

County Record

Vol. 64 No. 11

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County works to regulate influx of RV parks

**MARGARET TOAL
For The Record**

Land is being cleared in spots all across Orange County as investors build parks for recreational vehicles that will be coming for the industrial boom created by the new Chevron Phillips chemical plant. And now, the county will have new regulations to put into effect.

Beginning Monday, any land currently without an RV permit that is being developed will need to meet the new regulations. Existing RV parks, or those under construction with permits, will be "grandfathered" into the new rules. That means they will not need to meet the new rules.

However, if an existing or permitted park expands,



Oldbury

the expanded area will need to comply with the new regulations.

All five members of Commissioners

Court, when asked about how many RV parks were being planned, spoke at once: "a bunch." "They're all over the place." "Everywhere."

And on Tuesday afternoon, the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new RV park on Turner Road in the Bridge City-Orangefield area.

The new county rules

RV PARKS Page 2A

Climate change has sent temps soaring in SETX

**ERINDOUGLAS
The Texas Tribune**

Record-breaking heat is becoming the new normal in Texas, an analysis of temperature data by The Texas Tribune shows, as climate change steadily warms the planet and shifts the range of typical temperatures higher.

A dangerous heat wave has brought weeks of 100-degree temperatures from the state's border with Mexico all the way to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The heat wave has shattered records and prompted excessive heat warnings across most of the state.

Such heat waves — and the record-breaking temperatures they bring — are becoming more common and severe due to climate change, scientists told the Tribune.

Over the last 10 years, there were more than 1,600 days when a heat record was matched or broken at one of 22 weather stations across Texas. That's more than 1,000 more record-breaking days than the 561-day average at those stations in the decades prior to 2013, the Tribune's analysis found.

Weather data shows that record-breaking cold is occurring less frequently.

Those trends are being driven by climate change, experts said, as the planet warms due to decades of human activities that have pumped huge quantities of heat-trapping greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere peaked at 424 parts per million in

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The West Orange Cove Consolidated Independent School District (WOCISD) proudly hosted its Convocation 2023, marking a momentous occasion as teachers, staff, and administrators reunited to welcome a promising new school year. The event took place at the WOCISD Event Center, where attendees embraced the lively spirit of the 70s era, adding an extra layer of excitement to the festivities

Vidorians run out white supremacists

**MARGARET TOAL
For The Record**

In a scene that would have been unimaginable 30 years ago, white supremacists visiting to share their views in Vidor had to ask for a police escort out of town when local residents protested.

Vidor Police Chief Rod Carroll the incident was at noon Saturday, August 5, on North Main Street near Tram Road. Police dispatchers began receiving numerous calls that several armed and masked men were in the street.

Police went to the commercial area and found men with Aryan Freedom Network signs and pamphlets. Witnesses also reported seeing the group

with a confederate flag with its insignia.

Other residents made their own protest signs and marched by the out-of-town supremacists.

Chief Carroll said when patrol officers arrived, they saw the aryan members trying to hand out their materials in the street. Vidor city ordinances prohibit no soliciting or peddling. The officers cited five men for breaking the ordinance and checked to see if any were felons and not allowed to carry weapons.

The chief said all the men were legally allowed to carry their weapons in the public. All are from Texas and were identified as Caleb Bentley of Houston, Mawell Barragy of Lavernia, Tyler Everett of

Richmond, Mark Hayes of Humble, and Justin McConnell of Houston.

Chief Carroll said the men asked the officers to escort them out of town because of the crowd of citizens gathering nearby and an "aggressive atmosphere." The group was then led out of the city limits.

The incident shows a Vidor that has changed from its reputation as a home to the Ku Klux Klan and other White supremacist groups. As late as the early 1990s, President Bill Clinton sent the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, along with an official of the U.S. Department of Justice to announce a plan to safely integrate the federally-subsidized public housing in Vidor.

That move came after the first Black resident of the housing complex asked someone to move him to Beaumont because he feared for his safety. Ironically, he was shot to death in a Beaumont street that night.

The integration of the Vidor housing complex led to KKK rallies at the Orange County Courthouse and in Vidor. Also, a group of neo-Nazis held a parade through Vidor. Most of the marchers did not live in Orange County.

But even at the time of the national media attention on Vidor, Mayor Ruth Woods and other civic leaders were pledging that the majority of residents in Vidor were peaceful and welcoming people.

Paxton lawyers test limits of gag order

**STAFF REPORT
For The Record**

Suspended Attorney General Ken Paxton and his legal team appear to be testing the limits of a gag order from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick that seeks to limit commentary on Paxton's September impeachment trial before the Texas Senate.

Patrick, the presiding judge in the trial, issued the sweeping gag order July 17, banning all involved parties from making comments that could prejudice the trial or impair the impeach-



Ken Paxton

ment court's ability to be "fair and impartial." The gag order, however, permits the parties to make statements "reciting, without comment, information contained in public records."

Paxton's team has leaned on that provision in recent days to issue news releases drawing attention to its latest court filings once they are publicly available on a Senate website. And on

Thursday, Paxton's lead lawyer, Tony Buzbee, went on a Dallas radio show and mostly read from the filings verbatim, including passages that disparaged the case against Paxton and expressed doubts on the quality of evidence against him.

In another instance, although the gag order prohibits "prejudicial and inflammatory statements," a Paxton campaign fundraising appeal rallied supporters against what the email called an "illegal" impeachment. Although Buzbee defended the fundraising appeal as complying with the

gag order, Paxton later removed the language from a donation link on his campaign website, according to Dallas TV station WFAA.

Paxton's side insists it is following the gag order.

"The attorney general would not violate or go contrary to the orders of the court, and we don't believe that he's done so," Buzbee told the Dallas radio host, Mark Davis.

The House impeachment managers have been quieter since the gag order was issued. But in a filing last

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RV Parks From Page 1

will apply only to the unincorporated areas. Each incorporated city has its own RV rules.

A countywide committee had met earlier this year and recommended new regulations for RV parks. The parks are popular places for construction workers traveling from area to area for new jobs. Many get a per diem expense to cover living expenses and use that money to buy an RV to live in.

Also, an RV in a park with services like water and sewer can provide living quarters for people who can't find a rent house or apartment.

The new \$8.5 billion Chevron Phillips Golden Triangle Polymers plant is projected to bring 4,000 construction-related jobs to the area. That plant development is in addition to other refinery and plant expansions in the Golden Triangle area.

The county was set to adopt new regulations ear-

lier this year, but had to wait for the Texas Legislature session to end. The Legislature passed a bill that no local entity like a county or city could pass more strict regulations than the state required. The county had to put its new rules on hold.

However, Assistant County Attorney Denise Gremillion said the county could adopt rules for the health and safety of its citizens. The new rules can fall under that category.

One rule will be setting a minimum width for roadways within an RV park. County Judge John Gothia said the roads must be wide enough for emergency vehicles, like ambulances and fire trucks, to get through. Also, adequate parking needs to be provided for the safety of children playing in an RV park.

Within the past year, a child riding a toy vehicle in an RV park was hit by a car and killed.

Commissioners decided

to add a requirement to have a fence around an RV park, even though attorney Gremillion said the rule may not hold up legally if challenged through a court. She said fencing could fall within "health and safety," but the requirement of a privacy fence would not be a matter of health or safety.

Commissioners agreed to let an exception for the fence rule not to require one on a side by a water feature of the park. For instance, one park being currently developed has a side along Cow Bayou, with the waterfront being an attraction to the site.

In other business, the court approved new civil process fees for the sheriff's office, as recommended by Sheriff Lane Mooney. The fees will not begin until January 1. The biggest change will be for livestock fees. Currently, the county charges \$50 for the livestock officer to pick up loose animals, plus a holding fee of \$35 a day for horses and cattle.

es and cattle.

The new fees will be \$150 for picking up loose large animals like horses and cattle. That will cover the man hours and fuel the sheriff's office will use to corral the animals. The \$35 a day holding fee will remain. Livestock officer Greg Forsyth said he did a survey of Southeast Texas counties from Harris County to Orange and the new fees are in line with other counties in the region. He said the livestock fees have not increased in 15 years.

County road and bridge workers will now be working from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with an early start to beat the heat. Commissioners Court gave County Engineer Corey Oldbury, who oversees the Road and Bridge Department, permission to implement the new hours until August 29, when commissioners will consider again whether an early start is needed.

Oldbury said a committee recommended the earlier hours and three of the county's four precinct crews were coming in early.

He said they are getting more work accomplished with the start before the temperatures begin rising.

County Judge John Gothia, though, said another county department then talked about having its employees come to work early and get off early. He said that's when he decided all such requests needed to be approved by Commissioners Court.

The court agreed to the early hours, but is requiring all four precincts to use those hours for road crews. Office workers will continue their regular 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours.

The trash collection station will also keep its regular hours.

