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County Record

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Week of Wednesday, February 1, 2023

EF-2 tornado went miles across OC

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County had two tornadoes, with one determined to be an EF-2 that traveled 25.6 miles from Orangefield northeastward through Little Cypress and into Niblett's Bluff in Louisiana.

The tornado caused two injuries and damaged numerous frame houses, RVs, and mobile homes. At times, it was 500 yards wide with peak winds of 120 mph, according to a survey from the National Weather Service in Lake Charles.

Meteorologist Doug Cramer with warning coordination out of Lake Charles updated the path of the tornado on January 31. He reported that a marine survey of damage along the Sabine River determined it was one

tornado that crossed across Orange County into Louisiana instead of two separate tornadoes. It is now known as the Orange-Calcasieu Parish Tornado.

Michelle Tubbleville, director of Orange County Disaster Rebuild, which operates under the county's Office of Emergency Management, said the preliminary survey shows about 120 residents were affected on January 24. Of those, 28 to 30 were destroyed or had significant damage.

Orange County Judge John Gothia later declared a natural disaster for the county, one of the steps needed to get federal aid.

The tornadoes and large swath of thunderstorms knocked out electricity to a wide swath of the county,

EF-2 Tornado Page 5A



Cheryl January, LSCO Director of Industrial Technology and Instrumentation Department, stands in the practice lab for process operators. The lab gives students a hands-on experience for working at a petrochemical plant.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

LSCO meeting demand for high-paying industry jobs

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Cheryl January at LSCO has people of all ages and backgrounds coming to her office to learn about getting a new career. Some have even been teachers with four-year college degrees.

They are looking into becoming a process operator in the booming petrochemical plants, oil refineries, and liquid gas units across Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana.

The jobs are needed in the longtime plants or the newer ones, including the \$8.5 billion Orange Chevron Phillips plant under construction. That new plant will add 500 permanent jobs when it is completed in 2026. And those jobs can pay a big salary. Orange Mayor Larry Spears, who works for Dow Chemical, said operator jobs pay \$200,000 a year.

January is the director of the Industrial Process

Technology and Instrumentation Department at Lamar State College-Orange. The school now prefers to go by its initials, LSCO.

January said the courses draw men and women, and are offered through day and night classes to fit the schedules of people with jobs.

It's not the only program filling up. Howard Bailey's Electromechanical Technology courses are also popular as students learn to use robotic-type skills to work in the plants. He even has a class of students from Bridge City High earning dual credits so they can get a job in the industry quicker after high school.

"I want anybody interested in mechanics," Bailey said. "The money is there and the jobs are there."

LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson, who took over as head of the campus in 2018, has been adding training courses to meet the needs



LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson stands outside the Shahan Building on the campus in downtown Orange.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

of the area. Those courses have included driving classes to earn commercial licenses for 18-wheel rigs and school buses. The

school last summer added a large concrete parking lot for the students to practice.

LSCO is under the Texas

LSCO Page 3A

Orange County filmmakers take 'The First Step in SETX production



The cast and crew of "The First Step" short film shooting at La Suprema restaurant. Far left: Jerry Loncon-director and Travis Myers-director of photography, Far right: John R Frederick Jr.-producer. Center male: Chad Illa-Petersen-actor. Photo provided by Studio 220 Films.

RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

PENNYLELEUX
For The Record

When John R. Frederick Jr., of Mauriceville, learned about the Christian film production, "The First Step," being planned for Southeast Texas by Jerry Loncon and Studio 220 Films, he jumped in with both feet. He not only auditioned, but also offered to help in any way possible with the production.

"I'm actually in a film coming up as a character but also Jerry blessed me

with the capacity to be a producer," said Frederick in a podcast of "The Barefoot Director" recently.

"First of all, I did not bless John," said Loncon. "I think it's more of a curse that I gave him a producer role because that means that I have to do less than I was doing, which is fantastic because my brain is about to explode all the time." He said Frederick has been a huge help and he wouldn't

OC Filmakes Page 3A

Sales taxes show spending mostly stagnant

MARGARET TOAL
The Texas Tribune

Sales during November were stagnant compared to the same month in 2021, according to statistics from the Texas Comptroller's Office. The office in January sent payments covering the month to entities with a sales tax.

Orange and Emergency Services District 3 were the only entities with more

than a slight increase. Because the payments were the first of the year the entities have received, the comptroller's office does not give year-to-date payments.

Bridge City has a 1.5 percent sales tax and received \$177,388 in sales taxes for the month, an increase of \$1,265 from last year, or 0.71 percent more.

Orange deposited \$624,168 for November, or

\$68,214 more than the \$555,124 from last year, or an increase of 12.4 percent. Orange has a 1.5 percent sales tax.

Pinehurst had an increase of 3.53 percent from November of 2021. The city, with a 1.5 percent sales tax, collected \$52,650 for the month, compared to \$50,853, or \$1,797 more.

Vidor had a decrease of 2.92 percent for the month compared to last year, col-

lecting \$261,096 for November, or \$7,860 less.

West Orange has a 1.25 percent sales tax and received \$85 more than the previous year. The city deposited \$118,111 compared to \$118,026 last year.

Orange County has a 0.5 percent sales tax and was up slightly, getting \$558,087, compared to

Sales tax Page 5A

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My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

On January 25, 1839 the official flag of Texas was adopted by the Third Congress of the Republic of Texas. It specified the look of the iconic Lone Star Flag that we know and love today.

The colors were chosen to signify certain attributes: red for courage, white for purity and liberty, and blue for loyalty. The Texas flag is the only flag of an American state that previously served as a flag for an independent country.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Starting pay at state hospitals and state supported living centers increases

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced it is increasing salaries and starting pay at state hospitals and state supported living centers to combat staffing shortages and bring hospital beds back online.

HHSC said there are 700 state hospital beds offline due to a shortage of staffers. The commission is hoping to recruit and attract workers, reduce vacancies, and bring more beds back online. There are approximately 1,805 openings in state hospitals and 2,137 openings in state supported living centers. Registered nurses with three years' experience could have starting salaries as high as \$90,000 per year. Psychiatric nursing assistants and direct support professionals would start between \$17.50 and \$21.00 an hour depending on experience. Current employees are also receiving salary increases.

2. Bill filed to make catalytic converter theft a state felony

Senator John Whitmire and Senator Carol Alvarado



Sen. Nichols

jointly filed Senate Bill 224 which seeks to increase the criminal penalty for catalytic converter theft. For the past several years, there has been a marked increase in thefts of catalytic converters. Even when thieves are caught in possession of stolen catalytic converters it can be difficult to prove the case.

This bill seeks to increase the penalty for stealing catalytic converters to a state jail felony and makes it easier for law enforcement to charge those who possess catalytic converters unlawfully. The bill adds additional penalties for criminals who stole catalytic converters while in possession of a firearm. Criminals engaging in catalytic converter theft have become violent and there have been many stories from around the state of Texans being injured or killed during the theft. It is time to give law enforcement more tools to

combat these violent crimes.

3. Senate committee assignments announced

This week Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released committee assignments for the 88th Legislature. I was honored to be reappointed as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and remain a member of Senate Finance, Business and Commerce, Local Government, and Redistricting Committees. The Senate Finance Committee will begin holding hearings next week to start the budget process. Each state agency will come before the committee and discuss their appropriations request with the committee. Members of the committee will have the opportunity to ask questions and get further clarification on details of the budget before further deliberations begin.

4. Afghan soldier arrested as US-Mexico border has federal immigration charges dropped

Abdul Wasi Safi is a former Afghan special forces intelligence officer who worked directly with US forces in Afghanistan. During the collapse of the Afghan government, he was unable to escape the country on any of the US military flights out of Kabul. He became a target of the Taliban once they took over the country. He went into hiding for months before he trekked across countries and continents to make it to the US-Mexico border in an attempt to join his brother who lives in Houston as a US citizen.

He was apprehended by federal authorities and charged with a criminal misdemeanor. He has spent nearly four months in a detention center, but now an assistant US attorney asked the judge this week to dismiss the case against him in the interest of justice and the judge agreed.

He will now continue on his journey toward asylum and will hopefully be re-

leased and reunited with his brother soon.

5. Jim and Margaret Perkins honored for higher education initiatives

This week it was my pleasure to honor Jim and Margaret Perkins on the Senate floor for all of their contributions to our communities, specific in higher education.

This year, they were recognized with the 2023 Texas Higher Education Distinguished Service Award. Leaders from more than 100 institutions of higher education chose them for their work supporting East Texas students, institutions, and communities. Starting in 2014, the Perkins worked with Tyler Junior College to establish a scholarship program for local high school graduates known as the "TJC Promise," which has supported hundreds of students pursue post-secondary education. Congratulations to the Perkins for this tremendous achievement!

28th Annual Community Trash-Off Feb. 25

Staff Report For The Record

It's Trash-Off time once again! The 28th annual Community Trash-Off is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the City of Orange Riverside Pavilion, located at 709 Simmons Drive in Orange, Texas, with a rain date of March 4, 2023.

This year's Community Trash-Off is generously presented by INVISTA and hosted by Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, in collaboration with the City of Orange.

