

Penny Record

Vol. 63 No. 46

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, April 12, 2023

County uses new plant money for local parks

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Some of the \$2.4 million building permit fee Chevron Phillips paid to the county is being used to improve parks and recreational sites. Monday, Commissioners Court approved new playground equipment at Claiborne West Park and improvements at the Raymond Gould Community Center.

The \$8.5 billion Golden Triangle Polymers plant is now under construction off Highway 87 South between Foreman Road and FM 1006, known as "Chemical Row."

County Judge John Gothia said each of the county's four precincts is being allocated \$120,000, for a total \$480,000 of the money.

Raymond Gould Community Center is in Vidor and Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator said the money will be used to rebuild the walking trail and to improve the bathrooms.

In addition, \$120,000 was allocated for Claiborne West Park, which is 453 acres of ball parks, recre-



Gothia

ation areas, and nature trails. The money, along with \$7,713 in donations, will be used to buy new playground equipment.

The park is on Interstate 10 east of Orange and west of Vidor It is in Orange County Precinct 2.

Precinct 1's park is the Blue Bird fishing area off Simmons Drive in Orange. The park has docks and boat launches into Little Cypress Bayou that lead into the Sabine River. The parking lot was recently repaved and other improvements made there.

The court also issued proclamations to recognize Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month in Texas.

Codie Vasquez, director of CASA, the Court-Appointed Special Advocates group that helps abused children navigate the legal system, said Orange County had 1,027 confirmed cases of child abuse last year. Of those, 47 were in "high

New Plant Page 3A

Longtime lawman Dischler announces run for OC sheriff

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The 2024 Orange County political races are beginning veteran law enforcement officer Ronald Dischler, who is currently a lieutenant with the Beaumont Police Department, announced he will run for sheriff in the March Republican primary.

Besides his law enforcement background, Dischler is also proud of being an Eagle Scout with a bronze palm.

Dischler has lived in Orange County since 1999 and said he is announcing early "because I've worked all my years in Beaumont not a lot of people here know me. They need to get to know my face."

Current Sheriff Lane Mooney is serving his first four-year term in the position. He ran as a Republican in 2020 and won after Keith Merritt announced he was retiring. His term will end at midnight December 31, 2024.

The only other 2024 candidate who has announced is lawyer Rodney Townsend running for the county court-at-law judge position held by Troy Johnson, who will be retiring at the end of his current term.

Since 2012, Orange County candidates have been running in the Republican primaries with the winners rarely facing a Democrat in the general elections. That means the

Dischler Page 3A

Bridge City Chamber of Commerce recognizes local students



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announce that the April Student of the Month for Bridge City is Shaun Hallman. Shaun is ranked 47 of 184 with a GPA of 4.18 Pictured: Tim Woolley, Barbara Moore, Alisa Huckaby, Shaun Hallman, Amanda Hallman and Jimmy Hallman.

Cowboy Church rodeo offers weekend family-friendly fun

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Cowboy Church of Orange County is hosting a professional rodeo this weekend that will offer family-friendly fun and entertainment.

People will be able to watch competitors from all across the country compete in a variety of categories including bull riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, bareback bronco riding, and saddle bronco riding. Some local competitors, like barrel racer Abi Champagne, will also be participating.

The rodeo will be at the T2 (Tin Top) Arena at 3810 Old Peveto Road off FM 1078 outside of Orange. The rodeo will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 14, and Saturday, April 15. The arena is covered so events can be held in inclement weather. Admission is \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for kids ages 5 through 12. Children age 4

and younger will get in free.

Besides the rodeo competitions, children will have some activities with bicycles being awarded for prizes in the mutton busting for ages 6 and younger, the sheep scramble for ages 6 and younger, and the calf scramble for ages 12 and younger. A \$20 fee is required for the mutton busting, but the sheep and calf scrambles are free.

Barrel riding entry is \$20 for the Pee Wee division for ages 9 and younger, \$30 for the Junior Division ages 15 and younger, and \$50 for the open barrel competition.

A raffle will be held with the prize a .44 magnum Henry Arms lever-activated rifle.

The church is making sure the event is not only family-friendly, but also family-affordable. Bryant Champagne is in charge of overseeing homemade concession stand food for reasonable prices. A children's table will be set up with



Bull Riding is one of the many events during the Cowboy Church Pro Rodeo this weekend. PHOTO BY: Daniel Bowden

free crayons so the kids can make art from the coloring pages included in the rodeo program.

A "selfie spot" will be set up so attendees can do photo shots posing as a bull rider or barrel racer. T-shirts will also be on sale to commemorate the event.

Shane Young is providing the professional stock for the rodeo events. Veter-

an rodeo announcer Jay Bergeron will be calling the competition events.

Cowboy Church of Orange County is a Christian group started in 2007 to minister to people with a "come-as-you-are" congregation using a ministry focusing on the "Western heritage" in the United

Pro Rodeo Page 3A

Local Educational Institutions 'Grow Their Own'

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Three local educational institutions put their minds together to combat teacher shortages by creating a pathway to success for paraprofessionals across our region.

Administrators from Vidor ISD, Lamar State College Orange, and Lamar

University met today to celebrate a co-enrollment partnership that aims to bridge the gap for paraprofessionals who are eager to further their education. Through this program, a cohort of paraprofessionals employed by Vidor ISD enroll in Lamar State College Orange's Associate of Arts in Teaching program with courses being taught at Vi-

dor ISD. The first cohort, made up of Vidor ISD and Newton ISD employees, began their LSCO courses in Fall 2022 and will take their first Lamar University co-enrolled course in Summer 2023. This allows them to obtain a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

"Providing career-ready graduates for our commu-

nity is a top priority and Lamar University is dedicated to truly understanding what our local workforce needs. The partnership with Lamar State College Orange and Vidor ISD is an excellent example of how collaboration can work to create a sustainable workforce for Southeast Texas.

LSCO Page 3A

SUMMER & FALL REGISTRATION

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SUMMER I CLASSES START: MAY 30, 2023

SUMMER II CLASSES START: JULY 5, 2023



My 5-Cents By State Sen. Robert Nichols

A weekly column by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3

I hope you can still take the time to reflect on the meaning of Easter and the miracle of the Resurrection. From my family to yours, hope you had a blessed and happy Easter.



Sen. Nichols

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. School safety bill heard in committee

This week Senate Bill 11 was heard in the Senate Education Committee. I authored Senate Bill 11 based on the recommendations on school safety that came out of the committee I chaired in the interim, the Special Committee to Protect All Texans. Senate Bill 11 addresses how we fund school safety, establishes the Office of School Safety and Security at TEA, further delineates responsibility

between the Texas School Safety Center and TEA, the creation and responsibilities of school safety review teams, truancy, and discipline. One of the main changes is to the school safety allotment. Currently, districts receive \$9.72 per student in the district for school safety. That is insufficient. It became apparent that to adequately fund school safety, it should be done on a per campus basis. Many school safety costs are fixed no matter how many students attend the school. The Senate also included \$600 million in appropriations for school safety grants to help schools become more secure.

2. Package of grid reliability bills passes the Senate

This week the Senate

passed Senate Bills 6, 7, 1287, 2012, and 2015 which all focus on grid reliability and grid reform. This bills, authored by Senate Charles Schwertner and Senator Phil King, will improve the Texas grid and add new dispatchable power as a backstop in times of critical need. Senate Bill 2012 builds on the performance credit mechanism and adds guiderails to ensure rates are manageable for Texans and that any rate increase goes directly to improve reliability. Winter Storm Uri in February of 2021 revealed failures in our electric market and since then it has been the mission of the legislature to improve reliability. It is my belief that this package of bills makes important, meaningful improvements to our system.

3. Bill criminalizing catalytic converter theft passes the Senate

Senate Bill 224 by Senate Carol Alvarado passed the Senate unanimously this week. This bill increases penalties on individuals who are found in possession of a catalytic converter. There are also provisions in the bill that enable prosecutors to go after criminal rings. It also allows prosecutors to further increase penalties if they are in possession of a firearm during the commission of the offense. Senate Bill 224 is named in honor of Harris County Deputy Darren Almendarez, who was shot and killed last year when he confronted three suspects attempting to steal the catalytic converter from his personal vehicle while he was in the grocery store with his family. The family of Deputy Almendarez was honored on the floor of the Senate the same day.

4. Senate Bill 29 passes the Senate

Senate Bill 29 by Senator Brian Birdwell passed the Senate this week. The bill would prohibit a governmental entity from enforcing a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or business or school closures due to COVID-19. Now that we are years into living with COVID-19 and the science has developed to help us understand the virus, it is unnecessary for any local government to enforce mandates relating to COVID-19. This bill protects Texans from burdensome regulation that some local governments try to enforce. I was proud to support this legislation.

5. Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program opening soon

It is almost time for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program to re-open. Recipients will receive up to \$10,000 toward the cost of attendance. To be eligible for the scholar-

ship, students must meet two of the following four criteria: on track to graduate high school with the Distinguished Achievement Program, higher school GPA of 3.0 or higher, college readiness score on SAT of 1070 or ACT of 23, or ranked in the top one-third of their senior class. Scholarship applicants must: submit an essay explaining why he/she believes military service is important, how he/she would fulfill the requirements of the scholarship and which university he/she would like to attend; submit a résumé, which must include his/her contact information, including his/her full name, mailing and physical addresses, Social Security number, phone number and email address.

