

Penny Record

Vol. 63 No. 10

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Sheriff works to rid county of illegal game rooms

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Orange County Sheriff's Office recruited help from county code enforcement, a county emergency services district, and the Rose City marshal to shut down three gaming rooms last week.

According to a press release from Sheriff Lane Mooney, detectives with the Narcotics Division investigated the three rooms and found multiple violations of the county gaming ordinance and state gambling laws.

On Wednesday, August 3, the detectives went to the Double Diamond Game Room in the 5300 block of FM 105 North outside of Vidor. Then on Thursday, August 4, the deputies went to the Getaway Game Room in the

2600 block of North Main Street in Vidor, and the Fuel Mart Game Room in Rose City off Interstate 10.

Orange County Commissioners Court last year developed a county code to regulate the operation of gaming rooms. The gaming rooms fall within a gray area of state gambling laws by using electronic eight-liner machines, similar to slot machines. The gaming rooms are not supposed to give out cash as prizes, only "gifts" worth a limited amount of money.

Complaints came to the county last year from the Mauriceville area concerning gaming rooms giving cash and becoming places for dealing illegal drugs. Commissioners approved a 21-page list of lo-

Illegal Game Page 2A



Orange County Sheriff's Office photo shows the inside of Rose Fuel Mart game room.

SRA paves way for new hospital with \$220,000 check

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The new Gisela Houseman Medical Complex with hospital got another boost Tuesday when the Sabine River Authority of Texas gave \$220,000 to Orange County to help pay for the infrastructure in the new construction.

David Montagne, SRA general manager, and longtime Board of Directors member Earl Williams of Orange County presented Commissioners Court with a mock check. Montagne said Williams had the idea to help the county. Williams commented that a hospital will help the county with economic development.

The medical complex is already under construction at a 20-acre commer-

cial site along Highway 62 at the Interstate 10 intersection. The SRA money will be used to install the water and wastewater systems for the building.

The planned first phase will include an emergency room hospital that will be open 24 hours a day. The 55,000 square foot complex will also have outpatient diagnostic services along with space for physicians to rent. Christus healthcare will oversee the emergency room.

Orange County has been without a hospital since Baptist Hospital Orange on Strickland Drive with 122 beds closed seven years. The Baptist healthcare system kept the emergency room open another year, but closed it in

County Page 3A

Orangefield Sophisticats take awards in Waco



The Sophisticats of Orangefield High School have been working hard this summer to prepare for the upcoming football season. The military officers attended the Centex Dance Officer Camp in Waco and came home with many awards. The officer awards include Ruby Sweepstakes, most admired and All American officers of camp day two, best overall creative choreography award, and All American officers of the week. Individually awards include All American Honorable Mention, Asia Tran; All American Rosie Kovatch, Shea Pietz, and Georgia Jones; Kick Company Georgia

Jones, Shea Pietz, and Haley West; Miss High Kick Shea Pietz; All American Dance Company Shea Pietz and Georgia Jones; and outstanding performance in dance Shea Pietz. The social officers also attended a one day intensive in Baytown to learn leadership and team building skills to help make the season fun and exciting. Military Officers are Lt. Haley West, 1st Lt. Georgia Jones, Captain Shea Pietz, Lt. Rosie Kovatch, and Lt. Asia Tran. Social Officers are Secretary Landri Bertrand, Vice Pres. Haven Nowlin, Pres. Karleigh Engle, and Historian Makayla Merendino.

Naked truth revealed at Judge Gothia roast

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The naked truth was revealed Thursday night at the Bridge City Chamber's roast of County Judge John Gothia. However, it wasn't him that was naked, though the question is left: Was he wearing Spiderman or Batman underwear?

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce through the years has used a "roast" of prominent citizens as a fundraiser. The roast of Gothia was the first since 2015, when Kirk Roccaforte, now a county commissioner, was roasted when he was Bridge City mayor.

The naked stories came from roasters Ida Schossow, president of the



Orange County Judge John Gothia is pictured with his wife Glynis, Ida Schossow and Maureen Mcallister following the Judge Gothia Roast held by the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce. RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, and David Jones, owner of Gopher Industrial.

Schossow has lived next door in Bridge City to Go-

thia and his family for more twenty years. She told the story of getting ready to shower one night about 11. The water was running and she was about

to step into the shower. However, she heard her husband, Tim, who passed away two years ago, hollering for her to come see him.

She said she walked into the room naked and demanded of her husband "What do you want?" Then she spied next-door neighbor Gothia. Gothia later told the audience she couldn't have been too mad, because she went and put a robe on and then made coffee.

Jones has become good friends with Gothia and his family through the years because of their love of fishing. The two were instrumental in getting the local participation to

Judge Gothia Page 3A

OCARC holds another successful tourney

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The OCARC conducted its 34th fishing tournament this past weekend. It was another successful event for the association.

There were 230 participants that entered the OCARC Fishing Tournament in the waters around Orange County with 71 of the participants being younger than 16 years old. "That's what we always like to have is a lot of kids out here so they'll be fishing in the future," John Thomas the Director of



Orange County Judge John Gothia and Mason Fulbright assisted David Jones of Gopher Industrial to distribute free fishing rods to winners in the raffle as part of the OCARC Fishing Tournament. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

OCARC announced.

This year's tournament was done in remembrance of two long-time supporters who passed away in the last year Dickie Colburn and Tom Windham. Dickie Colburn was the master of ceremony for the tournament when it started, and he supported OCARC in the columns he wrote on fishing for local newspapers for years. Thomas reminded, "He was just a great person. We are at a loss for his support and knowledge with his pass-

OCARC Page 2A

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FINAL DRAWING WILL BE HELD AUGUST 18TH

Illegal game rooms From Page 1

cal regulations for operating a game room and the codes went into effect on September 1, 2021.

The regulations begin with a "finding of fact" that says illicit game rooms are connected to a variety of crimes including robbery and assaults, in addition to drug trafficking and weapons offenses.

Under the county ordinances, each gaming room must have a county license and there is a \$1,000 application fee for the license. A gaming room is considered any for-profit business with six or more ma-

chines offering prizes, or gambling. Each game room must also have a floor plan design for occupancy with the plan drawn by a licensed architect or engineer. Plus, each gaming machine must have a county tax stamp along with a state tax stamp.

Once a business receives a county compliance license, they are required to display the license in clear sight.

The first room the detectives investigated was the Double Diamond. According to the sheriff's press release, the detectives found several viola-

tions of the county codes. Deputy Code Enforcement Officer James Scales came and assisted with shutting the room down for the code violations.

The investigators confiscated cash and gathered a number of items to be used as evidence.

The sheriff's office reports the business is also being investigated for breaking state laws for promoting gambling, keeping a gambling place, and engaging in organized criminal activity. The office has started the process of shutting down the game room indefinitely.

The Getaway Game Room was raided on Thursday and detectives found more than 15 violations of the county code.

According to the sheriff, the process has been started to close the game room indefinitely. Civil action

ty clerk. The detectives are accusing them of breaking state laws of promotion of gambling and keeping a gambling place.

In addition, the narcotics detectives confiscated cash, circuit boards, and other items to be used in prosecution. Several customers were found illegally gambling. They were checked for outstanding warrants and one arrest was made for a misdemeanor warrant.

The Rose City marshal was called to assist. The sheriff's office, marshal and the District Attorney's Office will be coordinating on investigating the business for engaging in criminal activity.

The sheriff's office reports the business is also being investigated for breaking state laws for promoting gambling, keeping a gambling place, and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Deputy Director Scales with code enforcement came to assist. The sheriff's office also called the Orange County Emergency Services District 1, and firefighters found viola-

could be sought against some suspects.

During the search at the Fuel Mart Game Room in Rose City, detectives found an armed security guard along with a on-du-

OCARC fishing success From Page 1

ing." Tom Windham painted the designs for OCARC's fishing tee shirts for the last two decades. "We've lost two great people, great participants in the OCARC that have helped over the years. God bless them, they were two great people," Thomas acknowl-

edged. Several hundred people gathered at the City of Orange's Riverside Pavilion for the weigh in and award presentations on Saturday evening. All youngsters that fished were given a trophy. Winners in first through third place were awarded cash and trophies

in multiple categories. One of the top prize categories was the "Tom Windham" Bass sponsored by Dominion which awarded \$750 to Riley Bray for his 3.59 lb. bass he caught. Larry Vincent and Jim Foster were prize winners for second and third. In the "Stan Armstrong"

Redfish sponsored by International Paper the winner was Casey Peco for his catch of a 7.73 lb. fish earning him \$750. Second and third place went to Keith Barclay and Landon Capps.