The court agreed to award a contract for \$128,400 to surface the walking trail in Raymond Gould Park in Vidor. The bid is \$8,400 more than budgeted for the park. It is

still much less than an original bid of \$180,000.

Earlier this year, County Judge Gothia said the extra millions of dollars paid by Chevron Phillips for the new plant's building fees would be used to give an extra \$100,000 each to the four county-maintained parks with one in each precinct. The \$100,000 was added to the \$20,000 each park was allocated in the annual county budget.

Other business included the court setting the November 7 state constitutional amendment with early voting at the three regular early voting sites. County Election Administrator Donna Alford said the constitutional amendment election will be the third for the new county-wide voting system that allows any registered county voter to vote at any one of the voting sites.

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

Our nation is divided more today than any time since the Civil War. A major cause of the division is because big lies are being sold to many Americans! The existence of global warming, that our election system is not to be trusted, more guns bring more safety and money spent on political campaigns to make us doubt the truth that makes us free.



Former State Senator
Carl Parker

Carl Parker was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

A classic example of denying the truth for profit is tobacco and how long was it denied that smoking caused cancer. Another current big lie is that our ex-president won re-election. How could we be seduced into believing that with no evidence shown to more than sixty courts? Many of the sixty cases were heard by judges appointed by Donald Trump.

My dad always said, "A man who lies to you will steal from you." We need to seek truth in our government, or it will be stolen from us.

Rotarians host Guys Night Out August 24

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

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Record-breaking heat From Page 1

May, continuing to reach levels that have not been recorded for millions of years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Heat is one of the deadliest consequences of climate change. It's already the most dangerous type of weather, typically killing more people annually than hurricanes, tornadoes or flooding. A Tribune analysis found that more than 275 people in Texas died from heat-related illness last year, a two-decade high that experts say is almost certainly an undercount.

Heat waves "are so large, they impact a huge swath of area, and they persist for so long," said Hosmay Lopez, an oceanographer at the NOAA who has studied heat waves. "Heat has so [many] compounding negative effects on human health."

Extreme heat is present-

ing new challenges for communities across the state that rely on infrastructure built for a climate of the past.

James Doss-Gollin, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rice University who has researched adaptation to extreme weather, said the state's electric grid and dams are two examples of infrastructure that are greatly impacted by increasing temperatures. Just a few degrees of difference, he said, can jeopardize the availability of electricity and the structural integrity of dams.

The grid, for example, is stressed by higher demand when extreme heat causes more people to crank up their air conditioning. At the same time, when high temperatures arrive earlier in the spring and last later into the fall, power plants have smaller and smaller windows to make

routine repairs.

"We have a lot of infrastructure that's very, very sensitive to small changes in the underlying climate," Doss-Gollin said.

Many dams are small, are privately owned and were built decades ago, when extreme rainfall events like the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017 — which dumped as much as 50 inches of rain on some parts of the Gulf Coast over five days — were much less common.

"You don't know what sort of conditions it's designed for," Doss-Gollin said. "It's a huge challenge."

But extreme heat isn't impacting every part of Texas the same. While every county in Texas has seen an average increase in temperatures over the last decade, three areas of the state have seen the biggest jumps in record-breaking tempera-

tures: West Texas, the Panhandle, and the Gulf.

As temperatures rise globally, places that have less rain and fewer trees to absorb excess heat are more frequently experiencing record-setting heat, experts said.

"Summers are getting drier faster in West Texas," said John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas' state climatologist. "That can contribute to increases in record high temperatures."

Areas of East and North Texas close to the Louisiana and Arkansas borders, with their forests and abundant rain, have seen comparatively fewer days of record-breaking heat.

But Nielsen-Gammon and other climate experts cautioned that precipitation, soil moisture and vegetation can't explain all the variation in extreme heat trends. Other factors, like whether the weather pattern La Niña or El Niño is in effect and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico can also affect the number.

School Supply Success



Edwards Jones - Taylor Perkins Branch Office in Bridge City held a School Supply Drive. All donated School Supplies were presented to Bridge City ISD.

Pictured are Linda Dionne representing Taylor Perkins branch office and Tara Fountain of Bridge City Independent School District

Paxton From Page 1

month, they expressed some irritation with Paxton's team and the gag order, alleging that a Paxton motion "was shared with the press even though the Senate has not posted it to the website."

"The House Managers trust that the Senate will deal with any departure from its mandates as the Senate deems fit," the filing said.

As they face questions about their compliance with the gag order, Paxton's lawyers have also gone on offense over it. In one recent filing, they accused impeachment managers of using their filings to "circumvent" the gag order "by filing a 'notice

to make a public comment." The impeachment managers had filed several such notices to briefly indicate their opposition to various pretrial motions and promise a more thorough response by an Aug. 15 deadline.

At the same time, Paxton's lawyers have been using their filings to offer diatribes against the other side. One filing said the House lawyers' promises of damning evidence — made before the gag order was issued — were "bluster and bluff" and were "aggressive, reckless, misleading." Buzbee quoted that filing on the air Thursday.

Patrick's office has not

commented on possible conflicts with the gag order.

Some of Paxton's supporters are plainly unhappy with the gag order. Houston conservative activist Steve Hotze has sued the Senate in state and federal court over the gag order, calling it unconstitutional.

"The Gag Order in the Senate rules infringes on the First Amendment right of Plaintiffs to hear the impressions, positions, and views of Texas senators and state representatives in connection with the impeachment trial," the federal lawsuit said. The gag order also "infringes on the First Amendment right of Plaintiffs to communicate with Texas senators and state representatives in

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From the Creaux's Nest

DROUGHT AFFECTING EVEN LARGE TREES

Temperatures continue to hold around 100 degrees. It has been over 30 days since any measurable rain has fallen and the outlook is not good, maybe 10 percent next week. My guess is that the water table has really dropped and that is affecting larger trees that require lots of water. I've seen limbs starting to die. We have lost several limbs in our camphor trees and the oak trees are showing stress. There has been no time in my life that we have witnessed such a long period of high temperatures and drought with all parts of the country experiencing some sort of terrible weather. Schools are already beginning and the bands, dance teams, cheerleaders and concession stand operators are getting ready for the biggest season of the year—football. In this uncommon heat Texas high schools are doing two-a-days preparing for football season. Football in Texas is king but practice in this heat is dangerous. Trainers and coaches of today are much smarter than they were in my day. They are very heat conscious with plenty of water breaks. In my day we were fed salt tablets and no water because it was believed that water would cause cramps. The heat was bad but nothing compared to today. Two things I never have missed are 'two-a-days' and 'cotton picking'. Hang on boys, September is coming. I wonder what new concession foods will be appearing this year as the moms and dads try to get new creations on the menus for Friday Night Lights. I have to get going. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

H.W. "Chief" Wilson, coach at Bridge City from 1962 to 1973, died Sunday at age 86. Chief and his Cardinal squad played for the state championship in 1965 and won it in 1966. A player he developed, Steve Worster, became an All American high school player and also All American at the University of Texas. Chief quit coaching after his 1973 season. He felt strongly that this was the team that would return Bridge City to a state championship. Only one team from each district could advance and West Orange beat Bridge City in the last game of the season. Bridge City had a 14-14 tie with Jasper and that tie knocked the Cardinals out of the playoffs. B.C. had done the same to undefeated West Orange in 1972. The pay back hurt. It was no surprise to me that Chief requested no obituary or visitation, just a simple funeral to be held Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2 p.m. in College Station. It is typical Wilson, simple, no frills. His death, however, affects more people than Chief could have imagined. Mark Dunn, who was a three year player for Coach Wilson and was on his last 1973 team, says Chief started the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in area high schools. Jim Crossland, coach at LC-M, and Chief had coached together for Bum Phillips at different schools. Bum and Chief were teammates at SFA. Crossland also was fond of newspapers and for several years wrote a column for the OVN. He joined Chief and introduced the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at LC-M. Chief Wilson was a quite man. A native of Orangefield, he played high school football at Stark High and often walked home to Orangefield after football practice. Last week right at press time we learned that former Bridge City Councilman Joe Raburn had passed away, we were able to get his passing in this column but that was all. Joe was a good man; community minded and came into the life of Lou when she really needed someone. All Orange County Justices of the Peace have been attending special legislative classes in League City. Judge Derry Dunn attended first and manned the fort while Judges Janice Menard, David Peck and Rodney Price were in school last week. For Judge Menard it was her 30th attendance at Justice of the Peace school. The problems keep mounting for rich, spoiled Aggie quarterback and Heisman trophy winner Johnny Manziel. He's had trouble keeping his nose clean and his mouth shut. Now he could be in real trouble with an NCAA investigation for accepting money for his signature at the National Championship game. Such a shame, such a waste of talent. The Wednesday Lunch Bunch will dine at Novroszky's this week. Robert's next. Donna Scales entertained the group last week with some of her stories. Brandy Slaughter, Christy Kourey and Shirley Zimmerman couldn't stop laughing. Everyone is always welcome. I feel for the boys who hit the practice field this week. Football is tough but it's no picnic for band members.

