

Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Hurricane Ike hit 15 years ago

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Kirk Roccaforte was Bridge City mayor on September 13, 2008. He and his emergency team from the city were quartered with other county first responders and officials at Mauriceville Elementary School in the north part of the county waiting for Hurricane Ike to come ashore.



Kirk Roccaforte

Though the worse part of the storm hit Galveston as a Category 2 hurricane, no one here could have predicted what happened in Orange County. Ike was the "perfect storm" that sent a storm surge straight from the Gulf of Mexico up to Sabine Lake and into the rivers and bayous.

Roccaforte's hometown by dawn looked like it was part of the gulf, with whitecaps blowing on Texas Avenue. People were holding belongings in plastic garbage bags as they sat on their roofs where they had climbed to escape drowning in their houses.

Roccaforte, who is now Precinct 3 county commissioner, recalls that he first

learned about the devastation from State Senator Tommy Williams, who represented the county. The senator called him to say "We understand the city is wiped out." But the state leader assured him help was on the way as soon as possible.

However, rescue crews could not go anywhere in the dark with strong winds still blowing.

Roccaforte was in for a shocking view. However, he could compete with Orange Mayor Brown Claybar for the most shocking views. The southern part of Orange was flooded by the surge, which also came up

HURRICANE Page 3A

Youth coach sees player with vision problems

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Youth coaches should always be concerned about the well-being of the players on their team. No matter what the sport the men and women that coach kids are responsible for looking out for their players.

Sometimes the situation is more than just how well the young boy or girl throws or hits the ball. It can even be life changing for the youth involved in that relationship.

Such a situation occurred on August 20 of this year in the Orange Youth Baseball League. Coach Michael Searles of the Stags was working with a couple of his players fielding grounders including Barrett Williams.

During the fielding drill Coach Searles observed the 8-year old Barrett was fielding balls hit to his right no problem, but was not reacting to balls hit to his left. "I noticed that he favoring his right side more than anything and it seemed like he was scared to catch the ball on his left side," Searles recalled.

Barrett described, "I saw



Barrett Williams

two of everything. When I was standing in the field or batting my head started to hurt, and when I saw the ball I could barely see it because it's blurry."

The coach then did some more drills noticing a definite difficulty for Barrett with balls to his left and then covered Barrett's right eye to have him read some numbers which the young boy could not do. Coach Searles suggested to Barrett's mom Cryslynn Wolford that she have Barrett taken for an eye exam.

Barrett's mom was shocked to say the least. Wolford replied, "Coaches normally just go out there and care about baseball,

YOUTH COACH Page 2A



BCHS STUDENTS REMEMBER 9/11

Students from Bridge City High School paid tribute to their local first responders Monday on the 22nd anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks by taking snacks and drinks to the Bridge City Fire and Rescue Department and the Bridge City Police Department.

Sunday wildfire burns 417 acres, but no buildings lost

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

A Sunday afternoon wildfire that started in a wooded area off Gist Road quickly spread through the dry and dying leaves leading to homes being evacuated. No lives or buildings were lost.

By late Tuesday afternoon, the Texas Forest Service and Orange County Emergency Management reported the fire had burned 417 acres and was 75 percent contained. Jets and helicopters were used to dump water or fire retardants.

Still, earlier on Tuesday, a resident living across the street from where the wildfire had burned was found burning trash. The county has been under a burn ban for weeks as a record-high temperatures and a long



Gothia

drought have dried every bit of vegetation, leading to brown leaves on many trees.

County Emergency Management Director Joel Ardoin said sheriff's deputies are issuing tickets for violating the burn ban that can have a \$500 fine. He said even if rain comes later this week, it will not leave enough to stop the drought enough to lift the burn ban.

The cause of Sunday afternoon's fire has not been determined, but is being investigated. It came after a Friday afternoon thunderstorm across the county brought up to an inch of rain in some spots.

"It's a tinderbox ready to go up," County Judge John

Gothia said about the county. "It will take more than an afternoon shower to stop this."

At this time, the cause of Sunday's fire is unknown. The fire was reported about 1:40 p.m. on Gist Road on the Jasper County side, but it soon spread into Orange County. It is now being referred to as the FM 2802, or Texla Road fire.

People living Blankenship Road, Corrigan Road, Dixie Drive, Rebel Road, Shenandoah Drive, Shiloh Reade Road, Eaves Road, Cole Road, and east of FM 105 from Corrigan Drive to Texla Road were evacuated. They were allowed back early Monday morning.

Despite the scare and damage, local officials praised firefighters, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and especially the Texas Forest Service for com-

ing so quickly and working so hard. Deputies went door-to-door at residences telling people they should leave.

Sheriff's Captain Joey Jacobs used the office's drones to take aerial photographs and videos so fire crews could get to the worst spots and see where the fire was spreading. "The technology our sheriff's office has is phenomenal. That's the reason other counties are calling them up all the time," said Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator.

Ardoin showed some of Jacobs' drone films to Commissioners Court. One video had infrared heat imaging added. Ardoin showed the hottest places and how in an instant the fire jumped across a roadway.

Viator also praised local

WILDFIRES Page 3A

LSCO sets record number of degrees

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

Lamar State College Orange announced today that a record number of 763 degrees and certificates were awarded during the 2022-2023 academic year.

This represents a 20% increase in the number of degrees and certificates awarded from the 2021-2022 academic year. The previous record was set in the 2019-2020 academic year when a total of 665 degrees and certificates were conferred.

"I'm so proud of our students and their accomplishments here at LSCO,"



Dr. Johnson

President Tom Johnson said. "These figures represent an increasing number of lives that are being

changed. They represent proof that Orange County and our surrounding communities are filled with talented graduates who are well-prepared to enter the workforce or transfer to a university."

With 75% or more first-generation graduates completing their certificates and degrees over the

past several years, LSCO's record-breaking graduation numbers can be attributed to LSCO's relentless commitment to student success. From comprehensive academic support services to alternative methods of course delivery online, Lamar State College Orange has prioritized providing the support and resources necessary for students to excel academically.

"Our faculty and staff share so much of this accomplishment with our students and their families," said Dr. Wendy Elmore, Provost and Executive Vice President. "From

classroom lectures and late-night tutoring sessions to mentorships and collaborative projects, our faculty and staff have been instrumental in nurturing the academic growth and success of our students."

Lamar State College Orange takes immense pride in celebrating these record-breaking graduation numbers with the community. LSCO is empowering students and changing lives one Gator at a time. The Future is Bright Orange.

It's not too late to begin your journey at LSCO. The next fall session begins October 23



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Youth coach sees need From Page 1

and very seldom do you get a coach that actually shows concern of a kid's well-being. It touched my heart."

Prior to going to going to see the doctor Barrett had experienced some bad headaches and was feeling nauseous at times. There was also a blurring of vision in his left eye and he started to get dizzy.

The initial thought was the doctor would just say Barrett needs glasses and that would be that, but the doctor suggested MRIs and a spinal tap. "All of those big words made me scared, but I'm thankful that he

caught on to it because I'm his mom I'm around him every day and I thought the headaches were just from playing on his phone or being outside in the heat. I never would have thought it was anything serious," Wolfford indicated.

Barrett was taken to an eye doctor, had an MRI performed on him, before a pediatrician put the young boy on medication. Barrett had a bad reaction to the medication which resulted in his being admitted to the Texas Children's Hospital emergency room where he spent fourteen hours.

By the time Barrett got to the emergency room his right optic nerve had started to swell like the left one. Barrett was admitted to the hospital where an extensive MRI and a spinal tap were done.

During the spinal tap the pressure on Barrett's spine was very high. The doctors relieved the pressure and then noticed that Barrett had narrowing vessels from his brain leading to his eyes which caused the fluid not to flow properly putting all the pressure on his brain and his eyes.

"As of now, he is on medication. He'll be on it for thirty days, and then we will have to go do a follow up MRI and eye exams with Texas Children to make sure the medication is working. If it's not we'll have to take other measures," Wolfford responded.

Barrett's mom said he still has headaches which he ranks on a scale of one to ten. Sometimes the headaches are twos, sometimes they are eight according to his mother.

Wolfford added, "The medication has helped significantly. He does have to wear his glasses unless he's sleeping. The glasses have helped with the blurred vision and the medications are relieving the pressure on his spine and head. It has helped."

The medication and the glasses have worked wonders with Barrett. "I see a lot better. When I'm batting I see the ball and when I'm pitching I can see the ball," Barrett replied.

The Stags and Coach Searles held a team practice on Thursday, September 7, during which Barrett attended. "I did some lessons with him yesterday, and he actually was doing way bet-



Barrett Williams is hugged by his mother Cryslynn Wolfford and supported by his coach Michael Searles who have helped the 8-year old with a rare complication in his left eye. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

PICKING A PRESIDENT

Sen. Carl Parker
For The Record

If you didn't watch the recent debate of candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president, you should have. It is important to know their beliefs and some idea about how they might lead. An essential way to find the truth about those seeking office is to check what they promise and what they have done.

We heard the debaters' views on education, foreign policy, tax and spending, immigration and more. Some have a record while others only talk.

The quality of the leaders we choose will have a lot to do with our freedoms, income, safety, and democracy itself. Only a foolish person would buy a car without checking it out. Selection of our officeholders is far more important.

Changing parties after getting elected is bothersome to me! The party to which they subscribe is important. Most of them deny support for or agreement with folks like Trump or Paxton.



Former State Senator
Carl Parker

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

While their party switcher disappoints me, what bothers me more is the fact that these same friends do not speak out about unethical or illegal conduct of people like Paxton.

George Washington opposed having political parties; perhaps time has proven his wisdom. We could start with the election of judges without party identification.

