

# County Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 17, 2023

## New plant bringing barge traffic on bayou

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

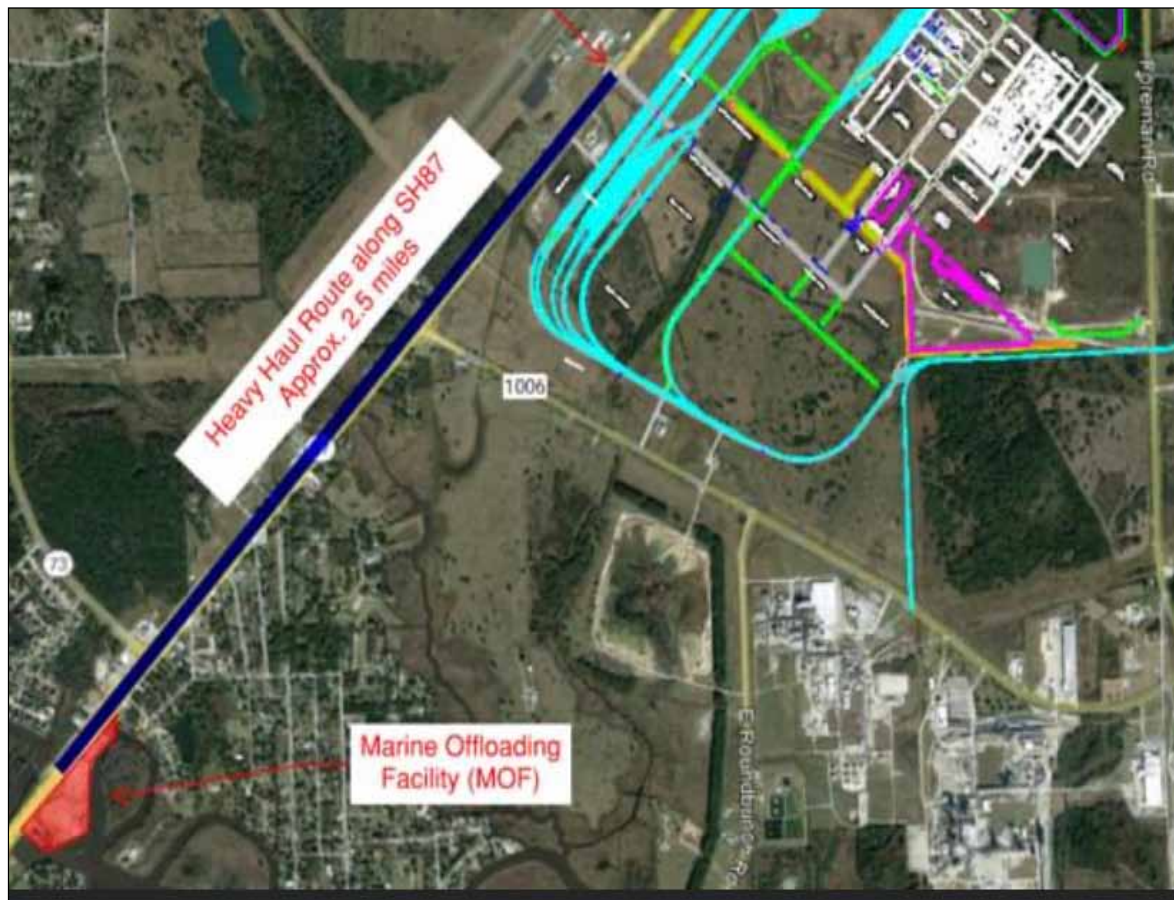
Highway traffic won't be the only thing affected by the construction of the new \$8.5 billion Golden Triangle Polymers plant. Barges will be hauling huge modular pieces for the plant and other heavy equipment up Cow Bayou to State Highway 87.

The plant has announced the formation of a Marine Offloading Facility, or MOF, along the bayou near the state highway. According to a map the company released, the MOF will be near the High Tides restaurant area in Bridge City. The site is near the intersection of Highway 87 and Highway 62, which is also labeled as Highway 73 on the map released by the company.

equipment are taken off barges, they will be put on heavy hauling vehicles to travel eastward past FM 1006 to the plant site nearby on Highway 87. The heavy hauling vehicles will use Gate 2 to enter and exit the plant. The gate is across from the Orange County Airport.

The company, with permission from the Texas Department of Transportation, has installed concrete barriers between the outside lane of Highway 87 and the inside lane. The outside lane can now be used for construction traffic only while regular travelers are down to one lane on the way from Bridge City to Orange. Both lanes are currently open from Orange to Bridge City.

The \$8.5 billion Golden



Golden Triangle Polymers, the new \$8.5 billion Chevron Phillips chemical plant under construction, will be using barges on Cow Bayou to transport large modular pieces of the plant along with other heavy equipment. The barges will be unloaded at a new "Marine Offloading Facility," or "MOD," along the bayou on the south side of the State Highway 87 bridge into Bridge City. From there, heavy vehicles will haul the modules and equipment southward on Highway 87 to the plant site and Gate 2, across from the Orange County Airport.

After the modules and

**BARGE** Page 3A

## '500 For Life' to promote Motorcycle Safety



J. W. Dalton seen at last year's rally was installed as the new director of the local Harley Owners Group chapter in January.

**DAN PERRINE**  
For The Record

May is National Motorcycle Awareness Month. Local motorcyclists from Orange and Jefferson Counties will be staging a rally this month to help drive home how important motorcycle safety is and to help make motorists more aware of motorcycles on the roadways.

The second annual '500 For Life' event will be held on Saturday, May 20. The motorcycle rally will start at the Cowboy Harley Davidson dealership in Beau-

mont and conclude at the Columbanus Motor Sports center in Orange.

Last year's '500 For Life' was held on June 25 and was the idea of Van Jordan the then director of the local chapter of the Harley Owners Group or HOG who lost his nephew Corey Stinnett in a motorcycle crash with a vehicle. A memorial was built using Corey's motorcycle to heighten the awareness for motorcycle safety.

The first time event drew

**500 FOR LIFE** Page 3A

## State Senate, including Nichols, wants to stop new voting centers

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Orange County used a federal grant to buy equipment and worked months to get central vote centers, where all county registered voters may cast a ballot, no matter where they live.

The first time to use the vote centers was for the May 6 city council and school board races. Local officials endorsed the central voting system. The Orange County elections administrator touted the method as way "to improve access and increase turnout on Election Day.

Now, the Texas Legislature might eliminate central voting centers. The Texas Senate has passed SB 990 and sent it to the House Elections Committee. The bill must be approved by the Texas House of Representatives and then signed



Gothia

by Governor Greg Abbott before becoming law.

District 3 Senator Robert Nichols, a Republican who represents Orange County, voted to eliminate central voting. State legislative records show the vote was down party lines, with only Republicans supporting the elimination and Democrats opposing the cut.

County Judge John Gothia said the system will save the county money by cutting back on the number of neighborhood voting boxes and paying fewer election officials.

If the state allows the central voting system to remain, the county can go down from 34 neighborhood boxes to 23, a de-

crease in 11 boxes. Each voting box requires hiring an election judge plus several poll workers.

For many years, each registered county voter had to go to their assigned neighborhood voting precinct box. Sometimes the boxes change from election to election, making people mad and having to travel to a new site.

Under the central voting centers system, any registered county voter may go to any one of the county voting sites. For many years, early voting has operated that way.

The cutback on the number of neighborhood voting boxes on Election Day will also help the county because schools are concerned about security and student safety. Schools have traditionally been set up as polling spots, but now, because of the increase in

school shootings, school administrators want to restrict the members of the public coming near students.

Orange County Commissioners Court approved creating central voting centers this past December and the move was approved by the Texas Secretary of State. May 6 was the first time the system was used in the handful of city council and school board races. For instance, someone living in Orange wanting to vote for the council and the West Orange-Cove school board could vote at the Bridge City polling site, and vice versa.

During a public hearing for the new central system, Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator said city leaders in Rose City and Pine Forest were enthusias-

**NEW VOTING** Page 3A

## Orange sponsors youth sports camp

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Now that the city of Orange has a recreation center, the city is sponsoring a youth sports camp for the first five weeks of the summer.

The camp will be for students ages 7 through 12 and will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. The cost will be \$40 per camp, or \$180 for all five of the camps. Breakfast

and lunch will be provided.

It will be the city's first summer recreation program for youth in nearly 30 years. In the 1960s, the city sponsored morning activities at several of the neighborhood parks during the summers. During the 1970s, a more women entered the workforce, the program was expanded to a fee-based day camp.

However budget problems in the early 1990s created by an overspending program, led to a change in

city management and a cut-back in services. The day camp was gone, as was the city's Easter egg hunt.

The city in October opened a new recreation center at the site of the old natatorium, which was demolished. The Orange City Council also budgeted for a staff for the center.

The sports camps will focus on one each week. The sports will be basketball, volleyball, soccer, and flag football. Participants may register for one sport, or

more, or all. Participants may live outside the city limits and the fees will be the same. The city charges more on some usage fees for non-residents because Orange taxpayers support the center.

The number to call for more information and registration is 409-883-1072. The program will charge an addition fee for the participants who are not picked up on time each day at the end of the camp.



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# My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

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

The first few bills have made it to the Governor's desk for his signature, which signals the end of session is fast approaching. Of the over 8,000 bills filed this session, just over 100 bills and joint resolutions have been sent to the governor and four have been signed into law.



Sen. Nichols

collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' data by businesses, creates new bill of rights for Texans online, allows the Attorney General to impose penalties, and provides safety and security online.

The rights guaranteed to Texans under this bill include the right to know when personal data is being collected, to access to personal data and receive it in a readable format, to correct and delete personal data, to opt out of the collection and sale of personal data, and to be protected from retaliation or discrimination for exercising these rights. Protecting Texans private information in the digital age is important and something I've been passionate about for several years. I was proud to support this legislation.

### 2. School safety legislation heard in Senate Education Committee

This week, the Senate

Education Committee held a hearing on House Bill 3 which was authored by Representative Dustin Burrows and I am sponsoring in the Senate. This bill will include elements of the bill I authored, Senate Bill 11, and another school safety bill, House Bill 13 by Representative Ken King. It includes an increase to the school safety allotment, school safety review teams and support at education service centers, establishing the Office of School Safety and Security at TEA, consequences for noncompliance with school safety regulations and rules, yearly intruder detection audits, in depth reviews by TEA on safety procedures, a TEA-approved registry process for school safety vendors, mandatory countywide school safety meetings for counties of a certain size, and many other provisions. This bill is extensive and wide-ranging.

