

# County Record

Vol. 64 No. 01

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Week of Wednesday, May 31, 2023



## Pro fishing returns to OC this weekend

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

Orange and the Sabine River will be the focus of the nationwide Bassmasters Elite professional fishing tournament this weekend as the county hosts its fifth tournament and River Festival.

The tournament will run Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with the professional weigh-in from the exclusive Bassmasters stage will be each day at 3 p.m. at the Orange Boat Ramp off Simmons Drive.

Besides the fishing attractions, families will find local food booths, a kids fishing tank, kids activities, and evening concerts. Entrance is free.

Two years ago, the tournament drew 40,000 people to the four-day event, a national record for Bassmasters. It will be the fifth Sabine River Bassmasters tournament in 10 years.

Local entities and sponsors help to raise the money

to attract the event. Cities and the county use the hotel occupancy tax, charged by hotels for each night spent in a room, to help. And each previous tournament has filled hotels across the county, generating even more of the taxes.

Visitors include the professional anglers and the Bassmasters organization personnel. In addition, the professional circuit's national sponsors like Toyota, Mercury, Yamaha, Ranger Boats, Bass Pro Shops, Skeeter Boats, Hummingbird, and Minn Kota, set up booths and displays.

The professional anglers have been in the county for days as they launch at the boat ramp and scout the waters practicing. They also make appearances across town, attracting fans young and old who are excited to meet the heroes they have come to love through television, Internet, and magazines.

**PRO FISHING Page 3A**

## Volunteers live at Bassmasters site keep event running

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

Orange County has an elite group that gets to stay at the big fishing tournament and river festival all weekend long. All they have to do to reach the status is work as a volunteer 20 hours a day for at least four days, plus dozens of more hours during the week.

They set up what is now called "Camp Bass," which is a group of six or seven RVs that the volunteers bring so they can spend the night at the Boat Ramp and Riverside Park for the four-

day long Bassmasters Elite tournament.

This year will be the fifth time Orange County has hosted the national professional tournament, and through the years, the local volunteers keep improving their methods of handling crowds. The tournament and Sabine River Festival two years ago drew 40,000 people.

Volunteer Steve Jones said local business owner David Jones dubbed the group of RVs as "Camp

**BASSMASTER Page 3A**

## Heritage House Museum pays tribute to water sports

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

The two major rivers, along with Sabine Lake, and several bayous have provided centuries of indigenous people and settlers a way to travel, eat, and relax.

Orange County's waterways are now drawing national attention through professional fishing tournaments, but fishing has always been important to residents. The indigenous Attakapa ate fish, shellfish, and alligators, along with lotus and cattail roots.

To pay tribute to the waterways and the long history of fishing and water sports, the Heritage House Museum has a small exhibit featuring old photographs and fishing memorabilia on display.

The exhibit includes a collection from the late fishing guide Dickie Colburn, plus photos and artifacts from the Aqua Demons and Debs, an acrobatic ski team. Also a display has information and photos of the Bailey family of Bridge City and their fish camps.

Vintage fishing poles and lures are part of the exhibit, that also includes an old boat motor and 1950s pair of water skies.

Adam Conrad, president of the Heritage House board of directors, said the museum wants to showcase the long history of the county's love, and dependence on the waterways.

Richard 'Dickie' Colburn was a descendant of a longtime Orange family and grew up fishing along the waterways. He was a football star at Stark High School and then McNeese State University.

After spending time as a teacher-coach, he returned to Orange in 1977, when he and his wife, Karen, opened The Fishing Hole tackle shop. He be-



Heritage House Museum of Orange County is having a special exhibit of 'On the Water: Our Favorite Pastime' featuring stories, old photos and memorabilia about fishing and water sports. The exhibit features items and pictures of the Aqua Demons and Debs, a local 1950s-1960s water-ski stunt team that put on public shows in the Sabine River that drew crowds. Hubert and Margaret Spradline, along with Charles and Joette Webb, were among the members.



Russell Bottley and Karen Colburn show one of Dickie's photo albums of fishing through the years.

came a fishing guide and boat captain, renowned for his expertise in know-

ing the biting patterns of various fish and what baits or lures to use.

He shared his knowl-

**WATER Page 3A**

## W.H. Stark House's Summer Reading Fest

**STAFF REPORT**  
**For The Record**

It is elementary, my dear Watson, that you would not want to miss the Summer Reading Festival this year. British writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, is the theme of The W.H. Stark House's Fourth An-

nual Summer Reading Festival on June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is free of charge and open to children ages 0-18 and their grown-ups, but advance registration is required. Register at [whstarkhouse.org](http://whstarkhouse.org) by May 26.

"Each year we choose a book from Miriam Lutzer Stark's extensive library to

be the theme of the festival," said The W.H. Stark House Programming and Site Manager Tabitha Henderson. "It's going to be a wonderful celebration of reading and fun for the whole family."

A highlight of the event is that each registered child will be given an age-appropriate version of a Sherlock

Holmes book. At the event, guests will meet characters from Sherlock Holmes' adventures, visit activity stations, solve a mystery and receive their book.

The W.H. Stark House is located at 610 Main Avenue in Orange, TX. For more information visit [whstarkhouse.org](http://whstarkhouse.org) or call (409) 883-3513, ext. 2031



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# Shangri La to host Sip and Stroll summer series

**Staff Report  
For The Record**

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center invites the public to experience the gardens after-hours during their Sip and Stroll event series on May 11, May 25 and June 15 from 5-8 p.m. This event is a collaboration with Free State Cellars. All Sip and Stroll events are free of charge.

Discover all the gardens have to offer during this unique, after-hours experience. Visitors may pre-order picnic boxes and bottles of wine from Free State prior to the event. A limited supply of picnic boxes will be available for purchase on site. Visitors may also enjoy drinks by the glass and



This event is a collaboration with Free State Cellars. All Sip and Stroll events are free of charge.



Visitors may also enjoy drinks by the glass and non-alcoholic selections.

non-alcoholic selections from Gin Atomic Traveling Cocktails camper. This evening event takes place during golden hour at Shangri La Gardens, which provides an excellent opportunity to capture all Mother Nature has to offer.

"We invite the public to

experience Shangri La in a different light. This summer, we are opening the garden on three different dates after-hours for our guests to enjoy being outdoors," said Angie Mason, executive director of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. "We are

thrilled for Free State Cellars to be a part of these special evenings."

Visitors are welcome to bring a blanket to sit on while they enjoy local artisanal wines, craft sangrias and delicious charcuterie. The last entry is at 7:30 p.m.

Shangri La is a 250 plus

acre outdoor oasis in Orange, Texas, located along the waterways of Adams Bayou that combines botanical gardens and an education nature center in a unique way. Visitors are encouraged to stroll along garden paths surrounded by fragrant flowers, bird

watch and take in the beauty of the grounds. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, visitors can take a naturalist-led excursion along Adams Bayou to see the wonders of nature, learn about the environment and its care, discover animals in their natural habitats and spend time with friends and family. Enjoy the Children's Garden that delights the young and young-at-heart and gain a new sense of environmental stewardship.

Located at 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange, Texas, Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last entry at 4:30 p.m.). Entrance to Shangri La Gardens is free of charge.

# Stark Museum of Art previews bass art for Bassmaster Series

**Staff Report  
For The Record**

The Stark Museum of Art has installed a new acquisition just in time for the influx of professional anglers and fishing fans to the area for the Bassmaster Elite Tournament on the Sabine River, the highest level of professional bass fishing tournament.

Artist Tom Windham's painting, "Trophy Room," is a beautiful depiction of a largemouth bass, with a twist.

Windham transposed the concept of a "trophy room." In this painting, the largemouth bass is not a taxidermed mount. This wily fish has avoided the hooks of countless anglers. It collected a wide ar-



Tom Windham (1952 - 2022), "Trophy Room," c. 2017, oil on canvas, 15 7/8 x 19 7/8 inches, Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas, Gift of the Artist's Family, 2022, 2022.3.1

ray of colorful lures and now exhibits them as trophies in its underwater home.

"We at the Stark Museum

of Art are delighted to add this work of art to the collection," said SMA Curator Sarah Boehme. "The subject will have relevance to

many anglers and hunters in our audience who have pursued elusive quarry, and the painting brings a little humor into our galleries. We invite those attending the Bassmaster Elite Series, as well as the public, to come enjoy our air conditioning and view "Trophy Room."

Windham, a native of Orange, TX, studied art at Lamar University and Stephen F. Austin University and then worked as a staff artist at "American Angler" magazine. Later he devoted himself to his fine art career.

The painting was a gift to the Museum from the artist's family. It is on view in Gallery 3, which features other works by 20th and 21st century American

Western artists.

Along with the new acquisition, visitors to the museum can also see the Guinness World Record Largest Published Book in the World "I Am Texas," "A Noble Pastime: Hunting Pictures from the Collection of the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation," "Steu-ben Glass: Stories Engraved in Crystal," selections of American Western art from the SMA collection and the

new "Welcome to Color: Stark Cultural Venues Coloring Book," as well as pick up coloring sheets to work on at home.

The Stark Museum of Art is located at 712 Green Avenue in Orange, Texas and is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information visit starkmuseum.org or call (409) 886-2787.

## CHANGE

**Sen. Carl Parker  
For The Record**

How and why has there been such a shift in politics in Southeast Texas? When I was growing up and running for office, Southeast Texas was the bright spot. The capitol income in Jefferson and Orange Counties was the highest in the state and near the top in teacher pay. Unemployment was virtually unheard of. Much of this prosperity was due to the strong unionization of wage earners in the state. Almost all local elected officials were Democrats.

During this period of time, winning an election, local or otherwise without union support was nigh to impossible. Now winning an election requires running as a Republican. With the number of high wage earners in these counties I find it difficult to under-



Former State Senator Carl Parker

stand why there was such a quick change in party loyalty. The shift is hard for me to understand, particularly because there exists so many reasons that members of labor would change as they have.

