

County Record

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Week of Wednesday, May 15, 2024

County says levee system design continues

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Work continues on the design for a levee-seawall system in Orange County, Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte said Tuesday after Commissioners Court approved a contract to allow representatives access onto some properties.

Commissioners Court met with three of the five members and Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator serving as judge pro tem. Also present were Roccaforte from Precinct 3, and Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris Sowell. County Judge John Gothia and Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan were absent.

The court's business included a renewal of a contract to allow right of



Judge John Gothia

entry for two parcels of property that are either public land or the ownership cannot be determined.

Roccaforte represents Orange County on the Gulf Coast Protective District, which is overseeing the eventual goal of a seawall-levee system from Orange County to Sabine Pass and onto Galveston

Bay.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the project and federal funding of \$1.9 billion was approved for the Orange County section back in 2017.

Roccaforte said engi-

neers are still working on design specifics. He said dates to begin and end construction keep changing.

Four years ago, the construction was expected to start in 2022 with completion target in 2026. No

construction has started at this time.

Roccaforte said the work on increasing the existing levees in Port Arthur has started. That project was approved and allocated at the same time as the Orange protection

system.

According to the Galveston U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website, the latest plans for the Orange County system are for 20 miles of new earth-

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Early voting starts Monday for Phelan-Covey runoff

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Fans of politics from across the country will be watching Southeast Texas next week as early voting begins in a Republican primary race that has even drawn an endorsement from former President Trump against the incumbent.

Nearly 53,900 registered Orange County voters are eligible to vote in the runoff. Early voting will begin Monday morning for the Texas House of Representatives District 21 seat. The district includes Orange County, part of Jefferson County, and Jasper County.

The incumbent is Dade Phelan of Beaumont, who has served two terms as the powerful Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. Phelan was beat by challenger David Covey of Mauriceville in the March Republican primary. But because of a

third candidate in the race, neither got 50 percent, so a runoff is set for May 28.

Early voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday May 20, Tuesday May 21, Wednesday May 22, Thursday May 23, and Friday May 24. Early voting sites are at the Orange Public Library, 220 North Fifth Street in downtown Orange; the Mauriceville Community Center, 7741 Cohenour Road in Mauriceville; Orange County Airport, 2640 Highway 87 South between Bridge City and Orange; and Raymond Gould Community Center, 385 Claiborne Street in Vidor.

Any registered Orange County voter with proper identification may vote at any of the early voting sites and the polling spots on Election Day. However, because the race is a party runoff, people who voted in the Democratic Party

Phelan-Covey Page 2A



"Commencement holds a special place in my heart at Lamar State College Orange," remarked President Thomas Johnson.

LSCO's Spring Commencement Breaks More Records

Staff Report
For The Record

Lamar State College Orange hosted another record-breaking commencement on Friday, May 10 with 438 certificates and degrees awarded to 349 graduates. This represents an impressive 46% increase in the number of graduates over last year's Spring commencement in May of 2023. The Spring class of 2024 carried an average GPA of 3.36 with 70% reporting as first-generation college graduates.

"Commencement holds a special place in my heart at Lamar State College Orange," remarked President Thomas Johnson. "Witnessing the accomplishments of our students fills me with immense pride. I am deeply grateful to be part of such a significant milestone in their journey."

"Seventy percent of our graduates are pioneers in their families, being the first to pursue higher education. LSCO celebrates this as a testament to our commitment to being a place where hope meets opportunity. We understand the transformative power of a college certificate or degree, not just for the individual student, but for future generations to follow."

Graduates this semester come from all over the state of Texas & Louisiana with 68% living in Orange County, 8% from Parishes in Louisiana, and 7% each in Jefferson, Jasper and Hardin Counties. 73% are graduating with a technical certificate or degree in a craft, skill or trade while 27% are receiving an academic certificate or degree.

"The hard work and dedication from each student that walked the stage is inspiring," said Dr. Wendy Elmore, Provost and Executive Vice President. "Many of our students work a full-time job along with attending college. Every student can be proud of the statement that a certificate or degree from Lamar State College Orange says about them."

Lamar State College Orange is thrilled to share these record-breaking graduation numbers with the community. Through its dedication to empowering students and making a lasting impact, LSCO is transforming lives, one Gator at a time. The Future is Bright Orange.

It's not too late to begin your journey at LSCO. The summer semester begins May 28 and the fall semester begins August 26, 2024.

Orange got to claim famous 1910 champion

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The high society and dog fanciers were shocked in 1910 as the East Coast terrier who had won Best of Show at the Westminster Dog Show three years running was beaten by a terrier from Orange, Texas.

Sabine Rarebit, a smooth-haired terrier raised by F.H. Farwell's Sabine Kennels was the Best in Show. The final judging was between best of male and best of female.

For the first three years the dog show gave a Best in Show award, a bitch named Warren Remedy from a kennel in New Jersey had won best female and best in Show. But in 1910, she even lost the best female. That award went

Sabine Fernie, also a smooth-haired terrier from Sabine Kennels.

So when the finals arrived to the crowded event at Madison Square Garden on February 11, 1910, everyone knew Sabine Kennels of Orange would take Best in Show. But which dog?

Poor Fernie is lost to history. Sabine Rarebit, though, is kept alive through a sculpture, paintings, photographs, and a couple of thousand internet references. Locally, an oil painting of the dog decorates one of the upstairs bedrooms of the Heritage House Museum of Orange history.

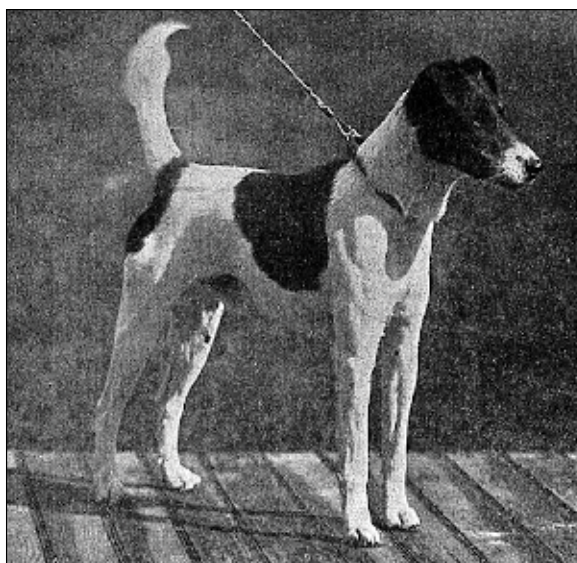
F.H. Farwell of Orange fit into the East Coast high society that had changed as the Gilded Age dissolved. He had the wealth

to spend on an expensive hobby like operating a kennel, plus buying breeding dogs, training the dogs, and showing the dogs.

The June 2022 edition of DogNews.com has a detailed story about the early winners of the Westminster reports and that Farwell would sometimes travel with "as many as 60 dogs with two handlers, one to groom and one to show."

The story also says even though Warren Remedy had a competition with Farwell's dogs, she was sired by Sabine Resist.

All the terriers from Farwell's kennels had the first name of Sabine, the name of the kennel. Even though Orange, Texas, is given credit for being the home to Sabine Kennels, it



Sabine Rarebit, a smooth-haired Fox terrier raised by F.H. Farwell of Orange won the Best of Show in the 1910 Westminster Dog Show.

was in today's West Orange.

F.H. Farwell was an executive and general manager of the Lutchter and Moore Lumber Company.

He was also an investor in businesses, banking, and even the Yellow Pine Paper Mill. The DogNews.com story said he was a "colorful" wealthy Texan

with cattle ranching. Farwell likely had invested in cattle, but ranching was not his main source of income.

With his wealth, he was able to build a mansion on Green Avenue, which at the turn of the 20th Century was lined in mansions.

Farwell's house was unique. It was in the Spanish Mission style with a stucco exterior. Photographs from the Heritage House collection show the interior filled with Mission Style furniture that appears to be some of the original from Stickley, a famous furniture designer and maker.

Frederick Henry Farwell died in 1947 at the age of 77, and his wife, Fanny

Sabine Rare- Page 3A

Local high school golfers receive state honors

Dan Perrine
For The Record

The state golf tournaments held the last two days of April for the boys and the first week of May for the girls concluded this year's UIL high school golf competition. It was a successful season for several local high school golfers in Orange County.

Two weeks ago Lincoln Parks of Orangefield took first runner up in the Class 3A boys competition. Parks, a junior, shot a 72 on both days of the tournament to finish at 144 just one stroke out first place.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcat golf team finished the girls two days of play at the ShadowGlen Golf Club in Manor on Tuesday, May 7. The Bobcat girls represented the orange and white very well on a very beautiful and challenging course. The Lady Bobcats ended their season as a Class 3A State Finalist after winning their second straight district championship.

Three seniors Lela Francis, Rylie Kethan, and Emma Pierrottie led the



Rylie Kethan, Abby Slaughter, Emma Pierrottie, Lela Francis, and Jordyn Rucker of the Orangefield girls golf team were district champions and reached the state finals where they competed well.

Orangefield girl golfers this year. Joining the golf team and contributing to its success were under classmen Abby Slaughter and Jordyn Rucker.

