

County Record

Vol. 64 No. 45

Distributed FREE in Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Grant to help county deputies get pay raise

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Sheriff's deputies will be getting a pay raise thanks to a rural law enforcement grant of \$500,000. Commissioners Court Tuesday voted to accept the grant from the Texas State Comptroller's Office.

County Judge John Gothia said Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney decided to use the money to divide between the 114 eligible employees in his office. The county is supposed to get another \$500,000 grant again next year.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris Sowell said the grant is "to help get the pay scale for rural officers up."

County Judge John Gothia said pay in the sheriff's office has gotten below pay for other law enforcement agencies and it has become hard to get new deputies to fill vacancies. "We can't fill them



Judge John Gothia

because of the pay."

The county is also getting a \$1 million grant from the federal Community Development Block Grant program for recovery after Tropical Storm Imelda, which flooded part of the county. Kinard Estates off FM 1130 in Precinct 1 is targeted to get a new drainage system with the grant money, which will also cover engineering costs for the project.

County Engineer Corey Oldbury gave a report that included information on

the East Roundbunch Swing Bridge. The bridge was opened and closed 52 times during March. Barge traffic has greatly increased on Cow Bayou with the construction project of the \$8.5 billion Chevron Phillips chemical plant. Large pieces of the new plant are pre-constructed overseas and shipped to the U.S., then taken by barges up Cow Bayou to a specially-built

loading zone. Heavy trucks then haul the pieces from the bayou down Highway 87 to the construction site, about a mile away.

Oldbury said he has been in contact with the Texas Department of Transportation about putting up traffic spotlights by the bridge on the water to help the barge traffic at night.

The Chevron Phillips

construction is across the highway from the Orange County Airport, and commissioners court accepted a gift from the corporation of two lights for signs.

The court also approved 12 property tax abatements on new houses in the Vidor area, though Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan said he thinks the special incentive is not needed now because the county has a lot

of new homes being built.

The program was started by the city of Vidor several years ago when Robert Viator was mayor. He now serves Precinct 4 county commissioner.

Viator said the program was originally set up to encourage new homes to be built in dilapidated areas of the city and attract new residents. He said the

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BCCC planning (hot air) balloon fest

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Light up Saturday, September 14, on the calendars because the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce hopes to illuminate the dark that night with a hot air balloon festival.

Chamber Director Mandy Lyda said plans have not been finished, yet, but the event is set for that date at the Bridge City Elementary-Intermediate school area off West Roundbunch Road.

The event will allow the public to see hot air balloons lit and glowing in the night. The festival will include vendors with arts and crafts, food trucks, and booths, along with live entertainment.

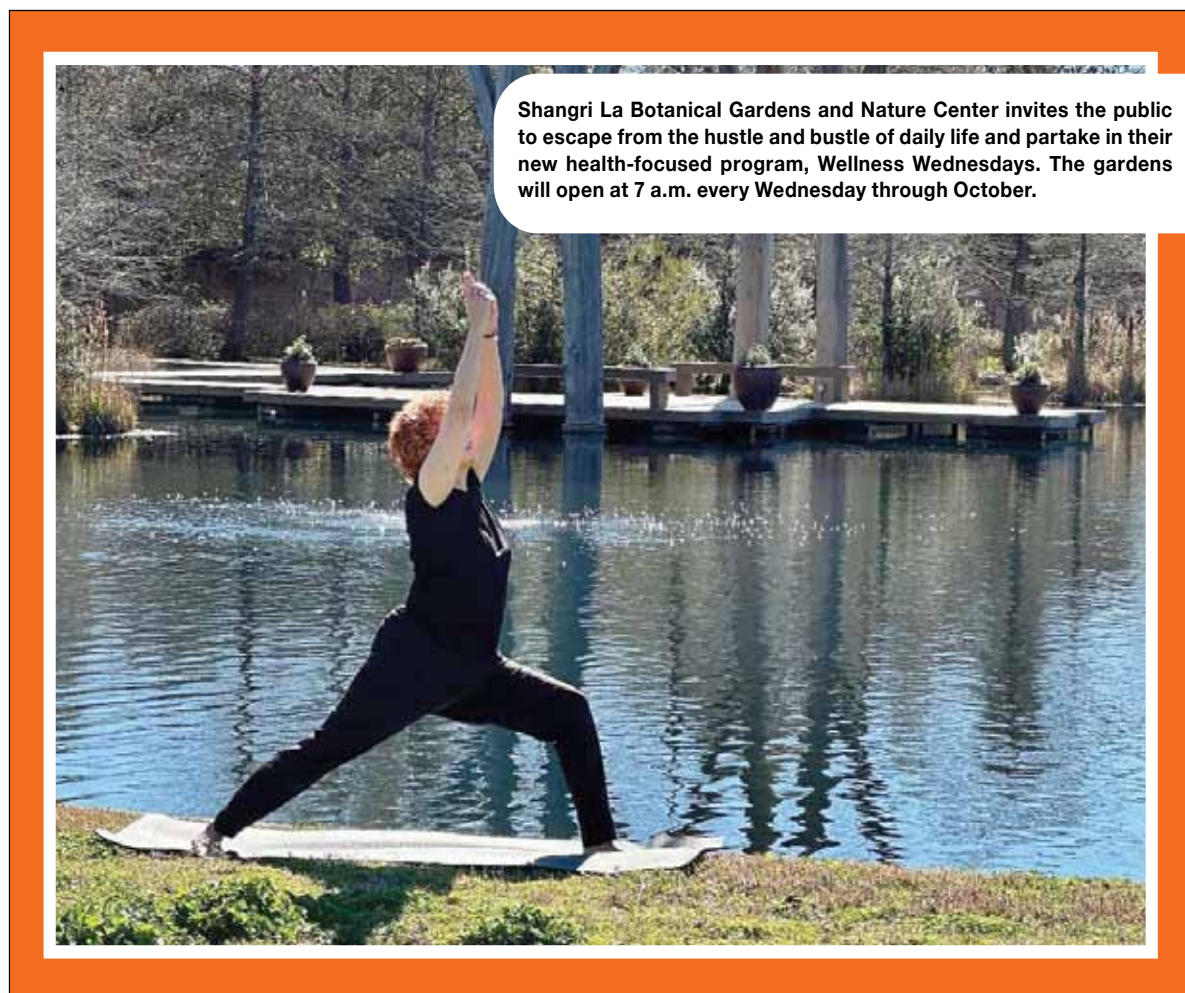
"We were looking for something fresh and new to this area," Lyda said.

The chamber already has one major industrial sponsor and is looking for more business, industrial, and individual sponsorships. In addition, people may begin reserving booth or food vendor spaces through the chamber.

The chamber phone number is 409-735-5671 and it is at 150 West Roundbunch Road. Vendor reservations and inquiries about sponsorships may be made through the chamber.

Lyda said the chamber members are hoping this year will draw people from around the area to Bridge City. If it is successful, the festival may grow for the next year.

Plans are still being made for any admission charges and details about the hot air balloons that will be attending.



Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center invites the public to escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life and partake in their new health-focused program, Wellness Wednesdays. The gardens will open at 7 a.m. every Wednesday through October.

WO residents 'spring clean' this weekend

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

West Orange officials want residents to take advantage of the city's annual spring cleanup by taking their cast-off furniture, appliances, and other items to the free dumpster service on Friday and Saturday.

Mayor Randy Branch said the cleanup event is part of the city council's on-going effort to remove trash and improve the appearance of neighborhoods.

The city is sponsoring the event with the dump-

sters being set up behind the West Orange Volunteer Fire Department, on Austin Avenue behind city hall. The dumpsters will be open to residents on Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

People using the dumpsters need to have proof of residency within the West Orange city limits plus have a photo identification. They will also need to remove their trash from their vehicles and place it in the dumpsters.

No hazardous wastes will be accepted. Appliances like refrigerators

and air conditioners with Freon must have the chemical removed first with a tag marking that a certified person removed the Freon. Otherwise, things like old appliances, appliances, rusted yard materials, metals, and green waste like tree limbs will be able to be disposed at no cost.

Mayor Branch said the city last year created the Adopt-a-Street project with volunteers registering to keep litter picked up off of a chosen street. The city will install signs letting the public know about the volunteers. For

instance, Newton Avenue past West Orange-Stark High School has been adopted by the school's student council.

Branch said he also has adopted a street, along with the Stars of Gate City and some other civic groups. Groups wanting to sign up for the program may go to city hall, 2700 Western Avenue for a form to be completed and then approved by city officials.

The mayor said Dayton and Holly streets particularly need cleaning. Ap-

Spring Clean Page 3A

WHAT TO EXPECT ON ECLIPSE DAY IN TEXAS

Like 'some invisible force is taking a bite out of the sun'

Shelly Brisbin
The Texas Standard

April 8 is shaping up to be historic day across a large swath of Texas, as a total solar eclipse blocks the sun from view for a few breathtaking minutes.

But what will the hours and minutes leading up to the eclipse be like? How should you prepare if you will be in Eagle Pass, Fred-

ericksburg, McKinney or another location in totality's path? And what will you be able to observe about the sun and the moon?

Angela Speck, who chairs the physics and astronomy department at UT San Antonio – and is a veteran of many an eclipse – offers lots of tips and tricks for having the best experience on eclipse day. Check out her advice below:

• Eclipse day timing

On eclipse day, the moon will fully obscure our view of the sun in early afternoon – I believe it's about 1:30 Central time or so.

The solar eclipse begins with what we call first contact. That's when the moon first starts to impinge on the disk of the sun. And that happens at about 12:15, maybe closer to 12 if you're

Eagle Pass and closer to 12:30 or so in northern Texas. But it's basically 12:15ish we start to see a partial eclipse.

If you don't pay attention, if you don't have special viewing devices, if you're not looking at shadows, you wouldn't even notice for another hour that anything weird was going on, because your eyes adjust as the sky gets dark; your pu-

pils get bigger, and you can see the light just looks the same.

So when we talk about the sky getting dark, even about a minute out from totality, the sky is only like an overcast day – hopefully it's not overcast; hopefully it's clear – but the darkness is like an overcast day. It's not super dark, but in the course of the next minute, it drops from overcast day

to nearly full moon dark in one minute. It is faster than sunset even in the places where it sets really fast.

• What you see before totality

Even when you get to like 99%, even when you're really close to fully eclipsed, it's still not that dark. Many

ECLIPSE Page 2A

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Eclipse day in Texas From Page 1



Monday's total solar eclipse will make landfall along Mexico's Pacific coast and cross into Texas and 14 other U.S. states, before exiting over Canada. It will last almost twice as long, with an even wider audience, than the total solar eclipse that stretched coast-to-coast in the U.S. in 2017.

people will have witnessed the Ring of Fire eclipse, a very good partial eclipse in October of last year. And it just didn't get that dark.