Please submit up to five recommendation letters. Senator Nichols is accepting applications from May 15 to July 15, 2023. He/she may send his/her application packet via email to Robert.Nichols@senate.texas.gov.

NOT JUST IN TENNESSEE

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

For the last few days the press has had a lot to say about three members of the Tennessee Legislature being expelled by their fellow members. Allegedly the reason for their expulsion was that they had severely damaged the decorum of that august body. What they, in fact, did was enter the chamber using a bullhorn in an attempt to get the attention of the Speaker.

During my fourteen year tenure in the Texas House there was more than one occasion that detracted from the decorum of proceedings. The one that sticks in my mind, however, involved a gen-



Former State Senator Carl Parker

tleman who at the time was the only Black member of the Texas House of Representatives. Curtis Graves was from Houston, Texas and was, without a doubt very outspoken on issues dear to him. At time, the furnishings in the Texas House included a long press table located in the dead center of the

House chamber with a microphone at either end. The microphone up front near the Speaker's podium was to be used by one presenting a motion, the one in the rear was reserved for those who had questions or who wished to enter into debate with the presenter of a bill. Graves tried unsuccessfully for quite a while to gain the attention of the Speaker whose permission he needed in order to enter interrupt the presenter for a question. Being unsuccessful, Graves, a rather large, long-legged individual in one leap placed himself on top of the press table, running its length and shouting at the top of his voice, "Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker." Pencils, note tablets and reporters

went in every direction and a complete hush fell over the House over Graves conduct. The only one unflustered was the gentleman who was also waiting permission to ask a question at the rear of the chamber as he commented, "There is a monkey on the press table."

Although there was a lot of talk about some appropriate punishment for Graves' sin for disrupting the sacred decorum of the House, nothing was ever done and the House survived with only a few more attacks in that particular session.



The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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

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New plant money From Page 1

enough danger” to be removed from their residences. She said CASA is always looking for adults to volunteer to help the program.

The court gave CASA permission to do the annual child abuse pinwheel display on the courthouse lawn. Each pinwheel will represent one of the 182 children in Texas who died last year because of child abuse. Vasquez said that “thank goodness,” none of those deaths were in Orange County in 2022.

Bikers Against Child Abuse joined with CASA

and also received a special court proclamation. The members of the non-profit group wore motorcycle biker vests adorned with patches reading things like “No child deserves to live in fear,” and “No child is too far.” The group will have a BACA Heroes event the last weekend of April.

The county has good news in that the annual Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) payment is \$627,150, rather than the \$450,000 the county budgeted to be spent for the year.

The fund is from the

U.S. Department of Interior and is for areas in oil and gas production along the Gulf of Mexico in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Judge Gothia said the money can be used for improvements for drainage, water, and transportation. Most of the county’s share goes to the Road and Bridge Department, which includes maintaining some ditches for drainage.

Commissioner Precinct 1 Johnny Trahan questioned the increase in the cost for the county’s flood protection insurance,

which went up \$70,000. He said the county had removed the courthouse basement, which is not used, from coverage to save money. He asked if some of the expense was for the new building off Elm Avenue and Sixth Street in Orange that was donated to the county by First United Methodist Church.

The building was built for Southwest Bell, which was later AT&T, and the acquired by the church as the Malloy Center. The building has rooms and bathrooms to house out-of-area first responders and volunteers who come

to Orange County to help after disasters like hurricanes.

County Maintenance Director Kurt Guidry said the county had the elevations of the building professionally calculated and they area above the flood level. However, the county removed the 10-foot x 10-foot utility building, which was below the level, from the insurance. The utility building has a washer, dryer, and two water heaters, he said.

Judge Gothia said the increased cost in flood insurance rates is being felt by everyone in the county.

Orange County Eco-

nomics Development Director Megan Layne reported Olson Engineering of Bridge City has met its contractual agreement for a tax rebate for its 2019 expansion. This is the third year of 100 percent tax rebate, then the rate will go down to 75 percent, and then 25 percent. The company this year is entitled of \$19,813, she said.

The company’s new headquarters off West Roundbunch Road is valued at \$3.7 million, she said. The company has increased the number of jobs from 95 to 123 during the past year.

Pro Rodeo this weekend From Page 1

States. It has been one of the fastest-growing congregations in Orange County.

People who have ranches and livestock can take care of their animals on a Sunday morning and not have to worry about changing into dress

clothes to go to church services. Recently, a member was late for Sunday service because she had to repair a fence to protect a yearling colt.

A saddle mounted on a wooden stand serves as the pulpit in the church. A galvanized trough serves

for baptisms with an old-fashioned red-handled pump to fill it. The Cowboy Cross Band provides the music for services and will include old standards like “I’ll Fly Away.”

The church is at 673 FM 1078 and the grounds include an open rodeo arena

for practice and church functions. CCOC will be adding a garden to the acreage.

The congregation now likes to go by “CCOC,” according to church spokeswoman Sherri Porterfield, because the ministry has been expanded to other activities. The church added a fishing ministry, a

golf ministry, and a motorcycle ministry.

Pastor Harland Strother leads the congregation and has added an online outdoors video sermons called “From the Deer Stand” to accommodate hunters.

The rodeo is supported by a grant from the Orange County Hotel Motel

Occupancy Tax issued through the county’s Economic Development Corporation. In addition, Team Granger will be sponsoring the rodeo and will have Chevrolet and Dodge barrel-racing trucks there, along with an RV display.

Dischler announces From Page 1

winner of the Republican primary does not usually have a competitor in November.

Dischler is 65 years old and has 41 years of law enforcement experience in Louisiana and Texas. He been with the Beaumont Police Department for 23 years and is currently the

third watch commander of patrol officers.

When he was young, he set a career goal of becoming a sheriff or a police chief. He said the time is now here for him to run for the position because by the time his term will start, he will have worked for Beaumont for 25 years

and have 30 years in the pension fund.

Before working for the Beaumont Police Department, Dischler worked for the Longview, Texas, Police Department. He said he had wanted to move to Southeast Texas and work in Beaumont, but BPD at the time had a hiring

freeze. So he went to work in Longview until he could get the Beaumont job.

Before Longview, Dischler spent 12 years with the Lafayette Sheriff’s Office. He said he has worked his way up from a jailer to the patrol commander spot he now holds.

During his long career, he has worked in basically every law enforcement

area, including working SWAT, becoming a bomb instructor, working rescue squads, being a crime scene investigator, being on a pistol team, and overseeing the sheriff’s armory and inventory.

Dischler is married and has grown children and grown stepchildren. He and his wife, Janelle, live on 10 acres of land off FM

1442 in the Mauriceville area. He is a member of the Cowboy Church of Orange County and will be working security this weekend at the CCOC’s rodeo at T2 Arena.

He won’t be competing in rodeo events, though, even though he rode in rodeos in high school. In his spare time now, he likes to hunt and fish, or play golf.

LSCO helping address teacher shortage

From Page 1

We look forward to providing support ensuring student success and watching this program grow,” said Dr. Jaime Taylor, President of Lamar University.

“As we all know, the demand for qualified teachers in our state is at an all-time high. We are thrilled to establish this partnership with Lamar University and Vidor ISD to produce more teachers to address this shortfall. These bright students will no doubt have a lasting impact in our community, and in making a vibrant, Talent Strong Texas, moving forward,” said Dr. Tom Johnson, President of Lamar State College Orange.

“Vidor ISD is excited to work with Lamar State College Orange and Lamar University to bring this next generation of teachers to our profession. This collaborative effort has provided a tremendous opportunity to recent graduates to pursue a career in a field they love while working at Vidor ISD as instructional aides. We look forward to continuing to grow this program for our community and bringing the best and brightest into the field of education,” said Dr. Jay Killgo, Superintendent of Vidor Independent School District.

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From the Creaux's Nest

IT'S RODEO TIME—GO WESTERN

There is no athlete like the professional **rodeo cowboy**. Their livelihood is based strictly on their own talent. They will drive thousands of miles, hauling their own rigs from show to show, hoping their performance puts them in the money. They often come up snake eyes. **The cowboy** just moves on to the next show where he hopes to have a winning performance. **The rodeo cowboy** often wakes up with aches and pains, feeling lucky that nothing was broken from that bad spill. **The cowboy way** is a tough way to make a living, it's not for sissies. **Rodeo fans** are special, they really **admire the cowboy's efforts** and talent. The rodeo is an old **American tradition**, with many shows nationwide yearly. I watched the **Rodeo in San Angelo** last weekend. Those young cowboys are amazing, fearless performers. That brings me to the big **Cowboy Church Rodeo** this weekend. Years back, when local **Jaycees** sponsored the **Sheriffs Pose Rodeo**, big stars were brought in for entertainment, like **Tex Ritter, Lefty Frizzel, Claude King**, plus **western movie stars** who rode in the downtown **Orange parade**. It was a week long celebration. Everyone was urged to dress western. That would still be a good thing today. We should have a "**Go Western**" week. After all, **Orange County** is where the **West** begins. I believe it would be a great idea, at least Friday and Saturday, for everyone to dress western. Even the ladies showing up for work **Western style**. It would remind everyone that it's **Rodeo time** and we are keeping a great tradition alive. Thanks to **Cowboy Church** and all the sponsors who make the **Rodeo** possible.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATORS TO BE REAPPOINTED AFTER NATIONAL OUTCRY

