



Penny Record

Wildfire stopped before subdivision

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County came close Sunday for adding a wildfire to its growing list of recent disaster history.

Forty acres of dense woods burned for hours Sunday afternoon in the Little Cypress area west of Highway 87 North as Orange County reached its record temperature of 106 degrees. Little Cypress Fire Chief Matt Manshack said for the first couple of hours, firefighters feared the fire could spread to the Country Squire subdivision.

The Texas Forest Service was already on emergency standby because of the widespread drought and fire danger. Two airplanes dropping fire retardants, along with six bulldozers, came to the rescue. The fire was stopped.

"That's the only thing that saved us," Chief Manshack said Tuesday afternoon. "If not, we may have still been out there trying to contain it."

The chief said the forest

service had firefighters from other states stationed coming to East Texas for standby as the fire danger reaches the highest level ever on record in this area. He met people from Florida, Wisconsin, and other states.

According to Chief Manshack, the fire appears to have started in an abandoned house at the end of Wilhite Road, which goes north off Little Cypress drive west of Highway 87 North. The house had been vacant since the Hurricane Harvey flooding in 2017.

He thinks the fire started from electrical wires. About two or three acres of woods had already burned by the time the fire was seen and reported, about 2 p.m.

And with a south wind from a tropical system miles away in the Gulf of Mexico, south winds were strong. "The wind was working against us," Chief Manshack said.

Fire departments from across Orange County,

WILDFIRE Page 3A

Orangefield board calls for school bond election

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orangefield school district voters in November will decide on a \$43 million bond issue for more classrooms at all three campuses, a new high school library and cafeteria, plus improvements at the elementary and junior high campuses. Board members say the projects improve school safety.

The school board Monday night unanimously called for the bond issue decision to be held on November 7, general election day. The district said the amount will be \$42.9 million. The bonds, if approved by voters, would raise the tax rate for the debt portion by 35 cents per \$100 valuation of appraised property value.

However, voters across the state will go to the polls on November 7 to cast a decision on a state constitu-



Laura Clark, Orangefield board president.

tional amendment to cut school taxes. But that cut will affect only the M&O, or maintenance and operations, part of the tax bill. A cutback in the M&O tax payments cut offset the increased tax rate for the bonds. The proposed state tax changes will also drastically help people with homestead exemptions.

However, whether or not

ORANGEFIELD Page 3A



Orangefield High School 'Ready, Set, Teach!' students are ready to get started. They will be interns at the other campuses in the district. The students will have the opportunity to earn an Educational Aide I Certification upon successful completion of the program. Pictured are: Front L-R: Wynter Wedgeworth, Kinslei Carter, Winnie Ou, Makenna Meads, Natalie Romero; Back L-R: Lili Sanford, Madison KC, Greenlea Oldham, Haven Nowlin, Maddy Wernig; and RST Coordinator: Kimberly Spears.

SEE RELATED PHOTO PAGE 3A

'Kaz' leaves sportswriting legacy

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Joe Kazmar was born and raised in New York state and became a successful businessman in Orange. But though he made his mark in the car business, he will be long remembered for his sports knowledge.

Kazmar died last week at the age of 81 after an illness. He moved to Orange in the late 1960s when he took a job as a sportswriter at the Orange Leader, when the newspaper was a daily and the offices were on Front Street in downtown, across the street from the shipyards.

Like many a newspaper employee, he needed to

make more money for a family and switched to the car business, starting as a salesman. He never dropped his love of writing about sports. For nearly half a century, he wrote columns for the old Opportunity Valley News weekly newspaper, and later for the County Record weekly. He had been turning in columns until the past few months.

Kazmar was born and reared in Schenectady, New York. While there, he played baseball and reached the top of youth baseball when he was 12 and his team won the Little League World Series.

After he graduated from high school, he had a base-



'Longtime 'The Record' newspapers sports columnist Joe Kazmar dies at 81.

ball scholarship to McNeese in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A career in professional sports was not in his future, but his love of sports never waned. So he became a sports writer.

He moved to Orange to

work for the Orange Leader sports department covering a lot of high school and youth sports. During that time, he joined the Sunset Grove Country Club and played golf regularly. He continued that membership for decades and was a regular on the golf course. He also picked up a poker game here and there.

By the mid-1970s, he had started selling cars at a local dealership. Still, he shared his vast sports knowledge through a weekly newspaper column, Kaz's Corner. The columns ended with a promotion for a car deal he could make. The little ads were a way to

JOE KAZMAR Page 3A

Paxton fights to stay off witness stand

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is fighting to stay off of the witness stand during his September impeachment trial, but prosecutors oppose the move, hoping to have the option of forcing Paxton to testify under oath.

Paxton's legal team has asked Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who will preside over the trial in the Texas Senate, to forbid the House impeachment team from issuing a subpoena that would compel Paxton's testimony.

Paxton's lawyers argue

that impeachment is a criminal proceeding, so Paxton is entitled to the same legal protections — namely, not being forced to testify — as any criminal defendant.

"Given that an impeachment trial is legally considered to be a criminal proceeding, there can only be one conclusion: the Attorney General may, but cannot be forced to, testify," Paxton's lawyers wrote in a July 7 filing to the court of impeachment.

Heading toward Paxton's trial, set to begin Sept. 5, House impeachment managers argue that senators drafted and approved trial



Ken Paxton

rules that give them the power to compel Paxton to appear as a witness.

No rule "limits the individuals who may be summoned to testify before the Senate. Specifically, [no

rule] excludes Paxton from those persons who must appear and testify if subpoenaed," they argued in a response filed with the court of impeachment.

While Paxton has a Fifth Amendment right to decline to provide incriminating testimony, he must assert that right specifically from the witness stand, impeachment managers argued.

Many of the articles of impeachment — approved 121-23 by the Texas House in May, setting course for the state's third impeachment trial since 1876 — ac-

PAXTON Page 2A

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Paxton impeachment From Page 1

cused Paxton of abusing his office to repeatedly help a friend and campaign donor, Austin real estate investor Nate Paul.

Federal investigators have been looking into Paxton's ties to Paul since 2020, when top executives in the state attorney general's office accused Paxton of accepting bribes and misusing his authority to help Paul. In June, Paul was charged with eight felony counts of lying to financial institutions to obtain business loans.

"Paxton's misdeeds with Paul are, in large part, the basis of this impeachment trial," impeachment managers argued. "Given these circumstances, it is understandable why Paxton may think some of his answers to questions in the impeachment trial 'would in themselves support a conviction' or 'furnish a link in the chain of evidence needed to prosecute,' the standard necessary to invoke his right against self-incrimination."

Whether Paxton can be compelled to take the stand

is expected to be settled in the opening phase of trial when Patrick, in his capacity as judge, rules on pretrial motions or asks senators to decide pretrial issues by a majority vote that would be taken without discussion or debate.

The fight over Paxton's testimony has emerged as a mini-drama within the larger impeachment saga — and the outcome of the fight could affect his legal battles outside of the impeachment proceedings, legal experts said.

Paxton has been under indictment on state securities fraud felony charges since 2015. He also faces a whistleblower lawsuit from former lieutenants who claim they were improperly fired in retaliation for reporting Paxton to the FBI and other law enforcement. That led to an FBI investigation that was transferred earlier this year to the U.S. Department of Justice — and reports that a federal grand jury in San Antonio is looking into details of Paxton's relationship with Paul.

Not having to testify before the Senate means Paxton would have fewer opportunities to reveal information that could be used against him in those proceedings, legal experts said. If Paxton pleads the Fifth while on the stand, for example, lawyers in the whistleblower lawsuit could point to that as an indication of guilt.

The same is true of the impeachment trial. Senators could interpret Paxton's refusal to answer questions on the stand as a sign of guilt, said Michael Smith, a professor at St. Mary's University School of Law who specializes in criminal and constitutional law.

Paxton's team is trying to prevent that, too. They've asked Patrick to tell senators they can't infer guilt if Paxton chooses not to testify.

"There are implications to pleading the Fifth, both on the civil side of things as well as potentially in the impeachment itself," Smith said. "But then there's just the optics."

Emergency grants available for wildfire disasters

Staff Report

For The Record

COLLEGE STATION, — Emergency grant applications are now open for volunteer fire departments included in Governor Abbott's wildfire disaster declaration.

"Volunteer firefighters are our first line of defense against wildfires in Texas," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "During this active summer season, these firefighters are responding to wildfires daily. They work in extreme conditions that not only challenge them physically but also cause their equipment to become worn and damaged."

The disaster declaration is in response to wildfires that began on July 24, 2023, which "pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property" in the 191 counties listed.

In addition to preventing and responding to wildfires, Texas A&M Forest Service is here to help firefighters by administering emergency grants through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The emergency grants fund essential equipment that needs repairing and replacement damaged during response efforts. Essential equipment can be repaired or replaced for 100 percent of the cost up to \$15,000.

Apparatus replacement, or replacement of water tenders, large and small brush trucks or large and small truck chassis can be replaced for 90 percent of the cost up to various amounts, the maximum being \$240,000.

"Having the proper equipment to respond to wildfires is essential," said

Moorehead. "Emergency grants for repair and replacement equipment are expedited to provide assistance as quickly as possible."

The budget allocated for declared disaster emergency grants is 10 percent of the Rural VFD Assistance Program budget, nearly \$1.7 million this fiscal year.

A high volume of wildfires is expected to continue through next Sunday for the eastern two-thirds of Texas due to underlying drought, critically dry fuel and periods of elevated to near critical fire weather.

Texans should stay wildfire aware and immediately call 911 if a wildfire is spotted.

Read Governor Abbott's original issue of the Wildfire Disaster Declaration in August 2023 here: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-wildfire-disaster-declaration-in-august-2023>.

