

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Economic growth leads to jumps in property values

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

People in Orange County have been praying for decades to get economic and population growth. Last week, they found out one way that long-awaited growth affects them.

Property values across the county jumped up, with an average increase of 16 percent, putting Orange County in the growth percentage values of places like the San Antonio, Houston, and Fort Worth metropolitan areas, according to the Orange County Appraisal District.

Chief Appraiser Scott Overton of the Orange County Appraisal District said the local appraisals had been lower than averages in the past year determined by the Texas State Comptroller's Office. Because of that

discrepancy, the five public school districts in the county could have stood to lose a total \$8 million in state education funding.

A survey of houses for sale across the county show how much Orange County has become a sellers market. A 900-square-foot wood-frame house in a 1952 Orange subdivision is listed at \$125,000. A new 2,000-square-foot house in Little Cypress is on the market for \$345,000. Also, an 1,800-square-foot wood-frame house in Orangefield is for sale at \$219,000.

Property prices across the county have been going up as plans developed for the new Chevron Phillips chemical plant. Now, numerous large construction projects, including the \$8.5 billion CP Golden Triangle

PROPERTY Page 3A

Mauriceville Crawfish Fest this weekend

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Get out your stretchy pants. It's time once again for the AYCE in Mauriceville, better known as "all you can eat" crawfish at the annual community festival paying tribute to the crustacean.

Nearly 50 years ago, crawfish farming was beginning and Mauriceville had one of the first farms in Texas, leading to the nickname, "Crawfish Capital of Texas." And that became the community's reason to celebrate with a special event.

The tradition continues with the annual Mauriceville Crawfish Bash on Friday night and all day Saturday. And with Friday being Cinco de Mayo, the festival is taking on a Mexican flair with "crawfish and sombros." Friday night will even feature sangria wine and crawfish tacos.

It might be hard to deter-

mine what is the biggest attraction. The festival will have a full carnival, family activities, games, live music, crawfish races, a crawfish eating contest, and a variety of foods and drinks.

All that adds up to lots of activities, but for some, the "all you can eat" crawfish may be the biggest draw. On Saturday, a giant tent will be set up for people to settle down and pig out on spicy mudbugs, potatoes, and corn.

"All you can eat" tickets are \$35 in advance and are available through the Mauriceville Heritage Association's Facebook page and website, www.crawfishfest.org. The tickets will be \$45 at the event. Some 20 crawfish teams will be boiling up the foods and the crowd will be able to help choose their favorites.

The Mauriceville Heritage Association is a non-profit group that has

MAURICEVILLE Page 3A



The West Orange-Stark Mustang baseball program honored departing players Carlos Calana, DJ Robledo, Travarri Beasley, AT Wilson, and Tyrone Wilson (as well as Darren Anderson not pictured) on 'Senior Night' last week. The six baseball players will be graduating this month.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

BCISD will break ground on new middle school Monday

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

A dream is beginning to come true for lots of people in the Bridge City school district as the construction of a new middle school is on the way.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Bridge City Middle School will be held Monday, May 8, at 5 p.m. The 160,000 square-foot school is being built with money voters approved in the 2022 bond election.

The ceremony will be held at the site of the new school, which is across the street from the current middle school at 300 Bower Street. The current middle school was built as the Bridge City High School in the early 1960s, when personal use computers were science fiction. The building has survived several hurricanes and storms in



Community invited to the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Bridge City Middle School will be held Monday, May 8, at 5 p.m.

the past years.

The new school will accommodate 900 students and in addition to regular classrooms will feature a media center, cafeteria, gymnasiums with locker rooms, science labs, and CTE (career technical education) classes. Also, there

will be a fine arts section with a band hall, choir rooms, and a performance area.

The new school will have upgraded safety and security features, along with the latest in technology infrastructure.

The school district under

Superintendent Dr. Mike Kelly is inviting the community, along with all BCISD faculty and staff members, to attend the special ceremony. The event will feature speeches, the tradition shovels digging dirt, along with refreshments.

Festival keeps train depot running

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Ten years ago, the early 1900s Southern Pacific Railroad depot stood abandoned and decaying. Graffiti often was sprayed on its brick walls.

Then Orange native Carrie Joiner Woliver of Houston started a foundation to save and restore the depot, Friends of the Orange Depot. Today, the restored train depot on Green Avenue in downtown Orange is a cherished landmark

downtown and , a popular party venue.

Saturday, May 6, the public will get a chance to support the upkeep of the depot and enjoy a fun family outing. The annual Depot Day festival will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the depot and the adjoining block.

Of course, lots of model trains will be featured, including a kid-sized train to ride around the street, plus painted train cutouts for some selfies. But there will also be lots more things for kids to ride. Those will in-

clude an airplane ride, mechanical bull, and even real ponies. Tickets for the attractions will be \$1 each or six for \$5. Entertainment will include a balloon sculptor, arts and crafts for the kids, the Orange Blossom dancers, the Orange Community Players, and art cars from Houston. Vendors will be set up inside the depot.

Families can play corn hole toss or even try to throw a baseball and dunk someone at the dunking game.

Food trucks set up are to

include Model Train Barbecue, The Pink Lady, and Ice Cream Shack.

Chances on a variety of drawings will be sold to benefit the depot preservation. The prizes will be a girls bike and a boys bike; gift cards from Orange Cafe, Sabine Federal Credit Union, Well Spring Credit Union, and Texas State Bank. First State Bank is donating a gift basket with gift card to the drawing, and Paul Burch with Looking Good Salon is providing a gift basket.



Rotarians help fund school's floral design class



West Orange-Stark High senior Jose Rosas has become the school's first to graduate to become a licensed drone pilot through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Invis-ta-Orange chemical plant donated to help buy the drone equipment for the new program at WOS.



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club presented Debbie Gregg with a \$1,000 check for the Bridge City High School Floral Design Classes to help with certification expenses for the students. Pictured are Rotarians - Sam Comer, Jerry Jones, Jack Comer, Ronnie Hutchinson, Steve Quebideaux, David Rutledge, Debbie Gregg, Dr. Mike Kelly, Charlee Chelette, Dr Mark Messer and Lucy Fields.

My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

A weekly column by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3

May is here which means we only have a month left in this Legislative session. Deadlines are looming for bills to reach certain benchmarks. It's a race to the finish!



Sen. Nichols

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Bill moving SFA to UT-System passes House, going to Governor

This week, Senate Bill 1055 passed the House unanimously, 148-0, with even Speaker Phelan voting for the bill (the Speaker typically votes 'present not voting' on most bills in the chamber). I appreciate the House author, Representative Travis Clardy, and his work on this legislation. I also want to thank our partners at the University of Texas System and Stephen F. Austin State University for all of their work on this bill. The university received input from students, faculty, alumni, community members, and other interested parties before making the decision to affiliate with the UT-System. Both the university and the system stand to benefit from this partnership, and I look forward to the Governor signing this historic legislation. Congratulations to both SFA and the UT-System!

2. House passes state employee parental leave bill with changes

This week, the House passed Senate Bill 222, a bill I authored to give state employees paid parental leave. I was happy to work with Representative Will Metcalf, who carried the bill in the House. The House made some changes to the bill, including extending the amount of paid maternity leave offered to state employees and paid paternity leave. The House's version of the bill gives both parents 60 days of paid leave, which equates to about six weeks of leave. The Senate's version of the bill gives four weeks of paid maternity leave and two weeks of paid paternity leave. We will have to appoint a conference committee to work out the details between the two chambers and ensure that state employees are given the benefit of paid parental leave. I look forward to working with our House and Senate colleagues to give an appropriate amount of paid leave for state employees who are starting or growing their families.

3. Lamar University, SFA receive Summer Merit Program grants

The Texas Workforce Commission and Governor Greg Abbott announced 12 grants totaling almost \$1 million to Texas universities and community colleges for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) summer youth

campers through the Governor's Summer Merit Program. These funds provide scholarships for more than 1,500 students aged 14-21 to attend STEM summer camps that prepare them for future work in high-demand industries. The Summer Merit Program offers students an introduction to advanced technologies and manufacturing, aerospace and defense, biotechnology and life sciences, information and computer technology, petroleum refining and chemical products, and energy. Two universities in Senate District 3 are recipients of the grants. Lamar University received just under \$100,000 for 180 scholarships for camps with hands-on learning opportunities in computing and programming. Stephen F. Austin State University received \$100,000 for 140 scholarships for project-based learning activities. The camps at SFA will include fieldwork opportunities, field trips, and STEM career-oriented events and activities.

4. Nursing grant programs bill passes Senate

This week the Senate

passed Senate Bill 2059 by Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa. The bill seeks to address the ongoing nursing shortage in the state by establishing several grant programs at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

These grant programs would enhance access to clinical training and support faculty for clinical training. Multiple nursing shortage workforce evaluations pointed to lack of clinical training capacity as the primary obstacle to educating more nurses. Senate Bill 2059 would create the Clinical Site Nurse Preceptor Grant program, the Clinical Site Innovation and Coordination Program, the Nursing Faculty Grant Program for part-time positions, and the Nursing Faculty Grant Program for clinical training. Providing state support for expanding access to nurses clinical training is critical as we come out of the pandemic.

5. Bill updating school marshal program passes Senate

The Senate unanimously passed a bill that would

continue to improve the school marshal program. Senate Bill 2407 by Senator Kelly Hancock would require school marshal training to include training provided by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center, also known as ALERRT. ALERRT, which is housed at

Texas State University in San Marcos, is considered the gold standard in active shooter response training. If we want to continue to improve safety in our schools, it's imperative we give those who are charged with protecting students the best training and tools possible.

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of Orange County, Texas

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Saturday city, school elections have new voting

**Margaret Toal
For The Record**

For the first time in history, voters throughout Orange County on Saturday will be able to go to any of the five open polling sites instead of being required to go to a neighborhood voting box.

The elections will be for city council and school board races. Some entities were able to cancel elections because of no contested races.

This year, the only elections are for city councils in Orange, Bridge City, Vidor, and Rose City. School board elections will be for West Orange-Cove CISD

and Vidor ISD.

State officials and the Orange County Commissioners Court approved the new system after the County Elections Administration worked to get the electronic system and measures in place. The electronic system includes voting on a computer screen with all voters getting a paper ballot copy to check and deposit at the poll.

