

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, July 26, 2023

County shows strong May sales

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The city of Orange and Orange County had strong increases in sales tax rebates for the month of May, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office, which collects sales taxes and sends back shares to the taxing entities.

Bridge City stayed stagnant, while Vidor and West Orange had increases. Pinehurst had a monthly increase compared to May 2022, but is slightly down for the year to date.

The U.S. Consumer Price Index for May was a 4 percent increase in inflation.

Orange County has a half-cent per \$1 sales tax and collected \$673,310 for the month, a 16.63 percent increase from May 2022. The county has collected

\$4.53 million during the first seven months of the year, a 9.29 percent increase from the \$4.15 million collected at the same time last year.

The city of Orange has a 1.5 cent per \$1 sales tax and collected \$820,633 for May, a hefty 62.23 percent from May last year. The city has collected \$5.3 million so far this year, a 20.15 percent increase from the same time in 2022.

Bridge City received \$173,072 percent for the month, down only \$20 from the \$173,092 last year. The city's year to date total is \$1.29 million, down slightly from \$1.3 million last year, or a 0.89 percent decrease. The city has a 1.5 cent per \$1 sales tax.

Pinehurst was up 8.53

SALES Page 3A

Historical markers coming for West Orange, Prairie View, Orange

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Three new Texas Historical Markers are in Orange County's future, including the first one in West Orange and the first for the community of Prairie View, which evolved into Bridge City.

The other marker will be to feature a 132-year-old house in the Old Orange Historic District currently owned by Kenneth and Beth Wheeler.

Last week the Texas Historical Commission sent word to the Orange County Historical Commission that marker applications for the three submitted for the county were approved. This year, the state allocated only 170 markers for the 254 counties in the state.

The markers will take more than a year to be cast in bronze and sent to the sites. The Orange County Historical Commission will hold dedication ceremonies for the markers in the future.

A marker will be going to the First Baptist Church of West Orange and will be the first one within the city's limits. West Orange City Councilor Meritta Kennedy researched the marker and wrote the appli-

cation.

The church was founded in 1901 when West Orange was opened as a place across Adams Bayou where the workers in the lumber mills and shipyards could afford a plot of land to build a house. The church was the first establishment in the community, which became an incorporated city in 1954.

The marker in what is now Bridge City will be for the Prairie View Teacherage, which now serves as offices for the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce, along with a museum of the town. The house now sits at 150 West Roundbunch Road.

The research and application for the marker were by Charlotte Chaisson, a writer whose credits include a history book of Bridge City. Chaisson is also a former director of the Bridge City Chamber and helped preserve the old teacherage. Her work included the proverbial "elbow grease" of working hot hours to fix and refurbish the house.

The teacherage was built for the old Prairie View school district in 1930 to serve as a residence for the

HISTORICAL Page 3A

Emmett Till killers moved to Orange after crime

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

President Joe Biden Tuesday signed orders to make three spots national memorials to 14-year-old lynching victim Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till Mobley. The infamous murder of the teenager helped start the 1950s' civil rights movement has a strange connection to Orange.

The two confessed White killers and their wives, including the one who claimed the teen had given her a "wolf whistle" and touched her hand, moved to Orange from Mississippi after they were acquitted of the crime.

Roy Bryant Sr. and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, confessed to the murder in a Look Magazine story they were paid to do after the all-White jury found them not guilty. They could not be tried again because of the U.S. Constitutional right protecting against double jeopardy.

Bryant, who died in in 1994 at the age of 63, told the Jackson (Mississippi) Daily News in 1985 that he lived in Orange from 1957 to 1972. He had been a boilermaker.

The Orange city directories for 1957 and 1958 show the Bryants were living at 1202 Avenue B in the old Riverside complex off Simmons Drive where the Orange Boat Ramp is now. Roy worked at American Bridge at the time. In 1959, the city directory shows they moved to a duplex at 439 Park Avenue, where the lot is now vacant. The late Henry Lowe more than a half century later established the Orange African-American Museum in an old building across the street from the vacant lot. The Bryants disap-



Roy Bryant, his wife Carolyn Bryant, Juanita Milam (wife of John William JW Milam) and John William JW Milam in court. Roy and John were on trial for the murder of Emmett Till. 1955.
Photo credit The Commercial Appeal-USA TODAY NETWORK



Mamie Till-Mobley weeps at her son's funeral on Sept. 6, 1955, in Chicago.

peared from Orange city directories later, but if they had lived in areas outside city limits, they would not be listed. Biographers now say the couple had a daughter in Orange, the youngest. Their two sons were young at the time of the killing and their later move to Orange. The daughter was deaf and died in adulthood. J.W. Milam and his wife

also moved to Orange in the late 1950s, but did not stay here long. The Bryants later moved to Vinton, Louisiana, across the Sabine River from Orange and divorced in 1979. Carolyn remarried two other times and later became known as Carolyn Donham. She died in April this year in Westlake, Louisiana, in Calcasieu Parish, the same parish as Vinton. She was

the last main survivor in the event that led to a civil rights movement. The story of Emmett Till has now become a part of U.S. history. Last year, a major film entitled "Till" was released, focusing more on Mamie Till Mobley's fight after her son's murder. A 2005 documentary, "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis

EMMET TILL Page 2A

WOS grad promoted to Round Rock principal

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

West Orange-Stark High graduate Deidra Floyd will be the new principal this year at Fern Bluff Elementary in the Round Rock ISD. She is the daughter of Tara Floyd of Orange.

Floyd began her career with Round Rock ISD as a Fern Bluff Elementary School second-grade teacher. After 14 years in the classroom and two years as a talented and gifted specialist, Floyd joined the Canyon Creek Elementary School leadership team as an assistant principal. The school district in the

announcement said: Over the four years Floyd has served as assistant principal at Canyon Creek, she has driven continuous improvement for identifying and monitoring the progress of students in need of intervention, created early literacy professional development, improved communication and learning community relationships, increased reading performance and phonemic awareness, and restructured student council for a more inclusive focus on developing leaders. She is also a District's Team One Program graduate, designed to provide aspiring principals



Julie Fuller

with professional development relevant to the principal role.

"I view education as a life-long process and am excited to continue to learn

every year from our students, teachers, and parents at Fern Bluff," said Floyd. "I look forward to meeting each of you as we work together to build a safe, supportive, and collaborative culture for our staff, students, and families." Floyd holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Baylor University, is certified in elementary self-contained services, and earned her Master's in Education Leadership and Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. She is also a graduate of Texas State University's principal certification program.



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SEE OUR AD PAGE 1 SECTION B

Emmett Till killers moved here From Page 1

Till" brought renewed focus on the incident's 50th anniversary.

Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, in his 1960s folk music phase, wrote "The Ballad of Emmett Till." Poets Langston Hughes, who visited Orange in 1945, and Gwendolyn Brooks wrote poems about the lynchings. James Baldwin wrote a play. PBS has aired several looks at the events. Hundreds of magazine, newspaper, and television stories have been made about Till, his mother, and his killers.

It was "another sleepy, dusty delta" day in August 1955 when young Emmett Till from Chicago, Illinois, was visiting relatives in rural Mississippi. The sing-

er-songwriter Bobbie Jo Gentry, who wrote those words in the lyrics to "Ode to Billy Joe," said that though her song is not about Till's murder, it was inspired by his story.

His mangled, bloodied, and bloated body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River three days after he was kidnapped by White men in the middle of the night from his great-uncle's little house.

Emmett Till was raised by a single mother, who was only 19 when he was born less than a year after she married his father. They divorced because of his infidelity.

Emmett was a big city youth who was excited in

the summer of 1955 to visit relatives in Mississippi. His mother warned him about being careful how to act, because the Jim Crow laws in the South were not like he was accustomed to in Chicago.

Emmett and his cousins decided one day decided to go to a country store to get something to drink. Emmett also got a piece of bubble gum.

Through the past 68 years, stories have changed about the events at that small, woodframe store operated by the Bryants, who lived with their boys on the second floor.

Carolyn Bryant, told her husband, Roy, that the teenager from Chicago had given her a "wolf whistle" and touched her hand when it was on the counter.

According to the 1956 Look Magazine story, Roy had been out of town as a truck driver when the incident happened. He got his half-brother and got others to pay retribution to the Black youth from the North.

However, in 2017, a the author of another book wrote that Bryant Dunham told him Till did not whistle and try to touch her hand. And a former FBI agent, according to the Boston Globe, said her secret memoir reveals Till never did those things to her.

That memoir is sealed until 2036 at the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Her previous memoir, "I Am More than a Wolf Whistle," had her saying Till did whistle and touch her and that he didn't deny it after the kidnappers brought him before her.

Whether or not it happened, a 14-year-old was kidnapped from his sleep, taken out in darkness, tortured, shot, and killed. A fan from an old cotton gin

was chained around his neck before he was disposed of in the river.

His body was found three days later. It was so disfigured that his mother could identify him only by a ring he work. Like any mother who loses a child, she was racked with grief. But she wanted changes.

Mamie Till insisted her son's casket be opened so his body could show the world what the violence of a racist world can bring. She allowed photographs of Emmett in his casket to be made. Jet Magazine famously printed the photograph, which shocked a nation.

