

# County Record

Vol. 64 No. 23

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Week of Wednesday, November 1, 2023

## Festival starts holiday season Saturday

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

The Thanksgiving-Christmas season comes alive again in West Orange Saturday as the city hosts its annual Holiday in the Park festival featuring arts and crafts, foods, live entertainment, and a vintage car show.

The free event opens at 9 a.m. and will run until 5 p.m. at Alford-Seale Plaza next to city hall on Western Avenue. Last year, a vintage car show and contest was added and owners of cars may enter their vehicles without a fee.

Holiday in the Park has become a place for people to get a head start on their holiday decorating or Christmas shopping. Vendors sell a variety of goods including handmade yard decorations, wreaths, tree ornaments, jams and jellies, woodwork crafts, and decorated gift baskets.

A wide variety of food vendors will also be onsite selling things like chicken fettuccine, hot dogs, crawfish pistolettes, nachos

with different meat toppings, ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, barbecue brisket sandwiches, snow cones, red beans and rice, and baked sweets.

The festival has become a tradition for longtime West Orange residents to gather and visit under the live oak trees in the plaza area.

In the center is an elevated gazebo to set the stage for live entertainment. Emcee and singer-guitarist Shon Branham will start off the performers at 9 a.m. through 10 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the West Orange-Stark Elementary School Choir under the direction of Bernita Bias will sing. Songs will include one featuring Brooklyn Johnson and another with Karmyn Joshua as soloist.

The band Make Shift will play from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The band plays songs in genres ranging from country, swamp pop, classic rock, to the blues. Winners of the car show will be announced plus door prize drawings will be held from

**HOLIDAY Page 3A**



This past weekend the WOSM Cheerleaders and Stallionettes traveled to Houston to take part in the Cheerleaders of America Halftime Extravaganza at RICE University. Above are the cheerleaders and Stallionettes after their half-time performance on the football field.

## Texas-87 traffic change next week for CP modules

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

People driving between Bridge City and Orange next week will get another major inconvenience for the sake of economic growth. The new Chevron Phillips chemical plant construction is forcing traffic lane closings along State Highway 87.

The \$8.5 billion plant is under construction on 2,000 acres with frontage along Highway 87 between FM 1006 and Foreman Road. The plant is a project by Chevron Phillips and Qatar Energy and will be moving giant modules to the new site.

The northbound lanes for Highway 87 will be closed during certain hours from Bridge City High School to the plant entrance across from the Orange County Airport.

The lane closures will be from Monday, November 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then repeated for the same hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week.

The modules are being shipped from different



Heavy haul outside Baytown heading toward Texas-87 in Orange County next week.

countries across the world to the Gulf of Mexico and Sabine Lake to Cow Bayou. The modules are landing at the company's new barge dock on Cow Bayou on the south side of the Highway 87 Cow Bayou Bridge.

The first of the modules was shipped to dock earlier this month. From the dock, the modules will be moved by "heavy haul" trucks made for loads of 55,000 pounds. The construction of lane changes in that sec-

tion during the past few months were made to allow the heavy haul trucks and modules.

The barge dock is about one mile from the construction site main gate.

This will be the first of the lane closures. The website for the CP Golden Triangle Polymers Plant says more than 400 of the modules will be shipped by barge and then hauled to the construction site.

During next week's traf-

fic changes, the northbound lane of Highway 87 will have a detour in front of Bridge City High School. The traffic will be rerouted into the southbound lane at Farm Drive. The southbound (Orange to Bridge City) traffic on Highway 87 will turn into a two-way highway, with one lane in each direction, at Highway 62.

After Highway 62, mo-

**TRAFFIC Page 3A**

## Ban on COVID-19 vaccine mandates heads to governor

**KAREN HARPER**  
The Texas Tribune

A sweeping ban on COVID-19 vaccine mandates for employees of private Texas businesses is on its way to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, carrying with it a \$50,000 fine for employers who punish workers for refusing the shot.

Senate Bill 7, by state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, cleared its final hurdle Tuesday when senators agreed on a 17-11 vote to accept the House version of the legislation, which raised the fine from the \$10,000 initially proposed in the bill.

The legislation, which Republican lawmakers have been trying to pass since 2021, offers no exceptions for doctors' offices, clinics or other health facilities. The bill also includes unpaid volunteers and students working in medical internships or other unpaid positions as part of graduation requirements.

Private employers are allowed by the legislation to require unvaccinated employees and contractors to wear protective gear, such as masks, or enact other "reasonable" measures to

protect medically vulnerable people who work or come into their places of businesses or medical facilities.

The legislation makes it illegal, however, for any employer to take action against or otherwise place requirements on an unvaccinated employee that the Texas Workforce Commission determines would adversely affect the employee or constitute punishment.

Bill sponsors said the ban will be the strongest in the nation.

"At the end of the day, this is about protecting the individual's ability [to stay employed] and making sure that they have the right to choose whether or not to get the shot," Middleton said.

Enforcement would be handled through employee complaints to the workforce commission, with violators subject to the fine and potential lawsuits by the Texas attorney general.

Opponents of the bill, mostly Democrats, argued that it took away business owners' freedom to decide who to hire, which contractors to do business with,

**VACCINE Page 3A**

## Thrift & Gift celebrates anniversary

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Orange's Thrift and Gift Shop, a non-profit group that helps senior citizens, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this week with a special sale on Saturday, November 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The store, which is now at 350 37th Street in the former Salk Elementary

School, began in downtown Orange half a century ago. It was developed as a place where senior citizens could have a place to sell their handmade crafts and goods to earn extra income to supplement their retirement.

The store also offered senior volunteers a place to work, visit, and gather. Women quilters through the decades at Thrift and

Gift have been gathering to work on designs. Their work is often put up for sell or sometimes raffled as a fundraiser.


This season's quilt raffle is for a colorful Christmas snowflake design with green and red embroidery fit for a queen size bed. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six.

Also, the "thrift" part of the shop comes from taking

a wide variety of used, or even new, items from donors and putting them for sale to the public. The eclectic items may include old sewing machines, crystal, china, furniture, Halloween costumes, Christmas decor, home and garden decorative items, plus toys.

A wide variety of clothing

**THRIFT Page 3A**





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# State Senate bill to spend \$1.5B for border walls

URIEL J. GARCÍA  
The Texas Tribune

The state Senate on Tuesday approved a \$1.5 billion proposal that would give Gov. Greg Abbott the money to continue erecting a barrier along the Texas-Mexico border and pay for state troopers to have a presence on Colony Ridge, the Houston suburb that far right publications have said is a magnet for undocumented immigrants.

17-11 vote and now heads to the House of Representatives, where lawmakers passed a similar bill that would devote the entire \$1.5 billion to border barrier construction.

SB 6, sponsored by state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, would set aside \$40 million for “overtime expenses and costs” to increase law enforcement presence in Colony Ridge “to preserve public safety and security.”

The rest of the money

would go to continue building a barrier on the 1,200-mile Texas-Mexico border. The money would be on top of at least \$1.5 billion in contracts the state has issued since September 2021 to build about 40 miles of border barrier. As of August, Texas had only erected 10 miles of the steel bollard barrier in Starr, Cameron, Val Verde and Webb counties.

Colony Ridge, a massive residential development north of Houston that its

developer estimates is home to about 50,000 people, has grown steadily for more than a decade. It came to the attention of Abbott and Republican lawmakers after far-right publications published articles portraying the development as a “magnet for illegal immigrants.”

Abbott suggested that he is worried the state’s ban on “sanctuary cities” is not being enforced.

The 2017 law bans so-called sanctuary cities and

finances local officials \$25,500 for each day municipal law enforcement doesn’t cooperate with immigration officials in turning over undocumented immigrants; heads of local law enforcement agencies can be charged with a misdemeanor under the law.

Legal experts say there is no law against selling land to people who aren’t citizens.

Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw said during a House

committee meeting earlier this month that Abbott’s concerns that the subdivision was a “no-go zone” and that it was too dangerous for law enforcement to patrol were unfounded.

“There’s no such thing as a no-go zone in Texas,” McCraw said. “We obviously talked to the sheriff ... and he assured us that was not the case. Certainly, our sergeant didn’t think so. Our troopers can go anywhere.”

## Sheriff Mooney accomplishments highlighted

The following is a statement released by Orange County supporters of Sheriff Lane Mooney and his re-election campaign:

In Orange County, there’s a resounding question on the minds of its residents: “Why change what’s working?” Orange County has witnessed three years of transformation under the vigilant leadership of Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney. His dedicated service to the community, unwavering commitment to law enforcement, and innovative approaches to policing have solidified his position as the ideal candidate for re-election. When it comes to the vital task of ensuring the safety and security of our community, there’s no one better equipped for the job than Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney. As the re-election season approaches, here are some compelling reasons why you should support Sheriff Mooney for another term.

### Sheriff Mooney’s Im-

#### pact on Orange County:

##### 1. Securing Union Contracts for Sheriff Deputies:

One of Sheriff Mooney’s most significant achievements during his tenure was ensuring that sheriff deputies received union contracts after over 13 years without them. This initiative set pay scales, benefit levels, and work rules, providing critical protection and support for the men and women in uniform. By doing so, he not only honored the hard-working deputies but also laid the foundation for a more efficient and equitable sheriff’s department.

##### 2. A Lifetime of Service:

Sheriff Mooney has dedicated his entire law enforcement career to serving Orange County. His profound understanding of the community’s unique needs and challenges has allowed him to make informed, impactful decisions that keep the residents safe.

##### 3. Resourceful Use of Drug Forfeiture Assets:

Recognizing the need for a well-equipped police force, Sheriff Mooney made astute use of drug forfeiture assets. He directed these funds toward enhancing the sheriff’s department’s capabilities, from procuring new patrol cars to providing officers with essential equipment training, and advanced technology.

- Active Shooter Training: Sheriff Mooney recognizes the importance of preparedness and safety.

- Under his leadership, law enforcement has received active shooter training, ensuring they can respond effectively during emergencies.

- SWAT Training: Our Sheriff understands the significance of a well-trained SWAT team to handle critical situations swiftly and efficiently.

