



Orange County High School Sports
Dan Perrine - Page 1B



Kaz's Korner Sports Commentary
Joe Kazmar - Page 2B



Hunting, Fishing & Outdoors
Capt. Chuck Uzzle - Page 4B

The Community Newspaper of Bridge City & Orangefield

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Week of Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Candidates ready to file this month

Most school districts and cities will have elections for boards and councils on May 6.

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

People wanting to seek elective office to serve in local governing positions have a chance to run for city councils and school boards in May, but they need to decide because filing for the positions begins this month.

Most school districts and cities will have elections for boards and councils on May 6. Filing will begin on Wednesday, January 18, and end on Friday, February 17. Candidates will file with the respective city secretaries or in the offices of school superintendents during regular business hours.

Early voting will begin in April. This year, the City of West Orange will join the other cities in

contracting with the Orange County Elections Administration Office and use the central early voting location instead of that city hall. In the past few years, early voters in West Orange had to go to city hall for council elections and then the central location for school board.

The open positions this year will be:

City of Bridge City will have three positions open this year on the city council for two-year terms. Filing for each place can be made by any eligible person living in the city, but they must specify a place. Place 1 is currently held by Aaron Roccaforte, who is serving his first term. Place 3 incumbent Tammi Fisetto is serving her fifth

CANDIDATE Page 3A

BC Chamber deadline coming for yearly honors

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Nominations for Bridge City Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year will be accepted through the Chamber of Commerce until Friday, January 6.

Chamber Director Mandy Lyda said nominations may be emailed to her at director@bccoc.com. Nominations should include the name of the person, or business, and why they should be honored. Written submissions on paper may be made at the chamber office, 150 West Roundbunch Road, during regular business hours. The chamber is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year will be announced at the chamber's annual banquet, which will be Janu-

ary 23 at 6 p.m. at the Bridge City Community Center.

Lyda said sponsorship tables and individual tickets are still available. Individual tickets are \$20 and will include dinner and drinks. Sponsorship tables with seating for eight are \$200. Sponsorships include dinner and drinks for the table, plus the name displayed on Powerpoint during the banquet and the name listed in the program brochure.

Melissa Pitts of the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance was named Citizen of the Year last year with the Sabine Neches Region taking the honors as Business of the Year.

Scott Shaffer is the current president of the chamber and will be handing over his gavel to incoming president Wanda McGraw during the banquet.

Related Photo Page 3A



Photographs from the Heritage House Museum collection show houses in Orange covered in snow in 1895 in what is known as The Valentine's Blizzard. Two to three feet of snow fell across the area with drifts in Orange of five feet or more, which even stopped the trains from running.

Historic colds come in February, like the 1895 Valentine's Blizzard

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

As dawn broke the morning of Friday, December 23, the temperatures in Orange County had dropped to 17 degrees with 15 mph north winds and gusts even higher. The wind chill dropped to 2 degrees.

A few days later, the temperatures were in the 70s. But local residents shouldn't ditch their warm clothes and unwrap their pipes. Historically, the worst freezes have hit in mid-February, most particularly around Valentine's Day. That includes the long, hard freeze of February 2021.

The worst freezes came more than a century ago, with the Valen-

tine's Blizzard of 1895 dropping more than two feet of snow with drifts reported at more than five feet. Then in 1899, a hard freeze froze over Sabine Lake enough where the Dutch settlers used their ice skates on the lake.

Even the big snow of 1960, which brought 10 inches of the white stuff, began on February 12 and left the county still covered and frozen on Valentine's Day.

The 1895 Blizzard began on Valentine's Day and continued through February 15 described by the Texas Almanac as "what is probably the greatest heavy-snow anomaly in the climatic history of the U.S. resulted from a snow-storm along the Texas coast."

Brownsville on the Mexican border even had five inches of snow.

The U.S. Weather Service reports that Orange had 20 inches of snow fall at that time. However, the late Historian W.T. Block wrote that up to 31 inches fell in places across Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana, paralyzing the area. People depended on horses for travel and the drifts were so deep even the horses couldn't get out.

Block found a story in The Galveston Daily News about how the locomotive in the switching yards in Orange "could not plow its way through the snow that averaged 24 inches on top of the rails...In some

1895 VALENTINE'S Page 2A

Australians rule LCM basketball tournament

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Little Cypress Mauriceville/International Paper basketball tournament held December 29-30 in Orange lived up to its name this year. It truly was an international affair.

Little Cypress Mauriceville and ten other high schools from Texas sent teams including some junior varsity and freshman squads to play. The biggest draw though for the fans attending the two days of games was a team of high school all stars from Australia.

The players for the Southern Peninsula

AUSTRALIANS Page 3A



The South Peninsula Sharks are a group of Australian high school basketball players who competed in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville/International Paper tournament last week. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

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BRIDGE CITY BANK **Member FDIC** 

1895 Valentine's Blizzard From Page 1

places, snow drifted to a depth of six feet and effectively blocked traffic at every (lumber) mill along the river." According to Block's story, the estimated depth of the snow was between 30 and 36 inches based on how far the snow reached up the locomotive.

He imagined "every pot-bellied stove glowed a cherry red as each person sought to ward off the bitter cold." He pointed out that firewood would not have been a problem because sawmills had large amounts

of waste-wood products that people could get for free." However, wood wasn't the only fuel for those stoves. Advertisements in the local newspaper during that time also had coal-burning stoves for sale, along with pounds of coal.

The Orange Leader in the February 12, 1960, edition reporting the snow that year included a story about how it was worse in 1895. In the story, 79-year-old Lillie Warren of Bridge City recalled 28 inches of snow in

front of the house of B.C. Turner in Prairie View, the settlement that later became Bridge City.

The 19th Century Orange County residents may have thought they were cold in 1895, but more was in store. Four years later, in February 1899, another cold front came through with not as much snow, but catastrophic freezing temperatures.

The Texas Almanac reports that on Feb. 11-13 that year "a disastrous cold wave went throughout the state.



Newspapers described it as the worst freeze ever known in the state."

The temperature in Southeast Texas was around 8 degrees Fahrenheit for almost three days. It was so cold that Sabine Lake froze over. Block wrote that the new Dutch immigrants took their ice skates to the lake and skated.

The historian found a Galveston Daily News story that reported "large quantities of fine ocean trout were picked up on the beach Tuesday and Wednesday. They had become helplessly numbed in the cold waters, and were soon washed ashore by the beach tides, where they quickly froze."

The speckled trout were reported to weigh from three to nine pounds each. Block said that in Sabine Pass, residents were shoveling the fish into wagons.

However, a few Orange residents were more worried about surviving than shoveling fish into their rescue wagon.

Rachael Parker has a clipping from the Orange newspaper that her grandmother saved. The story is about Joe Weaver and a few friends taking a sail boat out on Sabine Lake on Friday, February 11, 1899, for a hunting trip. They planned to return to town on Saturday.

They were experienced hunters and fishermen, but weather forecasting wasn't as accurate in those days.

And they may have simply ignored the reports of a bad front moving into the area.

The hunting party anchored near the Catron shell bank on the north side of Sabine Lake and walked onshore to hunt and camp. When they returned to the spot on Saturday, the north winds had blown the water out so far the sail boat was in mud yards from the shoreline.

"They were forced to spend the night on the barren shell bank and, in consequence, came very near freezing to death," the pa-

per reported.

Thank goodness, they were saved. "George Livingston, brother-in-law of young Weaver, became alarmed at the non-appearance of the hunting party and Sunday morning he loaded a light wagon with warm robes, quilts and restoratives and started out in search of them. He found them on the shell bank and wrapped each one."

Fortunately, they survived, but the story gave no details on how they kept from freezing to death.

THE BIG SHOW

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

Come January the Big Show will return to Austin. Some call it The Texas Legislature. My observation over the years has allowed me to make comparisons of our Texas Legislature and the big circus that used to come to town on an annual basis.

First of all, if you watch carefully, you can pick out the lions, the gorillas, monkeys, clowns, acrobats, trapeze artists and various other regulars of the Big Show.

The lion is regal, the gorillas are powerful and the monkeys are usually entertaining but accomplish precious little while they are there. It is also not difficult to look at those we should label as the clowns. Without exception these bi-annual parade of performers always has a well-dressed group of clowns who are usually identified based on their actions.

Over the years I have been able assign the elected officials who serve at the various positions they would have held in the big circus. Any time in the session I expect the speaker to be labeled as the lion because of his appearance and wise use of power. My



Former State Senator Carl Parker

Carl Parker is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

nominations for gorilla are our governor and lieutenant governor. They obviously possess a great deal of power, unfortunately they use it indiscriminately to accomplish purely political aims with little thought for the long-range future of Texas. There will be plenty we can label as monkeys. They are very entertaining but accomplish very little in the process. Most will have what they believe to be great ideas which rarely reach the governor's desk.

Some of the monkeys might even divert the attention of the gorillas during the 140-day session, but un-

fortunately their efforts will not be very productive when it comes to building a first-class system of education. In fact while some will label me silly for my comparisons herein, I will be willing to have you judge my comparisons by the progress or lack thereof concerning development of our public education system and its contest with the giveaway called Charters.

The biggest fight of the coming session will divide even the Republicans among themselves. More rural-type Republicans will strictly oppose the giveaway of public-school money. We can barely afford to keep our school doors open now with the present budget. Without industry or increased growth small districts struggle to support their schools. It makes no sense for the giveaway of school money in the form of vouchers for Charter schools or for homeschooling while we shortchange the system that is already established. It is comparable to a family adopting more children when they are unable to feed and clothe those they already have the responsibility to raise.

Watch for my comparisons and let me know if I am right.

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 website TheRecordLive.Com.