Thousands of people filed up to see his body in Chicago and take with them Mamie Till's message that violence and discrimination against Blacks needed to end. It was the year after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Brown vs the Board of Education that segregation was unconstitutional. A modern civil rights movement was fueled.

Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, less than four months after Till's murder, refused to move to the back of the bus from the segregated White section in Montgomery, Alabama. She later said that when she was arrested, her first thought was of Emmett Till and what happened to him.

The three new national memorials are at Graball Landing where Till's body was pulled out of the river, plus the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner, Mississippi, where Bryant and Milam's trial was held. The third one is in Chicago at the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ, where Till's funeral was held.



Orangefield ISD Superintendent Dr. Shaun McAlpin honored high school student Garrett Rawls with the 'Bravo' award for his bravery in saving his family during a house fire earlier this month. The presentation was made at the Orangefield School Board meeting Monday evening. Rawls' house on East Greenwood Drive was heavily damaged by a fire in the middle of the night. He awoke in time to get his family out safely as the flames grew.

Wishing David & Becky Rutledge Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary



SWEAT EQUITY

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

Early in our marriage Beverly and I were looking for a house to be our home in Port Arthur. Our problem, like many young couples, was lack of enough money to even produce a required downpayment. We located a home that was ideal, which later turned out to be where we raised our children. Even though the price was reasonable it was more than we could afford for a downpayment to finance. I approached our local banker who came up with a great solution. He asked if the house needed any substantial repairs. It was a two-story house and badly needed painting. He suggested that he would accept what he called "sweat



Former State Senator Carl Parker

equity." He would give me enough credit to make up for lack of a down payment if I would repaint the entire house. I did so, we moved in and raised our children in a quite nice neighborhood in Port Arthur.

We Americans need to consider investing sweat equity in preservation of the democratic form of gov-

ernment. If we are too lazy to even make the effort to seek and find the best qualified leaders of our state and nation, we will truly be in trouble. It takes a little effort to make the down payment on good government. We should be ashamed if we do not follow through and dedicate sweat equity to American citizenship.

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Mike Sanchez announces candidacy for Orange County Sheriff

The following is a political statement issued by Mike Sanchez candidate for Orange County Sheriff:



Mike Sanchez

My name is Mike Sanchez and I am running for Orange County Sheriff. I have always wanted to be the Sheriff and I believe my past training and experience and my current position will help me be a Sheriff who can take the Sheriff's Office to the next level. A little about myself, I am married to Tiffany Sanchez and we have 6 boys. Rodney who lives in Bridge City, Blake in San Antonio, Bret in Beaumont, Kaine is currently serving in the US Army and stationed in Hawaii, Ethan who is a Senior at Vidor High School and also plans to join the Army, and Weston who lives in Blossom. I moved to Vidor 28 years ago and love our community. I want to help make it a safe place where we can raise our children and grandchildren. I am currently employed as the Chief of Police for Vidor ISD.

I've held several roles in my career. I was a supervisor with experience in operating a patrol shift, a Lieutenant leading the day to day operations of a Police Department, a warrant officer serving warrants and have worked in court security as a Bailiff. As a Public Information Officer, I have built relationship with the news media and some of those relationships still hold today. While working in the command staff level, I have investigated citizen complaints and officer misconduct. I have multiple levels of training with FEMA for dealing with

pre and post natural disasters. I worked Street Crimes and Narcotics Investigations dealing with Thefts and Burglaries and Highway Interdiction. I also served as a Hostage Negotiator with the Orange County Area Law Enforcement SWAT team. Currently, as the Chief of Police, I assisted in bringing safety and security to the forefront with training, equipment, and an emergency operations plan. Our school district police officers now have the equipment they need to confront an active shooter, our teachers have knowledge to keep our students safe in their classrooms, and our nurses have added medical equipment and tourniquets throughout the district for a post critical incident event. The tourniquets later helped save the life of a Jr High student. The quick thinking and training of our Police, Nurses, and staff helped save the life on their campuses that day. We have established a safety and security committee and a reunification team for critical incidents in our district. We have added a plethora of safety and security measures to our campuses, all in keeping our teachers, staff, and

students safe.

Where we will be going if I get elected: I look to be involved with all school districts in Orange County. I would like the Sheriff's Office to be a resource to our school districts. A tool they can add to their tool box by assisting them in training and working with their Marshall's, school district police departments, and their administration. I want them to know we will be there to help them and support them utilizing my background in the school systems. The schools have plans in place already to keep their students and staff safe and I want to add what we can to help them further. I also want the Sheriff's Office to be a resource to our churches and businesses in Orange County and to help expand their needs for training their safety teams and employees for an active shooter event or critical incident. I want our citizens to be highly satisfied with our Sheriff's Office by letting them know Orange County will not be a safe haven for those who look to commit crimes. I want to bridge gaps and working relationships with all Law Enforcement agencies. I will work closely with the news media and be as transparent as possible without jeopardizing cases or investigations. I want to bring organizational integrity and accountability to the department. The leadership will set the tone from our correctional officers to our deputies to our dispatchers.

I appreciate your support for my candidacy for Orange County Sheriff.

Historical markers From Page 1

single teachers hired by the district. The house was built in the Craftsman-Acadian style by school board members and men living in the district. It was used until 1993, even after the community became known as Bridge City in 1941.

Through the years, the teacherage was continually occupied by teachers, principals, bus mechanics, and maintenance personnel. When the Bridge City ISD decided it did not need the house, the Bridge City Chamber acquired it and it was moved to its current site.

The house is the only teacherage left in Orange County from the days when a small community school district provided a

teacher or principal with a place to live.

Now-retired Judge Jerry Pennington used his lawyer skills to research the deed records and history of the house at 1008 Pine Avenue. The lots were part of the city of Orange's first "subdivision" area as the town moved away from the crescent of the river. Pennington's history includes how the town grew as the giant Lutcher and Moore Lumber Company located here and brought in an influx of workers for cutting timber and running the lumber mill.

Pennington foudn an 1879 edition of the Orange Tribune, which printed "Mr. J.C. Bradbery and Mr. N. Bissey of Longview arrived in Orange this

week. They propose to locate in Orange provided they can obtain housing, which, of late, owing to the influx of people, has become a difficult matter. New buildings are going up all through town but not fast enough to supply the demand. We believe there is not a vacant house in Orange."

He follows the ownership of the house, with the Stephens family as the longest residents of the home. The Wheelers bought the house from First Christian Church, which is across an alley from the house, in 2003. Since then they did major renovations to the main house and a second building on the site.

Sales revenue From Page 1

percent for May this year with \$57,668, compared to \$53,135 last year. For the year to date, the city has collected \$385,317, a decrease of 0.84 percent from the \$388,619 collected during the same period in 2022. The city has a 1.5 cent per \$1 sales tax.

Vidor has a 1.5 cent per \$1 sales tax and has increases in the month plus the year to date, compared to 2022. The city received \$293,594 for May, an increase of 8.43 percent

from the \$270,763 in May last year. For the year to date, the city is up 3.58 percent with \$2.09 million compared to \$2.02 million last year.

West Orange has a 1.25 cent per \$1 sales tax and collected \$113,502 for May, compared to \$270,765 in May last year, an increase of 3.5 percent. The city is also up for the year to date with \$845,938 so far this year, compared to \$802,695 for the same period last year, an in-

crease of 5.38 percent.

The Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department, or Orange County Emergency District No. 3, is the only special district in the county with a sales tax. The district has a 1.5 cent per \$1 sales tax and collected \$19,841 for May, down from \$22,828 in May 2022. For the year to date, the district has \$185,051, an increase from \$163,411 during the same period last year.

Hunter Education Class August 3 in Orangefield

Hunter Education Class Field part of the On-Line Course will be held at the Orangefield Fire Station on Thursday August 3, 2023 from 5:30 PM until 9:30 PM with the cost of \$15.00. You must sign up on TPWD website to register to attend and must complete On Line Course & bring printed certificate of completion or copy of tests.

