiefs to win are probably at their cardiologists today after their 42-36 overtime victory over the determined Buffalo Bills who kept coming back every time the Chiefs pulled ahead, except in the overtime period.

The exciting action began



Dallas Cowboys Idiot Owner Jerry Jones has been cleverly sidestepping the questions about Head Coach Mike McCarthy's future with the team. Although he has a winning record in his two years at the helm of America's Team, remember Jones has fired Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson during his reign as the franchise's head honcho.

Saturday afternoon in Nashville with a defensive battle between the Tennessee Titans and the surprising Cincinnati Bengals. Cincinnati got a pair of first period field goals from rookie kicker Evan McPherson and then added another in the second quarter to take a 9-6 lead at halftime.

Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow found several holes in the Titans' vaunted pass defense, connecting on 28 of 37 for 348 yards and a touchdown.

The score was tied 16-16 early in the final stanza and remained that way until

KAZSKORNER Page 2B

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

Weekly Fishing Reports compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

• SABINE LAKE

GOOD. 60 degrees. High winds and the cold fronts rolling through have muddied the lake clarity.

The North levy is protected from the weather and the rocks hold bait fish. Good numbers of speckled trout early morning and midday on Z-Man paddle tail in red shad. Bessie Heights marsh is holding limits of redbfish, limits of drum, with a few sheepshead and trout mixed in. Fish are biting shrimp under a popping cork in 2-4 feet on the flats, and 8-14 feet on ditches and points with the outgoing tide as the best time.

Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• BOLIVAR

GOOD. 62 degrees. The bolivar jetty is holding bull redbfish on the channel side biting on the bottom with crab, mullet, and live or dead shrimp. Beach side of Bolivar Jetty, past boat hole to the wreck holding good numbers of trout, slot redbfish and sheepshead biting under a popping cork with live shrimp.

Reported by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• TRINITY BAY

GOOD. 56 degrees. Burnett, Scott, San Jacinto Bays and Moses Lake are protected from high winds in the forecast. Good catches of speckled trout with live shrimp.

Many are undersized, but there are keepers in some schools. Sheepshead are plentiful along with the occasional redbfish and black drum. Over in Clear Lake the speckled trout action is picking up, for those anglers throwing soft plastic lures. A few redbfish being caught with live shrimp, fished in the deeper water. This area is also protected from the winds.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

GULFCOAST FISH Page 2B

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Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

McPherson boomed a 52-yard field goal to advance the Bengals to the Conference Championships with a 16-13 victory. McPherson was asked what he told him team during the timeout before his kick. "We're going to the Conference Championship game," and then delivered his game-winner.

Burrow, the former LSU Heisman winner, was sacked nine times by Tennessee. The only other quarterback in NFL playoff history to be sacked numerous times and still win the game was Donovan McNabb of the Philadelphia Eagles, who was felled eight times.

In Saturday's nightcap the top-seeded Green Bay Packers were a six-point favorite over the last-seeded San Francisco 49ers, who had to beat the highly-favored Rams in Los Angeles on the final day of the regular season and did.

The Packers had everything going for them—home field advantage, near zero temperatures, a blowing snowstorm in the second half and perhaps the best quarterback in NFL history in Aaron Rodgers.

The 49ers on the other hand weren't used to playing in that winter weather and had a quarterback in Jimmy Garoppolo that the team was planning on getting rid of after the season ended. But every time Garoppolo started a game, the 49ers won. Even after he had minor surgery on the thumb of his passing hand and a banged-up right shoulder, he touched it out and played magnificently and won.

The same was true at Lambeau Field Saturday night as the 49ers harassed Rodgers to the point of him having the worst playoff performance of his career, although the Packers led 7-0 at halftime and it appeared

they were going to glide to another home victory.

But the 49ers brought a defense of their own, blocking a punt and running it five yards for a touchdown with less than five minutes left in regulation to tie the score at 10-10.

That same defense forced the Packers to successfully punt the ball away and then Garoppolo took over and moved his team downfield and veteran Robbie Gould kicked a 45-yard field goal as time expired to give the 49ers a 13-10 upset victory and once again eliminate Green Bay from the playoffs. The Packers defense gave up only six points while the special teams surrendered seven.