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Candidate filings From Page 1



Aaron Roccaforte



Paul Burch



Randy Branch

term. Place 5 incumbent Terri Gauthier is also serving a fifth term.

Bridge City ISD will have two positions open for three-year terms on the board of trustees. Place 6 is currently held by Michael C. Johnson, who has served 12 years on the board. Place 7 incumbent Mark Anderson has been on the board for 18 years. All eligible voters in the district may run for a seat.

Orange City Council has the only single-member districts for a city in Orange County. To run for a single-member district, an eligible voter must have lived within the district for at least six months. The city has four single-member districts plus two at-large positions, open to any eligible voter in the city. Orange city councilors have three-year terms. Single-Member District 3 will be open this year and the spot is currently held by Terrie SALTER. Also up this year is At-Large Position 6 with incumbent Paul Burch. Orange requires a \$50 filing fee, or a candidate may turn in a petition signed by 25 eligible voters. For a single-member district,

the petition must be signed by residents within the district. The at-large positions may have signatures from any voter in the city.

Pinehurst City Council members are elected at-large and do not file for a specified position or district. The members serve three-year terms. This year, three spots are open. They are currently held by Dr. Michael Shahan, Joey Vance, and Troy Pierce. Candidates will simply file to run and the three candidates with the most votes will win the seats.

West Orange City Council will have the mayor and two council positions open this year for two year terms. The incumbent mayor is Randy Branch, who is completing his first two-year term. Council members are elected at-large and do not file for individual positions. The incumbents up for re-election this year are Meritta Kennedy and Brent Dearing. In the at-large election, the two candidates with the most votes will win the seats.

West Orange-Cove CISD has three at-large seats open for the board of

trustees for three-year terms. Any qualified voter in the district may run for the two seats, which are currently held by Ruth Hancock and Tommy Wilson Sr. The two candidates with the most votes will win.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD has three positions up for election this year on the board of trustees. Anyone qualified and living in the district may file for one of the open places, but they must specify which place. Incumbents up this year will be Place 1 with Clinton Temple, Place 2 with Joshua G. Fisher, and Place 5 with Kevin Wallace.

The Orangefield ISD has board elections in November. The Orange County Navigation and Port District, along with the Orange County Drainage District, have board elections in even-number years and will not have elections this year.

BC Chamber looks ahead to 2023 banquet



Orangefield High student Kaitlyn Jenkins spent part of her holiday painting the decorative concrete orange outside the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce. The oranges are part of a county-wide effort to create distinctive images representing the county namesake. Nominations for Bridge City Citizen

of the Year and Business of the Year will be accepted through the Chamber of Commerce until Friday, January 6.

The Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year will be announced at the chamber's annual banquet, which will be January 23 at 6 p.m. at the Bridge City Community Center.

Entergy helps local agencies provide food

Entergy Texas has given a total of \$105,000 to non-profit groups providing food for those in need with three of those groups helping in Orange County.

The local agencies getting the special grants from Entergy stockholders are Meals on Wheels by the Orange Community Action Association, the food pantry of the United Christian Care Center of Vidor, and the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

The Southeast Texas Food Bank helps provide food to various groups including some in Orange County like the Salvation

Army and Orange Christian Services.

"At Entergy, we are always looking for ways to help our community beyond providing power," said Stuart Barrett, vice president of customer service for Entergy Texas. "The cost of just about everything is going up, so it's only right we stepped up our commitment to the ongoing fight against hunger. Our local partnerships help ensure Texas families, regardless of their financial status, have access to nourishing meals, especially around the holidays."

Australians rule LCM basketball tournament

From Page 1

Sharks from Australia were selected especially for this traveling team of basketball ambassadors. Australia being located south of the equator is experiencing its summer at this time of the year, and the ball players are out of school during their summer break.

The team from Australia will be over here a couple of weeks playing basketball in tournaments or against high school teams in multiple locations. The team's coach Ben White responded, "This is our summer holidays. These boys finished high school they're in holiday for the moment, so we'll spend two weeks in the U.S. because that's where the basketball is and we'll have some fun with it."

This is not the team's first visit to southeast Texas. "We've had teams come here in the past, we heard this was a good tournament so we came down, and it proved that it was

great to be here," White replied.

As might be expected from a team of all-stars the Australians played quite well in the Little Cypress Mauriceville tournament. The Sharks handily beat the Anahuac Panthers and the Tarkington Longhorns on Thursday. After dropping an exciting game 54-53 with the host Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears the Sharks beat the Port Neches-Groves Indians on Friday. As a gesture of friendship the Australians gave souvenir wool caps to the members of their opposing teams during the tournament.

The Sharks went from Orange to Houston and then to Dallas for a couple of games. The tour for the Australians will end in a little over a week in Los Angeles. "There will be some time at Disneyland awesome stuff and all the sightseeing, so it'll be fun for the boys," White concluded.

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From the Creaux's Nest

BUFFALO SAFETY HAMLIN IN CRITICAL CONDITION

The N.F.L. was facing one of its worst crises in decades as **Buffalo Bills** defender **Damar Hamlin** remained in critical condition on Tuesday after collapsing during a prime-time game in Cincinnati. **Hamlin, 24, collapsed** in the first quarter of a highly anticipated matchup with the **Bengals** on Monday night, forcing the league to suspend the game. As **Hamlin** lay on the field motionless, many of his teammates in tears nearby, doctors pumped his heart in a suddenly hushed stadium. After **Hamlin's** heartbeat was restored and he was taken off the field by ambulance, to be transported to a hospital trauma unit, the coaches conferred with **Shawn Smith**, the head referee, and the players walked into their locker rooms. About 30 minutes later, the league formally postponed the game, and the **Bills** later flew back to **Buffalo**. The dark turn was a reminder of **West Orange-Stark** youngster **Reggie Garrett**, a senior quarterback, who jogged to the sideline after throwing a touchdown pass with nine minutes left in the second quarter, then passed out on the sidelines. He was taken to **Hospital**, where he became non-responsive. He was pronounced dead just after 9:30 p.m. **Garrett** had not been hit on the touchdown play. Only about 30 of these cases happened in the **United States** each year, predominantly in children. It happens in **Little League** baseball. A ball is thrown by a pitcher and hits the person in the chest. **Hamlin's** heartbeat was restored on the field and he was transferred to the **UC Medical Center**. Tuesday he was sedated and in critical condition.

BIDEN'S PITCH BENEFITS OF BIPARTISANSHIP

President Joe Biden and top administration officials will open a new year of divided government by fanning out across the country to talk about how the economy is benefiting from his work with **Democrats** and **Republicans**. As part of the pitch, **Biden** and **Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell** will make a rare joint appearance in **McConnell's** home state of **Kentucky** on Wednesday to highlight nearly **\$1 trillion** in infrastructure spending that lawmakers approved on a bipartisan basis in 2021. The **Democratic president** will also be joined by a bipartisan group of elected officials. **Biden's** bipartisan blitz was announced two days before **Republicans** retake control of the **House from Democrats**. The shift ends unified political control of **Congress** by **Democrats** and complicates **Biden's** future legislative agenda. **Democrats** will remain in charge in the **Senate**.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 YEARS AGO-2013

We are glad to report that **West Orange mayor Roy McDonald** had surgery is home and doing well. His fight is not over but so far he's winning.******Dist. Clerk Deputy Janet Reed Greene** will retire Friday, Jan. 4, from the Courthouse. She first worked in the DA's office back in the 70's.******District Attorney John Kimbrough** replaced **Judge Rogers** with **Michelle Brister** as new Assistant District Attorney.******Attorney Lynwood Sander** was in a bad wreck last week when he rolled his duel cab Ford pickup truck. The other driver ran a red light at Hwy. 6 and IH-10. Although **Lynwood's** truck rolled a few times he came out just fine. He said air bags went off everywhere. The wreck was on Sunday and on Monday he went back to the Ford place to order another truck just like it. He gives all the praise to **God for saving his life** on this one.******Larry Jacobs**, who returned to **Bridge City** many years ago from Oregon, married **Jan Prince Bock** and began Wealth Management has been joined in his business by his son, who has recently moved to **Bridge City** from Oregon.****Some of the high profile people that we got to know who left us in 2012. The latest is **Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf**, 78. He died Dec. 27. "Storm-in Norman" is compared to other great generals like **Ike**, and **Douglas MacArthur**. A decorated soldier in Vietnam, he commanded operation "Desert Storm," a coalition of about 30 countries. A few of the others dying in 2012, **Ernest Borguine**, 95; **Phyllis Diller**, 95; **Gore Vidal**, 86; **Vidal Sasson**, 84; **Larry Hagman**, 81; **George Lindsey**, 83; **Robin Gibb**, 62; **Andy Griffith**, 86; **Sherman (George Jefferson) Hemsley**, 74; **Etta James**, 73; **Whitney Houston**, 48; **Donna Summers**, 63; **Dick Clark**, 82; **Andy Williams**, 84; **Kitty Wells**, 91; **Doc Watson**, 89; **Earl Scruggs**, 88; **Johnny Otis**, 90; **Davy Jones**, 66; **Rodney King**, 47; **Sen. Warren Rudman**, 82; **Sen. Arlen Specter**, 82; **Helen Gurley Brown**, 90; **Neil Armstrong**, 82; **Sally Ride**, 61; **Coach Joe Paterno**, 85; **Newsman Mike Wallace**, 92; **Sen. George McGovern**, 90; **Boxer Hector Comacho**, 50; **Trainer Angelo Dundee**, 90; **Coach Darrell Royal**, 88; **Sen. Daniel Inouye**, 88 and **Judge Robert Bork**, 85.**** All three **Orange County boys** in the NFL make playoffs. **Coach Wade Phillips** and the **Texans** have lost the last two games but ended up 12-4. **Houston** will take on the **Bengals**

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. at Reliant. The game will be televised on NBC. ******Earl Thomas** and his **Seahawks** will take on the **Redskins** in Washington, Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on FOX. ******Matt Bryant** and the **Atlanta Falcons** got a first round bye. Not too many, if any, county in the country with a population of 80,000 can claim three native sons participating in NFL playoffs. **Earl Thomas** has also been selected for the **Pro Bowl**. ****Two old country boys, **Hall of Famers, the two Georges, Jones and Strait**, will be on the road again for the last time before the legends hang up their touring boots. They will pack their bus in 2013, looking back at what a great run they've had before they hang up their guitars. ****On Jan. 5, **Marilou Pachar Gunn**, who seems to be the aunt to a lot of old local boys, **Yank, Al and Dean**, plus she's **Tommy Gunn's mom**, celebrates 85 years. (**Marilou** passed away in 2016 at age 88.)****Seven head coaches and five general managers are fired in the NFL. I hated to see **East Texas boy, Lovie Smith**, with the Bears, run off. **Lovie is the pride of Big Sandy**. For now it looks like **Jerry Jones** will keep his blinders on and ride the same horses. (Editor's note: **Lovie** is now coach of the **Texans**.)