Three legislators stormed the **House podium** in a call for stronger gun control measures after a school shooting in **Nashville** killed six people on March 27. After the protest, **Republicans** accused the trio of breaking the rules of decorum in an attempt to incite an insurrection, but the move has been widely criticized as political overreach. Shortly after the expulsion, **Metro leaders** were quick to announce their support for **Justin Jones** and their intentions to send him back to **House**. He may have been expelled Thursday evening, but **Jones** is now back in the **Tennessee House of Representatives**. The ousted legislator was reappointed to his former seat in the **52nd District in Nashville** by the **Metro Council** Monday afternoon, two business days after he was officially expelled from the **House**. **Jones** faced expulsion along with fellow **Democrats Gloria Johnson** of Knoxville and **Justin Pearson** of Memphis. **Johnson** survived the expulsion vote by one, but **Pearson** was ousted as well Thursday. The move was met with national criticism of Republican leaders in the state house. The **Chairman of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners** announced that a special meeting will be held to determine whether to reinstate **Justin Pearson** to his **District 86 House seat**. **Pearson** was one of two **Democrats** expelled from the **House** after leading a protest to call attention to gun deaths on the **House floor**. **Republican** leadership said the protest violated **House rules**. **Pearson** won a special election to the seat in January and had just been sworn in. The **Shelby County Commission** must appoint an interim representative until the next election. That interim representative will likely be **Pearson**. A special meeting has been called for Wednesday to vote on the appointment.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

The **Iron Lady**, **Margaret Thatcher**, 87, died Monday, April 8. She was a fierce ally of the **United States**. The British leader teamed up with **President Reagan** to help end the **Cold War**.****Despite 90 percent of **Americans** supporting the background check gun legislation, **Republican lawmakers** say they will filibuster any attempt to change gun laws. **President Obama** says the American people deserve a vote, yes or no.******Kree Harrison**, our **Southeast Texas girl**, competes Wednesday night looking to make the five finalist. That's a big deal. In **Kree's** case probably **Woodville**, "Dam B" where **Kree** lived until she was 12. She attended **Bridge City High** as a freshman and was one of the **Cardinal singers**.****We lost two longtime friends in the past week. **John Pickard, 88**, died April 5. Services were held Monday, April 8. His grandson **Chester Moore Jr.** gave the eulogy. We had known **John** and his late wife **Ruby** well over 50 years. We also were friends of his mother, **Ms. Ruth**, who owned the **Sugar & Spice** on 5th St. in Orange in 1950. **John** and **Ruby** spent their lives helping people. If anyone had a need, they tried to fill it. For years they were active in local and state politics. Everyone knows of their "**My Wish**" work but they did much more. **John** visited with us often here at the office. We recalled many of the old times and old timers.****We were also saddened to learn about the death of **Tom "Buddy" Addison, 85**, who died Saturday, April 6.

Service was held Monday. Back in the early 60's **Tom** was active in **Little League baseball and football**. He was a good man who always had a hearty smile for everyone. Our deepest sympathies to sons **Tracy and Keith** and their families.****Back in the 1990's **western** was dropped from country/western music. After watching the **AMC Awards**, I believe country is ready for another name change. The only hint of down home country music came from a duet appearance by **George Strait** and **Garth Brooks**. Mamau native **Hunter Hayes** got a lot of exposure. **Luke Bryan** pulled off an amazing upset and won "**Entertainer of the Year**." The 36 years old Georgia native recently began headlining his first tour. He co-hosted the show with **Blake Shelton**.****Former **Bridge City pitcher Jake Lemoine**, a freshman at the U. of Houston, has been strong on the mound with five wins and only one loss.****I also hear that former **B.C. pitcher Matt Hicks** has broken a record at **USL Lafayette** with 10 saves this season. On one day he won a game and saved another.

20 Years Ago-2003

"**The Louisiana Man**" **Doug Kershaw** brings his Cajun fiddle to the **Mauriceville Crawfish Festival** April 10 through 13. **Angela Ledford** is festival queen****Since **President Geo. W. Bush** has taken office 2.2 million jobs have been lost, 108,000 lost last month.****A thief walked into **H.D. Pates'** law office and took his computer. **Pate** didn't have a lock on his door because previous burglars had broken the door.****Thanks to **Peter Arnett** we had coverage of **Desert Storms "Smart Bombs" on Baghdad**. **CNN's Bernard Shaw** got under a table scared to death. He got out of dodge as soon as someone could sneak him over the border. (Editor's note: Remember that? Those smart bombs turning the corners were the most amazing thing I have ever seen.)******David W. Fusilier Jr.**, son of **David** and **Debbie Fusilier** of Orangefield, enlisted in the **United States Air Force** March 18 and is now in basic training at Lackland Air Force Base.******Roy and Phyl Dunn** attended the 100th birthday party April 4 for **Roy's aunt Eve** in Abbeville. **Roy**, writer of **Down Life's Highway** column tells about his remarkable aunt and his trip back home to his Cajun roots. (Editor's note: **Roy's aunt lived to be 105 and was never sick until just before her death. Her mind was remarkably sharp until the end.**)******The Bridge City Lady Cards** are undefeated in district 21-AAA. **Sissy Lemons** is first year coach. The **10-0 Cards** are ranked third in the state. Some players are pitcher **Meagan Godwin**, **Laura Gremillion**, **Katie Faulk**, **Brittney McPhatten**, **Beth Hebert**, **Kaleigh Wallace**, **Elaina Clinton** and **Jessica Lemoine**.

45 Years Ago-1978

Sak-N-Pak stores name **Deanna Linscomb**, manager of #13 store on Hwy.87, "**Manager of the Month**" for March. **Lynn** and **Carol Emerson** are owners of the 24-store chain in Orange and Jefferson counties******Edgar Flowers**, owner of **Flowers Nursery**, has 4,500 different varieties of plants. **The nursery, located in Bridge City**, is among the top 10 wholesale plant distributors in the United States. The nursery consists of 37 **greenhouses** with 180,000 square feet of growing area. **Edgar and his late wife Dorothy**, planted an 8 foot by 10 foot frame full of tomato seeds in 1960, sold the tomato plants and from that small beginning became one of the country's largest.******Doug "Louisiana Man"** drives the first nail for the **T.C. Hemphill Annex and Bob Hope Vocational School**. The new facility will include the **Doug Kershaw Music Center**. **W.T. Oliver** is fund raising chairman. The goal is to raise **\$600,000 for Hughen School**.******Flo and Gene Ederly** marked their 19th wedding anniversary April 10. They vow they will be together forever. (Editor's note: They were. When **Gene** passed away recently they would have been married 65 years.)

65 Years Ago-1958

Joe Runnels, candidate for county judge, is the only candidate who favors a **County Court at Law court**. He opposes the county unit system being advocated by candidate **Sid Caillavet**. **Joe** and **Sid** have opposed each other twice in mayoral races, each winning one. **Runnels** accused the county judge, **Charlie Grooms**, of neglecting county business. **Runnels** served two teams as county clerk and two as mayor of Orange. (Editor's note: **Joe's son Pete** served as county judge. He recently passed away.)******Frenchie's Beauty Salon**, on Highway 90, holds formal opening. **Mr. Eugene** is owner. ******New Aldermen at West Orange** are **A.L. Lagrone** and **Glenn (Popeye) Sandlin**. City secretary is **Mrs. John Crawley**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Bridge City mayor **David Rutledge** is still on the road, serving as **State Municipal League** president. This week, he's attending a week long conference in Georgetown. Meanwhile, "**Bear**" keeps up the home front. She loves working in the yard******Orange County had another Easter cold spell**, but it didn't stop the little ones from decking out in their Easter finery and hunting eggs. **Paula** and **Randy Ragsdale** got to spend some Easter time with granddaughter **Janie Nash**, who is close to a year old and wore a smocked frock for hunting eggs. Mom and dad are Orangefield coaches **Sarah** and **Jake Nash**. **Aunt is Rebekah Ragsdale**, also an Orangefield coach, and uncle is **Ryan Ragsdale**, a WO-S coach.******Little Martin Sanchez** had his first Easter at Lake Sam Rayburn wearing a blue and white bubble suit with embroidered yellow duckies. Grandparents are **Nancy** and **Cecil Byers**, and his parents are **Sarah** and **Dr. Charles Sanchez**, whose daughter **Eleanor** is now 5 and was also dressed in blue with her dress showing off a bunny face.****The city of **Orange** had to cancel its annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Friday because of the rain, but the group sponsoring a day of Easter activities at **Navy Park** was able to celebrate. Charming little **Blue Alexander**, a student at **North Early Learning Center** and son of **Jamie** and **Tay Alexander**, put on some dance moves and even won a bicycle.******Johnny** and **Becky Trahan** now have a bunch of grands and had a grand time at Easter, but the Orange County