Sunday afternoon's game at Tampa Bay was very sloppily played between the Buccaneers and the LA Rams, who nearly let a 27-3 second-half lead get away as Tom Brady used his late-game magic to tie the score at 27-27 with 3:20 left.

However, the Bucs' defense had a mix-up and Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford threw a 44-yard pass to favorite receiver Cooper Kupp which set up Matt Gay's 45-yard field goal as time ran out giving the Rams the victory and home field advantage in Sunday's game against the 49ers.

That set up Sunday night's game at Arrowhead Stadium which promised to be a high-scoring affair between gunslingers Patrick Mahomes of the Chiefs and Buffalo's Josh Allen and proved to be everything it was hyped up to be. In my opinion these are the two best young quarterbacks to ever come along this quickly.

Each quarterback had a hand in four of their team's touchdowns with Allen throw-

ing for four and Mahomes throwing three and running for one.

It was the kind of game football fans will be talking about 50 years from now!!!

KWICKIES...

In Green Bay's 13-10 loss to the 49ers Saturday night, the Packers were able to score only three points in the final 3½ periods. That's got to be the fault of quarterback Aaron Rodgers—his worst performance in his playoff history—and a legacy-defining loss for the 38-year-old Green Bay veteran. The loss may have been prevented if running back A.J. Dillon didn't suffer a chest injury in the first quarter and never returned.

Dallas Cowboys Idiot Owner Jerry Jones has been cleverly side-stepping the questions about Head Coach Mike McCarthy's future with the team. Although he has a winning record in his two years at the helm of America's Team, remember Jones has fired Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson during his reign as the franchise's head honcho.

I can't believe Triple AAA baseball plans on using robot home plate umpires for the 2022 season at some of its franchises. Besides Astros affiliate Sugar Land, other teams planning on the use include the Albuquerque Isotopes, Charlotte Knights, El Paso Chihuahuas, Las Vegas Aviators, Oklahoma City Dodgers, Sacramento River Cats, Reno Aces, Sacramento River Cats, Salt Lake Bees, Round Rock Express and Tacoma Rainiers.

JUST BETWEEN US...

I'm glad that that the new head football and athletic director's job at West Orange-Stark High school has been whittled down to a single person—Hiawatha Hickman, who

has been a Mustang assistant coach for the last six years. I would've been happier if the choice had experience as a head coach—especially at a larger school—but hiring someone who has visible proof of what it takes for Mustang victories, suits me just fine. Coach Hiawatha will just have to continue winning all of the Mustangs' district games like in the past and make it to the fourth round of the state playoffs every year to keep the loyal fans from going on the warpath!!

Kaz's Fearless Forecast

NFL Conference Championship Games

★ AFC

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (14-5) over CINCINNATI BENGALS (12-7) 2:05 P.M. Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. (CBS)—The Chiefs pulled out a 42-36 overtime victory over the Never Say Die Buffalo Bills Sunday night and face the Cinderella Cincinnati Bengals for the right to go to Super Bowl LV. The Chiefs are an early touchdown favorite and should win by at least that. MY PROJECTED SCORE—Kansas City 38-Cincinnati 24.

★ NFC

LOS ANGELES RAMS (14-5) over SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (12-7) 5:40 P.M. Sunday in Los Angeles, CA. (Fox)—Although the 49ers have beaten the Rams six times in a row doesn't mean it's going to happen again Sunday. However, San Francisco seems to get the job done when the chips are down and the 49ers are the underdogs. The early line has the Rams favored by 3½ points which looks very accurate to me. MY PROJECTED SCORE—Los Angeles 27-San Francisco 23.