Carl Parker is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

The Republican party has fought so many things consistent with benefits to working Texans that it is difficult to believe. As an example, the minimum wage in Texas is \$7.25 per hour and has been that for over thirty years. Texas is one of the most difficult states in which to form a union and acquire added benefits such as family leave, time off to be able to cast ballots and many other provisions favorable to workers existing in most other states.

Industrial deaths and injuries are the highest than any state in the union as well as deaths related to environmental concerns and yet our state Republican leaders still refuse to address health care even though Texas leads the nation in citizens without medical insurance.

The shift in politics not only surprises me, it causes me to question whether I knew as much about politics as I have always thought I did.

**The Record Newspapers**  
of Orange County, Texas

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## Pro fishing returns From Page 1

The professional anglers wear colorful shirts full of sponsor logos and their boats are also as colorful.

With the fishermen and their support teams, plus all the Bassmasters personnel and out-of-town sponsors' personnel, they spend their money across the county on things like gasoline, restaurants, and stores, adding more income to the local econo-

my.

Bassmasters Elite are the top anglers from previous year's different Bassmasters tournaments like open entry ones and the Bassmasters Classic. For 2023, the Elite series will have nine tournaments with a total prize payout of \$6.9 million. The angler with the most weight for a four-day tournament will win cash in six figures.

Bassmasters Bob Downey has made his fantasy fishing predictions for the Sabine River tournament this year with Mike Iaconelli coming in first, with other winners Greg Hackney, who won in Orange's last summer tournament, Brock Moseley, Caleb Kuphall, and Bradley Hallman.

More than 100 pro fisherman will launch from

the Boat Ramp each morning at 6 a.m., or first viable light. The National Weather Service's forecast calls for sunny, warm days, with maybe a slight chance of showers.

However, even rain doesn't stop the fishing and the fans. One year here, some seven inches of rain fell during the tournament, but hundreds of fans came out in their boots and rain gear to watch the weigh-ins.

The Bassmaster stage is

the center of attention every afternoon at 3 p.m. as each angler goes up to weigh their catches and find the standings. Fans bring folding chairs and sit to watch and cheer their favorites.

The organization has a catch-and-release policy, with the fish put in a special tank after they are weighed. The fish are later released back into the river.

In the evenings, live bands will be performing

at the city of Orange's covered Riverside Pavilion. Thursday at 7 p.m. will feature Casey Chesnutt with country music. At 8 p.m. Friday, The Molly Ringwalds, a band that plays retro-'80s music, will play. Saturday's lineup has two concerts, Cole Whittlesey will perform at 6:30 p.m. and then the Randy Rogers Band at 8:30 p.m.

The Orange County River Festival will officially open at 1 p.m. Thursday.

## Water sports in history From Page 1

edge in newspaper columns in The Record newspapers and magazines. Roy Dunn, owner of The Record newspapers, said people from Jefferson County would drive to Orange County to pick up the paper just to read Colburn's column. He was that renowned among avid anglers.

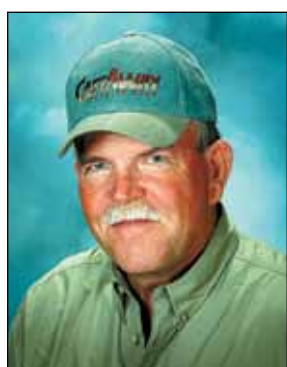
In addition, Colburn was an accomplished artist. The exhibit features a pen and watercolor work he did of an old fishing camp shack along the East Pass.

Colburn died at the age of 75 in 2021.

The Aqua Demons and Debs trick skiing group was formed in the early 1950s by Hubert Spradling and Charles Webb after they handmade a pair of water skis after seeing a pattern in Popular Mechanics magazine. Their wives, Margaret Spradling and Joette Webb, along with some other local residents formed the team that became renounced across the region.

The crescent of the Sabine River in downtown Orange for many years had a ski ramp in the middle for the team to display their trick jumps. A pyramid formation of the women riding on the top of the shoulders of the men on skis was a big stunt.

The Aqua Demons and



**Dickie Colburn**

Debs would often put on shows in the river downtown with crowds of people lining the riverbanks to watch.

The Bailey family in what is now Bridge City played an important role in the fishing history of Orange County.

Back in 1926, when the area was known as Prairie View, Henry and Mary Bailey opened a roadhouse-bait shop at the end of Ferry Road, where a ferry was the only way across the Neches River to Jefferson County. Henry and Mary were survivors of the 1900 Galveston hurricane and had 10 children.

Their business served fried fish, gumbo, and other foods to people waiting for the ferry. They also sold gasoline, beer, and bait for people wanting to fish along the waterways.

After the Rainbow Bridge

opened in 1938, the Baileys continued with their roadhouse and added an upstairs dancehall. Eventually, son Rob Bailey opened his own fish camp with boat launches at the end of the road, and son Fred Bailey ran a bar and a fishing pier. Rob didn't sell beer, and Fred didn't sell bait. However, their brother, Joe Bailey, sold both beer and bait from his fish camp on Cow Bayou. Though he was in the same town, he was too far away to compete with his brothers.

The exhibit is on display in the Heritage House Museum's Williams Building, behind the 1902 Sims house. Heritage House Museum complex is at 901 West Division Avenue, west of the Orange County Courthouse.

The exhibit will be open during regular operating hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays through the end of June. Visitors should check in to the administration building in the back. For more information or to arrange a tour, call 409-886-5385. With an advance reservation for groups, the board can open the exhibit during non-regular hours. The museum has a small fee to tour the historic 1902 house.

## Bassmasters volunteers From Page 1

Bass."

"I don't get to bed until 1 a.m. and then I have to get up at 4 a.m.," he said. "It just makes sense to stay here."

Jones is a retired Orange Police Department major. The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, which helps sponsor and organize the four-day event, asked him in 2013 to help with the first tournament. He used his police knowledge to help organize parking and traffic patterns for the tournament.

For Jones, it's a family affair. His wife, Kay, along with their grown daughter and teenage granddaughter also volunteer during the week, though Kay said she goes home at night to sleep.

Others who will camp there include Jones, whose Gopher Industrial is sponsoring two concerts and the kids fish tank, was in the original group to stay. Others include Chamber President Ida Schossow, her late husband, Tim, and County Judge John Gothia.

Gothia was still working in the private sector when Orange County held its first Bassmasters. He and Schossow were instrumental in getting the professional organization here.

Jones on Tuesday morning was with his family riding through the grounds in a golf car. He was waiting for the tent company to deliver and set up the needed tents for the tournament and festival. Also, portable toilets were scheduled to be delivered.

"We've got this down to a well-oiled machine," he said.

For the core volunteers, sleeping on the grounds is the only way they can grab a couple of hours of shut-eye. Jones said by time the nightly concert ends and the band packs up, then the trash is gathered, it's 1 in the morning.

The volunteers get up at 4

a.m. to be able to assist and direct the more than 100 professional anglers who will be launching and then taking off in the water at 6 a.m. Jones said 90 fishing marshals will be accompanying the anglers in their boats. The marshal, who ride with the anglers to assure rules are followed, need to be directed to their parking area. Then volunteers drive them to the launch ramps in golf cars or ATVs. The vehicles are loaned by individuals for the event.

Jones praised the city of Orange for helping develop the Boat Ramp area to accommodate more activities. The city built a covered pavilion with stage area and back loading area at the site for the bands to play, even in the rain. The covered Riverside Pavilion also has a concrete floor for audiences to place their lawn chairs.

In addition, the city built air-conditioned bathrooms, and Camp Bass is set up nearby. Even though the bathrooms are close, the volunteers in the camp shower in the RVs. Though those bathrooms are open to the public, Jones said the crowds are so large that portable toilet stalls are needed to be set up around the grounds.

The city also took down the fences at the old Simmons Field Park across Simmons Drive from the Boat Ramp to make more room for parking nearby.

Tuesday morning, volunteers Butch Campbell, John Semien, and Russell Bottley were already there helping where they could. Jones said Bottley, who is a West Orange-Stark High athletic coach whose duties include coaching the schools bass fishing team, works at the tournament before dawn, then will go to the school to open the weight room for students, and then go back

to the tournament.

Volunteers are needed to help with many aspects of the local tournament and festival. People interested in volunteering may contact the chamber of commerce or go to the Boat Ramp grounds before Thursday. Not everyone is expected to put in a 20-hour day, but a few hours on one day will help.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### EFFORT TO IMPEACH KEN PAXTON LED BY FELLOW REPUBLICANS

The years of alleged misconduct by Paxton raise the question: Why now? House leaders have said the committee's investigation was prompted by a \$3.3 million settlement that Paxton reached with the whistleblowers in February. Paxton needed the Legislature to approve the use of state funds to settle the lawsuit — and quickly encountered resistance. House Speaker Dade Phelan was the first Republican in the Legislature to come out against using taxpayer dollars to pay for the settlement. Republicans have chosen to remain largely silent during years of alleged misconduct and lawbreaking by the attorney general. Now they will have to take a public stand. For nearly a decade, Texas Republicans largely looked the other way as Attorney General Ken Paxton's legal problems piled up. Twenty articles of impeachment have been filed against Paxton, who has closely aligned himself with Donald Trump over the years, but the former president has yet to come to the attorney general's defense. And in an interview Thursday with WFAA, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick declined to stick up for Paxton, pointing out that he may have to preside over a Senate trial. To send the matter to a trial in the Texas Senate, a majority of the 149-member House must approve a resolution containing the articles of impeachment. While all 64 House Democrats can be expected to vote to impeach Paxton, early reaction among House Republicans was mixed Thursday night and Friday morning. Paxton's wife is a state senator. She knows about his misdeeds and mistress, this could affect her vote. It will be interesting to see what Sen. Robert Nichols does.