Texas A&M Forest Service Contacts:

Merrie Noak, Program Leader, 979-286-4766, merrie.noak@tfs.tamu.edu

Communications, 979-458-6606, newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu

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TRUTH

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

Any student of American history understands the importance of informed citizens. Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and others of our founding fathers were great purveyors of information. Not only did they use newspapers, but on occasion resorted to publishing their own using assumed names. Jefferson in particular believed the free exchange of ideas was essential to a free democratic government.

When I was a child, our



Former State Senator
Carl Parker

Carl Parker was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

family would gather by the radio to hear the six o'clock "news." Gabriel Heater and later Walter Cronkite would report current important happenings. Most Americans had faith that the "news" was accurate.

Today, hosts on the multiple channels referred to "shows" not "news." Instead of instilling confidence that we are hearing the truth, we are having more trouble in finding it. By using multiple sources and common sense, however, we can still discover what is really happening. It is necessary, if we want American democracy to survive.



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Orange County Drainage District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Orange County Drainage District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Orange County Drainage District Administration Building, 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas, 77630.** Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	James Scales	Hal LaPray
	Russell Covington	Larry Ancelot, Jr.
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	Brent Peveto	

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.13410/\$100	\$0.13410/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.00/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	0.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$148,089	\$167,801
General Homestead Exemptions Available <i>(excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemption)</i>	\$29,618	\$37,742
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$118,471	\$135,059
Tax on average residence homestead	\$158.87	\$181.11
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		
Proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$22.24	
And percentage of increase (+/-)	14.002%	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of the Orange County Drainage District proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of funding the costs associated with multiple planned drainage improvement projects.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Texas Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Wildfire stopped From Page 1

along with Deweyville, came to help. And, luckily, so did the forest service.

Another bit of good fortune came when the winds switched directions.

Chief Manshack gave advice for everyone right now: Do not burn anything.

Orange County is under a burn ban and the cities are even asking residents to curtail watering. Those cities include Orange, Bridge City, Pinehurst, and the water district that serves Vidor. The Orangefield Water Supply has also asked for water curtailments.

On Tuesday morning, residents in the Country Squire subdivision awoke to find no water. Chief Manshack said apparently the privately-owned water company had a pump problem that was fixed later in the day.

The Orange County Airport on South Highway 87 a few miles away from the wildfire, recorded 106 degrees Sunday afternoon at the National Weather Service's station

there. The NWS lists 105 as the recorded record high set in August 1962.

The county has had little measurable rain in weeks as the temperatures through the summer have been in the high 90s or, on numerous days, soared

reau has posted the area as under "Red Flag Warning" for fire danger the past few days. The bureau predicts the intense heat and drought to continue into September.

Chief Manshack said the area needs about 10 inches of rain, but not at once. Maybe over a couple of days so it has time to soak into the dry ground.

More tropical systems are developing in the Atlantic basin as hurricane season moves to its peak time with the Gulf waters at high temperatures.

Orange County residents suffer from Post Traumatic Storm Disorder after Hurricane Rita hit in 2005 and another six tropical storm disasters have come here in the years since. And add that to measurable tornadoes that caused widespread damage in October 2021 and January 2023. The previous big tornado had hit in 1957.

So now, add wildfires to the list for Post Traumatic Weather Syndrome.

Trees and shrubbery across the county are turning brown and dropping leaves or needles.

into past 100 degrees. The county, along with much of Texas and Southwest Louisiana, is at the highest level on monitors for drought and fire danger.

Trees and shrubbery across the county are turning brown and dropping leaves or needles. Chief Manshack said the dry trees made the Sunday wildfire spread quickly.

The tropical system that was in the Gulf Sunday developed into Tropical Storm Harold and went ashore in South Texas near the Brownsville area. None of its rain reached Orange County.

The National Weather Service Lake Charles bu-

Joe Kazmar dies at 81 From Page 1

repay the writer for his talents.

He often had columns with 'Kaz's Fearless Pics' of his predictions of scores for upcoming games, especially college football. He would use his expertise to predict games by even small, midwestern colleges.

He helped call local football games on KOGT, the local radio station, along with KOGT legend,

Richard Corder. Even after he stopped the radio broadcasting, he was a regular in the West Orange-Stark High press box during football games.

One of his most popular columns came every year at Christmas, when he made holiday greetings to half the people in town, many who called him a friend.

His car career took him to the Smith-Lee dealer-

ship on Interstate 10. As the ownership changed through the years, Kazmar stayed. By the time he retired, he was the fleet and lease manager for the company that had the GM and Toyota dealerships.

His survivors include his wife, Susan, a retired West Orange-Stark High teacher. They were married 46 years.



The above picture is of Mrs. Spears and her Ready, Set, Teach, students that went through her program and are now educators and coworkers at Orangefield ISD.

FRONT ROW: Brianna Graffagnino (Kimberly Spears' new teaching partner) OHS Human Services Teacher; Ashlyn (Lopez) Pinner - OHS English Teacher; Ashlee (Broussard) Peevey-OJH History Teacher and Coach; **BACK ROW:** Kimberly (Farmer) Spears - Education and Training Career Teacher (Ready, Set, Teach); Allie (Beach) LeBouef - OES Technology Teacher; Maria (Winfree) Best - OES 3rd Grade Teacher; Danielle (Graffagnino) Sheppard - OJH Technology and Business Teacher; Corey Sheppard - Director of Primary Curriculum

Orangefield school bonds From Page 1

the constitutional amendment is approved, the state allows homeowners age 65 and older plus the disabled to freeze their school property taxes at the rate when they turned 65. Taxpayers with those exemptions will not pay more.

The Orangefield School Board earlier this year appointed a district-wide committee to study facilities and future needs for the district in preparation for a possible bond issue.

On Monday, Board President Laura Clark said, "Our plan will focus on safety by moving all students out of portable buildings" by adding classrooms to each campus.

Orangefield Elementary will also get a new cafeteria with stage, plus enough new classrooms to solve the current overcrowding and allow for future growth. The junior high will get new classrooms. At the high school, the

projects are new classrooms, new library, new cafeteria, plus facilities to grow the CTE, or career and technology education, programs.

Early voting for the Orangefield bond election,

plus the state constitutional amendment election, will begin on October 23 and run through November 3. People who are not registered have about a month to register in time for the election.

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From the Creaux's Nest

60 YEARS AGO ORANGE TRIO ATTENDED MLK MARCH

Sixty years ago prior to Aug. 28, 1963, a bus load of Golden Triangle citizens loaded up and headed to Washington for Dr. Martin Luther King's "March on Washington." Busloads and trainloads of pilgrims spilled into Washington from throughout the states. On that bus from Orange, Texas were three citizens, civil leader Velma Jeter, James Zay Roberts, who had marched with King, and Essie Bellfield, a young lady and mother of two young daughters. The trio didn't know what to expect. President Kennedy had quietly deployed 4,000 riot troops, with 15,000 paratroopers on alert. All liquor sales were banned in D.C. for the first time since Prohibition. Hospitals were put on alert. Major League baseball was postponed, not one but two games. The March for jobs and freedom achieved worldwide acclaim with four simple words from Dr. King, "I HAVE A DREAM." Dr. King had not planned to say those four words but strayed from his prepared text when someone shouted "give 'um the dream speech." He had opened his address by quoting Lincoln, then said, "I still have a dream, it is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream." The rest is history. The three Orange residents returned home and quietly followed Dr. King's non-violent lead. Essie went on to become the first Black and first woman mayor of Orange. She was the last surviving member of that trio. Essie died Jan. 23, 2022. On a personal note, I had known Essie all of those 60 years. What I loved about Essie, my dear friend all those years, is that she was not radical, plus she was a walking, talking chamber of commerce. She didn't hesitate to boost her city. She really believed she lived in the best place on earth. She was quick to blame her own people when the need arose. She said, "Too often young Black men stray away from what Dr. King intended for our people." Essie didn't have a racist bone in her body. Often we visited about our childhood and the times before LBJ's Civil Rights Act. She was a true ambassador, not only for her people but for the good of all people. If she could, she would have made all hate go away. She loved everyone and was a symbol of that march 60 years ago.

REMEMBERING 'KAZ'

We were sorry to learn that our longtime friend and member of our newspaper family over the last 45 years, Joe Kazmar, had passed away August 17. Service was held this past Monday. In the mid-1970s, Joe started writing his "Kaz's Korner" column in our Opportunity Valley Newspaper, and then joined us at The Record Newspapers, The County Record and The Penny Record. Kaz had a large following. No sports writer did a better job of covering Major League baseball. A special annual feature was Joe's Christmas list that he updated every year. It featured hundreds of people he knew. Over the years, as friends passed away, he deleted them from the list and added the new people he'd met. Joe's list was 50-years-old and had covered thousands of lives. If you knew Joe, chances are your name was on his list. We will miss him. Our condolences to Susan and the family. Joe Kazmar was a class guy. Please read Margaret's story and his obituary in this issue.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

Last week we lost two friends, two good men. Ruben Stringer, 79, died Aug. 12. Over the years Ruben had visited us often. He always was a booster of The Record Newspapers. The longtime Ag teacher was a strong conservationist and member of the Soil and Water Conservation District Region 9. Ruben always clipped out the stories we ran on preserving nature and our world. He nominated us for a state award that we were chosen for. We're proud of that and proud to have known this good and decent man. Charles Anthony Cessac was only 48 years old when he passed away Aug. 15. Service was held at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Bridge City on Aug. 19. We have known his beautiful mother Phyllis Green many years so we had known Charles most of his life. I feel for this nice lady, losing her only child is a terrible burden to bear. Charles was fortunate to have two great ladies in his life. His wife of 26 years, Gina, is one of the nicest people I've ever met. She and Charles have three boys, Anthony, Collin and Andrew. No one could have loved anyone anymore than Gina loved Charles. He was also special to his stepfather Danny Green and step-brothers Troy and Slade Green. Everyone's friend, banker Billy Burrow, will end 41 years in banking Aug. 29. Our editor Robert Hankin died unexpectedly on Aug. 21, 2010. On Aug. 23, Keble Free celebrates. The hairstylist and former boxer is getting awfully close to becoming a senior citizen. Aug. 24 is a very special day for a special lady, Marlene Merritt, the

longtime bride of Sheriff Keith Merritt. Celebrating their wedding anniversary on this day is city council person Teresa and coach Frank Beauchamp. Frank also celebrates his birthday a few days later, on Aug. 27. On this day also David Montagne, son of the late Democratic Chairman Bob Montagne celebrates. Track star Bree Fontenot celebrates also as does Pinehurst councilman Ron Cowling and Milton Briggs Jr. On Aug. 26, a great gal, Parks Director Donna Dorman Scales celebrates.