Gulf Coast Fishing Report From Page 1B

• EAST GALVESTON BAY

GOOD. 65 degrees. Weather is going to be a factor this coming week, so check the forecast before heading out. Wading the shorelines is best for speckled trout and redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• GALVESTON BAY

GOOD. 59 degrees. Eagle Point shorelines and the Exxon A lease gas wells have been good for sheepshead. There are a few black drum and redfish, coming from the same areas. Best bait is live shrimp. High winds in the forecast so plan to head out in protected waters such as Moses Lake. Report by Cap-

tain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• WEST GALVESTON BAY

GOOD. 59 degrees. Chocolate Bayou is good for speckled trout, and a few redfish. Drift fishing the open bay, near Greens Cut, is producing scattered catches of speckled trout. Anglers need to concentrate their effort in the off colored streaks. Soft Plastic lures working the best. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• TEXAS CITY

GOOD. 62 degrees. High winds kept boat-

ers off the water, but when it cleared, redfish and trout could be found under the birds around gas well and San Leon reefs on soft plastics, and popping cork with live shrimp. The afternoon bite is good as well. Fish are under the birds and on the reefs and 5-7 feet of water on drop-offs. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• FREEPORT

GOOD. 63 degrees. The winter patterns have started with low tides keeping the fish in deeper water. Limits of trout with a few redfish using down south lures three-eighth ounce jigheads. Sheepshead are good on oyster and mud. Flounder are good on lures. Report by Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.



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Science and education battles against diseases spread by mosquitoes

Adam Russell
Texas A&M AgriLife

Science- and education-led battles against diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks have gained significant ground for public health over the past five years.

The world continues to encounter new vector-borne diseases and face the dangers they pose to human health. In response to that threat, research and education efforts within the U.S. are spearheaded by five centers of excellence located across the nation, including one in Texas.

These centers have laid the research and education foundation for a stronger public health infrastructure to deal with vector-borne diseases.

The Western Gulf Center of Excellence and its four counterparts represent a \$50 million, five-year grant program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention designed to bolster research, education and outreach efforts aimed at preventing vector-borne diseases.

Creating entomology champions for public health

Phillip Kaufman, Ph.D., head of the Texas A&M Department of Entomology, said the goal of the centers is to build a collaborative network. The network will link the academic institution-led centers with federal, state and local public health organizations, especially vector control agencies, to monitor, prevent and respond to vector-borne diseases. The centers also conduct research to develop validated prevention and control tools and methods and to anticipate and respond to disease outbreaks.

The centers' experts aim to provide public health entomologists with the knowledge and skills needed to address vector-borne diseases and provide regional support that would enhance prevention and response efforts related to public health.

Kaufman said the Centers of Excellence emerged out of several noteworthy vector-borne viral disease outbreaks including chikungunya, which reached the Americas in 2012 and circulated in South Texas. The most notable was the Zika outbreak in 2015 that circled the world relatively quickly and impacted populations on all continents, including the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

A large Zika outbreak in Brazil threatened the 2016 Summer Olympics and resulted in many athletes not attending.

The Zika epidemic stirred more concern than other vector-borne diseases because it was widespread among humans. The virus being present in utero was linked to a human birth defect, microcephaly, which re-



The Western Gulf Center of Excellence of Vector-Borne Diseases is spearheading efforts to protect public health from disease-carrying mosquitoes, ticks and fleas.

duces brain capacity in utero. "These vector-borne viral disease outbreaks emphasized the need to invest in U.S. research and training infrastructure when it comes to vectors and the disease-causing pathogens they carry," Kaufman said.

New emphasis on vector-borne diseases

The outbreaks exposed a shortage of scientists dedicated to investigating vector-borne diseases and their carriers. The threat to public health also revealed the need for an education and training pipeline to produce new researchers and other specialists to extend research to pest-management professionals and the public in the U.S., Kaufman said.

In response, the Western Gulf Center has built a team of entomology and public health experts intended to fill this void. UTMB acts as the program's lead, while Texas A&M AgriLife leads all extension efforts and components of the center's research and education programs.

But the center also collaborates with regional institutions including the University of Texas locations in Austin, Rio Grande Valley and El Paso as well as Vanderbilt University, University of Colorado, University of Houston, University of Oklahoma, New Mexico State University, University of Arkansas Monticello and public health agencies across the state including the Texas Department of State Health Services and local municipalities across Texas.