It has many components that together, I believe, will improve the safety environment of schools in our state. I look forward to continuing to work with my

House and Senate colleagues to craft a meaningful piece of legislation.

### 3. Stephen F. Austin State University advances forestry, agriculture department up-grades

This week the SFA Board of Regents awarded a contract to plan and design new facilities for the forestry and agriculture departments. Currently, those departments are housed in a building that is over 70 years old. This was the first phase of the \$80 million project. Funding will come partially from funds appropriated during the 87th Legislature and partially from the University of Texas system, which will be adding \$35 million. The agriculture and forestry colleges at SFA are some of the best in the nation. This investment will continue the legacy of excellence well into the future.

### 4. Bridge City teacher awarded prestigious TEA fellowship

Bridge City High School teacher Hannah Landry has been selected by the Texas Education Agency for the Teacher Leadership Fellowship. The fellowship consists of a program designed to strengthen teacher leadership pathways at the state level and increase opportunities for teachers. It is a highly selective program, and it is an honor to be chosen. Over the course of the program, teachers will develop their leadership skills, collaborate with educators across the state, and provide timely input to TEA staff on initiatives and programs. Congratulations to one of our own for this achievement!

### 5. Itemized billing for health care passes House

This week the Texas House passed Senate Bill 490 by Senator Bryan Hughes and sponsored by Representative Caroline Harris. This bill would require hospitals to send a written itemized medical bill to a patient after providing a service when they request payment, but before sending the patient to collections.

Allowing patients to have visibility into the cost of services provides crucial patient protection measures and allows patients to check that the final bill is accurate. Since the House made an amendment, the bill will come back to the Senate to either concur with the amendment or go to a conference committee to work out differences.

Here are five things happening around your state:

### 1. House Bill 4 passes the Senate

This week the Senate passed the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act which sets standards for the collection and use of consumer data. The goal of the bill is to maximize both the utility of the rights provided to consumers and interoperability with other states to minimize compliance costs for businesses. This bill ensures that Texans have the right and the ability to control their personal data. It regulates the

**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.**

## ACT NOW

### Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

No doubt global warming is real. Finding alternate sources of energy such as wind and solar are vital for the future of the earth. It is not likely that we can escape our dependence on fossil fuel in the near future. There are tools, however, which are available to us if we only use them. Sadly, our elected officials in Texas continue to put money ahead of clean air and water.

Most of our regulatory agencies are loose when it comes to granting permits or wavers and in some cases simply ignoring practices causing huge amounts of pollution. A recent study found that it would take 30 billion dollars to plug up abandoned oil wells throughout the U.S. On a daily basis unplugged oil wells eject methane gas into the atmosphere, a very dangerous substance which we breathe on a daily basis. This happens even though major oil companies are not only receiving handouts from tax supported agencies in our governments but are reaping huge profits from the business. A recent report of one of the major oil companies showed a



Former State Senator Carl Parker

5-billion-dollar profit for its last reporting period. This is in addition to the money they put in their pockets on not spending plugging wells or providing other safety measures to protect our environment.

In spite of the fact that Texas has hundreds of unplugged wells, in all probability more than any other state, our state agency looks the other way or sits on its hands refusing to act in the interest of a cleaner environment. Our Texas Railroad Commission for example is chaired by a person who reaps millions of dollars from her oil and gas investments. Recently, another member of the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates oil well safety accepted 100,000-dollar campaign contribution just before

voting to allow oil companies to ignore its responsibility of plugging abandoned wells.

Unfortunately, this kind of situation will continue so long as Texans choose to ignore their right to vote and fail to express to our elected leaders what we expect of them by way of using tools available to protect our future environment. While marches and other types of demonstrations in favor of protecting our environment are worthwhile and laudable, we would be better off showing our concern for our environment by marching to the polls in greater numbers. Our elected leaders will only do what we demand of them, particularly by way of protecting our fragile world environment.

W6-1  
Prescribed by Secretary of State  
Section 127.096 Texas Election Code  
3/07

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Vidor ISD Election held on June 10, 2023 will be tested on May 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Orange County Elections Administration at 206 Border Street, Orange, TX 77630 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

*Donna Alford*

Donna Alford  
Orange County Elections Administrator

### AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Vidor ISD Runoff Elección para otras subdivisiones políticas que se llevará a cabo el 10 de junio de 2023 se probará el 22 de mayo de 2023 a las 2:00 pm en 206 Border Street, Orange, TX 77630 para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

*Donna Alford*

Donna Alford  
Firma del/dela Oficial

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of Orange County, Texas

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## 500 for Life From Page 1

184 motorcyclists and three-wheel bikers last June. Participants came from not just Orange and Jefferson counties but from other neighboring counties and parishes in Louisiana.

Jordan sadly passed away in September of last year but his desire to promote motorcycle safety and to encourage other motorists to watch for motorcycles when driving is being carried forward. J. W. Dalton was installed as the new director of the local Harley Owners Group chapter in January.

Dalton is enthusiastic to carry on the work started by his friend Van Jordan. "Van wanted to do something that could impact and get the attention of everyone concerned about motorcycle safety. We want to make sure we keep Van's legacy going. What we have done since last year's event we have got the '500 For Life' as a 501c3 status now to where we can bring the educational lessons hopefully to the schools to make sure everybody that is going to sit behind the wheel of a vehicle understands the importance of look twice, save a life," Dalton recalled.

The term '500 For Life' came from Jordan's goal of getting five hundred or more motorcycle enthusiasts to participate in the rally to increase the caution of motorists to watch for motorcycles and improve motorcycle safety. The need for more awareness is apparent by the fact that motorcycle fatalities in Texas have been on the increase in recent years.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) released figures that showed there were 562 motorcycle riders killed in crashes with motor vehicles in 2022. That represents an eight percent increase over the previous year.

TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams pointed to the fact people on motorcycles are more vulnerable. "It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles, especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic, and while changing lanes," Williams explained.

Dalton echoed the slogan originated by TxDOT of 'Look Twice, Save a Life' to promote safety for motorcyclists. "Motorists need to make sure at intersections to watch for us because one third of all motorcycle fatalities in Texas happen at roadway intersections, and that's people not paying attention. They're turning, not looking or checking at the intersection. They may be looking for a vehicle but they are frequently not looking for us on our motorcycle," Dalton described.

Checking mirrors on your vehicle is another important precaution to avoid collisions with motorcycles. Dalton reminded, "Check your blind spots. You need to understand the hazards of using cell phones while driving and staying off them while driving a vehicle."

TxDOT gives seven

helpful tips to motorists for helping to promote motorcycle safety. Motorists should stay alert to give driving their full attention, pay special attention at intersections, take extra care when making a left turn, look twice when changing lanes, give motorcyclists room when passing them, stay back a safe distance when following a motorcycle, and slow down by obeying the posted speed limits while also driving according to the weather and road conditions.

The responsibility of motorcycle safety is shared by everyone but the bulk of the effort is done by the motorcyclists themselves. "As I ride I always look for the what if and the way out, what am I going to do if a vehicle comes over on top of me. Everybody just needs to stay alert and vigilant," recommended Dalton a motorcyclist for the last 50 years.

The primary sponsors for '500 For Life' are the Cowboy Harley Davidson in Beaumont and the Columbanus Motor Sports in Orange. Both companies are very much in favor of supporting motorcycle safety.

Jennifer McConnell is the secretary for this year's '500 For Life' and works at Columbanus Motor Sports. "This is to raise awareness with a big showing of motorcycles so

people see them and then they recognize them on the road when there's not a huge group of them. We have lost a few of our customers to accidents, so we definitely want to raise that awareness on the road to other people to look for motorcycles," McConnell stated.

The route of the motorcycle rally will be the reverse of last year's event which started in Orange and culminated in Beaumont. McConnell indicated, "The ride is going to end here. We're going to have guest speakers, we're going to have the national anthem sung, we're going to have a deejay, we're going to have some food booths here, so, it's going to be a big event for us."

The '500 For Life' will begin at the Cowboy Harley Davidson dealership on Interstate 10 in Beaumont on Saturday, May 20. Motorcyclists will begin staging between 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, there will be a blessing for the bikers at 10:15 AM, and kick stands up at 10:35 AM to start the rally. The motorcycle caravan escorted by law enforcement vehicles and motorcycles should arrive at the Columbanus Motor Sports center on Interstate 10 in Orange around 11:15 AM with activities to continue there until about 2:00 PM. Participation in the '500 For Life' is open to all motorcyclists and is free of charge.

## New voting centers From Page 1

Representatives from the city of Vidor, along with Vidor ISD Superintendent Dr. Jay Killgo also endorsed the system, as did Orange City Councilor Terrie Salter.

County Judge Gothia said the county has wanted central voting centers for a number of years, but could not afford the equipment to install the system. Federal Covid pandemic grants allowed the county to invest in voting machines required to accommodate central voting.

The county used \$600,000 in the federal grants to buy the necessary equipment and went through the legal procedures to set up central voting.

Orange County's voting machines allow polling site workers to set different ballots based on voters' residency. The voting machines register when a voter checks in and lets election workers at other boxes know the person has voted.

Voters press screens to choose a candidate. They

are given a chance to review their votes before submitting them. Once a voter proofreads their ballot, they print out a paper ballot copy that can be reviewed again and taken to an election worker to correct a mistake, if needed. If the voter approves the paper ballot, they slip it into a locked metal box which is later taken to the county elections administration office.

The Texas Tribune reported that central voting systems in the state began 20 years ago in Lubbock.

## Barge traffic on bayou From Page 1

Triangle Polymers plant is a joint venture of Chevron Phillips and Qatar Energy. According to the company, the construction will require 200 barge transfers for 350 pieces of equipment. The transfers are expected to be made across 20 months, which would average 10 barges a month.

The heavy load vehicles to transport the equipment from the barges can carry in excess of 55,000 pounds, or 47.5 tons. The city of Orange has already passed an ordinance outlining routes for the heavy equipment, although city officials say they cannot regulate the traffic on state-maintained highways and farm to market roads.

