

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Bridge keeps on swinging, for now

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The East Roundbunch Road swing bridge has been working three months, now, and in May opened and closed 41 times. Orange County Road Engineer Corey Oldbury gave Commissioners Court the information during a regular meeting on Tuesday.

The county has had problems with the old mechanisms on the swing bridge operating, especially with parts difficult to replace. In recent years, the swing bridge over Cow Bayou in Bridge City has had to be closed to vehicles and left open for bayou marine traffic because marine rules take precedence.

Oldbury said the bayou is so busy the bridge is opened 90 times a month. He joked that "Sometimes we have 90 openings but only 89 closings."

Orange County bought the used swing bridge in 1960 and installed it across the bayou as more petro-



Gothia

chemical plants were built on FM 1006, known as Chemical Row. The bridge allowed easy access from the growing area of Bridge City to the plants.

County Judge John Gothia said people should prepare for more traffic on Cow Bayou in the near future with more openings of the swing bridge.

The new Golden Triangle Polymers plant of Chevron Phillips will be sending giant barges down the bayou. The barges will carry prefabricated pieces for construction of the new plant. The company is building a barge landing on the bayou south of the Highway 87 bridge into Bridge City. The pieces will be hauled by heavy-haul trucks to the nearby construction site of the \$8.5 billion plant.

COUNTY Page 3A

Cops N Kids bring together children and first responders

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The annual Cops N Kids was held Friday, June 9, at Claiborne West Park. The event was another successful effort organized by the Orange County Sheriff's Office to introduce young people to local first responders to enhance trust and better relationships between law enforcement and the public.

Personnel from the Sheriff's Office in addition to the county constables, officers from police departments in the county, troopers with the Texas Department of Public Safety, first responders from fire departments, various wrecker services, and the ambulance service greeted visitors from not only Orange County but from neighboring counties during the day on Friday. There were plenty of free activities and lots of free food to satisfy everyone that attended.

Each department had a booth with its personnel on hand to greet the visitors as they came by. All those attending were given special souvenirs by the first responders to help promote safety.

The Sheriff's Office had tactical vehicles which youngsters could sit inside. There was SWAT equipment the youngster could hold in their own hands.

Other agencies had their first responder vehicles for viewing by the public. An evacuation rescue helicopter landed in the park for those that wanted to get an up close look inside.

For the smaller kids there were bounce houses to play in. A small train allowed the youngsters to ride around the park.

A number of commercial businesses participated with booths to help promote safety and community awareness of potential hazards in our south east Texas communities. Everyone enjoyed



Orange County Sheriff Lane Mooney showed off his new Harley Davidson motorcycle he got recently during Cops N Kids.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



An air rescue evacuation helicopter gave kids and parents an up close look inside the cockpit.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

the great weather and the surroundings of Claiborne West Park.

Orange County Sheriff Lane Mooney was pleased with this year's edition of Cops N Kids which the Sheriff's Office has sponsored for 27 years. "The weather is wonderful, it's a beautiful day. We already have a great turnout. It's great, we're happy," Mooney replied.

Final numbers will be

forth coming later but the attendance for this year's Cops N Kids apparently exceeded totals at the event from the last couple of years. Deputies at the entrance to the grounds said they counted at least 25 buses and large vans coming into the park after just the first couple of hours on Friday with several groups from Jefferson County including Beaumont, Nederland, Port Ar-

thur, and Port Neches.

Cops N Kids is a one day event, but first responders try to build a rapport with the community every day. Mooney explained, "It's a daily activity for us, and our guys that our out there on the street they deal with kids every day, so we do this every day. This event is for all the police officers locally to get to-

COPS N KIDS Page 3A

Juneteenth Festival set for weekend family entertainment

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Like celebrations more than 150 years ago, Juneteenth in Orange will include music, food, fellowship, and prayer.

The Orange Mardi Gras Krewe de Onyx is sponsoring its Second Annual Juneteenth Festival this weekend at the Orange Boat Ramp off Simmons Drive. Gates will open at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 16, Saturday, June 17, and Sunday, June 18, for a variety of live musical performances.

All events are free, but food and drink vendors will charge for their items. People should bring lawn chairs to sit and enjoy the programs. No pets, coolers, or outside alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

Attendees may also want to wear their dancing shoes for all the jazz, party music, and Cajun zydeco tunes that will be rocking the pavilion.

Sunday at 10 a.m., a community wide prayer service will be held at the Boat Ramp's Riverside Pavilion. Orange Mayor Larry Spears will give the opening remarks, with Jayden Miller providing a son. Guest speaker will be Pastor Ben-



ny Smith, a West Orange-Cove educator and Methodist minister who is now pastor at Faith Methodist Church in Orange.

Teenager Nia Lewis, founder of the Teens Making a Difference group, will give a history of Juneteenth. Deacon Melvin Payne of St. Mary and St. Therese Catholic churches in Orange will give a prayer, and Wayne Sparrow will present closing remarks.

During the service, Krewe de Onyx will honor local civic leaders, including businessman Al Granger, Bennie Smith, Bonnie Perry, and Mayor Spears.

Musical entertainment will begin Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 5 p.m. with gates opening at 4 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the Made You Look Car Club from Lafayette will display their collectible vehicles from 4 to 6 p.m. Each day will also include activities

JUNTEENTH Page 3A

BC Chamber plans 'Scavenger Hunt'

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Fifty-two businesses in Bridge City are participating in a summer scavenger hunt that can make the winner \$500 richer.

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the contest as a way to introduce more of the public to local businesses and what they offer. Besides the grand prize, a number of the merchants and business services are handing out

special gifts to scavenger hunt players who visit them.

Chamber Director Mandy Lyda said the scavenger hunt, which started this week, will run through July 31. "We wanted to give enough time for people to go to all the businesses," she said.

Anyone can participate and there is no age restrictions on winning. "It would be a fun thing for the family to take their kids," Lyda said.

All it takes is to read a

clue online and start with that site. Participants can scan a QR code on their cell phone and then go to the next business for another clue. The person who visits the most businesses at the end of July 31 will win a \$500 gift card.

Lyda said if people tie for the most businesses, a drawing of those will be held to determine the final winner.

"Our goal is just to get people into local businesses and see what they have to

offer," she said. "People drive by businesses everyday and they often don't know what the businesses are about."

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce is at 150 West Roundbunch Road. More information on the scavenger hunt and the chamber is available by calling 409-735-5671 during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and on Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

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Lamar State College
Orange

OC's Covey to challenge Phelan, others announce

**MARGARET TOAL
For The Record**

Though filing is still months away, candidates are already announcing their runs for local offices in the 2024 Republican primary races.

Last week, David Covey of Mauriceville, a former Orange County Republican chair, announced he will run for the District 21 Texas Representative seat currently held by Republican Dade Phelan of Beaumont, who currently serves as Texas Speaker of the House.

District 21 includes Orange County and Phelan is the first local state representative to reach that level of power in the state.

Recently, Phelan has come under state and na-



David Covey

tional criticism for overseeing the Texas House of Representatives impeachment of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton under accusations that included bribery, misapplication of public funds, and dereliction of duty.

Former President Donald Trump has even criticized Phelan and the house.

Covey, in his announcement for the position said, "Elections are about choices, and primaries are about deciding who we are as Southeast Texas Republicans and Conservatives. I realize this is a David and Goliath type of situation, but I will keep focused on my message, work hard to earn your support, and leave the choice to the voters."

"Republicans have proven that conservative ideas work for strong families, work for strong borders, and work for a strong economy. The recipe for success is not a mystery, we just have to have the boldness to fight and defend our Republican values and not surrender to liberal Democrats."

So far, two people have announced they are running against Orange County Sheriff Lane Mooney, who is serving his first term in office. Mooney has not announced his intentions for the election.

Ronald Dischler, a lieutenant with the Beaumont Police Department and longtime resident of Orange County, will be running for sheriff.

The other announced candidate is veteran law enforcement officer Mike Sanchez of Vidor, who has held a number of positions with different law agencies.

Three incumbents up for reelection have made their intentions to retire at the end of their current terms and candidates have announced for their positions.

John Kimbrough, whose official title is Orange County Attorney, but he also serves as the district attorney, will be retiring when his current term ends on December 31, 2024. He will have been in the position for 32 years, or eight terms, making him one of the longest-serving county officials in local history.

Longtime Assistant District Attorney Krispin Walker, a prosecutor in the 163rd District Court who has gained a reputation for convicting numerous child sexual assault cases, said she is running for the position. State law requires the position be held by a licensed lawyer. Walker is a native of Orange and still lives there.

Also, County Court-at-

Law Judge Troy Johnson will be retiring after 20 years on the bench. Rodney Townsend, a Bridge City lawyer, said he will be running in the primary to replace Johnson.

County Tax Assessor-Appraiser Karen Fisher will also be retiring at the end of 2024. Octavia Guzman, a clerk in Fisher's office for 11 years, plans to file for the primary race.

The 2024 primary races in March, followed by the general election in November 2024, will have the four county constable positions, one for each precinct. The ballots will also include races for Precinct 1 and Precinct 3 county commissioners, seats currently held by Johnny Trahan and Kirk Roccaforte.