And so you really don't notice it getting darker until the sun is 75% eclipsed. And even then, it's subtle, and it's kind of like on a cloudy day when the sky sometimes goes green before hail, and you're like, "whoa, the sky looks weird." It's like the sky is the wrong color.

During this solar eclipse, we do not even see the moon at all. Basically, what happens is, as the moon moves in the way, it just looks like some invisible force is taking a bite out of the sun. We do not see it because it's not lit up. The side that is pointing towards us has no light on it, and so we don't see it at all. Once it's completely in the way, we see what looks like a black hole, because it's the unlit side that is pointing towards us.

Animal behavior during an eclipse

There's really interesting animal behavior. Some people witnessed it during the Ring of Fire eclipse back in October. But basically, at the same time that we start to notice that the skies are a funny color, so do the birds. But instead of going quiet, they do what they do after sunset. They do this kind of swarming thing where they flock and they make lots of noise. And so they're just

flying around doing their bedtime routine.

Also, if you happen to have cows handy, they will go back to the barn or wherever they sleep, because, "oh, yeah, the sky is the right color. It's time for me to go to my where I go to sleep."

So there's actually quite a lot of studies being done during this eclipse on different animals at different zoos and other locations around the country, and not just in the path of totality.

If deer would normally be running around after the sunset but before it gets dark, they will be thinking "it is time for me to do my running around thing." And so yes, those are exactly the sort of things that we need to pay attention to.

Studies are being done on other insects, but in 2017, it was shown that bees stop buzzing during totality.

Eclipse viewing safety

You should wear eclipse safety glasses anytime you look at the sun, except during totality. So you can actually use them on a normal day. Right now, the sun is very active and so it has spots. And so if you've got reasonable eyesight, even without any magnification, no telescope, no nothing, you put on those glasses and you can sometimes see spots on the sun.

But if you don't have them, do not stare at the sun ever, unless is totally eclipsed.

Weather changes

It depends on the temperature and the humidity, but it can drop by 10 degrees Fahrenheit. So you really feel it. And that change in temperature means there's a change in pressure in the air. And that means you get breezes as well. And so you get breezes on your skin.

And then you got sounds again. So we talked about the birds doing their bedtime routine, but once it plunges into darkness, you have an absence of noise. The birds have all landed and gone quiet. Now the chances are you won't notice that because all the people around you will be screaming. They always do.

What you'll see close to totality

There are several more things to look out for. So first of all, you're looking up at where the sun is at this point. You do not have the glasses on. If you have the glasses on, you won't see anything. What is left of the sun is its corona - its atmosphere. It's only as bright as the full moon, so it's only as dangerous as looking at the full moon.

At the same time, you can see little bits of pink really close to the sun. The moon just looks like a black hole right next to the moon. And at the edge of the corona, you see these little pink bits

- those are the prominences, the loops of gas that are sticking up off the surface of the sun. It's amazing.

And that pink stuff, it really is pink. People think of the sun as being yellow, but that gas at the surface, it's low density, and it's pink. And so it's really cool to see.

At the same time, it may get dark enough to see stars, but it will certainly get dark enough to see the brightest planets, which will be Venus and Jupiter. And if it gets dark enough, you'll also see Saturn and Mars, maybe Mercury. And there's a comet. So depending on how dark it gets, you might be able to see a comet close to where Jupiter is in the sky.

If you're looking up towards the sun, there'll be one planet on either side. And they won't be that far away. It'll be a few degrees that you turn your head through to see it.

It's only as bright as a full moon. It's completely safe to look at. The only concern is as the moon continues to move; it's moving out of the way eventually. What happens is the moon moves out of the way, and the first place that light can get through will be a deep valley on that side of the moon.

So there will be one spot where the sunlight comes in initially. And so what you

see is called the diamond ring effect, where this light comes through, and it's so bright that it really pings. And you only need to look at it for one second, and then you know that the sun's coming back. You look away, and you put your safety glasses back on.

There are two more things that people should pay attention to. One is what's called Baily's beads: As the moon is moving in the way, the last thing you see is actually what looks like beads of sunlight on the surface of the moon, where it's essentially valleys that are letting in sunlight and mountains that are blocking them out. And so you see what looks like beads. That's something that's right before totality.

Then during totality, there are sunset colors all the way around the horizon. So it's full moon dark up by the sun, but as you move your eyes down to the horizon, it's getting lighter and lighter. And on the horizon it is the sunset orange and yellow colors. And you see those all the way around, all 360 degrees.

How long will totality last, and where?

If you are on the edge of the path of totality, you get a few seconds. As you move

towards the center of the path, then you get more time. So up in the Hill Country, in places like Fredericksburg and Kerrville, they're getting nearly 4.5 minutes. But even not that far from the edge, so UTSA is maybe 10 miles from the edge, and we get nearly 2.5 minutes.

So I think the really important thing, more for San Antonio than Austin, but for both of those cities, is that both of them are on the edge of the path. And so actually for San Antonio, downtown does not see totality. It gets a 99.9% eclipse, and that's not enough.

Keep the glasses on. But you will not experience the corona or any of that stuff if you are in a 99.9%. It's one of the cases where people are like, "oh 99.9 sounds great." Well, you still have a thousand times more light coming from the sun than comes from the full moon. It just doesn't get that dark. So people who are going to the Alamo or the Riverwalk, it's like, no, go there after the eclipse. Go further north or west and enjoy the full show.

In Houston they also didn't get the Ring of Fire. And they will get a partial; it will be a deeper partial than they had in October, but it will still just be a partial.



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Watercraft removal April 6

Orange County with the General Land Office and Texas Parks and Wildlife will have a vessel turn in program at the Orange County Citizen Collection Station, 11265 FM 1442 Orange Texas 77630 from 10 am to 6 pm on April 6th, 9th, 11th and 13th. The Vessel Turn In Program provides owners with a free and voluntary method to dispose of their vessels and boats. The GLO sponsors the removal of all fuel, oil and batteries; TPWD verifies ownership and clears the vessels for disposal; and Orange County Road and Bridge disposes of the vessels and boats.

The Record Newspapers

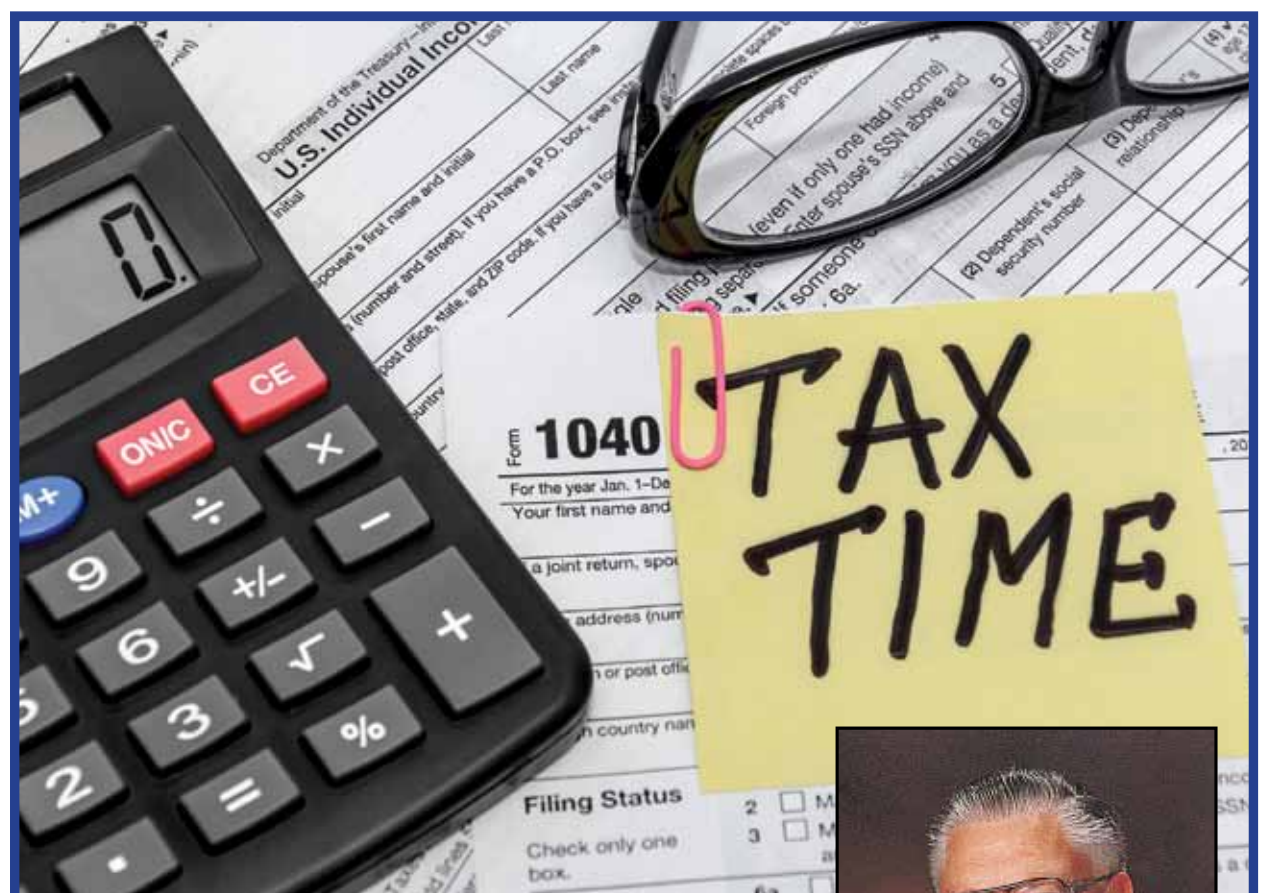
of Orange County, Texas

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Explosive Atlantic hurricane season predicted

Brian Lada
AccuWeather
staff writer

The scene is being set for a turbulent year in the tropics, one that could approach a record-setting pace that may exhaust the entire list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes -- and then some.

The Atlantic hurricane season officially gets underway on June 1 and runs through the end of November, and AccuWeather's team of long-range forecasters say now is the time to prepare for a frenzy of tropical systems. There are signs that the first named system could spin up before the season kicks off as the calendar flips to June, a precursor of what's to come.

"The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to feature well above the historical average number of tropical storms, hurri-

canes, major hurricanes and direct U.S. impacts," AccuWeather Lead Hurricane Forecaster Alex DaSilva said. This echoes the early warning AccuWeather issued in late February, ringing the alarm bells about the potential for a surge in tropical activity.

Last hurricane season featured 19 named storms, but there were only four direct U.S. impacts. Hurricane Idalia was the storm of the year, which slammed into Florida as a powerful Category 3 hurricane in late August. Additionally, Tropical Storm Harold drenched southern Texas, and Tropical Storm Ophelia made landfall in North Carolina. Lee also swiped the New England coast as a tropical rainstorm before making landfall in Nova Scotia, Canada.

All signs continue to point toward the upcoming

season being worse than the last, with the potential for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season to rank as one of the most active in history.

