

# County Record

Vol. 64 No. 30

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Week of Wednesday, December 20, 2023

## Phelan, Nichols announce money for port

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

The Port of Orange is getting \$18.1 million from the state and will be able to do new projects to help local industry, thanks to a first-time allocation from the Texas Legislature.

Texas Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan, who represents Orange County and part of Jefferson County, and Texas Senator Robert Nichols, whose district includes Orange and Jefferson counties, were at the Port of Orange on Monday to announce the allocation.

The four ports in Southeast Texas are receiving a total of \$66 million in the new state money for different projects.

The local port, whose offices are in the historic former Lutchter and Moore Lumber Company on the

Sabine River, hosted the state officials, along with representatives from the ports of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Sabine Pass for the special announcement.

Phelan, the House District 21 representative, said this is the first time the state legislature has invested so much in the ports in the state.

The new emphasis on ports has been helped by Phelan, who grew up in this area and worked his way to the powerful speaker of the house position, and Nichols, who is chair of the State Senate Transportation Committee. Nichols lives in Jacksonville, but has a chemical engineering degree from Lamar University in Beaumont and a petrochemical professional back-

**MONEY FOR Page 3A**

## LSCO breaks graduation record



Lamar State College Orange has once again broken a graduation record with 327 degrees and certificates awarded to 244 graduates at commencement on Friday.

**STAFF REPORT**  
**For The Record**

Lamar State College Orange has once again broken a graduation record with 327 degrees and certificates awarded to 244 graduates at commencement on Friday, December 15, 2023. This represents more than a 12% increase in the number of graduates from last year's Fall commencement in De-

cember 2022.

"Commencement is without a doubt, my favorite event at Lamar State College Orange," President Thomas Johnson said. "Each and every one of these students has accomplished something incredible. I'm forever grateful that I get to play a small part of

**LSCO Page 3A**



Ashley Pymm poses with Santa 'Call Me Kris Kringle' Claus during Roberts Ford Second Annual Jingle Bell Rockout this past Saturday. The dealership held the festival for the community and as a way to benefit the local Sugie Lane Foundation to help victims of domestic violence.

**RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal**

## Santa smiles fills showroom

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

A brisk north wind Saturday accompanied Santa to Roberts Ford and blew out the rain before the dealership's Second Annual Jingle Bell Rockout festival.

Sarah Helm, marketing manager for the dealership, said the event is a way for the community to get to know the Roberts Ford family and for the business to help the community. That help includes letting small businesses set up booths to sell or get familiar with their products.

Helm said the weather forecast of rain kept some vendors this year from coming, even though the dealership had set up tents. Still, there was a variety of goods for sale from remote-control trucks to freeze-dried candies, candles, crafts, and Scentsy.

Roberts Ford asked each vendor to donate a new toy for the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance to give to children for the



Three-year-old Kodi Kuckenbecker had fun working on a Christmas decoration as one of the activities for children.

**RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal**

holiday. A large pile was set up on display as some people attending added another.

Crafts were set up for children and their parents helped them as they intensely concentrated on the colors for their Christmas decoration. Outside, a corn-hole game was set up for a competition, or as a couple of young boys discovered, a ramp for a remote-control truck.

The hot chocolate and coffee from Grit N Grind drew a line plus the Bullfish restaurant in Orangefield had its food truck for hot meals. A Santa set up inside the car showroom out of the wind so it wouldn't blow his naturally long white hair and beard.

The Sugie Lane Foundation took the spotlight, though. The local non-profit was started by Emily Ross in honor of her mother, Su-

gie Lane Vasquez. Vasquez was murdered in 1997 by her husband and Emily's father, Rogelio Guerra Vasquez.

The foundation helps promote domestic violence awareness and has a special goal of helping children who have lost a parent through the violence of an intimate partner.

Ross and her group set up an information table on the foundation's programs and how to donate. The Orange County Sheriff's Office had its purple domestic violence awareness patrol SUV set up next to the foundation's table. The patrol vehicle is the first in Texas to promote the helping victims of domestic abuse.

Roberts Ford had raffles for a number of donated items and the money raised was given to the Sugie Lane Foundation.

Roberts Ford is on Green Avenue at 16th Street in Orange in the dealership established in the 1960s by late businessman Charlie Wickersham.

## BCCC seeks nominees for honors

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce annual dinner has been set for January 29, and the deadline is approaching for nominees as "citizen of the year" and "business of the year."

The nominating deadline is January 5 and submissions may be made by email, postage mail, or at the

chamber office.

The 2024 recipients of the two honors will be announced dinner. Tickets to the annual dinner, which will be at the Bridge City Community Center at 6 p.m. January 29, are \$20 for each person, or \$200 for a table of eight. They are available at the chamber office, 150 West Roundbunch Road, or through email.

Each year the chamber selects from nominees a cit-

izen of the year who is honored at the annual dinner. The person should be nominated for volunteering and activities during the past year that have helped in the city of Bridge City and Orangefield area. A narrative nomination should be submitted describing the person's erof the specific volunteer work and activities should be included.

The business of the year is selected in a similar way

through a narrative about the business and its contributions to the Bridge City-Orangefield community during the past year. The recipient will be honored at the chamber dinner and also later in the year by the regional banquet for Small Business Week.

In addition to listing accomplishments the busi-

**BCCC SEEKS Page 2A**

THERE'S STILL TIME TO  
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Orange

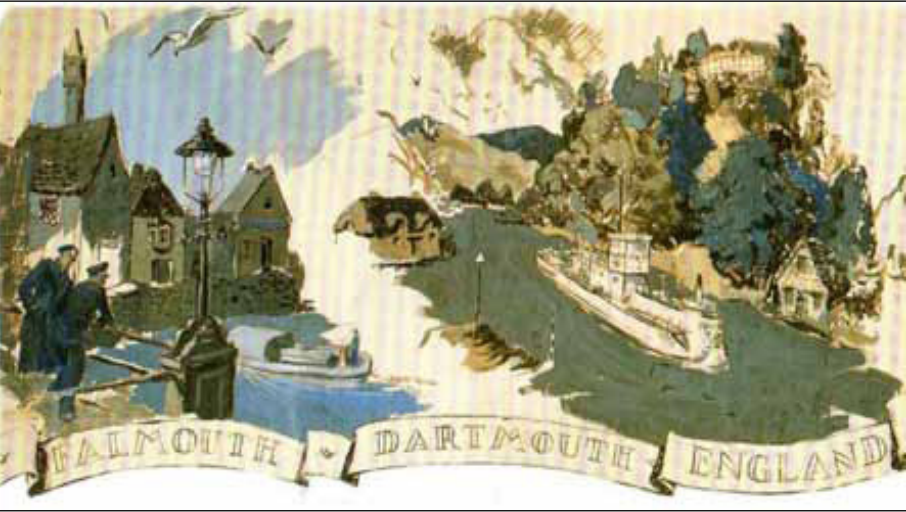
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# Orange Ship found at Agatha Christie House



This part of the mural shows the Orange-built LCI 96 moored in the river Dart below Agatha Christie's house. The mural segment that says Orange was done in this same type style as the Dartmouth, England, shown here.

## GLENDADYER For The Record

Huw and Martha Howells of Orangefield were surprised to see a touch of Orange, Texas, when they visited crime writer Agatha Christie's home in Devon, England, this summer. In the home's library is a mural painted by Lt. Marshall Lee of the United States Navy showing the route his landing craft infantry (LCI) ship took out of the Orange shipyard in February 1943 on the way to North Africa, Sicily and on to England to participate in the DDay events.

"The mural began in the left corner of the library as you entered, so the first thing I saw was the words Orange, Houston and Galveston," Martha said. "I could not believe what I was seeing, because the last thing I expected to see was Orange, Texas, commemorated in a mural on a wall in a room of Agatha Christie's house in Devon, England."

Martha said the docent working in the library was excited to talk with

somebody from one of the American cities included in the mural and said the story of their meeting would enhance her tours in the future.

The docent tried to find a photo of the mural showing the Orange, Houston and Galveston site but could not, and the Howells were not allowed to take their own photo because of the house rules.

Martha and Huw were in England visiting his parents' home at Lands End when they toured the Agatha Christie house which was about 100 miles away.

Huw was born in Wales and grew up in Crowborough 35 miles south of London. He came to Texas in the mid-1980s because his parents lived in Beaumont at that time. This is where he met Martha, who is an English and language arts teacher at Orangefield Junior High School and a fan of Agatha Christie's writings.

Lt. Marshall Lee was the second commanding officer of LCI 96, which was part of a flotilla made up of 24 landing craft infantry ships built by Consolidated Steel Corp. in Orange. After the units were commissioned, they assembled in Galveston where they were formed into Flotilla 10. In February 1943 the flotilla departed from Galveston and sailed on to Key West, Fla., and eventually across the Atlantic.

During the fall of 1943, Agatha Christie's home, known as the Greenway House, was requisitioned for the use of the U.S. Navy. The home became the headquarters ashore and officers' mess for Flotilla 10 based in the Dart River.

