

County Record

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Sheriff, constable races draw challengers

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County will have a four-way race for sheriff as incumbent Lane Mooney fends off three challengers in the Republican Primary. Other challenged local races will be for constable in Precincts 2 and 4.

County Republican Chair Leo LaBouve said filings will continue until December 11, but he thinks most of the candidates have filed. County Democratic Chair Jack Smith said he doesn't expect any people to file in that party's primary, which means whoever wins the lo-

cal Republican nominations will run unopposed in the 2024 general election, unless an independent late files.

The party primary races will be Tuesday, March 4. Voting registration for the election ends on February 5. Candidates file with the party chairs, who oversee the elections.

Incumbent Sheriff Mooney has filed for his second term in office. Challenging him will be Ronald Dischler, a longtime Orange County working for

ELECTION Page 3A



Captain Tiffany Salgado with the Salvation Army of Orange County shows Angel Tree cards that are used to show wishes and clothing sizes of children of families with financial problems. Donors may choose a card to purchase the items to help a child have a merry Christmas.

RECORD PHOTO" Margaret Toal

Salvation Army working to bring Christmas joy

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The new Orange County Salvation Army captains only recently arrived here with their young children and are jumping into the community effort to make sure families with financial difficulties will be having a happy Christmas.

Captains Dante and Tiffany Salgado are facing an unusual problem this year with the Angel Tree program. For the past several years, employees at International Paper have provided wishes for dozens of kids on the Angel Tree list. In No-

vember, the corporation has announced the paper mill will be closing at the end of the year. The generous employees may be facing their own financial hardships.

The traditional Angel Tree program takes wishes from children. An individual, church, civic group, or business may "adopt" one or more of the Angel Tree kids.

An Angel Tree card is filled out with the wishes and sizes of the child. The goal is to help each one get a toy they want and items of

SALVATION Page 2A

Christian-based recovery center for women opens

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

For a decade, volunteers for Vidor's First Baptist Church had a vision of providing a residential home for women who have addictions. The vision is now a reality.

The Women's Care Center is now open in a remodeled nursing home in Vidor. The center's director, Gena Rogers, said 10 rooms are available in the program, which lasts a minimum of six months and can go on for up to a year, if needed.

The residents are not required to work and are able to concentrate on recovery and living in the world sober. Requirements include Bible studies and participation in the center's other programs. Those are 12-step chemical dependency classes, how to prevent relapse, finances and financial responsibility, arts and crafts, plus life skills. Those



skills can be fundamental things like making a bed, doing laundry, and cooking.

A current resident is working on her GED and participates in the GOALS (Greater Orange Area Literacy Services) program.

At this time, the center cannot accept women with mental health issues, or ones with a past history of violence. It is also not a homeless shelter. Otherwise, there's one big requirement, though. "They have to really want to be in recovery," Rogers said.

The cost for the Women's Care Center program is

\$100 a week, plus a \$500 deposit, that is refundable at the end of the program. The cost covers the furnished room plus dinner each day. Clients are responsible for their own breakfast and lunch.

Rogers said donors may be able to provide the \$500 deposit and some scholarships are available.

Each client has a private bedroom, unlike many recovery centers. Rogers said she visited a center in Houston that had 10 women sleeping in the same room in five bunk beds.

Life Groups, previously known as Sunday school classes, at First Baptist Vidor, along with individuals, decorated each bedroom to make it feel welcoming. The decor includes colorful bedding covers on a twin bed with sheets and pillows.

Residents are not allowed to have cell phones or use the internet during their

stay. After their first 30 days in the center, they may have approved visitors. They are also required to go to First Baptist Church Vidor.

Besides their daily studies, women at the center have counseling every day and have house chores. Rogers said a night manager and a weekend manager are at the center for the clients. The weekend manager is a recovering addict and has been sober for four years.

The church and private donors are supporting the center. A volunteer is selected to mentor and help each client along her way to sobriety. Also, the church's Main Street Thrift Store at 335 North Main Street in Vidor, allocates 75 percent of its income to the Women's Care Center. Donations of new and used goods are accepted at the

WOMEN'S Page 2A

Shangri La hosts annual Christmas Strolls

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Ring in the season at Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center! On select evenings in December, the public is invited to stroll through the magically transformed gardens. The festive landscape features thousands of lights, unique Christmas trees decorated by talented community members and holiday flowering displays.

The holiday magic opens to the public on December 5. Admission to Shangri La Gardens is free of charge.

"Show off your Christmas spirit by donning your best holiday apparel! We are kicking off the first week of Strolls with Family Holiday PJ Week. Get cozy and bring out the family to enjoy our winter wonderland! Orange Lions Club will have cookies and cocoa available for purchase," said Marlene Cox, guest services

coordinator at Shangri La. "During the week of December 5-9, we will also be collecting new pajamas and blankets in partnership with Lutchter Theater's PJ and Blanket Drive benefiting Salvation Army of Orange."

Christmas Strolls are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 6-9 p.m., with the last entrance at 8:30 p.m. Other festive dress-up weeks include Ugly Christmas Sweater

Week, from December 12-16, and Crazy Christmas Hat Week, from December 19-22.

"This season we are offering a Senior, Mobility Friendly & Sensory Sensitivity Hour on Tuesday nights from 5-6 p.m. This special hour is designed to provide accessibility for our guests with mobility challenges and sensory sensitivities. There will be smaller

CHRISTMAS Page 2A



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Salvation Army Christmas joy From Page 1

clothing. The “adopters” then turn in the gifts with the card to the Salvation Army, which distributes them to the parents.

This year, more than 400 kids across Orange County have Angel Tree wish cards. They are displayed on special trees at Walmart stores in Orange County. Walmart even has an online registry

for people who want to help a kid in the program. By going to www.walmartangel-tree.com and then searching for Salvation Army of Orange, a person can find out what a child wants and then purchase items from Walmart. The store will deliver the gifts to the local Salvation Army for distribution.

The Angel Tree program isn't the only holiday event for the Salvation Army. The traditional Red Kettle and bell-ringing campaign for donations will officially kick off on Thanksgiving Day with Dolly Parton at the Dallas Cowboys football game.

Red Kettles will be set up at Market Basket, Kroger,

and Walmart stores in Orange County beginning this Friday, November 24, through December 23. The kettles will be out those days from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All donations collected in the kettles will be used throughout the year for local Salvation Army to assist individuals and families for things like groceries and utility bills.

Volunteer bell ringers are welcomed to help out, whether individuals, families, churches, businesses, or other groups. People can sign up to help with the kettles through the website registertoring.com. Or, they may call Captain Dante Salgado at 832-526-9689.

Donations for the season are already coming in. The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus has made their annual donation of new children's coats. Also, Constable Matt Ortego in Vidor held a party with each person bringing a new toy donation getting a bowl of gumbo.

The Lutch Theater gathered donations of kids pajamas and blankets during recent shows.

The Orange Service League will be holding its 67th Annual Toy Coffee will be on December 7 in the Old Orange Historic District. The home of Beth and Kenneth Wheeler at 1008 Pine Avenue, along with the tiny Victorian house they recently restored known as “Miss Lau-

ra's School” at 606 Seventh Street, will be featured.

The houses will be decorated for the season and open for tours to people bringing a new, unwrapped toy, or cash donation for the Salvation Army.

The annual food drive sponsored by Granger Chevrolet and kogt.com will be held the morning of December 7. Non-perishable food donations are collected and distributed to the Salvation Army of Orange, along with Orange Christian Services.

The community charity groups of Salvation Army, Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance, and United Christian Care Center of Vidor coordinate to help families.

Deaths & Memorials

John Ward Stephenson, 76, Orange

John Stephenson, 76, a lifelong resident of Orange, Texas, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2023, in Houston, Texas with his children by his side.

Following John's wishes, in lieu of a traditional funeral service, friends and family are invited to a dinner in his honor and to share their favorite memories of John.

Under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home, dinner will be held at JB's BBQ, which will be open one last time, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 2023 with military honors provided by Southeast Texas Veterans Group at 3:00 p.m. Whether you were family, a friend, or even just an acquaintance, if you've ever gone out to lunch with John, it was probably at JB's.

Born in Dallas, Texas, on December 6, 1946, he was the son of Ward and Jane Stephenson. John went to Lutch Stark High School and graduated from Kemper Military Academy in Boonville, Missouri in 1965, before going on to Sam Houston State University to earn his degree. He very proudly served his country as a Sergeant in The United States Marine Corps, so it was only fitting that he passed on Veteran's Day.