Driving factors for a hyperactive hurricane season

Warm water is fuel for tropical systems, and there will be plenty of warm water for fledgling systems to tap into and strengthen.

"Sea-surface temperatures are well above historical average across much of the Atlantic basin, especially across the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and the Main Development Region [for hurricanes]," DaSilva explained. The Atlantic water temperatures observed in March were around or even warmer than they were in March ahead of the blockbuster 2005 and 2020 hurricane seasons.

Not only will this promote frequent development, but it will increase the potential for systems to undergo rapid intensification, a phenomenon that has occurred in recent years with historic hurricanes.

In 2020, Hurricane Laura was in the Gulf of Mexico and was making a beeline toward southwestern Louisiana. In just 24 hours, it rapidly intensified from a Category 1 hurricane with winds of 85 mph to a menacing Category 4 storm with winds of 150 mph -- 7 mph shy of Category 5 status.

Unusually warm water could also help to spawn tropical systems in November when the Atlantic hurricane season is winding down.

The other major factor in AccuWeather's Atlantic hurricane forecast is hitched to the Pacific Ocean.

Water near the equator of the eastern Pacific is in the process of quickly flipping from El Niño, when temperatures in this area are higher than historical averages, to La Niña, when temperatures in this zone are lower than long-term normals. This swift transition may have significant implications across the Atlantic Ocean.

La Niña results in less disruptive winds, known as wind shear, over most of the Atlantic basin.

"It can be helpful to visualize a stack of pancakes," DaSilva explained. When there is a high amount of wind shear, the top of a tropical system can be pushed and tilted away from its base, causing it to become lopsided. If a mature hurricane is in place, it may weaken but will not necessarily dissipate. "A tall, neat stack is what a tropical system wants to be, but wind shear can cause some pancakes to be displaced and the stack could fall over," said DaSilva.

The faster the transition to La Niña occurs, the more active the hurricane season is likely to be.

La Niña was present during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Atlantic hurricane seasons, all of which featured near or well above the historical average of 14 named storms. The 2020 season is tied with the historic 2005 season for the highest number of named storms, with 30.

How many tropical storms and hurricanes are predicted in 2024?

AccuWeather meteorologists are forecasting 20-25 named storms across the Atlantic basin in 2024, including 8-12 hurricanes, four to seven major hurricanes and four to six direct U.S. impacts. This is all above the 30-year historical average of 14 named storms, seven hurricanes, three major hurricanes and four direct U.S. impacts.

With so many factors that could bolster development, there is the potential that there could be even more than 25 named storms in 2024.

"There is a 10-15% chance of 30 or more named storms this year," DaSilva said.

County business From Page 1

program has worked.

County Judge Gothia said the home tax abatement is only for the building and the land is taxed at its appraised value. The abatements are for two years at 100 percent and then go down before ending after five years. He described it as giving private citizens an abatement like industries get.

Only the taxes for the city of Vidor, the county, and the Orange County Port and Navigation Dis-

trict.

District Clerk Ann Reed discussed pay rates for jurors called to duty in the state and county courts, including those for justices of the peace. District Judge Courtney Arkeen also attended and said she will work with the peace justices to get wording on how a day's pay will be calculated. Proposals include \$44 per day for one day on call for jury duty, then \$58 a day for serving on a jury. However, the court took

no official action and will review the plan at a future meeting.

The court renewed a contract for the Orange County Radio Control Club to continue leasing land at the old county landfill off FM 1442. Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte said the club, which uses the land and a pond for radio-controlled planes and boats, has made many improvements to the land.

Bills approved included

\$104,100 to pay the Texas Association of Counties or group medical and dental insurance for employees under the age of 65. Also \$160,661 to pay for March and April benefits for the insurance of county employees age 65 and older.

The court also agreed to the \$100,000 quarterly payment for the Orange County Economic Development Corporation, and \$21,653 for the April payment to the University of Texas Medical Branch to operate the county health center on Cordrey Avenue.

Spring Clean weekend From Page 1

parently, people who get fast food at restaurants along MacArthur Drive turn onto Holly Street and then travel down to Dayton. He said some clear spots along the two streets seem to attract people dumping out their meal trash.

"Of course, we would really like to see people not throwing their trash out their (vehicle) windows," he said.

Another project to improve the city is to get rid of decaying and dilapidated buildings. In the past couple of years, the city has gotten rid of 40 of the buildings, with the city paying to demolish 10 and the owners tearing down another 30.

Mayor Branch said the city prefers for the owners to clear their lots. If the city ends up paying for the demolition, the city then places a lien on the property. The city's lien must be paid off before the

property can ever be sold.

The process, he said, involves the city sending letters to the property owners saying their buildings have been inspected and declared to be unsafe and dilapidated. If the owner

does not tear the building down and remove the debris, then the city will and then impose a lien.

He the owners usually respond to the city and usually remove the building themselves. Some-

times the lien can be more than the value of a small lot, he said.

"We're happy with the program (to remove the decaying buildings), even though it's a long, slow, and painful process, especially if you are without patience for it," he said.



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First Saturday, April 6th at First Baptist Church Bridge City

First Saturday in April is the 6th at First Baptist Church in Bridge City. We will be giving away pantry items such as sugar, flour, corn meal, and corn oil. We are located at 200 West Roundbunch Rd in Bridge City and will be ready for everyone to receive a bag by 10 a.m. Look for the red flags at the driveway to the parking lot. For those who request it, we will pray for you and the things that concern you; your health, family issues, or lost job. Hispanic and English Bibles are free for those who want one. The event will last until 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you April 6th.

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NEWS AROUND TEXAS

Texas is making a lot of news ahead of next Monday's April 8th total solar eclipse. Cities around Texas expect to see a major influx of tourists. Good weather is expected. The Hill Country is a great place to see the eclipse but not the only place. The path of totality is expected to stretch between 108 and 122 miles. There are lots of Texas locations in that wide strip. The First Monday Trade Days, in Canton, this year will be set up for RV and tent camping instead of the flea market. Eclipse sighting of four minutes and five seconds is expected. Around four minutes in good spots will be the norm. The Record will have a reporter in North Texas covering this event.****I'd better move on. Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

CONDOLENCES

Remembering our Jewish friend, Joel Edward Steirman, age 80, who passed away March 30, at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Graveside services will be at 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at Hebrew Cemetery in Lake Charles. We had known Joel many years and always enjoyed his presence at the Wednesday Lunch Bunch gatherings. Over the years his wife Kathleen marked his birthdays with parties at the Boat Club. Joel once served as a Orange County Port Commissioner. Since 1985 he operated his own CPA business. Beyond his professional endeavors, Joel was deeply involved in various community organizations that allowed him to give back and make a difference. He was a lifelong ambassador of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce. Joel's leadership qualities shone through as he served as the president of the Orange Rotary Club not once but twice. Additionally, he held a role as Treasurer of the Orange Boat Club. Joel also made significant contributions during his military service. Enlisting in the Army OCS, Joel bravely served in Vietnam and Korea with the 101st Airborne Division, ultimately achieving the rank of Captain. His exceptional service was honored with a Bronze Star. Joel's final military assignment saw him teaching ROTC at McNeese State University while pursuing his Masters of Business Administration—a testament to his unwavering dedication to continuous growth and learning. Condolences to his family. See our website therecordlive.com for complete obituary. He was a good friend. May he rest in peace.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2014

The Affordable Care Act, that you are enjoying today, reached its seven million start up, sign up on March 31, 2014 despite radical opposition in the beginning. I'm sure it's hard for you to believe in 2014 that at one time the U.S. didn't have universal health care.**** Bobby Taylor would have been proud to know that hundreds of people filled Cowboy Church to pay their last respects. He also would have been proud of his family who greeted everyone who came. Pearl Burgess, 93-years-old, attended and honored Bobby with a poem which was recited at the service and also printed on the program. We spotted Quincy Procell and his wife who were longtime neighbors of the Taylor's. Nelda Burton was introducing people to one another. By the way, Nelda is a candidate for an open seat on the Mauriceville water board. Her first venture in politics. She is usually the bridesmaid, not the bride.

20 Years Ago-2004

BCISD Superintendent Sam Lucia and assistant Joe Chenella, display the Nelda and H.J. Lucher Stark Foundation's grant award. The grant for \$423,275 will produce for a host of technological advancement in education for the new Bridge City High School.****Former Orangefield Bobcat, Nebraska pole vaulter, Eric Eshbach, won the Texas relays with a leap of 18 feet, 4.5 inches. Eric beat all college and pro-vaulters. The win qualified him for the Olympic trials. The Austin meet was attended by 22,000 many from Orange County. None more excited than his grandmother Dot Eshbach and Eric's adopted auntie Margaret Saint. Eric spotted his high school coach Joe Hester in the stands, ran up the steps and picked him up and shook him.****GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Wendy Leigh Mericle, 18 year old LCM senior, died April 3 after an auto accident. Service was held April 6 at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. She is survived by her mother Nancy, brother Bryan and grandmother Lena Gaudet.****Clifford H. Hopper, 90, of Bridge City, died March 31. Funeral service was held April 5 at St. Mark Lutheran Church. A native of New Jersey, he was owner and operator at Hopper Lumber Co. in Bridge City. He was preceded in

death by his wife Clara. He is survived by several nieces and nephews. Pallbearers were Jim Rucker, Kelly Rucker, Chris Juaneau, Billy Garrett, Eric Weeder and Leon Parish.

45 Years Ago-1979

Johnny Dorman, former school teacher, is a candidate for trustee on the Orangefield school board. He is also a former custodian and bus driver in the district.****Texas Gov. Bill Clements proclaims April 2 to April 6 as Texas Industrial Week. Orange Mayor Major Inman, Mayor A.R. Morgan of Pinehurst and Mayor Glenn Seale of West Orange all proclaimed the same date. A reception for industry leaders takes place April 5 at Sunset Grove Country Club.****A.J. Judice and Roy Dunn make a tour of Cajun country. After dropping Roy's mom off in Lafayette, he and A.J. were guest of former Bridge City natives, J.P. and Lloyd Thibodeaux. They were taken on a tour of Acadiana. They visited Roy's boyhood home in Abbeville and A.J.'s in Loreauville. A big supper was held at boat builder Roy Breaux's place in Loreauville.****Flo and Gene Ederly will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary next week.****Miss Sherry Curl, Little Cypress-Mauriceville student, is the new Sheriff's Posse queen and runner-up at the Dogwood Festival.****Happy Birthday to Janet Griffin and Trella Darby.****Ed Lovelace purchases two radio stations in Beeville. The population is 49 percent Mexican, 18 percent German, one percent Black, the rest Anglo Saxon. The AM and FM station will carry country on one and Spanish on the other. ****Bill James and Bill Van win re-elections to the Bridge City school board. All three incumbents in Bridge City city council race, Bruce Wright, N.J. Vicknair and Don Caillouet won.