Lee painted the mural while billeted at the house from late 1943 to June 1944 prior to the Normandy Landings of World War II. The mural depicts the journey of LCI 96 from Orange to Key West, Norfolk, Va.; Morocco, Salerno, Sicily, Falmouth and Dartmouth to name a few.

After the war was over, the commander of the flotilla wrote and asked Agatha Christie if she wanted the mural painted over and the wall restored as it was before.

"I hurriedly replied it would be an historic memorial, and that I was delighted to have it," Christie wrote in her 1977 autobiography.

Lt. Marshall Lee was born in 1921 in Brooklyn, NY. His father, Jack Lee, was born in 1887 in Russia and came to America in 1895. His mother, Ruth Lee, was born in 1897 in New York City of Polish ancestry. His parents were married in 1916 and also had a daughter, Doris Lee, born in 1918.

Marshall's father died in 1929 at age 43, and his mother supported the family by working as a stenographer at a newspaper.

Marshall became interested in a career as a commercial artist while working in the newspaper pressroom during summer vacations. He studied art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from the school in 1939. He



Lt. Marshall Lee

then moved to lower Manhattan and began to work as a free-lance commercial artist.

During World War II he enlisted in the U.S. Coastal Guard and served until his

honorable discharge in 1946. He then became the U.S. director of Inter-Allied Cultural Relations in Europe.

He returned to New York City in 1948 and resumed his career in publishing and became an award-winning book designer. By 1952 he was teaching book design at New York University. In the 1970s he became vice president of an art book company.

He died in 2010 at the age of 89 in Schuylerville, New York.

Lee's Orange-built USS LCI-96 won six battle stars for its World War II service. Following the invasion of

Normandy, the ship performed occupation duty in the Far East from September to November 1945.

It was decommissioned on April 2, 1946, at San Pedro, Calif. On March 3, 1948, it was transferred to the Maritime Commission for disposal.

The 158-foot long ship had a troop capacity of six officers and 182 enlisted men and a cargo capacity of 75 tons. The ship could land troops on a beach in less than 3 feet of water. Also, it could travel 4,000 miles without refueling, weighed 380 tons when loaded and had a top speed of 16 knots.

May the Christmas Season  
bring only happiness and joy to  
you and your family.

Orange County Judge  
John Gothia

## BCCC seeks honorees

From Page 1

ness has made through volunteering, the nominations should include the staying power of the business, the number of employees the business has, and its growth during the past year.

Nominations for the honors may be submitted through the chamber's email, [director@bridgecitycoc.com](mailto:director@bridgecitycoc.com).

## The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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

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# County sets public hearing for M’Ville truck noises

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

People in Mauriceville who have an opinion on noisy engine braking on big truck rigs will have a chance to tell Orange County Commissioners Court at 8:30 a.m. on January 9.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris Sowell has recommended the county adopt a “no engine braking” zone at the intersection of Texas Highways 62 and 12. The court will hold a public hearing for the zone during that time before going into a workshop meeting at 9 a.m.

The court had its last meeting of the year on Tuesday and voted to set that public hearing after Sowell said he has had a number of complaints about the truckers.

Motor websites explain that “engine braking” is letting a foot off the accelerator to slow the vehicle down before applying brakes. The method can save wear and tear on brakes and give a bit of gasoline savings.

However, in the big rigs with compression brakes, that method can end up “producing a pretty loud and annoying noise

which some liken to a machine gun firing,” according to Capital One Auto Navigator.

Mauriceville and other areas of the county have seen increased heavy truck traffic as the construction for the new \$8.5 billion ChevronPhillips petrochemical plant gets in full swing.

In other business, commissioners approved a recommendation from County Elections Administrator Donna Alford to hold a joint primary election for the Orange County Republican and Democratic parties. She said she met with Democratic Chair John Cash Smith and Republican Chair Leo LaBauve and they agreed.

In past years, each party held its own primary race and paid the county office to oversee it. A voter coming in has been asked Republican or Democratic and they reply outloud. In the past decade, only Republicans have run for local offices. The 2024 races will include presidential primaries.

Alford explained that parties will save money on the joint election. The county has enough voting machines to rent to the Republicans, but the Democrats would

have to rent machines from a private company if they were having separate primaries.

With a joint primary, the identifications of voters are checked for the registered voter roles. A voter does not have to say outloud a party affiliation, but instead will choose which party to cast on the machine. They will then be checked onto the county’s registered voter roles as voting in the specific party primary, so a record will be kept. People who vote in one party’s primary may not vote in the other party’s primary runoff races.

Last year, the Texas Secretary of State’s

Office approved Orange County adopting a measure to let any registered voter in the county cast a ballot at any voting site in the county, rather than only at their assigned small neighborhood box.

The court approved extending a contract with KMY Consulting to oversee the Local First program, which helps individuals, contractors, and businesses to work with the new ChevronPhillips plant construction.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan thanked the Orange County Sheriff’s Office for once again sponsoring the Blue Santa program.

## Money for port From Page 1

ground that made him familiar with the importance of ports along the Texas coast.

The Port of Orange owns several acres of land along the Sabine River off DuPont Drive, plus acreage of the former U.S. Navy base along the river off Simmons Drive.

Port Director Lorrie Taylor said the new state money will be used to repair a dock, pluse develop a 10-acre site trucking site to help accommodate the large trucks that haul off goods delivered to

the port.

The state allocations will be used along with grants from the Port Connectivity Program and the Maritime Infrastructure Program.

The Orange Navigation and Port District was formed in 1960 and is a county-wide taxing entity with elected board commissioners to oversee the port. John Montagne is the current board president with other members Debbie Britnell, Keith Wallace, Walter Mullins III, and Marvin Spears.

## LSCO breaks record From Page 1

such a momentous occasion in their lives.”

79% of graduates are considered first generation students representing the first in their families to attend college. LSCO takes pride in being a place where hope meets opportunity and knows that a college certificate or degree can make a significant impact on a student’s future, as well as the future of generations to follow in their footsteps.

“We are thrilled to see so many graduates walking the stage each semester to receive their diplomas,” said Dr. Wendy Elmore, Provost and Executive Vice President. “None of this would be possible without the constant support of our dedicated faculty and staff. They are invested in the success of every student and beam with pride when a student they’ve taught turns their tassel on stage.”

May your family have a joyful holiday season, full of wonderful surprises, love and laughter!

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



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# Find cheer in who you turn to



The holidays are full. Full of family traditions, old friends and merry memories.

But they’re also full of difficult moments that can increase the risk of substance use.

If you or someone you love wants a healthier outlet for holiday stress, visit **TurnToSupportsTX.org** for other options you can explore.

Gift yourself time to check in





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From the Creaux's Nest

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE

We have rolled up on another **Christmas** and are very grateful to be here with you and still be able to knock out this weekly column and bring “**The Record**” to you. We thank our faithful readers who have made us the most popular and most read publications in Orange County. **Christmastime** is a great time to say thanks to our writers who are always current, informative and interesting. Our **staff**, week after week, does a yeoman's job of putting out a good paper. Thanks also to our **distributors** who deliver the paper. Most of all we are grateful for our **family of advertisers** who make it all possible by using our two newspapers to spread their message. We reach more consumers than any other combination of publications.

GLENDAS CHRISTMAS GIFT TO US

Among our stories this week is a special feature from **Glenda Dyer**, who spent many years in the area as a **Beaumont Enterprise** reporter, **Orange Leader** editor and writer for **The Record**. She also published her own newspaper in Bridge City for a time. Today, she and her husband **Paul** live in Tennessee, near Nashville, on a large family farm in a home built in the 1800's. She previously wrote a unique story that begins in Orange around **Christmastime in 1943**. As far as I know, the story and the discovery by **Huw** and **Martha Howells** has never been told by others locally. It is very interesting to discover how the history of Orange shipbuilding finds its way to **Devon, England** at an interesting place; the home of legendary writer, **Agatha Christie**. It's **Glenda's** Christmas gift to all of us. (Today **Glenda** is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's. Our prayers are with **Glenda**, **Paul** and daughter **Martha**, who is now living with her parents and husband to help care for **Glenda**.)

PORT NECHES-GROVES DEFEATS SOUTH OAK CLIFF 20-17 IN CLASS 5A DII STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

It's the first state title for **Port Neches-Groves** since 1975. **South Oak Cliff** was the two-time defending champion and defeated **Port Neches-Groves** in the 2022 title game. “It's so sweet getting the chance to come back and beat (**South Oak Cliff**). Coach **Jeff Joseph** said, “I don't think the reality of us winning the championship and being the best team in the state has really set in yet.”