No matter the party we choose, there is no reason not to look for ways to improve our electoral system.

ter catching the ball like he should. I think Barrett is going to be okay, and I'm just glad to have him back," Searles expressed.

The condition that has afflicted Barrett is very rare especially in young boys. Wolfford elaborated, "It is only point five to point nine percent for a child to have it. It is more commonly found in obese or older women. It is not deadly. We caught it time."

"The doctors, Barrett's dad, and I all feel like he'll be able to recover from this and go back to being a healthy happy eight-year old rambunctious boy. Barrett is tough like his mom and his Nene (grandmother)," Wolfford said in closing.

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Orange County sets tax rate for new budget year

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners Court approved a lower property tax rate compared to last year, but because of an overall increase in property values, taxpayers may be paying an average of 17 percent more in their county property taxes.

The court Tuesday approved the tax rate, along with a budget of \$59 million. The budget is for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which starts on October 1. The tax rate will go with the new budget, though the due date for property taxes to be paid is the end of January.

The new tax rate will be 52.2 cents per \$100 valuation, compared to the cur-



County Judge John Gothia said the court agreed to pay the deputies \$1.50 more in pay, so all other county employees will be getting the same amount.

The new budget will include a large purchase Gradall piece of heavy equipment that will cost \$500,000. Gothia said a couple of years ago, a new Gradall was \$350,000.

And the county will be needing that big piece of

separate Orange County Tax Appraisal District sets the valuations based on market figures and other values. That taxing system is set up by state law.

Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney thanked Commissioners Court for quickly ratifying a new contract with the deputies union.

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And the county will be needing that big piece of

road and ditch machinery. County Engineer Corey Oldbury reported the three Gradalls the county now owns are currently broken.

Gothia also pointed out that more than \$6 million of the budget is spent to operate the Orange County Jail. The costs include personnel, feeding the inmates and providing their prescription medications. The county buys the medicines annually through a bidding process.

He said the regular sheriff's office operations, including patrol, detectives, and office staff, are the next largest part of the county's budget.

The office of the Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector reported that 96.78 percent of the 2022-23

taxes have been paid. It is about the same percentage paid at the same time last year. This past month, the office had back taxes payments of about \$2.3 million, with about \$245,600 of that for the county. The office also collects property taxes for cities, school districts, and special districts.

The court also approved spending \$128,400 for the new walking track at Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor. The track will be paid for in three payments.

Earlier this year, the court voted to spend money on a park in each of the county's four precincts. The money is coming from fees paid by Chevron Phillips for building permits at the new petro-

chemical plant.

Last week, Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan announced the new kayak-canoe launch at Blue Bird Park along Little Cypress Bayou had been completed. It is one of the projects at the park off Simmons Drive in Orange.

Engineer Oldbury reported the East Roundbunch Swing Bridge across Cow Bayou had been opened and closed 65 times in August. In recent years, the swing bridge, which was installed used in 1960, has had mechanical problems leading to it having to be left open for long periods. When it is opened, a key travel road to the Chemical Row industrial plants is closed to land vehicles.

Wildfires burn From Page 1

citizens. He said people pulled up with livestock trailers to help transport horses and cattle that needed to be removed from the path of the fire.

"It was very impressive to see the team (of first responders) jump into action," County Judge Gothia said.

That team included the

Texas Forest Service, which has gathered standby crews and equipment from other parts of the state and across the country to be in this area because of the extreme fire dangers.

Gothia said 737 jets flew at tree-top level to drop fire retardants on lines of trees. He said 10 to 12

planes and a couple of helicopters were called in to help fight the spreading blaze. Forest Service bulldozers also came to clear areas and build up fire breaks.

Gothia said local crews worked hard, but the fire might not be under control without the Forest Service.

In August with the 40-acre Little Cypress wild-

fire, which came close to a subdivision, the Forest Service also sent equipment and crews. Little Cypress Fire Chief Matt Manshack also praised the service for helping stop the fire.

The 75 percent containment means the fire is not spreading that far. Crews remain at the acreage putting out hotspots. Ardoin said people may continue to smell the smoke for the next few days.

Hurricane Ike From Page 1

the Sabine River, along with Adams and Cow bayous.

At early dawn, Claybar was riding in a reconnaissance boat along what was Simmons Drive. Dozens of coffins were floating everywhere.

The strong surge had washed up the concrete lids of burial vaults at the historic Hollywood Cemetery. The coffins inside the vault floated around the area. The coffin of Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown had floated out, but it was later revealed he "never left the cemetery." His coffin had been stopped by a fence from traveling far.

Brown had died at the age of 81 in Orange on September 10, 2005, at a relative's house. The Grammy-winning singer-musician who was raised in Orange, had evacuated from his Slidell, Louisiana, home for Hurricane Katrina. His funeral was held at Hollywood Cemetery on September 17, a week before Hurricane Rita hit Orange.

Roccaforte remembers going out before daylight Saturday along Highway 62 to meet deputies from the Orange County Sheriff's Office and others at a convenience store at the intersection of 62 and Highway 87 by the Cow Bayou Bridge into Bridge City. He got into a giant truck, "its ties were about eight-feet tall," he said, and driving over the slope of the bridge. They got to the top and looked out.

"All you could see was water," he said.

They drove carefully through town toward city hall. Roccaforte passed his own house, flooded. Water was still in city hall, but had started receding. But water still covered much of the town. Rescues had started.

Other towns affected by the surge included the south part of West Orange, most of Orange south of Park Avenue, Rose City, and parts of Vidor. Industrial plants on Chemical Row, of FM 1006, were also under water.

People in Orange County had learned first-hand about hurricanes. They saw the August 2005 Hur-

ricane Katrina wipe out parts of Louisiana. They then housed, fed, and clothed the people who had escaped there. Then a couple of weeks later, Category 3 Hurricane Rita went straight through Orange County with winds strong enough to blow over tens of thousands of trees.

So when an evacuation was called for Hurricane Gustave in August 2008, people left, but the storm went out of the area. Two

weeks later, came an order to evacuate for Ike. More people than normal stayed for Ike because they were tired of another evacuation or they didn't have enough money for another evacuation.

One man in Bridge City who didn't leave tied a boat up to a big tree in his front yard in case of a flood. As the water rose, he went out to the boat and laid down to get out of the wind. The boat remained tethered, but the winds and waves jolted it so much the man was bruised all over his body.

A family in West Orange with a young child and a baby gathered diapers and baby food, tossed them on the upper bunk in the children's room, and climbed up the bunk before a boat rescued them.

Several people in the flooded areas recall climbing on top of their dining room tables in the middle of the night as the waters rose. Others climbed to the roofs of their houses. Some had to fight off snakes in the dark as the reptiles, too, were seeking high ground.

Happy Birthday!

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20 Years Ago-2003



From the Creaux's Nest

THE DAY IKE CAME CALLING

This week on Sept. 13, we mark the 15th anniversary since **Ike**, the hurricane, blew into **Orange County** and left the worse devastation on our community, since the storm of 1865, the year the Civil War ended, wiped out the city of Orange. The storm left only four homes standing. Today's recovery, especially to the community of **Bridge City**, seemed a far away dream of 15 years ago. Much has changed in **Bridge City** since that horrible storm. In so many cases the improvements have been for the better. The entire infrastructure is far better today. Blight areas are no more. Streets, sewer and water improvements have all been advanced. The vast improvements by the school district have given the students state-of-the-art school buildings second to none. Today many new buildings stand out across the county, all paid for, debt free. What changed the most in **Bridge City** is the makeup of its people. Many of my old friends have left, leery of facing more storms. Now young couples have come, like we all did many years ago. It's a new day for an old community. Better days are yet to come as a good community continues to grow with a new generation of citizens.

BETH WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED

Beth Rach, always a lady, her kindness, compassion and caring was her trademark. You wonder why someone so good, with so much love to give, would have to fight cancer so hard everyday, just to buy another day. She got her wish to see her grandchildren all doing well and shared quality time with her great-grandkids. Beth passed away September 10, 2023 at age 80. Memorial services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Visitation will be held Friday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Claybar. I was fortunate to have known Beth since she was a teenager. She was raised in a political family, her mother Pat, a registered nurse, was very involved in state politics as president of the Texas State Jaycees and other organizations. Her dad, G.L. "Red" Garrett, a longtime Orange City councilman, was also involved in state politics and was Orange County chairman for different statewide candidates. Beth herself was very active in several civic organizations. It was only natural that she would spend many years as district director for two state representatives, Ron Lewis, who she joined when he was still a Democrat from Newton. She stayed on when Mike Hamilton, a Republican, replaced Lewis. Until then, Beth had been a life long democrat. Beth was special, she fought the fight. Today she joins the loved ones who went before her. May this wonderful lady rest in peace. Condolences to her family. Please see obituary.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2013

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Grady Leverne Smith**, 58, who died Monday, Sept. 9. Services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. He was the brother of **Kenneth** and **John Smith** and son of the late **Snuffy** and **Rachel Smith** of Bridge City.**** A roast of everyone's friend, **Ross Smith**, is being held by the **Bridge City Chamber of Commerce** this Thursday, at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. **Ross** has done so much for our communities.****The **Orange Chamber** held a ribbon cutting at **Peggy's Off the Bayou** Tuesday.****Coastal mosquitoes from the salt marsh have invaded **Orange County**. The "Skeeters" hatched on a recent wave of high tides along the Gulf Coast and moved inland. ****A few folks we know celebrating their special day this week. Celebrating On Sept. 13, **Mark Dunn's** youngest daughter, **Jenna Ballou**, mother of his two grandchildren, **Nate** and **Delilah**, celebrates. (She has added two more since then, **Willow** and **Chase**.)**Also longtime friend **Fadra Thibeaux**, Abbeville native, mother of nine marks another year.***It is also the day **Hurricane Ike** visited the coast in 2008. ***Sept. 14 is a special day for a special lady. **Amber** and **Jenna's** mom, **Kerrie Dunn**, is one year older. (Sadly **Kerrie** passed away last year.)***Also celebrating is **Cathy Garretson**, who never met a stranger. Quite a gal. ***On Sept. 15, **Jon Berry**, **Ginger Ellis** and **Shonna Hunt** celebrate. ***Sept. 16 is the big day for **Phyllis Dunn**, "Ms. Phyl," the family monarch.***Sept. 17, **Darlene**, who keeps the **Montagne** ship upright, celebrates on this day. What a great lady.***Also marking a birthday is Bridge City native, school board member **Mark Anderson**. Happy birthday to all. ****Our longtime friend **Gary Lusignan** died Aug. 29 on his 62nd birthday. A celebration of **Gary's** life was held at **Larry's French Market** in Groves Thursday, Sept. 12. His mother **Gert**, dad **Lucky**, brother **Butch** all preceded him in death. ****Something to think about: Whatever became of water fountains, telephone booths and glass milk jugs?**** **Jivin' Gene** is to have knee replacement surgery Sept. 16 at St. Mary Hospital.

