

# County Record

Vol. 64 No. 22

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Week of Wednesday, October 25, 2023

## County to talk plant closings on Wednesday

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

As the county has been celebrating getting its biggest new industrial facility since World War II, two corporations announced they were closing their long-operating Orange plants. The two together could bring a loss of 500 or more jobs.

That number would be close to the number of permanent jobs created by the \$8.5 billion ChevronPhillips Golden Triangle Polymers petrochemical plant under construction here. ChevronPhillips officials estimate 4,500 jobs related to construction will be needed.

Orange County Judge John Gothia said Commissioners Court is holding a special public workshop at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 25, to talk about the efforts being made to keep the plants open. The meeting will be in the Commissioners Courtroom at 123 Sixth Street in the courthouse complex.

"We want to let people know that there are things we have talked about and tried to do with the state and local officials," Gothia said.

Orange County Judge  
John Gothia

The commissioners, along with OC Economic Development Corporation Director Megan Layne, will also discuss how the county can work with local and state agencies to help laid-off employees find new jobs.

The group will also talk about how to help the Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD with its loss of the biggest taxpayer in the school district. Gothia said he understands the papermill closing could cost the district 23 percent of its income.

On October 6, Invista announced it would immediately begin shutting down units and will close with more than 200 jobs eliminated by the end of 2024.

Invista is part of the orig-

PLANT Page 3A



West Orange-Stark High School will have a pitcher in the World Series as 26-year-old rookie Texas Ranger Grant Anderson will be heading to the series. Monday night, he celebrated the Rangers win for the American League championship over the Astros with his family, including his mom Stephania Anderson, wife Kristen and new baby and his father, Rod Anderson.

## Paper mill closing ends long local history

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

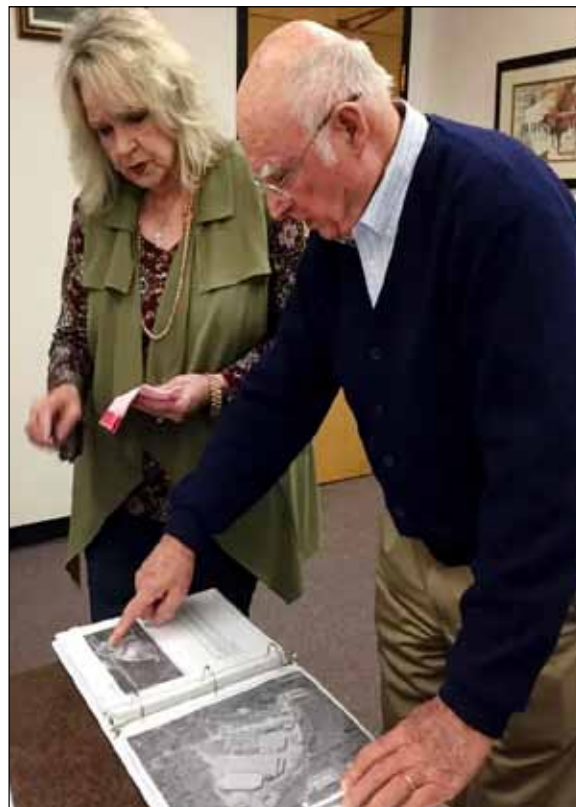
Paper manufacturing is a local industry older than the petrochemical plants and the closing of the last paper mill in Orange is an end to a long history tied to the lumber industry.

The first paper mill in Orange, known to the current generations as Equitable Bag, lasted 100 years.

Last week, International Paper announced it will be closing its containerboard pulp plant north of Orange off State Highway 87. The plant was built in 1967.

International Paper also reported it will close part of production at mills in North Carolina and Florida. All three closings will eliminate a total of 900 jobs, though no number was given for the separate sites.

The mill which eventually became owned by International Paper was built by Owens-Illinois with the first production in 1967, according to Ken Steppe, a longtime resident of Orange who served as an engineer designing the mill and



Ken Steppe, a retired paper mill plant manager, shows off some of his collection of Orange paper mill history during a 2020 presentation to the Orange County Historical Society.

later became the plant manager.

Steppe spent his working career with paper mills across the U.S. and has done extensive research into the histories of the two big pulp mills in Orange.

He said Owens-Illinois was the largest U.S. manufacturer of glass containers in 1956, making it the largest user of corrugated cardboard shipping containers. Company officials decided to buy the National Con-

tainer Company, which included mills at Tomahawk, Wisconsin; Big Island, Virginia; Jacksonville, Florida; and Valdosta, Georgia.

In 1965, Owens-Illinois hired Rust Engineering in Birmingham, Alabama, for studies on a new mill, with Orange and Lake Charles chosen as the best two possible sites, and site selection inquiries for a new linerboard mill.

Orange won.

"The project was announced on January 8, 1966, and on January 13 of that year, O-I officials broke ground and began clearing the heavily wooded mill site located about seven miles north of Orange on Highway 87 at the Sabine River Authority canal on the Sabine River. The O-I investment exceeded \$100 million, the largest single investment in the 65-year history of Owens-Illinois Inc.," Steppe said.

The original mill site was 1,200 acres, and the investment included 280,000 acres of forest lands in Texas and Louisiana. The deal

PAPER MILL Page 2A

## Voting starts slow for November elections

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Early voting has been slow for the November 7 election that includes three local entities asking for voter approval on different issues the Orangefield school district, the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district, and the city of West Orange.

The ballot includes 14 Texas Constitutional Amendment propositions, including Proposition 9 to give a cost of living raise to retired teachers, who do not have COLA payments and most cannot collect Social Security, even for a deceased spouse.

The Orange County Elections Administration Office reported Tuesday evening that a total of 576 people voted early after the first two days.

Early voting is held at the Orange Public Library, the Orange County Airport, Mauriceville Community Center, and the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor. A registered Orange County voter may go

to any one of those sites. That means it will be hard to determine, for instance, how many people have voted in the Orangefield school bond election.

The Orange Public Library has the most early votes with 221, followed by Vidor with 140, the airport with 128, and Mauriceville with 87. So far, 83 absentee ballots have been counted for a grand total of 659. The county has 54,476 registered voters.

The Orangefield school district has a \$43 million bond issue on the ballot with plans to construct new buildings, particularly to replace portable classrooms, enhance security on the three campuses, plus other improvements.

The LC-M district is asking for a Voter Approved Tax Rate Election, to let the district collect more property taxes for the general maintenance and operations, not a bond election for new buildings.

The city of West Orange is asking voters to approve

EARLY VOTING Page 3A

## Sales taxes stay strong across county

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Sales taxes remained strong across the county for August, even though the month had a tax-free weekend for certain school supplies and clothing.

The city of Orange has skyrocketing increases in sales taxes that may be attributed to a city effort to attract more businesses to

locate there by offering city economic development grants. The city of West Orange in the November general election is asking its voters to approve a 1/4 percent sales tax to use for the same economic development grants Orange is offering.

The Texas Comptroller's Office releases the information on sales tax collections for each entity along with

the calculations for the percentage changes.

Orange County has a sales tax of 0.5 percent and collected \$674,016 for August this year, compared to \$609,421 last year, an increase of 10.59 percent. The county has collected \$6.76 million so far this year, compare to \$6.05 million for the year to date in 2022.

The city of Orange with a 1.5 percent sales tax col-

lected \$756,045 for August, up from 396,111 from August 2022, a 90.86 percent increase. The city is at \$8.07 million for the year to date, compared to \$5.95 million for the same time last year, an increase of 35.77 percent.

West Orange has a 1.25 percent sales tax, the lowest of the cities in Orange

SALES TAXES Page 3A



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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Chery's Decloroes Religious and Gifts has been named Business of the Month for October 2023. They were presented an award at the October Networking Coffee hosted by Sabine Federal Credit Union. Pictured are: Dave Derosier, Jonathan Barfield and Telisa Derosier.



Thanks to Dow Chemical Company provided the the opportunity for Mrs. Angela King's 5th grade class learning all about Silly Putty. They learned how it was discovered by Dr. Warrick who worked at Dow for more than three decades. Students got to play with the silly putty and wear their sunglasses they received to the Homecoming Pep Rally.

## Paper mill closing ends long history From Page 1

also included the Sabine River & Northern Railroad, a short-line railroad with 32 miles of tracks.

Steppe was first at the Orange mill from the beginning of its construction in 1966 through 1968. He recalls a number of the original workers transferred here from the Valdosta, Georgia, mill and settle here to raise their families.

Local physician Dr. Mike Amsden moved here with her father before she became a doctor. "There's a lot of kids who grew up here because their parents drug them here from Valdosta," Steppe said.

Steppe recalls the first paper made at the new plant came off the line about 4:30 a.m. November 25, 1967.

The mill originally planned to produce 600 tons of Kraft linerboard per day, but made an arrangement with to reset the tonnage up to 900 tons a day. The first shipment of 2,200 tons was shipped from the Port of Orange in early April, 1968, according to

Steppe.

The new O-I plant held an official dedication on Friday, October 18, 1968. Texas Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith, who later became governor, attended the dedication. Orange Mayor Robert N. Whitehead Jr., issued a proclamation declaring the date "Owens-Illinois Day." More than 300 leaders from governments, industries, businesses, and labor attended.

The mill was so successful Owens-Illinois in early 1974 announced a \$20 million expansion. More expansions came, including one in 1982 that allowed the mill to use recycled cardboard.

Steppe became plant manager in Orange for Owens-Illinois in 1980 until the mill sold to Temple-Inland in 1986. He remained in the paper mill business with Inland and went to one of the company's mills in Kentucky for a short time. He also worked at the Evadale plant as he remained living in Orange.

When Temple-Inland bought the mill, the name changed to Inland-Orange.

Steppe's history of the original Owens-Illinois mill reports that in "November 2007, Temple-Inland announced that it would separate itself into three standalone public companies and sell its timberlands by the end of 2007. The new companies were: Temple-Inland Inc., Guaranty Financial Group Inc., and Forestar Real Estate Group Inc.

"In 2012, International Paper, through the merger of its wholly owned subsidiary Metal Acquisition Inc. with and into Temple-Inland, acquired Temple-Inland in a deal valued at \$4.5 billion. Temple-Inland's corrugated packaging operation consisted of 7 mills and 59 converting facilities as well as the building products operation. The 7 mills were: Orange, Texas linerboard; Rome, Georgia linerboard; Bogalusa, Louisiana linerboard; Maysville, Kentucky recycle container-

board; Newport, Indiana recycle containerboard; New Johnsonville, Tennessee corrugating medium, sold by IP to Hood Container in July 2012; and Ontario, California recycle containerboard, sold by IP to New-Indy Containerboard LLC in 2012.