May 6 voting will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Orange Public Library, St. Francis Catholic Church in Orange, the Salvation Army in Orange, the Bridge City Knights of Columbus Hall, and the Ray-

mond Gould Community Center in Vidor. The Little Cypress-Mauriceville area and the Orangefield area do not have polling sites because those communities do not have elections Saturday.

The races on Saturday will be for Bridge City City Council Place 3 with Bryant Champagne facing Kenneth Prosperie. The incumbent did not run again.

Orange City Councilor Paul Burch is seeking re-election for his Position 6 at-large seat as Henry Junior Leger is challenging him. All registered voters in the city may cast a ballot in the race.

The West Orange-Cove school board has two incumbents and one challenger running for the two at-large position openings. Voters in the district may vote for one or two of the three candidates. The two candidates receiving the most votes will be seated. The incumbents are Ruth Hancock and Tommy Wayne Wilson Jr., with Donny Teate Jr. challenging them.

The Vidor City Council has one open challenged

position with Ward 6 candidates Victoria M. Jones, Kathryn Weldon, and Lisa M. Harris.

The Vidor ISD board has three positions with challengers. Position 4 candidates are Billy Jordan and Natalie Martinez Long. Brooke Hoosier Gilthorpe and Rodney White are running or Position 5. The Position 7 candidates are Michael Helms, Ben Howard, and Jeremiah Harrington.

Early voting ended

Tuesday evening. The Orange County Elections Administration reported Monday night that the six-day early voting total was 1,420, with 1,385 in person and 35 by mail-in. The Orange Public Library box had 720 votes as of Monday, with the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor with 465 votes and the Orange County Airport box with 200 votes.

Property values jump From Page 1

Polymers, and the new Energy power plant, are bringing new people to the county who need places to live.

Taxing entities, like cities, school districts, and emergency services districts for fire departments, will be required to adjust their tax rates to the new values. The "effective rate" will be the amount of tax rate the entity should charge to raise the same amount of property tax revenues as the year before. An 8 percent increase in the effective tax rate will need an election for voters to approve that higher rate.

In addition, people have until May 31 to file a protest of their new appraisals. The protests may be made through the Orange County Appraisal District website at orangecad.net, or by calling 409-745-4777. In-person protests may be made during regular business hours at the appraisal district headquarters, 9157 Interstate 10 East in the McLewis area.

The state set up the appraisal district system about 1980 to have one entity in each county set appraised values for taxes. Before that, each entity made its own property values, which led to big discrepancies, even within the same counties.

Orange County Appraisal District has professional real estate professionals and staff. It is overseen by an appointed board of directors. Each taxing entity gets a percentage of votes and they are cast for nominees to the board. The board meets under the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office is in the Orange County Courthouse administration building in Orange. The office is led by an elected official and here collects property taxes for all local taxing entities. Since 1980, the office has not handled property appraisals.

Scott Overton is the chief appraiser, the professional in charge of regular operations. He said Texas does not have personal state income taxes, so cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts "all rely heavily on property taxes."

Overton said every year, the Texas Comptroller's Office audits appraisals by each county appraisal district in the state. The audit uses records of recent property sales plus local appraisals for the study. If a local appraisal district fails for two years in a row to be 5 percent or more off from the comptroller's office calculations, the state can cut the amount of funding to a public school district in the county.

Overton said the Or-

ange County Appraisal District had been lower than 5 percent in the state audit of values for two years. If adjustments were not made to get closer to the housing market values this year, the five school district could lose a total of an estimated \$8 million.

The entities will be working this summer on new budgets for the 2023-24 budget year. Most school districts start their budget years on September 1 and other entities began theirs on October 1. The entities will set their property tax rates before the budget is ap-

proved.

Property tax bills are usually mailed in October and they are due by the end of January. Taxing entities have a variety of exemptions to save on property taxes. The homestead exemption allows people to have a discount if they live in the house. Homeowners age 65 and older get another exemption to cut taxes. Some entities also have exemption discounts for the disabled and for veterans. Information on the exemptions is available through the Orange County Appraisal District.

Mauriceville Crawfish Fest

From Page 1

been assisting the small town area for decades. The crawfish festival is the group's biggest fundraiser, along with being a way for the community to gather. The group uses its money to help a number of activities in the community, including youth groups and livestock shows, a senior citizens Christmas party, donations for Blue Santa program for needy children, plus scholarships to local students.

The Crawfish Bash will

be at community center, 7441 Cohenour Road off State Highway 62. There is no entrance fee, but parking will be \$10 per vehicle on the improved parking area.

The carnival will be setting up and be open Thursday. The carnival company charges for rides.

Gates for the festival will be open Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and then from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The annual Crawfish Parade will be held before

the gates open. No coolers will be allowed, but people may bring their own chairs.

Friday night's entertainment will be a DJ. Live music will be featured throughout the day on Saturday. The music lineup has Caleb and April from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chris Hantz and Royboy from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Texas Thunder from 4 to 6 p.m., and Junior Lacrosse and Sumtin' Sneaky from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

First Saturday giveaways at FBC this weekend

First Saturday at First Baptist Church is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 am until 12 noon. This month we will give away fun items for children to take while traveling on vacation, such as coloring books and crayons, crossword puzzles, card games, children magazines, sand buckets, etc. Look for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd in Bridge City.

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From the Creaux's Nest

KING CHARLES CORONATION TO BE HELD

King Charles III's coronation ceremony on May 6 will be a historic event watched by millions of people around the world, but witnessed in person by only a number of **handpicked guests**, members of the royal family, foreign dignitaries, politicians and even some members of the public. At the last coronation of a British monarch, **Queen Elizabeth II's** in 1953, about **8,000 people** crowded into the abbey to witness the ceremony. The late queen's son **King Charles** will have a significantly reduced guest list of around **2,000 people**. That includes, of course, the king's eldest son and next in the royal line of succession, **William, the Prince of Wales**. His wife **Katherine, Princess of Wales**, will also be there, as will the couple's children. **William** and **Kate's** oldest child, **Prince George of Wales**, will not only be there, but will be the youngest future king, he's next in line to the throne after his father. **William's younger brother Prince Harry**, the **Duke of Sussex**, will attend **King Charles' coronation** without **Megan**. The **Duchess of Sussex**, will not make the trip from their home in California and will instead remain with the couple's children **Archie** and **Lilibet**. **King Charles' siblings, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew** and **Prince Edward**, are also all expected to be at the coronation ceremony. **Camilla, 75**, will be crowned **Queen** alongside her husband, much like the late **Queen Elizabeth's** mother was back in 1937. She, too, will be anointed with holy oil before having a crown placed on her head. **Camilla** was originally meant to inherit the title of princess following the Queen's death, however, the late monarch had voiced her request for **Camilla to be named Queen Consort**. Following the coronation, "**Consort**" will be dropped from her title and she will be referred to as **Queen Camilla** or simply, **the Queen**.

MASS SHOOTER CAPTURED

Francisco Oropeza was asked to stop shooting an **AR-15** rifle so close to his neighbor's front yard. The neighbor, **Wilson Garcia's**, 6-week-old baby was upset by the noise. Police said that instead of laying off, **Oropeza** marched into his neighbor's home and began shooting family members point-blank, killing a man, three women and one child. People hid in closets and hurled themselves out a window and scrambled into the woods. By the time the slaughter ended, five people had been killed. **Oropeza, 38**, remains at large and officials are prepared to arrest him on a warrant with a **\$5 million bond**. The tight-knit community, an unincorporated area in **San Jacinto County** about 45 miles northeast of **Houston**, is left grieving. The neighborhood is still on edge. (**Editor's Note** - At press time, apprx. 7:30 pm Tuesday evening, the shooter had been **caught and arrested** near Cut and Shoot, Texas.)

COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND GEORGE JONES

George Jones left us in 2013 at age 81. For over 50 years he sang his country music, recorded more than 150 albums with **143 on Billboard's top 40 hits**, including 18 number one hits. Jones also sang on many other artists' albums. Besides his chart successes, **he influenced many others who became country legends**. His music reflected a life that was far from perfect. **Jones** was in the grip of alcohol and drug abuse. The alcohol had been a failure of his dad, who spent much time in the drunk tank. **Jones lost at three attempts at marriage**. He lost his first wife and mother of his children to Vidor friend **J.C. Arnold**. **George's** unique voice was unmatched and his life experiences helped feed his success because it gave a sense of truth to his music that reached all his listeners. **His music influence and legacy will live on for years** to come.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2013

Public Ignore Judges, Support Kree

Even some members of the national media find that a little something fishy is going on at **American Idol**. Some people believe that the **judges are playing favorites** the last couple of weeks. The judges seem to be **maneuvering the public vote**. It's obvious to me that a move is on by the show to save **Amber Holcomb**. Why? You ask. It's all about marketing. **American Idol** has the **winner's contract**. **Amber's** style and looks would be a great sell and easy to promote. Any of the final three can become super stars but my guess is that they didn't eliminate anyone last week because **Amber came in fourth** so she gets another shot without the judges using their one save. Despite negative remarks by some of the judges **the public still placed Kree in the top two**. There is no denying she has the best, all around singing talent. I believe

Kree will get her just due. Otherwise, they would not have made arrangements for **American Idol to be in Woodville** and to have a big concert at **Ford Park** this weekend.****Our buddy, **Harry Stephens**, is finally giving up. He's tired of fighting his knee problem and the hurt, so he's scheduled to get it cut on.

25 Years Ago-1998

W.T. Oliver was roasted by friends at the **Bridge City Chamber banquet** held at the **Community Center** April 23. The roasters included former **Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr**. The speakers all concluded that few people had ever done as much for humanity. A war veteran who was instrumental in the new bridge being named **Veterans Memorial** also led the way for the building of **Veterans Park**. He was the driving force behind the **Bob Hope High School for the Disabled**. He brought Hope to the area on several occasions. **Oliver** also started the **Bum Phillips Golf Tournament**.**** Now available this week is a new, **blue pill called Viagra**. It's the fountain of youth in pill form. On March 27, the **FDA approved a drug** that means one thing to men suffering from ED (erectile dysfunction). (Editor's note: This being the **25th anniversary of "The Blue Pill"** I'm surprised someone didn't come up with a celebration.)******U.S. Congressman Jim Turner** speaks to a gathering at the **Court House**. Also **State Senator David Bernsen** was in the county meeting with druggist explaining the new health insurance and **HMO plan**.******Brown Claybar** is running for **mayor of Orange**.****The **Bridge City girl's powerlifting team** won the **NASA High School National Championship**. The **Cardinal girls** set three world records and claimed several individual titles. They scored decisive victories over the **Florida and Missouri state champs**. Named **Most Outstanding Lifter** was **Julie Odom**. Teammates were **Brendie Barnes, Rachal Guidry, Danielle Bourque, Chrissy Lane, Charlsey Flowers, Leann Nguyen, Aleah Mumbach, Megan Shorts, Andrea Watson, Courtney Peery, Haley Brannon, Jennifer Chaddrick, Dahon Swiere, Megan Brown, Amber Updike, Adrienne Colletti and Shalina Meche**. Athletic Director **Les Johnson** said, "I'm proud of **Coach Daniels and these girls**, they worked hard and brought home a national championship for our school and program."