Jeremiah Jordan caught a 4.10 lb. fish to win the Big Speckled Trout prize of \$750 sponsored by Dow. Xander Beritich finished second and Louie Peco

was third.

In the Flounder category the winner was John Freeman who caught a 4.74 lb. fish which won him \$300. Jeremiah Jordan and David Fairchild were second and third places.

The Sarge's Catfish winner was Alex Jackson with

his catch of 19.97 lb. winning him \$100. Second was Joseph Jackson and third was Milton Newton.

Thomas thanked all the people in Orange County for supporting OCARC over the years. He promised there would more fun fishing tournaments in the years to come.

SUCKERS

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

In this column I recently wrote about the quote of P. T. Barnum that there is a sucker born every minute. I now believe the quote was wrong.

After watching the trial of Alex Jones, I am now sure there are at least two suckers born every minute. The guy made hundreds of millions of dollars peddling lies and crazy rumors about aliens being from outer space.

He caused great pain and anguish by claiming the slaughter of school children at Sandy Hook School was a hoax. And, the children didn't die, they were only pretend actors. Ap-



Former State Senator Carl Parker

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

parently, supposedly rational people continue to send him thousands of dollars every day in spite of clear proof the shooting in Connecticut was real.

In the Texas trial a jury found him guilty of slander and willful intent to cause mental stress and anguish; the same jury awarded almost \$50 million to the plaintiff. I, and others, happen to believe this amount to have been insufficient for the damage and conduct of this evil person. In Texas, unfortunately, some years back the Legislature decided that citizen juries lack sufficient sense and judgement to decide appropriate damages in law suits. The Legislature placed a \$750,000 cap on punitive damages

no matter how bad the conduct or how rich the guilty party is. They called it "tort reform."

When I see that a guy can bring in up to \$800,000 in a single day while peddling lies it causes me to wonder how I can hone in on the theory of P. T. Barnum and find me some suckers.

I am seriously thinking about claiming that the election at which I was defeated as state senator back in the 90s was simply fraudulently held and that I am actually the real state senator. I need, however, to raise quite a bit of money to be able to establish this claim. I am hoping you will be generous in the amount of money you send me right away!

The Record Newspapers of Orange County, Texas

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

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County business From Page 1

2016. The complex is being named in honor of local developer and philanthropist Gisela Houseman, who donated the acreage for the medical building. The City of Orange Economic Development Corporation has also played a major role in the creation, plus longtime physician Dr. Marty Rutledge helped lead the move to get a hospital.

Tuesday was also a big day for the Orangefield Water Service. Commissioners accepted a \$350,000 federal Community Development Block Grant for the water service. County Judge John Gothia said the water service asked the county to apply for the grant for im-

provements. The court decided not to make a decision on installing a four-way stop at the intersection of Patillo Road and Briggs in the Victory Gardens area of Precinct 3. At the previous meeting, a resident in the neighborhood asked commissioners to do something to slow speeding pickup trucks. The four-way stop could make that happen.

Even though County Engineer Corey Oldbury said the county could put up notification signs and not have a public hearing, commissioners agreed to hold a public hearing. They hope the hearing can be later this month, but it will depend on how notifications can be placed in a

newspaper. Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan said he has some streets that also need stop signs, including Timberlane and Little Cypress Drive at West Bluff Road. Commissioners will get a list of all proposed stop sign installations for the public hearing.

Other business included approving paying the insurance premiums for liability at the Orange County Airport on Highway 87 South. Commissioners opted not to pay extra for coverage of acts of terrorism or war.

Commissioners told Assistant County Attorney Denise Gremillion to continue the work on a right-of-way contract for installations of a Chevron Phil-



Earl Williams and David Montagne with Sabine River Authority give \$220,000 for new hospital, which will contribute to local economic development. The grant will be used to install the water and wastewater systems.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

lips Chemical Company pipelines across the airport. The county has given permission before for

pipeline right-of-way on airport property, but this project will put pipelines underneath a runway.

Gremillion said the pipeline under the runway will be installed 55 feet underneath, rather than the standard three to six feet below the top ground. She said all the pipeline installation and work will need to be approved by the FAA. The pipeline is to be installed by boring and not digging up the runway.

A proposed new multi-billion-dollar Chevron Phillips Chemical plant has been proposed for acreage across the street from the airport. Even though Chevron Phillips corporation has not given final approval for construction of the plant, the site has been cleared and is being prepared for a large industrial construction project.

Judge Gothia roasted From Page 1

attract large national Bassmasters professional fishing tournaments to Orange.

Jones said one year he and his family went with the Gothias to Colorado for a snow skiing trip. He woke up in the middle of the night hot because the heat was turned up and needed to walk to the bathroom. He decided not to get dressed because he was sweating and thought he could sneak down the hall without anyone seeing him.

Gothia, however, had also gotten up. Once again, Gothia got a look at a naked person. Jones said Gothia was wearing only underwear. But Jones can't recall whether the underwear was Spiderman or Batman. Whatever, looks like Orange County's judge likes super heroes.

And lots of people at the roast consider Gothia a type of local super hero. He grew up in Bridge City



After being roasted and toasted Orange County Judge John Gothia and County Commissioner Theresa Beauchamp.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

and in his adult life, has spent decades working as a volunteer with a number of civic organizations including the American Red Cross, Camp Fire USA, United Way, and chambers of commerce in Bridge City and Orange.

Jones also told a story about him sharing a one-bedroom RV with Gothia during Bassmaster tournaments at the Orange Boat Ramp. Some of the tournament volunteers camp at the site for days so they can work

from daylight until late at night.

Though Jones laughed as he told the details of the story of the two men sharing a bed, perhaps it is best for what happens at the Boat Ramp, stays at the Boat Ramp.

Gary Stelly of kogt.com served as master of ceremonies and started the roast off by commenting how brave Gothia is to be roasted in front of a crowd right after announcing he was getting a pay raise.

Stelly also quipped that Gothia's wife, Glynis has a nickname for him, "Swing Bridge." She uses it "because sometimes he works and sometimes he doesn't," Stelly said. The quip played off problems the county has had in recent years keeping the East Roundbunch Road swing bridge operating.

Gothia chose his roasters, who were longtime friends, including banking executive Joe Love, described by Stelly as "the pride of Newton County."

Love said he couldn't tell a lot of his stories about his longtime friend, but he did relay why Gothia might be called "Stubby." Not long ago, the county judge lost the tip end of a finger after getting it smashed while moving a large barbecue pit at the lake.

Maureen McAllister of the Orange County United Way was another roaster who talked about how Gothia could talk anyone into volunteering. He asked her to volunteer working at the beer booth at a civic event held at a local rodeo arena. She said she work jeans and cowboy boots like others at the gathering. But the beer booth had women in their young 20s wearing short cut-offs and small tops. McAllister heard the young women talking about their pay.

"You're getting paid?" McAllister asked them. Their reply was "Well, yeah. Who would do this for free?"

She also praised Gothia for being a true friend and reaching out to check on her when she was going through a difficult time in her life.

Also roasting, and toasting, Gothia was Johnny Trahan, who retired from a career at Entergy and then was elected Precinct 1 County Commissioner. The two have been friends since meeting many years ago at what was then-called Lamar University-Orange.

Attendees learned about Gothia's passion for the water and his love of boats. He has five boats, including a kayak. However, the chuckles about "The Booty Boat" were a bit lost on those without the intimate details.

The fundraiser included a silent auction of donated items, dinner, wine, and beer. Tables were decorated in three themes for Gothia's favorite pastimes--fishing, duck hunting, and golf.