### REMEMBERING JOE PAYNE "A PRINCE OF A GUY"

Our Friend Joseph Daniel Payne, Sr., age 90, passed away on May 24, 2023. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. at Ninth and Elm Church of Christ. I was sad to learn of Joe's passing. In the past, at least three days a week we worked out of the same building on Henrietta, Street, he for Donnie Harmon and me for this newspaper. A visit with Joe was like attending a class. I always learned something new from him, plus I loved his stories. We old folks went underground because of the COVID scare and those years saw our health declining. The Payne family came to Orange about 1940, and Joe graduated from Stark High. Sometime between those years the family lived in San Antonio. One of his neighbors just around the corner was comedian Carol Burnett, who was a couple years younger than Joe. He could recite her home address even in later years. I don't recall his wife Dee's maiden name but during the time she and Joe went out together and after their marriage, her father operated the movie theaters in Orange. Joe said he got to see all the movies free, plus he learned to operate the projector. This was in the early 50s when the film would break and had to be spliced together. He learned a lot and recalled a lot about the movies. Dee was an operating room nurse and Joe a car salesman, a good one who was so low pressure Corky Harmon said the customer had to almost ask Joe to please sell him that car. Besides golf, he and Dee played Tournament Bridge. They raised a great family. Our condolences go out to Dee and their offspring. A good man has left us. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary.

### BILL "THE OLD ENGINEER" IS GONE

After completing the column and turning it in, I learned that my friend Bill Smith had passed away on May 28, at age 93. I didn't want this issue to go to press without expressing my condolences for the one time publisher of The Penny Record. William Elmer Smith, a native of Wilton, Arkansas, was an old-school KCS railroad locomotive engineer. Bill always reminded me of the old railroad break-man singer, Jimmie Rogers, who sang songs about the time in Bill Smith's youth, times of the depression. "All around the water tank just waiting for a train." The song was also about those who got caught trying to free-ride across the country. "Get off, get off you railroad bums and the conductor slammed the boxcar door." I loved Bill's railroad stories. He was a good man who did a lot for our little town along with his wife Betty. Bill will be laid to rest at the place of his birth. I'm so thankful I got to know him. The old engineer is gone. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary.

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

The 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's death will bring months of tributes, ending with the saddest of all November anniversaries on November 22. Many speeches, books, magazines, news stories, television specials and admirers will pay tribute to the forever youthful president who inspired millions and was cut down in his prime in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. He's frozen in the minds of all of us

who recall the event. To some degree, the JFK legacy has affected some presidents who followed him. That includes President Obama, whose name will be invoked in three anniversaries to be celebrated next month, June 10, June 16, and a trip Obama will make to Berlin ahead of the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. Get ready to know JFK again. (Editor's note: To us old enough, Kennedy and his murder 60 years ago, was brought into our homes by television just minutes after the fact. That vision has never left our consciousness. You can also expect the conspiracy theorists to come with a slew of books. Forgotten in the six month celebration will be that Nov. 22 which also marks 60 years since LBJ become United States president. Our friend Mildred Lemoine, who is Judge Janice's sister, has been in a Houston hospital since February, nearly four months. (Mildred and Janice are both gone now.) May 30 is a very important day in the Dunn family. It's the day Roy and Phyl's first grandchild and Mark's first daughter came along. Happy birthday to Dr. Amber Dunn. The Wednesday Lunch Bunch will dine at Novrozsky's this week and will be at Robert's next week when Roy celebrates his 79th birthday.

### 24 Years Ago-1999

Attorney Sharon Bearden held his annual bar party last week outside, behind he and Wayne Peveto's office building. Pickup trucks were used for sitting. Lawyer friends accused Bearden of making a windfall he wasn't telling about. Sharon is known to be the most conservative liberal in these parts. Come December he will be saving a bunch when he quits sending money to Texas Tech. That's where Jim Sharon is attending law school. While Judge Pat Clark is home recovering, a lady district judge from Houston, named Judge Dunn, will take his place. Two Judge Dunn's at the courthouse this week. Lester "Buckshot" Winfree was named "Small Businessman of the year" by the Bridge City Chamber and Scored Chapter 521. He owns Winfree Rice and Cattle Company. The son of Lawrence and Gladys Winfree was born June 24, 1939. In the 4A baseball playoffs, after LCM lost game 1 at home 5-4, senior left-hander Josh Grey pitched a shutout in game 2 to give the Bears a 6-0 win and another chance in the playoffs. The Bears dealt the death blow to Carthage's hopes in game 3 with an 11-5 victory. Grey pitched three scoreless innings. The Bears meet Brenham next in the quarter finals. Meanwhile, the Orangefield Bobcats squeezed by Huntington 5-4. Jeff Smith is Bobcat coach. They play powerful Lufkin Hudson next in a winner take all game. Orangefield was District 23-3A champions.

### 49 Years Ago-1974

Granny Harper's birthday was celebrated in style with a big jumbo--35 gallons. The whole gang showed up at Millie's Harper Valley place in Mauriceville. These are great folks. Jack King is elected zone chairman of the Lions Club at the district convention in Galveston. Wally Fowler, gospel singer, formerly with the Oak Ridge Quartet, visits Orange. He and Roy Dunn spend a day exchanging stories about when they both traveled with Dudley J. LeBlanc's Hadacol Caravan. Wally was at the height of his career and many of his songs were recorded by other artists. He was the first to bring Hank Williams to Nashville and was responsible for much of Eddie Arnold's success. Fowler gave Roy an autographed copy of his new album, "Jesus." The McCullums open a music store on short Sixth Street in downtown Orange. Plans are all made for the big annual Water Festival to be held next weekend. Orange Rainbow Assembly No. 48 installs officers. Alicia Annette Young is installed as Worthy Advisor; DeDe Phillips, Worthy Associate; Kellie Hogg, Charity; Sunny Phillips, Hope; Kim McCauley, Faith; Hostesses, Vivian Powell, Theda Ladd, Maxine Williams, Carolyn Calvo and Betty Hinson. Coach Arien "Bubba" Moye, WO trainer, is leaving. Coach Glen Green says, "We'll miss him."

### LUNCH BUNCH CELEBRATES 32 YEARS

On June 7, the Wednesday Lunch Bunch will gather at Robert's to celebrate a reunion and also to observe Roy Dunn's 89th birthday. He was one of the founders, along with Judge Grover Halliburton and Judge Claude Wimberly. Dunn celebrated his 69th and 79th birthdays with the Bunch. Robert's has photos of the past reunion events. A group photo is planned. Pass the word, old or new, everyone is welcome. This will be the first opportunity for some to meet in over two years. All WWII Veterans are invited and will be the guest of the Lunch Bunch. It's one of the Bunch's ways to show appreciation to these great men. Y'all come.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

With Father Jim Sichko, a stop in Orange came first before flying off to Rome to meet again with Pope Francis. Father Sichko, who grew up here, came back for three special masses to mark the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Last week's County Record featured a story about the famous priest's homecoming and the three masses. At St. Mary Catholic Church, where Father Sichko grew up, the parish priest Father Antony Paulose held up a copy of the paper from the pulpit showing off the article about Father Sichko and how he has brought the pope bourbon. Pope Francis appoint Father Sichko as a special Papal Minister of Mercy. Memorial Day weekend kicked off the summer season and traveling for a number of people. Felicia Conway and son Noah visited San Antonio, taking in the sights and restaurants. County Commissioner Johnny Trahan and wife, Becky, had their friends and family up to their lake house, including their daughter and son-in-law, Cody and Michal Tant. Little grandson Case likes the water, but not the mud. Longtime friends Rosalie Eason and Cindy Claybar enjoyed their family time at Lake Sam Rayburn. Hammon and Glenda Thompson went to see their grands in Cypress, then took in an Astros game at Minute Maid Park. Country music songwriting legend Dean

Dillon performed at The Oaks in Vidor on Friday with the crowd including Rodney and Dr. Amy Townsend, and Gary and Angie Stelly. Lots of graduation ceremonies were held for the high schools across the county last week. Margie Stephens reports she made it through the ceremony at Bridge City High without tears as granddaughter Jacelyn Duval walked across the stage for her diploma. Probably no one in the county is prouder than Bianca Garrett as her daughter, T'Erta graduated from West Orange-Stark. T'Erta was a star athlete and is going to Blinn College on a softball scholarship. In addition, T'Erta was a member of the National Honor Society and prom queen this year. The extended Colburn family attended the reception opening at Heritage House Museum's "On the Water, Our Favorite Pastime" exhibit. Karen Colburn, the widow of the late fishing guide and Record newspapers columnist Dickie Colburn, loaned some of his fishing collection for the exhibit, timed to go with the big Bassmasters Elite tournament this week. Dickie's brother, Jeep and wife, Carolyn, came, as did his sister, Pauline Hargrove. Angler extraordinaire Russell Bottley stopped by, as did the Record's Dan Perrine with wife, Marcia, and son, Matthew. Orange chamber president Ida Schossow took in the local history that includes the 1950s ski team the Aqua Demons and Debs. Shari Spradling, whose late parents Hubert and Margaret Spradling, who started the group, loaned some of her collection. Museum Director Charlotte Alford oversaw the exhibit and refreshments. Museum board members Kimberly Manning, Peggy Wells, and Geraldyn Vine helped to set up the exhibit. Board member Lori Ardoin greeted guests during the reception and marveled at displays. Of course, everyone has a fishing or boating story to tell. Jacques Phelps celebrated her 95th birthday this past week as the end of May seems to have been a popular time to have babies. Lots of people were blowing out candles. JoJo Harris of Farmers Mercantile marked the big 5-0 and as a birthday wish, collected donations for the Special Angels Rodeo for special needs children and adults. It's the Harris family's gift to Orange. State District Judge Rex Peveto finished another trip around the sun. Anniversaries this past week included Barry and Maureen Bates celebrating No. 22, and Babette and Mark Philpott with another year. Phillip Welch has nothing but praise for his new county commissioner Chris Sowell. "That guy gets the job done," says Phillip. Since retiring former sheriff Keith Merritt and Marlene have been busy helping their boys. One is starting a new business in Midland-Odessa, the other building a new home at Sam Rayburn. Hope to see the Merritt's soon.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. May 31: Haley Duhon, Brad Spooner, Rebecca Cartwright, Jeannette Foster, Macey Joubert. June 1: Gabrielle Smith, Linda Wolford, Shirley Griffin, Rollie Gardner. June 2: Shilo Carr, Debbie Crews, Peter Modica Jr., Julie Lummus, Kayla Hickey, Miranda McClure. June 3: Tanya Thibodeaux-Molley, Herman Dupuis, David Lopez, Harold Trantham. June 4: Barbara Hangman, Brittany Yu, Glenn Fisher, Paige Ousley, Jade Ousley, Sandra Hoke, Donna Benefield. June 5: Tim Hughes, Joyce Dowdle, Roy Dunn, Carrie Prouse, Trey Wild, Chris Andes, Matt Ortega, Hunter Puckett, Brenda Howard, Gena Guyote. June 6: Sonia Smith, Amanda Rainwater, Ryan Gunstream, Lorrie LeBlanc, Ed Worthy Jr., Sherilyn Brister, Gail Griffith, Kelsey Miller.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Every night right after it got dark Leroy Desomeaux, a bird lover, would go out in da backyard and hoot like an owl, hoping to attract one. After a few days, Leroy's plan worked. One night an owl, wit a deep voice, started answering him. For a year, every night Leroy an dat owl hooted back and forth to one an utta. Leroy him, even kept a log of dere nightly conversations.

