

County Record

Vol. 64 No. 17

Distributed FREE In Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Economic gains bring traffic pains

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Fifty-five minutes travel time between Orange and Bridge City. The growing pains are blooming and people are grumbling.

Traffic between Orange and Bridge City has become a cluster mess in recent months as construction moves ahead at the new \$8.5 billion Golden Triangle Polymers plant on Texas Highway 87. This week, all southbound traffic on Highway 87 will be closed during certain hours. Southbound lanes are the ones traveling from Orange to Bridge City.

Beginning on Tuesday, September 19, Highway 87 southbound lanes will be closed from FM 105, also called Western Avenue or Orangefield Road, all the way to the 4500 block of the highway, which is near Hillcrest Cemetery. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through Wednesday, September 20; Thursday, September 21, and Friday, September 22.

If needed, the same strip will be closed from 7 a.m. to

5:30 p.m. Saturday, September 23, then again from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, September 25.

The Texas Department of Transportation reports the lane closures are needed for the installation of utility poles.

TxDOT will also be creating detours on Highway 87 southbound near Highway 62 by the Exxon convenience store as a dedicated right turn merge lane will be created to let motorists onto Highway 62 near the entrance to the Waterwood subdivision.

The traffic changes are equaling out. Traffic lanes northbound on Highway 87 going from Bridge City to Orange have had major changes throughout the summer. Last week, the intersection from Highway 87 northbound at FM 1006, or Chemical Row, was closed for several days as a three-lane turning lane was created at FM 1006.

In addition, the Texas Department of Transportation has been making changes in Bridge City

TRAFFIC Page 3A



Texas high school football is well underway as Orange County's squads head into district match-ups. Above: Khyden Reed of the LCM Bears gives five to fans as he runs onto his home field, Battlin' Bear Stadium, against Kincaid a private school from Houston. The Bears lost the contest last Thursday. The loss evens Little Cypress Mauriceville's record at 2-2 for the season. This week the Battlin' Bears have a bye and get a break to regroup before district actions gets underway.

RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey/ KR Photography

BC plans Homecoming week filled with memories

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

In Texas, the high school homecoming football week is a memorable experience for the community, and this week, Bridge City High is having unforgettable events.

It will end Friday night at Larry Ward Stadium-Moe Litton Field when the Cardinals take on Hampshire-Fannett. The team is now 2-2 for the season after a loss last week to Lumberton.

The homecoming queen will be crowned during the ceremonies and new inductees will be presented for the Bridge City High School alumni hall of fame (see separate story).

Senior girls in the running for homecoming queen are Ashely Hale, Carson Fall, Raema Lyda, and Holly Silveira. Juniors selected for the court are Emily Black and Hallie Bearden. The sophomore



The high school is having a special dress-up day each day this week leading up to the homecoming football game Friday against Hampshire-Fannett. On Monday, teachers and students dress for Bikers and Surfers Day.

court is Hudsyn Davis and Marleigh Boyd. Kenzie Fontenot and Claire Danks are the freshmen in the court.

The school's golf team will set up at the game selling red and white Titleist golf caps and 60-inch um-

rellas with the BC logo. The caps are \$35 and the umbrellas are \$40.

Monday's festivities began with high school students, along with teachers and staff, dressing as "bikers and surfers." Then the district had a ribbon-cut-

ting ceremony for the new traveling STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education bus. The bus is sponsored by a number of local industries along with the W.H. Stark

BRIDGE CITY Page 2A

Detectives need help finding young mother's killer



Casie Graves on the right seen with her daughter was murdered and her body dumped along a road to an industrial site.

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Casie Graves was playing with her baby daughter Friday and was so enamored with the child that she posted a video of the little cutie for her friends to see.

Sometime between the time of the video post and Saturday afternoon, Casie Graves was murdered and her body dumped along a road to an industrial site.

Now, the Orange County Sheriff's Office is hoping the public can help find her killer, or killers.

The sheriff's office was called at 5:20 Saturday afternoon when someone spotted a woman's body dumped along the truck entrance roadway to the International Paper mill off Highway 87 between Orange and Deweyville.

CASIE GRAVES Page 3A

Abbott seeks 'School Choice' session

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday his long-awaited special session on "school choice" will start next month while promising political consequences for lawmakers who stand in the way of his priority legislation.

"There's an easy way to get it done, and there's a hard way," Abbott said on a tele-town hall about the issue. "We will take it either way — in a special session

or after an election."

Lawmakers have long expected the special session to start in October, but this is the most specific Abbott has been about the timing yet. And his blunt remarks about the politics mark an escalation of pressure on Republicans in the Texas House who have been a roadblock to the proposal.

"If we do not win in that first special session, we will have another special special session and we'll come back again," Abbott said. "And then if we don't win

that time, I think it's time to send this to the voters themselves."

"We will have everything teed up in a way where we will be giving voters in a primary a choice," Abbott added.

Abbott entered this year more determined than ever to pass "school choice," a proposal to let parents use taxpayer dollars to take their children out of public school. The idea has long encountered resistance in the House, where a coalition of Democrats and rural Republicans have blocked

it.

That coalition remained strong enough during the regular legislative session to keep any school choice proposal from reaching the House floor.

When the regular session ended, Abbott vowed to call multiple special sessions on unfinished business, including school choice. Divisions between the House and Senate have only deepened since then, with back-to-back special sessions on a property tax stalemate

SPECIAL Page 3A



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Orangefield High School debaters competed at the West Hardin High School debate clinic on Saturday, September 16. Winners are: Chamber C: Novice division - 5th place: Adam Meyers, freshman; Varsity division - 3rd place: Calvin Kelly, senior; Chamber B: Novice division - 3rd place: Sidney Holderman, senior; Chamber A: Novice division - 6th place: Kimber Carpenter, senior; Varsity division - 3rd place: Colton Myers, senior. Medalists pictured are: Colton Meyers, Sidney Holderman, Kimber Carpenter, Calvin Kelly, and Adam Meyers.

BLESSED

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

We truly live in a Golden Triangle. If you don't think so, count the blessings of this corner of Texas. First, look at the culture available: The Stark Art Museum Collection is on par with the best of its kind. Fine history museums are plentiful in Beaumont and Port Arthur. The history of the world's first gusher's birth of the refinery industry alone is worth seeing. Jobs and higher education opportunities are easily available. Nature offers almost unlimited outdoor activities. Hunting, fishing, sailing, bird watching or just going to the beach.



Former State Senator Carl Parker

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

There is no doubt, we should pause every day and count our blessings.

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Bridge City Homecoming Week From Page 1

House.

After the ceremony, people were invited to tour the bus, which is part of the high school's CTE (career and technical education) program.

Monday night at 8, the school's traditional pep rally and lighting of the BC letters was held at the stadium. The band performed, the Strutters danced, the cheerleaders led yells, and the team members got pumped for the week. The Bridge City Volunteer Fire Department even came with their extended ladder truck to display a giant American flag that was spotlighted.

High school dress-up days continued with the Tuesday theme of "barbecue dads and soccer moms." Other themes during the

week are "Men in Black and aliens" for Wednesday, "rockstars and rappers" on Thursday, and "country and country club" on Friday.

Students during the week are also competing among classes to see who can donate the most food for the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance, which like other charity groups with food pantries, is finding its shelves getting bare. The freshmen class is assigned to bring canned meats like tuna and chicken. Sophomore students are donating macaroni and cheese, while juniors are assigned to bring spaghetti sauce and pasta.