Last week, International Paper announced it was closing the Orange mill.

Steppe said the mill holds a lot of history of employees and their families. A number of employees served as civic leaders and more volunteered for non-profit groups. The plant made large donations to groups throughout the community.

Orange's first paper mill opened in 1903 with local investors including William H. Stark, Dr. Edgar Brown, Leopold Miller, J.W. Link, F.H. Farwell, and others. Many of them owned lumber mills and the Yellow Pine Paper Mill was designed to use the leftover materials from the sawmills for paper manufacturing.

The sawmills became

Orange County's first industry.

That mill was one of the finest in the South and was a thriving business for 100

years. It was long called Equitable Bag and was along Adams Bayou on the Orange side. It burned in 2003.

## 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](http://TheRecordLive.Com).

### News Tips and Photos

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### Thao Tran Named 'Employee of the Month'

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Thao Tran with Sabine Federal Credit Union has been named October Employee of the Month. Pictured are: Tina Nimitz, Kristen Placette, Sharon Brown, Thao Tran, Kristi Charrier and Wendi Parkhurst.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for Roundbunch Bayou RV. The newly built RV park is located at 890 E. Roundbunch Rd. in Bridge City. Roundbunch Bayou RV is owned by Wesley and Ronda Dishon of Bridge City.

## Plant closings From Page 1

inal DuPont Sabine River Works petrochemical plant that was separated and sold 20 years ago. Koch Industries, the second largest privately-owned corporation in the U.S. bought the DuPont fabric unit sell-offs and renamed the company Invista.

Invista is on FM 1006, known locally as Chemical Row because it is lined for miles by petrochemical plants.

International Paper on October 18 announced it would close its Kraft papermill at the end of the year, along with facilities at two other sites. Business publications report the loss of jobs at the Orange mill will run from 200 to 300.

International Paper is north of Interstate 10 in Orange along State Highway 87 North. The mill was built in 1967 for Owens-Illinois. It sold in the 1980s to Temple Inland. International Paper has owned it for 15 years.

Gothia isn't optimistic about keeping Invista and International Paper. He said these days, corporate decisions are based on numbers and figures.

He has been working with Governor Greg Abbott's office, along with Orange County's State Representative Dade Phelan, who is speaker of the Texas House, to entice the corporations to keep their plants here open.

Gothia said those kind of efforts are difficult "when you get no notice until two months before (International Paper) closes."

The judge pointed out that an economic development deal the city of Orange made with International Paper in 2015 didn't help keep the mill open.

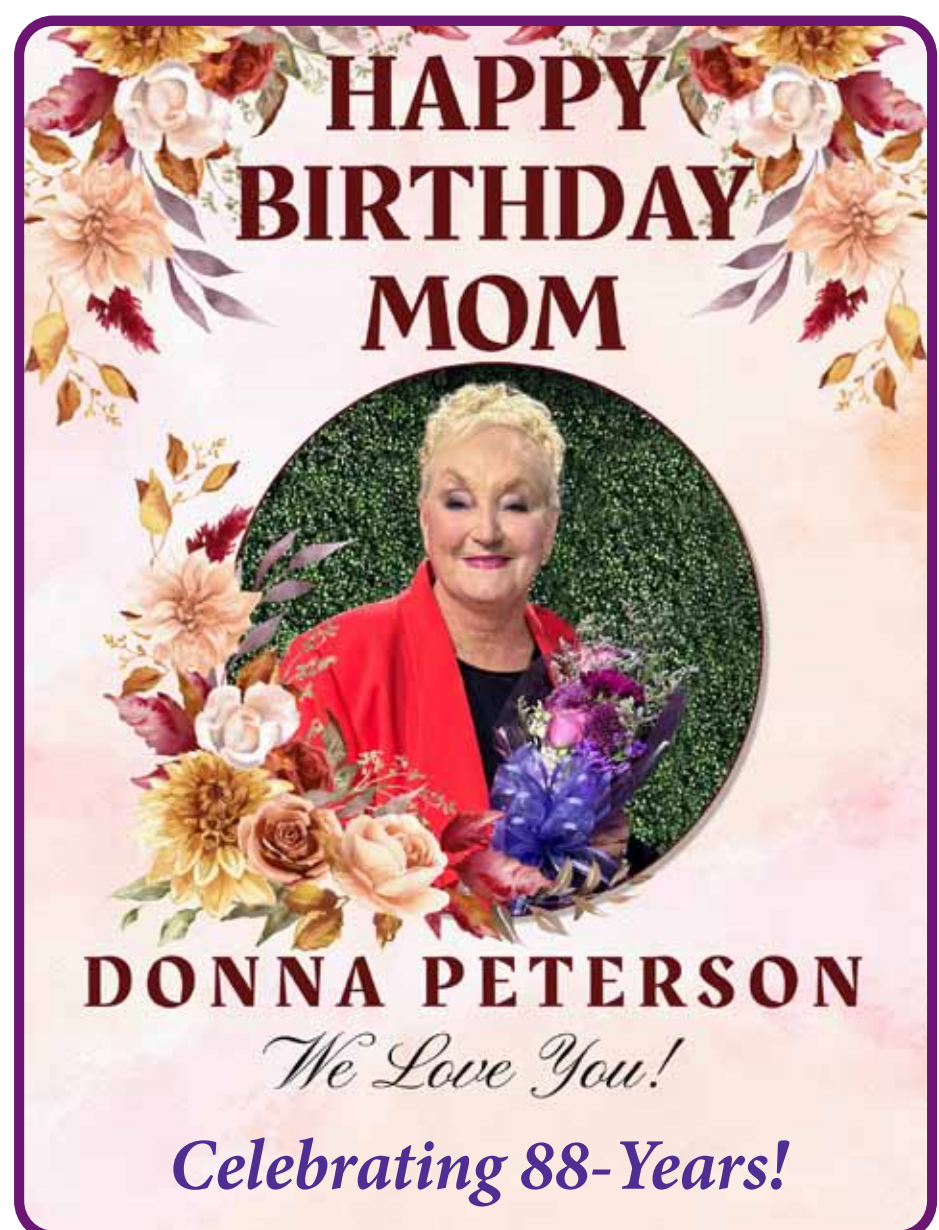
Under that agreement, International Paper requested to be annexed into the city limits. The city then made an agreement that the plant would not pay the city's share of sales taxes. The agreement was made after the Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3 voters implemented a sales tax that was costing the paper mill money. Orange kept its Industrial District Contract for paying property taxes as part of the deal.

Judge Gothia said the news still isn't all bad for

the local future. Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana are going through an oil-related industrial boom. Refineries are adding more units, the new chemical plant is under construction in Orange, LNG (liquid natural gas) facilities and docks are going up along the coasts of Jefferson County and Cameron Parish. Petrochemical plants in Lake Charles are expanding.

Lots of jobs are waiting to be filled. Gothia said commissioners will discuss how they can help the people being laid off jobs. The county has had two large job fairs, but another one is needed "for the people who didn't know they would be needing jobs," he said.

"This would have been bleak if it had happened ten years ago," he said about the two plant closings.



## Early voting From Page 1

a 1/4 percent economic development sales tax. State law limits the ways the special tax can be used and an economic development corporation with board members appointed by the city council will oversee the expenditures.

Mayor Randy Branch said the tax can be used to entice more business development within the West Orange city limits.

Early voting hours will continue Wednesday, October 25, Thursday, October 26, and Friday, Octo-

ber 27, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Then early voting will continue on Monday, October 30, through Wednesday, November 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Extended hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 4, and Friday, November 3.

This election is not for local individual public offices. Primary races for county offices like sheriff, constable, and county commissioner will be held in March.

## Sales taxes From Page 1

County. The city collected \$114,318 for August, up 3.20 percent from the \$110,770 in August 2022. The city is now at \$1.22 million for the year to date, an increase off 7.70 percent from \$1.13 million last year.

Bridge City with a 1.5 percent sales tax collected \$170,112 for August, up 2.94 percent from the \$165,246 collected for August 2022. The city is stagnant with the year to date payment of \$1.84 million, the same as last year.

Pinehurst has a 1.5 percent sales tax and continues to be down in collections. The city had \$56,118 for August this year, down 4.95 percent from the \$59,043 in August last year. The city is at \$553,344 for the year to date, compared to

\$563,104 last year, a decrease of 1.73 percent.

Vidor also has a 1.5 percent sales tax. The city had \$292,167 in revenues for August, a slight decrease from the \$294,889 collected last year. The city is now up 6.82 percent for the year to date with \$3.13 million, compared to \$2.93 million last year.

Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3 is the only special district in the county with a sales tax. The district's income pays for the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department. The district has a 1.5 percent sales tax and collected \$52,445 for August and is now at \$277,149 for the year to date, up 13.25 percent from the same period in 2022.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### RANGERS DEFEAT ASTROS

The Texas Rangers move on to the World Series starting Friday after defeating the Astros in Game 7. The Houston Astros lost all four home games, winning three on the road. The Rangers also lost all home games but won four on the road to become American League Champs. While Jose Altuve was the spark plug for the Astros, it was the Ranger's Adolis Garcia who became the American MVP. When Garcia was struck by a 98-mph fastball in Game 5 of this American League Championship Series on Friday, he angrily reacted to the opponent he thought (perhaps correctly) orchestrated it all, only to become a target for zealous fans when this ALCS returned to Minute Maid Park, it was the truest test any ballplayer could face and he responded in a big way. In a record-breaking, pennant-winning way. Garcia blasted Game 6 wide open with a grand slam and then, with everything on the line in Game 7, pummeled the Astros, his swagger and his joy and the record books bursting with every swing. When it was over, when the 11-4 pounding of the Astros was complete and the Rangers captured the series 4-3 and punched their ticket home for the World Series, there was little doubting exactly what Garcia exemplifies. "He's a bad man," Rangers shortstop Corey Seager said. "To come into this atmosphere and be booed every at-bat and put together the ABs he had in big moments, it was fun to watch." I hate that the Astros are not in the World Series but come Friday night against the Phillies or Diamondbacks, I'll be pulling for the Rangers.