John was a faithful man and grew up attending First United Methodist Church in Orange. In his younger years he enjoyed spending his spare time hunting and being out on the water fishing. As a kid, he and his friends would spend most of their time shooting guns and camping in the woods behind his house, not letting the yells of feral cats deter them from having fun. If those woods could talk, you would think the stories you'd hear were made up. They would, in fact, be true stories of all of the crazy things those boys would get into- like when they would ride horses, sometimes even trying to rope each other and get themselves pulled off the horses.



John Stephenson

No matter what he was he doing, John always found a way to make it fun.

As an adult, John became a Real Estate Broker and Land Developer starting his own business, J. Stephenson and Company. He enjoyed working in the community for many years and volunteering as a member of the Kiwanis club. John loved his friends, and his routine, dearly. Most mornings his group of buddies would meet up at his office or at Herman's Service Station to run errands like going to the bank and the post office before getting breakfast. After breakfast they would often ride around and take trips down memory lane talking about the good ol' days and how Orange used to be. They could ride around and reminisce for hours, as long as he was home by 11 to watch Gunsmoke.

If you knew John, you knew he had a larger than life personality. He was always willing to help others but never let anyone know if something was wrong with him, not wanting to burden his loved ones with worry. Even though he had battled a life long illness with Multiple Sclerosis, he never let it get him down. John was a loving father, grandfather, and friend to many. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

John is preceded in death by his parents, Ward and Jane Stephenson.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughter, Jane Elizabeth Stephenson; son, Kenna Ward Stephenson and wife Leslie; grandchildren, Jaclyn Elizabeth Logsdon, Clayton Mize, Kollin Stephenson, and Olivia Stephenson; brother, Tom Stephenson and wife Sue; niece, Angela Abshire; and his nephew, Tom Kenna- affectionately referred to by John as Little Tom"; along with numerous other loving family and dear friends.

Christmas Strolls From Page 1

crowds to ease navigation, as well as quieter music,” said Angie Mason, executive director at Shangri La.

Other holiday happenings at the gardens include Dreaming of a Green Christmas on Saturday, December 16. This magical day begins at 10:00 a.m.


with a visit from Santa. There are more opportunities to involve the entire family in hands-on, festive activities such as ornament-making with natural materials.

Shangri La is also holding their annual Community Food Drive during Decem-

ber, with all donations benefiting Orange Christian Services.

Shangri La Gardens and Nature Center is located at 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange, Texas. For more information about Christmas Strolls, please visit shangrilagardens.org.

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Texas' 30.3 mil residents live in four metro areas

KAREN HARPER
The Texas Tribune

Texas added nearly 1.6 million people between 2020 and Jan. 1, with the Austin region — the state's fastest-growing metro area with 7.2% growth — drawing in the most new residents, according to new population data by the Texas Demographic Center. But Fort Worth added more residents — 48,542 — than any other city.

The so-called "Texas Triangle"— composed of the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Austin metro areas — now holds a whopping 68% of the state's 30.3 million residents.

Overall, the population of Texas grew by 4% from January 2020 to January 2023, including new births as well as new residents moving to the area, the data show.

"Texas is growing at a rapid rate because we have

high resident retention and are attracting new domestic residents," said Lauren Leining, a data analyst at Texas 2036, which strategizes on long-term Texas policy. "With new state residents bringing in considerable wealth, Texas should take this opportunity to expand infrastructure in important ways."

Helen You, associate director and lead demographer at TDC, said a large majority of the population changes comes from migration both from in and out of the state. You said that over half of Texas' counties are in "rural decline," meaning their deaths outnumber their births. However, the statewide population is still rising due to the sheer number of new Texans.

"Actually, three-fourths of the state's increase are driven by migration from either inside the United States ... or from immigra-

tion," You said.

And while most Texans live in major metro areas, it's not those regions' core cities that are growing rapidly. All five of the cities with highest growth rates — Liberty Hill, Weston, Caddo Mills, Josephine and Fulshear — were once sleepy outposts now experiencing encroachment of the state's longtime suburban sprawl. You, the lead demographer, said TDC hypothesizes movement from urban areas to less densely populated areas is caused by more affordable housing and the availability of remote work.

The center's report lists white Texans as the largest demographic group in the state, contrary to the U.S. Census' own population estimates updated earlier this year. Still, the two entities' estimates are within 1 percentage point of each other. The Census

found that Hispanic people make up 40.2% of the population compared to white Texans who make up 39.8% of all residents. The Texas center estimates that white people are 41% of the population compared to Hispanic people who make up 39.6% of all residents. Black people make up 11.9% of the population and Asian people constitute 5.2% of the state's residents, according to the TDC's estimates.

Three of the five most populous counties, Hispanic Texans do make up the largest population group, according to the TDC's estimates. In Bexar County, Hispanic Texans make up a full majority at 61%. In none of those five urban counties do white Texans make up a majority.

Meanwhile, a boom in the North Texas suburbs kept the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area at the

top of state's population centers, with an estimated 8 million residents as of January, according to the numbers which were first reported by The Dallas Morning News.

Texans chose to stay put along most of the southern border region, with Brownsville-Harlingen leading a slight uptick in residents in the Rio Grande Valley.

They moved away from the Gulf Region, however. The largest exodus came from Corpus Christi, with 3,659 people moving out of the Sparkling City by the Sea since 2020. The Beaumont-Port Arthur and Victoria areas also saw population declines.

El Paso was a close second for that dubious honor, losing some 3,227 residents from 2020 to 2023. The largest percentage dip was in the tiny town of Toyah, which has lost 7 of its 61 residents since 2020.

And they left the rural

parts of Northeast Texas and far West Texas as well, with drops in population in both Texarkana and San Angelo.

Big jumps were seen in areas considered a suburban-rural mix, such as Aledo and Alvarado about 30 miles from Fort Worth. Liberty Hill, a far-flung Austin exurb between Georgetown and Burnet, saw the highest percentage growth of any city, with a 194% increase from 2020 to 2023. Fulshear, about 30 miles west of Houston, more than doubled its population, from about 17,000 in 2020 to almost 40,000 in January 2023.

The states sending the most households to Texas from 2020 to 2021 are California, Florida, Louisiana, New York and Colorado, according to Texas 2036. In that time, California alone accounted for nearly 53,000 households moving to Texas.

Election filings underway From Page 1



Sheriff Lane Mooney



Ronald Dischler



Mike Sanchez



Bobby Smith

the Beaumont Police Department. Also, Bobby Smith, a retired Texas Ranger, and Mike Sanchez, police chief for the Vidor ISD.

For Precinct 2 constable, incumbent Jeremiah Gunter has filed for

re-election. He is facing challenges by retired law officers Harold Hass and David Bailey.

Precinct 4 Constable Matt Ortego is being challenged by Joey Jacobs, currently a captain with the Orange County Sheriff's

Office.

Incumbent constables Lannie Claybar in Precinct 1, and Brad Frye have filed and so far have drawn no opponents.

Others who have filed in the Republican primary are Octavia Guzman for

County Tax Assessor-Collector. Incumbent Linda Fisher is retiring. Also county commissioner incumbents Johnny Trahan in Precinct 1 and Kirk Roccaforte in Precinct 3. The other two precinct commissioners will be up

for election in 2026.

Longtime Assistant District Attorney Krispen Walker has filed for district attorney after incumbent John Kimbrough announced he would be retiring at the end of his current term.

County Court-at-Law Judge Troy Johnson will also be retiring and Rodney Townsend has filed to run. State 163rd District Judge Rex Peveto filed for re-election. LaBauve said the 128th District judge's position is on the ballot this year and he expects incumbent Judge Courtney Arkeen to file.

LaBauve has been accepting filing forms at the Orange County Republican Party headquarters in shopping center at 260

Strickland Drive in Pinehurst on Monday, December 11, from 3 to 6 p.m., which is the deadline for filing.

In addition, LaBouve will be running for re-election and so far has drawn no challengers.

Filings for state and national offices are made through the Texas Republican Party based in Austin.

Democratic Chair Smith said Orange County locally has switched to all candidates running as Republicans, just as they once ran only as Democrats for decades.

"If you want the job, you call yourself anything you want to be elected," he said.

Women's recovery center From Page 1

thrift store.