As a reminder the Bridge City girls' golf team won a

second straight district championship in Class 4A the last week of March. Team members were Ashley Hale, Heidi Broussard, Reece Molina, Kamryn Lumpkin, and Aubrey Carpenter.

The All District Golf Teams in District 19-4A for the girls and the boys were released the first week of May. Bridge City and Little Cypress Mauriceville golf teams placed multiple members on both the girls



Lincoln Parks

and boys teams.

In the girls All-District Team the Newcomer of the Year was freshman Aubrey Carpenter from Bridge City. Ray Weaver of Bridge City was named the Coach of the Year for the girls.

Making the First Team from Bridge City were senior Ashley Hale and junior Reece Molina. Cassie Griz-

zafi a junior at Little Cypress Mauriceville made the First Team as well.

Second Team honors went to junior Kamryn Lumpkin and freshman Kylie Hantz of Bridge City. Sophomore Paige McKee at Little Cypress Mauriceville also made the Second Team.

Bridge City and Little Cypress Mauriceville both had one boy golfer chosen to be First Team All-District. Sophomore Maddox Manuel with LCM and junior Tyler Fufts from Bridge City were so honored.

Braydon Denison a sophomore at Bridge City was selected to the Second Team. Little Cypress Mauriceville senior Carter Foreman also was named to the Second Team All-District.

Free Diabetes classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is having a Free Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes Series at the Extension office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on FM 1442, Orange. They will be held on July 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, and 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Join us in learning how to prevent type 2 diabetes, eat healthy, and much more to control your diabetes.

You will need to attend all classes to get the full educational benefit. Call the Extension office at 409-882-7010 to reserve your spot.

Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month

at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Orange Al-Anon meetings Sunday and Wednesdays

Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. Al-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange, TX 77632. Call Angela at

474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info. Calls are kept Confidential.



'The Record'
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The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

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Brenda - Distribution Manager

409-886-7183
E-mail: news@therecordlive.com
333 W. Roundbunch, Bridge City, Texas 77611
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Check in
with yourself.

Start breathing. Stay present.

Small steps can make a big difference when it comes to your mental health. Try this simple breathing exercise if you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed or stressed.

FOUR STEPS FOR BOX BREATHING:

- 1** Start by placing one hand on your chest and the other on your stomach.
- 2** Breathe in through your nose for 4 seconds, feeling your stomach expand.
- 3** Hold that breath in for 4 seconds.
- 4** Exhale through your mouth for 4 seconds.

Repeat steps 2-4 until you feel more relaxed.

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turn to

Sabine Rarebit From Page 1

Barber Farwell, died in 1952 at the age of 79. They are buried in Orange's Evergreen Cemetery.

After Farwell's death, the downstairs of the mansion was turned into a popular Mexican restaurant named "Little Mexico," which was opened until the early 1970s. The mansion, on the northeast corner of Green and Eighth Street, was demolished in the mid-1970s to

make room for part of the Stark Museum of Art, including the parking lot.

The late James Pruter, who grew up in Orange once recalled that during the early days of World War II, he saw Mr. Farwell, who was in his 70s, make a contribution to the war effort. During a scrap metal drive to collect items to be melted down for ammunition and fighting machines, Farwell

brought in dozens of his old trophies from dog shows.

Whether the Westminster Best in Show trophy was among the ones melted down, who knows? A couple of Farwell's dog trophies are also on view at Heritage House, but neither one comes from that most famous of shows and Sabine Rarebit.

Phelan-Covey race From Page 1

primary in March are not allowed to vote in the Republican runoff.

According to the Orange County Elections Administration, the county has 54,871 voters and a little more than 41,000 did not vote in the March 2024 party primary races.

Of those voting, 12,834 voted in the Republican primary and only 981 in the Democratic primary.

Anyone who did not vote in a primary race may vote in the Republican primary runoff. The 981 Democratic primary voters may not cross a party line and vote in the runoff. Nearly 53,900 voters in Orange County will be eligible to vote in the Republican primary.

Phelan has drawn the ire of many Republicans because he appointed

Democrats to chair house committees, which is a long-running tradition to be bipartisan. He also accepted the impeachment proceedings against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton for alleged wrongdoings brought on by lawyers in his office who became whistle-blowers.

Paxton, who has also faced other legal problems, was impeached by the house, but not by the Texas Senate. The attorney general has been a longtime supporter of Donald Trump.

Trump, Paxton, and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller have endorsed Covey.

Many Orange County leaders, including County Judge John Gothia and Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr., have endorsed

Phelan because of the work he has done to help Orange County, including monies to help alleviate flooding and hurricane recovery.

In the March primary, Covey received a total of 15,589 votes districtwide, or 46.3 percent of the vote. Phelan came in with 14,574 votes, 1,015 less than Covey, for 43.3 percent of the votes. Alicia Davis of Jasper, who has since endorsed Covey, got 3,523 votes, or 10.5 percent.

Orange County, however, favored Covey by a wider margin. Here, Covey received 8,203 votes, or 54.52 percent, with Phelan getting 5,911, or 39.33 percent, and Alicia Davis of Jasper getting 925, or 6.15 percent.



The Orangefield ISD Education Foundation donated \$1,250 to Orangefield Jr. High to enhance the art program by purchasing a printing press. Pictured (Left to Right): Jack Smith, OISD Education Foundation Vice President, Brian Richardson, Orangefield Jr. High Principal, Robyn Lovett, OJH Art Teacher, Crystal Myers, OISD Education Foundation Treasurer, and Stefanie Goldsmith, OISD Education Foundation Teacher Liaison



Orangefield High School Career and Technical Education Students celebrated their earning of an Industrial Based Certification during Career Awards Night. Those graduating students that completed a State Approved Program of Study with their Industrial Based Certification received their "Career Ready Honor Cord."

County business From Page 1

en levees, plus three miles of concrete seawalls. The project will include building 14 to 16 new pump stations and 150 to 200 gravity drain systems, which will help move floodwaters out of the county and into Sabine Lake.

The project will also have 40 closure structures and two navigable sector gates to close in the case of a sea surge from a hurricane like that of Hurricane Harvey in 2008.

In other business of Commissioners Court, County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher reported her office in April collected \$10.44 million in taxes. Of that total, the county's share was \$767,000. Fisher's office also collects property taxes for other entities, including cities and school districts in the county. Current year taxes were due January 31.

Jail Captain James Eisestein told commissioners that Five Star Correctional Services, which provides the meals for inmates in the county jail, have increased the meal prices to fit with the consumer price index. Commissioners approved paying the increase, which made each meal cost \$1.54, which is nearly nine cents more per meal.

The court also approved allowing Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney to apply for a grant to pay a 50 percent reimbursement for bulletproof vests for deputies. The grant is issued through the U.S. Department of Justice.

The court agreed to give a right-of-way access permit to Entergy Services, Inc., to install two subsurface conduit bores along Foreman Road. The bores will be from FM 105 to the project site. That area is part of the construction area for the new \$8.5 billion Chevron Phillips petrochemical plant called Golden Triangle Polymers.

Bills paid included

\$209,351 from the Texas General Land Office hurricane recovery grant fund to T Construction, LLC, for drainage improvements, plus \$36,197 to Schaumburg & Polk engi-

neering for drainage work under the same hurricane recovery grant fund.

University of Texas Medical Branch was paid \$21,653 from the general fund for its monthly pay-

ment to run a health center under a decades-old contract. Also, \$8,531

from the general fund to the city of Orange for maintenance on the dispatch console for the Orange County Sheriff's Office. In addition \$2,300 went from the general fund to pay indigent fu-

neral expenses from Memorial Funeral Home.

Another \$961,000 was approved to be spent from the general fund for regular operating expenses, along with \$102,000 for expenses from the road and bridge fund.

The court accepted a replat of part of Lot 40 of the

Houseman Acres subdivision off Oilla Road in Precinct 3. The plat had been reviewed by the Orange County Drainage District and the city of Orange because it is within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

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From the Creaux's Nest

TIME—DID WE WASTE OR USE IT

Well, here we are, it's **almost mid-May** and in a couple of weeks a half year will have gone by. In a few days school will be out for the summer. It seems to me like the school year just started. **Time does seem to travel faster** as you get older or maybe we old folks just travel slower while time moves on. Remember when it seemed that **the school year lasted so long** and summer took forever to get here. Is it for real or is it just perception? Today we get the paper out and it's time to start on another. The busier you stay the faster the years go by. One day you wake up and wonder where all the years have gone and you really do **look forward to those you have left**. You wonder how you can slow them down. **I have to move on. Come on, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

RAY HEARN SERVICE TO BE HELD

Ray Hearn, age 83, passed away May 11, funeral service will be held Friday, May 17, 2024 at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Visitation at 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. prior to service. Ray was a Bridge City resident since childhood. He married Elaine Ellis 62 years ago. The couple were great and successful parents in everything they did. I am fortunate to have known them and their family. Ray's mother, Inez, was a special friend and special person who passed those qualities to him. Ray and Elaine contributed toward making Bridge City and the community better. To Teresa, Daren, Janice, Harold and their entire family we extend our condolences. Please see obituary.

