

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Smith beats three to win sheriff



Jimmy Lane Mooney



Bobby Smith



Dade Phelan



David Covey

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Retired Texas Ranger Bobby Smith pulled an unusual political win by beating incumbent Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney and two others in the Republican primary with a margin wide enough that no runoff will be needed.

Also, in a race drawing national attention, David Covey of Mauriceville had a large margin over Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan for the District 21 state representative. However, the fraction of votes for Alicia Davis of Jasper County appear to have thrown the race into a runoff. The district includes all of Orange and Jasper counties, plus part of Jefferson County.

Covey had the endorse-

ments of former President Donald Trump, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick. The endorsements came after Phelan last year led a successful Texas House impeachment of Paxton on a number of counts, though the Texas Senate voted against the impeachment.

In Orange County, Covey got 8,203 votes, or 54.2 percent. Phelan had 5,917, or 39.33 percent, and Davis had 92, or 6.15 percent. Davis's strongest showing has been in her home county. As of the Record newspapers deadline, the final results for the three-county area had not

Primary Page 3A



Dr. Sarah Boehme, curator of the Stark Museum of art, shows a miniature of the quilt fabric art depicting Cathy Williams, the woman Buffalo Soldier. The miniature was commissioned by the museum so people could touch it and see the layers of the fabric artwork in the unique exhibit Black Pioneers: Legacy of the American West. Other works show Estaban, the slave who arrived in Texas in 1558 with Spanish explorers, lawman Bass Reeves, bull-dogger Bill Pickett, and Stagecoach Mary.

Fabric art at Stark tells African-American history

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Quilts have long been a way for women to display artistic skills, but do not expect to see any of the "quilts" at the Stark Museum of Art on a bed. These quilts were meant to be hung and displayed as they show the history of African-Americans in the West.

The museum now has on display the first of its kind showing of quilting artists who have made simple "paintings" to collages of materials to tell history stories. The exhibit is Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West.

Stark Museum Curator Dr. Sarah Boehme said the quilts "tell stories with fabric art."

The quilted artworks in the show come from 47 different contemporary artists and display a look at characters and events



from the first African arriving in the 16th Century to Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Academy Award.

"When African people were brought here, the brought with them needlework skills already; so it was easy for enslaved Africans to be taught how to make quilts," said Dr. Carolyn Maztoomi, who curated the special collection, which was organized by The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art.

"We as African-Americans have participated in the making of this country since we stepped off the boat," Dr. Maztoomi said.

This Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m. the Stark Museum will present three of the featured artists, Barbara McCraw, Carolyn Crump, and Georgia Williams to talk about the quilts and their art-form

FABRIC ART Page 2A

Trump, Biden win Texas primaries for next rematch

LAUREN MCGAUGHY The Texas Tribune

President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump won their Texas primaries on Tuesday, propelling them closer to a rematch in the November presidential election.

Both men easily carried the state, the AP declared shortly after the last polls closed in Texas at 8 p.m. Central Time. Biden faced no viable challengers in



Joe Biden



Donald Trump

the Democratic primary. And Trump defeated his last challenger, Nikki Haley.

Trump's victory in Texas was not always a foregone conclusion. After the 2022 midterms, Republicans blamed Trump for significant losses, and many prominent state leaders were hesitant to endorse the former president, who also faced mounting legal problems. A November 2022 poll

showed Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis leading Trump.

But Trump actively sought early support from the Texas congressional delegation. Meanwhile, DeSantis failed to live up to expectations and enthusiasm over his candidacy dwindled. As Trump's nomination appeared increasingly inevitable, state leaders rallied around him; Gov. Greg Abbott offered Trump an endorsement last Novem-

ber during a trip to the Texas-Mexico border.

Endorsements from U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn followed in January. Once he dropped out, DeSantis backed Trump, too. That left Haley as Trump's only viable opponent, and he polled ahead of her by more than 60 percentage points in January.

Haley, the former U.N.

TRUMP, BIDEN Page 2A





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Make a Splash!



Fabric Art

From Page 1

during a presentation at the Lutchter Theater.

The theater is across Green Avenue from the Stark Museum. After the theater talk, the museum will have an opening reception for the exhibit from 3 to 5 p.m. The reception will allow people to meet the three artists and see their work. Live music will be in the museum along with appetizers and beverages from Free State Winery in Orange.

Entrance to the museum and the theater lecture is free.

The exhibit starts out with a tribute to Estaban, the African slave brought to the New World by Spanish explorers. Those who remember their Texas history

know he ended up landing on Galveston Island. Estaban is considered the first African in the Americas.

Other famous African-American men of the west who are featured on quilts include bull-dogger Bill Russell. The legendary rider is from Texas and his quilt includes the state flag. Lawman Bass Reeves, now a character in a popular TV show, includes his Oklahoma heritage.

Another famous African-American gained his reputation as an early film director. The quilt paying tribute to Oscar Micheaux is like a multi-media display of cloth and stitches. A dapper man wearing a fedora stands behind a 1920's film camera in front of minia-

ture movie posters.

Historical events depicted include the 1921 Tulsa Massacre in which an angry white mob attacked a thriving black community known as the Black Wall Street. The mob murdered dozens of people and burned businesses and homes.

While some of the men in the quilts are famous, African-American women have been left out of many history books and stories. The quilts bring them to life for all generations.

Kathy Williams was a female Buffalo soldier. The artist who did her quilt is Georgia Williams, who will speak on Saturday. Stark Curator Dr. Boehmes said the artist is not related to



the Buffalo Soldier.

The museum commissioned Georgia Williams to make a miniature version of her quilt. It is one that adults and children are encouraged to touch and study. Dr. Boehme said the miniature has different layers that can be opened so people can see the details of what it takes to make the fabric art pieces.

Madame C.J. Walker, the first African-American millionaire, has a quilt, as does Malinda Russell, the first African-American to write a cookbook.

The most unusual quilt shows "Stagecoach Mary." Instead of a square or rectangular work of art, Stagecoach Mary is a cutout of a woman holding a rifle. She was Mary Fields and also

had the name of Black Mary or White Crow. She was the second woman and the first African-American woman to be a mail carrier. She worked a 15-mile route in Montana from 1895 to 1903. Standing si feet tall, she was know for drinking, wearing men's cloths, and carrying a rifle.

Black Pioneers: Legacy in the West will be on exhibit through August 3. The Stark Museum of Art is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with no admission charge.

The 10th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit will be open rom March 27 to May 15. Select works by school students in the region will be displayed. This year, the theme was coordinated with the African-American pioneers show.

Trump, Biden

From Page 1

ambassador who also previously served as South Carolina governor, faced an uphill battle in Texas after losing all previous GOP primary contests except Washington, D.C. She made one final stop in Texas on Monday, holding rallies in Fort Worth and Spring, where she told voters she is the Republican best positioned to defeat Biden. She zeroed in on Texas because voters can pick which party primary to vote in regardless of partisan affiliation.

That means Democrats and other non-Republicans could choose to vote in the GOP primary and vice versa.

But Haley was unable to convince many Democrats to cross party lines. Only about 3.9% of votes cast early in the Republican primary were from people who had most recently voted in a Democratic primary prior to 2024, according to analysis by political consultant Derek Ryan. That number is not significantly different

from the rate of crossover voting in 2020 and 2022, Ryan said.

Trump cleared another potential roadblock to reelection this week when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that states can't kick him off of the ballot because of his role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. The ruling overturned a Colorado Supreme Court decision that ruled that Trump couldn't return to office under the Constitution's 14th amendment.

Biden and Trump's victories come five days after they visited two different Texas border towns on the same day, casting the migrant crisis as an urgent issue in the presidential election. Biden, who visited Brownsville, urged Congress to approve a bipartisan immigration bill that failed in the Senate after Trump told Republicans not to vote for it — in part to prevent Biden from scoring a political victory.

The former president, meanwhile, was joined by Abbott in Eagle Pass, where Trump criticized Biden's handling of the southern border and praised Abbott for his efforts to arrest migrants who cross the border illegally. Trump later said that Abbott was on his shortlist of potential vice presidential candidates, though Abbott said he is committed to remaining in Texas.

Trump has vowed to expand his crack-down on illegal immigration if he returns to office. His plans in-

clude "the largest domestic deportation operation in American history" as well as bans on entry from certain Muslim-majority countries and a policy that would refuse asylum claims. He has also promised to end birthright citizenship of unauthorized immigrants.

The 2024 primary season will continue into June. The nominee will be formally chosen at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee from July 15 to 18 and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago from August 19 to 22.