17 Years Ago-2006

Construction will begin soon on the new Orange County Fire District ESD2 Substation in Orangefield. Fire Chief Scott Barnes said the metal structure will be located on Hwy. 105. Tony Foreman was named Orange County Airport manager. Stump Weatherford has trimmed off 75 pounds, shaved his head, is wearing a Jeff Bagwell goatee, form fitting shirts and is now a devoted Catholic. I wonder if Dayle had anything to do with the big change. Living legend Percy Sledge performs at the Texas Longhorn. In 1966 Sledge cut his first record, "When a Man Loves a Woman." The deep southern soul song has been used in movies and became a favorite song for weddings. Tina and Ray Cotton are owners of the Longhorn where Texas and Louisiana meet. Joyce Poche Bernard publishes a story on "The Old House at Poche Bridge." Football season has come around in Orange County. At West Orange-Stark, Coach Dan Hooks is taking it easy after being tackled during practice right after two-a-days began. He is scheduled for surgery later this week. He is attending practice and was at the Mustang/Barbers Hill scrimmage on the sideline in his cart. The Stangs won 33-7. DePauldrick Garrett scored three touchdowns. Second year coach at Little Cypress-Mauriceville is Todd Moody. The Bears have 18 starters and 22 lettermen returning. They will run a "Wing-T" multiple formation. The Bridge City Cardinals will feature Johnny Dishon at quarterback and head football coach at Orangefield is Blake Morrison. The coach has brought in some new coaches, Josh Smalley came from Bridge City and will coach quarterbacks and is offensive coordinator; Coach Darin Fletcher came from LC-M; Jeff Bennett, who comes from Nederland, will coach Junior High and will be head baseball coach. Grant Encalade caught a bull red that weighed 23 pounds and was 40 inches long while fishing in Sabine Lake.

47 Years Ago-1976

The Bridge City B&PW names Angelina Garza as member of the month. Darla Gisclair, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Gisclair, received a degree in education from Sam Houston and is now teaching in Southeast Texas, 50 miles from San Antonio. Bridge City band booster officers are Mrs. Darwin Rothering, president; Mrs. Grover Browning, Mrs. John Haynes and Mrs. L.E. Huckabay vice-presidents. (Editor's note: Notice that 47 years ago a woman's first name was seldom used, she was referred to as Mrs. So-and-so. That's not the norm today. Most often it's Ms. Shirley or whomever.) The Bridge City High football coaching staff is Braton, Stuebing, Hollier, head coach Griffin, Gillis, Miller and Litton. The training staff is Thad Angelle, Bobbie Moore and Ted Townes. West Orange cheerleaders are Diane Collins, Sandy Allen, Janet Brown, Leisa Landry, head cheerleader Beverly Mitchell, Susan Sullivan, Amy Sandlin, Sharon Jones and Cindy Carr. The LC-M drill team leaders are Connie Gunn, Karen Francis, Melony Smith, Hollis Parker and Sabrina Frey. Bridge City cheerleaders are Nancey Gauthier, Donna Jeansonne, Kim Young, June Nezat, Kim Daniels, Tish Bratton, Melissa Harmon and Terri Medley. Fain Holbrooks and Coy Charrier open Orange Appliance and Automotive at 402 Green Ave. Chamber members Pete Sterling, Jim Trotter and Mayor Paul Hale did the honors at the opening ceremonies. Mrs. Coy "Leona" Charrier cut the ribbon. The Bridge City Optimist Club 10 and 11-year-old all-stars play in a major league baseball tournament in Port Arthur. Team members are Darrin Hearn, Paul Simmons, Jimmy Smith, Jeff Faults, Terry Lyons, Kevin Laughlin, Wendell Isom, Bryan Whitson, Frank Angelle, John Egerly, Kerry Hearn, Jason Richard and Kevin Malagarie. Managers/coaches are Owen Richard and Harold Hearn. A new 1976 Chevy half-ton, V-8 pickup, full loaded at Harmon Chevrolet, Third and Green in Orange, will set you back \$3,873, a Malibu, 4dr. Sedan, loaded, only \$4,673. Tim Leiby will celebrate his birthday August 27. J.K. Conn has a mangy, old hound that hangs around his store that he named Roy Dunn and says the dumb dog is too dumb to be insulted. Dem were the days.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The heat is still on, but the parties go on forever. The Orange Mardi Gras krewes held their annual summer casual dance on Saturday night at the VFW Hall. Of course the regulars were there like Paul and Raul Burch, Randy and Paula Ragsdale, Jana Bruce, Cindy and Ambrose Claybar, along with Randy and Paula Ragsdale. Skipper and Gina Yeaman partied while celebrating their second wedding anniversary. Gal pal Lori Ardoin was also there. Sherry Hommel won a colorful Mardi Gras quilt. And of course no Mardi Gras event would be complete without Stump and Dayle Weatherford, a former king and queen. This upcoming Saturday will be one of the grandest of the summer. Team Dallas is having their second annual gala with the theme Wranglers and Rhinestones. Team Dallas was formed in honor of hometown raised civic leader Tony Dallas, who has ALS. The fundraiser gives to the national effort to find a cure for ALS. Expect Tony to be there with wife, Nancy. Hoping daughter Leigh Anne Harrell makes it to the event. She and husband, Broderick, are expecting their first born, a daughter, to come soon. Heritage House Museum drew some old-timers, and young-timers, to the opening of a

new exhibit, Team Spirit. The exhibit features old photographs, equipment, memorabilia, and information about high school sports here. Former NY Yankee shortstop Andre Robertson, who was a West Orange High and University of Texas baseball standout, loaned some of his memorabilia to the show and gave a talk at the opening. Robertson has five signed Yankee photos of him that he donated to the museum to raise money through a silent auction. The bidding will go on through the exhibit's run. It ends September 15. Former Stark High quarterback Joel Robins inspired the exhibit. He has spent his retirement years researching Orange and Stark High sports back to 1909. He wrote up the history and printed photographs he found in his searches into a binder book called "Tiger Tales." He also spoke and talked about interesting stories and trivia he found in his research. People attending the opening also enjoyed visiting. They included David Bruce, Peggy Claybar, Wade Gillet, Preston Fuller, Mickey and Jackie Gisclair, Ronan Watters, Billy and Pat Fisette. Museum Director Charlotte Alford helped oversee the open with help from Board President Adam Conrad and others. Next big event will be the Annual Historic Ghost walk in October. Travelers continue to like the beaches in the summer. Those without school-age kids are free to go. Pat and Michelle Belcher along with grown daughter Rachel were in Florida visiting places like Key West and Ft. Lauderdale. Carly Thibodeaux headed out to the Mississippi beaches around Waveland to meet up with family and celebrate the birthday of her mom, Tammy Davis. We miss seeing Tammy in this part of the country. Jack and Juliet Smith took to the sea, not the beach. They made a traditional transatlantic ship trip from London to New York, stopping in each of the cities to see the sights. Debbie Hughes joined daughter Dr. Kayla Cheek in traveling to Luckenbach, Texas for the 50th anniversary of the classic Jerry Jeff Walker's "Viva Terlingua" album. For birthdays, Darleen Thompson has turned 90. Though she and husband, Fred, now live in the Hill Country near family, they are always in the hearts of people here. Meri Elen Jacobs, who is spending time sitting with grandbabies now that she is retired, had another trip around the sun. Dana Mann and husband, Tommy, who covers the local music scene for The Record, traveled to the Dallas area for her birthday to see Metallica. Dax Fregia turned 21, while little Lincoln Poluk became 3. Christine Bonneaux got to celebrate with a cake that grandchild Mia helped decorate. Others with birthdays included Terri Goss, Lynae Sanford, Crystal Wells, Sarah Byers Sanchez, Lisa Allan, Jackie Dugas, Jack Tully, Loretta Warnell, Glee Lobb, and Ana Goleman. Congratulations to Wayne and Sid Lofton on their 52nd wedding anniversary. However, they didn't have the longest marriage this week. John and Betty Davis marked a milestone 65 years.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating their big day this week. Aug. 23: Happy Birthday to Marlene Merritt, Keibel Free, Pat Gunter, John-David Walles and Ryan Moreau. Aug. 24: Ben Ezell, Carol Cupe, Debbie Adaway celebrate today, also Frank and Teresa Beauchamp celebrate an anniversary and Frank will celebrate his birthday on Aug. 27. Aug. 25: Coach Dan Hooks is a year older today as is Dot Hudson, Milton Briggs, Jr., Scott Deppe, Trevor Schaffer and Bree Fontenot. Aug. 26: Celebrating today are Jerry Mercer, Molly Abshire, Sheryl Guillory, and our dear friend Donna Scales. Aug. 27: Happy Birthday to pretty Stepannie Roberts, David Green, Jaycie Dardeau and Nina Birdwell. Aug. 28: J.S. Bearden is a year older today. Best wishes also to Randy Elkins, Debbie Stark, Theresa Wilson and our friend Barbi Childress. Aug. 29: Happy Birthday to our friend Janice Overman and a great guy, Danny Cole, who will do to ride the range with. Also to longtime friend Glenda Dyer who now suffers with dementia. This day on Aug. 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina came ashore. (Note: to announce birthdays or anniversaries free of charge call 409-886-7183 or email therecordlive.com.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Sostan Breaux and Kirby Joe Comeaux were having a couple of beers at Tee-Boy's Bar & Grill after dey got off of work dem. Da conversation turned to what dey would be doing over da weekend.