16 Years Ago-2007

Ashlyn Begeron, age 8, of Bridge City, was recently crowned Little Miss Southeast Texas. Sheriff Mike White fires jailer John Veillon after allegations that Veillon pushed a male inmate following a verbal altercation. Michael Bertrand, age 27, of Bridge City, was shot in the chest by a stranger on West Cordrey Ave., in Or-

ange. He was treated at Baptist Orange for the bullet wound that turned out to be nonlife-threatening. On Saturday, Aug. 4, Berry Bonds tied Hank Aaron's 755 homerun record against former Lamar pitcher Clay Hensley, who was sent down to Triple A right after the game. At age 32, A-Rod has 500 homeruns and will surely make a run at the record. Three Texas boys are inducted into Pro-football Hall of Fame. Oilers Bruce Matthews, Thurman Thomas and Cowboy, Michael Irvin.

47 Years Ago-1977

The largest square foot Radio Shack franchise store opens in Northway Shopping Center. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Meyers, first began business in Orange with Meyers Steel Company. They later added the Horseman's Store to their list of businesses. Opening the store will be Dale Belt, Jo Anne Alford and Jack Looney. Grand city elections Saturday will determine two council seats. David Claybar is unopposed in his bid while incumbent J.D. Stanfield is being opposed by Kim Craft. On Aug. 13, Mr. and Mrs. Kimbel Pevetor will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They are Richard Corder's in-laws. Janet and James Fontenot mark their wedding anniversary this week. Louis and Beth will host the Monday Munch Bunch. H.D. Pate, Commissioner of Bridge City Sand-Lot Baseball, has announced the rules for the second annual softball game between Sen. Carl Parker and the B.C. Rotary Club. Proceeds will benefit the Bridge City/Orangefield Community Center. Doris Land, baking champion, baked a five-tier cake that measured over six feet tall for the 55th anniversary of Orangefield First Baptist Church. Ingredients included three dozen eggs, 15 boxes of cake mix, 25 pounds of powdered sugar, three pounds shortening, a pint of vanilla flavoring and a half-pint of butter flavoring. The large cake weighed slightly over 100 pounds. Lewis and Mildred Lemoine have moved to Victory Gardens, in Bridge City, from New Orleans. Mildred is the sister of Charles Gauthier and Janice Menard. (All of them are now gone.) The new chairman of the Bridge City Day events and parade will be insurance man Bill Nickum, John Hill, Potentate of the El Mina Shrine Temple's parade unit, will be parade marshal.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week we received a nice message from Diana Hill. She expressed how much she enjoyed Roy's "Cotton Picking" story and also the weekly content in the paper. We have known that beautiful lady many years, even before Carman Davis's boy, Brooks Hill, came along. Thanks Diana, nice to hear from you. Speaking of 'Cotton Picking' last week we mentioned Pat Clark's cotton picking days. What we failed to mention was that Pat carried a canteen and would trade a drink of his water for a double hand full of cotton for his sack. Classes are starting again, local residents and donors are making sure the kids get what they need for that important first day. Groups all over are donating supplies and back packs to give away. The biggest event was at LSCO Saturday inside the air conditioning with the annual community wide Back to School event for families was held. The Orange Rotary Club had earlier packed supplies in dozens of back packs for give-away. Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. helped kick off the event. Al Granger, owner of local car and RV dealerships, was there, as he is everywhere. David Jones of Gopher Industrial not only had free stuff, he brought along his costumed Gopher mascot to the delight of the children. In another part of town, Golden Chick fast-food restaurant hosted our latest local celebrity, world boxing champ Oshaquie "Shock" Foster to meet kids and give away free back packs with supplies. Also on Saturday, First Baptist Church in Bridge City had its own school supply give-away. With school starting, K-Dan's in Orangefield is not happy about a local fad that is apparently spreading among high schoolers. The game is to remove the "fuel grade" buttons off the gas pumps. The store has been hit three times and the buttons can run more than \$500 to replace. Watch out kids, they've got cameras out there now that can get license plate numbers. Al Granger also helped pal and floral artist Scott Hasty show off at the grand finale of the "Art of Flowers" exhibit at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Hasty, who now works on private commissions, displayed his arrangements to augment paintings displayed for the exhibit. He's accustomed to such shows of his talent. He recently did a number of arrangements for the artwork of the late C. Delle Bates set up downstairs in the historic First Presbyterian Church as a memorial to the local artist and inventor. Granger is now the subject of a popular form of artwork. To celebrate National Coloring Book Day this past week, his team at Granger Chevrolet got a cartoon drawing of the boss in front of a vintage Chevrolet pickup truck for submissions to a coloring contest. One hint—AL has had a lot of colorful shirts through the years. Orangefield High Ag teacher Tim Singleton was honored recently at the annual conference of the Ag Teachers Association of Texas. He has been a member of the association for 20 years. He's been teaching the subject a total of 22 years with the past five years with Orangefield. City of Orange events planner Leigh Anne Harrell didn't have to plan her own baby shower. Lots of friends and family pitched in, including sister-in-law Reid Dallas and little red-headed cutie niece Drue Dallas. Leigh Anne and husband Broderick will be having their first baby, already named Adeline Honey. Nancy and Tony Dallas are the local grandparents-to-be. Grandmother-to-be Jennifer Harrell came from out of town for the shower. Of course if Leigh Anne is there, you can bet the Ragsdale girls, Sarah Ragsdale Nash and Rebekah Ragsdale, along with their mother Paula Ragsdale, were there. Others included Jennifer Burtsdale, Lacey Lemoine, and Leslie Uzzle. Traveling has dropped down now that classes are beginning, but if you're retired, who cares? Retired music teachers Theresa and Russ

Cronin took to the road again in their RV up in the cooler climates with mountains as they went to see the great musicians, including Audra McDonald, at the Wyoming Teton Music Festival. MaQuettia visited Fayetteville, North Carolina, in her latest travels. Becky Trahan took off sans Johnny and with Rachael Milner for another Carnival cruise. Sheila Fasje ended up at the Pacific Ocean in California as part of her trip across the Southwest U.S. that included a trip to the Grand Canyon. Karl and Karen Wickham celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary as they set to get new digs again. Their spacious garden home in Pinehurst up on the market. David and Kelli Rawls had their 49th trip around the sun together. Lots of birthdays happened during the past week, including No. 1 LC-M Bear fan Pete Mota. Trashy Lady Deborah Bednar, who is a member of the women's group that picks up litter along the streets and promotes recycling had another birthday. She's also a rarity in Orange County these days. An admitted Democrat. Other birthdays included Thereze McKee and Tammy Dietz hitting decade landmarks, though not the same one. Neither is showing her age. Stark Museum of Art curator Sarah Boehme. Also give birthday wishes to retired city engineer James Foyle, Lawrence Odom, Theresa McClelland, Nathan Hayes, Hudson Wright, Melany Marie Monson, Anthony Meaux, Betty Bass, Derricka Halloway, Jo Foster, Michelle Hughes, Rose Brown, Matthias Petteerway, Cheryl Donnaud, Irene Smith, Jill Rowley, and Chris Burnitt. Remembrance: This week, Aug. 10, one of the great guys we've known, Judge Joe Parkhurst, would have celebrated a birthday. Joe was raised in the Cove but attended high school in Bridge City. He was a star pitcher and attended Sam Houston on a baseball scholarship. He was everybody's friend. I still miss him. Speaking of great guys who did to ride the range with Aug. 11th marks the first anniversary of longtime lawman Wilson Robert's death. This Friday a memorial service, organized by V.J. his widow, will be held at Pipe Creek to bury his ashes and place a monument. That is in hill country, near where Judge Powell now lives. Hoping we get some rain soon. Hate for an errant smoker spark to set a field on fire.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Aug. 9: Retired Dist. Judge Dennis Powell, who now lives in the hill country, celebrates on this day. We haven't heard from the Judge in sometime. I know he reads The Record online. Drop us a line Judge. Also celebrating are Dwight Thacker, Paige White, Jada Montagne and Ken Hartley. Aug. 10: Celebrating today are Timmy Bryd and Bree Anne Collins. Aug. 11: Susan Eby, Morgan Taylor, Rene Danna and Deborah Bayliss. Aug. 12: One of our favorite people and one nice lady, longtime educator, now working in the district attorney's office, Chad's better half, mother of three fine boys, our friend Windee Jenkins celebrates today. Also Happy Birthday to Jared Sleeman and Jennifer Babin. Aug. 13: Longtime friend, insurance man Clint Landry, celebrates today. Also Monty Eshbach, a great guy we've known a long time. Also celebrating are Chris Bailey, Melissa Cox, Ken Phelps, Wade Estes, Terry Walles and Aaron MacCammond. Aug. 14: Diane Justice, Jerry Windham, Kevin Berry, Bill Triggs, Britanie Long have birthdays today. Aug. 15: The talented Kristie Gunn celebrates to day, also Happy Birthday to Tiffany Schlicher, Gavyn Fisher, Brandi Arnold and Christine Johnson. (NOTE: Call 409-886-7183 or email therecordlive.com to post birthdays or anniversaries free of charge.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Clarence Robicheaux comes into Tee-Boy's Bar & Grill, walks up to da bar and orders a bourbon and soda. After a few minutes he needs to go to da rest room him.