Rogers got involved in the recovery center for personal reasons, she said. Her son-in-law was getting out of incarceration and she was seeking help for him to stay on a path of sobriety. While asking around the community, she learned of First Baptist's plan for the women's center.

She got involved and was preparing for retirement. She worked for longtime local lawyer and former district attorney Steve Howard, who is now retired. Knowing of his retirement, she was plan-

ning for a new path.

This summer, she was named director of the Women's Care Center. Her work is still personal. Her daughter is an addict and the last they knew, was in Los Angeles. Rogers is raising two granddaughters and is happy their father, her son-in-law, has been sober a few months.

Information on enrolling, volunteering, or donating to the Women's care center can be found at the website wccvidor.org. Applications are online or available by calling 409-498-4007.

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of Orange County, Texas

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From the Creaux's Nest

WHY THANKSGIVING IS SPECIAL

Most adults today remember Thanksgiving as a fun day, plenty of food, turkey, ham, cornbread dressing, cranberries and great deserts. The youngsters, when the weather was good, enjoyed games outdoors with their cousins. The men watched **Turkey Day football**, while the women cleaned up, chatted and told of new recipes. In our home for 18 years or so, while the children were growing up, we attended the **A&M Texas Thanksgiving Day game**, one year at Kyle Field, the next at Memorial, so until the last 30 years, we didn't do the turkey bit. We've made it a fun day since. I got to thinking about the folks who started this tradition. The very first Thanksgiving was held in 1621. For three days in the fall the new world settlers from England, here less than a year, joined native Wampanoag Indians to celebrate a successful harvest. By then the original Mayflower's 102 passengers had diminished by half after a toll-taking first year of sickness. The Pilgrims, feasting together, played games and held shooting contests. Over 200 years later, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday to be held on the last Thursday every November. In 1939 however, to boost holiday shopping during the Depression, President Franklin D. **Roosevelt** moved it up from November 30 to November 23. Not every state went along with that so in 1941 congress declared it to be held on the fourth Thursday of November, not necessarily the final Thursday. Lincoln designated it a national holiday 160 years ago and 82 years ago it was settled. Thanksgiving will be and has been every fourth Thursday and I've been here for all of them. In those early years we didn't have turkey and expensive ham, maybe a wild rabbit, a big chicken and sweet potatoes, cooked on a wood stove. As a nation we've come a long way since that **1941 Thanksgiving**. It's not just a chicken in every pot; it's a great expensive meal with family and friends. That's a good thing but along the way we became somewhat complacent, non appreciative and taking the good times for granted. Those 51 Englishmen and **those Indians** could only dream, we live the dream everyday and take little time to be thankful. On this Thanksgiving take a moment to be thankful, not only for your bounty but also for those whose sacrifice gives us this free, great nation.****I've got to move on. Please come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

SERVICES HELD FOR ROSALYNN CARTER

Former first lady **Rosalynn Carter**, the closest adviser to **Jimmy Carter** during his one term as U.S. president and their four decades thereafter as global humanitarians, has died Nov. 19, 2023, at the age of 96, with her family by her side at her rural Georgia home of Plains. "**Rosalynn** was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished," **Carter** said. Reaction from world leaders poured in throughout the day. The **Carters** were married for more than 77 years, forging what they both described as a "full partnership." "**Rosalynn** is my best friend...the perfect extension of me, probably the most influential person in my life," **Jimmy Carter** told aides during their **White House** years, which spanned from 1977-1981. **Eleanor Rosalynn Smith** was born in Plains on Aug. 18, 1927, the eldest of four children. After a blind date, **Jimmy** told his mother: "That's the girl I want to marry." They wed in 1946, shortly after his graduation from Annapolis and **Rosalynn's** graduation from Georgia Southwestern College. Once when visiting our area she was photographed by **Mark Dunn**, Record News, of **Flor Edgerly**, who was representing Labor Unions, presenting flowers to **Mrs. Carter**.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

10 Years Ago-2013

State Senator Robert Nichols came to Orange for a couple of functions Tuesday. One was to honor **Pearl Burgess**, 93, with a Senate Proclamation. It was a total surprise to her. She had been lured to **Judge Courtney Arkeen's** courtroom on false pretences. County Commissioner, **Judge Pro-tem David Dubose** presented a Judges Proclamation in the absence of Judge Carl Thibodeaux. West Orange Mayor Roy MacDonald spoke of Pearl's church work as a Sunday school teacher and student. Roy Dunn handled the M.C. duties. Besides Ms. Pearl's friends and dignitaries, two of Pearl's lovely daughters **Juanita**, from Houston and **Beverly**, with husband **Jody Raymer**, attended. Judge **Buddie Hahn**, who has been sitting in on a three-week trial, visited his 95 year old mother at the Sabine House but returned in time to catch **Ms. Pearl's** festivities and meet his new senator. It was a fun time. (Pearl passed away in May 31, 2017.)

22 Years Ago-2001

Saturday, Nov. 24, the **Bridge City Cardinals** advance to regional playoffs against the **Sweeny Bulldogs**, in Pasadena. The Bulldogs have been to 10 straight playoffs, 16 times since 1982. The Cards have held seven opponents under 100 yards. Bridge City is 9-2, Sweeny, 8-3. The Cards shut out five opponents, three in district play. They beat Liberty 34-14 in the first round, and are returning to the quarterfinals for the second consecutive season. A win over Sweeny will send B.C. to the state semi-finals; farther than they have gone since Big Red won the state championship in 1966. **Bridge City** is led by junior **Jamey Knight**, quarterback, defensive back and extra point kicker. In the Liberty game Knight completed eight of nine passes and intercepted two Liberty passes. His sidekick **Luke Wolford** returned a punt 83 yards for a touchdown. He scored three touchdowns. Wolford, a senior, also led the district in interceptions. Luther Sanders caught five **Knight** passes for 109 yards and one touchdown. (Editor's note: This was a bad, tough bunch of Cardinals and most were junior and sophomores.)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