Sostan says, "Me, I'm going to Baton Rouge to pick up da kids from my ex-wife, den I will try to see my girlfriend. She tinks I'm a stalker; Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet." Comeaux, him, says, "Well, me I'm going to Lafayette to see my girlfriend. I've been getting it on wit her and her twin."

Sostan axed, "Mai Comeaux, how can you tell dem apart hanh?"

Comeaux answer, "Well, her brother's got a mustache him."

C'EST TOUT

Perhaps the biggest news in Orange County this week is that the state highway department gave in and re-made the turning lanes on Highway 87 to the West Orange Wal-Mart. It's a wonder we didn't have 42 head-on crashes in the month or so TXDot, in all their wisdom, removed the turning lanes on that section of 87, also known as Edgar Brown Drive. You just can't do that in a small town. We will go on turning into Wal-Mart the traditional way and never change. Around here, it makes you wonder if somebody in a big pickup truck, and it could be female, kidnapped a TXDot engineer at gunpoint until they emailed the orders to change the lane lines back. Penny LeLeux, another movie? Well, I've come to the end. Thanks for coming along. Look us over, shop our family of advertisers and read us cover to cover. Have a nice week and maybe do a rain dance, we are one foot below normal rain fall. Take care and God bless.

Deaths & Memorials

Joseph J. Kazmar, 81, Orange

Joseph J. Kazmar, 81, of Orange, Texas, passed away on August 17, 2023, peacefully at home.

Memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m., Monday, August 21, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Visitation will begin prior at 1:00 p.m., Monday, August 21, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Schenectady, New York, on October 28, 1941, he was the son of Joseph W. Kazmar and Genevieve (Urban) Kazmar. When Joseph was young, he was a part of the Schenectady Little Leaguers. In 1954, the little leaguers won the World Series and that began his love of sports. Joseph received a scholarship to McNeese for baseball and played minor league baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization. He retired as a fleet and lease manager from The Orange GM and Toyota Dealership. Joseph wrote a sports column "Kaz's Korner" for the Orange Leader for many years and later moved to the Opportunity Valley News and most recently the Orange County Record. He helped broadcast the Friday night football games with Richard Corder for KOGT for about 20 years. When he was not working, he loved golf and played



Joseph Kazmar

tournament bridge, as well as fishing and bi-weekly poker with his friends. Joseph loved to save money and was big into couponing. He loved spending time with his family by playing board games. Joseph had a huge heart and made sure everyone was always taken care of. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew this wonderful man.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Kathleen "KK" Kazmar; and parents, Joseph W. Kazmar and Genevieve Kazmar.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Susan Kazmar; children, Karen Kazmar Smith, Cathy Whitehead, and Denise Bybee; grandchildren, Ryan Smith Potter, Logan Joseph Smith, Jennifer Whitehead, Shannon Whitehead, Leah Ryder, and Josie Ryder Kohler; 2 great-grandchildren; brother, Richard "Dick" Kazmar; sister, Roberta "Bobby" Wechter; as well as other loving family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital at <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.



A multi-faceted entertainer, CRAIG MORGAN has made a name for himself as a country music icon, TV personality, celebrated outdoors-man and patriotic Army veteran. One of country music's best-loved artists, Morgan has charted 25 songs on Billboard.

Lutcher Theater Spotlight Packages on sale

Staff Report - For The Record

The Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts is proud to announce Spotlight Season Ticket Packages are currently on sale to the public for their 2023-2024 season. Spotlight Packages include the purchase of tickets to four or more shows.

"The advantages of purchasing a Spotlight Package are the choice of four or more shows, access to the best available seating before single show tickets go on sale, discounted handling fees and first access to additional special events throughout the season," said Lynae Sanford, Lutcher Theater executive director.

For their 44th season, the Lutcher Theater presents 12 incredible events, including multiple National Broadway Tours, a holiday cappella sensation, one of country music's best-loved artists and a new Candlelight Concert Series!

"We are very proud of the caliber of performances we are able to bring to Southeast Texas," said Sanford. "The shows you see at the Lutcher are the same tours that perform in Houston, New Orleans and other larger markets."

The 2023-2024 season includes Craig Morgan, "Mean Girls," STOMP, Voctave - Spirit of the Season, "On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan," "Pretty Woman The Musical," "Little Women," "Come From Away," "Annie" and "Chicago." In addition to the regular season, the Lutcher Theater will present a new Candlelight Concert Series featuring The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra and Scott Mulvihill.

The Lutcher Theater is a 1,500 seat, state-of-the-art, world class performing arts facility and the prominent presenter of Broadway, national and international tours, award-winning artists, renowned dance and acclaimed children's performances for Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. Each season, the Lutcher offers a world class experience and unforgettable memories to each and every audience member.

For more information on the Lutcher Theater, their 2023-2024 season or to purchase a Spotlight Package, please visit lutcher.org.

• **Craig Morgan**

Sunday, October 15, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

A multi-faceted entertainer, CRAIG MORGAN has made a name for himself as a country music icon, TV personality, celebrated outdoors-man and patriotic Army veteran. One of country music's best-loved artists, Morgan has charted 25 songs on Billboard.

• **Mean Girls**

Saturday, November 4, 2023 - 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

*Show contains mature content

Featuring a book by Tina Fey, MEAN GIRLS tells the story of a naïve newbie who falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies. Entertainment Weekly calls it "A MARVEL: dazzling and hilarious!" and USA Today says, "We'll let you in on a little secret, because we're such good friends: GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!"

• **STOMP**

Friday, December 8 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 9, - 2:00 p.m.

STOMP is an explosive, provocative, sophisticated, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show updated and restructured. See what all the noise is about!

• **Voctave - Spirit of the Season**

Sunday, December 17 - 7:00 p.m.

A cappella sensation VOC-TAVE'S 11-member vocal ensemble brings incredible harmonies to some of the most beloved songs and have been inspiring their millions of social media fans since 2015. From holiday favorites to Disney showstoppers and beyond, "The Spirit of the Season" is a seasonal treat for musical lovers of all ages.

• **On Your Feet!**

The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.

ON YOUR FEET! is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent—and each other—to become an international sensation. Featuring some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century, including "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga," "Get On Your Feet," "Don't Want To Lose You Now," "1-2-3" and "Coming Out of the Dark." Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

• **Pretty Woman The Musical**

Friday, February 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 3 - 2:00 p.m.

*Show contains mature content
PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL, based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories of all time, will lift your spirits and light up your heart. Are you ready to fall in love all over again? Don't make a "big mistake" by missing this one!

• **Little Women**

Thursday, February 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Produced nationally and internationally, LITTLE WOMEN has been praised by critics for its ambition in bringing the timeless, captivating story to vivid musical life onstage. Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and my March, each determined to live life on her own terms.

Public invited to breakfast with Golden Triangle Polymers and BCCC Sept. 6

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce along with the Golden Triangle Polymers is hosting a breakfast on September 6, 2023 at 8am at the Bridge City Community Center. A representative with Golden Triangle Polymers will provide an overview of the \$8.5 billion project under construction in Orange and the economic impacts to the

surrounding communities. The ticket cost for the event is \$25 and that includes breakfast along with hearing about the project. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please call the Bridge City Chamber at 409-735-5671 or stop by the office 150 W. Roundbunch. Deadline to purchase tickets is August 30, 2023.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The property commonly known as 4785 Evangeline Dr., Vidor, TX 77662 is scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 09/05/2023 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **OSCAR LEBLANC, SR.**, Deceased, were issued on the **AUGUST 8, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19564**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **SONYA LEBLANC**.

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

c/o: **Sonya LeBlanc**
61 N. Farragut Avenue
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the **16th day of August, 2023.**

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
Sonya LeBlanc
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ANTHONY LAWRENCE JEANISE**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 16, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19712**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **CATHY ADAIR**.

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

Cathy Adair, Ind Exec c/o:
Barron Law Office
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the **10th day of August, 2023.**

George B. Barron
George B. Barron

Attorney for Executrix
State Bar No.: 01817500
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279
Email: george@barronlawoffice.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **SHIRLEY ANN CARPENTER**, Deceased, were issued on **AUGUST 14, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19728**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **MARY SUZAN CARPENTER ERICKSON and KEVIN GRANT CARPENTER**.

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

c/o: **James R. Dunaway**
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100

Dated the **9th day of January, 2023.**

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Mary Suzan Carpenter Erickson and Kevin Grant Carpenter
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jdunaway@sbcglobal.net

CROSSWORD

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- Paleozoic one
- Pressing tool
- Senegal's neighbor
- Literary theme
- Scissors sound
- Final notice
- *Notre Dame's Fighting _____
- *Home of the first Super Bowl winners
- National League Pennant series, acr.
- Steer clear
- "Glee" actress _____ Michele
- Befuddled
- *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
- Fish story
- Stockings
- "Doggone it!"
- Rand McNally book
- Mozart's "L'____ del Cairo"
- Whiskey drinks?
- Comedy act
- Be more of a fox
- Dead or Black, e.g.
- Obliquely

DOWN

- ____ Now or Never"
- "Shoot!"
- Arabian bigwig
- Fund-raising letter
- Torah teacher
- Homer's famous poem
- Feel for
- Larger-than-life singer
- Emerald _____ borer
- Poet's death lament
- Fungal skin infection
- *Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida
- Not odds
- Lily, in French exclamation
- *a.k.a. Iron Mike
- Charcuterie stores
- Nibble away
- Have faith
- Ranee's wrap
- Lumox
- Calendar abbr.
- Russian auto
- crat
- *Home to College Football Hall of Fame
- Secret supply
- *Extra point
- Van Gogh flow
- ers
- Partners of pains
- Spirited
- Puzzle with pictures and letters
- Take as one's own
- Think, archaic target
- Grand theft
- *The oldest college football Bowl
- Actress Perlman
- Millimeter of mercury
- Took the bait
- *Defensive one

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BC Cardinals to host Orangefield in Week 1

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Last football season is one Bridge City would like to forget. The Cardinals are looking to match their lone win of last year in Week 1 of this season.