He don't want no body to steal or drink from his glass so he wrote a note and put it next to his drink. The note say, "Me, I spit in dis drink, do not drink!"

While he was gone Sostan Boudreaux wrote a note him too and put it next to da drink. Wen Robicheaux return him, he find da note wat said, "So did I."

C'EST TOUT CATS-CATS AND COYOTES

Some Bridge City residents believe the influx of stray cats in the city might be coming from their neighbors in South Jefferson County. Unwanted cats are making their way over the bridge. The stray cat population has gotten to be a problem. On the other hand, domestic pet cats are being killed by packs of coyotes or one loner coyote. Several cats have disappeared in the Dugas Addition. Sylvia Gisclair was able to save her cat when she scared a coyote off. She never had a good shot at it. They are likely coming from the Hawk Club area. Last week a lady on Vivian St. posted on Facebook that she had lost a mother cat and three kittens. Also in the past few days the Dunn's pet bobtail cat, "Old Man Bobby" came up missing. As a kitten he was the only one from his Minks family to survive Hurricane Ike. He was injured and always favored his right hip and probably was unable to get away from danger. He was always sitting at the back door waiting for breakfast and after his evening meal he would sit under the trees with the Dunn's. That was a month ago. During that time someone dropped off a small, pregnant cat that gave birth to four kittens and then disappeared. The Dunn's assume coyotes got her. They are trying to teach the little kittens to eat but are looking for someone to take them who can better care for them. They are about three weeks old, two males, two females. If you are able to help out these senior citizens by adopting the kittens please call 409-779-6798 for information. Well, I've got to get going. Take care and God bless.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announce that Barefoot Souls- Wellness Studio has been named Business of the Month for August 2023. They were presented an award at the August Networking Coffee hosted by Rani Dillow with Westin Mortgage Group. Pictured: Barbara Moore, Ms. Macie, Elyse Thibodeaux and Mary Kelon.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce is has announce that Jamie Lozano with Sonic has been named August Employee of the Month. Pictured: Brenda Foreman, Jamie Lozano and Chelsea Skinner



The Orangefield High School JV cheerleaders returned from UCA Cheer Camp with several awards. JV squad awards include: 2nd overall in Game-Day Championship, 2nd in Camp Routine, 3rd in Sideline, and two Blue ribbons, JV also earned the spirit stick all four days. Individual JV awards include: two All American cheerleaders, Angelina Ragusa and Autumn Harvey. Mascot awards include: All American Mascots, Kamryn Kelley & Catalina Lawley. Pin It Forward, Catalina Lawley, and The MUSHY spirit award!

Happy 67th Anniversary

James & Betty Nezat

Mr. & Mrs. James & Betty (Landry) Nezat celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on August 14th. They were married in Port Arthur at the "Lady of Guadalupe Church" on 15th street.

For the past year, Betty has been in care of Vidor Health & Rehab Center with dementia. Thanks to all...James

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Little Cypress Manateeville CISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 21, 2023, in the LCM Administration Building, 6586 FM 1130, Orange, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 84120/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.2200/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Approved by Local Voters

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	1.52513 % increase
Debt Service	0.05282 % increase
Total expenditures	1.39665 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 1,770,030,699	\$ 2,051,521,155
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 10,835,757	\$ 19,036,347
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 1,219,312,084	\$ 1,403,422,120
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 7,476,672	\$ 17,275,388

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$49,040,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.9725	\$0.36910*	\$1.29160	\$4.929	\$5.247
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6880	\$0.27228*	\$0.96028	\$3.697	\$6.372
Proposed Rate	\$0.84120	\$0.22000*	\$1.06120	\$4.210	\$8.051

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 150,591	\$ 175,101
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 110,591	\$ 113,339
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.2916	\$ 1.06210
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,428.40	\$ 1,203.77
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		(\$224.63)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.01451. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.01451. The district is proposing a rate that exceeds the Voter-Approval rate.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment. A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$31,187,657
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$1,749,364

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NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

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HOME FOR SALE

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House for Sale: Bids will be taken Thur., 08/10/2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the property. This is Essie Bellfield's former residence, located at 1907 Link St. in Orange, TX.

AUTO FOR SALE

2022 Hyundai Venue SEL Hatchback 11K miles, 1 owner, \$24,000 1-337-302-8897

GARAGE SALE

Multi Family Garage Sale this Sat., Aug. 12 from 7 am to noon at 160 Shadowdale St., Bridge City. Includes Furniture, home decor, kitchen items, clothing for the whole family, toys, back to school lunch kits, binders, backpacks and lots more.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The property commonly known as 4785 Evangeline Dr., Vidor, TX 77662 is scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 09/05/2023 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JOHN HOYT CURTIS**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 2, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19761**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Debra Lynn Buckley**.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Debra Lynn Buckley
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
409-886-7453
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **HERMAN JOSEPH PACHUCA, SR.**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 1, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19744**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Dorothea G. Pachuca**.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Dorothea G. Pachuca
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
409-886-7453
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MARGARET PENNY JENKINS**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 31, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19724**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Jeffrey W. Hughes**.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Jeffrey W. Hughes
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
409-886-7453
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **SONDRA HAMILTON**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 31, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19722**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Kenneth Hamilton**.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Kenneth Hamilton
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
409-886-7453
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JOHNNY SHEPPARD, JR.**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 31, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19723**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Cindy Ann Sheppard Overman**.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Cindy Ann Sheppard Overman
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
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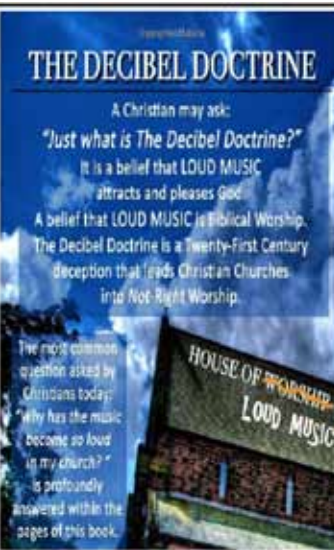
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• Born in Orange, Texas.
• Graduate of Lamar University.
• Discipled by Pastor W.E. Gambin and Pastor M.E. Barr.
• Retired chemist of Clark Chemicals.
• Pastor of Faith Tabernacle in Hillster, Texas since 2004.
• Married to Theresa Clark, a beautiful lady who gave me a lovely daughter and two precious grandchildren.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **THERESA DAVIS**, Deceased, were issued on the **AUGUST 8, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19762**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Christy Frazee**.

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

c/o: **Christy Frazee**
2236 Cherry Street
Orange, TX 77632

Dated the 8th day of August, 2023.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Christy Frazee
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email: tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **BILLIE RAE FERGUSON**, Deceased, were issued on the **AUGUST 8, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19763**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Dena Dianne Tarver**.

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

c/o: **Dena Dianne Tarver**
560 Harvey Road
Bridge City, TX 77611

Dated the 8th day of August, 2023.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Dean Dianne Tarver
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email: tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **JOSEPH ERIC TAYLOR**, Deceased, were issued on the **AUGUST 8, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19739**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Danny Allen**.

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

c/o: **Danny Allen**
2701 Sheppard Road
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 8th day of August, 2023.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Danny Allen
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
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Bridge City looks to improve this season

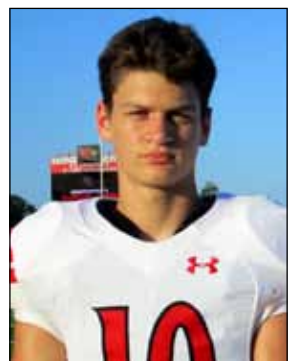


Chad Landry is the head football coach for the Bridge City Cardinals. RECORD PHOTO

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

There is a new head football coach in Bridge City with a familiar name. Chad Landry has been with the baseball program at Bridge City for 15 years and was named the top man for the Cardinals in football during this past off season.