Orange County residents are encouraged to come out, take pride in their community, and help clean up trash from area neighborhoods and waterways. Show

your community spirit and join us for a morning of good CLEAN fun!

Participating teams and individuals will enjoy a free pizza lunch after the event. To register a team or individual, visit shangrilagardens.org to complete registration and waiver forms. Teams are limited to 3-5 members, but groups are encouraged to register several teams. For more information, contact Melinda Jackson at mjackson@shangrilagardens.org or at 409.670.9113.

Please take note that this year's Community Trash-Off location has been moved to The City of Orange Riverside Pavilion at 709 Simmons Drive, beside the boat ramp to the south.

Shangri La Gardens Associate Director Katie

Krantz shared her excitement for the event stating, "Trash-Off is the perfect opportunity for individuals of this community to come together and work towards the common goal of making Orange a cleaner place to live and work. We encourage all of our neighbors to take a few hours to join us for the 28th Annual Community Trash-Off and showcase the pride and resilience we have as a community. We hope everyone takes a little time from their day to help achieve this common goal. We are deeply grateful to INVISTA for supporting Trash-Off again this year as our Presenting Sponsor, along with Orange Mayor Larry Spears, the City of Orange staff and all of those great volunteers who contribute to this im-

portant effort."

First Saturday giveaways at First Baptist Church-BC

First Saturday at First Baptist Church, Bridge City skipped the month of January giving away items, but will be back in the parking lot Saturday, Feb 4th giving away cans of Chili for the cold weather. With the chili will be rice, beans, crackers and Kool Aid. We're excited to be back. Be looking for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon.

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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 website TheRecordLive.Com.

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Orange County Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan and his wife, Becky, were crowned king and queen as they were coronated with a lot of fanfare from dancers and other krewe royalty. The Trahans were dressed in the traditional king and queen white with outfits trimmed in gold sequins and braids plus lots of fluffy white feathers. The queen's long embroidered train included angel wings, a special significance. The Trahans from the Krewe des Amis will preside over Mardi Gras festivities in downtown Orange on February 9, 10, and 11. The grand parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, February 11, and end at the Orange Boat Ramp off Simmons Drive.

OC Filmmakers From Page 1



Director of photography, Travis Myers, of Orange, studies plans for a shot of "The First Step" short film being shot in Southeast Texas. Photo provided by Studio 220 Films.

have been able to get the film done without him.

Loncon gave a brief synopsis of the film.

"It is basically a drama about a man who suffered a tragedy, loses faith in God, loses faith in his friends and gets on a dark trail of revenge." Loncon said "The First Step" proves that Christians are real people. "Things happen to us as well. We don't live in a fairy tale world." He said they don't have magic genies everywhere.

"Things happen to us and we have to face those realities," said Loncon.

"It's a film that's getting a lot of buzz online."

The film started shooting mid-January with locations in Port Neches Park, Beaumont Emergency and La Suprema restaurant in Nederland.

The director of photography (DP) on the film is Travis Myers of Orange.

"Travis is probably what I consider the best director of photography anywhere south of Austin," said Loncon. "To get him working on this film was a huge win for us and of course John is the one who got him. I honestly didn't know who he was before we started, but now I won't let anyone else work on the film except Travis."

"I've worked with Travis on a couple of films already," said Frederick. He said that's what put him in the mindset of if they really wanted it to look good, they needed to get Myers.

"You gotta have Travis," is what Frederick told Loncon. The production was on such a low budget that Frederick was ready to put his money where his mouth was and cover

the cost. He became executive producer on the film.

Loncon said he hadn't planned on releasing shots of the film early on, but he was so excited about the quality of the film and the performances of the actors he couldn't help it.

"I wasn't supposed to release, but I did anyways. I'm so excited. They're incredible," he said.

Myers said, "When I was first asked by John to be a part of this, I thought like wow they're asking for a lot of people, good luck on getting as many people as they need to make this happen." After reading the script, he knew the amount of crew needed was probably unobtainable with the tiny budget.

"Then it happened." He was referring to the cast and crew that grew to over 80 people that are mostly volunteers, with the majority of them being on a film set for the very first time.

"I was like holy crap; this is really working. That's kind of a miracle!" Myers said. He hoped that he would be able to add his little flavor to it, while interpreting Loncon's vision.

"Everybody else is bringing it so I'm excited to be a part of it," said Myers.

Myers is always extremely humble about his work, though he recently won awards for editing and 'color treatment in a film' for "Shhh" which was shot in Orange County in 2019. Myers was both DP and editor for that film. The award for color is a testament to Myers talent, because there was no color correction done on that

film, it was as Myers shot it as the cinematographer.

The film is currently on a short shooting hiatus due to scheduling of some of the cast and crew but should resume mid-February and finish principal photography by the end of March with expected completion sometime next year.

Loncon is excited from the footage and stills already captured by Myers.

There is currently a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo.com to raise funds for postproduction if you would like to help see the production to completion.

"When it's all stitched together," said Loncon, "it's gonna be fabulous."

LSCO meeting jon demands

From Page 1

State University System. Dr. Johnson said the Texas Legislature is encouraging state schools to offer more courses to help people get jobs.

LSCO for a number of years has had a strong regional reputation for offering health sciences classes to train for things like LVN nursing, medical technicians, and pharmacy assistants.

The industrial classes have also been offered for years, but are now increasing with the demand. The college has a new building going up along First Street between Green Avenue and Front Street that will house Electromechanical Technology and other skills.

January said the industrial programs offer two-year degrees that include academics, or two-year certification programs. She said scholarships are available.

Industrial companies have supported the college with scholarships. Also, the Texas Legislature has approved cuts in tuition during the past couple of years.

For those interested in the academic courses at the college, the architectural designs have been completed, the money has been allocated, and the ground is clear for a new \$37.5 million Academic Building along Green Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets.

January and the process technology department are in the Wilson Building along Green Avenue across the street from the academic site. Oldtimers will recall it once being the J.C. Penney Store until

the 1980s.

And for a bit of more history, the Wilson Building is named in honor of the late U.S. Representative Charles Wilson, who represented Orange County in Congress for 24 years. He was portrayed by Tom Hanks in the film "Charlie Wilson's War," that co-starred Julia Roberts. Wilson was a big supporter of LSCO during its early years.

For more trivia, Dr. Johnson once worked for Wilson. His office overlooks the Sabine River and the historic shipyard site. A shelf by his desk has displays of him with Wilson. His copy of the book, "Charlie Wilson's War," on which the movie is based, has marked pages about projects he was involved with during Wilson's covert war to run the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan.

In the Wilson building, January said her doors are open to people wanting to know more about the school's programs, which include training for OSHA and other industrial skills. The LSCO programs use equipment like the industrial plants use. January said the students train in a "hot" lab, meaning the same processes and moves as in a plant. However, there's no "hot" chemicals. She said the students move water around instead. They learn about the chemicals. A large chemical table of the elements is prominent on the wall.

Across campus, Bailey is in a new Electromechanical Technology building. His working lab, too, is filled with industrial equipment and training

devices. On a cold, bright morning, he was working with the high school students from Bridge City before a dozen others came in.

One of those students is Alberto Vicuna. He said he was working at an Academy sporting goods store. He had a customer from LSCO who enjoyed his personality and talked him into training for a career. "I can't believe this is really happening," he said about his courses.

A simple way to describe the courses is by using the term "robotics." He teaches students to learn to control and repair devices without human hands. As an example, he talked about the Space Station. Repairs are made "without being able to it" with human hands.

He explains that chemical plants have substances that need different movement devices. The student will train to move things by ways powered like air or electricity and in safe ways.

"Everything in this program really ties into industry," he said.

Bailey said the longtime plants here are needing new employees as the ones reaching ages 55 to 60 are opting to retire.

The days of unions and apprenticeships are not like they were here years ago, and replacements for the retiring workers are not available. "Now, there's a real gap in knowledge," Bailey said.

Industry is needing the workers. And LSCO is trying to keep up with that demand.