Earlier this year, Orange

County Commissioners Court passed a resolution supporting the cities of Orange and West Orange to get special state legislation to allow them to control heavy industrial equipment on roadways.


The plant is being built on more than 2,000 acres that have been cleared between Highway 87, Foreman Road, and FM 1006. Already, commuters have been complaining about the traffic in the area and the dust from construction.

The barges could cause even more vehicle traffic problems because the county's swing bridge on East Roundbunch Road will need to be opened to accommodate the shipping barges. East Roundbunch Road is a popular

shortcut from Bridge City to the numerous chemical plants already along FM 1006, locally known as "Chemical Row."

Orange County worked for five years to attract the new plant here and Chevron Phillips officially announced the construction in late 2022. A ground-breaking ceremony was held in March.


The plant is expected to create up to 4,500 construction jobs with the facility forecast to open in 2026. When the plant opens, it is will have an estimated 500 permanent jobs. Chevron Phillips officials say the new plant should have a \$50 billion impact on the county during the next 20 years.



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## From the Creaux's Nest

### AMERICAN IDOL 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SINCE KREE

Ten years have gone by since local talent Kree Harrison was a finalist on American Idol

When the just-announced top three American Idol contestants **Colin Stough**, **Iam Tongi** and **Megan Danielle**, compete one last time on the **Season 21 finale**, they'll be surrounded by an array of old friends and famous stars. The three-hour live episode airing on May 21, will include a performance by celebrity judges **Luke Bryan**, **Lionel Richie**, and **Katy Perry** as well as appearances by a wide variety of hit makers and the return of multiple recent contestants. Last week, producers announced the former **Idol judge Keith Urban** will perform and serve as the guest mentor for finalists **Colin Stough**, **Iam Tongi**, and **Megan Danielle** for the season finale. Other performers announced for the **Season 21 finale** include pop stars **Ellie Goulding**, **James Blunt**, soul singer **Jazmine Sullivan**, country music's **Jelly Roll** and **Lainey Wilson**, **Kevin Cronin** from **REO Speedwagon**, Christian pop star **Lauren Daigle**, rapper **Pitbull**, and 90s pop sensations **Rozonda Thomas** and **Tionne Watkins** of **TLC** and **Kylie Minogue**. In addition to the **Top 12**, two longtime **Idol** fan favorites, **Season 2** winner **Ruben Studdard** and runner-up **Clay Aiken**, will return together to perform. **Season 21 finale**, which will also include footage of the **Top 3 contestants'** hometown visits, airs on May 21 starting at 7:00 p.m.

### JOHN FORD AND JOHN FORD JR. MEMORIALS SET

Celebration of Life services will be held for father and son. Former longtime Orange County constable John A. Ford, age 86, passed away March 7, 2023. His son, John Jr., born July 21, 1961, passed away shortly after his father on April 5, 2023. Memorial service for John Jr. will be held Monday, May 22, 3:00 p.m., at Liberty Baptist Church. John Sr. service, at the same church, will be held Tuesday, May 23 at 3:00 p.m. John Sr., was a native of Groves, Texas, raised in Kirbyville and longtime resident of Bridge City. He replaced his brother Louis as constable when he was killed while on duty. John served for the next 38 years. John Jr., was a native of Bridge City and former local businessman, who had moved to Cypress, TX a few years ago. John Jr. 'Bubba' was preceded in death by daughter Rachel Taryn, his parents John and Geraldine and his brother Mark. He is survived by his wife Melinda, her two children and his son Daniel Ford, wife Lynn, three children, sister Vickie and husband Bill Stein. Our condolences to the many Ford relatives and friends. May dad and son rest in peace. See our website [therecordlive.com](http://therecordlive.com) for obituaries.

### J. D. ZERKO REMEMBERED

**John David Zerko** passed away May 8, 2023. Funeral services were held Monday, May 15, the day after what would have been his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. J.D. was a native of Coalgate, Oklahoma. His parents and all six Zerko boys arrived in Pinehurst when he was 6-years-old. He loved his city and knew every inch of it. I always enjoyed his visits. He knew everyone in the city, past and present, and who was related to who. He was a fun guy to be around. A former basketball player at Lamar he roomed with his friend and teammate Billy Tubbs, who later became a famous college coach. J.D. loved talking sports, but his first interest always seemed to be the city. He served as a longtime alderman. Please see obituary on our website [therecordlive.com](http://therecordlive.com).

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

This Monday we chose to go spend a good part of the day with longtime friend, **Ray Cotton**, at the **Longhorn**. I had heard **Ray** and **Dorothy** had sold their **Twin River Ranch** and home in Natchitoches, over 2500 acres, livestock and equipment. The ranch was once used in a movie, a real showplace. **Ray** and **Tina**, his daughter, have a lot going on at the **Longhorn** location. I never realized how many racing horse stalls and training facilities they have, also long canals for horses to swim in for exercise. **Jeff McCarson** has been brought in to revive the **Longhorn Club**. For a couple of hours I heard some of **Ray Cotton's stories**. He is living a colorful life and his 83-years don't stop him from living every day to its fullest. One of 15 children, way back when a penny candy was hard to come by, has made **Ray appreciative for everything** he has but mostly thankful for his good health. **Ray's** latest project will be the largest, nicest, **state-of-the-art bingo hall**, **Cotton's**, due to open in June. It will seat **600 people** at six foot tables. I was amazed at all the new technology. It will be cooled by **100 tons of air conditioning**. It's something to see. A **\$2.5 mil-**

**lion structure** right here at home.\*\*\*\*This weeks performance on **American Idol** could make **Kree Harrison America's darling**. It's been a long haul that started out with **100,000 contestants** from throughout the country and is down to the final two. She and **Candice Glover** compete on the final show Wednesday night. One will become **American Idol** and winner of a one million dollar recording contract. **Angie Miller** was eliminated last week, leaving **Kree** to take head on **Glover** for the big prize. **Glover** has appeared to be a favorite of the judges, consisting of **Randy Jackson**, who has been with **Idol** all of the shows twelve years. **Jackson** has announced this week's show will be his last. "**Dawg**" is getting out of Dodge. Some speculate that all of the judges will be replaced next season, if there is a next season. The show has come down from a high of **30 million viewers**, to a mere 14 million. Other judges are **Keith Urban**, **Mariah Carey** and **Nicki Minaj**. The two ladies have been feuding, which **Urban** calls awful and poisonous. Week after week, public voters have kept **Kree** in the mix. MTV made her an early favorite to win it all. Song choice is very important. **Kree** has a superior voice that has been unmatched throughout the competition. They are both very close in talent and a bobble by either will likely cost the grand prize.\*\*\*\***Bridge City Cardinals** whipped up on **Sweeny** thanks to the pitching of **Hayden Guidry** and **Preston Pittman**, who threw his first no hitter, winning **11-0 with 11 strike outs** in five innings. Leadoff batter **Hunter Uzzle** scored all four times he got on base as lead off. Our **boy Collin Gros**, drove in the final run for the icing on the cake. The boys all brought their sticks. **The Cardinals** will meet **Huffman** Saturday at **LaPorte** in a one game take all, starting at noon. **Coach Chad Landry's** team will need to have total focus on every pitch.\*\*\*\* We were sorry to hear about the death of **Eric Wayne Luker**, 26, who died May 8. Service was held Monday, May 13. Eric was the son of **Dale** and **Carol Luker**.\*\*\*\*Bravely, strength and integrity certainly runs in the family of **Pct. #3 Judge Janice Menard**. It was her grandson, firefighter **Chris Harvey**, that rescued **Dalton Ivy** from the Hwy. 87 canal. **Dalton** suffered a cut on his arm and said had it not been for **Chris**, he would not be alive.\*\*\*\*Political advocate **Jerry Wilson** is taking great care of his wife, **Judy**, after her recent surgery on a pinched nerve. However, he still finds time to stay active in politics.\*\*\*\* The odd couple: We spotted **Al Deroche** and **Dwight Thacker** having **Mother's Day lunch** together at **Market Basket**. **Dutch treat**.\*\*\*\*We ran into the lovely **Mickey Litton**. Age has treated her well. She says she sure likes her new step mother. **Moe** is on his best behavior.\*\*\*\*Some of the great folks we know celebrating their special day between May 15 to 21. May 15 finds longtime educator, now retired, **Joe's** better half, **Nancy Chenella**, celebrating.\*\*\*Also joining her is **Deborah Ellender** and **Heather Brinson** and **John Rogers**.\*\*\*On May 16, **Judge Pat Clark** takes another step up the ladder of life. This is the first birthday in many years that he's not working for pay. He's a retired **District and County Law Judge**.\*\*\*The **Judge** shares his birthday with **Sammy Frank Lucia**, former B.C. superintendent, his childhood friend.\*\*\*On May 17, pretty **Angela "Angie" Breaux**, the longtime bride of lucky dog, **Don Breaux** celebrates.\*\*\*On May 18, longtime friend **Frank Fincham**, celebrates. \*\*\*Also celebrating is **Jacque Craft**, **Judge Thibodeaux's** retired assistant, and **Ron Hutchison**. They share birthdays with **George Strait**, who turns 61.\*\*\*May 19, is a special day for **Hubert "Sprad" Spradling** and also for **Flo's brother, Leon Carter**.\*\*\*May 20 is a special day in the **Dunn** family. It's the birthday of their only daughter, **Karen Dunn Gros**.\*\*\*Also celebrating on that day is longtime **Record employee, Bill Pope** and our buddy, **Dr. David Jones**. They all share birthdays with **Cher**, who turns 67.\*\*\*May 21 is the special day of **Babette Philpott**, constable **Mark's** caregiver. Also celebrating on this day is pretty **June Gregory**, who is **Fred's** widow.\*\*\*\*It looks like any hope for **Medicaid expansion in Texas** is going down the drain. **Gov. Rick Perry** chose to spend **\$18 billion Texas tax dollars** rather than take **\$100 billion** from the federal matching funds. Besides the poor, those who will be affected the most are doctors, hospitals and nursing homes. **Republican governors** in other states have found it would be irresponsible not to expand **Medicaid**, knowing that **Obamacare** is coming.\*\*\*\*Congrats to **Kacey LeBlanc**, senior at **Orangefield High**, who will be signing to play volleyball at **San Jacinto Community College**.