45 Years Ago-1978

David Guidry, BC trackster shines at the regional meet. He is a junior; he wins with 110 percent effort.****Going to the state track meet from **Bridge City** are **David Guidry**, in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles; mile relay team **Bo Worrell, Larry Hagler, Mark Truncale and Guidry**. **Coach is Bob Punter**. Austin bound from **West Orange** are high jumper **Waymon Sibley**, long jumper **Roy Williams**, miler **Miron Gautier**, sprinter **Randall Tate** and the 440-yard relay quartet of **Sibley, Williams, Tate and Steve Fisher**, mile relay team **Dickie McMillan, Fisher, Tate and Kenneth Britten**. They placed first, **BC second**. **Coach is Robert Tywater**.

65 Years Ago-1958

Sadie Stephens, county clerk since 1950, runs for re-election. She was appointed when **Joe Runnels** resigned to run for mayor of Orange.******Orange County** man kills his former wife and himself outside a **Calcasieu Parish tavern** near Orange. The dead are **Mary Granger** and **Amos Milstead**.******Charles Bradford**, lawyer, **Sid Caillavet, Joe Runnels** and **Charlie Grooms** are all running for county judge.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week the **Gremlins** got us. It happens about twice a year but not usually this bad. We ran a front page headline on the new **Entergy** groundbreaking but the copy was the previous week's story on **Lamar Orange**. We are running the **Entergy** story this week. You know what the bumper sticker says.****I haven't had a report on the **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** lately. I will find out who attends this week and report it in this column next week. **Judge John Gothia** says there has been so much going on lately but he plans to attend this week.****The **Bridge City Chamber of Commerce** once again held a popular night of **Designer Purse Bingo** last week. The women wore wide-brimmed hats in tribute to the upcoming **Kentucky Derby**. Word was wine was consumed. Those in attendance included **Edie Burch, Amber Aleman, Zara Hollis, Chrislyn Burch, Pamela Chapman, Ashlee Noble-Smith, Jennifer Byrd, Lucy Terry, Stephanie Roberts, Joy Dubose Simonton, Jessica Simonton, Kristen Khoury, Christy Khoury Roccaforte, Jen Merren, Rani Dillon, Candace Mulhollan, and Kim Peveto**.******Fred** and **Linda Hanauer** rode motorcycles more than 1,000 miles along with **Perry** and **Myra Swinney** as part of a law enforcement motorcycle club's conference.******Steve** and **Gail Maddox** are back in town from their **European travels** and were among those out and about Monday evening for the musical "**Tootsie**" at the **Lutcher Theater**. Also seen in the crowd were **West Orange Mayor Randy Branch** plus first lady **Jane**. **Jack** and **Karen McKinney** made it out for the performance. **Jackie** and **Donna Scales** were out for the evening, as were **Robert** and **Carol Sims, Patti Cloeren, Kathy Gunn**, plus **Orange City Councilor Brad Childs** with wife, **Terri**.******Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr.** gave the speech for the new inductees or the **LSCO Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**.******Ishmael Jack** got to spend some time with new grandson **Keithen**.****The **Orange Rotary Club** held a **Sip and Shop fundraiser** at our local winery, **Free State**, along with **Mathews Jewelers Orange**, which had jewelry for sale. **Jody Chesson** and **Adam Conrad** were enjoying the wine and sparkles. Of course **Free**

State owners Mandy Swope Hernandez and **Dana Swope** mingled with the crowd Saturday afternoon. Others spotted included **Krispen Walker, Liz Nash, Sherry Hommel, Kelli Patin, and Deborah Bednar**.******Dayle Gunn Weatherford** got to be mother of the bride this weekend. Daughter **Lacey Hale** married her longtime companion **Ricky DeVille**. **Lacey's** son **Vinny Hale** and his fiancée **Rachel Beach** were also there.******Monica** and **Randy McCoy** had their **45th wedding anniversary** this week.*****Nick Zeto** and **Christine Brown-Zeto** got married **24 years ago**.****For birthdays, last week's celebrations included **Brandi Griggs, LisaKay Foyle, Ruth Hancock, Mallorie Henning, actor John Frederick, Gladys Trahan, Cindi Gipson, and Michael Reynolds**.****Monday I got a nice call from **Sen. Carl Parker**. We talked old times and dug up bones. **Carl** is the **Godfather of Orange** and **Port Arthur Lamar** being in the **Texas State** system. He commented on **Dr. Tom Johnson's** expansion of **LSCO**. **Tom** was raised in the shadow of **Parker's** law office on 39th Street in Port Arthur. He was also raised on **Nick and Justice boudin**. What a guy. Can't go wrong with a guy who wears a bow tie, cowboy boots and was trained by **Charlie Wilson**.****It's hard to believe that our longtime friend **Ray Cotton** celebrated his 93rd birthday on May 1. We celebrated his 80th birthday at his club. Just a couple years ago it seems. **Phillip Welch's** dad and **Ray** were raised together in Northwest Louisiana.****May 3, May 6 and May 7 are days we lost some very good friends. **Corky Harmon** passed away at age 89 in 2017; **Attorney H.D. Pate** checked out on us at age 79 in 2019; **Judge Grover Halliburton**, fought a rare heart/lung disease before leaving us on May 7, 2004 at age 71. It's hard to believe **Grover** has been gone that long. I bet **Jackie Roberts** thinks the same thing. I also think of my friend **Essie Bellfield** who passed away in 2022 at age 89. May 6 would have been her birthday.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A lot of great folks are celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **May 3: Monica Lemon, Nicole Gibbs, Stacie Hollier, Kay Boudreaux** and **Brandon Applebach** celebrate today.******May 4: Laurie Miller** and **Julia Hoke** have birthdays today.******May 5: Happy Birthdays** today to **Bridget Gunn Toohey, Brad Broussard, Butch Myers, Ricky Zirlott, Lindsey Dardeau, Amanda Dumesnil, and Ashley Eby**.******May 6: Johnny Moreno, James Scales, Debbie Gregg, Lisa Nixon, Beverly Millsap, Doris Raynor** and **Brandon Bond** all celebrate today.******May 7: Joe Chenella, Gina Mannino, Andrea Beadle, Earl Thomas, Josh Sanders, Jessica Hughes, Sherri Thompson, Caitlin Allen, Connie Angelle** are a year older today.******May 8: Tommy Mann, Jr., Debra Truncale, Patty Cook, Ginger Hogden** celebrate today.******May 9: Doug Havens, Lynn Scales, Justin Dupuis, Ken Reeves** and **Anna Hughes** celebrate today.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Elroy "Tee-Bruce" Broussard, him, is an avid duck hunter. **Tee-Bruce**, he wanted him a new bird dog. His search brought him to **Aldid Boudreaux's** place at **Pecan Island** where he bought him a young dog from **Boudreaux**.

Tee-Bruce was shocked da first time he sent his ne dog, **Bosco**, out on a retrieve an he discover da do could walk on water.

Tee-Bruce, him, he was sure non of his friends would believe him dat **Bosco** could wal on water. He decide he would try to surprise his friend **Alex Thibodaux**, wit' de amazing feat.

Alex, him, he is a real pessimis' by nature, so **Tee Bruce** invite him to hunt wit' him an his new dog. A dey wait by da shore, a big flock of duck flew by **Ka-BOOM! Ka-Boom!** Dey fire an a duck fall.

"**Boscoe, fetch up!**" **Tee-Bruce** say, and **Bosco**, him, he jump up an a pitty-pat, he trot right across da surface of dat water. He got dat duck and pitty-pat, he trot right back. He never got more dan his paws wet.

Alex him, he he saw dat but he don't say a single word On da way home **Tee-Bruce**, he ask his friend, "**Alex** did you notice anything unusual bout my new dog **Bosco**, hanh?"

"**Mais yeah**, I sho did, **Tee-Bruce**," **Alex** say. "You dog **Bosco**, he can't even swim, no."

C'EST TOUT

All's Well That Ends Well

Sunday, as I was watching a hawk flying over the Hawk Club area working the sky and scouting the ground for a small animal, suddenly two police cars flew down our street. **Acadian Ambulance Paramedics Robert Craine** and wife **Jenne** then rushed by, followed by a fire truck. This is not good I thought. I forgot about the hawk. I love to watch them dive when they spot something but now I noticed all the commotion was at Hardy Street, a short dead-end street that overlooks the marsh and has a beautiful view of the **Veterans** and **Memorial** bridges. The next news I got was that a 14-year-old and a 9-year-old girl had been pulled from a swimming pool, totally unresponsive. I was told **Lauren Boothman** and **Jonah Lemoine** rescued the girls from the pool. **Mary Stankus**, a nurse and her brother **Vu Nguyen**, preformed CPR on both girls and thank God were able to revive them before the First Responders arrived. Thanks to their quick action both girls were taken by ambulance to the county airport and flown by helicopter to **Texas Children's Hospital**. Last I heard both lucky girls were doing well. They were attending a birthday party and fortunately someone in attendance knew CPR. Those girls will forever recall the day they drowned and were revived and thankful to the folks who saved them.****Shop our family of advertisers and tell them we sent you. **Take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Henry Leon Miller, 46, Bridge City

Henry Leon Miller, a beloved member of the Bridge City, Texas community, passed away on April 26, 2023, at the age of 46, in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He was born on April 19, 1977, in Bastrop, Texas, to Gordon Adolph Miller and Charlene Nina Miller. Henry's passion for golf was evident to all who knew him.

He dedicated his life to the sport and worked as an Assistant Superintendent at L' Auberge Contraband Golf Course, where he spent countless hours pursuing his dream. He enjoyed spending time with his buddies on the golf course, but his greatest joy was being married to Pam, whom he loved more than anything and everyone knew it. He also had a deep love for his parents, Gordon and Charlene, and cherished seeing them every chance he could.