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

I predicted in the end, Speaker John Boehner would have to call for an up or down vote to end the Ted Cruz government shutdown and avoid going over the cliff on the debt ceiling. The shutdown, lasting 16 days, cost our economy \$24 billion. Boehner was held hostage by the radical wing of his party. Cruz even met secretly with some Tea Party house members urging them to plot a strategy to defy their Republican leader. The shutdown has been good for Cruz. He has raised his personal profile and a lot of money. Observers say Cruz's success has a steep price for Republicans. I wonder how many Republican office holders or candidates are proud to say Rafael Edward Cruz is their leader and reflects their views. Our most famous native dies. Bum Phillips was one of the rare people who come along from time to time, like John Wayne. He made his mark not only as a coach but also as one of the true grit type country boys who rose to fame. It was his demeanor off the field however, that he's best remembered for. Over the years, we published many of Bum stories. Just a few weeks ago, on Bum's 90th birthday, Sept. 29, Mark Dunn wrote about his life. Mark, a photographer, had many occasions to film Coach Phillips, with many stars. With his cowboy boots, hat and western wear he always stood out. Several areas today lay claim to the country's most famous Bum but it was in Orange, where his baby sister gave him the nickname Bum that he always called home. May he rest in peace. Congrats to our friend attorney Jim Sharon Bearden and his new wife Cassie Caillouet. The couple was married over the weekend in the hill country, on the banks of a historical river. Many family and friends made the trip and had a great time. Cassie is a lovely Bridge City girl who picked Jim for her first and last husband. We wish them many happy, healthy years. You know you're in a Red Neck Church if the collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy. On Oct. 27, a couple of lovely women we are fortunate to know celebrate. An amazing lady, Pearl Myers Burgess, turns 93, and Betty Harmon also celebrates. She and Ms. Pearl never let age get in the way. On Oct. 28, these three stooges, Judge Don Burgess, Joe Kazmar and Ron Sigler all celebrate. No big surprise that Congressman Steve Stockman would do something illegal. His history is marred with incidents of legal controversy. According to the Chronicle, in the latest campaign irregularity he lied to regulators about campaign donations. It involved \$15,000. Jane Dodd reported as having donated \$7,500 in order to hide illegal money said, "I never sent any money, I didn't do this." Just one example of Stockman laundering dirty money. Here's a congressman "Ours" who has done nothing for his district. He's voted for nothing to advance the county. He even voted against the Farm Bill and like Cruz, voted against helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

### 22 Years Ago-2001

A dozen years have gone by since Constable Parker "P.T." Thompson averted a potential disaster at the courthouse. Someone shouted "Hostage at the courthouse" and Thompson rushed to the second floor where jail inmate Keith Wayne Gonzales was holding Deputy Carla Spell and another prisoner, Curtis Green, in Judge Pat Clark's courtroom. Gonzales had overpowered Deputy Spells and took her

up the Greater Orange Area Chamber and served in many civic organizations. Betty is the widow of the late Corky Harmon. She now makes her home in Bridge City. We wish our good friend Betty a very happy birthday. Also celebrating on this date is Judge Don Burgess, who we've known since he had a red beard and a big cowboy hat on and was an Assistant D.A. for Sharon Bearden and our longtime friend Ron Sigler and David Dupuis. Oct. 28, finds Heather Dubose, Derrick Cole and Chris Stone celebrating. On Oct. 29 Emma Scott, Vicki Cormier and Zack Corbello have birthdays. Celebrating on Oct. 30, is our friend Donna Peterson who is 88 and Carlos Vasek, "The Banker's Banker" is a year older. Carlos has pioneered more banks than anyone I know. On Oct. 31, Mark Dunn, who 50 years ago played his last season of football at Bridge City, the last team coached by Chief Wilson, will celebrate another Halloween birthday. Mel Campbell's other half Joey also celebrates another Trick or Treat day also Stacy Doiron and Taylor Thurman. People celebrating birthdays this past week included Bill Tiger, who turned 87. Bridge City writer Dayle Ezell Foreman took another trip around the sun, as did her son-in-law, Orange City Councilor Brad Childs. Thanks to his employees and their greeting on his business sign, everyone now knows his nickname is "Fabio." Must be the hair. Other birthdays included Emily McKee Mellon, Chris Spears, Kimberly Manning, Ashley Caillier Thompson, Kristopher Marple, Brandy Vail, Becky Brown, Dana Dorman, Tim Hoke, Alex Townsend, Julian Gross, and Jeff MacDonald. Anniversaries included Keith and Cyndi Longlois with 33 years, and Joel and Lori Ardoin with 21 years. Special condolences this week to Terri Catano, the retired head of the records department at the Orange Police Department. She lost her brother, 19-year-old LCPL Danny Estes, 40 years ago during the terrorist bombing on the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut. The attack by Hizballah killed 241 members of the U.S. military.

### 47 Years Ago-1976

Rosalyn Carter visits area. Mark Dunn gets good pictures. Flo Edgerly is presented a beautiful arrangement of yellow roses, trimmed with peanuts, from Sue Pate, for her hard work in making Mrs. Carter's visit a success. Pinehurst Linden, the residence of the late Edgar Brown, Jr., will hold dedication and open house of the mansion when it officially becomes the Brown Center of Lamar University. New Bridge City police officers are sworn in by City Attorney H.D. Pate. Officers are Sterling Simoneaux and John Calvert JHnowski. (Editor's note: I wonder what has become of them).

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Fifty years ago, on Oct. 22, 1973, Carl Thibodeaux, who had just turned 28 years old a week earlier, opened West Orange Pharmacy, in partnership with Doug Harrington. The pharmacy was located inside Danny's on Western Ave. A 15 foot boudin link was used for the ribbon cutting. Carl later built a new pharmacy on Western Ave. While recalling the past it is hard to believe that 30 years ago, on Oct. 25, 1993, Doris Holt passed away at age 62. Dickie Colburn lost his life in an auto accident on Oct. 27, 2021. We still miss him. Tuesday we heard from Beverly Parker and learned that Sen. Carl Parker, after a stay in hospital, didn't feel well enough to write his very popular column. We hope he's feeling better and will be on track for next week's article. The first real fall cold front should be blowing in about Monday, and for those with nostalgia, be sure to take in that fragrance from the paper mill as the north wind blows the smell southward. Hard to believe we won't have the smell of fall in the air after International Paper closes the Highway 87 plant at the end of the year. Many complained about the smell of poo-poo diapers in the air and permeating into buildings, but as we say in Orange County, "It's the smell of money." Here's hoping all the International Paper employees can find work locally to keep their families here. Shutting down the plant is going to have some extra effects. For the past few years, International Paper employees took in dozens of names from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree list to give youngsters the toys, clothes, and belongings they wanted for Christmas. Some of those employees now may be needing some help this Christmas. Remember to support our local charities helping neighbors. Team Dallas has been raising money for the past few years to help find a cure for ALS after local businessman Tony Dallas was diagnosed. Team Dallas has been leading donations to fight ALS in Texas. The team didn't stop this fall even though circumstances didn't allow the fall benefit walk through downtown Orange. This year's benefit walk was online for individuals and families who walked their neighborhoods wearing Team Dallas T-shirts and gathered donations. Some even walked with children. Aimee Fregia with mom Phyllis walked, as did others from Tennessee all the way to Baja, where Leslie and Chuck Uzzle took time from vacation. Others walking included Angie Williams with daughter and granddaughter at Disney World, Cristy and Phillip Smith, Becky and Ron McAnelly, Cara Love, Jay Hall, Patricia Anderson, and Tony's son, Jack Dallas with wife and baby, Reid and Drue. Son Chad Dallas and fiancée Madison walked with their fur baby. Adam Conrad and Jody Chesson spent the weekend in San Antonio celebrating Jody's birthday. Kade and Kirstie Parkhurst took a short getaway trip to Broken Bow. Retirees Marla and John Blanke met up with their three grown children, Kristen, David, and Emily, for a family vacation in Galveston. Ron and Becky McAnelly were at Crystal Beach on the weekend. Christi Moerbe got to show off some unusual flora designs by Scott Hasty when she hosted the Ivy League Garden Club at her home in the Chases. The designs featured pumpkins and succulents. The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce held another successful golf tournament fundraiser. The tournament is named as a memorial to Tim Schossow, a community volunteer and husband of Ida Schossow, who is president of the chamber. A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. On Oct. 25, Toni Dyer, Hunter Smith and Connor Ziller celebrate. On Oct. 27, Maxine Smith will turn 86 years old. Joining her are Betty Harmon, who for many years headed

up the Greater Orange Area Chamber and served in many civic organizations. Betty is the widow of the late Corky Harmon. She now makes her home in Bridge City. We wish our good friend Betty a very happy birthday. Also celebrating on this date is Judge Don Burgess, who we've known since he had a red beard and a big cowboy hat on and was an Assistant D.A. for Sharon Bearden and our longtime friend Ron Sigler and David Dupuis. Oct. 28, finds Heather Dubose, Derrick Cole and Chris Stone celebrating. On Oct. 29 Emma Scott, Vicki Cormier and Zack Corbello have birthdays. Celebrating on Oct. 30, is our friend Donna Peterson who is 88 and Carlos Vasek, "The Banker's Banker" is a year older. Carlos has pioneered more banks than anyone I know. On Oct. 31, Mark Dunn, who 50 years ago played his last season of football at Bridge City, the last team coached by Chief Wilson, will celebrate another Halloween birthday. Mel Campbell's other half Joey also celebrates another Trick or Treat day also Stacy Doiron and Taylor Thurman. People celebrating birthdays this past week included Bill Tiger, who turned 87. Bridge City writer Dayle Ezell Foreman took another trip around the sun, as did her son-in-law, Orange City Councilor Brad Childs. Thanks to his employees and their greeting on his business sign, everyone now knows his nickname is "Fabio." Must be the hair. Other birthdays included Emily McKee Mellon, Chris Spears, Kimberly Manning, Ashley Caillier Thompson, Kristopher Marple, Brandy Vail, Becky Brown, Dana Dorman, Tim Hoke, Alex Townsend, Julian Gross, and Jeff MacDonald. Anniversaries included Keith and Cyndi Longlois with 33 years, and Joel and Lori Ardoin with 21 years. Special condolences this week to Terri Catano, the retired head of the records department at the Orange Police Department. She lost her brother, 19-year-old LCPL Danny Estes, 40 years ago during the terrorist bombing on the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut. The attack by Hizballah killed 241 members of the U.S. military.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Las Saturday, PeeWee Comeaux him, was sitting at the bar at TeeBoy's Bar & Grill. He was plenty drunk him, wen he got up from da bar. He fall twice on his way to da bathroom. A few minutes later, a loud, blood-curdling scream came from da bathroom. In a little bit another scream dat shake da building was heard.