Two years have gone by since 9-11. **Jim Turner**, of Crocket, is our congressman.**** **Gertrude Dotson**, 93, still drives and enjoys life. At a recent **Pinehurst Labor Day picnic**, she said, "Honey, I get more hugs and kisses at these picnics than you can imagine. **Pete Runnels** gave me a big hug. He's the sweetest man. I also got a big hug from **Parker Thompson**, he's a mess."******Wayne Peveto**, attorney and former state representative, holds the annual dove hunt at his farm. **Wayne** was ill so son **Rex** hosted the outing. Lots of folks, lots of food, prepared by **James Claybar** and served with **Wayne's** famous beer biscuits.******Pretty Ms. Sharon Fults Gearheart** celebrated her 50th birthday Sept. 9. She doesn't look a day over 30.******Bridge City's Matt Bryant** kicked three field goals for the **New York Giants**. He scored 11 points in all. The **Giants** beat St. Louis by 10 points, 23-13. **Jason Mathews**, of Bridge City, is a lineman for the **Tennessee Titans**.****On Sept. 8, 1900, the great hurricane hit **Galveston** killing 6,000 people.****1974 Bridge City grad, **Tracie**, is a medical graduate. **Doctor Updike's** practice is in Port Arthur. (Editor's note: Over the years, B.C. High School has produced many grads who went on to become doctors.)****The **Record's "Players of the Week"** are **Kerry Franks**, WO-S; **Shon Landry**, LC-M; **Michael Gauthier**, BC; and **Thomas Hamrick**, OF. (Editor's note: **Gauthier** is the fastest athlete to ever attend Bridge City. He won state championships in track and starred for Lamar.)****A new 2003 Silverado EXT Cab pickup at **Harmon Chevrolet** will set you back \$20,749, that's with \$4,000 rebate.

50 Years Ago-1973

Thrift and Gift Shop opening held Sept. 1 at 207 Fifth St. in Orange. Gift items, made by senior citizens, will be on sale. Part of the store will be a thrift shop where people can buy clothing and items donated by **Orange Countians**. This store is a new idea and could become a very special place in our community. ****The West Orange **Chief's cheerleaders** are **Chris Doyle**, **Sherry Sullivan**, **Debbie Chapman**, **Christi Hall**, **Terri Mouton**, **Jan Robinson** and **Candi Campbell**.****Football season kicks off this week. Some of the star players to watch are senior **David Guidry**, #20, a track star who goes both ways for the **Cardinals**; Also teammate senior quarterback **Terry Bridgers**; **Little Cypress-Mauriceville** features #11, quarterback **Don McClain**, who is scheduled to start against Kelly Friday night. At **West Orange**, besides the **Duhon brothers**, senior tackle, 215 pound **Rex Andrews** is the pulling guard that coaches say is the most improved player. At **Bridge City**, **Randy Fults**, #73, 210 pounds, will be the only sophomore starting for the **Cards**. He replaces injured **Dave Smith** at defensive tackle. **Steve Culp**, #50, 190-pound senior, is the **Cards** starting center; next to him is pulling guard, #63, **Craig Turner**, 215-pounds, 6'2" senior. Big Red takes on Sulphur, in Louisiana, Friday night. B.C. **Coach Chief Wilson** held a seven-hour practice workout on Labor Day. **Hurricane Delia** was expected to bring winds and rain Tuesday, and it did, running the players indoors. **Coach Wilson** had guessed right by doubling Monday's practice time.******nez Runnels** is wearing a cast on both arms. Her accident has something to do with walking into a moving truck.******Dr. Joe Majors** claims he hasn't smoked in 14 months. He hadn't bought any cigarettes in five years. He only smoked what he could bum.******Glen Earl**, newsman on Channel 4, does a feature story on the grave markers found under the Orange Library. **Louis Dugas** wrote the story for the OVN.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Father Jim Sichko outdid himself with putting on the glitz for the **St. Mary Catholic School** fundraiser Saturday night and it was worth the effort. The event, with lots of top-notch auction items from **Father Jim's** worldwide donors helped raise \$149,000 for the local school, which will be marking its 100th anniversary next year. **Father Jim** grew up in Orange and is now a papal missionary of mercy based in Louisville, Kentucky. He brought the Kentucky flair for the event at the **Orange County Expo Center** with a Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" theme. He even brought in the derby's official bugler to start the gala. What hat hats, pastel colors, stripes, plaids and flowers were worn by the enthralled guests. And those were the men. **Stump Weatherford** had pink suspenders, pink bowtie and a straw fedora to go with wife, **Dayle's**, pink flowered dress and elaborate flowered hat. The men wore seersucker suits and straw hats, including a few with classic boaters. **Gary Stelly** and **Skipper Yeaman** wore different Hawaiian-style shirts featuring horses. Wives **Angie** and **Gina** were decked out in their flowered hats. **Peggy Claybar** looked smashing in fall colors and may have had the biggest hat. Son and daughter-in-law, **Constable Lannie** and **Melanie Claybar** were also looking glamorous. Others in the crowd included **Thereze Sichko**, sister of **Father Jim**; **Lucy** and **D.D. Terry**, **Gisela Houseman**, **Jesse** and **Tina Romero**, **Cindy** and **Ambrose Claybar**, **Trey** and **Amie Smith**, **Kim Jaynes**, **Jake** and **Lacey LeMoine**, **Tina Green**, and **Brittany Yu**. **Chef David Claybar** was also there, but wearing his Old Orange Cafe shirt because his restaurant was catering the event. **Stephanie Dø** is principal at the school and her gala committee included **Patricia Herman Broussard**, **Cathy Buker**, **Amberly Craft**, **Daphne Lee**, **Melissa McCorvy**, **Melissa Pousson**, and **Hong T Nguyen**. The **Bridge City Chamber of Commerce** and **Rotary Club of Bridge City-Orangefield** have sponsored the banners featuring the United States flag that you are seeing along Texas Avenue. It's a nice community touch.******Brothers Andre** and **Roderick Robertson** went on a weekend trip to Atlanta, Georgia, to get some golf in at the Otis Nixon Foundation tournament. Local singer-musician **Britt Godwin** will be featured this Saturday afternoon for the city of Orange's free Beats and Bites concert. It's going to be from 4 to 6 p.m. at Memorial Field off Memorial Drive. An ice cream truck will be set up for people to buy cold treats. Coolers and lawn chairs are encouraged, but like all city events, no dogs and no

pets.******Joel** and **Lori Ardoin** took off for Louisiana to see new grandson **Levi Ardoin**. Unfortunately, they got called home early because of the big Sunday wildfire. **Joel** is the county's emergency management director.******Jack** and **Juliet Smith** traveled to Alabama to see the **Longhorns** win and visit longtime friends. One fun fact says September has the most birthdays in the U.S. and with all our locals celebrating, it appears to be true. **Cindy Claybar** got more partying for her special day after the Run for the Roses gala. Orangefield ISD Trustee **Chris Kovatch** is firmly ensconced in middle age. Are his six kids aging him or making him younger? Retired law officers with birthdays included **Keith Merritt**, former OC sheriff, and **Frank "Shot" Coffin Jr. Coffin** was the Beaumont police chief but grew up in Orange and lived here many years. Others making another orbit around the sun were **Norma Harper**, **Justin Bufford**, **Craig Couvillion**, **Marcus Jefferson**, **Hollie Goss**, **Cheri Burch**, **Donna King**, **April Crim Goodman**, **Jason Toal**, **Harry Vine**, **Doug Rogers**, **Cookie Gunn**, **Ron McAnelly**, **Collins Ruth Brittain**, **Janet Leleux**, **Shaun Mayfield**, **Terri Childs**, **Becky Nation**, **Beverly Hanes**, and little redhead **Mac Gravett**.****Writer **Ginger Broomes** and her husband, **Coy Broomes**, marked their sixth anniversary. They wed a few days after Hurricane Harvey flooded the county. ****This week, Sept. 10, in 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the **University of Mississippi** to admit **James Meredith**, a black student. The following year, in 1963, 20 black students entered **Alabama** public schools following a stand-off between Federal authorities and **Gov. George Wallace**. I remember both incidents quite well.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Sept. 13:** Very special birthday wishes to **Fadra Thibeaux** and **Jenna Ballou**. Also celebrating on this day are **Kade Hanks**, **Margaret Jeffcote**, **Nina Dilbert** and **Connie Swope**. Happy Anniversary to **Barbara** and **Tommy Harmon**.******Sept. 14:** **Gene Elkins**, **Justin Granger**, **Kim Norris**, **Nikki Wingate**, **Pamela Vaught**, **Pat Tilley**, **Randy Jones**, **Greg Choate**, and **Janis Leyendecker**.******Sept. 15:** Happy Birthday to a special lady **Ethel Dunn**. Celebrating also are **Brenda's** better half **Bubba Lund**, **Jon Berry**, **Shonna Hunt** and our longtime friend **Kathy Garrison**.******Sept. 16:** Celebrating today are **Phyllis Dunn**, **Stephanie Morris**, **Todd Estes**, **Mark Conner**, **O'Shanique Foster** and **Landin New Mel** and **Joey Campbell** are celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.******Sept. 17:** Happy Birthday to **Mark Anderson**, **Lynda Stout** and **Chase Burch**.******Sept. 18:** Today **Fadra's** little boy **Gaylan Thibeaux** turns 67, also **Ben Ludwig**. **Debra Gauthier**, **Joey Tutt** and **Joy Evans** are a year older.******Sept. 19:** **Kara Killman**, **Mark Milligan**, **Mike Zenos**, **Sue Plagens**, **George Navarro** and **Leslie Sarks** are a year older today. (To publish birthdays or anniversaries free of charge call 409-886-7183 or email therecordlive.com)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Two womens were sitting next to each utta at da bar at **Tee-Boy's Bar and Grill**. After a while one look at da utta one and say, "I can't help but tink from listening to you dat you are a Cajun you."