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From the Creaux's Nest

TRUMP'S HOME IN FLORIDA SEARCHED

Monday the FBI searched Trump's Palm Beach, Florida home. The search, according to multiple people familiar with the investigation, approved to be focused on material that Trump had brought with him to Mar-a-Lago, his private club and residence, when he left the White House. Those boxes contained many pages of classified documents. Trump delayed returning 15 boxes of material requested by officials with the National Archives for many months. The FBI would have needed to convince a judge that it had probable cause that a crime had been committed to get a search warrant, and proceeding with a search on a former president's home would almost surely have required signoff from top officials at the bureau and the Justice Department. Aides to President Joe Biden said they were stunned by the development and had learned of it from Twitter. Trump has been the focus of questions asked by federal prosecutors in connection with a scheme to send "fake" electors to Congress for the certification of the Electoral College. FBI Director Christopher Wray was appointed by Trump. The law governing the preservation of White House materials, the Presidential Records Act, lacks teeth, but criminal statutes can come into play. Criminal codes prohibit anyone who "willfully and unlawfully conceal, removes, mutilates, obliterates or destroys" government documents, violation carries jail time. Items in the boxes included documents, mementos, gifts and letters. The archives did not describe the classified material it found other than to say that it was "classified national security information." Trump and the GOP will attempt to cash in on the FBI legal search of Mar-a-Lago. Trump has been milking the cash cow for 8 to 10 million a month. He will now claim how mistreated he is by the FBI and will press his working stiff to send more money. He brought all of this on himself. He had 19 months to return the classified information that he should not have hauled off in the first place.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2012

Doug Manning, assistant county attorney, recently returned from a mission trip to Central Honduras. During the days he was there the group built and put a roof on an adobe church, rescued a woman who was living at the dump and held vacation bible school. Former Bridge City police chief Joey Hargrave graduated recently after completing the LVN program. He will start working on an RN in June. Nice work Joey. Longtime Orange and Bridge City resident, Dan Barker, turns 80. He will celebrate with friends and family his becoming an octogenarian at a community reception Saturday, Aug. 25, at First Baptist Church, 200 W. Roundbunch in Bridge City. One of the great guys, tall Texan and former lawman Tucker Clayton, turns 91 on Aug. 21. Now there's a guy that would do to ride the range with. Aug. 21 is also the day our former editor, Robert Hankin, died back in 2010. Don and Shirley Marshall are celebrating their wedding anniversary on Aug. 19. They have been married 55 years. AWARD FOR THE BEST NATIONAL SMILES. Magic Johnson, Gabby Douglas and President Barack Obama. Their smiles are contagious. You smile with them. Monday was "Lefties" Day. I finally figured out why this office always seems to be going backwards. On "Lefties" Day I found out that several staff members in The County Record office are left-handed: Nicole, Chris, Debbie and Penny.

20 Years Ago-2002

Bae Association recommends second court-at-law for Orange County. A second county court-at-law would help deal with a backlog of more than 8,000 pending criminal cases. They claim the bar made them pitch the plan to Commissioners Court to explore the possible benefits. It would be up to the state legislature to create a second court. (Editor's note: The court was created and Troy Johnson has been its only judge. From all reports over the years, Judge Johnson has and is doing a good job. No one is complaining about a backlog of cases.) Celebration birthdays are David Fusilier, Butch Holbrooks, Jacob Worster and Monty Eshbach. (Editor's note: That's a pretty good hand to draw.) Coach Claude Gilstrap, 88, who was AD and head football coach at UTA, died Aug. 9. In 26 seasons his record was 162-88-9. Attorney H.D. Pate was recruited from Austin High School by Gilstrap and was a three year starter.

Pate attended his funeral. Roy Dunn writes about the hurricane season and speculates that a direct hit on Sabine Lake could put Bridge City under Sabine Lake water all the way to the Interstate. (Editor's note: A few years later, that came to pass with Ike.) A group of golfers from Orange ventured to Abbeville for a golf tournament and a night of partying. Pauline Wimberly, an excellent golfer, had the misfortune of having Louis Dugas as a partner. J.C. Trahan, an Abbeville native, served as ambassador and golfed with wife Dixie. Judge Claude and 20 others from Sunset Grove Country Club attended.

45 Years Ago-1977

The Orange County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo is scheduled for Friday and Saturday at arena on Highway 105. The shows are being dedicated to Sam Lucia Jr. and Walter Carey, both former longtime members. Their families will be special guests. Rodeo activities are being headed by Bruce Patillo, chairman, Melvin Hogan, area director and Betty Jo Spence, Posse president. County Court at Law Judge Grover Halliburton will not be a candidate for the post he now holds. His present term will expire Dec. 31, 1978. He was appointed to the post after Judge David Dunn vacated it to accept an appointment to the 163rd District Court. Gov. Dolph Brisco appointed Dunn after the resignation of Judge Fred Trimble. Halliburton was within a few days of being appointed to the now created 260th District Court when he withdrew his name from consideration. Don Burgess, a Bridge City attorney and former assistant county attorney, announced his candidacy for the judgeship of the newly created 260th District Court. Burgess came to Orange in 1972 and in 1973, worked in the office of District Attorney Louis Dugas. In April, 1975, District Attorney Jim Sharon Bearden named him first assistant. On August 16, Elvis Presley dies in his bathroom while sitting on the pot reading a book. (Editor's note: His home Graceland, in Memphis, Tenn., is the second most visited house today behind only the White House. Elvis was only 42 years old.) Donald Harmon, a 1974 graduate of LC-M, recently graduated from Notre Dame University in record time. The achievement of obtaining a degree in just three years at N.D. is considered almost impossible. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Harmon of Orange. After eight years of courting, Al McKay has taken Pam Budge for his wife. Al is known for not rushing into anything, but eight years is a little much. (Editor's note: Al started and operated Bridge City Cablevision. He died at age 42 after selling the cable company and becoming a millionaire.) The new record albums are out. Elvis Presley's "Moody Blue" features a lot of J.D. Summer and the Stamps. Another album, "To Lefty from Willie" has great Frizzel songs done in Willie Nelson style. Also the album called "Fats Domino" is Fats at his best.

UPDATE

Chief Wilson Roberts, longtime law enforcement officer, is still in ICU. He is listed as critical but stable. He is hooked up to several tubes including one down his throat. He never before had problems with his kidneys but is now on dialysis three times a week. He still can't communicate, eat or drink. His wife V.J. has been by his side and asks for your continued prayers. She, nor Wilson, have relatives in the area and at some point may need help.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The Bridge City Chamber pulled off another successful "roast" of a local celebrity, this time County Judge John Gothia, who jumped into politics after retiring from a job that allowed him time for lots of community service. The chamber's committee to organize the roast was chaired by Kirk Roccaforte, who is now Precinct 3 Orange County Commissioner. He was the last chamber "roastee" back in 2015 when he was Bridge City mayor. He's also the BC chamber's president-elect. Former Bridge City Councilor Lucy Fields was co-chair of the committee, with other members Eric Andrus, Rani Dillow, Trista Leonard, Christi Reese, Candace Mulholland, Patrick Brekel, and Mandy Lyda. Bridge City power couple Mayor David Rutledge and wife Becky, who is a BISD trustee, attended and appeared to enjoy all the pre-roast visiting. No big community gathering is complete without vehicle mogul Al Granger, who sponsored a table for his Team Granger. Stephen Lea, who now lives in Beaumont, showed Orange County is still in heart by attending. Of course he's head of the Southeast Texas group of First Financial Banks, which also sponsored a table. Robert Currie and his Innovative Air was another sponsor and had guests at his table that included Jody Chesson and Adam Conrad. Jody was looking spiffy with a navy blue sports jacket with white polka dots. If there's anything in Bridge City, look for County Treasurer Christy Khoury. She enjoyed the social hour, but also was doing some behind-the-scenes chores for the event. Stephanie Roberts had her usual smile and enthusiasm, even though she's going through one of life's tough times right now. Ross and Eva Smith were among the bidders taking home silent auction items. They got a framed flag. Some of the popular bidding items for the men were team championship ring replicas. Bling is a man's best friend. The next night, Friday, the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce held another fundraiser. This was bingo to win designer purses and was held at the county expo center. Robert Currie and Innovative Air sponsored a table again. His wife Mindy had fun along with Terri Childs, wife of Orange City Councilor Brad Childs. The next night, the Childs were off to Pine Tree Lodge for live music