CONDOLENCES

We were sorry to learn of the sudden death of **Daniel 'Danny' Hock**, age 70, who passed away May 3 at his home. His friends gathered last Friday to remember their longtime friend. His parents, Buddy, a postman and Connie, employed by King's Pharmacy, were well known in the Bridge City community. The Hock family played an important part in the formation of the city with an uncle serving on the first city council. Daniel Hock was liked by everyone who knew him. May he rest in peace. Please see obituary.

TURNING BACK THE HAND OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Editorial-2014: This is the first time in 20 years that **Judge Carl Thibodeaux** is not on the ballot. He is serving us well. When **Thibodeaux** took office the Orange county courthouse was falling down around their ears. **Space was very limited.** Some judges were sharing courtrooms and there was one less judge. The justice of the peace operated out of a closet. The tax office had long outgrown their space. Everyone was cramped in that old building. The first thing **Judge Carl** did was totally do over the building and the work had to be done according to the **Historical Society of Texas.** Everything, including windows, had to look original. Next he and the Commissioners built a new tax office, VA office and other buildings and moved everyone out of the court house except the legal departments. **Judge Thibodeaux** also inherited a long term **debt of \$6,735,000** and today has a "0" long term debt. The county capital assets message body totaled only **\$16,737,312** and in 2012 the capital assets totaled **\$40,838,061.** Since then more value has been added with the building of **Last Resorts and the Expo Center.** All of the improvements and additional assets were acquired with no cost to the tax paying citizens of Orange County. Every year he worked with a different **makeup of the court** when new commissioners came on board. He put a good team together. **Judge Thibodeaux** is highly respected by his peers throughout Southeast Texas. During this time in office the **Judge has had eight stints** but never missed work. He's leaving the county in far better shape than he found it. For that we can't thank him enough. (Editor's note: Did you know through the years he was a democrat.) **Brint Carlton** is not the first young lawyer who kicked their careers off by **running for an office they couldn't win** or weren't qualified to do. **Louis Dugas** did it, **Sharon Bearden**, right out of Baylor, **David Dunn**, **H.D. Pate**, two years in town ran against the toughest in the county, **Judge Martin Adroin**, who whipped him badly but they later became good friends. **Rex Peveto** and many others, including **Brint's father Steve**, who ran in a three way race, came in last but the race propelled his law practice. You see, young lawyers win **even if they lose that first race.** **Bridge City School Board** member **Jerry McInnis** recently had heart surgery. **The Wednesday Lunch Bunch** celebrates their **21st. anniversary** this Wednesday at **Robert's.** **Dr. Mike Shahan** was be honored with the "Person of the Year" award.

20 Years Ago-2004

Michael Gauthier, Bridge City High track star, won Texas gold. The **Cardinal senior** soared into the re-

cord books with a time of 10.77 during the U.I.L. track and field state championship. Over 14,000 watched him outrun three other speedsters at Meyers Stadium at U.T. **Michael** was the only white runner. A fan was overheard saying, "**That's one fast white boy.**" **Little Cypress-Mauriceville** students name **Jeanne Logsdon**, fifth grade history teacher at Mauriceville Elementary "**Teacher of the Year.**" Her class got to see early history in the making on a field trip with **Civil War re-enactors**, cannon blast and all. **The winners in Saturday elections** are **Theresa Beachamp**, a Bridge City assistant principle, will replace **Bill Klein** on the Orange City Council. **Jerry Hussy** wins the mayor's race at Pinehurst by 15 votes over **Rick Trevino.** **Mark Philpott** won a Bridge City council seat. A referendum for term limits in West Orange was defeated 243 to 213. **At the 11th anniversary of the Wednesday Lunch Bunch**, held at **Robert's**, a chair was draped with a black ribbon in honor of **Judge Grover Halliburton** who died May 7. At his funeral service **Grover**, a U.T. ex and football fan, was honored with flowers sent from the **University of Texas** and **Coach Mack Brown.** **Former Bridge City city councilman James "Steve" Stevens**, 78, passed away. **Steve** served as a Marine in World War II. He loved to dance and he and wife **Irene** made dancing their hobby for many years. Services were held Saturday, May 15. **Dorothy "Dot" Wiegand**, 50, of Orange, died Friday, May 14. **Celebrating 50 years of marriage** are **Mr. and Mrs. Riley J. Bonnin.** of Orange. **Nick Wingate** celebrates 83 years as does **Claude Edward Darby**, who celebrates the big 23. **Ten years ago**, on May 10, 2004, our friend brother **Dewitt Rainwater** died. This guy had a lot of talent as a preacher. He could tell a great story. **Brother Rainwater** was a fun guy to be around. I loved to hear him **pickin and singing** when you could get him to cut down on an old country song. He did a great **Jimmie "Singing Brakeman" Rodgers.** **Dewitt** could have made it in the country field.

50 Years Ago-1974

James D. Stringer is running for county judge. His motto is, "**He Listens.**" **Wood's Men's Wear**, at 306 5th St., in Orange, is quitting business. Men's suits range from **\$49.90**, dress slacks **\$9.99 to \$15.99**, dress shirts **\$4.99 to \$8.99** and men's shoes **\$14.99 to \$29.99.** **Harmon Chevrolet** congratulated three sales leaders. They won Chevrolet's highest award for outstanding salesmanship in 1973. They are **Joe Williamson**, **Bob Jones** and **Homer Flanagan.** **Stephen's Buick Discount Center** on MacArthur Circle has 11, **1974 Opels**, list price is **\$3,352**, now on sale for **\$2,988.** Real gas savers. **University of Houston coach Bill Yeoman** says Orange's **Larry Keller** will be one of the best front four defenders in the nation. **A record number of 14 football scholarships** have been handed out by college recruiters to Orange County football players. **The West Orange Chiefs lead the parade** of talent as eight members of their district 10-AAA championship team inked with major colleges. Runner up, **10-AAA Bridge City has four signees**, **Stark Tigers have two.** The 14 are B.C. **Mark Dunn**, UTA; **Lanston Fall**, Lamar; **Steve Trevino** and **David Smith**, Wharton; **Stark**, **Lenard Curtis** and **Alexander James**, Ranger; **West Orange**, **Roy Williams** and **Mike Conway**, USL; **Phillip January**, Miss. College; **Larry Spears**, West Texas State; **Ray Pousson**, University of Colorado; **Randle Teate**, University of Houston; **James Long**, Tulane; **Paul Bingham**, McNeese. **Tommy Gunn**, former debate coach at W.O. High School, has been named **outstanding speaker** in the Spring Moot Court competition at Baylor University School of Law. **Gunn**, a third quarter student received \$50 and membership in the **Order of the Barristers**, a moot court fraternity. He maintains a 2.76 grade point of a possible 3.00. **Gunn** was valedictorian at West Orange High. He is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gunn.** His grandparents are **A.T. Pacher** and **Mrs. B.A. Gunn.**

A FEW HAPPENINGS

We spoke with our longtime friend **Mike Hatton** who we have not seen since his beautiful wife **Nancy** passed away. He says he'll see us at **Roy's** bash on June 5. His roots run deep in what is now Bridge City. His folks were pioneers. **The Lutchter Theater** closed out its 23-24 season with the **Jazz Age** set musical '**Chicago.**' Local filmmaker **Penny LeLeux** and her daughter, **Janet LeLeux**, were in the audience and proud to show off their '**Fosse hands.**' Others in the audience included **Brittany Stevenson**, **Rebecca Willey**, **Misty Bornholdt**, **Dayle Gunn**, **Liz Mazola Oliva**, **Bridget Trahan**, **Emily Mellon**, **Jennifer Smith**, **Marianne Drouillard**, **Bridge Toohey**, **Tad and Thereze McKee**, and **Bridget Toohey.** The theater will be announcing the lineup for the next season on May 20. **Kenny Chesney** and the **Zac Brown Band** were topping the bill at a big concert this past weekend in the Dallas area at **AT&T Stadium.** **Melany Monson** took her mother, **Rita Monson**, as a Mothers Day gift. Also from Orange County were **Nick** and **Christine Brown Zeto.** **Becky** and **Tom Henry**, along with **Gary** and **Allisha Bonneau**, took in the **Rick Springfield concert.** **Michelle Belcher** spent Mothers Day in New York City with daughters **Brook Estes** and **Rachel Belcher.** She even had a special song and dance from street performers. **Sisters Ida Schossow** and **Jane Branch**, along with **Jane's** husband, **West Orange Mayor Randy Branch**, traveled to Maui for the wedding of their nephew. Of course they all spent a few days sightseeing and beach walking before the nuptials of **Jarrod** and **Allyce Johnson.** **Ken Sury**, who was once editor of the **Orange Leader**, retired from the newspaper business after working more than 20 years for the **Waco Tribune.** The move to private business let him run for city council and he won election to the council in **Woodway**, outside of Waco. If the town sounds familiar, that's where longtime Orange city manager **Shawn Oubre** took the city manager's job. **Speaking of retirements**, **Dorothy Richard** recently ended her long career at **Sabine Federal Credit Union** and is moving onto her next stage in life. **Graduations** are going on across the country and many have ties to Orange County. **Chandler Peveto**, who has been studying opera, received a master's degree from **Colorado State**