Da utta woman responds, "I sure am me."

Da first woman say, "Me too."

Da utta woman say, "I'm from Breaux Bridge me."

Da first woman say, "So am I, wat street did you live on?"

Da utta woman answer. "On Canal Street, next to the levy."

Da first woman say, "Wat a small world, me too. Wat school did you go to hanh?"

Da utta woman say, "St. Mary's, I graduated in 1982."

Excited, da first woman say, "Da good Lord must be smiling down on us, I graduated from St. Mary too in 1982."

About dat time **Sostan** walk in and sit down at da bar and order a beer.

Tee-Boy brings it, shaking his head he tells **Sostan**, "It's going to be a long night."

"Why you say dat?" axe **Sostan**.

"Well," says **Tee-Boy**, "Da Badaux twins from Breaux Bridge are drunk again."

C'EST TOUT

22 Years Later-The Aftermath of 9-11

We've come on two dozen years since the 911 terror attacks. A month later, in Oct. 2001, the **United States invaded Afghanistan**. Nine out of ten Americans supported the invasion and war. The longest war in U.S. history is now the most unpopular American war ever. Through the 22 years of 9-11 we are reminded, for better or worse, why we fight. If you're one of the Americans who waver, all you have to do is watch the video of men and women jumping from the 100th floor of the **World Trade Center**. Think about the choice they had to make, stay and burn or fall 1,000 feet to their death. Since then **President Obama** ordered the killing of **Bin Laden** and was successful. Do you recall where you were on that dreadful day, 9-11? **** **Hearts can't wait**. I've been a longtime patient of **Dr. Morbia**, at **Gulf Coast Cardiology**. A few years ago he told me he gave his cell phone number to all his patients. I said, "That must be a gimmick." Boy did he get mad, but we've made up. Last week, on two occasions, I made night calls to his cell. Like he said, he always answers on the first ring and he did. The next morning at 5:30 a.m. he was at his office to perform surgery at 6:00 a.m. I waited until I figured he was finished and called him. He answered on the first ring. He's the only doctor I know you can reach at anytime. He says heart patients should be able to reach their cardiologist day or night. The **Cardiology Group** has four doctors, all specialist; all from four different regions. Read their ad in this paper. Many folks from Orange County use one of these doctors. When you go you will see someone you know.****Thanks for your time. **Take care and God bless**.

Deaths & Memorials

Beth Rach, 80, Orange

Beth Rach, 80, of Orange, Texas, passed away on September 10, 2023, at her home with family by her side.

Memorial services will be held at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, September 16, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Pastor David Garrison.



Beth Rach

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday September 15, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Northern Louisiana, on January 4, 1943, she was the daughter of Red and Pat Garrett. Beth was a very outgoing woman that made everyone that she came in contact with feel loved and appreciated. She was very active in her community where she was a member of the Orange County Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Orangefield PTA, American Cancer Society, and an Athena Award Recipient. She started her career at KOGT and later moved on to be the District Director for the Orange County District 19 State Representatives Ron Lewis and Mike Hamilton for a total of 27 years. Above all, Beth was a mother and a Granny. She devoted herself to her family. She was always there in person, no matter what the event, cheering her family on and often with her special brown sugar cookies. She leaves a legacy of strong faith, strong will, strong traditions, treasured recipes, giving hearts, and positive attitude of making the best of every day. She will be dearly missed

by all who knew and loved her. In the words of Beth, "Everything's chicken but the gravy."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Red and Pat Garrett; and her brothers, Dalton Murphy and Jack Garrett.

She is survived by her children, Gerald Rach and wife Dona, Susie LeBlanc, Sally Rach and Andy Hathaway; her grandchildren, Craig Cormier, Jared Hutchison and wife Sarai, Kevin LeBlanc and wife Cassidy, Catie Swanson and husband Johnathan, and Lane Rach; her great-grandchildren, Colton Hutchison, Levi Hutchison, and Everly LeBlanc; her siblings, Mike Garrett and wife Sandra, sister-in-law, Toshi Garrett; Linda Quinley, and Monnette Remedies and husband Johnt; and numerous other loving family members.

Honorary pallbearers are Gerald Rach, Catie Swanson, Craig Cormier, Jared Hutchison, Colton Hutchison, Levi Hutchison, Kevin LeBlanc, Lane Rach, Andy Hathaway, and Johnathan Swanson.

Beth's family would like to extend a special thank you to the Memorial Hermann Infusion staff and Chaplain, Sherrie Ross from Baptist Home Health, Southeast Texas Hospice, as well as her beloved friends Annette Deal and Ron Sigler. She lovingly referred to those listed above as her "Earth Angels" and they all helped to extend the time her family had with her with their compassion, love, and care.

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

BCCC Announces Student Awards



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the September Student of the Month for Bridge City is Elizabeth Bunch. Elizabeth is ranked 1 of 211 with a GPA of 4.86.

Pictured are: Erin Bunch, Mark Bunch, Elizabeth Bunch, Dr. Amanda James, Alisa Huckaby and Mistie Carpenter.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the September Student of the Month for Orangefield is Kaitlyn Jenkins. Kaitlyn is ranked 1 of 116 with a GPA of 4.89.

Pictured are: Burel Smith, Shirley Smith, John Jenkins, Kaitlyn Jenkins, Nicole Jenkins, Shaun McAlpin, Britni Briggs, Rea Wrinkle and Chelsea Skinner.



The Orangefield High School FCCLA named its officers for the 2023-2024 school year. They are as follows; President-Maddie Wernig; Vice President-Greenlea Oldham; Secretary-Phuong Tsan; Historian- Lanie Rush; Public Relations- Gracie Luker; Membership Chair- Ruthie Landry and Event Chair- Madison KC.

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Echocardiography
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Specialized in
Interventional Cardiology



Dia A. Abochamh, M.D.
Board Certified in
Cardiovascular Medicine,
Specialized in
Interventional Cardiology
& Electrophysiology



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 - Angiojet
 - Non-Invasive Cardiology
 - Echocardiography
 - TEE (Transesophageal Echocardiogram)
 - 24-Holter Monitoring
 - Stress Testing and Stress Echocardiography
 - Peripheral Vascular Interventions and Stents, Renal, Iliac, Femoral, Popliteal, Mesenteries, Subclavian
 - Pacemaker Implantation & Services
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 - Tilt Table Testing
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Music
Silent Auction
Baked Goods

Brit Godwin
Blake Sticker
Tim Burge
Jivin' Gene
Scott McGill

Pete and Lori Lista lost their home and its contents to a fire in the early hours of August 8th.

Among the contents were family keepsakes dating back 200 years. Orchids, collected and cultivated over many years were also lost. Music fans for over four decades...souvenirs also now turned into ashes.

You can help make a difference. How? By attending the event, by making a donation there, donating to their GoFundMe account, by donating auction items or bringing baked goods to sell at the event. Silent Auction Contact: Tina Sattler on Facebook Messenger

Madison's on Dowlen
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Scan for Facebook Event Details

Scan for GoFundMe Link

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: OCEAN DWELLERS

ACROSS

- Kind of wrap
- Pose a question
- Be sore
- Ottoman title
- Ornamental pond-dweller
- Florida Key, □□□
- Mr. T and friends
- Knot-tying vow (2 words)
- Milan's La _____
- *Walrus' cousin (2 words)
- *Crustacean "on the barbie"
- Finish line
- Creole vegetable
- He had
- Gives a helping hand
- Tranquil
- Frosts, as in cake
- Bear, in Latin
- All the words in a language
- "By _____, I think she's got it!"
- Silver to Lone Ranger
- Chows down
- Mark Twain to Samuel Langhorne Clemens
- Toupee spot
- Pestilence pest
- Singer Eilish
- Rub the wrong way
- Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no _____"
- *A type of whale or the color of many dolphins
- Overnight lodging
- *Inspiration for a certain pineapple dweller

DOWN

- R&R destinations
- Angie Thomas' "The _____ U Give"
- Seaward
- *Cetology object of study
- Thin layer
- *Like green sea turtle and loggerhead sea turtle
- Grass "carpet"
- Newsstand, e.g.
- Fungal spore sacs
- *Edible bivalve
- S.O.S.
- Pilot's estimate, acr.
- Netanyahu's country
- Abomination
- 9 to 5, e.g.
- Bone burial
- Muslim woman's headscarf
- Cause for food recall
- a.k.a. Lucifer
- Between stop and roll
- *Coral polyps' structure
- Raise one's rank
- Potassium nitrate
- Student's re

ple dweller

- *Inspiration for Marvel's Doc Ock
- South American juice flavor
- Bearded ante-lope
- All thumbs
- Pineda of Journey
- Stomach pain-causing acronym
- Hundred, in Italian
- Hammer part
- Not stood
- Bar, legally

CROSSWORD

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38. Hostile to
42. Opposite of ecbat
45. Smoke, sometimes
49. Energy unit
51. Attract
54. Front of cuirass
56. Religiously unaffiliated, pl.
57. Confident answer
58. Glazier's unit
59. Baker's baker
60. Give a boot
61. Closely confined

62. Plotting
63. "____ In the Name of Love"
64. Year off in school
66. Giannis' league

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• WEDDINGS •
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WOS Mustangs take on Newton Eagles Friday

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

West Orange-Stark lost a tough overtime decision last week to a larger school. This Friday night the Mustangs renew their rivalry with another top team in this area from a lower classification.