- Bearcat Armored Vehicle: Investing in a Bearcat armored vehicle enhances the capabilities of

the Sheriff’s department, providing a robust response to high-risk situations.

- New Patrol Vehicles: Investments in new patrol vehicles improve the mobility and response time of our deputies, resulting in quicker assistance during emergencies.

- Narcotics & K9 Training: These programs effectively combat the drug problem in our community, addressing a critical issue that affects the safety of Orange County.
- Tactical Training: Sheriff Mooney ensures his officers are prepared for any situation by providing them with the best training available.

- Advanced Crime Scene Laser Technology: Sheriff Mooney’s dedication to innovation is showcased through the use of cutting-edge technology, ensuring more accurate and effective crime scene investigations.

- Sonar Equipment for Water Searches: Enhancing the ability to respond to water-related emergencies, this technolo-

gy is invaluable in safeguarding lives in Orange County.

##### 4. Innovative Drone Implementation:

Sheriff Mooney’s forward-thinking approach extended to the implementation of drones in law en-

MOONEY Page 5A

## The Record Newspapers

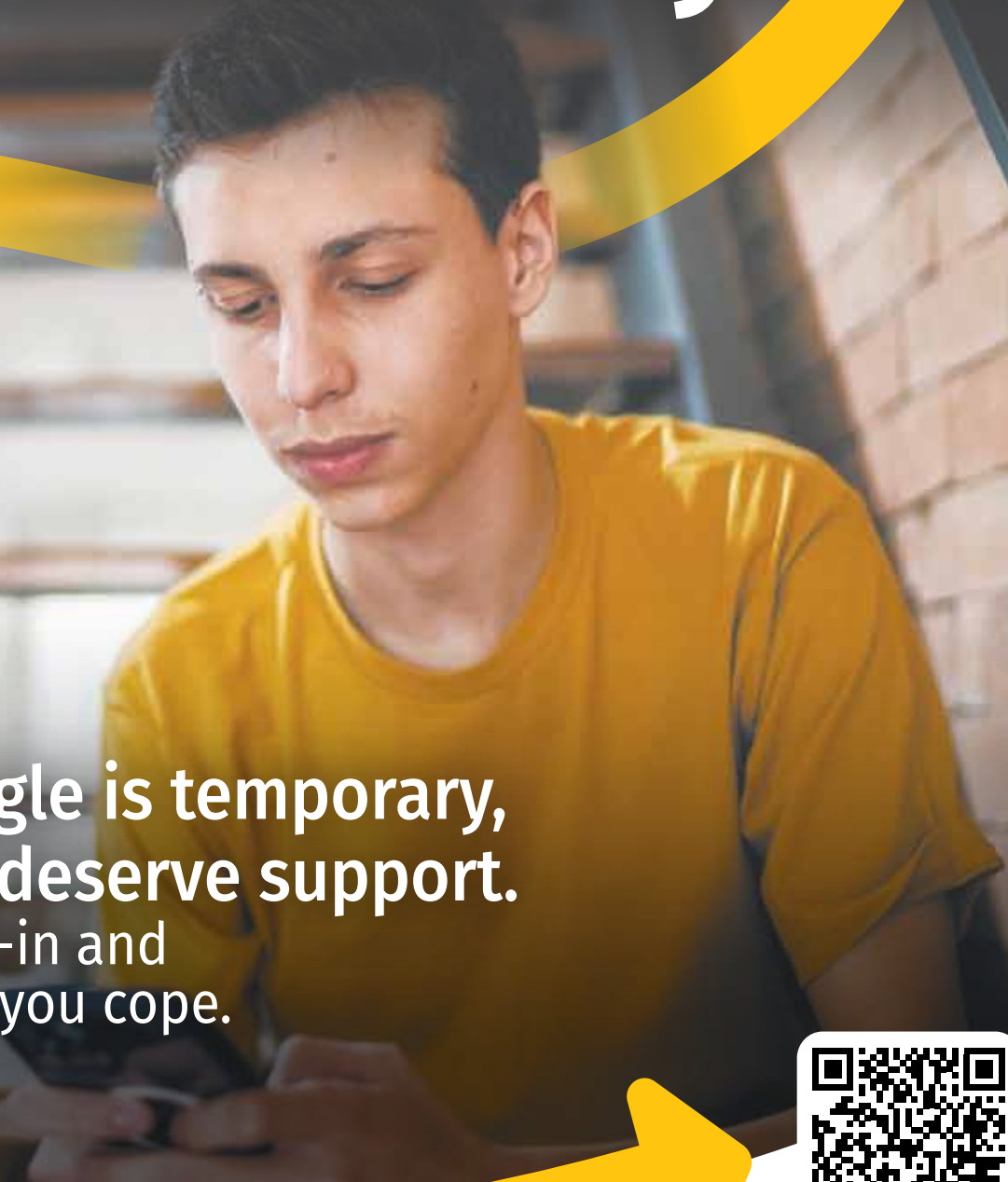
of Orange County, Texas

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# Have you checked in with yourself today?




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Health and Human Services

**Get started today at**  
[hhs.texas.gov/services/health/prevention/turn-to/turn-to-check-in](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/prevention/turn-to/turn-to-check-in)







Everyone at Bridge City High School turned out Tuesday morning for a special pep rally send-off for the Cardinal Marching Band as the band left in a chartered bus for the UIL state marching contest. This is the fourth straight year the band, under the direction of Tami Goss, has earned its way to the state contest.

## Volunteers to plant young trees Sat.

Staff Report  
For The Record

nadoes, and now drought have killed or damaged thousands of trees across Orange County during the

past few years. On Saturday, volunteers will be able to plant new trees to replace the lost ones during a special day sponsored by Dow Sabine River Operations, Shangri-La gardens, and Keep America Beautiful.

The program is called Retreat and volunteers are to gather at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 4, at Shangri-La, 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange.

While there, the volunteers will be taught how to properly plant a tree. After the lesson, they will be divided into small groups to go to selected public sites in the community to plant young trees that will be provided.

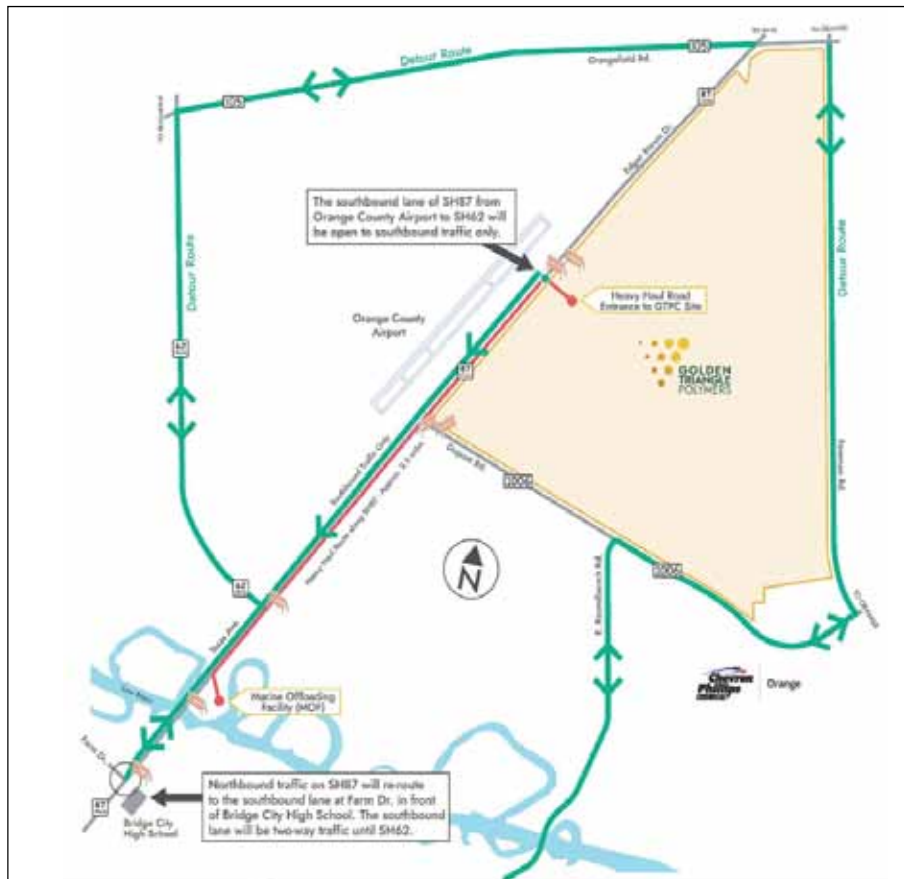
The plantings event will last until about 1 p.m. Volunteers will be provided with light refreshments and lunch.

To register or get more information, call Shangri-La at 409-670-9113.

**Thank You  
For Reading  
'The Record'**



Cedric Stout, a World War II veteran who survived the sinking of the USS Utah when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1942, turns 102 years old next Tuesday, November 7th.



Graphic shows route of expected traffic congestion.

## Traffic changes From Page 1

torists will use the southbound lane of Highway 87 for traveling south only.

The Victory Gardens residential area off Highway 87 outside of Bridge City, will be one of the areas most affected by the traffic changes. Earlier this month, representa-

tives with Golden Triangle Polymers held a neighborhood meeting for people living in the area to explain the changes and guarantee access.

The company's website said all residences and businesses within the area that will be barricade to

through traffic will be able to get to their sites. They can get to their property from Berwick Drive, or by getting the help of one of the flaggers out for the heavy haul to help them cross the northbound lane.

## Thrift and Gift From Page 1

and shoes are available from vintage to recent styles. Baby and toddler clothing, including those with holiday

Homemade craft items might include bird houses,

decorative home items, Christmas decorations, crochet and knit good, plus a number of creative handiworks.

The store's regular hours are Wednesdays,

Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During those hours, customers and donations are accepted.

## Holiday in the Park From Page 1

1 to 1:30 p.m.