50 Years Ago-1974

A \$1,000 four-year certificate of deposit at Orange Savings pays 7.50 percent. A 90-day certificate pays 5.75 percent. A day-in-dayout, \$5 minimum, pays 5.25 percent.****Last year the Bridge City mile-rely team placed third in the state with a time of 3:19. Returning to this year's team are Bo Worrell, David Guidry and Mark Truncale. Raymond Salazar replaces Larry Hagler, who graduated. Coach Bob Puentes also has high hopes for the area's best pole vaulter, Raymond Ridley, who has a season high of 13- feet, 7-inches and often makes 14 feet in practice. (Editor's note: Remember that was before the fiberglass, bending poles of today. Cane poles didn't give much.)****David Guidry runs the 330 hurdles in 39 seconds. Other hurdlers are David Weishaar, Billy James and Steve Hock. Distant men are Thad Thompson, Truncale. Desi Ramsey and Wayne Beard run the mile. Robbie Truncale is an alternate in distant runs. In field events are Ridley, Lanston Fall, Graig Morris shot-put: Danny Long discus. (Editor's Note: Hard to believe that was 50 years ago.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

We have often heard that an elderly person dying is like losing a library building to fire. That certainly is the case with the death of Sen. Carl Parker. Funeral services were held in Beaumont Tuesday, April 2. Graveside services will be conducted Wednesday, April 3, at 1:00 p.m. at Texas State Cemetery, 909 Navasota St. in Austin, Texas.****On this day, April 6, 1917, the United States entered WWI. **On this day in 1974, Hank Aaron hit his record 715 home run off of pitcher Al Downing.****Orange's 22nd Art in the Park is this coming Saturday. It's become a popular way to visit with people and become a community, but it's never been the same without C. Delle Bates. He passed away last April in his beloved Orange. The inventor and businessman was able to devote his latter years toward his artwork paintings. He was one of the local artists who started Art in the Park as a way for local artists to display and sell their work. Artists of all kinds from all over Texas and Louisiana have come through the years. The immortal Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown opened the first Art in the Park with a concert and Mayor Brown Claybar proclaiming the day for the great singer and musician. Darlene Zavada was with the Orange Convention and Visitors Bureau and worked to start the festival. Brandy Judice with the CVB has kept it going. The event is in Stark Park off Green Avenue in downtown Orange. A car show will be set up on Front Street. It all starts at 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. And even though Delle Bates won't be here to sell his originals and prints, his estate may be here in the future. His family is working on creating prints of some of his popular works and selling them to set up a foundation to help young artists. Also during Art in the Park, the adjacent W.H. Stark House will offer special tours. Wonder how much Orange Mayor Larry Spears will be spending if he takes his daughters?****The Friends of the Orange Depot started 10 years ago to save the abandoned South-eastern Pacific Railroad station on Green Avenue. Orange native Carrie Joiner Woliver and her husband, Ron, started the non-profit group to buy and restore the old train depot, which has now become a jewel of downtown. The group's fundraiser, Depot Day, is set for May 4 with lots of family activities. Vendors who want to set up should contact the group through the Orange Train Museum. Facebook page or Rose Simar through 409-330-1576. Rose, Diana Hill, Brown Claybar, Stark High grad and businessman Bill Shaddock, Stephen Lee, Walter Riedel and the late Mike Hoke and the late Dan Ryder all have helped preserve the depot, which is now a popular place for receptions and events. We'll keep you informed more about Depot Day.****Spring break is now over for schools and the next couple of months will be zooming by with all kinds of school events, sports, and community activities. Before you know it, school will be out for summer. During the recent spring break, lots of people took mini-vacays. Latouia and Aaron DuBois went with Mandi and Chris Robinson to Camp Margaritaville at Crystal Beach.****David C. and Sabrina Claybar took their two kids to Crystal Beach for a quick trip before Chef David had to

oversee Easter Brunch at his Old Orange Cafe. David not only has a knack for cooking, he has an eagle eye for finding shark teeth fossils on the beach. Ask him how many he found this weekend.****Keith and Cyndi Longlois saw the Astros opener against the Yankees. Rita Monson, Melany Monson, Della Gallien and Don Bonnin saw the Astros and Yankees another day.****Round Top Texas antique hunting is popular, Kill Kunst, Hayli Jones, and Atasha Quebedeux made a shopping trip and wore some shoes out with the walking. Kelli Patin was another taking in not only Round Top, but also nearby Warrenton.****Ida Schosser and Leslie Johnson took in a Madonna concert.****Karen Ratcliff held her traditional Easter tea for her great and great-great-grandchildren.****MaQuettia Ledet took her grandchildren to Disney World for spring break, while Christy Futch Revers, Bridget Bradshaw Teaff, Susie Beasley, and Karen Hayner left Galveston on a cruise.****West Orange Mayor Randy First Lady Jane Branch were grateful to have both daughters and the compete Bellow and Parzen families, all nine of them, together for Easter Sunday services and dinner.****Orange County Next Generation group had a monthly meeting at Orange Stationer and The Office Downtown with Paul Dickerson as host. Attendees included Johnny Asevedo, Hillary Gravett, Caleb Meadows, and Christi Lee Miranda.****Our thanks to neighbors Thelma Sterling and Kay Williams for the delicious Easter cake from "Nanny Sweets" in Mid-County. What a treat.****The last week of March is apparently a popular time in the spring to get married. People celebrating wedding anniversaries this week included Mark and Janois Grizzaffi with 10 years, Alaniz and Codie Vasquez with 32, Keith and Sheila Fasse with 24, Rick and Sherry Sturdivant with eight, and Jerry and Mindi Vandervoort with lots.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. April 3: Special shout out to Constable Lannie Claybar who celebrates a birthday today, also Mahala McClanahan, Aliceson Haynes, Victor Hernandez, Walter Terry, Desirea Wilson, Eddie Asbury, Geoff Rendall, Constable Lannie Claybar, Linda Currie.****April 4: James Wroten, Hillary Benefield, Debbie Kendrick, Hovel Chandler, Jason Ballard, Jeremy Simmons, Joe Peery, Kathie Dorman, Kirk Jordan, Mike Callahan, Rose Cormier, Sandra McRight, Shiloh Walker, Spencer Johns, Travis Primrose, James Wroten, Brandie Fowler.****April 5: Mary Hespe, Jean Taylor, Niki Viola, Janet Bland, Helen Mahfouz, Libby Harrison, Lisa Coffey, Race Dearborne, Cora Woodard.****April 6: Our buddy "The Top Hog" under the railroad tracks, Justice Chad Jenkins, celebrates. On that same day, one of Buster Scales lovely daughters, Cyndie Chauvin, Vance's better half has her big day. Also celebrating are Malori Thibodeaux David Blanton, Helen Locklin, James Bourdier, Jean Saxon, John Green, Shirley Hayes, Bob Cummings, Brenda McPherson.****April 7: Bethanie Penning, Shelly Watts, Janet Anderson, Kevin Ernst, Linda Juaneau, Wayne McPherson, April Butler, Billie Jo Nelson.****April 8: Jenelle and George's little girl Angel Sehon celebrates today along with Kaci McKay, Brandy Block, Joyce Kleinknecht, Lindsey Etheridge, Camrie Helm, Mike Knox, Gary Chaffin, Lorene Zoch, Patsy Herrington, Peggy Drane, Bob Todd, Melissa Pittman and former Strutter boss Cathy Riley.****April 9: Lauri Williams, Brad Ernst, Trey Dubose, Ken Swenson, Jomie Chapman, Kristi Trahan, Terri Brent, Tonya Burch, Wayne Currie, Adam Prosperie, Barbara Allen.***Other birthdays celebrated Birthday greetings go to Paul Simar, Christine Brown-Zeto, Alayna Jacobs, Nevella Toal, Carolyn Gorb, Katherine May, Al Granger, Taylor Friend, Pam Boehme Simon, Dylan Krummel, Frederick Flore, and Lynn Theriot.

NOTICE: To post birthday or anniversary announcements, free of charge, give us a call at 409-886-7183 or email therecordlive.com

C'EST TOUT

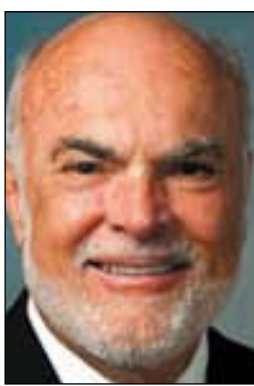
TOP RACE IN TEXAS' GENERAL ELECTION

Rep. Colin Allred will take on GOP Sen. Ted Cruz after he won Tuesday's Democratic Senate primary, setting up a key matchup in the fight for control of the Senate. Allred bested a crowded field of nine Democrats to take on Cruz, who is a top target for Democrats this year as they are largely on defense as they fight to hold on to the Senate. "I've always felt like we can't afford six more years of Ted Cruz representing us in the Senate, six more years of somebody who abandons us when 30 million Texans are freezing in the dark, six more years as somebody who wants to have a nationwide abortion ban, six more years of someone who I think is only interested in themselves, and not all of us as Texans," Allred said in an interview Tuesday. In a statement following Tuesday's primary, Cruz did not make mention of his newly minted opponent. Allred, first elected to the House in 2018 after he flipped a Dallas-area seat, has been viewed as a formidable Senate recruit, having posted strong fundraising numbers and already launched TV ads that were more focused on the general election than on the primary contest. Texas could be a key race in the fight for the Senate. Republicans need a net gain of just two seats to take control of the chamber, or one seat if Republicans win the White House, because the vice president casts tie-breaking votes in the Senate. Allred declined to directly answer whether he would campaign with Biden. "This is going to be about Texans talking to Texans, neighbors talking to neighbors," he said. "We're picking a senator who will serve us for the next six years past the term of the next presidency.****I've gotta shut down for another time. Thanks for coming along. 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

For the first time since 1878, Texans will see their first total solar eclipse next month. Total solar eclipses are rare because the sun, the moon, and the Earth must align such that the moon moves in between the sun and the Earth. Only people who are within the path of totality will be able to see the full effects of the eclipse. The path of totality encompasses a large swath of Texas including the DFW metroplex, Tyler, Austin and the Hill Country, and Del Rio. The eclipse will happen on April 8.



Sen. Robert Nichols

insured Texans. Last year, almost \$20 million in grants were awarded to FQHCs and similar, eligible health centers. The grants were used to build new clinics, renovate existing facilities, purchase equipment, and hire staff and health care providers.

Grants ranged from \$500,000 to \$1 million and were awarded to 35 entities. These projects have served more than an estimated 200,000 patients. The continued funding and increase in funding for FQHCs expands access to health care for communities that are underserved.

I was happy to work with the Chair of Senate Finance Joan Huffman to ensure funding for these clinics was included in the budget.