Leroy thought he was on da verge of a breakthrough in interspecies communication wen his wife, Marie, had a chat wit her neighbor Mary Lou.

"My husband Leroy him, spends his night calling out to da owls," Marie said.

"Mais, dat's odd, so does my husband Sustan. For bout a year, every night he talks to an owl him."

### C'EST TOUT The Soldier's Truth:

#### Ernie Pyle and the Story of World War II

A beautiful reckoning with the life and work of the legendary journalist Ernie Pyle, who gave World War II a human face for millions of Americans even as he wrestled with his own demons. At the height of his fame and influence during World War II, Ernie Pyle's nationally syndicated dispatches from combat zones shaped America's understanding of what the war felt like to ordinary soldiers, as no writer's work had before or has since. From the beaches of Anzio to the beaches of Normandy, and on to the war in the Pacific, where he would meet his end, Ernie Pyle had a genius for connecting with his beloved dogfaced grunts. A humble man, himself plagued by melancholy and tortured by marriage to a partner whose mental health struggles were much more acute than his own. While never defeatist, his stories left no doubt as to the heavy weight of the burden soldiers carried. In The Soldier's Truth, acclaimed writer David Chrisinger brings Pyle's journey to vivid life in all its heroism and pathos. Drawing on access to all of Pyle's personal correspondence, his book captures every dramatic turn of Pyle's war. A moving tribute to an ordinary American hero whose impact on the war is still too little understood, and a powerful account of that war's impact and how it is remembered, The Soldier's Truth takes its place among the essential contributions to our perception of war and how we make sense of it. My thoughts turn to my many WWII friends now gone. A great book to collect, to pass on to the next generation, far removed from Granddad's great war. Take care and God bless.



## Deaths & Memorials

### William "Bill" Elmer Smith, 92, BC

William "Bill" Elmer Smith, beloved husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa, dedicated veteran, esteemed community member, and successful entrepreneur, passed away on Sunday, May 28, 2023. His loss is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and remarkable achievements that will be cherished forever.



William Smith

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 2, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend Brandon Hansen. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Wilton Cemetery in Wilton, Arkansas.

Visitation will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born on August 11, 1930 in Wilton, Arkansas, William was destined for a life of purpose and impact. In 1952, he embarked on a lifelong journey with his beloved wife, Betty Ruth Smith, whom he cherished and adored. Their union was a testament to the enduring power of love, as they shared over 57 years of unwavering commitment and devotion until Betty's passing in 2009.

William served his country with honor and distinction during the Korean War Conflict. From 1948 to 1951, he valiantly stood alongside his comrades along the Pusan Perimeter, displaying courage and bravery in the face of adversity. William was very proud of time he served defending our country, and shared his many stories with anyone he met.

Throughout his life, William was an active and engaged member of his community.

He was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Methodist Church.

William had many contributions to the Bridge City area, and was recognized in 2013 as the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for his exceptional service. As a lifelong ambassador of the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, William actively supported and promoted local businesses and economic growth. His long-standing membership was a testament to his unwavering commitment to the betterment of the community he loved.

William dedicated 33 years of his life to the KCS Railroad where he was a locomotive engineer which was his dream job, retiring in 1989.

For 42 years, William was an esteemed member of the Bridge City-Orangefield Rotary Club, where he received numerous awards and accolades for his outstanding contributions. His dedication to the club's mission of service above self was unwavering, and his impact on the community through Rotary initiatives was immeasurable. He looked forward with eagerness to his Thursday lunch meetings with his fellow rotarians.

Additionally, he was a respected member of the Mason 1345, embodying the Masonic values of brotherhood, morality, and charity. He was also in the El Mina Shriners.

Bill Smith also served as a Council member on the Bridge City City Council for a number of years.

In 1975, Bill embarked on a new entrepreneurial venture, establishing Central Office Supply, which has since become COS Printing. Together with his wife Betty and their children, they built a successful business that has, and still serves the community for decades. Their dedication and hard work have left an enduring imprint on the local business landscape.

William also owned and operated Bridge City's local newspaper, The Penny Record for several years.

Bill Smith will be remembered for his warm smile, kind heart, and unwavering love for his family, friends, and community. His legacy of love, service, and dedication will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

William is preceded in death by his parents Vance and Callie Smith, brothers Donald Gene Smith, Levan Smith and Jimmy Smith and one sister Hazel Smith Fowler.

William is survived by his two sisters, Geraldine Smith Shelby of Texarkana, and Lynda Smith Cox; husband Eddie of Ft Worth, two loving children Bruce Smith; wife Renee Parker Smith of Orange, Carolyn Andrus; husband Thomas Andrus of Orange, three grandchildren, Jeremy Smith; wife Holly Obenhaus Smith, Justin Smith and Eric Andrus; wife Caitlin Andrus all of Orange. Four great grandchildren Cooper Smith, Jada Smith, Walker Smith and Diana Andrus, and a host of relatives and friends who will forever cherish his memory. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

You're with your Creator now. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

### Joseph Daniel Payne, Sr., 89, Orange

Our Dad, Joseph Daniel Payne, Sr. died on May 24, 2023. Joe Payne believed in honesty, hard work, loving his family and following God's Word and he lived it. He was the son of Oscar F. and Alva Myrel Payne. He was born in Jacksonville, Texas on November 16, 1933. At age 6 Joe began what was the start of a successful career in sales.



Joseph Payne

Wanting to help his family, Joe went to the local candy factory where he bought the cut-off corners from their candied peanut patties. He brought the candy, along with pencils and note pads to the Jacksonville train station and sold his wares to passengers. Joe had a memory for numbers. He could remember exactly how much the candy, pencils and notebooks cost and what profit he made.

Joe Payne was a salesman and a great one. He owned and operated Payne Motors on Simmons Drive and was later the New Car Manager at Harmon Chevrolet. When he lived in Georgetown, Texas, he was in the top-sales tier year after year at Don Hewlett Chevrolet Buick. Joe had many repeat customers because they knew he was honest, and they knew he cared about them. He loved selling cars and talking with friends and making new acquaintances. That love kept him going to the office at Harmon Enterprises every day until two years ago when his health began to fail.

Joe and his wife Dee were married for 70 years. They met at Lutch Stark High School. He was the motorcycle guy in a leather jacket. And she was the girl who was caught sliding down the school fire escape slide. They were made for each other.

For many years Joe and Dee were avid golfers. There were usually sets of clubs and golf shoes in the trunks of their cars ready for the next game. They loved playing and spending time together on the course.

Joe and Dee have four children. He never failed to tell each one, "Hey kid, I love you and I'm proud of you." Joe adored his seven grandchildren. He and Dee

now have 17 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Joe was preceded in death by his ray of sunshine, granddaughter Bliss Payne, and by his brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Pat Payne. He is survived by his wife Dee and his sister Shirley Owens, his daughters Kristin and her husband, Jimmy McWilliams; Lynn and her husband Steve Bittinger and his sons Daniel and his wife Jeanne and Jon and his wife Leah. Grandchildren are Alan and Dondi Cherry, Jason and Felicia Green, Kimberly Tidwell, Alicia Green, Alex Payne and Emily Varnell, and Dakota and Kristal Payne. Joe was fond of his nieces Cheryl Bowie, Rhonda Shaffer, Valerie Loewer, Joanna Hambrick, and nephew Mike Payne.

Ninth and Elm Church of Christ was his church family. He felt honored to have served as an elder there for over 20 years. Many sought his counsel because of his kind and thoughtful demeanor. A memorial service will be held there on Saturday, June 17 at 1 o'clock. The Payne family is thankful for the staff at Harbor Hospice for caring for Joe in his last days, especially Dr. Lavalais. Our hearts are heavy because he is gone, but joyful in knowing Our Dad is with Christ.

### BC Library hosts support group for Widow/Widowers

The Bridge City Public Library will continue its Widows/Widowers group after the success of its opening meeting. The group's purpose is to provide an opportunity for those who often lead lonely lives after the death of a spouse to have an outlet to share with others in the same situation. It is not a dating group but a place to gather, share with others and to play games as entertainment. Snacks and coffee will be provided.