He considered his father-in-law, with whom he spent many Friday nights holding "TPG staff meetings," chatting for hours, one of his best friends.

Henry loved spending time in his yard playing with his big, sweet pug, Willis (a.k.a. "WeeWee"). He adored his niece, Briona, so much that he was honored to have her as his grooms-woman at his wedding. His family and friends will always remember him as a kind-hearted person who went out of his way to make others feel special.

He had a heart of gold and was always ready to lend a helping hand. He is preceded



Henry Miller

in death by his grandparents, Adolph and Laverne Miller; and Charles Marchant and Leona Kirksey. Henry is survived by his loving wife, Pamela Miller; his parents, Gordon and Charlene Miller; his in-laws, Michael Paul Bergeron and Nola Bergeron; his sons, Samuel James Miller of Cedar Creek, Justin Blake Burchfield of Bridge City, Tx, and Jordan Paul Humble of Orange, Tx;

his grandchildren, Mia Elizabeth Bonneau and Thomas Christopher Humble; his brother, Willie Thomas Miller, his sister Briona Loree Hayes and her husband Devante; his nephew, Devante, Jr.; and his golf buddies, Corey Smith, Anthony Schlicher, Jerry Tydlacka, and Pat Barton, as well as numerous other loving family members and friends.

A visitation will be held on Friday, May 5, 2023, at Bridge Point Fellowship in Bridge City, starting at 3:00 p.m.

Funeral services will follow at 4:00 p.m. with Reverend Lance Faulkner officiating.

The cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home.

Although Henry is no longer with us, he will always be remembered for the joy he brought into the lives of those who knew him.

Honorary pallbearers will be Corey Smith, Anthony Schlicher, Jerry Tydlacka, Justin Burchfield, Gordon Miller, and Michael Bergeron.

Oscar Ruel "Red" Davis, Jr., 94

Oscar Ruel "Red" Davis, Jr. of Orangefield passed away quietly in his home on Saturday afternoon, April 29, 2023.

Visitation will be 5:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, with memorial services in the Claybar Chapel at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 4. He will be laid to rest beside Valda in Forest Lawn Cemetery, West Orange, TX. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to Military Order of the Purple Heart.



Oscar Davis

Oscar was born in Village Mills, Texas, December 3, 1928, the first child of Oscar R. Davis, Sr. and Bessmay Wilson. The Davis family expanded to include six children, four boys and two girls.

Oscar's family later moved to Beaumont. He attended French Elementary, Giles Elementary, and graduated from Beaumont High School. He went to East Texas Baptist College in 1946-47, before returning home due to family finances. Oscar then worked at Dupont Sabine River Works, Orange, Texas.

In August 1950, Oscar entered military service. He enlisted in the United States Army on August 20, 1950, and went to Fort Ord, California for Basic Training. For Oscar's work ethic and attention to detail, he was awarded Honor Trainee and assigned to Ft. Ord Leadership School. During leave after Basic Training, he came home and proposed to Valda Fay Harlan, whom he called "the girl of his dreams." She accepted, but marriage was delayed due to his military obligations. From Leadership School, he went to Officer Candidate School, Ft. Benning, Georgia, in June 1951, graduating in December 1951, as Second Lieutenant, Infantry, U.S. Army Reserve, and ordered to Far East Command and Korea. Before leaving for Korea, Oscar married Valda on December 28, 1951.

Oscar's combat tour in Korea earned him a Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a Bronze Star. In June 1953, he returned home to his bride and new son Larry. He continued his Army career, retiring

in 1983 with the rank of Colonel. He also returned to Dupont SRW, becoming a supervisor before retiring after 38 years to pursue a real estate career with Valda. Oscar and Valda were active in their community and church, while raising a family of three children. He served in many activities with his children, including chaperone for 4-H events, Scoutmaster for Orangefield Boy Scout Troop 216, and the Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Davis family traveled extensively, visiting U.S. national parks and historic sites. When the kids were grown, Oscar and Valda continued their travels, visiting Spain, Australia, Great Britain, other locales. They often had friends travel with them. They also joined the Orange County Square Dancers "The Merry Mixers" and saw more of the U.S. while with this group. Of the places they visited, they loved the Islands of Hawaii best, returning time and again. Sadly, after almost 66 years of marriage, Oscar lost the love of his life Valda. He filled that loss with the joy of helping others, just as he and Valda had done before.

Oscar was preceded in death by his wife, Valda Fay Harlan Davis; parents O. R. Davis, Sr. and Bessmay Wilson Davis; two brothers, James Odis "Joe" Davis and Benjamin Carl Davis, and sister, Alma Myra Cherry.

Oscar is survived by his sister Bessmay Dorine Allen and husband Russell (Bridge City); brother Robert Donald Davis and wife Peggy (Ft. Worth); his three children - Larry D. Davis and wife Lisa (Houston), Debra J. Crain and husband Darrell (Woodville), and Ruel E. Davis and wife Kim (Bridge City); five grandchildren - Jared A. Mitchell (Victoria), Brennon R. Mitchell and wife Alyson (Orange), Stephanie E. Davis (Houston), Katherine Davis-Winn and husband Alex (O'Fallon, MO), and Cameron Davis (O'Fallon, MO); three great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kenneth Wade Hays, Sr., 85, Orange

Kenneth Wade Hays, Sr., 85, of Orange, Texas, passed away on April 25, 2023, peacefully at home.

Born in Kisatchie, Louisiana, on January 24, 1938, he was the son of Melvin Hays and Bernie (Booty) Hays. Kenneth worked as a Security Chief for Dupont and was a member of the 2nd Baptist Church of Bridge City for 60 years. In his younger years, Kenneth enjoyed going fishing and hunting in his free time. He loved his wife's cooking and spending time with his family, who always came first to Kenneth. He cherished the moments he had with his family, especially going to all of his grandkid's baseball games. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Bernie Hays; and his loving wife, Shirley Hays.

He is survived by his son, Wade Hays and wife, Mitzi, of Crystal Beach; daughters, Shirlene Hays Evans and husband, Emille, of Nederland, and Sherri Hays Long and husband, Kenneth, of Crystal Beach; grandchildren, Tyler Hays and wife, Desi, Hunter Hays and wife, Cayla, and Grayson Long and wife, Eden; great-grandchildren, Hud Hays, Maddie Hays, Cam Hays, Kenzie Hays, Sloane Long, and Beckett Long; brother, Bobby Hays of El Campo, Texas; and care givers, Teresa Viator and Nikki Glass.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Melvin Roy McGuire, 91, Orange

Melvin Roy McGuire, 91, of Orange, passed away on April 28, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Reverend Kevin Brown. Burial will follow at Jett Cemetery in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on September 29, 1931, he was the son of William Albert McGuire and Viola (Peveto) McGuire. Melvin was a proud and honorable member of the United States Airforce and served his country during the Korean War. He went to work as an operator for Spencer and retired with Chevron after 30 years as a dedicated employee. In his younger years Melvin raised Red Brahman Cattle, enjoyed watching rodeos and traveling to history museums, and reunions with his military bud-



Melvin McGuire

dies who had a special place in his heart. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who left a lasting impact on many lives. Melvin loved his family deeply and will be greatly missed by so many.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Erwine McGuire; parents, William and Viola McGuire; and sisters; Irene Armstrong, Dorothy McGuire, and Evelyn Bilbo.

He is survived by his daughter, Melissa McGuire of Mauriceville; grandchildren, Misty Nance and Mindy Nance; great grandchild, Presley Parra; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Misty Nance, Chad Jenkins, Tanner Jenkins, Tyler Jenkins, Trever Jenkins, Erwin McKay, and Martin Clark. Honorary pallbearers are Ted Williams, Ray Linscomb, and Chipper Nance.

Construction begins on new Orange County Entergy plant

MARGARET TOAL FOR THE RECORD

Governor Greg Abbott and officials with the Texas Public Utilities Commission were among the dignitaries attending the groundbreaking ceremony for Entergy's new \$1.8 billion power plant outside Bridge City.

The new plant will use a combination of hydrogen and natural gas to generate electricity. It will be known as the Orange County Advanced Power Station and be next to the Sabine Power Plant, which was built more than 60 years ago.

The construction of the plant is estimated to bring 7,000 direct and indirect jobs, according to Entergy Texas. The plant will have 26 permanent jobs. The company will work to use local contractors and vendors on the project.

One of the big features of the new generating plant will be the use of hydrogen, which is less expensive and cleaner than all natural gas. The company expects to save up to \$100 million in natural gas fuel costs in the first year of operation. Those savings will be passed on to Entergy customers by having less fuel cost additions to monthly bills.

"Facilities like the Orange County Ad-

vanced Power Station will ensure that reliable power is available in Southeast Texas for generations to come," Governor Abbott said.

The new plant will produce 1,215 megawatts of electricity a year, enough to power 230,000 residences, Entergy said in a press release.

The amount of electricity will be needed as the region experiences a major industrial boom, including the new \$8.5 billion Golden Triangle Polymers Plant in Orange.

The construction projects for petrochemical plants and oil refineries in the region are bringing in thousands of workers to the area. Besides the plants needing electricity, the workers will need power for their houses, RVs, apartments, or hotels.

"This groundbreaking marks the start of an exciting opportunity to serve the growing demand across Southeast Texas," said Eliecer Viamontes, president and CEO of Entergy Texas. "By investing in modern and fuel-efficient technology, we can meet the needs of our customers today while laying the foundation for future growth across our region."

A consortium of Mitsubishi Power Americas, Inc., Sargent & Lundy, and The Industrial Company will provide Entergy Texas with engineering, procurement.