University. **Kaitlyn Smith**, daughter of former assistant district attorney **Phillip Smith** and **Cristy Smith**, graduated from the **Texas Tech School of Law.** **Mason Grizzaffi** is ready to enter graduate school after earning a bachelor's degree magna cum laude from the **University of North Texas.** **Elizabeth Johns**, daughter of **Rebecca** and **Bret Johns**, graduated from **Ole Miss** and received a number of honors. **We was sorry learn** that **Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte** had lost his mom back in March at age 98. She was a Cajun girl from **God's country**, the Erath, Delcambre area of South Louisiana. **Bank teller Brittany Fulfer** will be missed at the Bridge City Bank branch in Orange. Friday is her last day. **Britt** says she enjoys her job but her children need her at home. She has been such a pleasure to do business with. Always pleasant and goes that extra step to be helpful. I'm sure her employers will miss her also. **Boss Lady Margie Stephens** called to tell us **Harry's Appliance**, since the death of its beloved owner **Harry**, is rolling along on all cylinders. **Good deals, great service.** **Margie** however, has been in and out of the hospital with kidney stone problems she has been fighting for years. **Margie** says the appliance store is in good hands and ready to help with any appliance sales or repairs.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Folks we know celebrating birthday in the next few days. **May 15: Deborah Ellender, Daniel Broussard, Emily Domas, Heather Brinson, Kenneth Prosperie, Nancy Chenella, Ronda Savoy, Jimmy Sibert, Norman Gaspard, Hailey McCoun.** **May 16: Judge Pat Clark**, who I have known since he was in short pants, celebrates a birthday this week on the 16th. I haven't heard from **Pat** in a while but hope to see him June 5 at **Lunch Bunch** birthday gathering. **RaeAnn Chapman, Mark Simmons, Alan Richey, Sondra Taliaferro, Clay Sims, Ed Berry.** **May 17: Jennifer Clarke, Nickie Judice, Nickie Wall, Pam Hudson, Donna McClanahan, Greg Defrates, Jennifer Williams, Angelea Breaux.** **May 18: Denise Kincade, Kim Hanks, Ron Hutchison, Richard Allensworth, Shelley Dugan, Sydney Taylor, Cheryl Stone.** **May 19: Al Judice**, one of the great guys, who always had a lot of toys, has gone underground. We miss seeing him. He's a year older, also **Justin Knight, Mark Watts, Niki Bennett, Bret Shuford, Dalayna Sandlin.** **May 20:** On this day **Phyl and Roy's** daughter **Karen** will celebrate a birthday, also **David Jones, Bill Pope, Pat Bland, Alayna Womack, Patty Dupuis, Stormy Sharp.** **May 21: Leah Chapman, Babette Philpott, Ricky Land, Teresa Cain Lemke, Charlotte Foreman, Hannah Dupuis, James R. Braus, Sarah McClure.** **Retired teacher Gail Terry Gutierrez** celebrated her **86th birthday** and still keeps traveling. Her students, including the many now collecting Social Security, remember her as one of the coolest teachers around. Others celebrating included photographer-music writer **Tommy Mann, Bobby Vice Sr., Julie Ivey Allensworth, James Ural, Shelby Sonnier, Brooke Sands-Grisom, Runetta Marks, Tucker Flatt, Mark Allbritton, Cil Dixon, Kenny Goss, Orange City Councilor Mary McKenna, Kaiden Skiles, Monte Morphew, Rosemary Watters, Michael Patronella, Linda Kay Mazzola, Becky McAnelly, Sharron Venable, Caroly Murray, and Beverly Richard Robinson.** **Anniversary greetings** go out to **Trey and April King**, who have been married **26 years**, and **Roderick and Brandy Robertson**, who marked their **16th.** **On May 20, Wanda and Coach Johnson** will celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary. And congratulations also to newlyweds **Joshua and Jenna Green.**

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Percy Guilbeaux him took his wife **Clotele** and his mudder-in-law

Agnes Arceneaux to da **Holy Land.** Everyday wen dey would get ready to go visit da sights his mudder-in-law wanted to go her. Everyday she would complain bout da heat, being tired or how bad da food was. Just constant complaining. Halfway through their trip

Mrs. Arceneaux up and died her.

Guilbeaux him, goes to da undertaker who explains to **Percy** dat dey could ship his mudder-in-law's body back to Breaux Bridge but da cost would be bout **\$5,000** or dey could bury her in da **Holy Land** for jus \$150.

Percy said, "We'll ship her home."

Da undertaker axe, "Are you sure? Dat's an awful big expense and

I can assure you we do a very nice burial here in da **Holy Land.**"

"Look, said **Percy**, two-thousand years ago dey buried a guy over here and tree days later he rose from da dead him. I jus can't take dat chance me."

C'EST TOUT

Looks like **Orange County** escaped the worst of the thunderstorms the past few days as a Monday evening tornado hit nearby **Sulphur, Louisiana**, and hail, including some the size of golf balls, struck Sunday afternoon in the **Nederland-Fannett** area. Ten years ago, it would have been hard to imagine the **Golden Triangle** becoming part of tornado-hail alley. **National Weather Service** is predicting more thunderstorms later in the week. **The mosquitoes** are going to get worse. If you want to enjoy your backyard the next couple of months call **Donna at Pestco, 409-886-4248.** They have just the formula of natural herbs that will keep the **Skeeters** away. **Thanks for your time. Take care and God bless.**



Kenneth Clyde Wyatt, 82

Kenneth Clyde Wyatt, beloved husband, father, son and friend; left his earthly body on May 2, 2024 in Montgomery TX and will be forever missed by those he left behind. He was born on October 8, 1942 in San Jose, CA. He fought illness for several years but ultimately kidney cancer took him.

Predeceasing Ken are his father and mother, Clyde G. Wyatt of Carroll TN and Arta Wann Wyatt Miller of Bridge City TX, his sister Marsha Lyn Alexander of San Luis Obispo CA, maternal grandparents Harry A. Wann and Arta Mae Wann of Santa Clara CA, and paternal grandparents Joseph Monroe Wyatt and Mary Maxwell Wyatt of Carroll TN.

Surviving Ken is his wife and partner of 29 years, Penny Little Wyatt of Montgomery TX, daughter Jami Annette Fairley and husband Michael Fairley of Montgomery



Kenneth Wyatt,

TX, grandchildren Chelsea Leigh Jones and husband Eric Jones of Dickinson TX and Karli Anderson and fiancé Colton Fontenot of Webster TX. Great grandchildren are Andi Kate Jones and Grayson Jones.

In his younger years Ken was very active in the local community working in the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Shriners and the local Masonic Lodge of Port

Arthur,

Ken moved to the Beaumont Port Arthur area in 1970 and married, lived, worked and retired there until 2019 when he and Penny moved to the Lake Conroe area to be near his daughter and also to be near Penny's family.

Ken will be interred in Whispering Pines Cemetery, a private family cemetery in the Cut & Shoot area of Montgomery County.

Mary Diana Bowman, 69, BC

Mary Diana Bowman, 69, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on May 12, 2024, at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend Keith Royal.

Visitation will be from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Bridge City.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on July 28, 1954, she was the daughter of Don Sparks and Ann Duval Sparks. Diana dedicated her life to her family as an excellent mother whose mission was to ensure the well-being of her loved ones.

Known affectionately as "MawMaw" by her grandchildren, Diana's nurturing nature extended beyond her immediate family. She had a passion for shopping and possessed a creative spirit that found expression in crafting beautiful floral arrangements. Her artistic touch brought joy to those around her and left memories of her thoughtful gestures.

Diana found strength and comfort in her faith, finding solace in attending services at the First Baptist Church in Bridge City. Her



Mary Diana Bowman

commitment to her spiritual beliefs guided her actions throughout her life. She loved her church family and all those in her Sunday School class.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Don and Ann Sparks; her brothers, Jerry Sparks, and Tommy Sparks; and her nephew, Eddie Sparks.

She is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, 6 months, and 12 days, Dave Bowman; her daughters, Erica Jeanise and husband, Harley of Bradenton, Florida, and Tracy Cole and husband, Eric of Orange, Texas; her grandchildren, Evan Jeanise and wife, Alyssa, Madison Cole, Hayden Jeanise, Bowman Cole, Hutch Jeanise, and Kyndall Jeanise; her sister, Cheryl Landry and husband, Richard; her mother-in-law, Margaret Arisco; her sister-in-law, Phyllis Hoffpauir and husband, Scott Hoffpauir; and numerous other nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Evan Jeanise, Madison Cole, Hayden Jeanise, Bowman Cole, Hutch Jeanise, and Kyndall Jeanise.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and to Folds of Honor.

Ray Hearn, 83, Bridge City

Ray Hearn, 83, passed away on Saturday, May 11, 2024, after a lengthy illness. A cherished resident of Bridge City, he was born on February 12, 1941 to Inez Duplissey Hearn and Leslie Hearn in Lecompte, Louisiana. Relocating to Bridge City as a child with his parents and two siblings, Janice Overman and Harold Hearn, both of Bridge City, Ray established deep roots in the community, where he spent over seven decades of his life. His upbringing fostered enduring friendships, many of which were formed during his school years at Bridge City.