'The Record' Community News Online Anytime



SCAN QR



From the Creaux's Nest

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH TO GATHER

For the second time the **Lunch Bunch** will try to kick off their regular weekly gathering at **Robert's Restaurant**. Last week tornadoes postponed the **Lunch Bunch** reconvening after a two year COVID lay off. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy great fellowship. The **Bunch** meets every Wednesday noon. Y'all come.****I've got to move on. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

TORNADOES REVISIT ORANGE COUNTY

The weather service had predicted bad weather for last Tuesday afternoon and also possible tornadoes. I feared because of the high winds we might lose power. The lights had blinked a couple of times around 3:00 p.m. I rushed to finish my column before the lights went off. I turned it in around 4:15 p.m. **Margaret Toal** wasn't as lucky. When the tornadoes hit about 4:30 p.m., **Margaret** lost all of her copy, a week's work down the drain, plus she was in the dark without power. Her only option was to drive in the scary rain to work out of our **Bridge City** office which thankfully never lost power. She managed to get a weather story out and a couple of other things. Her main stories would have to be rewritten for this week. We got lucky Wednesday, it turned out to be a nice day to deliver but some of our employees were without power until Friday night. The **National Weather Service Lake Charles** has now determined there were two tornadoes in **Orange County** on Tuesday and one in **Jefferson County**. The largest to hit **Orange County** had a 13.37 mile width and was rated as an **EF2**, with top speed of **120 mph**. The tornado started at 4:28 p.m. 4 miles northwest of **Bridge City** and ended at 4:42 p.m., 6 miles northeast of **Orange in Calcasieu Parish**. An **EF2** tornado touched down along **Orangefield Road** and tracked into areas northwest of **Orangefield High School**. There were framed and mobile homes that were heavily damaged in this area, indicative of **120 mph winds**. The tornado continued along the northern fringes of **West Orange** and **Orange** before it impacted neighborhoods in **Little Cypress**. The tornado then tracked across the **Sabine River** near the end of **West Bluff Road**. The other **Orange County** tornado, known as the **Bessie Heights** tornado, started at 4:23 p.m. and ended at 4:29 p.m. and was rated an **EF1**, due to its estimated top wind speed of **100 mph**. The path was 2.28 miles long with a width of 75 yards. It started 3 miles west of **Bridge City** and ended 3 miles northwest of **BC**. **Orange County** folks know a lot about hurricanes but tornadoes are rare in this area. However, just a few years ago, a tornado had traveled almost the same route coming out of **Bessie Heights marsh**. A long time ago old timers always said that tornados travel about two feet above the ground. I'm not sure if that's so or not however on national news I saw a report of an **Orange** couple and their dog got in a three foot deep ditch that contained some water while the tornado went over them. What is always a big surprise to me is that with all the damage and destruction a tornado does there are very few lives lost or serious injuries. Another chapter in the history of **Orange County Texas**.

REMEMBERING JERRY PRIDDY

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Jerry Priddy**, age 89, on January 24. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 31. Just before we went into lockdown because of COVID, I had a nice visit with Jerry. We had been friends since we were around 22 years old. At that young age Jerry owned a service station on MacArthur Circle near where **Al Granger** has his RV lot. We were both newly married in 1954 and both managed to stay married a lifetime. **Holly Motor Company**, the **Chrysler-Dodge** dealer, was across the highway and a used car lot was next to Jerry's station. The guy's were bad about going to Jerry's station to shoot craps, bouncing the dice against the wall. When Jerry's wife **Jean** was spotted coming around the circle, everyone scattered like a covey of quail. **Joe Runnels**, who had the longest arms and biggest hands, was always the first to grab the pot and leave with the money. Jerry later had a station across from **Walmart** going into **Roselawn**. He also owned **Priddy Oil Company**, bulk dealer for **Phillips 66 Oil Company**. What must have been some of the fun times for Jerry was working at the **Claybar Funeral Home**. He told many stories about those days, the boys he worked with and **Lannie Claybar**. Jerry once told me that **Lannie** and **Don Campbell** could play the **Honky Tonk** piano as good as **Jerry Lee Lewis**. Jerry was a cheerleader at **Stark High** and remained a cheerleader all of his life. You could hear him laugh two blocks away. He was just a great guy who enjoyed family, friends and life. I'm proud to have known him all those many years. My sincere condolences to **Jean** and her large family. You can read Jerry's obituary on our website therecordlive.com. May this good man rest in peace.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

Last Sunday night possibly the last **Pro-Bowl** game to be played in Hawaii. The **NFC** beat the **AFC**, 62-35. **Orange native Earl Thomas** intercepted a pass for the **NFL** but even better than that is that **Earl** is always an ambassador for his hometown. When players are recognized, most say the name of the college they attended, **Earl always says Orange, Texas**, giving us national recognition.**** **Kree Harrison** auditioned for **American Idol** at the Oklahoma auditions. I'm not sure when that show will air; it could be Jan. 30th or later. **Kree** has a lot of relatives in **Orange County**. Her mother, **Kathy Roberts**, who was killed in an auto accident when **Kree** was 16 years old, was **Wilson Robert's** daughter. **Kree's** father, a **Bridge City** native, was killed in a plane crash when she was 12 years old. She has been singing since she was 8 years old and appeared on the **Rosie O'Donnell** show and other talk shows. Most of **Kree's** younger years were spent in **Woodville** as well as **Bridge City** and she entertained in the area. **Kree** has a good, strong voice and could make it through to **Hollywood**. She now makes her home in **Nashville**.**** We are sad to report our friend **Orange native Charles Pratt** is in a coma as of this writing. ****Congrats to coaches inducted into the **South East Texas Coaches Ring of Honor**. Inductees were **Chuck Young**, **Ronnie Anderson**, **Mark Foreman**, **Joe Evans** and the late **Bill Tennison**.****Congrats also to **Bridge City** baseball coach **Chad Landry**, who was one of the "Coach of the Year" recipients.****On Feb. 4, former world-class pole vaulter, **Eric Eshbach**, who got his start at **Orangefield** and set high school state records will celebrate. **Eric** was the pride and joy of his grandmother, the late **Dot Eshbach**.

24 Years Ago-1999

The country prepares for **Super Bowl XXXIII** between **Atlanta** and **Denver**. This will be **John Elway's** fifth Super Bowl appearance. He's the oldest quarterback to ever star a **Super Bowl**. **Falcon coach Dan Reeves** will be playing against his former team, the **Broncos**. However, on the **Falcons** is ex-**Bronco Shane Dronett**, from **Bridge City**. **Shane** was born Jan. 12, 1971, at **Orange Memorial Hospital**. His mother **Candace Breeden** said she had wanted a girl but the nurse brought in a big, baby boy. He weighed 9 pounds and 14 ounces and was 23.5 inches long, just short of two feet. **Candace** had never seen such a big baby. **Shane** played junior high football at **West Orange-Stark** but moved to **Bridge City** to live with his dad, **Carl Dronett**, so he could play football at **Bridge City**. His parents had divorced when he was an infant. Since being in **Atlanta**, **Shane** and high school friend, **Ty Gipson**, opened a sports art gallery. Now they have three galleries in the country. The **Super Bowl** was played in **Miami**. (Editor's note: **Shane's #75 Jersey** is retired at **Bridge City High School**. **Shane**, who was a fearless football player, both at **Texas** and in the pros, took a lot of blows to his head. Like so many other professional football players, **Shane** took his own life a few years ago.)****Former **Bridge City** coach and trainer **Moe Litton** is inducted in the **Southeast Texas Hall of Honor**. **Litton** lined up with **Joe Washington**, **Bum Phillips**, **Alex Durley**, **Pappy Drennan** and **Darrel Shaver** as 1999 inductees.******Insurance agent Bill Nickum** was honored with the **Sam Walton Business Leader award**. **Nickum** was among 650 business people nationwide selected by **Wal-Mart**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Who needs **Charles** and **Camilla** when **Orange** has **King Johnny** and **Queen Becky** from the **House of Trahan**. Sequins, glitter, and feathers were all around last Saturday when the **Orange Mardi Gras** krewe held their annual ball at the **VFW Hall**. This year, **Orange County Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan** and his wife, **Becky**, were crowned king and queen as they were coroneted with a lot of fanfare from dancers and other krewe royalty. The **Trahans** were dressed in the traditional king and queen white with outfits trimmed in gold sequins and braids plus lots of fluffy white feathers. The queen's long embroidered train included angel wings, a special significance.****The **Trahans** from the **Krewe des Amis** will preside over **Mardi Gras** festivities in downtown **Orange** on February 9, 10, and 11. The grand parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, February 11, and end at the **Orange Boat Ramp** off **Simmons Drive**. **The Record Newspapers** will have more details in next week's editions.****Lots of people wearing colorful ball gowns and tuxedos with sparkly vests or glittery jackets crowded into the decorated hall for the annual event. Royalty this year included **Adam Conrad** and **Jody Chesson** from the **Krew du Bayou**, wearing matching **Viking warrior costumes** with black capes trimmed in faux fur mink. They wore silver lame boots with their black pants plus elaborate silver armored hats with horns. **Allan** and **Tricia Villery** were the royalty from **Krewe de Onyx** and wore coordinating outfits of black trimmed with silver and red, with lots of sparkly sequins. He wore a crown and her tall collar of black with silver stars served as a headpiece.******Orange Mayor Larry Spears** and wife **Trisha** served as royalty from the **Krewe Meilleurs Amis**. Their customized coordinating outfits featured colorful works of art including **Van Gogh** plus the mayor's trademark saying "Boom Pow." Instead of crowns, they wore French berets, like the artists. **Skipper** and **Gina Yeaman** had the most colorful of the royal outfits as they were the royals from **Krewe C'est Bon**. They had a tropical vibe with colors of bright pink, turquoise, and yellow set off with sequins and lots of feathers. Their feathered headpieces included all the colors and sparkles.****A couple of hundred others from around the area danced and visited in their colorful finery. **Captain Cornmeal**, aka **Eric Ellison**, worn an emerald green opalescent vest with his tux. **Gary Bonneaux** later was searching for his tux jacket that he left on the back of his chair. His wife, **Allisha**, didn't report any missing garments. **Al Granger** had another colorful jacket with designs of red and pink antique roses, along with a black cowboy hat. It was a formal event. Also seen with **Al** were **Staci Eatman**, **Mackenzie Decker**, **Bobby Wilkins**, and **Scott Hasty**, who opted for a traditional tux.****Some of the others in the crowd included **Terri** and **Brad Childs** (recovering from the tornado that passed over their property four days earlier), along with **Paul** and **Theresa Fukuda**,