The five centers are encouraged to work collaboratively but were organized and funded based on each center's focus on vectors that pose the most significant threat to public health in each region, Kaufman said. The Western Gulf Center investigates mosquitoes, ticks and fleas though much of the research so far has focused on vector mosquito species, which historically represent the most prevalent transmitter of pathogens regionally.

in mosquito populations to ultimately pass to humans and under what conditions outbreaks are more likely," Kaufman said. "This helps us understand the risks of an outbreak and gives us the ability to forecast transmission rates. Forecasting outbreaks will be an incredibly valuable tool for public health officials."

Educating next generation public health professionals, leaders

Similarly, foundational education and outreach efforts at Texas A&M University and by AgriLife Extension are transforming how scientific research protects public health, he said. Texas A&M has added certificates that augment the competence and expertise of undergraduate students enrolled in a gamut of courses including veterinary medicine, entomology and epidemiology.

For instance, the university now offers a certificate program in public health entomology that provide a broad understanding of vectors and the spread of pathogens with an emphasis on public health and policy. Coursework includes studying veterinary and medical entomology, epidemiology, pathogens and public health principles.

Internship programs were created in collaboration with public health mentors and academic center faculty cooperating within the Western Gulf Center. These internships provide research and field experience to undergraduate students and assistance to local health and human services.

"Those students are gaining invaluable experience related to their education and helping them learn how to conduct research in vector biology," Kaufman said. "The centers have a mission in

each region, and the internships are a great example of how that mission extends to our partnering institutions in Oklahoma and Arkansas."

Parallel to the new certificate program created for students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, AgriLife Extension distills and distributes the science critically relevant to public and private entities, Kaufman said. For instance, online, in-person and hybrid training platforms have provided knowledge that makes vector treatment options safer and more effective.

Kaufman said AgriLife Extension's packaging of the most up-to-date scientific data from the collaborative centers required tremendous effort, especially amid COVID-19. However, the trainings delivered extensive knowledge to municipal and professional pest managers who are on the front lines of public health protection.

"The CDC's and our goals were to improve our understanding of these vectors with research and applied science, but also to produce experts and specialists who bridge entomology with fields like epidemiology and public health," Kaufman said. "The third goal was to develop programs that help train pest management professionals and the public about the best ways to control these disease-carrying species and ultimately protect public health."

Meeting the mission with increased mosquito research in Texas

Kaufman said he believes the Centers of Excellence have laid a strong foundation for meeting the program's collective mission.

To support the Western Gulf Center's efforts, AgriLife Research has initiated four projects related to vector control, including improving understanding of mosquito biology, of how environmental factors like temperature can influence disease outbreaks, and of how to improve mosquito monitoring and management in neighborhoods.

These research projects include investigating outbreak incidence along the Texas-Mexico border and mosquito resistance to insecticides like permethrin. The work will provide scientific data that can be used to protect susceptible populations, impact local policy and protection plans, and strengthen control methods, Kaufman said.

"We are producing data that will help us understand how these pathogens behave

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CMYK

Entertainment Guide: Upcoming area concerts



Music legend Michael Bolton will be back in Southwest Louisiana for a concert this Friday night at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, La., for ages 21 and older.

Tommy Mann Jr. For The Record

The 2022 music schedule is filling up fast with numerous big events recently announced, including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo schedule featuring artists such as Keith Urban, Gwen Stefani, Bun B, Journey and George Strait, and several big shows in the Lake Charles-area. Check it out and make plans now.

Jan. 28 Michael Bolton, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

Jan. 29 JoJo Siwa, Toyota Center, Houston

Jan. 31 Obituary, Municipal Waste, Enforced, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

Feb. 3 Authority Zero, Scout Bar, Houston

Feb. 4 Tool, Blonde Redhead, Toyota Center, Houston

Feb. 5 Gary Clark Jr., Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

Feb. 6 Marisela, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

Feb. 8 Steve Vai, House of Blues, Houston

Feb. 10 Travis Tritt: Solo Acoustic, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

Feb. 10 Otep, The World Over, Scout Bar, Houston

Feb. 11 Erasure, 713 Music Hall, Houston

Feb. 12 Patti LaBelle, Stephanie Mills, After 7, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