TAX OPTIONS

**Sen. Carl Parker
For The Record**

Oliver Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels, once said the only tax that people like is a tax on someone else. It seems that for many years Texas politicians have been searching for that type of tax, all to no avail. There are so many types of taxes that will furnish adequate funding for Texas government but it seems our Legislature and leadership are about to paint themselves into a corner. Our taxes to support public education in Texas are not only unfair but inadequate to provide a high-quality level of public education for fu-



**Former State Senator
Carl Parker**

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.

ture Texas generations. Even so, our leadership and most of Texas voters

apparently continue to ignore the possibilities, or advantages, of reconsidering both of statewide property tax or income tax.

Former lieutenant governor and comptroller, Bob Bullock, once advocated a state income tax and pointed out its advantages but quickly retreated, purely for political reasons and then led the fight to prohibit a future income tax by a constitutional amendment. Since the series of lawsuits in Texas Supreme Court as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, Texas has wrestled with the problem of adequately funding public education in an equitable manner. The current sys-

tem is grossly out of whack with little hope that it will get better any time in the near future. The reason the current school tax is so unfair is that it is based, primarily on property taxes, district by district. Some districts are able to raise far more money than they need with a minimum tax effort while others charge the maximum the law allows and still have to struggle to keep pace with their needs.

Recently a former Republican Party chair announced that he wanted to abolish property tax. Wonder how he plans to support public education. Once again we see that it's so easy to promise but not so easy to govern.

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County business From Page 1

The barge dock will be on the south side of the Highway 87 historic drawbridge, so that bridge will not need to be open for the construction barges.

Also during the meeting, the court accepted a donation from Chevron Phillips for 10 acres of land next to the county airport. The land will become a site for the future point of distribution for the Precinct 3 Road and Bridge Department.

Judge Gothia said the company bought the land for some plans originally to tie in to the plant construction across the street, however the company did not need the land. He said the county asked if the land could be donated, and last week the corporate board of directors approved the donation.

He said the land, though adjacent to the Orange County Airport, is not controlled by FAA devel-

opment rules.

The court's agenda had included a vote to approve the final plat for the new Orange Gardens subdivision, but Engineer Oldbury said the process was not complete. The 14.5 acres of land that are being developed is along FM 105 west of the Highway 62 intersection.

The acreage is in the city of Orange extraterritorial jurisdiction and the city also has an approval over the development. Oldbury said the city and the Orange County Drainage District have approved the plans. The final county plat approval will allow the developer to start building houses.

The plat is for the first phase of the subdivision and includes space for 75 houses. The second phase plans call for an additional 75 house. The acreage is in the Bridge City ISD and County Precinct 3. The

Orangefield Water Supply Company will provide water and sewer services.

The subdivision is a short drive to the new Chevron Phillips Golden Triangle Polymers plant.

Orange County Sheriff's Captain Jim Eisenstein, who oversees the county jail, said the jail recently passed the inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. He said in-person inspectors usually do not visit now because of a cut in personnel. He said the commission called one day and asked for a number of documents the next day.

The county sent the documents with its statistics and was approved. The captain credited the jail staff, especially the medical staff, for their work. He said the jail has open positions for correction officers.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Debbie Beard with Bridge City Bank has been named June Employee of the Month. Pictured: Skyler Head, Michelle Richardson, Lucy Fields, Debbie Beard, Paula McGalin, Kim Gilliam, Kim Davis and Brenda Foreman.

Mount Calvary offers "Blessing Box"

Providing food and other useful household items like soap and shampoo to needy families who cannot afford to purchase them has led several churches in Orange County to create special containers accessible to the public in which to store these items for those people who need them. The containers holding the useful items including non-perishable food have been given the name Blessing Boxes.

Possibly the first local church to create a Blessing Box in the City of Orange is Mount Calvary Baptist Church. The Blessing Box at Mount Calvary Baptist has been available to assist the needy for close to eight years.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church is located at 612 Third Street in Orange. A Blessing Box is located across the street from the church building in front of the G. H. Brown Activity Center located on Cypress Avenue.

The church supplies the Blessing Box with non-perishable food and restocks it frequently because of the steady use by

needy citizens. The extent of the service provided could be in evidence by the fact the door on the Blessing Box has worn out and will need to be replaced.

Like all Blessing Boxes the items in them are free to take and available at any time. Mount Calvary Baptist Church does refill the Blessing Box when it is necessary.

Cops N Kids

From Page 1

gether and come out here with the kids and the public to introduce themselves to them."

County Commissioner Chris Sowell of Precinct 2 attended Cops N Kids. Sowell responded, "What a great event for our community and for our kids. The Sheriff's deputies and all the police officers are out here everybody getting to know each other a little better. This helps build a relationship so when the kids see the officers they know the officers are here to help them. Some kids might be scared of officers so they need to know they don't have to be scared because the officers are here to protect them."

Sheriff Mooney emphasized the purpose for Cops N Kids. "Nine times out of ten when we show up at a residence it's not on a good note, so the public sees us in a different light. Right here they get to see us being the good guys, and that's what we are the good guys that want to be available to the community," Mooney concluded.

'The Record' Online Anytime



SCAN QR

Juneteenth Festival From Page 1

for children.

Last year, President Joe Biden made Juneteenth an official national holiday as through the years, the Texas-born celebration of freedom spread across the states.

The holiday was first held in Galveston on June 19, 1866, to celebrate the first year anniversary that enslaved people in Texas learned they were free.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation for enslaved people in the confederate states in 1863. The confederacy considered itself a separate country and did not recognize the United States president, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Word of the Emancipation Proclamation reached

Galveston on June 19, 1865, two months after the war ended. U.S. Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston with 2,000 U.S. troops and read the proclamation to citizens.

The next year, the free people of Galveston celebrated the anniversary with prayer meetings, singing, wearing new clothes, and sharing food. The celebration spread to neighboring counties, then other states.

On Friday evening, jazz saxophonist Perry Richard, who is originally from Orange, will perform from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Soileau Band featuring zydeco music from Louisiana, will play from 7 to 9 p.m. Rusty Meytour and his band will continue the zydeco vibes from 9:30 p.m. to mid-

night.

The Flava Band from Beaumont will present jazz and party music on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by Jarvis and the Gents from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., and then Lil Nate with more Cajun zydeco from 10 p.m. to midnight.

On Sunday, the final day, Leon Chavis with his zydeco band will play from 5 to 7 p.m. and Brian Jack with his zydeco band will close the Juneteenth Festival with a concert from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Freddie Champine is president of Krewe de Onyx. Ashley Chalot and Russell Bottley are co-chairs of the festival this year, with John Simien heading the entertainment committee.



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From the Creaux's Nest

SUNDAY WE HONOR OUR FATHERS

Even though my own father has long departed, crossed over to a place that awaits us all, I still hold some fond memories made a longtime ago. That said, I have found myself blessed through the years to have known and been befriended by salt of the earth men who either took me under their wing or looked out for my best interest, some older, some my age and others younger. Most are dads to their own children yet we have a brotherhood that bonds us. We know it without saying. It's father-like, looking out for our flock. The special men we consider as having our back, who you know will always be there. You don't wonder where they stand, you know. I've shared many throughout the years. On this Father's Day, I'll give thanks for being so blessed as to have a handful of special guys to ride down this journey with. They know who they are and they know where I stand when it's time to saddle up. It goes without saying that's my thanks this Father's Day. I hope your life is so blessed, not only as a dad but also sharing those special father-like friendships. Thanks to all my offspring, 17 in all, who call me Dad or Poppa.

TRUMP ARRAIGNED ON FELONY CHARGES

Donald Trump became the first former president to face a judge on federal charges as he pleaded not guilty in a Miami courtroom Tuesday to dozens of felony counts that he hoarded classified documents and refused government demands to give them back. The history-making arraignment, centering on charges that Trump mishandled government secrets that as commander-in-chief he was entrusted to protect. He put our national security at risk. A federal grand jury in Washington had heard testimony for months in the documents case, but the Justice Department filed it in Florida, where Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort is located and where many of the alleged acts of obstruction occurred. The case has been assigned to a District Court judge he appointed, Aileen Cannon, who ruled in his favor last year in a dispute over whether an outside special master could be appointed to review the seized classified documents. A federal appeals panel ultimately overturned her ruling. The Justice Department unsealed Friday an indictment charging Trump with 37 felony counts, 31 relating to the willful retention of national defense information. Other charges include conspiracy to commit obstruction, and false statements. Trump intentionally retained hundreds of classified documents that he took with him from the White House to Mar-a-Lago after leaving office in January 2021. The material included material on nuclear programs, defense and weapons capabilities of the U.S. and foreign governments and a Pentagon "attack plan." Beyond that, prosecutors say, he sought to obstruct government efforts to recover the documents, including by directing personal aide Walt Nauta, who was charged alongside Trump, to move boxes to conceal them and also suggesting to his own lawyer that he hide or destroy documents sought by a Justice Department subpoena. Can you believe this, Nauta did not enter a plea because he does not have an attorney. Trump's problems are just starting, he has Georgia and Jan. 6 ahead. Donald Trump turns 77-years-old today, June 14.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

