

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Tropical storm-force winds cause big damage

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

A strong thunderstorm bringing tropical storm-force winds, blinding rain, and hailstones up to an inch raged across Orange County Monday afternoon causing widespread outages damages.

Gusts of up to 67 mph were recorded in downtown Orange, according to meteorologist Stacey Densen with the National Weather Service in Lake Charles. Videos show straight line winds of almost the same force continually blowing from the Orange County Courthouse area.

Though a tornado warning was issued, no evidence of a tornado was found Wednesday.

A block away from the courthouse on the Sabine River, several empty tanker

barges were torn from their moors along Livingston Island where they were berthed at a shipyard. The barges crashed into the riverbank at the city's Riverfront Pavilion and Boardwalk.

Jody Chesson, who rode out the storm in a building at the Heritage House Museum complex a block west on Division Avenue said some of the barges appeared to be on top of each other.

Power outages across the county led to schools closing Tuesday in Orangefield and West Orange-Cove districts, along with LSCO. The Salvation Army along with some stores had to close because of no electricity. The Stark Cultural Venues also closed.

Meteorologist Densen

TROPICAL Page 3A



Straight-line winds of tropical force blew across Orange County during a thunderstorm Monday afternoon. Though trees and power poles were knocked down in many areas, the worst hit places were Pinehurst and the downtown Orange area. A large metal room from an alley parking lot behind Green Avenue businesses blew yards away into Elm Avenue, leading the city to close the street. Widespread power outages led to the West Orange-Cove and Orangefield school districts, along with LSCO, to cancel classes.
RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

Champagne wins BC council race as Burch wins again in Orange

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Bryant Champagne won the open seat for the Bridge City City Council during the May 6 election beating Kenneth Prosperie 225 votes to 173 for the Place 3 spot.

Once again, strong early voting totals accounted for most of the votes across Orange County in the city and school board elections Saturday.

For the West Orange-Cove CISD school board, longtime incumbent Ruth Hancock lost her spot on the board as challenger Donny Teate led the voting with 419. The district has at-large positions and two seats were open with three challengers; so the two candidates with the most votes won the open seats. Incumbent Tommy Wayne Wilson won again with 380 votes. Hancock had 251 votes.

In Orange, incumbent Paul Burch handily beat challenger Henry "Junior"

Leger to retain his At-Large Position 6 seat. Burch had 802 votes to Leger's 321 votes. Incumbent Terrie Salter was unopposed on the ballot to reclaim her Single-Member District 3 spot.

In Vidor, Kathryn Weldon won the Ward 6 position with 228 votes to lead Victoria Jones with 47 and Lisa Harris with 52.

The Vidor ISD school board election had Natalie Martinez Long winning Position 4 with 422 votes compared to challenger Billy Jordan with 372. For Position 5, Rodney White came out on top with 421 votes to beat Brooke Hoosier Gilthorpe with 418. The Position 7 seat was won by Michael Hels with 329 votes to squeak by Jeremiah Harrington with 315 votes. Bret Howard had 117 votes for the position.

Tony Wilcoxson won the Rose City mayor's race with 33 votes with Jeff Schulze getting 28 votes. Linda Durmon took the city council seat with 32 votes against Ami Dorn with 25 votes.

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

A replica of the most famous ship in the history of the United States Navy is now located in Orange. The three-foot long ship model of the USS Constitution was built by long-time Orange resident Dean Sechler and was donated to the Orange Public Library by his daughter Joan Tharp on Friday, April 28.

Sechler moved to Orange from Pennsylvania and worked on Chemical Row for decades. In his spare time Dean built close to thirty ship models, all in great detail. Sechler passed away seven years ago.

The ship model kit of the USS Constitution was purchased by Sechler for about \$300, and then he meticulously put the hundreds of plywood, beech, mahogany, walnut, and metal parts



The three-foot long ship model of the USS Constitution was built by long-time Orange resident Dean Sechler and was donated to the Orange Public Library by his daughter Joan Tharp.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

like the fifty cannons together to form the marvelous looking ship. Sechler indicated previously he worked on this particular

model of "Old Ironsides" for more than a year.

The time spent making the models of ships like the USS Constitution was

lengthy, but was enjoyable to Sechler according to his daughter. "It was a hobby

OLD IRON Page 3A

OC Represented in Film Festival

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Port Arthur and Beaumont are state certified as "film friendly" by Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Film Commission, but Orange County is being represented big in the annual Boomtown Film Festival in Beaumont this weekend.

Penny LeLeux of Orangefield is the festival's director this year, plus actor Woody Almaguer, a Bridge City graduate, and John Frederick Jr. of Mauriceville

will be participating in panel discussions.

Besides films and filmmakers, the festival includes a variety of musical performers. One of the featured musicians is singer Casme' of New Orleans from the 19th season of The Voice. She will be at the Meet and Greet Friday evening at the Jazz and Jokes club.

LeLeux is an independent filmmaker who has been writing, directing, and starring in short films. Her "Shhh" from 2019 is a short film that has won awards

across the country and was nominated as a finalist at the famous Cannes Film Festival in France. The film was shot around Orange, including at the Orange Public Library.

Since then, she has gone on to write more screenplays that have won awards or been named as finalists at other festivals.

Almaguer is a former actor at Orange Community Players and was in "Shhh." He has since moved to Austin to work on a film career. He will lead a panel discussion on shooting realistic

fight scenes.

Frederick is a retired Navy veteran and has acted in the Tom Hanks film "Greyhound," along with an episode of "NCIS: New Orleans." In addition, he has been in more than 100 short episodes of Vid Chronicles on YouTube, which has more than 1.5 million subscribers.

Frederick will be with the panel discussion "So You Want To Be an Influencer."

More than 60 short and 13 full-length feature films

BOOMTOWN Page 3A

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**SUMMER II CLASSES START:
JULY 5, 2023**



Lamar State College
Orange

My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

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

Last Friday we celebrated Cinco de Mayo! On May 5, 1862, Mexican general Ignacio Zaragoza defeated French expeditionary forces at Puebla, Mexico.



Sen. Nichols

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Ankle monitor bill heads to the governor

This week, a bill that would increase penalties for tampering with, disabling, or removing an ankle monitor overwhelmingly passed the House. The Senate passed the measure unanimously in late March.

Senate Bill 1004, authored by Senator Joan Huffman and sponsored by Representative Abel Herrero, would enhance the penalty for knowingly removing or disabling an ankle monitor to a felony. Currently, the penalty is an administrative violation, not a criminal offense. The bill was prompted by the October 2022 shooting at a hospital in the Dallas area which killed a nurse and a social worker. The alleged perpetrator was a parolee with an ankle monitor who had permission to be at the hospital for the birth of his child. He had cut off his monitor previously. Now the bill heads to Governor Abbott's desk

for final approval before it becomes law.

2. Right to Farm passes the Senate

This week, the Senate passed House Joint Resolution 126, a constitutional amendment that would protect the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management. HJR 126 was authored by Representative DeWayne Burns and sponsored by Senator Charles Perry. As the state grows increasingly more urban, farmers and ranchers within municipal boundaries are subjected to municipal ordinances that can inhibit their operations and production. Cities sometimes

use public nuisance ordinances to prohibit agricultural activities. It is important that our state enshrine the right to farm in our state constitution.

3. Bill allowing flexibility for transfer students passes Senate

The Senate passed Senate Bill 418 by Senator Angela Paxton this week. The bill updates statutes governing students who want to transfer from one district or campus to another. The legislation permits students to transfer to any public school that has capacity available and prohibits public school districts from charging these students tuition. The bill sets

out parameters for a school district that receives more applications than seats available and requires districts to publicly post the number of available seats they have. The bill also provides protections for school districts for students who violate code of conduct rules, are placed in disciplinary alternative education programs, or are required or permitted to be expelled. Allowing for flexibility in the public school system for students to attend the campus or district of their choice helps ensure we are meeting the needs of our Texas public school students.

4. Texas Parks and Wildlife celebrates centennial

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year and the Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine staff devoted an entire issue to the occasion. The special edition magazine has 100 pages honoring 100 years of parks. There are recommendations for the best parks for fishing, hiking, kayaking, or seeing wildlife. It also highlights the six new parks that will open over the next 12 to 15 years. New parks include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, Dan A Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area, Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, Powderhorn State Park, Chinati Mountains State Natural Area, and Davis Hill State Natural Area.

5. End of session deadlines, calendar

Now that we are in May, there are some end of session deadlines that are quickly approaching. These deadlines mark the final day that certain bills can be considered by either chamber to realistically have time to pass. They are as follows:

- Monday, May 8 – Last day for House committee to report House bills and House joint resolutions;
- Tuesday, May 9 (by 10 p.m.) – Deadline for the House to distribute its last House daily calendar with House bills and House joint resolutions;
- Wednesday, May 10 (by 9 a.m.) – Deadline for the House to distribute its last House local and consent calendar with consent House bills;
- Friday, May 12 – Last day for the House to consider consent House bills on the local and consent calendar on 2nd and 3rd reading and all 3rd reading House bills and House joint resolutions;
- Saturday, May 20 – Last day for House committee to report Senate bills and joint resolutions;
- Wednesday, May 24 – Last day for House to consider local and consent Senate bills and all 3rd reading Senate bills AND last day for Senate to consider all bills and joint resolutions on 2nd and 3rd reading;
- Monday, May 29 – Legislature adjourns sine die.

OLD MOVIE LESSONS

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

Our governor and lieutenant governor and other elected leaders could learn valuable lessons by watching some of the old westerns on TV.

At my age I have begun to enjoy old western movies quite a bit as my weekly entertainment. Most of them have a basic formula featuring some well-known cowboy.