He was known for his drag racing prowess with his '55, '56, and '57 black Chevys.

In 62 years of marriage to Elaine Ellis Hearn, a respected real estate broker, Ray found not only a life partner but also a business collaborator. Together, they navigated the real estate market, acquiring and selling properties, including a significant plot on Cow Bayou. They also developed the old Stoneburner Farm on Jennie Lane off Turner.

Ray's two-acre garden on the Cow Bayou property that he worked with his sister Janice, not only provided abundant produce but also served as a source of generosity, as they shared their harvest with friends, neighbors, and even local authorities, especially their beloved mother, Inez, who delighted in preparing fresh greens.

Ray's professional journey led him through roles at B.F. Goodrich and Bayer before establishing his own business. His community involvement extended to leadership positions at the Golden Triangle Savings and Loan and chairing the Orange County Appraisal District.

Though Ray did not pursue a college degree, his thirst for knowledge remained unquenchable. He supplemented his education with real estate courses and avidly consumed publications such as the Beaumont Enterprise, the Orange Leader, and the Wall Street Journal.

Ray and Elaine were blessed with two children, Teresa George of Nashville and Daren (D. Ray) Hearn of Bridge City. Their family expanded further with their son-in-law John Paddison and daughter-in-law Brenda Hearn and the addition of four grandchildren, Jessica and David of Nashville, and Grace and Jake, who now live in London.

Ray took immense pride in his grandkids' academic achievements and professional pursuits, whether it was Jake pursuing a masters in real estate, Grace and David's work at the financial headquarters of an equipment manufacturer or Jess' job in country music. His sports teams were also



Ray Hearn

governed by his grandkids – supporting Texas A&M football and watching Grace's Premier League English soccer teams, although he remained unsure of the rules.

An avid outdoorsman, Ray found joy in fishing trips with D. Ray at Toledo Bend and hunting excursions in Colorado and West Texas with family members and friends. For three decades, he attended ACM and CMA Awards shows in LA, Vegas, Dallas and Nashville. He also went to the Grammy's in LA and Carnegie Hall to see Dolly Parton, the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500.

He traveled to London with Teresa on a CMA trip – even taking a backpack and heading to Paris by himself before the days of cellphones and apps. He and Elaine enjoyed the serene beauty of British Columbia and Jackson Hole and the sun-soaked shores of Cabo and spent two decades going to Rosemary Beach with grandkids.

Throughout his life, Ray never failed to express his admiration for Elaine, recognizing her kindness, deep faith and unwavering support as pillars of their enduring marriage. His legacy is one of love, generosity, and a deep appreciation for family and community.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 17, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend Keith Royal. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 17, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Leslie Hearn and Inez Hearn of Bridge City.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine Hearn; his daughter, Teresa George and husband, John Paddison of Nashville; his son, Daren Hearn and wife, Brenda of Bridge City; his four grandchildren; his sister, Janice Overman; his brother, Harold Hearn both of Bridge City; and numerous other loving family members and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Daren Hearn, David Hearn, Neil Miller, Darrell Crane, Kevin Laughlin, Herman "Boo" Dupree, Dow Gene Anderson, and Scott Malagarie. Honorary pallbearers are John Paddison, Jake Paddison, Elbert Chamblee, Jerry Laughlin, and the Bridge City Masonic Lodge #1345.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to caregivers Angela (Anghilia) Kithler and Albina Leiva during his final days. Also, to friends and family who came by to see him, brought him food, and reached out or prayed for us.

Mary Elizabeth Hardin, 97

Mary Elizabeth Hardin, 97, of Orange, Texas, passed away on May 11, 2024, at Focus Care in Orange.

Born in Orange, Texas, on August 30, 1926, she was the daughter of Leon Ervell Smith and Jesse Edith (Barber) Smith. Mary was a beacon of light to all who knew her. Her presence and kind spirit touched the lives of many. In her free time, Mary enjoyed playing bingo and indulging in the thrill of gambling. These hobbies brought her immense joy and allowed her to socialize with



Mary Hardin,

others who shared her passions. Mary had a remarkable soul with a very big personality and a heart overflowing with love. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Leon and Jesse Smith; and husband, Rufflin Hardin.

She is survived by her son, Tommy Barber and wife, Shearin; longtime friend and caregiver, Shirley Powell.

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

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5 cats available, 4 boys, 1 girl, 1 year old. All updated on shots and fixed. Rehoming fee of \$20.00, if interested please call 409-216-9330.

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Moving Yard Sale this Thursday, 5/16 from 11 am to 2 pm at 169 Live Oak Street in Bridge City.

CHAIR FOR SALE

Pronto wheel chair \$350.00 Call 409-313-6637, will return call, please leave name and number.

BURIAL PLOT

Two Cemetery spaces for sale, Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Bridge, City. In the Lords Supper Section. \$3600.00 for both spaces.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian seeking Christian. Single male Caucasian Christian seeking a single Christian lady. Age group 40 to 60 for friendship and fellowship. My name is Stephen and can be reached at texaslonghorn0777@gmail.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The three properties, the first commonly known as 11178 Old Hwy. 62, Orange, TX 77632, the second commonly known as 1790 Bassett, Orange, TX 77632, and the third one commonly known as 825 Welch Lane, Vidor, TX 77662 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 06/04/2024 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at The back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Angie Brooks, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **PATRICIA ANN HUDSON**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 13, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19981**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **ROCKY DEAN HUDSON**.

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

c/o:
Rocky Dean Hudson
3140 Timberlake Street
Bridge City, TX 77611

Dated the 13th day of May, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **MICHAEL TOWER LEE**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 13, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19979**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DANNEAL RENEE BROUSSARD**.

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

c/o:
Danneal Renee Broussard
1611 Browning Road
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 13th day of May, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **NORMA JOSEPHINE CREW**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 14, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19982**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JOHN NEAL CREW**.

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

c/o:
James R. Dunaway
Attorney at Law
108 7th Street
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 14th day of May, 2024.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway

Attorney for:
John Neal Crew
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

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Softball season comes to an end in OC

Orange County softball action this week

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

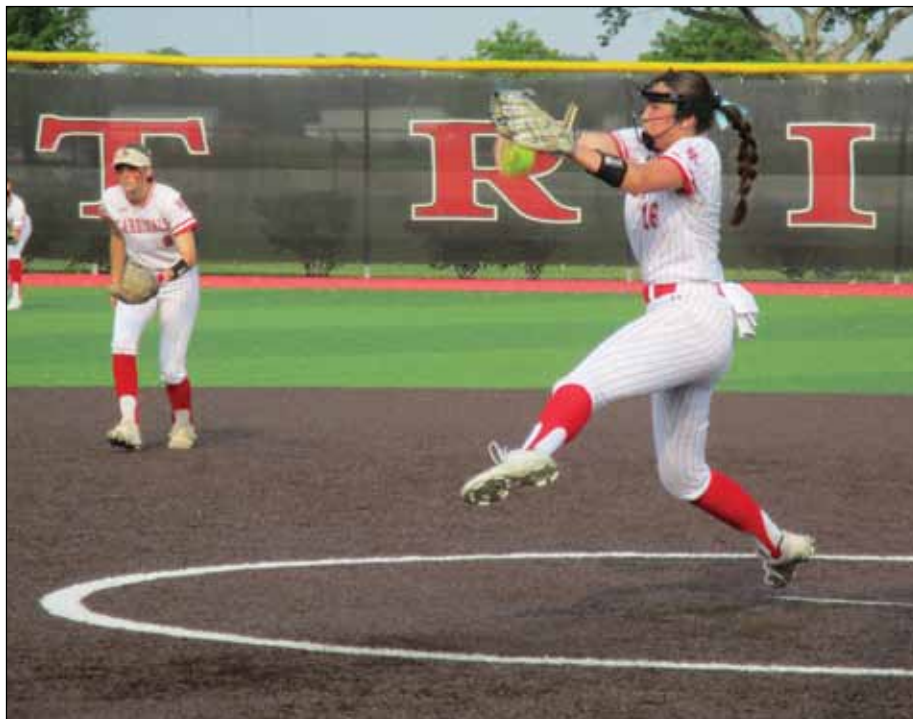
The softball post season concluded for three local teams from Orange County on Thursday and Friday, May 9-10. Bridge City, Little Cypress Mauriceville, and Orangefield were all eliminated in the third round of the state UIL playoffs.

A magical season came to an end for the Bridge City Cardinals softball team on Thursday, May 9. The Cardinals lost 2-0 in a one game playoff with the Liberty Lady Panthers at

Baytown.

Bridge City went undefeated winning twelve games without a loss in becoming the champions of District 19-4A. The Cardinals then swept two games from Huffman to open the playoffs and beat Lufkin Hudson in a one game playoff to advance to the third round of the post season.

The Cardinals' opponent in the third round the Liberty Lady Panthers are the powerhouse of softball in Texas having won multiple state championships and reaching the finals several times ad-



Bridge City pitcher Carson Fall had another strong effort in the tough loss to Liberty.

RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

ditionally in the last decade. Liberty came into Thursday's game with a season record of 34-2 having only lost to elite teams from Barbers Hill and Katy both in higher classifications.