3. SFA new president announced

Last month, University of Texas System regents named Dr. Neal Weaver as the sole finalist for president of Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Weaver is currently the president of Georgia Southwestern State University, a member of the University of Georgia System. He has held that position for seven years. Before that, Dr. Weaver has held various positions across four public university systems over the span of his 33-year career in higher education. Dr. Weaver's candidacy was recommended by a presidential search advisory committee chaired by UT System Chancellor James Milliken.

Representatives from the SFA faculty, students, alumni, and community leaders were also on the search committee. Dr. Weaver earned a doctoral degree in organizational leadership from The University of Oklahoma, a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

He is originally from Oklahoma City. Welcome to the SFA community, Dr. Weaver!

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Maternal Medicaid coverage extended to 12 months

Starting this month, Texas is extending coverage for postpartum care to 12 months for eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) recipients. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers the programs, announced that anyone who is enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP who is pregnant or becomes pregnant is eligible for the extended coverage. Services covered by the programs include regular medical checkups, prescription drugs and vaccines, hospital care and services, X-rays and lab tests, vision and hearing care, specialty care, mental health care, and treatment for pre-existing conditions and special health needs. The agency projects approximately 137,000 women will benefit from 12-month postpartum coverage over the next year. Supporting women in the critical months after giving birth is essential to ensuring they can care for the families and themselves.

2. Texas Department of State Health Services announces grants for health centers

The Texas DSHS is offering an additional \$40 million for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Texas that are offering expanded services to underserved and un-

4. Lamar State College Orange breaks ground on new student success center

Last month, LSCO held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Student Success Center. The new center will be in the historic former First Baptist Church of Orange, which will be renovated extensively to support a streamlined enrollment process and other student services.

However, elements of the original structure will be preserved, like the stained-glass windows and the building's exterior. Staff from departments such as student services, financial aid, admissions, recruiting and advising will all have offices in the new center.

LSCO is hoping to complete the project by the end of this year.

5. Comptroller announces grants to combat opioid overdoses

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced \$25 million in grant funding is now available to distribute medication to reverse opioid overdoses through the Opioid Abatement Fund Council (O AFC). Governmental entities, nonprofits, and business entities are eligible to apply for this funding. Last year, a first-round of payments totaling almost \$50 million were awarded to political subdivisions from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund. Naloxone, a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses, has been lifesaving in communities hit by the opioid crisis. With the ongoing flow of fentanyl across our southern border, Naloxone is a game changer for first responders and other community members.

Deaths & Memorials

Billy Eugene Tiger, 87, Orange



Billy Eugene Tiger

Billy Eugene Tiger, a devoted husband and father, passed away peacefully at home on March 14, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Missouri City, Texas. He was 87.

Bill was born on October 18, 1936 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Thelma and Abraham Tiger, and was the oldest of five children. He grew up in Orange, Texas and graduated from Stark High School in 1954, where he was a notable football, baseball and basketball player and a golf team member. As a teen, he was an Eagle Scout, and attended Lamar College of Technology in Beaumont, majoring in Business Administration. He grew up in the First Presbyterian Church of Orange. After his marriage to Olney Susan (Black) Tiger on April 22, 1980, Bill became a member of the First United Methodist Church of Orange.

Bill was extremely proud of his Native American heritage and was a member of the Yuchi (Euchee) tribe, a part of the Muscogee Creek Nation. One of his greatest accomplishments in life was serving in the United States Air Force, for two terms from 1959-1967. At completion of his service, Bill worked as a Technical Writer for Texas Instruments in Fort Worth. He then worked as a realtor in various cities, including Houston, Austin, and Orange. At one point, he and Susan owned many AKC registered Cocker Spaniels (the "Tiger Tribe" Cockers) and spent several years showing their beautiful dogs in shows around the country. He also trained two of his younger daughters to be junior dog handlers so a part of his family could take part in the hobby he and Susan so enjoyed. For a brief time, Bill and Susan opened and co-owned (with Donald and JoAnn Geramita) "Pet Essentials," a small pet shop and grooming business that operated across from the Farmers Mercantile in Orange.

Upon retirement, Bill enjoyed long road trips and traveling with Susan, eventually acquiring a home away from home in beautiful Bigfork, Montana. They loved hosting family and friends and showing them the beauty of Glacier National Park.

During his leisure time, he played golf and was an avid Bridge player. Very recently, he earned the prestigious American Contract Bridge League Silver Life Master and was still playing weekly in Houston. He and Susan loved antiques and were avid Southwestern Indian art collectors. Many weekends were spent going to the movies, theatre, their grandchildren's sporting events and school concerts. His favorite spot was sitting out on his deck in Montana, gazing in awe at all of God's beauty surrounding him.

The memory of Bill will forever be treasured by his surviving loved ones. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Olney Susan Black Tiger; daughter, Jenny Tiger Loyd of Houston; son, Mark Lemley and daughter-in-law Stephanie Flournoy Lemley of Marble Falls; daughter, Brook Lemley of Missouri City; daughter, Bonny and son-in-law Joe Bob Edwards of Houston; sister, Linda and brother-in-law Larry DeBlanc of Orange; sister, Kay and brother-in-law Larry Odell of Oologah, OK; and his youngest brother, the Reverend Christopher Tiger and his wife Priscilla of Oklahoma City, Ok; and sister-in-law, Joanne Black Jones of Austin.

His adoring grandchildren, Tiffany and Kevin Elmer, Grant Jones, Gracie and Griffin Lemley, Avery, Beau and Brooks Edwards; as well as his great grandsons Briar Rosado, Easton and Jaxon Jones, will hold time spent with their Papa Bill in their hearts forever. On both sides of the family, he has nieces and nephews left to cherish his memory, including Kim and Abie Tiger, Lloyd, Mike, David and Jimmy Odell, Edward DeBlanc, Amy Givens, Aaron Tiger, Steve and Bobby Jones, Susan Jones Fairbairn, Scott and Helen Hoyt, and Sheila and John Kennedy.

Bill is finally united in joy and peace with his beloved younger brother, Robert "Bob" Tiger; his loving parents Abe and Thelma; his grandson Luke Lemley, and nephew Ronald DeBlanc.

To honor Bill's life and service to his country, a Veterans Memorial service will be held for him on Friday, April 5, 2024 at 2:30 pm at the Houston National Cemetery at 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas, 77038. Meet in lane one No sooner than 2:15 pm. A small gathering for family and close friends will be held at the home of Bonny and Joe Bob Edwards in Houston, directly after the ceremony.

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Orangefield wins a pair to stay in first

Orange County baseball action this week

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The second half of the district schedule begins this week for District 21-3A. The Orangefield Bobcats solidified its position at the top of the district standings with two decisive wins at Paul Cormier Field last week.

Orangefield clobbered the Kountze Lions 11-1 in five innings on the final Tuesday of March. Kaleb Menard pitched four innings for the win allowing just one hit and striking out five Lions. Colton My-

ers threw the final inning to close out the Bobcat victory.

Caleb Fregia swung the biggest bat for the Bobcats. Fregia went three for four with a triple.

On Thursday, Orangefield pounded the Anahuac Panthers 10-1 for its sixth straight win in district. Brycen Tait got the win throwing four innings, allowing one run on four hits, and striking out four. Carson Gonzales pitched two shutout innings with five strikeouts. Garrett Rawls closed out the seventh inning and struck out the final Pan-



Bobcat Kane Smith went four for four and accounted for multiple runs in Orangefield's 10-1 win over Anahuac.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

ther to end the game.

Kane Smith was back in the starting lineup after a slight leg injury and went four for four with three runs batted in for the Bobcats. Caleb Fregia and Matthew Johnson collected two hits apiece including a double by both of them.

Pitching is so important and the Orangefield has had it through the first half of district games. "We know what we're going to get out of Tait. He was good again filling up the strike zone. Brycen's always going to be good for us. I was real impressed with the guys that came in. Carson Gonzales was throwing hard filling up the strike zone, and

BASEBALL Page 3B

Lady Cardinals stay undefeated in district

Orange County softball action this week

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The second half of district softball games for District 19-4A began on Thursday, March 28. The Bridge City Cardinals remain undefeated in district going into their games this week.

The Cardinals got two more shutouts from pitcher Carson Fall to improve to 7-0 in their district games. Bridge City has a one game lead over the second place Lumberton Lady Raiders and over two games ahead of the third place Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears who have only played six games.

Fall has thrown three no hitters in district alone this season including a perfect game against the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, March 26. Bridge City won the game 15-0 in four innings.

The win on Thursday for Bridge City was 9-0 against Silsbee. The Cardinals have outscored the opponents 54-1 in their seven district victories.

Little Cypress Mauriceville won its only game last week. The Lady Bears rallied to beat the Silsbee Lady Tigers 16-6 at The Pete on Tuesday, March 26.

Silsbee took the early lead with a two out double in the top of the first inning that scored three Lady Tigers. More damage was avoided as Lady Bear centerfielder Ava Wright threw out the batter at third trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

In the bottom of the first LCM tied the score 3-3 on a three run homerun by Keylie Washburn driving in Jacelyn Cook and Tessa Erickson in front of her. The Lady Bears went up 4-3 in the second inning when Eden Frenzel reached base on a walk and scored from second on a Silsbee error.

The Lady Tigers retook the lead 6-4 in the top of the fourth scoring three runs. An error by the Lady Bears on an infield grounder extended the rally causing two of the Silsbee runs to be unearned.

Frenzel led off the fourth for LCM with a single to rightfield. Cook hit a ball that glanced off the pitcher for a single before

Lexis Moss singled to load the bases with Lady Bears.

Erickson hit a blooper that fell into right center but the Lady Tigers did get a force out at second base on a courtesy runner as Frenzel scored from third for the Lady Bears to close the gap to 6-5. After Washburn walked Ava White hit a sacrifice fly to center scoring Cook with the tying run.

Wright walked to load the bases again and Ella Stephenson cleaned the sacks with a double to the leftfield fence to put Little Cypress Mauriceville up 9-6. Abby Sepulvado singled to center to drive home Stephenson with the



Abigail Curphey got the win in the circle for Orangefield against Anahuac allowing one run while pitching in six of the seven innings.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

sixth Lady Bear run of the inning.

Frenzel batted for the second time in the fourth and singled again. Sepulvado went to third on

Frenzel's hit and got into a run down when she rounded the base a little too far, but Sepulvado scored the seventh LCM run of the inning when the Silsbee catcher made an errant throw during the run down.

Erickson moved from first base to the circle to pitch the top of the fifth for Little Cypress Mauriceville changing positions with Stephenson. Tessa walked one Lady Tiger and struck out two to keep the score at 11-6 going to the bottom half of the inning.

Moss opened the LCM half of the fifth with a single and Alex Pinder courtesy ran for her. Erickson reached on an error and Washburn walked again to load the bases. Pinder

SOFTBALL Page 3B

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OUTDOORS

Sometimes you just have to laugh

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

From my perch on the poling platform I often have plenty of time to think while I push my little boat around the marsh. The standard stuff that goes through every fisherman's mind usually dominates my thoughts. "Where are the fish?" "Should I change locations?" "Is this the right bait?"