by Bayou Rush. Becky Trahan, wife of Commissioner Johnny, was another double partier with both chamber events. Of course daughter, physical therapist Cody Tant, was along for the fun. Ida Schossow was at both. How could she not? She was a featured roaster in Bridge City and as president of the Orange chamber, was running things. Other faces in the crowd included Cindy Claybar and Christi Moerbe. Gary Stelly may not have the radio station to talk on, but he's still in demand as the No. 1 Master of Ceremonies in all of Orange County. He emceed both chamber events and drew big laughs. Lots of wine went down for the cause that night, but we haven't learned who went home with Michael Kors and Louis Vuitton. Interstate 10 is always busy, but it must have been solid traffic from Orange to Houston and NRG Stadium for the big Garth Brooks concert. As someone local asked, "Am I the only one in town who didn't go?" New Bridge City ISD Police Chief Cliff Hargrave made the trek for the legendary artist. Other Bridge City residents in the humongous crowd included Brandi Griggs, Adam Conrad, and Jody Chesson. Kim and Paul Dickerson were also there. LOOKING BACK: This week, on August 10, our friend Judge Joe Parkhurst celebrated his birthday. He left us way too young, at age 77. A year ago, on August 11, 2021, Kerrie Lee Dunn passed away. She was Dr. Amber and Jenna Dunn's mom. She left seven grandchildren. On August 15, 1765, the Cajuns were exiled from Nova Scotia. Two of your biggest stars in their field died August 16. Elvis, age 42, died in 1977, Babe Ruth, age 52, died in 1948. We hear that our friend Robert Ramirez, who has had share of sickness, caught COVID for the second time, was very sick and now in recovery just in time for the opening of Robert's Restaurant and Meat Market. Restaurant is open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Robert's still features the best quality, custom cut, beef in the area. It's back to school this week for Orange County schools. Most start on Aug. 10. Deweyville will be the last to start on August 22. Lots of luck to all teachers and students.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Aug. 10: Celebrating today are Max Powell, Timmy Bryd, Bill Loyd, Jason Broussard, Rosa Molina, Leslie Smith, Bree Anne Collins. Aug. 11: Kim Pelloat, Olivia Satir, Morgan Taylor have birthdays today. Aug. 12: Tracey Miguez, Windee Jenkins, Jared Sleeman are a year older today. Aug. 13: Celebrating are Clint Landry Hilary Walker, Melissa Cox, Ken Phelps, Aaron MacCammond, Lyn Goodwin and Monty Eshbach. Aug. 14: Happy Birthday to Diane Justice, Kevin Berry, Bill Triggs. Aug. 15: Tiffany Schlicher, Kristie Gunn, Brandi Arnold, Mandy Lyda celebrate. (E-mail to news@therecord live.com or call 409-735-5303 to help celebrate an anniversary or birthday.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Red Hebert, him, stayed all night drinking at the Midway

Lounge in Abbeville. Finally, Slim, the bartender, told

Red, "You got to go you, because it's time to close da bar.

Red say OK, and he stands up to leave and falls on da floor. Red lay dere awhile den he figure he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air, and maybe dat will sober him up. Once outside, Red stands up and falls flat on his face. So he jus crawl him. He crawl da four or tree blocks home. Wen he got to his door, he stands up an falls flat again, so he crawl in da house. Wen he reaches his bed he try to stand up again. Dis time, he falls right into his bed and falls sound asleep him. Da next morning his wife, Estelle, wake him up standing over him shouting, "Red, you lying Cajun, you have been out getting drunk again." Red rubbed his bloodshot eyes and ax, "How you know dat, Hon?" Don't hon me, da Midway Bar called and said you left your wheelchair dere again."

C'EST TOUT

Father Jim Sichko, a West Orange-Stark High graduate who grew up here, is making headlines again. The Catholic priest has been designated by the Pope as a missionary of mercy. He raises donations to help others. For more than a decade, he has lived in Kentucky. When floods devastated Eastern Kentucky last week, he jumped into action by posting a "wish list" on Amazon for supplies the residents would need. He's become an expert on that. He helped out with several truckloads of goods to Orange County residents and schools after Hurricane Harvey five years ago. Word of his good works has spread through the years and it didn't take long for Amazon packages to fill his two-car garage plus yard. The University of Kentucky football team even came out to help move boxes for sorting and distribution. Tuesday, Father Jim set out with truckloads of goods to the little town of Isom. He had a briefcase with \$20,000 handcuffed to his arm. His first stop was at the Isom grocery store, which had been under six feet of water. The store is locally owned there and the heart of the community. He gave the cash to the owners and thousands of dollars in gift cards to the employees. Opening the store will go a long way to helping the spirit of the community recover. Well, my time is up, thanks for yours. Read us cover to cover, shop our family of advertisers and also check us out on the web at therecordlive.com. Take care and God bless.

OCP host country music dinner show at Orange train depot

**Penny Leleux
For The Record**

Yee haw! Orange Community Players, Inc. (OCP) is hosting a country music show Saturday, Aug. 20, at Orange Train Depot, 1210 W. Green Ave, Orange to raise funds to continue the renovations of the old movie theater.

"We've worked hand in hand with the depot for years," said Paul Burch, president of OCP. They provide entertainment for events such as Depot Day in exchange for use of the venue for fundraisers such as the upcoming dinner and country music show.

A barbecue dinner consisting of chicken

and links, beans, potato salad and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the musical performance starting at 7:37 p.m. Complimentary beer and wine is included. Tickets are \$75 each or \$125 for a couple.

"Robert Currie of Innovative Air Solutions is doing all our cooking for us," said Burch. "We, the cast is providing all the food and everything, but Robert is going to cook it for us."

Chad White of Real Stage Productions is providing sound for the event.

Nine members, including OCP veterans and some new to the stage make up the cast. The new member performing is Jason Rodrigue. Amy Picard is a now and

then face at OCP. Veterans in the cast include Burch, Judy Smith, 'Rico, Cydney and Codie Vasquez, Janet Bland and Tanya Guillot.

The show will feature many country classics such as "If your gonna play in Texas," "Rose Garden," "I will always love you," "Let me be there," "The Ride" by David Allen Cole and "Rollin."

Besides music, comedy skits and audience participation will be included according to Burch.

The 7:37 p.m. performance start time is traditional for OCP shows from when it began many decades ago. Most live theaters start their shows at 7:30 p.m., but OCP's unusual start time stems from back in the day when freight trains ran down division street. There was always a train passing in front of the theater at 7:30 and the slight delay made sure the train was down the track and didn't interfere with the start of the show. They have kept the start time tradition even though they are no longer on Division Street and the trains no longer take that path.

There are two reasons for the upcoming event.

"We miss performing," said Smith. "And we need money for OCP," said Burch

The board of OCP was forced to abandon their location on Division Street in 2017 after flooding a second time caused their flood insurance rates to rise to a level they could no longer afford. They purchased the empty twin cinema building on Edgar Brown Drive and have worked to remodel it. The process has been slow and they are doing the remodel in phases as funds are raised. Currently, they are working on the "black box," a theater that has a flat floor instead of a stage and the audience is seated around it.

"The one side is about 80 percent complete," said Burch. "when it gets finished, we'll open that side and tackle the other side. They could once again start having productions at the theater before the entire project is complete.

They will continue to host fundraising events until OCP renovations are complete.

Tickets can be purchased at Lookin' Good Hair Salon at 3711 N. 16th St., Orange or may be purchased online at: https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/purchase.php?date_id=45103

Deaths & Memorials

Katie Kelley Crooks, 91, Orange

Katie Kelley Crooks, 91, of Orange, passed away on August 1, 2022, at Focus Care in Orange. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 6, 2022, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating was Reverend Marlin Marcantel of Pinehurst Pentecostal Church. Burial followed at Orange Forest Lawn Cemetery in Orange.

Visitation was held on Saturday, August 6, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Kirbyville, Texas, on December 21, 1930, she was the daughter of William and Mary Kelley. Katie had the unique ability to be the strongest and most caring person in any room. She helped raise not only her own kids but siblings, nieces, nephews, and grandkids were a part of the bunch, too. Katie was a mom to everyone she met and always looked out for those she loved. She was quite the matriarch and her house hosted the whole family for most holidays and gatherings. Katie had unwavering faith and was a loyal member of the Pinehurst Pentecostal Church for many years. She loved to sing and even yodel, and would cook the most delicious meal you'd ever eaten. Katie often enjoyed traveling and when she wasn't traveling she was planning her next trip. She loved getting the whole family on a trip down to



Katie Crooks

the beach, creek, lake or anywhere with water. Katie was deeply loved by all who knew her and will be incredibly missed by her family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her first husband, E.C. Oliver; second husband, Curtis Maddox; third husband, Jack Crooks; children, Herschel Ray Oliver, Margie Jo McGhen; grandchildren, Clay McGhen, Tina McGhen, Clint Maddox, Kimberly Oliver, Rachel Ford; parents, William and Mary Kelley; siblings, Buck Kelley, Adell Kelley Gilchrest, Mary Louise Kelley Walters, Lloyd Perry Kelley, Robert Kelley, and Bobby Kelley.