What a few natives are up to: Dist. Judge Buddie Hahn's wife, Carol, just returned from an 18 day trip to Morocco. She traveled with the Oats group who arranged for 15 travelers to experience Morocco first hand. Carol spent a night in a luxurious tent in the Sahara Desert and even rode a camel. That was horrifying she says. The Judge enjoyed 18 days of batching. Dist. Judge Dennis Powell, and Connie just returned from a short romantic get away to a Louisiana plantation bed and breakfast. They won't celebrate their 32nd anniversary until October but to stay in good graces the Judge treats wife Connie to special little trips. Meanwhile, Judge Troy Johnson and his court-coordination, Dianna Edwards, share June wedding anniversaries. Stephen and Dianna celebrated 17 years last week, June 7. Judge Johnson and Veronica will celebrate 25 years on June 18. Jerry Wimberly was back in hospital last week. Our friend Don Harmon has completed his treatments for now and is working on getting his strength back. The Wednesday Lunch Bunch had a great gathering at Robert's last week. A large bunch showed up and everyone enjoyed Donna Scales' famous Almond Joy cake. A lot of fellowship. Judge Thibodeaux drew the lucky chair. Lyndia and T.W. Permenter celebrated their only great grandchild Rafi Latiolais' second birthday on Monday, June 10. June 17 is a special day for one of our special people, Mary Alice Cole Hartfield. Caleb Kellogg, who played baseball this season at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was drafted in the 17th round by the Balti-

more Orioles. He is a teammate of Matt Hicks. Area fans will remember Caleb when he played his junior year at Bridge City where he and Matt were teammates. He earned All District and was ranked the 30th Best Player in Texas. He moved back to DeQuincy where he finished 9-1 on the mound, with a .407 batting average and was First Team All Stater in football. He had 44 receptions for 972 yards and 15 touchdowns.

17 Years Ago-2006

The Bridge City Cardinal baseball team ended a 33-6 season in the UIL conference 3A state baseball tournament in the semi-final round against Texarkana Liberty-Eylan, 7-3. The Cardinals claimed the Region III championship for a second straight year. The loss to Texarkana came on the 16th birthday of sophomore catcher, Casey Jackson. Junior, Johnny Dishon, was a two-time veteran of the state championship tournament. Senior, A.J. Hecker, was trying to decide if he would play baseball for Lamar or be a place kicker for Stephen F. Austin. Cody Sparks is headed to Tulane to be a Division I defensive end. Pitcher, Broc Haymon, will join former teammates Derek Blacksher and Hunter Hayes at McNeese. Ace pitcher, Kevin Angelle, called a "Phenomenon" is weighing a pro contract with the Texas Rangers or accept a full ride at Texas A&M. In his senior year he struck out 169 batters. Phillip Meeks and Jeff Stringer relieved Angelle in the Texarkana loss. Coach Bryant, in his third year at Bridge City has a 93-17 record and two trips to Round Rock state championship games. Bridge City Police Chief Steve Faircloth has overcome many difficulties but losing his wife Dorothy, age 55, on June 8, is the hardest blow yet. Services were held June 12. Father Jim McClintock, pastor at St. Henry Catholic Church, celebrates 20 years in the priesthood. He was ordained at St. Anthony, in Beaumont. A reception was held June 11 at St. Henry's Activities Building. Services were held June 4 for James A. "Jim" Stelly, 79, at Claybar Funeral Home. Officiating was the Rev. Larry David, Deacon. Stelly had a long history of community service in Orange County. Thomas "Tommy" Broussard, 89, died June 9. A resident of Orangefield, he was an oilfield pumper for Cormier Well Service most of his life.

47 Years Ago-1976

Carl Parker is elected state senator over Chester Slay. Ed Parker elected sheriff over Sheriff Buck Patillo. Arthur Simpson elected county commissioner of Precinct 1. The H.D. Pates are touring the Big Bend country. John Martin elected Lion's Club president. Roy, Phyllis and Karen Dunn are attending the Rotary International convention in New Orleans this week. They went a week early. Dennis Hall presented Roy with a new, hand engraved smoking pipe for the trip. Ralph Smith, Paul Eason and Tim Lieby went deep sea fishing last week. They caught a lot of fish, also had sunburn and enough seasickness to last them all year. New Boilermaker's Hall dedication, and ribbon cutting held. Officers present were Dewey "Teddy Bear" Cox, business manager; B.E. Herford, president of Local 587; Harold Bowie, International president. The Bridge City and Orangefield communities to build center as Bi-centennial project. Estimated cost is \$400,000. W.T. Oliver is campaign chairman; captains are Paul Cormier, Jimmy Hanson, Ralph Smith, Alvin Keown, Bernis Bobbit and Faye Linscomb. Officers of the non-profit organization are Bobby Smitherman, president; Cormier, vice-president; and Sandy Parkhurst, secretary. Roy Dunn is publicity chairman. Sharon Bearden has issued an in-office memo stating that none of the secretaries will be allowed to write a book about office happenings. The Triangle Savings and Loan of Bridge City holds ground breaking. Roy Ingram is the new manager.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last Wednesday Jane and Derry Dunn arrived in New York right in the thick of the Canadian forest fire smoke. Ten-million acres of burning smoke covered the eastern United States. Derry said from the plane coming in nothing was visible. The Dunn's returned Sunday and Derry is attending a school board member conference in San Antonio this week. High Tides closes. Wesley and Rhonda Dishon, owners of High Tides, on Cow Bayou, have sold the property to Chevron Phillips. The highway expansion prevented the restaurant from operating. I hear they got a nice sum for the land and are looking to relocate on the water. Good for them. Orange County is celebrating setting another attendance record for the Bassmasters Elite fishing tournament. The Bassmasters organization announced the OC tournament and river festival had 42,000 people attend during four days. We beat our previous record of 40,000. Dr. Tom Johnson and Lamar State College Orange hosted the June breakfast connection for the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce. The dapper college president had on a light green shirt, but no bow tie. Of course Ida Schossow from the chamber was there, along with ambassador and photographer Kimberly Manning. Leigh Anne Harrell, city of Orange events planner, spoke and told of upcoming events. Of course the biggest upcoming event for her is the birth of her first child, a daughter. Denisha LaFleur was spotted in the crowd along with Paul Dickerson, Mary McKenna, and Merita Kennedy. As the temperatures soared into the 90s this past week, Edie Burch and Richard Teague took their kids to a cool place, the mountains of West Virginia. They even needed sweatshirts. Leah Guillote-Stark was traveling through the American West with stops at the Grand Canyon and Grand Teton National Park. Scott and April Goodman found a relaxing time in Isla Mujeres, Mexico. Steve and Gail Maddox toured DC with grandson Kase. Steve brings they legally got to see the White House. Beth and Kenneth Wheeler are traveling in Scotland, with Beth even trying haggis. She compared it to boudain, which is a great de-

scription and will people not afraid to try the oatmeal and meat-filled sausage. Bridget Trawhaon met up with cousins in Charleston, South Carolina. Angelique Catt got her lifetime trip to visit the archeological site of Pompeii, destroyed by Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 70. It was part of her tour of Italy with husband Michael Catt. They have been traveling for their 25th anniversary together. Unfortunately, Michael learned the hard way about the old adage of only eating oysters in months with the letter 'y'. Lucy Terry continued dancing, cooking, and eating her way across Italy in a separate tour from the Catts. Her tour included Karen and Karl Wickham of Orange. Can't wait to see what new items Lucy's Cafe will have after she returns. All five of the Singleton siblings who grew up in Orange got together for a family wedding. Sherry Singleton Windham Carter still lives here. She posed for a photo with brother, Leo Singleton, and sisters Terri Ross, Gail Corder, and Annette Quimby. Dow Chemical held its annual barbecue cookoff fundraiser with 20 teams competing in the beef, pork, and chicken categories. Judges included Rodney Townsend, Paul Burch, Rita Monson, and Gary Stelly. Haven't heard how many antacids they needed that night. Linda and Keith Cloessner celebrated their 51st birthday and Linda, who owns the Garden District restaurant and catering service, didn't have to cook. They went to the Monument Inn for a quiet meal together. Patricia Kemp and husband marked anniversary No. 57. Myra and Alan Sanders have now been married 46 years. They've been living in Galveston, but their roots are deep in Orange. Birthdays the past week included Orange City Councilor Paul Burch. He and husband, Raul traveled this weekend to help his longtime friend Brooke Lemley Doss hold a garage sale. Brooke also had a birthday. Paul did Brooke's and her mother, Susan Tiger, hair for years. Adam Caillavet turned 40 and Marsi Jo Simar had her 39th. Also celebrating was Dorothy Mazier. On June 18, Country singer Blake Shelton and former Beatle Paul McCartney share birthdays. Blake, 47; Paul, 81. New in Bridge City. Hop Avenue Brewing Company, 75 Ferry Drive, co-owned by Bill Mungai and Donny DeLatte, offers great food, family atmosphere and an on the spot brewery. Give them a try.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays celebrated in the next few days. June 14: Today is Flag Day. Former Bridge City mayor Bobbie Burgess, Carley Swenson, Brandon Duhon and Brandy Aldridge celebrate. It is also the 77th birthday of former president Donald Trump. June 15: A special Happy Birthday to our "Girl Friday" Janelle Schon. Also celebrating are Adam Dupuis, David Cardner, Charlie Burnaman, Ryan Richard, Tina Romero and Sharon Fisher. June 16: Charlotte Potter, Beverly Perry, Jennifer Harrison, Ruby Bell and Alex Brent celebrate today. June 17: Delmi Roy, Justin Johnson, Andrew Riedel, Belinda Welch and a special shout out to our special friend Alice Cole-Hartsfield. June 18: Brandy Slaughter, Janice Babin, Krystal Leonard, Amber King all have birthdays on this date. June 19: Celebrating are Taylor Landry, Christie Kasko, Shelby Permenter, Chelsie Moerbe, Cortnie Moerbe, Marianne Choate. June 20: Trish Williams, Cindy Overman, Keith Kay, Justin Roberts, Debbie Johanson, Lynda Phillips are all a year older. June 21: Happy Birthday to Shelly Arceneaux, Jane Johnson, Tyler Bailey, Dustin Hartsfield, Sarah Claybar, Sharon Wright, Wesley Darbonne and David Dubose.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Mary Margaret Thibodeaux, a nice, calm, very respectable lady went into Landry's Drug Store and axe