TeeBoy him go see wat da drunk him was screaming bout. TeeBoy say, "PeeWee, wat da hell you screaming bout, you scaring my customers?"

PeeWee say, "I'm jus sitting here on da toilet and every time I try to flush me something come up and squeeze da devil out of my privates, and boy it hurts."

Tee Boy opens da door and looked in. Den he say, "PeeWee, you damn drunk idiot, you sitting on da mop bucket you."

### C'EST TOUT MOST DYSFUNCTIONAL CONGRESS EVER

Over the many years that I have followed the working of the U.S. Congress, I found there were some individual congressmen who were real kooks in both parties. Many were charged with crimes, like Stockman, and even some speakers were run out of office. One is still serving time for child molesting, another caught in an airport restroom having sex with another guy. One speaker had to step down when it was discovered he had two families, a White one in Louisiana and a Black family in Mississippi. I could go on with much more but the point is as bad as individual congressmen have acted, at no time in our history has the Republican led congress been so dysfunctional. As a body, they have accomplished very little and concerned themselves more with what's on Hunter Biden's laptop than governing. Their problem is not Democrats, it's their own members that they need to cull out, clean house and replace with fresh, young republicans interested in government and not wanting to destroy our constitution. Of the eight candidates who want to be speaker, seven will not publicly admit Biden won the election in fear of displeasing their leader who is facing 91 felony criminal charges. The House has been at a standstill since McCarthy was ousted earlier this month and Republicans have struggled to coalesce around anyone to replace him. Neither U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, a Louisiana Republican who was the No. 2 member in the House, nor Jim Jordan, an Ohio Conservative who chairs the Judiciary Committee, could gather enough support to claim the gavel. U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer, the majority whip, was nominated Tuesday afternoon but four hours later pulled out of the race. Former President Donald Trump's allies had already started agitating against Emmer, who was one of the few Republicans in the House to vote to certify the results of the 2020 election. U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions of Waco jumped into a crowded race for the House speaker over the weekend, pitching himself to Republican colleagues as a proven leader who can unite the deeply divided conference and get the chamber back to work. "MAGA Republican reign in Congress is a dumpster fire, and there's no doubt that Pete Sessions is wholly incapable of putting it out," Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa said in a statement. Well, I thank you for all the great response. Please read us cover to cover, shop our family of advertisers and visit us on the web therecordlive.com. Have a nice week. Take care and God bless.



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The First Baptist Church of Bridge City has launched its annual Pumpkin Patch open now from 10 am until dark Monday - Saturday, and noon until 7PM this Sunday. All are welcome to stop by and enjoy the fun. Revenue earned from the event goes to missions projects worldwide.

## Deaths & Memorials

### Helen Jean Jones Platt, 89, Orange

Mrs. Helen J. Platt entered eternal rest on Thursday, October 5, 2023, surrounded by her family. Mrs. Helen was born on April 6, 1934, to Andrew Jones and Almetria Carger Jones, in Oberlin, Louisiana. She was the fourth child of 13 children.



Helen Platt

Mrs. Helen attended public schools in Allen Parish and was the Salutatorian of a class of 15 graduates. After high school, she joined the United States Military in the Women's Army Corp and received an Honorable Discharge. Mrs. Helen was first stationed at Fort Lee Army Base in St. Petersburg, Virginia. She was a squad leader in the medical ward that served the local bases in the area.

She then was transferred to Fort Sam Houston Army Base in San Antonio, Texas where she received more nursing training and a certificate in hospital and field medical services during the Korean War. Mrs. Helen was then transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina and served in military hospital services receiving the wounded and deceased from the Korean War.

As she continued her military career, Mrs. Helen met the love of her life, Sargent Carl Platt Sr., who was an officer of the 82nd Airborne of Smoke Bomb Hill, North Carolina. They were married on April 25th, 1950, and to this union 12 children were born. Lionel, Marva, Andrew, Carl Jr., Calvin, Ralph, Tommy, Sharon, Linda, Warren, Almetria, and Nathan. Mrs. Helen and her husband also adopted and raised a niece, Roslyn, and a nephew, Robert.

She was an avid homemaker, cook, caretaker, and babysitter. Mrs. Helen was employed and retired from the Orange County Nutrition Center - Meals on Wheels Program, as a cook and The Stark Foundation - to Mrs. Eunice Benkenstein, as a caretaker. A host of children from the City of Orange can attest to the mothering and nurturing care from Mrs. Helen as they were safely kept in her home "with her children", while their parents worked on their jobs.

Mrs. Helen was a kind, loving, and caring woman to so many people who would call her "Moma Platt", because she was empathetic, supportive, and understanding to the needs and desires of everyone. Her "master cooking skills" spread to the hearts of so many people as she worked as the head cook in D.J.'s Barbeque and Restaurant of Orange, Texas. She along with her daughter and the staff catered numerous affairs and served various southern dishes including "homemade links" that ONLY her daughter - Marva, and her grandson - D.J., know the "secret recipe". Her remaining daughters, sons, and grandsons inherited her "cooking talents" and continue to enjoy hosting family and friends for holidays, celebrations, and backyard parties.

Mrs. Helen became a member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church with her family upon their arrival to Orange, Texas in 1961 under the Reverend H.Y. Anderson - Founder, then Reverend George H. Brown, and now Pastor Dr. John H. Smith Jr. She

was a long-time servant as a Program Committee Chairperson, Church Building Fund Committee Officer, a member of the Pastors Aide Committee, and an eloquent Poet and Speaker for church programs & anniversaries.

She was most well-known at church for her service as a member of the Kitchen Committee where she would lead the staff in "homemade and scratch meal preparations". One of her fondest memories is Easter Sundays when she would get up at 4:00 am in the morning and pick-up Sister Clara Harmon and Sister Mary Nell Smith and meet up at the church to prepare the "Sunrise Breakfast" under the "security watch" of Brother Selma Hunter - who would also assist the ladies.

I guess you are wondering, "well, when did she prepare her family's Easter Meal"? Well, it was prepared on the Friday & Saturday before with the finishing touches completed by 2:00 am on Easter Morning!

Mrs. Helen's "happiest times" were being with her family. Better known as "Pee Wee" to her family, she was a loving and nurturing mother to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, friends, and church family. She would lend a helping hand to all who would come her way in need and open her home up to her family. Mrs. Helen has a host of family members still living in several states in the U.S. and particularly in Orange, Texas where her baby sister, Gayle Jones Harmon, resides in her home.

As she continued her legacy of serving others and her health began to fail, she gave "all praises" to our heavenly father and often would state to her doctors - "IT'S ALL IN-GOD'S HANDS".

Mrs. Helen J. Platt was preceded in death by her husband - Carl Platt Sr.; her sons - Lionel Platt and Carl Platt Jr.; her daughter - Marva Ann Platt Paul; her grandson - Gabriel "Gabe" Platt; her father - Andrew Jones; her mother - Almetria Carger Jones; her sisters - Annie Mae Carter, Nellie Mae Cole, Clara Bell Carston, Bobbie Ray Jones, Geneva Harmon Brown, and Joyce Marie Cole; her brothers - Robert Lee Jones and Edward Jerome Jones; and a host of in-laws from Charlotte, North Carolina.

She leaves to cherish most precious memories with her loving sons - Andrew L. Platt (Eva), Calvin Platt (Deatrice), Ralph L. Platt (Marie), Tommy W. Platt, Warren "Jack" Platt (Zena), and Nathan H. Platt; her loving daughters - Sharon Y. Platt (Ashton), Linda F. Platt-Bryant, and Almetria Platt-Deon (Marvin); her adopted niece and nephew raised with her family - Roslyn Cole (Mark) and Robert Jones (Tina); her brothers - Booker T. Jones (Patricia) and Roland Jerry Jones (Diane); and her sisters - Betty Jean Johnson and Gayle Jones Harmon; 26 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren; and a godson - Michael Spencer.

A host of nephews, nieces, other relatives, and family friends will forever cherish her memory.

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# Classifieds

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**Garage Sale:** Wednesday October 25th 8AM-1PM 240 Quincy Street Bridge City. Electronic, entertainment center, Gazelle exerciser, cold weather gear, holiday decoration, household misc., and other stuff.

**Dugas addition Garage Sales** (off of Jones) in Bridge City this Saturday, Oct. 28th from 7 am to 2 pm, come shop through the neighborhood and find a treasure.

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**Estate Sale** this Friday, October 27th from 10 am to 2 pm at 150 Canal in Bridge City. Vintage clothes, vintage stereo \$150, books, jewelry, paintings, memorabilia, Carnival glass, bowls, truffle dish, Hurricane Lamp, Vintage punch bowl, 1930s dripolator, Crystal cake stands x3.

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### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas  
To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of

**MICHAEL JOE BEAN, Deceased**  
Cause No. P19814  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 16th day of OCTOBER, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of, **MICHAEL JOE BEAN, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on the 16th day of October, 2023.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas  
By: Danielle Barrow, Deputy  
Danielle Barrow

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas  
To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of

**JOHNNIE MAE IVORY, Deceased**  
Cause No. P19838  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 19th day of OCTOBER, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of, **JOHNNIE MAE IVORY, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on the 19th day of October, 2023.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas  
By: Danielle Barrow, Deputy  
Danielle Barrow

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas  
To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of

**SAMUEL C THOMPSON, Deceased**  
Cause No. P19839  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 19th day of OCTOBER, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of, **SAMUEL C THOMPSON, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on the 19th day of October, 2023.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas  
By: Danielle Barrow, Deputy  
Danielle Barrow

### LEGAL NOTICE

The four properties, the first commonly known as 11178 Old Hwy. 62, Orange, TX 77632, the second as 5615 Tyler St., Vidor, TX 77662, the third as 614 Allie Payne Rd., Orange, TX 77632, and the fourth as 1942 W. Robin St., Orange, TX 77632 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 11/07/2023 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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THEME: SWEET TOOTH

### ACROSS

- \*Bow Wow Wow's "I \_\_\_\_ Candy"
- Money source
- \_\_\_\_'s Root Beer
- Pelvic parts
- Start of something big?
- Round openings
- RPM gauge
- Cantina cooker
- Car sound, to a toddler
- \*Ninepins name-sake
- Kiln for drying hops
- They had
- Division, abbr.
- Informal wear
- "Tail" on letter C
- Kamakawiwo'ole's strings
- Real estate sale agreement
- Denials
- 9 a.m. prayer
- Even, to a poet
- \*Desert plant harvested for sweet syrup
- Forbidden
- Quickly or slowly, e.g.
- \*Sweet \_\_\_\_ brew
- Breathe in
- Westernmost