Landry steps into the Cardinals' head coaching position a season after they went 1-9 without a win in district. "We're kind of in a building phase coming off of last year when we were riddled with injuries. It was a tough spot for our guys, but we kept fighting all

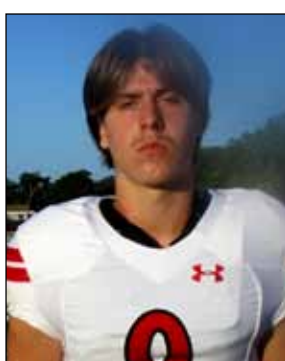


Bryce Breeden is only a freshman but is playing on both sides of the ball in pre-season workouts for the Cardinals. RECORD PHOTO

year long, and I was proud of how we finished the year. The Cardinals came out each game just giving all they had. We're just trying to build off that for this upcoming season," Landry explained.

The summer workouts were great at Bridge City. Landry described, "We're just going to try to build off this summer and look forward to the season starting."

Several key Cardinals are back on offense. Quarterback Hutch Bearden began last year as the starter before an injury knocked him out of the lineup for the entire district schedule. Bearden has won the starting job again for this season and



Hutch Bearden was the starting Cardinal quarterback last season before an injury sidelined him and he will again direct the Bridge City offense this year.

is looking really good according to Landry. Offensive Coordinator Chris Towery is working

BRIDGE CITY Page 2B

LCM Bears seek to battle for district title

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

After its strong run in the playoffs two years ago, last season was a little disappointing for Little Cypress Mauriceville in football. The Bears finished third in their competitive district and were eliminated in the first round of the state playoffs by Kilgore.

Head Coach Eric Peevey of LCM called last year a positive season. "We had a winning record at 6-5 which was only the third time in school history the Bears have had back-to-back



Eric Peevey is the head football coach of the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears. RECORD PHOTO

negatives," Peevey recalled.

Graduation took away several very good Bears, but a key to building this season's team are the ten sophomores that started for Little Cypress Mauriceville during the previous campaign and are now juniors. Peevey identified, "DeMarco Bandiero started eleven games last year at defensive tackle so we really expect a lot from him coming back."

Also starting eleven games was Eddie Winters in the defensive line. Winters will play both at

LCM BEARS Page 4B

Orangefield Bobcats want to repeat championship

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats are three weeks away from kicking off a new football season and are hoping for a repeat of last year for themselves. The Bobcats were district champions for the first time in over three decades and won a playoff game.

Head Coach Josh Smalley was obviously pleased with his 9-3 Bobcats in 2022. "It was a good season for us. We had a running back that set the single season rushing record with 2400 yards, we had a lot of positives, and we had a couple kids go play college football," Smalley recalled.



Orangefield Bobcat Head Football Coach Josh Smalley. RECORD PHOTO

"The community was excited about it, the coaches were excited, the kids were proud of it, but last year was last year and this year doesn't care about

ORANGEFIELD Page 4B

Mustangs expect to bounce back

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Last year was not a typical season in football for West Orange-Stark. The Mustangs made the playoffs but were eliminated in the first round of the post season by the Bellville Brahmas.

West Orange-Stark was led by Hiawatha Hickman who was promoted to be the athletic director and the new head football coach with the retirement of longtime Mustang coach Cornel Thompson. The season had its ups and downs as WOS finished at 5-6 for a rare losing record by the winningest team in Texas high school football history.



West Orange-Stark Head Football Coach Hiawatha Hickman. RECORD PHOTO

disappointing first year as the head coach. "Last year we finished 5-6 which here at this program that's unacceptable. It was a new system with a lot of turnover in personnel.

WOS Page 3B

Roberts Ford

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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; 86-90 degrees; 2.17 feet below pool. The water level is 170.0 with both generators running 6 hours a day. Water temperature at the Dam is 88 degrees. North of the three-mile Pendleton bridge, temperatures have been running 86-90 degrees.

Crappie are still being caught in 12-20 feet of water depending on cloud cover and generator schedule. Small minnows are the preferred bait this time of year. Bass are good using topwater poppers, chuggers, spooks and frogs over vegetation early and late in the day. Another bass pattern is a 7-10 inch flutter spoon over humps and ledges.

During the heat of the day bass are being caught in 20-25 feet over ledges with deep diving crankbaits. Texas and Carolina rigs have been producing in the outer swings of the creek bends. Best colors for 7-10 inch worms are watermelon candy red, June bug red and Red shad.

The night bass bite has been coming on strong with Texas ridged 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 summer nighttime Bass bait is a spinnerbait in all black with a single spin Colorado blade 3/4 or 1 ounce, cadence slow off points.

White bass have been producing on a black/blue back 1/2 ounce rattletrap, a jig-n-spoon in 1/2 and 3/4 ounce, and a medium diving crankbait. Kayakers are catching blue and channel catfish shallow with the spawn.

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 90 degrees. Beautiful weather for fishing. The intracoastal canal and jetties continue to produce limits of trout early in the morning on topwaters then switching to soft plastics. Short rigs under the birds along the beach are good for trout. No reports of triple tail. Sabine Channel rock piles are good for trout and redfish with live shrimp under popping cork. North Levy continues to be a hotspot for nice catches of trout. Topwater early in the day switching to a popping cork with live shrimp along the first and second pike or along the road. North Point of Pleasure Island is good for trout drifting the flats with live shrimp under a popping cork. Beautiful weather for fishing. Sabine Lake is good for redfish and trout on points and drops leading out of the bayous making long drifts over oyster shells and mussel flats with quarter ounce jigs with five inch plastics. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.



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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 87 degrees. The surf is holding numbers of black drum, sharks, and some big redfish on cut bait or live on the bottom. The gulf side of the North Jetty is holding limits of sheephead and trout against rocks with an occasional redfish early near the end with a popping cork and shrimp. The wreck has good numbers of trout early on free-lined shrimp or croaker close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout close to the rocks and big redfish on the bottom. Sharks are at the end of the jetty towards the gulf side. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Bay wells have been productive for speckled trout on live croaker and live shrimp. Some trout being caught on the lower east side of Trinity Bay over shell reefs, Best on live shrimp or soft plastics. Schools of bull redfish roaming in the upper part of the bay. Birds will pinpoint their location. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 89 degrees. Speckled trout catches have been better over shell reefs when the wind allows. Best bite on live natural baits and soft plastic lures. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temps 88 degrees, water looking great in East Bay, with the winds finally giving us a break. Winds have been out of the South in the 5-7 mph in the mornings, which has allowed us to fish anywhere we choose. We have been starting out over shell beds, close to drains where we find bait pods. When we find no bait, we make a handful of casts and move on. As the day progresses we have ventured out to the reefs in the middle of the Bay, and fish till mid-morning. This has really increased our catching this week, including Trout, Redfish, Flounder, and Sand Trout. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks have still been producing the most bites for our anglers, and Blue Moon has worked well with 1/4 ounce jig heads, in the upper portion of the water column. We only found a few birds working this week, but the Fish are still chasing and feeding on shrimp, so if you can find them the action can be fast and furious. On our live bait trips, live croaker has worked well in helping us pull in some giant bull redfish. 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 10am, you really begin to feel the effects. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Little Hanna's Still holding speckled trout early and an occasional flounder, or redfish. The drains are holding lots of fish early in the day. Yates Bayou drain is holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Siever's Cut holding redfish near grass lines. Look for birds and slicks in Hanna's, Deep Reef, Moody's Reefs. Gas wells A1 to Eagle point are holding some trout biting live croaker. Goat Island holding redfish, with the occasional speckled trout, under a popping cork with shrimp or Carolina rigged live mullet finger mullet. Look for birds, slicks, and restless bait. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 89 degrees. Gas wells continue to be productive for speckled trout on live shrimp, when the wind allows. Some anglers doing well with live croak-

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OCARC fishing tournament hooks great turn out

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The weather was good and the wind picked up to make the temperatures feel a little cooler during the first Friday and Saturday in August. The result was another great OCARC fishing tournament in Orange.

OCARC Director John Thomas was thrilled with the 246 entrees in the 35th Annual OCARC Fishing Tournament and of those participants who weighed in a fish 73 of them were under the age of 16 years old. "The tournament had a great turn out. The weigh-in at the Riverside Pavilion was everything we thought it would be. We just want to thank all the people for supporting OCARC," Thomas expressed.

All the young anglers who were 16 and under that weighed in a fish were given a free new rod and reel provided by Gopher Industrial. There were a number of great door prizes raffled off including a 70-quart Igloo cooler.

David Jones with Gopher Industrial is a strong supporter of OCARC and its fishing tournament. "It is an interesting journey with me and Mr. Thomas. I don't know, it's probably been fifteen years that we've been doing this, and I saw what they did is a huge family oriented endeavor. It gets kids involved and it's for a great reason to get us involved too," Jones said.

The tournament awarded almost \$4400 in cash prizes in twelve categories of fish. Nine of the categories awarded prizes to the top three catches and three had first place only prize money.

The big winner in the Dominion Bass category

was Daniel Hulsey with a 4.26 pound bass that earned him \$750 for first place. Cameron Duhon and Dane Courville took second and third place to earn \$100 and \$50 respectively.