20 Years Ago-2003

Newly elected county officials sworn into office Jan. 1 were **Janice Menard**, Pct. 3 Justice of the Peace; **Roy Derry Dunn**, Pct. 2, Justice of the Peace; **Beamon Minton**, County Commissioner, Pct. 4, sworn in by **Judge Carl Thibodeaux**; **Owen Burton**, Commissioner, Pct. 2, sworn into office by **Judge Dennis Powell**, 163rd Dist. **Judge Burton** was accompanied by wife **Nelda**, daughter **Anna**, grandson **Rylan Breaux** and granddaughter **Nocona Smith**. ******Raymond Smith** will be installed chairman at the annual Chamber banquet, Jan. 9. **Smith** replaces **Carl Himel**.******Lou Raburn** is still sporting a couple of black eyes after something in her attic fell on her causing a concussion. She was digging in the attic for Christmas decorations.******Dr. Williams** told **Grover** that giving **Halliburton** a prescription for **Viagra** would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.******Pretty Lynda Peck** hit a heavy barbell weight and broke her heel. The cast runs up to her calf. ******Judge Pat** didn't like the **Aggie colors** painted in his courtroom so **Judge Thibodeaux** changed the color but wouldn't agree to burnt orange. ******Bridge City soldier Chris Menard** came home from **Fort Hood** on **New Year's Day** but rushed back to have lunch with **President George W. Bush**, who was visiting the base.******Elvis Presley** was born **Jan. 8, 1935**, and died **Aug. 16, 1977**. (Editor's note: *Hard to believe that will be 46 years ago*)******Mr. and Mrs. Grady Johnson** celebrate 60 years of wedded bliss. ******Louis Dugas** says, "The **Visitors Bureau of Orange** has a history of welcoming visitors, it was once the city jail."******Bessie Hance Permentor**, 76, died Jan. 2. ******Jack Wood**, 73, died Jan. 3. ******W.R. Bill Potter**, 94, died Jan. 5. ******Crawfish cornbread** is made in **Bridge City** by **Lynard and Cheryl Stout**. ******The Record Newspapers** outdoor columnists, **Capt. Dickie Colburn** and **Capt. Chuck Uzzle** are featured at the **Beaumont Winter Boat Show**. Both will present sessions.

45 Years Ago-1978

Don Burgess is sworn in Sunday as 260th district judge by partner **H.D. Pate**. Wife **Bobbie** held the Bible.******W.T. Oliver** started the day before preparing a feast for the **New Year's Eve** party and 23rd wedding anniversary celebration of **Roy and Phyllis Dunn**. The gathering was held at the **Dunn home**. **Oliver** featured 20-gallons of **gumbo**, 20 gallons of **jambalaya**, five gallons of **sausage** and **black-eyed peas**. **Mexican corn bread** and other trimmings. **Paul Wise** furnished the back up music for a variety of singers. A highlight was the picking and singing of **Father Walter Montondon**. Between walking their baby **Jenny, Gordon** and **Diane Baxter** did a couple of numbers. **H.D. Pate** sang along and prompted **Sen. Carl Parker** into singing ten songs by announcing the **Senator** didn't know but two. **Vicki Curtis** and **Dennis Hall** teamed up on the guitar while the crew harmonized. Furnishing foot-tapping and leg-clapping were **State Legislator Wayne Peveto**, **Judge Grover Halliburton**, **Betty** and **Bernard Gaiarratano**, **Danny Brack**, **Judge Burgess**, **Barbara Gillis**, **Sue Pate** and **Betty Harmon**. Big eaters were **Bobby Cormier**, **Dewey "Teddy Bear" Cox**, **Bill Forte**, **Jack Parcel**, **Wilson Roberts**, **Tim Lieby**, **James Fontenot** and **Ace Amedo**. **Don Jacobs** sang his novelty songs, including "The Legend of **Roy Dunn**." **Harold Beeson**, judge of **Rose City**, author and newspaper reporter came without **Shelia**. The only time he ever behaved. Everyone else brought their spouses. **Around 100 folks** attended the annual party. What a great time. I believe **Buddie** and **Carol Hahn** were there also. ******Bridge City resident John Dubose** was named **business manager** and **controller** of the **Port Arthur News**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

TCU, the first **Big 12** to win a playoff game, will be looking for its first national title since 1938. Under coach **Dutch Meyer**, the **Horned Frogs** beat **Carnegie Tech** 15-7 in the **Sugar Bowl** to complete a 10-0 season. **TCU** will play **Georgia** January 9 for the **National College Football Championship**. The first person who came to mind is our longtime friend, the banker's banker, **Carlos Vacek**, a former **TCU** player and strong supporter who holds season tickets. I'm wondering if he will make the championship game.****For the last 50 years, **Harry Stephens** has been advertising his **Harry's Appliance** store in our publication. Operators of the store are **Harry** and his wife **Margie**, who will celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary January 11. They service everything they sell and offer one day service. At box stores it can take weeks to get service. There is no better place to buy an appliance. **Happy Anniversary Harry and Margie**.**** This past week was a demonstration on the drastic changes **Southeast Texas weather** can make. Freezing pipes at Christmas and shorts on **New Year's Day**. Even with the fluxes in the weather, people carried on with their holiday celebrations.******Barbara Dardeau** had a birthday on Tuesday, but had a special day a bit earlier. The now-

retired choir teacher, who spent many years at **West Orange-Stark High**, had lunch with some of her former students, **Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr.**, **Shaun Mayfield**, and **Larry Brooks Jr.** Music teachers create lasting memories and those three guys can still harmonize.******West Orange Mayor Randy Branch** and wife **Jane** took a **New Year's Eve** trip to **Beaumont** to see the new **Avatar** movie and dine at **Pappadeaux's**. Earlier, they finally got to have a **Christmas celebration** with all the grands.**** **Terri Childs**, along with **mom Dayle Foreman**, and **Abigail Noah**, made a **post-Christmas trip** to **Houston** and the **Alley Theatre** to see "A Christmas Carol." On **New Year's Eve**, she and husband **Brad**, who is on the **Orange City Council**, were at **MacKenzie's** in **Beaumont** to hear **Bayou Rush**. Other **Orange County peeps** enjoying the show included photographer **Rick Bridgers**, **Stephanie Roberts**, **Shari Rule**, **Lane Olson**, and **Mike Powell**.******Gary** and **Allisha Bonnaux** have been enjoying their new digs in **Galveston** and met up with ex-pats **Kelly** and **Monte Morpew**, plus **Becky** and **Tom Henry**, for a **Moody Gardens cruise** on **New Year's Eve**. Apparently the food ran out, leading to great disappointment. **Waffle House** to the rescue to start a new year.******April** and **Trey King** went to the **Alamo Bowl** to see the **Longhorns**, but ran into truck trouble in **Katy**. **Trey** was able to get the right part and had them fixed and on the road. **The Longhorns** also had some trouble in the bowl game as the **University** lost.****Two **Orange** city councilors spent **New Year's Eve** at **Crystal Beach**. **Councilor Caroline Hennigan** and husband **Mike** hosted friends **Raul** and **Paul Burch**, along with **Tanya Guillotte** at their beach home. **Caroline** likes to spend her winter days beachcombing to look for treasures like a piece of a fossilized turtle shell. **Paul** will be running for re-election this year.******County Clerk Brandy Robertson** and husband **Roderick**, who serves on the **West Orange-Cove school board**, spent **New Year's Eve** day in **Galveston** for a **Moody Gardens** tour of lights.******Orange County Commissioner** and former **Bridge City mayor Kirk Roccaforte** turned 70 this week. His son **Aaron** is following in public service as a **Bridge City city councilor** and will be running for the spot again this year.******Jim Sharon Bearden** marked another birthday. He's the father of high school students and toddlers.******Sherry Mallory** turned 70 on **New Year's Day** with husband **Johnny** and their children surprising her with a birthday party.**** **Trudy** and **Johnny Wilson** marked another wedding anniversary.****Former sheriff **Keith Merritt** was at his deer lease over the holiday. Even though **Marlene** likes it there and has collected many **Indian** artifacts, she stayed home. She said she enjoyed staying in her gown all day and not having to prepare three meals a day.****Tuesday, January 10, one of my best buddies **Collin "Billy Jack" Gros** celebrates his 28th birthday. Just the other day it seems I was hauling him to **Sam Moore's** for hitting and pitching lessons. Time does fly. Have a great birthday **Collin**. By the way I understand **Coach Sam "Bucket" Moore** lives in **Bridge City** and coaches in **Sulphur**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know having a special day this week. **Jan. 4:** Happy Birthday to **Angela Mazzola Devin Force**, **Lillian Wray**, **Nancy Lapeyrolerie**.******Jan. 5:** **Lora Simpson**, **Deborah Schlicher**, **Malinda Vail** and **Patsy Dowden** celebrate today.******Jan. 6:** **DeeDee Viator**, **Clint Reves**, **Sherry Morgan**, **Marvin Zipper** and a special happy birthday to **Skipper Free** who turns 89.******Jan. 7:** **Chance Chatagnier**, **Carley Barclay**, **Kim Haynes**, **Micah McFarlane**, **Betty Jagen**, **Libby Campbell**, **Michael Collins** and **Teresa Collins** all celebrate today.******Jan. 8:** Celebrating birthdays this week are **Lanston Fall**, **Heather Mankopf (Montagne)**, **Terri Gauthier**, **Mike Comeaux**, **Joey Halliburton**, **Philipp Hunt**, **Sandra Cole** and **Sean Brinson**.******Jan. 9:** **Mattie Goza**, **Brenda Hearn**, **Caitlin Pastrana**, **Chad Meadows**, **Ken Steppe** and **Susan Kelly** celebrate.******Jan. 10:** Happy Birthday to **Brittany Ramos**, **Frank Skeeler**, and **Sandy Uzzle**. A special birthday wish to **Collin Gros** who turns 28 today.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Otis Desomeaux, las week, attended some holiday parties him. First he went to a gathering at **Comaux's** house where he drank a couple glasses of wine. **Den** he left dere, made a couple more stops and ended up at "Tee-Boy's" place. **By den**, he was pretty sauced up him and knew full well dat he had drunk slightly over da limit but he drunk a couple more high balls. **Den** he did something he had never done before, he took a cab home. He passed a police roadblock but since it was a cab da police waved it past. **Desomeaux** him, arrive home safe witout incident and boy dat was a surprise because **Desomeaux** him, had never driven a cab before. **He's** not sure wat to do wit it now dat it's in his garage.