- Soldier's bed
- Mensch, alt. sp.
- Italian car brand
- \*Jolly livestock raisers?
- Russia's hard liquor
- Ctrl + Z
- Consumes food
- Checks out
- Famous French couturier (1905-1957)
- Heavy Metal's Quiet \_\_\_\_
- Caustic soda
- Newsman Rather
- Kill, as in dragon

### DOWN

- Clever humor
- Unfortunately, exclamation
- Actor Nolte
- Island in French Polynesia
- \*Donut filler
- Checked out
- Bleats
- Rocky & Bullwinkle and Mary Kate & Ashley, pl.
- To a very great degree (2 words)
- Not bright
- Sacred choral compositions
- Roundish
- \*Sweet tooth, technically
- \* \_\_\_\_ Musketeers, spelled out
- Drops at dawn

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13	14	
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	18		19			20			
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62				63			64		

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- \*Scoop holder
- Averse
- "Drove my chevy to the \_\_\_\_"
- Southeast Asian org.
- Relinquish, as in property
- Clergyman's title, abbr.
- \*Single serving treat
- Embarrass
- Arthur, to friends
- Hard feelings
- I to Greeks, pl.
- TV's "Where everybody knows your name"
- Opposite of depression
- \_\_\_\_ a high note"
- Same as fogey
- Inactive
- "Ant-Man" lead-in actor
- Not top-shelf in a bar
- Greek portico
- Radio knob, abbr.
- Farm pen

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# LCM Bears to battle Raiders for first place

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The start of district for Little Cypress Mauriceville began a three game winning streak. This week the Bears will play to extend their positive run and grab the undisputed lead in the district standings.

Last week Little Cypress Mauriceville went to Splendora and put a 35-7 whipping on the Wildcats. The victory marked the most points by the Bears since their season opener against Hardin-Jefferson and matched the fewest points allowed in a game this season also against the Hawks.

LCM Coach Eric Peevey said the win was a team effort especially by the Bears' offense. "Offensively we did really well. Dylan Payne quarterbacked for three quarters before we let Evan Worster quarterback the last quarter. Dylan dealing with some injuries he had did a great job as we limited his runs to one time maybe two counting a quarterback sneak," Peevey indicated.

Jonah Fuller and J'Lynn Morris both had good games running the football. Khayden Reed made some big catches of passes for the Bears. Peevey responded, "We were able to run our base offense and do a really good job."

Peevey praised the LCM special teams. "Kicker Danyon Craft did a fantastic job on kickoffs pinning the Wildcats a couple times. The punts by Parker Freeman went well. Our



Kicker Danyon Craft did an excellent job pinning Splendora deep on his kickoffs during the Bears' big district win there last week.  
RECORD PHOTO

Bears tackled well on special teams," Peevey pointed out.

The defense was not excluded in being patted on the back. Peevey praised, "I was really proud after we gave up an opening drive for a touchdown our defense caused three turnovers and made a couple of fourth down stops including one when Splendora had a first and goal at the two yard line and we stopped them. I feel like other than those two drives our defense played really well."

Sixteen Bears met with LCM trainer Sheri Hoffpauir after the win over Livingston the week before. Peevey replied, "We had a lot of different guys playing during the game that don't normally get to play because of some injuries. I'm proud of the way the Bears played and it locked us in the playoffs for the third straight year, so I feel like it was a really big win for us considering the way we started the be-

ginning of the year and as young of a team as we are."

The injury list is much smaller this week for Little Cypress Mauriceville. Many of the Bears are back and hopefully we be available for the game this Friday. One starter on defense is being checked for concussion protocol who Coach Peevey wanted to withhold his name until tests confirm his status.

Both Little Cypress Mauriceville and Lumberton enter their contest this Friday with 3-0 records in district. The winner between the two will

LCM BEARS Page 4B

# Orangefield takes on Kirbyville for first place

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record



Freshman Carson Gonzales has quarterbacked Orangefield to four straight wins in district and has a big test this Friday at Kirbyville.  
RECORD PHOTO

Starting the season with one win in its first four games had some people wondering if Orangefield would be able to repeat as district champions this year. Since the start of district the Bobcats have turned it around winning four straight games and have another key contest this Friday.

Orangefield is sitting in sole possession of first place in District 10-3A Division I. Right behind the Bobcats in second

Coach Josh Smalley said the difference for Orangefield since the start of district is turn-overs. "We are not turning the ball over as we did early in the season. Some of those young Bobcats are no longer young kids. They've got eight games of experience under their belt now. Our freshman quarterback Carson Gonzales has shown a lot of grit and a lot of maturity. Those sophomores and juniors that came into the season with no experience on varsity are

place is this week's opponent the Kirbyville Wildcats.

ORANGEFIELD Page 4B

# Cardinals play Silsbee on Senior Night

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Bridge City Cardinals rolled to their first win in district in over two years last week. Now the Cardinals must play the second ranked team in Class 4A Division II in the state.

Bridge City visited Sour Lake and were not very nice guests smashing the hometown Hardin-Jefferson Hawks 51-26. It was Bridge City's first win since the second week of the season.

Coach Chad Landry was excited about the impressive triumph for his Cardinals. "It was a great night. I felt all three phases of the team played extremely well. We had a couple lapses on special teams, but overall it was a good night for us. The defense made stops when we had to. We scored on special teams, we scored on defense, and our offense was clicking really well all night. It was a good night especially on the road, it was a district win, and I'm proud of our guys," Landry exclaimed.

The coaches and the players are believing they can win on Friday nights. Landry explained, "I think a couple weeks ago we all kind of realized that we can play with the guys in our district, we can do this, we match up okay. From that stand point our enthusiasm has been great, our effort's been great, going in we know



Running back Merik Aras of the Cardinals had his best game of the season rushing for over a hundred yards in Bridge City's win over Hardin-Jefferson.  
RECORD PHOTO

we have a chance, so whenever mentally we're in the right spot with that. Each week it's been great and our guys know we have a chance to go in, compete hard, and play well. It has progressed since the beginning of the season and once we got into district we knew it would be a gauntlet, the schedule would be ridiculously tough, but our guys are believing so it's been fun."

One of the keys to putting up over fifty points was the emergence of a running game for Bridge City. "We did a good job up front. The offensive line did a great job opening up some holes for us. Merik Aras had a good night running the football. Jamel Charles had a good night running the football. We didn't really need Hutch Bearden to run it that much which was good physically for

BRIDGE CITY Page 4B

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**HUNTING SEASON . . .**

# Weekend youth hunts offer up prelude to season

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



**Chuck Uzzle**

Perhaps the only thing better than shooting a big deer or filling a strap with a limit of ducks is watching a kid accomplish the same feat. Young hunters in this day and age face a wide variety of obstacles in everyday life and those obstacles also spill over into the sport of hunting. Anti hunting groups spread half truths designed to keep kids away from the sport, land is tougher to access, and people just don't have as much time anymore it seems. Well the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is doing its fair share to change that.

According to the TPWD website the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has established statewide Youth only open seasons for deer and with cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, waterfowl. The purpose of these Youth Only open seasons is to provide youth with opportunities to learn about wildlife conservation through an enjoyable and memorable outdoor experience and allow parents and mentors to introduce them to safe and responsible hunting. The Youth Only open seasons hunts are scheduled to occur at times when youth are out of school. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department encourages experienced hunters to seek out youth and provide the guidance to make the event both enjoyable and educational for the beginning hunter.

This weekend is the opener for the special youth only hunting season for and this annual event has become a much anticipated activity in the hunting community. Each year there are young hunters all over the state who get to make their first deer hunt on this particular weekend thanks to this special season. The primary focus of all who take to the woods for this event is to share the sport of hunting with the next generation. Proper gun safety and ethics are two major lessons that are stressed during this special time, by making this a youth only weekend the adults can concentrate solely on the kids and their hunting experience which is nothing short of great.

One thing that almost always seems to happen during the youth only weekend is that some lucky youngster winds up taking a really exceptional deer. A few years ago in Orange County a local youngster took a 150 class Boone and Crockett buck during the youth only weekend, talk about taking advantage of an opportunity. Most kids will take does or spikes but that doesn't matter as long as they get to hunt and have a good time doing it. This special season helps to further the sport of hunting as well as allow kids a chance to be the main focus. There is plenty of quality time to be had in the outdoors by kids and parents alike, make the most of it.

This weekend should be an exciting one for local hunters all the way around. Even though Saturday and Sunday will be just a taste of things to come in the next week or so it will still be just as exciting. A brief word of caution for all who plan on participating in any form of this weekends hunts, please remember to be safe. Duck hunters who are getting in boats be sure to put on those life jackets, running lights, and kill switches. Deer hunters be aware of your targets and what's behind them, also be sure and take that extra minute or two to unload that gun while driving or crossing fences. This special weekend should be one to be remembered for all the right reasons and right reasons only.

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 86 degrees. Limits of redfish, nice catches of trout, and some flounder in the ICW using live shrimp under a popping cork. Sabine Lake has been rough, the water is turbid but fishing conditions should improve by the weekend.

Fish in the protected water of the Neches River when the winds are blowing. Limits of redfish are good coming out of the Bessie Heights marsh. Neches River buoys, drops, points, rock piles and the ends and mouths of cuts are good for redfish and speckled trout. Some nice flounder catches off the points using live shrimp under a popping cork. North Levee is producing nice catches of flounder, redfish, and speckled trout at the first and second pike.

Cast topwaters early in the morning, switching midday to crankbaits, popping cork with live shrimp, glo chartreuse plastics with a 1/16 ounce jig head. Impoundment is producing nice flounder catches with plastics, jigs and shrimp under a popping cork.

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 80 degrees. Redfish run is on for "Red October" running along grassy shorelines. The surf is holding lots of black drum, sharks, and some big redfish on cut bait or live bait on the bottom. The gulf side of the North Jetty holding limits of trout, redfish, sheepshead, jack crevalle against the rocks with live bait and artificial.

Also the jacks are running in the surf using big spoons or big deer hair jigs. The cuts leading in the bay from ICW holding fish against shorelines. Numbers of black drum are around Goat Island.

Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• **Trinity Bay**

GOOD. 70 degrees. Birds are working over schools of speckled trout in the northern end of the bay. A few slot redfish can be caught shallow. Burnett and Scott Bays are fair for speckled trout, redfish, and black drum. Best bite on live shrimp.