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tion to Class, class size is limited for more information the

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From the Creaux's Nest

A LIFETIME OF WEATHER CHANGE

Back in the early and mid-1950s, several of us went down into Mexico with Mr. Stewart, who owned Lou Ann's club, in Louisiana, to buy horses (Indian ponies), to be transported to Texas. That is quite an interesting story but for some other time. Today's subject is the weather in Mexico then. Around Monterrey to Mexico City, the weather was just like it has been here at home the last 30 days. The average daily heat in June and July was 98 to 101 degrees. Over the past 70 years Mexico weather has drifted down this far. I don't know anything about Global Warming and that stuff, I just know what I know, weather has changed. When I was a boy, many winter days had a heavy frost on the ground and roof tops. We had several winter days where ice cycles hung from the roof. We broke them off and made play swords. The ice cycles were a forerunner to snow cones. We put sugar and syrup on them. Any person over 80 will tell you about those very cold winters. We had to heat water to defrost the frozen pump on our water well. The pump handle was too frozen to touch with bare hands. By the way, I still have that pump that is something over 100 years old. Today most of our winters are mild, a few frosty days and a couple of hard freezes to damage or kill plants. I haven't seen an ice cycle since the ice storm. Winter, in my youth, was mostly December, January and February. Over recent years most days are spring like. Christmas a couple of years ago, was 88 degrees. We used to bundle up from head to foot, now most of us don't even own heavy clothes, gloves, etc. We are experiencing Mexico's winters and weather. Summers are getting hotter, this week the earth broke an all time heat record, winters getting milder. I would be interested in hearing what J.B. Arrington has to say about summers and winters in the early 1930's in Orange County. I have to move on. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2013 Will and Katy's baby, the royal prince arrives. The first royal baby of the Facebook, Twitter age arrived Monday, July 22, 2013. The future monarch, Prince of Cambridge, is the third in line to the throne. If he ever becomes king, it will be far down the road. The new prince weighed in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces. He arrived at 4:24 p.m. London time, to parents Will and Kate. I don't know why the boy's arrival is such a big news item. We were sorry to hear about the death of Ange Hebert, age 80, who passed away Saturday, July 20. She and Tommy were married 61 years. Ange was the second city secretary at Bridge City, following Mrs. Pat Brandon. She served from 1974 through 1987. Thanks to our buddy Jesse Domingue, who while traveling through Cajun Country, thought about us and brought back a loaf of thick, crusty, French bread. Our friend, Sue Simar, got one eye fixed last week and will get the other fixed later. With one good eye, she can see that Tommy is not as handsome as she thought. Margie Stephens is grounded after Harry had knee surgery last week. He came home Friday and is doing well but the therapy is tough. Rehab is not for sissies. July 28 is Blaze Montagne's 14th birthday. Hard to believe. Henry Bailey, son of Rob and Sue Bailey, has written a book titled "The Secret of Indian Island." The book was edited by our own Nicole Gibbs and Penny Leleux will be doing the review. Big news out of Orangefield is that coach and athletic director Josh Smalley has landed a big fish to coach his girl's basketball team. Former University of Texas Pan-American coach, Dennis "Denny" Downing, a successful coach and native of Enid, Okla., will take over the Lady Bobcats program. A small time boy, Coach "Denny" found just the place to his liking. He won't find better fans either. I learned from Jack Smith that Barbara Mulhollan was his childhood next door neighbor and that he and attorney Sharon Bearden grew up like brothers and are still close.

17 Years Ago-2006

Morphew E House Inn, 205 College, offers historical bed and breakfast. Owned by Monty and Kelly Morphew, the home was built between 1893-1898 and offers a truly special experience. Justice of the Peace Judge Derry Dunn, after having knee surgery, was back at his J.P. office one week later. He doesn't miss much work, in fact, in 19 years as an LCM educator, he didn't miss one day of work. He had perfect attendance. Four

Bridge City High cheerleaders and their coach Michelle Huff attended Cheer Hawaii U.S. A. Camp in Oahu, Hawaii. They are Taylor Miller, Heather Gisclair, Kylie Simoneaux and Ciarra Jackson. Orange County couple Earl and Ruth Davis are in Israel. Every time they hear a siren they head to the bomb shelter. It's part of life along the Sea of Galilee. The Davis' retired in Orange seven years ago and moved to Israel where they run the Galilee Study Center. They are the parents of WOS teacher and writer Meri Elen Jacobs. (Editor's note: Meri Elen is now retired.)

47 Years Ago-1976

Dupont Paul Hale and Orange businessman Davis Cooper in hotly contested race for Orange mayor. Steve Worster, until now a confirmed bachelor, has fallen into the same trap the rest of us have. He announced he would wed Ann Broome on Aug. 27. She is a beautiful East Texas girl from Waskom. Judge Graham Bruce fulfilled Attorney Charles Sexton's wishes. Charles had wished for a full day of peace and quite in the county jail to settle his nerves. Well, when Charles acted up in court, Judge Bruce said, "Lock him up." Louise Green named city editor at Beaumont Enterprise. Jackie Harmon buys up a tract containing several buildings between 5th Street and 10th Street. The sale involved the Orange Newsstand, attorney's offices and so forth. Mark Dunn covers the Jimmy Buffet and Steve Fromolz concerts for The Opportunity Valley News. Cal Stakes goes along to take photos. Bridge City youngsters receiving degrees this week from McNeese are Charles L. Miller, Mary Loid Foster, Patricia Faircloth and Jimmy Dan Roberts.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Cool climes, and climbs, are calling the locals to Colorado and mountain locales to escape the heat. John and Marla Blanke met up with ex-pats Patty and David Butler to trek some mountains. John also celebrated a birthday. Roderick and Brandy Robertson, one of the county's two power couples, were in Denver with sight-seeing to a distillery. Brandy, who is the Orange County Clerk, picked out some watermelon moonshine. Roderick is a member of the West Orange-Cove school board. Our other power couple is Becky and David Rutledge. He's the mayor of Bridge City and she's a BSD trustee. Last week they celebrated a milestone in their journey through life together. Their 50th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated with a nice soiree. On to our travelers. Theresa and Russ Cronin are out RVing again, this time in the Southwest. So far, their stops have included Las Vegas and Albuquerque. Janice Johnson returned from Isla Mujeres, Mexico, after a trip with son and daughter-in-law, Troy and Nicole Johnson. Sharon Hargis is another birthday traveler and headed south to Mexico to celebrate her 70th. Amy Bonneaux and Marisa Emmons went to the Woodlands Saturday night to see the big Shania Twain concert. Edie Burch and Richard Teague hit the road again and stopped for meat in Bryan. Of course in Texas, that means smoked meat. And maybe Babette Philpott is hooked on smoked jerky. She and Monika Bellon hit three different Buc-ee's in one day. Was it the wall of jerky or the scented candles that called to them. But then, we all know what the main stop at Buc-ee's is for. AL Granger didn't travel far because he kept his party local. He had Old Orange Cafe for a gathering of the Granger Chevrolet technician team and their spouses. He celebrated their record-breaking month of accomplishments with the party and a gift to each of an RTC cooler. Kyndall Harrison is following in the footsteps of her grandmother, the legendary Mickey Gisclair, who had a long career as a court reporter for law offices and district courts. Kyndall, a graduate of Bridge City High and a former sports star there, is now working at the Ferguson Law Firm while she studies court reporting at LSCO. That's the school where Dr. Tom Johnson finds a community need and then gets programs to educate our locals locally. No more traveling to Houston and renting an apartment to go to court reporting school. And we have to throw in the name of Brandi Griggs here sometimes. The big mystery of the week is whether Hannah Gower can tow a trailer to Houston and then back here? West Orange-Stark High has had to announce that the recent fire in the new press box at Dan R. Hooks Stadium will not affect any football games. The fire caused no damage to the stadium, but the press box cannot be used. Home games will go on as scheduled. Justice of the Peace Joy Dubose-Simonton learned son Christian and daughter-in-law Jessica Simonton will be having boys, yes, plural for twins. A contingency from Orange County went to see Bailey Noah and Brian Bailey marry. She is now Bailey Bailey. Attendees included dad Joseph Noah, mom Terri Childs and step-dad Brad Childs, along with grandmother Dayle Foreman, who took along beau Harold. Lots of birthdays went on this past week with Marvin Edwards having a grand 60th party at the Orange Train Museum. Blue was the special color for the event and Benitris Peterway Edwards wore a stunning blue gown. Karen McKinney was honored at Luigi's with a birthday dinner to mark No. 82. She's been a local leader in a number of community causes, including her current stint as president of the Orange County Salvation Army. Husband Jack toasted her for raising their daughters as he traveled first, for the U.S. Navy, then for DuPont. Other birthdays included Martha

Oliver, Bill Smith, Laura Watters, Gwen Poutra, jack-of-all trades Steve Jones, Todd Hurst, Christina Underwood, Staci Stark-Mazzagate, Sue Denosowicz, Lila Jane Parzen, Jasper Johnson, and Keith Faske. Retired OPD records ace Terri Catanor turned 60. T.W. and Lyndia Permenter get the toast for the longest years for this week's anniversary list with 63. Julian and Sandy Gross reached No. 52. Lucy and D.J. Terry have been married 32 years. Jerry and Mindi Vandervoort marked their 30th anniversary.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next week. July 26: April Hawkins, Sherry Gauthier and Laura Berman celebrate. July 27: Ty Manual, Matt Chandler, Lisa Simmons, Helen Philen and Joseph Withead. July 28: Blaze Montagne turns 24 on this date. Also celebrating are Paula Richey, Allison Donnell, Chaelynn Wilson. July 29: Jonathan Snipe, Sally Andrews, Millie LeMoine, Chris Abshire, Lisa Faulk, Art Miller, Laurie Davis and a special shout out to our own Robby Ballou. July 30: Keith Goss, Lisa McCall, Ron-da Hale, Trey Hillsten, Chris Lopez, Conner Godwin, Daniel Faircloth, Danny Stevens and David K. Boileau. Celebrating also is Mark's grandson, Liam Greeson, who will be four-years-old today. July 31: Happy Birthday to Tiffani Daigle, Amber Weidner, Jane Duchene, Kimberly Sieck, Brittany Newman, Debbie Moerbe, Marie Pittman and Laci Braus. Aug. 1: Celebrating today are Joyce Dubose, Vickie Arkeen, Terri Romeror, Missy Pillsbury, Megan Vogt, Tana Thompson, Megan Leleux.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Pastor Gaspard was presenting a children's sermon him. During the sermon he axe da chillun if dey knew wat da resurrection was about.