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

I saw where **Dr. Sam Monroe**, Lamar Port Arthur president, will retire next year on Aug. 31. We have been fortunate to have known **Sam** since we were all much younger. He has been the only president of **Port Arthur Lamar**, installed in 1974. His parents started **Port Arthur College**, which later became Lamar. They would be proud of the great job he has done. **Sam** is one of the finest men I've known, something that is shared with every young musical artist of the back-in-the-day. Someone else will take his place but no one will ever replace him. **LSC Port Arthur** is a true successful story, along with the museum that **Sam** made happen.\*\*\*\*Congrats to **Chief Cliff Stutes**, husband of the beautiful **Donna Peterson Stutes**, who was grand marshal of the 72nd **Pearl Harbor** anniversary celebration on Dec. 7. The Navy **Chief** led the parade in a 1961 convertible with his lovely daughter **Donna Peterson, Jr.**, \*\*\*\*Our friend, **Margie Stephens** received an early Christmas gift. While visiting Dallas/Fort Worth, **Harry** surprised her with a new 2014 BMW\*\*\*\* The **Greater Orange Area Chamber** held their annual awards dinner meeting last week. Congrats to **Chad Jenkins**, Ag. Teacher at Orangefield, named **Citizen of the Year**. **Beverly Perry** received the **Athena award**. They were well deserving, as well as the other civic workers who were recognized.\*\*\*\***Jamie Winston**, Florida State quarterback, became the youngest player to win the **Heisman award** Saturday. The 19 year old is the second freshman to win the award. **Johnny Manziel**, A&M, winner last year, came in fifth in this year's ballot\*\*\*\* **Mack Brown** will be gone from UT after 16 years as coach of the **Longhorns**. His final game will be in the **Alamo Bowl** against Oregon, Dec. 30. **Brown**, age 62, did a far better job than he's getting credit for, but in coaching, it's 'what have you done for me lately'.\*\*\*\* Dec. 20, longtime friend, Port Arthur native and Market Basket checker, **Anne Hargrave**, celebrates as does one of the great guys, former union boss, **Kenny Pigg** and another great guy, **Phillip Welch**, who turns 55\*\*\*\*On Dec. 21, a good friend of many years, a great judge running for his last term, Dist. Judge **Buddie Hahn** celebrates. It is also **Buddie** and pretty **Ms. Carol's** 44th wedding anniversary this week.\*\*\* On Dec. 24, **Rene**, mayor of Starks, and his lovely bride, **Lucy Hanks**, celebrate 58 years of

wedded bliss.\*\*\*On Dec. 25 celebrating Christmas birthdays are former **JP Flo Edgerly**, **Ronnie Hutchison**, **Earline Russell**, **Velma Theriot**, **Ruby Ryan**, **Rushia Mae Cooper**, **Evelyn Foster**, **Janelle Deutsh**, **Randy Wuske**, **Mary Frances Hartley** and **Louise Buker**.\*\*\*\* After hearing about the death of country singing legend, **Ray Price**, I was just thinking how fortunate I've been to have lived through the times of pure, true, country music and the great artist who sang the songs and played the music. **Price** was an East Texas boy, born in Perryville, raised in Dallas. **Willie Nelson**, **Roger Miller** and **Johnny Paycheck** were at one time **Price** band members. This year we lost two of the best in **George Jones** and **Ray Price**.

20 Years Ago-2003

Three dead in murder-suicide: A 23 year old woman, **Wendy Roque**, and **Lance Pearson**, 37, were shot by **Alvarez Roque**, 33, husband of **Wendy Roque**. When approached by deputies, the 33 year old husband shot himself in the head with a handgun. Justice of the Peace **Janice Menard** said, “The body of the woman was outside and **Pearson's** body was in his residence, a mobile home in Vidor.” **Judge Menard** said an 18 month old child was found at the scene and was delivered to **Child Protective Services** unharmed. **Menard** said, “That is so sad right here at Christmas.” The **Judge** also said a 78 year old man was killed as he was looking under his hood when the gear shifted and ran over him. She could not relate his name but said it occurred on Winfree Road, off Highway 62. She also said a woman died traveling from Florida to McAllen to spend Christmas with her grandchildren. She became ill where she stopped at a local restaurant and died. **Judge Menard** said, “I love my job but this is the tough part.” \*\*\*\*Celebrating birthdays on Christmas Day are former **JP Flo Edgerly**, **Gordon Baxter**, 80, and **Ronnie Hutchison**. \*\*\*\*Coaches **Mark Forman** and **Cornell Thompson** haven't been hanging on to jobs very long since leaving **West Orange-Stark**. They just left their latest jobs at Huntsville.\*\*\*\*Congrats to **Amber Dunn**, who last week received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the **University of Texas at Austin** College of Natural Sciences. **Amber** is a Bridge City High graduate. (Editor's note: **Amber** attended the **Texas Tech Medical School** and served her residency in Cleveland, Ohio. She is presently an Anesthesiologist in **Vero Beach, Florida**. She is the daughter of **Mark Dunn** of Bridge City.)\*\*\*\*GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: **Donald A. Gunn**, 76, died Sunday, Dec. 21 at St. Elizabeth. Services Dec. 24 at Claybar. **Gunn** was a retired plumber and former constable of Pct. 2. He was a U.S. Navy veteran during WWII. **Gunn** is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Mary Lou Pacher**, son, attorney **Tommy Gunn**, daughters **Donna Mitchell** and **Diana Dotson** and their families.\*\*\***Kyle David Richardson**, 16, of Bridge City died Friday, Dec. 19, at Texas Children's Hospital after a brief illness. He was a sophomore at B.C. High. \*\*\***Aaron “A.G.” Burch**, 72, died Dec. 19 at Herman Hospital. \*\*\***Richard A. Hudnall Ferris**, 47, of Mauriceville died Monday, Dec. 15. \*\*\***Delward “Del” Fred Keischnick**, 64, died Dec. 16. \*\*\***Joseph O. Broussard**, 81, died Dec. 16. \*\*\***John L. Toups**, 55, died Dec. 19. \*\*\***Georgia Gertie Welch**, 94, died Dec. 22. \*\*\*\***Joe Kazmar**, in his **Kaz's Korner** column, runs his annual **Santa's list**. For many years **Kaz** has been publishing his list. Over the years many of his friends have left us. (Editor's Note: **Joe** has now passed away. His list ran for 40 years. We sure miss him.)

45 Years Ago-1978

Some of the folks seen floating around town doing last minute shopping were **James “Stick” Stringer**, **Asa Mansfield**, **Crip Trahan**, **Bob Montagne**, **Ernest Willard Frank**, **Buddy Rhodes**, **Curry Barton**, **Raymond Seltzer**, **Bill Stringer**, **Alvin Keown**, **Butch Ibach**, **Sunny Gunstream** and **Cecil Beeson**. (Editor's note: **Stringer** is the only one still with us.)\*\*\*\* There are 22 **Sak-N-Pak** stores, owned by **Lynn** and **Carol Emmerson**, in the Golden Triangle.\*\*\*\*The **Fashion Scene** is located at 333 Roundbunch in Bridge City.\*\*\*\***Ronnie Theriot** is a car salesman at **Stephen's Buick**.\*\*\*\***Noguess Mortuary** is located at 2300 MacArthur in Orange.\*\*\*\*Spotted at the **Village Squire** were the Three Stooges, **Tina Cotton**, **Nancy Scarborough** and **Kim Young Worster**, bride of **Gary Worster** and mom of new baby **Jacob**.\*\*\*\***Betty Jo Spence** is editor of the **Dunn family** owned **Opportunity Valley News**, located at 109 6th Street in Orange.\*\*\*\***Albert Gore**, assistant Bridge City superintendent is BC Rotary president. Other officers are **John Brooks**, first vice president; **Don Cole**, second vice-president; **Charlie Patten**, third vice-president; **Chapman Bell**, secretary-treasurer; **Tim Lieby**, sergeant-in-arms; directors are **Lawrence Helton**, **Roy Dunn**, **C.R. Nash** and **Hank Eckhardt**.\*\*\*\*Attorney **Buddie Hahn** celebrates his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 22. (How young we all were.)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

A special lady will be celebrating a special birthday next Wednesday, Dec. 27. Our longtime friend, **Steve Stevens'** widow, **Irene**, will celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She and **Steve** raised a good family and during their marriage they danced over 10,000 miles. **Irene Stevens** is a nice, sweet lady that deserves a great birthday. \*\*\*\*Congratulations to **Stump Weatherford** for being named **Citizen of the Year** by the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce last week during the group's annual banquet. **Stump** can chalk up a lot of contributions to his community during the past 50 years. Wife **Dayle Gunn Weatherford** accompanied him. He's been out and about a lot in the days after leaving the hospital for cancer treatment.\*\*\*\***Jessica Hill** from **Entergy** took over as the chairman of the board for the chamber as **Steve Jones** stepped down from his leadership. **Jessica** was the **Orange County Economic Development** director before taking the job in private industry. **Stacy Brister**, superintendent of the LC-M school district is the chair-elect. **Chad Jennings**, plant manager at Golden Triangle Polymers, now is a member of the chamber's board of directors.\*\*\*\*Those attending included **Emily McKee Mellon**, **Paul** and **Kim Dickerson**, **Gary Stelly**, **Tad McKee**, **Corey Stark**, **Heather**