We do require participants to call the library the Monday before the Friday of the meeting so that we can know how many to plan for.

Planned meetings will be from 10 am to noon on the following Fridays, May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16 and July 7 and July 21. If you have any questions, call the library at 409-735-4242. We look forward to getting to know you.

### Charles Edward Billeaud, 56, Orange

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland and after living in several places in the United States, he settled in Orange County, Texas over 40 years ago. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. Charles enjoyed playing pool and was a former APA pool player.



Charles Billeaud

Survivors include his wife of nine years, Suzan Billeaud of Orange, Texas; his step-children, Trisha Rubero of Vidor, Texas and Joseph Hodges and wife, Rebecca of Willow Creek, North Carolina; his siblings, Debra Verrett of Bridge City, Texas, Jimmy Billeaud of Kentucky, Rose Wiley and husband, Ken of Mauriceville, Texas, and Michelle Billeaud of South Carolina; his mother-in-law, Marie Weeks of Orange, Texas; six grandchildren, Adreanah Rubero, Zach

Rubero, Jimmy Mizell, Michael Hodges, Ellieanna Hodges, and Isabella Hodges; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mary Lou Billeaud; his sister, Charlene Hanna; his father-in-law, Sherman Weeks; and his beloved dog, Jaxx.

Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to: Well Spring Credit Union in Orange, Texas (Benefit for Charles Edward Billeaud).

Words of comfort and expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at www.hixsonfuneralhomes.com.

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# THE RECORD

## Community Classifieds

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- You can submit your ad ANYTIME @ TheRecordLive.com

# Classifieds

## 409•886•7183

Penny Record & County Record Offices now located at:  
333 West Roundbunch, Bridge City, 77611  
NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

### APPLIANCES

**HARRY'S APPLIANCES** - Used appliances starting at \$99.95, 302 10th. St. (10th. & main) Orange. We also buy used appliances. Call or come by 409-886-4111.

### RV FOR RENT

**RV for Rent** in Bridge City, located in quiet neighborhood. \$750, all bills paid. Please call 409-272-0792

### FOR RENT

**Rental:** now taking applications for very nice 3 BR, 2 Bath home Manufactured Home w/ porch, carport and wheelchair ramp. Must be 55 year of age or older, 55 and up community \$900 month. Includes garbage pickup and lawn maintenance. Please call 409-504-9296

### DOGS FOR SALE

**Tiny poodle pup** will be only 3-4 pounds fully grown. 1 white male, adorable with CKC papers, all shots, potty trained \$1500. Email me or call for pics at dkp-too@aol.com or 409-504-8879.

**German Shepherd** pups born March 21st ready for a loving home. \$400 Call 409-553-1053

### FOR SALE

409-886-7183

### Legal Notice

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit, Application ID 204148 by Robert R. Enterprises Incorporated dba Robert's Meat Market & Steakhouse, to be located at 3720 W. Park Avenue STE B, Pinehurst, United States, Orange 77630. Owners of said corporation are Roberto Ramirez and Rebecca Ramirez, Owners.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **HELEN PALMER BURFORD**, Deceased, were issued on the **JANUARY 17, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19529**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **RANDOLPH CALVIN BURFORD**.

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:  
Randolph Calvin Burford  
PO Box 491  
Vidor, Texas 77662

Dated the 17th day of January, 2023.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MARY LOVEDA EVANS**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 12, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19524**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **CATHY D. EVANS HANDFORD**.

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:  
Cathy D. Evans Handford  
3004 Ginn Point Road  
Huntsville, Alabama 35763

Dated the 12th day of December, 2022.

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

Total charges cannot be computed until the vehicle is claimed, storage charges will accrue daily until the vehicle is released. Must demonstrate proof of ownership and pay current charges to claim vehicle. www.tdlr.texas.gov  
Vin#5NMSG73D38H203181 08 HYUNDAI OWED \$886.24  
Vin#1BABC0AX4F211577 04 BLUE BIRD BUS OWED \$668.87  
Vin#4XAAAH2A0WA052033 98 POLARIS OWED \$309.85

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION (OTHER) - COPUBWD The State of Texas

TO: The Unknown Heirs at Law of Chase Miller, Deceased

#### Respondent, NOTICE

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

In Addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

The petition of Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Petitioner, was filed in the 128th District Court of Orange County, Texas on 26th day of April, 2023, against Unknown Heirs of Chase Miller, Respondent, numbered 230118-C. The suit request:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 2948 El, St, Orange, TX, 77632, and more particularly described as LOT NO. ONE HUNDRED SEVEN (107), OF RIDGECREST ADDITION NO. 2, A SUBDIVISION IN ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 5, PAGE 87, MAP RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment which will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and the seal of said Court at Orange, Texas this MAY 11th, 2023.

ANNE REED, District Clerk  
Orange County, Texas

By: *Anne Reed*

### DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPCWD

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: CHAD ALLEN DAVIS., 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 JESSICA LYNN ROME, Petitioner, was filed in the 128th District Court of Orange County, Texas on 17th day of May, 2023, against CHAD ALLEN DAVIS, numbered 140571-D and entitled IN THE MATTER OF JESSICA LYNN DAVIS and CHAD ALLEN DAVIS.

The suit requests PETITION TO MODIFY PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

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

Madison Paige Davis 09/17/2011 Jefferson County, Texas

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 May 24, 2023.

ANNE REED, District Clerk  
Orange County, Texas

*Anne Reed*

- PUBLIC NOTICES •
  - LEGAL NOTICES •
  - ENGAGEMENTS •
  - WEDDINGS •
  - ANNIVERSARIES •
- Please call us at:  
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Email at: news@therecordlive.com

### NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**BID REQUEST: "Additional Limestone Parking Areas"**

**OWNER:** Orange County Navigation and Port District dba Port of Orange

**Location:** Port of Orange Administration Building  
1201 Childers Road  
Orange, Texas 77630

**Bid Deadline:** June 8th, 2023 at 2:00PM Local Time  
**Bid Opening:** June 8th, 2023 at 2:05PM Local Time

**Location:** Port of Orange Administration Building - Boardroom  
1201 Childers Road  
Orange, Texas 77630

**SEALED BIDS** in duplicate, clearly marked and addressed to Port of Orange, "Attn: Stephen LeBlanc, Additional Limestone Parking Areas", Orange County Navigation and Port District (the "Owner"), will be received at the Port of Orange Administration Office, 1201 Childers Road, Orange, Texas, 77630 until the date and time set above; and then publicly opened and read aloud in the Port of Orange Administration Office Boardroom, 1st Floor, for "Additional Limestone Parking Areas". Bids received after 2:00PM local time will be returned unopened. Project is located in Orange County, Texas at 905 Pier Road.

Bid Packets may be obtained at the Orange County Navigation and Port District, 1201 Childers Road, Orange, Texas 77630.

Strip existing vegetation, scarify and compact subgrade, furnish and install geotextile fabric, supply and install minimum of 8" compacted limestone base for approximately 47,240 square-feet of new parking areas per the Bid Package issued by the Port of Orange.

All prime contractors are encouraged to visit the site to inspect all locations and conditions prior to bid date. Please contact Stephen LeBlanc to arrange a site visit.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, payable without recourse to the order of the Orange County Navigation and Port District, or a Bid Bond for at least five percent (5%), of the total amount bid, and the bank or bonding company certifying the same shall be liable therefore to the Orange County Navigation and Port District in the event such successful bidder shall fail or refuse to enter into proper contract therefore or shall fail or refuse to furnish bonds therefore as required by law and as hereafter mentioned within ten (10) days after receipt of NOTICE OF AWARD. Bid surety of all except the three (3) lowest responsible Bidders will be returned when award is made; when the contract is executed, the surety of the two (2) remaining unsuccessful Bidders will be returned; that of the successful Bidder will be returned when formal contract, bonds and insurance are approved, and work has commenced within the time specified.

The successful bidder must furnish PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS on the forms furnished with the bid documents, in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price. All insurance companies issuing PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS and any reinsurance companies utilized by such insurance companies, in order to issue PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BONDS to the Owner, shall have at least an "A" rating according to the Best's Key Guide and must be authorized to transact business in Texas. Additionally, such insurance companies shall be on the current list of "Companies Holding Certificates of Authority as Acceptable Sureties on Federal Bonds and as Acceptable Reinsuring Companies" as published in Circulars 570 (as amended) by the Audit Staff, Bureau of Government Financial Operations and United States Treasury Department.

Bidder is hereby advised that the work shall be subject to equal employment opportunity requirements, local prevailing wage rates, and Executive Order No.11246 as amended. In conformance with applicable statutes, the general prevailing wage rates in the locality in which the work is to be performed have been ascertained, and such rates shall be minimum paid for labor employed upon this project.

In accordance with Texas State law, including Local Government Code Chapter 176, each BIDDER MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT WITH THEIR BID A COPY OF THE VENDOR'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE CONTAINED IN THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

The Owner is a sales tax-exempt governmental entity. A sales tax exemption notice will be issued to the Contractor when the contract is awarded in order that that he does not have to pay sales taxes on labor and/or materials utilized in or consumed in connection with the Owner's project.

The Contractor performing this contract must issue to his suppliers an exemption certificate in lieu of the tax, said exemption certificate complying with all applicable State Comptroller's rulings along with a copy of the sales tax exemption notice issued to him by the Owner.

The Orange County Navigation and Port District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in bidding to the fullest extent permitted by law. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in any bid, the OWNER reserves the right to consider and accept the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid.