Axeing questions during a sermon is sometime crucial but at da same time, axeing chillums questions in front of a congregation can be very dangerous.

Brother Gaspard axe da young'uns if dey knew da meaning of da resurrection, dem?

"Tee-Not" Dartez raised his hand and Pastor Gaspard called on him. "Tee-Not" said, "I know me dat if you got a resurrection dat last more dan four hours, you suppose to call da doctor."

(Editor's note: It took over ten minutes for the congregation to settle down from their laughter and for worship service to continue. From the mouth of babes often comes surprises.)

C'EST TOUT

Margaret's timely Emmitt Till story and connection to Orange President Biden creates a national monument for Emmett Till and his mother, the activist Mamie Till-Mobley, on Tuesday to memorialize the Black teen whose 1955 lynching helped ignite the civil-rights movement. Biden signed a proclamation at noon establishing the monument in Illinois and Mississippi on what would have been Till's 82nd birthday, the White House said. Till was tortured and murdered in Mississippi weeks after his 14th birthday by a pair of vigilante white men. The White House said the monument will be displayed in three locations significant to the Till family: the Chicago church that hosted Till's funeral; the Sumner, Miss., courthouse where his killers were tried and acquitted; and the site outside Glendora, Miss., where it is believed his body was found. A bulletproof sign currently at the site outside Glendora replaced previous memorial signs that were vandalized or shot at. The monument, called the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, is set to honor Till-Mobley's activism, the White House said. She became a prominent civil-rights speaker before she died in 2003. Till-Mobley insisted on displaying her son's mutilated body in an open casket at his 1955 funeral. The images stirred a national outcry and laid bare the cruelty in the Jim Crow South, galvanizing activists such as Rosa Parks. U.S. senators from Illinois, Mississippi and New Jersey introduced a bipartisan bill earlier this year to establish the monument for the Tills. Biden last year signed a bill into law named after Emmett Till that designated lynching a federal hate crime. Congressional lawmakers had been trying to pass such a bill since 1900. This week Margaret Toal is publishing a great story. Over the years our publications have published many historical stories. Ms. Toal has been a big part of that. She first wrote about Emmett Till in 2005 and has followed every move in the story since. This week's story is a good contribution and very much how I recall this national story which has a link to our hometown, Orange Texas. Thanks for your time. Please read us cover to cover, support our family of advertisers and tell them we sent you. Take care and God bless.



Deaths & Memorials

Ronald "Buddy" Emmert, 87, BC

Ronald D'Wayne "Buddy" Emmert, 87, of Bridge City, Texas, went to be with Jesus, his Savior, on July 21, 2023, while celebrating his 65th wedding anniversary in Hot Springs, Arkansas. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, July 28, 2023, at Orange First Church of the Nazarene in Orange. Burial will follow at Orange Forest Lawn in West Orange.



Ronald Emmert

A dedicated churchman, Ronald served as volunteer minister of music at Orange First Church of the Nazarene, 1961 through 1996, and provided leadership on the church board for more than 50 years. His leadership led to the creation of the Heritage Veterans Memorial Plaza at the church to honor all Orange County veterans.

His attributes of humble integrity, dedication to Christ, dependable wisdom and discernment would lead to his appointment and longterm service on several boards beyond the local church, including service for more than 40 years on the Nazarene church's district advisory board beginning in 1968, as a board member for Southern Nazarene University for 18 years, and on the General Board of Nazarene International, 2000-2003.

Ronald and his wife loved to travel, visiting family and friends, and have been to 48 states and 10 foreign countries. He was a truly wonderful Christian husband, father, and grandfather and his memory will be deeply cherished.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Estella Emmert.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Kathy (Snowbarger) Emmert; daughters, Kay Sattler and husband, Brian of Doss, Texas, and Rhonda Stewart and husband, Brent of Humble, Texas; grandchildren, Dr. Amy Weir and husband, Joshua of Lake Jackson, Texas, Dr. Gregory Sattler and wife, Amanda of Waco, Texas, Jonathan "Jonny" Stewart and Edward "Eddie" Stewart of Humble, Texas; great-grandchildren, Aubrey Elle Weir and Luke Oliver Weir; as well as sister Beverly Walker of Norman, Okla.; brother-in-law Marion Snowbarger of Tulsa, Okla.; uncle Sam Emmert and wife, Kathy, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and numerous loving cousins, nieces, nephews, and many other relatives and friends who knew him as "Uncle Buddy."

Visitation will be held 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, July 27, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Born in Grandfield, Oklahoma, on May 13, 1936, Ronald was the son of Lloyd Edward Emmert and Estella (Keesling) Emmert.

The family soon moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1941, the war effort brought the family to Orange where his grandfather Rev. J. S. Emmert was pastor of Orange First Church of the Nazarene. He had fond memories of his childhood, riding bikes, playing baseball, and later, working in his father's bicycle and lawnmower shop.

He graduated from Lutch Stark High School in 1954, and chose to attend Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University) in Bethany, Okla., earning his bachelor's degree in business in 1958. While in college, he sang with a men's quartet and traveled with college's Acappella Choir.

Ronald had a wonderful singing voice and he loved to share it. He also served in student government where he met the love of his life in his freshman year.

He married Katherine Snowbarger of Sylvia, Kansas, August 3, 1958.

After graduation, he served two years in the United States Army, and was stationed in Germany. After he returned to Orange in 1961, he joined Texaco Research and Development in Port Arthur as accountant/comptroller for 35 years before retiring in 1996.

Opal White Hawley, 97, Orange

Opal White Hawley, 97, of Orange, Texas, passed away on July 20, 2023, at Arlington Heartis Ellington Assisted Living in Arlington, Texas.

Funeral services will be 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at North Orange Baptist Church in Orange, Texas, with Lynn Ashcraft officiating.

Born in Lanette, Alabama, on December 14, 1925, she was the daughter of Herbert White and Ada Pearl Moore White. Opal was a very friendly and outgoing person who loved living in Orange where she had numerous friends and family, whom she credited with making her life worth living.

Her passion for others led her to love her work in the nursing home industry and



Opal Hawley

working for North Orange Baptist church for 30 years. She was an avid card player and loved getting a game whenever she could. She left Orange at the age of 96.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Truett "T.S." Hawley; and sister, Kathryn Martin.

She is survived by her daughters, Janis Hawley McCrary and husband, Jim, of Kingwood and Rebecca Hawley Damiano and husband, Rick, of Arlington.

She will be dearly missed by her grandchildren, Jennifer McCrary, Jessica Prosser, Jana McCrary, Jimmy McCrary, Ryan Damiano, and Joey Damiano, as well as 11 great grandchildren, and her brother, Arlton White.

Karen Collier's Edward Jones branch is school supplies donations location

Staff Report
For The Record

Karen Collier, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Bridge City, is supporting Bridge City schools by using her office as a drop-off location for a school supplies drive.

Local residents may help make a positive impact in the community by bringing items to our Edward Jones office in town during regular business hours from July 12, 2023 to August 9, 2023. Monetary gifts, including gift cards, cannot be accepted.

The branch address is: 1815 Texas Ave Bridge City TX 77611.

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vices firm in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.7 trillion in client assets under care at the end of March 2023. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at edwardjones.com.

Vickie Newman Toal, 72, Jasper

A Celebration of Vickie Newman Toal's Life, age 72, of Beech Grove, Texas, will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, July 27, 2023 at Stringer & Griffin Funeral Home in Jasper, Texas with burial to follow at Sanders Cemetery near Beech Grove, Texas.



Vickie Toal

Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

Vickie passed away on Monday, July 24, 2023 at Jasper Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Texas.

A native of Jasper, Texas and a former resident of Orafle, Texas for 35 years, Vickie moved back to the Beech Grove Community of Jasper about 6 years ago.

She graduated from Jasper High School in 1969 and was a member of the Beech Grove Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas. She was a longtime member of the Sunset Grove country club and a member of the One More Club of Orange, Texas. She enjoyed playing golf and shopping.

Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Vickie is survived by her husband of 42 years, Tom Toal of Beech Grove, Texas; daughter, Kimberly Toal Roth and husband Robert of Conroe, Texas; brother, Mitchel Newman and special sister Debbie of Jasper, Texas; grandson, Riley Roth; nieces and nephews, Prissy Leonard, Nella

Newman, Willie Bubba Newman, Logan Robards, Katie Robards; great nieces and nephews, Fancy Followwill, Lacy Pinkerman, Sam Moake and Katie Newman and four great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Verna Newman and her brother, William David Newman.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Plaza, Memphis, TN 38105.

Services are under the direction of Stringer & Griffin Funeral Home of Jasper.