**Montagne**, **Dr. Tom Johnson**, **Wade Smith**, and **Caleb Meadows**. Of course, **Ida Schossow**, president and CEO was there.\*\*\*\***Adam Conrad** has become **King of the Video** for the **Salvation Army** of Orange. His Facebook shorts seeking volunteer bell ringers show off his acting antics. Speaking of bell ringers, **Cecil Broom** and **Betty Harmon**, longtime members of the local Army's advisory board, were at Walmart on Friday ringing for **Red Kettle donations**. They've been doing that for more than 50 years. **Betty's** daughter, **Debora Harmon Lanciaux** accompanied them and **Orange City Councilor Paul Burch** made it a foursome. Remember, local donations to the **Red Kettle** go to help people in Orange County who need assistance.\*\*\*\*The Orange Alumnae of the **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** with **Margaret Adams** as president, brought dozens of boxes of cereal this week to help the **Army's** food pantry. Cereal and shelf-stable milk are popular grocery items for hungry families.\*\*\*The **LC-M football team** raised \$2,500 for the **Salvation Army Angel Tree** program and bought 55 bicycles.\*\*\*Captains **Dante** and **Tiffany Salgado** are the new local leaders of the **Army** and moved here with their young children just in time for the busy holiday season.\*\*\*\*oe and **Kendra Waldbusser** took a trip west or the NFR and picked up new cowboy hats for the event.\*\*\*\*Justice of the Peace **Joy Dubose-Simonton** celebrated the birth of twin grandsons. Parents are **Christian** and **Jessica Simonton**.\*\*\*\*The Bridge City school district honored retiring business manager **Melinda James** with a reception.\*\*\*\***Kent Hutchinson** was among the locals taking a holiday trip to Natchitoches, Louisiana, for their famous festival. Orange City Councilor **Brad Childs** and wife, **Terri**, also traveled there this past weekend. The previous weekend, they hosted their big annual wing-ding. Guests included **Lanie Brown**, **Gary Bonneaux**, **Keith Longlois**, **Jody Chesson**, and **Adam Conrad**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few friends celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Dec. 20: **Kenneth Pigg**, **Jeremy Granger**, **Jeffery Huebel**, **Elizabeth Parish**, **Majed Jaarah**, **Matt Reeves**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 21: This is the first day of Winter. Celebrating are **Daniel Perry**, **Rick Deutsch**, **Glenda Granger**, **Paula Hall** and **Rachel Guidry**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 22: **Phyllis Broussard**, **Rodney Harmon**, **Yvonne Veillon**, **Clevie Fontenot**, **Charlee Lemons**, **Dale Burns**, **Debi Foster**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 23: **Chris Gunn**, **Rodney Petty Sr.**, **Jane Holton**, **Sue Cowling**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 24: **Helen DeRoche**, **Holly Bryan**, **Mindy Granger**, **Toni Thompson**, **Terri Estes**, **Lewis Sims**, **Mary Jane McCune**, **Mike Dillion**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 25: **Judge Flo Edgerly**, **Ruby Ryan**, **Ronnie Hutchison**, **Velma Theriot**, **Janelle Deutsch**, **Randy Wuske**.\*\*\*\*Dec. 26: This was the date in 1922 that Cajun music performer **Harry Choate** died. Celebrating birthdays are **Ashley Burris**, **Emily Glover**, **Jennifer Ferguson**, **Kent Broussard**, **Laura Floyd**.\*\*\*\*Birthdays in the past week were **Lee Clark** who celebrated his 90th birthday. Others completing another trip around the sun included **John Mallory**, **Bobbie Lynn Hudson**, **Frederick Robinson**, **David James**, **Gary Marks**, **Virginia Fregia**, **Daniel Bourgeois**, **Cody Caples**, **Kallye Harris**, **Franke Brown**, **Tommy Bradford**, **Ricki King**, **Jackie Dallas**, **Mariah Mims**, **Danny Simar**, **Pam Hughes**, **Sheilia Rellford**, **Cheryl Sharp-ton-Stalnaker**, **Stryker Kovatch**, **Chip DuChamp**, **Raven Walker**, and **Susan Wingate**.\*\*\*\* Speaking of special people celebrating birthdays, **Judge Buddie Hahn** will be celebrating his 79<sup>th</sup> on Dec. 22. I recall the time, many years ago, when I first met **Buddie** and **Carol**. Happy anniversary also Dec. 23 to these great folks on 54 years of marriage.\*\*\***Becky** and **Mark Messer** celebrate a anniversary on Dec. 22.\*\*\***Chris** and **Linda Gunstream** with No. 39.\*\*\***Brandon** and **Alexis LaBarbera** celebrate. Best wishes to all for many more healthy years together. (To post a birthday or anniversary [Free of Charge Email: therecordlive.com](#) or call 409-886-7183.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Naville Badeaux** and his wife, **Lula Mae**, were lying in bed, turned in for da night. **Naville** was falling asleep but **LuLa Mae** was in a romantic mood her and wanted to talk. She said, “**Babe**, you used to hold my hand wen we was dating.” **Naville** reached over and held her hand for a few seconds and rolled over to get to sleep him. **Lula Mae** said, “Den you used to kiss me.” **Naville**, mildly irritated, leaned over and gave her a peck on da cheek and settled back down to sleep him. A few seconds later, **Lula Mae** added, “Den you used to bite my neck.” Really pissed by now, **Naville** threw back dem covers and got out of bed. **Lula Mae** axe, “Where you going hanh?” **Naville** say, “To da bashroom to put my teets in.

C'EST TOUT THE ICONIC COUNTRY SINGER/SONGWRITER

**Willie Nelson** celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at LA's famous Hollywood Bowl. The event took place for two days, April 29, his birthday and April 30. Over the weekend we got to watch a two hour television special of the event. I first met **Willie** when he wore a crew cut. That was right after he and **Paul** were run out of Nashville. I recall when **Mark Dunn**, as the photographer for **The Record**, got to go on the bus with **Willie** and the boys. Somewhere there is some great film of that event. The weekend birthday lineup included **Neil Young**, **Kris Kristofferson**, **Dave Matthews**, **Keith Richards**, **Lyle Lovett**, **Kacey Musgraves**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Rosanne Cash**, **Snoop Dogg**, **Ziggy Marley**, **Beck**, **Sheryl Crow**, **The Lumineers**, **The Chicks**, **Norah Jones**, **Tom Jones**, **Leon Bridges** and **Nelson's** sons **Lukas** and **Micah**. **Willie** is a Texas treasurer. He is truly a living legend of music. At 90, he's still going strong and is embarking on a new tour and will release his 72nd studio album. **Willie** is currently a nominee for induction into the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**.\*\*\*\*Thanks for coming along. Read us cover to cover. Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you. **Take care and God bless**.



## Deaths & Memorials

### Sylvia Rigsby Rhodes, 82, BC

Sylvia Rhodes passed away on December 16, 2023, at the age of 82.

She was born in Beaumont, Texas on January 18, 1941, to Haldor and Wilda Rigsby. She was a lifelong resident of Bridge City and Orange, and a 1958 graduate of Lutch Stark High School where she was a Bengal Guard member. Sylvia had several careers including as a beautician and business owner in construction and personnel. Later she received her LVN license and was a nurse at a Beaumont facility until retiring at age seventy-five. Sylvia loved rearing her children on Cow Bayou, which became a fun and busy gathering place for family and friends. She enjoyed cooking for her crowd while they were fishing and water skiing. She was always active in the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. There are no words to describe the depth of our love for her and the loss we feel, even knowing she is certainly in heaven with beloved family and friends.



Sylvia Rigsby Rhodes

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Rhoda Rhodes, Luther Rhodes (her children's father) and good friend Kathy Block.

She is survived by spouse Frank Setters; children, Rhonda and Chuck Lomonte, Paul and Stacy Rhodes, and Rodney and Tammie Rhodes; grandchildren, Regan Lomonte, Trey and Shea Rhodes, Reese Rhodes, Sadie and Brian Mouton, Spencer and Amanda Fuss, and Toby and Crystal Fuss; great-grandchildren, Harper Rhodes, Zoey Huneycutt, Joey Fuss, Shyanne Fuss, Alisha Fuss, Rayven Fuss, Will Mouton, and Jakob Mouton; and great-grandchild, Alice Joy Hardy; brother, Frank and Sharon Rigsby; and sisters, Darla Pollard and Kay Brown; plus many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

A celebration of Sylvia's life will be scheduled in January.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Friends of the Bridge City Library has been named Business of the Month for December 2023. They were presented an award at the December Networking Coffee hosted by Bridge City High School. Pictured are: Ann Zerzavy, Linda Dubose, Randi Hagan, Kelle Miller and Patrick Brekel.



#### BC's Ester Saldana named 'Student of Month'

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the December Student of the Month for Bridge City is Ester Saldana. Ester is ranked 31 of 199 with a GPA of 4.4. Pictured are: Mandy Lyda, Ester Saldana and Chloe Tucker.

#### • Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m..



## First Presbyterian Church

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of WILLARD L A N I E R , Deceased, were issued on the DECEMBER 12, 2023, in Cause No. P19853, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: KEITH SPECTOR.

Attorney for:

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

Dated the 12th day of December, 2023.

Tommy Gunn  
Tommy Gunn

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of JENNIFER ANN BURLEIGH , Deceased, were issued on the DECEMBER 12, 2023, in Cause No. P19862, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: HAROLD JOSEPH BURLEIGH.

Attorney for:

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

Dated the 12th day of December, 2023.