commissioner apparently is not too happy with the mess from confetti eggs.****Holiday travelers included **Carly Thibodeau** and **Colleen Curtis**, who went up to **Palestine** (East Texas) for a spring champagne ride on the **Official Texas State Railroad vintage train**.******Jacqueline** and **Dr. Keith Kyle** visited son **Brent** and partner **Julien** at their new house in New Orleans.****Orange's "**celebrity**" priest, **Father Jim Sichko**, who is based in Louisville, Kentucky, met up with **Shaquille O'Neal** at the **Masters Tournament** and gifted the basketball great a pair of custom Nike. **Father Jim**, a missionary of mercy appointed by **Pope Francis**, gave the pope a custom pair last year. This year, **Father Jim** has picked one of the most rare bourbons for the pope. Unfortunately, **Father Jim** and many others are mourning the loss of the shooting victims Monday in Louisville. One was a member of a church in **Father Jim's diocese**.****After a two week successful run of the annual **Lions Club Carnival**, nothing is left at **Lions Park** except some marks in the grass. **Akrotex** supplied some workers and big equipment to help disassemble the **Thunderbolt ride** and get it back to the storage barn until next year. It's still amazing that the local club owns its own carnival rides and equipment.****Some grandparents sure had busy weeks with birthdays. **Betty** and **Robert Vail** celebrated birthdays for granddaughter **Brianna Vail** and then grandson **Trevor Vail**, plus **Betty's little "Sweet Sugar Baby"** great-granddaughter, **Kathy**.****Grandmother **Jill Windham Turner** had presents for her two little blonde beauties a couple of days apart. **Harper** and **Haylenn Crowell** are the daughters of **Rodney** and **Jessica Crowell**. Former longtime West Orange city councilor **Shirley Bonnin** had her 87th birthday party at a Two Amigos Restaurant, and yes, she wore the sombrero.******Geradine "Muh" Richard** turned 81 with lots of family and friends.****Others marking birthdays last week included **Janet Hilliard Anderson**, 20-year-old **A.J. Judice**, **Julie Simar Patronella**, **Janie Burns Melton**, **Kayla Cheek**, **Kenneth Wheeler**, **Leigh Anne Zerko**, and **Patsy Herrington**.****The late **Sue Halliburton**, a teacher, was mourned on her birthdate by lots of family and friend. She and the late **Grover Halliburton**, a lawyer who once served as county judge, were one of the funniest couples in local history.****Anniversaries this week included **Stump** and **Dayle Gunn Weatherford**, who have found happiness in their senior years and marked anniversary number 13.******Nancy** and **Tony Dallas**, expecting their second grandchild, dated since they were young teens and have now been married 33 years.******Terry** and **Susan Childers** had their 35th anniversary. They are now living outside of Jasper.******Shawn Hare** and **Chance Henson** have been married three years and been together for 13.****Orange County's new U.S. Representative **Randy Weber** and his wife, **Brenda**, were around the county meeting officials and regular citizens last week. The get-togethers included a dinner with the public at **Tequila's Mexican Restaurant** in Bridge City and a reception for volunteers at the **Orange County Disaster Rebuild**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the following days. **April 12:** The **Civil War** began on this day in 1861 and ended in 1865. Celebrating today are **Don Breaux**, **Amanda Toups**, **Jaclyn Phillips**, **Jill Lemoine**, **Kathy Vessel**, **Roy Mazzagate III**, **Jaclyn James** and **Shellie Holmes**.******April 13:** Happy Birthday to **Connie Angelle**, **Bruce Peveto**, **Dawn Mason**, **Gene Bellard**, **Kaylin Abshire**, **Ken Armstrong** and **Jo Ann Collins**.******April 14:** **Stephen Gault**, **Joy Learned**, **Kasie Moerbe**, **Kevin Hucabay**, **Phillip Elmore**, **Reatha Bradberry**, **Sam Carpenter, Jr.**, **Tiffani Thompson**, **April Stone** and **Christy Swanson**.******April 15:** Time does travel fast. It seems like just the other day we were chasing votes in Newton to elect **Wayne Peveto** to the State Representative's job. Today **Wayne** celebrates his 84th birthday. Happy Birthday also to **Pat Cook**, **Linda Claybar**, **Debbie Aarons**, **Jaclyn Eickenhorst**.******April 16:** Our longtime buddy **Kirby Ridley Cruse** celebrates today as does **Chuck Sterling**, **David Hock**, **Judy Pittman**, **Quentin Billeaud**.******April 17:** A bunch of great folks celebrate today, **Whitney Anderson**, **Katelyn Haynes**, **Janice Todora**, **Jessica Christiansen**, **Kaylie Byrd**, **Natalie Miller**, **Ronnie Haymon**, **Shelby Bickham**, **Cheryl Puentes** and **Matthew Franklin**.******April 18:** Happy Birthday to **Eric Haynes**, **Megan Waguespack** and **Grant Mott**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tee-Man Comeaux's boy Junior was taking his first air plane flight. **Tee-Man** put **Junior** on da plane in New Orleans to fly to California to visit his aunt, **Tee-Man's sister Agnes**.

Wen dat air plane fly over the **Rocky Mountains** da steward her, pass out some chewing gum. She told **Junior** it would keep his ears from poppin wen they got to real high altitudes.

After da plane landed in Los Angles, **Junior** him unfastened his seat belt, den he walked up and ask, "**Miss stewardess**, can you tole me please how I'm gonna got dat chewing gum out dat is stuck in my ears hanh?"

C'EST TOUT ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING

There has been another mass shooting in the United States. This one was at **Old National Bank** in Louisville, Kentucky on April 10, 2023. The gunman was identified as an employee named **Connor Sturgeon**, age 25. He live streamed online as he carried out the shooting at the bank. He opened fire inside a conference room during a morning staff meeting. The shooting lasted about a minute before the gunman waited for police. Five people were killed and at least eight were wounded. The gunman legally bought the weapon he used last week.****With two weeks still left in the regular season, the **Houston Roughnecks** already clinched a spot in the **XFL playoffs** with an overtime win in San Antonio on Sunday. The win snapped the **Roughnecks'** three-game losing streak and puts them one win away from being able to host the **XFL semifinial playoff game** at University of Houston's **TDECU Stadium**.****The "**Skeeters**" are coming, call **Pestco** before they invade. Take care and God bless.

Deaths & Memorials

Bobbie Jeanne Tooley VanBreemen, 91, of Bridge City

Bobbie Jeanne Tooley VanBreemen passed peacefully on February 9, 2023.

A short memorial service will be held in Bridge City, TX at St Paul United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m. followed by burial service in Oak Bluff Memorial Park Port Neches, Texas on April 22, 2023.

Born in Oklahoma February 28, 1932, Jeanne was the only child and daughter of Lurlene and Lenard Robert Tooley.

When Jeanne was five months old, her family moved to Terrell, Texas (25 miles east of Dallas) where she was a cheerleader, and known to be an excellent student, earning salutatorian of her graduating high school class. She was fondly known as "Bobbie Jeanne" by her friends and classmates.

As a loyal friend, for over 60 years, she gathered annually with a group of 10 of those special bonded classmates to have fun "girl trips". They proudly called themselves, "The TNT" where they gained local, notoriety for this unique steadfast friendship. Jeanne attended North Texas State Teachers College (currently renamed University of North Texas) in Denton, Texas where she met her husband, Joe Van Breemen.

While attending college to become a



Bobbie VanBreeman

teacher, she also worked for the FBI in Dallas as a stenographer until she started having a family.

Jeanne & Joe raised their two sons and one daughter in Bridge City, Texas.

Employed by the Bridge City Independent Education System for over 30 years, Jeanne served as a typing teacher, business teacher, head of the business department and served as the sponsoring teacher for the annual Student Yearbook at the Senior High School.

Jeanne was known for being an excellent teacher, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and loyal friend. She was also known for cooking a great pot of gumbo, playing competitive bridge, and traveling abroad with couple friends. She loved her family dearly and expressed compassion to everyone she met with a kind, gentle heart and lady-like spirit.

She will be missed by her friends and family and the love for her will be held forever in our hearts.

She is survived by her three children R. B. (Buck) Vanbreemen, Joe Michael (Mike) VanBreemen, Sherri VanBreemen Glazier, and six grandchildren: Jeannie VanBreemen Kessler, Shonter VanBreemen Thornton, Joe VanBreemen, Katie Vanbreemen Todd, Amy Glazier Goldschmidt, Graclyn Glazier and nine great grandchildren.

Patricia Lea Henderson Oswalt, 81, of Orange

Patricia Lea Henderson Oswalt, 81 of Orange Texas, left her worldly home on April 8, 2023.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at East Gate United Pentecostal Church in Vidor, Texas. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange, Texas.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, at East Gate United Pentecostal Church in Vidor.

Pat was born March 16, 1942, in Goose Creek, Texas to Claude E. Henderson and Johnnie Smith Henderson.

Pat leaves behind her loving husband of 59 years, J.H. Oswalt of Orange, Texas.

She was also survived by her three sons and one daughter. Keith Oswalt and wife Amy of Huxley. Steve Oswalt and wife Kim of Center. Randy Oswalt and wife Daneen of Thicket. Carol Flanigan and husband Don of Orange. Granddaughters: Haley Parks and husband Will of Huxley. Rachel Noack and husband Darrel of Thicket. Malorie Flanigan of Orange and Whitney Flanigan of Orange. Amanda Parks and husband, Mike of Clute. Dena Riley and husband, Chuck of Mauriceville. Great grandchildren: Easton, Rhett, and Bryce Parks, Carsyn Noack, Landon and Matthew Ashwell, Arianna and Daisy Parks, Baylee Smith, and MaKynsee Riley.