Usually the hero, a sheriff or marshal, is called on to establish law and order in a town that is beset by robberies, kidnappings, assaults or other violent crimes. Our hero is to stop the wave of crimes and tame the city so that citizens can be duly safe and proud of their town.

The tactic most often used to restore peace by the would-be hero is to stop allowing wild cowboys and



Former State Senator Carl Parker

others bringing their six shooters to town. Wyatt Earp for example, was famous for requiring gun toters to deposit their six shooters with him in order to be able to enter the local saloon and enjoy some alcoholic libation. Usually subject to the tactic used by the hero sheriff worked to do away with quick-draw contests, band robberies and other violence in the community.

Only a short time ago the

things we could count on being in our morning paper on a regular basis were the weather report and sports scores. Now it seems, we are greeted with the latest amount of shootings which have occurred since the day before. Sadly, it seems we see the accounts of mass shootings so often we are becoming used to such reports. Too many of us are accepting our leaders' answers that "thoughts and prayers" and mental health will take care of the problem. I was told once long ago that when praying for a fire, it's very helpful to strike the match as you pray. Unfortunately, for us in our nation, our leaders seem too fearful of "striking the match" and offending organizations like the National Rifle Association.

We have allowed the well-organized and well-funded lobby to control our Congress and state government. By not speak-

ing out we allow our leaders to continue doing nothing to stem America's epidemic of needless gun deaths, outstripping every other nation in the world in such violence besetting our population. We have bought into the lie that some unknown force, or someone unnamed will take our property, freedom, guns or lives if we are not well armed.

There is no logical reason for us to worship the second amendment by allowing the sale of weapons of war, or having access of gun ownership to those too immature to be trusted with their use. I have been a gun owner since I was eleven years old as well as a licensed gun dealer for a short period of time. I firmly believe it is way past time for American citizens to demand action on the part of our elected leaders and bring about reasonable, needed reforms related to gun ownership and use.

Orange County Community News

The Record Newspapers In Print & Online



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Boomtown Film Festival From Page 1

will be shown at venues across Beaumont including the Jefferson Theater, Art Museum of Southeast Texas, and the Texas Energy Museum, in downtown Beaumont, plus the Dishman Art Gallery at Lamar University.

Other panelists will include veteran prop masters Scott A. Reeder and Lynda Reiss. Their credits include working for "Stranger Things," "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Machete," and "Pitch Perfect." Reeder is a graduate of Port Neches-Groves High, bringing another touch of Southeast Texas professionalism to the event.

The long-running festival draws international filmmakers from countries like Canada, Italy, France, Spain, Cuba, Argentina, and Australia.

LeLeux said the festival had to be canceled in 2020

and 2021 because of the Covid pandemic, and had a limited schedule last year. But this year, it is back in full swing.

Tickets for events and full schedules are available through the website boomtownfestival.com.

Events are open to the public, including the Filmmakers Meet and Greet from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Jazz and Jokes Club, 695 Orleans in downtown Beaumont. The event will have music, a cash bar, and light refreshments.

The Jefferson Theater Friday night will show the first two movies of independent filmmaker Kevin Smith.

Other panel discussions throughout Saturday will include "Meet the Filmmakers," "Selling Your Script," and "Women in Film."



Penny LeLeux of Orangefield and John Frederick Jr. of Mauriceville posed at the Mystic (Connecticut) Film Festival where their film "Shhh" won awards. LeLeux is director of the Boomtown Film Festival in Beaumont this weekend and Frederick will lead one of the panels.



The film festival also features a number of musical acts, and this year will include New Orleans singer Casme' from the TV show "The Voice."

Tropical storm force winds From Page 1

said it appears the storm was straight-line winds with no sign of a tornado being found.

Orange County Emergency Management Director Joel Ardoin also said the strong winds were not from tornadoes. However, several people reported twisters coming from the clouds. Ardoin said small twisters may have caused some of the damage.

The storm hit about the time industries, schools, and businesses begin to close. Flooded streets were widespread with normally short drives taking an hour or more. Besides the flooded roadways, drivers also had to deal with the hard-falling rain that made everything gray like a thick fog.

Trees fell across roads and houses in many neighborhoods across the county. Metal roofs blew yards away. Windows were blown out.

A power pole broke off and fell across FM 408 in Orangefield, bringing down live wires and closing the road into Tuesday morning.

Hair & Co. Salon on Strickland Drive in Pine-



The National Weather Service in Lake Charles reported a wind gust of 67 mph in downtown Orange along with the strong straight winds

hurst had the metal roof ripped off with part of it landing in the Family Dollar parking lot across the street. Kay's Salon on MacArthur Drive also had a metal roof blown off along with part of the siding.

Roberts Ford dealership on Green Avenue at 16th Street in Orange had a large light pole break off and fall into a new SUV.

A large piece of metal covering an alley parking lot for businesses along

Green Avenue blew off and landed in Ninth Street, to the west side of the historic First Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Bobby Daniel reported large tree limbs down, along with part of an iron fence at the church's columbarium.

At Heritage House on Division Avenue west of the courthouse, the 1902 Sims House, rain blew through the window sills on the west side of the building. Water got into every room on that side.

The museum's board was set to have a meeting in the evening. Board president Adam Conrad and treasurer Jody Chesson came early to help director Charlotte Alford prepare for the meeting. The three road out the storm in the Williams Building in back of the main house. The said the house shook.

They were able to clean up the water in the historic house quickly. Dryers and dehumidifiers were brought in Tuesday. The museum recently reopened after repairing damages from two hurricanes.

Sherry Combs, who lives in the nearby Old Orange Historic District, reported

the winds blew out a window at her house, sending rain into her baby grand piano.

Letasha Heid took a video of the storm from her window at the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The video includes the wails of the winds along with hail pelting the window. By Monday afternoon, the video on her Facebook page had more than 10,000 views.

The Orange County airport gauge had 1.5 inches of rain within an hour, but the strong, straight winds could have kept some of rains out of the gauge. Downtown Or-

ange residents reported four inches of rain in their home gauges. The Sabine River Authority gauge on Pier Road near downtown Orange had 2.75 inches falling.

The National Weather Service has issued a flood warning for the county as storms and rain moved through Tuesday with more forecast for Wednesday.

Emergency Management Director Ardoin said the U.S. Coast Guard was investigating the barge situation on the river and working with the shipyard to move and secure them.

Bridge City Little League
will hold their 2023 - 2024 Board
of Director Elections on Thursday,
May 25th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.
If interested, please sign up in the
BCLL Board Room
or see a board member.

Old Ironsides From Page 1

that he had and he just enjoyed it. He was so good with his hands. He built a lot of things, but he got into ship building and he got into it enthusiastically," Tharp remembered.

The modeler's daughter said this ship was probably his most favorite that he built. "He wanted it to be put in the Orange Library. He spent hours and hours on it and took over a year to make. It was difficult to make, all of them were difficult. He used to say not just anybody can make these ships," Tharp reminded.

As an example Sechler had a friend who was an expert clock maker who wanted to build a ship model, but got so frustrated with it he asked Dean to finish it for him. Tharp added the clock maker then made a grandfather clock for the Sechlers in a trade for the ship model that Dean completed for him.

No dollar amount can be put on the value of Sechler's model of the USS Constitution or any of the other over two dozen models he constructed. "My dad did search out some museums on the east coast of the United States to see if they would like to have his ships because he liked to have them all in one place. He

said that he would donate the models to them on the condition that they do not sell any of the ships for money, and the museums said they could not promise him that. So, my dad decided to keep the ships," Tharp recalled.

With the passing of Tharp's mother Evelyn Sechler in the last year Joan has been giving her father's models away to family and friends. Tharp stated, "When I give a ship away I kind of have to know the person and know if they're going to admire his craftsmanship and take care of the ship."

The ship donated to the Orange Public Library will be displayed in the lobby inside a glass case on a table next to the large map of the greater Orange area near the building's entrance. "Having come from a family that has been using the library since I've been here it's just very exciting," Head Librarian Brenna Manasco commented.

Visitors in Orange can now see an excellent likeness of the grand ole lady in the Orange Public Library. The library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 AM to 7 PM, and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

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From the Creaux's Nest

MOTHER'S DAY MOST SPECIAL DAY OF ALL

To me one of the most special days of the year is **Mother's Day**. For most of us there is no more special person in our lives than the one who brought us here, **nursed us through our baby years** and molded us into adulthood. Through thick and thin our **moms can always be counted on** to build a comfort zone around each individual child, often cushioning the tough blows of life. **If you are fortunate to still have your Mom**, count your blessings. Take a minute to reflect on the life you have traveled together. **Make a mental movie of all the great times** you had and the special moments with her. Think of how you made her so proud of what now seems just small things but were great accomplishments back then. **If you're just leaving your teenage years**, some day you'll look back and recall these days that Mom made so special. You will realize then how truly special she is. **Happy Mother's Day to all Moms**, young and old, may **God bless you all the days of your lives**, then welcome you home when your final day is done.

TRUMP FOUND GUILTY OF SEXUAL ABUSE

A New York jury on Tuesday found former **President Donald Trump** liable for sexually abusing writer **E. Jean Carroll** in a Manhattan department store in the 1990s, but not liable for her alleged rape. The jury awarded her **\$5 million in damages** for her battery and defamation claims. The six men and three women also found **Trump had defamed Carroll** by calling her claims a "hoax" and a "con job." The jury deliberated for only about three hours before returning the verdict. They awarded **Carroll just over \$2 million on the battery claim** and just under **\$3 million on the defamation claims**. Her lawyer **Roberta Kaplan** said, "No one is above the law, not even a former President of the United States." The verdict marks the first time a former president has been found **civilly liable for sexual misconduct**.