Orange County Navigation and Port District

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#### HELP WANTED

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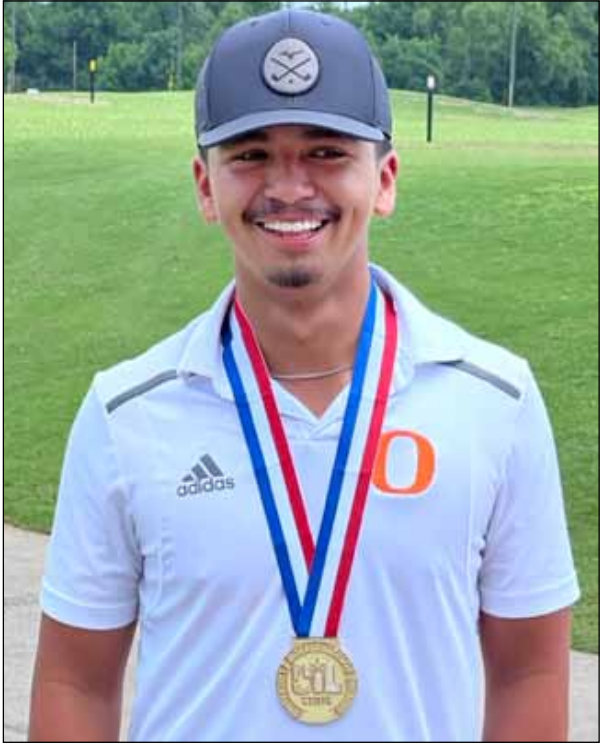
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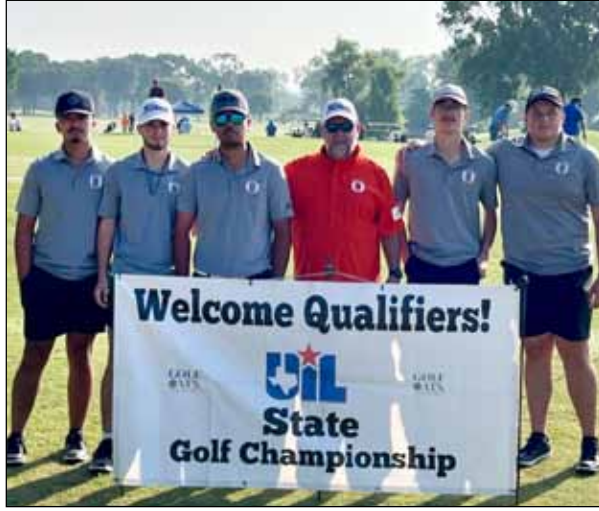
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# Orangefield's Xander Parks wins state golf



Xander Parks of Orangefield flashes a rare smile while wearing his gold medal after winning the state golf championship May 23 in Austin. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



The Orangefield golf team with Xander Parks, Reese Johnson, Lincoln Parks, Coach Todd Trawhon, Alex Montz, and Ethan Gunter at the state tournament in Austin.

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

A year that started with great expectations, was plagued by an injury along the way, and ended with exaltation for Xander Parks the last week and a half of May. The Orangefield senior won the Class 3A individual state championship for golf during the two-day tournament held May 22-23 in Austin.

The winning of the gold medal by Parks a senior at Orangefield helped his five-member team also do quite well. The Bobcats captured fourth place among the twelve teams competing in Class 3A at Austin.

Xander and his younger brother Lincoln joined with three other senior Bobcats Ethan Gunter, Reese Johnson, and Alex Montz to give Orangefield one of the top high school golf teams in southeast Texas. Coming into this year the Parks brothers were expected to help lead the Bobcats to a district

championship.

Finally getting healthy propelled Xander to fulfill his potential and become the top golfer in his classification this year. A back injury hampered Parks through the first five or six tournaments of the year.

Visits to a chiropractor during that time helped Parks work out the discomfort in his back. "Now I'm finally healthy back to a hundred percent. Ever since that I started swinging the driver like what I used to and got everything clicking," Parks remembered.

In late April during the regional tournament Xander was tied for third one stroke behind his brother Lincoln and another golfer after the first day. Xander shot a 74 over the final eighteen holes on the second day for the best round by anybody during the two days and leaped to a three-stroke victory qualifying him and his Orangefield teammates for a trip to the state finals in Austin.

## BC baseball's Landry becomes new Cardinal football coach

DAN PERRINE  
For The Record

Less than three months before the start of the high school football season the Bridge City Cardinals had their athletic director and head football coach resign. Cody McGuire's resignation was accepted by Bridge City School Superintendent Dr. Mike Kelly the last week of May.

Filling the vacancy of head football coach will be longtime Bridge City coach and the head baseball coach Chad Landry on an interim basis. Dr. Kelly will serve as the interim athletic director until after the football season concludes when the school district will begin an extensive search to the fill the positions of athletic director and head football coach.

McGuire said he was called into a meeting with school officials including the superintendent on Wednesday, May 24, during which they asked him to resign. McGuire handed in his resignation on Thursday.

The reason his resignation was requested according to McGuire was he had taken his personal-



Cardinal baseball coach Chad Landry has been appointed the interim head football coach at Bridge City following the resignation of Cody McGuire from that position the last week of May.

ly owned vehicle to sell sno-cones at a local refinery for about two hours a day during nine school days. McGuire said he should have taken either sick leave or vacation time for the trips but he did not.

The Cardinals were 5-15 in McGuire's two years as the head football coach here. Bridge City almost made the playoffs his first season as coach before stumbling to a 1-9 record this past year when injuries caused him to shuttle four different players at the quarterback position.

Parks played consistent for the day. He had no three putts for the round, made several chips followed by one putts after missing a few greens, and finished with four birdies against two bogeys.

The obvious highlight during the round was scoring three straight birdies late on his second nine holes. Parks drove over trees which no one else had done that day to setup a great approach to the green for the last birdie at his seventeenth hole played. A bogey at the final hole did cost him a stroke though.

As unhappy as Parks was with his wedge play the first day he still shot a two-under par 70 to be in contention just one stroke out of first place. "The first day I kept myself in it just to have a chance the second day to go out and

win," Parks recalled.

The top three players on the leaderboard composed the final group on the second day. This set up what amounted to a match play situation for Xander. Parks thought, "Just best them. I am going to be playing with them so just beat them."

Winds picked up on the second day in Austin. This made the scoring more difficult for the golfers.

It may not be fair to compare Parks to another great golfer like Arnold Palmer yet, but Xander copied a feat done by Palmer who drove the first hole in the final round to make a birdie during his come from behind victory at the 1960 U.S. Open. Parks started his second round by driving the green

ORANGEFIELD Page 5B

## 2023 FORD F-150 Truck Sale

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# Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

# The Lakes

## • Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water stained; 76-83 degrees; 0.35 feet below pool. The water level is 171.62 with both generators running 24 hours daily. Water temperature at the dam is 78 degrees. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 76-83 degrees. Bass are good on 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 in shallow water. Some bigger bass have been caught on senkos and flukes in black/blue flake, watermelon red, watermelon red candy, black/red flake and motor oil colors rigged wacky or Texas style. The spinnerbait bite for bass has been hot this week around buck brush and lay-downs on the edges of grass up in the creeks. Popping and hollow body frog bite has been producing 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. Crappie bite is heating up offshore with quality catches around the lake. Bluegill are starting to show up in the shallow flats and around boathouses. 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; 77 degrees; 1.31 feet above pool. The water has been calm, and this still water is an indicator that summer is around the corner. Water is off-colored. Bass are good on topwater frogs and senkos shallow. Crappie are coming out of the spawn with lots of small fish on piles biting minnows. White bass are good using jigs and minnows. Fish are starting to run on points, with a few on piles. Catfish are near the piles, deeper points and creek channels. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

along with pompano. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is holding bull redfish along the rocks.

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## • Sabine Lake

GOOD. 78 degrees. Boxes of trout, sheepshead, and drum are good with live shrimp under a popping cork fishing jetty rocks. When the jack crevalle show up, it is time to move locations. Fish the ship channel in 4-7 feet of water on bulkheads and rocks. Sabine Lake is good for trout and redfish making slow drifts over shell in 4-7 feet with popping cork, or artificial 1/16 ounce jigheads with five inch swimbaits. Shrimp are fleeing the bayou so catches of redfish, trout and flounder are good in the cuts. Coffee Ground Cove is good for trout and redfish making long drifts with live shrimp under a popping cork, or morning glory chartreuse tail or glo chartreuse artificials. Birds are starting to work out going tides. North Levee trout bite is still on fire with live shrimp with a popping cork and swimbaits. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.



Sabine Lake is good for trout and redfish making slow drifts over shell in 4-7 feet with popping cork. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

## • Bolivar

GOOD. 74 degrees. The surf is starting to hold some pompano, small shark and the occasional redfish. The gulfside of the North Jetty Gulf is holding sheepshead and trout against rocks. Look for bait up close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout close and Big Reds on the bottom. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

## • Trinity Bay

SLOW. 80 degrees. Speckled trout being caught along the lower portion on the east shoreline. Upper reaches of the bay remain off-colored due to runoff. Best bite has been on soft plastics and live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

## • East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 82 degrees. Drift fishing open bay reefs has been good for speckled trout on soft plastics and live shrimp under popping corks. Wading early morning and late evening is best for speckled trout and the occasional redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperatures are 80 degrees and the water clarity is decent in most places for East Galveston Bay but as you progress further east the water clarity decreases. The large amount of freshwater that entered the bay system due to all the rains up north of us did not seem to hamper the overall bite, so we were able to fish our regular spots in East Bay. Winds have been westerly over the past few days limiting the areas we have been able to target effectively. Good number of baitfish, and shrimp can be found so the predators have been close by. Grass lines up in the marsh and in and around drains have produced redfish, flounder, and black drum utilizing live shrimp, under a popping cork, as well as purple and chartreuse paddle tails and 1/4 ounce jigheads. When the winds allow open water reefs produce some trout action

croakers working best, but fish can be caught on soft plastics. Open reefs in west Galveston bay fair for speckled trout, redfish, and black drum. Those wading near the pass are rewarded with speckled trout and a few redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Greens Lake holding redfish against grass lines and by sandy shores early. Look for fish on and around hard sand for a while longer down West Bay's South Shore holding a lot of speckle trout, and an occasional redfish for Wade Fisherman. The east side of Oyster Creek also holding some redfish for wade anglers. Mecom Reef will have fish on it early up by rocks with artificial or live bait free-line or under cork. Fish in protected waters with bait moving around as the winds pick up. Fish are under birds around confederate and Carancahua Reefs. Ease in on the birds for fish at least 75 yards. Get where the best drift will put you in that spot the soonest. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

## • Houston

GOOD. Water stained; 78 degrees; 0.28 feet above pool. Catfish are good in 15-20 feet of water on cut bait. Crappie are good on brush piles with minnows and jigs. Bass are good on topwaters early in the mornings, transitioning to deeper water with soft plastics as the day progresses. White bass are good under the lights at night, or trolling with slabs.