She is survived by her children, Steve Maddox, Sr. and wife, Gail, Wilton Crooks, Milton Dean Crooks all of Orange; grandchildren, Jason McGhen, Bryan Oliver, Stephen Maddox, Jr., Robb Maddox, Leslie Maddox, Mason Crooks, Nancy Crooks, McKinley Crooks, Shawn Crooks, Brent Crooks, Samantha Crooks; twenty nine great-grandchildren; brother and sister, Junior Kelley of Atlanta, Texas, Dorothy Kelley Irwin of Mina, Arkansas; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers will be Stephen Maddox, Jr., Robb Maddox, Jason McGhen, Mason Crooks, Bryan Oliver, and Brent Crooks.

Freddie C. Howard, 79, Bridge City

Freddie Charles Howard, 79, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on August 1, 2022, in Orange, Texas.

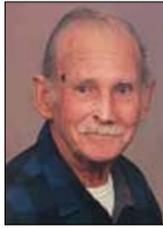
A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, August 6, 2022, at St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City, Texas. Officiating the Mass will be Reverend Michael Strother. Burial followed at Oak Bluff Memorial Park in Port Neches, Texas.

Visitation with a Vigil was held on Friday, August 5, 2022, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City, Texas.

Born in Leesville, Louisiana, on November 27, 1942, he was the son of Tony Howard and Opal (Beedle) Howard.

Freddie proudly served his country in the United States Army before going on to spend many loyal years as an Operator for Lyondal Equistar. He was a faithful man and a member of St. Henry Catholic Church as well as the Knights of Columbus, and a former member of St. Helen Catholic Church. After retiring, Freddie enjoyed spending time fishing and hunting, but most of all being a "Paw Paw" and playing with his grandkids every chance he got.

He was a very loving and selfless man, always putting others before himself. Freddie will be dearly missed by all who



Freddie Howard

knew and loved him.

Freddie was preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Opal Howard; his daughter, Tammie Dubose; grandson, Colton Allison; brothers, Plaz Howard and Daniel Howard; and his sister, Benny James.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 56 years, Brenda Howard; daughters, Melissa Elizondo and husband Rudy, of Schertz, TX, Michelle Garcia, of Bridge City, TX, and Tracy Allison, of Angleton, TX; grandchildren, Tony Garcia, Dustin Dubose and wife Leah, Tina Arias and husband Stephen, Jacob Howard and wife Summer, Becky Limon and husband Ben, Sierra Gonzalez and husband Raul, Taylor Allison and wife Nicole, Chad Allison, and Macy Allison; ten great-grandchildren; and his brother, Earl Howard, of Tulsa, OK; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Tony Garcia, Dustin Dubose, Jacob Howard, Stephen Arias, Raul Gonzalez and Richard Howard. Honorary pallbearer is Joey Roberts.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Freddie's honor to the Make A Wish Foundation or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Phillip John Mumbach, 70, Orange

Phillip John Mumbach, 70, of Orange, passed away on August 4, 2022, at his home.

A Mass of a Christian Burial was held on Monday, August 8, 2022, at St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City. Officiating was Reverend Jim McClintock. Burial followed at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Orange.

Visitation was held on Sunday, August 7, 2022, with a rosary at 6:00 p.m. with a wake service following, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in North Tonawanda, New York, on January 1, 1952, he was the son of William and Eileen Mumbach. Phillip had an incredible talent for poetry and writing. He also was a quick wit with jokes, and could make light of most any situation with a quiet and deadpan delivery. Phillip thoroughly enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and Notre Dame, especially whenever they would win. He often took his family on vacations throughout the year and made sure everyone could get together every holiday. He loved his wife, kids, and grandkids more than anything, and that love extended to his brothers,



Phillip Mumbach

and sisters, in-laws and their families. Phillip was truly loved and will be missed for years to come by all his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Eileen Mumbach; brother, Bill Mumbach; nephew, Will Dugas; and niece, Amy Danielle Gauthier.

He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Denise "Necy" Mumbach; children, Colin Mumbach and Brittany and their son, Emmett Mumbach, Caitlin Pridemore and Andrew and their children, Ethan, Liam, Connor, Adalyn Pridemore, Megan Smith and Josh and their one on the way, Nova, Dylan Mumbach; brothers and sisters, Dr. Mary Mumbach Sampo, Joe Mumbach, David Mumbach, Susan Lester, Nina Newkirk, Ann Hernandez, Shawn Hacker; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers will be Colin Mumbach, Dylan Mumbach, Andrew Pridemore, Ethan Pridemore, Josh Smith, Joe Mumbach, David Mumbach, and Gary Gauthier. Honorary pallbearers are David Gauthier, Russell Gauthier, Michael Gauthier, and Cory Gauthier.

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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Milano's Italian Grill has been named Business of the Month for August. Bashkim and Kadie Makolli was presented the award, sponsored by Energy Country Ford, by Life Time Ambassador Dave Derosier at the monthly Networking Coffee hosted by Brick Oven. Pictured are: Bashkim Makolli, Kadie Makolli, Raley Broussard, Dasha Wardlow, Jarrett Rice, Lendrit Makolli and Dave Derosier.

Orange County Master Gardener training classes

The Orange County Master Gardener training classes will begin Thursday August 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Expo Center on 1442. The requirements for the certification are 50 hours of education and 50 hours of volunteer time. The classes will meet on Thursdays with speakers and programs about gardening that counts for the 50 hours of education. There are several field trips planned as well. The volunteer time can be done by working at the Master Gardener greenhouse, working at the yearly plant sale and other AgriLife programs throughout the year.

The cost of the class is \$150 which includes a book, background check, supplies, speaker fees and a banquet on the last day of class December 8, 2022.

You can sign up at the AgriLife office at the Expo Center and get an application and pay the fee.

Friends of the Orange Depot to meet August 11

The next meeting of the Friends of the Orange Depot will be held at the Depot on Thursday, August 11th at 5:30 PM. All volunteers are invited as well as members of the board. On the agenda will be fall plans as well as plans for 2023. We encourage new volunteers to attend and get involved with our organization's events. The Orange Train Depot is a historical gem, designed to be a community place for our city. We are moving in new and exciting directions! For information, call Rose at 409-330-1576. Join us for refreshments at 5:00 PM to meet and greet.



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www.fumcorange.org

Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

Deweyville First United Methodist Church

153 County Rd. 4145 • Deweyville • (409) 224-6484

Sunday Worship: 9 A.M.

Pastor: Kelly Sharpton
Email: lks454@aol.com

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(409) 920-2271

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Mens 6 pm Mon., Ladies 10 am Tues. and 6:30
pm Wed. (with child care), Co-Ed 9:15 am Sun.,
Youth Supper & Bible Study Wed. 6:30 pm.

St. Paul United Methodist Church

1155 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409.735.5546

Sunday Morning Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.,
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Praise Worship 10:45 a.m.
(Nursery provided)

Wednesday SPICE 5:30 p.m. Includes meal, bible studies,
children and youth activities. (Nursery provided).
Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

Harvest Chapel A Full Gospel Church

1305 Irving St. • West Orange • 409-238-3056

Sunday Worship 10 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Nightly Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.

Pastor: Ruth Burch

Starlight Church of God in Christ

2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366

Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
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Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
Ofcnazarene.org or find us on Facebook



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

Winfree Baptist Church

19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
Jon Brinlee, Pastor

Sunday:
Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday:
Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Children & Youth Activities - 6:00 pm

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Stadiums will not be ready for start of season

OC SPORTS BEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Local high school football games begin at the end of August. Weather and the ongoing COVID pandemic have postponed or delayed several events and projects connected to the upcoming football season.



Inclement weather on Friday, August 5, caused a cancellation of photos to be taken of the Bridge City Cardinal football players that day. Media day as it is called has been rescheduled in Bridge City for Friday, August 12, at Larry Ward Stadium.

Work on Battlin' Bear Stadium began following the approval by the Little Cypress-Mauriceville School District's Board of Trustees. The installation of artificial turf over the entire football field, replacing the existing track, erecting a digital scoreboard at the stadium, and other renovations as funds allow are included in the multi-million dollar project.