ALLEN SUSPECT PLANNED ATTACK

According to an A.P. story, the man accused of killing eight people and wounding several others in a mass shooting at a **suburban Dallas shopping mall** researched when it was busiest and posted photos on social media in mid-April of a store near where he ultimately started his attack. The posts by **Mauricio Garcia**, whom authorities have identified as the gunman, on a **Russian social networking site** suggest the 33-year-old had been planning the attack for weeks before he stepped out of a silver sedan and opened fire Saturday. **Garcia** had a fascination with white supremacy and mass shootings, which he described as sport. Photos he posted showed large **Nazi tattoos** on his arm and torso, including a **swastika** and the **SS lightning bolt logo of Hitler's paramilitary forces**. The official also said **Garcia** had a patch on his chest when police killed him that read "RWDS," an acronym for the phrase "**Right Wing Death Squad**," popular among right-wing extremists and white supremacy groups. The attack happened at **Allen Premium Outlets**, a sprawling outdoor shopping center about 25 miles north of **downtown Dallas**. Information about **Garcia** emerged as the community mourned the dead and awaited word on the seven people who were wounded. Statistics show that **Allen's population** is about **19 percent Asian, 10 percent Black and 11 percent Hispanic**. This is ironic. **Allen** is also connected to another of **Texas'** recent mass shootings. **Patrick Crusins** lived there in 2019 before he posted a lengthy racist discourse online that warned of a "**Hispanic invasion**" and drove to **El Paso**, where he opened fire at a **Walmart**, killing 23.

THE PASSING OF ROY BENDY

It was a surprise to learn of the passing of **Roy Ellison Bendy**, age 80, on May 2. During the last month, Bobby Hoosier, Roy's nephew from California, had visited his hometown, family and friends. He stayed at Roy's home while here. He told of everything they had done, even attended a rodeo where a relative participated in barrel racing. Bobby spoke about how well Roy was doing. We then learned he had passed away. The Bendy family was Bridge City pioneers, arriving in the area in the mid-1940s. Roy's parents owned Bendy's Nursery, the boys were Allen, Johnny, and Roy, girls were Florene, Frances and Jerry, who now is the only survivor. Roy was a tug boat captain but also owned his on tugs. He and his late wife Pat at one time owned a western store on Roundbunch where Dr. Penning's office is located. Several years ago Roy coached a boxing team. His Bridge City youngsters were a scrappy bunch of good fighters who made a name for themselves. Roy was a good guy who left a bunch of children, grandchildren and relatives who will miss him. I had known the Bendy family for over 60 years and considered them very good friends. Some good stories could be told about all three of the boys who operated different businesses. Hard to believe this large, original family is now down to Jerry, it's only survivor. A celebration of life will be

held at a later date. Please see obituary.

CONDOLENCES

I read on our website that **C. Delle Bates**, age 80, had passed away April 24. I'm not sure where he lived at the time. He had sold his historical home and art studio on the Sabine River in downtown Orange. He had owned a home in Nova Scotia but I'm not sure that was where he had been living at time of death. **C. Delle** was a likable guy. He was an artist, and also an inventor, who came up with the idea for partial board. The sale of this invention secured his livelihood for life. If you ever met him you would never forget him. He was different, kind and caring. Please read obituary on **therecordlive.com**.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

Kree hopes to move on. Some three weeks before many local media ran anything on **American Idol**, even before some family members were aware that **Kree** was a contestant, we broke the news. The way it came about was that all the contestants, from throughout the U.S., that had made the cut, were brought to **Las Vegas**. **Kree** had auditioned in **Oklahoma and Pattie Hanks, who lives in Vegas**, recognized the name **Kree Harrison** as a name she remembered of a young girl who sang **Percy Sledge songs at Crocket Street** and also at an **Orangefield function**. She found out she was the same **Kree Harrison from back home**. She emailed us and that's how we broke the first **Kree "American Idol" story**. She was born at **St. Mary Hospital, in Port Arthur**. She left Woodville after the eighth grade. The only public high school she ever attended was the **ninth grade in Bridge City, 2004-05**. She left Bridge City, as a freshman, to move to Nashville. **Kree** spent 10 years of her childhood in **Woodville** and she considers that her home town. She came home over the weekend with the **American Idol film crew** for a parade in Woodville and a **concert at Ford Park**. This week the contestants will be reduced to the final two. Most critics agree **Kree has the superior voice** but that alone won't win it. It depends on song selection, appearance and viewers vote. **Public voting is the biggest factor**.**** **MSNBC** has signed "**Hardball**" host **Chris Matthews** to a new, long term contract. As part of the new deal however, he will end "**The Chris Matthews Show**." Meanwhile, **Maria Shriver returns to NBC** and will appear on **MSNBC and CNBC**. She left television to be first lady of California from 2003 to 2011. **She and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger** have since split after he fathered a child with their housekeeper. (Editor's note: It didn't take long before **Chris and Marie** were long gone.)

25 Years Ago-1998

Longtime newspaper journalist **Linda B. Farris** opened doors to **Mama's Oldtime Mercantile**, at 1205 N. 16th Street. The store has the appearance and atmosphere of the kind of store folks gathered at in the early 1900's. **Linda** says, "When I was a little girl, I used to stand on a box at poppa's store in **Canton, Georgia** to wait on customers. I have always planned to open an old general store like poppa's." (Editor's note: I don't know how long **Linda's** store stayed open or when it closed. It was a unique store. **What became of Linda anyway?**)**** **Jockey Kent Desormeaux**, from Maurice, Louisiana, cousin of the **Bonin twins Audrey and Flaudry, from Vermillion Parish**, won the **Kentucky Derby** on "**Real Quiet**." (Editor's note: Speed forward 25 years to last Saturday when **Kent** was trainer of one of the horses in the **149th Kentucky Derby**. His horse came out in the middle of the pack. **Kent's** dad passed away last week.)**** **Selina Hebert**, besides working two jobs, is carrying 17 hours at Lamar. Texas Tech had offered her a **full ride for four more years** and she has accepted. Her longtime boyfriend, **T.J. Knight**, will also move to **Lubbock**, work for a while and finish college. (Editor's note: This fine young couple, **Selina**, daughter of **Sherrie** and the late **Owen Hebert**, married **T.J.**, the son of **Chris** and the late **Annie Lee Knight**. They got their degrees, moved to Dallas and have pursued their careers and raised their children.)**** **Ray Cotton's Longhorn Club**, in Vinton, burned. The blaze started at about 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning May 10. This was the third building **Cotton** has lost to fire. Two others burned in Texas where someone was prosecuted for setting the fires.**** More than 200 people attended **Don and Alice Cole's 50th anniversary party**. Spotted in the large crowd were former tax collector **Louvenia Hryhorchuk**, The mayor of Pinehurst, **Judge Pete Runnels**, **Judge Carl Thibodeaux**, the **Wade Grangers**, **Don's** two sisters and **Alice's** sister from Mississippi just to name a few. The **Cole youngsters did a great job** putting the affair together.

45 Years Ago-1978

County Attorney Sharon Bearden is expected to step down. **Bearden** has been a **hard-working DA**. A few names circulating as possible replacements are **Joe Alford, Mike Shuff, Bill Wright** and **Jim Wallace**, assistant DA.**** In the **Little Miss Orange County pageant**, contestants are **Tammy Titus, Heather Payne, Karla Michelle Buford, Monica Weeks, Denise Smith** and **Meredith Weeks**.**** One hundred **Orange County students** graduate from **Lamar**. Honor graduates include **Gary Garrison, Roy Juneau, Mary Ann Kennon, Valarie Kirkindall, Lauryl Lopez, Charlotte Moberg, Chris Tiger, Michael Webb, Madelon Minton, Cynthia Degeyer, Susan Miller, Deborah Mulholland, Dorothy Pierce** and **William Watson**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Nick Portacci, of Bridge City, and **Victoria Ridgway**, of Scottsdale Arizona, tied the knot at Dreams Riviera Cancun Resort on April 29. **Nick** is the son of **Matt and Dana Portacci**, formerly of Bridge City, and nephew of **Charlie and Karen Warner**, of Bridge City. Bridge City grads **Preston Pittman, Collin Gros** and **Tanner Cervenka** stood by **Nick** on his big day. We hear the wedding was hit by a torrential rain during the outdoor ceremony but love won out and the nuptials continued. The couple will make their home in Scottsdale, Arizona where he is employed by Western