Nothing out of the ordinary, just everyday fishing thoughts that happen to come to mind. Plenty of those moments routinely get interrupted by my fishing partner for that day and I snap back to reality.

During one of my recent "brainstorming" moments I watched a client just absolutely beat himself up for not remembering to bring a particular piece of gear. The whole episode spawned a conversation between the two of us about our own misfortunes or "Murphy's Law moments" while fishing. Much to the delight of my client for the day I had plenty of those moments from which to choose from.

I don't care who you are or how experienced you are, if you have ever owned a boat you have forgotten your keys or lost them on the way to the launch at least one time in your career. Many folks don't consider how easy it is to have your keys blow out while trailering to your launch if you leave them in the ignition. I learned that lesson the hard way. Nothing makes you feel more foolish than committing a blunder like that in front of 3 clients, trust me.

Luckily I was only 5 minutes from my house and was able to retrieve my spare so essentially it was no harm no foul. I have however seen the really bad version of this event unfold on an extended road trip 100 miles from home. The feeling of excitement one gets from the opportunity to fish a new body of water is quickly erased once everyone realizes there is no way to start the boat and no place to get a new key. Buzz kill does not begin to describe that ride home.

Speaking of forgetting things I have had clients forget all sorts of gear. I've had them show up with no rods. I've had them show up with no reels. More than a couple of occasions they have also shown up without various pieces of wading gear up to and including waders, jackets, and most often boots. Typically I can accommodate folks because I keep several spare sets but on occasion it just doesn't work out when you try to put someone who is 6 foot 3 in waders made for those of us who are "vertically challenged".

As far as waders go I have had my own difficulties and I have no one to blame but myself. For example a few years ago on a duck hunt I picked up a pair of my Gulf Coast breathable waders that I wear for both fishing and hunting, I had stuffed them in my wader bag for a hunt the following day. The morning of the hunt I reached in the wader bag and pulled out my boots first and then grabbed my waders, or so I thought.

I unrolled the pair only to realize that they had no stocking feet on them! I had taken this particular set that I replaced and cut the feet out of them to leave in my truck for use as raingear or while training dogs at the pond. There was nothing I could do but take my medicine, wear them, and make the best out of it.

Needless to say my hunting partners were extremely amused at my misfortune and all I could do was laugh with them. Fortunately for me it was not really cold and I managed to make due. From that point on I have made it a habit to double check my gear. Lesson learned.

Another one of those laughable moments that comes to mind happened at a gas station. A good friend of mine, for whatever reason, accidentally put the gas nozzle in a rod holder on his center console and proceeded to fill up his boat. Yep, you guessed it, that was an eye opening moment the minute the bilge pump kicked on and started pumping gas out of the side of the boat onto the ground. Because of the angle the boat had while sitting on the trailer it allowed the bottom of the boat to gather 30 gallons of gas in it before the bilge kicked on and began pumping out.

Having a hull full of gas was bad enough but the big "OH \$#!(T)" moment was realizing that when the bilge pump kicked on the real possibility of a spark and ignition was present. Fortunately nothing sparked and my friend was able to drain the gas out of his hull with no damage. We still scratch our head and laugh at that one while wondering how we didn't blow ourselves up.

Now there are plenty of other crazy things that have happened to me while on the water or at least on the way to it and I am sure there will be more. Each one has taught me a lesson and provided some sort of entertainment for those involved. It's easy to look back and laugh at all the mishaps because they trigger some great memories.

It's always been said "if you can't laugh at yourself then you may be wound too tight", I have no problem laughing at myself and I hope that some of my episodes will help keep you from your own mishaps.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 65 degrees. Limits of slot redfish and trout in the ICW off points and concrete early in the morning on live shrimp with popping cork. Mid-day fish the deeper water of Sabine Channel along rock piles, drops and points in 8-16 feet of waters. Lots of sheepshead and drum showing up in the Sabine Channel. North Levee speckled trout continue to be good on live shrimp popping cork and swimbaits working the bank. New regulations for trout went into effect this week; three fish daily bag limit per angler, a minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches, one oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 60 degrees. The March winds have arrived and it is going to be a wild week for fishing in and around Galveston bay between the winds and scattered rains. The forecast shows some beautiful weather days that should help clear up the water and produce some feeding frenzy trips.

• Trinity Bay

FAIR. 67 degrees. Speckled trout showing along the east shoreline and the northwest corner of the bay. Action further up the ship channel for a few trout, good numbers of black drum and some slot redfish. New regulations for trout went into effect this week; three fish daily bag limit per angler, a minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches, one oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The water clarity is stained with better tidal movement when north wind breaks. Takes about 14 hours and a good incoming tide for clarity to be restored if the wind cooperates and lays down. Look for clearer water to hold more fish. Redfish are on rocks in 2-4 feet of water being caught under a popping cork with live shrimp. Drum are mixed in with the reeds being caught the same way. Trout are on protected shorelines just out of the current where they can ambush easily and starting to group a bit under birds being caught on WAC Attack people passion and popping cork with live shrimp. Flounder are starting to show back up being caught on WAC assassins pearly white with procure smeared on it. Please pay attention to weather forecasts and be prepared at all times. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 68 degrees. Wade anglers are catching trout and few redfish along the south shoreline. Scattered catches of trout and black drum on the reefs. Best on live shrimp and soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Surface water temperature 69.5 degrees.



The Record's outdoor columnist Capt. Chuck Uzzle releases a nice Sabine Lake redfish.

Water clarity is normal for East Galveston Bay. We are still finding trout, redfish, black drum, and a few flounder in the marsh and bayou areas, around deeper cuts and bends, as this past week the wind has made it impossible to fish our early Spring areas that we prefer on the main bay system, with any consistency. We have struggled finding good quantities of nervous bait, and therefore the bites for us this week were tougher to come by than in previous weeks. This week in the wind we have thrown ¼ ounce jig heads with Wac Attack tails in Rollover Moon, as well as marker 54 Glide Shrimp, under a 3 foot leader and a Fish Smack Popping Cork. Spring is finally here, and fishing will continue to heat up as the water warms into the 70s and the fronts blowing through become less prevalent. As always, the best time to fish is when you can get out on the water and make it happen, so stay safe out there. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. Fish-

ing patterns are holding steady for the Easter Weekend. Yates Bayou drain is holding redfish against grass line on popping cork and shrimp. Hanna's Reef is great early in the day with twitching artificials or a popping cork with shrimp. Look for birds and slicks. Small slicks could be just getting started. Watermelon smell in the air don't pass on them. Look for bait moving. Pepper Grove Cove to Moody's Pass holding fish. Smith Point to Moody National Wildlife. Redfish look for schools and birds. New regulations for trout went into effect this week; three fish daily bag limit per angler, a minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches, one oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 68 degrees. Spoil Islands holding black drum, sheepshead, and a few trout. Shoreline action

is spotty. Wind has been the biggest factor. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Fishing patterns are holding steady for the Easter Weekend. The South Jetty is holding trout, sheepshead and redfish near the rocks on free-lined shrimp, or Carolina rigged float with live shrimp or soft plastic. SWP Holding Redfish from Pier and from Rocks. Sheepshead are in front of the concrete Seawall. The drains out of Swan Lake Campbell Slough holding sheepshead with an occasional Redfish. New regulations for trout went into effect this week; three fish daily bag limit per angler, a minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches, one oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• West Galveston Bay

FAIR. 70 degrees. Better numbers of trout showing along shorelines. Redfish, black drum, and a few trout are being caught on structure. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Fishing patterns are holding steady for the Easter Weekend. Greens Lake holding redfish against grass lines and by sandy shores early. ICW holding fish through greens cut and Carancahua cut holding trout and redfish with the amount of wind wind we are getting. Mecom Reef will have fish on it early up by rocks with artificial or live bait free-line or under cork. You'll need to find protected waters with bait moving around as the winds pick up. New regulations for trout went into effect this week; three fish daily bag limit per angler, a minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches.

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Baseball action From Page 1B

then Rawls had a real clean last inning, so that's good for us," Bobcat Coach Tim Erickson summarized.

The Bobcats are 6-1 in district action. They have a one game lead in the district standings.

Orangefield played at Kirbyville on Tuesday. The Wildcats handed the Bobcats their only district loss 3-2 back on March 5. The Bobcats travel to East Chambers this Friday night.

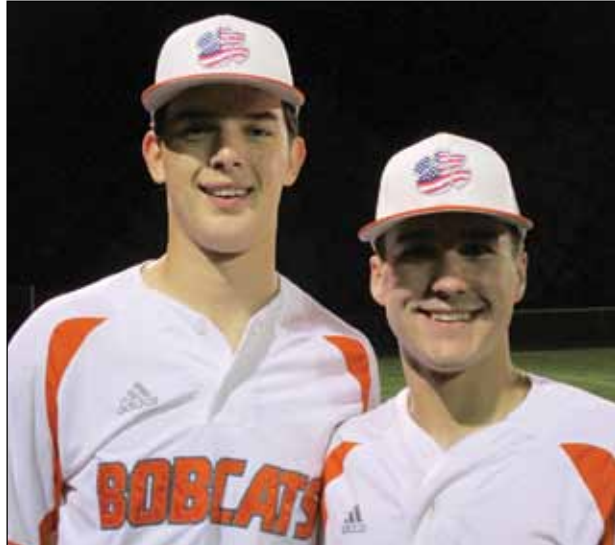
The Bridge City Cardinals resumed district action this week as the leader in the standings for District 19-4A. The Cardinals had their bye last week and were 4-0 when they played at Vidor on Tuesday. Bridge City's next game will be at home against Vidor on Friday, April 5.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears split their two games with the Vidor Pirates last week. The Bears won 6-5 in extra innings on Tuesday, March 26, for their first win in district.

The Pirates took the early lead putting a run across in the first inning. Marco Bandiero gave the Bears a 4-1 advantage when he hit a grand slam in the bottom of the fourth inning.



Jacob Scheiderer scored the winning run for LCM on a ninth inning single by Clay Raney against Vidor.



Carson Gonzales struck out five in two innings of relief work and Matthew Johnson had two hits in Orangefield's win over Anahuac.

Landon Richards was the starting pitcher for LCM and threw five strong innings before being relieved by Bandiero in the sixth. Vidor was down



Landon Reeves got the win on the mound for the Cardinals in the second game against LCM on Friday.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

to its final out when Westin Baker singled and Daigan Venable doubled him home to tie the game 5-5 in the top of the seventh.

Little Cypress Mauriceville threatened in the bottom of that inning and again in the next putting two Bears on base with only one out. Both times the Pirates turned a double play first in the seventh on a fly out and a throw

out of an LCM runner trying to advance to third and again on a grounder to second to end the eighth inning.

In the top of the ninth Baker got a one out walk. Venable hit a liner to left on which Jacob Scheiderer made a sensational diving catch to rob Daigan of a hit. Bandiero struck out Jarrett Odom to end the inning.