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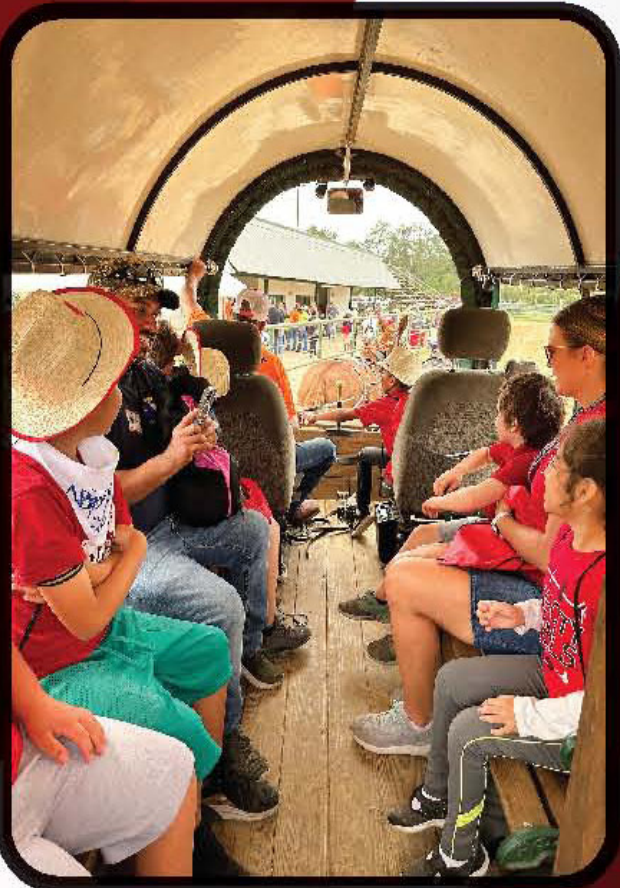
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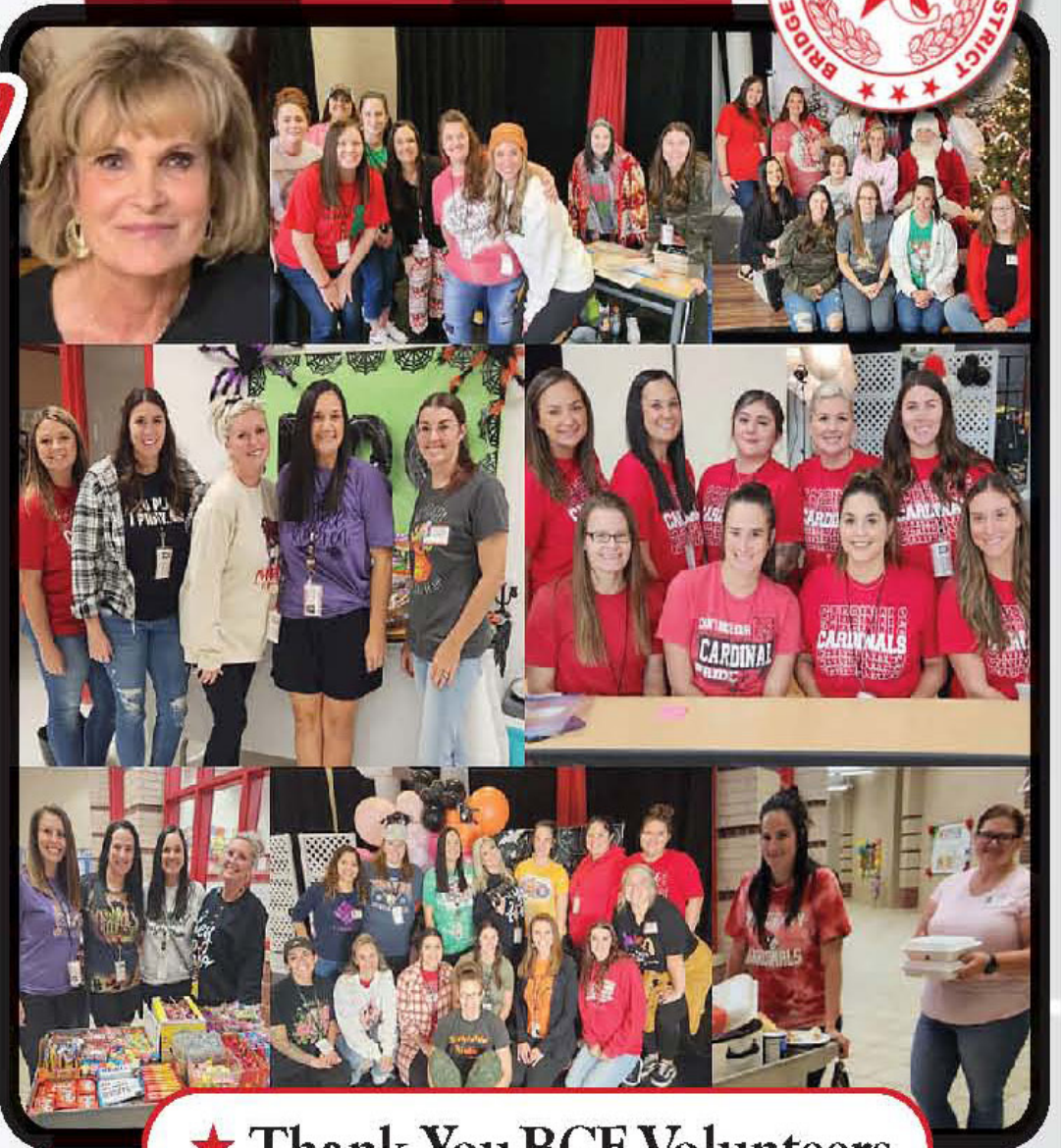


Bridge City Elementary School

★ BCE FA 'Rodeo Day'



Students from the BCE FA class had a wonderful time attending a local rodeo recently. The students rode ponies, chuck wagons, posed for photos, and were able to pet some of the farm animals. They all had an amazing time!



★ Thank You BCE Volunteers

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Week was April 17-21. THANK YOU to our BCE volunteers. Each of you plant the seeds of love to help our baby cardinals grow! Thank you, for helping to make BCE the best nest!

Butterfly Journey Learning Adventure



Students at BCE have been watching their class butterfly kits go through the different stages of growth and development. Each class started with several caterpillars and watched them eat and grow. Then spin their chrysalis and grow inside it to change into a beautiful butterfly.

When the butterflies were ready the class got to send them on their journey outside.

BC Cards makes playoffs, LCM Bears will not

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

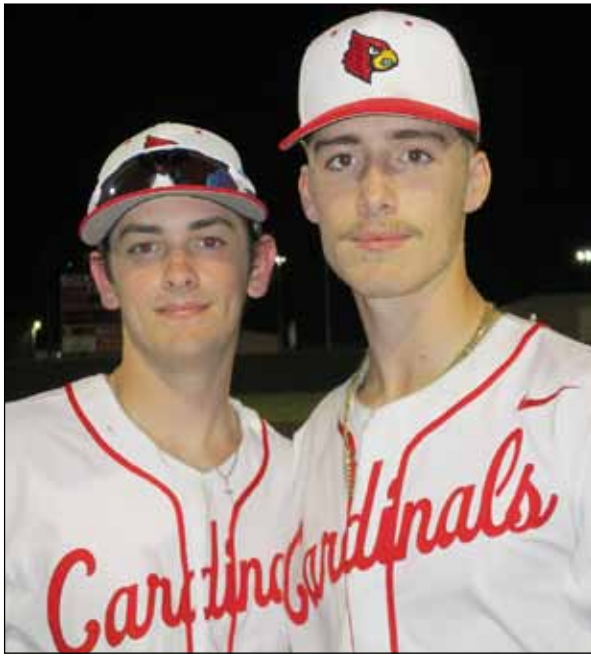
The Bridge City Cardinals closed their regular season on a five-game winning streak and finished in second place in District 19-4A to make the post season. The Cardinals were 9-3 one game behind the district champion Vidor Pirates.

The last week of the regular season had two games between Bridge City and the West Orange Stark Mustangs. The Cardinals won both games.

On Tuesday the Cardinals scored six runs in the fifth inning to beat the Mustangs 8-1 at Ronnie Anderson Park. Aidyn Mulhollan was the winning pitcher for Bridge City and combined with relievers Parker Norwood and RJ Esquivel to allow only one hit in the game by Mustang Zach Nation.

Mulhollan also collected three hits himself in the game. Cardinal catcher Justin Abate had two hits and three runs batted in.

West Orange Stark celebrated Senior Night prior to the game. Mustangs Darren Anderson, Travari Beasley, Carlos Calana,



Bridge City seniors Chasse Goodwin and RJ Esquivel played key roles in the Cardinals win against West Orange Stark on Senior Night.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

David Robledo, AT Wilson, and Tyrone Wilson were honored during a pre-game ceremony.

Friday was Senior Night in Bridge City. The Cardinals said good bye to Grant Hale, Noah Broussard, Braeden Pitre, Braylen Collins, Chasse Goodwin, RJ Esquivel, JS Bearden, Lane Brinson, Brice Swanton, Parker Norwood, Matt Livingston, Justin Abate, Shaun Hallman, Lucas Sena, and Keaton Watts.

Bridge City Coach Chad Landry gave the seniors playing time during the game with the Mustangs.

"I couldn't be more proud of our guys on Senior Night. We had thirteen guys hit the field and thirteen seniors produced. It was just a lot of fun to see those guys get in there and get after it," Landry commented.

Senior Braylen Collins started on the mound going two scoreless innings allowing one hit and striking out three Mustangs. Three other seniors Lane Brinson, RJ Esquivel, and Parker Norwood each tossed one inning for the Cardinals.

Collins doubled off the left field fence at Chuck Young Field to start the bottom of the second inning. Mulhollan singled him to third. Collins scored the first run of the game when Mulhollan intentionally got into a run down between second and

first drawing the attention away from Collins who stole home.

The Mustangs tied the game in the top of the third as Carlos Calana singled to begin the inning. Calana advanced to second on a passed ball and then to third on a wild pitch before coming home on a two-out single to center by Will Lee.

Bridge City bounced back in the bottom half of the same inning to score five runs. The first five Cardinals reached base including a double by Landon Reeves sandwiched between three walks before senior Justin Abate singled to drive in two runs. The last two runs came in as Collins hit a sacrifice fly and Mulhollan singled to put Bridge City up 6-1 after three innings.

In the fourth inning Chasse Goodwin another senior led off with a homerun just inside the right field foul pole for the Cardinals. JS Bearden singled and Abate doubled to left to bring him home. Courtesy runner Hutch Bearden ran for Abate and scored on a Mustang error to increase the lead to eight runs.

The final runs for Bridge City came in the bottom of the fifth when Braeden Pitre singled, Goodwin reached on an error, and Abate got his third hit of the night. The lead was stretched to invoke the 10-run rule ending the game 11-1 in favor of the Cardinals.

The Bridge City Cardinals have scheduled a best of three playoff series with

District Champion Orangefield begin playoffs



Jason Bodin went three for three with two triples and a homerun in Orangefield's win over Anahuac that wrapped up an undefeated district season for the Bobcats.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats finished their regular season as the undefeated champions of District 22-3A. It is the Bobcats' third straight district championship in baseball.