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ACROSS

1. "Back in ____ I hit the sack"
6. Lavatory, abbr.
9. Arctic floater
13. Revered Hindu
14. Three, to Cae sar
15. Poison am pules, e.g.
16. Neckwear op tion
17. "Sometimes it's hard to be a woman, giving ____ your love to just one man"
18. Most populous country
19. "It's going down, I'm yelling ____"
21. "Sugarpie honeybunch, you know that I ____"
23. Act on IOU
24. Spanish spar kling wine
25. Mel ____, Gi ant Hall-of-Famer
28. Garbage in, garbage out, acr.
30. "If everybody had an ocean ____ the U.S.A., then everybody'd be surfing"
35. Less than av erage tide
37. All's opposite
39. ____, Wind & Fire
40. Gas station brand
41. Bottom-rank ing employee

DOWN

1. Undergarment
2. Catalog
3. Fungal spore sacs
4. "____ at the bit"
5. Soldier's knap sack
6. Pinocchio, e.g.
7. Be unwell
8. Pancho's last name
9. Like certain print
10. "Here's a sto ry of a lovely ____"
11. Assortment
12. Genesis twin
15. Fast and lively,

in music
20. Giving a once-over
22. Spermatozoa counterparts
24. Reassert
25. "Believe it or not, I'm walking ____"
26. Sailor's cry: "____ firma!"
27. Like an implied agreement
29. "You're here, there's nothing I fear, and I know that my heart will ____"
31. Possible aller gy symptom
32. Black and white treats
33. Leather razor sharpener
34. "Will the real Slim ____ please stand up?"
36. Well-man nered Emily
38. Adult elvers
42. Live it up
45. Mooring rope
49. Though, short ened
51. Another name for papaw
54. Below, prefix
56. Be a slowpoke
57. Jellies' seeded cousins
58. A-bomb parti cle
59. Sheltered nook
60. Was aware of
61. Gives a hand
62. Lotus position discipline
63. Censor's tar get
66. "I'm friends with the monster that's under my ____"
68. Salon offering

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Local 'GT Shockers' win FASA World Series

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

A select team of twelve girls from the local area played during the third week of July as the GT Shockers in the FASA (Fastpitch America Softball Association) World Series held at Branson, Missouri. The GT Shockers took home the championship trophy on Saturday, July 22, rallying after dropping into the losers bracket and advancing all the way to win the tournament.

The opposing teams were all elite competition of select teams from around the nation for the girls from southeast Texas to face. The Shockers lost early to a very strong team from Missouri where the tournament was being played, and that team was said to be the favorite to win the tournament.

Bouncing back from the early loss the GT Shockers had to win five straight games in come from behind situations to stay alive and advance in the tournament. They made it through the losers bracket, and then had to play the Missouri Chiefs the same team that beat the Shockers initially.

Prior to the game the umpires reminded the GT Shockers that the Missouri Chiefs were undefeated thus far in this year's world series. The umpers went so far as to say they

thought the Chiefs were unbeatable.

The GT Shockers proved the umpires wrong. The Shockers won the "if" game to force a winner take all game with the Missouri Chiefs which the GT Shockers won 4-2 to grab the championship finishing the tournament with an 8-2 record.

Girls from five local high schools including

PHOTO AT RIGHT: GT Shockers in dugout Brooke Mayer, Eden Frenzel, Tessa Erickson, Makenna Knight, Jillian Brown, Asia Woodson, Calli Wiggins, Hallee Becker, Ella Stephenson, Ava White, Kendell Jones, Jensyn Yeaman and Charlee Sanches are not in the photo but are on the team.

Little Cypress Mauriceville, Bridge City, and Orangefield played on the GT Shockers. Team members are Keylie Washburn, Tessa Erickson, Brooke Mayer, Hallee Becker, Makenna Knight, Ella Stephenson, Ava White, Eden Frenzel, Asia Woodson, Kendell Jones, Jillian Brown, Calli Wiggins, Jensyn Yeaman, and Charlee Sanches. Coaches for the GT Shockers are Bill Stephenson, Wayne Stephenson, Jamey Knight, Madeline Stephenson, and honorary coach Aiden Brown.



OF's Parks brothers earn golf All-State



Xander and Lincoln Parks were both named to the Class 3A 2023 Texas High School All-State Boys Golf Team.

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Parks brothers of last year's outstanding Orangefield High School golf team received further honors in July. Xander and Lincoln Parks were both named to the Class 3A 2023 Texas High School All-State Boys Golf Team.

Xander and Lincoln were chosen as part of the ten-member select statewide golf team for Class 3A. Topping the list of ten golfers was Xander with Lincoln in the eighth position.

Xander graduated from Orangefield at the end of May. Lincoln will be a junior this fall as the lone returning Bobcat on their golf squad from last season.

Orangefield golfers grabbed fourth place during the state Class 3A golf tournament held May 22-23 in Austin. Xander won the individual gold medal at the tournament with the lowest two-day score of 142 which was three strokes better than

his nearest competitor. Lincoln finished in eighth place behind his older brother.

At the regional golf tournament played in Brenham on April 20-21 the Parks finished one and two to help secure a second place finish for Orangefield which qualified the Bobcats for the state tournament. Xander shot a 74 on the second day, the lowest individual score shot during the regional, to pass Lincoln who had the low score after the opening round and take first place by three strokes ahead of his younger brother.

Later this year Xander Parks will be attending Jacksonville College which has upgraded their golf program in the last year, but he may transfer in two years to wherever his brother Lincoln decides to attend college after he graduates from Orangefield High School. Xander who is an Academic All-American plans to study engineering in college.

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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; 79-83 degrees; 1.59 feet below pool. The water level is 170.2 with both generators running 6 hours a day. Water temperature at the Dam is 81 degrees. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 79-83 degrees.

Crappie continue to be caught in 12-20 feet of water depending on cloud cover and generator schedule. Small minnows are the best bait this time of year. Bass are best early and late in the day using topwater poppers, chuggers, spooks and frogs over vegetation. Another Bass pattern is a flutter spoon 7-10 inches over humps and ledges. During the heat of the day bass can be caught in 20-25 feet over ledges with deep diving crankbaits. Texas and Carolina rigs with 7-10 inch worms have been producing in the outer swings of the creek bends. Best color worms are watermelon candy red, June bug red and red shad.

The night bass bite has been coming on strong with Texas rigged 10-12 inch worms in all black, black with a red glitter, black with a blue tail, Vudu magic super 7, and midnight special from Natural Forage Baits. Another great bait for the nighttime bass bite will be a spinnerbait in all black with a single spin Colorado blade 3/4 or 1 ounce, cadence slow off points.

White bass are biting a black/blue back ½ ounce rattletails, jiggging spoons in 1/2 and 3/4 ounce, or a medium diving crankbait. Kayakers are catching blue and channel catfish near deep water on shallow flats in 1-6 feet of water with a floating cork and split shot. Best baits this week have been punch baits, squid, finger mullet, shrimp, and fresh lake shad.

Remember, it is always better to play it safe by telling a loved one or friend the area you will be fishing, how many people are in your party and the expected return time. Good luck and keep casting forward! Report from Master Captain Steve "Scooby" Stubbe, Mudfish Adventures LLC, Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide, and Mudfish Custom Rod Shop.

• Sam Rayburn Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 88-90 degrees; 1.61 feet below pool. Summer pattern is holding steady. Fish are staying near older wood where the PH is lower. Some bass and white bass can be found schooling. Bass are good with topwaters in the pencil grass and hydrilla. Bigger bass are on points and humps biting crankbaits and Carolina rigs.

Crappie are stacking up on brush in 16-22 feet of water with bluegill mixed in biting on minnows or jigs. Catfish are good in 22-25 feet of water on brush and around creeks. White bass are schooling on points biting jigs and crankbaits. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

on Spanish sardines. Trout are good at Bird Island and jetty washouts in the early morning fishing with live croaker. Report by Captain Marty Medford, Captain Marty's Fish of a Lifetime Guide Service.

• Rockport

GREAT. 88 degrees. Texas heat and winds persist and the bite is similar. Redfish are great in 1-4 feet of water on paddle tails and topwaters. Live

and cut bait have been doing great in sand pockets. Trout are great early morning moving deeper as the sun rises. 2-4 feet of water over grass and mixed sand pockets targeting bait heavy areas. Down south lures, mirrolures, and live bait have been doing well. Drum are scattered along wind blown shorelines in the marsh. Dead shrimp is working best. Report by Captain Damian Hubbs, Top Gun Outfitters.