Alliance Bank.**** **Phillip makes bad trip**. Usually when I have news about our friend **Phillip Welch** it's about some great trip he, **Sterling** and mom have been on. This trip is different. Last Wednesday he got to feeling really bad so **Shanna** took him to a Bridge City doctor who immediately call an ambulance to transport him to **Baptist Beaumont**. Thursday morning he had an appendectomy. I spoke with him Saturday and he was still in **ICU** but hoping to get home by Tuesday. This kind of attack is not unusual. A few years ago **Judge Chad Jenkins** was hunting in **West Texas** when **Wendee** had to rush him to hospital 60 or so miles away with the same problem. It is a problem that generally hits people in their 70's. However, beside the two mentioned yours truly, **at age 8**, fell out on the side of the road with a **ruptured appendix** and an insurance salesman, working on his debit, brought me 25 miles away to a **charity hospital** for 10 days. The nuns wrote a plaque saying what a "**Brave Little Boy**" I was. I still have the plaque. Here's wishing **Phillip** a speedy recovery.**** The annual **Mauriceville Crawfish Bash** had some rain last weekend, but not enough to deter crawfish fans from crowding in for **crawfish tacos**, beer, and of course, the **all-you-can-eat boiled crawfish**. **Rodney** and **Dr. Amy Townsend** enjoyed the fare and it was a busy day for him. Earlier in the day he played in the benefit golf tournament for the **Bridge City Strutters**. **Christopher** and **Regina Marple** took their boys. **Gary** and **Allisha Bonneaux** were spotted in the crowd. The **Mauriceville Heritage Association** sponsors the long-running annual event as a fundraiser for community activities. **T's Spicy Tails** team won first place this year in the **crawfish boiling contest**. Other winners were **Tails and Ales** in second, **H.B. Nield** team in third, and the **Roberts Ford** team in fourth. **Tails and Ales** won first in the open dish competition with **Poor Boys and Co.** winning fan favorite.**** **Father Jim Sichko**, who grew up in Orange, is a traveling evangelist for the **Pope**, but is based in **Lexington, Kentucky**. This year, he hosted his siblings, including **Thereze Sichko** of Orange, to the **Kentucky Derby**.**** **Brad** and **Terrie Childs** danced the night away Friday at **Benoit's in Vidor**. The next day, **Terrie and her mother, Dayle Foreman**, were sporting colorful hats as they attended a derby-themed bridal shower.**** **Randy Ragsdale** took to the beach to get a rest from his retirement.**** **Rachel Belcher** graduated from the **University of Texas** at Austin, continuing the **Belcher tradition of Longhorns**. Parents **Pat** and **Michelle** also went there.**** **Eli Peveto**, son of **Judge Rex** and **Robin Peveto**, was given the **John Gray Presidential Award at Lamar University** having the highest grade point average of all the college's athletes. The cross-country running will graduate this coming week.**** **Parrish Bird**, daughter of **T.W.** and **Lyndia Permenter**, celebrated her birthday by taking her grown daughters **Marlee Bird** and **Morgan Latiolais** on a trip to New York City.**** Other birthdays included man-about-the-county **James Scales**. He took over **Santa duties** for the late **Larry David** and there's a good reason. No one can say a bad word about him. Well, we'll have to ask his mom **Donna**.**** **Texas State College System Regent Sheila Fasje** marked another year, as did **Necil Nimitz McCray, Tommy Mann, Cullin Smith, and Gina Catt**.**** **Monte Morphey** turned 60, **Corrie Terrie** became 26, and **Gail Terry Gutierrez** hit 85.**** Others who celebrated included **Taran Burch, Suzy Permenter, Justin Trahan, and Shelby Sonnier**.**** **Shon** and **Becka Landry** had an anniversary last week as did **David** and **Belinda Huerta**. **Annette** and **Bobby Payne** drove all the way to **Don's Seafood in Lafayette** for their anniversary. Through their years of marriage, they had a tradition of going to the now-closed **Don's Seafood in Beaumont** on their special day.**** And congratulations to the newly-engaged couple of **Jenna Comeaux** and **Joshua Green**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating their birthdays in the next few days. **May 10: Gerald Taylor, Katie Hubbard, Preslea Thibodeaux, Sharon Wooley, Stacie Dryden** and **Candace Miller**.**** **May 11: Pat Collins, Sarah Moreland, Scott Andes, Tami Vanderheiden** and **Sherry Walles**.**** **May 12: Tammy Yawn**, a special lady and first class waitress celebrates today. We miss seeing her. Joining **Tammy** are **Sierra Allison, Brian Sandifer, Jerry Hardee** and **Bridgett Bonneaux**.**** **May 13: Happy Birthday to Jamie Garcia** and **Kristie Hughes**.**** **May 14: Madison Lyons, David Gauthier, Nikki Smith** and **Brad Johansson** celebrate today.**** **May 15: Longtime Bridge City school councilor Nancy Chenella** celebrates today. **She and Joe**, who celebrated on the 7th, now live in College Station. **Joe** was also a teacher and superintendent at Bridge City.**** **May 16: Mark Simmons, RaeAnn Chapman, Samuel Lucia** and **Judge Pat Clark** all celebrate another birthday. I'm not sure of **Pat's** number but I remember him in **short pants back in the 50's**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Sostan Thibodeaux and **Clovis Comeaux** entered a chocolate store in a mall in Lafayette. When dey was looking at da candy dem, **Thibodeaux** stole tree chocolate bars. When dey left da store **Thib** told **Comeaux**, "I'm da best tief me, I stole tree chocolate bars and no one saw me put dem in my pocket."

"You can't beat dat," **Comeaux** replied, "You want to see something better, let's go back to dat shop, I'll show you real stealing, me. I'll steal while dat shopkeeper is looking right at me and he won't even know."

Dey walked up to da counter and **Comeaux** axe the clerk, "Do you want to see a great magic trick?"

Da clerk replied, "Yes." **Comeaux** say, "Give me dem tree chocolate bars dere."

Da clerk give dem to **Comeaux** and he ate all tree of dem. Da clerk him axe, "Where's da magic, hanh?" **Comeaux** answer, "Jus look in **Thibodeaux's** pocket."

C'EST TOUT

Mass shootings in the **United States** surpassed 200 so far in 2023, and it's only May. The number of deaths could double by years end. Every time there is a mass killing, with an **AR15 assault rifle**, politicians rush to a TV cameo to send their prayers. **Sen. Ted Cruz** makes them all and is almost always first. Others fall in with "**sorry**," none blame the **assault weapon**. **Their sorry is fake**.**** Thank you very much for your loyalty and time. **Don't forget Mother. Take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Roy Ellison Bendy, 80, Orange

Roy Ellison Bendy, 80, of Orange, Texas, passed away on May 2, 2023, in Beaumont, Texas. Born in Woodville, Texas, on September 12, 1942, he was the son of Allen Bendy and Margaret (Johnson) Bendy.

He loved his girls and made sure to teach them to be strong and independent women. He always made sure to look his best, whether he was going out on the town or just on a grocery run. Roy loved dancing and even taught his kids to dance the jitterbug, which they still do today.

He enjoyed cooking and would often invite his friends and loved ones for meals. To Roy, everyone was welcome- no need to knock, just come on in. He never met a stranger and was always there to help anyone in need. In his spare time,

Roy enjoyed being outdoors in the yard gardening and mowing the grass. He played hard, but he worked even harder. Roy retired after spending over 50 years as a tugboat captain.

He was a wonderful husband, father, and



Roy Bendy

grandfather who will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Margaret Bendy; loving wife of 47 years, Pat Bendy; children, Rhonda Drodoy and Nathan Ray Carrico; siblings, Johnny Bendy, Florene LeBlanc, Frances Hoosier, and Allen Bendy.

He is survived by his children, Dee Dee Viator and fiancé, Gary Peery of Orange, Rebecca Jean Harvey and husband, Robbin of Vidor, Melinda Ann Smith and husband, Frank of Pollock, Stacey Bendy Jeffrey and husband, John of Bridge City, and Dr. David Jones and wife, Danika of Orange; 22 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and numerous great-great-grandchildren; sister, Jerry Hughes and husband, Maac; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends.

The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Cremation is under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home.

Fernecia "Necia" Fran Bradley, 77

Fernecia "Necia" Fran Bradley, 77, of Orange, Texas, passed away on May 4, 2023, at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont.

Funeral services will be 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Visitation will begin prior to the service at 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, on July 15, 1945, she was the daughter of Homer and LaVerne (Thomas) Prichard. Necia was a strong Christian woman and could always recite any verse you may be needing. She was an outgoing woman, full of laughter. Necia never met a stranger and was rarely seen without a smile on her face. She enjoyed her bling and jewelry, plants, and her dogs, Binkie and Starlie. Necia was a very artistic and crafty person, she could make anything out of nothing and enjoyed vending at craft fairs. Most importantly, Necia lived for her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She



Fernecia Bradley

loved them with all her heart and made sure they knew it. Necia was an amazing lady and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Homer and LaVerne Prichard; and loving husband, Larry Bradley.

She is survived by her children, Mike Shannon and wife, Connie of Lumberton, Lisa Shannon of

New Braunfels, Beth Talbert of Lufkin, and James Shannon of Orange; grandchildren, Michael Shannon, Christopher Talbert, Lauren Walker, Joshua Shannon, Coltin Pound, Kaitlyn Traeger, Jessica Shannon, and Vance Bourg; great-grandchildren, Jackson, Logan, and Kylie Walker, and Adeline Traeger; siblings, Chrysis Bloom of Marathon, Wisconsin, David Prichard of Wausau, Wisconsin, and Tom Prichard of Canton, Georgia; as well as other loving family and friends.

Honorary pallbearers are Michael Shannon, Joshua Shannon, Coltin Pound, and Vance Bourg.

James "Jim" Walter Miles, 73, Orange

James "Jim" Walter Miles, 73, of Orange, Texas, passed away on May 4, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 12, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Brother Bobby Edwards of Eastgate United Pentecostal Church in Vidor. Burial will follow at Waldrep Cemetery in Orange.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Claybar Funeral Home.

Born in Williamsburg, Kentucky, on January 8, 1950, he was the son of Walter B. Miles and Charline (Jones) Miles. Jim was a hardworking man that spent many years as a technician in the shipyard industry. He also enjoyed volunteering as the president of the Thrift and Gift Shop in Orange. Jim was very intelligent and loved computers. He was known by his family and friends for his strong-willed nature and his ability to fix anything. Jim was a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and loving him.

He is preceded in death by his father,



James Miles

Walter B. Miles; his brother, Dana Miles; his sister, Diane Miles; his stepchildren, Eddie Smith, Kathy Foreman, and Angie Bradley; his nephew, Adam Vaughn; his niece, Char'Lena Williams; and his nephew, Anthony "Tiny" Schultz.