The final game in district was played Tuesday, April 25, at Orangefield's Paul Cormier Field against the Anahuac Panthers. The Bobcats won 12-4 for their fourteenth victory without a loss in district play and improved their record to 23-3 on the season.

Anahuac took the early advantage before Orangefield rallied and took the lead in the second inning. Matthew Johnson drew a bases loaded walk to bring home the go ahead run for the Bobcats.

Jason Bodin of Orangefield had a huge night with his bat going three for three. Bodin tripled during the second inning rally, tripled again in the third when the Bobcats tallied more runs, and homered in the fifth. Jason had five runs batted in for the game.

During the decisive third inning Orangefield got a key double from Morgan Sampson to drive in a run. Bodin later hit his second three-bagger of the game with the bases loaded to score three Bobcats. Rusten Traxler and Logan Cheek both contributed two hits to the Bobcat offense that night.

Pitcher Brycen Tait got the win for Orangefield. Tait pitched four innings allowing five hits and surrendering three runs while striking out two.

The opening round post season opponent for Orangefield is Pollok Central. The Bobcats and the Bulldogs will play a best of three games series with all the games at Cleveland High School.

The first game is scheduled for Friday at 7:00 PM and Orangefield will be the home team. Game two will be Saturday at 1:00 PM with the Bobcats being the visitors. A third game if necessary would follow thirty minutes later. Tickets will be \$5 at the gate with only cash being accepted for payment.



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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

This week's Texas Gulf Coast Fishing Reports was compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 74 degrees. Fishing will continue to improve the next few weeks with the warmer weather. The salinity continues to be good in Lake Sabine holding nice fish. Trout are good along the shoreline on soft plastics, swimbaits and live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish are biting in the marsh, and along the ship channel shorelines. Sheepshead, drum and bull redfish are biting along the jetty rocks. Look for the trout bite to pick up in the jetties in the coming weeks. Flounder fishing has increased with jigs tipped with shrimp, or live bait fished off the bottom in the marsh. When the winds allow North Levee wall continues to be very productive for limits of trout with topwaters early morning. ICW holding limits of redfish. Neches River and Bessie Heights are holding nice limits of redfish, some trout, and the occasional bull redfish in 3-7 feet of water using 1/4 ounce glo chartreuse swimbaits. Report by Captain Randy Foreman and Captain Chris Phillip, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• Bolivar

GOOD. 70 degrees. The surf is starting to hold some black drum, pompano, small shark and occasional redfish. The North Jetty surf side holding sheepshead and trout against rocks look for bait. Redfish in the channel on Carolina rigged mullet, shad, and crab. The end holds nice schools of trout and sheepshead. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.



The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a nice Sabine Lake redfish.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 69 degrees. Open bay is too rough to fish, so fish in areas protected from the wind. Few speckled trout, black drum, redfish, and some sheepshead catches with live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 70 degrees. All species are slow due to high winds. Waders are catching a few trout and redfish along protected shorelines and in the bayous. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Fishing is improving after a front move through last weekend. The strong winds and rain muddied the bay creating tougher fishing condi-

tions. Several good speckled trout, flounder, redfish, and black drum are in the marshes where the water is best. The bite has been more consistent in the evening on outgoing tides as the weather stabilizes. Most catches came on flats in and close to drains, as well as flooded grass on the higher tides for redfish prowling for an easy meal. Best artificial bait was 1/4 ounce jig heads with the purple reign color triggering some great action with either a slow retrieve or bouncing off the bottom. Live bait anglers utilized shrimp under a popping cork with a 24 inch leader. The topwater Bite has been decent, but not on fire like last week. This is a good time to get out on the water to beat the crowds. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Yates Bayou (Drain) holding

redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Then Hanna's is great early on same bait or twitching artificials. Look for birds and slicks, and moving bait. Pepper Grove Cove to Moody's Pass holding fish. Smith Point to Moody National Wildlife. Redfish look for schools and birds. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 66 degrees. High winds have not been favorable for fishing. Moses Lake is producing decent catches of speckled trout near the Flood Gate with live shrimp. Scattered speckled trout and black drum catches along the rocks near Swan Lake. Live shrimp is the best bait, but a few catches will bite on live croaker. Mid bay rocks are fair for black drum, and a few speckled trout on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The South Jetty still holding Trout, sheepshead and redfish close to rocks free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with live shrimp or soft plastic.

SWP Holding redfish from Pier and from rocks. Sheepshead in front of the concrete Seawall. The drains out of Swan Lake and Campbell's Slough holding sheepshead with an occasional Redfish. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 71 degrees. Speckled trout are good wading the coves adjacent to deep water. The best bite is on artificial lures, but croakers are gaining attention. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Greens lake holding redfish against grass lines and by sandy shores early. ICW holding fish through greens cut and Carancahua cut holding trout and redfish with the amount of wind we are getting. Mecom Reef will have fish on it early up by rocks with artificial or live bait free-line or under cork. You'll need to find protected waters with bait moving around as the winds pick up. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Houston

FAIR. Water stained; 60 degrees; 0.15 feet above pool. Water runoff has

lowered the water temperature. Catfish are biting in 15-20 feet of water on shad. Some catfish are staying close to bulkheads waiting for the shad spawn to resume. Crappie are good in 8-16 feet of water in open water fishing black and chartreuse or blue and white jigs off the bottom. Structures are holding smaller fish. Bass have pushed out to 6-10 feet of water using chatterbaits, or Texas rigged worms. White bass are good under the lights at night with rattletraps and double rigged jigs. Report by Jason Machala, JM Fishing Guide Service.

• Texas City

FAIR. 68 degrees. Fishing has been tough due to high winds. A few reports of black drum and bull redfish catches. A few sheepshead, sharks and slot redfish were taken along the Galveston jetties on live shrimp. Speckled trout catches were slow, but anglers fishing protected areas in the Galveston channel had limited success. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is holding bull redfish along the rocks with scattered drum and flounder.

Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service

FISHING Page 4B

Baseball From Page 1B

the Splendora Wildcats in Anahuac. Game one will be on Friday, May 5, at 5:00 PM and the second game will be at 4:00 PM on Saturday. A third game if necessary would be played after game two.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears needed to win their last two games against the Silsbee Tigers in order to force a third game as a play-in contest against the Tigers. The game on Tuesday, April 25, was Senior Night at Don Gibbens Field for the Bears as Dean Reynolds, Evan Landry, Keaton Morphey, Dylan Istre, Blaze Compton, Cole Johnson, and Cameron Bilbo were honored.

Unfortunately, three errors by Little Cypress Mauriceville led to five unearned runs for Silsbee and a 6-0 loss. Dean Reynolds pitched a complete game for the Bears giving up one earned run on ten hits with no walks and striking out five Tigers.

Eight Bears reached base against Silsbee starter Logan Simmons but none of them crossed the plate. The Silsbee ace allowed only a second inning single to Reynolds, walked three, hit three batters, and another LCM hitter reached on a Tiger error.

Simmons struck out 12 Bears in six innings before giving way to Van Mitchell because of his high pitch count. Mitchell retired the three batters he faced in the seventh.

Possibly feeling the let-down after being eliminated from a playoff berth Little Cypress Mauriceville

traveled to Silsbee on Friday. The Tigers won 11-1 in five innings.

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Advocating for the good of the Orange County community, Tommy is a former President of the Bridge City Independent School District school board and a past President of the Bridge City-Orangefield Rotary Club. He is also a former Director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and serves as City Attorney for the City of Pinehurst since 1988. At present, Tommy is a former director and Chairman of the Board of Orange Savings Bank and First Financial Bank.



Tommy Gunn

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Lady Bears advance to Area Round, Lady Cards out

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville advanced to the next round of the Class 4A state softball playoffs on Monday. The Lady Bears won the deciding third game 9-2 in their bi-district series with the Hardin Jefferson Lady Hawks.

It was a joint pitching effort that got the important victory for LCM. Ella Stephenson started in the circle going four and two third innings with eight strikeouts allowing two runs only one of which was earned. Tessa Erickson pitched the final two and a third innings not allowing a run or a hit.

There were several hitting stars for Little Cypress Mauriceville. Keylie Washburn had the biggest blow in the victory with a two-out triple in the bottom of the sixth inning that drove in three Lady Bears.

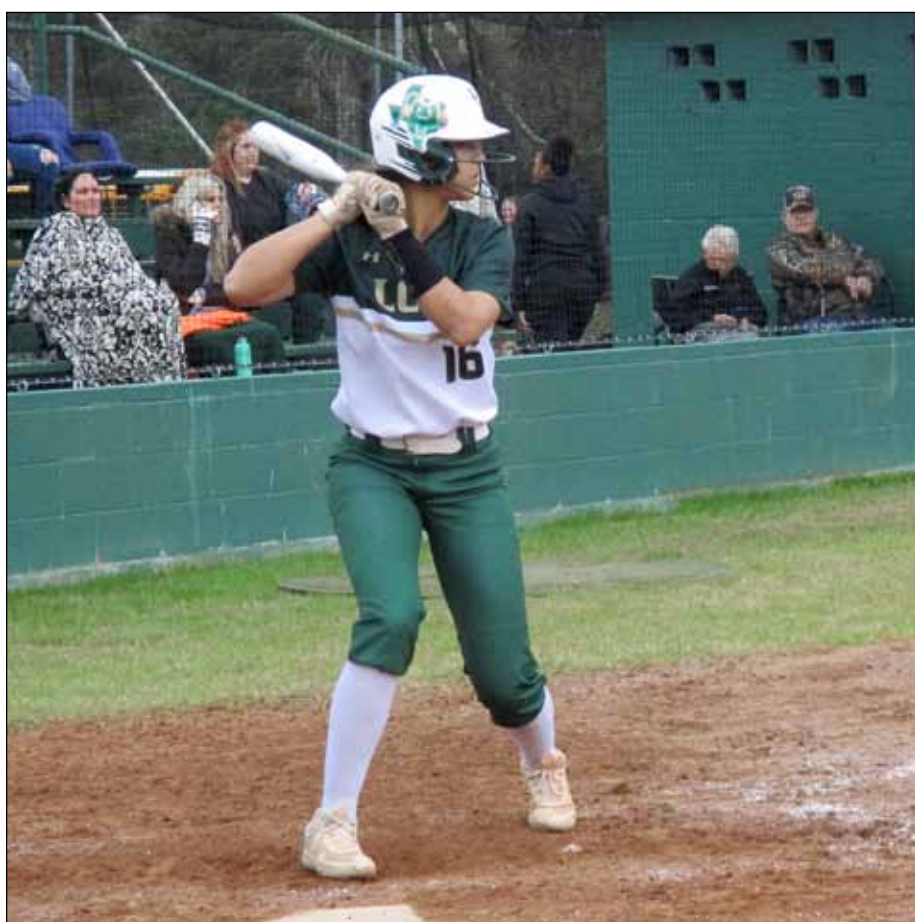
Jacelyn Cook had two hits, scored twice, and drove in a run. Ava White knocked in two runs with a hit for LCM while Eden Frenzel, Lexis Moss, Ansley Moore, and Stephenson each got a hit.