Mallory and **Alex Edgerly**, **Terri** and **David Gauthier**, **Robert** and **Mindy Currie**, **Clint** and **Kimberly Ray**. **Sabrina Claybar** had a black lace gown with plunging neckline while husband **David C. Claybar** wore a traditional tux. **Russell Bottley** wore a tuxedo jacket of black with a pattern of turquoise and glittering silver along with a bow tie to match the jacket.****Birthdays this past week included **Jane Bonnin Jeanise**, who turned 90 and celebrated with a giant family party. She's still on the go. **Ronnie Turner** marked his 70th birthday. Others with birthdays included **Tony Dallas**, **Bill Dixon**, **Barbara Winfree**, **Judge David Dunn**, **Felica Conway**, and **Sandra Dickey**.****On January 20, 1936, the first inductees of **Baseball Hall of Fame** in Cooperstown New York included **Ty Cobb** and **Babe Ruth**.****The first charter members of the **Pro-Football Hall of Fame** were not named until January 29, 1963 in Canton Ohio. The **Hall** opened September 1963.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Feb. 1:** **Mason Adams**, **Theresa VanMeter**, **Brittany Leonard**, **Garrett Kerger** and **Lisa Monceaux** all celebrate.******Feb. 2:** Happy Birthday to **Daric Rogers**, **Kelly McBride**, **Vance Thomas** and **Don Kachtik**.******Feb. 3:** A year older today are **Nolan Leblanc**, **Michael Hilliard**, **Stephanie Broussard**, **Stephanie Carpenter**.******Feb. 4:** **Eric Eshbach**, **Shirline Broussard**, **Lisa Ludwig**, **Lydia Wilson**, **Brad Freeman**, **Lindsey Hollingsworth**, and **Mel Moreau**.******Feb. 5:** Enjoying a birthday today is **Madi Johansson**.******Feb. 6:** Sharing birthdays today are **Karen Duplician**, **Haley Arnold**, **Grant Jones**, **David Greyder**, **Peggy Jones** and **Cindy Lessard**.******Feb. 7:** Birthday wishes to **Darlene Brown**, **Charles Smith**, **Jamie Beaulieu**, **Jeanna Campbell**, **Luke Lyons** and **Jeremy Sleeman**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Clotelle and **Sostan Thibodeaux's** chillums got together and bought dere mama and papa a two weeks vacation trip to **Australia** for dere 50th wedding anniversary. **Dey** flew out from **New Orleans**. **Bout ten hours in da flight**, da public address system come on, "Dis is da captain speaking, I'm afraid me, I got some very bad news. Our engines dem, have ceased functioning. I will attempt an emergency landing. Luckily I see an uncharted island below wit a beach. However, we may never be rescued and will have to live on dat island all our lives." Thanks to the skill of **Capt. Trahan**, the plane land safely on dat island.

A little later **Sostan**, him, axe **Clotelle**, "Babe, did you pay our **Visa** and **Master Card** bill yet?" **Clotelle** answer, "Mai no Sha." **Sostan** still shook up from da crash axe, "Did you pay **American Express**?" "I'm sorry, I forgot," **Clotelle** answer. **Sostan** say, "One las ting, did you remember to send the installment payment to da **IRS** dis month?" "Oh, forgive me **Sostan**," begged **Clotelle**, "I didn't sent dat either."

Sostan grab **Clotelle** and give her a big kiss like on dere honeymoon. **Clotelle** pull away and axe, "Wat was that for, hanh?" **Sostan** answer, "Dey gonna find us dem."

C'EST TOUT A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT 128TH DISTRICT COURT

When **Judge James Neff** resigned two candidates announced for the post. **Neff** had resigned with just a few months left in his term. I'm not sure if that was by design or not. I suspect it was because the governor appointed **Frank Hustmyre** to fill the unexpired term. He then ran as the incumbent against his cousin **Graham Bruce**. The gimmick backfired, voters could see through it. **Bruce** was elected. That created a big rift in their family. **Judge Hustmyre** took his own life. **Graham** went on to serve as judge then when he resigned it was left to a Republican governor to appoint a new judge. **William "Bill" Clements, Jr.** announced his intention to seek the governorship of **Texas** as a **Republican** in 1977. No **Republican** had held that office since **Edmund J. Davis** during reconstruction in 1874. A split in the **Democratic Party** aided **Clements** bid for governor. **Att. General John Hill** had defeated **Gov. Dolph Briscoe, Jr.**, in the democratic primary. **Briscoe's** children and friends endorsed **Clements**, who won by a narrow margin. In 1982, he lost to democrat **Mike White** and in 1986 he defeated **White** and became governor for the second time. **Elisha Pease** and **Marian "Ma" Ferguson** are the only other governors to serve non-consecutive terms. In **Clements** first term the **128th District Court** seat became vacant. It seemed likely **Orange County** would have its first **Republican** District Judge appointed by a **Republican** governor. Instead a liberal democratic judge was appointed. **Pat Clark** was serving as **County Court at Law judge** but was in **Dallas** handling a deposition for attorney **Wayne Peveto**. He got a call to get to **Austin** as soon as he could. He changed his flight plans from **Beaumont to Austin**. **Pat** met with **Clements'** appointment secretary and was told the governor was going to appoint him judge of the **128th district court**. **Judge Clark** became the only democratic to be appointed by a **Republican** governor. He served from 1978 to 2012. He then served again as **County Court at Law judge** for awhile. He retired rather than switch parties. He is a lifelong democrat. **Republicans in Orange County** had billed **Pat** as a **conservative democratic** to save face for the governor's appointment of **Clark**. When **Judge Clark** had to leave the **128th District Court** due to age restriction, history was again made when **Courtney Burch Arkeen** became the first woman district court judge in **Orange County**. She was appointed to fill **Clark's seat** by **Gov. Rick Perry** and was re-elected to the post. She is still serving as one of the prettiest judges in **Texas**. (Editor's note: I'm sure there is another story behind **Pat's** appointment. I'd like to know from **State Rep. Wayne Peveto** and **Sen Carl Parker** how that deal was put together. **Pat** was the last democratic judge to serve.)****My time is up, thanks for yours. Please read us over to cover and shop our family of advertisers. **Have a nice week, take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Judy “Faye” Gail Sneed, 63, BC

Judy “Faye” Gail Sneed, 63, of Bridge City, Texas, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 15, 2023, in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her loved ones.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, Texas. Officiating will be Pastor Johnathan Green. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on June 26, 1959, she was the daughter of Reece and Honor (Harper) Smith.

Judy Faye devoted her life to Christ. She was always studying her bible, her favorite scripture being Psalms 91, and spreading the word and love of God.

Judy was very generous when it came to giving her time, prayers, love, or anything else she could offer. She loved everyone equally just as Jesus does. She was a natural caretaker and had spent years of her life caring for her family. Judy was known to be a wonderful cook and an amazing baker. She loved her family dearly, especially her grandbabies who



Judy Sneed

referred to her as “JuJu”. Judy Faye’s memory and faith will go on to be cherished by everyone who loved her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Reece and Honor (Harper) Smith; and brothers, Edward Smith and Terry Smith.

She is survived by her husband of over 34 years and 7 months, Clyde E. Sneed; children, Christopher Everett Sneed and wife, Brandy of Bridge City, Shacail Lee Sonnier and husband, Joshua of Orangefield and Michael Smith and wife Sarah of Tallahassee, Florida; grandchildren, Shayleigh Gibbs, Shelby Sonnier, Raycelee Sonnier, Honor Sneed, Serenity Sneed, Araya Sneed, Brayden Smith and Colt Smith; brothers, Robert Smith, Harold Smith, Lynn Smith, Rusty Smith, and Michael Smith; sisters, Ann Smith and Joan Gallas; and numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Michael Smith, Chad Linder, Gavin Rosenblad, Wade Smith, Cade Smith, Logan Wise, Chandler Green, and Jerod Sims.

Honorary pallbearers are Joshua Sonnier and Sean Sneed.

The family would like to send special thanks to Altus Hospice, Dr. Akbani, and Brandy Whitman for their care.

Gary Michael Carnley, 79, Orange

Born in Houston, Texas, on December 16, 1943, he was the son of David S. Carnley and Mildred Ellis Alborn. Mike was a lifelong resident of Orange and graduated from Little Cypress Mauriceville High School in 1962. After high school, he attended Lamar University and then joined the United States Navy



Gary Carnley

where he served from 1965-1968 and was a Vietnam Veteran. He then began a career at BFGoodrich, which later became Bayer Corporation, where he worked as an Environmental Assistant for over 30 years. Mike was an outdoorsman and loved the mountains. He made many memories with his family camping in the mountains of New Mexico and Colorado, where he enjoyed elk hunting with his sons and cousins. Mike’s special place was his deer lease; he spent his entire life roaming those woods on foot or on four-wheeler. He was a very kind and gentle man who could build and repair anything he got his hands on, including his log home, which he built himself. Mike enjoyed being able to spend time on the water and would sail for days on lake Sam Rayburn. He was a longtime member of 9th and Elm Church of Christ in Orange, where he formed many warm and loving friendships to last a lifetime.