Seniors are donating canned meals like chili, ravioli, spaghetti, stew, or soup.



Senior girls in the running for homecoming queen are Ashely Hale, Carson Fall, Raema Lyda, and Holly Silveira.

The Record Newspapers of Orange County, Texas

The Record Newspapers- The County Record and the Penny Record- are published on Wednesday of each week and distributed free throughout greater Orange County, Texas. The publications feature community news, local sports, commentary and much more. Readers may also read each issue of our papers from our web site TheRecordLive.Com.

News Tips and Photos

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Casie Graves murder From Page 1

Tuesday, the Orange County Sheriff's Office issued a press release identifying the woman's body as 38-year-old Casie Lynn Graves of Orange.

Detective Captain Joey Jacobs said his office is not talking about details of the case except to confirm that an autopsy confirmed her death as a homicide.

Graves on social media shows her with blonde hair beaming proudly with two young daughters, one apparently in pre-

school with the other still a baby. Her brother is Eric Graves, a meteorologist who is a storm chaser and has worked for television stations. Her mother is Vickie Graves of Vidor.

Her body was found near railroad tracks along a road leading to the paper mill's truck entrance. The expansive industrial site has two entrances off Highway 87 North, but even after turning off the highway, there is a distance to travel before

reaching the main plant site and gates. Someone dropping a body off may not have been seen by traffic traveling on Highway 87.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office will not give a timeline on when the young mother would have been killed or where she was last seen alive. Captain Jacobs said Tuesday no other information will be released to the public.

However, anyone in the

public who has information about the young mother's movements on Friday or any other information or tips they can provide, they should contact Captain Jacobs at 409-883-2612. The num-

ber is the main sheriff's office, but Captain Jacobs is leading the investigation.

Anonymous tips may be left at the Crimestoppers of Southeast Texas at 409-833-8477, which is 409-

833-TIPS.

Highway 87 is a busy thoroughfare and someone may have seen something unusual or suspicious in the area on Friday night into Saturday.

Traffic pains From Page 1

along West Roundbunch Road, or FM 1442. Those changes include eliminating the turning lanes on at Bridge City Elementary School.

That stretch of highway has been affected by a large number of dump trucks and 18-wheel truck rigs heading to the new plant construction site.

For the past few months a number of Highway 87 changes have been made in the stretch between FM 105 and Highway 62 as construction increases for the new plant.

The Chevron Phillips Golden Triangle Polymers is being built on 2,000 acres of cleared land bordered by Highway 87, Foreman Road, and FM 1006. A number of highway lanes have been reconfigured along Highway 87 with various lane closures, turning changes, and the installation of concrete barriers.

The company is also building a barge dock along Cow Bayou and Highway 87 North in Bridge City. Eventually, giant pre-fabricated pieces of the new plant will be shipped to the docks, then transferred to heavy trucks to be transferred to the plant site nearby.

Roadways and areas to the plant for the transport of the heavy trucks are being installed.

The roadways affected are popular thoroughfares from the Orange area to Bridge City and Port Arthur as people in Southeast Texas live in residential areas and travel to industrial sites.

East Roundbunch Road from Bridge City to the Chemical Row (FM 1006) plants is also a well-used route. However, the road has an old swing bridge at

Cow Bayou that is owned and operated by Orange County. In recent years, the swing bridge has had mechanical problems with parts difficult to replace, leading to long periods of closures because laws require the waterway to be open.

Also, the bridge, when it is operating, is opened an average of 35 times a month, or more, for water traffic.

If the bridge malfunctions during hours lanes of Highway 87 are closed, traffic between Bridge City may have to be diverted toward Highway 62 or through Orangefield.

The new plant is expected to bring up to 4,500 construction jobs to the area, along with 500 permanent jobs. The plant is targeted to open in 2026.

Special Session school choice

From Page 1

and then the impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton.

The trial ended Saturday with the Senate clearing Paxton on 16 articles of impeachment after the House overwhelmingly voted to impeach him in May. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick bashed the House's impeachment process after the verdict, while House Speaker Dade Phelan, a fellow Republican, fired back that Patrick was biased all along.

'Holiday in the Park' booth space available

Booth registrations are open to the public beginning for the City of West Orange's "Holiday in the Park" festival.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 in the park next door to West Orange City Hall (2700 Western Avenue; West Orange, Texas).

The City of West Orange reserves the right to the sale of all carbonated beverages. NO alcohol of any kind will be sold at, or allowed on, the festival grounds.

Rules and regulations, as well as a site map and registration form can be found on the City's website located at www.cityofwestorange.com.

For further information, or to reserve a booth space, contact West Orange City Hall at 409-883-3468.

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FOR NOW PAXTON BEATS RAP—RIDE AIN'T OVER

The attorney general's long-simmering securities fraud case appears closer to resolution, while the FBI has probed the same allegations that played a major role in his impeachment. After a 10-day trial, Texas senators on Saturday voted to acquit Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on allegations of bribery and corruption, clearing him to return to his duties as the state's top lawyer. But Paxton's legal troubles are not over. He still faces state securities fraud charges, a case that has stretched out for eight years and counting, starting with an indictment just months after he took office in 2015. The case has been delayed for years by pretrial disputes — including a back-and-forth battle over the trial venue that saw it moved to Houston from Collin County. Paxton has been under investigation by the FBI since October 2020, although no charges have been filed. Federal law experts and former prosecutors contacted by The Texas Tribune say the impeachment result isn't likely to alter the course of Paxton's securities fraud case. In the state case, Paxton faces two counts of securities fraud, a first-degree felony that carries a punishment of up to 99 years in prison, stemming from his 2011 efforts to solicit investors in Servery Inc. without disclosing that the McKinney tech company was paying him to promote its stock. The only two Republican senators to vote for articles of impeachment against Attorney General Ken Paxton — Robert Nichols of Jacksonville, who represents Orange County and Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills — are different brands of Texas conservative. On Saturday, they found common ground on a major vote that separated them from the rest of their party in the Senate when they each voted in favor of 13 impeachment articles removing Paxton from office. The acquittal shows that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick may be the most powerful office holder in Texas. No doubt he had his thumb on the scale.

JOE BEN WELCH REMEMBERED

We were sorry to learn of the passing of former Lamar Orange president, Joe Ben Welch, age 83. He passed away September 12 in Zachary, LA. A funeral service was held Friday, September 15 in Zachary. He was the father-in-law of Judge Rex Peveto and father of his wife Robin. May he rest in peace.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Linda Faye Tibbitts, age 79, who passed away September 15. Funeral services will be held Friday, September 22, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Burial will take place at Oak Bluff Memorial Park Cemetery in Port Neches. Our sincere sympathy to Kent and Chris Tibbitts and their family on the loss of their mother.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