The Mustangs went to Port Neches-Groves and actually led the Indians until a late touchdown tied the game forcing overtime. The bigger PNG had more players rested through the game than West Orange-Stark who used several two-way players thus were more tired going into the overtime won by the Indians 26-20 to hand the Mustangs their first loss of the season.

WOS Head Coach Hiawatha Hickman recognized the hard work by the



Nicholas Crosson of the Mustangs had a good game catching passes against Port Neches-Groves.
RECORD PHOTO

Mustangs. "We matched their intensity pretty much the whole game. I thought we played very well on offense. The offensive line played well, those guys inside faced a really stout defense that doesn't give up a lot of points, and we were able to manage 20 on them," Hickman said.

Several individual Mus-

tangs were recognized by the coach. Quarterback Marcus Turner ran for over a hundred yards and threw for over a hundred to help carry the Mustangs on offense.

Tahj Amerson had another good night that included a 69-yard touchdown run. Nicholas Crosson had several big catches in the game.

Hickman compared the WOS defense like a prize

MUSTANGS Page 3B

LCM Bears collide with Kincaid on Thursday

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears started a five-game home stand last week with a thrilling victory. This week the Bears play a strong private school from the city of Houston.

The rivalry between LCM and Bridge City is an intense one, and last Friday was one of the best games in that series. The Bears and the Cardinals exchanged the lead four times in the fourth quarter with the home town Bears holding on for a 30-23 win.

Little Cypress Mauriceville earned their nickname the Battlin' Bears according to their coach Eric Peevey. "For a young team to get down late in the game like that a lot of kids would have hung their head, but the Bears came back. It was just one of those games where I felt like we played well with over four hundred yards of offense and defensively we held Bridge City under a hundred yards total offense until the last big throw they made. We played a great game, but we played very sloppy

LCM BEARS Page 5B

Bridge City hooks-up with Lumberton

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Bridge City suffered its first loss of the season in an exciting game. The Cardinals finish their non-district schedule this week at home.

Bridge City could have definitely earned the nickname of the Cardiac Cards after their game with the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears last Friday. The Cardinals scored two fourth quarter touchdowns to come from behind and take the lead twice in the contest only to surrender a late score which gave the Bears a 30-23 win in one of the most exciting meetings between the two schools.

Cardinal Coach Chad Landry thought the atmosphere for this rivalry game was everything it should be. "Our commu-



Victor Ortiz had a great game blocking for Bridge City against LCM.
RECORD PHOTO

nity traveled well. The stands on our side were packed full of red, it was awesome to experience. Four lead changes in the fourth quarter, what a ball game. That was one of the more exciting ball games I've been involved in a long time," Landry remembered.

BRIDGE CITY Page 2B

Orangefield to battle with Woodville

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Orangefield made a turnaround from its earlier football fortunes gaining its first win of the season. This week the Bobcats must avoid turnovers to win their second straight game.

The Bobcats traveled to Shepherd last week where they took an early lead. The game began like it was going to be a Bobcat blowout as they took a quick two score lead with an opening touchdown drive followed by a scoop and score by the Orangefield defense.

Shepherd rallied to tie the game 21-21 before the fourth quarter. Orangefield closed strong scoring two touchdowns to gain the 35-21 victory.

Coach Josh Smalley of Orangefield was happy with the first Bobcat triumph of the year. "We tell our kids it's hard to get a win every Friday night in



Lane Gipson led Orangefield in tackles and returned a fumble for a touchdown in the Bobcats' win over Shepherd.
RECORD PHOTO

high school football in the state of Texas, so any time you get one it's a nice thing. It was good to get a win, Smalley expressed."

Smalley praised, "I told our kids after the game when the Pirates tied the game at 21-all we had a chance to either fold and do the woe is me or we can bow our neck stiffen up and compete. The Bobcat

ORANGEFIELD 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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 90 degrees. Limits of speckled trout are in the gulf on the rigs off the beach. Catches of trout in Sabine Lake making long drifts over shell reefs with five inch plastics 1/8 ounce jighead in watermelon red flake or glo chartreuse. Flounder and redfish are along the bank off points and drops using 4-5 inch plastic tipped with shrimp.

Trout are good off the North Levy first and second pike with live shrimp under a popping cork, crankbaits, or 1/8 ounce jigheads with five inch plastics. Neches River holding slot redfish on shell reefs, rock piles and points in 4-15 feet of water with live shrimp under a popping cork or Carolina rigged mullet.

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



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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 87 degrees. The surf is holding lots of black drum, shark, and some big redfish on cut bait or live bait on the bottom. The gulf side of the North Jetty is holding limits of trout, redfish, sheepshead, jack crevalle against the rocks with live bait and artificials. Jack crevalle are running in the surf biting big spoons or big deer hair jigs. The cuts leading in the bay from ICW holding fish against the shorelines. Lots of black drum around Goat Island.

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

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Redfish numbers are increasing along the east shoreline of the bay. Scattered catches of trout over deeper shell and gas wells in the open bay. Bull redfish are starting school in better numbers in open water, looking for birds. Northwest corner of the bay good for black drum and slot redfish along structure near the ship channel.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 85 degrees. Anglers are finding speckled trout on the reefs in the back of the bay. Scattered action on trout under working birds. Flounder

catches are picking up along the south shoreline bayous and drains. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter.

Surface water temperatures 85 degrees, water clarity good. The morning winds have given anglers a break the last few days, starting out from the Northeast at less than 8 mph providing the opportunity to fish pretty much anywhere increasing catching rates of trout and redfish. Off the shore reefs have worked best for us, resulting in good catches when you find active bait in the area. Shorelines near deep water are producing catches of redfish. Shrimp imitation lures under popping corks with an 18 inch leader have still been producing the most bites for our anglers, and the Deadly Dudley, Slammin Sammy Chartreuse Tail Bay Chovey has worked well with 1/8 ounce jig heads fished without a popping cork at various depths. Please remember to drink plenty of water and utilize plenty of sunscreen, as we are still in the time of year when it gets extremely hot on the water, and it is critical you stay hydrated and do not get overheated or sunburned, as after 10 A.M., you really begin to feel the effects. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

The cuts that come through the Intracoastal waterway, Siever's and Stingarees, are holding fish against the shorelines coming into the bay, using

live shrimp with a popping cork on a 12-16 inch leader. Hanna's Reef, Potluck Reef, Fat Pat's all holding fish early. Keep a watch on the birds and the restless bait. The big Poppa Pure Pearl DSL working early.

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

• Galveston Bay

FAIR. 87 degrees. Gas wells continue to hold speckled trout, but many are undersized. Redfish are starting to show in better numbers along shoreline structure. Black drum are plentiful along rocks lining the ship channel. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Redfish Island holding some nice trout drifting the inside with croaker or strawberry with white artificials. The A-1 gas wells off the ship channel near Brothel Island are holding some nice trout with a chatterweight and croaker. Redfish at rocks by Brothel Island on popping cork with shrimp or gulf shrimp. The speckled trout are on croaker and artificial. The end of the South Jetty is holding big redfish with a few nice slots, and nice sharks. The gulf side of the jetty is on fire for catches of speckled trout, sheepshead, pompano and redfish close to rocks using live shrimp under a popping cork or freelined, Carolina rigged float with shrimp, or chatterweight and croaker.

The surf is also on fire again for speckled trout, and redfish.

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

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 89 degrees. Waders picking up good numbers of solid trout and redfish on live croaker. Anglers drifting croaker over deep shells are catching decent numbers of speckled trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The south shore is holding a lot of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers, or drift fishing around the coves and grass lines from Waterman's to Bay Harbor using a chatterweight with a 12 inch fluorocarbon leader 3/0 hook.

Both sides of Bird Island are holding fish, and the flats continue to hold good numbers of speckled trout and redfish for wade anglers. North shorelines between Carancahua Reef and Confederate Reef holding good trout and redfish with an occasional flounder drifting. Drift the four poles between Carancahua and Confederate Reef's start at the poles, and drift toward the island or from the island and drift towards the poles with chatterweight and croaker or popping cork with shrimp.

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

• Texas City

FAIR. 88 degrees. Catches of bull redfish are fair at the Texas City Dike at night. Seeing numbers of bull redfish along with a few big black drum at the Galveston jetties. Anglers throwing shrimp tight to the rocks are catching speckled trout, slot redfish, and keeper size black drum. Sharks are still in fair numbers nearshore.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

The rock shoals in front of Swan Lake are producing some catches of black drum and speckled trout.