### 25 Years Ago-1998

**Bridge City's Jason Matthews** has signed a two-year contract with the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**. The 6-foot, 4-inch, 305 pound offensive lineman has played his entire NFL career with the **Indianapolis Colts**.\*\*\*\*The **Orange VFW, Post 2775 Ladies Auxiliary**, honored **Jeanette Clark** at their annual **Loyalty Day program**.\*\*\*\*Mrs. **T.L. Gunn**, "**Mee-Maw**," was named "**Mother of the Year**" by **Record Newspapers**.\*\*\*\***Zane Rex** and **Kane Willy Peveto** turned one year old. They are the twin sons of **David** and **Kim Peveto**. Grandparents are **Jean Dugas**, **Gayle Peveto**, **Charles Peveto** and **Gerald Dugas**. (Editor's note: On April 23, the twins turned 41 years old.)\*\*\*\*A few good places to eat in Orange, **Luby's Cafeteria**, **JB's Barbecue**, the **Tamale Co.** In **Bridge City**, **JJ's Fried Chicken**, featuring all you can eat crawfish, **\$12.99**, fried shrimp, oysters, catfish, BBQ crabs, stuffed crabs and plenty of chicken and gumbo. **Snappy's** serves breakfast, lunch and deli sandwiches. \*\*\*\***Firestone** plant awards **Paul Odom**, **Eagle Scout**, at the **40th Annual Boy Scout** program. **Paul** is an **Orangefield** student.

### 50 Years Ago-1973

The lovely daughter of **Milli** and **Len Harper** is in **St. Elizabeth Hospital** following a car accident a couple of weeks back.\*\*\*\***Judge Halliburton** had a slight heart attack after having had surgery a couple of months ago. He got a clear bill of health in Houston last Monday.\*\*\*\***Kenneth James Toups**, a 1971 graduate of **Bridge City High** is home on

leave from **Uncle Sam's Air Force**. He heads for Korea when his leave is up.\*\*\*\***Calvin Stakes** says he would never be guilty of bigamy because the penalty is too harsh--two mothers-in-law.\*\*\*\***Larry Bergeron** is manager of **McLaury's Appliance**, 1800 Strickland Drive.\*\*\*\***Weldon's Bakery** is at 1105 Green Avenue. French bread, butter bread, regular bread.\*\*\*\***Harry's Appliance** is at 508 Front.\*\*\*\*The **Old Timers reunion** is being planned for May 28. **Mrs. Allen Peveto** is publicity chairman. Newly elected officers are **Allen Peveto**, president, **A.J. McKenzie**, VP, **Nadine Slaughter**, secretary, "**Rusty**" **Alexander**, treasurer, **Sid Cailavet Sr.**, managers, **Mrs. Lawrence Winfree** and **Mae Harvey**, Food committee, **Sallie Frazier**, **Mrs. Willie Foreman** and **Mrs. Vernon Linscomb**.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

We had inquiries about our friend and sports writer **Joe Kazmar**. This is usually "**Kaz's**" favorite time of the year, writing about baseball. Instead he is back in hospital at **St. Elizabeth's** after having to undergo a second surgery. His hopes are to return to rehab soon. We send best wishes from his loyal readers who have been following his sports column for years. **Hang in there Joe, Godspeed**.\*\*\*\***County Commissioner Johnny Trahan** and wife, **Becky**, are back from a cruise to **Belize, Roatan**, and other tropical destinations. They enjoyed tubing in the ocean caves, something new for the **Orange County residents**.\*\*\*\***Karl** and **Karen Wickham** took a trip to **Disney World** and enjoyed seeing granddaughter **Karly Ray**, who is now a graduate of **Disney school** and ready to appear at the park venues.\*\*\*\*Other tropical travelers this past week included buddies **Al Granger**, **Dyan Morris**, **Staci Eatman** and **Melissa O'Mara** enjoying the turquoise seas around the **Grand Cayman islands**.\*\*\*\*Those celebrating birthdays the past few days included **Sabrina Claybar**, **Wally Brown**, **Shelley Alexander**, **William Jeffers**, **Orange City Councilor Mary McKenna**, **Sabrina Terry**, **Susan Swan**, and **Beverly Robinson**, who also traveled to **San Francisco** to see a niece graduate. **Maddie Morphew** turned 25 and **Alexis Baumgartner** marked birthday No. 18.\*\*\*\***Katie Joe Parkhurst**, aka **K.J.**, will be celebrating her first next year. She was born this past week as the second child of **Kade** and **Kirstie Parkhurst**.\*\*\*\***April** and **Trey King** had their 25th wedding anniversary.\*\*\*\*The **Dunn family** traveled to **Brenham** last week to attend the commencement at **Blinn College** for **Sean Cade Gros**. His grandfather says that boy's a professional student. This was **Sean's** fifth graduation: high school; Lamar two year degree; graduation U.S. Coast Guard; Bachelor degree Lamar University; now a degree in Physical Therapy. He made the family proud.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **May 17: Jennifer Clarke**, **Nickie Judice**, **Pam Hudson**, **Nickie Wall**, **Donna McClanahan**, **Greg Defrates** and **Angelea Breaux**.\*\*\*\***May 18:** Happy Birthday to our longtime friend **Veronica "V.J." Roberts**, also **Kim Hanks**, **Ron Hutchison**, **Cheryl Stone** and **Chris Day**.\*\*\*\***May 19:** **Al Judice**, **Harry Dodge**, **Justin Knight**, **Mark Watts** and **Niki Bennett**. Happy 68th anniversary to **Wanda** and **Coach Les Johnson**.\*\*\*\***May 20:** Celebrating today are **Dr. David Jones**, **Patty Dupuis**, and **Stormy Sharp**. A very special Happy Birthday to **Karen Dunn Gros**.\*\*\*\***May 21:** **Ricky Land**, **Leah Chipman**, **Teresa Cain Lemke**, **Babette Philpott**, **Sarah McClure** and **June Gregory**.\*\*\*\***May 22:** **Jackie Tate** and **Gar Hollingsworth** and a special Happy Birthday to our friend and **Record Newspaper's** editor **Margaret Toal**.\*\*\*\***May 23:** Celebrating today are **Billy Raymer**, **Justin Trahan**, **Tracy Davis** and **Amanda Uzzle**.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Otis Boudreaux** died him, so his longtime wife **Marie** went to da **Daily Advertiser Newspaper** to put a notice in da obituaries.

**Calvin Premeaux** was working da counter and after offering his condolences he axe **Marie** wat she would like to say about **Boudreaux**.

**Marie** replied, "**Jus put dat Boudreaux died.**"

**Premeaux** was somewhat perplexed. He said, "**Dat's it?**" "**Jus Boudreaux died**, surely **Miss Marie**, dere must be something more you'd like to say about **Boudreaux**." "If it's money you're worried about, da first five words are free. We must say something more."

**Marie** her, tink aout dat for a while and finally she say, "Okay, you put, '**Boudreaux died. Boat for sale.**'"

### C'EST TOUT

### DO NOTHING NOT THE ANSWER

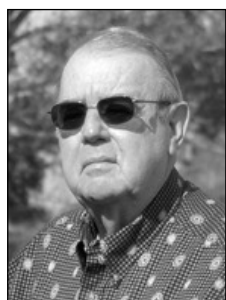
A few years ago I predicted this day would come. **Mass murder in Texas** and around the nation is commonplace. In Austin and Washington our representatives in government offer only prayers instead of laws dealing with **AR-15 type weapons** that they know would curb mass killings. **The Republicans** in charge refuse any and all action to address the ongoing murder of so many innocent children and adults. In our state we have representatives in the legislature who receive money from the **NRA**. **That's easy to verify on the internet**. A few years ago I wrote the "**Wild West**" was coming to Texas. It's just a start. If nothing continues to be done, more mass killings are in our future. More than we can ever imagine.\*\*\*\*Thanks for your time. Until next time, Happy Trails to you. **Take care and God bless**.



## Deaths & Memorials

### John A. Ford, 86, Richmond FORMERLY OF BRIDGE CITY

John A. Ford, 86 of Richmond, TX and formerly of Bridge City, TX passed away peacefully on March 7, 2023 with his family lovingly by his side. As a Christian, his family is comforted in knowing John is in the arms of Jesus. While in Bridge City, John and his family were active members at Liberty Baptist Church.



John A. Ford

contributing his personal time to the community. John made hundreds of trips escorting school buses for Bridge City and Orangefield to out-of-town football games and contests. He also served many grieving families by escorting hundreds of funerals throughout his career. Although none of these activities were part of his job as Constable, John felt it was his way of showing support of the school districts and to honor to those who had passed on. He served as an active member of the Rotary Club and was a recognized Paul Harris Fellow recipient. John was actively involved with the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce and participated on several committees for special events. He enjoyed helping with the Bridge City parades and served once as Grand Marshall.

Other times he worked behind the scenes coordinating parade participants. In 1988 John helped coordinate activities associated with the 50th Rededication of the Rainbow Bridge. His family, especially his mother, was so proud when he was named Bridge City Citizen of the Year in 1991. From that day until she died, she referred to her son lovingly as COTY – Citizen of the Year!

Preceding John in death were his parents Iris and Louis Olney Ford, wife Geraldine Ford, sons John A. Ford, Jr. and Mark K. Ford, granddaughter Rachel Ford, sister Evelyn Bernard, and brothers JT Ford, Bill Ford, Wayne Ford and Louis Ford, Jr.

As a child John lived in Kirbyville, TX, Port Arthur, TX and Bridge City, TX. He lived the farm life where he was responsible for many chores and rode his horse to school. John spoke of his first paying job as an usher at the theater that was once in Bridge City. He said he wore a spiffy uniform that made him feel special as he escorted people to their seats. His first professional job was working as a laboratory technician at DuPont Sabine River Works in Orange, TX. During this time of his life he earned a reputation for himself as a "hot rod" as he liked to drag race on the back roads! After work, he would make a stop at The Dippo, the local fast-food spot where he did his best to impress his bride-to-be. She was smitten with him, and on August 9, 1957 he married Geraldine Louise Darby. The two were married at the Nazarene Church in Bridge City during the high winds and torrential rains of Hurricane Audrey. The storm didn't bother these lovebirds, and the ceremony took place as planned. While they had hoped to honeymoon in Galveston, they only made it as far as the Seagull Motel in Port Arthur because of the storm.