He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years Barbara (Waldrep) Miles; his mother, Charline Miles; his daughter,

Ginnger Lickorai and husband, Mike; his son, Michael Foreman and wife, Rae Lynn; his granddaughter, who was like a daughter to him, Audrey Bendo and husband, Joe, and Chelsea Dameron of Michigan; his sisters, Kathy Waldrep and husband, Ronnie, his sister Brenda Burke and husband, Doak, Ada Williams and husband, Pat, and Theresa Barbo and husband, Jerry; his 13 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and his 7 great-great-grandchildren; his nieces and nephews; as well as his dear friend, Edgar Wooten.

Serving as pallbearers will be Daniel Bellett, Michael Foreman II, Sean Foreman, Ondie Ladner, Joe Bendo, and Jason Waldrep. Honorary pallbearer is Dana Miles.

BCCC names it's 'Mother of the Year'



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced that Gwen Atkinson has been named Mother of the Year for 2023. Her family says she is truly a remarkable, one-of-a-kind person and her smile is infectious. Pictured Are: Gwen Atkinson, Charles Atkinson, Christi Reese, Lea DeVries, Vince Atkinson, Arron Conner, Gabrielle Veitch, Adrianna Rowley, Kinsley Conner, Amber Quarles, June Quarles and Laura Roberts.



Morgan Louvier was honored recently at the Bridge City Council meeting with a "Certificate of Achievement" given by Mayor David Rutledge for breaking the BCISD school Pole Vault record with a vault of 11'6". Louvier broke the school record held by Kati Thornton set in 2014 of 11' when she vaulted 11'3" at the Orangefield Meet then broke her own personal record at the Nederland Meet with a vault of 11'6".

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- Stress Testing and Stress Echocardiography
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Specialized in
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& Electrophysiology



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NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

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BURIAL PLOT

Two Military Cemetery Plots for sale in Oak Bluff in Pt. Neches. \$5000 Please call 409-673-9179

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GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale at 2801 West Sunset Drive, Apt 92 in Orange Texas on Sat., May 13th from 8:00 am -6:00 pm, pop up Shein sale clearance, handbags, shoes, luggage, clothing. Come Early now..New Aero pilates machine. Right across from Tia Juanita's.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bridge City Little League will hold their 2023 - 2024 Board of Director Elections on May 25th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. If interested, please sign up in the BCLL Board Room or see a board member.

American Legion Post 49 409-886-1241 Hall Rental

FOR SALE 409-886-7183

NOTICE: Vehicle stored at Gilbeaux's Towing and Transport Inc. 058449 VSF 16527 Hwy 62 S. Orange, TX 77630 PH (409) 886-0007

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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 **FORREST RICHARD CLEVELAND**, Deceased, were issued on MAY 9, 2023, in Cause No. P19662, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **MARY JANE NOBLE**.

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 9th day of MAY, 2023.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda

Attorney for: **Mary Jane Noble** State Bar No.: 00789915 312 Border Street Orange, TX 77630 Phone:(409)883-4357 Fax: (409)883-6263 Email: pfukudalawoffice@yahoo.com

THEME: AT THE AIRPORT

ACROSS

1. Foundation
6. Dashboard acronym
9. Bonny one
13. Pleasant smell
14. Metal-bearing mineral
15. Salk's nemesis
16. Kidney-related
17. Christopher Lloyd's _____ Brown
18. Investigative report
19. *Something to claim
21. *Declaration station
23. Argonaut's propeller
24. C in TLC
25. Scot's woolen cap
28. Sushi restaurant soup
30. *Exclusive accommodation
35. Was in the hole
37. Highest volcano in Europe
39. Angry growl
40. Dry riverbed
41. "_____ go!"
43. Adored one
44. *Jong of "Fear of Flying" fame
46. Lowly laborer
47. Cone-shaped quarters
48. Time between classes
50. Dirty air

DOWN

52. Hi-_____
53. Skiers' ride
55. Scheduled to arrive
57. *_____ for takeoff"
61. *Frost removal
65. Luxurious sheet fabric
66. It would
68. Synagogue scroll
69. Barely sufficient
70. General Services Administration
71. Movie "Home _____"
72. Reason to cram
73. Negative vote
74. Washer setting

CROSSWORD											
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24. Wrestling match, e.g.
25. *Air traffic control feature
26. Fully informed
27. Army doctor
29. Traffic sign
31. _____ of measurement
32. Rock bottom
33. Search blindly
34. Island off Manhattan
36. Vegas cube
38. H or O in H2O, e.g.
42. Opposite of cathode
45. Obliquely
49. Knightly title
51. Slash's instrument
54. Make believe
56. Cause for food recall
57. Attention-getting sound
58. Gym class test?
59. *Captain's announcement, plural acronym
60. Porter order
61. June 6, 1944
62. Type of #14
63. Grannies, in UK
64. Clarified butter
67. *PreCheck org.

Bridge City Little League will hold their 2023 - 2024 Board of Director Elections on Thursday, May 25th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. If interested, please sign up in the BCLL Board Room or see a board member.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE

RFQ-2023-03-TIGER CREEK-CDBG-RMIT

The Orange County Drainage District seeks to contract with one or more engineering service providers ("Respondents") to provide general professional engineering services to the District. Interested Respondents may find copies of **RFQ-2023-03-TIGER CREEK-CDBG-RMIT ("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 31, 2023, at the District Office.** The District will publicly open the submitted SOQs at **2:00 pm on May 31, 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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Orangefield Bobcats sweep Pollok Central



Kane Smith was the hitting star and Brycen Tait was the winning pitcher in the first game win for Orangefield over Pollok Central. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Orangefield opened its run in the post season with two impressive wins over the Pollok Central Bulldogs. The Bobcats won both games by scores of 13-3 at the Hal McClelland Sports Complex in Cleveland.

The first game on Friday night saw the Bulldogs actually jump out to the initial lead. Three base hits resulted in Central taking a 1-0 lead after the top of the first inning.

Leadoff batter Kane Smith singled to spark a seven-run outburst for the Bobcats in the bottom half

of the first inning. Walks and three Bulldog errors contributed to Orangefield going into the lead 7-1 after one.

Central brought in its third pitcher Wyatt Graham a left hander. Graham kept the Bulldogs in the game for the next four innings.

The Bulldogs cut the Bobcat lead to four runs in the third with two runs. Ryan Kennedy and Graham scored on a single to center by Russell Reid. Bobcat shortstop Caleb Fregia stopped an even bigger inning for Central with a diving catch of a blooper to center that turned into a double play

when he rifled a throw to first base before Reid could get back after running towards second.

The Bobcats loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the third. Smith scored again when Rusten Traxler was awarded first base when during a swing

his bat was deflected by the Central catcher's glove for catcher's interference.

Fregia was hit by a pitch to start the bottom of the fourth for Orangefield. Caleb scored on a suicide squeeze as Smith made an excellent effort to get his bat on a pitch out of the

strike zone for a superb bunt which Kane beat out for a rbi single that gave the Bobcats a 9-3 lead.

Central's Graham walked Orangefield's Kyle Michael to begin the bottom of the fifth and was relieved by Colt Wilson. The new Bulldog pitcher

only recorded one out of the next six Bobcat batters with two reaching on errors, two getting base on balls, and a hit batter to score three runs. Smith ended the game with another walk to force in Fre-

ORANGEFIELD Page 5B



Jillian Brown and Ansley Moore were hitting stars for the Lady Bears in the two games with Carthage driving in nine runs between the two of them. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Lady Bears take two for playoff sweep

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville has advanced to the third round of the Class 4A state softball playoffs. The Lady Bears swept two games from the Carthage Lady Dawgs over the weekend in the area round.

Friday's game was played in Lufkin. The Lady Bears won 18-4 in a game shortened to six innings because of the 10-run rule.

All nine starters for LCM recorded a hit in the blowout. Jillian Brown went four for four with three runs driven in. Ansley Moore had three hits and three rbis. Lexis Moss blasted a three-run homerun, and Keylie Washburn drove in two runs with her two hits. Jacelyn Cook, Ella Stephenson, and Ava Wright each had a rbi.

Stephenson was the winning pitcher throwing three and two third innings with three strikeouts. Tessa Erickson finished the game in the circle with two strikeouts in two and a third innings. The second game was

played Saturday in Jasper. Two errors in the top of the first inning helped Carthage grab a 1-0 lead over Little Cypress Mauriceville.

The Lady Bears tied the score in the bottom half of the first when leadoff hitter Eden Frenzel singled and went to third on an errant pickoff throw. Jacelyn Cook brought Frenzel home with the tying run on a ground out.

Frenzel got things started again in the third as she was hit by a pitch. Cook singled to put Lady Bears at first and second with no outs. Frenzel stole third and the catcher's throw got past the third baseman allowing Eden to score the go ahead run for LCM. Cook later scored on an error to give the Lady Bears a 3-1 lead after three innings.

Jillian Brown continued to swing a big bat with her second double of the game to start the fourth inning. Alex Pinder courtesy ran for Brown and scored on a ground out by Tessa Erickson to make the score 4-1 in favor of LCM.

Keylie Washburn dou-

LCM LADY Page 2B

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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. 71 degrees. Trout and redfish are good in the jetties with topwaters lures. Sabine Channel is holding sheephead, drum, speckled trout and redfish along the rock banks.

Flounder are starting to show up biting three inch plastic baits. Sabine Lake is holding nice catches of flounder off the points and drops using three inch plastic baits. Sheephead, drum, with a few redfish mixed in are good with live shrimp under a popping cork. Birds are working bull redfish and trout. It is almost time for the brown shrimp to migrate from the marsh into the lake. Mid May look for bird action and throw plastics to land trout and redfish.

North Levee is on fire for limits of speckled trout with topwaters early morning, then live shrimp under a popping cork or three inch plastic swim-baits. East Pass holding a few sheephead and drum on live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish are biting on the flats in Besie Heights, and sheephead and drum are in the cuts in six feet of water

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 72 degrees. The surf is starting to hold some pompano, small sharks and the occasional redfish.