Bridge City From Page 1B

The Bridge City defensive secondary was tested but played well overall according to Landry. Offensively the Cardinals scored points in chunks lead by a big night from wide receiver Gavin Bodin with three catches for 55 yards and two touchdowns.

Quarterback Hutch Bearden had another good night doing what he could. Bearden scrambled several times for good yardage while also making big time passes when the Cardinals needed them.

Often time unsung heroes are in the offensive line. Landry complimented Victor Ortiz in the O-line with the Cardinals for his good job of blocking against a very strong LCM defensive line.

Landry added, "It was tough. LCM is a good team. They stymied us for a while we couldn't run the ball very well, but overall I just thought our kids played extremely hard. I was proud of our effort and how we competed for four quarters. That was a full forty-eight. It was tough. Once we got back to the fieldhouse we were exhausted, coaching staff included. We left it all out on the field. We're getting close to being a pretty good football team. I think that we've bought in on everything we need to do off the field accountability wise and that's showing up on Friday nights."

The defensive play of the game for Bridge City was a pick six turned in by Rayburn Hebert who has really taken to his new position as an outside linebacker. "We feel he attacks extremely well on the line of scrimmage, and he always seems to be in the right spot at the right time. Rayburn's not afraid of anything, he's tough as nails, and he gets everything out of his frame," Landry praised.

Bridge City plays at home this week against the Lumberton Raiders a district opponent of the LCM Bears. Lumberton was 11-2 last season reaching the regional finals and returns several starters from that excellent team.

The Raiders look to spread you out from sideline to sideline when they are on offense. They do a lot of checks to see what opponent's defenses line up in and then will make the play call from the sideline.

The Lumberton Spread will have three wide receivers to one side or two to both sides of the formation to throw the ball. That will often setup running plays for the Raiders inside as well.

Quarterback Lucas Powell had a sensational year for Lumberton throwing for 3,195 yards and 43 touchdowns in 2022. Powell also ran for 9 scores and 544 yards.

Powell will spread his passes around, but his primary target is senior Trey Kersh. Last season Kersh caught passes totaling 991 yards good for 11 touchdowns. Ty Reyes is also dangerous at wide receiver.

When the Raiders want to run they have a bowling ball of a back in Jaddon Ward to blast through holes. Ward rushed for 1,491 yards and 12 touchdowns with Lumberton in the previous campaign.

Landry stated, "The Raiders have some weapons back. They love to chunk it. We're going to have to play almost perfectly on defense to have a chance. We're going to have to take away one of their tools either the pass or the run to force them into obvious situations. I feel like up front we're still pretty good defensive line wise, so maybe control the run game which means the secondary will have their hands full, and we're going to need their best effort from the secondary on Friday night."

There are some big bodies lining up on defense for Lumberton. A couple of the Raiders are already committed to play college football, they fly around on defense, and play extremely hard.

In the defensive line for the Raiders is Brock Jackson who is a big time player at defensive end. Joining Jackson in the front line is Grayden Spencer at the other defensive end.

Linebacker Easton Stapleton is a standout in the middle for Lumberton. The defensive secondary is

BC CARDINALS Page 3B

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LCM Bears rally to defeat BC Cardinals

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

It took a big play by the special team for the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears to pull out a thrilling win over their cross-county rival the Bridge City Cardinals. The Bears scored with less than two minutes to play to beat the Cardinals 30-23 at Battlin' Bear Stadium on Friday night.

The victory improves LCM's record to 2-1 on the season. Bridge City suf-

fered its first loss to drop to 2-1 on the year.

The contest was exciting throughout with Little Cypress Mauriceville taking an early lead before Bridge City made a dramatic comeback to grab the advantage. The Bears made the final spectacular play with a long kickoff return that setup the winning touchdown.

The Cardinals received the opening kickoff and after a short drive punted to the Bears who started inside their ten yard line. Little Cypress Mauriceville

executed a fifteen play drive that got the Bears on the board first.

J'Lynn Morris of the Bears gained 42 yards on their third play from scrimmage for a first down at the Bridge City 45. A holding penalty moved the Bears back to midfield before quarterback Dylan Payne hit Khayden Reed with a 12-yard pass to the 38.

Jonah Fuller gained a first down with a six-yard run. Another first was picked up on a short run by Morris.



LCM's Jackson Smith returned a kickoff 70 yards in the closing minutes of the game to setup the winning touchdown for the Bears against Bridge City.

A procedure penalty on LCM was overcome by a ten-yard run by Payne and his ten-yard pass completion to Reed at the Cardinal seven. A procedure penalty was called on the Bears which led to a 27-yard field goal attempt which Nick Smith booted through the uprights for a 3-0 Bear lead with 2:17 left in the first quarter.

The Cardinals answered with their own eleven play drive to tie the game. Cardinal quarterback Hutch Bearden ran for one first down and threw to Gavin

Bodin for a second moving the ball to the LCM 45.

The next play appeared to be an interception for the Bears, but two flags were thrown on Little Cypress Mauriceville. Pass interference was called so no interception and roughing the passer was also ruled resulting in a first down for the Cardinals all the way to the Bears' 15.

Bridge City got inside the ten before the drive stalled. Victor Hernandez

LCM RALLY Page 5B

District volleyball action is underway

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

District volleyball action began the first week of September for three of the four local high schools in Orange County. Bridge City, Little Cypress Mauriceville, and West Orange-Stark will compete in District 19-4A while Orangefield will play in District 22-3A.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals opened the district on Tuesday, September 5, with a sweep at Silsbee. The Lady Cardinals won the first set over Silsbee 25-19 and matched that same score in the second set. Bridge City closed the match with a 25-9 decision in the third set.

The leader in kills for

the Lady Cardinals with 22 was Demi Carter. Makenna Knight added 7 kills and made 15 digs. Setter Cambree LaComb made 28 assists for Bridge City. The back row of the Lady Cardinals were busy as Lexi Nugier had 12 digs, Kaylee Britten saved 9 digs, and Natalie Chavez chipped in with 7 digs.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears played their first game in district on Tuesday, September 12. The contest was in Bridge City.

The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs fell at home to Vidor in their district opener. The Lady Pirates swept the three sets 25-8 25-10 25-10. The Lady Mustangs played at Lumberton on Tuesday earlier this week.



Kaylee Britten of Bridge City made 9 digs in the Lady Cardinals win over Silsbee to open the district schedule.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats started district action at Kirbyville on Friday, September 8. The Lady Bobcats came away with a sweep 25-10 25-20 and won a thrilling third set 30-28 to claim the vic-



Kaitlyn Jenkins of the Lady Bobcats served 3 aces and made 6 kills as Orangefield swept Kirbyville to open district.

tory.

Leaders for the Lady Bobcats were Brianna Moore with 4 aces and Kaitlyn Jenkins who served 3 aces. Lela Francis

was the leader in blocks with two. Greenlea Oldham was tops with 9 kills followed by Jenkins with 6 and Francis with 4 kills. Hannah Block made 20

digs to lead Orangefield in that statistics while Addi Moore made 11 and Eliese Gravett had 7 digs. Setter Brianna Moore led with 27 assists in the three sets.

Sandwiched around their district game with Kirbyville the Lady Bobcats also played in the YMBL Tournament in Beaumont on Thursday and Saturday. Orangefield defeated Kirbyville and Kountze, lost to Vidor, and then defeated Hampshire-Fannett to take Third Place overall in the tournament.

The Lady Bobcats resumed their district schedule on Tuesday, September 12, at Warren. A big district game will be this Friday in Orangefield against East Chambers.

BC Cardinals From Page 2B

led by Carter Wilson.

Bridge City will face another tough opponent this week, but that does not scare Coach Landry or his Cardinals. "I think it falls back on us if we can give Hutch some time back there I like our chances. Our offense is getting better, and each week I feel like they're grasping more

of the system. We have a huge test against more big physical players with the Raiders. We're going to work all week to get ready, but we like where we're at right now.

"It's so fun to come to work when everybody's bought in, and that's from the coaches, to the players, to the athletic train-

ers, to our administration, and that has fed into our players. It's just been a lot of fun to watch," Landry concluded.

The Bridge City Cardinals will host the Lumberton Raiders on Friday. The kickoff for the game is scheduled for 7:30 PM at Larry Ward Stadium.

WOS Mustangs From Page 1B

fighter battling a bigger opponent. Hickman stated, "I think we held our own. You look over at the Indians and they're twice as big as us. In the last part of the fourth quarter I thought their size kind of got the best of us. They leaned on us a little bit and broke a couple of runs near the end. I was very proud of my kids and the way my kids went out and executed the great game plan that kept us in the contest right to the end. I was just real proud of the Mustangs, I thought we gave a great effort."

This is Week 4 of the season for most teams including the Mustangs. This week's opponent will be the Newton Eagles who because of various circumstances have only played one game which the Eagles won 44-39 over Woodville.

Newton has a tradition rich program like West Orange-Stark. The Eagles play hard and are very athletic.

On offense the Eagles line up in a standard Slot-T or Wing-T formation, but this season they will get into a lot more of a Spread formation than they have in the past. They will show two receivers split to both sides or three to one side and another to the other side of the field. "I think it's just to get their guys in space," Hickman analyzed.

The best Eagle on offense is senior Railyn Ad-

ams at wide receiver or at running back. Adams is all over the field making a lot of spectacular plays accounting for 18 touchdowns last season.

Splitting time at running back with Adams is senior Madre Spikes. The Newton quarterback KJ Porter is only a freshman and is very athletic. Hieko Malone at wide receiver is another target for passes from Porter, or Malone will also line up as the quarterback.