Scheiderer led off the

bottom of the ninth walking on a three, two pitch. He stole second and went to third on an errant throw by the Vidor catcher.

Parker Seago walked on a three, two pitch too and had an uncontested steal of second base. With one out Parker Freeman was hit by a pitch to load the bases for Little Cypress Mauriceville.

A strikeout of the next LCM batter brought Clay Raney to the plate with two outs. Clay worked the count full before lining a drive to left for the game winning hit scoring Scheiderer from third.

"Give these guys over here the credit. They played their tails off all game long. I'm very proud of them. At any point they could have given up and they didn't. It was awesome to see," Bear Coach Hunter Hagler praised after the game.

The Bears and Pirates played at Vidor on Thursday, March 28, and Vidor won 1-0 in a great pitchers' duel. Hagler applauded Scheiderer for pitching a gem of a game but Jacob took the tough loss for LCM.

This week Little Cypress Mauriceville (1-3) traveled to Lumberton on Tuesday. The Bears play at home in Don Gibbens Field against the Raiders on Friday, April 5.

BASEBALL Page 4B

Softball action From Page 1



Eden Frenzel, Ella Stephenson, and Keylie Washburn were heroes for the Lady Bears in their comeback win against Silsbee.



Paisley Reeves homered and drove in Alysen Vincent with the winning run in Orangefield's 5-4 win over Anahuac.

scored when White was hit by a pitch.

Wright hit a sacrifice fly that scored Erickson, and Washburn also came home when Silsbee did not field the throw in cleanly. Stephenson singled to drive in White before Frenzel ended the game with a double to left which brought home Stephenson to give the Lady Bears a ten run lead.

Coach Dena Adkins was proud of the way her Lady Bears battled against Silsbee. "I told the girls before the game we have to do what we have to do. We can't sit back and think that an opponent is going to lay down for us. I told them the Silsbee Lady Tigers were going to fight and came here to win. They were fired up. Like we've been doing all season we were not going to panic. We're going to do

what we need to do when we need to do it, and the Lady Bears never let up and the bats stayed hot and we came out on top," Adkins reminded.

The victory gave Little Cypress Mauriceville a 4-2 record in district. The Lady Bears have scored 71 runs in six district games.

Tuesday of this week was another big showdown between Bridge City and LCM at The Pete. The Cardinals won the first meeting between the two teams 4-0 in early March at Bridge City. The Lady Bears travel to Vidor on Friday, and the Cardinals have their second bye on Friday before playing at Vidor on Tuesday, April 9.

There was good news and bad news for the Orangefield Lady Bobcats in softball last week. First the bad news was Orangefield lost Tuesday to first

place Kountze 12-1 to drop two games behind the Lady Lions in the District 21-3A standings.

The good news was the Lady Bobcats won a thrilling game 5-4 with Anahuac on Thursday, March 28. The win kept Orangefield alone in second place.

Orangefield threatened in the bottom of the first inning but left the bases loaded. Abby Broussard led off the second with a liner to left for a single. Aubree Beck singled through the circle with two outs to bring home Broussard from second base with the first run of the game for the Lady

Bobcats.

Orangefield took a 3-0 lead after four innings thanks to two long balls. Charlee Sanches homered to left in the third, and Paisley Reeves hit her first varsity homerun to dead centerfield in the bottom of the fourth.

Lady Bobcat pitcher Abigail Curphey kept the Lady Panthers scoreless

until the fifth when a two out single drove in their first run. Orangefield left fielder Paris Becker made a wonderful running catch against the fence in foul territory to end the inning for Anahuac.

Sanches replaced Curphey in the circle at the start of the sixth inning.

SOFTBALL Page 4B

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Bridge City girls win district again in golf

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The Bridge City girls' golf team has won the District 19-4A championship in back to back years. The Bridge City girls with a team score of 430 captured first place in this year's district tournament on Tuesday, March 26, at the Henry Homberg Municipal Golf Course in Beaumont after the competition was reduced to a one day event because of rain on Monday.

The five girls that competed for Bridge City were Ashley Hale, Heidi Broussard, Reece Molina, Kamryn Lumpkin, and Aubrey Carpenter. Hale a senior was the leader for the team shooting a round of 85 to grab the second place individual medal in the tournament.

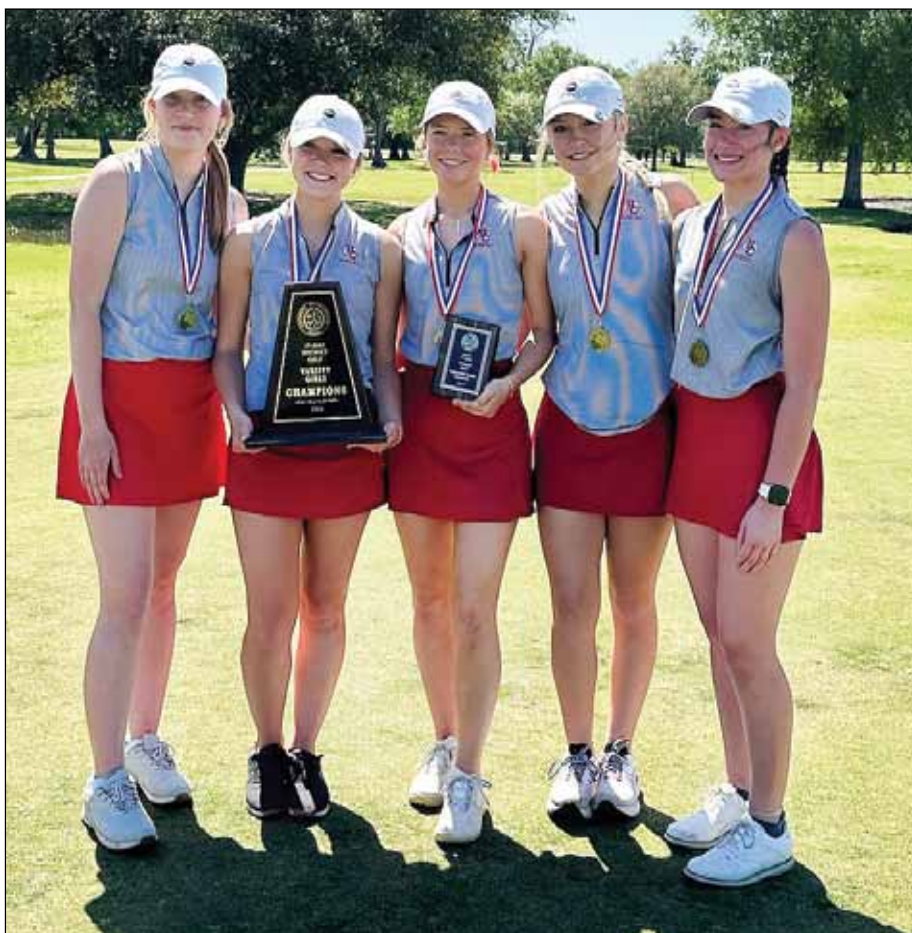
Ashley Hale said later that her round started off a little rocky but she pulled it together starting on the back nine. "The things I

capitalized on was my short game focusing on every chip and putt," Hale explained.

Despite struggling from the tee as she admitted, Ashley was impressed with her consistency on her approach shots hitting the greens in regulation or at least the front edge to setup easy pars. Hale added, "It was challenging at first to get a feel for the greens with some slow and some fast, however, I got a feel for them and started sinking putts."

The other Bridge City senior Heidi Broussard thought it was a beautiful day for golf on Tuesday despite Monday's rain. "It was really muddy, and I struggled getting loft with my clubs. I need to work on knowing my distance with my pitching wedge and not letting little mess ups get in my head," Broussard confessed.

Junior Reece Molina felt she could have played better, but she did have the lon-



Bridge City's Kamryn Lumpkin, Heidi Broussard, Ashley Hale, Aubrey Carpenter and Reece Molina.

gest drive for her group by at least a hundred yards. Molina indicated, "If I had played the back nine like I played the front I would have scored my lowest round ever."

Freshman Aubrey Carpenter said there were a lot of emotions for her. "Let's just say it was very nerve racking, exciting, and even annoying at some times. I really enjoyed the experience and loved working with my team," Carpenter replied.

Junior Kamryn Lumpkin was playing in her first district tournament as well. Lumpkin insisted, "Having my teammates by my side played a huge part in my score, and I can't wait to go to regionals with my team, and I know we will try our best."

Next up for Bridge City golf will be the Regionals in the middle of April. The girls from Bridge City will travel to Huntsville on April 17-18 for that tournament.

Softball highlights

From Page 3B



Lady Bobcat Paisley Reeves approaches the plate after hitting her first homerun on the Orangefield varsity.

Anahuac used two hits, a hit batter, and some crazy bounces to score three runs

and take a 4-3 lead.

Curphey was first up for the Lady Bobcats in the

bottom of the sixth and singled. Audrey Sonnier courtesy ran for her.

A passed ball moved Sonnier to second base and a single by Alysen Vincent got the tying run to third. Broussard who hit the ball hard every time up did so again with a sacrifice fly to center to score Sonnier tying the game 4-4 and moving Vincent to third with one out.

With the Anahuac infield playing in Reeves hit a slow roller to the shortstop. The Lady Panther threw home not in time to get Vincent who made a beautiful head first slide to score the go ahead run.

In the seventh Curphey returned to the circle and Sanches went to third base. The first Anahuac batter lined a hit to center that got past Hallee Becker who retrieved the ball and made a marvelous throw to Sanches at third for the first out of the inning on the batter trying for a triple.

After Vincent made a nice play on a grounder to second base for the second out the next Lady Panther

pounded a pitch that hit the centerfield fence about a foot or two from being a homerun, but was only a single because it was hit so hard the girl did not have much time to run the bases. A fly ball was caught by Haylee Spears in right for the final out.

"Nothing is ever easy, that's for sure. An opposing coach told me a couple weeks ago the Lady Bobcats always figure out a way to win, so I'm proud of that because I think we do scratch

for some runs, and we'll push ahead in the late innings which is something we've been pretty good at the last couple years. I just don't want to have to do that," Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale responded.

The Lady Bobcats played at home against Kirbyville on Tuesday this week. Orangefield's next game will be Friday night at East Chambers.

Baseball highlights

From Page 3B

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs on Tuesday of last week won their first game in district competition in over two years. The Mustangs beat the Jasper Bulldogs 6-5 in ten innings at Ronnie Anderson Park.

Starting pitcher Josh Robledo pitched three scoreless innings for WOS before Christian Anderson came on in relief in the fourth. Two runs in the bottom of the fourth gave WOS the initial lead of the game.

Jasper scored four unearned runs in the top of the fifth off of Christian Anderson who had relieved Robledo in the fourth. West Orange-Stark replied with three runs in the bottom half of the inning to retake the lead 5-4 after five innings.