The gulf side of the North Jetty is holding sheephead and trout against the rocks, look for bait up close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout and big redfish on the bottom. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 73 degrees. East shoreline holding some solid speckled trout, with most fish being caught in four feet of water over shell. Soft plastics and live

shrimp are working best. Northwest corner of the bay is good for redfish, black drum, and a few speckled trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 73 degrees. Speckled trout showing up on Hanna's Reef, Pepper's Reef, and Deep Reef. Waders are catching the better speckled trout. A few birds are working the open waters. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. The water clarity is 6-12 inches in most areas of the bay. Winds have been across the board from north to northwest, south to southeast, and south to southwest, depending upon the day. With speeds anywhere from 10 to 20 mph, with higher gusts. Early in the week we started out fishing flats outside the mouths and pinch points of the marsh and found good numbers of trout and were able to pick off a couple of redfish as well. The most successful fishing has been in the afternoon when tide levels are high. Target areas where you can see a good amount of nervous bait activity. After the recent front the trout and flounder moved into the deeper channels and into the lower part of the water column. The best bite has been on artificial lures, with 1/4 oz jig heads and the color blue moon. The topwater bite was not as good as we experienced last week, and the artificial under a popping cork yielded a few trout, but more gafftop, which was not the targeted species. Mid-bay reefs only produced a couple bites, and due to the wind, did not venture out to any others. Now that May is here the fishing will only continue to get better for us in the Galveston Bay system. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Yates Bayou and Siever's Cut are holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Hanna's is great early on the same or twitching artificial. Look



Redfishing is heating up in Gulf Coast saltwater estuaries and bays.

for birds and slicks, and for bait moving. Pepper Grove Cove to Moody's Pass holding fish. Smith point to Moody National Wildlife. Redfish look for schools and birds using pearl, chartreuse, big papa pure [earl, and strawberry lures. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 75 degrees. Adjacent shorelines around Eagle Point have been good for speckled trout, mostly caught on live shrimp. Rock groins running along the Houston ship channel are good for speckled trout, a few redfish, black drum and sheephead. Best bait has been live shrimp. Anglers finding working birds picking up speckled trout with soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The gulf side of the South Jetty is holding trout, sheephead and redfish close to rocks using free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker. Channel side holding trout close to rocks popping cork with live shrimp. 61st Pier has some bull redfish with a few jack crevalle mixed in on spoons as well as bait. The causeway Pelican Island bridge are holding redfish. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 74 degrees.

der birds around confederate and Carancahua Reefs. Ease in on the birds for fish will spook easy. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Houston

FAIR. Water stained; 68-72 degrees; 0.30 feet above pool. Catfish are biting in 15-20 feet of water on shad. Crappie are good in 8-16 feet of water in open water and on brush piles using black and chartreuse or blue and white jigs off the bottom. 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 rattletails and double rigged jigs. Report by Jason Machala, JM Fishing Guide Service.

• Texas City

FAIR. 74 degrees. Galveston jetties are good for speckled trout for those throwing live shrimp up tight to the rocks. A few slot redfish are being caught along with keeper size black drum. Those using heavy tackle are still catching bull redfish, a few big sharks and the occasional oversized black drum. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is holding bull redfish along the rocks with

live pinfish, crab. Campbell's Reef is holding fish under the birds. Limits of trout near the rocks early live shrimp. Mosquito Island holding trout and occasional redfish early in the morning. Moses Lake holding fish under birds early. Fish holding near the piers from Topwater Grill to Eagle Point. Gas Wells has trout action on croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Freeport

FAIR. 72 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. 73 degrees. Southeast winds should improve the fishing this week. Trout are fair to good depending on the weather wading and drifting. Redfish are good in the marshes for anglers using shrimp. May is the month the jetty bite picks up for trout, redfish and sheephead. Flounder gigging has been tough with the high tides.

LCM Lady Bears From Page 1

bled off the fence in the bottom of the fifth. Ansley Moore drove Keylie in with a single to right field to give the Lady Bears a four run advantage.

Little Cypress Mauriceville ended the game in the bottom of the sixth with a six-run rally. Erickson doubled before Frenzel reached on an error. Tessa and Eden then pulled off a double steal with Erickson scoring.

Cook was safe on an error. Lexis Moss and Washburn singled to load the bases. Cook scored on a wild pitch before Moore tripled to the right field fence to bring home Moss and Washburn to open up a 10-1 lead for the Lady Bears. Ava Wright climaxed the game with a sacrifice fly to center that scored Moore with the eleventh run.

Erickson started the game in the circle for Little Cypress Mauriceville and lasted into the third inning when the first Carthage batter singled. Ella Stephenson who began the game in right field came in to pitch and finished the game allowing no hits in four innings while walking three and striking out one to be the

pitcher of record for LCM. There were some nifty defensive plays made by the Lady Bears. Moss made a stellar unassisted force out at second to end the first inning when the Lady Dawgs had the bases loaded. Washburn snatched a line drive at third base that would probably have scored a run for Carthage in the fourth.

LCM Coach Dena Adkins is happy with how her Lady Bears are playing. "Our girls are coming out hitting the ball. Of course defense has been solid behind our pitching giving up a couple hits in a couple games, but whatever hits we do give up we make up for at the plate with our bats, and I couldn't be happier with the way the Lady Bears are performing right now," Adkins expressed.

The third round of the post season this week will be a matchup of two district champions. The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears play the Liberty Lady Panthers who are the defending state champions in Class 4A softball.

The first game of the best of three series will be played Thursday at 6:30

PM in Cleveland's Hal McClelland Sports Complex. Game two will be Friday in Bridge City beginning at 5:00 PM. A third game if necessary would follow Friday's game.

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Lady Bobcats advance to third round of playoffs

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Orangefield won its third straight playoff game without a loss and advanced to the third round of the state softball playoffs in Class 3A. The Lady Bobcats completed their sweep of the Coldspring Lady Trojans at Cleveland's Hal McClelland Sports Complex softball field on Friday.

After winning a one game playoff with Central Heights in bi-district Orangefield opened its best of three area round playoff with Coldspring in Anahuac on Thursday. The Lady Bobcats defeated the Lady Trojans 8-2 in game one.

Abigail Curphey got the win in the circle for Orangefield. Curphey gave up two runs on three hits while striking out 10 Lady Trojans.

It was not just with her pitching that Curphey was a leader, she did it with her bat as well. Abigail had two hits and drove in two runs for Orangefield.

Other Lady Bobcats with big hits were Charlee Sanches with a run pro-

ducing double, Hallee Becker ripped a rbi triple and scored a run. Aubree Beck and Harleigh Rawls both hit homeruns.

The series moved to Cleveland for the second game. The Lady Bobcats were the designated visitors and scored in the top of the first when Hallee Becker bunted for a single, stole second, and came home on a hit by Aubree Beck.

Two more runs were added in the third. Beck walked with one out and came home ahead of Charlee Sanches who homered over the tall fence in left field for a 3-0 Orangefield lead.

Paris Becker got the ball rolling in the fourth with a single. Alysen Vincent singled to right field to score Paris. Hallee Becker walked before Beck hit a standup double to left to drive in Vincent and Hallee. Harleigh Rawls followed with a double to plate Beck and boost the Lady Bobcats to a 7-0 advantage.

Vincent knocked in two runs in the fifth giving her three rbis for the game.



Abigail Curphey was the winning pitcher and Charlee Sanches hit a homerun as Orangefield defeated Coldspring in the second game of the series won by the Lady Bobcats. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Pinch hitter Abby Broussard and Paris Becker scored the Orangefield runs that inning.

The Lady Bobcats tallied three runs in the

sixth. Paris Becker smashed a two-run double to center and Rylee Dougay singled to bring home the twelfth run.

Abigail Curphey pitched

shutout ball for the Lady Bobcats during her five and a third innings in the circle surrendering two hits, one walk, one hit batter, and striking out six.

After Abigail retired the first Coldspring batter in the sixth Sanches relieved and retired two of the three Lady Trojans she faced to end the game 12-0 in favor of Orangefield.

Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale was pleased with the sweep against Coldspring. "Nothing is easy at this point. Even up twelve zero in the sixth my heart was still racing. It's fun, it's a good heart racing at this point, not bad. I will take it. I'm very proud of this group and just what they've accomplished so far this year. The next round I believe is doable again. We just have to stay focused," Ragsdale responded after the win Friday night.

The Lady Bobcats will play Pollok Central in the third round of the state Class 3A softball playoffs. The series will be a best of three with all the games at Jasper. The first game is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 PM, the second game will be Friday at 7:30 PM, and a third game if needed would be Saturday at 2:00 PM.

Bridge City Cardinals sweep Splendora will play Hudson

Dan Perrine
For The Record

The Bridge City Cardinals have advanced to the second round of the state baseball playoffs in Class 4A. The Cardinals made short work of the Splendora Wildcats sweeping them in two games.

The best of three series was played at a neutral site in Anahuac which has an all synthetic baseball field. Bridge City was the second seed from District 19-4A and Splendora was the third seed in District 20-4A.

The first game was played on Friday evening. The Cardinals had solid hitting and got great pitching. Bridge City won the game 10-0 in five innings with the 10-run rule being invoked.

Senior Braylen Collins pitched a no-hitter in the abbreviated game. Collins struck out seven Wildcats and did not walk anyone.

The Cardinals took a commanding lead when they scored eight runs in the third inning. Solo runs in the fourth and fifth closed out the game in favor of Bridge City.

Five different Cardinals John Van Huis, JS Bearden, Justin Abate, Aidyn Mulhollan, and Hunter Ford each had two hits in the game. Mulhollan drove in three runs for Bridge City.