Hickman observed, "They've got athletes that play all over the place. Those three or four guys are their bread and butter. The Eagles will get in an unbalanced formation on one play then in the Spread on the next snap."

"Because they have only played one game we don't have a lot of film on Newton. We know what they run, they know what we run. We've played each other for several years in a row. This is going to be another tough opponent for us this week," Hickman added.

Newton has based out of their Diamond 7 defense for years. The Eagles will line up in man coverage across the board in the secondary and bring players off the edge in blitzes.

Like the Mustangs, Newton plays many of their players on both sides of the football. As a result the Eagles will shift into various zone coverages to give their two-way players

in the secondary a bit of a break.

Railyn Adams is a star for Newton on defense as well. Adams made a hundred tackles last year and picked off 8 passes.

Middle linebacker Braylen Watson a sophomore is also a top Eagle on defense. Ethan Hutson at defensive end is another defensive standout for Newton. Jalen Couch is a key Eagle in the secondary.

Running the ball will be an important key for the Mustangs to help open up the passing game to secure a victory. "This may be one game where we have a little advantage when it comes to size. Our offensive line is not small so we may have some advantage there."

"I think we can run the ball and take some shots on them. We want to take advantage of our size and our depth that we have. Defensively, we just have to be sound because they really pose a lot of problems when they line up in the Slot-T and then in the Spread the next play."

"It will be a lot of formation recognition this week trying to get prepared for the things that they do. It'll be a good challenge for us this week," Hickman concluded.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs and the Newton Eagles play Friday night in Dan R. Hooks Stadium. The kickoff will be at seven.



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The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded Orangefield Elementary \$3000.00 to purchase literacy curriculum. We are very grateful for Dollar General's support and contribution to our students' education. Pictured: Julie Fuller, Orangefield Elementary Principal and Sunshine Copeland, Orangefield ISD District Librarian/Grant Writer.

Teal hunters open up the season with mixed results

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

Saturday morning's early teal season opener began with plenty of odds stacked against most hunters in our area but that fact did not dampen the enthusiasm associated with the opportunity to shoot ducks. Some local hunters along the coast actually began to camp out at some of the local public hunting areas on Thursday in hopes of ensuring a prized location for Saturday morning. I must admit, even though I love to hunt teal that I am not mad enough at them to sleep on the road 2 days before a hunt. Regardless of how you got there Saturday morning it was nice to be back in the field with a shotgun in your hand and the opportunity to

hunt ducks. The best way to describe the opening weekend for Texas hunters would be comparing it to a Joe Biden press conference because it was confusing and left plenty of folks scratching their heads while wondering what just happened. Going into the opening weekend there were 2 very distinct groups of hunters, the ones who would have water and those who would not. The hunters fortunate enough to be overlooking a fresh cut tract of rice on Saturday morning could certainly smile through the dense populations of mosquitoes and hot temperatures because there were plenty of teal to take your mind off the buzzing and the sweat dripping from your forehead. If you happened to be hunting the marsh you had the same conditions to deal with minus the numbers of teal. Overall the hunters who took to the local marshes struggled while the folks in the rice fields burned it up.

All along the coastal prairies the highest numbers of blue winged teal reported prior to the opener came from either freshwater locations or agricultural fields. The saltwater marshes from Winnie over to the east side of Lake Charles were nearly void of any teal leading up to the Texas opener on Saturday. The lack of huntable numbers of birds kept many hunters at home over the weekend while

Orangefield Bobcats From Page 1B

defense got the ball back and the offense went down and scored two more times that put the game out of reach at the end."

Sophomore Mason Manning rushed for 172 yards, scored two touchdowns, and had a two-point conversion in the game. Kane Smith and Kyle Michael both had runs for touchdowns.

Linebacker Lane Gipson led the Bobcats with 17 tackles and a fumble return for a touchdown. Ty Butler did a good job with his place kicking.

"It was a good win. Obviously, it was kind of a roller coaster win, but we'll take it right now," Smalley conceded.

The opposition should get a little tougher this week when the Woodville Eagles come to Orangefield. The Eagles are 1-2 like the Bobcats, but the Woodville losses have been close ones to state ranked Franklin and Newton while their win was a blowout of Liberty from a higher classification.

Woodville operates out of the Spread on offense similar to what Legacy Sports used in Week 2 against Orangefield. The Eagles are very athletic and explosive on offense averaging 42 points a game during the first three weeks.

The Eagle offense starts with quarterback Ralon Williams who is big and fast. Smalley evaluated, "He's a big kid at 200 pounds, throws the ball really well, and when he has to he can run it efficiently too."

A leading rusher for Woodville is another Williams, Zayon. The Eagles

have four or five dangerous wide receivers that can be thrown the football led by Ty'marion Walker and Christian Bean who are their deep threats.

"They do a very good job of calling the play from the sideline, seeing what you're lining up in defensively, and they will kind of make adjustments to their play call signaling everything from the sideline. They a good job of attacking what defenses want to do. If you back off to prevent a deep pass they're going to throw the hitch screens and slants. If you scoot up on them to take that away then they're going to throw the deep ball. They are a huge challenge for our defense to stop them," Smalley pointed out.

Franklin and Newton did score close to forty points each to hand Woodville its two losses. The Eagles limited Liberty to 17 points so they can play some defense.

The defense for Woodville is based out of a four-man front. The Eagles will get into a five-man defensive line at times.

The leader of the defense is inside linebacker Jaythan Traylor who is always around the football. Coach Smalley elaborated, "Traylor has got a motor. He'll blitz the gap or if he isn't blitzing he'll still get to the ball carrier. He runs wide open one hundred percent the whole game."

In the defensive line is Nick Horn a good football player. Horn is hard to block. Logan Primrose also does a good job on defense for Woodville.

Coach Smalley said Woodville reminds him of

how Bridge City played defense to open this season. Smalley explained, "Woodville has the same philosophy as Bridge City. They don't sit back and just let you punch them in the face, they're going to come at you. Any time you start having success they will shoot linebacker blitzes, slants from the D-linemen, they'll send seven defenders at you."

It will be a huge challenge for our offensive line to see all the different Eagles coming at them, and they do it with speed that is faster than Shepherd. It is hard to simulate that speed in practice," Smalley added.

It will be a test for Orangefield against a Woodville team that Smalley believes is a top twenty team in the state. Smalley reminded, "You can look at the Eagles' one and two record but take it with a grain of salt because they've been battled tested like I feel we have too. We turned the ball over against Shepherd two or three times so we've got to cut down on the turnovers."

"We've got to tackle in

space well this week. We've got to compete with their speed. Our offensive line has to prepare for all the

blitzes and run throughs they're going to show us. Then finally we've got to shorten the game by keep-

ing the ball on offense and keep the ball away from them and not turn it over," Smalley concluded.

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LCM Bears face Kincaid From Page 1B

when it comes to penalties. That's the thing with football not everything can you control, so get your mind right and let's go do our job the next play," Peevey emphasized.

Jackson Smith played a huge role for the Bears in the triumph. After the Cardinals scored a touchdown to take the lead on a long pass Smith blocked the point after kick. On the ensuing kickoff from Bridge City Jackson found a big hole created by his Bear blockers and returned the ball seventy yards to setup the eventual winning score.

Peevey pointed out how Smith lived up to the motto it's about the next play not the last play. Peevey explained, "We called a cov-



Khayden Reed of LCM made 5 catches for 71 yards including a touchdown in the Bears' win against Bridge City.

erage and Smith missed it resulting in the Cardinal touchdown. Last year as a sophomore Jackson probably would have hung his head, but instead this year

as a junior that played eleven games last year as one of our leaders on the team, what does he do, he blocks the extra point and then he turns around, catches the kickoff and runs the ball back to give us the chance to make a comeback."

The LCM offense was really clicking excluding the penalties both running and throwing the ball. "I'm just real proud of quarterback Dylan Payne and how far he's come in our offense. We were able to get the ball to our running backs a little bit more and spread it out offensively to the multiple receivers. I felt like we were moving the ball really well on offense we just had too many false starts, holding penalties, and fumbles,"

Peevey analyzed.

The homestand continues on Thursday night this week for Little Cypress Mauriceville. The opponent will be the private school out of Houston the Kincaid Falcons.

Despite the school's nickname of the Falcons the Kincaid offense is heavy in their ground game. The Falcons want to run the football over their opponents.

Kincaid will play with the tight end and sometimes two tight ends. The Falcons will use seven linemen in tight, but then will spread things with five wide outs. They will usually run the play clock down to just a few seconds before snapping the ball and getting a few yards on the ground then doing it again and again.

Falcon running back Pierce Morrell is a big physical kid. Kincaid may not have any game breakers at the skill positions like they did last year. "They have a lot of production out of multiple players on their team," Peevey commented.

The offensive line as might be expected is very large for Kincaid. Peevey noted, "Big tight ends so we'll definitely be the smaller ones in this contest."

The defense for Kincaid is very aggressive. They run a 3-4 front and also will get into a four-man front, but the Falcons are going to bring a lot pressure.

Since Coach Peevey came to Little Cypress Mauriceville three seasons ago the Houston Kincaid Falcons have been on the Bears' schedule. LCM won the

first meeting and the Falcons won last year so this will be the sort of rubber game of the series between the two teams since Peevey's arrival.

The Bears were caught off balance during the last meeting with the Falcons by the physicalness of Kincaid, so the LCM coaches are gearing up their players for a physical contest against the Falcons. "We've got to be prepared for the Falcons' style of play which is a physical brand of football with a very aggressive defensive," Peevey concluded.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears face the Houston Kincaid Falcons on Thursday night. The game is scheduled to begin at seven.