The final preparations for the regular season were the two scrimmages that Bridge City played. The Cardinals faced the Vidor Pirates and the Woodville Eagles in good scrimmages that fortunately left Bridge City with no major injuries getting set for the first game of the regular season.

The Cardinals' new Head Coach Chad Landry gave his assessment of the scrimmages. "I felt we performed extremely well. The effort was great, the attention to detail was where it needed to be, and I thought overall the scrimmages were pretty good," Landry said.

Bridge City is working with the same offense the Spread as last year, but new offensive coordinator Chris Towery is implementing some new facets to it. Landry explained, "It took a little bit of time in the first scrimmage against Vidor, but things



Jerris Brown of the Bridge City Cardinals hopes to use his speed to catch some deep passes against Orangefield on Friday night.

RECORD PHOTO

are kind of settling in, personnel groups are settling in, and the communication has gotten a lot better across the board. From the first scrimmage to the second scrimmage that's what you're really looking for just a better knowledge overall of the system."

Landry rated the progress of the Cardinal offense. "When it's going right the offense moves, it's good. I'm proud of how well that the kids have soaked it all in early and it's getting better every day," Landry stated.

The season opener for the Cardinals is against their closest rivals the Orangefield Bobcats. The Bridge City defense will



Nicholas Lejeune at noseguard will see lots of action for the Bridge City Cardinal defense to stop the Bobcats' running game.

THE RECORD PHOTO

need to deal with the run oriented offense of the Bobcats.

Orangefield still runs the Slot-T as it has for the

BRIDGE CITY Page 5B

LCM Bears hook-up with Hawks on Friday

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

This is the third year at Little Cypress Mauriceville for Head Coach Eric Peevey to guide the football team. The Bears are young but hopeful for their third straight trip to the post season and a possible run in the playoffs.

Little Cypress Mauriceville split its two pre-season scrimmages in August. The Bears outscored the Orangefield Bobcats in the opening scrimmage and lost 20-14 to the big and physical Port Neches-Groves In-



J'Lynn Morris has break-away speed as he takes over as the primary running back for the LCM Bears when they play the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks on Friday.

RECORD PHOTO

dians who played in the Class 5A Division II championship game last season.



Khayden Reed of LCM caught several passes during the scrimmages and will be looking to make receptions at Hardin-Jefferson on Friday.

Coach Peevey commented the first scrimmage against Orange-

LCM BEARS Page 5B

Bobcats plan to keep 'Buzzy Gunn' trophy

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Summer workouts have concluded and scrimmages have been played leading to this Week 1 of the Texas high school football season. The Orangefield Bobcats open their season against the Bridge City Cardinals on Friday night.

Orangefield faced two teams from higher classifications in its scrimmages. First was the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears from Class 4A Division I followed last week with the final scrimmage against the Silsbee Tigers a top team in Class 4A Division II in the state.

Coach Josh Smalley of the Bobcats located in Class 3A categorized the scrimmages as a tale of



Mason Manning started on defense as a freshman for Orangefield and now as a sophomore will get more carries as a running back on the offense.

two efforts by Orangefield. "I thought our kids competed real well against a much bigger school like Little Cypress Mauriceville. We played hard and got after it. I was really

BOBCATS Page 3B

Mustangs take on Bulldogs

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

West Orange-Stark is looking to rebound from a disappointing rare losing season last year. The Mustangs made the post season but were eliminated in the first round of the state playoffs to finish the year with an overall 5-6 record.

The Mustangs performed well in their two scrimmages earlier this month. They scored four times while the WOS defense shut out Woodville in the first scrimmage and then rallied after a quick score by Vidor to beat the Pirates 14-7 in the final scrimmage before the start of the regular season this week.

Second year Head Coach Hiawatha Hickman evaluated the Mustangs' pre-



Jalen Gilmore of the Mustangs played strong at linebacker on defense and scored a touchdown running the ball on offense in the scrimmages.

paredness entering Week 1 of the football season. "The defense has been playing really well in both scrimmages. I think the Mustangs are starting to understand what we're trying to get out of them," Hickman said.

MUSTANGS Page 4B

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Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

The Lakes

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

FAIR. Water clear; 90-93 degrees; 2.79 feet below pool. Bass fishing is tough with the best bite from daylight until 10 am. Moss bass are suspended in 12-18 feet of water. Bass are keying on shad right now so use a shad colored crankbait. Night fishing can produce a few bites with Texas rig worms 10-15 feet of water. Crappie are slow with little action due to the high water temperature. Catfish can be caught on baited holes

Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• Sam Rayburn Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 92 degrees; 3.47 feet below pool. Summer pattern is holding steady as the weather remains hot. Fish are staying near older wood where the PH is lower and the water continues to be off color. Bass and white bass are schooling on the flats. Bass are good with topwaters in the pencil grass and hydrilla. Bigger bass are on points and humps biting crankbaits and Carolina rigs. Crappie and bluegill are stacking up on brush in 16-22 feet of water biting on minnows or jigs. Catfish are good around the brush piles, and points in the creek channels 12-24 feet of water. White bass are good on jigs and crankbaits.

Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

• B.A. Steinhagen

SLOW. Water stained; 84 degrees; 0.28 feet below pool. Water levels have increased. Check ramp status before heading out. Fish should be migrating out of the river returning to the main lake.

• Lake Livingston

GOOD. Stained; 85 degrees; 1.87 feet below pool. White bass are good, but moving quickly in 10-15 feet of water with catches jiggling off the bottom of main lake humps with ¾- 1 ounce slabs. Catfish are fair feeding on large schools of shad on humps off the river. Crappie are slow.

Report by Jeff Friederick, Fishin' Addiction Guide Service.

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 90 degrees. Southwest winds are creating tough fishing conditions in the gulf and jetties. Trout are good in the ship channel early in the morning before the sun rises using live shrimp under a popping cork.

Middy use Carolina rig with a light weight on rock piles and bulkheads for trout and redfish. Intra-coastal Canal is good for trout and redfish along the rocks with live shrimp under a popping cork, or freelined shrimp over rock piles and shell flats. Redfish are fair in Sabine Lake while the water is hot. Best success drifting out from the banks in the marsh and bayou cuts. North Levy continues to be excellent in the morning for solid trout along the first or second pike with topwaters, live shrimp under a popping cork, or crankbaits. Neches River holding nice redfish, flounder and undersized trout on the rock piles, buoys, points and turnarounds using live shrimp popping cork 2-25 feet of water.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 87 degrees. The surf is holding numbers of black drum, sharks, and some big redfish on cut bait or live on the bottom. The gulf side of the North Jetty is holding limits of sheepshead and trout against rocks with an occasional redfish early near the end with a popping cork and shrimp. The wreck has good numbers of trout early on free-lined shrimp or croaker close to rocks. Channel side holding some nice trout close to the rocks and big redfish on the bottom. Sharks are at the end of the jetty towards the gulf side.

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

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Light winds have allowed anglers to concentrate efforts for speckled trout on the gas wells in the open bay. Schools of bull redfish are roaming the bay. Look for birds to pinpoint their location. Northwest corner of Trinity producing decent numbers of black drum and at times keeper size speckled trout. Redfish near the rocks along the ship channel. Best bite has been on live shrimp.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston



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

Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 89 degrees. Fish continues to be limited by west and southwest winds. Shorelines and reefs adjacent to the shorelines are producing scattered catches of speckled trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temps 89 degrees, water clarity is murky due to the west, southwest winds and the further east you venture the clarity decreases. Winds have limited off the shore reef tactics once again this week. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks have still been producing the most bites for anglers. Early morning trips using Purple Reign continue to work well with ¼ ounce jig heads fished in the upper portion of the water column. Please remember to drink plenty of water and utilize plenty of sunscreen, as it just plain hot out, and it is critical you stay hydrated and do not get overheated or sunburned, as after 10am, you really begin to feel the effects if you are not used to it. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Little Hanna's Still holding speckled trout early and an occasional flounder, or redfish. The drains are holding lots of fish early in the day. Yates Bayou drain is holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Siever's Cut holding redfish near grass lines. Look for birds and slicks in Hanna's, Deep Reef, Moody's Reefs. Gas wells A1 to Eagle point are

holding some trout biting live croaker. Goat Island is holding redfish, with the occasional speckled trout, under a popping cork with shrimp or Carolina rigged live mullet finger mullet. Look for birds, slicks, and restless bait. Report provided by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service LLC.

holding some trout biting live croaker. Goat Island is holding redfish, with the occasional speckled trout, under a popping cork with shrimp or Carolina rigged live mullet finger mullet. Look for birds, slicks, and restless bait.

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

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 90 degrees. The winds have subsided and anglers are now able to fish the open waters of the bay. Catches of speckled trout have come from the gas wells, best on live shrimp. Rocks near the ship channel and hard shell reefs holding black drum, and a few redfish. Best bait has been live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. With the blue water moving closer again the piers should be back on for redfish, sharks, and jack crevalle. Todd's Dump to Redfish Island holding some nice trout on croaker and strawberry with white artificials. The gas wells off the ship channel bordering Brothel Island are holding some nice

speckled trout, and occasional redfish on croaker. The South Jetty holds some big redfish with a few nice slots. Some nice sharks can be found at the end. The Gulf side of the jetty is on fire for speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks on popping cork with live bait free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker. Channel side holding trout and redfish close to rocks with popping cork and live shrimp. The railroad bridge is holding redfish drum and a decent number of speckled trout early on live bait.