Tommy Gunn  
Tommy Gunn

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of KENNETH PERRY GARNETT, Deceased, were issued on the DECEMBER 18, 2023, in Cause No. P19821, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: DENNA STANLEY.

Attorney for:

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

Dated the 19th day of December, 2023.

Tommy Gunn  
Tommy Gunn

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of STEVEN MARK MEADOWS , Deceased, were issued on the DECEMBER 18, 2023, in Cause No. P19825, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: BETTY RAYE MEADOWS.

Attorney for:

Betty Raye Meadows  
State Bar No.: 08623700  
202 S. Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: (409)882-9990  
Fax: (409)882-0613  
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Dated the 19th day of December, 2023.

Tommy Gunn  
Tommy Gunn

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CROSSWORD

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CROSSWORD

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

1. \*Herald, Idalia or Ophelia

6. Do this in the bud

9. Parts of play

13. Cocoon dwellers

14. Paleozoic or meozoic, e.g.

15. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black ..."

16. Concerning, archaic

17. Talking Heads' "And She ..."

18. Give a speech

19. \*2023 World Series winners

21. \*Imploded submersible's destination

23. \*Kali Uchis' "I Wish ... Roses"

24. Don't step on it twice!

25. \*Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role

28. Winter window picture

30. Imprisons

35. Aphrodite's son

37. Hindu serpent deity

39. Toughness

40. Angler's hope

41. Stephen Curry, e.g.

43. Opposed to

44. Tastes like lemon

46. Seven-year deity

47. Turf alternative

48. \*Highest-grossing 2023 movie to date

50. Chris Hemsworth's repeating role

52. Auction batch

53. Cheese on Pella

55. Kombucha, e.g.

57. \*Retired media magnate

61. \*King Charles III's Royal House

65. On the radio (2 words)

66. \*Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up

68. 1000 kilograms

69. "Beat it!"

70. Lake, in France

71. Manila hemp

72. Foot digits

73. Freudian topic

74. Runner

DOWN

1. Joust verbally

2. Cat food flavor

3. Word before session

4. Gangly

5. Type of shower

6. \*Company from which #57 Across retired, Corp

7. Nest egg, acronym

8. Trattoria staple

9. Sign of a saint

10. Kin group

11. South American monkey

12. Design detail, for short

15. Sacred objects on a pole

20. Bitterly regretting

22. Dwight D. Eisenhower

24. Boat race

25. Meat on a stick

26. "Fear of Flying" author Jong

27. Post-it user

29. \*Site of tragic wildfires

31. Objectivity preverb

32. Declare invalid

33. Like 1950s style, today

34. \*"The Eras Tour" star

36. Balkan native

38. St. Louis attraction

42. Hindu garment

45. Combining two forms

49. What kneecap and leech have in common

51. Airbnb offering

54. Northernmost land, to the ancients

56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d'alhos

57. Lion's share

58. Beyond natural, in U.K.

59. Steak preference

60. Days, in Havana

61. \*Showtime's "\_\_\_\_": The Aftermath

62. Certain social media message

63. A third of thrice

64. Infantry's last rows

67. \*\_\_\_\_-AFTRA

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# A New Rod for Gramps

THE FISHERMAN'S FISHERMAN  
ROBERT VAIL  
For The Record

Young Cris had been going fishing since he was old enough to walk. Gramps, as he had called him, was raising Chris as best he could, living on a fixed income.

Cris' parents were taken from him in a car crash wen he was only six months old, and his Gramps was just like a dad to him. Gramps had lost his wife to cancer a year before Cris was born, so the two of them needed each other very much.

Living within a mile of one of Texas' largest bays, Cris enjoyed the time he and his grandfather spent on its shores. Gramps had spent many hours schooling him in the finer art of angling for redfish and he always admired the pretty copper-colored battlers that his gramps caught and later cooked for dinner.

Cris fished with push-button reel on a rod that was tattered and missing an eye or two. Limited as to what he could catch on his smaller outfit, he was just as happy catching croakers for Gramps to use for cut bait to lure the redfish they ate.

Gramps fished with an old knuckle-busting reel that had no drag and di-

rect drive mounted on an old six-foot rod that was a little stiffer than he would like, but it was all he had, and he couldn't afford a newer model, so he made do.

In the spring of Cris'

eighth year, he accompanied Gramps to a local pawn shop where Gramps was going to try to sell his old shot gun to help pay for

some of his medical bills. Gramps reasoned that since he was too old to tromp the salt marsh after ducks any more, he might as well use the gun for something good.

While in the pawn shop, Cris noticed his grandfather wander over the rack of fishing rods in the corner and pick up a shiny seven-foot rod with a new, bright red Garcia reel on it. Gramps held the rod admiringly, sighting down the length of it. He tested it for balance and made several casts before setting it back in its place.

Cris knew then what he wanted to give his Gramps for next Christmas.

All summer long Cris did as many odd jobs as he could, saving every penny he earned mowing grass and washing cars. In between fishing trips with his Grandfather, he carried out the neighbor's garbage, and as summer turned into fall, he raked leaves all over the neighborhood.

Finally two days before Christmas, he had enough money saved. Cris hopped on his bicycle and pedaled down to the pawn shop ... only to find that the rod



NEW ROD Page 4B

## Coach Smalley becomes new AD in hometown Bridge City



Josh Smalley has been hired by the Bridge City Independent School District to be the athletic director and head football coach.

RECORD PHOTO  
DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

Bridge City native Josh Smalley is going home. Smalley has been chosen as the new athletic director and head football coach at Bridge City High School.

Superintendent Dr. Mike Kelly submitted Smalley as the candidate to fill the two positions of athletic director and head football coach at a meeting of the Bridge City school board on Wednesday, December 13. The school trustees unanimously approved the superintendent's recommendation.

Dr. Kelly said he and the school trustees were looking for a good, solid, genuine person and somebody that they would want their kids to be around. Kelly and the school board were hoping to find someone who would stay in Bridge City for more than just a couple of years to give the athletic program some consistency.

The superintendent indicated Smalley was given an administration position contract which all run for two years, but Dr. Kelly is optimistic the working relationship between Bridge City and Coach Smalley will be much longer. "The main thing I wanted was somebody that could look at a sixth grader in the face and say son when you are a senior here at Bridge City High School I'm going to be your football coach. That's the level of consistency and devotion we need for this program," Dr. Kelly explained.

Smalley played multiple sports as a student at Bridge City High School. Later he served a couple of stints as an assistant coach in Bridge City.

The last twelve years for Coach Smalley have been spent as the athletic director and head football coach at Orangefield High

School. Those dozen seasons have made Smalley the winningest football coach in that school's history.

The decision to leave Orangefield was not an easy one for the coach.

Smalley stated during his twenty-eight years in education leaving Orangefield was the hardest decision he has ever had to make.

"I love that community, I love those kids, I love that school district. They

took a chance on me twelve years ago to give me a shot to run a program, and I'm forever grateful and forever in their debt," Smalley acknowledged.

Saying good bye to his Bobcat athletes was really difficult. Smalley confessed, "To have to look those kids in the eyes and tell them that I was leaving and where I was going that's a difficult conversation to have when you truly

love and care about people. Just because you change logos and colors doesn't mean you stop loving and caring about kids. That will be forever."

SMALLEY Page 6B

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OUTDOORS  
Capt. Chuck Uzzle  
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

For months the faithful waited in anticipation for opening day and in what seems to be the blink of an eye the 2023-24 duck season is just about gone. With a few weeks to go before the end many water fowl hunters have resorted to road trips to get that last little fix in before the party ends. For many hunters the coast has been the destination, especially the Rockport and Port O' Conner areas since they have been covered up with ducks for most of the season. The stories about rafts of redheads that black the sky are more than most hunters can stand, especially hunters who have had slow years. The opportunity to hunt ducks in a different type environment is always a welcome change of pace and sheer numbers of birds down there right now is worth the trip. Perhaps the biggest draw is the fact you can hunt so much public water and have success doing it. With a little bit of effort a resourceful hunter can make a great trip down there and not break the budget. It's far more acceptable down along the coast to hunt ducks in the open water along the bays than it is anywhere else so just about any hunter who can put together a blind can set up on some prime real estate. Plenty of ducks and places to hunt equal a good time for any water fowl hunter.

Another popular venue for the water fowl hunter is the Katy prairie and Eagle Lake areas as well as the surrounding El Campo and Garwood. These towns are smack in the middle of some prime agriculture and are just absolute magnets for ducks and geese. Rice is the key to this part of the world and when you have food and water the ducks and geese won't be far behind. This season has been strange for many hunters in that area due to the fact the snow geese have acted funny all season, typical patterns have gone out the window and made it tough to get consistent results. The one thing that has remained the same is that if you get weather like fog or good low clouds and a stiff south wind you can really work the birds over. Duck hunters on the other hand have had great success as it seemed like the green winged teal just won't leave and the pintails are plentiful. Many hunters are reporting limits of ducks along with a handful geese being the norm.