Texas has among the largest number of delegates nationwide, making it a significant electoral prize for the two frontrunners vying for their party nomination. The state has 161 Republican and 273 Democratic delegates.

Many Texans who voted on Tuesday said they lacked enthusiasm for the presidential candidates.

But Henry Tynes, a voter in Lufkin, said he was a

staunch supporter of Trump and that he would vote for any candidate the former president endorsed. Trump backed several Texas House primary candidates trying to oust those who voted to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton.

"The former president did a lot, even with constant backlash," Tynes said. "They won't leave him alone, they didn't leave him alone, they're not leaving him alone, and they're just that way because he was a billionaire."

Also in Lufkin Democrat Oscar Dixon said he planned to vote for Biden, even though he disagreed with some of the president's policies. Dixon said he considers the situation at the Texas-Mexico border a "humanitarian" crisis and that it should be treated as such.

"I don't agree with a lot of things that Biden was doing, but Biden was helping the poor people," he said, referring to Biden's immigration policies.

Historic Battleship Texas returns to the water after 18-month



The historic Battleship Texas began the process of undocking on Tuesday morning and will be back in the water for the first time in 18 months.

Staff Report
For The Record

GALVESTON-- The historic Battleship Texas began the process of undocking on Tuesday morning and will be back in the water for the first time in 18 months.

The re-floating process marks the next step in the ship's \$75 million restoration.

Over the next 18 to 24 months, crews will be replacing the deck superstructure and interiors.

Battleship Texas had been drydocked at Gulf Copper Dry Dock & Rig Repair's shipyard for \$21 million worth of extensive repairs since August 2022. During that time, crews replaced over 700 tons of steel, painted the hull, and performed quality control checks, according to the Battleship Texas Foundation.

Before it was moved to Galveston for repairs, the iconic 122-year-old Dreadnought -- which served in both WWI and WWII -- called the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site home for over 70 years.

The ship is expected to reopen in a new home

sometime next year.

Between November 20th, 2022, and February 25th, 2024, over 4,300 participants made the donation to see Battleship Texas out of the water. This unique ex-

perience, originally thought to be impossible, provided thousands with the opportunity to see the ship in a way like never before.

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of Orange County, Texas

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THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY



The girl golfers played at Babe Zaharias on Thursday, February 29, in that gender's Nederland Tournament. The Orangefield girls competed well. The first team shot a team total of 427 putting the 4th out of 12 teams overall and 1st out of district opponents. The second team shot a 460, putting them 6th overall and 2nd out of district opponents.



The West Orange-Stark High School drama students won the honor last week of being chosen to advance to the bi-district competition in the UIL One Act Play competition. The group presented "The Myth of Ate" and will perform again at the next competition at Porter High School later this month. This is the first time in 13 years the school has advanced in One Act Play competition.

Primary elections From Page 1

been called.

Because Orange County has no Democrats running for local offices, the winners of the Republican primary will run unopposed in the November general election.

The Precinct 2 constable's race had incumbent Jeremiah Gunter drawing enough votes to win outright against two challengers. Also, Joey Jacobs beat incumbent Matt Ortego for the Precinct 4 constable position.

The Orange County Elections Administration Office reports the Republican primary had a total of 15,407 votes cast with 9,621 votes made early or by mail. Election Day Tuesday brought another 5,498 to the polls.

The Democrats had 1,091 total votes giving the county a total of 16,498 people voting in the two primaries. Orange County has 54,871 registered voters.

Smith's win for sheriff is unusual not only because of its large margin, but because Mooney is serving his first four-year term in office. Incumbent sheriffs in Orange County have lost before, but not in their first terms. The exception was 36 years ago when the incumbent sheriff was under FBI investigation for criminal acts for which he was later indicted and convicted.

Smith lives in the Vidor area and said he retired from being a major in the Rangers so he could run for local sheriff. He had the endorsement of a number of law enforcement officers, including former sheriffs Keith Merritt and Mike White, plus retired Orange Police Chief Sam Kittrell.

Also running for sheriff this year were Beaumont Police Lieutenant Ron Dischler and Vidor ISD Police Chief Mike Sanchez.

Smith had a total of 8,340 votes, or 56.1 percent, with Sheriff Mooney coming in second with 4,302 votes at 29.93 percent. Sanchez got 1,531 votes, or 10.3 percent, and Dischler had 695, 4.67 percent.

Incumbent Precinct 2 Constable Jeremiah Gunter drew two challengers, but handily won without a runoff. He got 2,167 votes, 59.3 percent. David C. Bailey had 796, or 21.78 percent, with Harold Hass coming in third with 691, or 18.91 percent.

Precinct 4 Constable Matt Ortego lost his reelection bid to Joey Jacobs, a captain in the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Jacobs had 2,776 votes, or 68.17 percent, with Ortego at 1,296, or 31.83 percent.

This year, the race for

Orange County Republican Party Chair drew a lot of attention with challenger Cheryl Warren beating incumbent Leo LaBauve. The local party voted to censure Phelan after the Paxton impeachment, but LaBauve opposed the censure.

Warren, who has started the Orange County Freedom Caucus and a group investigating books in schools, was endorsed by Paxton, who posed for photographs with her when he visited Orange campaigning.

Warren got 6,888 votes, or 56.12 percent, with LaBauve getting 5,379 or 43.88 percent.

The Republican ballot also included a number of incumbents running unopposed, along with three newcomers running unopposed. The three will be replacing incumbents who chose to retire after their current terms and not run for reelection.

The newcomers are Krispen Walker for district attorney, Rodney Townsend for county court-at-law No. 2, and Octavia Guzman, tax assessor-collector.

Other Races:

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan is facing a runoff election after he failed to secure a majority of votes in primary voting, the clearest sign to date of his precarious position within the Republican Party.

Phelan advanced to the runoff with rival David Covey, a former chairman of the Orange County Republican Party who has been endorsed by Attorney General Ken Paxton, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and former President Donald Trump.

The third candidate in the race, anti-tax crusader Alicia Davis, won only a fraction of a vote but prevented Phelan and Covey from securing the 50% necessary to win outright.

"This runoff is not just another race, it's the front-line of the battle for the soul of our district," Phelan said in a statement Tuesday evening. "While my opponent hides behind empty rhetoric, dishonest advertising and surrogate voices, I stand before voters with a clear record of service and conservative success."

The race had become a measure on the influence of the far-right wing of the GOP, which has cast Phelan as a traitor to the party. Paxton, seeking revenge on Phelan for supporting the House's impeachment of him last year, campaigned for Covey in Beaumont.

Covey's campaign was heavily funded by Defend Texas Liberty, the political group mainly bankrolled by Midland oilman Tim Dunn, a Paxton ally and conservative activist. Covey positioned himself as the true conservative in the race who would remain in touch with the party's grassroots rather than gallivant around Austin as a glad-handing politician.

Covey attempted to challenge Phelan's conservative credentials. He acknowledged that the House passed border security bills last year, but said it was too little, too late. He also blasted Phelan's decision to appoint a small number of Democrats to chair House committees, an issue that has motivated Republican primary voters this cycle. And he has pledged support to the fringe Texas secession movement.



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ELECTION MOSTLY GOP PRIMARY

Every election I run my traps trying to get a read that I can make predictions on. That didn't happen in this election cycle. The best I got was **maybe, not probable, but possible**, that we could end up with three races in run-offs. The state representative race, sheriff's and constable races all have been hard fought and for the most part well run campaigns. Going into a race with **multiple candidates** usually favors the incumbent, but not necessarily in the run-off. It's very unusual for the voters mot to give an incumbent at least a second term. In the State Representative Dist. 21 race, **Dade Phelan** being the speaker is an advantage over **Covey** using a **Trump** endorsement. We'll soon know. Hopefully **Margaret** and **Mark** can get enough of the results to run in this issue. Be sure and check out our website **therecordlive.com**.****[I've got to get going.. Come along **I promise it won't do you no harm**.