On Monday afternoon the **Dunn's**, **Phyl** and **Roy**, greeted their Thanksgiving guest, **Clay** and **Amber-Dunn Greeson**, and their three boys, **Luke**, age 7, **Liam**, age 5 and **Rowan**, age 3, who flew in from Florida. **Mark** and **Ethel Dunn** also are in town for the Thanksgiving holiday. They arrived just in time to celebrate **Allen Dunn's** birthday. A large family gathering is planned to celebrate the get-together.**** **Thanksgiving** is here and it becomes a rush through the Christmas season with all kinds of community events across Orange County. One of the biggest attractions is the lighted strolls through **Shangri La Gardens**. The free strolls will be **December 5-22** on Tuesdays through Saturdays from **6 to 9 p.m.** The first week will be **Family Holiday PJ Week** with families invited to wear the festive seasonal pajamas. Then comes **Ugly Christmas Sweater Week**, and then **Crazy Christmas Hat Week**. It's a fun time for everyone. Last week, foundation President and CEO **Tad McKee** dressed in an inflatable turkey costume to personally give a ham to every foundation employee. The foundation knows to keep business local and purchased the hams from **Danny's**.****A longtime annual event has been the **Mauriceville Heritage Association's Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner** with food, gifts, and fellowship. This year's will be Saturday, December 2, at 5 p.m. at Mauriceville Elementary School. The **Heritage Association's tree lighting** and holiday vendor shopping experience will be November 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Mauriceville Community Center.****The **El Mina Shriners** held a **Gala and Sportsman Raffle** at the OC Expo Center this past weekend. Seen in the crowd were **Kenny Weaver**, **Mike** and **Tiffany Sanchez**, **Debie Warner**, and **Stephanie Roberts**.****Congratulations to **Greg Willis** on his retirement from the West Orange-Cove school district. He's been at the district for 37 years with a long time serving as director of maintenance, an important behind-the-scenes job that keeps the schools running.******Atlanta Falcon** football player **Lacolby Tucker** stopped by the Orange County Clerk's office last week for some business. The native of **Sulphur, Louisiana**, is 6-feet-9-inches tall. We haven't heard if **County Clerk Brandy Robertson** had him get some things off those high shelves. **Spencer Day** made sure she got 12 autographs, which he graciously gave.******Debbie Hughes** attended her first college football game this past Saturday with daughter **Dr. Kayla Cheek**, who is an **Aggie grad** and veterinarian.******Mindy** and **Robert Currie** traveled all the way to Tallahassee, Florida, to see **Robert's** favorite **Florida State** play. The trip was an anniversary present.******Caroline** and **Mike Hennigan** proudly attended the wedding of their daughter, **Allison**, to **Danny Estes**. **Mike** made 12 gallons of gumbó for the after-ceremony party.******Rray** and **Diztorsha Lavan** came back home for the Class of 1978 WO-Stark reunion. **Russell Bottley** was there and **Ishmael Jack** was putting on the dance moves.******Janois Grizzaffi** and **Rhonda Ritter-Fenton** spent the weekend in New Orleans and of course had to take in some Boubon Street bars.****Teenagers **Annabelle Claybar** and **Paige McKee** volunteered at the **Pinehurst Animal Shelter** to help **Lacey Gunn Hale** take photos of the dogs up for adoption. For the past few months, **Lacey**, a retired teacher and part of the **Gunn** family photography legacy, has been donating her time to posing shelter dogs for cute pictures that have encouraged more of the pups to find homes.******Sherry Hommel** had a alligator sighting in her backyard.******Roderick** and **Brandy Robertson** went to Beaumont to see the Flava band. Other locals in the crowd included **Jacoby Edwards**, **Kiara Foreman**, **Jesse Lee**, and **Ron Rocio**.****Birthday greetings to **Leslye Bridgers**, who turned 91. Others who have been celebrating another trip around the sun include **Angie Williams**, **Monica McCoy**, **Jaycelyn Duval**, **Connie Ray**, **Reid Dallas**, **Phillip Smith**, **Rachael Raymer**, **Jimmy Lestage**, **Pam Cheek**, **Suzanne Magee**, **Bob Miller**, **John Goss**, **Vicki Siau Bingham**, **John Goss**, **Brandy Bonnin**, **Melanie Claybar**, **Tim Talbert**, **Ray Lavan**, and **Wesley Thompson**.****Anniversaries this past week included **Robert** and **Betty Smith Vail**, **Lawrence** and **Iva Kay Odom**, **Henry** and **Ann Pruter Seals**, and **Kristian** and **Alley Fontenot**.** **Angie** and **Don Breaux** celebrate another anniversary.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few friends celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Nov. 22; This is the date JFK was killed in 1963.** Celebrating birthdays are **Judge Rodney Price**, **Butch Campbell**, **Jason LeLeux**, **Cecila Broom**, **Larry and Bridges**, **Misty Moody**, **Barbara Trahan**, **Belinda Thibodeaux**, **Jackie Roberts**, **Carolyn Hagen**. The late **H.D. Pate** celebrated on this day, ******Nov. 23:: THANKSGIVING DAY....** **Heather Colleen McKinn** isn't that old, only 57. She will have a Thanksgiving birthday, as will the Record's **Dan Perrine**, **John-Charles New-**

comer, **Haylie Belcher**, **J.O. McCune**, **Ann Caples**, **Rodney Petty**, **Scott Mackey**.******Nov. 24: Debbie Hughes**, **Steven James**, **Cindy McLaughlin**, **Dae Leigh Sandlin**, **Thomas Hutchison**, **Jeff Hollis**, **Candace Todora**, **Jessica Stark**, **Justin McCarthy**, **James Crocker**.******Nov. 25: Judge Courtney Burch Arkeen**, **Joel Gilbert**, **Rebecca McLeMore**, **Sere-na Simonton**, **Viivienne Mathews**, **Amber Permar**, **Christie Smith**, **Sherry Hommel**, **Kelly Stanley**, **Michael Chapman**.******Nov. 26: Eric Andrus**, **John Kimbrough**, **Holly McKinley**, **Christi Nelson**, **Ma-son Grizzaffi**, **Shelly Hollier**, **Taryn Hubbard**, **Katie Deal**, **Wanda Monogue**, **Colby Daville**, **Dana Bryant**, **Emily Fischer**, **Jessica Harkness**.**** **Nov. 27: Sharon Gregory**, **Betty Simonton**, **Mark Bourgeois**, **Melissa Fisher**, **James "Red" Powell**, **Nick Miller**, **Bobby Adams**, **Tena Kenney**, **Abby Floyd**. **Comdu Juckabay**, **Don North**, **Mildred Frank**, **Georgietta Daves**.******Nov. 28: Penny Thompson**, **David Fusilier**, **Russell Dillow**, **Andrea Tupper**, **Bette Smith**, **Haley Barlow**, **Lynda Walther**, **Pres-ton Shuford**, **Tiffany Osborn**, **Cassandra Carpen-ter**, **Drew Craft**, **Melissa Jenkins**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

George Boudreaux and his wife, **Thelma Lou**, was preparing for bed dem wen she say, "George, you left da light on in da garden shed."

George him he open da back door to go turn it off wen he spot some mens in da shed stealing hings. He pick up da phone him and call da police, "Hello, dis is Boudreaux and some mens are in my shed, come quick."

Da police him he axe, "Is dem mens in you house?"

"Mais no," **Boudeaux** answer. "In da shed."

"Well den," say da policeman, "All patrols are busy dem, so **Boudreaux**, jus lock you door and an officer will come by wen he's available."

"Ok," say **George**, and he hung up and counted to 30 and he phone da police again. "Hello, dis is **Boudreaux**, I jus call you a few seconds ago bout dem mens in my shed, well, you don't have to worry bout dem cause I jus shot dem all me," den he hung up.

Boy, in tree or two minutes, four police cars and one ambulance wit sirens blaring and lights flashing come to a screeching halt at **Boudreaux's** house. Da police caught all dem burglars red handed dem.

One policeman came up to **George** and axe, "Mr. **Boudreaux**, I thought you said dat you had shot demall?"

"Dat's right said **Boudreaux**, but I thought me dat you said dere was no police available, hanh?"

C'EST TOUT

COURSE OF HISTORY CHANGED

60 YEARS AGO

We can all speculate at how the assassination of President **John F. Kennedy**, November 22, 1963, changed the course of history but that's not reality. History is real. It happened. You can't alter it. True steps of history, big and small, are cast for the here-after. We're all free to think about what might have been if certain events wouldn't have occurred. At the time of his death, **President Kennedy's** popularity was wobbling, just a fraction of the tremendous popularity that came five minutes after his death and since. The first three years of his presidency weren't a great success. The "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba was a disaster. His popularity bounced back some when he backed Russia down on the "Cuban Missal Crisis." Those Russian ships making a U-turn made Kennedy a hero. What the American people didn't know was that a deal had been cut for the U.S. to remove missals from **Turkey**. **Russia** might have backed down anyway but without the Turkey deal who knows. Personally, I believe his greatest accomplishment was one he didn't live to see, the space program, on the moon in one decade. Many have speculated that Kennedy would drop Vice-President **Lyndon Johnson** in a run for a second term. I don't buy into that. **LBJ** helped elect him and Kennedy would need Texas if he hoped to get re-elected. I believe he would have gotten a second term. **LBJ** would never have been elected on his own. Liberals like to claim JFK but he was more centered, leaning to conservatism. He was strong on tax cuts. He believed in a strong military and built it up even more than President **Ike** had. Kennedy drug his feet on the Civil Rights Act. He had promised it but he was reluctant to implement it. His death in Dallas came as no surprise to the FBI. They suspected an attempt might happen in Dallas. The city was home to some billionaire haters, ultra conservative segregationist, including **H.L. Hunt**. They wanted to stop the **Civil Rights Act** at any cost. They preferred **LBJ**, who openly used the "N" word and "Black Boys" was a favorite saying of his. Well, after **Lyndon** became president he threw those known as the "Superpatriots" in Dallas and conservatives around the country a real curve. He signed the Civil Rights Bill, the rest is history. I believe Kennedy would have handled Vietnam differently but that's not history. **John Kennedy** was a fresh, young face after **Ike** and the old guys before him. He gave hope to the young, much like President **Obama**, who's, according to my judgment, first term was far better than Kennedy's because he came into office facing terrible circumstances, two wars and a failed economy. **JFK had the Cold War** but things were far better at home. His assassination made him a martyr. I saw grown people cry when he was shot. Who changed the times more, **JFK** or **LBJ**? President **Johnson** made it possible for a person of color to be elected president of the United States. My guess is if **Bobby Kennedy** had not been killed, he might have been elected when **John's** term ended, even though he was liberal and unlike **John**, leaned for to the left. Who knows? We're positive about the history; the rest of the story we will never know. (See Roy's Down Life's Highway column for his recollections of that day and the times.)****Well, I've come to the end of my time. Thanks to our advertisers for making this all possible. Read us cover to cover and check us out on our website therecordlive.com. Take care and God bless.