for Mr. Landry, da pharmacist. She look him straight in his eyes and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide me."

Landry axe, "Why in da world, Ms. Thibodeaux, you need cyanide, hanh?"

"I need to poison my husband Joe, me," said Mary Margaret.

Da pharmacist's eye got big, big and he said, "Lord, Lord, Ms. Thibodeaux, have mercy." "I can't give you no cyanide to kill you husband, dat's against da law, dey

would trow both of us in jail and me, I'll lose my license." "I can't let you have no cyanide."

Mrs. Thibodeaux reach into her purse and pull out a picture wat show her husband in bed with Agnes, da pharmacist Landry's wife.

Landry him, he look at dat picture a long time him, den he turn to Mrs. Thibodeaux, "Well, now dats different, you didn't told me you had a prescription."

C'EST TOUT

Wednesday Lunch Bunch—Roberts 12 noon

I'm looking forward to being with my friends at The Lunch Bunch gathering this Wednesday. It has been a couple of years since I have been out of the cage and seen any of them. I'm sure, like me, they have changed. At least two years older. I'm sure the ladies are just as pretty, many of the men are now wearing beards and a few who were with us two or three years ago are now gone. I have belonged to civic and service groups but The Lunch Bunch is different than all of them. For the most part, it's fellowshiping with friendly people who mostly share the same interest worldwide. Everyone is welcome, no dues, come as often as you want. A sure thing is that every time you attend you will learn something new from the folks who have their ear to the ground. Y'all come. Thanks for your time; mine is up. Take care and God bless.

Deaths & Memorials

Shirley Ann Manuel-Scott, 84

Shirley was born on December 21, 1938. She died on June 10, 2023. She was the youngest of 8 children born and raised in Vinton, Louisiana.

She attended Catholic Elementary School at St. Joseph and Vinton High School. She moved to Orange, Texas in 1959 where she worked at Orange Bank and later at a savings and loan. She has been a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Orange since 1959.

She married H. Allen Burkart in 1960. They had three children, Keith, James, and Leslie. Allen and Shirley divorced in 1970. Shirley graduated from cosmetology school and began working as a hairdresser. She would eventually open her own beauty salon in several locations over the years. She married B. Alec Scott on July 19, 1975. Alec has a daughter, Stephani, bringing their children to four.

Their home was a second home for many throughout the high school years of their children. There was always something on the stove to eat and a safe place to be. She loved being with and surrounded by family, children, friends, grandchildren and great grandchildren. In her grandmother years she became known to everyone as "Mamé." Gatherings for family celebrations and holidays were highlights, particularly when everyone sat down to eat. "The food" was always a great source of bringing everyone together. For many years, the family gathered at annual family reunions with sisters, brothers, cousins, and friends from near and far. She traveled in her later years including meeting St. Pope John Paul II and celebrating Mass with him in the private chapel.

She was also able to attend an audience at St. Peter's Basilica with Pope Benedict XVI.

Besides her family, her other great passion was gardening. She always said that digging in the dirt was her best therapy. And her yard showed it. She could grow anything... and did. She loved sharing her



Shirley Manuel-Scott

plants with others and "acquiring" a cutting from this plant or that. She always had something in bloom no matter what time of year. Family and friends looked forward to gatherings in the yard.

She is predeceased by her parents, Lawrence and Aileen, her brothers Horace, Austin and her sisters, Ethyl, Joyce, and Elaine.

She is survived by her husband of almost 49 years, B. Alec Scott, her three children Keith, James, and Leslie and stepdaughter Stephani. She was Mamé to four grandchildren, Evangeline, Jacqueline, Hunter and Eric and 7 great grandchildren, Abigail, Emma, Alexander, Elizabeth, River, Jaxson, and Natalie.

The family would like to offer their sincere gratitude to BEST Hospice Care of Texas in Beaumont, in particular Jennifer and Chris Burch.

The family also extends thanks to Synergy Home Care, in particular to Taylor and Stardasha, daytime care givers. Our special thanks to Martha, nighttime care giver.

Shirley loved bright colors and plants of any kind and family! If you plan on visiting and celebrating with her family, you are encouraged to wear bright colors.

Shirley's family will receive visitors at Claybar Funeral Home, 504 N. 5th Street, Orange, Texas, 77630 on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. Visitation will be from 5 - 6:45 p.m.

A Vigil for the deceased including a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word of God will begin at 7:00 p.m. The recitation of the Rosary will follow. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church, 912 Cherry Avenue, Orange, Texas on Wednesday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m. burial following at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens on Highway 87 in Bridge City, TX.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to consider a donation to St. Mary Catholic Church, 912 W. Cherry Avenue, Orange, Texas, 77630 or the charity of your choice.

You are also encouraged to plant a tree or plant to celebrate Shirley's green thumb and God's beautiful creation.

Donald R. Marshall, 87, Orange

Donald R. Marshall, 87, of Orange, passed away on June 9th, 2023, at Baptist Hospital in Beaumont.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 17th, 2023, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Orange. Officiating will be the Reverend Keith Giblin. There will be a reception and visitation following the service.

Born on March 31st, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois, he was the son of Francis William Marshall and Dolores Bush Marshall. He grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida. During his school years he won many academic awards for essays and won a state Latin competition. Upon graduation from high school, he was awarded a four-year Baker scholarship to Vanderbilt University. He joined the ROTC and was committed to serving his country upon graduation. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree in 1957. He married Shirley Freeland that summer. (He said that was the smartest thing he ever did). The Army was not ready for him, so the newlyweds traveled to Houston, Texas where he enrolled in the graduate program in the Chemical Engineering department at the Rice Institute. His experiments established the conditions required for formation of gas hydrates at very high pressures, a subject of critical interest to the natural gas industry. While at Rice, his son Kenric Alan Marshall was born. Don received his doctorate from Rice University in 1963 and entered the workforce at DuPont's Sabine River Works in Orange, Texas. After a few months at DuPont, he put his career on hold and entered active duty in the United States Army. He was assigned to Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey, home of the munitions command. While serving in the army, his daughter Clare Lynn Marshall was born. In 1965 he was honorably discharged from the Army as a First Lieutenant and returned to Orange, Texas, vowing never to leave again. He continued his career in Research and Development where he was granted four patents during his 38 years of service to DuPont.

He was elected to the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school board in 1971, where he served for 12 years. He served as a Committeeman for Boy Scout Troop 130, and was honored for his service with election to the Order of the Arrow.



Donald Marshall

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, serving in many capacities, including as Senior Warden, a member of the vestry, a Eucharistic visitor, lay reader, usher, and a Sunday school teacher with his wife. He loved God and Jesus Christ as his Savior, and faith was always the cornerstone of his home.

In his free time, Don enjoyed flying remote-controlled airplanes with the Orange County Radio Control Club. He served as president, and was treasurer for 27 years.

He was a member of the Southeast Texas Veterans Service Group providing graveside service for veterans.

Upon retirement from DuPont, he taught chemistry at Lamar College in Orange, Texas for 20 years. He always offered free tutoring to his students.

He loved to travel and appreciate the beauty of God's world. He was a worldwide traveler, but especially enjoyed river-cruises with his wife. He loved music, and he watched many shows at the Lutch Theater over the years.

He was a fantastic husband, father, and grandfather who was always faithful and kind. He loved his wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law, and all his grandchildren and treasured every moment with them. He fulfilled his wife's lifelong dream of owning a horse on Valentine's Day, 1985, beginning a horse-racing business that lasted for 35 years.