BIDEN IMPORTANT STATE OF THE UNION

Thursday **President Joe Biden** will give his **State-of-the Union** speech. I predict it will be one of the best **Biden** has ever given. He will speak about **Gaza** and will demand solutions. I believe his best points will be comparing his accomplishment, which are many, to **Trump's** four years of accomplishing very little. In comparison **Biden** has by far the better hand. The best first term accomplishments since **L.B.J.** He must convince the voters. He has the proof, now is the time to seal the deal. The **United States** economy grew at a robust 3.2% annual pace from October through December, propelled by healthy consumer spending. The **U.S.** is expected to keep churning out growth in 2024. The **International Monetary Fund** expects the **American economy** to expand 2.1% this year, more than twice its forecasts for growth in the major advanced economies **Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy**. To the surprise of the **Fed** and most economists, the progress against inflation has so far been accomplished without causing much economic pain. The unemployment has come in **below 4%** for 24 straight months, longest such streak since the booming 1960s. And employers have been adding a healthy average of **244,000 jobs a month** over the past year, including more than **300,000** in both December and January. **American** households are largely in **good financial shape**, allowing consumers to spend. And businesses have improved productivity by using automation and finding ways to make employees work more efficiently. **Voters** are weighing the economy's health in advance of **November's presidential election**.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8

Where will you be watching the **April 8** total solar eclipse? There are just a few weeks left to pick your spot to see the skies darken along a strip of **North America**. The eclipse reaches **Mexico's Pacific coast** in the morning, cuts diagonally across the **U.S. from Texas to Maine** and exits in eastern **Canada** by late afternoon. **Mexico and Texas** offer the best odds of sunny skies. Post-eclipse traffic is a particular worry, especially in more rural areas like the **Texas Hill Country, Bandera**, the **'Cowboy Capital of the World,'** expects crowds from nearby weekend music festivals. With the eclipse falling on a Monday, cities and towns along the path have lined up a weekend full of activities and watch parties. Now might be a good time to contact **Orange County friends** who have moved to the **Texas Hill Country**. **Judge Dennis Powell** might be having a watch party. It **Judge Don Burgess** is having one you will have to bring your own beer and toilet paper. I recall a few years ago, in 2017, when **Judge Hershel Staghnor and wife** traveled from far away to see a total eclipse. This April a person needs only to go as far as **Texas**. In **Waco** festivities will culminate on **eclipse day** with science-themed activities at **McClane stadium** along what's called **'Touch-down Alley.'** Let us know if you are planning a trip and where. **Contact news@therecordlive.com or call 409-886-7183.**

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2014

Russia spent \$60 billion. on the **Olympics** to highlight their country then. blew all the goodwill by marching its military into **Crimea**, where they took over the capital. Monday, the **United States** started preparing to impose sanctions. If **Russia**, does not reverse course, officials said. they will ban visas and freeze assets of select **Russian officials** and target state-run financial institutions. **U.S. congressional leaders** signaled. they will take it on their own. to also follow with sanctions, plus approve economic aid for the fragile new government in **Ukraine**. Folks will buy that. **Viadimir Putin** is the problem, when he came back into power it was almost predictable. He's always been against the break up of **Russia** and the end of the **Cold War**. How will it end? Who knows. This is no small thing

and in the end, every **American** will feel its affect. (Editor's note: Remember that was **10 years ago**.)****We enjoyed some great story telling at last week's **Lunch Bunch**. get together. **Nova Dee Strickland** and daughter **Tonya**. attended and **Nova**. always has a load. of stories. **Judge Derry Dunn** and **Jane** flew to Portland the next day to visit son, **Dr. Mark Dunn** and family. ******Joyce Dowdle** is one of the five generations of first-born girls, her mom, her daughter, granddaughter and now a baby great granddaughter. That means the girls are always the oldest in the family.

20 Years Ago-2004

A four car accident on Hwy. 62, near the intersection with Hwy. 87 near **Waterwood subdivision**, claims two lives. Bridge City business man **Austin Gurgantious**, 65 and **Arlene Church**, 80 of Port Arthur. **Gurgantious and his wife Margie** are the owners of **Fantastic Tans and Nails**. The wheel came off a pickup truck starting a chain reaction causing the accident. ******Van Choate**, owner of **The Cajun Cookery**, says he's seen some pretty fair eaters, like **Richard Cordor and Dickie Colburn**, hit his steam table but no one puts more hurt on the profit structure than **David Richard and Jim Goodman**. showing up at the **"All You Can Eat"** steam table. Both have passed away since.******GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**: We were sorry to hear about the death of Burt **Dunahoe**, 74, of Bridge City, who died March 8. Services were held at **Claybar Funeral Home** in Bridge City. **Dunahoe** was a native of Shelby Co. He was retired from **Texaco**. He was the brother-in-law of **Millard "Neighbor" Cox**. They were married to sisters.

50 Years Ago-1974

Jimmy Conn puts up a big sign in downtown Bridge City advertising a streaking contest between **Roy Dunn and Doug Harrington**. The sign advertised the streaking will take place on the court house lawn, tickets available free at **Harrington's Pharmacy**. The billboard sign had two cartoon characters streaking in their birthday suits. **Roy and Doug** were planning how they will get back at **J.K. (Conn and Harrington)** are now deceased.)****Orange native **O.A. "Bum" Phillips** leaves Oklahoma State to join the **Houston Oilers** on their coaching staff****Honor students named at West Orange are as follows: **Leslie Buoner**, valedictorian; **Clifton G. "Rex" Andrews**, salutatorian. At Stark High the valedictorian is **Hope Deanean Shipman**, salutatorian is **Nina Ann Mumbach**. ******Claybar Funeral Home** moves into new building. The business started Sunday, Sept. 15, 1946, at 509 Pine Street in Orange. The new funeral home faces 5th Street in the 500 block. Built by **Homer Hayworth**, the building has 12,000 square feet, a chapel, family and private family rooms, minister's study, music room, dormitory and day lounge for ambulance crews. The corporation officers are president **David Claybar**, vice president **Brown Claybar**, secretary treasurer **Marjorie Claybar**. The funeral home was founded by the late **Lannie Claybar**. (Editor's note: **David** and his mom are now gone, **Brown** retired, and his son **Warren** is CEO.)******Doug Patterson**, one of the best baseball pitchers to ever come out of **Orange County**, left for pro-ball spring training in Florida.******Moe Litton** is working on forming a **BCHS Bass Club**.******Gary Savoy** will celebrate another birthday this week.******Sergeant Thomas Segura** of Bridge City, stationed at **Karot Royal Air Force Base** in Thailand, is presented the **Airman of the Quarter** plaque.****The Little Cypress track team features **Ricky Smith, Tom Day, Clint Plant, Dennis Neie, Steve Romeis** and is coached by **Larry Warner**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Oh, how **Facebook** has taken over the time off people. A widespread outage of the social media platform let users from different generations almost lost, especially on **Election Day**. **Facebook** has become the way for people to spread political rumors and tout their favorite candidates. As the **Republican primary** comes to a close, residents in **Orange County** are going to have a lot less mail with those expensive ads, plus **Facebook** sites will see a loss of views. For people thinking this year has been crazy locally, it's nothing we haven't seen in years past.****Speaking of politics, former Mauriceville resident and Newton County native **Ron Lewis** was back at his old stomping ground. The retired long-time **Democratic state representative** for Orange County was campaigning for **Dade Phelan** with former **Governor Rick Perry**. **Lewis and Perry**, who was a **Democrat** back in the 1980s, were roommates the first time they served in the state legislature. **Lewis and Perry** were traveling around making stops to campaign for **Dade Phelan's** reelection. Those visiting with **Lewis and Perry** in Vidor included county commissioners **Kirk Roccaforte and Johnny Trahan**, Bridge City Mayor **David Rutherford**, **Cindy Dishman, Tony Ashrafi, Frank Randazzo**, and **Janet Parker Brown**.****The Beaumont Junior League's annual **Dancing with the Stars** fundraiser had Bridge City's **Lacey LeMoine and Dr. T. Russell Perry** competing. Going to watch them at the gala last weekend included Orange County fans **Ida Schossow, Heather Montagne Mankopf, Sherry Hommel, Maureen McAlister, and Amy Peevey**.******Eric Nies** of Bridge City and his barbecue team was named a finalist in the ribs competition in the **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's** barbecue competition. A couple of years ago, they took home the top award.****Lots of people here love their barbecue, but it's **crawfish season**. Complaints have been flying about the high prices and small mudbugs. Supply has been low because of last year's drought and other conditions. Now, prices are starting to drop and the crustaceans are getting a bit bigger. Hopefully the stock will be good for the annual **Mauriceville Crawfish Festival** in April.****Don't forget to **"spring" your clocks back** an hour Saturday night before going to bed. Wonder if preachers keep a tally of how many people come in late to church when **Daylight Savings Time** goes into effect.****The **Oaks enter-**