60 years have passed since JFK's assassination

Having lived through that dreadful day and the times then, plus the years down life's highway since, this one day has never left my memory.

Down Life's Highway Roy Dunn

From the time I was a child and throughout this long life, there have been many memorable events, from Pearl Harbor, WWII, the atomic bomb, many storms, all the way to 9-11, and the insurrection of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. However, no tragedy or event has lived with me more than the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963. Because I relived it through many columns, it's hard to believe 60 years have gone by.

No tragedy tore to the core of Americans like the killing of the 35th President. The three TV networks, broadcasted only in black and white, interpreted their broadcast and it was a few days before they returned to their regular programming and commercials. No other event ever totally took up so much airtime. Lee Harvey Oswald was accused of killing the President but he was never

charged with the crime. He was charged with killing a policeman, Officer Tibbets, and was killed himself before the Kennedy case was made against him.

The reason President Kennedy was in Texas was to mend two democratic factions at odds, Sen. Ralph Yarborough's liberal forces and the Gov. John Connally's conservatives. The state, which was mostly democratic, was becoming polarized. Vice president Johnson, a friend of Gov.

Connally, who most believes fixed the Duval County 87 vote outcome that gave Johnson the election against Coke Stevenson, tried to mend the democratic split to no avail. Kennedy came to Houston, Fort Worth and was in Dallas when he was shot. He was due to be in Austin that night.

Some Orange folks were on the way to Austin for that event when they heard on the car radio that the President had been shot. They turned around. JFK had served only 1000 days. Johnson became the 36th President of the United States. It was lunch time on Friday. Four of us guys had planned a special kind of noontime meal. Dist. Attorney Jim Morris had gotten a bushel of oysters and I had made arrangement to use the banquet room at the Marine Room on Second Street, a building I owned. We hired a black gentleman, who knew his trade, to shuck the oysters and furnish his famous red sauce. As Morris, attorneys Louis Dugas and Jerry Zunker and I left the courthouse, the radio said that the presidential parade in Dallas was in progress.

We were eating oysters on the half-shell as fast as they were being shucked when a waitress came into our room and announced that President Kennedy was just shot in Dallas. At first, we didn't believe it, assuming it probably was just a rumor. As we discussed it, we became convinced that this dreadful act was indeed conceivable in Dallas. That put a damper on our special meal.

On our return to the courthouse, the car radio confirmed that the president of the United States and the governor of Texas had been shot. Zunker had served as a co-campaign chairman with Gene Hoyt for the election of Gov. John Connally. Phyl and I worked in that campaign. Hoyt got a district judgeship out of it. Radio and TV sets were turned on everywhere as everyone gathered to wait for the news on President John F. Kennedy's condition. People openly wept when it was learned that the president was dead. I went to the

living quarters in the county jail to watch television.

There I found Sheriff Chester Holts in his living room with tears running down his cheeks. He expressed what was on most people's minds. "What kind of damn animal would snuff out the life of this remarkable man? Respect for the law is completely shattered when someone can take it on themselves to murder the president of the United States." "The Dallas police department is one of the finest in the country," he continued, "but they'll have problems protecting the fellow who did this. If they're not extra careful someone will kill him."

The television reported Vice President Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as president on Air Force I while Jackie Kennedy, the dead president's wife, stood at his side still splattered with blood and brains of her husband on her clothes.

The Warren Commission found that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone when he shot the president from the Texas Book Depository with a mail order rifle. The next day, while being transferred, Sheriff Holt's fears came to past. While the police were transferring Oswald, Jack Ruby seemed to come out of nowhere, shot and killed him. Ruby had been in the Western Union station next door to the police station to wire some money.

Jack, like most everyone in those days who carried money, also carried a pistol in his pocket. When he left Western Union, he noticed the crowd next door. He went over to see. He was well known by the Dal-

las police, who frequently visited his Carousel Club.

Jack was later convicted of the murder of Oswald after a much publicized trial. Having known Ruby, I believe he acted on impulse and believing he would be a national hero. After all, most everyone was saying that Oswald needed killing. Jack was a Jewish guy from up north and they loved JFK.



As a young man in 1959, Roy campaigned for the election of John Kennedy. He proudly poses with one of Kennedy's campaign posters.

RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn On Nov. 25, President John F.

Kennedy was buried after a funeral procession that drew a million people and featured the famous salute by son, "John John," now deceased. In fact, almost all the players of that sad day are gone. Jack Ruby died while being held in jail awaiting a re-trial. Gov. Connally recovered and held several national offices, including Sec. of the U.S. Treasurer. He switched parties after LBJ's death and tried a run for president as a Republican. That didn't take off. President Johnson finished Kennedy's term and was elected to one of his own. He didn't seek reelection after being consumed by the Vietnam conflict. Richard Nixon replaced him, and in his second term, shamefully left office for what became known as the Watergate cover up.

Nov. 22, 1963, is a date that truly changed the course of history. My friends, DA Jim Morris and lawyer Louis Dugas have both died. As far as I know Zunker still lives in Austin. Anytime after that day when we all got together we recalled that dreadful day. We were all young men then lived to see a changing country where respect has so often been replaced by hatred and disrespect of our country and democracy.

Deaths & Memorials

Freddy Joseph Viator, 66 Bridge City

Freddy Viator, 66 of Bridge City Texas passed away on November 17, 2023 in Beaumont, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday November 22 - 2023 at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Pastor Paul Zoch of Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Bridge City. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Port Arthur Texas, on October 5, 1957 he was the son of Fred Joseph Viator and Emma Joyce Hoffpauir Viator. Freddy was a football fanatic with the Dallas Cowboys being his favorite team. He also enjoyed shooting pool and drinking Miller Lite in his spare time. Freddy especially loved spending time with his family his friends and his beloved "furbabies". He worked for Time Warner/Spectrum for



Freddy Viator

over 35 loyal years. Freddy will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Fred Joseph Viator and Emma Joyce Hoffpauir Viator. His siblings Jan Brown, Blain Viator, and Claude Viator; and his furbabies, Hogan, Bella, and Lady.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years Tina Viator. His step-children Crystal, James Griffin, and Christopher Griffin. His furbabies include Jasmine, Molly, and Ace. His siblings Theresa Babineaux and husband Karlan of Bridge City, Victor Viator and wife Kathy of Bridge City and Zilda Viator of West Orange. And his numerous grandchildren nieces nephews and other loving family members and friends.

Freddy's family would like to extend a special thank you to Harbor Hospice for their wonderful care.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **RAYMOND EARL LINGEFELT, Deceased**, were issued on **NOVEMBER 14, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19829**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Donna Lingefelt**.

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

c/o:
James R. Dunaway
Attorney at Law
108 7th Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 16th day of November, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Donna Lingefelt
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROSE MARIE RUSSELL, Deceased**, were issued on **NOVEMBER 14, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19822**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Lisa Suzzane Woods**.

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

c/o:
James R. Dunaway
Attorney at Law
108 7th Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 16th day of November, 2023.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Lisa Suzzane Woods
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

LEGAL NOTICE

The property commonly known as 14110 I-10 A, Orange, TX 77632 is scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 12/05/2023 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

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THANKSGIVING

ACROSS

1. "If all ____ fails..."
5. End of philosophical system
8. Center of our orbit
11. Indian flatbread
12. Take down, as in a dragon
13. Yemeni neighbor
15. Homer's "Iliad", e.g.
16. *Copper coin with issuer of Thanksgiving Proclamation
17. A sign or symbol, archaic
18. *A certain famous Mayflower rock
20. *5K, a.k.a. Turf key ____
21. Blair or Hayek
22. Spy org.
23. Like hikers' camps
26. Tourney grid
30. Beehive State native
31. Casual top
34. Money in Milan
35. Belches
37. Roth ____, acr.
38. Low-ranking workers
39. Old Norse texts
40. Major Black Sea port
42. Dog command
43. Resize
45. *Thanksgiving, a.k.a. ____ Day
47. Baby goat
48. Subway entrance
50. Parting words
52. *Massachusetts' contender for first

Thanksgiving celebration

55. Oyster gem
56. One thing on a list
57. Of two minds
59. Sonnets and such
60. Mastercard rival
61. Carve in stone
62. Ted Turner's "baby"
63. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
64. "James and the Giant Peach" author

DOWN

1. Compass dir.
2. Arctic native
3. Flying jib, e.g.
4. Enclose in a cyst
5. Part of small insect
6. *Traditional occupant of the last parade float
7. *Pumpkin pie at the first Thanksgiving, e.g.
8. Asian food thickener
9. *Tbs. or tsp., in Thanksgiving recipe
10. Zip
12. Chews out
13. Ostium, pl.
14. * on 34th Street
19. '90s TV sitcom "Boy ____ World"
22. TV tube in days gone by, acr.
23. *Sweet one or russet one
24. Short musical composition
25. Smart candy?
26. Women's undergarments
27. Newsstand, e.g.
28. "Sesame Street"

CROSSWORD										
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40. Like something for a wedding day
41. Bad rep
44. Supermarket walkway
46. Let for money
48. Form of civil disobedience
49. Lock of hair
50. Past participle of
51. Knitter's ball
52. Long live, in French
53. Itty-bitty bit
54. Like part of McDonald's logo
55. Rubber substitute, acr.
58. Stanley Cup org.