The latest, a mass shooting, leaves 14 dead and a dozen more wounded in a Navy yard in D.C. Aaron Alexis, the shooter, was killed at the scene. The 34-year-old had lived in Fort Worth for several years. The law says he acted alone. The Navy yard is the latest in a string of multiple slayings involving weapons, including the deaths of 20 children and six educators in Newtown, Conn. A little about the natives. Our buddy, Parks Director and champion cake baker Donna Scales attended the Paula Deen event in Houston last weekend. Donna had a nice visit with Paula and gave Deen her famous Almond Joy cake recipe. Paula was real interested and asked for Donna's phone number. For years Donna has been baking the cake for special events. Robert and Karen Jo Vance celebrate their 40th anniversary Saturday, Sept. 21. Also celebrating this week is Joey and Mel Kemp Campbell. The Navarro girls, Lani and Emily, are both pregnant and expecting a couple days apart. Both are having girls and both of those beauties were former Mexican Heritage Festival queens. They have their mother's good looks. They are the daughters of Sandra and George Navarro. Former city manager, a native of Bruner Addition, West Orange, Jack Huffman, is moving to Irving where he once served as city manager. His lovely wife Betty Ramsey passed away a few months ago. Jack also owns a ranch in the hill country. Jack once said when he returned to Orange that he would never leave again. Son Jack, Jr. lives here so I wonder what is attracting him to Irving. Suzanne Halliburton, who started her sports writing for the OVN as a LCM student in 1978, and now working for the Austin American Statesman, wrote a piece on Johnny Manziel that was picked up by the A.P. and ran across the country. Orange native, Coach R.C. Slocum, was inducted into the "College Football Hall of Fame" and also is the 2014 recipient of the Paul "Bear" Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award. R.C. is the winneste coach in A&M history. Year in and year out, West Orange Mayor Roy McDonald

does a great job running his city. He runs a tight ship without all the scuttlebutt. On Sept. 22, twins Matthew and Michael Broussard are a year older as is Miranda Fiset, Corkey Faulk and Connie Arnold. On Sept. 23, our buddy Tommy Simar, who throughout the year, with the help of wife Sue, keeps us supplied with seasonal goodies, celebrates another birthday. We hope it's a good one. Also we wish Penny LeLeux who is marking a birthday today. Penny is our Jack-of-all trades here at the Record, a gal who gets around and covers the community. Also celebrating on this day is County-Court-at-Law Judge Troy Johnson. On Sept. 24, in 2005, the forgotten storm Rita blew in. Because of Ike, we seem to forget how damaging Rita was. Bill Gates is still the country's richest person. His net worth has doubled to \$72 billion in the last five years. Second is Warren Buffett at \$58 billion. They earn more in one day than 99 percent of Americans will earn in a life time. (Editor's note: That was 10 years ago folks.)

25 Years Ago-1998

Orange County awoke Sunday to tropical storm Frances, the storm that never hit but wouldn't go away. The combination of excessively high tides and rainfall of more than 16 inches, combined to flood streets and some houses. The Airfest 98 air show was cancelled as was the Johnny Montagne bash, due to Cow Bayou raising out of it's banks. The party was moved to Jewel Cormier Park. Dr. David and Barbara Olson shot video at the party to send to Fred Gregory, now is in Houston hospital. Charlotte Anderson is on a carrot juice kick and has Dow Gene on it also. She says, "If he's going to keep up with this hot momma, he'd best drink his carrot juice. (Editor's note: Just wondering if carrot juice still does the trick?)" Dr. Chuck and JoAnn Majors are expecting a baby boy in January. Services were held last week, Sept. 12, for Pastor Ed Robinson, 61, who died in Jasper on Sept. 9. The Bridge City Cards stormed Kelly in a rainy 35-7 win. Coach Les Johnson's troops ran the Wing-T and logged in 369 yards on 74 totes. Fullback Daniel Kibodeaux gained 169 yards on 33 carries. The Orangefield Bobcats rolled up 409 yards to beat East Chambers 34-6, in a rescheduled game played in Winnie on Saturday. It was still raining. Running back Beaux Daville rolled up 166 yards and one TD. Tommy Bean, who has been held in a Mexican jail for the past two months on illegal weapons charges was released and arrived in El Paso on Monday, Sept. 21. Con. Nick Lampson was instrumental in gaining Bean's release. Jim Aarons is principle at Bridge City High. (Editor's note: Jim died a few years ago from cancer.) Matt Bryant, former Bridge City star, youngest son of Mary and Casey Bryant, kicked 32-yard field goal to give Baylor at 33-30 win over North Carolina. Matt's cousin, Raun Bryant, is the place kicker for the BC Cards. A good man, Terry Latour, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 1998 and his service was held Tuesday. He was a member of Pipefitters Local 195 in its heyday. He leaves wife Billie, daughter Kathy and son Jerry. Also passing away over the weekend was Iva Talbert. She was a wonderful lady and valued member of the community. The 32nd County Music Awards has an Orange County flavor. Former B.C. beauty queen, Theresa Hearn George, daughter of Ray and Elaine Hearn and granddaughter of Inez, will produce the country music show on CBS.

45 Years Ago--1978

Ask any old timer who was the best football player to play for Orange High, and they will tell you Bohn Hilliard. The football legend died this week. In 1926-28, Hilliard was on the team with Louis Weaver and Ox Emerson. He went to Shriners' and entered the University of Texas in 1932. He beat Notre Dame in '34 with the only TD. He was an All-American at UT and played pro ball but was injured during his rookie year. Hilliard died Saturday, Sept. 23, of a heart attack. He was buried Monday in Arlington. A native of Deweyville, he was reared in Orange. His family owned Dr. Pepper Bottling. Sharon Gregory is chosen Miss Bridge City. Other finalists are Denise Soileau, Brenda Braquet, Theresa Hearn, Lisa Young, Shelly Pate, Liz Godwin, Tanya Hoffpauir, Danette Davis and Melanie LeDoux. (Editor's note: What a beautiful bunch of ladies.) Rep. Wayne Peveto cuts the ribbon at the new West Orange City Hall dedication. Corky and Betty Harmon had a rehearsal party Thursday night, married their daughter off Friday and hosted the monthly supper club the same day. They took the members to Pat's in Lake Charles. Big News Flash: Inez Hearn is retiring from Ward's at the end of the month. She spent 27 years with the company. (Editor's note: The company folded in Orange soon after she left.)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to our buddy Karen Jo Vance and husband Robert who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary September 21. Best wishes for many more. Rodney Townsend had thrown his cap in the ring for county-court-at-law judge to replace Troy Johnson. I didn't get one of his Republican political caps but I got a nice hunting cap from his law office. In a summer full of festive fundraisers, Kristin Burman and Meals on Wheels, had a successful night of fun with a local version of "Family Feud." Game host Adam Conrad, ace drama teacher now with the Lutch Theater, made sure to keep the audience and participants laughing. Adam may end up being the next generation's Gary Stelly as local celebrity emcee. But don't worry, Gary is still active and he's back calling local football games on that interweb thing. The Meals on Wheels fundraiser was held at the LSCO Shahan Events Center with a full bar plus dinner from Old Orange Cafe. Business entrepreneur Al Granger likes to brag that his Team Granger employees are like family, and they proved it by winning the big Family Feud Trophy, beating out several other teams. Of course "Father" Al was there, along with some Granger Team members like Matt Chandler, Preshawn Henson, Dyan Morris, Bobby Wilkins, Jessica Fink, Connor Vercher, and Rebecca Baker. Emily McKee Mellen made sure Chevrons Phillips was represented, including Craig Lemons, plant manager at the new Golden Triangle Polymers