## • Texas City

FAIR. 80 degrees. Good night time catches of speckled trout for those anglers setting up lights on the dike. Bull redfish and sharks are in the Galveston jetties. Speckled trout being caught on light tackle and free lined live shrimp. Galveston surf is good for speckled trout,

and this bite should only improve as we progress into the summertime pattern. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Yates Bayou drain and Siever's Cut still holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Hanna's Reef is great early in the morning for redfish on same or twitching artificials. Look for moving bait and birds and slicks, small slicks could be just getting started. Deep Reef, Pepper Grove Cove to Moody's Pass holding fish. Smith Point to Moody National Wildlife. Look for schools of redfish under birds. Pearl, Chartreuse, big papa pure Pearl, and Strawberry are great colors. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC

## • Galveston Bay

FAIR. 80 degrees. Good catches of speckled trout coming from the shorelines around Eagle Point on live croakers or shrimp. Open bay rocks, reefs, good for black drum, a few redfish, and speckled trout on live shrimp. Report by

Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Surf is on fire from Pleasure Pier to Surfside, and Seawall is hot also using live shrimp under a popping cork, croaker on an OCTO Circle with small chatterweight. The South Jetty gulf side on fire speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks on popping cork with live bait, 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 bulls being caught on spoons as well as bait. A few jack crevalle mixed in. The causeway holding redfish under the Pelican Island bridge. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC

## • West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 83 degrees. Good catches of speckled trout coming from the causeway bridge, Campbell's Bayou and near Swan Lake. Live shrimp and

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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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# West Orange-Cove Event Center hosts graduation

**DAN PERRINE**  
For The Record

A magnificent new facility at the West Orange-Stark High School is close to completion but was the site of an important activity on Friday, May 26. The West Orange-Cove Event Center hosted its first event with the graduation ceremony for the senior class of 2023 at West Orange-Stark.

The project to build the new West Orange-Cove Event Center has been about three years in the making. Funding for the center is from the 2018 school bond approved by voters at that time.

The COVID pandemic caused supply shortages which resulted in extensive delays during construction of the building. Window curtains for the outside of the event center and the new press box at Dan R. Hooks Stadium were put on hold as back orders for months until workers were able to catch up on the demand when the pandemic was lifted.

G&G Enterprises Construction Corporation based out of Orange has been the contractor on the project and is expected to complete the final phases by this summer. The overall project is about 80 percent completed with work to continue after the graduation ceremony to finish the offices and other areas in the event center as well as the press box at the football stadium.

Superintendent Dr. Rickie Harris of the West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District stated G&G Enterprises has exceeded all his expectations for the new center. "It is looking amazing! It is what I envisioned when we started the process talking to the board of school trustees about going out for the bond, when we presented it to the bond committee, and what we tried to tell the public when we went out for the bond. Our goal was to give the taxpayers what we told them we would give them and then some. I think we did that," Harris replied.

The first event in the event center being the graduation ceremony was what drove the whole project. Dr. Harris explained, "As a district we had been struggling with having to go outside to do graduation. When the weather is good it's fine, but the last week of May and the first week of June I'm a meteorologist having to watch the sky and we have been forced inside. I've been here eight years and we've had to come inside many times to hold graduation because of the weather."

In addition to building the beautiful new facility G&G Enterprises made a generous donation of one million dollars to the West



The West Orange-Cove Event Center is 80 percent complete and hosted the graduation ceremony for the 2023 senior class at West Orange-Stark High School on Friday, May 26. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Orange-Cove CISD. The school district's board of trustees has in turn granted G&G Enterprises exclusive naming rights to the newly constructed center for the next ten years.

Dr. Harris responded to the million dollar donation from G&G Enterprises. "We are thrilled to receive this substantial donation from G&G Enterprises. We are grateful for G&G's commitment to investing in education and fostering community development," Harris indicated.

Executives with G&G will announce the official name of the event center at a later date. Chief Operating Officer Colin Garrett of G&G Enterprises is a 1994 alum of West Orange-Stark High School. "We are honored to collaborate with West Orange-Cove CISD on this significant initiative. We believe in the power of education and its ability to transform lives. By investing in the West Orange-Cove Event Center, we hope to create a lasting impact that extends far beyond its walls," Garrett said.

Natasha Garrett, CEO of G&G, added, "Colin and I are excited to be a part of the legacy of WOS, and we look forward to unveiling the official name and witnessing the positive influence this center will have on the community."

The West Orange-Cove Event Center will serve as a hub for various school and community activities. The center will provide a platform for diverse events such as sports competitions, performances, community gatherings, and educational programs according to the school district.

The office of West Orange-Cove Athletic Director Hiawatha Hickman will be moved to the first floor of the event center. Likewise, Athletic Secretary Thereze Sichko will have her office where tickets will be sold for various

sporting events especially West Orange-Stark Mustang football games moved adjacent to Coach Hickman's office in the center. Across the corridor from those offices will be the Wall of Honor. This will be a special display to recognize West Orange-Stark graduates that have gone on to greater fame following their days as a Mustang.

The new complex will house separate offices for both girls and boys basketball coaches and for the girls volleyball coach. The Mustangs and the Lady Mustangs in basketball and volleyball will play their home games in the West Orange-Cove Event Center with spacious new locker rooms being completed in it for each of the teams.

As the name implies the West Orange-Cove Event Center will host a myriad of activities in its spacious venue. "This is an ideal place for graduation, you don't have to sit outside in ninety degree heat and sweat or worry about the weather. You're inside an air-conditioned building that has enough seats to handle events like graduation. I could see us having college graduations in here, we're hoping to have concerts, banquets. We hope to have an event planner on staff to attract more events to this center and let people use it in the community," Coach Hick-



The graduation ceremony held at the West Orange-Cove Event Center was packed with family and friends of the 2023 senior graduates. Each of the four sides on the Jumbotron hanging from the ceiling are 22 feet by 16 feet and can show game action as well as in game statistics during a game. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

man who helped with the development of the event center advised.

The arena itself has a capacity of 1,750 permanent seats with areas cre-

ated for disabled spectators to watch any event held and wheel chair ramps to make it more accessible. The upper concourse area can allow for

an additional 300 temporary seats or folding chairs to be added which was done for the graduation

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# BASSMaster Elites invade Sabine this weekend

## OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

The highly anticipated return of the Bass Master Elite Series on the Sabine River kicks off on Thursday morning and you can bet just like in years past it will be a show like no other. Our little part of the world here in Orange Texas routinely breaks attendance records for Bassmaster events and I would not be shocked if that happens again this weekend.

The Elite Series anglers always manage to figure out a pattern anywhere they go, and Sabine is no exception. In fact, if you really want to see who the very best anglers are you can watch these guys when they fish river systems like Sabine instead of impoundments such as Sam Rayburn or Toledo Bend because they have to figure out a whole host of variables such as tides and currents that are non-existent on those big lakes. You get an angler who can consistently catch fish in tidal water, and you have an angler who can win any event they fish.

The Elites should be in good shape as the local con-



Chuck Uzzle

ditions continue to improve every day, especially with the light winds that we have been blessed with for the week. Look for many of the anglers to make big runs both up the river and to the east as they have in the past. Taylor's bayou has been a hot spot during each event that's been held here, and I would expect that trend to continue.

Some anglers will make big runs to other places as far away as Clear Lake and possibly farther to find their fish. One area the Elites won't be running to is Louisiana and that's because of the ridiculous laws they enforce surrounding waterways and boater's rights to them. Several BASS made the decision to rule out the Louisiana waters until some sort of resolution is reached. Several bills have been brought to Louisiana legislators concerning the subject and every one of them has been vetoed so don't look for any changes in the near future.



Bassmaster Elites will converge on Sabine this weekend. PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

Having the Louisiana waterways deemed off limits puts a damper on the tournament due to the fact that some prime water and excellent fishing is off limits. It would be fun to see what kind of stringer weights the

Elites would post if they could get into some of that water. I guess we'll never know until more rational laws get passed.

In years past it's taken 42-44 pounds to win this tournament and I would go as far

to say it'll take that again to win it this weekend. The key will obviously be consistency, solid weights for all 4 days with no big drop offs.

Each year we see a couple of anglers throw some big numbers up early in the tournament and then run out of fish only to fall off the leader board. 10-12 pounds a day will put you squarely in the middle of the chase for the first prize check of 100,000 dollars.

The tournament will start off with 104 anglers on Day 1 and 2 and then cut to 50 for Day 3 while only the top 10 fish on the final day. Like many other local anglers I am excited to see what these anglers can accomplish on our local waters and it's always nice to see our part of the world portrayed in such a positive light.

If you ask the Elites they'll tell you they like our area because of all the different options they have to fish, everything from classic tidal rivers, marshes, and deep water structure to shallow backwater ponds and canals make for some interesting choices and patterns. One thing is for sure and that is there will be a hand full of really good anglers who figure out a way to get it done.