C'EST TOUT

Texas Home to a Little Over 30 Million

Fueled by migration to the state from other parts of the country, **Texas** crossed a new population threshold last year. **It is now home to 30 Million** people. New estimates released by the U.S. **Census Bureau** put the state's population as of July 1 at **30,029,572** following years of steady growth. This makes **Texas** the only state, other than **California**, with a population of more than **30 million**. **Texas'** population increased by **470,708** people since **July 2021**, the largest gain in the nation. Roughly half of the growth came from net domestic migration. Despite its growth, **Texas** remains far behind **California**. The latest estimates put **California's** population at **39,029,342**. Earlier this year, a separate estimate from the **Census Bureau** indicated that **Texas** may have passed another demographic milestone: the point where **Hispanic** residents make up more of the state's population than white residents. **Hispanic Texans** make up **40.2%** of the state's population in **2021**, while **Hispanic white Texans** made up **39.4%**. Those estimates are not considered official.****Gotta go. Here's wishing you and the country a great year. **Take care and God bless**.

Property tax revision, judicial branch expansion among new Texas laws

ZACH DESPART
The Texas Tribune

Several laws passed in the 2021 Texas legislative sessions took effect Jan. 1, including a revision to how property taxes are collected, an expansion of the judicial branch and an amendment to pollution standards.

Senate Bill 12, written by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, limits the amount of property taxes a school district can levy on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person, according to a bill analysis by the Senate Research Center.

To ensure that districts are not burdened by a decrease in revenue, the law makes districts eligible for additional state aid. The law addresses a perceived shortcoming of the school funding overhaul lawmakers passed in 2019. That law provided additional state money to school districts so they, in turn, could lower local property tax rates. But elderly and disabled homeowners were not entitled to this reduction.

House Bill 3774, authored by Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, includes several reforms to the judicial branch. It creates 10 district courts, five statutory county courts, one statutory probate court and one criminal magistrate court. It revises the jurisdiction of certain statutory county courts, gives magistrates in certain counties jurisdiction in criminal cases, revises the duties of certain district and county attorneys and provides public access to the state court document database — if the state Supreme Court agrees.

Additionally, the law creates a code of professional responsibility to regulate entities overseen by the Texas Forensic Science Commission, revises the commission's investigatory power and permits the commission to use state funds to train forensic analysts.

Among other housekeeping provisions, the law requires that the protective order registry include protective orders for victims of sexual assault or abuse, stalking or trafficking and mandates the removal of certain vacated orders from the registry. It extends the deadline for prosecutors to answer an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed after final conviction in a felony case without the death penalty.



Senate Bill 12, written by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, limits the amount of property taxes a school district can levy on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person.

Some provisions of the bill took effect on Sept. 1, 2021, while the remaining became law on Jan. 1.

Senate Bill 1210, written by Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and Bettencourt, requires that building codes allow the use of refrigerants, a component of air conditioning units, other than hydrofluorocarbons, so long as they comply with the federal Clean Air Act. This law is in line with a movement in the United States and around the world to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbons, chemical compounds of hydrogen, carbon and fluorine that erode the ozone layer and contribute to global warming.

A Senate Research Center analysis of the law noted that a leading industry group, the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, supported the legislation. Major Texas manufacturers including Goodman and Chemours also supported it, the analysis found. The analysis said the transition away from hydrofluorocarbons includes ramping up the manufacturing of air conditioners that use other types of coolants, many of which can be manufactured in Texas.

"Overall, the transition is expected to create 33,000 new manufacturing jobs and sustain more than 138,000 existing manufacturing jobs nationwide," the analysis noted. "A large proportion of these jobs will be in Texas, already a major manufacturing hub for these products."

The new 88th legislative session begins Jan. 10.

Airline worker dies "ingested into engine"

Staff Report
For The Record

An airline ground crew worker in Alabama died after being "ingested into the engine" of a parked plane on Saturday, said the National Transportation Safety Board.

In a statement provided to NPR, the NTSB said it has opened an investigation into the death. The incident involved an Embraer 170 aircraft, a medium-range jet that can hold about 70 passengers, which had flown from Dallas Fort-

Worth to the Montgomery Regional Airport.

The victim, whose name has yet to be released, was employed by Piedmont Airlines, a subsidiary of American Airlines that operates at more than 80 airports. Neither company responded to NPR's request for comment.

"We are saddened to hear about the tragic loss of a team member of the AA/Piedmont Airlines," said Wade A. Davis, the airport's executive director. "Our thoughts and prayers

are with the family during this difficult time."

The airport grounded all flights for five hours after the incident, which occurred around 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

People briefed on the matter told Reuters that the engine was running at the time of the incident. The NTSB confirmed the parking brake on the aircraft was also set.

More details on the death will be released in a preliminary report in two to three weeks, the NTSB said.

Deaths & Memorials

Ashlyn Joy Granger, 39, Orange

Ashlyn Joy Granger, 39, of Orange, Texas, left this world to be with Jesus on Monday, December 19, 2022.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on October 10, 1983, she was the daughter of Charles Richard "Ricky" Granger and Cyn-di Myrick.



Ashlyn Granger

enjoyed spending her time with family and friends, especially at the beach. Ashlyn was adored by many, and her memory will be cherished by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Richard "Ricky" Granger; grandparents, Alice Joy Fiset and Charles and Gloria Granger; and uncle, Randy Fiset.

Ashlyn was loved by many and touched many people in a positive way. She was a loving daughter, sister, and aunt. Those who knew her will never forget her. She was spontaneous, charismatic, funny at times, kind, loving, and smart. Her passion was helping people and she obtained her LVN at Lamar in Orange, Texas. She continued working at a nursing home, The Meadows, where she was employed for 8 years. She cared dearly for her patients and interacted with them as only as a caring nurse could. During her free time, she

She is survived by her mother, Cyndi Myrick of Bridge City and her fiancé, Rudy Ebner; grandfather, Billy Fiset of Bridge City; siblings, Chason Russell Granger of Orange, Texas, Randyn Don Myrick of El Chaon, California, Trenton Lake Myrick and wife, Kirsten of Nashville, Tennessee, Beau Myrick and wife, Renee of Port Neches, and Anna Myrick of Orange; nephew, C.J. Granger; uncle, Uncle Chad and his wife Claudia Fiset and their children, Kenadi, Jaedyn and Braxton Fiset.

Florida burglars call cops for help

Staff Report
For The Record

POINCIANA, Fla.— Two people in Florida were arrested after one of them made a 911 call to get help with moving their belongings from a home they were burglarizing, authorities told the Associated Press.

Deputies responded to a home Saturday after a 911 call was made but nobody spoke, the Polk County Sheriff's Office said. At the home, the deputies concluded that nobody lived there, but they found a male suspect and his girlfriend inside the home after entering it through an unlocked

door.

Deputies had been searching for the male suspect after identifying him from security video as a burglar at a Dollar General store in Poinciana, Florida, where several items were stolen earlier in the day, the sheriff's office said in a statement. Poinciana is about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Orlando.

While talking to deputies, the female suspect told them that she had called 911 for the purpose of having law enforcement help them move their belongings from the house they were burglarizing. They also wanted to get a ride to the

airport so they could spend the weekend in New York, the sheriff's office said.

"Deputies DID help them with their belongings, and DID give them a ride, but it wasn't to the airport ... it was to the Polk Pokey," the sheriff's office said in a Facebook post. "And they are welcome to stay there all weekend long. The Polk Pokey is much better than New York anyway."

The male suspect was charged with burglary and theft related to the store and also burglary of a residence. The female suspect was charged with burglary of a residence, according to the sheriff's office.

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Bears and Cardinals play in the LCM/IP Classic



Ben Elliott of LCM averaged 20 points in the Bears' four games during the LCM/IP Tournament.



Lincoln Breaux played an inspired fourth quarter for Bridge City in its come from behind win over Pollock Central.