On Saturday the series resumed between Bridge City and Splendora. The Cardinals won 3-1 to take the series two games to none.

Aidyn Mulhollan and JS Bearden gave Bridge City strong pitching. Mulhollan threw five shutout innings to earn the win and Bearden got a save going the last two innings.

The contest was a scoreless pitchers' duel going into the fourth inning. Bearden scored the Cardinals' first run in the game on a sacrifice fly by Justin Abate.

The Cardinals added to their lead in the sixth. Bearden who was two for three on the day knocked in John Van Huis and Chasse Goodwin with the insurance runs that proved to be the difference in the two-run victory.

Up next for Bridge City will be Lufkin Hudson in the area round of the state



JS Bearden scored the first run for Bridge City, drove in two runs, and pitched the last two innings to earn a save in the second game of the sweep by the Cardinals.

baseball playoffs. The Hornets were undefeated in winning their district and swept Henderson with two shutouts in the bi-district round.

The Bridge City Cardinals and the Lufkin Hudson Hornets will face each other in a best of three series with all the games to be played in Jasper. The first game starts at 7:00 PM on Thursday, game two is scheduled for Friday at 7:00 PM, and a third game if necessary will be played Saturday at 4:00 PM.

Red Snapper Season Opens June 1

AUSTIN — The private recreational angler red snapper season in federal water opens Thursday, June 1. Red snapper fishing is open year-round in state waters. Bag and size limits will remain unchanged.

The regulations for red snapper are two fish per person daily with a 16-inch minimum size limit in federal waters, and four fish per person daily with a 15-inch minimum in state waters. Red snapper caught in federal waters count as part of the state bag limit of four fish. No more than 2 red snapper can be in possession while in federal waters and no more than 4 red snapper

can be in possession in state waters while fishing.

Per the 2022 DESCEND Act, all commercial and recreational anglers must possess a venting tool or a rigged descending device on their boat while fishing for reef fish in federal water. Research shows that properly releasing reef fish, such as red snapper, reduces mortality. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted rules inspired by the DESCEND Act at the March 2023 Commission meeting. These new regulations go into effect September 1, for all commercial and recreational anglers fishing in state water.

Texas regulations require the use of a venting tool or rigged descending device for reef fish exhibiting signs of barotrauma.

"As always, our goal is to give Texas anglers as many days as possible fishing in federal water for red snapper while still maintaining our traditional yearlong fishery in Texas state wa-

ters," said Robin Riechers, Coastal Fisheries Division Director.

The public will be notified of the private recreational season closing date by the Coastal Fisheries Division before the state's

allotted catch limit has been reached. When a closing date is determined, all communication platforms will be updated, including the Outdoor Annual, website and social media accounts.

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LCM's Reynolds signs to play baseball at Columbia

**Dan Perrine
For The Record**

An outstanding student athlete at Little Cypress Mauriceville will be changing colors from green to blue beginning later this year. Senior Dean Reynolds signed his scholarship on recently to attend and play baseball at Columbia University in the city of New York.

Reynolds is a four-year letterman in baseball at Little Cypress Mauriceville. As a junior Dean was the starting tight end and punter on the varsity football team and became the quarterback for the Bears during this past season his senior year.

Head Football Coach Eric Peevey commented during the signing ceremony that Reynolds injured his shoulder during the football game with Vidor and continued to play not only the rest of that game but through the remainder of

the season. "Dean bit his lip and went to work for the team. This was at the same point that he was finding out about Columbia and the opportunity to play college baseball there. Dean could have said, coach I am just going to focus on baseball, but he looked around at his teammates and said I am in it to win it I'm in it until the finish of it guys, and he stayed through to the end," Peevey reminded.

Reynolds and LCM baseball coach Hunter Hagler have worked together since Dean was a sixth grader. Hagler praised Dean, "Seven to eight years seeing you coming up and just growing as a person and growing as an athlete has been something special for me, it means the world to me. There's not enough words that I can say to actually thank you. Never once was I ever questioned, never once did you ever have any doubts about me and what I



LCM's Dean Reynolds is joined by his father Danny and mother Sommer as he signed his scholarship to attend Columbia University and play baseball there
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

was saying and how we wanted to go about different things. Dean, I can't thank you enough for what you've done for me and this program. You've set the example for anybody else that comes to this athletic program."

In his closing comments Reynolds thanked his coaches and his teammates. "I love baseball. Coach Hagler gave me the opportunity to be able to prove myself and I'm glad he said I did it well. So, I thank him for the opportunity. Coach Peevey came here and gave me a new sense of competitiveness and drive. He and the other coaches are good coaches to have because they really pushed me every day. My friends and my teammates I love them all. I came out because I knew they would come out too and do it all for me. I loved it and I enjoyed my time with them," Reynolds concluded.

Jump into Summer Fishing with Both Feet

**OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record**

In all honesty this has to be one of my absolute most favorite times of the year, that transition from spring into summer when the weather starts to cooperate and the fishing goes nuts. Late April and May generally signify the summer patterns are here or at least really close anyway and we have nothing to look forward to except some out of this world conditions in which to fish. For me personally I will be thankful that those unbelievable winds of March and Early April will be behind us for the most part and that makes more water fishable. More fishable water means less crowds and a decreased level of stress.

I look forward to May because that's when so many different styles and patterns emerge, especially here on Sabine and Calcasieu. The folks who have been dying to go down to the jetties and duel with wired up and fired up trout will get their first taste of that program. The green water and light winds will make for some out-



Capt. Chuck Uzzle with redfish caught in Sabine Lake.

standing days along the rocks. Farther inland the folks who prefer to stay in the lake will be in for some sporadic fishing under the gulls for trout and roaming schools of redfish. The shad will also begin to gang up out in the open lake so keep an eye out for that to happen because the trout and reds won't be far behind that floating buffet.

Still farther inland the

folks who like to congregate in the deeper water along the rivers and ICW will also have their own little piece of heaven as long as we don't get too much rain like we had earlier in the week, that will take us a few days to get over but it will get better with time. As long as that deeper water stays salty the fish will be there in force and waiting on a good tide change to chow down on a

variety of baits including shad, shrimp and mullet. Anchoring up on good secondary points and breaks as well as the mouths of the marsh drains will prove very effective for those who enjoy fishing at a little slower and more leisurely pace.

In the mean time I will keep probing everything from the marsh to the jettys in search of decent pattern, especially on the redfish. The water temperatures at this time of the year will really promote some aggressive behavior from the redfish and the strikes will be some of the most vicious you will see all year. I will continue to throw the weightless soft plastics and topwaters because they are just way too much fun to catch fish on. I could probably do better on a few different

baits but the results I have been getting while using both weightless soft plastics and topwaters have been just fine in my book. I do however plan on catching more of these fish on fly this summer, that has become much more of an addiction if I do say so myself. More and more clients want to increase the challenge and adventure using the long rod in these situations. The satisfaction you get when you do land one of these beautiful fish on fly is a real rush, a great accomplishment in any angler's book.

Perhaps one of the greatest joys of the month of May is the fact that the kids get out of school and you get a chance to take them fishing more. One of the best methods we have for taking the kids out is live shad under a popping cork, this is just money in the bank. A #3 unweighted popping cork above a 1/2 ounce egg sinker

and barrel swivel gets you started. Tie on a 3 foot leader to the swivel and use a #3 or #4 Kahle hook. Hook the shad or finger mullet through the eye socket and drift behind the boat giving the cork a good pop on a regular frequency. This method has produced countless fish for us during the summer months and it will be extremely user friendly for the kids. Everybody loves to see the cork under I don't care who you are or what you say, you know you like it.

May is absolutely a great month to get out and enjoy one of many patterns that will be readily available this month. May is also fisherman friendly because the weather gets right and the ugly scorching summer sun is not quite here yet so take advantage of the fact. Enjoy your time on the water and be sure to take a kid the next time you go fishing.

Bridge City Library hosts Widows/Widowers group

The Bridge City Public Library will continue its Widows/Widowers group after the success of its opening meeting. The group's purpose is to provide an opportunity for those who often lead lonely lives after the death of a spouse to have an outlet to share with others in the

same situation. It is not a dating group but a place to gather, share with others and to play games as entertainment. Snacks and coffee will be provided. We do require participants to call the library the Monday before the Friday of the meeting so that we can know how many to plan for.

Planned meetings will be from 10 am to noon on the following Fridays, May 19, June 2, June 16 and July 7 and July 21. If you have any questions, call the library at 409-735-4242. We look forward to getting to know you.

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Thank You to all who gave support to the young lady the last 2 weekends!