Two sisters, Peggy James and Shirley Fisher of Orange. Sister-in-law Jo Ann Henderson of Silsbee.



Patricia Oswalt

Four Sister-in-Laws, Margie Cutaia of Orange. Martha Rogers and husband Jim of Orange. Patsy McDonald and husband Mike of Porter. Linda Oswalt of Orange.

As well as numerous nephews, nieces, and other loving family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Claude and Johnnie Henderson. Brothers, Charles, Clarence, Ralph, and Harold Henderson. Sisters Berniece Taylor and Margaret McCugh.

Jay and Pat are members of Eastgate United Pentecostal Church in Vidor, Texas. Pat retired from St. Elizabeth Hospital. However, her love and passion was being a wife, mother, and homemaker. She enjoyed the Spring when flowers were in bloom, Summers, canning, and putting up vegetables from the garden Jay raised. In her early years she loved to sew.

Most importantly, Jay and Pat raised their children in church, teaching them to know and love the Lord. Pat was a fierce prayer warrior. Her children and grandchildren always knew they could depend on her to pray, and they knew she was only a phone call away.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends that knew her and loved her.

Serving as pallbearers will be Darrel Noack, Will Parks, Chad Henderson, Kevin McCugh, Jeff Henderson, and Brent McDonald. Honorary pallbearers are Dale Henderson, Robert Perales, Dan Brack, and Darwin Brack.

Karen Jean Dearing, 73, of Orange

Karen Jean Dearing, 73, of Orange, Texas, passed away on April 9, 2023, at her home.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 14, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Burial will follow at Orange Forest Lawn Cemetery in West Orange.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023, prior to service, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on April 19, 1949, she was the daughter of Larry Arnold Broussard and Jessie Mae (Budwine) Broussard. Karen worked for many years in accounting at Program for Human Services. She was a woman of great faith and was a longtime member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Orange. Karen found joy in spending time with her loved ones and being outdoors. Some of her fondest memories included the time that she spent at her



Karen Dearing

camp at Toledo Bend Reservoir and family trips to Crystal Beach. Karen was a big fan of the Dallas Cowboys and had many fun times cheering them on. Her loved ones will always remember her infectious laugh, and she will be missed dearly.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents, Larry and Jessie Broussard; and her husband, Danny Dearing.

She is survived by her brother, Larry Broussard; sister, Diane Faigh; nieces, Dionna Fregia and husband David, and Chrystal Murphy and husband Mike; nephews, Terry Fontenot, Chad Fontenot and wife Dana, Rick Dearing and wife Marla, Brent Dearing and Dana, and Quenton Dearing; as well as numerous loving great-nieces and great-nephews.

Serving as pallbearers will be Brent Dearing, Rick Dearing, Mike Murphy, David Fregia, Ryan Murphy, and Brandon Hall.

Barbara Cormier Becker, 75, Orange

Barbara Cormier Becker, 75 of Orange, Texas, passed away on April 4, 2023, in Orange.

Funeral service will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Deacon Melvin Payne. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 10, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, with rosary at 6:00 p.m., recited by Deacon David Bonneaux.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on January 17, 1948, she was the daughter of Horace Cormier and Marie (Caillier) Cormier. Barbara was a long-time member of the St. Mary Catholic Church. She loved to cook for all her family and friends, especially Cajun food. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed making various crafts, as well as making beautiful flower arrangements. Barbara would often make trips out to the beach to lay in the sun and relax the day away. She



Barbara Becker

loved her grandkids very much and they loved their "Maw Maw B". Barbara was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her father, Horace Cormier; husband, Thomas Arriola; and brothers, Randy Cormier and Charles Cormier.

She is survived by her mother, Marie Cormier; sons, Grant Becker, Jr. and wife Carla of Mauriceville and John Becker and wife Cher of Mauriceville; daughter, Elaine Jackson and husband Jerry of Orangefield; grandchildren, Grant Becker III, Maegan Dixon, Malorie Clark, Geri Ann Fowler, Kacey Davis, Sheldon Becker, Candace Davis, Joshua Shirley, and Austin Shirley; 15 great-grandchildren; as well as numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Grant Becker III, Sheldon Becker, Anthony Fowler, Anfernee Dixon, Austin Shirley, and Hunter Clark. Honorary pallbearers are Josh Shirley, Corbin Davis, and Kyle Davis.

Doris Hill, 100, of Orange

Doris Hill, 100, of Orange, peacefully passed away on April 9, 2023, at home.

Funeral services will be 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Orange Church of God. Officiating will be Pastor Demetrius Moffett. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, at Orange Church of God.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on March 13, 1923, she was the daughter of James Henry Short and Georgia E. Taylor. Doris was a teacher for 35 years, most of which she taught at West Orange Elementary School. She was an active and loyal mem-



Doris Hill

ber of Orange Church of God. Doris spent most of her time volunteering for her church and others. She enjoyed writing and was a wonderful caregiver. Doris was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, James Hill; as well as her son and daughter-in-law, James Robert Hill and Belinda Hill.

She is survived by her daughter, Roseanne McDade of Orange; grandchildren, Shawn McDade and wife Shannon, Jennifer Yawn and husband Brandon, James Robert Hill Jr., and Meagan Hill and husband Gerald LaChance; six great-grandchildren, Dylan Marie McDade, Connor McDade, Braeden McDade, Aslynn Yawn, Violet Yawn, and Aden LaChance.

Saint Mary School festival, class reunions

St Mary School will have its Spring Festival on Saturday, April 29.

They have agreed to provide a place for alumni to gather for class reunions.

They specifically scheduled 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for us, to include group photos at 10:30, followed by a tour of the school, then time for us to visit. At 11:30 there will be an announcement and recognition of the classes attending.

This will be a great opportunity for us to get together and reconnect with our classmates and friends from other classes. Please try to attend.

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 - Pacemaker Implantation & Services
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 - Tilt Table Testing
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 - Inferior Vena Cava Filter
 - Biventricular Pacemaker
 - AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator)



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Bridge City struggles with Vidor, weather

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record



Bridge City Cardinal pitcher JS Bearden

A two game series between the Bridge City Cardinals and the Vidor Pirates to determine the lead at the halfway point of the District 19-4A baseball schedule was curtailed by the weather last week. The Cardinals and Pirates played only one game with Vidor taking the win in extra innings at Bridge City.

The Pirates improved their district record to 6-1 with their 5-3 victory in eleven innings over the Cardinals who dropped to 3-2 in the district. The two teams started the second game on Thursday, April 6, but after just two pitches in the top of the first at Vidor lightning and then rain postponed the game.

Tuesday's game was scoreless through three innings when Vidor scored in the top of the fourth. Jarrett Odom singled and was sacrificed to second base where he scored on

next and hit into a fielder's choice. JS Bearden blasted a drive to left center and Justin Abate then walked to load the bases for Bridge City with only one out.

Landon Reeves ripped a double down the left field line that brought home Swanton and Bearden. Vidor brought in relief pitcher Aiden Sims who the

Cardinals' Aidyn Mulholland greeted with a game tying single.

Bridge City had runners at second and third with still only one out. Sims bore down and struck out the next two Cardinal batters to keep the game tied at 3-3 after six innings.

The game remained tied as Reeves replaced

Bearden on the mound for Bridge City in the eighth. The Pirates threatened in the ninth when they got two runners on after two were out, but Reeves retired Cadroy on a fly ball to right.

Landon Bailey began the tenth for Vidor with a single to right center. He tried to stretch it into a

double but was thrown out by Bearden who had moved back to the outfield after pitching two plus innings between the fifth and seventh.

Pirate pitcher Sims faced the minimum number of Cardinal batters in the seventh through the

BRIDGE CITY Page 3B

BC Lady Cards beat Lady Bears for first place



(Left) Carson Fall was the winning pitcher and Makenna Knight scored the winning run for the Bridge City Lady Cardinals in their softball game with Little Cypress Mauriceville. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The best two softball teams in District 19-4A played Tuesday, April 4, in Bridge City. The Bridge City Lady Cardinals won the contest 2-1 over the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears.

With the victory Bridge City (7-1) moved to the top spot in the district. Bridge City Coach Raven Harris commented on moving into first place. "It's exciting, that's what we're working for. If there's any opportunity for us to continue the streak we're going to take it. We want to win every ball game that we can," Harris responded.

Little Cypress Mauriceville was in second place trailing the Lady Cardinals by only half a game in the standings. Bridge City had its second half bye date the Friday after the game with the Lady Bears.

Bridge City has won six straight district games since dropping a 4-2 decision to Little Cypress Mauriceville back in early March. The big difference between the two games for the Lady Cardinals was Carson Fall was in the circle pitching on Tuesday.

Fall who was nursing a leg injury at the beginning of district won her third

an opposite field double down the left field line by Ty Watson to give the Pirates a 1-0 lead.

In the fifth the Pirates added two more runs to go up 3-0. Daigan Venable walked and Austin Cadroy singled before Odom doubled both of them home.

Vidor starting pitcher Bryce Bushelle had limited the Cardinals to one hit through the first five innings. Bridge City began a comeback in the bottom of the sixth when John Van Huis leadoff with a walk.

Brice Swanton batted

straight game since returning to the lineup. Carson pitched seven innings giving up just two hits, walking one, and striking out 15 Lady Bears to get the victory.