He was a lifelong dedicated Christian. He died peacefully on June 9th at age 87, after a life well-lived to the fullest. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter, Clare, and fur babies Columbo, Bunkie, and Buster. He is survived by Shirley, his loving wife of nearly 66 years, son Kenric and daughter-in-law Jana, and grandchildren Andrew, Nathanael (wife Vanessa), Philip, and Simone, brother-in-law Thomas B. Freeland, Jr. and wife Marsha, nephew Thomas B. Freeland, III and wife Monica and their children Paige, Payton, and Tee, niece Julie Davies and husband Greg and their daughter Alex, and his fur baby, Paula.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Don's name to St. Paul's or a charity of your choice.

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

Charles Ray Guilhas, 90, Bridge City

Charles Ray Guilhas, 90, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on June 9, 2023, at Vidor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Vidor.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City. Officiating will be Father Michael Strother. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a Rosary at 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 12, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Arnaudville, Louisiana, on December 21, 1932, he was the son of Edward Guilhas and Clemence (Gillard) Guilhas. Ray was a member of St. Henry Catholic Church for many years. He retired from Texaco after 44 years as a pipefitter and was a member of the Texaco Club. Ray enjoyed being outside and loved to go shrimping and fishing, and he also loved gardening. Ray loved to invent new things and made sure everything was precise. He had a wonderful and caring heart, and helped anyone who needed it, whether he was asked or not. Whenever Ray could he loved to dance, especially the jitterbug. Ray loved his family very much and he will be deeply



Charles Guilhas

missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Clemence Guilhas; brother, Russell Guilhas and wife, Shirley; son-in-law, Greg Smith; and grandparents.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Dorothy Guilhas; daughters, Arlene Granger and husband, Dennis, Deborah Harris, Terry Smith, and Lori LaRose and husband, Gary; son Chuck Guilhas and wife, Stephanie; grandchildren, Dennis Granger II, Heather Frederick, Brent Granger, Jeremy Korn, Justin Smith, Corey Smith, Zachary Smith, Charles Guilhas III, Danielle Garcia, Kyle LaRose, Keith LaRose, and Kayla Taylor; 28 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; brother, Edward Guilhas and wife, Blanche; stepsister, Judy Reed; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Dennis Granger II, Jeremy Korn, Justin Smith, Charles Guilhas III, Kyle LaRose, and Brent Granger. Honorary pallbearers are Corey Smith, Zachary Smith, and Keith LaRose.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer's Association at <https://act.alz.org/site/Donation> or to the Special Angels Rodeo at <https://www.specialangelsrodeo.org/donate>.

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MISC. FOR SALE

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For Sale Innova Inversion Table, True Balance System \$75.00. Please call 409-735-3866 after 3 pm.

For Sale Plus Size clothing, 50 pieces only \$150.00. Text 409-238-1230

GARAGE SALE

Church Family Yard Sale on Sat., June 17th from 7 am to 2 pm at 4234 FM 408, Orange, 77630 (Orangefield area). Halfway between Bridge City and Orangefield. We have lots of misc items, furniture, clothes, tools, toys, shoes, books, household items, left handed golf clubs and much more.

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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 judgment 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

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.dfr.texas.gov

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FLOYD L. TEAL, Deceased, were issued on MARCH 24, 2023, in Cause No. P19676, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: MICHAEL F. TEAL and WILSON J. EWING.

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: James R. Dunaway Attorney at Law P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100

Dated the 31st day of May, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for: Michael F. Teal and Wilson J. Ewing State Bar No.: 06208000 P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100 jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PATSY ANN GARVIN, Deceased, were issued on MAY 17, 2023, in Cause No. P19661, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: THURMA GAY STEWART.

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: James R. Dunaway Attorney at Law P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100

Dated the 12th day of June, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for: Thurma Gay Stewart State Bar No.: 06208000 P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100 jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT JOHN GARVIN, Deceased, were issued on MAY 17, 2023, in Cause No. P19628, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: THURMA GAY STEWART.

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: James R. Dunaway Attorney at Law P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100

Dated the 12th day of June, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for: Thurma Gay Stewart State Bar No.: 06208000 P.O. Box 100 Orange, TX 77631-0100 jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

ENGINEERING SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

RFQ-2023-04-LAWRENCE ROAD DETENTION POND-HMGP

The Orange County Drainage District seeks to contract with one or more engineering service providers ("Respondents") to provide engineering services to the District. Interested Respondents may find copies of RFQ-2023-04-LAWRENCE ROAD DETENTION POND-HMGP ("RFQ") on the District's website at: <https://www.ocddtx.com/purchasing/> (search under "Current Procurement Opportunities") and at <http://civcastusa.com> (search for "Orange County Drainage District"). Interested Respondents must submit five (5) physical copies of its statement of qualifications ("SOQs") to Mr. Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser, at the Orange County Drainage District located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas 77630 ("District Office"). To be eligible for consideration, the District must receive SOQs no later than 12:00 pm on July 5, 2023, at the District Office. The District will publicly open the submitted SOQs at 2:00 pm on July 5, 2023, at the District Office. The District reserves the right to negotiate with all Respondents submitting eligible SOQs.

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Orange sets Bassmaster Elite record



Folds of Honor Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River champion Brock Mosley celebrates with the record-breaking crowd at Orange, Texas. The event set a new Elite Series attendance record, drawing 42,448 fans to events throughout the week. PHOTO BY: Shane Durrance/B.A.S.S.

Margaret Toal
For The Record

ORANGE, Texas — The 2023 Folds of Honor Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River is officially an event for the record books. Local officials announced a total of 42,448 attended events throughout the week, which included not only takeoffs and weigh-in festivities, but an outdoors expo, the Orange County River Festival and nightly concerts featuring Casey Chesnutt, The Molly Ringwalds, Cole Whittlesey and legendary Texas act the Randy Rogers Band.

“We are very proud that we set a record once again in attendance for the Bassmaster Elite Series on the Sabine,” said Ida Schos-

sow, president of the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the event. “This community never ceases to amaze me! They love the event, and they continue to show up to support B.A.S.S. and the anglers. Our relationship over the past 10 years with B.A.S.S has been fantastic, and we are looking forward to bringing future events to Orange County.”

Event co-chair David Jones echoed the excitement and thanked the many volunteers from across the region who helped to carry out the long-term vision of success that began 10 years ago.

“I’m ecstatic to hear we beat our record once again,” said Jones. “The

spirit of the southeast Texas community never ceases to amaze me. They are tough, resilient and always deliver. They have overcome so much over the

years from recessions, several hurricanes, floods and even a pandemic. They always unite and come out on top.

“When you bring a great

organization like Bassmaster to town — along with professional anglers, entertainment, food and fun — then pour some of that southeast Texas, Or-

ange County love on, it becomes a catalyst for success. Some call it magic, I call it the ‘Bassmaster Fe-

ORANGE SETS Page 3B

WOS Mustang shortstop signs with Wiley College



Mustang baseball coach Sergio Espinal sits with Tyrone Wilson as the West Orange-Stark graduate signs his scholarship to play baseball at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

West Orange-Stark graduate Tyrone Wilson will play baseball at Wiley College when he starts attending school there this coming fall. Wilson has received a scholarship to Wiley College which he signed on Wednesday, June 7, in the Cornell Thompson Strength and Conditioning Center at West Orange-Stark High School.

Wilson played shortstop for the Mustangs during his years at West Orange-Stark and was Honorable Mention All-District this past season. He also pitched and was a starter in the regular rotation of Mustang hurlers especially during the district games his senior year this past season.

Wilson expressed his appreciation to the assis-

tance he has received that helped him earn the college scholarship. “I’m so grateful to everyone that has helped me get to this point, especially Coach Espinal,” Wilson said. “He has assisted me through every stage of this process, and I’m very grateful to go to college on a baseball scholarship. I can’t express how much this means to me.”

West Orange-Stark baseball coach Sergio Espinal is proud of Wilson and how much he improved over the last four years. “From his freshman year to his senior year Tyrone constantly made tremendous improvements, and got better and better especially defensively for us,” Espinal praised.