Walker Britten scored 20 points in both of the Cardinal wins on the final day of the LCM/IP Classic.



LCM's Alatheon Winn scored 13 points against Hardin-Jefferson during the final game of the tournament.

OCSPORTS BEAT DAN PERRINE For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville High School hosted the fourth annual LCM/IP Classic on December 28-29. The basketball tournament included teams from east Texas high schools and a selected team of high school basketball players from Australia that is traveling in the United States during their summer holiday from school because below the equator it is summer there.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears and the Bridge City Cardinals participated in the tournament. Like all the other teams the Bears and Cardinals played four games in the two days. Games were played at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium known as "The Grove" and at the old



Dan Perrine

competition gym at the high school known for years as the Bear Cave because of the large mural on the gym's wall and now affectionately called "The Cave."

The Bears played their first game of the tournament in The Grove on Thursday afternoon against the Pollock Central Bulldogs. Pollock is located in Angelina County near Lufkin making the Bulldogs the second longest travelers to the tournament after the Australians.

LCM snapped a 2-2 tie with a basket by Ben Elliott to score the next 16 points and never trailed in the game. The Bears had three players score in double figures with Noah Full-

er getting 16 points, Elliott totaling 12, and Da'Marion Morris tallying 10 points. Nine Bears scored at least two points in the 63-37 win.

Bridge City had a much

tougher draw in its first game. The Cardinals played the Class 5A state ranked Barbers Hill Eagles at The Grove.

LCM BEARS Page 6B

Lady Mustangs and Lady Cardinals do well in Buna



The Bridge City Lady Cardinals took home the third place trophy after competing in the Buna girls basketball tournament.

Dan Perrine For The Record

The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs and the Bridge City Lady Cardinals participated in the Buna Girls Basketball Tournament the last week of December. The Lady Mustangs and the Lady Cardinals competed well enough to play in the championship game and the third place game.

West Orange-Stark lost by one point 34-33 to the Starks Lady Panthers from Louisiana in the championship game. The Lady Mustangs took home the second place trophy from the tournament.

Bridge City did better in the third place game defeating the host team Buna Lady Cougars 46-29. The Lady Cardinals were led by Kennedy Campbell who scored 13 points and grabbed 7 rebounds. Cambree LaComb provided 7 points while Kaylee Britten, MaKenna Knight, and Rylynn Thornton each contributed 6 points to the winning effort. Thornton also led Bridge

City in rebounds with 9 before fouling out.

District action resumed on Tuesday, January 3, for both West Orange-Stark (2-1) and Bridge City (0-3). The Lady Mustangs traveled to Lumberton and played the Lady Raiders. The Lady Cardinals hosted the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears (1-1).

West Orange-Stark has a tough schedule in the next ten days. On Friday the Lady Mustangs play at home against the Jasper Lady Bulldogs. After their bye on Tuesday, January 10, the Lady Mustangs then face the currently undefeated in district Silsbee Lady Tigers on Friday, January 13 which will close out the first half of district action for West Orange-Stark.

Bridge City has its first half of district bye on Friday, January 6, before the Lady Cardinals play at Vidor on Tuesday, January 10.

The first half of district concludes at home for the Lady Cardinals against Lumberton on Friday, January 13.



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Crucial NFL games set Sunday; National Championship Monday

KAZ'S KORNER Joe Kazmar For The Record

In the next five days both the National Football League playoff schedule and the College National Championship will be decided as the regular 17-game season and the final college game unfolds.

Not only will the NFL playoff schedule be set but also the top seed in each conference will be determined which gives a bye in the first round and home-field advantage for the entire playoffs up to next month's Super Bowl.

In the AFC, Buffalo needed to win Monday night at Cincinnati combined with a Kansas City loss Sunday at Las Vegas or win Sunday with both Kansas City and Cincinnati losing Sunday to grab the No. 1 seed in the AFC.

Kansas City will earn the top seed with a win Sunday and a Buffalo loss either in week 17 or 18 or a Buffalo loss Monday night and a Buffalo loss Sunday and a Cincinnati loss Sunday.

Cincinnati's path to the top seed is less confusing but probably more difficult. The Bengals needed a win Monday night and win Sunday with a Kansas City loss.

The No. 1 seed in the NFC is not so complicated. Philadelphia just needs to win or Dallas and San Francisco lose Sunday.

Our Cowboys need to win Sunday and the Eagles and San Francisco must both lose to be the NFC's top dog.

The 49ers need to win Sunday at home against Arizona and Philadelphia must lose at home to the New York Giants, who were eliminated from the playoffs Sunday despite a resounding 38-10 victory over hapless Indianapolis.

Several teams qualified for the playoffs last month with just three teams (Seattle, Detroit and Green Bay) competing Sunday for the final wild card berth in the NFC, where all but one division champions are already decided.



Joe Kazmar

The Philadelphia Eagles need to win Sunday against the New York Giants to assure the NFC East Division championship.

However, in the AFC only two division champions have already been crowned (Buffalo in the East Division and Kansas City in the West Division). The AFC South champion will be known after the Tennessee at Jacksonville game on Sunday has a winner. The same is true in the North Division where the Baltimore at Cincinnati fiasco takes place.

This was the first year ever that the College Football Playoffs appeared to have had the correct teams in the top four places as far as Saturday's results in the semifinal round was concerned.

The four-team playoff has had more lop-sided games than not, but Saturday fans were treated to two of the most exciting games ever. In fact, by the time Ohio State missed its attempt at the game-winning field goal over Georgia, the big ball in New York City already had dropped and 2023 had arrived.

The fourth-seeded Buckeyes' attempt to upset Georgia failed when the long field goal sailed wide left, giving the Bulldogs their 42-41 narrow victory in the Peach Bowl.

No. 3-seeded TCU, the team most college football buffs thought didn't belong, came up with an astounding 51-45 upset over previously undefeated Michigan in the first semifinal game. Much like the Wolverines, the Horned Frogs won all 12 regular-season games, losing to Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game.

Now TCU is wearing the Cinderella Team tag put on the Frogs by the media just to make next Monday's game more interesting against defend-

ing national champion and No. 1 seed Georgia (14-0), which is looking for its second straight title.

Alabama's long-time head coach Nick Saban has been miffed ever since TCU got into the College Football Playoff and his Crimson Tide had to settle for a game against

Kansas State—the team that defeated TCU—in the Sugar Bowl.

Saban fired his team up during the entire practice period before the Sugar Bowl and then turned them loose to drub Kansas State, which they did to the tune of 45-20.

All of Saban's ire and vindictiveness went out the window after his team's resounding victory when the two semifinal games kept the audience at the edge of their seats and said they were the best playoff games ever.

As much as I would like to see the Horned Frogs come up with another upset, my heart and my wallet are clashing, with my wallet always winning—Georgia in a high-scoring game to remain as national champions.

KWICKIES...

The Minnesota Vikings proved to be the best team in NFL history by winning 11 one-score games so far this season. The 2019 Seattle Seahawks and the 1978 Houston Oilers are next with 10 wins.

Retired New Orleans Saints' quarterback Drew Brees is the only signal-caller in NFL history with five 5,000-yard passing seasons. He is followed by 45-year-old Tom Brady and Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes with two each.

I thought that the Dallas Cowboys overpowering the Tennessee Titans 27-13 Thursday night was a great accomplishment until I found out that six starters were held out of the game by the Titans to rest them for the big game Sunday against Jacksonville for the AFC South Division championship. And the Cowboys had to scramble in the fourth pe-

riod to pull off the victory.

The 2022 Miami Dolphins have been ruled the NFL's "Most Disappointing Team in 2022" for having a respectable 8-3 record in the first 11 games and them going 0-5 in Weeks 13-17. The last time the Dolphins made the playoffs was in 2016.

JUST BETWEEN US...

It's almost inevitable that the Houston Texans will be crowned as the NFL's Louisiest Team for 2022 and will once again get their trophy for ineptness by winning the No. 1 overall pick in the upcoming 2023 NFL draft. If there was any doubt going into Sunday's game with Jacksonville—and in front of the loyal fans in NRG Stadium Sunday—it got confirmed when quarterback Davis Mills was unable to get his team into the end zone at least once and were on the wrong end of a 31-3 blowout by the visiting Jaguars. It will probably result in Head Coach Lovie Smith getting canned, but it's hard to win when you don't have the horses to do so. Hopefully the gurus in their ivory towers at NRG won't just jump on the bandwagon and take Ohio State's quarterback C.J. Stroud without at least considering TCU's Max Duggan, who loves to run with the football when he can't find an open receiver and is a Texas boy.



Greenlea Oldham of the Lady Bobcats was a leader in scoring and rebounding during the Bill Tennison Tournament.



Lady Bobcat Harleigh Rawls made strong contributions as Orangefield split its two games in the Bill Tennison Tournament.

Lady Bobcats complete the Bill Tennison Tourney

Dan Perrine For The Record

The annual Bill Tennison Tournament was held at the Orangefield Gymnasium on Tuesday and Wednesday before the start of the New Year. Six girls basketball teams from southeast Texas competed with each team they playing four games during the tournament.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats hosted the tournament and represented themselves very well. The Lady Bobcats split the four games they played.

The first game of the tournament on Tuesday, December 27, featured a county matchup of Orangefield facing the Vidor Lady Pirates. The Lady Bobcats had been district opponents with the Lady Pirates prior to this sea-

son when Orangefield was lowered in classification to compensate for enrollment numbers.

The game remained scoreless until 2:40 had elapsed and Harleigh Rawls of the Lady Bobcats nailed a three-pointer. When the Lady Pirates finally scored it began a nine-point run for them as they took a 9-3 lead.