The contest was a matchup of two outstanding pitchers with Carson Fall for Bridge City and Brookelyn Taylor of Liberty. The pitchers' duel lived up to its billing.

Fall who threw six no hitters in district and two more in the playoffs shut-out the Lady Panthers during the first five innings. Liberty did get four hits off the Cardinal ace in those early innings.

Liberty's Taylor handcuffed the Cardinal hit-

SOFTBALL Page 3B

Bobcat baseball moves up in playoffs

Orange County baseball action this week

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

One team from Orange County remains alive in the post season. Last weekend the Orangefield Bobcats won and are moving to the third round of the UIL state baseball playoffs while the Bridge City Cardinals lost to bring their season to a close.

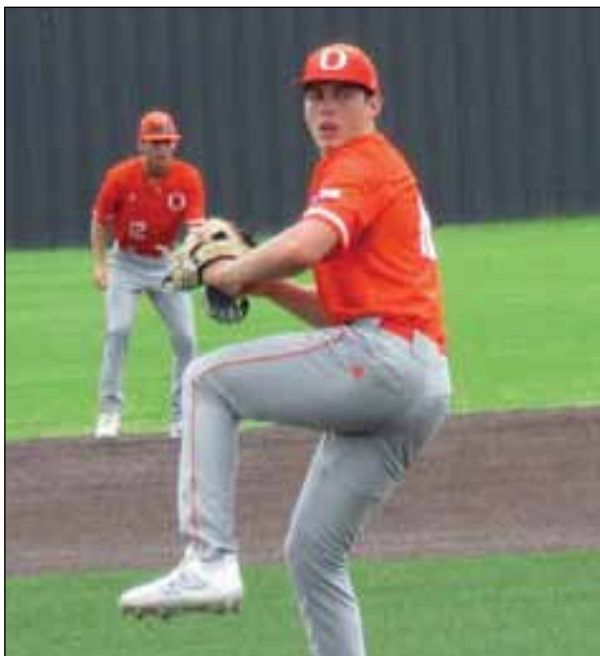
Orangefield played the Tarkington Longhorns in a best of three series at Vincent Beck Stadium on the Lamar University

campus in Beaumont. The Bobcats swept the Longhorns in two straight games.

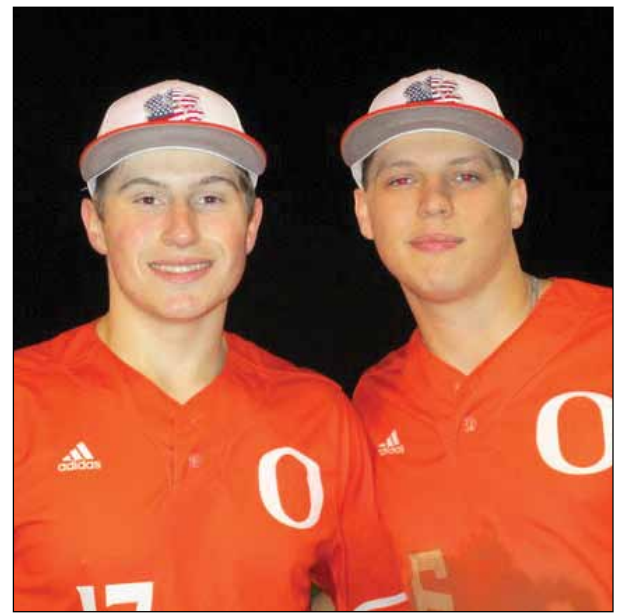
The first game was won by Orangefield 5-0 on Thursday, May 9. Bobcat pitcher Brycen Tait continued his superb pitching throwing a complete game five hit shutout with five strikeouts.

Centerfielder Kane Smith remained hot with the bat going three for four and scoring three runs. Logan Cheek chipped in with two hits

BASEBALL Page 4B



Bobcat pitcher Kaleb Menard did not allow an earned run in Game 2 as Orangefield swept Tarkington.



Brycen Tait pitched a shutout in Game 1 and Cameron Dearing had three hits and four runs batted in during Game 2 to help Orangefield sweep Tarkington in its playoff series.

RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

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OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



"You can't see the forest for the trees" is a well-used phrase that I'm sure each of us has not only heard but can completely relate to in some form or fashion. On more than one occasion over the past few weeks my wife and I have laughed while watching different groups of people in places like restaurants become living examples of the phrase about seeing the forest.

Case in point, a family of 4 at the table and each one has an electronic device in their possession, so they have become oblivious not only to those at the table but to the world around them as well. Instead of taking in the moment and enjoying the company they have chosen to insulate themselves from everything else and to get lost in their little electronic world. What a shame.

Fast forward to your favorite fishing spot and you can almost witness the exact same thing happen as it did in the restaurant, only this time it happens to be a fisherman staring intently at their electronics instead of reading the water and other conditions around them. I have just been blown away at how electronically dependent some anglers have become, and it doesn't appear this trend will slow down anytime soon.

Now don't get me wrong the latest technology out there is a huge help in certain situations, in fact it's almost like cheating in some cases. The ridiculously sensitive scanning sonar out there today has elevated many a fisherman's game to the next level, but it has also weakened them in other areas.

The high-tech electronics work magic for offshore anglers as they probe rocks and wrecks while looking for just the right spot for their next cast. Other anglers who key in on structure like the guys in Florida who chase snook around docks benefit greatly from being able to see fish before they spend the time to set up on a location. And don't even get me started on our freshwater neighbors, that has gotten to be a completely different world to say the least. I looked at a tournament anglers boat and all I could do was shake my head, 4 separate electronic units, some as big as the television on my wall in the living room. I don't know how they have time to read them all.

Now this exactly where the standard issue Texas saltwater fishermen differs from the rest of these folks, electronics on many boats are minimal when compared to offshore and freshwater anglers. Most folks who spend their time in the bay rely on a basic unit that has some navigation features like GPS mapping or charts along with depth and temperature indications, that's it. In all honesty it's really all you need as far as technology goes. Folks who frequent the bays spend way more time actually "reading water" than most anglers, especially those who are glued to a screen. The lower coast crowd who stays in 2 feet of water or

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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



Slot redfish, trout, and drum can be caught in the Intracoastal canal on live shrimp under popping cork. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 72 degrees. Still an influx of freshwater coming into Sabine Lake shutting off the bite on the North levee wall. It should take a few more weeks for the water to stabilize. Fish in areas with higher salinity levels. Intracoastal waterway is good for sheepshead, black drums and few redfish with Carolina rigged shrimp in 14-18 feet of water, or in 2-4 feet of water on rock piles and mud flats with live shrimp under a popping cork. Jetties are good with live shrimp Carolina rigged or on a popping cork for catches of sheepshead and drums. Limits of slot redfish are possible on days with light wind. No reports on trout, often trout will move back to the gulf while the water is fresh.

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 72 degrees. Water levels are still high from the south winds and freshwater dumping from the north. The best bite conditions this week will

be on the tide changes and edges of the color changes. There are plenty of redfish of varying sizes everywhere! Sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, small speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with a couple stingrays and sharks. The surf is producing black drum, gafftop, stingrays, and bigger sharks mostly off Boyt road and further east towards Gilchrist. People were using everything for bait this past week with good results. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 75 degrees. The Bay off-colored and fresh due to runoff. The salinity reading at Morgan's Point is near zero. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The bay is stained and flooded due to the influx of freshwater in the bay from The San Jacinto River and Trinity River. Great time to go through your safety gear for inspection and cleaning. Be safe, be prepared for floating debris and wear your kill switch. Redfish, trout and flounder will bounce back as salinity levels re-

turn after the floods. Drum will be hitting first, then the redfish. Huge prayers to everyone affected by the recent floods. Take time to check in your neighbor or friend if they live close to the water edge. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 79 degrees. Influx of freshwater continues to enter the bay. A few black drums are being caught near Moses Lake. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 78 degrees. The bay is mostly fresh and off-colored due to runoff.

Target salt water pockets along the south shoreline near Fat Rat Pass. With the high tides and strong south and southeast winds we battled this week we were limited to fishing close to the shoreline over scattered shells and back in the back lakes to hide from the wind the best we could.

As in previous weeks, if you see active bait the fish are close by. Anchor or Power pole down and fan cast the entire area, as this week we were able to catch multiple limits of trout from just a couple of small areas.

If you get into an area and do not see bait activity, make a few casts, and move on, as our experience has been, if you find good amounts of bait the fish are close by. This week we have thrown ¼ ounce jig heads with Wac Attack straight tails in monkey milk, topwaters, as well as marker 54 Glide Shrimp, under a 1-2 foot leader and a Fish Smack Popping Cork. The popping cork with shrimp setup was the top performer for our fishing clients this week resulting in some of the most aggressive bites of the year.

Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 79 degrees. With all the freshwater dumping into Galveston Bay, this might be the place to catch speckled trout. Anglers wading with live croaker are finding good numbers of trout, and a few redfish. Those also fishing with live shrimp under popping corks are rounding out their catch with black drum. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

SALTWATER Page 5B

'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 75 degrees; 0.52 feet above pool. The lake is high and there continues to be an Influx of water flowing in so the floodgates remain open. The main lake is stained. The wind has been high, so it has been hard to stay out there on these fish. Bass are good with lots of action on top water baits for the first hour of daylight. Once the sun rises over the trees, time to back out either in front of the flooded bushes or 8-10 feet of water with wacky-worms, light Texas rigs and shallow running crankbaits. There are a few fish on deep main lake points and ridges in 12-18 feet with Texas or Carolina rigs, and big crankbaits. Crappie bite if off due to the high water and current. A few fish can be caught on brush, but the best bite has been on docks in 8-12 feet of water with jigs and live bait.

Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn**

GOOD. Water stained; 74 degrees; 0.08 feet below pool. The lake is on the rise due to runoff. The water is off colored midlake. Bass are on points and deeper water with Carolina or Texas rigs. The frog bite is picking up bass in shallow lily pads and brush. The spawn is finally finishing up with a few still on beds. Crappie are primarily on brush with a few shallow spawners in cypress trees. Catfish are good in deeper water channels with cut bait, minnows and worms. Some catches of big blue catfish. White bass are schooling on points biting minnows, jugging spoons, and small crankbaits. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Lake is full pool with the water rising on average 1 foot every two days. There has been a large wave of fish, pushing shallow following bait. Target bass on grass, bushes and standing timber using topwater frogs, small swimbaits, and swim jigs. Offshore bite is still productive in 15-22 feet of water, but the fish are scattered at the moment due to changing water levels.

Report by Captain Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

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Softball playoffs From Page 1B



Anna Autrey had Bridge City's only hit in the playoff loss to Liberty. **RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine**

ters throughout the game. Senior Anna Autrey had the only hit and reached base later by an errant throw on a grounder. Haley Munoz was the only other Bridge City batter to reach base when she was hit by a pitch in the fourth the same inning Autrey got her base hit.

A strange twist in the sixth led to Liberty getting the first run of the game. Hollie Thomas coaxed a walk on a full count from Fall to start the inning. Bayleigh Taylor lined a drive to centerfield on which Nicole Sasser of the Cardinals made a sensational diving catch before throwing to first base to apparently get a double play on Thomas trying to get back to the base.

The umpires ruled

Thomas had left first base before the pitch was made by Fall to Taylor which cancelled the whole great play by Sasser like it never happened. Thomas was ruled out but Taylor was still at bat, and she proceeded to ground a single to left.

Taylor stole second and went to third on a sacrifice. A two out bunt by Abby Vickers dropped in for a base hit as Taylor scored to give Liberty a 1-0 lead.

In the seventh inning Fall retired the first two Lady Panthers. The top of Liberty's batting order Bailee Slack then got her fourth hit of the game with a line drive to left that rolled all the way to fence allowing her to reach third base.

A pitch to the next batter got away, and Slack sprinted home with a second Lady Panther run. Fall registered her eleventh strikeout of the game to close the top of the seventh.

In the bottom half of the inning Autrey grounded to third but the throw deflected off the glove of the Liberty first baseman to allow Anna to reach base. Gabby Moore courtesy ran for her.

Taylor issued a wild pitch that moved Moore to second. The Liberty hurler got a pop up and then her eleventh strikeout which squashed the threat to end the season for Bridge City.

"I just told the girls it's been a successful season. I really praised our seniors.



Lady Bobcat Hallee Becker hit a two run inside the park homerun in the first game of Orangefield's playoff with East Bernard.

I think we did a lot this year to improve our program as a whole. You can't forget the Cardinals went two months without losing a game. They've built a program which our seniors have led, and I think we'll see that next year and the years to come," Cardinal Coach Kylie Bradley responded.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears came out of the batting cage roaring in their first game with the Bullard Lady Panthers on Wednesday. By Friday night the Lady Bears were quiet and headed home.

The best of three game series between LCM and Bullard was played in Lufkin with the first game on Wednesday and the second game two days later on Friday. A third game would have followed the second later that night.

The Lady Bears busted out with four runs in the first inning on Wednesday. The big blow was a two run homerun by Lexis Moss driving in Eden Frenzel in front of her.

Lady Panthers' pitching threw up a bulwark after

that initial outburst by the Lady Bears' bats. Over the next thirteen innings Bullard would surrender only one more run to LCM.

The Lady Panthers came back to win the first game 10-4 using the long ball themselves. The story was pretty much the same in Friday's Game Two with Bullard taking a 7-1 victory to advance in the playoffs and eliminate the Lady Bears.

It was another good year for the Little Cypress Mauriceville softball program. The Lady Bears finished the year at 28-11 and made it to the third round of the post season which is always commendable.

LCM Coach Dena Adkins commented, "I am very proud of the season the team and coaching staff had this year. Every loss was a learning experience that we will grow from for the new season. Every victory was a team effort. It's always a great day to be a Bear."

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats completed a record year on Friday losing to the East Bernard Brahmas softball team. The

two game series was played in Crosby.

The Lady Bobcats fell 7-2 to East Bernard in Game 1 on Thursday. Hallee Becker hit an inside the park homerun for Orangefield's two runs with Aubree Beck who had two hits also scoring. Abby Broussard had a single in the game.

The second game on Friday was dominated by the East Bernard pitching. The Lady Bobcats were shutout 7-0 to end their season.

"This year will go down as one of my favorite seasons. The girls love, encourage, and support each other like no other team I've ever had the opportunity to coach. I am so proud of how this team represented our program. This has been a special group of girls, and a team I will never forget," Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale expressed.

It was the winningest year in Orangefield softball history. The Lady Bobcats were 28-11-1 on the season, and the 28 wins is the most they have ever had in a year.

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Baseball playoffs

From Page 3B

to drive in two runs for Orangefield.

There was some defense too as first baseman Camden Fountain made a couple of fielding gems with the glove. Adam Tran and Caleb Fregia turned a big double play to help Tait get out of a threat to keep the Longhorns scoreless.

The next night in the second game the Bobcats defeated Tarkington 7-1 at Lamar. Kaleb Menard earned the win on the mound for Orangefield throwing five innings allowing one unearned run on three hits with six strikeouts. Reliever Garrett Rawls pitched two impressive innings without allowing a hit and striking out five Tarkington batters.

Cameron Dearing went three for three with a single, a double, and a triple driving in four runs to lead the Bobcats. Kane Smith, Adam Tran, Matthew Johnson, and Logan Cheek each contributed to the Orangefield offense during the series clinching win.

In the third round Orangefield (25-8) will face the Diboll Lumberjacks the

District 21-3A champions. The first game will be Friday, May 17, at Lamar University with the first pitch at 7:00 PM. Game 2 is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Saturday at Lufkin Hudson High School. A third game if necessary will follow thirty minutes after the second game.

The Bridge City Cardinals were eliminated by the Bullard Panthers in a tight three game series. The Cardinals took the first game in Jasper on Friday, but Bullard won a doubleheader at Lufkin on Saturday, May 11, to capture the series two games to one.

Senior pitcher Landon Reeves threw a complete game to help the Cardinals win the opening game 3-2 at the Jasper High School baseball field. Reeves surrendered just four hits and struck out five Panthers.

“Landon, what a performance tonight! He just gutted it out. Best performance of the year for him, and it couldn't come at a better time to go up against Bullard and their ace arm that they threw. That was a big battle, and I'm extreme-

ly proud of him,” Cardinal Coach Chad Landry praised.

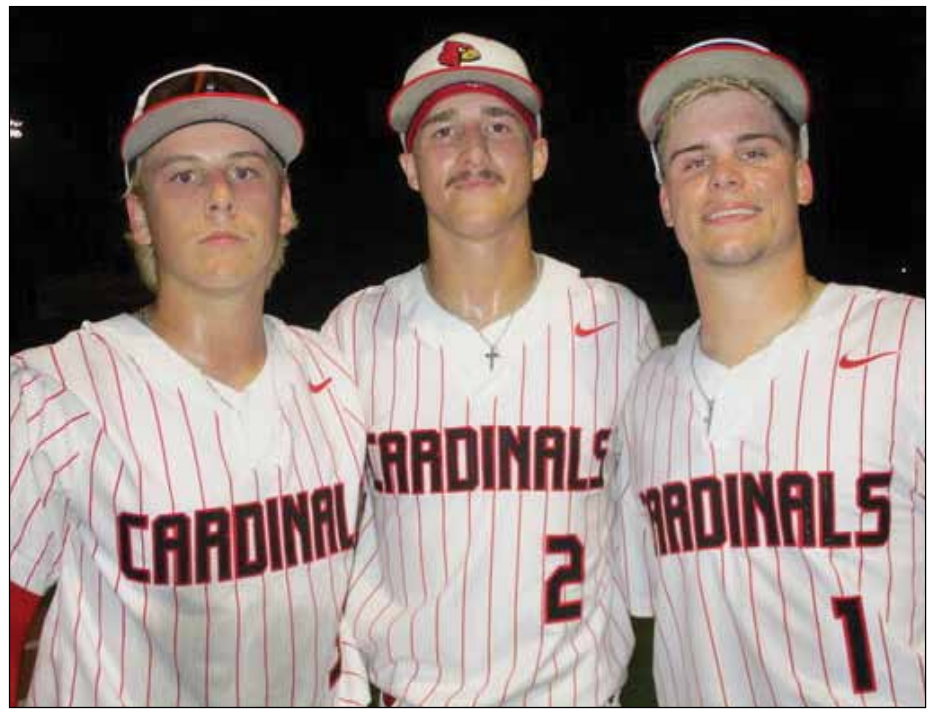
Bullard scored a run in the top of the first inning on a very close play at the plate. The Cardinals responded tallying two runs to take a 2-1 lead after one inning.