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Entertainment: Big names highlight events

**TOMMY MANN JR.
FOR THE RECORD**

Several big shows have been announced in the past week to help keep the summer months red hot. New shows announced recently include Rick Springfield, Martina McBride, Greta Van Fleet, LL Cool J, and more. Check out the schedule below for upcoming shows and see the full listing of events online at www.therecordlive.com

- **May 11**
Natali Rize, Kumar Minor, Scout Bar, Houston
- **May 12**
38 Special, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Hammerfall, Warehouse Live, Houston, Hunter Hayes, House of Blues, Houston
- **May 13**
Tanya Tucker, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **May 14**
Loudness, Warehouse Live, Houston
- **May 18**
Joshua Ray Walker, Courville's, Beaumont
- **May 19**
Pat Green, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Dave Matthews Band, Cynthia Woods Mitchell



Rock star Rick Springfield returns to Southwest Louisiana this summer with the "I Want My 80s Tour" on Saturday, Aug. 19 at L'Auberge Casino Resort in Lake Charles. Tickets go on sale this Friday at all Ticketmaster outlets and special guests include The Hooters, Paul Young and Tommy Tutone.
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

- Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **May 26**
Morgan Wallen, Hardy Ernest, Bailey Zimmerman, Minute Maide Park, Houston, The Sisters of Mercy, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **May 27**
Morris Day and The Time, Zapp Band, Rose Royce, Confunkshun, Ohio Players, Atlantic Starr, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

- **June 3**
Janet Jackson, Ludacris, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **June 9**
Duran Duran, Nile Rodgers and Chic, Bastille, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **June 10**
Jo'El Sonnier, The Oaks Event Center, Vidor Koe Wetzell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

- **June 15**
Liliac, Rise Rooftop, Houston
- **June 16**
Thomas Rhett, Cole Swindell, Nate Smith, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.
- **June 23**
Pixies, Franz Ferdinand, Bully, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **June 27**
Fall Out Boy, Bring Me the Horizon, Royal and The

- Serpent, Daisy Grenade, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **June 28**
Bryan Adams, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land
- **June 30**
Matchbox Twenty, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 8**
Blink-182, Turnstile, Toyota Center, Houston
- **July 22**
Shania Twain, Mickey Guyton, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 23**
Nickelback, Brantley Gilbert, John Ross, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 27**
Disturbed, Breaking Benjamin, Bush, Jinjer, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Young the Giant, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **July 30**
ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Uncle Kracker, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 3**
Big Time Rush, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 4**
Thomas Rhett, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Aug. 12**

- Foreigner, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 14**
REO Speedwagon, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land
- **Aug. 20**
Beck, Phoenix, Weyes Blood, Sir Chloe, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands,
- **Sept. 2**
Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Ghost, Amon Amarth, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 7**
Pentatonix, Lauren Alaina, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 13**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 22**
elly Roll, Three 6 Mafia, Struggle Jennings, Josh Adam Meyers, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 23**
Beyonce, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **Sept. 24**
Beyonce, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **Sept. 28**
Guns N' Roses, Minute Maid Park, Houston
- **Oct. 21**
Kansas, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

Orangefield Bobcats From Page 1B

gia to invoke the 10-run rule. Brycen Tait was the Bobcat pitcher. Tait did a workman like job throwing all five innings to earn Orangefield the victory. Coach Tim Erickson of Orangefield commented on the win. "I don't think we played our best. We jumped out early putting up a bunch of runs in the first inning

and may have gotten a little complacent there, kind of let them hang around through the middle of the game. We took advantage of a lot of walks late. The score doesn't really indicate that it was a lot closer game than the final showed," Erickson analyzed. The final game of the series was played Saturday afternoon and followed a sim-

ilar script to the first game. Nine Bobcats scored in the first inning to take a commanding lead over the Bulldogs. Kane Smith again had a hand in the big rally with the first of his two hits in the game. Rusten Traxler and Kyle Michael both hit doubles. Morgan Sampson and Adam Tran drew key walks during the first in-

ning. The Bobcats banged out 12 hits in the game. Logan Cheek, Camden Fountain, Smith, Sampson, and Traxler all had two hits for Orangefield. Jason Bodin was a little sick on Friday and did not pitch, but felt better on Saturday. Bodin threw three innings to get credit for the win. Garrett Rawls and Colton Myers closed out the game in relief for the Bobcats. The series sweep im-

proved Orangefield's record to 25-4 on the season. The Bobcats play the Wallis Brazos Cougars in the area round. The best of three game series will be played at Crosby High School with Game 1 Thursday at 7:00

PM, Game 2 will be Friday at 7:00 PM, and a third game if necessary would be on Saturday at a time to be determined. All tickets are \$5 and sold online only.



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When I talk with modern men who dismiss God without a second to even consider him, I cannot help hearing a herd of cows mooing upon a hillside. These scientifically minded men (they claim) live to stare at the patch of grass in front of them and call the scheme real life. That is all they can prove exists, after all. They can feel the field under hoof, chew the cud in their mouths, feel the rain upon their backs — these are objective realities.

They show no interest in anything beyond their immediate experiences and senses.

Sure, cows may bring them tales of mighty birds exploring worlds above the clouds, or rumors of far-off sea kingdoms and mythical beasts buried in water, or even of goats prancing upon mighty rock hilltops in the skies — but they see no towering mountains, nor swelling oceans, nor lofty heights — nothing to even suggest such a possibility. Foul tales from fowls is all; ravens raving ill dreams. Cows who live to watch the skies have more than sun dropped in their eyes.

Myths and stories, like viral diseases, infect some in their farm society, but not them. Some hoot and chirp and baa of worlds elsewhere. But claiming to be wise, they always knew some chickens are a few eggs short of a dozen; some pigs hit their heads rolling in mud; some horses will remain unbridled. Truth be told, if these

dreamers did not bring ethical claims with their feverish imaginations, they might deserve pity. These hills and gates and patches of mud are all that have been or will be.

Foundation of Reality

We live increasingly in a culture of cows. These do not need to cling to children's tales or superstitions. They know the world is not flat. Science and reason solve mysteries formerly left to religion. Now we have morphine and highways and YouTube. As David Wells stated of our modern world, "The hand that gives so generously in the material realm also takes away devastatingly in the spiritual" (No Place for Truth, 56). What spiritual realm? many even ask.

But such questions are nothing new. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God,'" wrote the ancient poet (Psalm 14:1). They cannot tell us who or why man is or how he got to this hill — but here he is and here he remains. Nothing lies above or beyond his existence on this patch of earth. He has bravely looked the situation in the face and contents himself to live head down, grazing this world for all it's worth, unbothered by distant horizons. Out of sight, out of existence.

Christians know better. We understand that the physical realm — full of bones, flesh, trees, stones — is derivative of the spiritual. It must be so, for the God who created the physical is spirit (John 4:24). His immaterial speech created the material world; the invisible

begot the visible. "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

But we must ask how much of this secular spirit we have unknowingly adopted. Here is probably the most important question you will be asked today: What is most real to you — this world or the next? What holds greater reality — the seen or the unseen? What is more ultimate — this physical realm or the spiritual?

You don't necessarily need to tell us; your life answers well enough. Where do you spend your attention, energy, affections, time, talents? Can your life be explained apart from faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ?

This can be a Copernican revolution, or a caution and reminder, if you accept it: The invisible world — the unseen, untouched, unmeasured — is most substantial, most enduring, most real. The immaterial world does not orbit our physical realm; the physical orbits the immaterial. Theirs is the unyielding reality; we inhabit silhouettes and shadows.

People Who Saw the Invisible

Faith, in other words, tells us that the world is turned upside down, flipped inside out. Faith does not regard the physical as unreal or unvaluable simply because it is physical — what the apostles saw with their eyes and touched with their hands is paramount to their witness to Christ (1 John 1:1). But

faith sees beyond to the unseen. It demotes this world — its values, its dictates, its desires — in preference for the world to come. And it waits for this current physical world to be remade into that place where spiritual and physical perfectly abide: the coming New Heavens and New Earth.

Our spiritual forefathers — though without flushable toilets and supercomputers — knew to give precedence to the just-out-of-view, and wagered their very lives upon it. The history of the saints in Hebrews 11 shows the contrast of sights.

They were convinced of things they hoped for, were assured of things they could not yet see (Hebrews 11:1). Noah, for example, spent decades building a boat on dry land, preparing for the unseen flood. Abraham looked upon the only home he knew, turned his back, and wandered into the unknown to live in tents. He and Sarah then eyed wrinkled skin and aged bodies and waited to see children more numerous than the stars. Moses gazed at the shackles and the scarred backs of the Israelites and chose these over the gold coins, luxuries, and lush pleasures of Pharaoh's house — "for he looked to the reward" and "endured as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:26–27).

Others gazed past beatings and mockings and jail cells and death in this world to see a resurrection to a higher life (Hebrews 11:35–36). Salvation from their God was more real than swords of the enemy; conviction about the Christ felt more solid than their chains.

They were those of whom this world was not worthy (Hebrews 11:37–39).

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised," the writer admits. But notice their vision: "Having seen them and greeted them from afar," they "acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). Their hearts smiled as they bowed into the grave because they saw promises coming. Promises more powerful than death. They declared plainly that they sought the life over the hill, their distant homeland (Hebrews 11:14). And their God did not disappoint, and will not disappoint them, when they awake in the better country they longed for, a city built by God, a heavenly one (Hebrews 11:14, 16). Do you see as they did?

This World, a Dream

This passing world is the phantom, the shadow. While great things are gained or lost in its short span, this age will soon break upon eternity as a tiny bubble against the rock shore. This life, so fragile, so fleeting. "Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow" (Psalm 144:4). The wind passes over us, and we are gone (Psalm 103:16). Only a few more sunsets, a couple more nights of sorrow, a handful more days of laughter, and you will be gone. To chase this world and all its pleasures is to chase nothing but the wind.

What is coming, what is near, what is not yet seen with physical eyes is most real. Light and momentary were Paul's calculations of all his heaviest sorrows

compared to the nearing "eternal weight of glory" for Christ's people (2 Corinthians 4:17). He saw as we must see: "We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Indeed; it is everything else that is a dream or a shadow.

So turn off the screen and gaze — and keep gazing — up at the heavens, where Christ is (Colossians 3:1–2). Despise the tantalizing trivialities, and keep your heart fixed on the next world — its glories, and foremost, its God. Wipe the crust of materialism from your eyes, wake from the sedative of worldliness, rise from slumber in this Enchanted Ground and look at Christ by faith until you see him more clearly than as trees walking. Spend your life exploring the mountains of glory summed up: "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

"Though you have not seen him," Peter wrote to the early church, "you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8–9).

Beloved, we travel to a world unseen, a place to make this all a dream. And so we hear the apostle afresh in our day. The goal for every Christian — and a requirement for every pastor — is that he be a lover of good.

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