plant under construction. Others spotted in the crowd included Jody Chesson sitting at a table with Brad and Terri Childs, MaQuetta Ledet, Charlotte Alford, Sherry Hommel, Jennifer Cowling Burtsfield, Megan Newson, Rodney and Dr. Amy Townsend, Erin Nichols, Maureen McAlister, and Justin and Vanessa Bufford. Photog Kimberly Manning was spotted taking pics with husband, Bob, who wore a new pair of overalls with a pressed white shirt and black bow-tie to the event. He also had on his signature derby hat to go with his attire. Of course Kim and Paul Dickerson were there. Paul's Orange Stationer in downtown is a neighbor of Meals on Wheels and they are big supporters of the program that offers low-to-no-cost meals to senior citizens at the Bellfield Community Center, plus delivers meals to senior shut-ins. Radio talk celebrity Michael Berry stopped in town last week and visited with old friends Darrell Quebodeaux, Toby Shults, and Ben Wernig. Berry is an Orangefield High graduate and grew up here. Krystal Sanchez, who grew up here but now lives across the Neches in Mid-County, has another starring role in a Beaumont Community Players musical in "Nine to Five." Last week her mother, Angie Smith, along with Meri Ellen Jacobs and other OC friends took in a performance and presented her with a big bouquet of flowers. Friends and family of Taylor Tinsley gathered to shower her soon-to-be born daughter with presents. Those attending included Kayleigh Eubanks, Haley Arnold, Serina Touchet, and Regina Marple. Edie Burch and Jennifer Byrd traveled to Kountze for the Kirby-Hill House Murder Mystery Dinner Theater benefit. Burch loves supporting local history projects and is on the Heritage House of Orange County board of directors. Natasha Garrett and G&G Enterprises hosted a Sip and Social gathering for the BBB of Southeast Texas. Marty Monogue has been traveling with family in cooler climes including Ontario. Fred and Linda Hanauer were recently spotted in the mountains around Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Birthday greetings to Denisha LaFleur, Shawn Hare, Margaret Peveto, Greg Trahan, Bryan Gross, Sabrina Patroneella, Risa Nelms, "Mother Hen" weather reporter Janet Johnson, Ardell Petteerway, John David Roberts, Toyaka Moses, Cheryl Sargent, Father Kevin Badeaux, Christine Hanchey, Sue Will, Chase Collins, and JoAnn Sparacino. Orange County spawns a lot of long-running marriages. Congratulations on No. 55 to Timothy and Judy Linscomb, as Craig and Pam Nugent reached their 47th. Others celebrating anniversaries this past week included Orange City Manager Mike Kountze and his wife, Jill, who works for the LC-M school district, plus Doug and Sharon Combs.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Sept. 20: David Yeats, Matthew Carter, Michael Wuske, Susan Pennington, Caitlin Ziller, Jan Thurman and John Clark all celebrate. Sept. 21: Danny Brack turns a year older as does Bobby Cormier, Mary Rawls, Ronnie Teaff, Sis Keogh and our own Luke Clay Greeson, who turns a big 7-years-old. Sept. 22: Happy Birthday to Beverly Mixon, Brooks Tally, Donna Broomes, Matthew Broussard, Michael Broussard, Miranda Fiset and Noah Burns. Sept. 23: This is the 'First Day of Autumn.' Having birthdays today are Tommy Siman, Judge Troy Johnson, Penny LeLeux, Julie Saltzman, Mark Kelly, Megan Fontenot, Sammy Pratt and Jayna Campbell. Sept. 24: Hurricane Rita visited us on this day in 2005. Celebrating birthdays are Mark Norwood, Teresa Beauchamp, Trey Rhodes, Blake Seibert, Brittney Bean, Bill Nugent and Jimmy Thurman. Sept. 25: Today Jewish holiday 'Yon Kippur' is celebrated. Turning a year older are Donna Ford, Scott Stout, Cameron Pitts and Kailey Childress. Sept. 26: Joey Hargrave celebrates today along with Lynn Gremillion, Kara Day, and Sandra Rose. (To publish birthdays or anniversaries free of charge call: 409-886-7183 or email: news@therecordlive.com)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Two Louisiana businessmen, Leroy Romero and Roy Miguez, who owns R&M Crawfish Sales, went to New York for a big seafood convention.

Miguez and Romero, dey were invited to a party an maybe dey drank a lot of booze, dem.

When dey return to dere hotel room abo't 10 p.m., dey turn on de TV and watch de local news. Dere was a man standing on de roof of a 20-story building, hol-lering dat he was gonna jump, him.

De police was trying to stop him.

Miguez say, "I'll bet you \$10 Leroy, he jump, him." "I'll call dat me," Romero answer.

Dat man, him, he jump, and Romero pull out his 10-spot. Miguez him, he say, "I can't take you money, me, I saw dat earlier on da 6 o'clock news."

"Well, me too," Romero say, "but me, I didn't tink the fool would do it da second time, no."

C'EST TOUT

Watch in next week's edition for a Down Life's Highway column, Roy looks back at a special time in downtown Orange history. Thanks for your time. Please support our family of advertisers, read us cover to cover and check us out on our web, the recordlive.com. Take care and God bless.



Rodney Townsend announces candidacy for Judge, County Court at Law #2

The following is a political statement issued by Rodney Townsend candidate for Judge of the County Court at Law #2:



Rodney Townsend

It is with much pride and humility that I announce my intention to run for Judge of the County Court at Law #2 in the March 2024 Republican Primary and the November 2024 General Election.

Having spent almost 24 years in the courtroom, I have the experience necessary to serve as judge for the County Court at Law #2. As a lawyer in private practice, I have stood beside both plaintiffs and defendants in over a thousand civil, criminal and family law cases. I have handled cases in both state and federal courts across Texas and in at least six other states.

I have handled 100s of probate matters. In addition to my experience as a lawyer, I have served as a mediator in over 800 cases for other lawyers. I have been appointed by State and Federal Judges throughout Southeast Texas to serve in that capacity. My experience qualifies me for the position on the County Court at Law #2 bench. other lawyers.

This decision was not made lightly and

not without counsel. My wife Amy and myself made it a topic of much discussion. Throughout our lives each professional journey we have taken has been a family trip. She is a person I look up to, a loving mother to our daughter, Alexandria, and an accomplished physician who has made it part of her life's work to serve people through medicine. I also sought out the counsel of family and friends, both in and out of the legal community. We are confident that my integrity, experience, reputation as a lawyer and hard work will stir enthusiasm for my campaign and produce positive results.

I will pursue this goal with integrity, commitment and hard work and bring those values to the court. I will follow the law and give those involved in disputes their day in court.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Rodney Townsend
Candidate for Judge of the County Court at Law #2



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced that Olson Engineering, Inc. was named Business of the Month for September 2023. They were presented an award at the September Networking Coffee hosted by COS Printing. Pictured are : Patrick Brekel and Kevin Mott of Olson Engineering

Deaths & Memorials

Kathy Ham Gregg, 71

Kathy Ham Gregg, 71, of Orangefield, Texas, passed away on August 21, 2023, at Focus Care in Orange.

A Memorial Service was held at Saturday, September 16, 2023 in Bridge City.

Born in San Diego, California at Oceanside Marine Base on July 28, 1952, she was the daughter of Olles Ham and Rachel Wardell.

She was longtime owner of Kathy's Bar in Bridge City. One of her favorite pastimes was working in her yard tending to her plants and flowers. She was a very lov-



Kathy Gregg

ing woman and who adored her family. Kathy will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by Olles Ham; father and Larry Ham, brother.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Pitre; Rachel Wardell, mother; Marion Louise Wade, sister; Mellisa Williams, Stormy Srubar, daughters; Eric Collins, Nicholas Collins, grandchildren; Freddy Collins, great grandchild; close friends and other loving family.

Benjamin Allen "Ben" Ivey, 59

Benjamin Allen "Ben" Ivey died September 15, 2023 in a automobile accident in Fredonia, Kansas.