tainment venue in Vidor had **Captain Fantastic**, an **Elton John tribute band** playing this past weekend with lots enjoying the music. Seen in the crowd were **Aaron and Mandy Roccaforte, Terri and Todd Goss, Andrea Anders, Sharon Meaux, Christopher Baker, Kent and Kimberly McNeely, Joey Jacobs, Tony and Donna Little, and Dustin and Traci Montalbano**.******David Crim** and his daughter, **April Goodman**, traveled to Denton to visit with **April's** grown children **Lauren and Julian Purghan**. **Lauren** is working there and **Julian** is set to graduate with degree in May.****The **Jenkins boys at Top Hog** in McLewis has come up with a dandy of a smoked sausage. It's a combination of **'Gator'** and **Blue Ribbon Sow**, mixed with fresh bell pepper, onions and spices. Great smell when frying and the **'Gater'** brings the **'Oink'** out. You talk about good. All it needs is eating.*****Update on Senator Parker--A note from Beverly**. We both have had our ups and downs. I have healed from a broken shoulder bone in my upper arm. One of us has to be able to cook. **Carl** is waiting for word from his heart doctor that he has permission to do a procedure of replacing a valve in his heart. We are hoping this will get him moving a little more. Can't believe we have all gotten so old since we first met, time went by too quickly. ****Speaking of heart doctors, I believe **Dr. Morbia** has a new granddaughter. He and the wife catch a flight to Florida to visit the baby and grandson as often as possible.****Be sure to check out the specials at **Danny's Super Food, 2003 Western Ave. in West Orange**. Last Friday we tried fried **Catfish Filetts**, this Friday we're having **Catfish Sauce Pecante**. (Can's wait.) They also feature the county's best **Cajun Boudain, only \$1.98 lb.** and many other specials.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the coming week. **March 6: Sam Moore, Jerry Maldonado, John Philps, Kristen Rucker, Genevieve Simon, Glyndon Childress**.******March 7: Tracy Howard Allison, Dana Bourque, Sharon Crumpler, Jennifer Barclay, Mike White, Libby Mitchell, Misty Thurman, Rick Trahan, Charles Day, Leisa Miller**.******March 8: Liz Weaver, Stephanie Westlund, Shelly Granger, Christi Wiegrefe, David Thibodeaux, Ryan Bunker, Angela Burris** and our good friend **Pat Pate**.******March 9: Liz Weaver, Dayna Hyatt, Heather Pruitt, Tiffany Kelly, Brittney Zenos, Don Grooms, Claudia Gilson, Santiago Baca, Jordon Doiron**.******March 10: David May, Zara Hollis, Gloria Jones, Ken Hillsten, Mary White, Wade Gillett, Bob Izer**.******March 11: Paul Fukuda, Scot Shaffer, Pat Lund, Rick McCall, James McClanahan, Cindy Reynolds, Dottie Gunstream, George Baker, Kate, Benoit, AJ Strahan, Colton "CJ" Dugan**.******March 12: Jack Morgan, Bryleigh Moore, Andrew Willingham, Carol Ann Kimbrow**.****Other birthdays this past week included **Amy Worsham, Joe Almaguer, Eddie Anders, Tristen Faircloth, Traci Champine, Jimmy Converse, Susan Pennington, Regina Dorman Parkinson, Issa Garcia, Apryl Pevetor Carter, Craig Nugent, Gail VanderMaas, Jennifer Gross, Skipper Yeaman, Ashley Seago, Jennifer Byrd, Sharon Combs, Waylor Willey, Tonie Hickman, Richard Bonnin, Logan Comeaux, and Meritta Dawn Norwood**.******Steve and Barbara Williams** marked their 50th wedding anniversary at the same time **Barbara** was having a birthday. **Casey and Leah Guillotte-Stark** had their 27th.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Agnes Gilbeaux had it with her husband **Felix** so to sort things out in her mind she decided to confer wit da gypsy fortune teller **Madam Pearl**. After gazing in her big crystal ball for awhile, **Madam Pearl** her, finally say, "Dere is no easy way to told you dis so I'll just be blunt me. Prepare yourself to be a widow. You husband him, will die a violent death dis year." Visibly shaken **Agnes** stared at da gypsies lined face, den at da single flickering candle, den down at her hands. **Agnes** took a few deep breaths, her mind was racing. **Agnes** simply had to know. She met **Madam Pearl's** gaze, steadied her voice and asked. "Tell me, will I be acquitted, hanh?"

C'EST TOUT
WHAT THE VOTER DIDN'T KNOW

Former president **Donald Trump's** name and face was being used around the country on hundreds of political ads claiming the candidates have been endorsed by **Trump**. They are not really. Campaigns work with the **Trump** campaign to secure an okay to use his name in advertisements. It's good for **Trump**. It gets his name and picture to millions throughout the country. It's doubtful that **Trump** knows any of these people he is supposedly endorsing. Campaigns write the text and advertising agencies put the copy together in ads targeting a certain area. Nothing personal about a **Trump** endorsement, it's just what the local boss wants. **Trump** never sees the hundreds of different commercials around the country. Never once throughout the United States did you see **Trump** proudly say, "I endorse (a name)" in a commercial. In this market I saw a picture of **Trump** and his wife. They don't say anything. It must be an old photo; the couple hasn't been seen together in a long time. All over the country claims were being made that **Trump** said, "I endorse **'So and So'**. It's a lie, **Trump** didn't say anything. The political hacks wrote the copy. It's all in the wonderful game called politics. Most endorsements are not endorsements unless you see their lips move. **P.S.** Photoshopped is also used in mail outs. I received one that was negative to **Speaker Phelan** that showed him shaking hands with **China's** president **XI Jinping**, who **Dade** has never met. Look real good, you can see where the picture is spliced.****I've got to get out of here. I'm sure the election results have held some surprises, they almost always do. Sometimes a dark horse will come to the top. Please read us cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers. **Take care and God bless.**

My Five-Cents

A monthly column from Sen. Robert Nichols
by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. TEA announces opening of Texas Student Heroes Award nominations

This month, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced that nominations for the annual Student Heroes program are open. The program recognizes Texas public school students in prekindergarten through high school who do an outstanding volunteer service that benefits their fellow students, schools, or communities. One student from each of the 15 State Board of Education districts is recognized. Nominations can be submitted by anyone, including school personnel, other students, parents, or community members. To nominate a student, fill out the nomination form on TEA's website and include a brief essay submitted by the nominator describing the student's work. For questions, please email heroes@tea.texas.gov or call the SBOE support office at (512) 463-9007.

2. William B. Travis' letter returns to the Alamo

This month, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) announced that the original letter from Travis written at the Alamo pleading for back up and aid will return to the Alamo for a month to be displayed. The letter is on loan from the Texas State Library Archives Commission to the Alamo Exhibit at the Ralston Family Collections Center from February 23 through March 24. This comes just in time for Texas to celebrate Texas Independence Day on March 2. Because of the brave sacrifices of the men who paid the ultimate price defending the Alamo, Texas went on to win the war for independence from Mexico and the Republic of Texas was born. We celebrate that independence 188 years later. Viewing this historic document, which famously declared 'Victory or Death,' is a remarkable opportunity for the public to enjoy.

3. Comptroller marks Unclaimed Property Day, \$4 billion in unclaimed property

On February 1, the Comptroller joined other states' unclaimed property administrators to celebrate the fourth annual Unclaimed Property Day. Unclaimed property includes things such as forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, dividends, mineral royalties, dormant bank accounts, and abandoned safe-deposit boxes. The Comptroller's Office reported it has returned more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property since the program began in 1962. The state currently holds more than \$8 billion in cash and oth-



Sen. Robert Nichols

er valuables through the program. The average value of an approved claim is more than \$1,000. To check to see if you have Unclaimed Property, visit www.ClaimItTexas.gov.

4. Wildfire rages in the panhandle, already one of the worst in state's history

This week, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 60 Texas counties in response to the ongoing and widespread wildfires. The Texas Panhandle is facing losses to life and property as over a million acres have burned. These fires are already considered the worst in state history. The largest active fire is the Smokehouse Creek Fire, which started in Hutchinson County. Firefighters from across the state have been deployed to the region to help contain the fires, as well as the Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Division of Emergency Management, and other emergency response personnel. Our prayers are with our West Texas friends during this difficult time.