John and Geraldine set up their home at 240 Lake Street in Bridge City, TX. They began their family and had three children, Vicki, John Jr., and Mark. The family enjoyed traveling, camping and spending time with friends and relatives. John shared special memories of fishing with his best friends. With little experience and no formal training, John built several homes for family and several friends. He was most proud of the work he did in joining many others to rebuild Liberty Baptist Church following several hurricanes. John was a man of many talents and had the confidence to do most anything. He was a prankster and a great storyteller.

John served as a Deputy Constable for his brother, Louis Ford, Jr. who held the office of Constable, Pct. 3 Orange County, TX. Tragically, Louis was killed in the line of duty on an evening in 1971 while responding to a call. The Orange County Commissioners approached John and asked if would consider fulfilling the remaining time of his brother's term. John accepted the request and was appointed Constable. With honor and pride, John served Orange County as Constable, Pct. 3 for a total of 38 years, the longest elected office held by anyone in the County.

In addition to fulfilling the required duties as Constable, John was fully engaged in

servicing pools. After several years, he sold the business and moved to the Houston area.

John was an avid hunter and fisherman. He especially loved to spend time in the woods with his bow and arrow where he developed his archery skills. John passed on his love of the outdoors to his children, Daniel and Rachel, and they often accompanied him to his favorite hunting places. John was a major NASCAR fan and loved to watch his favorite drivers. He enjoyed riding motor cycles as well. John loved to cook and mastered many of the delicious meals his mother made over the years.

After moving to Houston, John met Melinda Becker. Melinda fell in love with John and he with her, and they were married in 2013. John and Melinda enjoyed participating in local activities and attending festivals. They also enjoyed traveling but most of all, they enjoyed being together.

John was a Christian and loved the Lord. He found comfort listening to music and in reading the word, especially the Psalms. He will be missed, but the family knows they will be reunited with John in the Lord's timing.

A celebration to honor the life of John A. Ford, Jr. will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 3:00 pm at Liberty Baptist Church, 2717 W Round Bunch Rd, in Bridge City, TX.

### Dickie Mark Plessala, 69 Bridge City

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 19, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Cremation will follow under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 18, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on August 16, 1953, he was the son of Carroll and Eve (Vaughn) Plessala. Dickie was a man of great faith and a member of St. Henry Catholic Church. He proudly served in the United States Air Force for several years. Dickie worked as a pipefitter at Valero for Local 4-23 and later went on to start a family business in the early 90's with the love of his life, Evelyn, which became known as Plessala Enterprises. During his free time, he enjoyed fishing, camping with his family, and visiting the Florida beaches. He loved to tinker on



Dickie Plessala

things and has invented a couple of patented items. Dickie enjoyed helping people and had a great sense of humor. His loved ones will go on to cherish their memories of him and will miss him dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Carroll and Eve Plessala; brothers, A.J. Plessala, Lynn Plessala, and Michael Plessala; and sisters, Peggy Plessala and Cindy Plessala.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years and love of his life, Evelyn Plessala of Bridge City, Texas; sons, Adam Plessala and wife, Chala of Bridge City, and Nicholas Plessala and wife, Summer of Bridge City; grandchildren, Blakelea, Daxton, Nicholas Jr., Braxton, Myla, Karalina, and Kennadie; sisters, Sylvia Plessala of Groves, Texas, Faye Bellanger of Groves, Texas, and Rebecca Laberge and husband, Rick of Florida; many nieces and nephews; as well as numerous other loving family.

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# Classifieds

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NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

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

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### HELP WANTED

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### DOGS FOR SALE

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### GARAGE SALE

**Huge family garage sale** this Fri., May 19 and Sat., May 20 from 8 am to 3 pm at 9857 Laura Drive, Orange, 77630 (Oak Manor Sub Division).

**2 Family Garage sale** this Fri., May 19 and Sat., May 20 from 8 am to 5 pm at 727 Chester St. in West Orange, 77630. Above oven microwave, baby clothes, kitchen items, clothes. On Saturday will have Miss Me jeans, FRC shirts, toys, too many items to list.

### ESTATE SALE

**Estate / Moving Sale** at 501 West Pine Ave, Orange, 77630 (by the Post Office) this Thurs., 5/18, Fri., 5/19 from 8 am to 5 pm. Cash Only. Sofas, love seat and chairs, small tables and end tables, Conn Piano, desk and chair, secretary/hutch, shelving, double / full bunk bed sleeps 4, TV Stand, Sony Stereo, lamps, linens, children toys and books, framed art, religious books, clocks, jewelry, doll house & furniture, clothes and Christmas Decor.

### 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.

### TRACTOR WORK

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### DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPCWD

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: RICKY EUGENE DUNN, 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 of Administration for the Estate of JASON SAMUEL BROWNING, Deceased, were issued on FEBRUARY 27, 2023, in Cause No. P19551, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: CHARLENE WALKER and JENNIFER BROWNING.

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

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

Dated the 9th day of May, 2023.

*George B. Barron*  
George B. Barron  
Attorney for Administrators  
State Bar No.: 01817500  
P.O. Box 279  
Orange, TX  
77631-0279  
Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION  
FOR THE  
SABINE PASS TO GALVESTON BAY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (S2G)  
ORANGE COUNTY PROJECT (ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GALVESTON DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### 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 captures Area Championship



Jason Bodin and Morgan Sampson got the pitching wins for Orangefield as it advanced to the third round of the baseball playoffs. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DANPERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats continued to roll in the post season and moved into the third round of the Class 3A state baseball playoffs. The Bobcats swept Wallis Brazos in two games outscoring the Cougars 27-0 in the series.

The series was played at Crosby a neutral site for the two teams. The first game was Thursday, May 11, which Orangefield won 10-0 giving Coach Tim Erickson his 200th career win.

Pitcher Jason Bodin was masterful in the game. Bodin got credit for a complete game throwing six innings, allowing three hits, walking one, and striking out 12 Cougars in

the win.

The Bobcats scored four runs in the fifth inning to bolster their lead over Brazos. Caleb Fregia and Matthew Johnson had the big hits driving in runs during the rally for Orangefield.

The Bobcats totaled eleven hits and stole six bases in the game. Bodin and Fregia led with two hits apiece while Kane Smith stole two bases.

On Friday, May 13, Orangefield finished the deal blasting Wallis Brazos 17-0. The game lasted only four innings when the 15-run rule was invoked.

Thirteen runs in the third inning blew the game wide open for the Bobcats. Caleb Fregia and Jason Bodin blasted triples while Kyle Michael and Logan Cheek chipped in

with doubles during the big rally.

Bodin went three for three for Orangefield including two hits in the big third inning. Jason drove in five runs for the Bobcats.

Three pitchers for Orangefield combined to

throw the abbreviated shutout. Morgan Sampson got the win throwing three and a third innings allowing one hit and striking out five. Colton Myers and Kaleb Menard closed out the game with Menard striking out the final Cougar batter to finish the vic-

tory.

In the third round of the post season Orangefield will play the Central Heights Blue Devils out of Nacogdoches. The Bobcats enter the series with a record of 27-4 while the Blue Devils are 28-4 on their season.

The best of three series will be played in Jasper with Game 1 on Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 PM and Game 2 on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 4:00 PM. If necessary a third game will follow the second game.



Hallee Becker and Aubree Becker combined for the walk off win in the first game by the Lady Bobcats as Hallee scored the winning run on Aubree's game ending double. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

# Lady Bobcats advance to the fourth round

DANPERRINE  
For The Record

The young Orangefield Lady Bobcats have advanced to the fourth round of the Class 3A state softball playoffs. Orangefield started four freshmen and a sophomore as it swept the Pollok Central Lady Dogs in two games to move on in the post season.

The two games were played in Jasper a neutral site. The Lady Bobcats pulled out an exciting win in the opener 7-6 in walk-off fashion.

Central showed why it was undefeated in its district scoring four runs in the first inning of the first game. Four of the first six Lady Dogs got hits leading to two runs.

The final two runs in the inning came home on a call at first base that was questioned by Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale. A tapper back to pitcher Abigail Curphey was handled cleanly and her throw to first base with second baseman Alysen Vincent covering appeared to be in

plenty of time to register the third out but the first base umpire ruled the Central batter safe as two more runs crossed the plate on the play to give the Lady Dogs a 4-0 advantage before the Lady Bobcats had batted.

Orangefield trimmed the Central lead to one by scoring three runs in the bottom half of the inning. Hallee Becker walked and Aubree Beck singled to left with the ball getting past the outfielder for an error to score Becker with the first Lady Bobcat run.

Beck moved to third on a ground out by Harleigh Rawls and scored on a passed ball. Charlee Sanches tripled to right field and scored the third run of the inning on a single by Curphey. The Lady Dogs turned a nifty double play to get out of further damage and still led 4-3 after one inning.

The Lady Bobcats tied the game in the third as Beck started the inning with a hit to left. Sanches smashed a ball to the right

LADY BOBCATS Page 5B

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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. Limits of trout, with sheepshead and drum mixed in are along the jetty walls with live shrimp under a popping cork, or glo chartreuse plastics. Sabine Channel bulkheads and rock piles holding trout, flounder, redfish, bull redfish, sheepshead and drum. Mouths of the bayous in Sabine Lake are good for slot speckled trout and redfish making long drifts over shell pads with live shrimp under a popping cork, or morning glory chartreuse five inch plastics. North Levee is on fire for catches of speckled trout from the first to the second pike dragging swimbaits or quarter ounce jigheads with five inch glo chartreuse plastics. Intracoastal Canal and 1000 Yard Cut are good for redfish and trout on the flats, rock piles and points using live shrimp under a popping cork glo ½ ounce jigs. 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 sheepshead 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. 76 degrees. There has been a push of freshwater from the Trinity River and San Jacinto River. Speckled trout being caught near Double Bayou to Smith Point. The upper northwest corner of the bay is holding speckled trout and black drum, along with some redfish. Best action is on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

## • East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 77 degrees. Winds have limited access to open bay reefs. Shorelines have been best for speckled trout along with a few redfish. Live shrimp and soft plastics working equally well. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Water clarity is good in most places, thanks to the recent wind direction. Winds have been south to southeast at 10-20 mph, for the most part with higher gusts, over the past week. Early mornings started off with low incoming tides, and we found trout, black drum and redfish, and a few flounder over shell bottoms, where we could find decent baitfish activity, and the bite was better when we had good current movement. Our best fish this week came off tails with 1/8 ounce heads fished under a popping cork, with a 24-28 inch leader. Most bites were after popping the cork and the bites were aggressive and the fish were active. Good numbers were caught on tails either bouncing off the shell bottoms or cranking faster in the upper portion of the



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

water column. Topwaters will land a few catches, but other tactics are outperforming. Same tactics will produce on late afternoon trips, and the outgoing tides, the fish were just positioned a little differently over the shell and further offshore. Colors that performed the best were Blue Moon, Purple Reign, and White Ice, and the standard size obtained more bites the last few days. With water temperatures on the rise, and the days getting longer, fishing will continue to get better, so grab a friend or a loved one and get out and enjoy the great outdoors. 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 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. 78 degrees. Mid bay rocks have been good for speckled trout and black drum on live shrimp. A few redfish and sheepshead are being caught in the same area. Moses Lake flood gate is holding some speckled trout and flounder using shrimp fished on the bottom. Shorelines along Eagle Point are still good when winds allow. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The gulf side of the South Jetty is holding trout, sheepshead 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. 78 degrees.

Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

## • Houston

FAIR. Water stained; 68-72 degrees; 0.23 feet above pool. Fishing patterns are holding steady. 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. 78 degrees. Galveston jetties are still good for those anglers fishing for speckled trout. Sheepshead and keeper black drum being caught too. Live shrimp is working best. Bull redfish have been fair. Wade anglers at the base of the dike have been catching decent numbers of speckled trout. 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. 75 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. Wade fishing is picking up for trout and redfish. Wind restricting drift

# The Lakes

## • Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water stained; 69-73 degrees; 0.37 feet below pool. The water level is 171.74 with one generator running from 3-7 P.M. daily. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 69-73 degrees. Zoom speed craws and creature baits rigged Texas style and a u-tail swimming worm in all white and white with a dipped chartreuse tail have been producing Bass in shallow water. Some bigger bass have been caught on senkos and flukes in black/blue flake, watermelon red, black/red flake and motor oil colors rigged wacky or Texas style. The spinnerbait bite for bass is starting to pick up with the flooded vegetation in the buck brush. The frog bite has been good on popping frogs and hollow body frogs late in the evenings over vegetation. Flyrodders are catching quality bass over vegetation using 8 and 10 weight fly rods. Top flies this week have been a weighted spoon fly black with red glitter, a Stealth Goober, and shad imitation topwater popper fly. The Crappie bite has moved offshore into brush piles and creek ledges with standing timber using jigs and minnows. Bluegill are starting to show up in the shallow flats and around boathouses. Remember, it is always better to play it safe by telling a loved one or friend the area you will be fishing, how many people are in your party and the expected return time. Good luck and keep casting forward! Report from Master Captain Steve "Scooby" Stubbe, Mudfish Adventures LLC, Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide, and Mudfish Custom Rod Shop.

## • Sam Rayburn Fishing Report

GOOD. Water stained; 72 degrees; 0.22 feet above pool. Forecasted weather will keep the water temperature in the low 70s and increase the turbidity of the water. Fishing patterns continue to hold steady with bass and crappie scattered in all stages of the spawn. Bass are good flipping crankbaits, jigs and soft plastics into buck brush and timber, and the grass lines in 6-12 feet of water. Some fish can be found on secondary points and in 25 feet of water with crankbaits, Carolina or Texas rigged worms. Crappie on brush piles biting minnows and jigs, some fish still spawning shallow. Catfish are spawning shallow with some catches on the points in creek channels. Sand bass are starting to show up in the main lake, and schooling action should pick up as the weather warms. Big bluegills on brush piles, and moving shallow to spawn. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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# Bridge City eliminated in three by Hudson

DAN PERRINE  
For The Record

Pitching was the name of the game during the three game series in the area round of the state Class 4A baseball playoffs between the Bridge City Cardinals and the Lufkin Hudson Hornets. All three games were shutouts with the Hornets winning games one and three to take the playoff two games to one over the Cardinals with the complete series held in Jasper.

The deciding game was played on Saturday, May 13. Bridge City was the designated home team for game three, and the home team had won both of the first previous games.

The Cardinals had an excellent chance to take the early lead in the bottom of the first inning. With one out Hunter Ford hit a blooper down the right field line that just

landed in fair territory, and he barely was safe at second with a double.

A wild pitch moved Ford ninety feet closer to third base. JS Bearden hit a grounder to first base but Hornet first baseman Nolan Larsen made an accurate throw to the catcher and Ford was tagged out before reaching the plate for the second out of the inning.

An errant pickoff throw by the Hudson pitcher Matthew Gardner allowed Bearden to race all the way to third. Justin Abate walked to put Cardinals at first and third but a fly out to center ended the threat for Bridge City with no runs across.

Freshman Aidyn Mulholland got the call to start for the Cardinals on the mound. Mulholland retired the first five Hornet hitters he faced before walking Gardner and then



John Van Huis of the Cardinals blasted a hit to center that would have scored the tying run but the ball bounced over the fence for a ground rule double that ended up costing Bridge City a run.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

retiring the next batter to get through two scoreless innings.

Kyle Daniel singled to lead off the top of the third

for Hudson. A sacrifice and a ground out moved Daniel to third. Daniel scored the first run of the game on a flair to right

field off the bat of Griff Salas that fell for a hit to give a 1-0 lead to the Hornets.

Bridge City came within

inches of tying the score in the bottom of the fifth. Brice Swanton singled through the box with two outs and came home to apparently score when John Van Huis hit the ball over the Hudson center-fielder's glove for what looked like a sure triple.

Unfortunately for the Cardinals, the ball hit the hard artificial turf and bounced over the fence for a ground rule double. The ground rule meant Van Huis only got credit for a double and Swanton had to return to third base. Gardner induced a ground out from the next Bridge City batter and the two Cardinals were stranded at third and second.

Bearden walked to start the sixth for Bridge City. Abate sacrificed him to second but that was as far as JS got.

Designated hitter Diesel

BRIDGE CITY Page 4B

# LCM Lady Bears fall to Liberty Lady Panthers



Sophomore Ella Stephenson pitched well for the Lady Bears in their two games with defending state champion Liberty.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE  
For The Record

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears battled the defending state champion Liberty Lady Panthers in the third round of the Class 4A softball playoffs. The Lady Bears lost two games and were eliminated from the post season.

Liberty came into the best of three series with LCM having won their four previous playoff games by a lopsided combined score of 51-2. Little Cypress Mauriceville won four of five playoff games in order to advance to the third round.

The first game of the series was played Thursday, May 11, at Anahuac as chosen by Liberty with the

panthers the designated home team for the opener. The Lady Panthers came away with 4-2 victory to take a one game lead in the series.

LCM got good pitching from sophomore Ella Stephenson who threw five and a third innings. Tessa Erickson finished the game getting the last two outs against the Liberty batters.

The Lady Bears got four hits in the game. Stephenson, Eden Frenzel, Keylie Washburn, and Ava Wright got one hit each. Jillian Brown walked all three times she came to the plate for LCM.

Lexis Moss got a run batted in on a fielder's choice. The best chance for Little Cypress Mauriceville came in the sev-

enth when the Lady Bears loaded the bases, but the Lady Panthers prevailed by two runs.

Game two was played at Bridge City as chosen by Little Cypress Mauriceville on Friday, May 12. A win by the Lady Bears would have forced the third game to follow later that evening.

Ella Stephenson started in the circle again for LCM. Ella pitched a complete seven innings holding Liberty to six runs only four of which were earned.

Liberty scored in the top of the first when Reese Evans singled with one out. Evans stole second, went to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a hard hit grounder by Alex Wiley that Lady Bear Keylie Washburn deflected the ball at third to shortstop Eden Frenzel who threw Wiley out at first base. Stephenson walked three Lady Panthers in the inning but left the bases loaded with just the one run coming home.

The Lady Bears got singles by Lexis Moss and

Ava Wright after two were out in the bottom of the first inning. They were both left stranded.

The Lady Panthers added two more runs in the second. Brookelyn Taylor got the first of three hits in the inning with Bailee Slack and Hollie Thomas getting the other two. Evans and Thomas had runs batted in to give Liberty a 3-0 lead.

The score remained unchanged over the next three innings. Stephenson wriggled out of a precarious situation in the

third as Liberty had runners at third and second with one out when she got a shallow fly to left and an infield pop to retire the Lady Panthers with no damage done.

Wright made a nice running back handed catch in center field during the fourth inning for the Lady Bears. Washburn fielded a grounder at third for an unassisted force out in the top of the sixth that helped quell a Liberty threat after the first two hitters reached base.

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**ORANGE COUNTY GARDENING:**

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Gardeners, another week has quickly passed, and we are well into gardening season! Last week we discussed 'pests' which prey upon gardeners beloved tomatoes! So, it is only fitting that this week we expand the discussion a bit. Most gardeners will agree that insect's rule! Okay, some of you rolled your eyes...then perhaps not (readers-your silence is deafening)! Seriously, did you know there are approximately 250,000 insect species in the U.S. and about one eighth of them (around 30,000) live in Texas! There are more insect species than all other plant and animal species combined, and each of us is continuously surrounded by insects, no matter where we are (inside or out)!

Unfortunately, we tend to characterize all insects placing them into the 'bad guys' category, since the more familiar ones tend to bother us the most (you know the ones I am speaking about SETX)! There are multitudes of insects which damage crops, and many are known vectors (transmitters) of disease. About 3% of the insect species are 'economic' pests which damage crops yet more than twice as many, 7% (about 17,500) are classified as beneficial insects! Beneficial insects are either predators or parasites of nuisance insects, some of which pollinate flowers, vegetables, and fruit. The remaining 90% of insect species provide food for animals and assist in organic matter decomposition.

# Beneficial Insects: Twice as Many "Good Guys"



**A lady beetle larvae can eat as many 'bad bugs' as the more recognizable adults, up to five thousand in a lifetime.**

To become effective gardeners, we need to learn as much as we can about the life stages of beneficial insects. For example, the larvae of a lady beetle or a lacewing look nothing like adults. Lady beetle larvae appear as "psychedelic" colored (purple & orange) little alligators with six legs. Gardeners are often surprised to learn these insect larvae are not nuisance pests! A lady beetle larvae can eat as many 'bad bugs' as the more recognizable adults, up to five thousand in a lifetime.