Last but certainly not least on the water fowl hunters road trip list is the panhandle, places like Amarillo, Dumas, and Knox City are all hot spots that you may or may not know about. Easily the biggest draw for hunters to this area is the opportunity to shoot Canada geese. The panhandle area of Texas affords hunters the best shot at taking these beautiful birds in big numbers. With miles and miles of open agricultural country to choose from the geese in that area have a steady diet and little hunting pressure which translates into some great shooting opportunities for anyone who makes the trip. Also what many folks don't know or maybe don't hear about is the fact that the snow geese up there receive even less hunting pressure than the Canada geese do. Once the snows reach the panhandle they get a chance to rest because very few if anyone hunts them until the special conservation starts at the end of regular duck season. The panhandle along with Arkansas and Missouri are probably some of the best places you can go during the special season simply because the snow geese have not been hunted and are much easier to decoy. If you are considering a late season hunt I would certainly think about this area and put it near the top of any wish list.

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. Limits of trout and limits of redfish are good in the morning drifting points and bayous in Sabine Lake off the bottom in the morning with ¾ ounce silver and gold spoons, or ¾ ounce glo chartreuse 5 inch plastics.

Early morning North Levee bite for speckled trout on topwaters, and 5 inch plastics, then live shrimp under a popping cork.

Then fishing Pleasure Island Point making long drifts with a ¼ ounce jig or live shrimp under a popping cork. Bank anglers are catching trout with live shrimp under a popping cork.

Redfish and speckled trout are good in the Neches River fishing ¾ ounce spoons under the birds on points and cuts as the shrimp come out of the marsh. Then fish buoys for bull redfish, slot, and sheepshead and drum with live shrimp on Carolina rig.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 60-65 degrees. Catches of redfish, sheepshead, big croaker, sand trout and whiting at the jetties using live or dead shrimp and finger mullet. Most catches of trout in East Bay. Report by Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

Fish deeper ends of the reefs or wind protected cuts with wind and cooler temperatures. The jetty holding sheepshead and trout on live shrimp close to rocks.

Yates Slough's holding redfish on grass lines close to Siever's Cut. Stingaree to Rollover Pass holding redfish in deeper marshes on popping cork with shrimp and artificial twitch bait, or split tails.

Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.



The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a nice Sabine Lake redfish caught using winter tactics.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 60 degrees. Burnett, Scott, and Tabbs Bays continue to be good for speckled trout with live shrimp under popping cork or soft plastics. A few oversized black drum and bull redfish are roaming the same areas. Shallow shell reefs are holding black drum and sheeps-

head on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Trinity Bay. Red fish are holding around rocks and drains with current catching numbers on weedless gulf and live shrimp.

Trout are showing up a bit later in the morning after the front in warmer waters being caught on

plastics and live under a popping cork and around reefs. Drum and sheepshead are in abundance under a popping cork with a long leader in deeper water around rocks. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 61-65 degrees. Back shorelines and bayous producing decent catches of redfish, along with some nice speckled trout.

Open bay hampered by the wind. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperature 65 degrees, water clarity is good. Strong winds have forced us to adjust our tactics, so we have concentrated on marsh areas where we can get some protection.

This week the redfish bite has been good around areas where good current flow has bait up against the shorelines and grass lines. Fish Smack Popping Corks and shrimp imitation lures have worked well with 12-18 inch leaders.

Our best trout bite has been on ¾ ounce jig heads with paddle tails fished extremely slow, almost to the point of dead sticking it in deeper pockets, triggering the most strikes.

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# Boys begin district basketball action

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

District action started for three of four local boys basketball teams the second week of December. Bridge City, West Orange-Stark, and Orangefield all have played one game in their respective districts while Little Cypress Mauriceville will play their first district game on January 2.

Bridge City, Little Cypress Mauriceville, and West Orange-Stark are members of District 19-4A. Other district opponents include Jasper, Lumberton, Silsbee, and Vidor.

The opening night in the district was on Friday, December 15, with three games played. The Lumberton Raiders won a low scoring contest 39-34 over the Jasper Bulldogs. The projected district favorite the Silsbee Tigers defeated the Bridge City Cardinals 87-54. The West Orange-Stark Mustangs beat the visiting Vidor Pirates 67-55 to go 1-0 in district.

The Mustangs continued their strong play from the last two weeks during which they finished in third place at both the Nederland Tournament and at the Bill Tennison Memorial Tournament in Orangefield. West Orange-Stark only trailed once in the game on Friday night when Vidor's Brayden Root scored the opening basket.

Field goals by Jamikael Davis, Andrew Cooper, and a three pointer by Ja'Vaughnte Richard gave West Orange-Stark a 7-3



Jamikael Davis and Andrew Cooper combined for 30 points in West Orange-Stark's 67-55 win over Vidor to open district action for the Mustangs. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



Jaden Scales scored 22 points and Kadyn Rucker grabbed 14 rebounds to help Orangefield defeat Buna in the opening game of district. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

lead. Cooper would hit a three and Jamar O'Neal beat the buzzer with the Mustangs' third three of the first quarter to put WOS on top 17-7 after eight minutes of play.

Another three by Cooper made the score 31-11 with a couple of minutes before the end of the half.

The Pirates rallied scoring the last twelve points of the second quarter including a three at the buzzer by Eric Baker to trim the Mustangs' advantage to eight points 31-23 by half time.

Richard started the second half with his second three-pointer of the game

to put West Orange-Stark up by eleven points. Cooper made two drives on which he was fouled by the Pirates converting four free throws in the process

followed by A'myrian Scott sinking two free throws as the Mustangs expanded their advantage to fourteen points 41-27 midway through the third period.

The lead got to fifteen points 43-28 after Richard put a rebound back in the hole for the Mustangs.

DISTRICT Page 5B

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## Orange County Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney



### Merry Christmas

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# New rod for Gramps

From Page 1B

and reel that his Grams had so admired had been sold only hours before.

Disappointed and with his gaze fixed on the ground, Cris slowly rode his bicycle back home. He knew he did not have enough money to buy Gramps a brand new rod and reel. He needed time to try and figure out what to do, and he knew no better way to think things over than go fishing.

Grabbing his push button reel and rod, he quietly slipped out the back door as Gramps napped in his chair. He figured he would be back before Gramps even knew he was gone.

When he arrived at the edge of the bay, he noticed that the tide was unusually high and the bay as calm as glass. Only the occasional swirl of a passing mullet dimpled the surface.

Cris had brought only one piece of cut mullet, because he didn't really think he would catch anything, but he enjoyed the peace and solitude. Mainly he wanted to try and figure out what to do about Gramps' Christmas gift.

Casting out his piece of bait, he held onto his rod but let his mind wander. Watching a lone seagull glide effortlessly overhead, he pondered what to do.

Suddenly he felt a sharp thump on his line. Then it slowly began to move to one side.

Reeling in the slack, he set the hook into what he instantly realized was a bigger fish than he had ever hooked. He pulled on his flimsily rod and reel as hard as he dared, and to his amazement, the fish began to swim toward him. Reeling for all he was worth, he had the huge fish wallowing in the shallows at his feet before he knew it. He reached down and gently slid his hand under the gillplate of the huge red, hefting it to better admire it.

When he lifted the fish, he noticed a shiny new hook in the opposite corner of its mouth. String was still attached to the hook and it dipped into the water. Laying

the fish on the bank, he grabbed up the string and began pulling. He felt a resistance from something on the other end of the line.

Tugging harder he saw the tip of a rod break the mirror surface. Giving a final yank, he couldn't believe his eyes when a new rod and Garcia reel--just like the one in the pawn shop--emerged from the water.

What luck!

Turning his attention back to the huge redfish, he found that it was gone. Somehow that fish had thrown that hook and disappeared.

Did it flop back into the bay? How on earth did that fish vanish without so much as a splash?

Cris looked around for signs telling how that fish had disappeared when he noticed a short, round man in a red suit with black knee boots disappear into a stand of sea cane nearby.

Cris paused. Could it be ... you know who? Maybe ... Nah! Probably not.

One thing he knew for sure: that redfish had delivered a brand new, shiny rod with the bright red Garcia reel that he had worked so hard for all summer long.

He gathered his things and started for home on his bicycle knowing--kind of--what had just happened. Arriving there, he hid the new rod and reel in the garage and slipped back inside just as Gramps was stirring from his nap.

On Christmas morning, he was up before Gramps, placing the now clean, shiny new rod and bright red Garcia reel under the evergreen tree with the glittering golden star attached.

The smile that lit Gramps' face when he saw the new rod and reel was the best Christmas gift Cris could have received. He knew he and Gramps would spend plenty of quality time together in the days to come, sitting on the edge of the bay in pursuit of the mighty redfish.