The "Stan Armstrong" Redfish category was won by Benny Coleman with his 8.15 pound catch which won him \$750. Second and third place also awarded \$100 and \$50 to James Hare and Charlene Kershaw.

The Big Speck category awarded \$750 to James Sparrow for his 3.77 pound catch. Rusty Frederick and Chad Daniel collected \$100 and \$50 for

PHOTO On RIGHT:

Matt Bertrand caught the biggest fish at the OCARC Fishing Tournament with this 28.76 pound catfish.

RECORD PHOTO:
Dan Perrine



second and third place.

The Flounder category was very tight with only a quarter of a pound separating the top three Thomas Mayon, Madie Lea, and Johnny Dallas. Mayon grabbed the \$750 first prize with his 2.31 pound flounder. Lea and Dallas won \$100 and \$50 for their second and third place catches.

The "Sarge's" Catfish category was won by Matt Bertrand with his 28.76 pound catfish that was almost as big as his son Alstin. Bertrand got \$100 for first while Georgia Savage received \$50 for second and Carley Williams won \$25 for third place.

The White Perch were not plentiful and only one was weighed in. Theygan Brooks caught a .62 pound White Perch to win \$100 for that category.

The Sunfish category

Bridge City Cardinals

From Page 1B

closely with Bearden. "Coach Towery has done a really good job getting him ready. Hutch has a lot of skills, he's a tough kid, and he's a hard worker," Landry replied.

Bearden will be throwing the football to some quality wide outs. Gavin Bodin is a big framed Cardinal who is back from last year and will be a primary target for passes. Jerris Brown can really run and will be a deep threat for Bridge City when it throws the football.

Landry added, "We've got some young guys that are going to fill in and have done a good job so far this first week of practices. It's just a matter of staying healthy and keeping those guys on the field."

The strength for the Cardinals should be their defensive line. It starts with Nick LeJeune, Bryce Linder, and Ayden Richardson. Coach Landry stated Richardson will play a lot more in the five-technique than he did in the previous year. "Up front we feel like that is our strong suit. Those guys are very good," Landry reiterated.

Another positive on defense is the secondary which returns all four starters from last year Austin Bellanger and Jagger Carlin at the corners, Luke Williams and Stephen Stone at the safeties. Landry commented, "We're just focusing on our communication on the back end and it's gotten a lot better since the end of last year."

A new Cardinal worth

watching is Abraham Munguia as a slot receiver. Munguia should be a key contributor for the Bridge City offense with his shiftiness and can catch any ball thrown at him. "He's been impressive with making the first guy miss. He is just a really skilled player, very athletic, and is a sophomore," Landry responded.

A freshman Bryce Breeden is another young Cardinal that Coach Landry thinks is ready to go. Breeden is playing both sides of the ball which is rare for a freshman, and Bryce has done a very good job all summer preparing his body for varsity level football.

Landry repeated, "Those two young guys have really stood out so far. We're excited to see how much they can contribute to the Cardinals this year."

The Bridge City coaches will be working the next three weeks to find the right mix of Cardinals to play come the first game against county rival the Orangefield Bobcats. The offense has some holes in the front line.

Eight or nine Cardinals are being rotated around to find the best combination to be the starters in the offensive line. "They're getting coached up, they're working hard, we're just trying to find the right combination. I think the main cog is Victor Ortiz at center, he's done a really good job the last couple of years for us. We're trying to find the combination around him," Landry analyzed.

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LCM Bears seek battle From Page 1B

tackle and at end on defense like he did last season.

Newcomer of the Year in the district on defense was Jackson Smith at free safety. Smith played all eleven games on defense and will see some time on offense as a wide receiver.

Starting at center this season is Carson Phelps who played every game for the Bears at guard last year. "At 6-4, 290 pounds, I'm really excited what I'm seeing from him after we moved him to center. I'm very happy with that decision, and I think he's going to be very solid for us in that spot," Peevey stated.

After three games last season the sophomore Clayton Farwell took over at right tackle. Now Farwell is playing like a seasoned veteran and doing quite well.

Tucker Floyd will return as an outside linebacker where he was second team all-district for the Bears. A two-way player is Jonah Fuller who will be more of a primary running back for the offense and will see time as a weak side linebacker on defense.

Mason Floyd played three or more games on varsity and is back. Carson McIlwain played tight end the last five games for LCM. Keagan Cockerham at receiver saw time on the field the last four games.

Peevey elaborated, "All these kids they don't look like sophomores any more, they don't even like the juniors that they are, it almost looks like we have seniors on the field. We've got a bunch of them and that's a positive for us because we're going to need that experience."

Leaders on defense for the Bears definitely will include senior Luke McDow at middle linebacker. McDow led the district last year with over 150 tackles. "Luke returning at 'Mike Linebacker' is just fantastic for us. He is a general out there on the field and is one of the few seniors returning



Dylan Payne won the competition to be the starting quarterback for the LCM Bears this season. RECORD PHOTO



Luke McDow is the middle linebacker for the LCM Bears and led the district in tackles last season. RECORD PHOTO

with a ton of experience," Peevey pointed out.

In the offensive line is senior Jovany Molina who started the last four or five games at guard. Peevey described Molina as a road grader after losing some weight in the off season and is a force up front for LCM.

Another senior Devin Dunman is the other starting guard. Peevey added, "We don't have a ton of seniors all over the place, but in those few spots that we have them we're really counting on them."

A senior who has not played football the last couple of years is Braydon Guillory who was all-district in baseball as a freshman. Guillory will play at wide receiver and could be a big play specialist.

Coming back at a cornerback is Daunte Greer, and he will play a little at running back as well. Seniors Cameron Dougharty and Jeremiah Arnold will be filling in at positions in the defensive line.

The linebackers should be a strength for Little Cypress Mauriceville. Of course starting with Luke McDow in the middle, Jonah Fuller and Tucker Floyd on the outside. Dylan Payne started at an outside linebacker last year but will be seeing more time on offense at quarterback.

Coach Peevey said they had a competition for the quarterback position

around Christmas of last year, and Payne took it over. Dylan has always been able to run the football well and was nicknamed 'The Payne Train' because he is very physical with the ball scoring six touchdowns last season running for the Bears.

Peevey updated, "His throwing ability has gotten ten times better. Dylan will take the reigns at quarterback, and I've been very pleased so far. The work he's put in, the leadership role he's taken, and I think he's going to go far."

The football program is solid at Little Cypress Mauriceville with the underclassmen coming up. The Bears' junior varsity won district last year, and the freshmen team went undefeated on its season.

About seven more sophomores are up on the varsity for this season with LCM. Peevey wants sophomores on the varsity who will see playing time otherwise he would prefer them to be on the junior varsity where they will get some game action.

Possibly starting at free safety and some at wide receiver will be sophomore Braylon Lewis. He is very athletic and is very good with the ball in his hand. Lewis has the instinct of knowing how to get to the ball when he is playing defense.

Working out wide as a receiver will be Khayden Reed

who had a great summer and has carried through to the first week of fall practices. Peevey believes Reed even though he is only a sophomore can continue to develop and could make himself into a starter with plenty of playing time.

At cornerback and at running back J'Lynn Morris will get looks to play. "He is very explosive with the ball in his hands. I see us finding ways to get him the ball," Peevey replied.

Sophomores moving up from the undefeated freshmen team include Parker Freeman who is a big sophomore working to play tight end. Sophomores Justin McCarver will see time in the defensive secondary as will Ian Loncon and Trevor Lloyd in the defensive or offensive lines.

"These are all kids that I see making moves for us as sophomores. We haven't played very many sophomores here, my first year we didn't have a sophomore on varsity.

Last year we had to play a lot of sophomores because there was not a lot of juniors, and this year we have to play a lot of sophomores again because we don't have a lot of seniors. After this year my whole team is back so we probably won't have very many sophomores moved up unless somebody can just really play," Peevey explained.

Kaden Boatman is a junior who has worked extremely hard through the spring and the summer. Boatman will see time on defense at safety and also on offense as a receiver.

Hunter Johnson was on the junior varsity as a sophomore and could see time this season as a junior playing as the weakside linebacker to give Jonah Fuller a breather. Johnson could take Dylan Payne's spot at the other outside linebacker spot and make a positive contribution.

The emphasis for Coach Peevey and his coaching staff prior to the first game is directed at getting extreme effort from the Bears at all points. Peevey described, "We've got a team

that may make mistakes with all the young players we have especially early in the year, but as long as we're giving extreme effort and attacking the football things seem to work their way out."

Peevey is looking for growth each week from the players. The coach is eager to see how especially his younger Bears are getting adjusted to the Friday night lights as the season progresses.

Ball control is being preached by Peevey to make sure the Bears on offense are holding on to the football. The Bears' defense is working on stripping the ball to create turnovers for them to make takeaways. Peevey exclaimed, "Every day at practice we're looking for turnovers, turnovers, turnovers, turnovers, and that's something we'll be preaching all year definitely."