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

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Boat anglers are landing catches of speckled trout, black drum and the occasional redfish on structure with live croaker or shrimp. Best catches by wade anglers using live croaker. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. West Bay's South Shore is holding a lot of speckled trout and redfish.

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Bridge City, Orangefield volleyball teams play hard

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The district schedule for the Bridge City Lady Cardinals volleyball team starts in less than two weeks. The Lady Cardinals open district action at Silsbee on Tuesday, September 5.

Bridge City has been busy before the district begins. The Lady Cardinals played a great Baytown Sterling team on Friday, August 18, dropping a four-set match.

The first set went extra time as Sterling pulled out the 29-27 win over the Lady Cardinals. Bridge City won the second set 25-20 before losing the last two sets 25-16 and 25-18 at Baytown.

Demi Carter kept up her outstanding play with 15 kills, 4 blocks, and 10 digs. Makenna Knight had a strong game with 13 kills, 5 aces, and 5 digs. Cambree LaComb assisted on 27 points. LaComb tied with Lexi Nugier with 14 digs followed by Kaylee Britten with 10 digs.

Coach Savannah DeLuna



Makenna Knight served 9 aces for the Bridge City Lady Cardinals volleyball team in their two matches last week.

RECORD PHOTO



Addisyn Moore of the Orangefield Lady Bobcats had more than 40 assists in the tournament played last week.

recognized the excellent effort from her Lady Cardinals. "Super proud of how hard these girls fought from start to finish. The girls played lights out. It was our first real test of the season and the Lady Cardinals stepped up against a competitive 5A program. We are getting better each game, and it's fun to watch," DeLuna responded.

Earlier on Tuesday, August 15, Bridge City swept three sets from Beaumont United. Demi Carter was the leader for the Lady Cardinals with 12 kills

and 4 blocks. She added 6 digs.

Makenna Knight had a strong night serving with 4 aces to go with her 9 kills. Cabree LaComb contributed 20 assists. Natalie Chavez was the top server with 7 aces and Kaylee Britten matched Carter with 6 digs.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals played at their intercounty rival the Orangefield Lady Bobcats on Tuesday, August 22. The Lady Cardinals travel to Dayton for a tournament on Thursday through Sat-

urday, August 24-26.

Orangefield Lady Bobcats

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats played in the Tournament on the Bay held in Bay City on Thursday and Saturday, August 17-19. The Lady Bobcats finished the tournament 3-3 against some great competition.

Orangefield won two of three matches on Thursday. The Lady Bobcats lost in two sets 25-13 and 25-9 to Calhoun in their opening game of the tournament. Lela Francis had 2 kills and 3 digs for the Lady Bobcats. Ava Dyer had 2 kills and Kaylea

Gravett had 3 digs. Brianna Moore and Addisyn Moore both had 4 assists.

The Lady Bobcats bounced back winning their other two games on Thursday. Orangefield topped Buffalo 25-6 and 25-11 before beating Columbia 25-11 and 25-20 to finish second in their group and advance to the silver bracket of the tournament played on Saturday.

Brianna Moore was a serving wizard in the game with Buffalo serving 12 aces. Ava Dyer had 2 kills while Greenlea Oldham blocked two shots. Addisyn Moore led in assists with 7 and Eliese Gravett topped the Lady Bobcats with 4 digs against Buffalo.

In the game with Columbia Greenlea Oldham blasted 10 kills. Brianna Moore assisted on 12 points which was one more than her sister Addisyn. Hannah Block had the most digs with 5 as Lela Francis and Addisyn Moore both served 2 aces.

Orangefield won its first game in the silver bracket on Saturday. The Lady Bobcats beat Wharton 25-21, 21-25, 15-9 in a tight match.

Greenlea Oldham lead the Lady Bobcats again with 8 kills. Brianna Moore had the most aces serving 3 just ahead of

Hannah Block who had two. Hannah had the most digs with 13 and Addisyn Moore lead Orangefield with 16 assists.

Bowling won a tight opening set in the next game 27-25 over Orangefield before completing the two set sweep 25-9 to take the match. Charlee Sanches with her 4 kills led the Lady Bobcats in that category. Hannah Block served 2 aces and made 7 digs as did Kaylea Gravett, Brianna Moore assisted on 12 points, and Haylee Spears made the only block for Orangefield.

The tournament closed for the Lady Bobcats with another exciting match. Orangefield fell to Marble Falls 20-25, 25-11, 9-15 in three sets.

Eliese Gravett had maybe her best game of the tournament leading the Lady Bobcats with 3 aces and 7 digs. Greenlea Oldham had the most kills with 6 and Brianna Moore's 9 assists was one more than her sister Addisyn.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats will be hosting their volleyball tournament on Thursday and Saturday, August 24 and 26, at the Orangefield Gymnasium. On Friday, August 25, the Lady Bobcats play at West Orange-Stark.

Bobcats From Page 1B

happy coming out of the LCM scrimmage. Then we went to Silsbee and played a top five team in the state of Texas, and reality set in. The Tigers got after us pretty good. Some of that is the fact they're a really good football team and some of it is the fact we just didn't perform very good. I was a little disappointed with our effort coming out of the Silsbee scrimmage," Smalley evaluated.

Highlights of at least the scrimmage with LCM was that Bobcat sophomore running back Mason Manning scored a touchdown behind the Orangefield offensive line which did some good things. Smalley said his defense also played really well.

There were no major injuries sustained by Orangefield in the scrimmages. Smalley indicated two Bobcats Mason Houghton and Rylan McAlpin had shoulder surgery from injuries incurred during workouts in March and are waiting to be cleared to suit up and play.

The Bayou Bowl will kick off the new football season in Bridge City for Orangefield. The two rivals separated by Cow Bayou will compete for possession of the iconic trophy which goes to the winner of the game each year.

The Bridge City Cardi-



Mason Manning started on defense as a freshman for Orangefield and now as a sophomore will get more carries as a running back on the offense.

nals will use the same offense as they did the last couple of seasons with the Spread, but have added a new offensive coordinator. Chris Towery has moved to Bridge City from Sulphur, Louisiana, to direct the Cardinals' offense.

Under Towery the Cardinals run the Spread from the shotgun with an H-Back, three wide receivers, and a running back. Smalley said he is impressed with what Towery is doing at Bridge City.

Smalley elaborated, "They've got a lot of skill guys, a lot of weapons, and the Cardinals spread you out like on a basketball court but on turf. They've got some weapons and it starts with their quarterback Hutch Bearden."

This will be Bearden's second year as the starting quarterback for Bridge

City after his first season was abbreviated by an arm injury. "He's grown a lot in the last year. In scrimmages during the previous seasons opponents were not allowed to hit Bearden because the officials would blow the whistle before Hutch was hit. This year Bridge City has taken the handcuffs off and have let Bearden run the football in scrimmages, and boy has he done well with that. He has shown not only can he run with designed plays, but when he breaks containment he can run for first downs and does a really good job, so that scares me," Smalley indicated.

Outside the Cardinals have some potent receivers starting with the lanky Gavin Bodin who can go up for the ball with any defender. Speedy Jerris Brown has been a thorn in the Bobcats' side for the last two years according to Smalley. In the slot is sophomore Abraham Mungia who was very noticeable catching the ball in scrimmages against Vidor and Woodville.

The H-Back for Bridge City probably will be freshman Bryce Breeden who does a good job. Also seeing time at H-Back is Bryce Linder who is a starter on defense for the Cardinals.

Jamel Charles will carry

ORANGEFIELD Page 5B

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OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

No matter how hard lure manufacturers try they will never be able to create a lure that works better than real thing, period.

The typical profile of the weekend angler is not that of the high end trophy trout hunter who chunks artificial lures for hours on end looking for one big fish, it's the fisherman who takes a quart of live shrimp or a bucket of mud minnows and looks for anything that will bite. Much has been made of the big trout phenomenon and all the hoopla that surrounds that style of fishing; I personally have devoted plenty of articles to the subject as well as many days on the water.

On the other hand I devoted plenty of time on the water fishing with live shad or mullet and I enjoy those trips just as much or maybe even more on occasion. There is something very

calm and social about anchoring up in the mouth of a little bayou or in the river and peacefully

anticipating the next bite for whatever species shows up next. Some of the best conversations I ever had with my son were on the back of boat as we sat and fished live bait.

The laid back mood associated with this style of fishing is a welcome change from the hectic world that we live in; it's a shame that more anglers aren't willing to participate for fear of their macho image being tarnished. I feel sorry for those folks because they don't know what they are missing.

Here in the Sabine area we are very fortunate to have such a great supply of free live bait, virtually anyone who can throw a cast net can catch enough bait

to fish without spending a dime. Most anglers who live here locally have no idea about how much money weekend anglers on other bay systems spend on live bait, it's crazy.

Live shrimp by the quart ranges anywhere from 12 to 20 dollars a quart! Now if you plan on fishing all day you probably will buy at least 3 quarts, that's an extra of 40 to 60 dollars a trip on top of 4 dollars for a gallon gas prices (thanks for that Joe Biden). Anglers who fish with guides on places like Calcasieu or Galveston bay not only pay guide fees but they also are expected to pay for the live bait as well, that price gets steep in a hurry. I don't know how many horror stories I have heard from anglers who went out with a guide and paid for live shrimp only to have the bait die half way through the trip due to a bad live well system or some other problem only to have to go back to the bait stand and by most shrimp. My wallet

hurts just thinking about it all.