From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Gulf Coast Playboys, a group playing Cajun and country music, will perform. Shon Branham will

conclude the program from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

City Secretary Theresa Van Meter said Tuesday that the only vendor spaces left available are three

booths with electricity. Information on rental is available at West Orange City Hall during business hours at 409-883-3468.

# 2023 Holiday in the Park

• FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW •

## Saturday, Nov. 4

• Live Entertainment Schedule •

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**FAMILY  
FUN**

**MUSIC**

**SHON BRANHAM  
9:00 AM**

**WOS ELEMENTARY CHOIR  
10:30 AM**

**MAKE SHIFT  
11:00 AM**

**ANNOUNCE CAR SHOW & DOOR PRIZE WINNERS  
1:00 PM**

**BUBBA & SHARON MEAUX  
1:30 PM**

**GULF COAST PLAYBOYS  
2:30 PM**

**SHON BRANHAM  
4:30 PM**

**9 AM  
TO  
5 PM**

• Kids Activities & Crafts • Unique Vendors •  
• Decorations • Food • Holiday Gifts •

**Alford-Seale Plaza @ 2700 Western Ave. in West Orange  
(Next Door To West Orange City Hall)**





## From the Creaux's Nest

MIKE JOHNSON - N. LOUISIANA BOY  
GOP SPEAKER

New House Speaker **Mike Johnson** inherits many of the same problems that bedeviled **Republican** leaders with far more experience. The Louisiana Republican emerged last week from the lower ranks of the **House GOP** leadership to ascend to speaker. An evangelical Christian who often cites the Bible, **Johnson** worked as an attorney for anti-abortion and Christian groups before running for office. During his four terms in the **House**, he has led an ardently conservative caucus called the **Republican Study Committee**. He also spearheaded a legal effort, championed by then President **Donald Trump** that sought to overturn the 2020 election results in key states that the **Republican** incumbent lost to **Democrat Joe Biden**. **Johnson's** role in the Trump-backed lawsuit quickly became a rallying point for **Republicans**, who vigorously booed a reporter's question about that election on the night that the congressman became nominee for speaker. **Johnson** faces the same questions that vexed **McCarthy**; How to patch together a slim **Republican** majority wracked by feuding? How to keep the government funded and open for business? Does **Congress** provide more wartime aid for **Ukraine**? **Johnson** has no prior working relationship with **Biden**. In a **Fox News** interview this past week, **Johnson** said he had met the president just once before Thursday, when he was invited to the White House to discuss **Biden's** aid request for **Israel and Ukraine**. The new speaker promised an adversarial relationship with the president, saying he and **Biden** agree "on almost no policy." **Johnson** spoke favorably of potentially impeaching **Biden** and Homeland Security Secretary **Alejandro Mayorkas**. Personal tensions are making their way onto the floor of the **House**, which had not considered legislation for three weeks. Several bills to censure **House** members could soon see a vote. Some lawmakers remain upset after they received threats for refusing to support **Jordan**, the Ohio congressman who was the conservative's first choice for speaker. Meanwhile, **Matt Gretz**, R-Florida, the leader of the band of eight disgruntled **Republicans**, who ousted speaker **Kevin McCarthy**, said on the **Steve Bannon** pod-cast, "It's the new **MAGA** party. If you haven't noticed you haven't been paying attention." Well, this writer noticed several months ago and wrote, "**Ronald Reagan's Grand Old Party** has been hijacked and will never again be the same."

## CONDOLENCES

We were saddened to learn that our friend, longtime sports writer **Van Wade's** father had passed away. **William Dow Wade**, age 86, left us October 25. The family held a private memorial service. Our sincere condolences to Van and his family. Please see obituary on our website, therecordlive.com.

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

Longtime Bridge City pharmacist **Doug Harrington** died last Friday, October 25, shortly after 1 p.m. due to cardiac arrest. Over the past year he had several medical issues and was in a specialty hospital for rehab when he was suddenly and unexpectedly called home. Doug had been the owner of Harrington's Pharmacy until he retired. He had also in the past owned pharmacies in Pinehurst and was a partner with **Carl Thibodeaux** in West Orange Pharmacy. Over the years Doug's compassion ran deep. He helped many people, never turning anyone down who needed him. Service was held Wednesday at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.\*\*\*\* **Bum Phillips'** private funeral service at his Goliad ranch last Wednesday was right out of Lonesome Dove. He was buried under his favorite oak tree, in a coffin specially made by Louisiana prison inmates. His body was carried in a hearse built in the cowboy days and drawn by horse. His public memorial service was held Tuesday evening at Houston's Lakewood Church. "Bum" **Phillips** was a proud native of Orange, Texas.\*\*\*\*On Nov. 4, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. our time, Janis Joplin will receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Taking part in the event will be friend Kris Kristofferson, who will do a rendition of "Me and Bobby McGee" the song he wrote and Janis made famous. Joplin is a Port Arthur native.\*\*\*\*On Oct. 29, 1929, 84 years ago, the **Great Depression** began on Black Tuesday.\*\*\*\*I thought about my friend Glenn Oliver when I read this week's column by 93-year-old **Leon Hale**. **Glenn** is a regular reader of Leon's column in the Chronicle. This week he wrote about the talking mule and the Lady Wendy from Fort Worth. Neighbor Cox will also enjoy that column. I save Leon's column for him. Judge Joe Parkhurst was one of Leon's students at Sam Houston.\*\*\*\*A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. On Oct. 30, Attorney **Greg Dumas** celebrates his special day.\*\*\*Also arriving a day ahead of "Trick or Treat" day is Jessica Bradberry, Kevin **Sorrels**, Lau-

ra **Moreaux** and longtime news reporter **Andrea Mitchell**. Her show is at 12 noon on MSNBC. One of the best in news reporting.\*\*\*On Oct. 31 one of the great ladies of Orange County, longtime newspaper reporter **Virgie Mansfield**. Scales turns 102.\*\*\*\*Anna Belle Rost will be attending she and Roy's 60th class reunion at **Abbeville High School** on Nov. 8 and Nov. 9. She says only half of the class is left. She promised to report back to Roy with all the details

## 22 Years Ago-2001

**Elaine Toal**, 71, retired librarian and historian, mother of Tom and Margaret Toal, died this week unexpectedly.\*\*\***Melvin Boyett**, 77, died Oct. 29.\*\*\***Marie Richardson**, 97, died Oct. 29.\*\*\*\***Donna Scales** named employee of the month by Bridge City Chamber. **Christy Gonzales**, along with County Judge **Carl Thibodeaux**, praised Scales for the great job she does as County Parks Director. Scales and her husband of 28 years, **Jimmy**, have three children, Jackie, James IV and Jerrod. She is the daughter of Jack and Vivian Dorman.\*\*\*\***Ron Sigler**, drainage district manager, who has brought the district out of the dark ages, resigns.\*\*\*\*The Arizona Diamondbacks lead the **New York Giants** 2-1. Games will be played in New York Tuesday. **Roger Clements** will pitch game four.\*\*\*\*The Bridge City Lady Cards win District-21, 3-A volley ball title. Head coach is **Matt Little**, asst. coaches are **Sherry Mulholland** and **Lindy Baker**. Players are **Jaelyn Eickendorst**, **Katy Maloney**, **Megan Stephson**, **Ashley Myers**, **Jessica Hammerly**, **Raygon Griffin**, **Meagan Godwin**, **Lainey Hargroder**, **Ashley Guillory**, **Jessica Lemoine**, **Amy Ballard**, **Julia Curl**, **Katie Faulk** and **Laura Gremillion**.\*\*\*\*A big football shootout at the Bridge City Corral this week as the Cardinals draw down on Newton to secure district title. Both teams are undefeated. Bridge City won district last season with a 36-14 win over Newton. Some of the B.C. players are **Michael Gauthier**, **Jeremy Bird**, **Luke Wolford**, **Dwayne Breaux**, **Justin Cruse**, **Lance Fitts**, **Dustin Bock**, **Aaron McGuire**, **Langston Fults**, **Chris Harvey**, **Joe Khoury**, **Chris Jetton**, **Scott Lambert**, **Jason Yeaman**, **Pat Godwin**, **Shannon Maloney**, **Robert Melich**, **Luther Sanders** and **Matt McCain**. (Editor's note: Our apologies to those not mentioned. What a great group of athletes this bunch was.)\*\*\*\***Jillian Denise Boswell**, born Oct. 16, weighted in at 7 pounds and 13 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches tall. Parents are **Carolyn** and **Cory Boswell**, grandparents are **Johnny** and **Darlene Montagne** and **Billy Boswell** and **Carla Farley**.

## 47 Years Ago-1976

**Senator-elect Carl Parker** and State Rep. **Wayne Peveto** hold a public forum at courthouse. They ask citizens for input in order to best represent them in up-coming session.\*\*\*\*The yearly police officers barbecue, hosted by BC Police Chief **Wilson Roberts**, to be held next weekend.\*\*\*\***Roy Wingate** has been under the weather for some time. He was admitted to Orange hospital. They discovered he has ulcers. He says the test are worse than the illness.\*\*\*\***Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Coverdale** cites **Tommy Segura** for his outstanding work in the Air Force and as a credit to 117 Technical Air Left Wing of the U.S. Air Force.\*\*\*\***Betty Harmon** played host to the monthly dinner club. She loaded 14 folks in her travel home and brought them to Beaumont for dinner.\*\*\*\***Dist. Judge Fred Trimble** is recuperating in Houston after having his right leg amputated. He is expected to resign from the bench soon. **Gov. Dolph Briscoe** would appoint the new judge.\*\*\*\***Cole Plumbing Co.** owner **Don** is building a new building at the intersection of LaPointe and Roundbunch Road.\*\*\*\***Dot Eshbach**, owner of The Kottage, has begun construction on two additional stores adjacent to The Kottage.\*\*\*\***Jeff Peveto** runs wild in a 22-0 defeat of **Lumberton** by the **Orangefield Bobcats**, **Brian Day**, quarterback, **Randy Schinch**, **Todd Goss** were among the standouts for **Coach Ed Peveto's** wild bunch.