## Cedar fever season begins in Texas

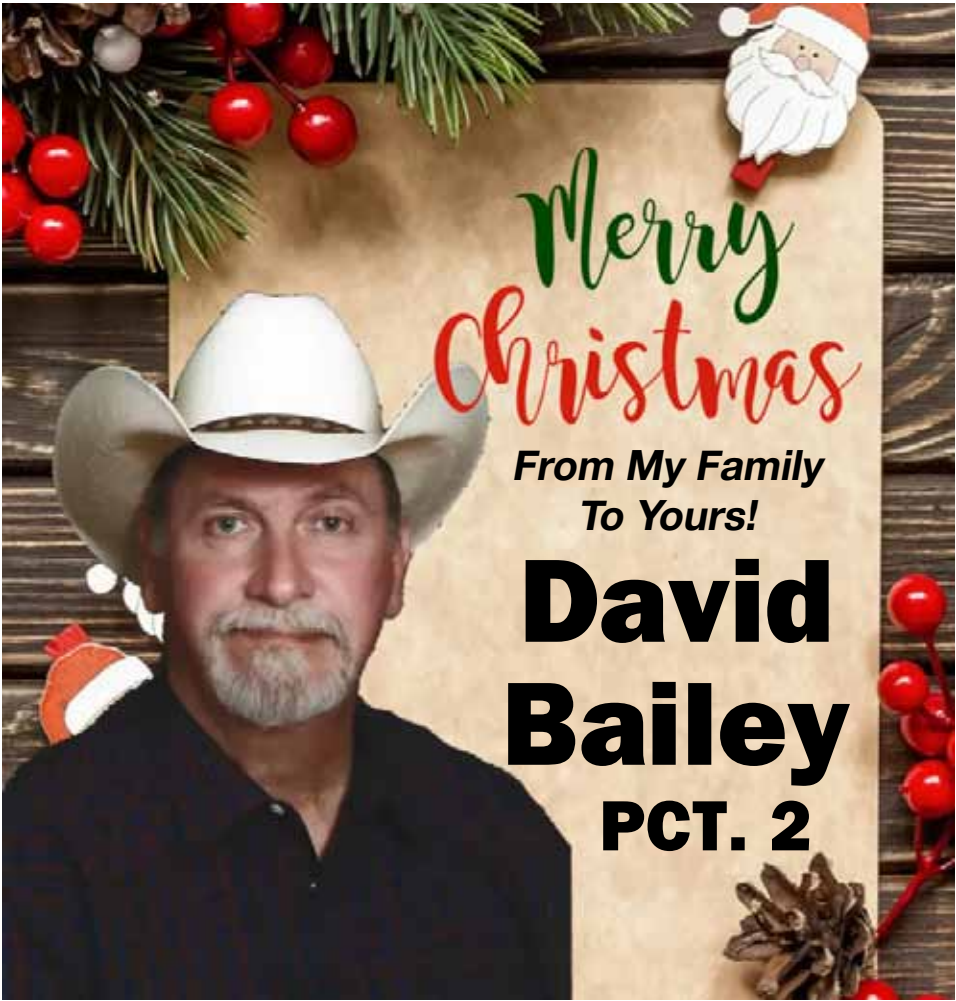
Staff Report-For The Record


t's time for Texans to brace for cedar fever season once again, complete with runny noses, itchy eyes and general misery. Cedar fever is an allergic reaction to the pollen released by mountain cedar trees, and unfortunately, you don't have to be allergic to the pollen for it to affect you.

In Texas, the predominant species of mountain cedar is Ashe juniper, making


cedar fever especially irritating in the Hill Country west of I-35 where there are primarily juniper trees mixed in with oaks and a few other species.

"With the quantity and density of Ashe junipers in Central Texas, all producing pollen at the same time, the concentration of pollen in the air causes cedar fever," said Jonathan Motsinger, Texas A&M Forest Service Central Texas Operations Department Head.





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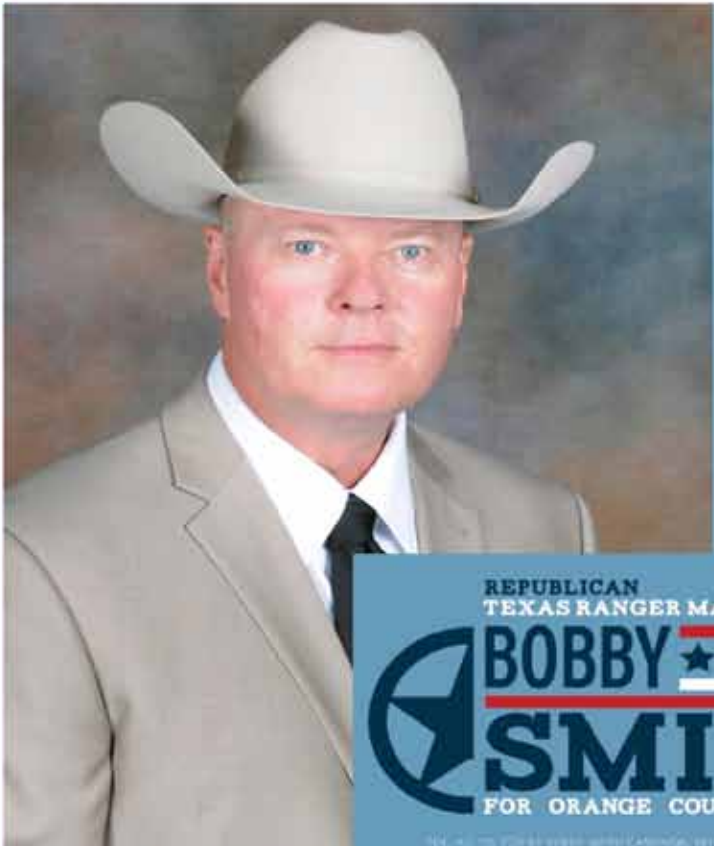
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# Week 2 of girls district basketball

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

Local girls basketball had its second week of district action last Friday. All four of the teams but Little Cypress Mauriceville had played three district games at that time.

The Lady Bears had their second district game against the Silsbee Lady Tigers on Tuesday, December 12, at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium. Silsbee won 76-30 dropping LCM to 1-1 in district action.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals took on the tough Lady Tigers the following Friday night in Bridge City. Silsbee dominated the game winning 73-53 to go 2-0 in district. The Lady Cardinals are 2-1 after the loss.

The game was close at 13-9 through the first quarter, but the Lady Tigers pulled away outscoring Bridge City 27-11 in the second quarter to lead 40-20 at the half. The two teams were actually even in the last two quarters 33-33 thus keeping the margin at twenty points.

Whitney Cunningham led the Lady Cardinals with 21 points. Rylynn Thornton scored 8 and Kailey Nelson tallied 7 points. Nelson was the top rebounder for Bridge City with 8 followed by Cunningham who had 7 boards.

Bridge City won earlier in the week at home in Tuesday's game 41-32 against the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs. It was the Lady Cardinals second straight district victory.

Rylynn Thornton opened the scoring for Bridge City converting a three point play with a field goal and a free throw. The Lady Mustangs tied the score with a three point basket from Angel Cooper.

Nicole Sasser and Thornton hit buckets to put Bridge City up 7-3. Jadalynn Wilson closed the first quarter with a trey to move the Lady Mustangs back to within one at 7-6 through eight minutes.

Kaylee Britten hit the first three of the night for the Lady Cardinals to begin the second quarter. Nicole Sasser made back to back baskets to increase

the Bridge City lead to eight points 14-6.

West Orange-Stark narrowed the gap to three after another three by Cooper and a field goal from Marilynn Guillory. Sasser and Kira Middleton hit shots for Bridge City to make the score 18-11 with a minute left in the half but the second quarter ended the same way the first did with Wilson nailing a shot from beyond the arc for a 18-14 score at halftime.

The Lady Mustangs played their best quarter of the game in the third period outscoring Bridge City 10-9 to narrow the game to three points 27-24. Cooper connected on her third three of the game while Wilson added three points with a basket and a free throw.

The fourth quarter started with Sasser scoring two similar baskets to give the Lady Cardinals a 31-24 advantage. Kennedy Campbell and Cunningham both made 4 steals. Campbell had 4 assists and Kaylee Britten had 3 assists in the win.

The Lady Mustangs got 11 points from Jadalynn Wilson. Angel Cooper was second high scorer for WOS with 9 points with her trio of three point baskets.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats won both of their games last week. The two wins improve the Lady Bobcats' record to 2-1 in district action.

ningham and Rylynn Thornton both had 7 points. Cunningham was the leading rebounder for Bridge City with 6 followed by Sasser and Thornton with 5 apiece. Kennedy Campbell and Cunningham both made 4 steals. Campbell had 4 assists and Kaylee Britten had 3 assists in the win.

The Lady Mustangs got 11 points from Jadalynn Wilson. Angel Cooper was second high scorer for WOS with 9 points with her trio of three point baskets.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats won both of their games last week. The two wins improve the Lady Bobcats' record to 2-1 in district action.

Orangefield traveled to Kirbyville on Friday. The Lady Bobcats won 57-38 to improve their record to 2-1 in district.

The freshman Mikayla Locke had a superb game

with 18 points, 4 steals, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists. Brooklyn Wagoner had a second straight game in double figures with 14 points to go with her 3 steals, and 2 rebounds. Rebecca Durbin led the Lady Bobcats on the boards with 9 rebounds and scored 8 points. Greenlea Oldham made 7 points and had 4 rebounds. Kaylea Gravett had a solid night with 4 points, 4 assists, and 3 rebounds for Orangefield.

District action is on hold until the New Year for all four girls teams. The Bridge City Lady Cardinals and the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears renew their rivalry at LCM on Tuesday, January 2. That same night the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs are at home against the Lumberton Lady Raiders. The Orangefield Lady Bobcats play at home against the Hardin Lady Hornets.