Getting better at the little things is the other priority during the three weeks before the season opener. Peevey insisted when your

young like the Bears are you have got to be great at the little things because when you get the little things right the big things seem to work out better.

The district in which Little Cypress Mauriceville competes is very tough. Some people in the rest of the state may not give District 10-4A Division I all the respect it deserves but that's only because of the traditionally state ranked teams in the district it has to play in the first round of the state playoffs every year.

Peevey analyzed the quality of teams LCM plays in district. "You look at our district and we're playing really good football everybody is, but my expectations don't change. It doesn't matter if we're young, old, whatever, we're here to win now.

That's how we're coaching them. We're expecting the most out of our kids, and our goal is to win a district championship and our goal is to make a run in the playoffs every year," Peevey concluded.

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Orangefield Bobcats From Page 1B

last year so that's the kind of message we started preaching in the off season. As much success as we had and as fun as it was that really doesn't have anything to do with this year. We've tried to put that to bed and move on to this year as fast as we could," Smalley added.

Orangefield lost a pretty good group of seniors to graduation last year, but there are some quality Bobcats back this year. The Bobcats need to replace two tight ends and their entire backfield from last year, but the good news is most of the offensive line does come back this season.

Returning linemen on offense begin with starters Brayden McGee at center and Ethan Blackburn at guard. Ethan Brown and Blake McRight also started in the line. Smalley analyzed, "We've got a good quality group of interior guys that have Friday night experience and are coming back."

Even though the entire starting backfield is gone there are some young Bobcats that did play varsity football last season and will carry the ball this year. These players will have to step up to fill the void caused by graduation.

Determining who will be the primary quarterback for Orangefield is a top priority for Coach Smalley and his assistants concerning the offense. The two Bobcats battling to be the starter are Kane Smith and Caleb Fregia both seniors.

Smith and Fregia saw a



Caleb Fregia is strong candidate to the starting quarterback for the Orangefield Bobcats.

RECORD PHOTO



Kane Smith is in the running to be the starting quarterback for the Orangefield Bobcats this season.

RECORD PHOTO

lot of playing time last year on defense, so now they will be expected to lead Orangefield on offense. The two are good athletes but come with different skills.

Smalley evaluated, "Kane's a little bit faster, but doesn't throw the ball as well. Caleb throws the ball a little bit better, but is not as fast as Kane. We're going to rely on our scrimmages against LCM and Silsbee to determine who's going to start at that position in Week 1."

A running back with some experience is sophomore Mason Manning who played in twelve games mostly on defense. "He'll be the go daddy this year, and hopefully will adequately replace what Cameron Dischler contributed last year," Smalley replied.

Other running backs who were on the varsity will see more playing time this season. Mason Houghton will run at tailback, Kyle Michael will carry the football

at fullback, and Lane Gipson at halfback should get more carries.

Smalley summarized, "The big question mark on offense will be the quarterback position. That will be a competition heading into Week 1. After the two-a-days and our scrimmages then we'll make that decision which is a big one. We lost a pretty good bit offensively last year, but we feel confident with the guys we've got coming back it's just a matter of getting them experience and work to have them fill those shoes."

In Class 3A a lot of the Bobcats play on both sides of the football, offense and defense. As a result many of the names on defense are the same as on the Orangefield offense.

Mason Manning as mentioned previously played defense and was a starter at cornerback for the Bobcats. He could be the leader of the Orangefield secondary

on defense.

Kane Smith and Caleb Fregia who both played in the secondary last year are back. Inside linebackers Lane Gipson and Kyle Michael are seniors so should be big pluses for the Bobcats.

Noseguard Diego Garcia will add strength inside for the Orangefield defense. "The interior of our defense should be pretty good because they all have Friday night experience," Smalley pointed out.

There are some young Bobcats that Coach Smalley expects will make their presence felt when the season starts. Smalley identified, "We've got two sophomores that will get a look on defense at outside linebacker. Kaleb Menard at 6-1, 190, is a big good looking athletic kid, Carson Worthy will get a look, and junior Logan Trahan will also get a shot to start. "Outside linebacker is a position where we did lose players to graduation and we're going to have to have some guys step up and play, but we feel like we have capable hands there," Smalley stipulated.

Both defensive ends need to be replaced because of graduation. Juniors Kaden Knott and Ethan Brown along with senior Blake McRight are Bobcats that do not have varsity experience but the coaches believe they are capable of filling those holes for Orangefield by getting them repetitions and Friday night snaps.

New faces will make the Bobcat varsity this fall. Zach Morrow is a junior moving up from the junior varsity who will play in the secondary on the varsity

this year. Junior Steyle Spurlock also played on the junior varsity and is expected to step up to help Orangefield in the secondary and special teams. Sophomore running back Kyler Green will fill in at tailback as will Rylan McAlpin who is dealing with a little bit of an injury for about another month.

"We've got guys that have played a lot, just not a lot on Fridays. We're counting on senior Logan Cheek who has not played in a couple of years, but I think he's really going to step in defensively and help us in some areas where we need help," Smalley responded.

The next three weeks will be spent shoring up any holes and working to get a starting eleven on both offense and defense for Orangefield. Offensively Smalley's attention will be focused on establishing the two tight end spots.

"We've got guys in position that are capable of filling the shoes of Morgan Sampson and Koen Maddox. Jacob Worthy is a senior who played a little bit for us last year at split end. Kaden Knott, Kaleb Menard, and newcomer Akilles Garcia a powerlifter is working at tight end. Tight end offensively is a spot for me that is a key one early on," Smalley emphasized.

On defense the outside linebacker and defensive end positions are two spots garnering the defensive coaches' attention. Smalley reminded, "We've got guys that have played those positions on Thursday but the tempo really picks up at the varsity level, and there's a difference between Thurs-

day night speed and Friday night speed. Getting those guys a good look and experience will be big for me in the two scrimmages."

Coach Smalley hopes after the success of last season he and the coaches have established a standard at Orangefield where the Bobcats are able to compete for a district championship every year. The strategy is to use the scrimmages with Little Cypress Mauriceville and Silsbee, the non-district schedule against quality opponents like Bridge City, Woodville, and Shepherd to get the Bobcats ready for the district. Another district championship is the goal for this season.

The Bobcats have been told by the coaches during the off season, during the summer, and now in the preseason workouts what the goal is and what it will take to achieve it. "Getting to the top of the mountain is extremely difficult. Staying on top of the mountain is even harder."

We're now the team in our district that other teams are going to want to knock off and we're going to get everybody's best shot every time we step out there on Friday night. We haven't been the hunted very often, we've always been the hunters, and now we're that team and that program that's being hunted every Friday night. It's a different mentality that our kids have got to understand.

It doesn't matter who we're playing we're going to get everybody's very best effort that night so we've got to give our best effort," Smalley concluded.

WOS Mustangs From Page 1B



William Pitre is expected to be a standout at linebacker for the Mustangs this season.

RECORD PHOTO



Marcus Turner is back as the starting quarterback for the West Orange-Stark Mustangs.

RECORD PHOTO

Our kids got better as the year went on, they worked hard, it just didn't turn out how we wanted it in the last game. I thought we played as hard as we possibly could play, and we could see the growth, and I think that kind of pushed us into the off season, and in the off season we've grown quite a bit. I think we are so far ahead now at this time than we were last year," Hickman evaluated.

The Mustang offense all comes back to the quarterback position. Fortunately, junior Marcus Turner the starting quarterback for eight to nine games last year is back this season to lead West Orange-Stark.

Turner can throw the football and run with it as well. He threw for over 1600 yards, rushed for more than 600 yards, and accounted for 21 touchdowns passing and running.

Hickman stated, "He's definitely our future. When I made the change to make a sophomore our starter we had the future in mind. I think we're going to reap the benefits of Marcus being our quarterback. He's had a great off season, and he had a great 7-on-7. I think that position is set now it's just putting the pieces around him."

Those pieces include a talented corps of wide receivers. The leading returning receiver is Andrew Cooper who topped the Mustangs in catches last

year. Nic Crosson had the most receiving yards with 308 and caught six touchdowns passes. Taydren Perreault is a burner and a threat out wide who was a prime target for Turner during the 7-on-7 competition this summer in College Station. "Wide receiver is probably going to be one of our strongest position groups because they're all back," Hickman predicted.

The running back position will be filled by Jalen Gilmore a two year starter at linebacker who will see more time on offense this season. Hickman indicated, "It's Jalen's time to become the running back since he's been the backup the last few years. We're going to give him a shot at running back."

Another strong group of returning Mustangs is the offensive line with four of five starters back. Josh Miller played every game last season in the offensive line. Daylen Edwards was a starter and Elliott Adams is back as the starting center. Josh Sterling returns and had significant playing time in the offensive line for WOS.

"We feel really good about our group on offense. It means just taking the proper steps and doing what we need to do offensively," Hickman analyzed.