Tessa Erickson of Little Cypress Mauriceville took the loss despite a superb pitching performance. Erickson went the distance too allowing five hits, one walk, and one hit batter while striking out four.

The Lady Cardinals opened the scoring in the bottom of the first after Haley Munoz began the inning ripping a double down the right field line. Makenna Carey courtesy ran for Munoz and scored on a single to center by Nicole Sasser to give Bridge City a 1-0 lead with no outs.

That would be the last run for either team until the seventh inning. Both the Lady Cardinals and the Lady Bears threatened, but Fall and Erickson both pitched brilliantly to keep the score unchanged for the next five innings.

Bridge City got a walk to Amaris Larkin and Munoz was hit by a pitch to start the third. A fielder's choice by Sasser moved Larkin to third, and Sasser then stole second base. Erickson struck out a Lady Cardinal and then got a fly ball to center to quell the

BC LADY CARDS Page 3B

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ON THE LOT

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ON THE LOT

NEW 2023 FORD F-150 XL
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MSRP
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ON THE LOT

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ON THE LOT

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ON THE LOT

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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 71 degrees. The jetties are full of sheepshead, bull redfish, drum, and limits of trout biting off the rocks using live shrimp on a Carolina rig or under a popping cork. Sabine Lake is good for redfish and flounder in the points and drops out of the bayous with live shrimp under a popping cork. When the winds are blowing fish in protected water near Texaco Island and ICW bulkheads for redfish, trout and flounder. ICW and Taylor's Bayou holding nice trout and redfish. Trout are in the Neches River all the way to the Naval Fleet in 4-15 feet of water on the points in the turnarounds using red shad quarter ounce jig heads. Redfish and flounder are good in 15-30 feet jugging silver and gold spoons. Bessie Heights Marsh producing catches of all species. Reports of shark catches in Sabine Lake. North Levee is good for trout. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• Bolivar

GOOD. 70 degrees. The surf is starting to hold some black drum, pompano, small shark and occasional redfish. The North Jetty surf side holding sheepshead and trout against rocks look for bait. Redfish in the channel on Carolina rigged mullet, shad, and crab. The end holds nice schools of trout and sheepshead. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 73 degrees. Winds have kept most anglers fishing the protected areas of the bay, north of the Fred Hartman Bridge. Catches of speckled trout, black drum, and redfish coming off live shrimp. East shoreline holding fish but winds have curtailed the bite. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 73 degrees. Winds have dampened the effort in the East Bay. Waders catching a few redfish on soft plastics. Open bay reefs are too rough to fish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter.



The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a nice Sabine Lake redfish.

Yates Bayou (Drain) holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Then Hanna's is great early on same bait or twitching artificials. Look for birds and Slicks, small slicks could be just getting started. Look for bait moving. Watermelon smell in the air don't pass on them. Pepper Grove Cove to Moody's Pass holding fish. Smith Point to Moody National Wildlife. Redfish look for schools and birds. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Galveston Bay

GOOD. 75 degrees. When conditions are calm, good catches of keeper black drum and redfish coming from the gas wells off Eagle Point. Shorelines producing scattered catches of speckled trout and black drum. Moses lake producing some keeper trout and the occasional redfish. Live shrimp working the best. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The South Jetty still holding Trout, sheepshead and redfish close to rocks free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with live shrimp or soft plastic. SWP Holding redfish from Pier and from rocks. Sheepshead in front on concrete Seawall. The drains out of Swan Lake and Campbell's Slough holding sheepshead with an occasional Redfish. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 73 degrees. Scattered catches of fish early in the morning, mostly black drum and sheepshead on live shrimp. Late afternoons are best for speckled trout, wading with artificial lures or fishing structure, such as the Causeway Bridge with live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Greens lake holding redfish against grass lines and by sandy shores early. ICW holding fish through greens cut and Carancahua cut holding trout and redfish with the amount of wind we are getting. Mecom Reef will have fish on it early up by rocks with artificial or live bait free-line or under cork. You'll need to find protected waters with bait moving around as the winds pick up. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Houston

FAIR. Water stained; 68

• Texas City

GOOD. 71 degrees. Good catches of oversized black drum and redfish from the Galveston jetties on live halved crab and dead shad. Anglers throwing live shrimp tight to the rocks finding success on sheepshead, slot redfish, black drum, and a few speckled trout. Dike producing scattered oversized black drum and bull redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is holding bull redfish along the rocks with scattered drum and flounder. Dickinson Bayou, holding some redfish and drum on popping cork and shrimp or soft plastics. The Rock shoals south of the dike holding fish on popping cork with live shrimp. Millers Point holding a few trout and occasional Redfish. Look for slicks and birds this time of year. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail

Spotter Guide Service LLC.

• Freeport

GOOD. 70 degrees. Fishing patterns are starting to move from mud and shell to the spring pattern on the rocks and sand. Check the wind forecast before heading out. Spanish mackerel, pompano, sheepshead and big redfish at the jetties with live shrimp. Sheepshead are spawning anywhere with moving water, so target the pass, river, and jetties. Redfish are in the river, back lakes, river and bays with live shrimp under a popping cork or soft plastics in new penny, chartreuse, Texas roach or red/white. Flounder are showing up in the bays mixed in with trout and redfish. River holding flounder and trout. Few catches of trout in the surf mixed in with jack crevalle and sharks. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

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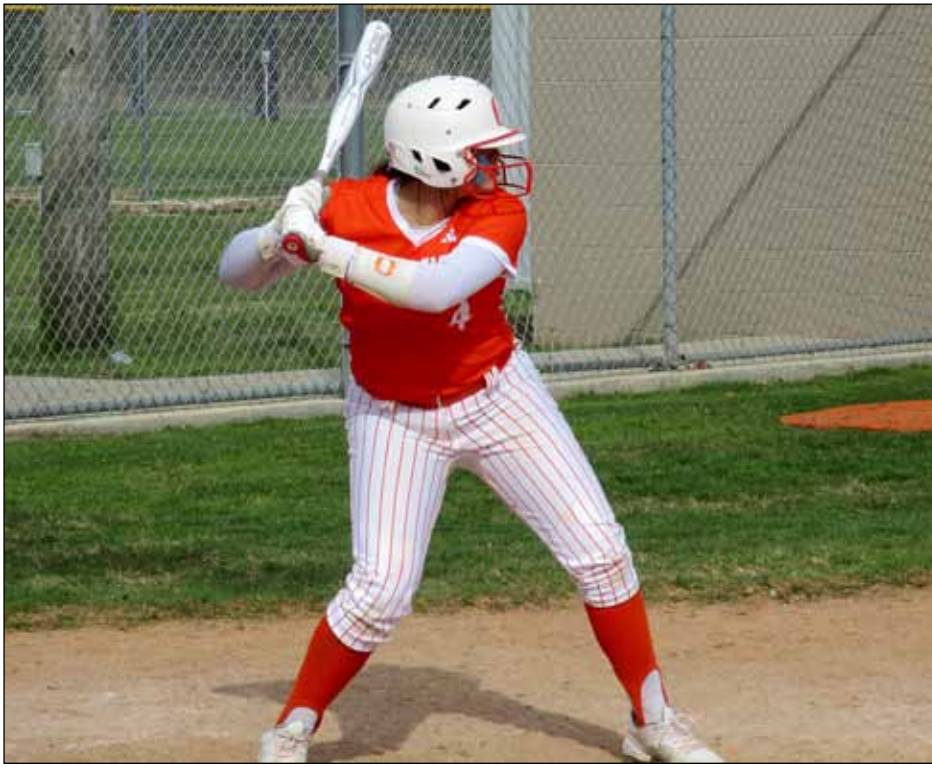
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Orangefield Lady Bobcats claw Kirbyville Lady Cats



Lady Bobcat Aubree Beck homered against Kirbyville to help Orangefield win 3-2 and move into a tie for first place. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The district softball standings got even tighter last week as the Orangefield Lady Bobcats moved into a tie for first place. Three games were played in the last two weeks by Orangefield against the three other teams at the top of District 22-3A with the Lady Bobcats winning two out of three.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats beat the Kirbyville Lady Wildcats 3-2 on Tuesday, April 4, at Paul Cormier Field. The

win moves Orangefield into a tie for first place with Kirbyville. Both teams are 8-2 with the Lady Bobcats having beaten Kirbyville twice in district.

Orangefield pitcher Abigail Curphey was terrific in the circle allowing two runs on five hits to the Lady Wildcats. Curphey struck out eight and got the win for the Lady Bobcats.

Aubree Beck got the Lady Bobcats on the board in the bottom of the third with a homerun. Orange-

field notched the winning runs in the sixth inning as Abby Broussard and Alysen Vincent were driven home by Hallee Becker and Harleigh Rawls.

The other game scheduled last week for Orangefield against East Chambers was postponed because of the weather. Three games are scheduled for this week as the Lady Bobcats played Warren on Tuesday, then the makeup with East Chambers on Wednesday, before facing Buna on Friday.

BC Lady Cards From 1B

threat without allowing a run.

To that point in the game Fall had struck out all nine LCM batters she had faced. Leadoff Lady Bear batter Eden Frenzel in the top of the fourth tried to mix things up by laying down a bunt which Fall fielded but threw errantly to first base to give the Lady Bears their first base runner.