Feb. 14 Killswitch Engage, House of Blues, Houston

Feb. 16 Kansas, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

Feb. 16 Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston

Feb. 17 Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston

Feb. 19 Night Ranger, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

Feb. 19 Underoath, Spiritbox, Every Time I Die, Revention Music Center, Houston

Feb. 19 Big Head Todd

and The Monsters, House of Blues, Houston

Feb. 19 AFI, Cold Cave, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

Feb. 22 Theory of a Deadman, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

Feb. 25 Ghost, Volbeat, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

Feb. 25 Eyehategod, Capra, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

Feb. 25 Dark Tranquillity, Kataklysm, Scout Bar, Houston

Feb. 27 Nelly, Mardi Gras of Southeast Texas, Beaumont

Feb. 27 Gladys Knight, Arena Theatre, Houston

Feb. 27 Loudness, Warehouse Live, Houston

Feb. 28 Cody Johnson, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 1 Keith Urban, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 2 Tim McGraw, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 3 For King and

Country, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 4 Ricky Martin, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 4 Maxwell, Anthony Hamilton, Joe, Toyota Center, Houston

March 4 Johnny Mathis, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

March 5 John Pardi, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 6 Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 7 Luke Bryan, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 8 Marren Morris, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 8 Sevendust, Terrarch, Dead Poet Society, House of Blues, Houston

March 9 Kane

Brown, Houston Rodeo, NRG Stadium, Houston

March 10 Journey, Houston Rodeo, NRG

Stadium, Houston
March 10 The Dear Hunter, White Oak Music Hall, Houston



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Uzzle: Outdoors From Page 1B

fish much in the same way that a whacky worm works on largemouth bass; they just can't stand to see it flutter through the water column. The Corky comes in different sizes, colors, and variations so each angler undoubtedly has a favorite model.

My personal choice is the Corky Devil; this plug has the same front half of the regular Corky with a smaller back half that turns into a tail. The Corky Devil also has only one treble hook which makes unhooking fish a little bit easier, especially when they really crush the lure and get it down in their throat.

You can work this plug with slow steady retrieves or violent shakes then letting the plug flutter down towards the bottom, both styles work. The Corky is definitely a first team member of the spring fishing squad.

Another potent plug you can add to the list is the Mirrolure Catch 2000 and the Catch 5, these plugs are also slow sinking plugs that imitate mullet and catch their share of fish. The Catch series of plugs are hard plastic bodies, which make them durable, and there is no tuning necessary to keep them running true.

The catch series of plugs are great for folks who lack the confidence or technique to throw the Corky because they are really user friendly and produce some outstanding catches.

Speaking of cold weather, you can bet that it's not gone for good, especially in Texas.

This time of the year it is a must that you dress correctly and take into account all the different conditions. Just because it's sunny doesn't mean it's going to stay that way all day. How many times have you seen a wild spring front roll into an area and drop the temperatures dramatically and leave folks in shorts or bathing suits scampering for shelter and heavier clothes.

Many anglers I know have gone from neoprene waders to breathable models for the ease of motion they provide, that's well and good but they offer no insulation from the cold water so be sure to layer your clothing underneath. Thermal underwear, fleece, or wool are the best bets to stay warm while wearing breathable waders.

Another tip for this time of the year is to bring along a whole spare set of clothes in case you get wet for whatever reason. The effort it takes to bring them will seem small when you can put them on and shed the wet ones. Also some sort of wind proof jacket, slicker suit, or poncho is always handy to have on the boat in case someone gets wet and doesn't have extra clothes. The heavy slicker or poncho will help keep you warm and keep wind off of you during the boat ride.

Late winter and early spring fishing is an experience that can certainly change the way you think about this time of the year as long as you are prepared and take the necessary precautions. I promise if you catch that big fish you will certainly know what I mean.