West Orange-Stark has hung its hat on its defensive prowess over the years. Many of the same names on

offense will also contribute for the Mustangs on defense.

Outside linebacker and defensive end Jaterrious Brown started as a sophomore last year. Brown is expected to have a real big year as a junior.

Starting at noseguard will be Daylen Edwards in

addition to being a regular in the offensive line. Edwards is a two-way starter that Coach Hickman thinks will have a great year up front for the Mustangs. Another two-way starter will be Josh Miller.

At one of the inside linebacker positions is Jacob Higginbotham. He had a great offseason and should be a leader on defense.

In the defensive secondary A'myrin Scott is a soph-

omore who was first team all-district as a freshman at strong safety. Chris Jones is a returner at cornerback and has received several college offers to play when he graduates. Hickman indicated Jones may be moved inside to free safety. "He's gotten big enough to be a safety," Hickman added.

The Mustangs have quite a few guys coming back on defense. Hickman assessed, "We feel like that's what we

do here, play defense, and we've got to get back to doing what we were doing. Last year was just kind of a transition as far as personnel and schematics, but I think we're going to get back to the old Mustang defense that we've done in the past."

There are some new faces on defense including William Pitre at the other inside linebacker. Pitre at 6-1, 190 pounds looks the part.

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF ORANGE					
The Commissioners' Court of Orange County, Texas comprised of John H. Gothia, County Judge, Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Pct. 1, Chris Sowell, Commissioner, Pct. 2, Kirk Roccaforte, Commissioner, Pct. 3, Robert L. Viator, Commissioner, Pct. 4, all of Orange County, Texas hereby give notice the County and State, of the proposed salaries of the following elected officials, for the fiscal year 2023-2024.					
*Posting does not show other elected officials' salaries due to no changes in compensation.					
	BASE SALARY	LONGEVITY	CELL PHONE	AUTO ALLOWANCE	TOTAL COMPENSATION
District Judge, 128th Judicial District	from:	\$18,000.00	\$544.00		\$18,544.00
	to:	\$18,000.00	\$592.00		\$18,592.00
District Judge, 163rd Judicial District	from:	\$18,000.00			\$18,000.00
	to:	\$18,000.00			\$18,000.00
District Judge, 260th Judicial District	from:	\$18,000.00			\$18,000.00
	to:	\$18,000.00			\$18,000.00
County Court At Law 1	from:	\$185,000.00	\$1,680.00		\$186,680.00
	to:	\$185,000.00	\$1,752.00		\$186,752.00
County Court At Law 2	from:	\$193,400.00			\$193,400.00
	to:	\$193,400.00			\$193,400.00
County District Attorney	from:	\$18,000.00	\$2,912.00		\$20,912.00
	to:	\$18,000.00	\$2,996.00		\$20,996.00
County Judge	from:	\$108,340.80	\$204.00	\$2,400.00	\$110,944.80
	to:	\$110,420.80	\$240.00	\$2,400.00	\$113,060.80
Commissioner, Precinct #1	from:	\$75,456.00	\$204.00		\$78,060.00
	to:	\$77,536.00	\$240.00	\$2,400.00	\$80,176.00
Commissioner, Precinct #2	from:	\$75,456.00			\$77,856.00
	to:	\$77,536.00		\$2,400.00	\$79,936.00
Commissioner, Precinct #3	from:	\$75,456.00		\$2,400.00	\$77,856.00
	to:	\$77,536.00		\$2,400.00	\$79,936.00
Commissioner, Precinct #4	from:	\$75,456.00			\$77,856.00
	to:	\$77,536.00		\$2,400.00	\$79,936.00
Sheriff	from:	\$107,280.00	\$995.00	county phone	\$108,275.00
				county vehicle	

For Mothers of Future Men

Abigail Dodds
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org

If you look at the beginning of Proverbs 31, you might find a surprise. The chapter includes not simply the famous portrait of an excellent wife but also the teaching and influence of a godly mother on her son. Proverbs 31 begins with the recitation of a king. And what is he reciting? He's reciting "an oracle that his mother taught him" (Proverbs 31:1).

What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?

Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. (Proverbs 31:2-5)

Verse 10 begins the more famous portion of Proverbs 31, but it's worth noting that King Lemuel is continuing to recite his mother's teaching.

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. (Proverbs 31:10-11)

If our sons were asked about the most common teaching of their moms, what might their answers be? What sort of teaching characterizes our commands?

What Does Mom Say Most?

Our most common commands might be mainly safety-oriented: "Always wash your hands before



you eat." "Wear sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher." "Don't forget your bike helmet or seatbelt." Those are not necessarily bad commands. But if they are the primary teaching of a mother to a son, they will not keep a son safe, but handicap him.

Perhaps your teaching is mainly practical: "Be sure to clean your room and make your bed every day." "Finish all the food on your plate." "Always be on time." "Waste not, want not." These are not bad commands; often they're good and helpful. Yet, if those commands are left to themselves, without a foundation of weightier instruction, they will provide only earthly help without eternal benefit.

King Lemuel's mother taught him two very important lessons: (1) how to avoid temptation so he could rule as king, and (2) how to find and value an excellent wife. In other words, his mother taught him how to be a man. And sons today still need mothers who can help teach them how to be wise, just, loving, good men, if not quite kings.

Our sons need to learn how to be heads of a household — perhaps also leaders of businesses, churches, or governments — and men who know what to look for in a wife. That means they need moms who can instruct them in how to judge between right and wrong, true and false, good and best. And between an excellent

wife and an evil woman — because evil women actually exist, and our sons need to avoid them.

"There are a lot of sons today who need mothers who can help teach them how to be wise, just, loving, good men."

Mothers instruct their sons in the importance of being a son, a boy, a man. Mothers help sons know what clothes are fitting for a boy versus a girl. They help them know what manners and mannerisms are appropriate for a young man. While our sons are young, and especially during the teenage years, mothers should keep an eye out to help their sons become godly men — not mom's protégé, not mimicking her femininity. Moms remind sons that their broad shoulders are not meant to slouch, but to carry heavier loads for the sake of others.

Guarding from Sexual Confusion

Mothers need to wisely, shrewdly translate the wisdom of King Lemuel's mother to the world we live in today, where it's not just a king-destroying woman or the dangers of drunkenness he needs to avoid — it's all manner of perversity and addiction. We need to help our sons avoid the enticements of the LGBTQ+ madness, to learn self-control when it comes to phones and technology, to avoid the deceitful euphemisms that have found their way into

some churches, like "pronoun hospitality" or "gender-affirming care" or "reproductive freedom."

Our sons may not be solicited on the street by a prostitute, but they will likely meet with some sinister images or a person who tempts them online. Without the warnings and cautions and roadblocks, and the faith-filled prayers of their godly mothers restraining them, they will be tempted to respond to the sexual advances of perverse men and women who seek them out in the unseen places of the Internet. Or, at the very least, they will be tempted to make light of those who do indulge such perversity — they will be tempted to affirm what God calls an abomination (Romans 1:32).

Home as a Mirror of Mothers

We mothers also need to show our children, and perhaps especially our teenage sons, the respect and safe haven of a Christian home, where God's ways are normal, and the gospel is for them, and repentance and forgiveness are quick and ongoing, and God's friendship is for those who fear him. We need to be mothers like the excellent woman in Proverbs 31, the one King Lemuel's mother told him about:

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. (Proverbs 31:25-27)

God calls us mothers to look well to the ways of our household. We make and keep the home, so home is often a reflection of us, of our own godliness, maturity, submission to our husband, and conformity to Christ — or the lack of all those things. The atmosphere

inside the home can be stale and tense and smothering or full of clean air and light hearts. The rhythms of our home will either indulge or discourage idleness.

We can wear the strength and confidence and dignity of a mother who fears God and entrusts herself to Christ, or we can make anxious people-pleasing or selfish strife our default setting.

From Teenage Sons to Godly Men

Remember that our homes are testifying and speaking to our children. It's likely that our sons will not verbally give us up-to-the-minute details of all that is in their hearts, but their hearts are either being softened to God and his ways or hardened to them. Our home life either authenticates the gospel and the goodness of God's commands, or it misrepresents those things and becomes a stumbling block through our own hypocrisy. We can speak the words and warnings of life to our sons, or we can prefer safety-oriented rules and practical instruction over the weightier goal of godly manhood.

It's easy to think that our growing teenage sons don't really need their mothers. And certainly they don't need us the same way they did when they were little. They don't need our constant physical care; they need the wise and godly oracles of their mom telling them how to avoid worldly temptations, and what true justice is, and how to find a good wife. They need to know the respect and love and friendship and counsel and prayers of their godly mother.

They don't need to be smothered or controlled or manipulated or used. They don't need to be pitied or babied or coddled. But they do still need their godly mothers to offer wise and repeated instructions on how to be a man while showing them the contagious joy of a woman who fears the Lord.

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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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