Delays because of weather and other circumstances means work on the field will continue into August. The delay has caused LCM to bump the location of the first scheduled Bears' home game versus Hardin-Jefferson to Memorial Stadium in Beaumont.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville Superintendent Stacey Brister expressed regret on the moving of the first game's location. "Of course, we would have loved for our first home game of the 2022-2023 season to have taken place in our refurbished facilities. It's just not going to be possible right now, but we know how hard everyone is working. When the improvements are unveiled, and our players step onto the field for the first time under those Friday night lights, all the waiting will be worthwhile," Brister said.

The game between the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Bears and the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks will kick off at 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 25. Memorial Stadium is located west of Beaumont off of Interstate 10.

Superintendent Dr. Rickie Harris of the West Orange-Cove School District announced with great disappointment the new press box being added to Dan R. Hooks Stadium will not be ready in time for the start of this football season. Dr. Harris attributed the problem for delays in construction of the facility to supply shortages caused by the COVID pandemic.

The adjacent Event Center at the West Orange-Stark High School likewise has been delayed in its completion. The Event Center was originally projected to be open in April or May of this year in order to hold graduation ceremonies there. Voters approved both construction projects as part of a nearly \$26 million bond election in 2018.

The Event Center and press box have large curtain walls that are only made by one company in the United States named Conair. They are the top company in the world producing these walls.



Completion of the Event Center planned for West Orange-Stark High School has been delayed because of a shortage caused by the pandemic of specialized walls and doors for the facility.



Constructions of the new Event Center planned for West Orange-Stark High School is ongoing and progressing as seen this week. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



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Cardinals, Bobcats gear up for scrimmages this week

OCSPORTSBEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Bridge City Cardinals

The Bridge City Cardinals came to the first week of practices for the football season ready to work and improve themselves. The Cardinals will strive to be their best as the season progresses.

Coach Cody McGuire said after a slow start on the first day the kids rocked and rolled during the rest of the week's practices. "They came out and were physical and were aggressive and worked real hard the first week," McGuire reported.

Although the weather may not have been ideal, Bridge City had no real concern because of the artificial surface on the field at Larry Ward Stadium. McGuire indicated, "We didn't have any problems during the week. We got all our practices in and got our scrimmage in on Saturday, everything was perfect."

The annual Red and White scrimmage was an intrasquad game between the Cardinals on Saturday. The Cardinals got after it in a good scrimmage that the coaches could observe them in their first game like condition workout.

Offensively several of the Cardinals performed well. Gavin Bodin and Jerri Brown did great at receiver, Hutch Bearden at quarterback passed the football to them, and Camden Welch ran the ball effectively.

The whole offensive line had a good scrimmage. Coach McGuire recognized, "Matt Livingston, Lorn Little, Ayden Richardson, Nabor Sanchez, Sebastian Sandino they all did a great job blocking."

On defense the Bridge City secondary is young. The defensive backs Jagger Carlin, Austin Bellanger, Jerry Winfrey, and Rayburn Hebert showed maturity and covered the Cardinals' Spread Offense well.

Up front the defensive line got strong performances from Kayden Kibodeaux and Nick Lejeune. Outside linebacker Merik Aras just a sophomore and senior Mason Pruitt at inside linebacker played well.

The scrimmage was an excellent culmination of the first week of practices at Bridge City. "Everybody's working hard and making things happen," McGuire applauded.

Week two of practices climaxes on Thursday for Bridge City with a scrimmage against the Vidor Pirates. Coach McGuire scheduled the scrimmage with Vidor because he knows the Pirates are a very physical team and they run the Slot-T Offense.

The Orangefield Bobcats also use the Slot-T and are the opponent in the Cardinals' opening game of the season in two weeks. "Our kids are looking forward to it and it will be a good evaluation point for us," McGuire acknowledged.

To win in football the team has to be mentally tough and physically tough, which Coach McGuire thinks his Cardinals will achieve that by playing tough physical teams like Vidor in the scrimmages. The Pirates are a strong team in a higher classification who were co-district champions last year.

The scrimmage with Vidor will be an early test for



Bridge City's new scoreboard sits ready for action.

Bridge City. McGuire evaluated, "Playing tough teams helps you get tough, and we do play Orangefield in Week 1. It will help us with a look at the Slot-T in the scrimmage and then we'll play it in Week 1."

The scrimmages are a very important tool to prepare the team for the games that will count. "We evaluate every position in every scrimmage and during every game. We want to get better every time we get out on that field, so we're going to evaluate everybody every time we play," McGuire explained.

The scrimmages serve another useful purpose according to Coach McGuire. "We also need to find some backups because when you go into a season you need depth. We have got to evaluate some of these younger guys that are on varsity and some of these guys on the junior varsity that might be able to bring up in case of injury. All positions will be evaluated and we will see who can help us," McGuire concluded.

"Our Day to Shine" is the theme for the scrimmage with proceeds being donated to the Texas High

School Coaches Education Foundation (THSCEF) Benevolence fund which was created by the Texas High School Coaches Association Board of Directors to assist athletes and coaches experiencing hardships. To date over 1,165 schools have participated in "Our Day to Shine" and have raised over \$721,000. The THSCEF has paid over \$641,000 to athletes and coaches in need.

The scrimmage between the Bridge City Cardinals and the Vidor Pirates will be this Thursday, August 12, at Larry Ward Stadium. The freshmen and junior varsities will scrimmage beginning at 5:00 PM. The varsity scrimmage will start at 6:30 PM.

Orangefield Bobcats

A week of practices has gone well for the Orangefield Bobcats in preparation for the new football season. This is the start of the eleventh year under Josh Smalley as the head football coach at Orangefield and the kids are buying into the system established by Smalley at the school.

The effort by the players has been great and they have been very coachable, but there is still a lot of learning to be done especially by the younger Bobcats. "A lot of young kids especially up front, but as far as their effort, their attitude, work ethic, and things like that it has been a great first week of practices," Smalley expressed.

In addition to a week of practices the annual Orange and White intra-squad scrimmage was held on Saturday. This scrimmage allows the Orangefield coaches to see the Bobcats perform in a somewhat game condition.

Officials were brought to the scrimmage to help run it more like an actual game by calling penalties when necessary.

Inside linebacker Kyle Michael really looked good as did Jackson Humplik in the defensive secondary. "Both of those guys came down hill and laid the lumber so to speak, and it was good to see that," Smalley expressed.

Despite all of the hard hits in the scrimmage, the officials ruled the play was all legal just good tough tackles and blocks. Smalley said that was good to see.

Offensively, quarterback Brayden Parker threw the ball very well. Parker had a pass for a touchdown and handled himself well in directing the Bobcat offense during the scrimmage.

Catching the touchdown pass was Gavin Perry-Koci who will be getting more playing time this season than last year. Smalley reminded, "I told people before the year started he could have a breakout year for us. He didn't see a whole lot of time for us last year, but he's a senior this year and he's a legit 4.4 forty guy that can run. He had a couple of good runs and caught a lot of balls in-

cluding the touchdown."

Not to be overlooked is Cameron Dischler who looked like the all-district running back he was last season for Orangefield. "There's a lot of positives coming out of the Orange and White scrimmage, but we got a lot of kids on film, and we'll see a lot of improvement and where we need to get better especially up front on both sides of the ball," Coach Smalley summarized.

The second week of the workouts will see a ramping up a little bit as far as the intensity of the practices. Smalley explained, "There's no longer rules where the players can be in shorts and tee shirts, you can have shoulder pads but you can't hit. Now it's kind of like all the gloves are off, you're going to be hitting the sled, doing board drills, you'll be tackling stuff. Those are things you really couldn't do in week one, now you can do it in week two. The intensity level will pick up, the physical contact of the practices should pick up, and hopefully the kids will respond to that."

The Bobcats will scrimmage with an opponent for the first time this season on Friday against the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Bears. It should help prepare Orangefield for the regular season later this month.

The speed of the Bears will give the Bobcats a taste of the fast paced play from several of their district opponents later in the season. Trying to stop Bear running back Da'Marion Morris the

1800 yard rusher for LCM will test the Orangefield defense. "It helps us to see that kind of speed to get used to it because we're going to see that kind of speed with Anahuac, East Chambers, and some of those guys in our district," Smalley analyzed.