Rawls hit her second long shot to start a streak for Orangefield as Greenlea Oldham and Brianna Moore followed with baskets. Moore's was also from three-point range to give Orangefield the lead again 11-9. Vidor tied it but Rawls connected on her third three of the first quarter to put the Lady Bobcats up 14-11 as the quarter ended.

ORANGEFIELD Page 5B

ShareLunker Program kicks-off 37th season this weekend



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department photo of recent Toyota ShareLunker program candidate.

Staff Report TPWD - News

Anglers across Texas and the nation had their calendars marked for opening day of a new Toyota ShareLunker season. The 37th season kicked off New Year's Day as anglers cast their lines in hopes of landing a Legacy Lunker largemouth bass (13-plus pounds) in Texas' world-class fisheries.

The Toyota ShareLunker program has played an

integral part in making Texas a destination for hundreds of thousands of anglers in search of this prized sport fish. Grabbing a pole, hitting the water and hauling in a 13-pound plus largemouth bass would be a great way to jumpstart the new year. The cast of the line, the lure landing just right on the water and a strike from a possible fish of a lifetime is what many anglers strive to experience.

"We are excited to kick

off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Natalie Goldstrohm. "The ShareLunker program contributes to the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring and also helps us gather vital catch and genetic data to help our biologists better manage bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

The 2022 season was one for the record books, with multiple milestones reached and memories made by anglers working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries staff that make the program a success. Key highlights from the 2022 Toyota ShareLunker collection season include:

- 24 Legacy-class ShareLunkers caught this season, the most during January through March since 1995 (27)
- Nine different water bodies produced ShareLunkers in 2022
- Lake Daniel became the 75th public water to

TPWD Page 4B

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LCM Lady Bears win tournament at East Chambers

**DAN PERRINE
FOR THE RECORD**

Between Christmas and New Year's Day the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears played in the East Chambers Tournament at Winnie. The Lady Bears came home with the trophy winning the three-day tournament.

On Tuesday, December 27, Little Cypress Mauriceville played very well against the Woodville Lady Eagles winning its first game of the tournament 58-34. Keylie Washburn was the high scoring Lady Bear with 24 points. Mackenzie Clark produced 10 points, and freshman Eden Frenzel had 10 points in the first quarter.

Day two of the tournament saw LCM win two more games. In the morning the Lady Bears topped Tarkington 44-26 with Washburn again the

high scorer with 22 points followed by another freshman Mallory Russell tallying 8 points.

Later on Wednesday the Lady Bears battled the Liberty Panthers in a tight game. Four fouls on Washburn forced coach Eddie Michalko to sit her on the bench for much of the second half but Keylie still scored 20 points. Little Cypress Mauriceville trailed Liberty until the last minute of the game before rallying for a 41-37 win. Clark scored 10 and Frenzel chipped in with 9 points.

The third day of the tournament on Thursday were the semi-finals with the Lady Bears earning a place in the finals defeating Hallettsville 49-32. Once again Washburn got in early foul trouble, and Michalko had his Lady Bears use a patient offense with Keylie out resulting in balanced scoring. Annabelle Fisher and

Eden Frenzel both scored 12 points to lead LCM.

The finals later on Thursday pitted Little Cypress Mauriceville against the Jasper Lady Bulldogs. Fouls got the Lady Bears in trouble again with Washburn and Fisher having to play the second half with four fouls apiece causing LCM to be behind until the final minute.

Annabelle responded with an amazing eight points in the fourth quarter. Washburn closed as the high scorer for the fourth time in five games putting in 24 points. Frenzel and Clark made strong contributions with 10 and 9 points respectively as the Lady Bears won the championship game 57-51 over Jasper.

Keylie Washburn averaged 19.8 points in the five games and was named the Most Valuable Player for the tournament. Mackenzie Clark



The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears were the champions of the East Chambers Tourney defeating Jasper 57-51 in the finals.

was named to the All-Tournament team.

Coach Michalko was proud of all his Lady Bears and thought Annabelle Fisher and Eden Frenzel could have been picked for the All-Tour-

namment team. "All the girls played hard and refused to quit. They wanted it more than anyone else," Michalko stated.

District action resumed on Tuesday, January 3, for the Little Cypress Mau-

riceville Lady Bears (1-1) at Bridge City against the Lady Cardinals. The Lady Bears play their next district home game on Friday against the Vidor Lady Pirates.

Orangefield Bobcats finish second at Franklin Tournament

**DAN PERRINE
FOR THE RECORD**

The Orangefield Bobcats spent the last days of last year playing in the Franklin Basketball Tournament. The Bobcats did well they finished as the runners up in the tournament.

The opening game for Orangefield was Tuesday, December 27, against the Caldwell Hornets. The Bobcats trailed after one quarter 19-14, but rallied in the second period to take the lead 30-29 at the half.

The score remained close as Orangefield increased its lead by two points 44-41 going to the final quarter. The Bobcats played lights out in the fourth outscoring the Hornets 18-4 to win the game 62-45.

Bobcat Pete Ragusa was the leading scorer with 32 points. Zane Wrinkle was the team leader in rebounds grabbing 7 and added 11 points.

Tuesday night Orangefield played the sixth ranked in the state Corpus Christi London Pirates. As in the opener the Bobcats fell behind early being

outscored in the first quarter by five points before coming back in the second to reduce the Pirates' advantage to a single point 32-31 before half-time.

The Pirates added to their lead in the third period before Orangefield repeated its fourth quarter heroics from earlier in the day. The Bobcats dominated the final eight minutes 19-5 to earn the 62-50 victory.

Ragusa was again the top point scorer for Orangefield with 28, and Brayden Parker was also in double figures with 11 points. Pulling down 9 rebounds Cameron Dischler led the Bobcats in that category.

On Wednesday, Orangefield played a tighter defensive matchup with the Navasota Rattlers where the Bobcats exhibited more balanced scoring across the bench. The Bobcats won every quarter and the final score was 54-33 over Navasota. Wrinkle of Orangefield had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Ragusa scored 13 points to lead the eight Bobcats who got in the scorebook with at

least two points.

Later on Wednesday, Orangefield tipped off against Manor New Tech in the semi-finals of the tournament. A strong first quarter saw the Bobcats take a 23-15 lead.

Manor New Tech narrowed the Orangefield advantage to seven points after the second quarter. The Bobcats regained the momentum winning the third period 14-10 to take an eleven point margin to the final quarter. Manor New Tech could only trim two points off that lead and Orangefield advanced to the championship game with the 61-52 triumph.

Freshman Jaden Scales had his best game of the tournament scoring 22 points for the Bobcats. Ragusa scored 17 points while dishing out 5 assists. Wrinkle led in rebounds with 7 and scored 9 points.

The championship game was played on Thursday between Orangefield and the Center Roughriders. In the first quarter Center scored 25 points hoping to repeat reaching the century mark as it did against Manor New Tech two days earlier and grabbed a ten point

lead over Orangefield.

The Bobcats bounced back in the second quarter to trail 35-28 at the half. The Roughriders showed their scoring punch again in the third quarter with 18 points to take a 53-42 advantage to the fourth quarter.

Orangefield played another inspired fourth quarter outscoring Center 16-9 but it was not enough as the Bobcats fell 62-58 to the Roughriders. Pete Ragusa and Zane Wrinkle were named to the all-tournament team for Orangefield.

The Bobcats are 16-5 on the season and resumed



Orangefield's Zane Wrinkle had a double-double in the Franklin Tournament and was picked for the all-tournament team.



Pete Ragusa of the Bobcats averaged 22.5 points a game in the Franklin Tournament and was named to the all-tournament team.

district action this week against the Hardin Hornets on Tuesday. Orangefield's next home game

will be Friday, January 3, against the Warren Warriors.

DAR meets 3rd Tuesday in Bridge City

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City.

DAR promotes local community service, education, historical preservation, and patriotism.

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Don't run from muddy water

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

Here in Texas there are a few things that are common from Sabine to Baffin at this time of the year and everyone who calls the coast or saltwater home has an idea what those things are. Probably the biggest and most common factor is the wind, you just can't escape those big gusts that seem to come around every weekend. The wind is a constant factor and most anglers eventually figure out how to deal with the uncomfortable conditions, some seek shelter in protected waters while others just brave the waves and tough it out. Now aside from the obvious comparisons about the wind the other common factor that plagues anglers during this time of the year is muddy water. Nothing will run off the weekend angler like muddy off colored water. The misconception about not being able to see in the dirty stuff has cost many a fisherman a good day on the water.



Chuck Uzzle

A good friend of mine, Mac McCune who happens to be in the business of managing freshwater lakes, opened my eyes up about so called muddy water one day while we were fishing on Sabine Lake. We were about half way across the lake heading southeast towards an area where we had been catching some pretty respectable fish. As we approached I could see that the run off from north had begun to work it's way down the lake and the water that only days before had been so perfect now looked like a stale Yoo-Hoo poured on a brown paper bag. Mac could tell I wasn't real happy about the hand we had been dealt so he asked me what was wrong as we continued to search the area. I explained about how the water clarity was terrible and no self respecting would be anywhere close to this ugly water. Mac calmly reached down into the cooler, found an empty clear plastic water

bottle, dipped it into the water, and filled it up for examination. "This water isn't so bad when you look at it from the angle of the fish" he said as held the bottle up and peered through the sides. "It looks bad from where we are but you can actually see pretty well when you look through it instead of down into it" he added. Sure enough once you looked through the water in the way a fish would you could see much better than I first thought, that was a lesson I never forgot as we proceeded to catch fish in the same water I had been ready to give up on only minutes before.

Now muddy water has its own particular personality and certain adjustments will have to be made in order to be successful. One benefit that muddy water presents at this time of the year is that it will be warmer than ultra clear water on average. The suspended particles in the water will hold heat better therefore the temperatures will be warmer. This especially holds true on outgoing tides where warmer water exits marshes and shallow flats.