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Lady Cardinals could be very competitive this basketball season

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Bridge City girls basketball team was very young last year so had to play through some growing pains. The Lady Cardinals are showing the promise this season that they will make the playoffs and contend with the top opponents in the district.

Coach Larry Sterling moved back to Bridge City last year and took over the girls basketball program. "We had kind of an up and down season, but we had a young team last year sporting five freshmen and four sophomores. We have a lot of girls back this season who are a little bit older. They kind of know what the expectations are for practices and games. The girls have put a lot of time in throughout the year, so I believe we're a little more confident and a little more mature this season," Sterling analyzed.

Experience should be a strength for Bridge City this season with the eight girls he has returning. Sterling replied, "Whitney Cunningham was second team all-district and came on strong at the end of the season. She was a sophomore and is a junior now."

Another returner is senior Rylenn Thornton who also made all-district for the Lady Cardinals last year. "Those two along



Coach Larry Sterling believes his Bridge City Lady Cardinals are older and wiser for this basketball season.

RECORD PHOTO

with Nicole Sasser a junior who played a lot, sophomore Kaylee Britten who is on the verge of being an all-district player, Kennedy Campbell a sophomore, Kira Middleton a junior, and Laken Bellanger will all have bigger roles for us this season," Sterling indicated.

The Lady Cardinals should be better shooters with a year's experience on varsity under their belts. Sterling is counting on Kennedy Campbell, Kaylee Britten, and Whitney Cunningham all to be good shooters who will fill the hoop with buckets for Bridge City.

Nicole Sasser uses her excellent quickness to be an outstanding defender. Kailey Nelson is a sophomore who should be one of the strongest rebounders for the Lady Cardinals.

Sterling responded, "I believe we have a good

mixture of inside and outside players. I think we'll try to maintain some balance with that by playing inside out. The biggest thing for us are expectations because the girls have been through it before and usually in their second season or more on varsity the game slows down for them and the confidence grows. We're expecting a bigger year for the Lady Cardinals this

BC LADY Page 3B



Rotarians donate \$2000 to Ministerial Alliance

The Bridge City/ Orangefield Rotary Club recently donated \$2,000.00 to the Ministerial Alliance to purchase needed clothing items for children in their annual Christmas gift drive. Pictured are Rotarians Sam and Jack Comer, Kirk Roccaforte, Charlee Chelette, Mark Bunch, Scot Shaffer, Mellisa Issacs, Jerry Jones, Eric Andrus, Karen Collier, John Dubose, Travis Dabel, and Lucy Fields.

Lady Bears rebuilding for another good season

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Last year was a good campaign for Little Cypress Mauriceville in girls basketball. The Lady Bears will look to rebuild this season and still make the playoffs with a young group of players.

LCM finished in second place during district and completed last season with an excellent 28-10 record. The Lady Bears won their first playoff game before losing and being eliminated in the second round of the post season.

Lady Bear Coach Eddie Michalko was proud of the performance by his girls. "The girls played hard. We had a great number of seniors last year, so with graduation we're looking to rebuild this year a little bit," Michalko informed.

Only three Lady Bears return from last year's varsity. Two of those three were major contributors last season with the third returner expected to carry a bigger load this year.

Junior Keylie Washburn was a true impact player for Little Cypress Mauriceville as a sophomore. She led the Lady Bears in scoring and rebounding. Michalko expounded, "Keylie pretty much led us in every category. You name it she does it."

Back at a guard position is sophomore Eden Frenzel. She plays strong on



Coach Eddie Michalko lost some good players to graduation but believes the LCM Lady Bears will be a strong contender again in district.

RECORD PHOTO

defense and is a good play maker fitting in as the point guard for the Lady Bears.

The other Lady Bear that played on the varsity last year is Mallory Russell another sophomore who will be a forward. "Mallory's about 5-9 and very athletic. I'm looking forward to her really stepping up this year. If Mallory just realizes how good she could be, she's going to be something to deal with," Michalko indicated.

Michalko will use ten girls on the LCM varsity this season. That means he will have seven new faces on the Lady Bear varsity, all but two of which played on the junior varsity or freshmen teams last season.

The new group of varsity Lady Bears are very athletic and have very good

LCM LADY Page 3B

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HUNTING SEASON

Finding a winter window of opportunity

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

How many times have you had it happen to you? After hours of fishing, struggling, changing baits, and changing tactics it finally happens, the fish finally decide to cooperate and all is right with the world again.

That brief period of euphoria wipes away all the memories of cold boring hours spent probing empty acres of water; it's the opportunity we all search for yet only few find on a consistent basis. Those few fishermen who routinely find these brief periods where fish go on rampages that the average guy can only dream of rapidly reach mythic status in the fishing community. The "underground" of the fishing world buzzes with the stories of these fishermen, exploits surrounding sessions when every cast was met with a bone jarring strike circulate at the boat shows and each time the story is told the stringer always gets bigger. Every coastal angler dreams of fishing trips like these but most don't understand what it takes to achieve these results.

If you ever get a chance to talk to the really good fishermen along the Texas coast you will find that most of them are very detail oriented and they keep some sort of records. The records consist of all the obvious things like tides, temps, weather along with bottom structure, available bait, and a few others.

The records offer up valuable history that can help anglers find a consistent fish catching pattern. During the winter months those fish catching patterns don't last very long during the day, all the factors tend to align themselves for a brief period of time and that's when memories are made. These small windows of opportunity are the key to being successful during the tough stretches because these windows are the smallest of the year. Many anglers fish all day in hopes of finding fish while others make shorter trips based on the patterns from past years. 9 times out of 10 the guy with the known pattern on his side will catch more and bigger fish.

On Sabine and Calcasieu the patterns hold the same much like they do farther down the coast, warmer water on outgoing tides late in the day are a favorite of many at this time of the year. The combination of these factors can be extraordinary, especially when you know you can count on the bite being consistent. The afternoon pattern works well and is probably the favorite but what happens when you don't have these conditions? The incoming tide can also provide some better water onto productive flats that have been exposed to sunlight during the day on low water conditions.

Looking at the winter months the first thing that comes to mind is run off from the lakes to the north and what kind of effect it will have on Sabine and Calcasieu. As it stands right now all the water levels on the lakes are relatively normal and that means stable conditions and saltier water for the time being. Hopefully the wonderful pattern that most anglers enjoyed in the Sabine River last winter will hold true because it was fantastic. Right now the same can be said as many anglers have taken to the breaks in the river and are absolutely

wearing out the trout and reds. For this time of the year going forward that has to be a welcome pattern that most local anglers will take every year if possible. Enjoy it while it's here and *have a Happy Thanksgiving.*