On the other side of the ball the Orangefield offense will have to deal with the likes of Amier Washington with the Bears at defensive end who has committed to attend Texas Tech. Smalley pointed out, "It's going to help our kids to see what players of that caliber look like, and you feel like if you can maybe block those guys and hold your own with those guy that maybe it will get you ready for the season and the district race."

An emphasis of the scrimmage is to see how the Bobcats perform in game situations so the coaching staff can work with them to correct any errors the players are making.

The scrimmage will help Coach Smalley access which Bobcats are ready to play in the offensive line on Friday nights. "Knowing assignments, not looking so lost, doing whatever they're doing at a hundred miles an hour even if it's wrong. Our number one goal is just to compete, play hard, and be coachable by doing things the right way," Smalley concluded.

The first scrimmage will be Friday night at F. L. McClain Stadium in Orangefield between the Bobcats and LCM.

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ORANGE COUNTY

How did MLB's best teams fare after trades?

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record

The Houston Astros and New York Yankees have had the best win-loss percentage in major league baseball since April, especially in the American League, where they both made trades last week that would improve their chances of playing in the World Series when October rolls around.



Joe Kazmar

The Astros have been doing most of their winning in the first four months with their pitching—both starting and relieving—while the Yankees have been outscoring their opponents with their big bats.

Last week when the trading deadline ended, it was apparent that both teams made deals that strengthened their weaknesses with the Yankees going after both starting and relief pitching while the Astros picked up a couple of stronger sticks for their feeble team batting average.

Houston's third-year general manager James Click added three players to manager Dusty Baker's roster without having to give up too much talent in return.

"How do you strike that balance of the success we've had here and not changing what makes us successful, but at the same time not getting complacent and letting yourself ossify and your process go stale and you wake up and everybody else is three years ahead? It's a difficult mindset," Click lamented to the Houston Chronicle last weekend.

In the Click-Baker era, the Astros have continued to win and win, all while remaking their image and gradually winning back believers across the country, the article added.

This twosome came about after the sign-stealing episode that took place in 2017 and led to the firing of general manager Jeff Luhnow and manager A.J. Hinch for allowing it to happen.

That placed the Astros in a pinch without a general manager or field manager with spring training less than two months away.

So, the front office just took a shot in the dark and hired the aging Dusty Baker, who had been successful in his many managerial stops, and Click who did a marvelous job turning the Tampa Bay franchise around.

The first item on Click's agenda was to find competent backup catching relief for 35-year Martin Maldonado—one who can hit and throw out stealing baserunners.

The AL East cel-



Mancini went 2-for-5 with his first multi-homer game as an Astros, including a grand slam.

lar-dwelling Boston Red Sox were in town and the two general managers struck a three-way deal for 31-year-old catcher Christian Vazquez, who had surrendered his playing time to a promising rookie.

Houston also wanted a versatile player who can hit and play several positions and were able to snatch Trey Mancini from the Baltimore Orioles.

On his fourth day in a new uniform (Friday), the Astros had a one-run lead and the bases loaded with two outs, leading 2-1 at Cleveland.

Mancini drilled the ball out of the ballpark en route to an easy 9-3 victory. This is what the doctor ordered for the Astros. Instead of having to scratch for every run with a slender lead, they now had a hitter who can pad a lead with one-swing of the bat.

The Yankees hadn't won a World Series since 2009 and were bound and determined to make 2022 their year. And they've had the best record the entire season, with the Astros hot on their tails. But they didn't think they had a starting pitching rotation strong enough to get past Houston in the American League with Gerrit Cole and his backup band.

According to this week's edition of USA Today Sports Weekly, "the Yankees were petrified that All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman may never bounce back. They questioned whether Clay Holmes could sustain his brilliant success through October. They long gave up on Joey Gallo."

So, General Manager Brian Cashman began his wheeling and dealing and grabbed Oakland Athletics ace starting pitcher Frankie Montas and also acquired Oakland closer Lou Trivino in the Montas deal, acquired Chicago Cubs reliever Scott Effross and utilityman Andrew Benetendi from Kansas City.

They needed another front-line starter with All-Star Nestor Cortes (9-3, 2.53 ERA) having already pitched a career-high 106.2 innings, starter Luis Severino not expected to

return from the IL until September with a lat strain and Jameson Taillon (10-2, 3.93 ERA) yielding a 6.98 ERA in his last six starts.

After Cashman's array of moves, the Yankees are a lot more comfortable heading into October when they feel certain they will meet the Astros for the AL championship.

"The Yankees gave up seven pitching prospects in a week. Still, prospects are only prospects. They land you on the cover of Baseball America. Star players are the ones who land you on a World Series parade float," the article concluded

KWICKIES...Al- though the Houston Astros are satisfied with last week's trades, they still are searching for offense, scoring only one run in the final two games of the four-game series at Cleveland last weekend. Perhaps they can use the excuse that Dusty Baker was absent after testing positive for COVID-19 last week. But his batting average isn't too high either.

By the time this column hits the streets Wednesday, wide receiver Odell Beckham may have already found his new team. It seems like the best fit for him would be with the Dallas Cowboys, although the Baltimore Ravens need him the most. Whoever gets him won't have his services until the season his half over as he rehabs from the ACL injury he suffered last year in the

Super Bowl.

The San Diego Padres have lost 17 of their last 19 games played against the LA Dodgers including the 4-0 whitewashing they suffered on Sunday.

The NFL referees have been asked to focus on illegal contact fouls called only 36 times in 2021 after averaging 97 per season from 2002-2020.

Bridge City native and former University of Texas pitcher Chase Shugart had a hand in a no-hitter pitched last week by his Class AAA Worcester Red Sox team, relieving in the final two innings to preserve the team's first no-hitter since 2003. He was a 12th round selection by the Boston Red Sox in the 2018 MLB draft.

JUST BETWEEN US...

The Houston Texans open their 2022 Exhibition football season 7 p.m. Saturday at NRG Stadium against the New Orleans Saints. Head Coach Lovie Smith feels much better about the first preseason game this season than he did last year at this time when everything was in a flux because of the DeShaun Watson debacle. The coaching staff plans on looking at many prospective players who are marginal at best, who hope to escape the first cutdown next Tuesday. However, if the Texans look good with a victory, don't run out a buy your Super Bowl tickets quite yet!!!



The new three-level press box at Dan R. Hooks Stadium will not be completed in time for the start of the football season for the West Orange-Stark Mustangs.



The temporary press box from last season on the visitor's side of the stadium will be used when the football season begins in August.



A new track and a digital scoreboard are being included in the renovations to the stadium at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School.

Stadiums From Page 1B

Conair experienced a supply shortage and now is dealing with back orders that extend from at least February 2021. "We are hoping that they will arrive soon. In the meantime, we have no choice but to use the press box on the visitor's side of the stadium again this year. Please be assured that we are doing all we can to prepare these facilities so our students, staff, and community can enjoy what they voted for," Harris stated.

The temporary press box on the visitor's side is considerably smaller and does not have the equipment that is planned for the new press box on the home side of Dan R. Hooks Stadium. Hiawatha Hickman the head football coach said the plan was to include equipment in the new press box for live streaming the West Orange-Stark Mustangs' home games this season.

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OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

For the majority of upper coast anglers the thought of actually seeing a fish before you cast to it is more of a foreign concept than going to a restaurant that doesn't serve sweet tea, it's just not natural. In the minds of most anglers who fish with me the thought of water with clarity good enough to see fish in is usually reserved for venues farther south or some Carribean island where the white sand is nearly blinding, not the upper coast of Texas or Louisiana. Now don't get me wrong, the water I frequent will never be mistaken for Belize, the Florida Keys, or even South Padre but it certainly will surprise you. The water itself is just as clear but the lack of contrast from the darker muddy bottoms makes it appear to be not clear. Once you actually see some shell or drop a bait to the bottom and realize just exactly how clear the water is all most folks can do is shake their head. It's places like this where I choose to spend the majority of my time guiding and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Fishing in areas where you are able sight cast to individual fish is both an aquired taste and skill that once you are properly introduced to it you often times can't get enough of it. Over the past decade or so I have basically gone to sightfishing exclusively for myself and for the clients I guide. I still enjoy getting out in the open bay and chasing fish out there but the thrill I get from actually seeing fish and coaching clients to catch fish is about as good as it gets for me. To stand on a poling platform and tell a fisherman on the front deck exactly where to throw and watch it all unfold before your eyes as a fish comes crashing down on the lure or fly is what gets me out of bed each morning, I can't get enough and it never gets old.