The other high dollar live bait that we really don't have on a consistent basis in this area is croaker, the big trout bait of choice on the lower coast. Live croaker cost anywhere from 6 to 10 dollars a dozen on average and will usually last all day with minimal care. The live croaker as bait industry is a huge money making business, the numbers of live croaker sold on Saturday at the big bait camps are staggering.

Many in the fishing community attribute the decline of the croaker to the emphasis on them as bait instead of a game fish. Live croaker are lethal on trout in the summer, while artificial only guides struggle to put together a decent box of fish many "croaker guides" limit out in 2 or 3 hours and get back to the dock well before lunch. There have been plenty of cleaning table alterations surrounding this practice but regardless what some may think

using croaker for bait is perfectly legal.

While we don't really have a consistent supply of live shrimp or croaker in our area we do have live bait that is every bit as good if not better, live shad. The small pogies and menhaden that thrive in our waters are great baits for almost any and or all species of fish that can be caught in our area either fresh or salt. Besides being readily available for those who can throw a cast net the best thing about them is that they are 100% free. The summer months are tailor made for drifting shad under a cork or fished along the bottom on a Carolina rig; both are popular methods and each works well. If there is a draw back to fishing shad it's their durability, shad are difficult to keep alive for long periods if you don't pay attention.

Most anglers try to put too many shad in their live well; this is a recipe for disaster. All the shad in the same small space produce

waste and deplete the oxygen in the water which usually kills all the shad really quick. In order to make the most of your shad don't put too many in your live well, change your live well water frequently, and keep the water in your live well cool by adding frozen water bottles or some other means. By taking a few extra precautions you can keep your bait fresh and lively for a really long time.

Which ever method you prefer, live or artificial, the summer forecast looks really good for Sabine and Calcasieu. The saltwater content is super high right now and there are all manner of gulf species swimming around the lakes and the rivers right now so who knows what your next bite will be?

Take precaution with the heat and keep an eye on the summer thunderstorms that will flare up in hurry, but most of all be sure to enjoy your time on the water and every chance you get take a kid fishing.

Mustangs take on Dogs From Page 1B

Particular standouts for West Orange-Stark in both scrimmages include Joshua Miller and Daylen Edwards in the line at defensive tackle. Other defenders that played well were William Pitre, Jacob Higginbotham, and Jalen Gilmore. Amyrian Scott and Chris Jones had good games against Vidor in the defensive secondary for the Mustangs.

Wide receiver Taydren Perrault caught two long touchdown passes of fifty plus yards against Woodville. Quarterback Marcus Turner had touchdown runs in both scrimmages, and Jalen Gilmore also contributed to the offense with a rushing touchdown.

Hickman assessed, "I was really pleased with both scrimmages. I was very pleased with our progress, and I feel like we're at a better place now than we were last year. We sat a couple of Mustangs out with injuries against Vidor on offense including one that was dealing with Covid."

The tradition at West Orange-Stark is to use the non-district games to make the Mustangs ready for the district schedule and then the playoffs by playing larger schools which provide a tough test. The opening Mustang opponent the Class 5A Nederland Bulldogs fits that criteria well. Nederland operates out of the Spread on offense. The Bulldogs run a lot of two wide receivers on both the left and the right side of the line of scrimmage or will shift to three on one side and one on the other.

The Bulldogs prefer to pass the football using an inside zone read. They do like to take their shots by throwing several deep balls

during a game.

The returning quarterback Ayden Sunday played part-time as a starter last year and looks a lot better throwing and running the ball according to Hickman. Sunday threw for 633 yards and 8 touchdowns last year while he rushed for 6 touchdowns.

The leading rusher for Nederland should be Hubert Thomas who totaled 707 yards on the ground with 6 touchdowns last season. "The Bulldog offensive line is big as always. Nederland traditionally has a big offensive line and is usually a strong suit of their team. It's easy to see they're definitely better than what they were last year just watching them in their two scrimmages, and the Bulldogs are moving on the right track," Hickman analyzed.

On defense the Bulldogs line up in a 3-3-5 alignment. Nederland will mix it up shifting into different fronts including some 4-3 looks. The Nederland coaches use a lot of cloud coverage in the secondary against the pass.

The standout on the Bulldogs' defense is Ellis Walker at linebacker. Walker made 84 tackles last season including 4 for losses. Hickman elaborated, "Walker can run. He's the guy they use in blitzes. He's very active on their defense."

Letterman Albert Simon at defensive end needs to be accounted for by the Mustang blockers. Simon made 62 tackles in the previous season which included 4 sacks.

The Bulldog secondary appears to be better than last year when they played a lot of sophomores. Slade

Sheppard and James Ladner are two of the defensive backs the Mustang receiving corps will try to beat to catch passes.

Hickman predicted it will be a challenge on Friday night to beat the Nederland Bulldogs at their place. Last year West Orange-Stark won easily by thirty points at Dan R. Hooks Stadium, but the Bulldogs which had their worst seasonal record since 1991 should be more experienced and much improved.

Hickman explained, "We have to play people like Nederland. They're three times the size as us. We welcome the challenge."

The West Orange-Stark coach provided the keys for the Mustangs to open the season with a win. "We're going to have to go over there and be sound on defense like we always are and be prepared for their Spread Offense. Our secondary is going to have a big task. I think the Bulldogs are better at throwing it than they are at running it, so I think our secondary is going to have to be up for the task. We haven't played anybody in scrimmages that are as

good as the Bulldogs, so it'll be a good challenge for us. Offensively, our offensive line has taken great strides the last two weeks. We feel like we're going to lean on

them and we'll be able to run the ball. Our receivers are really good, and we feel like we can take advantage of somethings in their secondary. I tell the kids all the

time, just go be us, and do what we do. If everybody does their job the Mustangs will be fine, and I think we'll come out on top," Hickman concluded.



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LCM Bears From Page 1B

field was to give the Bears a look at the Slot-T offense which district opponent Vidor runs. "I thought our kids played really well against the Slot-T with our Bears aligning correctly with that offense and then playing really fast on defense causing a bunch of turnovers. I felt like our defense played very good," Peevey evaluated.

Offensively, LCM did some good things against the Bobcats. Peevey pointed out, "The first series we moved the ball down the field but didn't score. After that we got four touchdowns. I felt like our kids got going and moving in the right direction. Offensively right now we don't have a returning starter at a skill position, they're all new."

Port Neches-Groves

looked like a team that went to the finals the previous year during the scrimmage with the Bears. After a long drive by the Indians to open the scrimmage Peevey said the Bears could have backed down but did not and fought back. "We want to play against great teams like that. We want to play against good physical teams which the Indians are with maybe the best offensive line we'll see all year," Peevey added.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville throwing game in the Spread Offense started slowly against the Indians. Peevey added, "Our being able to move the ball on them was really good. Despite the slow start the Bears were able to complete about fourteen balls during the scrimmage."

"I felt very good with both scrimmages. I felt like we got a lot out of them. Thankfully, we didn't have any major injuries or anything like that going through the scrimmages," Peevey analyzed.

A main focus in the scrimmages was the quarterback position with Dylan Payne in his first season to be the starter on varsity. Peevey observed, "I've definitely seen some growth in him. Dylan didn't start off as well as we wanted him to against Port Neches-Groves the first couple of series, but then he picked it up. Dylan is going to get to do some things this week he hasn't got to do in the scrimmages and use his strength to run the ball which we will see this week."

Two other young Bears that stood out in the scrimmages were Khayden Reed

at wide receiver and J'Lynn Morris at running back. They both showed potential for big plays that Peevey was excited to see.

The season opener for Little Cypress Mauriceville will be at Sour Lake against the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks. Under Head Coach Zach Bass the Hawks changed their offense from the Slot-T to the Spread a year ago.

The leader for Hardin-Jefferson on offense is Wyatt Samaha at tight end. Samaha is a big time target for the Hawks catching four or five receptions in the first scrimmage, but did not play in the second scrimmage for the Hawks. Peevey is not sure the reason why Samaha was a non-entity in that scrimmage but knows he is a player the Bears much keep track of in Week 1.

Hardin-Jefferson appears

to base out of a 3-3 Stack on defense and will also get into a 6-2 front. The Hawks are very aggressive coming to get opposing backs in behind the line of scrimmage using extensive blitzes by shooting the gaps and they are going to bring everybody on every play according to Coach Peevey.

The Hawks used non-game day jerseys during their scrimmages. This made it difficult for the Little Cypress Mauriceville coaches that scouted the scrimmages for Hardin-Jefferson to determine who was actually playing for the Hawks.

A key defensive player returning for the Hawks is linebacker Davion Lavine who had 40 tackles last season. Lavine is only a sophomore but could be a factor for Hardin-Jefferson in trying to stop the Bears' running game.

The Bears hope to take advantage of the feast or famine defense used by Hardin-Jefferson. "It looks like they have a whole bunch of new starters on defense. I feel like they're going to be a lot more aggressive than they were last year, and we'll see a lot more man coverage and see a lot of guys in our face, so Payne's going to need to be able to see those guys early, see where the blitzes are coming, and be able to fit the ball behind them. Our offensive line has got to come off the ball and make sure we get all of our gaps covered because they're going to bring heat from every direction at all times," Peevey concluded.

Little Cypress Mauriceville will play Hardin-Jefferson on Friday. The kickoff will be at 7:00 PM in Sour Lake.

Bridge City From Page 1B

last several seasons. The big difference is this year the Bobcat skill players will all be new starters on the varsity after graduation took the whole starting backfield from last year.

Landry affirmed, "They're going to be well coached. Every year Coach Smalley does a great job with the Bobcats. With the Slot-T they're going to continue to run it, and they run it very well. I don't blame them one little bit for sticking with it, but though the backfield for them is new they're very good."