Report by Captain Da-

vid Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 72 degrees. Open bay fishing is put on hold until the wind subsides. Scattered catches of keeper trout under working birds and over shell reefs. Shorelines and bayous are good for redfish, a few black drum and flounder with the best bite on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter.

Surface water temperature 75 degrees, water clarity varies depending upon where you are on the bay, with East of Yates Bayou being stained for the most part. Fishing continues to improve with cooler air and water temperatures, and good tide movement over the past week. We were unable to fish off the shore reefs this week, so we targeted areas that provided the most wind protection for our anglers, including the marsh. This week we fished flats around pinch points with current and nervous bait, with great success, enabling us to land trout, redfish, flounder and black drum. Marker 54 Glide Shrimp lures under popping corks with 12-18 inch leaders,

orlive shrimp have produced consistently, and provided plenty of line tugging action for our fishing clients. Until next time! Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

Stingaree and Siever's Cut are holding fish against the shorelines coming out into the bay using popping cork with live shrimp, 12-16 inches on the leader. Hannah's Reef, Potluck Reef, and Fat Pat's all holding fish early. Keep a watch on the birds and the restless bait. The big Poppa Pure Pearl DSL working early. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 66 degrees. Scattered catches of speckled trout and redfish from the gas wells, when the wind allows. Shoreline action picking up around Eagle Point for speckled trout and a few redfish, along with black drum and sand trout. A few flounder are also being taken. Live shrimp has been the best bait. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

The surf is red hot on fire from East Beach all the way to Surfside for

speckled trout, redfish and an occasional shark on live bait, and sheepshead on popping cork with live shrimp, or on the bottom with live shrimp at the wells. The A-1 gas wells off the ship channel near Brothel Island are holding some nice trout with a chatterweight and croaker. Redfish and black drum at rocks by Brothel Island on popping cork with shrimp or gulf shrimp. The speckled trout are on croaker and artificial. The South Jetty is holding some big redfish with a few nice slots, and some nice sharks on the end. Gulf sides are on fire for speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks on popping cork with live bait free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatter weight and croaker. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 71 degrees. Redfish and flounder are good along shorelines and back lakes. Open bay has been too rough to fish, but birds should pinpoint good action for speckled trout and redfish once the wind becomes tolerable. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Redfish run is on for Red October.

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## The Lakes Fishing...

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water clear; 70 degrees; 4.23 feet below pool. Bass fishing has picked up to good with topwaters early in the morning, if you have some wind a spinnerbait or chatterbait will be good. The deeper bite 15-20 feet of water Texas rig, Carolina rig, or crankbait the color does not matter. Crappie are showing up in the backs of creeks in 10-15 feet of water. A few white bass catches near the Pendleton Bridge on spoons or a deep crankbait. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 75 degrees; 5.62 feet below pool. Bass are moving shallow to fatten up biting topwaters, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits. Wacky worms along the edge of grass and pads will continue to catch fish as well. Crappie are still in brush piles, and bluegill have moved off the brush piles. Catfish are chasing shad balls up the creeks. White bass typically migrate up the creeks, but with the water level so low fish may stay south. The lake level is low so navigate with caution watching for obstacles. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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**GAME OF THE WEEK**

# WOS Mustangs lose late to Jasper Bulldogs

**DAN PERRINE**  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs lost another heartbreaker at Dan R. Hooks Stadium on Friday night. The Mustangs failed to hold a seventeen-point lead in the second half and lost 41-38 to the Jasper Bulldogs.

With the loss West Orange-Stark (4-5, 2-3) will be able to finish no better than fourth place in the district and will be forced to play the first place team in District 10-4A Division II which will most likely be Bellville which eliminated the Mustangs in last year's playoffs. Jasper (5-3, 3-1) could still make some noise in the district as the Bulldogs close the regular season at Silsbee (8-0, 4-0).

The game did not start well for the Mustangs as they fumbled the ball on their second play from scrimmage which was recovered by the Bulldogs. Jasper needed six plays to take the initial lead on a four-yard run by Ja'Keman Harris. A bad snap resulted in Harris trying a pass for the conversion which failed leaving the Bulldogs up 6-0 with a little over three minutes played.

The lead was extended to fourteen points when the Mustangs were forced

to attempt a punt on their next possession and a low snap got away from punter Ja'Mikael Davis. After scooping the ball up Davis started to run and then threw a pass which was picked off by Jasper linebacker TyAnthony Smith who returned it for a touchdown. ZyKeelan Hadnot ran in the two point conversion making it 14-0 for the Bulldogs just six minutes into the game.

West Orange-Stark mounted a nice comeback scoring the next thirteen points. Jalen Gilmore broke off a 27-yard run for the first score and after a snap over the head of the Jasper punter gave the Mustangs the ball at the two Tahj Amerson used great second and third effort on a one-yard run to make the score 14-13 with 1:20 left in the initial quarter.

That was not all the scoring in the quarter as the Mustangs pooched kicked to their right where Jakharyn Parks fielded the ball at the 21. Parks put on a burst of speed splitting the WOS defenders and only needed to outrun their kicker which he did easily for a 79-yard touchdown. The point-after gave the Bulldogs a 21-13 lead with 69 seconds remaining in the first period.



**Amyrian Scott of the Mustangs caught a 38 yard pass on a fake punt that gave WOS a 17 point lead against Jasper.**

**THE RECORD PHOTO**

Their next two possessions the Mustangs would drive about sixty yards both times to score. Marcus Turner completed a screen pass to Khelvy Jefferson who ran it 45 yards for a touchdown but the try for two failed and West Orange-Stark trailed 21-19 at 10:22 of the second quarter.

Nicholas Crosson intercepted a Jasper pass returning it to the Mustang 40. Jamarr O'Neal had runs of 14 and 12 yards sandwiched around a 24-yard burst by Gilmore that moved the ball to first and goal at the Jasper 10.

Two plays later Turner scored on a 3-yard run. The try for two failed but West Orange-Stark had its first lead of the game 25-21 with just over six minutes before the half.

The Mustang offense was rolling having scored on four straight possessions, but a holding penalty wiped out what would have been the fifth straight on a pass to Crosson. Another penalty on the Mustangs foiled the drive and Jasper got the ball back to close out the half with West Orange-Stark on top by four points.

The second half began with Jasper receiving the kickoff. A facemask penalty gave the Bulldogs a first down but two plays later Amerson stripped the Jasper runner of the ball and took off with it finally being corralled at the Bulldog 9.

Turner passed to William Pitre for a 9-yard touchdown. The kick by Alfonso Balderas increased the WOS advantage to 32-21 with 9:17 remaining in the third quarter.

Jasper fumbled the line drive kickoff from Davis which the Mustangs recovered at the Bulldog 46. Turner and Pitre teamed up again for a first down completion to the 34 of Jasper.

Two penalties on the Mustangs appeared to have stymied the drive and Davis setup in punt formation. Instead Ja'Mikael lofted a pass to Amyrian Scott who took it to the end zone for a 38-yard

touchdown. The point after was blocked but West Orange-Stark had a comfortable seventeen point lead with just over five minutes left in the third period.

Jasper had only managed four first downs against the Mustang defense to that point in the game. Bulldog quarterback Isaiah Coleman started finding open receivers hitting Harris for 20 yards before connecting with Britain Simmons for a 59-yard catch and run for a touchdown just over a minute after the Mustangs long pass play for a score.

The momentum shifted and West Orange-Stark which had scored on six of its last seven possessions would not move the ball again until the closing seconds. Jasper would score on its first two drives in the fourth quarter on 8-yard pass from Coleman to Simmons and a 3-yard run by Payton Brooks after Coleman completed a 39-yard pass on fourth-and-twelve to Raja Garza-Adams.

West Orange-Stark had one last chance with about three and a half minutes left. A desperation pass from Turner was miraculously caught by Crosson inside the Jasper ten.

With no time outs left the Mustangs spiked the

ball to stop the clock. It eventually came down to a final play from the Jasper 14 on which Turner was sacked by Tylon Garrett of the Bulldogs to end the game.

The Mustangs outgained the Bulldogs 329 total yards to 221 yards in the game. Jasper turned the ball over five times and West Orange-Stark lost two fumbles and the one pick six.

The two quarterbacks both threw for over a hundred yards. Marcus Turner of WOS was 13 of 25 for 165 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. Isaiah Coleman of the Bulldogs completed 9 of his 22 passes for 156 yards with two touchdowns.

The leading rusher in the game was Jalen Gilmore of the Mustangs with 68 yards on 5 carries. Turner had the most carries with 19 good for 22 yards. Jasper got 31 yards on 9 carries from Payton Brooks, and Zykeelon Hadnot rushed ten times for 26 yards.

West Orange-Stark has its bye next week and will close out the regular season against Hardin-Jefferson in Sour Lake on Friday November 3. Jasper plays at home against Hardin-Jefferson next Friday before traveling to Silsbee on November 3.

## LCM Bears From Page 1B

have a great chance to be the district champions with one game remaining next week.

Lumberton the preseason favorite in District 10-4A Division I began the season with three straight losses. The Raiders have won their last five games averaging almost fifty points a game.

The Spread Offense of the Raiders is now clicking on all cylinders as indicated by the points they put on the board the last five games. Lumberton truly tries to spread the field with four receivers and one running back.

The Raider offense is headed by three-year starter at quarterback Lucas Powell. "He's an unbelievable quarterback, an unbelievable high school athlete, and he's just grown up so much that he's turned into a heck of a player. Powell is hard to tackle, he can throw it about 65 yards, throws it really well, and has full command of his offense," Peevey evaluated.

The Lumberton coaches may call the plays for each snap. It is evident watching Powell that he makes

good decisions in modifying things occasionally on the fly according to Peevey.

The return of running back Jaddon Ward has boosted the Raider offense back to the same production it had the last two years. Ward is a big reason for the Lumberton improvement during their last five games which is when he played his first game this season.

Ward has been called a round mound touchdown because of his 260 pound build and his relatively short stature. Last year Ward rushed for almost fifteen hundred yards and 12 touchdowns.

Peevey described, "Jaddon is as close to looking like Jerome Bettis as I have ever seen. He looks about 5-7, 260. He is hard to bring down and hard to tackle. He is going to run the ball right up the middle and dare you to tackle him. When the Raiders get in short yardage they give it to him and it's hard to bring him down, and if you bring too many guys in the box the quarterback will pull it and run around the edge."