LCM Bears rally From Page 2B

kicked a 28-yard field goal and the game was tied 3-3 with 9:05 remaining in the second quarter.

After an LCM punt the Cardinals took the ball at their eight. Bearden on third down had his pass deflect off a receiver's hands and was intercepted by Tucker Floyd of the Bears who returned the ball to the seven.

Two runs by Payne the first for six yards and the second for a yard netted six points for Little Cypress Mauriceville. Smith added the point after kick for a 10-3 Bears' lead with just over five minutes before halftime.

The Bears got the ball back after their defense forced a three-and-out by the Bridge City offense. Payne connected with Reed for a 39-yard completion on the first play moving the ball to the Cardinal 26.

Fuller helped move the chains with a run to the sixteen. A short completion was followed by a pass from Payne to Reed covering 13 yards and resulting in a

touchdown. The point after was missed but the Bears had pulled ahead 16-3 with only 53 seconds remaining in the half.

Little Cypress Mauriceville's Braylon Lewis intercepted a pass that gave the Bears the ball with only 24 ticks left on the clock. A miracle or a disaster occurred on the next play depending on which sideline you were on as a screen pass thrown from the Bears was intercepted by Rayburn Herbert of the Cardinals and returned 48 yards for a touchdown which cut the lead to 16-10 before the half ended.

Looking to pad their advantage LCM moved the ball into Bridge City territory after taking the kickoff to start the second half. Fuller made a ten-yard run for a first down followed by a three-yard gain to the Bridge City 23.

Payne hit Kaden Boatman with a look in pass that would have been enough for a first down at the ten, but a Cardinal defender made a solid hit on Boatman jar-

ring the ball loose. Bridge City recovered the fumble to spoil the LCM scoring threat.

The Bears got the ball right back after a punt and again drove deep into the Cardinals' end of the field. Payne ran for a first, threw for another, and appeared to run for a touchdown but the Bears were called for holding.

Reed caught his fifth pass of the game for 17 yards to give the Bears a first and goal at the eight. After a short run on the next play by Payne the Bears' Braydon Guillory was called for an unsportsmanlike penalty and was ejected from the game.

The penalty proved too much to overcome as the Bears threw an incomplete pass on fourth and goal from the 27. Bridge City used a facemask penalty on the Bears and a pass from Bearden to Abraham Mungia for 17 yards to move the ball near the fifty.

The Cardinals were forced to punt which was not a very deep kick until

the ball started rolling. One of the Bears then inexplicably tried to pick the ball up with a couple of Cardinals right there who caused a fumble giving Bridge City the ball at the Bears' five yard line.

Two runs by Bearden and a procedure penalty on Bridge City setup a third and goal at the eight. Bodin ran a quick look in pattern and Bearden hit him with the pass perfectly for the touchdown. Hernandez's kick put the Cardinals in front 17-16 with 7:41 left in the game.

It was LCM's turn to respond and it did with a 76-yard drive in eight plays. Payne completed a big pass to Keagan Cockerham for 16 yards.

Fuller gained 24 yards on two rushes moving the ball into Bridge City territory. Payne and Cockerham connected again for a first down to the 27 of Bridge City.

Payne made his longest run of the night around left end for twenty yards to the seven. Fuller scored the touchdown from there to retake the lead for the Bears, but Payne was

stopped on the two-point conversion keeping the score 22-17 with 5:21 to go in the game.

There was no quit in Bridge City. Bearden passed to Mungia for a first down and then scrambled 24 yards to the LCM 33.

The Bears got a sack on Bearden and two pass plays had the Cardinals looking at fourth-and-13 at the 36. Bodin was again the man as he sprinted past the Bears' secondary and Bearden dropped as pretty pass as even Tom Brady could throw into Gavin's hands for the touchdown.

The ensuing kickoff was pretty much straight away and was caught by the Bears' Jackson Smith at the ten. Smith raced through a big hole in the middle opened by his blockers and then cut to the left sideline before finally being hauled down at the Cardinals' twenty after his 70-yard return.

On first down Payne made his second key carry on consecutive drives tak-


ing the ball to a first and goal at the six. Two runs by Fuller got the ball closer before Payne found pay dirt from the two and then added two more points on the conversion to make the score 30-23 with 1:23 left in regulation.

Dylan Payne contributed to the Bear victory with his arm and his legs. Dylan ran for 70 yards on 14 carries while rushing for two touchdowns and completed 15 of his 26 passes for 200 yards accounting for a third touchdown.

The number one target for Payne's passes was Khayden Reed with five catches for 91 yards and a touchdown. Keagan Cockerham and Kaden Boatman both had four receptions for 34 and 43 yards respectfully.


Hutch Bearden was the most active Cardinal with 15 totes of the ball for 11 yards. He passed the ball 21 times completing 13 for 132 yards and two touchdowns to Gavin Bodin.

The game against Bridge City was the first of five straight home games for Little Cypress Mauriceville over six weeks.




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Find Your Way to Help the Hurting

Marshall Segal
Staff Writer
desiringGod.org

Recently, our family was staying with a family we love when they suffered a miscarriage. The wife had just finished her first trimester. The baby would have been number six for them, their second son, a boy they all loved deeply without meeting him. The family wept for hours.

Now, I could say more about the quiet and common pain of miscarriage (my wife and I suffered one early in our marriage), or about what I learned about grief as I watched this family lose this baby together, as a family. But one of the things that struck me most was how the church showed up and loved them in their loss. Because we happened to be staying with them that week, we saw more than most would ever get to see.

The ears were the first to come, leaning in and listening well. But the feet weren't far behind, arriving early and ready to run errands. Then came the hands, carrying flowers and Starbucks drinks and donuts for the kids. And with them, the arms that wrapped themselves tight around the family and wouldn't let go. The noses followed, with some of their favorite meals. The mouths were slower than normal to speak, but came with meaningful words of courage and hope. And sprinkled among the rest were the eyes, attentive and filled with tears.

A Hundred Roads to



the Hurting

The tangible love we witnessed exposed a profound oneness in that unusual church, but the expressions of that love were anything but uniform. Some came right away; some the next day; some later in the week. Some could swing by for only a few minutes; others stayed longer. Some just dropped something off with a note, to give the family space to rest. Some brought food; others brought an iced macchiato or a taro milk tea. Most of them cried.

It's hard to describe how unusual and heartbreaking and beautiful the whole scene was. This church had learned how to grieve together, to carry each other's burdens, to show up in hard moments. So where does this strange, otherworldly love come from? From a strange and generous kind of people.

The apostle Paul saw a scene not unlike the love my family witnessed. He writes to the church at Corinth,

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given

among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)

The apostle is calling the believers in Corinth to give to the desperate needs of the embattled church in Jerusalem. He's asking them to find their way to move toward the hurting, even if, in this case, the hurting are eight hundred miles away. To help inspire their generosity, he shows them just how much God can do when a church leans into suffering.

Unlikely Help and Generosity

The churches in Macedonia were not doing well by worldly standards. They were afflicted themselves, bearing the pain and weight of their own hardships. And not just normal affliction, Paul says, but severe affliction — the kind that cuts deeper, spreads further, and lasts longer.

And in the midst this awful affliction, making their valley even scarier and

more upsetting, they were running out of money. Again, this wasn't typical poverty; it was extreme poverty, some of them perhaps putting hungry kids to bed, their hollow eyes searching for hope that tomorrow might be different. Can you hear their parents pleading, through tears and stomachaches, "Lord, give us this day our daily bread"?

Yet, in the storms of affliction and the shadows of scarcity, we find an outstretched hand, a bright and warm light beating back the darkness, a wealth of generosity. And behind that outstretched hand, an even more surprising smile — an impossible smile, really. An abundant joy. With God, a people without any earthly wealth had found a way to be wealthy toward others. If even the severely afflicted and seriously needy could move toward the suffering, how about the lightly afflicted and the rarely hungry? How might we find and experience what stirred up such unlikely help and generosity? Before holding out our hand, we first lift up our eyes to God.

Godward Otherness

The kind of people who are ready to move toward suffering when it comes — even in affliction, even in poverty, even when everyone would understand if they focused on themselves — are the kind of people who are always moving toward God. Paul continues,

They gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints — and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Corinthians 8:3-5)

The saints in Macedonia were not only willing to give, but begged to give. They had tasted the deeper pleasures of sacrifice (see Acts 20:35), and they wouldn't surrender that joy without a fight. How did they arrive there? What path took them to such happy selflessness? "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." They gave beyond their means, they gave far more than anyone expected, because they had given themselves to God.

They had not set their hope on the possibility of better, more comfortable circumstances.

They weren't tempted by the uncertainty of riches. No, they had set their hearts on God. And a heart set on God learns to define words like wealth, poverty, risk, sacrifice, and security differently. As they surrendered their claim on their earthly possessions, they stumbled into a treasure that could not be counted (1 Timothy 6:18-19). An unusually generous life will always be an

unusually Godward one.

In Every Good Work

The kind of generosity Paul has in mind isn't only financial. In fact, most generosity in the church isn't financial. It's costly, for sure, but often not in dollars and cents. Listen to the apostle summarize his burden for the church:

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

In every good work. Not only in coins delivered to Jerusalem, but in home-cooked meals and familiar living rooms, in notes of encouragement and unexpected phone calls, in pots of coffee and thoughtful questions, in visits to the valleys of grief. Whoever you are, and whatever you have, God will give you enough to overflow to others, especially those in need.

So find your way to move toward the hurting. Don't assume someone else is checking in. Don't assume someone else will send a meal. Don't assume they're overwhelmed with messages and visits. When the trial comes — when sickness falls, when the job disappears, when the marriage collapses, when a loved one dies — assume God plans to meet one of their many needs through you.

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