He was born in Fairfield, California, on August 26, 1964, to Curtis Di Ivey and Billie Jo Pinnell Ivey. Ben was a most loving husband and father, and a good and loyal friend to many. His passions were always for family barbecues, blues music, anything Landcruiser and the Kansas City Chiefs football..."Go Chiefs!"

Ben retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as Boatswain Mate Chief/E7 after 23 years of service and went to work for Vessel Traffic System (VTS) in Port Arthur, Texas, where he had worked for the last 17 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents Curtis Di Ivey and Billie Jo Pinnell Ivey, and his nephew Stephen Michael Carpen-



Ben Ivey

He is survived by his wife of 35 years Missy LeBlanc Ivey; son, Hoyt Ivey and wife Heather of Bridge City, Texas; and daughters, Cara Hersey and husband Jon of Bridge City, Texas, and Kristin Hodge and husband Cody of Vidor, Texas; and his 10 grandchildren, Ava, Julian, Adrian, Leighton, Hartley, Cade, Carson, Hanson, Henri, and Hoyt. Also, his sister Kay Coleman and her husband Matt; his nephew Gabe Montoya and niece Vanessa Montoya Donner and husband Kyle, all of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and many other family members.

He will be buried near his father at Coyville Cemetery in Coyville, Kansas, the home where his heart has never left. A come and go gathering and fellowship, with food graciously provided by ProMiles, of close family and friends will be held in remembrance of Ben on Sunday, October 1st from 12-6pm, at his home.

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• Good Shepherd has YMCA after school care

Attention All Cardinals! The YMCA After School Program is being held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W Roundbunch in Bridge City. Elementary and Middle school hours are after school until 6 pm. The Y's after school child care program provides peace of mind knowing your child is cared for in a safe, nurturing and structured environment. Financial aid is available. To register or for more information, visit the Y's website at ymcasetx.org/childcare or call at 409-962-6644.

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Bridge City host HF for Homecoming bout

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Last week was the first time all season Bridge City did not realistically have a chance to win the game in the fourth quarter. The Cardinals face another big challenge this Friday with their opening game in district against a top ten rated team.

The first quarter last Friday night saw the Cardinals fall behind early against Lumberton. Bridge City played hard to the end but dropped its second straight game 63-28 to the Raiders.

Cardinal Coach Chad Landry evaluated the effort by Bridge City against a top team like the Raiders. "We played four quarters, and we played much better in the second half. The first quarter was tough with three or four

turnovers which put us behind the eight ball. We got to look at some young guys on the field and get some film on guys who had not gotten a lot of reps. Overall, it's going to be a good learning experience for us against Lumberton a great team with all their guys back," Landry analyzed.

Despite the loss there were young Cardinals that stood out to the coach. Kolby Leblanc made a nice interception, John Smart, and Ethan Hernandez also played well in the defensive secondary all three are sophomores.

Landry added, "Brycen Sommerfelt in the secondary was one of several guys who had not had a lot of reps that played very well. I thought Daniel Rodriguez going into the offensive line got some reps and we got some good film on him as well."

There were no serious injuries for the Cardinals in the game just the normal nicks and bruises. "We did rest some guys on Friday night. We kept a couple of guys out who should be good to go for this week. We made the decision early on Friday prior to the game with Lumberton to hold them out and get those guys rested up for the first game of district this week," Landry explained.

The Cardinals open district this Friday against the state ranked Hampshire-Fannett Longhorns. Regional finalist last sea-



Jerris Brown of the Bridge City Cardinals jumps over a Lumberton tackler. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson

BRIDGE CITY Page 2B



Bo. C LCM's Jonah Fuller runs for the Bears against Kinkaid. The Kinkaid Falcons defeated LCM in the contest. RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey/ KR Photography

Kincaid blasts LCM Bears, get bye week

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville held its own for one quarter against Kinkaid a private school from Houston. Things got out of hand after that as the Falcons flew away with a 54-14 win over the Bears on Thursday, September 14, at Battlin' Bear Stadium.

The loss evens Little Cypress Mauriceville's record at 2-2 for the season. Houston Kinkaid improved to 3-1 on the year.

The Falcons took the opening kickoff and drove 52 yards in seven plays to score their first touchdown. Manuel Roeder got the first of his three touchdowns in the game on a 10-yard run with Grant Petersen adding the point after for a 7-0 lead less than three minutes into the game.

The two teams then both suffered turnovers with LCM throwing an interception and the Bears DeMarco Bandiero recovering a Falcon fumble. After that Little Cypress Mauriceville punted the ball to Kinkaid.

The defense for the Bears made another take away as Jonah Fuller intercepted a pass returning it 35 yards to the Falcon 10.



Evan Worster came off the bench to play quarterback for LCM and scored a touchdown for the Bears. RECORD PHOTO

Two runs by quarterback Dylan Payne setup a pass from Payne to Khayden Reed for a 4-yard touchdown. Nick Smith tied the game 7-7 for LCM with his kick at 3:17 of the first quarter.

After an exchange of punts Kinkaid took possession at midfield with just 19 seconds remaining in the first period. The Falcons rotated their quarterbacks and David Capobianco threw a 45-yard pass to Petersen setting up a first and goal at the five of the Bears.

Kinkaid shifted into the Wildcat and two direct snaps to Roeder resulted in a 3-yard touchdown run. The point after was blocked by Eddie Winters

LCM BEARS Page 4B

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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 90 degrees. Trout and redfish catches are good in Sabine Channel on the bulkheads and rock piles with live shrimp under a popping cork. Flounder catches are in the channel biting 3.5 inch red shad plastics tipped with shrimp.

Sabine Lake producing nice slot redfish and slot trout making long drifts off the oyster and clam shell in 2-6 feet of water with 1/8 ounce morning glory chartreuse jigs. Catches of flounder against the South Levy off the rocks. Beautiful trout catches continue to be had at the North Levy first and second pike with live shrimp under a popping cork, crankbaits, or 1/4 ounce jigheads with five inch plastics. Neches River holding good catches of redfish and trout in 4-25 feet of water on rock piles, shell banks and points with live shrimp under a popping cork, or Carolina rigged mullet.

Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• Bolivar

GOOD. 87 degrees. The surf is holding lots of black drum, shark, and some big redfish on cut bait or live bait on the bottom. The gulf side of the North Jetty is holding limits of trout, redfish, sheepshead, jack crevalle against the rocks with live bait and artificials. Jack crevalle are running in the surf biting big spoons or big deer hair jigs. The cuts leading in the bay from ICW holding fish against the shorelines. Lots of black drum around Goat Island. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 87 degrees. Gas wells holding good number of speckled trout. Lots of undersized fish. Upper northwest corner of the ship channel good for



Sabine Lake producing nice slot redfish and slot trout making long drifts off the oyster and clam shell in 2-6 feet of water.

black drum and the occasional redfish. Best bite is live shrimp. Scattered birds working along the west shoreline of Trinity bay. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 85-88 degrees. Flounder and redfish catches improving around bayous and drains on the outgoing tide. Scattered trout under working birds near the back of the bay. Best bite has been on live shrimp or soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperature 85 degrees, water clarity remains good in East Bay. After dodging the recent storms fishing continues to improve in East Galveston Bay. Reefs off the shore are producing good catches of trout and redfish, and a few black drum when you find active bait in the area. The redfish bite has improved as well this week resulting in solid slots, as well as some large bulls stretching the line. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks with