There are several good Raider receivers to whom Powell can throw the football. Slot receiver Trey Kersh had almost a thousand yards receiving last season with 11 touchdowns and may be the best slot receiver in this area. Kersh is also a dangerous kick return man as evident by the two punts he took back for touchdowns last week for Lumberton.

With Powell, Ward, and Kersh the Raider offense is a three-headed monster. "Between those three you've got to pick and choose because you can't stop all three. The Raiders are a really good football team and their offense is the head of that juggernaut," Peevey emphasized.

A strong defense has really led to Lumberton's success the last two seasons. The offense may get most of the publicity, but the Raider defense shuts down opponents' offenses.

The defensive front of the Raiders will be the best LCM has faced all year. On the outside at end is senior Brock Jackson who is big, tall, fast, tough, and physical. A three-year starter at the other defensive end Spencer Grayden is bigger than Jackson and just as tough.

Peevey analyzed, "The Raiders' defensive front does a really good job being able to allow their de-

LCM BEARS Page 4B

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# Orangefield Bobcats

From Page 1B

kind of grown up too," Smalley explained.

Prior to district the coach preached to his players that they just needed to get to district where the competition would be more equal to Orangefield. The three non-district losses included one to Bridge City from Class 4A and another to the very talented private school Legacy Sports Medicine.

Smalley reminded, "We finally started district against a good Buna team and won. Then we played Anahuac the preseason favorite and beat them. We kind of got on a little roll and turned our season around."

Despite four consecutive victories there is still room for improvement according to Smalley. "We've kind of shown periods where we didn't play as well, and we've just come on in the second half and won like the other night against Hardin when we only led 14-6 at the half. We put the ball on the ground a couple times and had a couple holding calls and just looked kind of sloppy. We went out the second half

and turned it on," Smalley elaborated.

With two games remaining in district action Orangefield is in pretty good shape physically. The lone Bobcat that is out is Zach Morrow with a broken collarbone who was a starting defensive back.

The higher maturity level on the young Bobcats and the avoidance of turnovers were the two important factors pointed to by Coach Smalley helping Orangefield being undefeated in district. The Bobcats have zero turnovers in four games while taking the ball away six times.

The Kirbyville Wildcats are actually at the top of the district stats in turnover differential. The Wildcats have committed five turnovers but have made four interceptions and recovered nine opponent fumbles for thirteen takeaways five more than any other team in the district.

Kirbyville had impressive wins over East Chambers and Buna to begin district but lost its third district game 44-20 to Anahuac. The Wildcats followed their

lone district loss with a 66-0 blowout of Tarkington and last week defeated Hardin by twenty points.

The offense for Kirbyville is somewhat a carbon copy of Anahuac from earlier in district. The Wildcats will use unbalanced lines on offense running the toss and toss trap out of that formation then the next offensive series they will have two tight ends later shifting into the shotgun in the Spread formation with five wide receivers to throw the ball. To say Kirbyville is multiple on offense would be an understatement.

The Wildcats also use the hurry up offense with no huddle that Anahuac did against the Bobcats. "Those are some things we struggled with the first two series against Anahuac, and Kirbyville kind of does the same stuff. Good news is we've seen it once and the kids have seen it in live action. Bad news is we didn't hold up to it very well at first but we did get better as the game went on that first time," Smalley pointed out.

Junior quarterback Jace Huffman leads the Wildcat

offense and is the top passer in district games. Smalley stated, "He's the guy that makes their machine run. Huffman has almost five hundred yards rushing on the year to go along with close to thirteen hundred yards passing, he's a true dual threat guy that can run and throw the ball well."

Top targets for Huffman when he passes are Brayden Mahathay, Ethan Rawls, and Elijah Johnson. Mahathay has 22 receptions for 480 yards with five touchdowns on the year.

When the Wildcats run the ball the workhorse is Ashton Anderson. He leads the district in carries and is second behind Orangefield's Mason Manning in rushing yards with 464 and has scored five touchdowns plus six two-point conversions in Kirbyville's five district games.

"They've got three or four guys they like to tote the football. The main one is the quarterback Huffman and then Anderson. The Wildcats give you a lot to prepare for. We've had a couple weeks to get ready for them thanks to our bye. We're preparing for an offense we don't see much and you don't get a good look at in practices as far as the

tempo and pace of play," Smalley analyzed.

Kirbyville came into this season not ranked very high because of the Wildcats' 3-7 record last year. Smalley believes the Wildcats may be the most improved team in the district from last season.

The defense at Kirbyville is run by new defensive coordinator Jason Hicks who came from Newton. Hicks has brought with him the Seven Diamond Defense used for so long at Newton.

The Wildcats will cover every opposing offensive lineman and play man coverage in the secondary. Smalley emphasized, "The Wildcats come after you. They keep eight to nine in the box. They come up field, they're not waiting on you to do anything, they're coming to get you."

Middle linebacker Bron Melvin is the leading tackler in the district. Melvin leads the Wildcats in tackles, sacks, and interceptions. "He does it all for the Wildcats. Melvin is a great football player with a good nose for the football," Smalley praised.

Another leader on defense for Kirbyville is Jaxxon Mordente on the outside. Mordente is an outside

linebacker or strong safety who teams with Trenton Cooper and Ethan Rawls in the defensive line to wreck havoc on opposing offenses.

The final two games of the regular season for the Orangefield Bobcats will determine the district championship. Two wins by the Bobcats and they will claim their second straight title.

A loss in either game by the Bobcats would result in a co-championship.

Smalley is concentrating right now on the Bobcats beating Kirbyville. "The Wildcats are a very good football team. The biggest thing I've seen is the way they play defense this year. They are very much improved with their new system on defense.

"Defensively, we've got to recognize where the unbalanced formation is and who is eligible for passes because Kirbyville will do a good job of covering people up and moving them to make them eligible. Finally, we've got to rally to the football and tackle," Smalley concluded.

The Orangefield Bobcats travel to Kirbyville with first place in district at stake. The game begins at 7:30 on Friday night.

# Bridge City Cardinals

From Page 1B

him to give Hutch a little bit of a break. I was happy that we punched one in and a running back scored for us," Landry applauded.

One negative coming out of the game was an injury to receiver Gavin Bodin on a freak play. Bodin collided with the play clock which was only a couple of yards behind the end zone. Gavin will be going through tests early this week to determine if he will be available for Friday night.

Coming to Bridge City on Friday will be the highly touted Silsbee Tigers. The state ranked Tigers are undefeated and have outscored their opponents 369 to 105 in their eight games.

Averaging over 46 points a game the Tigers are very explosive on offense. Silsbee will throw and run the football equally from multiple formations including the Spread and the standard I-Formation.

Landry elaborated, "They have weapons everywhere. The Tigers will be in the I or they will spread you out. The quarterback Michael Moshier is very good. They have several running backs all of them dangerous."

The biggest name on the Silsbee offense is Dre'lon Miller at wide receiver who accounted for 24 touchdowns last season. Ashton Cartwright also at wide receiver scored 9 touchdowns in 2022.

The offensive line for the Tigers is big, talented, and physical with Andrew LeBlanc, Xander Horton, and Jayden Smart the leaders. "We have our hands full trying to contain them with their blockers and excellent skill players all of whom can go. The Tigers can pass

or run, they really have been able to do what they want offensively so far this season. Against teams like Hampshire-Fannett and West Orange-Stark they threw it more, against Liberty they just ran it all night. Silsbee just has a multitude of options," Landry conceded.

The Bridge City strategy on defense is to limit the big plays by the Tigers. Landry explained, "I think this week the plan going in is just try to keep everything in front of us and pursue the football. We've done a really good job defensively of pursuing the football so if we kind of keep it in front of us, pursue, maybe force a fumble here or there, get a pick, or something that we can flip some momentum. We've got to avoid the big plays which have been our Achilles' heel all year."

On defense Silsbee will mostly line up in an odd front. The Tigers will move their linebackers down to put more defenders in the box.

Jonah White in the defensive line is a leading tackler for Silsbee, and Lamar Marcus Botley is a standout in the secondary. If the Tigers were not talented enough on defense they now have moved Dre'lon Miller over to play some safety during games.

Landry evaluated, "They do a really good job of moving their linebackers around. Some weeks certain individuals are inside and some weeks they're outside based on personnel. I think it's one of the more underrated facets of their game is how good the Silsbee defense is. Their defense is legit. They're fast

and physical. The Tigers move guys all over. I definitely feel like the Tigers are definitely in the conversation and would venture they are the best defense in the district. Jasper's defense is really good, Silsbee is just as good."

Bridge City has played two strong games in a row with a close loss to West Orange-Stark and the blow-out win over Hardin-Jefferson. The question is can the Cardinals make it three straight against a team the caliber of Silsbee.

"We've got a couple things going our way. It's our last home game, it's Senior Night for us. We're playing a top ranked team in the state of Texas, so we're going to be ready to go. We've just got to go out and perform," Landry concluded.

The Bridge City Cardinals play the Silsbee Tigers on Friday night. The kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 at Larry Ward Stadium.

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# LCM Bears

From Page 1B

fense to spread the field with opponents. Most teams will put eight to nine guys in the box to stop our run, but Lumberton can put six in there because their six guys are bigger than most team's eight."

Lumberton is also leading the district in turnover ratio. The Raiders are sound on defense.

First place in the district will be on the line come Friday night between Little Cypress Mauriceville and Lumberton. "It's a great opportunity any time that you have your own destiny in your hands. We are locked in to make the playoffs and now we're playing for a gold football. I think if you had

asked everybody at the beginning of the year if they thought LCM had a chance of doing that ninety percent of people would have told you no. Our kids have grown up unbelievably, they're playing at a high level, and they're playing for each other right now. To have a chance to play for a district championship in your home stadium you can't ask for any more than that," Peevey concluded.

The battle for first place between the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears and the Lumberton Raiders will take place at Battlin' Bear Stadium. The kick off will be at 7:30 on Friday Night.



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# Orangefield Lady Bobcats prepare for state playoffs

**DAN PERRINE**  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats played a pair of four set matches last week. The Lady Bobcats lost at home to Buna before winning at the Orangefield Gymnasium against Kountze.

Tuesday's match on October 17 between Orangefield and Buna was tightly contested. The Lady Cougars lost the opening set to the Lady Bobcats 25-22 before winning the last three sets 25-22, 26-24, and 25-21 to claim the victory.

The turning point in the match was the pivotal third set in which Orangefield led 23-20 before Buna scored four straight points to reach set point. The Lady Bobcats saved a point to tie the set, but the Lady Cougars won the next two points to take the set and the advantage in the match.