I can remember years ago when Mark Castlow would bring his famous Shallow Water Fishing Expo to Houston and some of the best guides in the world of light tackle fishing would be in attendance. It was a "free for all" of knowledge as they freely shared techniques and stories of success and hard knocks. I was relatively new to the sightfishing game at the time so anything I could pick up to help make me better and make my trips better for clients was like finding gold. I couldn't wait to take my new found knowl-



Chuck Uzzle

edge home and apply it to my own water.

Easily the most important piece of information that all those great guides stressed was to have the ability to coach your clients and communicate to them in a way that was easy to understand. In order to practice that I enlisted the help of my son Hunter who was 7 years old at the time. I figured if I could teach him how to chase these fish then it would be a snap to do it with adults. It would also make our days on the water even more enjoyable as we spent more time in the boat together. Some of our earliest lessons were comical, especially to the neighbors who happened to be watching. In order to teach Hunter how this style of fishing worked I took my skiff on the trailer and parked it in our vacant lot next to our house. Next I went out and placed 2 liter bottles at different spots on the lawn to simulate fish, the neck of the bottle was determined to be the face of the fish so Hunter knew which way the fish was facing. Once our "target practice course" was set up I grabbed a piece of chalk and wrote the numbers from the clock on the floor of the skiff so Hunter would know which way to line up when I gave him directions. This game was a hit, Hunter enjoyed the competition and I loved watching him. Once we got the hang of how to cast ahead of the fish and to bring the bait in the strike zone we upped the difficulty a little bit. Instead of throwing at bottle sitting still I now would walk around the yard as if I were a fish swimming and Hunter had to work with a moving target. Occasionally I'd stop, stand on one foot, and bend over only to tell Hunter I was "tailing" so he had to read the direction and make a proper cast. If he threw too close I'd run off and tell him he had blown the cast and spooked the fish, it was hilarious and I would not have traded it for the world. When we finally took our game to the real world on the water Hunter was a machine, he followed all the directions and became a really good fisherman. I'd say "redfish at 2 o'clock going right to left at 40 feet" and he'd look down at the numbers in the boat, align himself, make a long cast, and ask me when to start expecting the fish. It worked like

UZZLE Page 5B



Noah Flynn (Right) competing in the second round GI Competition against Arthur Garcia from BJJ Revolution Team featured on left.



Mooney Boys Jiu Jitsu team traveled to Houston this past weekend and competed in a tournament. People from all over the world competed. There were 9 people from Southeast Texas that competed.

OC's Mooney Boys take on Houston

Staff Report For The Record

Competitors from all over the world showed up for the Grappling Industries Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu tournament in Houston, TX this past weekend. Nine competitors from Mooney Boys Jiu Jitsu represented Orange County accompanied by head coach Marshall Mooney and assistant coaches Noah Flynn, Erin Ayers, and Justin Lambert.

The Mooney Boys team competed in 40 total matches bringing home 3

gold, 7 silver, and 8 bronze medals. The Competitors ages ranged from 10-19 years old, with three of the competitors competing in the adult divisions.

Erin Ayers, a 17-year-old recent graduate of Vidor High School, competed in the women's bracket, dominating her opponents, and bringing home 2 gold medals. Two of those matches ending by submission. Ayers is known around the academy as the "Boy Killer" and currently holds a purple belt. She has been training for nine years and is an assistant

coach at the academy. "I'm so grateful for these amazing women who came out today to help not only me but help themselves get better. Through all the blood, sweat, and tears I can truly say that Jiu Jitsu is my sport," says Ayers.

Noah Flynn, a 17-year-old senior at Vidor High School has been training for 10 years, and currently holds a Purple Belt. Like Erin, he is an assistant coach at the academy. "The tournament was a blast, it was great to see how much the kids have improved," says Noah.

Noah competed in the men's adult bracket taking home 2 silver medals.

Seth Carpenter, a 19-year-old Mauriceville resident who is attending Blinn College, competed in his first tournament. Seth won Silver in his Gi competition winning one of his matches by an Ezekiel Choke. In No Gi, Seth won 2 of his 3 matches by submission bringing home a gold medal.

The Adult matches can be viewed on Mooney Boy's YouTube channel; MooneyBoysBJJ.

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Friends of Bridge City Public Library would like to give appreciation to the businesses and individuals who donated to the Summer Reading Program this year. Those include Golden Triangle Emergency Center-Orange, Little Caesar's Pizza-Bridge City, Racers for Reading and Pro Offset Printing. The program had over 50 children enjoying the programs and pizza party for the awards ceremony. Pictured are: Dru Woods performing a puppet show for the children during the Summer Reading Program.



Edward Jones of Bridge City, Karen Collier's branch office, held a school supplies drive this summer and donated everything to Bridge City ISD. Pictured are: Madison Lyons representing Karen Collier's branch and Tara Fountain of Bridge City Independent School District.

Uzzle From Page 4B

a charm and enabled us to have some absolutely epic days on the water. I now had my game plan and was ready to implement it on all my new clients.

As the list of fishermen who I fished with began to grow in length I continued to learn and evolve a few of the techniques. For instance now I always ask my clients how they would like me to measure distance for them, in feet or yards. Most fly fishermen like their distance in feet while conventional anglers seem to prefer yards. I also like to get a feel for how good most of the fishermen are at judging distances so while we work to get in position I often ask them how far they think a particular target is. It's really easy to spot the ones who bow hunt or play golf as they tend to be surprisingly accurate while some other folks need a little more practice. Being able to follow a guides directions is crucial to success when chasing fish in skinny water. Nobody is perfect and bad casts or problems will always be a part of the equation but for the most part when a client is willing to follow your directions it makes for a much better day. On occasion I can heckle some fishermen every now and again when they get a little "big for their britches". I had one guy who continually kept missing the tar-

get and I finally told him to get off of Pacific time and get on Central as soon as he could because when I said 1 o'clock he kept casting to 10. Or when a client casts to the tail of the fish instead of the head I may give them the old "your other left" to get my point across. Most of these comments are met with a laugh and usually get the point across without any hard feelings.

I really enjoy watching folks after they begin to get a feel for this style of fishing, they begin to really pay attention to any type of movement in the water and get genuinely excited each time a redfish presents itself. Some get a little over zealous and swear every mullet swirl or mud boil made by a sheepshead is a redfish as they cast towards the disturbance with high hopes. That's where the next lesson comes in about reading the fish and what the signs are that point to success. When anglers begin to get the hang of that I feel like I have done my job. These days I seldom bring a fishing rod on my trips as I spend all day on the platform scanning the water for the next fish and doing my best to give my clients an opportunity to catch that fish because it's exactly the type of fishing that I enjoy the most.

Holiday in the Park booth space

Booth registrations are now being accepted for the City of West Orange's 2022 "Holiday in the Park" festival.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 in the park next door to West Orange City Hall (2700 Western Avenue; West Orange, Texas).

Non-electrical booth spaces (14' x 14') are available for \$40 each, while

electrical booth spaces (20' x 14') are \$65 each. Booths are rented on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rules and regulations, as well as a site map and registration form can be found on the City's website located at www.cityofwestorange.com. For further information, or to reserve a booth space, contact West Orange City Hall at 409-883-3468.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Little Cypress Mauriceville CISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 22, 2022, in the LCM Administration Building, 6586 FM 1130, Orange, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.04250/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.36910/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	12.83 % increase
Debt Service	0 % increase
Total expenditures	11.59 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 1,622,225,587	\$ 1,770,030,699
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 22,663,784	\$ 10,835,757
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,163,732,198	\$ 1,219,312,084
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 16,317,924	\$ 7,476,672

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$51,365,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.9725	\$0.37012*	\$1.34262	\$4.951	\$6.241
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.89901	\$0.35106*	\$1.25007	\$5.081	\$6.131
Proposed Rate	\$1.04250	\$0.36910*	\$1.4116	\$5.404	\$6.688

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 141,572	\$ 150,591
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 95,336	\$ 110,591
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.34262	\$ 1.4116
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,561.10
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 281.10

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.2916. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.30611. The district is proposing a rate that exceeds the Voter-Approval rate.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment. A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$21,881,598
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$1,550,912