12 -18 inch leaders have still been producing the most bites for our anglers, and the Deadly Dudley, Slammin Sammy Chartreuse Tail Bay Chovey has worked well with 1/4 ounce jig heads fished with or without a popping cork at various depths. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. The cuts that come through the Intracoastal waterway, Siever's and Stingarees, are holding fish against the shorelines coming into the bay, using live shrimp with a popping cork on a 12-16 inch leader. Hanna's Reef, Potluck Reef, Fat Pat's all holding fish early. Keep a watch on the birds and the restless bait. The big Pop-pa Pure Pearl DSL working early. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 85 degrees. Gas wells still holding trout, with plenty of them being undersized. Redfish and mid bay island are good for black drum, redfish, and a few speckled trout. Deep protected bayous

and channels producing good numbers of black drum and redfish. Best action on live shrimp under corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Redfish Island holding some nice trout drifting the inside with croaker or strawberry with white artificials. The A-1 gas wells off the ship channel near Brothel Island are holding some nice trout with a chatterweight and croaker. Redfish at rocks by Brothel Island on popping cork with shrimp or gulp shrimp. The speckled trout are on croaker and artificial. The end of the South Jetty is holding big redfish with a few nice slots, and nice sharks. The gulf side of the jetty is on fire for catches of speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks using live shrimp under a popping cork or freelined, Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker. The surf is also on fire again for speckled trout, and redfish. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. A few big trout have come from the shorelines by those wading with live croaker, along with decent numbers of slot redfish. Causeway bridge holding a few good trout and black drum on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The south shore is holding a lot of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers, or drift fishing around the coves and grass lines from Waterman's to Bay Harbor using a chatterweight with a 12 inch fluorocarbon leader 3/0 k hook. Both sides of Bird Island are holding fish, and the flats continue to hold good numbers of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers. North shorelines between Carancahua Reef and Confederate Reef holding good trout.



Cardinal quarterback Hutch Bearden scrambles away from a potential Raider tackler.

RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson

Bridge City From Page 1B

son the Longhorns are 4-0 this season including a 62-0 smashing of Splendora last week.

The Longhorns operate primarily out of the Spread on offense. They will use multiple formations though by spreading receivers out wide with an empty backfield, sending four receivers to one side or the other, and will shift to a two tight end set.

Tight end Braxton Starnes is an athlete for Hamshire-Fannett. Landry pointed out, "They kind of use Starnes all over the field."

A great player for the Longhorns is their quarterback Ty Bryson. "The more and more we watch him we just don't see him ever make mistakes. Bryson is just a smart, efficient quarterback that runs their system extremely well," Landry praised.

A dangerous player for Hamshire-Fannett is D'onte Zeno because of his versatility. Zeno is listed as a wide receiver, but he has played quarterback which means he can catch the ball, throw the ball, and his over 2500 yards produced with 35 total touchdowns last season shows he is very dynamic whatever he does with the football.

Landry evaluated, "They're explosive. The Longhorn offensive line is large, they're quick, they're strong. We've got our hands full this week."

The key for Bridge City to control the Longhorns' offense is the Cardinals' defensive secondary. "Up front our defensive line has done a good job, our second level guys have got to step up we have got to get some more out of those guys. It is just a matter of being physical for four quarters and just continue to work hard, continue to get to the football. Coach Shea Landry is doing a great job as the defensive coordinator. The Cardinals love playing for him. On Friday night we've just got to make sure we're going a hundred miles an hour," Chad Landry expressed.

The defense for Hamshire-Fannett is not to be underrated. The Longhorns shutout Splendora last week and have allowed 42 points in their four games.

The Longhorns usually line up on defense in an odd man front. The secondary uses primarily man coverage with their athletic defensive backs. They will send pressure from a lot of different places so the Cardinals will have to be prepared to handle a lot of blitzes.

Multiple starters on the Hamshire-Fannett offense will see time on the defense. Landry added that the Longhorns have enough different players that they do not get gassed or worn out by the fourth quarter.

Zeno is one such two-way player for the Longhorns. He will be in the secondary where he will be a ball hawk for passes from the Cardinals.

Homer Ware and Seth Ramirez are two running backs for Hamshire-Fannett who play linebacker on defense. Splitting time at wide receiver and cornerback is C.J. Larnette who had one interception in the previous season.

Landry summarized, "Longhorn head coach Mark Waggoner does a great job. He's a really good coach. The Longhorns you can tell are extremely well coached on defense, and it shows on film."

The Bridge City Cardinals have the unenviable position of playing in District 9-4A Division II. There are four district opponents for the Cardinals state ranked

BC CARDINALS Page 5B

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Jonah Fuller and Justice Trahan of the LCM Bears tackle Kinkaid runner Gavin Johnson. RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey/ KR Photography



Abraham Mungia of the Bridge City Cardinals goes up for a pass against two Raiders with Hunter Newton hoping for a deflection. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson

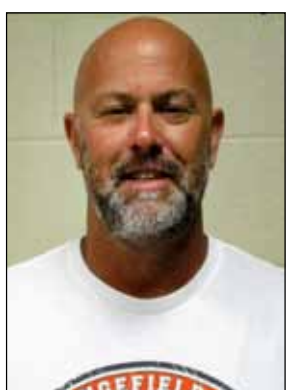
Bobcats battle Buna in district opener

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The final game before the start of district action was a disappointing loss for Orangefield. Now the games really begin to count for the Bobcats with the first district game on the road this Friday night.

The Bobcats played the Woodville Eagles last week and actually led late in the first half. Woodville scored in the last minute of the second quarter and then got another touchdown on its first drive of the second half after recovering a Bobcat fumble to win 19-7 at Orangefield.

Coach Josh Smalley is proud of the Bobcats' effort against a very good Woodville team. "The Eagles put up almost forty points against Newton, forty plus points against Franklin, over fifty in their win against Liberty, and we held them to nineteen. I thought defensively we played really well. We gave up two big plays and that was the difference," Smalley indicated.



Orangefield Bobcat Head Coach Josh Smalley.

Not a lot of people gave Orangefield a chance to compete against the Eagles. Smalley replied, "The same problem is biting us with turnovers costing us. We've got to fix that. We harped on Saturday with the players and we'll harp on it all week. You can't win a high school football game in Texas when you're losing the turnover battle every week, and that's what we're doing."

Three turnovers by the Bobcats compared to one take away by the Orangefield defense helped determine Woodville would be the winner of the game. "To the credit of our kids

we competed for 48 minutes, we didn't quit, we continued to fight the whole game, so I am seeing some progress and the coaches are seeing some improvement, but we've just got to keep getting better each week," Smalley responded.

Coming off the bench to have a good game for the Bobcats on defense was Zach Morrow. Smalley recalled, "Morrow wasn't even a starter for us. Zach came in during the second half and he ended up making some good plays for us."

The coach recognized Kane Smith as the Bobcats' best football player playing offense, defense, special teams, and scored Orangefield's lone touchdown while making a lot of tackles against the Eagles. Sophomore Kaleb Menard at linebacker made 13 tackles and recovered a Woodville fumble for the Bobcats to receive special mention from Smalley.

"We have some guys that are playing really

well, and as a team we're getting better. It's just we've got to cut down mistakes. Hopefully, we can solve them this week," Smalley summarized.

This week marks the start of district for Orangefield against Buna. The Cougars have started the season 3-1 with their only loss by eight points coming at the hands of the Bridge City Cardinals in Week 2 after the Cardinals beat the Bobcats to open the season.