5. Texas School Safety Center releases District Audit Report on safety and security in school districts

This month the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) released the 2020-2023 District Audit Report (DAR). The purpose of the DAR is to provide key results of the safety and security audits completed by school districts over the three year period. To be clear, this is a self-assessment completed by districts and submitted to the TxSSC for review. The report reflects insights developed from those audits on an aggregate level. The findings in this report highlight districts ongoing commitment to safety – 99.4% of districts reported completing audits for all of their instructional facilities during this cycle, 99.7% of districts reported having a school safety and security committee, and 98.7% of districts reported adopting a multi-hazard emergency operations plan for use in their district's facilities. However, there were some key findings that need improvement, namely only 35.8% of districts had not reported their safety and security audit results to their district's board of trustees and only 40.5% of districts reported conducting an active threat exercise, including an active shooter simulation during the 2020-2023 audit cycle. While much has been done over the past several years to improve school safety, these audit reports show that there are still improvements to be made.

Cottage Food Law Class, March 18

Join us for an informative session on the Cottage Food Law, tailored for farmers markets and open to everyone interested in learning. Whether you're a seasoned vendor or just starting out, this event is your opportunity to gain valuable insights and get your questions answered.

Date: Monday, March 18th
Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Orange County Convention and Expo Center

This session aims to equip you with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the Cottage Food Law successfully. We anticipate an engaging discussion with ample time for questions and answers, all within an hour.

To reserve your spot or inquire further, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office at 409-882-7010.

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Deaths & Memorials

Graham Warren Clarke II

Formerly of Orange

Graham Warren Clarke II passed away on February 20, 2024, at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas of complications due to heart failure. He was born in Berea, Ohio to Blanche Ethel Apsey and Warren Olsaver Clarke on January 14, 1940. In 1943 the family moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana where his father worked in the wartime chemical industry. The family moved to Orange, Texas where he graduated in 1958 from Lutchter Stark High School. He then attended North Texas State University, receiving his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance in 1962. Due to his academic and musical accomplishments, Graham received the prestigious Presser Scholarship Award at the end of his junior year. Later that year, he enlisted in the military where he served in the United States Army Security Agency as a specialist in communication intelligence. He was stationed at the Clark Air Base in the Philippines, decoding wartime North Vietnamese wire traffic. He then began his teaching career at Gainesville, Texas Middle School. In 1970 Graham completed his master's in music with minors in Music Theory and English, again at NTSU.

Graham's teaching career was in various Dallas area public and private schools, covering a variety of subjects in both Spanish and English, in addition to music education. In 1973 & 1976 he received additional teaching certificates in math, science, social studies, reading and language arts. He was awarded Teacher



Graham Warren Clarke II

of the Year in 1984. In his musical profession Graham became organist and choir director at Church of the Holy Cross, Dallas in 1969-70, serving until its eventual closure in 2021.

Graham enjoyed traveling throughout the Midwest and Northeast regions by car every summer. He had a strong interest in family history and Civil War history. He developed a passion for cycling after a particular visit to his doctor who recommended an exercise program due to a congenital heart defect. Graham began biking vigorously on and off road. He joined the League of American Bicyclists and enjoyed participating in biking tours throughout the United States.

Over the years Graham's quiet warmth and friendliness, quick-witted humor and various interests earned him a wide circle of lifelong friends. He was an active member of the American Guild of Organists, Classroom Teachers of Dallas, and TOMFRA – Texas Old Mission and Forts Restoration Association.

Graham is survived by his niece, Jeana Elizabeth Clarke of Fort Worth, Sister-in-law Helen Jo Clarke of Carrollton, as well as cousins in the Midwest and Northeast with whom he remained in touch until his last days. He was preceded in death by his brother, Michael Apsey Clarke. The service will be held on April 6th at 2:00 p.m. Saint Mathew's Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas. Please direct donations to The American Heart Association.

Spring Break Jet Ski races March 17 & 18

Explore Orange and Nauti Water Racing are excited to announce the Spring Break Shootout Jet Ski races. This event features jet ski racing that will be held March 17 and 18 from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. at the City of Orange Boat Ramp, located at 1000 Simmons Drive.

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Certa-Bearden featured three local teams

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The annual Cert-a-Bearden WOS Classic was held February 29 through March 2 at West Orange-Stark. This year the baseball tournament was held in conjunction with a tournament by Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont with several of the 12 teams involved playing at both schools over the weekend.

Three local teams played four games over the three days. Little Cypress Mauriceville, Orangefield, and West Orange-Stark took part in the combined tournaments.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears won three of the four games they played losing only to the

Kelly Bulldogs 2-0 on Friday. Landon Richards pitched well for the Bears in the loss giving up one earned run in five innings.

LCM won its first game on Thursday 8-4 over the Orangefield Bobcats at Ronnie Anderson Park on the West Orange-Stark campus. Jacob Scheiderer was the winning pitcher with Parker Seago earning a save pitching two shut-out innings for the Bears.

Parker Freeman went three for four with two runs batted in. Clay Raney had two hits and drove in two runs. Marco Bandiero had the big blow with a three run double in the sixth that gave the Bears their final four run margin of victory.

Little Cypress Mauriceville played three

games at Kelly. On Friday Jake Raney and Brice Frenzel combined to hold the Northside Falcons to just two runs. Bandiero got a walk off base on balls to give the Bears a 3-2 victory. The loss to Kelly followed later that afternoon.

The third win by the Bears came on Saturday morning. LCM defeated Cornerstone Christian 6-4 at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Bandiero was a star again pitching five innings without allowing an earned run. Scheiderer reached base all four times he went to the plate with two hits, a walk, a hit by pitch, and he scored two runs. Ethan Fry scored a run and had two runs bat-



WOS used Diego Ibarra's three hitter with 10 strikeouts to beat Warren in the Certa Bearden Classic.

CERTA Page 4B

Girls Softball Tournaments lead to District

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Girl softball tournaments are leading up to the start of district action for the local high school teams. Orangefield actually played its first district game already last week.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats fell to the Kountze Lionettes 3-1 in the District 22-3A opener on Tuesday night, February 27. Pitcher Abigail Currence took the loss for Orangefield despite giving up just 2 earned runs on 5 hits and 2 walks. Haylee Spears had the lone RBI and Abby Broussard scored the only Lady Bobcat run in the loss. "I was pretty happy with how we played. Kountze is very talented, we just didn't play perfectly like we needed to," Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale commented afterwards.



Charlee Sanches of the Lady Bobcats hit a homerun among her multiple hits in the Cleveland softball tournament, and she pitched Orangefield to two victories.

Orangefield played Thursday through Saturday last week in the Cleveland softball tournament. The Lady Bobcats won

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine and his teammates won their first four games to earn a spot in the gold bracket of the tournament.

On Thursday, February



Keylie Washburn of the Lady Bears homered in LCM's come from behind win over Rogers in the Franklin softball tournament. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

29, the Lady Bobcats beat MacArthur 4-0 with Charlee Sanches pitching a two hit shutout with 6 strikeouts. Hallee Becker, Abby Broussard, Haylee

Spears, and Paisley Reeves all contributed to the Orangefield offense.

Later that day Orange-field beat the host team Cleveland 4-2 with pitcher

Abigail Curphey getting the win in the circle allowing no earned runs and just two hits. Aubree Beck led the offense with a homerun and two runs scored while Alysén Vincent, Broussard, and Reeves each had a run batted in.

Orangefield won its next two games on Friday, blasting Tarkington 9-2 and beating Humble 5-3. Curphey was the winning pitcher over Tarkington, surrendering just one earned run and striking out five batters. The Lady Bobcats pounded out ten hits led by Sanches who homered, drove in three runs, and scored three runs. Paris Becker had two singles and scored two runs. Vincent had both a run scored and a run batted in.

Sanches picked up the win in the second game over Humble on Friday

GIRLS Page 3B

Seven Bobcats named to All District basketball



Orangefield Bobcats Jaden Scales and Zane Wrinkle were honored as the 21-3A All-District Offensive Player of the Year and the Defensive Player of the Year respectfully during the recent basketball season. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE

For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats completed a great basketball season with a 33-6 record and reaching the third round of the state playoffs. Orangefield was eliminated by Hitchcock which has advanced to the final four in Austin this weekend.

Seven Bobcats were honored as All-District selections for District 21-3A. Jaden Scales was named the Offensive Player of the Year, and Zane Wrinkle

was selected the Defensive Player of the Year. Chosen to the First Team was Kane Smith. Kadyr Rucker and Griffin Thomas were both picked for the Second Team. Making Honorable Mention were Garrett Rawls and Mason Manning.