The Lady Bobcats led the fourth set by three points 13-10 before Buna went on a five point run to take the lead. The set was tied at 21 then the Lady Cougars won the last four points to grab the set and the match.

Leaders for the Lady

Bobcats in the loss were Greenlea Oldham with 17 kills, Lela Francis with 3 blocks, and Hannah Block with 18 digs. Brianna Moore had 36 assists and served 3 aces to lead Orangefield in both categories.

Orangefield Coach Ashlee Peevey said the Lady Bobcats did not rise to the occasion on every point. "I felt like Buna maybe wanted it just a little bit more tonight. Hopefully, we respond to this loss, and we carry the momentum into the rest of district and in the playoffs," Peevey responded.

The Lady Bobcats did respond positively in their next match defeating Kountze on Senior Night. Orangefield recognized seniors Ava Dyer, Kaitlyn Jenkins, Kaylea Gravett, Brianna Moore, Greenlea Oldham, and Lela Francis who were playing their last match at home.

The first two sets were split with Orangefield taking the first 25-22 before dropping the second 20-25. The Lady Bobcats upped their game winning the next two sets handily 25-13 and 25-12 to earn the triumph.

Seniors were leaders on



Orangefield Lady Bobcat seniors on the volleyball team from the left are Ava Dyer, Kaitlyn Jenkins, Kaylea Gravett, Brianna Moore, Greenlea Oldham, and Lela Francis.

the court for Orangefield. Lela Francis led in aces with 4 while blocking 2 volleys and making 7 kills. Greenlea Oldham had 11 kills and Kaitlyn Jenkins

matched Francis with 7 kills. Brianna Moore led as she does every match with 35 assists and added 11 digs.

Underclassmen Hannah

Block served 3 aces and contributed 15 digs. Freshman Mikayla Locke led the Lady Bobcats with 21 digs.

Orangefield closed out the regular season and dis-

trict schedule on Tuesday, October 24, at Anahuac. The Lady Bobcats will be in the post season against an opponent to be determined.

## First Saturday giveaways at First Baptist BC

First Saturday at First Baptist will be November 4th at 200 West Roundbunch Rd., Bridge City. The giveaway will be gently used coats, jackets, sweaters and hoodies. Cooler weather is on the way and everyone needs to be prepared. All sizes will be available for children, teens and adults. Racks of coats and jackets will be on display under the carport at the side of the church in the parking lot. The giveaway will be from 10 am until 12 noon. Also included will be prayer for those who request it, Bibles and helpful pamphlets.

## Orange County Parkinson Support Group

The Orange County Parkinson Support

Group will hold its first monthly meeting since the Covid pandemic on Wednesday, November 1, at 11:00 a.m. at the Train Depot in Orange. Since November is National Family Caregivers Month, we will focus on healthy tips for caregivers.

All are welcome, especially those individuals with any movement disorder and/or their caregivers. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact: Ella Guillory (409)543-3084, Julie Patronella (409)351-2048, or Odette Hill (409)344-2005

## Wesley United Methodist Church Pecan sale

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts for their Annual Fund Raiser with delivery early November. Pe-

can halves or pieces \$13.00 per pound, walnuts \$8.50 per pound. Call Jan 409-734-8036 to place an order or for additional information.

## Good Shepherd offering 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/child-care](http://ymcasetx.org/child-care) or call at 409-962-6644.

## City of West Orange accepting reservations for Holiday in the Park

The City is proud to host this year's 22nd annual event on Saturday, November 4, 2023, providing a venue for vendors of all types – crafts, gift items, home décor and of course, great food. This will be the second year to include the very popular Classic Car Show.


Registration forms and additional information can be found on the city's website: [www.cityofwestorange.com](http://www.cityofwestorange.com). You may also call West Orange City Hall at (409)883-3468.

As of the release of this notice, only ten booths with electricity and five without remain available...so don't wait...reserve yours today. Last year's festival was a tremendous success thanks to our vendors,




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# Sabbath for Moms, rest with kids

**Monica Geyen**  
Guest Contributor  
desiringGod.org

In the moments when God lifts the veil, we remember that everyday motherhood — the naps and snacks, the tears and tantrums, the triumphs and the training — all of it really is a decades-long rescue mission outside the gates of hell.

Because of that, we enter little moments with big prayers and eternal eyes. We rehearse favorite verses over our children as we scoop and snuggle them. We sing familiar choruses of praise as we change diapers, prepare meals, and perform nightly tuck-ins. We wipe glistening cheeks and gaze into little eyes, yearning for their hearts to be Christ's and for their ways to be his ways. How could we rest under the weight of such eternal, soul-shaping work?

And that's not to mention the lists of endless tasks that surround and beat against our minds (because children are not only souls but have bodies, minds, and emotions that require nourishment, care, and time). Children need love, homes require attention, and for every job that we complete, five more creep onto our plates.

The fourth commandment — "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8) — came not only to working men, but to mothering women. Moms wonder, "How do I rest with so much at stake? How do I rest with so much on my plate?" Rest, we know, is not ultimately found in a place,

season, or circumstance, but in a person.

Christ ended our endless toil to justify ourselves before God when he declared to the unrested, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Christ became the Sabbath for us. And we have entered into that rest through faith in his atoning work (Hebrews 4:3).

God rested after his creation work (Genesis 2:2-3), Christ rested after his salvation work (Hebrews 10:12), and Christ extends his rest to laboring moms who never judge that their jobs are done. "It is finished" (John 19:30) mercifully frees the hearts of weary moms who tend to trust the value of completing tasks or gospel missions over Christ's finished work. He doesn't need a mother's laboring yoke to accomplish his purpose. She needs his to rest her weary heart.

## Ways to Rest with a Family

Although we're free in Christ to observe a formal Sabbath or not (Colossians 2:16-17), dads and moms who adopt intentional family discipleship rhythms may be looking for ways to make rest practical, possible, and Christ-centered for the whole family. Here are a few rhythms that have been a blessing in our home (and helped this mom find peace

and rest in the midst of daily motherhood).

### • 1. We Feast Together

In Acts 16, a Philippian jailer and his entire family hear the gospel, believe, are baptized, and together rejoice over their newfound rest in Christ (Acts 16:29-34). God's providence found the family together through hymns sung in the darkness, an earthquake, and the ministry of Paul and Silas, so they received Jesus and rested together. Families who hear and rehearse the gospel together can experience realities like what happened in that jailer's home.

"They have special claims upon us who gather around our table and our hearth," pronounces Charles Spurgeon, for "God has not reversed the laws of nature, but he has sanctified them by rules of grace" ("Household Salvation"). God forms families and loves to bless the ministry that unfolds at dinner tables and in living rooms through quality time together. Our "feasting" rhythms — seeing and savoring Jesus together (Isaiah 55:1-2) — enable us to bring the word, worship, and prayer to the entire family.

Daily rhythms centered on gospel intentionality may include family devotions (and perhaps welcoming older children to join in early morning devotions), read-alouds or storytelling, modeling repentance and interceding for others, Scripture study and memorization, and worship tailored to different family styles and schedules. And through the gift of that more intentional,

structured time together, the Spirit often brings the word to mind in the more spontaneous and unexpected moments of the day as we sit, walk, lie down, and rise (Deuteronomy 6:7). We "feast" to capture the heart of our journey home toward the fullness of Christ. And we feast together, as all who trust in him will one day.

### • 2. We Play Together

When my kids commend Christ's works to the next generation (Psalm 145:4), they may testify they experienced Jesus more when I splashed and snorted as a pretend pig in a mud pool than in my most creative or articulate presentations of the gospel.

A mom's hands, as mine are far too often, may be busy at work but idle in play. But a mother "looks well to the ways of her household" when she understands children often know and are known through play — and "rise up and call her blessed" (Proverbs 31:27-28). Perhaps we learn more about our children's hearts through five minutes of play than through fifty minutes of observation. It reminds us of our roles as shepherd-sheep who will stand not above our children but together with them before the King's throne. If we want to usher them into the world to come, we need to be prepared to enter their present worlds now.

Legos, playgrounds, imaginative play, block towers, sports, and games filled with laughter invite our families into the heart of God, who delights in his people (Zephaniah 3:17) — enough to die

to buy our rest. All children, including dads and moms, are freed to play because of what God has already accomplished for us. And as we play with them, our children's humble delight in simple gifts unknowingly invites us to become like them.

### • 3. We Rest Together

For us, "Family Fun Night" (or "Family Sabbath") invites more excitement, joy, and special planning than most rhythms. The prophet Isaiah describes the Sabbath as a day of "delight in the Lord," a time when God's people "ride on the heights of the earth" (Isaiah 58:13-14). Christ invites us to consider a special rest that reminds us the best is yet to come — and this special, set-apart time will surprise families with restful joy now and a foretaste into heaven's glorious rest to come.

Family rest fosters purposeful, distraction-free time together for everyone after another full week. In our family, we allow each family member to have a turn planning an evening with a special meal and activity (exploring parks, constructing obstacle courses, playing games, serving together, camping out, and so on). Godward elements woven into these times together remind young and old of our special place in God's blood-bought family. Individual ownership in planning enables each family member to voice, "Rest has come for me." And collective enjoyment enables us to proclaim, "Rest will come for us together in Christ. Let's delight together."

### Rest Never Runs Dry


Even when life's demands

derail our attempts to cultivate rest, Christ still delivers rest. During his earthly ministry, Jesus encouraged the exhausted disciples, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Weary, famished, and overrun, the disciples gladly accepted the invitation — only to find more hunger and chaos. They sought the rest Jesus offered but instead received the impossible command to feed thousands (Mark 6:32-37).

So, did they forfeit rest to feed the crowd? No, Jesus surprised them with a different kind of rest. With five loaves, two fish, and the miraculous hand of God, the disciples fed the whole crowd and had twelve full baskets of food left over (Mark 6:38-43) — one for each disciple. John Piper summarizes the message in those baskets: "When you give everything you have away, you'll be taken care of."

The promise of Sabbath holds out more than a break from mothering. It tethers moms to our ongoing need for grace and strength as we lay our lives down for our families. And there's always enough. Like the woman who gave up her bread for Elijah and never ran out, a mother never exhausts the Bread of Life as she enters into his rest and labors out of it. She never runs out of Christ.

And one day soon, mothers, we will feast on the perfect, unhindered goodness of our God. We will play alongside all children of the King. We will rest, knowing our toil has ended. The unending day is coming soon. Until then, we can take heart. Rest has already arrived.



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