Buna in its three impressive wins have scored 121 points while only allowing 27 to its three opponents. The Cougars are good on both sides of the football.

There are several very talented skill players on offense for the Cougars. Operating out of the shotgun and running the Spread offense for Buna is senior quarterback Toby Marse.

Smalley described, "Marse is kind of a dual

threat quarterback. He throws the ball really well, and if you make him run he will run it. They do have some designed runs with him. Marse scrambles really well when you do get pressure on him, and he never takes his eyes off the Cougar receivers so he will throw it if one of his receivers comes open late."

The leading Cougar running back is senior Jacob Johnson who ran for over two thousand yards and 21 touchdowns as a junior. The best pass catchers for Buna are wide out Kayden Dill and slot receiver Billy Robinson.

"They're really loaded offensively. A lot of those skill players are seniors who have played since they were sophomores so they have a lot of experience. It's going to be a challenge for us to try to slow them down at their place," Smalley analyzed.

On defense Buna bases out of a three-man front.

The Cougars will also get into a four-man front which is how Coach Smalley believes they will be aligned against the Bobcats on Friday or maybe a 5-3 stack look.

One of the two-way players for Buna is Billy Robinson who plays slot receiver on offense and strong safety on defense. "He's always around the football. Robinson is a cannon to the ball, he's always there. It seems like he's in on every tackle. Robinson is one of their better defensive guys," Smalley evaluated.

Inside linebackers Cooper Wolfe and Brennan Hippler are two Cougars that play hard and guard the middle for Buna. In the defensive line are Nick McKinney and Hunter Crane that are big and tough to move to create running lanes.

Smalley said, "The Cou-

ORANGEFIELD Page 4B

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WOS Mustangs take on top ranked Silsbee Tigers

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The first four weeks this year are following an eerily similar path to the same time last season for West Orange-Stark. The hope is that will change this week with the start of district action for the Mustangs.

Just like a year ago after opening with two wins the Mustangs have dropped their last two games. The Newton Eagles rallied to come from behind 58-54 to beat West Orange-Stark the loss evened the season record for the Mustangs at two and two.

WOS Coach Hiawatha Hickman knew both the Mustangs and the Eagles could put points on the board but never thought they would combine for over one hundred points. "The Eagles did some things that they normally do and some things they don't combining a little bit of it. We tried to make adjustments, and some of the adjustments we made worked and some didn't work. The Eagles made some plays, we didn't tackle well, we could have tackled a lot better. The Mustangs were on their heels all night, and once it got rolling it was



Andrew Cooper caught a touchdown pass and a two-point conversion for the Mustangs in the game with Newton.

RECORD PHOTO

hard to stop. We've just got to put that game behind us and get ready because we've got another juggernaut coming in here this week," Hickman added.

Offensively the Mustangs may have played as well as they possibly could. Hickman confirmed, "Marcus (Turner) had another great night. Taydren Perrault had a coming out night with over 150 yards receiving and three touchdowns. Andrew Cooper had a good night at receiver catching a touchdown and a two-point conversion. Also, the freshman Khelvy Jefferson had a good night rushing the ball for almost a hundred yards. All our bright spots were on offense."

A few Mustangs did go down early in the game with injuries which exposed some depth problems for the West Orange-Stark defense. One of those positions is strong safety where a third stringer played against Newton because of injuries. Some good news is that Amyrian Scott should be back this week as the starter at strong safety after being out the last two weeks.

The juggernaut Hickman referred to are the Silsbee Tigers the Mustangs' next opponent on Friday. Silsbee is ranked number one in the state for Class 4A Division II with four impressive wins against teams from Class 4A Division I or even Class 5A, and they beat West Orange-Stark last season in the district opener.

The number one player for the Tigers wears the number one on his jersey Dre'lon Miller. "Dre'lon is a five star prospect, all-state, all-American receiver, everything starts with him. He's one of those guys that's special. He's just better than most of the other players on the field. We're going to have to do somethings specifically to try to limit his touches," Hickman praised.

A factor that has made

Miller even more dangerous is the emergence of Ashton Cartwright as another elusive receiver. Hickman assessed, "Cartwright is a speed burner. Having both Miller and Cartwright either on the same side of the field or opposite sides really does pose some problems on defense. Miller gets all the hype, but Cartwright when you look he just pops on film."

The quarterback for the Tigers is Michael Moshier a move-in this year. Moshier does an excellent job operating the Spread Offense for Silsbee, he is not a runner but he does hand the ball off well or run the bootleg while looking for an open receiver.

The offensive line is composed of four seniors. Xander Horton, Andrew LeBlanc, Jayden Smart, and Brayden Beasley provide protection for Moshier or open holes for the Silsbee running backs.

The two primary ball carriers are Trei Kibbles and Jonah Brown both seniors. Kibbles or Brown can go to the house on any run-

ning play either out of the Spread or from the I-Formation which Silsbee will shift into on occasions.

"This Tiger team has won all the way through, and this is the year they have been looking forward to as a school and as a community. We'll have a plan. We've looked at film and we're familiar with them because it is district play. We feel like our game plan will be good," Hickman indicated.

The Tigers get a lot of press about their offense, but the Silsbee defense is pretty good too. In the first four games the Tigers have surrendered 65 points.

Silsbee aligns in a 4-2-5 and will go back and forth with a 50 Defense depending on the opponent's offensive formation.

The best Tiger on defense is Jarmanion Elam at linebacker. Elam has started three years for Silsbee, is very big, and athletic. Hickman said Elam lines the Tigers up and gets them going. Hickman pointed out, "Elam is the guy who stirs the pot for Silsbee on defense. We've got to find a

way to block him and get a body on him."

A repeat of the high scoring affair between the Mustangs and Newton could be repeated against Silsbee. "We're going to make adjustments to what we did. Offensively I think we'll be able to have some success against them. Defensively we're going to put ourselves in some situations where we're going to try to limit some things that they do. I believe by far we're the best team that Silsbee has played up to this point. Their coaches watching film on us are probably saying the Mustangs are the most athletic team that they've played. I don't think the Tigers have played a schedule like the Mustangs have played. We're battle tested and that's what our non-district does for us. When we line up Friday everybody's zero, zero. It's district play," Hickman concluded.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs and the Silsbee Tigers will go at it on Friday. The kickoff will be at 7:30 PM in Dan R. Hooks Stadium.

Orangefield Bobcats From Page 1B

gars do a good job of coming and getting you with their defense. They're not going to show you the same front all night. They're going to show you multiple fronts. They're going to make your linemen think by blitzing linebackers which we've seen the last three or four weeks so I think our Bobcats are getting a little bit better at picking that stuff up. They're an aggressive defense, so that's what we've

got to prepare for."

Orangefield versus Buna not only initiates the district schedule for both teams it is a renewal of probably the oldest rivalry for the Bobcats. Smalley stated, "If you talk to the Orangefield folk about who their biggest rival is they don't really mention Bridge City, they mention Buna. There have been maybe fifty to sixty games played between the Bobcats and Cougars."

Orangefield hopes to turn around its season with the start of district like it did last season when the Bobcats went undefeated in district. "We seem to be trending in the right direction even though our record may not say that, but we seem to be playing better each week," Smalley concluded.

The Orangefield Bobcats play the Buna Cougars on Friday. The kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 PM in Buna.

LCM Bears From Page 1B

of the Bears to keep the score 13-7 just 27 seconds into the second quarter.