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 74 degrees. Trout continue to be excellent on the North levee early in the morning with live shrimp under a popping cork, switching mid-day to 5 inch glo chartreuse jigs or crankbaits. Limits of trout on the flats on the north end of Pleasure Island on long drifts with live shrimp under a popping cork. Limits of slot redfish are good in the jetties on rock and shell with live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish, bull redfish and trout are good in the Bessie Heights marsh rock piles, points and drops. The points and turnarounds are good for trout in 4-6 feet of water in the Neches River making long drifts with a quarter ounce jig heads. You will need to sift through many fish to find the keepers. Sheepshead and undersized drum showing up in the Bessie Heights marsh mixed in with the redfish biting on Carolina rig off the bottoms or live shrimp under a cork. Rain is in the forecast but the salinity continues to be good so fishing should continue to be good. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 65 degrees. Fishing is on fire pulling in redfish and black drum off the jetties on live shrimp under a cork. Crabs can be caught off the rocks at the jetties. Bull croakers, small speckled trout in the jetties. The surf is good for redfish on the bay side and big black drum and bigger sized speckled trout live shrimp, or cut mullet. Report by Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp. Fishing patterns remain consistent. 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. 66 degrees. Birds working over schools of speckled trout near the mouth of the Trinity river. Better fish coming off the east/northeast shoreline by those wading with artificial lures. Still plenty of bull redfish roaming over the open bay. Look for birds on relatively calm

days. Jack's Pocket is good for trout and scattered redfish for those drifting with live shrimp and soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 68-75 degrees. Weather has limited action in the open bay. Waders having best luck along the shorelines. Look for larger trout to be caught near Frozen Point and Marsh Point as weather settles and cooler temperatures take hold. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Water clarity is good and we were able to fish near and off the shore

reefs again this week for very good catches of trout, redfish, and a few black drum on our artificial lure trips in the 5-6 foot depth range. Once we find the active fish, they are normally only on a small section of the reef, which results in some fast and furious catching action. Birds working are feeding on shrimp and the trout and redfish are there to get an easy meal. We also targeted mud flats with scattered shell beds around pinch points with current and nervous bait, with great success in the 2.5-3 foot depth range. Shrimp imitation lures with Fish Smack popping corks, with 14-18 inch leaders are still producing the most bites for our anglers, resulting in great success on our chartered trips, as well as Deadly Dudley Terror Tails in Blue Moon Chartreuse on ¼ ounce jig head or live shrimp under a popping cork.

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19 Bears named All District

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Head Football Coach Eric Peevey released the names of players for the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears named as all-district selections. Nineteen Bears were chosen to the First Team, Second Team or Honorable Mention by the coaches in District 10-4A Division I.

Here are the Honorees:

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE
FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Dylan Payne	QB #16
Luke McDow	LB #5
Jonah Fuller	RB #22
Tucker Floyd	LB #28
Khayden Reed	WR #1
DeMarco Bandiero	DT #44

Carson Phelps	OL #79
Eddie Winters	DE #40
Parker Freeman Punter	#88
Kaden Boatman	DB #12

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE
SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Clayton Farwell	OL #58
Jackson Smith	DB #14

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE
HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

Jaylon Broussard	OL #68
Justice Trahan	DE #33
Carson McIlwain	TE #21
Jeremiah Arnold	DT #99
Jovany Molina	OL #71
Braylon Lewis	DB #0
Daunte Greer	DB #2

LCM Lady Bears

From Page 1B

teams last season.

The new group of varsity Lady Bears are very athletic and have very good skills with the basketball according to Michalko. Paisley Angelle is a sophomore and will be playing center despite her 5-7 stature. Junior Lindi Perry is 5-9 and will split time with Angelle at center.

Asia Woodson is a great athlete who can guard the post and can match up with the opponent's guards. Amaya Meadows is a sophomore like Woodson and is also athletic like Asia.

Sophomore Doniya Sibley plays guard very well. A newcomer to Little Cypress Mauriceville is Lucia Lopes-Montoto from Spain. Lucia is a sophomore who has done well in the early going.

One freshman who will see a lot of playing time on the LCM varsity is Kendall Jones who has stepped it up according to Coach Michalko. "I have ten Lady Bears that I feel are solid. We just have to learn to play together," Michalko responded.

Despite how young the Lady Bears are with no seniors on the varsity, they have started the new season well. Little Cypress Mauriceville won its first two games this year.

The opening game was on the road at Beaumont Legacy and was a victory for LCM. The second win also came on the road at Port Neches-Groves.

Defense has been the key for the Lady

Bears in those two triumphs. Michalko elaborated, "We've played solid defense in both games. That's our strength right now. If we learn how to take care of the basketball and actually play offense together we could be dangerous down the line. One of the biggest differences this year on defense is the Lady Bears are not letting the opponents catch the ball. In the past some of our girls waited until the player they were covering caught it and then they played defense. Now, they're playing the passing lanes and stepping in."

The aggressive Little Cypress Mauriceville defense has resulted in a good number of turnovers by the opposition. "We score a few points off of it, but we get a lot of turnovers by just not letting the other team have the basketball," Michalko continued.

Several of the Lady Bears are still in transition from competing on the LCM volleyball team. Paisley Angelle, Eden Frenzel, Amaya Meadows, Lindi Perry, and Asia Woodson were all key players for the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears during volleyball season and are now showing their athleticism by switching over to play basketball.

The Nederland tournament prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday break was a good test for the Lady Bears. Little Cy-

LCM LADY BEARS Page 6B

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Lady Bobcats look to improve on last basketball season

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Orangefield girls basketball program played its first season under their new head coach last year. The Lady Bobcats should be even more competitive in this second season with a new mentor.

The Lady Bobcats had a good year, but it was a frustrating season. Orangefield lost several games on last second shots including four district games by a combined total of eight points.

Orangefield Coach Eric Girola summarized the season for him and the Lady Bobcats. "Last year was a lot of learning for me on my end. It was my first time ever moving to a different school, so I didn't really know how that process was going to play out and honestly didn't know how long it was going to take for it to truly feel like I was putting my finger print on it. It took a lot longer than I thought, and that's okay. I think towards the very end of the season I finally got a feeling that it was starting to become my team and doing things a certain way that we want to do them. It was a little frustrating, but I learned a lot from it, and that's the important thing," Girola responded.

The summer prior to this school year was productive. Girola described, "We had a great summer. I had a lot of kids that really bought in to improving over the summer."

Orangefield was young last season for the most part. Only two Lady Bobcats were lost to graduation so a number of the members of the varsity return for this year.

Senior Greenlea Oldham will be a top player this year for Orangefield at the post. The coach said Oldham is a good team leader in addition to her being a major force under the glass.

Outside is senior Kaylea Gravett who was honorable mention on the all-district team in her junior year. "Probably for our team Kaylea was one of the most improved players overall last year," Girola stated.

Another returning senior is Bri Moore. Girola added, "Bri and Kaylea played a lot last year as juniors, and I think they gained a lot from it. When the girls play they're going to get better they're going to gain experience. They got a lot of experience last year which is going to hopefully help us



Eric Girola is beginning his second season as the head basketball coach for the Orangefield Lady Bobcats.

RECORD PHOTO

In addition to the seniors there are some other Lady Bobcats who have varsity experience. Brooklyn Wagoner and Steeley Franklin are sophomores this year who played a lot as freshmen.

Moving up from the junior varsity is Rebecca Durbin a junior. Durbin is a good post player who can backup Oldham.

Addisyn Moore is Bri's younger sister. Addisyn will help out the Lady Bobcats at the guard position.

Two freshmen are on the varsity roster as the season has begun. Mikayla Locke will be the starting point guard and is a good all-around athlete.

Paisley Reeves is the second freshman on the Lady Bobcat varsity. "Paisley also brings a little bit different presence at the post position than the other girls we have there. Paisley is long, but she can run and she can jump, very athletic. She's a great rebounder. She always finds herself around the ball. Paisley's going to be a big help," Girola predicted.

The first game of the season for Orangefield was an impressive win at Port Neches-Groves. The Lady Bobcats won 66-28 over PNG.

Mikayla Locke was the high scorer for Orangefield with 21 points. Brooklyn Wagoner also finished in double figures scoring 14 points. Ava Dyer and Rebecca Durbin both chipped in with 8 points.

The Lady Bobcats played strong defense with Kaylea Gravett and Wagoner both having 3 steals in the game. Rebounding was handled by Paisley Reeves with 8 boards and Greenlea Oldham pulling down

ORANGEFIELD Page 6B

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Lady Mustangs hope to exceed preseason predictions

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record



Coach Jaden Towner Spell hopes her Lady Mustangs can exceed their preseason pick to finish in fourth place during the district games. RECORD PHOTO

Last year did not go as planned for the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs in basketball it was a little bit of a struggle. The outlook for the Lady Mustangs this season is optimistic and hopefully will be a success.

West Orange-Stark won several key district games early last season making the prospects of a playoff berth a possibility. The loss of several girls on the roster was the cause for the Lady Mustangs not making it to the post season.

Lady Mustang Coach Jaden Towner Spell identified the turning point for West Orange-Stark. "It was very hopeful in the beginning of last season, but we lost a very key defensive player towards the end which really hurt us. I think structurally as a team it didn't let us stay jelling together it kind of broke us a little bit. Overall, when we finished it was right where we needed to be," Spell recalled.