Gardeners, by now each of us must realize there will be pests feeding on our plants this and every season: aphids, caterpillars, spider mites, white flies, thrips, to name but a few. Initially, we need to consider if the pest population is large enough to do damage, and then determine if the population warrants treat-

ment with a pesticide (this should be the last resort and one this gardener seldom ever uses). Look around and thoroughly inspect plants to see if beneficial insects are present, and if so, allow them time to perform their duties! Understandably, aphid populations rapidly increasing due to tasty, tender young plant growth, but note that within a few days beneficial insects, such as syrphid fly larvae, lady beetles, and lacewings can quickly "harvest" aphids, drastically reducing the population without a gardeners intervention (meaning no insecticide needed).

There are numerous aphid enemies but one of the most amazing is called a parasitoid. It's a tiny wasp that lays an egg inside an aphid. The wasp egg hatches, and the larvae eats the aphid from the inside out, killing the aphid in the pro-

cess, leaving a lifeless, puffy, brown (exoskeleton) shell known as a mummy. During the wasp's final transformation into its adult stage, it cuts a hole in the top of the aphids' exoskeleton, emerging to continue the process. Inspect plants and search for aphid "mummies." Once found, realize nature is working her due diligence noting there is no need to assist her with pesticides, as they destroy pests as well as beneficial insects. Let me emphasize that aphid populations rebound more rapidly than beneficial insects and you might ask why? Unfortunately for plants, aphids are born pregnant, reproducing at an exponential pace, that far out-paces beneficial insects!

Gardeners, should note there are many plants which attract beneficial insects that can be planted to help maintain increased populations of the "good guys." Tropical or Mexican Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is a great plant to build up a population of insects that feed on aphids. This is because yellow aphids are attracted to tropical milkweed (magnetic attraction for them) but that do not feed on most other landscape plants. Aphid predators also will feed on aphids in other areas of the garden, and pollinators such as monarch butterflies, relish the nectar-rich flowers. Beneficial insects are also attracted to yarrow, anise, dill, fennel (plants with flat flower heads) or daisy flowers (chamomile & oxeeye), as well as many salvias and flowering herbs.

It must be noted that gar-

dening success is directly proportional to time spent in the garden! A gardener's ability to quickly spot "symptoms" early is paramount in determining causal factors, assigning severity, increasing, or corrected without chemical intervention! Learn to identify beneficial insects through their life's stages. Identifying parasitized aphids and caterpillars can provide gardeners with enough details that natural controls are working. If you determine pests are beginning to win the battle, and more drastic action is necessary, use the least toxic, pest-specific (targeted) control.

The time has come for each of us to forget the expression, "The only good bug is a dead bug!" Our gardens are filled with "good guys" that are gardeners' friends, who are counting on us to help them! Learn to recognize them, take steps to preserve and encourage them to make our gardens their home.

So long for now fellow gardeners, let's go out and grow ourselves a greener, more sustainable world, one plant at a time! If you have gardening questions, email me: [jongreene57@gmail.com](mailto:jongreene57@gmail.com) or phone the Orange County Master Gardeners Helpline: (409) 882-7010.

## Bridge City From Page 1

Gonzalez doubled off the left center field fence to begin the top of the seventh for Hudson. Courtesy runner Bryson Whitehead scored after a sacrifice and a ground out to put the Hornets up 2-0 with one at bat left for the Cardinals.

Gardner retired the Bridge City batters in order in the seventh to end the game. The Hornet lefthander allowed just three hits and three walks while striking out five in the complete game shutout for Lufkin Hudson.

Mulhollan did a splendid job for the Cardinals going seven innings yielding only four hits, issuing one walk, and striking out three. Cardinal Coach Chad Landry praised, "That was the best outing Aidyn has had in his high school career. I hope he continues to build off of it. Watching him compete and bulldogging it was just really fun to watch, and I'm proud of him. He did a great job."

Bridge City and Lufkin Hudson got to the dramatic third game with both of their aces throw shutting outs in the first two games. The Hornets won the first game 7-0 behind Colby Turner's three-hit shutout. Bridge City's Parker Norwood pitched three strong innings out of the bullpen to allow Landry to rest his other pitchers for the final two games.

The Cardinals' Braylen Collins threw a gem in the second game to even the series with a 4-0 win. Collins pitched a complete game giving up four hits and two walks with nine strikeouts.

It was a sad post-game for Bridge City as the Cardinals and Coach Landry said good bye to all the seniors. "Our senior class I'm so proud of them. Fifteen total seniors, thirteen players. I just told them it is very rare that that many guys buy into their role in high school sports, and we did not have a single player turn a jersey in. All of them stuck it out from the beginning, and I'm really proud of that senior group. We're going to talk about that senior group ten years down the road how they bought into the program and showed the next group of guys how it's supposed to be done," Landry concluded.

## Team Sanchez takes 3rd SALT Tourney

### OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

Lawrence Sanchez and Lawrence Sanchez Sr took home the win in the 3rd leg of the SALT Pro Redfish tournament series this past weekend. The Sanchez team posted an impressive winning weight of 26.98 pounds anchored by an absolute brute of a slot redfish weighing in at 10.48 pounds. The big redfish broke the old record of 10.01 pounds in the process. Michael Fesco took home 2nd place with 24.19 pounds while the team of Daniel Duong and Roland Brown posted a solid 21.87 pounds which was good enough for not only 3rd place but also secured them the coveted Team of The Year honors. Robert and Eric James rounded out the money winners with a 4th place showing and a weight of 20.61 pounds.

The final leg of the tournament series will be the Championship Event on June 24th where 21 qualifying teams will compete for a top prize of 15,000 dollars. The SALT Club will also begin a new tournament starting June 3rd, The High School Series. With the popularity of high school tournament fishing growing by the day it's only fitting that the next phase of the sport heads for the saltwater. This new series will be extremely interesting to watch and it should gain popularity fast. If you know any high school fishermen who might be interested in this event contact Sean Enyon at 409-926-1662 for all the details.

Locally the rest of the fishing world is in recovery from some heavy rains last week and it appears that things may be on the rebound. A few birds are showing up over some small schooling trout on the south end of the lake as a result of brown shrimp being purged from the marshes. Higher tides and the heavy rains



**Chuck Uzzle**

have pushed water up in the grass along the shorelines where the redfish and some flounder have taken up residence. Small schools of little shad are getting blown up by fish cruising the shorelines and many anglers have taken advantage of that program while cover-

ing plenty of water. The best bite for better quality fish should be down along the jetties before the sun gets up. The trout that patrol those rocks are a riot to catch because of how aggressive they can get, it's worth the trip when they do it right.

If a trip to the south end doesn't sound appealing maybe heading east to Calcasieu would be more appealing. Water clarity is good and there are several good patterns emerging

over there. Speckled trout have been solid for the most part and solid catches of redfish continue to be the norm. Most folks are throwing live shrimp under corks or freelining live shrimp with a small split shot around the marsh drains. The schooling activity should pick up as the weather continues to improve and the wind gives us a break.

School is just about done for all the kids so don't forget to take them every chance you get.

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



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# Orangefield names Athletes of the Year

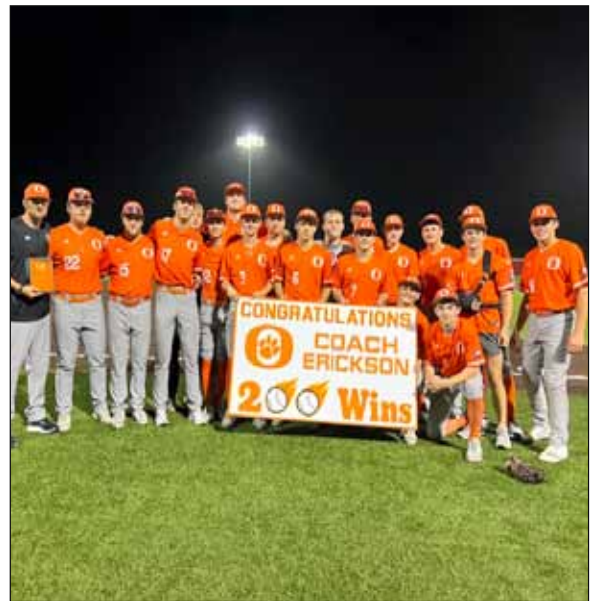
Orangefield High School held its Athletic Banquet on Monday, May 15. Harleigh Rawls was the Girl Athlete of the Year and Cameron Dischler was the Boy Athlete of the Year. The following student athletes were also honored during the ceremony.

- Boys Cross Country Bobcat Heart Award Leyton Loft
- Newcomer of the Year Carson Worthly
- Most Valuable Player Tanner Sullivan
- Girls Cross Country Bobcat Heart Award Kadee English
- Newcomer of the Year Aubree Beck
- Most Valuable Player Kendall Sullivan
- Volleyball Rookie of the Year Haylee Spears
- Leadership Award Brianna Moore
- Most Valuable Player Mackenzie Haley
- Football Offensive Player of the Year Cameron Dischler
- Defensive Player of the Year Jackson Humplik
- Fighting Bobcat Award Morgan Sampson
- Girls Basketball Most Improved Kaylea Gravett
- We Before Me Charlee Sanches
- Boys Basketball Coaches' Award Brayden Parker
- Offensive Player of the Year Jaden Scales
- Defensive Player of the Year Zane Wrinkle
- Most Valuable Player Pete Ragusa
- Powerlifting Girl Powerlifter of the Year Sadie Malagarie
- Boy Powerlifter of the Year Akilles Garcia
- Tennis Best Teammate Award Pilar Santodomingo
- Most Valuable Player Summer Hackbarth
- Girls Golf Leadership Award Alyssa Wiley
- Most Improved Lela Francis
- Rookie of the Year Emma Perriotte
- Boys Golf Co-Most Valuable Player Lincoln Parks
- Co-Most Valuable Player Xander Parks
- Girls Track Heart Award Jocelyn Hernandez



Harleigh Rawls was named the Girl Athlete of the Year and Cameron Dischler was the Boy Athlete of the Year.