## District basketball

From Page 3B

Like it did in the closing moments of the second quarter Vidor scored the last six points in the third to make the score 47-39 with one quarter to play.

WOS got a strong final eight minutes from Joshua Holifield who scored the first bucket in the fourth period to make the Mustangs' lead ten points. The Pirates tallied nine of the next ten points to trim the lead to just two points 50-48.

Jamikael Davis connected with a key shot that started a six point run for West Orange-Stark with follow up field goals from O'Neal and Cooper. After Vidor's Bryce Loftin hit a trey Davis answered with a two pointer to keep the lead at seven 58-51.

Holifield made a great individual play with a steal and then a basket before adding his third field goal of the quarter to finish with 9 points making the score 62-53 that sealed the deal for the Mustangs. Two technical fouls were called on West Orange-Stark as time expired which allowed Baker to make two free throws for the Pirates to reduce the margin of victory from fourteen to twelve points.

Three of the Mustangs scored in double figures led by Andrew Cooper with 16 points, then Jamikael Davis who registered 14 points, and Jamar O'Neal dropping in 10 points. Bryce Loftin topped the Pirates in scoring with 16 points while Eric Baker and Brayden Root both finished the night with 11 points.

West Orange-Stark forced 27 turnovers by the Pirates which was very important according to Mustang Coach Chris Castille. "That's what we pride ourselves on, we try to get twenty-five to thirty turnovers a game on some teams. Key to our victory is team defense. Our whole thing is defense, our whole way of life is going to be on the defensive end. Our defense is going to get us our points by playing as a team," Castille insisted.

Balanced scoring with nine Mustangs registering points was another factor to the victory. Castille evaluated, "We've got different

people who are going to step up, and it's never the same guy, it's just the best man step up mentality."

Following Christmas West Orange-Stark plays in the Lee Tournament in Baytown. The next district game for the Mustangs will be Tuesday, January 2, at Lumberton.

Bridge City of course got the unlucky draw of having to open the district schedule with the always strong Silsbee Tigers. Senior guard Aiden Gutierrez led the Cardinals with 17 points in the loss played at Silsbee.

The game should be shaken off by the Cardinals in preparation of their next district game which is not until Tuesday, January 2, at home against the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears. That will be the district opener for the Bears who had a bye on December 15.

Little Cypress Mauriceville lost a non-district game 57-46 to Lufkin Hudson on Thursday, December 14. The loss dropped the Bears to 6-11 on the season.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville and International Paper tournament will be played Thursday and Friday, December 28-29, at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium. LCM and Bridge City are participating in the tournament.

The Orangefield Bobcats of District 21-3A traveled to Buna for its district opener on Tuesday, December 12. The Bobcats started the district on the right foot with a 54-47 win over the Cougars.

Sophomore Jaden Scales led the Bobcats with 22 points adding 2 assists and 2 rebounds. Kane Smith contributed 10 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals. Zane Wrinkle provided 8 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, and 5 steals. Griffin Thomas chipped in with 8 points and 4 rebounds. Kady Rucker had a huge night with 14 rebounds, 3 blocked shots, and scored 6 points.

Orangefield played a non-district game on Friday, December 15, defeating Port Neches-Groves 54-45. The Bobcats play their next district game on Tuesday, January 2, against Hardin.



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# Smalley returns to BC From Page 1B

The opportunity to coach again at his alma mater was too tempting. “It just seemed like the right time. Bridge City gave so much to me as a young man not only as a student and a player but also I’ve coached here a couple times. I just really feel the drive and the need to come back to give back and give my thanks to this school district and this community,” Smalley admitted.

The move is an exciting one for Josh who quoted a line from the school song about memories made at Bridge City. “Those memories I made as a young man going through Sims Elementary or Bridge City Junior High or Bridge City High School or being on a team that competed for the state championship in baseball or playing basketball in Don S. Lewis Gym. It’s those memories, those educators, and those coaches that I recall from those years that made me want to come back,” Smalley recalled.

The official starting date for Josh Smalley as the athletic director and head football coach is January 8, 2024.

Coach Smalley is not waiting until then to become acquainted with his coaching staff and his student athletes. Smalley spent the day on the Thursday after being hired meeting with coaches and players at Bridge City High School which he said went fantastic.

Smalley is optimistic as he takes over the Bridge City football program that it already began moving in the right direction under Coach Chad Landry this past season. Smalley praised, “I would be remiss if I didn’t give Chad and the staff the credit due which they deserve for what they did last season. I talked to the players and told the seniors I respect what they did in a tough situation with the timing of everything and they handled everything about as well as they could handle it.”

Coming from Orangefield where the Slot-T was its offense the last several seasons does not necessarily mean Bridge City will switch to it under Smalley. “I don’t plan on running the Slot-T here.

After playing the Cardinals last year and seeing what they’ve got coming back with a quarterback that can throw, some good running backs, and solid linemen I think we’ll have the ability to do some different things similar to what they’ve been doing,” Smalley analyzed.

“At the end of the day it’s going to be what does our talent base dictate that we can do and let’s get good at doing that. I get labeled as a Slot-T guy because that’s what I’ve done for twelve years, but people don’t remember when I played at Bridge City we were multiple. I’ve coached in the Spread and have coached in just about any offense you can think of, so my knowledge base is not just Slot-T football,” Smalley added.

In addition to being the head football coach, Smalley is the athletic director for all of the sports at Bridge City. He observed, “Bridge City has a good foundation for other sports. Volleyball goes three or four rounds deep every year, softball is very productive, baseball’s always winning, and then

basketball seems to be doing really good this year. I met with the soccer coach and they have had some success in what they’ve done. Girls track is real successful.”

Smalley assessed his job as athletic director should be to come in and support those coaches in their programs to be more successful.

He hopes to work with the programs that are not already in the playoffs regularly to figure out a way to make them better than they currently are.

Josh Smalley believes the number one thing he brings to Bridge City is stability. “There’s been a kind of revolving door around here with head

coaches and athletic directors. I’m not going to be. This is where I plan on ending my career whenever that is. I started it here as a graduate assistant in 1995 and I’m going to end here whenever that time comes,” Smalley concluded.

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### Good Shepherd offers YMCA After School Program

The YMCA After School Program is being held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W Roundbunch in Bridge City. Elementary and Middle school hours are after school until 6 pm. The Y’s after school child care program provides peace of mind knowing your child is cared for in a safe, nurturing and structured environment. Financial aid is available.


To register or for more information, visit the Y’s website at [ymcasetx.org/childcare](http://ymcasetx.org/childcare) or call at 409-962-6644.



**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
401 N. 37th St., Orange (409) 886-7276

**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.**  
**Pastor Benny Smith and wife Iberia**

Join Us For Sunday Service at 11 AM  
Also Streamed Live On Facebook



**The Record**

**Church Page Listings**

**Just \$10.00 Per Week**

**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

**Triangle Baptist Church**  
6446 Garrison at Hwy. 408 Orangefield

**“Come Worship With Us”**  
409-920-3891

Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

We are a KJV independent Baptist Church




**First Baptist Church**  
Bridge City, Texas

200 W. Roundbunch  
735-3581

[www.fbcbc.org](http://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



**Cowboy Church of Orange County**

Anointed Ministry with Pastor Harland Strother  
Sundays at 9 and 10:30 a.m.  
Plus rockin’ Gospel music by Cowboy Cross Band  
673 FM 1078, Orange  
409-920-2271  
[youtube.com/c/cowboychurchfororangecounty](http://youtube.com/c/cowboychurchfororangecounty)

**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](http://www.slccgicorange.org)

**Living Word Church**  
**FULL GOSPEL**

7403 FM 1006 (Corner of 87 & FM1006)  
409-735-6659

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**  
Sunday 10 A.M. & Thursday 6 P.M.  
Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor  
Rev. Ron Richardson, Co-Pastor

**Winfree Baptist Church**  
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181

[office@winfreebaptist.org](mailto:office@winfreebaptist.org)  
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor

Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15 am  
Morning Worship - 10:30 am

Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

*Committed...To Christ, To His Word, To His Church, To His Commission*

## Church Directory

**First United Methodist Church Orange**  
502 Sixth Street 886-7466

10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY  
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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.  
[www.fumcorange.org](http://www.fumcorange.org)

**Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau**  
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

**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,  
children and youth activities. (Nursery provided).  
Rev. Mark Bunch Email: [office@stpaulfamily.org](mailto:office@stpaulfamily.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.

Pastor Paul Zoch 409-988-3003 - [golutheran.org](mailto:golutheran.org)  
Our church family invites you to join us.  
We are a friendly, caring church of the future.

**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](http://www.ofcn.church)

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGE**  
1819 16th Street • Orange • 886-1333

We Welcome You To Join Us.  
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Nursury Provided

**Cove Baptist Church**  
1005 Dupont St. • Orange

**DARRYL SMITH, PASTOR**  
Sunday Service: 10:30 am and 6pm  
Wednesday Service: 6 pm

We Love You And God Loves You.

### Patronize ‘The Record’ Church Sponsors

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**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

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