The Cardinals faced the Slot-T in their scrimmage with Vidor in order to have a little familiarity with the somewhat unique offense. "Overall, we did okay with it. It took us a little while to get use to the pace and the speed. It's hard to simulate that offense in practice with our scout team. Orangefield like Vidor is very efficient, and we need to get lined up correctly to make sure we're communicating across the board," Landry pointed out.

Two Bobcats have stood out to the Bridge City

coaches that have scouted Orangefield. Sophomore Mason Manning has stepped in to replace the Bobcats' top runner last year Cameron Dischler who graduated after gaining over two thousand yards in 2022. Kyle Michael is a senior who will see more time on offense at fullback while also playing linebacker on defense.

Coach Landry elaborated, "The Manning kid can go, and he can break one at any point. I'm really impressed with Michael who is just a tough hard-nosed kid back there in the fullback position who is hard to bring to the ground. Man-

ning and Michael they both do a good job in the backfield for the Bobcats."

Orangefield does have experience returning in the offensive live. Ethan Brown is one of the leaders up front making holes for the Bobcat backs to run through.

Orangefield operates out of an odd front on defense with personnel that fly to the football. The secondary of the Bobcats will try to keep everything in front of them which with the Cardinals' passing attack will be an important factor.

Being in a smaller classification with fewer players on their roster the Bobcats will have a lot more two-

way players. "They have some guys playing both ways for them. I know they have some new guys out there, but they're going to be coached up ready to go," Landry predicted.

A key for Bridge City on Friday night against Orangefield will be its Spread offense operating on all cylinders. Landry responded, "We have some explosive guys that we're going to have to get the ball in their hands when we need to. Some of our guys are new, some of them are young. We're anxious to see how they prepare for Friday night and see if they're ready to go. We feel like

they're ready to go it's just how individually they are ready to go and being prepared."

The Bobcats have actually dominated the rivalry with Bridge City in recent years including a decisive win last season at Orangefield. Landry believes the Cardinals have had an attitude adjustment coming into this season.

"We feel like our mindset going in is really positive. We've had a great summer, the preseason camp so far has been grueling and the players have accepted everything we've thrown at them. I feel like we're prepared and are ready to go."

Orangefield From Page 3B

the football as the running back and will be a target for screen passes from Bearden. "They give you a lot to prepare for, and Coach Towery has done a good job organizing the Cardinals on offense and motivating them because you can see they play with a lot of confidence in what he is doing with

them. Defensively we've got our work cut out for us to stop those guys," Smalley admitted.

The Cardinals line up on defense with a five-man front with two inside linebackers either a 50 or a three-four. Assistant Coach Shea Landry has taken over as defensive coordi-

nator at Bridge City. Smalley complimented, "I've always had a ton of respect for what Shea can get kids to do. They play extremely hard for him, and he's a smart guy having learned from Cornel Thompson."

The defensive line is the strength for Bridge City. Nicholas Lejeune the noseguard at about 300 pounds is tough to move. The two tackles Ayden

Richardson and Bryce Linder are really good.

The Cardinals have moved Rayburn Hebert from the defensive secondary to an outside linebacker spot. "Hebert causes havoc, he seems to always be around the football and he's just got a motor that makes him stand out," Coach Smalley stated.

The Cardinal defense is much improved over last year. Smalley predicted,

"I'm sure Shea Landry and Bridge City will have a really good plan for us coming into Friday night."

Turnovers, penalties, and the hot weather will all be keys in determining the winner of the Bayou Bowl on Friday night.

"We prepare the kids the best we can conditioning wise, but scrimmage conditioning and practice conditioning are a lot different than game time stuff.

When you're in the game with the adrenaline going and it's hot like this we've got to make sure that we're able to do it for forty-eight minutes not just for one quarter," Smalley concluded.

The Orangefield Bobcats travel to Bridge City to play the Bayou Bowl.

The game is scheduled for Friday with a 7:30 PM kickoff.

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Calloused knees. Prayer closet. Answered prayers. Prayer warrior.

These four phrases don't exactly trigger me with spiritual PTSD, but they do represent markers in my journey of moving from prayer-guilt into the grace of praying. For many years, I felt more like a D-student in the school of prayer than a beloved son in the presence of God. I was afraid to not pray, but I had very little delight in actually praying.

As a young believer in the late sixties, the joy of my new life in Christ was palpable and plenteous. But pretty soon, I started to feel the pressure of a new burden to "get it right." I had consistent quiet times, underlined verses in my Bible (in three different colors), and engaged in Scripture memory. I fellowshiped, witnessed, and prayed. Unfortunately, these crucial spiritual disciplines functioned more as a means of guilt (or pride) than as a means of grace.

A part of the problem — no, the biggest issue — was that I began the Christian life with a limited understanding of what happened when God gave me faith to trust Jesus and hid my life in his Son.

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In Christ, all riches were already deposited into my account, but I was clueless about them. I knew Jesus died for my sins and that I was fully forgiven. But only years later did I come to understand my union with Christ, the imputation of his righteousness, and my adoption into God's family — to name a few of the glorious benefits of our life in Christ.

I don't blame anyone for not teaching me about union with Christ. I'm just eternally grateful I finally learned about it, came to



rest in it, and now live out of its glorious implications. It wasn't a game changer, but an everything changer — not a new day, but a new forever.

Our union with Christ is the foundation and fountain for knowing God, and the spiritual disciplines — including prayer (when shaped and fueled by the gospel) — are the means by which we deepen our knowledge of God and learn to "glorify and enjoy him forever." Though the gospel has freed us from all earning, it certainly doesn't free us from all effort.

Moving on from guilt and fear, I now focus on three callings that have radically transformed how I engage in prayer.

• Fellowship with Your Father

"Fellowship with your Father" is exactly how my spiritual father, Jack Miller, reframed prayer for me, keying off of Jesus's glorious invitation to say, "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). How many times did I hear (and need to hear) Jack say, "Scotty, our Father wants to spend time with you more than you are even confident and comfortable in his presence. He loves you. You'll never shock him, and he'll never shame you. He knows your need is greater than you realize, and his provision for you in Jesus is exponentially more than you have yet grasped."

Indeed, the gospel frees us from

thinking of prayer as a way to get God's attention — an effort to convince him of something we need or something we want him to do. Prayer is God's nonstop welcome to us — a grace-subpoena into his presence (Hebrews 4:16).

Our Father is always initiating and resourcing our communion with himself. As we spend both quality and quantity time with him, all the incomplete and wrong notions we've had about him get exposed and expelled. He also re-parents us through un rushed time in his presence. Abba is the Father we always wanted, and he alone can be to us what no human father could ever be.

The better we know God as our Father, the more we begin to embrace how big and good his prayer-answer vocabulary actually is. Answered prayer is no longer equated with a yes to our petitions. We begin to rest in our Father's multiple wise answers, like no, not yet, and yes, but not exactly as you are asking. The burden is off our shoulders. We can ask with abandon and trust with even greater abandon. Our Father is always doing all things well, even when he doesn't do all things easy. Our Father's no is sweeter than any yes we can imagine — or demand. We start giving more yeses to him rather than "needing" yeses from him.

Jack also made it abundantly

clear to me, "The more you fellowship with your Father, the more you will rejoice in his plan for the nations and live as his partner in world evangelism."

• Behold Jesus's Glory

The apostle Paul's words are as riveting as they are compelling: "We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Many centuries earlier, King David expressed a similar heart orientation and single passion — even making it his number-one prayer request: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord" (Psalm 27:4).

Prayer as contemplation of Jesus's glory reorients us away from prayer as consternation about getting results. Adoration of Jesus must not be relegated to the first letter of ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Adoration is the meaning and essence of each and every other aspect of life. Indeed, fixing our gaze on Jesus isn't a warm-up exercise to prayer; it is prayer.

As we marinate in the truth, goodness, and beauty of Jesus, we are changed — we become more like Jesus, which is the goal of our salvation (Romans 8:28-30; 1 John 3:1-3). Our hope is fueled, because we discover more fully what the Scriptures mean when they declare Jesus to be the emphatic Yes! to every promise God has made (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our praying becomes less about claiming God's promises and more about seeing how God's promises claim us — and all of history. We think less about becoming prayer warriors, and we rest in Jesus as the prayer-warrior extraordinaire — ever living to make intercession for us and in us by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:26).

Adoring Jesus also deepens our

intimacy with him and intensifies our longing to be with him in eternity — the better-by-far-ness Paul writes about in Philippians 1:23. It also fuels our courage to go with Jesus into a life of missional living and loving.

• Listen to the Spirit's Testimony

Lastly, thinking of prayer as listening to the Holy Spirit's testimony helps us include in our prayer times not only talking but hearing. In Romans 8, Paul highlights just how vital this aspect of our fellowship with God actually is: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs" (Romans 8:16-17). The Spirit is always preaching the gospel to us — nonstop, 24/7. As we linger over God's word, do we take time to listen?

In fact, it is by the Spirit's voice we most clearly hear God singing over us with great rejoicing (Zephaniah 3:17). How is this so? Because the Spirit is always making much of Jesus and is constantly applying his finished work to our hearts. As we experience the wonder of God's great delight in us, we move more fully into the true blessedness of the convicting voice of the Spirit, the voice that is now and forever void of any condemnation (Romans 8:1). Confession and repentance become a way of life and a liberating joy.

Unfortunately, too much of the time we allow other noises and voices to drown out the Spirit's voice. We tune the frequency of our hearts to our fears, disappointments, and anger. We indulge the whispers, shouts, and lies of the devil. We let the siren songs of our world and our lusts mute the peace-giving, joy-fueling, hope-enlarging testimony of the Spirit. Let's get still and know that our God is God (Psalm 46:10). He does all that he pleases, all the time and everywhere (Psalm 115:3). Hallelujah, it has pleased him to make us his beloved daughters and sons through the work of Jesus.

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