On Saturday Little Cypress Mauriceville got an abbreviated no-hitter and two big homeruns to force the game on May 1 to be played. The Lady Bears won 11-0 over Hardin Jefferson in a game that was called after five innings.

Pitcher Ella Stephenson threw the five innings for LCM and did not give up a hit. She walked four Lady Hawks and struck out seven of them in the shutout.

The bats were blazing hot for the Lady Bears as they banged out thirteen hits. In the third inning Keylie Washburn and Tessa Erickson both hit three-run homers to blow the game open for Little Cypress Mauriceville.

Nine different Lady Bears had hits in the game. Eden Frenzel, Lexis Moss, and Ansley Moore each had two hits. In addition to the two homerun hitters Washburn and Erickson other rbi contributors were Moore, Stephenson,



Lady Bear Keylie Washburn hit a three-run homer in the game two victory and a bases clearing triple to drive in three runs to help win game three for LCM over Hardin Jefferson.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



Haley Munoz of Bridge City had two hits including a double but it was not enough as the Lady Cardinals lost the deciding third game of their playoff with Huffman.

started in the circle for Bridge City. She did not make it out of the second inning as Huffman took a 6-1 lead after two innings. Cambree LaComb pitched the remainder of the game for the Lady Cardinals. An unearned run in the

fourth got Bridge City a little closer as Kyleigh Hamilton reached on an error and scored on a second Lady Falcon error in the inning to make the score 6-2. Another double play though executed by Huffman ended the inning for the Lady Cardinals.

Bridge City clawed a little closer in the top of the fifth. Amaris Larkin scored to make the score 6-3, but in the bottom half of the same inning Huffman got a bases loaded double that plated three Lady Falcons to open their advantage to six runs.

Both teams scored in the sixth. Lexi Nugier got the run for the Lady Cardinals after hits by Marlie Strong and Munoz. Huffman added two more in the bottom of the sixth to bring the final score to 11-4 in favor of the Lady Falcons ending the season for Bridge City.

and Ava Wright.

Hardin Jefferson won the first game 3-2 on Friday, April 28, over LCM. Tessa Erickson was in the circle for the Lady Bears giving up eight hits and two walks while striking out four to suffer the loss.

Eden Frenzel and Ansley Moore both had two hits in the game. Frenzel and Keylie Washburn scored the two runs for the Lady Bears.

Little Cypress Mauriceville will play Carthage in a best of three series for the Area Round of the state softball playoffs. Game one is scheduled for this Friday night at 7:00 PM in Lufkin. The second game will be on Saturday, May 6, at 4:00 PM in Jasper. A third game if necessary would follow at the same location that evening.

Bridge City Lady Cardinals

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals lost their ace pitcher Carson Fall the last week of the regular season. Doctors informed Fall that she could not throw with her injured

right arm for three months.

The Lady Cardinals obviously entered their bi-district playoff series in Class 4A with the Huffman Lady Falcons short-handed. This was compounded by Nicole Sasser one of Bridge City's top hitters being involved in the regional track meet and was unavailable at least for the third game.

Huffman won the first game of the best of three series on Friday 13-3 at Anahuac. Bridge City rebounded later that night to take game two 5-3 forcing a deciding game on Saturday.

Bridge City had the opportunity to jump out and take a good lead in the first inning of the third game. Haley Munoz opened with double and courtesy runner Gabby Moore scored on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead.

The Lady Cardinals loaded the bases with no outs looking to add to that advantage. However, a double play turned by the Lady Falcons stopped any hopes of a multiple run rally.

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'First Saturday' FBC giveaways this weekend

First Saturday at First Baptist Church is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 am until 12 noon. This month we will give away fun items for children to take while traveling on vacation, such as coloring books and crayons, crossword puzzles, card games, children magazines, sand buckets, etc.

Snacks will be available for wiggly, bored children as well as a children's Bible for mom or dad to read aloud. Look for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd in Bridge City and for the sign offering prayer for discouraged and worried adults.



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Orangefield Lady Bobcats take on Coldspring in Area Round

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats have advanced to the Class 3A Area Round of the state softball playoffs. Orangefield defeated the Central Heights Blue Devils out of Nacogdoches 5-0 on Saturday night, April 29, in Jasper. It was the twenty-third win for the Lady Bobcats.

Orangefield pitcher Abigail Curphey threw her fifth shutout of the season. Curphey allowed only two hits and struck out seven Blue Devils in the complete game victory.

The Lady Bobcats rapped out ten hits in the game including two each by Curphey, Harleigh Rawls, Emily Meyers, and Charlee Sanch-

es. Hallee Becker had a hit and two runs batted in. Also driving in a run apiece were Aubree Beck with a bases loaded walk, Alys Vincent, and Curphey.

Next up for Orangefield are the Coldspring Lady Trojans who finished second in their district. The Lady Bobcats play Coldspring on Thursday at 6:00 PM in Anahuac. Orangefield will be the home team.

The two teams then will play the second game on Friday, May 5, in Cleveland with Coldspring as the home team. A third game if needed would follow in Cleveland with a coin flip to determine which is the home team.



Hallee Becker drove in two runs for the Lady Bobcats to help them defeat Central Heights in a one-game playoff.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Parrine



Orangefield pitcher Abigail Curphey threw a shutout as the Lady Bobcats won their first round playoff game 5-0 against Central Heights.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Parrine

Fishing report From Page 2B

• Freeport

FAIR. 70-73 degrees. Bay fish are biting, but the high winds create tough fishing conditions. Freeport Harbor is holding trout, redfish and drum using live shrimp under a popping cork. Fish are still in the jetties if the weather permits. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

• East Matagorda

SLOW. 74 degrees. Spring fishing patterns are holding steady, and fishing is weather dependent. The high tides have scattered the fish, and pushed some fish in the back lakes. Slot trout can be caught wading the shorelines with topwaters, or drifting with live shrimp under a popping cork when the winds allow. Redfish and drum are scarce with a few catches on bay reefs. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• West Matagorda Bay

SLOW. 74 degrees. Spring fishing patterns are holding steady, and fishing is weather dependent. The high tides have scattered the fish, and pushed some fish in the back lakes. Glass minnows are running the shorelines attracting trout and redfish. Look for diving schools of pelicans. Slot trout can be caught wading the shorelines with topwaters, or drifting with live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish and drum are scarce with a few catches on bay reefs. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• Port O'Connor

GOOD. 73 degrees. Slot redfish are good on croaker or live shrimp in the jetties. Oversized redfish are good on blue crab or dead shrimp on the outside of the jetties. Trout are good with mostly oversized catches at the jetties, with some slot catches at Bird Island using live croaker and shrimp. Sheepshead are slow. Drum are slow. Report by Captain Marty Medford, Captain Marty's Fish of a Lifetime Guide Service.

• Rockport

GREAT. 69 degrees. Redfish are good two feet of water on grass flats with sand pockets using scented soft plastics, topwaters, live shrimp and cut mullet. Trout are good 2-4 feet of water on grass flats with deep water access using topwaters, soft plastics, and live bait. Drum are great in 2-4 feet of water on dead shrimp. Sheepshead are loaded around the jetties on live shrimp. Report provided by Captain Damian Hubbs, Top Gun Outfitters.

Port Aransas

GOOD. 75-78 degrees. Jetties are good for sheepshead, drum, redfish, bull redfish, pompano, jack crevalle, spanish mackerel and some trout on live shrimp. Redfish Bay holding redfish and black drum on popping cork and shrimp. Fish are scattered due to the high tides, so fish close the mangroves. Report by Captain Doug Stanford, Pirates of the Bay Fishing Charters.

• Corpus Christi

GOOD. 75-78 degrees. The Portland shorelines are good for trout on live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish and black drum are good off the Spoil Islands in Inglesides on live shrimp under a popping cork.

SALT Pro Redfish tourney successful

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

The second event in the SALT Pro Redfish series took place this past weekend under less than ideal conditions. While most local fishermen stayed at the house cutting grass or taking care of other chores 28 teams decided to brave the high winds and take a shot at cashing a check from the 7000.00 prize pot.

High water and winds hampered many teams but there were still some very solid stringers weighed. 23 of the 28 teams weighed in at least one fish and all of those fish were weighed in alive which is a fantastic stat.

Brian Quebedeaux and Eddie Roberts took home the first place check with a 3 fish total of 23.10lbs. Com-



Chuck Uzzle
Duong and Roland Brown

ing in second place only .02 lbs behind the leaders with 23.08lbs was Michael Fesco. Daniel

for not only the Team of the Year but also the championship event. The Team of the Year will be announced after the 3rd event which will be held on May 13th. The Championship event will take place on June 24th. The top 20 plus teams who weighed in a fish at every event will be eligible for the

anglers things appear to be on the upswing here on Sabine as the bite has picked up considerably. There have been some solid catches of speckled trout for folks drifting the rocks on both the north and south end of the lake.

The bite down on the jetties should start to pick up as the weather becomes more favorable and the constant winds begin to lay down and resemble a more summer like pattern. Swim baits and soft plastics have been the most consistent producers and those who have been able to find live bait have been catching solid numbers as well. With any help from the weather man or Mother Nature the prospects for some much more consistent fishing will do nothing but improve as we continue to head for the summer months.

Brian Quebedeaux and Eddie Roberts took home the first place check.

continue to stay near the top of the leader board, after winning the first event, by posting a solid 22.44lbs which was good enough for 3rd place. Rounding out the teams who cashed a check were Jeremy and Hunter Reeves with 21.07lbs to secure 4th place.