Wiley College is located in Marshall, Texas, and is

WILSON Page 5B

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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

The Lakes

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water stained; 78-81 degrees; 0.64 feet below pool. The water level is 171.33 with no generators running. Water temperature at the Dam is 78 degrees. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 77-81 degrees. The shad spawn is winding down and starting to move into groups, shad balls, suspending in the water column depending on temperature in 12-22 feet of water. Bass will be feeding on shad balls in the outer swings of creek channels. The bluegill spawning beds will be the key for another big bass bite using swim jigs in bluegill colors with a short trailer in green pumpkin and watermelon red with just a little tail dip in chartreuse. Look for a hard sandy bottom where the bluegill can spawn on shallow points close to deep water. Some bigger bass are being caught on the main lake using Carolina rigs with a 10-12 inch old monster worm in colors watermelon red, watermelon red candy, black/red flake and tilapia gold over brush piles and edges of the river channel. Pay close attention to your thermocline as this can make or break your fishing day. The frog bite is picking up on popping frogs and hollow body frogs early morning and late evenings over vegetation. Captain's tip: If you are missing bass on a hollow body frog, two things you can do to improve your hook up ratio is to bend the two hooks out a little further away from the body then take your frogs and put them in a plastic bag or container and place them on the dash of your vehicle for a couple of days. As the sun warms the windshield your frogs will become softer and more pliable from the heat. You can thank me later. Flyrodders are catching Bass over vegetation using 8 and 10 weight fly rods. Top flies this week for bass are black or white Stealth Goober, a shad imitation crease fly, and a baby bass foam popper with a white tail. Crappie bite is still hot offshore using minnows and jigs. While fishing deep for Crappie using minnows you might catch several types of fish like catfish, white bass, bluegill, and gaspergou. Safety reminder: It's getting into the 90s in East Texas, so protect your skin by using your sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen! Remember, it is always better to play it safe by telling a loved one or friend the area you will be fishing, how many people are in your party and the expected return time. 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; 80 degrees; 0.01 feet above pool. Bass topwater bite is picking up, and wacky worms, spinnerbaits and Carolina rigs are good on offshore ridges and humps. Crappie are good with mostly smaller sized fish being caught on brush piles and timber using minnows and jigs. Blue and channel catfish are good off points in 20 feet of water with cut bait. White bass are roaming on humps and points. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

of big fish caught 40 plus miles out of Galveston. Some kingfish and ling, along with dolphin have also been taken. Jetties continue to produce decent numbers of speckled trout and slot reds on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is good for trout at night under lights, and the SWP is good day and at night free lining shrimp or shrimp under popping cork near the rocks. Campbell holding fish under birds. Limits of trout near the rocks early live shrimp. Mosquito Island holding trout and occa-

FISHING Page 3B

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 80 degrees. Limits of trout at the jetties and in the channel live shrimp under a popping cork. Channel is holding redfish on the bulkheads and rock piles. In Sabine Lake redfish are on points in the bayous using shrimp on a popping cork or quarter ounce jigheads with red shad plastics. Shrimp continue to dribble out of the marsh. Some birds are working outgoing tides in the evening leading the way to trout and redfish using a quarter ounce glo chartreuse. North Levee is on fire for speckled trout using silver and white crankbaits. ICW is holding nice trout in 4-14 feet using glo chartreuse plastics. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.



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

ed by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 85 degrees. Good numbers of speckled trout showing over mid bay reefs for those throwing live croaker. East side of the railroad bridge producing speckled trout and black drum, along with a few reds on live shrimp under popping corks. catches of trout are coming off the rocks near Texas City Dike. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Greens Lake holding redfish against grass lines and by sandy shores early. Wade anglers are having success for speckled trout and the occasional redfish on and around the south shoreline where there is hard sand. The east side of Oyster Creek is 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. As the winds pick up fish in protected waters with bait moving around. Fish are under birds around Confederate and Carancahua Reefs. Ease in on the birds for fish at least 75 yards riding a drift that will get you there quickly. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Houston

FAIR. Water stained; 78 degrees; 0.32 feet above pool. Catfish are good in 15-20 feet of water on shad and cut bait. Crappie are good on submerged structures with jigs and minnows. Bass are fair with an early morning topwater bite, transitioning to deeper structure with soft plastics and crankbaits. White bass are fair on slabs and rattletaps.

• Texas City

FAIR. 82 degrees. The opening of federal snapper season was a success. Lots

• Bolivar

GOOD. 74 degrees. The surf is starting to hold black drum, pompano, small sharks and the occasional redfish. The gulf side of the north jetty is holding limits of sheepshead and trout against the rocks at the end using a popping cork with shrimp, free-line shrimp or croaker. Channel side holding some nice trout and big redfish on the bottom. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 83 degrees. Eastern shoreline is producing catches of redfish on shallow shell. West shoreline good for speckled trout and a few redfish. Live shrimp, croakers and soft plastic have been effective. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 84 degrees. Decent numbers of speckled trout being caught over open bay reefs, such as Hanna's and Deep Reefs, using live shrimp and soft plastics. Birds working in the eastern end of the bay. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temps 84 degrees, water clarity very good in most places within East Galveston Bay. Good number of baitfish and shrimp over shell and grass lines, as well as open water reefs and the predators have been close by. We have been utilizing live shrimp, under a popping cork, as well as paddle tails and ¼

ounce jig heads on our artificial only charters. However, this week our success rates increased on shrimp imitation lures under popping corks and proved more successful than our live bait only trips for catching the targeted species. Blue Moon/Chartreuse worked well for us again this week, as well as white ice. We are still catching good numbers of Trout, Reds, and Black Drum up and close to the shoreline, as well as open water reefs. This week the winds have been kind to us allowing us to fish pretty much anywhere on the bay we chose too. There has been good tides and tide movement this week, and the afternoon falling tides have produced best for us on our chartered trips. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Yates Bayou drain and Siever's Cut are holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Hanna's is great early on the same, or a twitching artificial. Look for birds, moving bait, and small slicks. Slicks have a fishy watermelon smell, so be sure to let your nose help guide you to fish. 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. 82 degrees. Still

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Solving the ever-changing summer fishing puzzle

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

One of the biggest and most intriguing factors that keep fishermen coming back day after day is the process of discovery, figuring out the puzzle so to speak.

The task of sifting through all the variables and making sense out of all the factors in order to establish a pattern is what drives many anglers. Unknowingly we all go through the same process every time we fish but without the fanfare.

Most of us don't realize we are even doing it, establishing a pattern, but just as sure as water is wet we are doing exactly that.

Now there are way more folks who fall into the category of "routine" fishermen than those who actually take the time to go

about establishing a solid pattern. The guy who hooks his boat up, launches at the same launch, fishes the same spots, and throws the same bait trip after trip is a "routine" fisherman.

The law of averages eventually rewards this guy with a good trip or two, just enough hope and success to keep him coming back day after day. Now I can't tell you what the "routine" fisherman does is wrong because different folks have different goals and expectations. If "routine" fisherman has a good time on the water and enjoys his trip then more power to him, but there is much more out there see and a whole lot more fish to be caught.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate the technique of establishing a pattern I ever heard of was demonstrated by a very accomplished guide on Sam Rayburn by the name of Will Kirkpatrick. Will actually

angler. At lunch or dinner that evening the anglers were to bring their stack of cards and start sorting through them. Little by little each card was put into a stack until they were all done. It was amaz-

to decipher the pattern, the only question is "how do I get started?" A few basic questions first come to mind that should shed some light on the subject. First one has to be about things you cannot control, meaning weather conditions. Weather obviously plays a huge factor in determining your strategy for that days trip on the water. For arguments sake we are going to make weather a non-factor, it's drop dead perfect conditions and no water is off limits due to bad winds or other limiting factors.

The next uncontrollable factor has to be tides, either you have them or you don't, no in between. Tidal movement will certainly influence your approach and should determine where and how you start your day.

A truly dialed in pattern is a thing of beauty and helps to promote confi-

dence in any angler. When you step on a boat to go fish with your buddy or a guide and they tell you something is going to happen and as soon as you stop at the right spot it starts then it seems as if everything in the world is right.

The more skilled you become at putting these pieces together and being able to decipher the puzzle the more enjoyable your trips on the water will become. Don't become a creature of habit, take the clues you are given and put them in order in a very simple and basic fashion and watch what happens. The results become much more predictable and your time on the water becomes much more pleasant as your results get better with each and every trip. It's always been said "knowledge is power", the more you know the better off you are.

"A truly dialed in pattern is a thing of beauty and helps to promote confidence..."

taught classes on fishing and showed anglers how to apply the techniques he taught. One of the best ones was "how to establish a pattern". Anglers in the class were given a stack of 3 x 5 note cards before they went out to fish. On the cards the anglers were to write down a variety of information every time they got a bite or caught a fish.

Water depth, surrounding structure, water temp, lure, retrieve speed, and so on were all noted by each

ing at the end of the sorting process how each angler could now physically put their hand on one stack, that was usually the largest, and see exactly what the common denominators were in their pattern.

This process is what we as anglers need to be able to do mentally in order to narrow down the options and realize just exactly what the pattern is for that specific day.

Okay so now you understand the method of how

Orange sets Bassmaster record From Page 1B

ver!' We did it again! I am beyond proud of our community and incredibly thankful to our committee, sponsors and all our volunteers that truly made this event incredibly successful. Thank you Orange County! Let's continue to grow."

Previous Elite events in Orange, Texas, have also drawn record-breaking crowds — in four previous visits, the crowds totaled more than 136,000. In fact, Orange currently holds five of the Top 10 highest-attended Elite Series events of all time.

"Our partnership with

Bassmaster and Folds of Honor has once again set the record for attendance at an Elite Series tournament, which continues to show our citizens' commitment and support of the great sport of professional bass fishing," said Orange County Judge John Gothia. "The hard work of our committee and volunteers insured another family fun experience which continues to grow this fantastic sport. We look forward to hosting another event in the future."

Over the past decade, Orange has hosted six ma-

ajor B.A.S.S. events — five Bassmaster Elite Series tournaments and a St. Croix Bassmaster Opens Series derby.

"The event marked the 10th anniversary of our great relationship with Orange," said Eric Lopez, director of operations for B.A.S.S. "It's amazing to see how the entire town and communities across southeast Texas come together to put on a huge party welcoming B.A.S.S. and our anglers. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in making this our biggest event ever."