Frenzel stole second base and advanced to third on a ground out to second by Lexis Moss for the second out of the inning. Carson chalked up her eleventh strikeout of the game to preserve her shutout.

The Lady Cardinals got a runner in scoring position in the bottom of the fourth when Brooklyn Droddy singled with one out and then stole second base. The next two Bridge City batters could not get her home.

Little Cypress Mauriceville finally broke up the no-hitter in the top of the sixth as Ella Stephenson singled in the hole between first and second. Frenzel sacrificed Stephenson to second base but that was as far as Ella got because Fall registered another strike out to end the inning.

Down to their last three outs the Lady Bears had Moss hit the hardest shot of the game for LCM to lead off the top of the seventh. The ball just narrowly went over the outstretched glove of Amaris Larkin in right field, and Lexis made it to third base with a triple. Ava Wright followed with a long fly to center field allowing Moss to tag up and score the tying run.

In the bottom of the seventh with one out freshman Lady Cardinal Makenna Knight blasted a drive to the centerfield fence for a double. Kyleigh Hamilton attempted to bunt a pitch and missed it but so did the Lady Bear catcher allowing Knight to go to third.

The game ended sur-



Lexis Moss hit a game winning double in the bottom of the seventh inning as the LCM Lady Bears rallied to beat the Vidor Pirates 5-4 in a game completed on Monday. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

prisingly when the subsequent throw-back to the pitcher was missed and the ball rolled through the pitching circle towards second base. Knight alertly saw the miscue and hustled home with the winning run in the 2-1 triumph.

Bridge City Coach Raven Harris commented on the superb work done by Carson Fall in the circle for the Lady Cardinals. "Carson got out there and dominated. She did a really good job of keeping them off balance. Coach Adkins of LCM had picked up our signal for the change up so that kind of limited us on what we were able to throw, but Carson did well with the pitches we were able to throw," Harris indicated.

Though just a freshman Makenna Knight has made significant contributions for Bridge City. Harris recognized, "She's one of core kids. Makenna gets up there and she makes something happen, and she does whatever we say so when I say go she goes she doesn't question it so that's awesome to have as a coach."

Little Cypress Mauriceville had its game with Vidor on Thursday, April 6, suspended because of lightning and rain with the score tied 3-3 in the fourth inning. The Lady Pirates scored three runs in the first inning but

Lady Bear Tessa Erickson came in to pitch in the second inning to keep the deficit at three runs.

The Lady Bears made a comeback starting in the bottom of the second when Ansley Moore singled with two outs to drive in the first run for LCM. Two more Lady Bears scored in the third on a fly ball by Keylie Washburn.

The action resumed on Monday, April 10, with Little Cypress Mauriceville taking the lead 4-3 when Washburn singled to drive in Eden Frenzel in the fifth inning. Vidor tied the game in the top of the seventh before Lexis Moss doubled to bring home Washburn with the winning run 5-4 in the bottom half of the seventh.

The winning pitcher for the Lady Bears was Erickson who pitched the final six innings yielding the one run in the seventh. With the victory Little Cypress Mauriceville (7-1) moved into a tie with Bridge City for first place in the district.

Bridge City resumed action on Tuesday, April 11, against the Vidor Lady Pirates after a bye. The Lady Cardinals next game is Friday at home against Lumberton. The Lady Bears played at Lumberton on Tuesday, April 11, and will play at home against Jasper on Friday.



Brycen Tait of the Orangefield Bobcats pitched a shutout against Kirbyville to stretch the Bobcats' district win streak to eight games. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

Orangefield on winning streak

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats remain undefeated and in first place in District 22-3A as the second half of the district schedule has started. The weather postponed one game so the Bobcats only played on Tuesday of last week.

The Bobcats defeated the Kirbyville Wildcats 10-0 on Tuesday, April 4, at Paul Cormier Field in

Orangefield. Pitcher Brycen Tait threw a shutout on a four-hitter with no walks and seven strikeouts.

After tallying a run in the first inning the Bobcats added five more runs in the next three innings to take a 6-0 lead after four innings. Orangefield notched four runs in the fifth to invoke the ten-run rule ending the game.

The Bobcats banged out twelve hits in the game. Kane Smith had three hits

while Rusten Traxler, Adam Tran, and Logan Cheek each had a pair of base hits.

Orangefield is 17-3 on the season and 8-0 in district. The game with East Chambers has been postponed from last week.

Two road games are on the schedule this week. The Bobcats traveled to Warren on Tuesday and go to Buna for an important game on Friday.

Bridge City Cardinals From 1B

tenth. He used his bat to good effect with a single to deep short and went to second when the throw to first base was wild.

A sacrifice moved courtesy runner Brayden Springs to third and he scored on a squeeze bunt that was bobbled to allow Lance Beavers to reach base. The third error in the inning by the Cardinals put two Pirates on base when Venable doubled to drive in the final Vidor run for a 5-3 lead.

Sims closed out the game retiring the Cardi-

nals in order in the bottom of the eleventh. Sims earned the win for the Pirates pitching five and two-third scoreless innings allowing two hits, one walk, and striking out six.

The Bridge City Cardinals resume action this week with two games against the Lumberton Raiders. The Cardinals played at Lumberton on Tuesday and face the Raiders at Chuck Young Field in Bridge City on Friday.

Weather also cancelled one of Little Cypress Mau-

riceville's games with Lumberton. The Bears lost to the Raiders 13-1 at Don Gibbens Field.


This week the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears play the Jasper Bulldogs twice. Tuesday's game was at Jasper and the two teams meet again at Little Cypress Mauriceville on Friday.

The West Orange Stark Mustangs had their byes last week and did not play a game. The Mustangs take on the Silsbee Tigers this week in two games.

"First Satyrday" giveaways at FBC

First Saturday at First Baptist Church is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 am until 12 noon. This month we will give away fun items for children to take while traveling on vacation, such as coloring books and crayons, crossword puzzles, card games, children magazines, sand buckets, etc. Snacks will be available

for wiggly, bored children as well as a children's Bible for mom or dad to read aloud. Look for the blue canopy in the church parking lot at 200 West Roundbunch Rd in Bridge City and for the sign offering prayer for discouraged and worried adults.



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OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

A pair of 10 pound redfish slid down the shoreline of a grassy bank with their backs and tails exposed for all to see, shrimp and little baitfish showered across the surface hoping not to be the last one in line or the first one on the menu.

As I stood on the poling platform and watched these fish going about the business of finding something to eat it was easy to tell they were almost oblivious to anything else but their next meal.

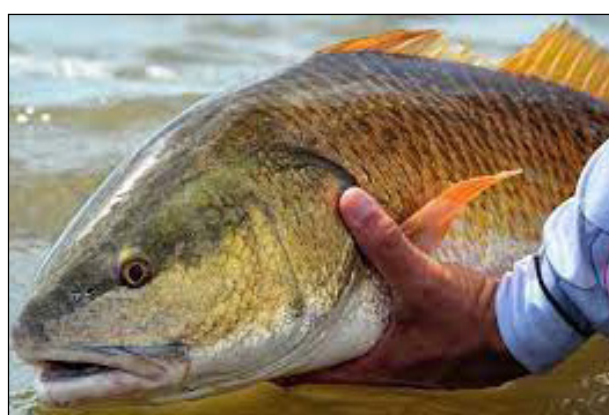
My fishing partner for the day, Ray Johnson, readied his 8 weight fly rod for a cast as the boat eased into position. Ray placed the fly a couple of feet in front of the pair and began an erratic retrieve as they closed the gap, in a flash they both charged the fly like two second graders fighting for the last ice cream at lunch. The com-



Chuck Uzzle

motion they caused was insane and more than Ray could take as he pulled the fly away from the redfish in a reaction strike instead of waiting for the fish to actually eat the fly. "That was incredible" said Johnson, "they were so aggressive". Aggressive doesn't do those fish justice, when they really want to eat there is just about nothing you can do to stop them.

The "aggressive" mentality is probably the one most fishermen associate with redfish and they certainly deserve that distinction, but that's not the only facet of their personality. As aggressive as these fish can be they can be equally skittish and spooky, these attributes are what make this fish so appealing because you never know which redfish is going to show up.



Redfish caught using shad.

I have seen fishermen make absolutely perfect casts to cruising redfish only to have the fish break and swim off like lightning just struck beside them. They many different actions of redfish and their body movements will often tell you exactly what kind of mood they are in and even what they are feeding on. Just like the two big fish mentioned earlier, the cruising fish tend to be eating baitfish or shrimp while fish that stay in one stationary spot and "root" in the bot-

tom are likely to be eating crabs.

The stationary fish will often stick their tails completely out of the water and look like flags, waving and tempting fishermen to try their luck. The sight of redfish tails in the air is one of the ultimate thrills for shallow water anglers, the stalk and the presentation are just icing on the cake once you find the fish.

Now redfish aren't the only fish that offer up visible clues to their personality, speckled trout will give you

some clues as well. Unlike down south where anglers often get opportunities to sight cast to trout, fishermen on the upper coast seldom are lucky enough to see fish in our bays. Trout on the other hand don't have to be seen in order to be read, easily the most obvious sign trout give is the "slick". A "slick" is a shiny spot on the surface of the water caused from the oils of baitfish that trout feed on.