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Call 735-5305

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

- Garage Sales
- Birthdays
- For Sale
- Weddings
- Rentals
- Memorials
- Services
- Engagements

APPLIANCES

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

FOR RENT

House for Rent at 201 Azalea in Orange, 4 BR, 1 Bath with CA/H and fenced backyard. \$900 month plus deposit. Please call 409-250-0943

House for Rent at 1918 Bowie in West Orange, 3 BR, 2 Bath home. \$800 month plus deposit. Please call 409-250-0943

House for rent NOW, 2 BR/1 BA w/LR, K, DR & AC/H. Hardwood floors, freshly painted, quiet area, LCM Schools, bus stops out front & never flooded. Stove, Fridge, water, trash & yard work furnished. NO Smoking/No Pets/NO HUD, call 409-883-3619

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

ROOM FOR RENT

Companion wanted to live with elderly lady. You will have low rent, help with house-keeping is required, must have valid drivers license and must pass background check. Please call 409-670-5004.

SERVICES

Looking for someone that is qualified to make a resume. It is a old resume from years ago that needs to be reworked. Only serious people call me 409-599-4914.

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- Electrical
- Digging Services

LOCAL

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION (OTHER) - COPUBWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: The Unknown Heirs at Law of Deborah Ellis (Deceased)

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., Petitioner, was filed in the 163rd District Court of Orange County, Texas on the 10th day of November, 2021, against The Unknown Heirs At Law of Deborah Ellis, Respondent, numbered 210495-C. The suit request:

Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein as to the following property:

LOT 15, BLOCK 3, CHARLEMONT PLACE, A SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF ORANGE, ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT RECORDED IN VOLUME 5, PAGE 61, MAP RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this January 11, 2022.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Vickie Edgerly

NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION
www.renebates.com

Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc. will be conducting an ONLINE SURPLUS AUCTION for the County of Orange Texas.

Open Date: Monday: January 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Close Date: Friday: February 11, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

A detailed list of items will be available with instructions for registration at www.renebates.com.

Any questions relating to this sale should be directed to Orange County Purchasing Department at 409-882-7901 or 409-882-7903.

The County Of Orange Texas encourages and welcomes your participation.

Orange County Purchasing
714 Polk Street
Orange, Texas 77630

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pinnacle Academy offers private music lessons for Piano, Vocal, Guitar, Drums, Bass Trumpet, Ukulele, and more. Pinnacle Academy is located at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W. Roundbunch, Bridge City. For more information, please call 409-241-3920 or visit www.PinnacleMusicAcademy.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Saturday at First Baptist in Bridge City will be giving away diapers and wipes to people with babies or those expecting on Saturday, Feb 5 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Look for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd. in Bridge City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City. DAR promotes local community service, education, historical preservation, and patriotism. For more information contact Jackie Huckabay, Registrar, at 409-719-6478 or Bertie Herman, Regent, at 409-960-4560.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. Al-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange. Call Angela at 474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info. Calls are kept confidential.

AUTOS

For sale a 2008 Chrysler Crossfire, Limited Edition w/ power, leather, telescopic wheel, 58,000 miles, Mercedes Running Gear, 3.2 V6, 215 HP, K&N Filter System. \$10,000 Nego. Call 409-670-8120 or 409-882-1321

HELP WANTED

Automotive Technician needed in the Orange County area. Minimum of 5 years verifiable experience. Excellent pay and benefits DOE. Please call 409-745-2127 for interview.

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BCISD

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Bridge City Independent School District

Bridge City Elementary School



The students at BCE have been learning about how to be a coffee bean through having the Coffee Bean for Kids book and lessons taught by their teachers.

They have learned that they are special and have the power inside to achieve great things and they show they are amazing leaders by the positive choices they make every day.



BCE hosts Police Appreciation Day

Police Officer Appreciation Day was Jan. 7th and we are so blessed at BCE to have Officer Ronnie Denton stationed at BCE and BCI.

He has been reading to our students one class a day and has lunch with kindergarten students every day and many days you will see him in the morning opening car doors for students.

He encourages our students and talks with them about their choices and that they can always turn their life around with one good choice.

We love our Officer Denton.



BCISD School Board members visits BCE



We loved having some of our wonderful school board members and Dr. Kelly visit Mrs. Heslep’s 1st grade classroom and join us for Christmas lunch in December!



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