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 83 degrees. Trout and redfish are good on lake points and cuts where water drains from the bayous flushing shrimp into Sabine Lake using live shrimp under a popping cork. Trout and redfish are good on Sabine Channel rock piles 2-4 feet of water using glo chartreuse 5 inch plastics with a 1/16th ounce jig head. The wind has been too gusty to fish the jetties. Intracoastal Canal to Taylor's Bayou producing good numbers of redfish, but few slot. ICW to Pleasure Island points if good for trout drifting in 2-4 feet of water on the flats. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• Bolivar

GOOD. 81 degrees. The surf is holding lots of black drum, shark, and some big redfish on cut bait or live on the bottom. The North Jetty Gulf side is holding limits of sheepshead and trout against rocks with an occasional redfish near the end with a popping cork and shrimp. The wreck is holding good numbers of trout on free-line shrimp or croaker close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout close and big redfish on the bottom. Sharks are at the end of the jetty on the gulf side. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 88 degrees. Anglers fishing the northwest corner of the bay are catching black drum, sheepshead, a few redfish, and at times a few speckled trout. Fish seem to be holding over hard shell or rocks. Best bite on live shrimp under corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 88 degrees. Action over open bay reefs is slow. Those wading protected shorelines early, catching a few speckled trout and redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temps 88 degrees and water clarity varies. As previous weeks, the further west you venture the clearer the water becomes. Winds have been out of the southwest all week in the 10-22 mph range, increasing as the day progresses. This has hampered reef fishing efforts, compared to last week. Catches of trout and bull redfish early in the day chasing bait, over shell, but once the sun rises the bite ends. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks have been the best bait, and Big Poppa Pearl has worked well with ¼ ounce jig heads. Birds are still working in the bay, as fish are still feeding on shrimp, so if you can find them the action can be fast and furious, but short lived. Please remember to drink plenty of water and bring plenty of sunscreen, as we have ventured into the time of year when it gets extremely hot on the water, and it is critical you stay hydrated and do not get overheated or sunburned, as after 10 a.m. you really begin to feel the effects. Report by



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

Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Little Hanna's holding speckled trout, and an occasional flounder, or redfish, Yates Bayou drain still holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Siever's Cut holding redfish near grass lines. Hanna's, Deep Reef, Moody's Reefs look for birds and slicks. Gas wells A1 to Eagle Point, holding some trout with live croaker. Goat Island holding Redfish under popping cork with shrimp or Carolina rigged live mullet finger mullet. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 88 degrees. Gas wells holding a few speckled trout, but wind is making it difficult to fish the wells. Anglers finding protection along rocks catching a few trout. Good numbers of black drum, a few big sheepshead, and the occasional redfish. Best bite on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The piers on the island are good for redfish, sharks, and jack crevalle. When water and waves permit, Pleasure Pier to Surfside is hot for redfish, speckle trout, pompano on Live bait, artificial. Live shrimp under a popping cork, croaker on an OCTO Circle with small Chatter weight. The South Jetty is holding some big redfish with a few nice slots, and some nice sharks at the end. The gulf side is on fire for speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks on popping cork with live bait, free-lined shrimp, Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker. Channel side holding trout close to rocks popping cork with live shrimp. Catches of jack crevalle and bull redfish off the 61st and 91st Piers on cut bait. The railroad bridge is holding redfish, drum and a decent number of speckled trout early on live bait. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Best catches are being taken by those wading with live croaker. Bay reefs are off-colored. Report by

Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. West Bay's south shore is producing good numbers of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers around the coves and grass lines from south of Deer Island to San Luis Pass on both sides of Bird Island. Bird Island flats are holding good numbers of speckled trout, and some redfish for wade anglers. North shorelines between Carancahua Reef and Confederate Reef are holding good trout and redfish with an occasional flounder drifting croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Texas City

FAIR. 86 degrees. Day-time action for those fishing from the Texas City Dike is slow. At night anglers fishing with lights catching fair numbers of speckled trout. Galveston jetty anglers catching a mix of speckled trout, sheepshead, black drum, and slot redfish on live shrimp. Sharks are still good on the outside of the

jetties. Those battling bumpy seas are being rewarded with some nice snapper, a few ling and kingfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is producing catches of trout at night under lights on live bait or artificials. The rock Shoals southwest of the Dike are holding trout and redfish on live croaker, shrimp, or artificials. Look for bird action from Campbell's Reef to Virginia Point. The gas wells across from Moses Lake are holding trout on live croaker. Moses Lake is holding fish by the gate on both sides. Dollar Reef is producing catches of trout on live croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Freeport

GOOD. 86 degrees. Fishing is good for redfish, trout and some flounder drifting with live shrimp under a popping cork in the mornings in Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay and the west end of Galveston. Wade fishing the guts in 3 feet of water has produced good catches of croakers. The river is starting to pick on trout, flounder and a few redfish. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

• East and West Matagorda Bay

SLOW. 85 degrees Most reliable bite will be drifting with live shrimp and artificials for redfish, drum, croaker and the occasional trout, or wading with croaker for trout. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

• Port O'Conner

GOOD. 80 degrees. Catches of big sharks in the jetties with skip jack. Black drum are good at the ends of the jetties on dead shrimp. Bull redfish are good from the back of the jetties to Bird Island

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WOC Event Center closed for repairs after fire

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The fire that started on June 29 outside the newly constructed press box at Dan R. Hooks Stadium caused significant damage to the stadium and the neighboring West Orange-Cove Event Center. The damage will cause the event center to be closed for at least four months according to a press release from the West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District (WOCCISD).

The press release stated the cause of the fire has been investigated thoroughly. It was determined that the sun reflecting off the angled glass of the press box at the back of the stadium onto the vinyl VIP seats with special covers located in front of the press box was what initiated the fire.

The corrosive fumes from the fire have affected all the soft spaces within the structures and will now require extensive renovation to ensure the safety and functionality of those facilities that were damaged.

The event center will be accessible only for two earlier scheduled events in early August.

Regretfully, the WOCCISD informed that the West Orange-Cove Event Center will be inaccessible for at least four months other than for those two events. As a result it is highly unlikely that the West Orange-Stark Mustangs will be able to utilize the new press box at the football stadium for the 2023 football season which starts in late Au-



Investigation into the fire at the football stadium determined the blaze was started by the sun reflecting off the glass of the press box which ignited the special covers on the vinyl VIP seats in front of the press box.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



Smoke from the fire in late June at the football stadium damaged the new press box and the adjacent event center causing the school district to make both inaccessible for the next four months.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

gust.

Athletic Director Hiawatha Hickman clarified the availability of Dan R. Hooks Stadium, also known as Mustang Stadium, for the upcoming football season. "We will play all our home games here at Mustang Stadium. We're fortunate enough to still have the press boxes that we had last year on the visitors' side of the stadium, and we'll go forward until the new press box is ready," Coach Hickman stated.

Investigation into the fire at the football stadium determined the blaze was started by the sun reflecting off the glass of the press box which ignited the special covers on the vinyl VIP seats in front of the press box.

The Mustangs will begin football practices at the stadium starting Monday, July 31, followed by scrimmages and the start of the regular season. Hickman explained, "It worked out for us just

right because last year we played both scrimmages here at Mustang Stadium, so this year we'll be on the road August 11 at Woodville and then we'll be on the road August 17 at Vidor for the scrimmages. The week after that we'll be at Nederland with our season opener.

For the first three weeks of the season as far as contests we'll be on the road."

Meanwhile the West Orange-Cove Event Center was to be the home for the Lady Mustangs during the volleyball season this fall, but that is on hold so games will be played in the gym at West Orange-Stark High School. The girls and boys basketball seasons beginning later this year are tentatively scheduled for the same gym until repairs are completed on the event center.

The West Orange-Cove School District has made the decision not to rush the restoration process and made a commitment

to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all future events.

The district's primary concern is to prevent any

recurrence of the burnt smell that may resurface in the future.

The school district promised to provide regu-

lar updates to inform the public about the progress made and any changes to the anticipated timeline.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a Real Threat to Texas Deer

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN — This year, hunters in Texas will notice an increase in messaging about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and its impacts to the state as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) launches a new public awareness campaign.

The campaign aims to share information with hunters and the public about how they can help protect Texas deer and stop the spread of this deadly disease.

"Many have asked, 'What is CWD?'" said TPWD Wildlife Division Director John Silovsky. "Our goal is to create a greater awareness of the presence and consequences of CWD on the Texas

landscape."

CWD is a highly transmissible, fatal neurological disease that effects species of cervids (members of the deer family), including white-tailed and mule deer. As the disease continues to spread through the native deer population, TPWD hopes Texans will be ever more vigilant. Proper carcass disposal and CWD testing for each harvest are the greatest contributions a hunter can make to prevent further spread of the disease and assist with necessary surveillance across the state.

"CWD isn't a disease where people can afford to stick their heads in the sand," said TPWD Big Game Program Director Alan Cain. "The outreach effort is meant to generate discussion, educate folks

about the disease, current CWD regulations, and what we can do to manage the disease."

A recent study from the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute estimated that Texas hunters and landowners spend \$4.3 billion a year in their pursuit of Texas white-tailed deer.

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CCOC ARENA Playday Series Off to Running Start

**Sherrill Porterfield
For The Record**

Cowboy Church of Orange County Arena's first summer Arena Play Day Series was off to a running start with its July 22 series opener. Ground Events included Stick Horse Race, Dummy Roping, and Goat and Calf Scramble. Calf Scramble provided some excitement for the spectators Saturday night, when a calf on the loose exited the arena to roam the church grounds.

This Arena Play Day se-

ries' age divisions range from Pee Wee to Super Senior (ages 40 and over). Horse Events include Barrels, Poles, Straight Barrels and Speed Race. Buckles will be awarded in all divisions at the last event of the series September 23. Ribbons and prizes are also awarded throughout the series.

Spectator admission and parking are free. Minimal event fees of \$5 for lead line and ground events, and \$10-\$15 per event for horse events help fund the cost of maintaining the arena. The



Bella Hoyt after Cowboy Church of Orange County Arena's first summer Arena Play Day Series

Play Day Series will continue on August 12, September 2, and September 23. Registration for each play day is the day of the event. For the spectators, the Arena Concessions Stand features homemade brisket sandwiches, cold drinks, candy and snacks, including ice pops and pickle juice.