"This was a great season for the Bobcats, and we want say thank you to all the Bobcat fans for their support and encouragement this year." Coach Bryan Whitmire expressed.

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OUTDOORS

More than one “right way”

OUTDOORS

Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

You ever wonder what a 64 pack of Crayola crayons, 31 flavors of ice cream at Baskin Robbins, or bags of assorted candy have in common? The answer is they offer something for everyone because we all don't have the same taste. If everyone did things exactly like everyone else then life would be ridiculously boring and mundane. It's choices and options that give each individual the opportunity to succeed and sometimes those options and choices are a little different than what some people consider to be the best or only way to go about things. Taking a quick glance at the calendar right now means different things to different people, especially fishermen. If you flip through the pages of Texas fishing magazines or look at the internet fishing sites it won't be hard to figure out what the prevailing thought on most people's minds is this month, its big trout. More often than not its pursuing big trout while wade fishing and throwing artificial lures. I'll be one of the first to raise my hand and say "I'm all for that". I will, on the other hand, also be one of the first to say "that's not the only way to catch those big fish" and that's where choices and options come in to play.

One year I was at one the fishing shows standing around with a group of guides and tournament anglers having a great conversation and swapping stories on various subjects and inevitably the style or different methods of fishing became the topic. I listened intently and heard basically the same story over and over of how this group of anglers spent their time on the water. After several stories it was more than apparent that these guys took it for granted that everyone fished exactly like they did and the thought that someone wouldn't was just borderline blasphemy. I can understand why they would think like this, especially when all the other fishermen they routinely hung out with did the same things they did. I can remember the look on their faces when I told them "you realize you are a very small fraction of the fishing population and 10 times as many people fish differently than you do". It was a Kodak moment to say the least. I invited them to go to their local sporting goods store and watch other fishermen to see what they buy. Contrary to their beliefs there are way more folks buying terminal tackle, cast nets, and "fresh dead" shrimp than ultra high end gear. The percentage of anglers who exclusively hunt trophy fish with the latest gear pales in comparison to Joe Public who just goes out to get a bite and maybe catch supper. Just a little something to think about.

Now, regardless of which end of the spectrum you may reside at there are some outstanding options for you to choose from in order to catch both numbers of fish and better quality fish. For many folks the thought of climbing out of a sleek bay boat to wade a pristine flat in search of that career fish is about as close to perfect as one can imagine. Yes, there will be plenty of good fish caught by waders during this time of the year and there will also be plenty of pages and print dedicated to that method as well. For others the thought of crawling out of a perfectly good boat into cold water is about as foreign as ordering a bologna sandwich at a south Texas BBQ house. It doesn't make any sense but for some it's what they like.

For myself I can honestly say I enjoy both fishing out of the boat and staying in, makes me no difference as long as I'm fishing. However, I must admit that in my career on the water I have been fortunate enough to put me hands on several true 30 inch speckled trout and every one of them was caught while the angler was still in the boat. Perhaps that's because here on Sabine and Calcasieu we tend to spend a little more time in water that's too deep to wade unlike other venues down the coast. The early spring is a fantastic time to locate those better fish in a little deeper water outside of the shallow flats. We spend much of our time in 4 to 6 feet of water making really long drifts that are usually parallel to structure or the shoreline. Often times we are in even deeper water as we probe the breaks along the Sabine River and ICW where some magnum trout and redfish stage up and avoid any traffic or pressure.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

- **Sabine Lake**

FAIR. 62 degrees. The Neches River continues to be fresh, so continue to focus efforts on the points and drop in Bessie Heights Marsh with live shrimp under a popping cork for redfish, sheepshead and drum. Limits of redfish on the flats. Redfish are on the rock piles in the ICW with live shrimp under a popping cork. Sabine Ship Channel is good for redfish. Jetties are good for sheepshead, drum and redfish with live shrimp on a Carolina rig.

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

- **Bolivar**

GOOD. 60 degrees. The fish have been active this week and people caught some great ones when the weather cooperated. They caught plenty of black drum and redfish across the bay and in the surf. Off the jetty, we had reports of flounder, whiting, reds of various sizes, black drum, sheepshead, and small stingrays. The bayside of Bolivar and East Bay have been producing nice speckled trout, reds, drum, and a few sheepshead. Reports from the Texas City Dike were sporadic, but people landed small specks, lots of various sized reds and black drum along with a few flounder, whiting and sand trout. With the tide changes, we caught enough bait on the shrimp boats and more shrimp are coming back into the bay from the gulf hopefully in time to reproduce for a good late spring and early summer season. Report by North Jetty Bait Camp.

- **Trinity Bay**

FAIR. 67 degrees. Water continues to salt up, but winds have not been favorable. Best water and catches of trout have come from the northwest region of upper Galveston bay and Tabbs Bay. Black drum and sheepshead, along with a few redfish are showing up on shallow shell. Best bite on live shrimp. Report by Captain



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

David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

- **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 65 degrees. Bayou drains and marsh still hold keeper reds, a few black drum and the occasional speckled trout. Best bite on live shrimp and soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Surface water temperature up to 64 degrees, water clarity still stained for the most part in East Galveston Bay, with a few areas with better clarity well in the back of the marsh and back lakes. The fish are becoming more active as we continue to get more salinity back in East Galveston Bay. We had some excellent Speckled Trout catching action once again this week, with Rollover Moon & Chartreuse color tails performing the best for us. Our best catches were fishing $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce jig heads and Wac Attack Assassins in Rollover Moon and Chartreuse, with the fish staged in depths up to 7 feet, with most bites coming out of the 5 foot deep areas. As in previous weeks, we just need the winds to cease a little to allow us to fish more of our wintertime, early Spring areas that continue to be blown out, with the

continual fronts pushing through. Fishing will continue to get more consistent as we push into Spring and water temperatures continue to rise.

- **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 69 degrees. Eagle Point area seeing some speckled trout and better numbers of black drum and sheepshead. Best bite on live shrimp under corks or fished on bottom. Wa-



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'The Lakes' Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 58 degrees; 0.38 feet below pool. Bass fishing is good in really all depths from 1-30 feet of water, with catches up to 9 pounds. Shallower fish are coming on weightless senkos, wacky-worms, chatterbaits and square bills. Mid range fish are biting on Carolina rig lizards and brush hogs, football jigs and mid range crankbaits. Deeper fish are coming on drop-shots, spoons and swimbaits. Crappie are picking up as the creeks clear and crappie move in. Best baits are jigs and live minnows in 6-12 feet.

Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

ter is still a bit off-colored. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

- **West Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 66 degrees. Better number of speckled trout being caught by waders. Lower west end of the bay seeing improved catches of redfish, black drum and sheepshead. Best action on artificial lures and live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

- **Texas City**

FAIR. 65 degrees. Black drum run gaining momentum. Good numbers of over sized drum being caught at the jetties and off the Texas City dike. Sheepshead and a few slot reds being caught on live shrimp, close to the rocks. Bull red catches fair. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The Dike is holding redfish and trout along the rocks with scattered drum and flounder. Dickinson Bayou is holding some redfish and drum on popping cork and shrimp or soft plastics. The rock shoals south of the dike are holding fish on popping cork with live shrimp. Sheepshead with an occasional trout and redfish at the entry to Campbell's Bayou. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatly, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

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LCM tennis and Orangefield golf earn medals

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville participated in the Kountze Tennis Tournament on Friday, March 1. Two of the LCM team members brought home medals from the tournament.

Carson Forester won the first place gold medal in the boys singles division. In the girls singles division Lucia Montoto won the third place bronze medal.



Lucia Montoto with the LCM tennis team got the bronze medal for third place in the girls division at the Kountze tennis tournament.



Carson Forester of Little Cypress Mauriceville won first place in the boys division at the Kountze tennis tournament.



Lincoln Parks of the Orangefield golf team took second place at the Nederland Invitational.

team at 356 led by Lincoln Parks (75) and Cole Sanches (82). The Little Cypress Mauriceville team combined to shoot 366 led by Maddox Manual (85) and Carter Foreman (91). The Bridge City B team finished at 391 led by Kevin Cullum (87) and Drake Blackwell (92).

The girl golfers played at Babe Zaharias on Thursday, February 29, in that gender's Nederland Tournament. The Orangefield girls competed well. The first team shot a team total of 427 putting the 4th out of 12 teams overall

and 1st out of district opponents. The second team shot a 460, putting them 6th overall and 2nd out of district opponents.