He is preceded in death by his mother and stepfather Mildred Ellis Alborn and Charles; father and stepmother, David S. Carnley and Lucille; sister, Deborah Rawls; mother and father-in-law, Ollie and Clyde Thraikill; and niece, Denise Carnley.

He is survived by his loving wife of over 48 years, Frances L. Carnley; sons, Jared Carnley and wife Laine of Montgomery, Tx, and Gary Carnley of Orange; grandchildren, Cody Carnley of Tempe, Arizona, and Ollie Carnley of Montgomery, Tx; siblings, David Carnley and wife Nancy of Newton, Tx, Mary West of Orange, and Susie McKay and husband Mark of Aiken, South Carolina; along with numerous nieces, nephews and other loving friends and family, especially his cousin, Darrell Rennick, whom he thought of as a son.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>, and the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation at <https://www.parkinson.org/>.

Cremation will be under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home.

EF-2 tornado in county From Page 1

including almost all of the city of Orange. Schools were canceled for two days in the Orangefield, Bridge City, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, and West Orange-Cove districts because of the lack of power.

Many homes went more than two days or more without electricity as people huddled under blankets near fireplaces as the temperatures dropped into the 30s with the cold front behind the Tuesday storms.

The tornado outbreak came with a squall line of thunderstorms moving from the west. It was the second outbreak of tornadoes in 15 months. Orange County had two tornadoes on Tuesday, October 27, 2021, including an EF-2 and an EF-1.

The thunderstorms also produced a tornado around Taylor’s Bayou off State Highway 73 in Jefferson County, plus two more into Louisiana.

Before 2021, previous strong tornado had been in November 1957 when one went through West Orange and crossed into Orange. It then went through what is now the Old Orange Historic District eastward to the former Riverside housing, and into Louisiana. That twister killed a woman, destroyed homes, and the Stark High field house. Weather historians now believe it was an EF-3 storm with winds of 136-165 mph.

Like in the outbreak in late 2021, the storm system last week brought an EF-1 tornado that started in the Bessie Heights Marsh along Bridge City. The National Weather Service reports the EF-1 on January 24 began at 4:23 p.m. and damaged trees and roofs from Nora Circle to Turner Road. The winds peaked at 100 mph with the maximum width at 75 yards. It traveled 2.28 miles.

The EF-2 tornado started a few minutes later at 4:28 p.m., touching down along Orangefield Road (FM 105) and traced north of Orangefield High School. It ended up going for 25.6 miles eastward into Louisiana.

That tornado hit a number of areas, including along Tulane Road, crossing northbound across Interstate 10. Bancroft Road and the nearby Hillbrook subdivision were affected. It continued north east, hitting

the Allie Payne Road and nearby subdivisions, before crossing Highway 87 North and going into the Dawnwood area. It then went through that subdivision onto Echo Road and across the Sabine River into Louisiana.

Tubbleville said it is important for every property owner with any kind of damage from the tornadoes. People can register their damage and upload photographs of damage online through the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool, or iSTAT. The information is used locally, by the state, and FEMA to determine what kind of assistance will be made available.

The Orange County Disaster Rebuild office is open to help people file their iSTAT information online. The office is at the Orange County Expo Center on FM 1442 and is open for assistance from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The number is 409-745-9719.

Tubbleville said her office can help people with destroyed or severely damaged houses get gift cards, food, and other necessities, and even help find a safe place to live.

Orange County made the disaster rebuild department permanent after Hurricane Harvey flooded most of the county in 2017. The department helped coordinate outside and local volunteer efforts to help people with their needs after a disaster. The office helps victims get in touch with government, church, and charity groups for assistance.

The disaster rebuild office has continued through Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019, Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, and the 2021 tornadoes.

Tubbleville said she plans to organize volunteers and relief groups soon for the latest tornado victims to learn how they can get help. However, she points out that people with insurance need to work through their policy providers before seeking other help. After that, the donated help can assist with repairs not completed after an insurance deductible is reached. The rebuild office can also help find furniture like a bed or other necessities.

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Sales tax spending From Page 1

\$555,607 last year, an increase of \$2,480. Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3 is for the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department. The district has a 1.5

percent sales tax and is the only special district in the county with a sales tax. The district received \$31,372 for November, an increase of \$10,877.

Do Well Be Well with 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 March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 and will be from 6 PM to 8 PM.

They will be held at the Orange County Extension Office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on 11475 FM 1442, 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.

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For Rent 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath in Bridge City area. \$1200 monthly, \$600 security deposit required. Please call 409-670-6255

For Rent 360 Lake Street in Bridge City, 3 bedroom 2 bath mobile home with large add on addition \$750 plus deposit (409)351-5511

AUTO FOR SALE

Lexus 2011 LS 460 for sale, loaded, silver, one owner. 111,000 miles. Asking \$18,000. Please call 337-302-8897

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2016 32 ft Passport Ultra Light Grand Touring Trailer w/ 3 slides. \$17,000 Call and leave message for Rodney 337-842-7745

BURIAL PLOT

Burial plot for sale at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Orange. Single plot in the Garden of the Good Shepherd, Lot 15, Block C. Please call 409-988-0684.

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GARAGE SALE

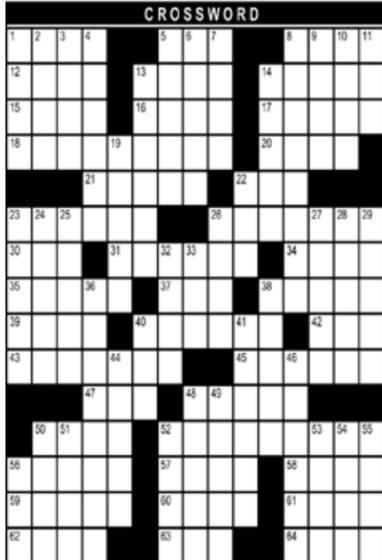
Huge Garage Sale on Sat., Feb. 4 from 7 am to 2 pm at 1607 Englewood Dr., 77632, Little Cypress, N. Hwy. 87 by Big Red Barn. Lots of household items, clothes, shoes, jewelry, etc.

Garage Sale on Friday, Feb. 3 from 8 am to 2 pm and Sat., Feb. 4 from 8 am to 12 noon at 19329 Highway 62 S., Orange, 77630. Lots of good stuff.

Garage Sale on Sat., Feb. 4 at 140 Quincy St. in Bridge City from 8 am to 2 pm. Household items, mis., baby bassinet, holiday decorations, home decor. Cactus and Aloe Vera plants. Cast net, battery charger and more.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
ACROSS
1. "Without further _____," pl.
5. Sweet 16 gift
8. Steps to the river, in India
12. *Michael Bublè's "_____ the Last Dance for Me"
13. Bigger than big
14. Nonkosher
15. Big-ticket one
16. October birthstone
17. #5 Down's target
18. *Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine's Day predecessor
20. Make over
21. Omit
22. Hexagonal fastener
23. December birthstone, pl.
26. Most gem,tlich
30. Ed.'s request
31. Two dots above a letter
34. Brussels org.
35. Church recesses
37. _____ or chicken?
38. Encourage (2 words)
39. What hoarders □□
40. He crossed the Rubicon
42. Jet follower
43. English county



courts, in the olden days
45. Gentlemen's gentlemen
47. Chop off
48. Papparazzo's quest
50. Port in Yemen
52. *Heart-shaped box content
56. Range
57. Top notch
58. Baron Munchhausen, e.g.
59. Journalists and reporters
60. Speed unit
61. All is well that does this well
62. Bald eagle's nest
63. Ever, to a poet
64. Tinkerbell's pow-□□□
DOWN
1. "Clueless" catch phrase
2. *Get-together
3. End of a break-up phrase
4. Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
5. *Winged one
6. September stone
7. Bank on
8. * _____ card
9. Not tails
10. '70s hairdo
11. Sylvester, to Tweety
13. Wholism, alt. sp.
14. Monotonous hum
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. "Wayne's World" catchphrase
23. Japanese port location, pl.
24. Necklace clasp location, pl.
25. Affirmatives
26. *Kisses' partners
27. National emblem
28. Type of weasel
29. BBQ tool
32. Pasturelands
33. Accompanies wisdom?
36. *a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady
38. *Muse of love poetry
40. Large edible mushroom
41. Long-legged shore bird
44. Regions
46. Bummed about
48. Bell's invention
49. Laurels
50. Homesteader's measure
51. Active one
52. Soap block
53. Hokkaido language
54. Small amounts
55. Formerly, formerly
56. *Romantic destination

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DONALD WAYNE BOURQUE**, Deceased, were issued on the 31st day of **JANUARY, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19602**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas. Probate Division to: **GINGER GAY BOURQUE**. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Ginger Gay Bourque
5470 Gilbert Dr.
Orange, TX 77632

DATED the 31st day of January, 2023.