CCOC Arena is open free of charge to the community for Open Arena Tuesdays and Thursdays, weather permitting, from 6 p.m. until the last horse leaves. If in doubt about arena closure for weather, CCOC Arena

Team Leader James Rucker suggests "call before you haul," 409-670-6748. Negative Coggins paperwork is required for all horses on Cowboy Church property.

The church is moving forward with construction plans for an arena cover which will negate weather cancellations and provide more opportunities for community-wide events. The arena cover will also include a cooling system for spectator comfort. The CCOC Arena, located at 673 FM 1078 in Orange, currently seats 700.

August means time to switch gears

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

I know it's tough to even imagine it, especially when the mercury is threatening to burst out the top of the thermometer, but hunting season is right around the corner.

August is the month that gets everything kicked off, hunters and fishermen alike can see the light at the end of the summer tunnel. For the fishermen it's just now getting right on Sabine lake, the trout and redbird are doing their typical summer shuffle in the middle of the day all over the open lake.

Shad, shrimp, and mullet are looking for places to hide as the clock starts to tick around lunch time. The lake gets slick and the fish are easy to spot once they really get wound up, it is the prelude to the much anticipated fall months that all Sabine lake regulars look forward to.

Hunters on the other hand have a little time to go before they take up the



challenges of another season. Already you can see the bowhunters are out in force, Precision Archery in Bridge City has been hopping for the last couple of weeks with hunters getting a jump on the archery only season. It is well worth the time and effort to start preparing early, there is nothing worse than to not be ready when opening day rolls around. Get your bow out and start shooting soon, everybody can use the practice. This is the perfect time to get all those little things fixed and put in working order, new arrows, broadheads, strings, or whatever else you need to be ready. Spend some time now while you have time.

Waterfowl hunters are quietly rejoicing at the beautiful lush marshes that came compliments of early season rains. By the looks of things it appears that the habitat for holding ducks is head and shoulders above

what it was last year. In the past few seasons most of the ducks that came into our area never stayed for any length of time due to poor forage and high salt content in the marshes, as of right now that does not appear to be a problem. Only time will tell if the good fortune persists. Most duck and goose hunters are already starting to exercise their dogs, daily walks and general obedience training are great ways to start off. Remember the heat is really tough on dogs so be careful not to over do anything, slow steady increases in activity will pay big dividends during the season.

The dogs are not the only ones who need a little workout, hunters must start getting themselves in shape as well. Physical shape is a must, be ready for the rigors of the hunting season so you can enjoy it instead of working at it. Another type of shape that is just as important is shooting shape. Get out to the local gun range and shoot, then shoot some more. Practice with sporting clays for waterfowlers is the best way to insure a

more productive season. Most hunters wait until the very last minute to do any pre-hunt shooting, opening morning is not the time to be working on your technique or follow through.

Rifle hunters can take some time to check out their weapons as well, by becoming comfortable with your firearm again you can really put some odds in your favor.

The month of August is almost here and the great days of fall and winter are not nearly as far off as they

seem right now. Take this time to get yourself ready for the upcoming hunting season and be sure not to miss out on any of the good fishing that is sure to be in store for us. We still have plenty of heat left to get through, but the good stuff is really close.

Emergency Rules Adopted after deer infections

Since June, TPWD has received confirmation of CWD in deer breeding facilities in three counties—Brooks, Frio and Zavala. In 2023 alone, CWD has been detected in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties. A total of 14 counties have had positive detections since March 2021.

"Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate," said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. "It's our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the state."

This emergency order amends Chapter 31 TAC §65.95, relating to Movement of Breeder Deer. The change requires all breeder deer to be ante-mortem

(live-animal) tested for CWD (with a test result of "Not Detected") before transferring to another deer breeding facility or release site. These changes will be in effect for 120 days but may be extended an additional 60 days.

Additionally, the department has determined that to expedite and facilitate epidemiological investigations, it is necessary to prohibit the removal of identification tags under any circumstance other than allowed by statute. The ability to quickly locate and test breeder deer transferred to a release facility is critical to determining the likelihood of disease transmission.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease

may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the irreversible disease process continues, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination.

Visit TPWD's recently updated CWD page to find a map of all CWD zones, check stations and positive case tracking. The site also provides answers to frequently asked questions, videos with information from wildlife veterinarians, best management practices for hunters and landowners and review the latest news.







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Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club Guys Night Out

The Bridge City / Orangefield Rotary Club is putting on their 3rd annual Guys Night Out August 24th at the Bridge City Community Center, 105 Parkside beginning at 6:30pm. Prizes include hunting and fishing trips, guns, ammo, and fishing gear as well as golf clubs, etc. Dinner and alcohol served. No one under 21 allowed. Lots of door prizes and so much more. For information and tickets call 408-626-1789 or 409-313-0412

Hunter Education Class Aug. 3 in Orangefield

Hunter Education Class Field part of the On-Line Course will be held at the Orangefield Fire Station

on Thursday August 3, 2023 from 5:30 PM until 9:30 PM with the cost of \$15.00. You must sign up on TPWD website to register to attend and must complete On Line Course & bring printed certificate of completion or copy of tests.

Do Not Bring Firearms or Ammunition to Class, class size is limited for more information the

Instructor is Danny Odom at 409-882-4298.

To sign up on TPWD website to register to attend: Click Hunting, Hunter Education Courses, Option 2 Field Course, add 77630 & select Orange, Select 50 miles then Aug 3 class, Learn more then register.

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**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



Rocker star Bret Michaels is bringing the "Parti-Gras 2023" tour to Ford Park Pavilion on Friday, Sept. 22. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., Friday, July 14 at the Ford Park box office, all Ticketmaster locations and online. Tickets are \$40-\$75 each and special guests include Jefferson Starship and Frank Ray.
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

- **July 28**
Tom Keifer Band, John Corabi, Rise Rooftop, Houston; Greta Van Fleet, Kaleo, Toyota Center, Houston; Rema, Revention Music Center, Houston
- **July 29**
Steve Miller Band, Cheap Trick, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 30**
ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Uncle Kracker, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 3**
Big Time Rush, Max, Jax, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Kenny Loggins, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Aug. 4**
Thomas Rhett, Toyota Center, Houston, Black Flag, House of Blues, Houston
- **Aug. 5**
Great White, Slaughter, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Aug. 6**
George Clinton, House of Blues, Houston
- **Aug. 8**
Post Malone, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 10**
Underoath, Revention Music Center, Houston
- **Aug. 11**
Boy George and Culture Club, Howard Jones, Berlin, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 12**
Foreigner, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Stevie Nicks, Toyota Center, Houston

- ter, Houston
- **Aug. 13**
Mudvayne, Coal Chamber, GWAR, Nonpoint, Butcher Babies, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 14**
REO Speedwagon, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land
- **Aug. 17**
Pantera, Lamb of God, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Trapt, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Aug. 18**
Ted Nugent, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont, Sam Hunt, Lily Rose, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 19**
Rick Springfield, The Hooters, Paul Young, Tommy Tutone, LAuberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La., Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa, Too Short, Warren G., DJ Drama, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 20**
Beck, Phoenix, Weyes Blood, Sir Chloe, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Aug. 21**
Lil Durk, Kodak Black, Toyota Center, Houston

- **Aug. 22**
Ice Nine Kills, Set It Off, The Plot, Revention Music Center, Houston
- **Aug. 24**
50 Cent, Busta Rhymes, Jeremih!, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Aug. 25**
LL Cool J, The Roots, Big Boi, Juvenile, Goodie Mob, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Toyota Center, Houston
- Aug. 26**
Jodeci, SWV, Dru Hill, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 1**
Yngwie Malmsteen, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 2**
Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Lionel Richie, Earth, Wind and Fire, Toyota Center, Houston, Ghost, Amon Amarth, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 3**
SuicideBoys, Ghostmane, City Morgue, Sematary, Ramirez, Toyota Center, Houston, Danzig, Behemoth, Twin Temple, Midnight
- **Sept. 5**
Kamelot, Battle Beast, Xandria, House of Blues, Houston

- **Sept. 7**
Pentatonix, Lauren Alaina, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Sept. 8**
Dance Gavin Dance, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 9**
Parker McCollum, Jackson Dean, Tyler Halverson, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont, 5 Seconds of Summer, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Flogging Molly, The Bronx, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 13**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston, Tenacious D, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 14**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston


- Houston
- **Sept. 14**
The Mission UK, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Sept. 17**
Drake, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 18**
Drake, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 20**
Chicago, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land, Max and Iggor Cavallera, Exhumed, Incite, House of Blues, Houston
- **Sept. 21**
Christian Nodal, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Sept. 22**
Jelly Roll, Three 6 Mafia, Struggle Jennings, Josh Adam Meyers, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, scape the Fate, Warehouse Live, Houston
- **Sept. 23**
Beyonce, NRG Stadium, Houston, 3 Doors Down, Candlebox, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Sept. 24**
Beyonce, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **Sept. 27**
Boys Like Girls, Revention Music Center, Houston
- **Sept. 28**
Guns N' Roses, Minute Maid Park, Houston
- **Sept. 30:**
The Mavericks, House of Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 4**
Depeche Mode, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Oct. 6**
Chevelle, Three Days Grace, Loathe, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 7**
Jonas Brothers, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Oct. 8**
Shinedown, Papa Roach,