All of the anglers in the field are hoping to qualify

Championship. After 2 events Daniel Duong and Roland brown lead the TOY chase followed by Michael Fesco and Holden Ashworth in 2nd with Jeremy and Hunter Reeves not far back in 3rd. The next event will certainly be interesting as everything is still up for grabs.

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GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale this Sat., May 6 from 8 am to 1 pm at 9185 Parkwood Drive, Orange (off Hwy 1442). A lot of furniture, adjustable bed, rugs, home decor, kitchen stuff, clothes, shoes, tools and more.

ESTATE SALE

Family Estate Sale on Fri., May 5th and Sat., May 6th from 8 am to 3 pm at 1025 Henderson in Orange, 77630. Full house and garage items.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **EVELYN J. SECHLER**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 1, 2023, in Cause No. P19579**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JOAN ELISE SECHLER THARP**.

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 **1st day of May, 2023**.

George B. Barron
George B. Barron
Attorney for Administratrix
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279
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THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **SARAH JONER**, Respondent,

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

The petition of **KATHY ANN LOCKS**, Petitioner, was filed in the 128th District Court of Orange, Texas on the 10th day of March 2023, against **Ricky Eugene Dunn**, numbered **230153-D** and entitled **In the Interest of Alia Joner et al, Children**. The suit requests **Second Amended Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship**.

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

Alia Joner 05/13/2010 Portland, Oregon
Lycydia Harris 08/20/2015 Vancouver, Washington
Syncydia Harris 06/20/2017 Vancouver, Washington
Davion Joner 11/06/2021 Atlanta, Georgia

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this April 26th, 2023.

ANNE REED, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas

Anne Reed

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **BETTY LOU REEVES ALEXANDER**, Deceased, were issued on **APRIL 21, 2023**, in Cause No. P19682, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **SARI LEAVON ALEXANDER LAGRONE**.

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: **Paul M. Fukuda**
Attorney At Law
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

DATED the 27th day of April, 2023.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda

Attorney for:
Michelle Marie LeBlanc
State Bar No.: 00789915
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Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409) 883-4357
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PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

FOR THE
SABINE PASS TO GALVESTON BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (S2G)
ORANGE COUNTY PROJECT (ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District and its partner the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) will be hosting a virtual public information session for the Orange County Project.

The public information session will include an overview of the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (S2G) Program and the Orange County Project as well as information about the project's status and next steps. A question-and-answer session with the project delivery team will immediately follow the project status update. Date, time, and access information for the public information session is listed below:

Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, CST

The public information session can be accessed via the project website at:

<https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/S2G/OrangeCounty/>

The Orange County Project is one of three projects included in the S2G Program. The Orange County Project will consist of a new levee/floodwall system, including multiple pump stations, which aims to reduce the risk of storm surge impacting coastal communities such as Bridge City, West Orange, Pinehurst, Orange, and various unincorporated areas of Orange County. The project is being designed to reduce the risk of flooding from a storm surge while not inducing adverse impacts to area residents and businesses.

The Orange County Project is a partnership of the USACE and its non-federal sponsor, the GCPD. Orange County and the Orange County Drainage District, as part of an interlocal agreement with the GCPD, continue to be engaged with the GCPD in coordinating the project design.

The Orange County Project is currently in the preconstruction engineering and design (PED) phase for the project. The project team expects to complete this phase in 2027. Construction of the Orange County Project is currently anticipated to be completed in 2032.

Visit the project's StoryMap (<https://sabine-to-galveston-usace-swg.hub.arcgis.com/>) for additional information and/or submit any inquiries by email or phone.

GALVESTON DISTRICT
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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

RFQ-2023-02-BESSIE HEIGHTS-HMGP

The Orange County Drainage District seeks to contract with one or more engineering service providers ("Respondents") to provide professional engineering services to the District. Interested Respondents may find copies of **RFQ-2023-02-BESSIE HEIGHTS-HMGP ("RFQ")** on the District's website at: <https://www.ocddtx.com/purchasing/> (search under "Current Procurement Opportunities") and at <http://civcastusa.com> (search for "Orange County Drainage District"). Interested Respondents must submit five (5) physical copies of its statement of qualifications ("SOQs") to Mr. Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser, at the Orange County Drainage District located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas 77630 ("District Office"). To be eligible for consideration, the District must receive SOQs no later than **12:00 pm on May 17, 2023, at the District Office**. The District will publicly open the submitted SOQs at **2:00 pm on May 17, 2023**, at the District Office. The District reserves the right to negotiate with all Respondents submitting eligible SOQs. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The Orange County Drainage District is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Lovers of Good: Eyes of Hope in a World Gone Bad

DAVID MATHIS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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In times when the love of many grows cold, we will do well to pause over an overlooked Christian virtue that warms against the chill.

Not only is such a trait designed by Christ to be increasingly true of all Christians; it is required to serve in the church's lead office.

To be clear, what Christ requires of his pastor-elders (1 Timothy 3:1-8; Titus 1:5-9) is not simply for qualification to enter the office. Rather, these virtues are the ongoing, daily graces needed to serve well in the office. Yet these too are the qualities Christ means to grant in growing measure to his whole church. Pastor-elders are examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). They not only labor at teaching and governing, to feed and lead the church, but they model, as a team, the Christian maturity toward which we hope all Christians will progress.

So, in days that seem embattled and divisive, it might be freshly helpful, if not convicting, to remember that Christians, with their pastors leading the way, are not to be known for circling wagons and battering down hatches. Rather, we are to be wide- and warm-hearted, maturely magnanimous, "lovers of good" (Greek philagathos), as Titus 1:8 obliges church leaders. That is the opposite of how Paul characterizes the last days in 2 Timothy 3:3: "not loving good"

(aphilagathos).

What, then, might lead to, mark, and accompany such "lovers of good," that we might discern whether we ourselves, and our leaders, embody what Christ designs?

1. Believe in good.

First, let it not go unsaid that those who love the good believe in good. In distressed days, such pastors and Christians still believe in good. They know their God — who is Goodness himself and the source and standard of all good — made this world and called it good. Good came first and is deeper than evil. And we know, in Christ, that whatever devastations evil has wrought, one day the sin and death which so pervade and pain us will be no more.

Lovers of good believe that true good is older, deeper, and will outlive the bad. And even outside the church, in the darkest of places, still the light of good flashes for those with eyes to see. They believe it. And so too they look for it.

2. Look for good.

Those Christians who genuinely believe in good become the kind of people who are hopeful for good. Knowing Christ and his promises, they know that good is to come — it's only a matter of time. They cannot long entertain cynicism, or stand to become Chicken Littles nervous that the sky is falling. Rather, they consider the present moment, with all its uncertainty, turbulence, and

change, to be a great time to speak the gospel, press for conversion, plant churches, and pour fresh energy into global mission.

Philippians 4:8, addressed to the whole church, well captures what good pastor-elders model for their congregations in relation to their surrounding unbelieving society:

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Far from being a call to remove ourselves from the world and bunker down to think Christian thoughts in isolation, Paul's charge is to engage the world, looking for the good, as argued by commentators Moisés Silva (Philippians, 196-98) and Gordon Fee (Philippians, 413-21).

Paul selects the verb consider (logizomai, to count or compute; rather than, as we might assume, phroneo, to set one's mind). So also he chooses six adjectives and two nouns that are more typical of the first-century pagan society than the church.

Pastor-elders, as "lovers of good" (Titus 1:8), are to be men like this, who see the world with realistic yet hopeful eyes and can spot and point out the good, even as they warn of and reject sin and deception. But such leaders will not be content with looking for the good. Quite naturally (and supernaturally), their belief in the good, and hope for

the good, will lead to their commending the good, and their own doing of good.

3. Do good.

Lovers of good are eager to "do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). Christians in general, and pastor-elders in particular, are to be the kind of people, according to commentator Robert Yarbrough, who are "zealous to see that what is good flourish in and out of the church," noting "a connection between this pastoral quality and the 'good works' enjoined on Titus and the congregations elsewhere in the letter" (Letters to Timothy and Titus, 486-87). This is a conspicuous thrust in Paul's short letter to Titus:

In contrast to false teachers who are "unfit for any good work" (1:16), Titus is to "be a model of good works" (2:7) and so lead the church to be "a people . . . who are zealous for good works" (2:14).

Expressly in relation to their unbelieving society, Christians are "to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people" (3:1-2). It's a charge that many of us today can scarcely rehearse too often.

And if that weren't striking enough, Paul lays it on even thicker still: pastors will insist on the glories of the gospel (3:4-7) "so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good

works" (3:8).

Finally, note that Paul himself does not commend faithfulness without any concern for fruitfulness. Rather, he says, "let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful" (3:14).

Pastors — and increasingly their churches with them — are to be doers of good, not mere self-proclaimed lovers, deceiving themselves. Genuinely loving the good leads them to dream up ideas, take fresh initiatives, and do good that benefits all, especially those of like faith.

Love good.

Lest we conclude with the wrong emphasis, however, we return to the particular verbal concept Paul commends in Titus 1:8: love. A certain kind of heart is the heart of this requisite. As John Piper writes about "lover of good" as a pastoral qualification,

He should love to see good done and love to be involved in doing good. This is more than doing good. This is a bent and love to see it done. A kind of expansive person.

As much as we clarify that actually rising to do good, not armchair quarterbacking, will be the observable effect, the requirement is a condition of the inner man: he loves good. He believes in it, looks for it with a tangible hopefulness, commends it, and does it because he loves it — both good things and good people, in the church and

beyond.

Such lovers of good are not irritable or resentful; they do not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoice with the truth. In their very person, they are, and are becoming, the kind of people who embody the distinctively Christian love that bears all things, hopes all things, believes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:5-7). They demonstrate the wide hearts and capacious, expansive souls that, in time, become bracing evidence of a sinner's supernatural encounter with God himself in Christ.

Love the Good First

In times that shrink some hearts, remember that hatred is not the heart of Christian ethics. We are first lovers of good, on God's terms, and then, as a function of such love, are we righteously haters of evil. As Scott Swain observes,

The opposite of an error is not the truth. It's the opposite error. Passionate resentment of falsehood is unlikely to make one the next Athanasius "contra mundum." It's more likely to make one the next Apollinaris or Eutyches (famous heretics).

There is a place for righteous anger in the Christian life. But it has to follow the right "order of operations." Love of what is good breeds an appropriate abhorrence of what is evil. Hate, by itself, breeds no virtues, intellectual or otherwise.

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Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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