## A FEW HAPPENINGS

We are sorry to announce that **Sen. Carl Parker** is back in hospital and may not have a column for awhile. His column is very popular and will be missed. We wish the Senator a speedy recovery. We look forward to his returning to his computer and column.\*\*\*\*Longtime besties **Betty Harmon** and **Cecil Broome** got together last week again as they met up for the advisory board meeting of the **Orange County Salvation Army**. The two were out and about, being driven and accompanied by their daughters, **Debora Harmon Lanciaux**, and **Dianne Broome Stephenson**. During the board meeting, they got to meet the two new local Salvation Army captains, **Dante** and **Tiffany Salgado**. A couple of days later, **Betty** had a festive 87th birthday celebration at the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Bridge City, where she is now living.\*\*\*\*The **Bridge City Education Foundation** had perfect weather for its benefit golf tournament. Of course **Mickey Litton Gisclar** was there helping and financially supporting the group that helps supplement education in classrooms in the district. **Mickey** is not only a **BCHS** graduate, her parents, **Moe** and **Helen Litton**, were longtime educators in the district.\*\*\*\*Halloween ain't just for kids. Lots of spooky adults were out Saturday night for parties and get-togethers. One zombie grop included **Jennifer McConnell**, **Shannon Halliburton**, **Janoise Grizzaffi**, **Brad** and **Terri Childs**, and **Adam Conrad**.\*\*\*\***Denisha** and **Matt LeFleur** had a "spooky" party at their **M&D Ranch**. **Denisha's** parents, **Ross** and **Eva Smith** attended.\*\*\*\*The **Stark High Class of 1973** had its 50th reunion during the weekend. Out-of-towners coming in included **Allison Williams** and **Ann Sanders Gray Spencer**. Golfing guy classmates gathered before the party for a round and included **Tom Alleman**, **Keith Certa**, **Bill Hernandez**, **Tom Toal**, **Oliver Seastrunk**, **Johnny Blanda**, **Tom Schmid**, **Woodrow Bishop**, **Carl Rasmussen**, **Craig Nugent**, and **Mike Ryan**.\*\*\*\*Orange County had a good showing in Beaumont this weekend at the **Republican Lincoln-Reagan banquet**. U.S. Representative **Jim Jordan**, who was fresh out of the spotlight after his failed

bid for speaker of the house, was the featured guest. OC's state representative, **Dade Phelan**, who is speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, introduced **Jordan**. Also seen from OC were West Orange City Councilor **Lanie Brown**, who still works for U.S. Representative **Brian Babin**, **Michelle Tubbleville**, and **Sheila Faske**.\*\*\*\*Celebrations continue for the family of **Tony** and **Nancy Dallas** as they continue their journey with **Tony's** ALS. Their youngest, professional baseball pitcher **Chad Dallas** married longtime sweetheart, **Madison**. They've been together since middle school. **Chad's** niece, **Drue**, served as a flower girl, but baby niece **Honey** is still wrapped in swaddling.\*\*\*\*A few folks we know who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. On Nov. 1, All Saint's Day, we wish Happy Birthday to **Coach Chris Moore**, **Whitney Gonzales**, **Kyle Prosperie**, **Lauren Bland**, **Marla Carter**, **Nancy Blacksher**, **Rebecca Phelps** and **David Moreau**.\*\*\*\*Nov. 2 is **Dale Dardeau's** big day. We've been wishing Happy Birthday to **Dale** for 50 years. Glad he's made it to the last quarter, it's also **Joyce Grant**, **Julia Letcher**, and **Amy Skidmore's** big day. A special birthday greeting to **Nathaniel Melvin**, **Ms. Phyl** and **Roy's** great-grandson and **Mark's** oldest grandchild who turns 22. **Nate** is in the Air Force and serving overseas.\*\*\*\*On Nov. 3 the **Bearden** twins, **Hutch** and **Hallie** turn 17. Also a special person **Denise Stanton** has her big day, along with **Louise Fuselier**, **Tommy Green**, **Vicki Lowe** and **David Hebert**.\*\*\*\*Nov. 4 finds **Gail Hass**, **Kathy Arceneaux**, **Kim Moore**, **Louise Fuselier** and **Pam Guyote** celebrating birthdays. **Laura Bush** turns 75.\*\*\*\*Nov. 5, Daylight Savings Time ends today. I believe **John Dubose** has another birthday also **Charlotte Chesson** celebrates along with **Camden Walton**, **Gina Beaulieu** and **Kember Ess**.\*\*\*\*Nov. 6 Happy Birthday to "Big John" **Johnny Montagne**, who has traveled many years since his boxing days when he was once ranked number three in the world. With the help of **Darlene** he's just a granddad to the flock. Celebrating also is **Jackie Litton**, **Greg Broussard**, **Robert Rubel**, **Carrie Larson**, and **Faye Harrington**.\*\*\*\*Nov. 7, our buddy, **Pearl Harbor** survivor, one of the few left in the country, **Cedric Stout**, turns 102 today. When not napping, he's watching Gun Smoke or doing both at the same time. Otherwise he and **Cherry** are doing fine. Celebrating also are **Clariss Collins**, **Barbara Lopez**, **Cheryl Swenson** and **Chuckie Ganze**. \*\*Other birthdays celebrated, **Shirley Parker** turned 89 this week. She's the mother of **Dr. Calvin Parker** and **Lucy Terry**, celebrity cook at **Lucy's Cafe** in Pinehurst. **Lucy** had two birthdays on the same day. Her husband, **D.D. Terry**, turned 65.\*\*\***Skipper Yeaman** had a birthday, but no word on what his present from wife, **Gina**, was. He's known for his tastes in gifts to **Gina**, so it might be hard for her to top. Others with birthdays include **Marvin Edwards** turning 60, **Steve Williams**, **Mike White**, **Matthew Emmons**, **Coy Pattison**, **Chris Judge**, **Sandra Hodge Charrier**, **Ryder Theriot**, **Angela Vail**, **Jimmy Verrett**, **Geranique Dugas**, **Lauren Walter**, **Yolanda Young**, **Becky Green**, and **Frederick Robinson**.\*\*\*\***Brodrick** and **Leigh Anne Dallas Harrell** celebrated their first anniversary. **Tammy** and **Shawn Davis** celebrate 45 years of marriage. Others with wedding anniversaries during the week were **Corey** and **Rene Simon**, and **Adam** and **Shanna Caillavet**. Happy anniversary also to **Harriet** and **David Dubose** on their anniversary.

## CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**TeeNeg Dartz** him,, took a trip to visit his Sout Louisiana relatives over da Tanksiving holiday. He tells us, over dere, between **Crowley** and **Kaplan**, he ran off da road him into a big ditch. He crawl out dat car and he walk to **Oris Broussard's** house.

The farmer tole him he would come help got him out wit his big horse **Buddy**. He hitched **Buddy** to dat car and **Oris** him holler, "Pull **Nellie**, pull." **Buddy** him he don't move.

Den da farmer he hollered, "Pull **Buster**, pull." **Nutten** happen. "Pull **Cσ-Cσ**, pull, still nutten.

Den nonchalantly **Oris** say, "Pull **Buddy**, pull." **Dat** horse easily pull **Dartz's** car rat out of dat ditch.

**TeeNeg** he sho appreciats dat but he couldn't stand it. He had to axe da farmer why he call dat horse by da wrong name tree times him.

**Oris** answer, "Well, it's like dis, old **Buddy** him is blind and stubborn, if he t'ought him dat he was da only one pulling he wouldn't do it.

## C'EST TOUT

Cardinal Support Squad "Prayer for "Mungy"

**Bridge City Cardinal** football player **Abraham Munguia**, sustained a significant injury on the football field this past Friday. He was immobilized and life-flighted to Texas Children's Hospital. **Mungy** has regained movement in his extremities, but is still experiencing some numbness. The community wants to support this amazing kid and his family during this very difficult time with a **T-Shirt sale**. All proceeds will go to the **Munguia Family** to help them with medical expenses and any needs that may arise. You can contact **Christine Diaz Moore** on Facebook or donations sent to her through **Venmo @mrschris813**, shirts are \$22.00. If you can't afford a shirt and just want to donate a dollar, please feel free. Lastly, please pray for **Abraham's** complete healing and restoration.\*\*\*\* Read us cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers when possible. To publish birthdays or anniversaries, free of charge, give us a call at 409-886-7183 or reach us on our web site, therecordlive.com. Have a nice week. Take care and God bless.





# My 5-Cents

A monthly column from Sen. Robert Nichols

by Sen. Robert Nichols  
Senate District 3

On October 25, 1886, the Texas State Fair opened in Dallas. For 137 years, the Fair has operated in Dallas. During the first State Fair, a rival organization opened the Dallas Exposition at the same time. Both fairs were successful and drew crowds of over 35,000 people a day at the time. Eventually the groups merged and became the State Fair of Texas. The current fair grounds in Fair Park were the original location of the Dallas Exposition. The grounds were expanded in 1936 when it became the site of the Texas Centennial Exposition.

Here are five things happening around your state:

**1. Texas ranks as one of most talented states**

According to a recent report, Texas is one of the most talented states in the nation. Texas ranked third in a list that evaluated how many film, music, sports, and comedy stars are from each state. Only New York and California exceed Texas' over 8,000 native-born stars. Those two states are boosted by actors and comedians, where Texas excels with the most professional athletes. There are more than 1,000 more notable athletes from Texas than the next highest ranking state, Illinois. Most star athletes from Texas play football or baseball, but there are still significant numbers of basketball and hockey players as well. Texas is followed by Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Michigan, New Hersey, and Massachusetts.

**2. Third special session update**

This month, the Governor called the Legislature back for the Third Called Special Session. Topics on the call include border security, public safety, ending COVID vaccine mandates, and education savings accounts. The Senate got started quickly, passing five Senate bills in our first week of special session. Senate Bill 1 establishes the education savings account program. While I did not vote for SB 1, it passed the Senate and is now in the House.