Individual scores included Rylie Kethan at 103 for thirteenth place and Jordyn Rucker with a 104 to finish fourteenth out of 82 participants. Other Lady Bobcats that played were Lela Francis (109), Abby Slaughter (111), Addi Moore (111), Emma Perriotte (114), Parker Donaud (114), Blake Steele (115), Riley Hass (120), and Destiny Johnson (124).

Local high school boys golf teams traveled to the Babe Zaharias Golf Course in Port Arthur on Wednesday, February 28,

The Bridge City A team led by Brayden Denison (85) and Luke Campbell (87) shot a team total of 355. One stroke behind

them was the Orangefield

Girls softball From Page 1B

walking none and striking out nine. Sanches used her bat as well hitting a double, a triple, driving in a run, and scoring once. Paris Becker walked, ripped a triple, scored a run, and drove a run in. Her sister Hallee hit two singles and scored twice. Greenlea Oldham drew a pair of walks and scored a run.

Playing in the Gold Bracket the competition got tougher for Orangefield on Saturday. The Lady Bobcats lost twice by shutouts 4-0 to Shepherd and 5-0 to Vidor.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats are 12-7-1 on their season. District play resumed on Tuesday against Kirbyville, and Orange-

field will play again on Friday at Anahuac.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears won three games on Friday, March 1, in the Franklin Tournament. The Lady Bears blew away Norman-gee 24-0 in two innings. Ava Wright drove in three runs and Tessa Erickson struck out seven in three innings of pitching.

The second Lady Bears' game on Friday with Rogers was much tighter. Keylie Washburn hit a homerun to tie the game 5-5 in the third inning, and the Lady Bears went on to win 8-6 in that game.

LCM got its third win on Friday that night 6-5 over White Oak. Abby Sepulvado hit a three run

single that led to five runs scoring in the eighth inning for the Lady Bears to get the victory.

On Saturday Little Cypress Mauriceville split two games. The Lady Bears lost to Salado 9-1 before defeating Rogers again this time by a score of 5-1.

The schedule for District 19-4A girls begins this week. The Bridge City Cardinals played at home on Tuesday against Silsbee and will face the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears on Friday in Bridge City. The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs opened district at home against Vidor and will travel to Lumberton on Friday.

Astros' Justin Verlander will begin season on injured list

Staff Report
For The Record

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- Houston Astros ace Justin Verlander will open the season on the injured list after dealing with right shoulder inflammation during the offseason.

Astros manager Joe Espada said Tuesday that Verlander, 41, hasn't suffered any setbacks but needs more time to become game-ready.

"He's doing very well, but we're just running out of days here, and we won't be able to build him up enough to start the season," Espada told reporters. "It's just a timing issue. We want to do what's best for J.V. and our club, and this is what's best for us right now."

Verlander hasn't experienced any soreness in his shoulder after bullpen sessions, the manager said. The three-time Cy Young Award winner is expected



Astros manager Joe Espada said Tuesday that Verlander, 41, hasn't suffered any setbacks but needs more time to become game-ready.

but said he will be "really cautious on how I'm building up."

Verlander signed an \$86.7 million, two-year deal with the New York Mets ahead of the 2023 season but was traded back to Houston on Aug. 2. He helped the Astros win their sixth AL West crown in seven seasons before they lost to the Texas Rangers in the AL Championship Series.

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Certa-Bearden baseball

From Page 1B



Bobcat Kane Smith scored four runs in Orangefield's first two games of the Certa Bearden Classic.
RECORD PHOTO: DAN PERRINE



Will Lee drove in three Mustangs with a double that tied the game with Warren won by WOS on Thursday in the Certa Bearden Classic.
RECORD PHOTO: DAN PERRINE



Jake Raney and Brice Frenzel pitched LCM to a win on Friday in the weekend's tournament.
RECORD PHOTO: DAN PERRINE

ted in while Seago went two for two with a run scored and an rbi.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs split their four games in their tournament. Thursday the Mustangs whipped the Warren Warriors 7-3 behind the three hit pitching and ten strikeouts by Diego Ibarra. Will Lee crushed a bases loaded double in the third inning that tied the game. Noah Robles and Blade Williams brought home runs in the fourth to give the Mustangs the lead which they never relinquished.

WOS lost later on Thursday night 7-0 to Kountze and on Friday night 10-0 to Buna. The Mustangs got one hit in each game.

The Mustang bats were swinging better on Saturday night for West Orange-Stark in a 10-5 besting of Beaumont United. The game only lasted four innings as Robles pitched two scoreless innings with three strikeouts to get the win.

Lee gave the Mustangs the early lead in the first inning with a double to drive in Robles, and then Will scored on a base hit by Grayson Gregory. Ja'Veon Rubin gave WOS a big 7-0 lead in the third with a double to bring home two more Mustangs.

Orangefield went 2-2 in the four games played. The Bobcats won the first game of the tournament on Thursday morning 9-5 over the Liberty Panthers at Ronnie Anderson Park.

Brycen Tait was the winning pitcher for the Bobcats going five and a third innings allowing all five runs but only three were earned. Carson Gonzalas got a two run double in the first that gave Orangefield a 4-2 lead.

Gonzales walked to start the Orangefield third during which four more runs scored including a pair of Bobcats on a beautiful squeeze bunt by Adam Tran. Kane Smith just back to baseball following the

conclusion of the basketball season for Orangefield scored three times in the game.

The Bobcats lost to Little Cypress Mauriceville 8-4 later on Thursday. Smith scored his fourth run in the two Orangefield games.

Kaleb Menard struck out five in six innings to get the 7-2 win for the Bobcats over the Cornerstone Christian Academy on Friday at Lamar University. Cameron Dearing went three for three with a triple, a double, and three runs scored.

Gonzalas drove in three runs.

Saturday's game back at West Orange-Stark was worth forgetting for the Bobcats as they were topped 12-1 by the Tomball Kings. Dearing went two for three with a walk while Camden Fountain was three for four and drove in Dearing for the Bobcat run.

The final tune ups before the start of district for the boys in District 19-4A will be tournaments. The Bridge City Cardinals play at the Jasper Tourney Thursday through Satur-

day, March 7-9. Little Cypress Mauriceville and West Orange-Stark will participate in the Orange County Classic baseball tournament Thursday through Saturday as well at the Little Cypress Mauriceville campus.

Orangefield began District 21-3A play on Tuesday, March 5, at home against Kirbyville. The Bobcats' next district game will be Tuesday, March 12. also at home against East Chambers.

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Was Anyone More Alone?

Charisse Compton
Guest Contributor
desiringgod.org

I had read the account of the woman at the well countless times before, but never had it spoken so powerfully to a quiet pain I have often felt: loneliness.

I had always focused on the needs of the woman while reading John 4, but this time the needs of her Savior arrested my attention. In the familiar account, a weary and thirsty Jesus sits down beside the well of Sychar while his disciples, hungry after an exhausting journey, venture into the Samaritan town to buy food (John 4:6–8). In the next scene, a woman arrives to draw water from the well. Jesus asks her for a drink, and then he offers her a drink of another kind — a soul-satisfying draft of living water (John 4:13–14).

Presumably, Jesus drinks the water the Samaritan woman draws from the well, but after his disciples return with food, hungry as he almost certainly is, he does not eat. Instead, in another play on words, he tells his disciples, “I have food to eat that you do not know about” (John 4:32). The bewildered disciples conclude that someone else had given him food. Knowing their confusion, Jesus explains, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me” (John 4:34). Jesus had feasted on a spiritual harvest that day; so spiritually full was he that his physical hunger diminished.

Rereading this account was a hunger-diminishing



experience for me. I was weary and thirsty from a journey of my own — another out-of-state move. If T.S. Eliot’s Prufrock “measured out [his] life with coffee spoons,” I could measure mine out with these moves, each one bringing fresh feelings of loneliness as I once again took on the identity of an outsider. I was hungry for friendship and belonging.

Jesus’s example at the well of Sychar gave me a plan for dealing with my loneliness-hunger. Jesus modeled the joyful obedience that suppresses lesser appetites. I learned that busying myself with the good works God had given me could fill me spiritually such that my hunger for belonging would recede into its proper place.

Just as Jesus experienced fullness through faithful obedience to God, I have learned to find joy and satisfaction in faithfully completing the work God gives me each day, whether pre-

paring another meal, writing sample sentences for grammar class, responding to emails, arbitrating my children’s disputes, greeting a neighbor, sending up prayers of confession and pleas for help, or even cleaning a spill in the refrigerator. Each small act of faithfulness begins to fill my soul, much like the first bite each morning begins to fill my stomach.