The momentum had definitely shifted in favor of the Falcons and LCM would not get it back until the closing minutes of the game. Kinkaid scored on its next four possessions, two more times in the second quarter and the first two of the second half to open up a 41-7 advantage.

The Bears lost a fumble and had a punt blocked setting up the last two Falcon touchdown drives both only covering 17 yards apiece. Kinkaid led 54-7 with 8:04 to go in the game.

Little Cypress Mauriceville made a change at quarterback inserting junior Evan Worster. The Bears moved the ball as Worster completed his first three passes for 51 yards including a 39-yarder to Braxton

Rambo taking the ball to the Falcon 15.

Worster then ran for seven yards before handing off to Fuller who gained four yards. Worster ran in the touchdown from the seven with Smith adding the final point of the game with four minutes to play. A running clock and Kinkaid substituting for most of its starters resulted in a quick completion of the game after the Bears scored.

Although Evan Worster only played two series he had some good stats with 24 yards rushing on three carries with a touchdown. Evan completed his three passes thrown for 51 yards. Starting Bear quarterback Dylan Payne ran the ball 18 times gaining 55 yards.

It was a tough night overall for the LCM offense as the Bears netted 100 yards rushing and 70 yards pass-

ing on the night. Kinkaid ran for 122 yards and threw the ball 24 times completing 20 for 280 yards.

This will be the bye week coming up for the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears. Their next game will be at home on Friday, September 29, against Legacy Sports which is the last game before the start of district against Vidor on October 6 at Battlin' Bear Stadium.

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Lady Cardinals clip LCM in volleyball

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Bridge City and Little Cypress Mauriceville renewed their rivalry in volleyball just a few days after the two schools played a thrilling football game. The Lady Cardinals clawed their way to a tight four-set win over the Lady Bears during the match played on Tuesday, September 12, in Bridge City.

The last three of the four sets were each decided by two points. The first set was very close as well with the Lady Cardinals winning it by only three points.

Before the match began Bridge City honored their star player Demi Carter for her outstanding performances as a Lady Cardinal. Carter was recognized for achieving more than one thousand kills during her high school career.

Demi did not waste any time adding to her kill total making at least five winning shots early in the first set for Bridge City. The Lady Cardinals opened a 14-7 lead and had the momentum.

The Lady Bears staged a

comeback to reduce the lead to three points. Asia Woodson, Lindi Perry, and Jazel Guilbeaux made kills that helped LCM get closer to trail 21-19.

The Lady Cardinals got an unreturnable serve from Lexi Nugier and Hensley Morgan nailed two kill shots late. Bridge City hung on for a 25-22 win in the opening set.

In the second set Little Cypress Mauriceville took its first lead of the match by scoring five straight points to go up 9-6 over the Lady Cardinals. Ava White made multiple volleys for the Lady Bears that could not be returned.

Makenna Knight made three kills and Morgan added two more as the Lady Cardinals kept the second set tight tied at twenty-one. Carter gave Bridge City a two-point lead 23-21 with another kill.

The Lady Bears scored a point to get the serve back. Perry registered a kill and White hit an unreturnable serve as LCM scored the last four points of the set to win it 25-23 to even the match at a set apiece.

The intensity of the third set could be felt as the girls on both teams were striv-

ing to gain an advantage in the match. The Lady Bears won five straight points with kills from Woodson, White, and Paisley Angelle to go ahead 9-6.

There was no fold in the Lady Cardinals as they would take nine of the next thirteen points. Cambree LaComb was setting the ball beautifully to assist on multiple kills by Morgan and Knight.

Jada Montagne of LCM made two strong serves that regained a 16-15 advantage for the Lady Bears.

The next eight points were split to make the score 20-19 in favor of Little Cypress Mauriceville.

The Lady Bears extended their lead to two points before Bridge City took the last four points of the set. Knight made a kill for the winning point 25-23 that gave the Lady Cardinals a two sets to one edge.

Bridge City appeared ready to make short work of the fourth set grabbing leads of 11-8 and 15-11, but Little Cypress Mauriceville battled back to take a 19-16

lead. Montagne served four unreturnable balls and Woodson had two kills during the six-point run by the Lady Bears.

Lady Cardinal Hensley Morgan made a kill that tied the set at 22 before Kaylee Britten served an ace to put Bridge City ahead 23-22. The set and the match closed as it began with the focus on Demi Carter who made three kills in the last six points to secure the 27-25 victory in the fourth set for the Lady Cardinals.

The atmosphere in the Bridge City High School gymnasium was outstanding from the Lady Cardinal

and the Lady Bear fans as attested to by Bridge City Coach Savannah DeLuna. "It's always an exciting match when we play LCM. Records don't matter, it doesn't matter what kind of streak you're on, whenever we play our rival it's going to be like this. We had an amazing crowd, two great student sections, and that makes a difference in the atmosphere," DeLuna responded.

Lady Bear Coach Jonathan Snipes commented on the tight loss to Bridge City. "I thought we played very hard. We did a lot of good things, in the end we just made a few more mistakes.

Bridge City From Page 2B

in the top eleven. The first of those state ranked teams Bridge City will play are the Hamshire-Fannett Longhorns.

Like everybody else Landry knows the tough task ahead for his Cardinals. "We know the road in front of us. Anybody that can read a schedule and see that we're going to go through a gauntlet here for the next month to five weeks. Our Cardinals are prepared, like we've prepared all summer, nothing has changed. I'm just excited now as I was in early August. We've got guys that are just competing hard

and getting after it, and I'll never feel like our guys are going to close up shop. I feel like each Friday night we go out we're going to have a chance to win," Landry concluded.

This is a big week for Bridge City as this game is homecoming for the high school and community. Another enthusiastic group of red clad Cardinal fans are expected to fill the home side of the stands.

The Cardinals play the Hamshire-Fannett Longhorns on Friday. The kickoff will be at 7:30 PM in Larry Ward Stadium.



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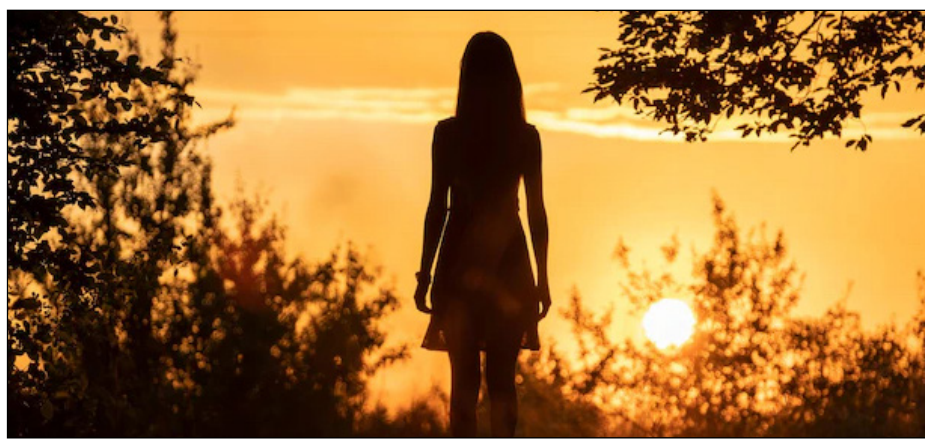
Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:21, 32)

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

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

Lazarus's Last Breath

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



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

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

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

Whatever inner turmoil

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

Jesus with the Sisters

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

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

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

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

Following Mary and Martha

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

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

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

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

Glory in My Grief

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

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

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

God's Greatest Act of Love

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

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

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

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

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