Senate Bill 2 is a wide-ranging public school finance bill that includes teacher pay raises, an increase in the basic allotment, and an increase in school safety funding. Senate Bill 4 relates to border security especially penalties for smuggling or operating a stash house. Senate Bill 11 also relates to border security creating a criminal offense of improper entry from a foreign nation. Lastly, Senate Bill 7 prohibits private employers from adopting or enforcing a requirement for employees to have



the COVID-19 vaccine. All of these bill passed the Senate and are now in the House where they are being further refined and debated. This special session will last a maximum of 30 days, bringing it to a close around November 9.

**3. Jacksonville-based business to be featured on Shark Tank**

Shark Tank, a business reality television series, is set to feature local Jacksonville businessmen for their innovative new product. Called the "Krapp Strapp," the product helps outdoorsmen when nature calls while they're in the woods. The simple, but effective, invention was developed by Keith Lindsey and Bob Legg of Air Boss Outdoors. While their top selling products are waterfowl decoys, this new product is the one that opened the door for them to appear on the show. Be sure to tune into the episode which will air November 3.

**4. Texas hits new record for job growth**

Texas' job count hit a historic milestone last month, surpassing 14 million jobs. Employment increased by over 61,000 positions over the month, marking 31 consecutive months of growth. Texas' annual growth rate of 3.2 percent beat the national growth rate by 1.1 percentage points. Employment in nine of Texas' eleven major industries expanded over the month. Those industries are trade, transportation, utilities, professional and business services, private education and health services, and manufacturing.

**5. TWC awards training grant to Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas**

The Texas Workforce Commission announced this month it awarded Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas a \$15,000 grant for High Demand Job Training to prepare workers in East Texas for long-term, high-demand careers. The High Demand Job Training program is part of a statewide effort to support collaboration between Workforce Development Boards and local economic development entities. The partnerships create job training programs for high-demand occupations. The grant will be used in conjunction with Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation to help over 60 students from the local school district earn certifications in occupations such as healthcare, forklift operations, and risk management.

**• Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts at WUMC**

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. Pecan 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.

# Mooney accomplishments

From 2A

forcement. These police drones cover large areas swiftly, delivering vital information more efficiently than traditional ground operations. This innovation enables first responders to react promptly to emergencies and manage incidents effectively.

**5. Enhanced Patrol in Neglected Areas:**

Under Sheriff Mooney's leadership, areas in Orange County that had not seen police presence in 15 years received increased patrol. This strategic approach led to a 28% reduction in property crimes since 2019, safeguarding the community's well-being.

**6. Pioneering Domestic Violence Awareness Initiatives:**

Working collaboratively with other agencies, Sheriff Mooney's office introduced the State of Texas to its first Domestic Violence Awareness patrol car. This symbolizes his dedication to community welfare, especially in areas that need it most.

**7. Engaging with Youth:**

Sheriff Mooney takes an active role in visiting local schools and engaging with children. His willingness to invest time in the younger generation fosters trust, strengthens community bonds, and instills important values in the leaders of tomorrow.

**8. Strengthening Safety in Schools:**

Acknowledging the need for proactive security measures, Sheriff Mooney increased active shooter training for deputies, ensuring Orange County's preparedness to handle school shootings and safeguard the lives of students and staff.

**9. Positive Change in Orange County:**

In his short term as Sheriff, the county

has seen substantial positive change. Crime rates have decreased, law enforcement capabilities have been modernized, and community engagement has never been stronger. Under Sheriff Mooney's guidance, Orange County has thrived and evolved into a safer and more vibrant community.

**10. A Sheriff Who Cares:**

Sheriff Mooney's service goes beyond his official duties. He actively participates in various community events and initiatives, reinforcing his commitment to serving Orange County in multiple capacities.

When Mooney took office as sheriff, he was tasked with creating a team that would protect the citizens of Orange County. He didn't take the easy road; instead, he went through personnel files and made the difficult decisions required to assemble a team that he believed would excel in their mission to ensure the safety and security of our community. Sheriff Mooney's commitment to the rigorous selection process showcased his dedication to putting together a law enforcement team that would not only meet but exceed the expectations of the citizens of Orange County. This commitment to assembling a capable and dedicated force is a testament to his unwavering dedication to the safety and wellbeing of our community.

In light of Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney's exemplary track record and the positive change he has brought to Orange County, the question arises: why change what is working? Sheriff Mooney's dedication to Orange County, innovative approach to law enforcement, and commitment to community welfare make him the clear choice for re-election.

As Orange County continues to thrive under his leadership, the decision to re-elect Sheriff Mooney is a choice for safety, progress, and a brighter future for the community.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

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### 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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### GRANT SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE

RFP-2023-05-HMGP-FMA

The Orange County Drainage District is soliciting providers for one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for RFP-2023-05-HMGP-FMA. Accordingly, the Orange County Drainage District seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for pre-award and post-award management of HMA project(s). Interested Respondents may find copies of RFP-2023-05-HMGP-FMA ("RFP") on the District's website at: <https://www.ocddtx.com/purchasing/> (search under "Current Procurement Opportunities") and at <https://www.civcastusa.com> (search for "Orange County Drainage District"). Please submit (5) physical copies of your proposal of services and statement of qualifications ("SOQs") to Mr. Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser, at the Orange County Drainage District located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, TX 77630 ("District Office"). To be eligible for consideration, the District must receive SOQs no later than **12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023, at the District Office.** The District will publicly open submitted SOQs at **2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023, at the District Office.** The District reserves the right to negotiate with all Respondents submitting eligible SOQs. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The Orange County Drainage District is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### ENGINEERING SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE

RFQ-2023-06-HMGP-FMA

The Orange County Drainage District is soliciting providers for one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for RFQ-2023-06-HMGP-FMA. Accordingly, the Orange County Drainage District seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for pre-award and post-award management of HMA project(s). Interested Respondents may find copies of RFQ-2023-06-HMGP-FMA ("RFQ") on the District's website at: <https://www.ocddtx.com/purchasing/> (search under "Current Procurement Opportunities") and at <https://www.civcastusa.com> (search for "Orange County Drainage District"). Please submit (5) physical copies of your proposal of services and statement of qualifications ("SOQs") to Mr. Joe Escobedo, District Purchaser, at the Orange County Drainage District located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, TX 77630 ("District Office"). To be eligible for consideration, the District must receive SOQs no later than **12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023, at the District Office.** The District will publicly open submitted SOQs at **2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023, at the District Office.** The District reserves the right to negotiate with all Respondents submitting eligible SOQs. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The Orange County Drainage District is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



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# Bears finish district schedule at Huffman

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The battle for the district championship did not turn out the way Little Cypress Mauriceville wanted it to go. The Bears will play their district finale before preparing for the start of the post season next week.



Quarterback Dylan Payne of LCM severely injured his right shoulder in the game with Lumberton and will be unavailable to the Bears for the remainder of the season. RECORD PHOTO

Little Cypress Mauriceville fell behind the Lumberton Raiders 24-0 before scoring a touchdown for the final points of the game. The Raiders clinched the championship staying undefeated in district with a single game left on the schedule.

LCM Coach Eric Peevey reflected on losing the game to Lumberton. "It was a tough loss being Senior Night for us and playing for a district championship. We would like to have gotten more production than seven points. There were definitely some bright spots. I thought our defense played fantastic throughout the game at different times," Peevey replied.

The score could have been closer. Peevey explained, "We gave up some big plays especially the first series on a pass route we worked to cover all week that the Raiders made a little wrinkle to it that our corner didn't sink deep enough and they hit a big pass play on us. I felt like our defense kept us in the game, but we couldn't get out of our own way on offense."

The Bears ran the ball well when they needed to,

but the passing game needed to be better. "When you play in big games and you have wide open or potential big plays you've got to hit it. We didn't and that changed everything. Our hats off to Lumberton because they are a heck of a football team," Peevey saluted.

Another disappointing aspect in the game was the injury to LCM quarterback Dylan Payne in the fourth quarter. Payne suffered a really bad separation of his right shoulder under his collarbone on his 20-yard run for a first down.

Payne was sent to the hospital after the game and will not play the remainder of the season for Little Cypress Mauriceville. Dylan went to the doctor early this week for an MRI to check if there were any tears in the muscles around his shoulder.

Peevey expressed, "Dylan's a really tough kid and has done some great things for us, and I really

hate losing him, but in football you have to be prepared for the next guy up. I thought Evan Worcester came in and did a good job leading us down the field for a touchdown. It's his time to go this week."

A couple of Bears will return to the team this week. Jackson Smith missed the Lumberton game but has been cleared to play for the Bears on Friday. Running back Dustin Helm who has been sidelined because of an injury will play his first



Bridge City Cardinal Kolby LeBlanc tackles a Silsbee Tiger ball carrier as Big Red's Aden Lapeyrolerie in pursuit for the assist. (SEE ARTICLE 3B) RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson

BATTLIN' Page 4B

# Bobcats play E Chambers on Thursday

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

There will not be a district championship this year in football for Orangefield. The Bobcats will be playing this week for second place in the district with the playoffs a week away.



Linebacker Kyle Michael of Orangefield injured his knee last week and will be held out of this week's game in the hope that he will be available for the Bobcats when the playoffs start next week.

The Bobcats played at Kirbyville last week and suffered their first loss in district action 34-19 to the Wildcats. Kirbyville completed district 5-1 to claim the district championship since the best Orangefield can do is match the same district record but the Wildcats own the tiebreaker by virtue of their win over the Bobcats and an earlier win against East Chambers which also has just one loss in district going into this week's final regular season game.

Coach Josh Smalley knew the game was going to be a challenge for Orangefield against a very good Kirbyville team. "It was basically a disappointing loss, but as far as being frustrated with us I will just tip my cap to the Wildcats and congratulate those guys as a good football team which has won a lot of games this year. Maybe it was more about what Kirbyville did than it was about us," Smalley replied.

Smalley admitted, "We didn't play our best or coach our best." The Bobcats had not turned the ball over in their four previous games, but against

Kirbyville they turned it over twice one of which was a pick six by the Wildcats who also returned a kick for a touchdown. Smalley said Orangefield did not run the ball the way he wanted to against a good defense.