Four Lady Mustangs return to the varsity this season. All four returners were starters which gives Coach Spell a good foundation to build on for the new campaign. Spell expressed, "This year, hopefully, we can pick it up and keep it rolling."

Two post players were leaders last year and are expected to be the strengths for WOS this season. Marilynn Guillory and Jordyn Patton should be top scorers again for the Lady Mustangs as well as contributing with strong rebounding. "Marilynn and Jordyn can get it done on the boards, with rebound, rebound, rebound," Spell promised.

The guard positions are covered by Nathia Allison and Carlysia Simien who are back. Spell added,

games were played in Kountze and in Burkeville that first week of the new season.

Kountze defeated the Lady Mustangs in the opener. "They did beat us, but the Lionettes are ranked in Class 3A. We went there, and I think it was just a little bit of a shock because we played them last year and they were better this year. We didn't compete with toughness and the fight in the game. I just attribute that to being the opening game of the season with our first

game of the year that was a tough matchup," Spell surmised.

The second game was more of a boost for West Orange-Stark. Spell stated the win over Burkeville helped increase the confidence for the Lady Mustangs. It was a good collective team effort with everyone getting into the scorebook during the game.

Tournament action got underway for West Orange-Stark prior to the Thanksgiving break. The Lady Mustangs played in the Splendora Tournament

and then will play in the Big Sandy Tournament the first weekend in December.

Spell assessed the progress of the Lady Mustangs. Spell stated, "There's a few things we need to work on individually, small things that just go down with fundamentals like locking the ball up on a rebound, making sure we make nice crisp chest passes, and things of that sort. So far, I really think we're doing what we need to do."

The expectations for the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs this season are

high. Prognosticators have picked the Lady Mustangs as a playoff contender in their district.

WOS hopes to make believers of the rest of the district opponents. "I really do have high expectations as they have picked us to finish fourth in the district. Of course we always want to finish higher than we're predicted, and that's the goal, and we should finish higher than fourth. The Lady Mustangs are going to go as far as the basketball gods will take us," Spell concluded.

"Nathia was my shooter last year, so I'm hoping that she can get hot this year and stay hot. Carlysia is our point guard and literally one of our best ball handlers, so I hope she can handle the ball for us."

Coach Spell plans to use nine Lady Mustangs on the varsity. She will have five new girls playing with the four returning starters.

Angel Cooper is not technically new to the varsity as she did move up from the junior varsity last year to see some playing time the last half of district with the varsity. "Now Angel's really going to have to be put in for a lot more minutes than she got in last year," Spell indicated.

Freshman Jadalynn Wilson is Jordyn Patton's younger sister. Even though she is only a freshman Jadalynn should see a lot of minutes on the court for WOS according to Spell.

Two backups at post are Madison Norman and Kya Hayden. Another Lady Mustang will be Tykeria Montgomery coming off the bench when needed.

Spell evaluated, "Those nine girls are our varsity and the core of the program. They are doing what we need them to do collectively."

The basketball season got underway the second week of November for West Orange-Stark. Two road

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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that LaComb Health and Wellness has been named Business of the Month for November 2023. They were presented an award at the November Networking Coffee hosted by Bridge City Bank. Pictured are: Laura Pittman, Heather Fenn, Veronica Machado, Chrissy LaComb and Rani Dillow.

BC Lady Cardinals

From Page 1B

season.”

The Bridge City varsity will contain ten members this year. Joining the eight returning Lady Cardinals on the varsity will be two new girls.

Abigail Janckila is a junior post player for Sterling. Janckila had a good year on the junior varsity last season.

“I believe she can help us and contribute. She is an athletic player at post. Abigail gives us some length and some shot blocking ability. Like anyone else it’s going to take her time to get her footing under her at the varsity level. She’s done a great job so far for us,” Sterling praised.

Sophomore Nyah Hantz played on the freshmen squad last year and has made the jump to the varsity this season. Sterling described Hantz, “Another excellent defender that brings energy to the game, very coachable, plays hard, and we believe Nyah will be a plus player for us.”

The season started this month for the girls in Bridge City. The Lady Cardinals split their first two games.

The first game was on the road against an improved Kirbyville team. The Lady Cardinals played shorthanded with seven girls since three members of the varsity basketball squad were still playing in the volleyball playoffs.

Bridge City finished the game with only four players because three of the girls fouled out. The Lady Cardinals took the lead with a minute left but eventually lost 35-33 to the Lady Wildcats.

The first home game for the Lady Cardinals was an eighteen point victory against Nederland. Whitney Cunningham was the leading scorer, Rylenn

Thornton was the leading rebounder, and Kennedy Campbell led the team in assists. “We’re looking forward to having all our kids back so we can practice together and build on things,” Sterling added.

Every team presents a different type of challenge for Bridge City. The weekend before the Thanksgiving Day break saw the Lady Cardinals participate in the Nederland Classic Tournament with six games against a variety of teams including district opponent Jasper in the opening game of the tournament.

Sterling anticipated, “It’s a good little measuring stick since Jasper was a playoff team last year in our district. That was an early season matchup that we can kind of see where we stand for the upcoming district season.”

Part of Coach Sterling’s job is to build a girls basketball program at Bridge City. Sterling emphasized, “When I first got here I knew it was going to take some time to get the ball rolling. We’ve really poured into our junior high programs, I’m fortunate we were able to hire Rickey Jacks as an assistant coach. He’s helping us at the middle school especially to build a program to get those girls ready for the high school.”

The possibility of success for the Bridge City Lady Cardinals has definitely increased this season. “We know it’s a tough district and every game is going to be a tough matchup. We may not out talent anyone, but I think with the way our girls play defense and the effort they give I believe we’ll be much better offensively,” Sterling concluded.

Orangefield

From Page 1B

6 rebounds.

Girola was impressed with both of his freshmen in their first varsity games. “Mikayla Locke was our leading scorer, and Paisley Reeves was our leading rebounder. They’re making pretty quick impacts right off the bat,” Girola observed.

“It was a complete team win because we had Brooklyn Wagoner hit I think four threes. It was a good team win with good team defense,” Girola replied.

Newton came to Orangefield for the second game which was another win for the Lady Bobcats. Locke again was a leading scorer for Orangefield, and it was a solid team victory.

Girola expounded, “I’m excited. I think we have the potential to be very solid if we can just continue to improve and not dip. As the season goes we just want to keep taking steps forward no matter how big or small. I think if we can do that we have a good chance at being very com-

petitive.”

The expectations are high for the Orangefield Lady Bobcats. “We’re trying to win a district championship. I think that’s fully within our grasp. Like I said earlier I feel like we had a really good summer. We had girls up here working out everyday coming to skill sessions, putting in work, playing basketball over the summer, they went to several tournaments where they played with each other, and kind of got some chemistry going. The girls have invested a lot, they’ve put the time in, and now I really expect for us to see the fruits of those labors. The expectations are high for me, I set the bar high, I think we can achieve it. We just need to continue to just move forward each day and don’t take any steps back. We have the makings of a really good season and seasons to come. If we can keep these girls together it can be really special,” Girola concluded.

LCM Lady Bears

From Page 1B

press Mauriceville as always faced some quality opponents in that tournament before the start of district.

Mixing the girls together as a team is one of the joys of coaching. Michalko explained, “It’s going to take a little bit of time for them to get together because they’re very young with two juniors, seven sophomores, and a freshman. It’s a fun group and they are so smart. I don’t have to worry about them in the class-

room, that’s just one thing I don’t have worry about.”

Michalko anticipates that District 19-4A in girls basketball will be extremely tough just like last year. “Every time you step on the floor you better be ready to play because anybody is capable of beating you. I’m not too worried about the wins or losses right now as long as we’re going in the right direction,” Michalko concluded.

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All of our services are also available premiered on:
Facebook at 9:00 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOrangeTX)
or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.
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www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

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

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
945 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409-735-4573
Worship Services: Tradition 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m., Contemporary Service 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m., Wednesday 'Compassionate Friends' 10 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
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Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
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409-735-6659
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Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor
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Orange First Church of the Nazarene
3810 MLK Drive, Orange
Lead Pastor Shane Weaver
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.
www.ofcn.church

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

Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
office@winfreebaptist.org
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor
Sunday:
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Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Wednesday:
Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
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