Eric Peveto
Eric Peveto
Attorney for:
Ginger Gay Bourque
State Bar No.: 24004859
118 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0220
Email: emily@pevetolawfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **FRANKIE LEE JENKINS**, Deceased, were issued on **JANUARY 24, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19587**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **SANDRA ANN TURNER**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o:
Barron Law Office
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279

Dated the 24th day of January, 2023.

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

The State of Texas
To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of
MARY JO STOKES, Deceased
Cause No. **P19592**
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on JANUARY 5, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Mary Jo Stokes, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on January 5, 2023.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas
By: **Samantha McInnis**, Deputy
Samantha McInnis

CITATION BY PUBLICATION (OTHER) - COPUBWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To: Unknown Heirs of Wayne Joseph Prosperie, Jr.
Respondent, NOTICE:

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 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Petitioner, was filed in the 128th District Court of Orange County, Texas on 7th day of December, 2022, against Unknown Heirs of Wayne Joseph Prosperie, Jr., Respondent, numbered 220484-C. The suit requests:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 2032 Monterrey Drive, Orange, TX 77630, and more particularly described as LOT NO. TWENTY (20), IN BLOCK NO. TWO (2), OF CHARLEMONT PLACE, A SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ORANGE, ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP THEREOF OF RECORD 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 9th, 2023.

ANNE REED, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Anne Reed

PROPERTY NOTICE

The property commonly known as 315 Mill Street, Vidor, TX 77662 is scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 02/07/2023 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

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Thompson and Crouch honored

OCSPORTSBEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Two longtime high school football coaches in Orange County were honored by the Southeast Texas Coaches Association (SETCA) on Saturday, January 28. Cornel Thompson and Randy Crouch were inducted into the SETCA Hall of Honor during a ceremony at the MCM Elegante' Hotel in Beaumont.

A native of Louisiana Cornel Thompson was raised in West Orange. After beginning his coaching career in 1971 at Kirbyville, Thompson became the head baseball coach at Stark High School in Orange in 1972. He was a member of the original coaching staff at West Orange Stark when the school was created in 1977.

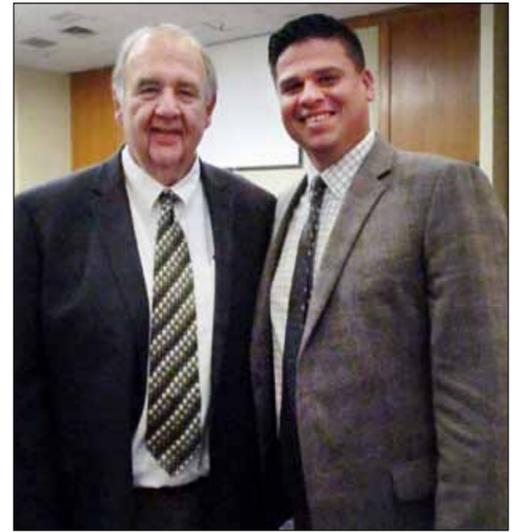
Thompson worked with the Mustangs first head coach Steve McCarty and then later served as the Defensive Coordinator under their second head coach Dan Hooks for de-



A trio of West Orange Stark coaches at the SETCA banquet Steve McCarty, Mark Foreman, and Cornel Thompson. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

those games and established West Orange Stark as the winningest high school football program in

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Randy Crouch posed with his successor Eric Peevey as the head football coach and athletic director at Little Cypress Mauriceville during the SETCA banquet. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

the state of Texas winning over 85 percent of its 500 plus games since the school was created.

Randy Crouch was born and raised in Sulphur, Louisiana. Crouch was an outstanding football star in college at Louisiana Tech University. He began his coaching career in Louisiana for both college

SETCA Page 3B

Orangefield Bobcats edge Buna



Leyton Loft of Orangefield led the Bobcats in rebounds with 7 and scored 6 points in the win over Hardin.



Post Koen Maddox scored in double figures in both Orangefield wins last week and was a key rebounder for the Bobcats.

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats moved to 8-1 in district with two wins last week. The victories keep the Bobcats in second place behind the undefeated in district East Chambers Buccaneers who won their last two games by only a combined five points.

The Bobcats had a thrilling game against their longtime rival the Buna Cougars on Wednesday, January 25, in Buna. The playing of the game was delayed one day because of the hazardous weather that passed through the area on Tuesday.

The contest was a nail-biter from the start with Orangefield leading 13-12 after one quarter and by five points 25-20 at the half. The Bobcats took a six point advantage to the final period when Buna rallied to get within one point before Orangefield won 52-51 to sweep the two district games with the Cougars.

Pete Ragusa was the high scoring Bobcat with 15 points, and he assisted on 7 baskets by his team-

mates. Orangefield's two post players had strong games. Koen Maddox scored 12 points to go with 4 rebounds. Morgan Sampson led the Bobcats in rebounds with 8 while tallying 6 points.

The going was a little easier for Orangefield on Friday against the Hardin Hornets. The Bobcats won 80-34 after leading at halftime 48-8 holding the Hornets scoreless in the second quarter.

Ragusa again led Orangefield in points and assists with 18 and 5 respectively. Maddox was in double figures for a second straight game with 11 points and had 5 rebounds. Freshman Jaden Scales scored 10 points. Leyton Loft was the top Bobcat rebounder with 7 boards in the game along with 6 points.

The Orangefield Bobcats traveled to Warren on Tuesday to play the Warriors. The next game for Orangefield will be a rematch with the East Chambers Buccaneers on Friday, February 3, at the Orangefield Gymnasium. East Chambers won the first meeting with the Bobcats 62-48 at Winnie.

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Coach T., Randy Crouch inducted, Eagles, Chiefs in Super Bowl

KAZ'S KORNER Joe Kazmar For The Record

Last weekend was a very important one as far as football both locally and nationally are concerned.

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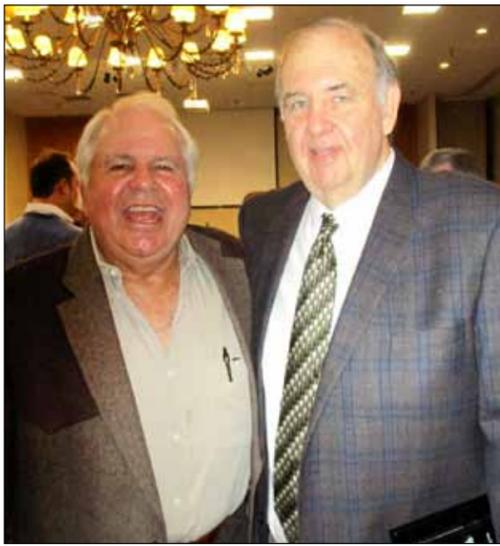
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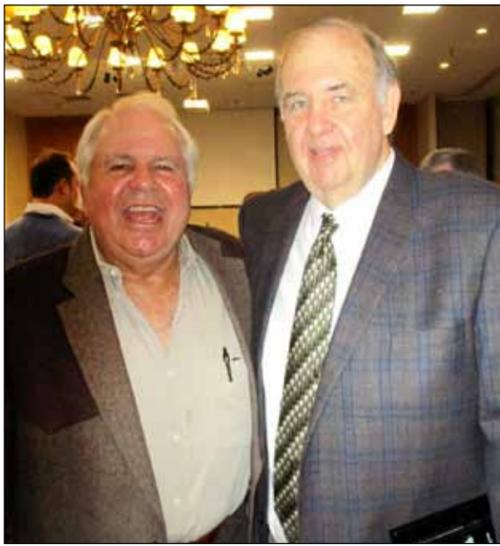
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Bears avenge earlier loss to Bridge City

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

With two weeks remaining in the District 19-4A basketball schedule there is a log jam of teams battling for three of the four playoff positions. The Silsbee Tigers are undefeated in first place which barring a total collapse the top spot should be secure for them, but the other three positions are up for grabs.

Two Orange County teams are in the tangled mix with the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears and the Bridge City Cardinals fighting the Lumberton Raiders and the Jasper Bulldogs for the remaining three playoff positions. The Bears played the Cardinals on Friday, January 27, in Bridge City.

The Cardinals won the first district first meeting between the two at LCM 63-62 back on January 3. The Bears desperately needed a win to even the slate with Bridge City.

Little Cypress Mauriceville took an early 3-0 lead with a basket by Al-

antheon Winn and a free throw by Noah Fuller. The Cardinals' Walker Britten tied the game with a three pointer and when the Bears regained the advantage on a bucket by Ben Elliott it was Britten again nailing a three to put the Cardinals up 6-5 for their first lead in the game.

The Bears answered with field goals by Da'Marion Morris and Winn to go ahead 9-6. Aaron Torres and Aiden Gutierrez scored the next two baskets to give the Cardinals a 10-9 lead. It would be Bridge City's final advantage in the contest.