Corrections need to be made in order for the Bobcats to be ready this week. "There's no doubt we've got a lot of things to correct. That is the great beauty of the coaching profession in sports, you don't have a whole lot of time to pout and sulk. We've got to get off the ground and get ready for a really good East Chambers team," Smalley commented.

Another loss for the Bobcats other than the one on the scoreboard was the services of Kyle Michael to a knee injury. Michael who is a starter at inside linebacker was scheduled for an MRI this

ORANGEFIELD Page 4B

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**HUNTING SEASON . . .**

# Duck hunters still seeking success from the past

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



**Chuck Uzzle**

"You remember when...." is a question that I am hearing all too often these days, especially when I am talking to water fowlers. Less than a decade ago our area marshes were a haven for all types of migratory birds, world class wing shooting at its best. The skies were filled with ducks and geese and the local hospitality and great Cajun cuisine made this part of the world a magnet for hunters from all around the globe. Well the food and hospitality are still here but the birds are noticeably absent. The area from east of Galveston bay all the way over towards Lafayette Louisiana is just not what it used to be in terms of duck and goose hunting, and that is a scary thought for many hunters.

In years past it wasn't uncommon to see the big flights of ducks invade our marshes and settle in for awhile, they would stay until the next wave of birds came down and so the cycle continued much to the delight of area hunters. Duck leases in this part of the country commanded high price tags and usually had long waiting lists and that is not the case anymore. More and more local hunters are giving up on a sport they love in favor of other winter pursuits, the decoys are getting dusty while the rifles, rods, and reels are getting a workout.

Now don't get me wrong because there are some hunters who refuse to give up the pursuit of waterfowl and are now becoming true blue road warriors taking off in search of their favorite birds. Many hunters have now decided to take their hunting budget and use it a bit differently by spending money on trips to high profile destinations instead of local leases. A couple of years ago I guided a gentleman from Georgia who had to be the ultimate road warrior no doubt about it. This hunter took a leave of absence from work and packed his brand new truck full of gear, loaded his dog and left for Canada. Once he reached the far northern end of Canada he began to hunt geese everyday for the next 3 months until he had worked his way all the way down the Central flyway to Texas!

It seems more and more often that hunters on our end of the flyway have to make some sort of move to increase their odds at having a successful hunt. The weather is obviously the biggest concern and factor that local water fowl hunters must learn to deal with. The combination of warm or cold winters coupled with sporadic rainfall to our north turns most hunters into part time fortune tellers predicting the future. This year we may actually get a break due to the fact that we finally get a few factors in our favor. The most important is the lack of standing water farther up the flyway. Now don't get the wrong impression we still shoot ducks and geese in this area but it certainly has changed over the past decade or two. The changing face of agriculture and climates has done a number on the once steady migration patterns that were established over time. Hopefully in the future nature will again right itself and bring things back around full circle like it once was. Until then duck and goose hunters will have to either come up with new and innovative ways to get the job done here at home or head out to other parts of the country to enjoy their sport. One thing is for sure and that is as long as there are ducks to be hunted you can bet there will be hunters out there doing everything they can to bag them.

## 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. Bird action on Sabine Lake has increased on outgoing tides on the south end working north to midlake for catches of redfish and bull redfish. Work 3/4 ounce gold and silver spoons, or 3/4 ounce jighead glo chartreuse plastics off the bottom.

South Levee producing nice trout and redfish along the rocks with live shrimp under a popping cork or four foot white crankbaits. North Levee first and second pike continues to boast good catches of trout early morning with 4-5 inch topwaters, midday crankbaits or 3/4 ounce jighead with glo chartreuse plastics. Nice speckled and redfish along the ICW rock piles and points with live shrimp under a popping cork, or 1/4 ounce jigheads with glo chartreuse plastics.

The cold front pushed a lot of bait out of the Bessie Heights Marsh so key on jumping shrimp and bird action. Redfish, sheepshead and drum are good on 1/4-3/4ounce jigheads with glo chartreuse plastics near buoys, mouths of turnarounds and points.

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 80 degrees. The surf is holding numbers of black drum, shark, and some big redfish on cut bait or live bait on the bottom. The gulfside of the North Jetty is holding limits of trout, redfish, sheepshead with an occasional bull redfish against the rocks with live shrimp with popping cork. The cuts leading in the bay from ICW holding redfish against shorelines by the rocks. Lots of black drum around Goat Island.

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

• **Trinity Bay**

GOOD. 76 degrees. Birds are working over schools of speckled trout in the northern end of the bay. Numbers of bull redfish being caught in the open bay under diving birds. The bays north of the Fred Hartman Bridge giving up decent numbers of speckled trout. Best bite on live shrimp. Rocks along the channel in this area are good for redfish and black drum. Best bite on live shrimp under corks.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 73-77 degrees. Calm winds have allowed the anglers to chase schools of trout under working birds. Those drifting deeper reefs are finding scattered trout and redfish. Shorelines have been better for redfish and flounder near drains on the outgoing tide. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter.

Surface water temperature 73 degrees, water clarity good for the most

part. Fishing continues to improve in East Galveston Bay with cooler air and water temperatures due to the mild front that pushed through and good tide movement over the past week. We were able to fish near and off the shore reefs this week, and both areas produced great catches of trout, redfish and a few black drum on our artificial trips. We also fished flats around

pinch points with current and nervous bait, with great success, when the wind did not cooperate with us. Marker 54 Glide Shrimp with Fish Smack popping corks with 12-18 inch leaders, and live shrimp are producing continuous bites for anglers. Until next time! Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

The gas wells are holding some drum. Lil Hanna's Reef is holding some trout on popping cork with live shrimp. Siever's and Stingaree's Cuts are holding fish against the shorelines.

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## The Lakes Fishing . . .

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water clear; 80 degrees; 4.34 feet below pool. Bass are slow with a few fish in the backs of creeks bends in 4-7 feet on Texas rigs and shallow running crankbaits. The main lake has been tough to fish due to the south winds, but when the winds calm target bass in 12-18 feet of water on the end of main lake ridge or main lake points using Texas or Carolina rig with big worms, and 9-10 inch and shad colored big crankbaits. Crappie bite has improved with the best bite on minnows in 14-18 feet of water over brush, or a dock near creek bends. There are reports of water starting to turnover around the bridge and north of there, so if you see brown bubbles floating around you need to find a new area to fish. Most times it only takes a few days for this to pass, and fish begin feeding again. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 70 degrees; 5.89 feet below pool. Fishing patterns are holding steady. Some bass are feeding shallow 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.

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# Bridge City closes out season against Liberty

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Bridge City Cardinals will close out their football season on Friday. The game will be played for pride by the Cardinals and for a teammate who will not be able to make the trip to this final game of the year.

Bridge City played a physical game last week with the Silsbee Tigers. The Cardinals lost 33-7 to the state ranked Tigers.

The game was close up to about half time when the Tigers scored late in the second quarter to open their lead and swing the momentum in Silsbee's favor. Gavin Bodin of the Cardinals recovered from his run in with a play clock the week before and scored the touchdown for Bridge City.

Coach Chad Landry of the Cardinals was proud of the effort his players gave. "We matched Silsbee's physicality and it was a good ball game. Gavin was cleared with no contact through the week at practices. He performed extremely well for us Friday night. The first time he got hit we were all kind of waiting to see, and he gave the first down signal so we said okay, okay, Gavin's back this is good," Landry recalled.

The game had a disconcerting conclusion for Bridge City and their fans. Cardinal sophomore Abraham Mungia was returning a kickoff when he



Bryce Linder runs with the football after making a pass reception for the Cardinals. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson



Jerris Brown of the Cardinals pulls in a pass for good yardage against Silsbee. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson

was hit out of bounds landing on the track injuring his head and neck.

Abraham was responsive to Bridge City trainer Bry Salazar and the coaches who were concerned for him. Landry said, "Abraham never lost consciousness and all the feelings in his legs. He could feel all the extremities, could move his hands, he could grip, he could move his feet, he could move his toes, so that was positive. He never lost consciousness and was chatting with us. He actually said, 'I'm still playing football, I'm still playing football!'"

Landry gives a lot of credit to trainer Salazar for the phenomenal job she did with Mungia. Salazar attended Abraham for close to an hour on the track to make sure he did not move his head before turning Mungia over to the EMTs.

A life flight helicopter took Mungia to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Landry visited with 'Mungy' as he is called by his teammates and coaches on Monday at the hospital.

Landry did not want to speculate on a prognosis for Abraham. "I saw him

this morning, and I'll tell you what the kid never stopped smiling. He's extremely positive. He and his mom are just great people. The community got together and sent gift cards and stuff Mungy needed and it was great to see him still positive and smiling," Landry responded.

Also getting recognition from the coach are the sincere thoughts and well wishes from all of the local athletic directors from high schools in this area. Landry thanked, "It's been an out pouring of support. It's been great to see. Ev-

erything that I get I forward it to him. He's just a great kid in a tough spot, but he's going to continue to battle through it."

The Cardinals with a win against the Liberty Panthers would finish in fifth place one rung below making the playoffs. Win or not Bridge City has shown a marked improvement over last season when it won only one game.

Coach Landry reflected on the significance of this game. "I think we're playing for more than just pride at this moment. I think we're going to play

for our teammate and prepare this week with Mungy on our mind. I feel like our guys are ready to compete and get on the field again. I just don't know how they're going react yet. I am anxious to see how we react once we kickoff. I think we'll be fine. It's just a matter of how we prepare this week and get our guys through this week," Landry concluded.

The Bridge City Cardinals and the Liberty Panthers play their final game of this season. The contest will be in Liberty at 7:30 on Friday night.

## Orangefield From Page 1B

week to check the extent of the injury. Coach Smalley confirmed Kyle will not play against East Chambers.

The final game of the regular season pits Orangefield against East Chambers. The two teams have both lost to Kirbyville, but otherwise have been successful in their other four district games.

On offense the Buccaneers are multiple from the shotgun. They will get into the Spread but will usually operate from a power alignment with an H-Back and tight end type offense.

The East Chambers' offense is directed by freshman KJ Fontenot who was young when the season started, but now has ten games under his belt. Smalley evaluated, "We don't really consider Fontenot a freshman any more, he's playing really well right now."