Places where the warmer, muddy or off colored water enters a bay or lake are magnets for predator fish as they often hide on the color change or streak and ambush their prey. The great thing about a situation like this is that there are tons of places where you can make this pattern work for you because every bay system has plenty of drains where the water moves during tide changes. These places can produce some amazing fishing and the crazy thing is that it can be so predictable.

One winter on Sabine we keyed in on a small stretch of shoreline that had 6 or 8 drains and small ditches where water entered and exited the marsh. While wading we could feel the temperature difference in the water on the outgoing tides and that was all we needed to know as we started to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Soon we were in one of those freak stretches where you could do no wrong and you felt every cast was going to produce another big fish. It was obscene how many fish came from such small areas as they just stacked up in the mouths of these little ditches where the murky water met the clear, I still

have really vivid memories of those trips and it still makes me shake my head when I think about it.

Well now that we have conquered our fear the muddy and the murky let's get a handle on what types of baits will best produce under these particular conditions. One lure that is gaining mass acceptance in saltwater that really shines in the muddy water is a spinnerbait. The vibration from the blade is a real attractor as fish key in on the bait. Varied retrieves with erratic movements will trigger vicious strikes from all different species of fish.

Redfish have long been targeted the most by spinnerbaits but speckled trout and flounder will crush them just as fast. The spinnerbait allows anglers a wide array of versatile presentations as well as the opportunity to cover plenty of water in short fashion. The preferred model in muddy water would have to a model sporting a single Colorado blade and a soft plastic with a paddle tail for extra added vibration. This combination works well under these conditions.

Another bait that also comes from the freshwater family of lures like the spinnerbait and is gaining more

acceptance by the day is the crankbait. Small short lipped models like the 1 Minus from Manns are right at home in the offcolored water. The wiggle and vibration that is given off during the retrieve is a fish catching marvel, these baits really produce. Other proven offerings would have to include topwater plugs and soft plastics with paddle tails as well.

Darker colors seem to work best for me but could just be my security blanket if you know what I mean. I believe the biggest factor is noise or vibration so the fish can key in on the bait when it's tougher to actually see the bait.

Two of the biggest trout I ever caught came from some of the worst looking water I ever fished so you can understand why I believe that you can have success even when the water color or clarity is not the best. The biggest obstacle is convincing yourself that you can actually catch fish in places like this and really giving the area a chance. Once you get over the mental hang up associated with the thought of "I can't see in this water so there must not be any fish here" you will undoubtedly become a better fisherman.

TPWD Toyota ShareLunker From Page 2B

contribute a Legacy-class ShareLunker

- Four entries were new lake records (Lake Daniel (Twice), Eagle Mountain Lake, O.H. Ivie)

- The new O.H. Ivie waterbody record, set at 17.06 pounds, was the biggest in 30 years, and is the seventh largest largemouth bass ever verified in Texas (private or public)

- Four fish made Texas' Top 50 biggest largemouth bass of all-time list

- Five entries were greater than 15-pounds, including three over 16-pounds

Anglers have submitted 632 Legacy Lunkers in the first 36 years of the ShareLunker program and during the 2022 collection season, 100 percent of all the loaned fish were healthy and returned to the lake where they were caught.

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13-plus pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31, 2023.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13-plus pound lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker An-

nual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings – a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual Texas fresh and saltwater fishing license.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24-inches in Texas.

As of Dec. 20, 496 ShareLunker catches by 340 anglers across all size categories are approved into the program in 2022. One of those anglers has reeled in a remarkable 14 ShareLunkers. O.H. Ivie leads all waterbodies with 144 approved entries during the 2022 season. Anticipation is high for what 2023 could have in store for anglers across the state and the nation.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than eight pounds or 24-inches during the calendar year 2023 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8 lb.+), Elite Class (10 lb.+),

and Legend Class (13 lb.+).

In addition, a new procedure is in effect beginning with the 2023 season. Legend Class ShareLunkers no longer need to be weighed on a certified scale for entry.

Anglers must include a photo of their Lunker on a digital scale in order to qualify for Legend Class.

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime sup-

porter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors including Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co., Stanley Jigs and 6thSense Fishing also provide additional

support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com.

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Entertainment: Going into 2023 and beyond



On Valentine's Day 2023 Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band will be performing at the Toyota Center in Houston

Tommy Mann Jr. For The Record

A few big shows have been announced for 2023 already as well including Aaron Lewis at the Jefferson Theatre on Feb. 4, The Mavericks at the Jefferson Theatre on Feb. 10 and For King and Country at Ford

Park Arena on May 6. Check out the shows below and visit the venue websites for more details.

IN 2023

• **Jan. 13**
Air Supply, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **Jan. 19**
Eden, House of Blues, Houston

• **Jan. 20**
Cody Johnson, Randy Houser, Jesse Raub Jr., Cajun Dome, Lafayette, La.

• **Feb. 4**
Aaron Lewis, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

• **Feb. 10**
The Mavericks, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

• **Feb. 11**
Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Anthrax, Black Label Society, Bayou Music Center, Houston

• **Feb. 12**
Danny Ocean, House of Blues, Houston

• **Feb. 14**
Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Toyota Center, Houston

• **Feb. 17**
Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **Feb. 23**

Journey, Toto, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.

• **Feb. 25**
John Mellencamp, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

• **Feb. 25**
Tracy Lawrence, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **March 9**
TobyMac, Crowder, Cochren & Co., Tasha Layton, Jon Reddick, Terrian, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.

• **March 12**
Static-X, Fear Factory, Mushroomhead, Dope, House of Blues, Houston

• **March 14**
Skillet, Theory of a Deadman, Saint Asonia, Bayou Music Center, Houston

• **March 31**
Sammy Kershaw, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• **April 22**
Taylor Swift, NRG Stadium, Houston

• **May 6**
For King and Country, Ford Arena, Beaumont

• **June 16**
Thomas Rhett, Cole Swindell, Nate Smith, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.

• **June 30**
Matchbox Twenty, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **July 8**
Blink-182, Turnstile, Toyota Center, Houston

• **July 22**
Shania Twain, Mickey Guyton, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• **Aug. 12**
Foreigner, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

Orangefield Lady Bobcats From Page 2B

Scoring was very sparse in the second quarter with the two teams totaling only 11 points between them. Madison Powell of the Lady Pirates scored five of their six points to cut the Orangefield lead to two points 19-17 as the first half concluded.

The third quarter proved to be the pivotal point of the game as Vidor came to life matching their point total of the first half during the eight-minute period. Oldham scored four points but that was two-thirds of the Lady Bobcats' output in the quarter as the Lady Pirates took a 34-25 advantage into the final period.

The possibility of a comeback began to loom as Rawls made three free throws and a field goal while Oldham added a bucket to trim the Vidor lead to four points. Free throws did decide the outcome in the end as Rawls and Moore both sank two free throws in the last minute but Laikyn Brodnax of the Lady Pirates made two huge shots from the charity stripe to give Vidor the win 40-38.

Rawls was the high scorer in the game with 20 points. Oldham notched 10 points with 6 rebounds and a blocked shot for the Lady Bobcats. Moore added 6 points to the Orangefield scoring.

The Lady Bobcats second game on Tuesday was against the northern neighbor of Vidor the Evadale Lady Rebels. This proved to be another tight contest between the two teams.

As they did against Vidor the Lady Bobcats dominated the early minutes of the game with Evadale. Greenlea Oldham converted a three-point play to start the scoring and Harleigh Rawls made it 5-0 with a basket.

The Lady Rebels showed a pension for shooting the long ball as they sank two in the first quarter. Oldham was a force to be reckoned with in the first quarter posting nine points and twice scoring on put backs of rebounds she grabbed to help Orangefield take a 13-8 lead after one quarter.

Three more threes dropped for the Lady Rebels in the second quarter. Sterling Richard came off the bench to score four points including a coast to coast dribbling exhibition that she finished with a drive to the basket and a layup.

Oldham added four more points and Brianna Moore made a three-point play of her own in the second period. The Lady Bobcats went to their locker

room up 24-21 over the Lady Rebels.

Evadale rallied to take a 25-24 lead until Brooklyn Wagoner popped a pair of threes for the Lady Bobcats. Rawls made a steal that resulted in a bucket and sank two free throws to pad the Orangefield advantage.

Another sub for Orangefield Ava Dyer sank a late basket as the Lady Bobcats appeared to have secured the game with a strong third quarter.

They outscored Evadale in the period 14-9 to take a 38-30 lead with eight minutes to play.

There was no quit in the Lady Rebels as they rallied scoring the first five points of the fourth quarter before Oldham made a bucket. Evadale continued to pressure the ball and tied the game 42-42 with time running down.

Richard made another clutch basket to regain the advantage for Orangefield. Oldham would finish the deal with a free throw and finally a base line drive for two points that insured the win 47-44 for the Lady Bobcats.

In the afternoon game Oldham was clearly the star of the game She hit the

20-point mark, grabbed 17 rebounds, made 2 steals, and had 1 blocked shot. Three Lady Bobcats Rawls, Richard, and Wagoner each contributed 6 points to the victory.

Beating Evadale in a close contest is a hurdle Coach Eric Girola of the Lady Bobcats is happy to see them make. "We've played a lot of close games this year, and we just haven't been able to close them out. I really hope we can take that win and build off of it because it has really been a struggle just a big hurdle of ours to take those close games and finish them out.

The Lady Bobcats were really composed that last minute and a half to two minutes, did exactly what we needed them to do, and I just hope we can snowball that into some more positive wins," Girola responded.

Basketball action continued on Wednesday, December 28, in Orangefield. The Lady Bobcats squared off against the Port Arthur Memorial Lady Titans which is in Class 5A during their morning game.