2023 Bassmaster Elite Series Platinum Sponsor: Toyota

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2023 Bassmaster Elite Series Supporting Sponsors: AFTCO, Daiwa, Garmin, Lew's, Marathon.

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Brock Moseley took the \$100,000 top prize at the Bassmasters Elite fishing tournament held in Orange and received the big, blue trophy in front of thousands of fans this past Sunday. PHOTO: B.A.S.S.

Fishing Reports- Gulf Coast From Page 2B

sional red early. Moses Lake holding fish under birds early. Fish holding near the piers from top water grill to Eagle Point.

Gas Wells has trout action on croaker. Halfmoon shoal holding a few redfish and black drum. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Freeport

FAIR. 80 degrees. Trout, redfish, pompano and whiting are good in the surf. Trout, redfish, gafftop and catfish are good in the bay under the birds. Flounder are good in cuts coming into the bay. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

• East Matagorda Bay

SLOW. 74 degrees. The weather has been beautiful, and the surf is flat and green holding trout, redfish, whiting, drum, and Spanish mackerel. Drifting has been off and on for good trout and few redfish. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• West Matagorda Bay

FAIR. 74 degrees. The weather has been beautiful so the surf is flat and green holding trout, redfish, whiting, drum, and Spanish mackerel. Tides are up with lots of redfish and trout on mid bay reefs using cut mullet. The

Colorado River is slowing clearing. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• Port O'Connor

GOOD. 75 degrees. Summer fishing is approaching. Speckled are good in the surf and outside the jetties on live croaker or shrimp. Pompano are good on live shrimp in the jetties. Slot redfish are good inside and outside of jetties on Spanish sardines. Bull redfish are good from

Bird Island to the jetties on blue crab and Spanish sardines. King fish are good trolling ribbon fish. Report by Captain Marty Medford, Captain Marty's Fish of a Lifetime Guide Service.

• Rockport

GREAT. 80 degrees. Redfish are great in 2-4 feet of water on grass flats using cut mullet and soft plastics thrown in sand pockets have been best. Trout are great in 2-6 feet of water on grass flats. Topwaters lures early transitioning to soft plastics mid morning has been best. Look for nervous bait. Drum are good in 4 feet of water on dead shrimp and gulp. Report provided by Captain Damian Hubbs, Top Gun Outfitters.

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ORANGE COUNTY GARDENING:

Preparation: Managing a Summer Garden

**JOHN GREEN
ORANGE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS**

Gardeners, by the time you read this the official start of summer will be 3 days away, beginning June 21st. During the past week our daily high temperatures have been greater than 95 F with only a very slight chance of rain in the weather forecast.

Let me be clear, as this is an indication of what we can expect over the course of the next several months. Okay, okay, I'm getting to the point, which is if you haven't already done so, it's time to prepare each planting area, flower bed, and vegetable garden for an arduous summer-plant livelihood depends on this! Naturally, some of you have waited to begin preparing the gardening areas, but I understand, our lives are busy, just know this it's not too late to prepare but make the time to do it soon.

Preparing each garden area is a simple, and straightforward process that doesn't require a lot of time, nor does it need to be completed in one day, especially if the garden area is large or heavily planted. It's already 'hot' outside (even early in the morning), and your safety is important! Before beginning any task outside wear loose-fitting (light colored) clothing, have water available for hydration, and take frequent breaks (in shady areas), especially as the outside temperature increases.

The best time for gardening in SETX during the summer months is early morning, before the sun rises (humidity is lowest) or late in the evening, once the sun has set. This gardener prefers to work early mornings' for the most strenuous gardening tasks, such as adding mulch, manure, compost (or other soil amendments), fertilizing, or watering plants. The evenings are usually reserved



A small amount of effort goes a long way to ensuring your plants withstand or even thrive during our blistering summer months

for planting, transplanting, lawn maintenance, and watering porch and container grown plants.

SO, gardeners remember this: preparation is key! Just remember a small amount of effort goes a long way to ensuring your plants withstand or even thrive during our blistering summer months. Spending a few minutes daily in your personal paradise is one way to maintain a beautiful garden. Most spring perennial flowers are fading, and it's time to interplant flower beds with annuals, creating new focal points with bursts of color. Weeds are the bane of gardening but removing them is an absolute necessity to maintain garden interest and decorum.

Weeding garden spaces is never an enjoyable task, made even less so when temperatures soar, so get an early morning start! For most of us, lawn maintenance (which is one of my favorite gardening chores) is the largest portion of our garden areas and is normally a weekly chore. Below are garden tasks detailed for ensuring plant resilience during our Texas summer!

Annuals: let's face it our spring blooming annuals and some perennials are faded, and annuals need to be removed and replaced with vivid bursts of color from annuals that enjoy Texas' heat, such as: zin-

nias, lantana, gazania, pentas, salvia, to name a few.

Lawns: ensure the mower blades are sharp and raise the mower deck height allowing the lawn to grow taller (more leaf surface) which will allow the lawn to remain healthier during summers' heat and retain moisture better.

Weeds: remove weeds before they become a big issue. Summer brings an abundance of weeds which 'appear' overnight without warning. They rob vital moisture, and nutrients from preferred plants. The idea is to remove weeds when the soil is moist and the weeds are small, before they flower.

Mulch: gardeners who want to reduce the time spent weeding, watering, and fertilizing garden areas (note I have mentioned mulching numerous times in the recent past) protects plants by insulating plant roots' (lowering soil temperature), retains soil moisture, and as the mulch decomposes, naturally fertilizes plants. This gardener prefers organic mulch, such as grass, clipping, pine straw or bark, or leaves.

Water: to adequately maintain garden areas, an ample supply of water is needed. Plants require about an inch of water

weekly, which needs to be applied to the plants' base rather than foliage, minimizing evaporation while encouraging root development, penetrating deeply into the soil. Excessive heat and 'dry' summers require more frequent watering or when daily temperatures exceed 95 F for many days (daily watering or every other day may be necessary). This gardener waters his lawn, flower beds and vegetable gardens at night during periods of drastic heat to allow water to percolate deeply into the soil, which is contrary to most gardening 'experts'.

Planters (Baskets): hanging baskets, patio and porch planters suffer and succumb quickly to summers' intense heat. They require increased watering frequency from once every couple of days in spring to twice daily during the summer months. Note: it's a good idea to top-dress hanging baskets with composted manure or worm casting to provide them an additional layer of protection, and nutrients which further aids moisture retention, while supplying much needed organic fertilizer.

So long for now fellow gardeners, let's go out and

grow ourselves a greener, more sustainable world, one plant at a time! If you have gardening questions, email me: jongreene57@gmail.com or phone the Orange County Master Gardeners Helpline: (409) 882-7010.

Are you interested in becoming a Master Gardner? Orange County Master Gardeners next training class begins 24Aug23 thru 14Dec23, with classes held Thursday's 6 to 8:30 pm (Orange County Expo Center) at 11475-A FM 1442. The cost is \$150, and includes the manual, background check and speaker fees.

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Entertainment: Summer concert scene

**TOMMY MANN JR.
FOR THE RECORD**

The summer concert season is underway and, just like the temperatures, it is already red hot. More big shows are on tap in the coming weeks, so be sure to check out the schedule below for upcoming shows and see the full listing of events online at www.therecordlive.com

• **June 16**
Thomas Rhett, Cole Swindell, Nate Smith, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.; Chingo Bling, House of Blues, Houston; Les Claypool, White Oak Music Hall, Houston

• **June 17**
Zebra, House of Blues, Houston

• **June 18**
Dream Theater, Devin Townsend, Animals as Leaders, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land; Helstar, Last Concert Café, Houston

• **June 23**
Pixies, Franz Ferdinand, Bully, Bayou Music Center, Houston

• **June 24**
Twice, Toyota Center, Houston; Venom, Exhumer, Acid Witch, Scout Bar, Houston

• **June 25**
Twice, Toyota Center, Houston

• **June 26**
Bebe Rexha, House of Blues, Houston

• **June 27**
Fall Out Boy, Bring Me the Horizon, Royal and The Serpent, Daisy Grenade, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **June 28**
Bryan Adams, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land

• **June 30**
Matchbox Twenty, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **June 30**
Robert Randolph Band, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **July 1**
TLC, Shaggy, En Vogue, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 2**
"Outlaw Music Festival" feat. Willie Nelson, Whiskey Myers, Brittney Spencer, Particle Kid, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands



Legendary rock act Foreigner will perform at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands on Aug. 12 with special guest Loverboy. The band announced its farewell tour earlier this year. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

• **July 8**
Chris Cagle, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.; Blink-182, Turnstile, Kennyhoopla, Toyota Center, Houston; Louis Tomlinson, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 11**
Foals, Paramore, The Linda Lindas, Toyota Center, Houston

• **July 14**
Everclear, Saliva, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.] Ace Frehley, House of Blues, Houston

• **July 16**
Tears for Fears, Cold War Kids, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 20**
Overkill, Exhorder, Heaten, Scout Bar, Houston

• **July 21**
Sublime with Rome, Slightly Stoopid, Atmosphere, The Movement, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Kenny Wayne Shepherd, House of Blues, Houston

• **July 22**
Shania Twain, Mickey Guyton, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Between the Buried and Me, Warehouse Live, Houston

• **July 23**
Nickelback, Brantley Gilbert, John Ross, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 26**
Lil Baby, The Kid Laroi,

Glorilla, Gloss Up, Rylo Rodriguez, Hunxho, Toyota Center, Houston

• **July 27**
Disturbed, Breaking Benjamin, Bush, Jinjer, Cynthia

Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands; Young the Giant, 713 Music Hall, Houston

• **July 28**
Tom Keifer Band, John Corabi, Rise Rooftop, Hous-

ton; Greta Van Fleet, Kaleo, Toyota Center, Houston; Rema, Revention Music Center, Houston

• **July 29**
Steve Miller Band, Cheap Trick, Cynthia Woods



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Wilson

From Page 1B

part of the Red River Athletic Conference. The college was founded in 1873 and is named in honor of Bishop Isaac William Wiley. It is one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities west of the Mississippi River. Wiley College has provided educational opportunities for 137 years to the citizens of Texas and continues to thrive. Wilson plans to major in Kinesiology at Wiley College.