Best and Dearest Friend

I am hardly alone in my loneliness. About one in four adults across the world suffers from a similar hunger. Bankrupt of any long-term solutions, the world suggests increased human interactions to alleviate the suffering. But for all our digital connectedness, the loneliness epidemic persists and grows.

Only in Jesus do we find a solution to the growing problem. He offers the hunger-suppressing plan of

faithful obedience. But he also offers so much more. Jesus offers the presence of a sympathetic friend. If, as C.S. Lewis observes, friendship begins when one person says to another, “What! You too? I thought I was the only one” (The Four Loves, 78), then in Jesus we find the best and dearest friend. He fully “sympathize[s] with our weaknesses” and has experienced the pain of their accompanying temptations, “yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:14–16).

Acquainted with Loneliness

Jesus is a friend who, just like us, is intimately acquainted with hunger, thirst, exhaustion, and, yes, even loneliness.

Has anyone been more misunderstood than Jesus, whose divine proclamations of truth were met with ignorance and doubt? “We brought no bread” (Matthew 16:7). “He is out of his mind” (Mark 3:21). Who can forget the derision of his fellow Galileans after he authoritatively taught and powerfully performed miracles among them? “Is not this the carpenter’s son?” (Matthew 13:55). How about Peter’s brazen rebuke when Jesus revealed the wisdom of God’s salvation plan? “This shall never happen!” (Matthew 16:22).

Has anyone been more alone than Jesus, who “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51)? While his friends and brothers carried on with their lives, he single-mindedly pursued

the task his Father had given him. He wasn’t granted the gift of human marriage or children or property, as so many others had been. Instead, his was the lonely path to Golgotha. Who has been more alone than the one who, in his greatest hour of need, fell on his face, prayed, wept, and bled, only to find those dearest to him sleeping, unable to help shoulder his burden? “Could you not watch with me [for] one hour”?! (Matthew 26:40).

Has anyone endured more hatred than Jesus, whose bloodied body and anguished cries from the cross provoked the jeering of the violent mob who had gathered to satisfy their bloodlust? There, Jesus endured the lonely lash of public mockery: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. . . . Let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God’” (Matthew 27:41–43).

Misunderstood by family and friends, rejected by his countrymen, despised by the religious leaders, forsaken and betrayed by his disciples, Jesus understood loneliness. No one was more of an outsider, and no one could be more of a friend. To our own lonely hearts, the ever-present Jesus whispers the comforting words, “Me too. You are not alone.”

Glorious Through Loneliness

But more than offering the presence of a friend in loneliness, and more than offering a plan for alleviating the loneliness, Jesus offers purpose to the suffering of loneliness. If Jesus was perfected through suf-

fering (Hebrews 2:10), will we not also be perfected through our own suffering? Loneliness is another of those “various trials” that may grieve us throughout our lives (1 Peter 1:6). But as we embrace the affliction, as we resist the temptations it brings, and as we pursue joy by faithfully doing the work God has given us, our faith is refined like gold, becoming more and more precious as the impurities melt away (1 Peter 1:7).


One of the purposes of loneliness — and indeed, one of the main purposes for every kind of suffering — is for God to make us glorious through it. And as we all in varying degrees share the sufferings of Jesus, so shall we also share in his glory.

Not Alone


Maybe yours is the loneliness of bereavement, or of being the outsider, or of being misunderstood or cynically judged. Maybe your life circumstances distinguish you, though not in the way you would prefer. Maybe you endure chronic snubbing in your neighborhood or chronic ridicule at school for being a Christian. Whatever the nature of your suffering, take heart, lonely soul! You are not alone. Jesus is with you.

Feast, as he did, on the “food” God has given you to eat. Be filled with “the peaceful fruit of righteousness” that enduring loneliness produces in this life (Hebrews 12:11). And wait in the company of your dearest friend for the coming glory, where his faithfulness has earned for you a share of his inheritance (Romans 8:17).

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Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **KIRK GERARD BONNIN**, Deceased, were issued on **JANUARY 29, 2024, in Cause No. P19860**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Taylor Joseph Bonnin**.

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

c/o:
William Ford Dishman
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 12776
Beaumont, TX 77726

Dated the **26th** day of **February, 2024**.

William Ford Dishman
William Ford Dishman
Attorney for:
Taylor Joseph Bonnin
State Bar No. 24054891

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ford@dishmanlaw.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **SANDRA JEAN PITRE**, Deceased, were issued on **FEBRUARY 20, 2024, in Cause No. P19902**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Lisa Renee Pitre**.

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

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

Dated the **21st** day of **February, 2024**.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Lisa Renee Pitre

State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100

jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice to all persons having claims against the **Estate of VINCENT DILLEY**, Deceased. **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on **FEBRUARY 21, 2024**, administration of the Estate of **VINCENT DILLEY**, Deceased, Cause No. **P19258**, was commenced by an Order of the Court that, among other findings and directives, authorized the issuance by the Clerk of the Court of original Letters Testamentary to for an independent administration of that Estate to **LYNDA COURTNEY**, Independent Executrix.

All persons having claims against the Estate are notified to present those claims within the time prescribed by law, in writing, to the attorney for said Estate representative shown below.

Respectfully submitted,
McLeod, Alexander, Powell & Apfel, P.C.
P. Alan Sanders
P. Alan Sanders

Attorney for **Lynda Courtney**, Independent Executrix

Texas Bar No.:
17602100
PO Box 629
Galveston, TX 77553
(409)763-2481

Email: **PASanders@MAPAlaw.com**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **M O Z E L L E P H I L L I P S**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 4, 2024, in Cause No. P19911**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **LISA ANN DAVIS**.

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

c/o:
LISA ANN DAVIS
2292 Gemini Street
Houston, TX 77058

Dated the **4th** day of **March, 2024**.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **E.J. VINCENT**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 4, 2024, in Cause No. P19915**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JOHN OTIS VINCENT**.

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

c/o:
JOHN OTIS VINCENT
203 Woodchase Drive
Victoria, TX 77904

Dated the **4th** day of **March, 2024**.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for an informative session on the Cottage Food Law, tailored for farmers markets and open to everyone interested in learning. Whether you're a seasoned vendor or just starting out, this event is your opportunity to gain valuable insights and get your questions answered.

Date: Monday, March 18th
Time: 6:00 PM

This session aims to equip you with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the Cottage Food Law successfully. We anticipate an engaging discussion with ample time for questions and answers, all within an hour.

To reserve your spot or inquire further, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office at 409-882-7010.

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
MARCH
MADNESS

ACROSS

- Window addition?
- Huge software company
- Spill the beans
- Watcher
- Acronym, abbr.
- Words to live by
- Ocean-dwelling ____ ray
- Polynesian neck-lace
- "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
- *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
- *"One ____ Moment"
- Like jalapeño
- Give off
- Bean counter?
- *Dominate opponent, slangily
- *____-elimination tournament

- Bricklayers' carrier
- Wood sorrels
- Jeweler's unit
- Alight, past tense
- Swings around
- Spice Girl
- Bubonic plague carriers
- Away from wind
- D'Artagnan's sword
- *Elite Eight, or the ____ round of tournament
- Bono's bandmate, with The
- Make a mistake
- Landlord's due
- Small lump
- *State Farm Stadium state
- *Not pro
- Chocolate substitute
- Hot temper
- Derived from oats
- Cuckoo
- Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
- Baby at a recital
- Have supper
- Young newt

DOWN

DOWN

- Brush alternative
- Culture-growing turf
- Long forearm bone
- Satyr
- City in Poland
- *Delta Center location: ____ Lake City
- Hole-in-one
- Type of polyhedron
- Raisin's breakfast companion
- Denim innovator
- Port in Yemen
- Toker's pipe
- Professional reviewer
- Not pathos
- Not hers
- Shoulder rank display
- Winnowing left-overs
- Chicken in Mexico
- Farewell in Paris
- *School with

- most NCAA basketball titles
- Back of the neck
- Search blindly
- Lightsaber beam
- Olden days anesthetic
- * ____ player
- Garden starter
- D.S., in sheet music
- Dance club light
- Female chicken
- Speech at a funeral
- Lacking guile
- What speakers do
- LSD, e.g.
- Indian princess
- Turkmenistan's neighbor
- *Type of defense
- One tenth of a dime
- Airline postings, acr.
- Type of pool
- What means justify
- Churchill's "so few"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19					20		21	22					
		23				24							
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48				49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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