Winn scored his third field goal of the quarter followed by buckets by Fuller and Elliott in the closing minutes of the quarter. LCM enjoyed a 15-10 advantage after one.

The momentum was rolling for the Bears as they scored the first seven points of the second quarter. Jagger Carlin stopped the draught for the Cardinals at the 3:05 mark of the second followed shortly after by Gutierrez sinking a shot but that was all

the scoring for Bridge City in that period.

Fuller hit a three and Winn added a two as Little Cypress Mauriceville increased its advantage to 13 points 27-14. Winn had a driving layup nullified when a referee called a foul on him for pushing off with his right hand while laying the ball off the glass with his left as the half ended.

Bridge City started the second half with a positive burst as Britten sank a three pointer and Bryce Linder scored on a short jumper to narrow the gap to eight points about 2:50 into the third quarter. The Bears started another string of thirteen points in a row on a pair of free throws by Morris, a three point basket by Noah Fuller, and ended on a pair of buckets by Elliott that ran the lead to 40-19 with less than two minutes remaining in the quarter.

Trailing by eighteen points was a steep hill for the Cardinals to climb at the start of the final quarter. The slope got slipperier as the Bears doubled



LCM's Alantheon Winn led the Bears with 18 points in their 57-42 win over the Bridge City Cardinals.



Noah Fuller played a strong game on defense and contributed 11 points including two three-point baskets in LCM's win over Bridge City.



Darren Anderson of the Mustangs scored 21 points in West Orange Stark's win over the Vidor Pirates.

the difference to 44-22 on a steal leading to a layup by Morris and another basket from Winn.

The remaining minutes saw LCM sitting all of its starters and using the bench to finish the game. The game ended with Bridge City trimming the deficit but never really threatening the Bears comfortable lead with 57-42 being the final score.

Winn of Little Cypress Mauriceville was the high scorer in the game with 18 points. Three other Bears

also scored in double figures as Elliott totaled 16, Noah Fuller finished with 11, and Morris tallied 10 points.

Eight of nine Cardinals scored points in the game. Britten led Bridge City by scoring 12 and Gutierrez was also in double figures with 10 points.

Coach Brad Jeffcoat of the Bears analyzed the victory for LCM. "We showed up ready to play tonight. For three and a half quarters we played re-

ally good defense. We subbed late and it got a little closer. The effort and execution on defense was fantastic. I am proud of the kids for responding to that," Jeffcoat praised.

Little Cypress Mauriceville had its second half bye prior to the win on Friday against Bridge City. The Bears moved a half game ahead of the Cardinals in the district standings with the win.

The remainder of the

DISTRICT Page 4B

LCM Lady Bears top Bridge City Lady Cardinals

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The girls' basketball teams are down to their final week of the District 19-4A schedule. The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears (7-2) have clinched a spot in the playoffs but need to close with three wins in their remaining games to ensure being the second seed for the post season.

The West Orange Stark Lady Mustangs and the Bridge City Lady Cardinals both had two games remaining on their seasons.

The Lady Bears had a bye early last week before

playing the Lady Cardinals on Friday. The game was close at the half but LCM pulled away and won 42-20 over Bridge City.

The defenses were strong for the two teams with only twelve points being split evenly by them in the first quarter. The Lady Bears led by four 15-11 at the half.

The third quarter was the turning point for Little Cypress Mauriceville as the advantage ballooned to twenty points. The Lady Cardinals failed to register a point in the period trailing 31-11 going to the final quarter.

The Lady Bears played tenacious defense forcing

21 turnovers by the Lady Cardinals. LCM also controlled the boards getting more rebounds than Bridge City in the game.

Keylie Washburn of the Lady Bears was the leading scorer with 14 points. Haelee Fitzhugh scored 8 points for LCM while Annabelle Fisher and Chrissy Joseph both added 7 points. Whitney Cunningham led the Lady Cardinals with 9 points.

Bridge City played district leading Silsbee on Wednesday. The Lady Cardinals lost 65-35 to the Lady Tigers. Kaylee Britten and Makenna Knight had 7 points apiece for Bridge City.



Haelee Fitzhugh scored 8 points to help LCM beat Bridge City in last week's district game.



Kaylee Britten scored 7 points for Bridge City against Lumberton to tie for the most points by a Lady Cardinal in that game

West Orange Stark won 34-17 over the Vidor Lady Pirates on Wednesday to

sweep the two district games between the teams.

On Friday, January 27, the Lady Mustangs lost 49-36 to the Lumberton Lady Raiders.

The remaining games of the district schedule will find the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears playing at home this Friday against and then at Jasper next Tuesday.

The West Orange Stark Lady Mustangs play their final game on Tuesday at home against the Silsbee Lady Tigers.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals host the Vidor Lady Pirates this Friday before traveling to Lumberton next Tuesday for their last game this season.

SETCA honors From Page 1B

and high schools.

In 1994 Crouch came to Orange, Texas to be the offensive coordinator for David Williams at Little Cypress Mauriceville. He served there for four years before moving to West Orange Stark in 1998.

Under Dan Hooks in 1999 Crouch was promot-

ed to offensive coordinator at West Orange Stark and served in that position until 2008. Crouch became the head football coach and athletic director at Little Cypress Mauriceville in 2009. He served in that position until his retirement from coaching in 2020.

Food Handlers Training Class

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Orange County is holding a Food Handlers Training Class.

This class is required for all food service employees in the state of Texas. This class covers Cross Contamination, Time and Temperature Abuse,

Personal Hygiene, and many other aspects of food service. The class will be held on February 22 from 9 am until 11 am at the Orange County AgriLife Extension office at 11475 FM 1442, Orange, TX.

Costs is \$20. To pre-register, call the Orange Extension Office at 409-882-7010.

Certified Food Manager classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office is holding the 2-Day Certification Training with Test. This course will help you to: Understand the major causes of food-borne illness and how to prevent them, Increase the food safety knowledge of your employees, Improve relationships with health officials. Upon passing the certification exam, you will fulfill state requirements for Certified Food Manager status.

Topics covered include:

- Foodborne illnesses and how they are caused
- Food safety hazards
- Sanitation regulations
- HACCP
- AND MORE!

The classes will be held on February 27th through 28th from 9 am until 4 pm. These will be held at the Orange County Extension Office at 11475 FM 1442, Orange, TX. To register, download the form at <http://food-safety.tamu.edu> or contact the Extension office at 409-882-7010 to get a copy of the form. The cost of the class is \$125 per person.

Keith Frank
and The Soileau Zydeco Band

Mardi Gras Kick-Off Concert
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Explore ORANGE TEXAS

Entertainment: Music events firing up in 2023

**TOMMY MANN JR.
FOR THE RECORD**

A multitude of excellent live music opportunities are on tap for the next several weeks offering a variety of musical styles for nearly everyone. Big events such as local Mardi Gras performances, the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, as well as regional concerts have set 2023 off to a frenzied pace.



Aaron Lewis will perform a solo, acoustic concert at the Jefferson Theatre in downtown Beaumont on Saturday, Feb. 4. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations.

- **Feb. 4**
Aaron Lewis, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont, Grand Funk Railroad, Jefferson Starship, Coushatta Casino Resort, Kinder, La.
- **Feb. 10**
Keith Frank Zydeco Band, Riverside Pavilion, Orange, The Mavericks, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont
- **Feb. 11**
Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Stephen Percy, Slaughter, Rise Rooftop, Houston, Anthrax, Black Label Society, Bayou Music Center, Houston, The Marshall Tucker Band, Delta Downs Casino, Vinton, La.
- **Feb. 12**
Danny Ocean, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 14**
Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Toyota Center, Houston

- **Feb. 17**
Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 23**
Journey, Toto, Cajun-Dome, Lafayette, La.
- **Feb. 25**
John Mellencamp, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land
- **Feb. 25**
Tracy Lawrence, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 28**

- Parker McCollum, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 1**
Brooks & Dunn, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 2**
Lauren Daigle, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 3**
Bun B's Southern Takeover, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 4**

- Walker Hayes, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Colt Ford, LAU-berge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **March 5**
Zac Brown Band, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 6**
Jason Aldean, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 7**
New Kids on the Block, Rodeo Houston, NRG Sta-

- dium, Houston
- **March 8**
Jon Pardi, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Aaron Lewis, Cajun-Dome Convention Center, Lafayette, La.
- **March 9**
TobyMac, Crowder, Cochren & Co., Tasha Layton, Jon Reddick, Terrian, CajunDome, Lafayette, La., Ashley McBryde, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 10**
The Chainsmokers, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Queensryche, Marty Friedman, Trauma, Scout Bar, Houston
- **March 11**
Turnpike Troubadours, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Third Eye Blind, Coushatta Casino Resort, Kinder, La.
- **March 12**
La Fiera de Ojinaqa, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston. Static-X, Fear Factory, Mushroomhead, Dope, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 13**
Cody Jinks, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 14**
Machine Gun Kelly, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Skillet, Theory of a Deadman, Saint Asonia, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **March 15**
Kenny Chesney, Rodeo

- Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 16**
Chris Stapleton, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, LT and The Zydeco Mob, Mardi Gras Southeast Texas, Beaumont
- **March 17**
Uncle Kracker, Sons of Bocephus, Mardi Gras Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Cody Johnson, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 18**
Paul Wall, Slim Thug, Baby Bash, Lil Keke, Mardi Gras Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Powerman 5000, Scout Bar, Houston, Brad Paisley, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 19**
Tropa Estrella, Grupo Ma\$oro, Mardi Gras Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Luke Bryan, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 25**
Newsboys, Adam Agee, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont
- **March 31**
Sammy Kershaw, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Smile Empty Soul, Horizon Theory, Fire Follows, Scout Bar, Houston
- **April 1**
New Edition, Keith Sweat, Guy, Toyota Center, Houston

TPWD Unveils Virtual Reality Boater App at Houston Boat and Car Show

**Staff Report
For The Record**

HOUSTON – The latest classroom for boating education is virtual reality. In a nationwide first, the TPWD boater education program will utilize VR headsets to introduce audiences to the joy of sailing where wind, waves and actions all impact the boat's behavior. While immersed in a highly realistic environment, participants will learn about different types of sailboats, parts of the boat and steering basics. The virtual reality sailing course is part of the MarineVerse app, one of the online training courses offered by Nautic Ed.