Senior Hadyn Reeves is the leading running back for the Bucs and is the top

rusher in the district for the season gaining 940 yards on 130 carries with 20 touchdowns. Reeves runs the ball hard and reminds Smalley of his former star running back Cameron Dischler. Reeves is bigger, and like Dischler was is hard to bring down according to the coach.

The Buccaneers have also made good use of Ja'den Thibodeaux running the football. Thibodeaux is averaging 9.07 yards a carry in district games with six touchdowns.

There is some speed with the skill players at East Chambers. Wide receiver Jarrell Smith is the defending district champion in the 100-meter dash and is the leading pass catcher for the Buccaneers with 15 receptions good for 172 yards and one touchdown. The tight end Jamison Pitre and H-Back Matthew Reddell are other targets for Fontenot to throw passes.

As mentioned before East Chambers is multiple

in its attack on offense. "The Buccaneers do a lot. They throw screen passes, they throw deep balls, they throw out routes. I really feel like they're more of a run first team. They are kind of like us they like to just line up and power run the football down your throat, but they do also have the ability to throw it and the quarterback obviously has the option to run or pass as well," Smalley pointed out.

Defensively East Chambers will base out of a four-man front, but have shown the ability to switch into a five-man line depending on the opposing offense. In last year's

game between the Bobcats and Buccaneers they used both alignments on defense.

Coach Smalley replied,

"We'll prepare for everything. The good news is it's stuff we kind of see every week from other teams."

Standouts on defense for the Buccaneers include defensive end Kyler Smith

BOBCATS Page 5B



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# WOS Mustangs play Hawks before starting playoffs

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



**The bye week for the Mustangs has allowed Daylen Edwards to heal up his sore shoulder and he will be ready to play against Hardin-Jefferson on Friday.**

This past week was the bye week for West Orange-Stark. This week is the final game of the regular season and then next week is the first round of the state playoffs for the Mustangs.

With their bye week so late in the season the Mustangs took the time to heal up some injuries from the first nine weeks of the year and especially the Week 9 contest. "The Jasper game was a real physical game. We had some Mustangs banged up. We were able to get those guys some rest and get some treatment on some of them. I think everybody needed a little rest when your bye is so late," WOS Head Coach Hiawatha Hickman replied.

Workouts last week were intentionally less physical. Hickman explained, "We practiced a little different. We took it easy on the Mustangs to allow them to get their legs back under them for this next run because we've got HJ and then the playoffs coming up. It was

good to kind of step back, relax, and get away from it while working on some things we needed to do."

One of the Mustangs that benefitted from the week without a game is Tahj Amerson who has been playing on both offense and defense for West Orange-Stark. Amerson had an injury to his back and should be fine to play this week after resting it during the bye week.

Daylen Edwards at defensive tackle had a shoulder problem and resting it will him to be available. Quarterback Marcus Turner hyperextended his knee in the

game against Jasper, but is healed up with the off week and should be back to one hundred percent. "I feel now going into HJ we'll be real healthy and ready to roll," Hickman responded.

Hardin-Jefferson is the opponent for West Orange-Stark in Week 11. The Hawks have had a tough season losing all nine of their games scoring 99 points while allowing 410 in those games.

The Hawks base their offense out of the Spread. They will split their four wide receivers either two to both sides or will use three to one side and a single receiver on the opposite side of the field.

An H-Back formation is an alternative Hardin-Jefferson will employ. The Hawks will run the counter, the buck sweep, and are pretty similar to WOS in the plays they use out of the Spread throwing and running the ball.

A standout for the Hawks is tight end Wyatt Samaha who is a D-1 college football prospect. Hickman described, "Wyatt's big, fast, and you have to account for where he is. They put him

in as a blocker and as a receiver."

The quarterback position has been inherited by freshman Bryndyn Lee. The starter last year transferred to Anahuac, and his replacement was injured earlier in the season leaving the job to Lee.

Despite their winless record some the Hawks look good on film according to Hickman. Receivers Rodrick Russell and Samuel Jones are tall, lean, and athletic looking guys who can be dangerous if they get the football.

A major problem for Hardin-Jefferson has been injuries to members of the offensive line. Four starters for the Hawks front line on offense were out of the lineup in their last game against Jasper.

The loss of offensive linemen and the lopsided scores in most of their games have dictated the Hawks' play calling. "The Hawks throw

it quite a bit. Because of their offensive linemen woes they haven't been able to run it real well. They will run the quarterback from time to time, but they do like to throw it when their blockers give Lee enough time. They're balanced and they will do a little bit of both," Hickman analyzed.

The defense for Hardin-Jefferson is even more multiple than the offense. The Hawks will lineup in the 3-3 Stack, a 3-4 look, and sometimes in a 4-2 formation to attempt to compensate for the talent they have on defense to confuse opposing offenses.

The two best players on defense for the Hawks are Samuel Jones and Ryland Harvey. At linebacker Jones and Harvey play the run game well.

The secondary does have some athletes like Carson Laborde and Kilrean Brown. Two Hawks who are probably basketball

players coming out for football Rico Russell and Taveyian Thomas will be the cornerbacks for HJ and both are very good.

Hickman commented, "The Hawks bring those two linebackers quite often. They blitz a lot and are very aggressive. Hardin-Jefferson takes some chances. I guess they have to because of personnel. If we block them up against their blitzes we'll have some opportunities for some big plays on them because they do take so many chances up front."

Seeding for the post season has West Orange-Stark locked in at the fourth position for District 9-4A Division II. The final game of the regular season for the Mustangs will be played for pride.

What is the motivation for West Orange-Stark traveling to Sour Lake to play the Hawks? "We just want

WOS Page 5B

## Battlin' Bears From Page 1B

game of the year and should have some carries on Friday night.

Huffman has struggled through a rough season that has not gotten very much better with the start of district. The Falcons lost all five of their non-district games, dropped their district opener to Livingston, then blew out Splendor, and fell to Lumberton and Vidor in their last two games.

Huffman uses a true Spread Offense when it has the ball. The Falcons will deploy four wide receivers on every snap.

A big tight end Will Swartz will play in the slot as much as the normal tight end position. Peevey compared Swartz at 6-5, 215 pounds, to a Travis Kelce type more a receiver than a tight end. "They love to get him the ball," Peevey pointed out.

Everything on the Huffman offense starts with the quarterback Nolan Cook who is very athletic. Although not very big Cook was a receiver last season before being assigned the job of quarterback for the Falcons about mid-season this year. Cook reminds Peevey of Johnny Manziel the way Nolan can run around in circles to elude tacklers, and he really is their running game.

The Falcons returned five starters back on offense. They are still pretty young on offense with six sophomores starting including the quarterback Cook.

Peevey responded,

"When I feel like we're the youngest team in this district, I look up and I realize the Falcons are a lot like us. The difference is their sophomores have shot themselves in the foot a lot, but they are very dangerous. They put up a lot of points against Vidor. Huffman's offense does kind of scare me because they are not scared with a sophomore gunslinger back there he's not afraid to throw it into triple coverage, not scared to throw it when a lot of quarterbacks wouldn't throw it for fear of an interception. Cook's going to let it rip, and he has a good little arm and is going to be a heck of a football player. You can tell the Falcons are getting better offensively each week."

On defense Huffman will play a four-man front like Little Cypress Mauriceville. Sometimes the Falcons are Cover Zero and other times they are Cover Three depending on what they are facing. Peevey expects Huffman to give the Bears a little bit of both coverages.

There are six sophomores starting on defense too for the Falcons. "They just kind of fly to the ball. The other defensive end Jake Tinnin is one of those sophomores who is going to be a really good football player. They kind of rotate some other players on defense at different spots," Peevey analyzed.

Peevey continued, "The Huffman defense has been susceptible to some things, and this week we've got to focus on our offense, focus

on us. With Evan coming in at quarterback we're not going to get too crazy. We're just going to run our base scheme, our base offense, and continue on with what we're doing but just get better at what we're doing going into the playoffs. Evan has a great ability to throw the ball and run it, so we're going to keep everything exactly like we had it before."

Little Cypress Mauriceville has a long road trip to play Huffman. "We've got to be focused every week, and we don't want to go into the playoffs with a loss. Right now we're locked in for second place in our district so even if we lose we're still second, but you never want that to happen. We want to continue to see improvement each week," Peevey concluded.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears play the Huffman Falcons. The game will kick off at 7:30 on Friday night.

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# BC Lady Cardinals advance in volleyball playoffs

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The queens of Orange County volleyball had their crowns jostled in the middle of October before getting them straightened last week. The Bridge City Lady Cardinals are the champions of District 19-4A, and topped that by winning their bi-district match with Hardin-Jefferson in four sets to advance to the area round of the state playoffs.

The Lady Cardinals came out and took the first two sets 25-16 and 25-21 before Hardin-Jefferson narrowed the lead taking the third set 18-25. Bridge City rebounded grabbing the fourth set 25-14 to advance to the next round of the state playoffs against Henderson on Thursday, November 2, at 6:30 PM in Huntington High School Gym.

Bridge City lost back to back matches October 13 and October 17 to Vidor and Lumberton. The Lady Cardinals forfeited an earlier match with Lumberton which created a three-way tie between Bridge City, Vidor and Lumberton at the top of the volleyball district standings.

The Lady Cardinals won in three sets 25-22, 25-11, 25-19 over Lumberton on Thursday, October 26, for the right to play Vidor for the first seed in district.



Senior Demi Carter has helped the Bridge City Lady Cardinals volleyball team reach the area round of the state playoffs against Henderson on Thursday in Huntington. RECORD PHOTO

Bridge City took the win in four sets 25-12, 25-18, 24-26, 25-17 over Vidor the next night to claim the first seed for the playoffs.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears volleyball team completed their season on Monday, October 30. The Lady Bears were defeated by Huffman in three sets during the first round of the state playoffs.

The regular season concluded on Tuesday, October 24, for Little Cypress Mauriceville. The Lady Bears swept Silsbee 25-17, 25-15, 25-12 to finish district as the fourth seed with a record of 8-4 and were 24-17 overall on their season.