- Newcomer of the Year Kendall Sullivan
- Most Valuable Player Mackenzie Haley
- Boys Track Newcomer of the Year Carson Worthly
- Most Valuable Player Case Singleton
- Softball Team Choice Award Greenlea Oldham
- Coaches' Choice Award Alysén Vincent
- Co-Most Valuable Player Abigail Curphey
- Co-Most Valuable Player Harleigh Rawls
- Baseball Most Valuable Player Rusten Traxler



Coach Tim Erickson of the Orangefield Bobcats got win number 200 in his career with the victory in Game 1 over Wallis Brazos

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## Lady Bobcats From Page 1B

field fence sending home Aubree to make the score 4-4 with one out. Curphey grounded out to short, and Sanches was thrown out trying to advance to third on the play for another inning ending double play by Central.

A leadoff double by Mya Turney of the Lady Dogs in the fifth helped regain the lead for them. Turney scored on a two out hit off the centerfield fence by Meagan Morehouse who was tagged out when she rounded first base too far to get back. Centerfielder Rylee Dougay and Beck at shortstop made good throws to allow Greenlea Oldham at first to make the putout to end the inning with Orangefield down by a run.

Central added to its lead in the sixth when Ryann Brooks homered over the leftfield fence. The Lady Dogs led 6-4 going to the bottom of the sixth.

Sanches who was three for three in the game singled with one out to start a rally. Curphey followed with a single, but the big play was an error by the Lady Dogs on a grounder by Emily Meyers that scored Sanches to cut the lead to one run. Paris Becker grounded to short to bring home courtesy runner Haylee Spears to tie the game 6-6 after six.

Curphey did her job in the top half of the seventh inning stopping the Lady

Dogs without a run after they got a hit to start the frame. The top of the order was due up for Orangefield in the bottom half with Hallee Becker and Beck the first two Lady Bobcats to hit.

Becker laid down a beautiful bunt which she beat out for a single. Beck fell behind in the count no balls and two strikes before blasting a drive to the fence in right centerfield easily scoring Hallee with the winning run.

Coach Ragsdale was ecstatic about the thrilling victory. "It was nice to see us come from behind. We really haven't had an opportunity much this year to do that, so, it was nice to see that we were resilient and we were gritty at the end. A walk off win is exciting, and we haven't had that in a long time, so, that was super exciting," Ragsdale shared.

A clinching victory was achieved in the second game played Friday, May 12. Orangefield won that game 4-1 over Central.

Pitcher Abigail Curphey was a star for the Lady Bobcats in the circle. Curphey gave up just one unearned run on five hits with no walks in seven innings striking out four Lady Dogs.

Aubree Beck continued to swing a big bat in the second game with three hits including two more doubles driving in Alysén Vincent twice for Lady Bobcat runs

in the fifth and in the seventh. For the two games Beck had six hits and barely missed another one when her line drive was snagged by the Central third baseman in the first game.

There were other Lady Bobcats that contributed as Curphey had two runs batted in during the sixth. Harleigh Rawls and Charlee Sanches scored on the key hit by Abigail to give Orangefield a 3-0 lead at the time.

Curphey got some great help from her fellow Lady Bobcats in the field. Paris Becker made a sensational catch in leftfield during the fifth inning to rob a Lady Dog of an extra base hit to end the inning. Catcher Rawls gave an extreme effort in catching a foul pop in the seventh to help end the season for Central.

The task does not get easier for Orangefield as it moves into the fourth round of the playoffs. The Lady Bobcats face the Grandview Zebras who are 36-2 on the season.

The playoff will be a one game matchup between Orangefield and Grandview. The game will be played Friday, May 19, at 6:30 PM in Navasota.

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# What Grief Taught Me About Love

**Vaneetha Rendall Risner**  
Regular Contributor  
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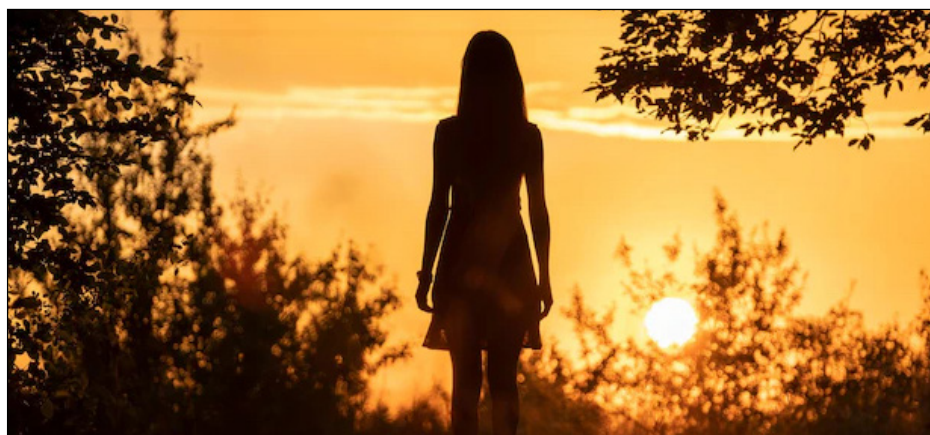
*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:21, 32)*

To me, this passage from John 11 is one of the most poignant in all the Gospels. It reflects the heartbreak of sisters who had been sure Jesus would save their brother — women who loved Jesus and sacrificed for him, a family that needed his help and called to him in their distress. Yet Jesus did not respond to his friends' urgent request. He sent no answer, but simply showed up after their brother was dead.

On the surface, this story is shocking. It doesn't fit with our definition of love. To us, love rescues and runs. Love doesn't wait. Love does everything possible to keep the beloved from pain. Yet in understanding how Jesus loved this family, I have seen the depth of his love for me in my own suffering.

## Lazarus's Last Breath

Days before the words above were spoken, Mary and Martha had sent a message to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was ill (John 11:3). They likely expected that Jesus would leave immediately to see his dear friend, or perhaps even heal him right there with a word. They knew he was the coming Christ, the Son of God, and that God would give him whatever he asked (John 11:22, 27). They had



witnessed Jesus heal countless strangers, responding without delay to their requests for help. Surely he would show up for his friends.

Yet Jesus didn't respond to their urgent need, choosing to stay where he was for two whole days (John 11:6). He told the disciples that Lazarus's illness was for the glory of God, that he himself would be glorified through it, and that others would believe because of it (John 11:4, 14–15). At the same time, Jesus knew his intentional delay would bewilder his friends.

I imagine the sisters waiting by the window where Lazarus lay dying, straining to see if Jesus was coming. I picture them reassuring each other that Jesus would surely arrive in time to heal Lazarus. I wonder what each was thinking as Lazarus took his last breath. Were they disappointed and disillusioned with Jesus, even questioning their relationship with him? Did they wonder if Jesus even cared? Did they doubt whether Jesus was the Savior they hoped him to be?

Whatever inner turmoil

they were feeling, the sisters had to go on. They needed to bury Lazarus and prepare their home, which would be flooded with people who would come to console them.

## Jesus with the Sisters

In the middle of their grieving, Jesus arrived. The sisters independently met him and uttered the same plaintive words: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21, 32). Though they had lost hope of ever seeing their brother again, neither ran from Jesus in their despair, or stayed aloof to protect themselves, or pretended his inaction hadn't hurt them. Instead, they went to Jesus, directly telling him how they felt.

Jesus responded differently to each sister, knowing what each needed. Martha needed truth; she needed to understand and reaffirm her belief in Jesus as God's Son. Jesus told her that he was the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believed in him would never die (John 11:25–26).

And later, he assured her that if she believed, she would see the glory of God (John 11:40). Mary, on the other hand, needed tears and comfort, and she wept at Jesus's feet as soon as she saw him (John 11:32). Jesus wept with her (John 11:35).

Then, of course, Jesus told them to remove the stone, and he commanded Lazarus to come out. And Lazarus walked out of the grave (John 11:38–44)!

## Following Mary and Martha

I remember reading the Bible one night when my world was splintering. I had been crying in the dark, wondering how I could go on. The unthinkable had happened, and I couldn't understand why God hadn't stopped it. I had been faithful. I loved Jesus and knew he loved me. So why hadn't he rescued me from my nightmares?

I got up, pulled on my robe, and opened my Bible to John 11. As I reread this familiar story, I identified with Mary and Martha's words to Jesus. If Jesus had shown up for me, this never

would have happened. Since he didn't respond to my pleading, my begging him to fix it, it seemed like he had abandoned me when I needed him most.

Yet I saw that even in their despair, the sisters went directly to Jesus, their words intimating their unspoken question: Why didn't you come? I realized that I needed to go to him too. I told him my frustrations and fears, my utter disappointment that he hadn't shown up for me. I asked him to help me, to meet me as he met these sisters, that I might see the glory of God as well.

## Glory in My Grief

I approached Jesus feeling desperate, full of raw emotion, terrified of the free fall I was experiencing. Nothing felt stable or familiar. And yet, in that moment, God came near. I felt the unmistakable sense of his presence and love, coupled with the absolute assurance that everything was under control. There was purpose to my pain, even when I couldn't understand it, even when all I could see was loss.

I realized that God was giving me a sight of his glory. I sat in the stillness of the night, bent over my Bible, tears streaming down my face. This glimpse of God's glory was far better than a pain-free life. Being with God, having his guidance, knowing he will one day receive me into glory was all I needed. I finally saw why letting Lazarus die was the most loving thing Jesus could do for this family. He knew that helping them see the glory of God firsthand was the greatest

gift imaginable. It would cement their belief in him, their certainty that he was indeed the Son of God, and their assurance that Jesus had power over death.

## God's Greatest Act of Love

The most loving thing God can do is to show us his glory. All physical healing is temporary since we will eventually die (unless he returns first). But anything that helps us see and experience God's glory will last throughout eternity. It will change us. It will help us treasure Christ and will give us lasting joy. Believing in Christ, seeing the glory of God, is a gift. Not everyone sees it. Those who have experienced it will view their life and their suffering with new eyes, in light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

From this story, we see that God's love does not shield us from suffering. The pain of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, people whom Jesus dearly loved, was real and intense. They had to wait in the dark, wondering why Jesus hadn't shown up. He cared about their pain, weeping with them as he saw their grief, all the while certain that their grief would turn to joy.

Our grief will also turn to joy — on earth, as we see and are satisfied in God, and ultimately in heaven, when we see him face to face.

The most loving thing that God can do is to increase our faith in him, to show us his glory, to help us find our satisfaction in him. Truly, if we believe, we will see the glory of God.

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