Over on the saltwater side of things the bite continues to pick up on both Sabine and Calcasieu as a few birds have been working over schooling trout chasing brown shrimp. The bite at the jetty improves each day as the water clarity gets better on each tide change and the amount of bait showing up continues to build. The quality of the average fish we've been catching certainly is a welcome change from last year at this time and hopefully that trend continues.

With June here we can look for more consistent weather patterns and hopefully not have to fight any of the incessant winds we dealt with earlier in the year. The heat will be a limiting factor for many so go early or late if you can. If you decide to fish in the heat of the day please remember to bring plenty of water and sunscreen because you will certainly need it.

Also don't forget to bring the kids out now that school is done for another year, share the sport with the next generation and enjoy the time with them every chance you get.

## New event center From Page 3B

ceremony.

An elevator has been installed in the back of the event center to assist getting equipment or spectators that need it upstairs. The elevator is connected to the new press box at Dan R. Hooks Stadium to make it easier to get up there for Mustang football games.

Athletic events will be a major part of the new facility. In addition to the home games for West Orange-Stark teams there will probably be other teams wanting to use the event center.

Hickman predicted, "I'm sure we will host quite a few tournaments. We'll probably host quite a few playoff basketball games and volleyball games. One of my goals is to try to get the regional basketball tournament either the boys or the girls to be played here. This place could handle it sufficiently with people coming in and traveling here to see this excellent facility and there's not a bad seat in the house."

The inside of the West Orange-Cove Event Center is painted in classic Mustang blue like the school's jerseys have been for decades. All the permanent seats are a matching blue as well.

Possibly the first thing spectators will notice when

entering the arena is the big cube shaped four-sided scoreboard jumbotron hanging from the ceiling. "The screens are each 22 by 16 feet and can be seen from everywhere in the building. We wanted fans to be able to see the game and what's going on at all times," Hickman pointed out.

The big screens will allow personnel operating the jumbotron to add in game stats and live video feeds using the district's new software. There are also two auxiliary video boards at floor level one on each end of the arena.

A sound booth is located near the upper concourse to handle all the technology used in covering an event. Hickman praised, "The technology is unbelievable. When it comes to the sound we have four 20-inch subwoofers that we added, and with sixteen different speakers the sound is unbelievable."

LED lights have been installed in the building. The lights like those in the football stadium can strobe and change colors for different events.

For the spectators' convenience there are two large concession areas located on opposite ends of the upper concourse. The locations of the concessions means a

fan does not need to leave the arena to get a bite to eat or a refreshing drink and can still watch the action on the court itself or see it on the big jumbotron. There are multiple restrooms for female and male spectators.

The basketball hard court has not been installed yet but will be forth coming when the construction reboots in the coming weeks. When the court is finished carpet tiles can be laid over it like was done during the graduation ceremony for events that need a stage mounted and floor seating like a church service or a concert type event making the West Orange-Cove Event Center more than just a big fancy gym.

Superintendent Dr. Harris believes the West Orange-Cove Event Center will be a benefit to the school district and the greater Orange community. "I think it has met the needs and reached the idea we ventured for our community. Our goal was to have something our community would be proud of and for us to be able to go out for state events like the regional basketball tournament because we have the facility that can hold it. I think it will bring notoriety to our community, great economic boom to our city if we

can get all those people to our city to stay in our hotels

and eat our food, and that's why we built this facility

like this," Dr. Harris concluded.



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Gardeners, certainly many of you (me included) have devoted an enormous amount of time outdoors this spring preparing and planting flower beds, vegetable gardens, and manicuring lawns. Crafting and detailing specific areas: flower beds, vegetable gardens, porches, and patios exactly the way we want them to appear! The official start of summer is 21 June, which is about 3 weeks away, though to me summer 'feels' as though it's arrived! Let's review watering techniques to maintain our landscapes, flower beds, and vegetable gardens.

Plants need water to grow and hot weather or extreme temperatures can damage plants, therefore it's essential to follow an effective watering schedule during the summer months. It is obvious that plants need water to survive, yet many

# Watering Techniques: The Right Way?

gardeners don't know the optimal time to water plants. Naturally, there are numerous opinions on when and how to water the plants since we all want to keep our lawns and gardens growing and looking their best. It is important to note water conservation is essential for each of us and that water is Texas' most precious and valuable natural resource that should never be wasted! There is no use in applying water faster than the soil can absorb it when watering a lawn. Most soil types in SETX tend to be clay and clay soils take water in slowly, often taking days after a heavy rain event. Please note that a drip hose or a drip irrigation system is the most effective and efficient use of water for flower beds and vegetable gardens.

Utilize mulch throughout garden areas. Mulch, mulch, mulch whenever possible! The use of mulch has numerous benefits for



**Understanding correct watering techniques conserves water and provides plants with beneficial water**

trees, shrubs, flower beds and vegetable gardens, since mulch conserves soil moisture, and lowers soil temperature during the summer (has the opposite effect in winter). Use a 2-to-4-inch layer of organic mulch (leaves, pine bark, or grass clippings).

There are experts who state night-time watering is detrimental to your landscape plants and lawns,

stating plant diseases will develop, and this certainly is possible. But I find that there are times when it is acceptable and necessary to water the lawn and plants at night! An example is when daytime temperatures are extreme, 95F or higher, this gardener provides night watering to allow the landscape to absorb water over a longer time interval, through repeated watering

to allow for deep watering. Further, I have been known to water during the 'heat of the day' to keep my garden plants and lawn thriving, though it must be noted the evaporative loss is greater (this option is seldom used). The evaporation of water cools plants quickly, which is often beneficial to the plant!

So, let's discuss an effective summer watering schedule. Many experts consider the most appropriate time for watering plants to be early morning or late evening since the sun is at its lowest allowing time for the soil to absorb..

**• Early Morning Watering:**

Boosts plants natural growth cycle.

Plants are ready to absorb water to help them through the days' heat.

Water absorbs into the garden area, reaching the plants root system with little evaporative loss.

Prevents fungal disease

by providing time to 'dry' before night fall,

**• Evening Watering:**

Plants absorb water before nightfall and will not hamper their growth.

Allows plants several hours to uptake water and evaporation is reduced.

Time is needed to allow plant leaves to dry before night fall to minimize fungal disease.

Utilizing a drip hose or drip irrigation system a gardener can water during night fall since leaves remain dry.

In conclusion, each of us must do our part by not watering our lawns and plants excessively. Water plants with care to save time and money, while making the most of every drop. So long for now fellow gardeners, let's go out and grow our 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.

## Orangefield state champ From Page 1

at the first hole he played, missing his eagle putt, and then dropping a short putt for a birdie to move into a tie for the lead.

Orangefield golf coach Todd Trawhon described Xander driving the green at the first hole as a special moment. Trawhon retold the conversation he had with Parks after the opening birdie. "It wasn't like it was straight down the middle. It was a dogleg left over water. I asked him were you planning on doing that or did you lose it a little bit left. He said no I aimed right at the green, I had the wind at my back I knew I could get it over, and it landed on the green."

Maybe feeling the emotion of his great shot at the first hole Parks almost shanked a shot at the sec-

ond hole. He made a great up and down to save par.

At the third hole probably the hardest hole on the course Xander's tee shot caught the top of a tree which knocked his ball back into the fairway about 220 yards from the green. Parks hit a 4-Iron way to the right of the green with his second shot.

A pitch got Xander on the green but twelve feet from the hole with about a three-foot left to right break for his putt to save par. "I make it! I'm like that's momentum right there," Parks exclaimed.

Xander's closest competitor had not made any mistakes to that point and the two golfers both birdied the par five fourth to remain tied. That changed at the par three fifth.

Off the tee Parks was in the middle of the green some thirty feet from the cup for his putt while the player he was tied with had about a dozen feet for his birdie. Xander said, "Right when I hit it I knew I was going to make it, it was dead center. That kid missed his. We walked off the green, and he said oh no to me. I'm going to get beat today because you can play."

Taking advantage of mistakes by the other players is so important in golf. Parks made two bogeys in a row on the second nine holes during his round but neither of the players matched with him took advantage of those miscues to pickup any strokes on him because they both came away with bogeys on the same pair of holes.

A four stroke lead with three holes to go means play it safe, and that is what Parks did. At the last hole which featured big pecan trees and a water hazard to avoid off the tee he hit his driver for a beautiful shot leaving him only 120 yards from the green. Xander told Coach Trawhon after his tee shot he was glad that shot was over with because it's a scary one.

A gap wedge for his third shot put Parks on the green in regulation. Two putts gave Xander his par to complete his round for the day.

Parks played his first nine holes on day two at two under par and closed with the two bogeys on the second nine to finish at even par 72 for the day and 142 for the tournament. Xander finished the tournament at least three strokes better than either of the two golfers he played with that day but would not know if the

victory was his until all the scores could be checked in the clubhouse.


Trawhon indicated he and Parks were a little nervous down to the final hole. "Xander handled it well, took one hole at a time, and just played solid golf all the way through," Trawhon evaluated.

Obviously, when Parks discovered he was the winner the emotions hit him. Xander admitted, "It was almost like crying, it would have been a happy cry but I didn't cry tough."

The smile on Xander's face wearing his gold medal reflected his excitement with winning it. "It was mostly just relief after winning. This whole entire year had been terrible. I went into the tournament thinking I have to win it like I should be the one to win, but after executing it, it does feel good," Parks concluded.

Coach Trawhon was excited for Xander and his teammates for their play during the year and in the state tournament. Trawhon replied, "The end of the first day we were in the third spot with a 316 our second best score of the year. We were hoping to hold on and we finished fourth out of the twelve teams by five strokes. I am super proud of the guys how they played well."


Later this year Xander Parks will be attending Jacksonville College which has upgraded their golf program in the last year, but he may transfer in two years to wherever his brother Lincoln decides to attend college. Xander who is an Academic All-American will study engineering in college but added he might consider becoming a professional golf instructor or swing coach.




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