Individuals interested in experiencing boating in a virtual reality course will have the opportunity to try it out first-hand at the Houston Boat and Auto

Show Jan. 25–29 at NRG Center. Texas Game Wardens and boater education personnel will be on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) education area to administer VR headsets and assist attendees with the sailing experience. The course includes a safety briefing and slipping into a life jacket. Audience members may follow along on a monitor that projects everything the participant encounters in their virtual experience.

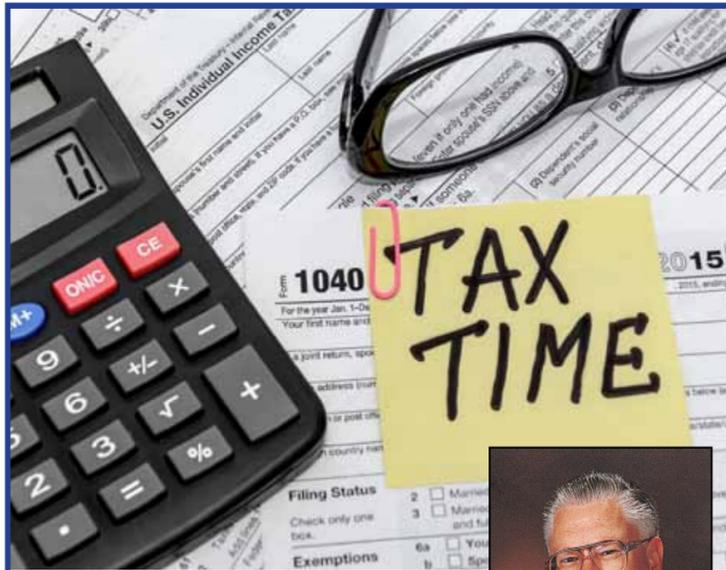
“The sailing course offers a fully immersive experience that places the participant in the driver's seat of the boat,” said Kimberly Sorensen, TPWD boater education manager. “While the full boating education course is not available on the app, it's a fun introduction to safety and sailing.

Utilizing new advancements like virtual reality not only engages new generations but reminds everyone that completing boater education is necessary in Texas.”

Anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993, who is interested in getting behind the wheel of a motorboat with greater than 15 horsepower or a personal watercraft or sailboat more than 14 feet in length is required to successfully complete a boater education course.

Representatives from Texas State Parks, Texas Outdoor Family, angler education, archery education, human resources and coastal fisheries will also provide fun activities for the entire family.

Visit the boater education website for more information.



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Single but Not Lonely

John Lee
Guest Contributor
desiringGod.org

Singleness can feel like the participation trophy in the game of life. The default for the relationally dismayed. The “gift” no one asked for.

That assessment, however, couldn't be further from reality. And I say that as a still-single man who aspires to marry. All of us experience singleness. And even for those who do marry, more than half will be single again. God cares about our unmarried years. He desires all of us to make the most of them. So what steps can we take to steward these years well?

1. Define Your Gift

The apostle Paul makes an audacious claim. Whereas in Genesis 2 God observes, “It is not good that the man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18), Paul tells the unmarried and the widows that “it is good for them to remain single, as I am” (1 Corinthians 7:8). Paul, when looking at the new-covenant community, doesn't see marriage-lessness as a curse, but as a gift. He says, “I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another” (1 Corinthians 7:7).

I've spoken to dear saints who desire marriage and do not have the life they expected. If that describes you, God has not abandoned you. You're not stuck in a waiting room between celibacy and marriage. God desires his good, perfect, delightful will for you right now.

2. Discern the Advantages

What about singleness makes it a gift? What does singleness offer that marriage doesn't? If we cannot name the advantages

that come with singleness, then despite our insistence that singleness is a gift, we don't have much to offer to those who are living a single life.

When I read those verses and reflect on the advantages of singleness, I see at least three.

• FOCUS

In a world full of distraction, singleness enables us to focus on Jesus “without distraction.” This isn't to say that we cannot honor Christ if we're married — God desires married couples to love and serve each other for his glory (Ephesians 5:22–33). But singles can devote themselves to him with fewer disruptions from good but competing desires.

As singles, we're able to be single-minded. We can focus on honoring our Lord without the complexities of a spouse and children. Quiet mornings with Bible reading and prayer. Ministering to others without being interrupted by naps and diaper-changes. Fellowship without a curfew. Decisions about the future oriented toward gospel good without weighing familial costs. Singleness allows for undivided focus.

• FLEXIBILITY

“Let me check with my spouse” is probably the most frequent response to an invitation extended to a married member at my church. Singles are advantaged in not carrying the weight of accounting for another person. We can say yes more often.

When a church member texts me at 11:30 p.m. asking to meet to read the Bible, I can say yes. When a family at the church needs emergency babysitting, I can say yes. When life presents risky, God-glorifying opportu-

nities, I can say yes. Singles' capacity allows us to flex for the sake of the kingdom.

• FREEDOM

Paul states his desire for singles by saying, “I want you to be free from anxieties” (1 Corinthians 7:32). Freedom from the obligations of marriage enables singles to do what married people cannot. Whereas marriage is helped by stable routine and clear obligations, singleness provides mobility.

3. Desire and Be Content

What about singles who deeply desire marriage? How can we endure seasons of discontentment? We need to clarify what we mean when we talk about contentment. Paul writes to the Philippians,

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. (Philippians 4:10–14)

First, you can be content in singleness while desiring to be married. Paul thanks the Philippians for assisting him while in prison. I don't think Paul is telling the Philippians that he desires to stay in prison because he is content in all circumstances. Between being hungry or well fed, he prefers being fed (“It was kind of you to share my trouble”).

Desire and contentment are two different realities. You can desire marriage while still being content in seasons of singleness. If you are single and desire to be married, then, don't feel guilty about that desire. Proverbs 18:22 says, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.” Enjoy your singleness and look for a spouse!

Second, contentment sees the goodness of God in one's circumstances, not detached from them. Do not try to find your ultimate satisfaction in the future fulfillment of a spouse. Find your satisfaction in Christ in your season of singleness. Our focus in singleness should not be primarily oriented toward the hope of future marriage. Our faithfulness in singleness is valuable because it honors Christ. As Sam Allberry says, “If marriage shows us the shape of the gospel, singleness shows us its sufficiency” (7 Myths About Singleness, 120).

Third, you can be content in singleness and still struggle with the difficulties that come with singleness. We intuitively understand this about marriage. Difficulties in marriage don't necessarily mean discontentment in marriage (though it can certainly lead there). Christ can handle our delights and our disappointments. You can be honest about the difficulties of singleness while trusting Christ in “in any and every circumstance” (Philippians 4:12).

4. Devote Yourself to a Church Family

In Mark 10:29–31, Jesus says, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come

eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Jesus promises us a family worth a hundred times more than anything we may leave — now in this time. The family that Jesus promises is his church.

The most practical ways you can practice undivided devotion to Christ will come through a love for his church (John 13:34–35).

Single, Not Lonely

Life in the local church enables me to serve in ways I can't alone. I get to babysit children while their parents go on dates. I get to go out of my way to spend time with a shut-in that lives further away. I get to use my time to serve in ways that would be difficult for other members in the church. There is no selfish singleness in the kingdom of God. While married Christians expend most of their energy for their physical family, I get to expend most of my energy for my spiritual family.

Living with the local church also lets me depend on other Christians in times of need. A warm, homecooked meal is a phone call away. Church members who know me cry with me, challenge me, and encourage me as I pursue Christlikeness. It doesn't mean they love me perfectly (I don't love them perfectly either), but in this life, my church has been as precious to me as brothers, sisters, mother, father, or children.

Singleness has its fair share of joys, difficulties, and opportunities. But our faithfulness now displays our hope in future glory, when people will “neither marry nor [be] given in marriage” (Matthew 22:30), because we'll see our Bridegroom face to face. And when we see him, we'll know that the investment we made in this season was worth it.

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“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

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