Grayson Gregory and Will Lee both hit doubles to drive in runs. Lee, Anderson, Blade Williams, and Cortez Robertson each had two hits in the game for WOS.

Diego Ibarra took over on the mound to start the sixth inning after nursing an injured finger on his glove hand since the first week of March. Ibarra pitched five innings giving up one run and striking out nine Bulldogs to get the win for the Mustangs.

After Jasper tied the game with a run in the seventh West Orange-Stark scored the winning run in the tenth inning without the benefit of a base hit. Williams was hit by a pitch, went to second on a sacri-

fice bunt by Ibarra, and Blade scored when the Bulldog pitcher fielded a grounder by Gregory but made a throwing error trying to get a force out at second base on Lee who had been intentionally walked.

The second game of the

series was played on Thursday, March 28, in Jasper. The Mustangs grabbed leads of 2-0 and 7-2 before the Bulldogs rallied for a 12-8 win.

The West Orange-Stark offense had several strong contributors. Noah Robles

and Blade Williams both scored a pair of runs, Christian Anderson and Zach Nation each had two hits, and Grayson Gregory drove in two runs.

West Orange-Stark (1-5) has its bye this week. The Mustangs play at Silsbee on Tuesday, April 9, and back at Ronnie Anderson Park against the Tigers the following Friday.



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Texas reports case of bird flu passed from sick cattle, but risk to public is still low



Last week, dairy cows in Texas and Kansas were reported to be infected with bird flu — and federal agriculture officials later confirmed infections in a Michigan dairy herd that had recently received cows from Texas. PHOTO: Texas Dairy Magazine

**SARAH ASCH
TEXAS STANDAR**

Texas has one confirmed case of bird flu in a person after diagnosing the same illness in dairy cows in the Panhandle in recent weeks.

The person had direct contact with the sick cows before becoming infected, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

So far, there are no signs that the virus has evolved in ways that would help it spread more easily among people, federal officials have said.

Dr. Jennifer Shuford, the commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, said the person who tested positive for bird flu is already improving.

“Thankfully, the case that has been identified of avian influenza in a human, that person is doing better and improving,” she said. “That person had a really minor illness. And the symptom that they complained of was conjunctivitis, which means just redness and irritation of the eyes. That’s not always really common with seasonal influenza, but it has been seen more in these avian influenza infections in people.”

Shuford said avian influenza typically spreads from birds to people, and this case is unusual since the spread was from another mammal species to a person.

“It’s an influenza virus. And so it’s spread often by breathing it in or by con-

tacting the eyes, the nose or the mouth. There is also a potential that if somebody touches something and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth, that it could be passed that way,” she said.

“A lot of this right now is being passed directly from birds to mammals or birds to humans. In this case, we suspect that it did go from a cow to a person. We haven’t seen a lot of transmission of this particular avian influenza between mammals or between humans. A lot of it’s just been in contact with sick birds.”

Shuford said the risk to the general public from this virus is still low.

“We are working right now with dairy farms and dairy producers across Texas, since that’s where

this has been identified in cows and where this one particular case came from in working with sick cattle,” she said. “And so we’re working with them to make sure that they’ve got proper precautions in place for workers who are working with sick animals, and that they know how to get tested and to prevent the spread of this on those particular farms.”

Shuford said the best step people can take to prevent infection is to avoid contact with birds.

“Avian influenza is usually in birds and so that’s wild migratory birds as well as poultry,” she said. “We’re telling people just

that if they see dead or sick animals to not come in contact with them.

If that’s part of their job, though, they should be wearing the correct protective equipment. That includes things like gloves and a mask and goggles and coveralls and boot covers to really protect themselves from being in contact with that virus.”

Shuford said that despite the origin of the virus in this case, milk and other dairy products are still safe to consume.

“Thankfully with these dairies that have been impacted, this milk is pasteurized and that pasteurization process kills this in-

fluenza virus. And so that pasteurization process should keep the current milk supplies safe,” she said.

“In addition, they don’t put milk from sick cows into the milk supply (as an extra precaution). And so all of that milk is getting diverted and disposed of. But the milk that is entering the milk supply is pasteurized and therefore should be safe for human consumption.”

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Orange Recreation Center to host Basketball Tourney

Turn the heat up with a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the Orange Recreation Center on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 10:00 am. The Orange Recreation Center is located at 1405 W. Orange Ave. in Orange.

No entry fee is required and the age group is 14 to 18 years old with 3 players per team; no substitutes.

Individuals can sign up on a waitlist to be added to a team, if spots are available. Teams can be Co-Ed; no regulation on gender. Register by April 5th at the Orange Recreation Center. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd Place teams. For more information, call the Orange Recreation Center at 409-883-1072.

ORC to hold volleyball tourney

Spike the Spring with a volleyball tournament at the Orange Recreation Center on Saturday, April 6 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Orange Recreation Center. No entry fee and age group is 14 to 18 years old. Sign up as a team with 6 to 10 players per team and individuals can sign up on a waitlist to be added to a team, if spots are available. Teams can be Co-Ed; no regulation on gender. Register by March 27th at the Orange Recreation Center. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd Place teams. For more information, call the Orange Recreation Center at 409-883-1072.

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To Schedule an appointment and for additional information please contact Elizabeth Campbell, Program Manager at 409-779-1981 or email jccorange@gmail.com.

Heritage House presents Cemetery Walk

The Heritage House of Orange County will present Cemetery Walk at Jett Cemetery at 4249 W Park Ave, Orange, TX 77630 on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, donation only. The Heritage House Museum is excited to bring back our Cemetery Walk.

This year we will highlight graves from Jett Cemetery. Come learn cemetery etiquette while hearing about some of the interesting facts and histories of people that are interred here. This is an outdoor event, be weather aware and dress accordingly.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you at The Heritage House Museum of Orange County Cemetery Walk at Jett Cemetery.

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God created men to be strong and faithful leaders, especially in their families and churches. Becoming that kind of man does not simply happen, however; we need to train ourselves for godliness and Christlike leadership (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

To grow as men, we follow Jesus — the only sinless man, the God-man, who alone provides us righteousness and the perfect example of how to live. But we also follow the footsteps of those who followed or foreshadowed his (1 Corinthians 11:1). Joshua, though predating the incarnate Christ, can serve as one such example, especially for younger men.

Joshua teaches us that leading well starts with realizing that all you are, have, and accomplish depends on God's gracious provision. Joshua knew this deeply, even in his younger years, as he served God and led the people into the promised land. I would like to highlight four traits from Joshua that men young and old need today: humble confidence, humble dependence, humble submission, and humble patience.

1. Humble Confidence

At key times in Israel's history, even as a young man, Joshua stepped forward as a great example of humble confidence. One of the first times we meet Joshua, we see his faith in action, trusting God against the tide of popular opinion.



Joshua took part in a search party sent into Canaan to spy out the land God had promised. The spies returned with a dismal prediction about Israel's ability to take on the "giants" in the land (Numbers 13-14). Joshua and Caleb were the only two (of twelve) who urged the people to take the land, because they believed God's word (Numbers 14:7-10). They knew God's track record and his power to keep his promises. Their confidence was not in themselves but in the God they served.

Here we see one quality that set Joshua and Caleb apart from the rest of the Israelites — they believed the promises of God. They were not intimidated by the size of the warriors or the strength of the cities. Rather, they knew their God and remembered how he had dealt with Egypt, then the most powerful nation on the earth. If God could take care of the mighty Egyptian army, he could certainly

take care of the Canaanite tribes. God rewarded Joshua's and Caleb's faith by exempting them from the entire generation of Israelites who would perish in the wilderness. Humility and confidence might seem like opposites, but in Joshua and Caleb, we see they are two sides of the same heart. When we find our identity and security in God, we can rest in knowing that our frailty and sin no longer define us.

2. Humble Dependence

Joshua could be considered one of the greatest military leaders in history. He led the armies of Israel to victory against far more powerful enemies. Without minimizing Joshua's gifts and abilities, he knew that God is the one who ultimately vanquishes his people's foes. He learned this early in his military career, as he led the people in battle against the Amalekites. Exodus 17 tells the story of God's provision:

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. (Exodus 17:11-13)

The outcome of the battle depended on something entirely outside of Joshua's control. Yes, he fought with great courage, but all the while, he realized that the battle belongs to the Lord. The same was true even when the victories were not as supernaturally obvious. God had promised to give the land of Canaan to his people, and Joshua's trust in God's power and faithfulness gave him the faith he needed to be the leader God called him to be.

Even when the challenges before us are not nearly as dramatic as Joshua's, the basis of our confidence is still the same faith — faith not in ourselves or even in the gifts and talents God has given us, but faith in the God who is the Creator, sustainer, and provider for every breath, heartbeat, and victory in life.

3. Humble Submission

As a young man, Joshua learned to trust God's word, and it guided his life. He knew God's promises are trustworthy, so he followed his plan even when the challenges were great. God's word became the core of his confidence, as we see in God's exhortation to him before the people entered the land of Canaan:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:8-9)

God calls Joshua to be strong and courageous based on his trust in God's word. A godly man's confidence, likewise, does not depend on his own abilities or the opinions of others to predict the outcome of circumstances; rather, it depends on what God says is true.

4. Humble Patience

The best leaders are men who have learned to follow

well. They faithfully contribute to the objectives of a team, even if they do not have a title or position. Joshua's submission to God translated into his submission to the leader God placed over him.

Joshua served as Moses's assistant when he was a young man (Exodus 17:8-16). After being chosen, he filled that role with patience for forty years. We are told that when Moses would go into the camp, Joshua "would not depart from the tent" (Exodus 33:11). It must have been deeply challenging at times to serve the people in Moses's shadow, but we get no indication that Joshua was anything but a dutiful encouragement to Moses and an energetic partner in the mission. His commitment to patiently serve shaped him into the man who could lead God's people into the promised land.

The lessons Joshua learned as a young man shaped him into an old man who could be trusted as a godly leader. And because of his leadership, "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel" (Joshua 24:31).

Joshua's trust in God and his word formed him into a man of humble character. His confidence, dependence, submission, and patience offer powerful glimpses of Jesus, who perfectly lived out these qualities as our substitute and example. May God give many young men in the coming generation the ability to trust their God and lead with Christlike character.

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10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY
All of our services are also available premiered on:
Facebook at 9:00 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOrangeTX)
or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
www.fumcorange.org
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John 16:33

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Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner
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Opportunities for Worship and Fellowship
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Starlight Church of God in Christ
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
www.slccorange.org

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945 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409-735-4573
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Pastor Paul Zoch 409-988-3003 - golutheran.org
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Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor
Rev. Ron Richardson, Co-Pastor

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Bridge City, Texas
200 W. Roundbunch
735-3581
www.fbcbc.org
Sunday schedule: Bible study 9:15 a.m.,
Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
Adult, Youth, Children
Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
office@winfreebaptist.org
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am
Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
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Jeremiah 29:11-13
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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