Tyrone Wilson was a true leader for the Mustang baseball team, and Espinal believes Wilson will do well at Wiley. "Tyrone's going to do well. Where ever he goes Tyrone is going to do well. Tyrone is very mature and he's just going to keep working on his fundamentals and good things are going to happen for him."

"He has the ability to do well and play at this level," Espinal added. "I will enjoy watching him grow and become a more developed baseball player."

The coach feels a hard worker like Wilson will fit in nicely with the Wiley Wildcats. "The Wiley Wildcats Baseball Program has become a very competitive NAIA program in Texas," said Espinal. "I am very proud and excited for Tyrone."

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Tommy Gunn graduated West Orange High School as Valedictorian. After graduating top of his class at Baylor Law School, Orange native Tommy Gunn begin practicing law in Orange County in 1976. As an attorney he has devoted his life to providing legal assistance to Orange County residents and businesses in virtually every aspect of general law.

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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The Sight That Changes Suffering

Vaneetha Rendall Risner
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org

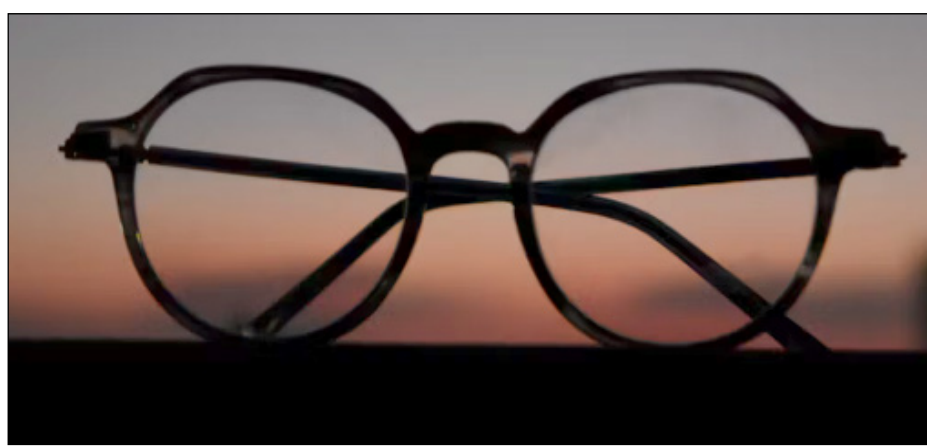
Suffering changes our vision.

Just as our natural eyes can't see as well in the dark, in suffering we struggle to see beyond our pressing needs. Everything looks hazy — except our problems, which seem disproportionately clear and intense. It takes the eyes of faith to see past our present circumstances to the presence and provision of God.

Seeing with the eyes of faith requires us to be intentional about where we focus. I recently took a picture in portrait mode on my phone, and I noticed that what I focused on was remarkably vivid and sharp, while the surroundings were fuzzy and blurred. I could barely identify what was in the background. The same is true in suffering. Whatever we focus on will capture our attention, and everything else can fade into the background.

When God first brought the Israelites to the edge of the promised land, Moses told them to spy out the country God had given them. The spies returned after forty days, acknowledging that the land was flowing with milk and honey, but focusing their attention on the giants who lived there (Numbers 13:31-33). God's promises and provision faded into the background, and the people succumbed to fear.

Forty years later, Joshua led the Israelites to the border of the promised land with even more obstacles.



The same giants inhabited the territory, but now they needed to cross the overflowing Jordan River and conquer a walled city. But this time, the people didn't hesitate or mention turning back. They focused on God, taking courage that he was with them, and the hurdles disappeared into the background. Rather than looking through the lens of fear, they looked through the lens of faith, focusing on God's presence, protection, and provision.

Faith allows us to see far beyond our natural vision, assuring us of what we hope for but cannot yet see with our physical eyes (Hebrews 11:1). This spiritual sight is a gift from God, and with it we see our lives through a different lens. But why do we need it? When God opens our eyes, what can we see?

Scripture becomes alive with meaning when God illuminates it for us. The Bible is inspired by God, and we need his Spirit to understand it (1 Corinthians 2:14). We can research and analyze Scripture and even read the original in Hebrew and Greek, but if God

doesn't reveal the truth to us, we cannot see it.

One way to get that sight is to pray, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18). Just as the resurrected Jesus opened the disciples' minds on the road to Emmaus to understand Scripture (Luke 24:45), God can do the same for us. The Bible moves from mere typewritten words on a page to Spirit-breathed words that change us — words that give life to our souls, give us wisdom and joy, and help us see the deep things of God. Even when we feel as though we're lying in the dust, God's word can revive us.

• GOD'S PROTECTION

When God revives us, our spiritual eyes can see his protection as we look into the heavenly realms. Even though we may feel alone, outnumbered by our troubles and enemies, we can be certain that, in Christ, heaven's armies are with us. When Elisha and his servant were surrounded by the Syrian army, Elisha prayed that the eyes of his servant would be

opened. And when they were, the servant saw that the hills were filled with horses and chariots of fire. The heavenly realms surrounded them, and they both knew that there were more with them than against them (2 Kings 6:15-17).

Likewise, believing that the help of heaven is surrounding us can change how we face battles, whether we're struggling against hostile people or alone in our rooms. Wherever we are, we are never truly alone.

• GOD'S PROVISION

In addition to his protection, God opens our eyes to his provision right in front of us. When Hagar was sent away with her son Ishmael, she wept when their water supply ran out and feared Ishmael would die. Then God opened her eyes to see a well of water that would provide for them (Genesis 21:19), most likely reminding her of years earlier when she declared, "You are a God of seeing. . . . Truly here I have seen him who looks after me" (Genesis 16:13). Hagar understood

that God provides for and looks after us, even when we have no resources. The ability to recognize God's provision is a gift, so those who don't trust in God may not see good even when it comes.

• GOD'S PRESENCE

Perhaps the greatest gift of spiritual sight is to recognize God's presence. Jacob wrestled with God, at first not knowing who he was, but eventually realizing he had seen God face to face (Genesis 32:30). This encounter changed Jacob forever — leaving him with a limp, but more importantly with a faith that never turned back. After seeing God, like Jacob, we will never be the same.

Even though we may intellectually know God is always with us, we need to pay attention to see him and be aware of his presence. Signs of his love are all around, but we need to connect them to him. It may be as simple as noticing the wisdom we have when we ask for it. Or the inexplicable comfort we receive when we cry out. Or the unexpected phone call after we pray.

Connecting those gifts with God's presence in our life can transform our suffering. Both Mary Magdalene at the tomb and the disciples on the road to Emmaus were dejected and discouraged until they recognized Jesus, and then they were filled with joy and peace. So it is with us. Knowing that God is with us, not just intellectually but experientially, can radically alter how we feel in our suffering.

When we turn to God, he opens our eyes and shows

us hidden treasures of darkness that we might know him (Isaiah 45:3). But since our vision is limited in the dark, we need to be purposeful about where we focus. If we view life through the lens of pain and discouragement, we will focus on all that is wrong and difficult. We will see our problems more than God's provision. We will see our loneliness more than God's presence.

What lens are you viewing your life through? Are you asking God for supernatural sight as you focus on him? Are you looking at the obstacles in front of you, or are you beholding the God who can move mountains? Are you trusting in your ability to fix the situation, or are you entrusting yourself to the God who commands the dawn?

If we put God's steadfast love before our eyes (Psalm 26:3), then we will see his presence, protection, and provision more than we see our problems. He will delight us with Scripture even in our deepest affliction. We will rest in his protection, knowing he goes before us and will fight for us. We will see his marvelous provision, sending manna from heaven and water from a rock. We will know that he is with us, as our spiritual eyes will see our Teacher (Isaiah 30:20).

And as we walk by faith and not by sight, relying on what we know to be true rather than what we see, we will not be disappointed. "For we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

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Jeremiah 29:11-13

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

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