- Spiritbox, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 11**
Motionless in White, Knocked Loose, After the Burial, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **Oct. 12**
Avenged Sevenfold, Falling in Reverse, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 13**
Chris Stapleton, Nikki Lane, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 14**
SZA, Toyota Center, Houston, Larry Fleet, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Oct. 15**
Sting, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 17**
Thrice, '68, House of Blues, Houston
- **Oct. 20**
Mercy Me, Crowder, Andrew Ripp, Ford Arena, Beaumont
- **Oct. 21**
Kansas, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land, Peter Gabriel, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Oct. 28**
Parker McCollum, Josh Abbott Band, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **Oct. 30**
John Mayer, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Nov. 2**
Luis Miguel, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Nov. 4**
Wednesday 13, Warehouse Live, Houston
- **Nov. 16**
Wolfmother, Warehouse Live, Houston
- **Nov. 18**

BC Library hosts widowed support group


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

We do require participants to call the library the Monday before the Friday of the meeting so that we can know how many to plan for. Planned meetings will be from 10 am to noon on the following Fridays, May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16 and July 7 and July 21. If you have any questions, call the library at 409-735-4242. We look forward to getting to know you.




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Pastor Your Own Heart First

Anthony Kidd
Pastor,
desiringGod.org

Take heed to yourselves, lest you be void of that saving grace of God which you offer to others.

I entered seminary as a naive and idealistic young man with grand designs and enormous hopes about future pastoral ministry. Between proper training and my passionate heart, nothing would stand in the way of me reaching souls for Christ — or so I thought.

I eagerly devoured every book assigned. Whether out of uncritical focus or predetermined agreement, everything I read affirmed that I was thinking correctly about what it took to succeed in ministry. I knew I was getting all I needed to be a great pastor.

Then I met Richard Baxter.

Of course, I mean the Richard Baxter who ministered in Kidderminster, England, from 1647 to 1661. That's the power of words and sentences — you can actually meet and learn from someone who has long since died. And make no mistake: although dead, he still spoke to me and challenged me in a way that fundamentally altered my ministry.

Neglecting the Christ We Preach

I remember sitting in my seminary library, eager to dive into Baxter's book



The Reformed Pastor. All my classmates raved about it. I opened to the first chapter anticipating confirmatory words that would strengthen how I thought about ministry. To my surprise, I was stopped dead in my reading tracks.

Take heed to yourselves, lest you be void of that saving grace of God which you offer to others, and be strangers to the effectual working of that gospel which you preach; and lest, while you proclaim to the world the necessity of a Savior, your own hearts should neglect him, and you should miss of an interest in him and his saving benefits. (17)

Baxter's words landed on me like a ton of bricks, and my heart was pierced with conviction. No one had ever challenged me to search my own heart for the very grace that I was so passionate to offer others. For the first time, I had been warned to "take heed" to my own heart for fear that I might miss out on "the effectual working of the gospel."

Covering Dullness with Ministry

As I pored over Baxter's words, it became clear to me that it was my own sanctification that was being challenged. I was still confident I was saved through faith, but I had assumed that my desire to preach the living waters of Christ meant that I had been drinking deeply from his well. The line "Take heed . . . lest you . . . be strangers to the effectual working of that gospel which you preach" splashed upon my soul like a bucket of cold water, waking me out of the state of spiritual slumber in which I had lived and studied. I sat stunned under the weight of the power of what I had just read.

For days, Baxter's words searched me. His warning scared me. I was left facing the reality that I had become content to be in a state of grace without vigorously pursuing lively fellowship with Christ. I'd been deceived into thinking a passion for ministry

was enough to sustain my heart. My youthful enthusiasm to minister to others, however, was often a front for dullness of spirit toward the sweetness of Jesus.

It had never even occurred to me to take the spiritual temperature of my own soul. I was exposed. My heart was laid bare by the penetrating words of The Reformed Pastor.

Second (and Inspired) Witness

Not long after reading Baxter's words, a friend of mine helped me see that Baxter was simply reiterating something the apostle Paul had said thousands of years earlier.

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:16)

I was encouraged that even Timothy, as a "man of God" (1 Timothy 6:11), needed a word of reminder to regularly consider the state of his own heart

— something that I was embarrassingly failing to do. I was so focused on feeding others with the Bread of Life that I had neglected to feast on him first. Wanting so desperately to be a spiritual chef, I was starving from not being "nourished on the words of the faith" (1 Timothy 4:6 NASB). What arrogance!

Thankfully, God opened my eyes to see the pivotal nature of a pastor's personal, experiential knowledge of Christ. I was gripped tighter by the necessity of prioritizing my own spiritual well-being, seeing how my usefulness to others rests on the depth of my ongoing experience of God and his grace.

Through Baxter and Paul, God showed me that he empowers a man to be suitable to the calling of public ministry through a vibrant and ongoing walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. I discovered that doing for Christ to the neglect of being sustained by and reveling in Christ is a recipe for disaster. Without the impact of Baxter's words, confirmed by Paul, I was surely headed for a short-lived, shallow, and graceless ministry.

Our Usefulness Depends on Delight

This reorientation changed everything for me. Instead of seeking to be a great pastor, I started seeking to be a great lover of Jesus. Knowledge of Christ and intimacy with him became the prism through which I now

viewed my training, ministry, and life. Driven by Baxter's challenge, I saw that many of my heroes in ministry were mightily used of God not because they were so gifted (although many of them were gifted), but because they were so personally acquainted with the grace of Christ. They served so faithfully and fruitfully because they "had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

Friend, pastoral ministry is a high and holy calling. To serve Christ by shepherding his people and proclaiming his glorious gospel is a heavenly privilege that no man deserves. It is all of grace, and it should be pursued with fervent passion. But I want you to learn what Baxter taught me: never stop pressing on toward intimacy with Christ and cultivating a heart saturated with his grace.

Our usefulness in ministry is inextricably tied to our delight in Christ. Don't be fooled into thinking that you can overlook the condition of your own heart and still be helpful to others. It doesn't work like that.

The gospel of Jesus we preach to others is first and foremost for us. Treasure it by treasuring him. Fuel your passion for ministry by filling your soul with gospel grace. It would be the ultimate tragedy to come to the end of your ministry only to realize that you had labored in vain because you had not mined the depths of the riches of Christ and his grace toward you.

Take heed, my friend. Take heed!

Church Directory

First United Methodist Church Orange
502 Sixth Street 886-7466
10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY
All of our services are also available premiered on:
Facebook at 9:00 a.m. (<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOrangeTX>)
or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

St. Paul Methodist Church
1155 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409.735.5546
Sunday Morning Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.,
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Praise Worship 10:45 a.m.
(Nursery provided)
Wednesday SPICE 5:30 p.m. Includes meal, bible studies,
children and youth activities. (Nursery provided).
Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409-735-4573
Worship Services: Tradition 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m., Contemporary Service 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m., Wednesday 'Compassionate Friends' 10 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Paul Zoch 409-988-3003 - golutheran.org
Our church family invites you to join us.
We are a friendly, caring church of the future.

Orange First Church of the Nazarene
3810 MLK Drive, Orange
Lead Pastor Shane Weaver
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.
www.ofcn.church

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGE
1819 16th Street • Orange • 886-1333
We Welcome You To Join Us.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Nursery Provided

Cove Baptist Church
1005 Dupont St. • Orange
Welcome new Pastor Darryl Smith and wife, Debi
(409) 883-4155
Sunday School 9:15 AM / Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 6 PM, Wed. Evening 6:30 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church
401 N. 37th St., Orange (409) 886-7276
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
Pastor Benny Smith and wife Iberia
Join Us For Sunday Service at 11 AM
Also Streamed Live On Facebook

Harvest Chapel
A Full Gospel Church
1305 Irving St. • West Orange • 409-238-3056
Sunday Worship 10 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Nightly Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Pastor: Ruth Burch

Bethel Baptist Church
2906 Western Ave. • Orange
Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner
(409 782 5352)
Opportunities for Worship and Fellowship
Sunday School...9:30am Worship 10 :30 am

Triangle Baptist Church
6446 Garrison at Hwy. 408 Orangefield
"Come Worship With Us"
409-920-3891
Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
We are a KJV independent Baptist Church

200 W. Roundbunch
735-3581
www.fcbc.org
Sunday schedule: Bible study 9:15 a.m.,
Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
Adult, Youth, Children
Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Harland Strother, Pastor
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6:30 p.m. Wednesdays: Wednesday-n-the Word Adult Bible Study with Pastor Harland, Youth Supper & Bible Study (grades 6-12), child care (infants-5th grade)
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Starlight Church of God in Christ
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
www.slccgicorange.org

Living Word Church FULL GOSPEL
7403 FM 1006 (Corner of 87 & FM1006)
409-735-6659
COME WORSHIP WITH US
Sunday 10 A.M. & Thursday 6 P.M.
Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor
Rev. Ron Richardson, Co-Pastor

Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
office@winfreebaptist.org
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
Nursery Provided

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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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