Orangefield fell behind the Lady Titans 5-1 before the Lady Bobcats rallied to

take the lead 6-5 on a three-pointer by Brianna Moore. Harleigh Rawls scored the last four points of the first quarter to give the Lady Bobcats a 10-7 advantage.

Ava Dyer and Moore scored the first four points to start the second quarter which increased the Orangefield lead to 14-7. Dyer added a later basket and junior varsity callup Rebecca Durbin made two late buckets to put the Lady Bobcats on top of Memorial 20-16 at half time.

The Lady Titans came out quick to start the third quarter scoring the first six points to take the lead. Two free throws by Rawls tied the game, but Memorial then went on a seven straight points streak going ahead 29-22. Orangefield closed the gap on a three-point play by Rawls and a basket by Kaylea Gravett going to the final period down by two points.

Memorial began the fourth quarter as it did the third tallying the first six points to take its largest lead of the game 35-27. Rawls hit a three-point shot and two more free throws to make it a two-point game in the last minute, but the Lady Titans added a free throw and played great in bounds defense preventing the Lady

Bobcats from setting up any kind of last second buzzer beater to tie the game. Memorial won 43-40 over Orangefield. The Lady Titans were the only team to win all four of their games in the Bill Tension Tournament also defeating Warren, Vidor, and Evadale.

The leader for the Lady Bobcats was Rawls with 16 points. Harleigh also grabbed 3 rebounds and had a steal.

Post Greenlea Oldham for Orangefield got into early foul trouble and saw limited playing time from her normal allotment scoring 7 points with 12 rebounds. Her replacements Dyer and Durbin both did their part with 4 points apiece.

The final game of the tournament was played on Wednesday afternoon. The host Lady Bobcats played the Cleveland Lady Indians.

Defense was the key in this game. Orangefield scored its fewest points of any game in the tournament yet won easily by fifteen points 36-21 over Cleveland.

Greenlea Oldham and Harleigh Rawls were the leaders on offense and were strong on defense. Oldham had a double-double with 14 points and 19 rebounds.

Rawls scored 12 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, and handed out 3 assists. Kaylea Gravett tossed in 4 points for the second straight game with 7 rebounds and Sterling Richard added 4 points with her 4 rebounds.

Coach Girola was very satisfied with the effort made by Orangefield in the win over Cleveland and was impressed with the defensive play of his Lady Bobcats.

Girola elaborated, "Holding a team to 21 we should win those games. I was very pleased with the defense. Because we don't have a lot of offensive fire power we have to play good defense, we just have to and I like to see that. It was nice not to have a two or three point game for once."

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats coming off their strong play in the Bill Tension Tournament resumed district action on Tuesday, January 3, against the Hardin Lady Hornets. "Winning a game is great and we need every one of them we can, but the district ones those are the ones that matter," Girola concluded. The Lady Bobcats were 1-2 in district before the game at Hardin and play against Warren on Friday, January 6, in their next home game.

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LCM Bears, BC Cardinals From Page 1B

The larger Eagle squad used twelve players and everyone of them got on the scoresheet with at least two points. The Cardinals may have been outnumbered but they battled hard for the full game actually out scoring the Eagles in the fourth quarter 17-16 before losing 62-44.

Nine different Cardinals scored at least two points in the game. Walker Britten scored 11 and Aiden Gutierrez had 10 points.

Little Cypress Mauriceville and Barbers Hill closed out the first day's action at The Grove. The game was close early as the Bears took their first lead 7-6 on a three-pointer by Alantheon Winn.

The Eagles regained the lead before the end of the first quarter leading to an entertaining second period when there were 39 points put on the board by the two teams. Ben Elliott of the Bears ripped the nets for 13 points and Bryce Smith of the Eagles had 11 points including a three-pointer at the buzzer to give Barbers Hill a 33-28 lead at the half.

The third period was a repeat of the first with the Eagles outscoring the Bears by the same 13-9 margin to open up a nine-point lead. The fourth quarter was tighter but Barbers Hill maintained their advantage and won 61-50 over the Bears. Elliott was the Bears' high scorer in the game with 27 points five more than Smith.

Over at The Cave Bridge City played the Har-

din-Jefferson Hawks in the day's finale there. The Cardinals lost the game 71-50 to the Hawks.

Day two of the tournament on Friday had Bridge City play the Anahuac Panthers in the morning at The Cave. Anahuac led 10-9 after the first quarter but the Cardinals put up 18 points in the second quarter including four three pointers by Walker Britten to go into halftime leading 27-21.

Jerris Brown scored four of his eight points in the game during the third quarter to spark the Cardinals. Bridge City won the game 50-45. The Cardinals did have a loss though as freshman Aaden Bush landed awkwardly trying for a rebound and fractured his ankle putting him out of action for several weeks.

The Cardinals got a big game from Britten who made six three-point baskets and finished with 20 points. Aiden Gutierrez forced the Panthers to foul him enough that he shot ten free throws sinking six of them and scoring 11 points.

Arguably the most entertaining game of the tournament was played at The Grove Friday afternoon between Little Cypress Mauriceville and the Southern Peninsula Sharks of Australia. The fans came to see the home town Bears battle the big boys from down under.

It was an exciting game with LCM down briefly 4-2 in the first quarter. Four straight baskets by

Noah Fuller, Da'Marion Morris, Ben Elliott, and a three pointer by Alantheon Winn put the Bears on top 11-4.

LCM enjoyed a four point lead until a buzzer beater by the Australians cut it to one 14-13 at the end of one. The Sharks took the lead with the first basket of the second quarter only to have Winn drop another three that started a ten point run by the Bears that gave them a 24-15 advantage.

The second quarter ended like the first did with a last second three ball by the Sharks to trail 29-28 at the half. The game stayed close until the final minute of the third quarter when it was Morris of the Bears sinking the last shot of the quarter to put LCM up by four 47-43.

The hectic pace of the first three quarters may have had its effect on the players from the two teams. Only seventeen points were made in the final quarter as Little Cypress Mauriceville survived two three pointers in the final 37 seconds to win 54-53 over the Australians.

Elliott was the leading scorer in the game with 20 points and Morris had 11. The Sharks lived by the three sinking eight of them in the game.

The Bridge City Cardinals played their final game of the tournament against the Pollock Central Bulldogs in The Cave. Walker Britten's three pointer put the Cardinals ahead 3-2 but the Bulldogs

scored seven of the next eight points to go ahead 9-4.

Britten hit another three and Jagger Carlin tied the game 9-9 with fifteen seconds left in the first quarter. A late three gave Pollock the lead after one quarter.

Both teams scored 14 points in the second quarter so the Bulldogs led 26-23 at the half.

The Bulldogs' margin changed to seven points 39-32 after the third period and ten points after an opening three point bucket to start the final quarter. The Cardinals staged a marvelous comeback. Lincoln Breaux scored seven of his 9 points in the game during the final eight minutes including a three-point play to tie the game with 1:20 left in regulation.

No scoring for the next 70 seconds and Breaux grabbed a critical rebound of a missed Pollock shot with under ten second to play. Coach Randall Robertson called time out to set up a last shot situation.

The ball was inbounded to Britten who dribbled into the forecourt before driving the right side of the lane and taking a shot. The field goal missed but Britten was fouled on the shot sending him to the free throw line to shoot two with five ticks left on the clock. Walker was on the money with both to give the Cardinals an exciting 50-48 triumph.

Britten finished with 20 points. Aiden Gutierrez had 8 points one behind Breaux who played an inspired fourth quarter.

Coach Robertson was

excited about the Cardinals winning two close games on Friday. "It's obviously nice to win a couple of games and have some momentum flowing into district again this coming week. The game Tuesday with LCM will be a huge boost for us and set us up for the rest of district," Robertson indicated.

An intense contest was played Friday night at The Grove. LCM faced the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks for the third time this season the two teams splitting the first two meetings.

The Bears started like they were going to take the rubber game grabbing an 18-8 lead in the first quarter. Alantheon Winn nailed three threes and Ben Elliott hit a buzzer beater to boost the Bears' chances.

The Hawks strutted their stuff after that winning the next two quarters. Hardin-Jefferson took a one point lead 40-39 into the final period.

The contest was still in doubt at 53-50 with 1:11 to play in the fourth quarter when some confusion occurred concerning a foul being called on Hardin-Jefferson against Da'Marion Morris. A couple of the Bears thought a timeout had been called after the foul and came onto the court. The referee called a technical foul on the bench and when LCM Coach Brad Jeffcoat complained a little too much a second technical was called on him.

Morris made one free throw but the Hawks converted three of four of

their free throws to take a five point lead. HJ extended the advantage to six points with another free throw following a foul after it got the ball because of the technicals.

A third technical was called later on the Bears resulting in a free throw and a field goal by the Hawks to give them their largest lead of the game 64-55. Elliott made the final basket to narrow the deficit to 64-57 as the game ended.

Only five Bears scored in the game but four of them were in double figures. Elliott led the Bears with 21 points, Winn tallied 13, Morris fouled after scoring 11, and Jayden Benton contributed 10 points.

Coach Jeffcoat was pleased with how the tournament transpired and the play of the Bears. "I thought it was really good. We played four really good teams, and I think we got better this week. It was a good tournament and I'm really happy with it. Whatever our record is now it is zero and zero starting this week with our first games in district. We've got to get ready, we've got to get some wins," Jeffcoat expressed.

District action began Tuesday at The Grove for the Bears against the Cardinals. Little Cypress Mauriceville plays at Vidor on Friday before returning home on Tuesday, January 10, to play the Lumberton Raiders. The Cardinals have a bye on Friday and play the Vidor Pirates on Tuesday, January 10 in Bridge City.

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 Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Praise Worship 10:45 a.m.
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 Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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Jeremiah 29:11

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 Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
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 office@winfreebaptist.org
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