A speckled trout is a voracious feeder and will often regurgitate bits and pieces of what they are feeding on, at that point is when the slick appears. Not only can fishermen see slicks they can also smell them, they typically smell sweet and really similar to the pogy that crabbers use to bait there traps. If you see or smell a slick you can often get upwind or up current from the area and locate fish. A word of wisdom on the subject of slicks, don't be fooled by slicks that originate from crab traps.

When you locate a slick be sure to check the area for crab traps, if none are present then it's a good idea to investigate. Also when fishing these slicks it's better to fish the smaller ones because they are the freshest. This pattern is particularly good in the summer, especially on calm days. If there is any draw back to fishing slicks its got be that gafftop can make slicks as well and will often fool even the most veteran fishermen. Regardless of the risk of catfish it's always worth checking a fresh slick because you may just find a really good concentration of fish.

By reading the signs that redfish and speckled trout give off you can understand what they may be feeding on or where they may be located. The visual keys are there for all fishermen who take the time to look and judge what they have seen.

Take initiative to read your fish next time out on the water and catch more fish.

Eagle Scout project bridges public path



Ian Broussard and members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 23 recently built a wooden pathway bridge in Northway Park as part for his Eagle Scout project. The bridge makes a cut-through on the wooded walking-running trail in the park, which is off Clark Lane in the Little Cypress area of Orange.



O'Shaquie "Shock" Foster World Boxing Champion given 'Key to the City'

Orange native O'Shaquie "Shock" Foster, the new World Boxing Council super featherweight champion, shows off the key to the city presented to him by Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. The champion boxer is a graduate of West Orange-Stark and received special recognition for the school district. He was honored with a parade and ceremony during Art in the Park in downtown Orange on April 1.

Bobcats hold First Place at district track

The Orangefield Bobcats competed in the first day of the district track meet on Monday. The Bobcats had great performances to advance to finals on Thursday and the area meet next week.

Area Qualifiers:
High Jump:
Case Singleton (3rd Place)

Long Jump:
Cameron Dischler (2nd Place)

Pole Vault:
Zach Morrow (District Champion)

Blaine Lenard (3rd Place)
Kaleb Menard (4th Place)

2 Mile: Bobcats Sweep All 3 PR'd
Carson Worthy (District Champion)
Tanner Sullivan (2nd Place)
Timothy Trammell (3rd Place)

Qualifiers for finals Thursday:

110 Hurdles:
Case Singleton
Calvin Ply
Colton Michael

100m:

Mason Manning
Gavin Perry-Koci

400m:
Bryce Blacksher

300m Hurdles:
Case Singleton
Calvin Ply

200m:
Zach Babin

The Bobcats sit in 1st at the end of day one and look to hold that lead through day two on Thursday.

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Maple to name a few, however there are many other species and varieties are used as well.

OUTDOOR BONSAI

'Traditional' bonsai trees are grown outside, which allows the trees to mimic the needs of their much larger counterparts. They are unable to be sustained indoors, though numerous tropical species can be grown as bonsai indoors. There are cultivars available that have been crafted specifically for indoor growth. A traditional bonsai can be displayed outdoors if nighttime temperatures remain above 40 degrees. Below 40 degrees bonsai can be maintained indoors with grow lights or a south facing window. Note almost all bonsai require elevated humidity levels and need to be near a humidifier or placed onto a tray of pebbles holding water.

INDOOR BONSAI

while not traditional, are available today and can thrive in our home's environment. The most common, and by far the easiest to care for is the Ficus and

A reader recently asked me to write about bonsai tree requirements, but more specifically, how to keep bonsai trees alive during the seasons. Let's begin with a brief history of Bonsai which in Japanese literally translated means, 'planted in a container' and is an ancient art form from Japan, though its origin is traced to China.

Bonsai specifically refers to a type of container the tree grows in, such as a small clay pot, wooden board, or flat stone. The 'art of bonsai' is practiced with the intent to invoke meditation for viewers, while demonstrating tranquil and skilled-cultivation of the grower. A Bonsai master can produce trees which are diminutive forms of their natural counterparts. The size and shape of a bonsai tree is achieved through pruning new growth and binding the roots into small containers.

There are numerous types of trees and shrubs which can be cultivated as bonsai, such as Azalea, Ficus, Cypress, Norfolk Island Pine, Juniper, Japanese



The Bonsai art form offers the viewer an extraordinary and distinguished composition. Here, a bonsai Master demonstrates their craft using shape, form and structure mimicking mature tree forms in nature (image courtesy stylesatlife.com).

Norfolk Island Pine trees. Both are tolerant of low humidity, and each are very resilient, making them an excellent choice for novice bonsai enthusiasts. There are other popular indoor bonsai as well, such as Fukien tea tree (Carmona), Schefflera (Hawaiian umbrella), and Sageretia (Sweet plum). Each of these bonsai tree types prefers bright but not direct sunlight. And while not required, will ap-

preciate increased humidity levels to allow the trees to perform at their best, so place a container of water nearby or place the trees on a tray of pebbles with water. BONSAI 'THE GOAL' the goal of bonsai is to manage shape and form, developing beautiful trees which are miniature copies of the trees found in nature. Many bonsai trees can be germinated from seed or propagated by cuttings.

Tree shape is controlled through manual pruning at numerous intervals throughout the growing season, to create the desired shape and amount of foliage. There are numerous methods and techniques for pruning to provide the desired results but understand this will take trial and error to discover how your tree will respond to the various pruning methods. Root pruning is

also required but this must only be performed during the summer, and no more than twenty-five percent of the tree's roots can be removed. Note limb pruning and root pruning must not be performed simultaneously, as the tree cannot sustain both types of pruning at once. The goal is achieving an aged and proportional specimen and when properly taken care of bonsai trees can grow to be very old. The bonsai tree creates a stress-relieving, serene environment that is conducive to contemplation and has a visually attractive commanding appearance.

You can easily produce your own private Zen Garden pairing bonsai trees and orchids to create a meditative, stress relieving and beautiful environment. So long for now fellow gardeners, let's go out and grow ourselves a greener, more 'Zen-ful' world, one bonsai tree at a time!

To have gardening questions answered in detail: Contact me by email: jon-green57@gmail.com or extension@co.orange.tx.us. Phone the Orange County Master Gardeners (OCMG) Helpline: (409) 882-7010. Interested in becoming an OCMG, visit our website: https://txmg.org/orange or see us on Facebook: Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association.



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club awarded Leyton Loft as their Orangefield Student of the Month for April. Leyton ranks 25 out of 121 students and plans to attend Pensacola Christian College to pursue degrees in Biology and Criminal Justice.



The Bridge City/ Orangefield Rotary Club awarded Gracelon Freeman as their Bridge City Student of the Month for April. Gracelon ranks 64 out of 184 students and plans to attend Texas State University to pursue a degree in Education.

'The Record' Community News Online Anytime



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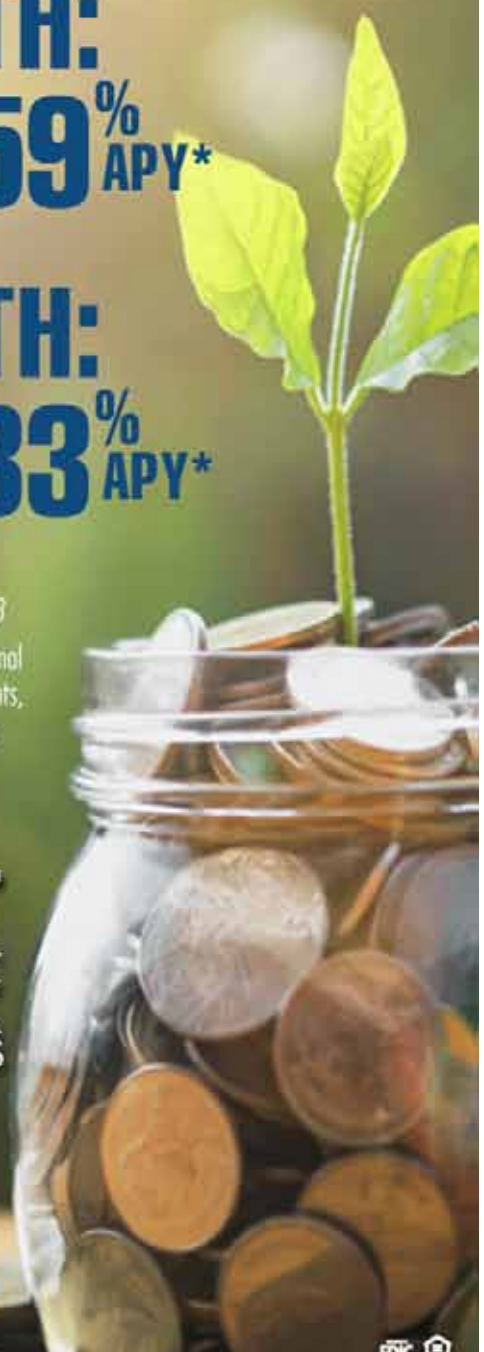
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Live Against the Drift

Marshall Segal
Staff Writer
desiringGod.org

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

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

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

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



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

Focus or Drift

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because of Who He Is

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

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

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

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

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

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

Because of Who You Are

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

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

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

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Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
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Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
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office@winfreebaptist.org
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
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Church Directory

First United Methodist Church Orange
502 Sixth Street 886-7466
10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY
All of our services are also available premiered on:
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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Jeremiah 29:11-13
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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