Lady Bear leaders in the match against Silsbee were

Paisley Angelle with 9 kills, 1 block, and 1 ace. Lindi Perry had 7 kills and 2 blocks. Asia Woodson made 3 blocks, 2 aces, with 6 kills. Addie Russell topped LCM with 15 assists and she served an ace. Jada Montagne had 12 assists and served 2 aces. Ava White hit 6 kill shots, made 1 assist, and served 1 ace. LCM also got contributions from Amaya Meadows, Jazel Guilbeaux, and Lexi Tubbleville.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats entered the volleyball post season as the third seed in District 22-3A. The Lady Bobcats played Diboll on Tuesday, October 31, in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

A week earlier Orangefield won a thrilling five set match with Anahuac to conclude the district schedule. With the win the Lady Bobcats earned a share of the district championship their first since 2012.

Orangefield won the opening set 25-20 before losing the next two sets 20-25 and 15-25. The Lady Bobcats rallied taking the fourth set 25-22 before bouncing over Anahuac 15-5 to capture the deciding set.

Senior Lela Francis had a great night serving 7 aces, making 12 kills, and blocking 3 volleys. Greenlea Oldham led the Lady Bobcats with 18 kills and Brianna Moore was the Or-

angefield leader with 42 assists. Other strong contributions were made by Hannah Block with 18 digs and Eliese Gravett with 16 digs, while Kaitlyn Jenkins made 2 blocks.

Orangefield lost a seed-

ing contest with Buna on Thursday, October 26. For the second time in nine days the Lady Bobcats won the first set before the Lady Cougars won three straight sets to take the match.

Leaders for Orangefield

in the tough loss were Greenlea Oldham with 12 kills and 2 blocks, Brianna Moore with 36 assists, and Kaylea Gravett with 11 digs. Moore and Lela Francis both served one ace.

## Bobcats From Page 1B

a junior who is always around the football and appears to be a tough physical type player. Linebackers Leonardo Avila and Ethan Cart are not scared to mix it up with opposing ball carriers.

In the defensive line Keyshawn Winford is big and strong. Carson Mann also contributes for East Chambers up front.

The leading tacklers for the Buccaneers are their safeties Dante West and Reid Todd. "Those guys aren't afraid to come downhill and make tackles. Any time your safeties are your leading tacklers that tells you they're not afraid to come down and attack the football," Smalley analyzed.

East Chambers has a history on defense of trying to take away what opposing

offenses like to do best. Smalley elaborated, "That's why I think we'll see a loaded box again. They're really good defensively, and our offensive staff and the Bobcats have a challenge to be ready for them as well."

The winner of the game between the Bobcats and the Buccaneers will earn second place in District 10-3A Division I. The first round opponent in the playoffs will be either Woodville or Palestine Westwood.

Whatever let down there may have been over not repeating as district champions Orangefield will be ready for the battle this week. "We got over the loss to Kirbyville on Saturday when we came to the fieldhouse showed film and talked to the kids. We re-

minded them not to let one loss effect the rest of the season. We've got to let it go, learn from, and try to get better. The good news is we have a really good team that will play Thursday on their Senior Night. These seniors will play their final game here which is motivation for them. There's also motivation to play East Chambers which always has a strong team. It's not for first place, but second place is better than third, and this is an opportunity to compete for second place in the district. There's a lot of motivation, and I know our seniors want to go out with a victory in their last game at home," Smalley concluded.

The game between Orangefield and East Chambers will be played on Thursday, not Friday. The kickoff will be at 7:30 PM at F. L. McClain Stadium.

## WOS Mustangs from Page 4B

to go over there and get that sour taste out of our mouths after the Jasper game last week and get back to winning. The Mustangs want to go to HJ to do what we've got to do to take care of that and try to come out of it injury free. We'll get ready for the playoffs the next week.

We've got some things we want to work on, so we'll go over there and add some things like we do every week to try to get us a win. This will be another week adding on to what we're doing to build us up to get ready for the post season. After that you know everybody's zero, zero. I'm just

trusting that our schedule has prepared us for the post season," Hickman concluded.


The West Orange-Stark Mustangs will travel to Sour Lake to play the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 on Friday night.

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- Monday, November 6, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Thursday, November 9, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Friday, November 10, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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# Live Against the Drift

**Marshall Segal**  
Staff Writer  
desiringGod.org

The danger of drifting, spiritual or otherwise, is in just how subtle and comfortable drifting can feel. Often we don't even notice it's happening at all.

I grew up outside Cincinnati, Ohio, a far drive from any ocean. I can't even remember a lake near our house. The largest body of water might have been the man-made pond next to the local golf course. So when I finally met the ocean, I would never forget it. I had never seen anything so large and alive and frightening — and yet my little brother and I could splash and wrestle in its wake.

I distinctly remember, on one of those early beach days, mustering up the courage to swim out a little farther, and then a little farther, floating over wave after wave, learning how they obediently march in rows and yet dance in their own way. And then, as happens to so many first-timers, I realized (with great fear) just how far I was from safety. Suddenly the waves were coming higher and faster, pulling me farther than I wanted to go. My feet searched frantically for the bottom. My arms and legs suddenly felt like logs, like they were somehow taking on water. I looked and looked along the beach, but couldn't see my brother, my dad, my mom, anyone. Another wave crashed over my head.

In a panic, I swam frantically, and soon found my



feet back on land, but I had learned just how easy and dangerous it is to drift away from shore. How much more dangerous, then, to drift away from Jesus — to realize, after weeks or months or years, that the waves of life have carried us farther away than we ever expected.

## Focus or Drift

One mark of Christian maturity is learning that none of us passively drifts toward Christ, not even after we've followed him for years or even decades. The currents of the still-sinful soul, weathered by constant waves of temptation, still pull us out to sea. We can't sluggishly float in place. We're either swimming toward God or drifting somewhere else.

The writer of Hebrews had felt the undertow of sin battling our love for Jesus. After lifting up the supremacy of the Son in creation, in redemption, in authority, in glory, he writes, "We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Hebrews 2:1). In

other words, if we take our eyes off of this Christ, we'll soon find ourselves further from him. In the life of faith, we either focus or drift.

For his immediate hearers, the tide threatened to pull them back into the Christ-less rituals of old-covenant Israel. Jewish persecution made following Jesus painful and costly, leaving some in prison (Hebrews 13:3). Many considered retreating from Christ to being mistreated with him. Our souls may drift along similar lines. We might drift because people we love hate the God we love, making belittling comments about our convictions or distancing themselves from us because of them. Or we might drift in other, very different directions.

We might drift after unrepentant sin, allowing some lust or bitterness or craving or envy to take hold and slowly drag our souls from safety. We might, like Demas, drift away into worldliness, slowly allowing our affections and imaginations to be absorbed with some distract-

tion — deadlines and promotions, headline news, sports triumphs or losses, shopping trends and deals, social media controversies. We might even drift away because of a fixation on friends or family. Each of these loved ones is a gift of God meant to lead us to God, and yet how often do they instead become gods?

We might drift any number of ways to any number of places. The warning is that if we're not currently swimming closer to Jesus, we cannot stay where we are. Paddling in place is not an option. And the tide will choose where we go — if we let it. The human soul is designed to wax or wane, to drive or drift. So do you know, in the moments of greater preoccupation and weaker resolve, where your soul tends to drift?

## Because of Who He Is

Wholly apart from our tendency to drift, Jesus really is worthy of our whole attention. He really is endlessly fascinating. When my family visited Yellowstone, we came across two grizzly bears playfully wrestling in

a field. We were far enough away to be completely safe, but close enough to see it all. I can still picture those enormous, furry brawlers running and tackling and rolling. No one had to convince us to pay attention or keep watching. Someone could have easily made off with our car, which we had left running.

Similarly, if we could catch a glimpse of who Jesus really is, we wouldn't struggle to focus on him. In fact, we'd probably have a hard time noticing all the things that capture and consume so much of our attention now. When we read our Bibles and feel little, it's like we're scanning the field but can't see the bears. Or we can, but they're too far away and fuzzy. When we stop reading our Bibles, we've stopped even looking in the fields. We're driving right by while we stream some series on our phones.

Hebrews 1 is a trailer to the glory we're missing when our eyes drift away from the field. The boy born in Bethlehem is the heir of all things — in part because he made all things (Hebrews 1:2). This Jesus is the beauty of the universe — "the radiance of the glory of God" — and he upholds that universe with his all-powerful breath (Hebrews 1:3). And though he is the pure, spotless image of God, he stepped between the wrath of God and the enemies of God, to make his enemies his brothers. After dying on the cross, he proved even death was under his feet, rising from the grave and then ascending in even greater glory than he came.

And if you could see him as he now is, even

mouth-stopping, sword-wielding armies of angels would grow dull by comparison. He's always worthy of more attention, and he rewards whatever focus we give him.

## Because of Who You Are

We pay exceedingly close attention to Jesus because he's worthy of such attention, and because we know how easily we drift away from him. "We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." We keep our eyes fixed on him because of who he is, and because of who we are — tempted, distracted, sometimes wandering.

Staying close to Jesus means steadily moving toward Jesus. Scripture's language of "walking by faith" is a great encouragement here. There are times to run (or swim) hard, but most of the Christian life will be walking with Jesus against the drift, like the disciples who walked with Jesus during his ministry. In an age of driving, riding, flying, and hurrying, many of us have lost the art of walking. Resisting the tide often means just taking the next few steps — reading the next chapter, praying the next prayer, preparing for the next Sunday gathering. As we do, we'll find, on some days and in some seasons, that the waves actually turn to serve us, to lift us higher and farther in the right direction.

As we fight the drift within us, we don't have to try to finish our race today. We just need to go as far as we can in these few hours with our eyes on Jesus.

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www.fumcorange.org  
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau  
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**Starlight Church of God in Christ**  
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366  
Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.  
www.slccorange.org

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

**Triangle Baptist Church**  
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**First Baptist Church**  
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Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting  
Youth & Children's Activities  
Pastor: Keith Royal

**Winfree Baptist Church**  
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