John Van Huis opened the bottom of the first with a double down the left field line. Hunter Ford bunted to third base on which the Bullard first basemen allowed Van Huis to score and Ford to reach base.

Ford went to second on a sacrifice by CJ Riojas and to third on a ground out by Hutch Bearden. Austin Frederick hit a hard grounder that eluded the Panther third baseman to bring home Ford with the second Bridge City run.

Ford walked to start the bottom of the third inning and was again sacrificed to second by Riojas. With two outs Frederick tripled to right field bringing Ford home to make the score 3-1 in favor of Bridge City.

Coach Landry acknowledged the contribution



Austin Frederick, Landon Reeves, and John Van Huis led the Bridge City Cardinals to a win in the first game of the series with Bullard. RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

made by Austin Frederick. “Freddie’s done a really good job of putting barrels on baseballs. Early in the season he kind of struggled a bit, but he kept fighting and working. I am so proud of him because he doesn't quit, and to see it come to fruition at the right time of the year right now has been really big for us,” Landry added.

The margin remained two runs until the sixth in-

ning when Bullard scored to narrow the gap to one. Van Huis went almost to the centerfield fence to haul in a long fly with two Panthers on to end the inning.

Reeves avoided any dramatics by Bullard in the seventh retiring the Panthers in order. Landon struck out the leadoff batter, got a foul pop out to Frederick, and then a fly ball to right caught by Gavin Bodin to end the

game. The series shifted scenes after the first game, and with the change in locations the momentum was altered too. The games remained close at Lufkin as Bullard took the second game 3-2 before completing the sweep of the doubleheader on Saturday winning 3-1 in the deciding third game to end the season for the Bridge City Cardinals.

Orange County Baseball and Softball teams highlight All-District



Marco Bandiero of LCM was chosen the Offensive MVP of the district by the coaches.



LCM freshman Jacob Scheiderer was named the Newcomer of the Year in District 19-4A.

District 19-4A All District Baseball

With the elimination of the Bridge City Cardinals and the Silsbee Tigers from the UIL state baseball playoffs the all district selections were released by the coaches from District 19-4A. Bridge City and Little Cypress Mauriceville had players receiving special recognition and being named to the First Team All-District.

LCM junior Marco Bandiero was named the Offensive MVP and freshman Jacob Scheiderer was selected the Newcomer of the Year. Senior John Van Huis of Bridge City was picked by the coaches as the Defen-

sive MVP. Bridge City head baseball coach Chad Landry was named Coach of the Year.

Making the First Team All-District from Bridge City were pitchers senior Landon Reeves and sophomore Max Pachar, catcher sophomore CJ Riojas, and outfielders senior Gavin Bodin and junior Hutch Bearden. Little Cypress Mauriceville placed pitcher junior Landon Richards and sophomore third baseman Clay Raney on the all-district First Team.

Four additional Bridge City Cardinals made the Second Team pitcher senior Brayton Tregre, first baseman freshman Slade Landry, second baseman Hunter Ford, and at third base sophomore Austin Frederick. LCM Bears on

the Second Team were shortstop junior Parker Seago and outfielder sophomore Parker Freeman.

Honorable Mention went to sophomore Owen Tucker and senior Aidyn Mulholan of Bridge City. Little Cypress Mauriceville received three Honorable Mentions to sophomore Justin McCarver, junior Ethan Fry, and freshman Jackson Strewé. Two West Orange-Stark Mustangs Christian Anderson and Grayson Gregory received Honorable Mentions.

District 19-4A All District

Softball

The all district selections for District 19-4A in softball were released following the elimination of the district's final teams in the UIL playoffs. The Bridge City Cardinals and the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears were well represented on the list of honorees.

No surprise Bridge City senior pitcher Carson Fall was selected the MVP of the district. Fall won every game she started during the twelve game district schedule throwing six no hitters.

First year head softball coach Kylie Bradley of Bridge City was selected as

Coach of the Year. Bradley led the Cardinals to an undefeated district championship and the third round of the post season.

Named to the First Team All-District from Bridge City were infielder senior Lexi Nugier and senior Anna Autrey as an outfielder. Four Lady Bears catcher junior Lexis Moss, infielder sophomore Eden Frenzel, infielder junior Keylie Washburn, and outfielder senior Ava Wright were honored on the First Team.

The Second Team had four Bridge City Cardinals catcher senior Haley Munoz, infielder junior Brooklyn Droddy, infielder soph-

omore Cambree LaComb, and junior Kyleigh Hamilton in the outfield. A pair of Lady Bears were named to the Second Team junior Ella Stephenson in the infield and junior Ava White in the outfield.

Receiving Honorable Mention were junior Nicole Sasser and sophomore Makenna Knight from Bridge City. Senior Jacelyn Cook of Little Cypress Mauriceville got Honorable Mention. West Orange-Stark's junior Latessa Turner, junior Carlysia Simien, and freshman Alexia Guyton were all recognized with Honorable Mentions.

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Snake season is arriving in Texas as temps rise

**Staff Report
For The Record**

The summer season is upon us — and so are the snakes. With temperatures hitting the 90's across the state, Texans might just stumble across the critters in their yards or while hitting the trails.

Summer, also known as “snake season,” is the perfect time for snakes to slither out of their hiding places because the cold-blooded creatures rely on hot temperatures to perform basic metabolic functions. Over 105 snake species, 15 of which are venomous, call Texas home.

Greg Pandelis, curator of the Amphibian and Reptile



Cottonmouth Moccasin. TPWD Photo

Diversity Research Center at The University of Texas at Arlington, shared what he thinks Texans should know about snake season and what to do if they cross

paths with one.

What types of snakes might someone run into in Texas?

Pandelis said there are several snake species Texans might find that are harmless. The Texas rat snake, the rough Earth snake and water snakes — none of which contain fatal venom — are just a few. But those in North or East Texas might stumble across the copperhead snake — a known venomous snake.

“The most common thing you’re probably going to find around East Texas, is probably going to be the copperhead. That’s actually a venomous snake, but it’s quite common. Others include rattlesnakes, coral snakes and cottonmouths.” Pandelis said.

However, copperhead venom is relatively weak compared with other snakes, and a bite from one rarely results in death.

How can someone spot whether a snake is venomous or not?

If people can identify Texas’ most common venomous snakes, they should be fine, Pandelis said. There are many websites and field guides people can look at

that can help them learn whether a snake is venomous or not.

“That’ll take care of 90 percent of what you’re going to see. As long as you can recognize copperheads, diamondback snakes, rattlesnake and cottonmouth — all fairly common venomous snakes in Texas — that pretty much takes care of that,” Pandelis said.

What should someone do if they come across a snake?

Pandelis said it’s a common misconception that a snake will strike first. If the snake is moving along its way, he recommends not trying to approach it, maim it or kill it, which can result in a potential bite.

“A lot of folks get bit that way because they’re putting themselves in really close contact with a potentially venomous animal that’s now actually angry and it’s going to be defensive,” Pandelis said. “It’s not going to probably come towards you and attack you per se, but it will stand its ground and strike, justifiably, if you’re

messing with it.”

If the snake must be removed because it’s in a backyard near children or pets, Pandelis said a gentle spray from a garden hose could get the snake to move along its way. People can also contact their local animal control to have the snake completely removed.

If one snake is found, is that an indication there’s more in the area?

If people come across one snake, it’s not necessarily an indication that there is a larger infestation, Pandelis said. Those living in highly wooded areas might be more likely to come across several snakes due to the nature of their environment, but that’s not always the case for people in urban areas.

“Once in a while, let’s say you live in a suburban neighborhood or something, a snake might pop up and that’s probably like a once in a great while kind of thing where it sort of lost its way and ended up there,” Pandelis said.

Snakes rattle local beach goers

**Staff Report
For The Record**

If you’re planning on heading to a Texas beach this upcoming Memorial Day, you might want to steer clear from the sand dunes at night. Officials are warning beachgoers that rattlesnakes have been found hiding out in the dunes of beaches in the coastal area after the Sun goes down.

“We want to remind all residents and visitors to be cautious of rattlesnakes when walking close to the dunes or the walkovers at night,” Galveston area police wrote on social media on Tuesday. “With the warm temperatures and rain they are on the move.”

Included in the post was a photo of what appears to be a Western diamondback rattlesnake—the most common and widespread venomous snake in Texas—slithering across the mounds of windblown sand in the dark. Per the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), sand dunes serve as good hunting grounds for rattlesnakes, providing warmth and protection from humans. The venomous, legless reptiles have also recently been spotted on beaches in near-



Rattlesnake sightings on and near Galveston area beaches.

by Galveston and swimming a river in Sargent.

Torrential rains resulted in damaging floods devastating communities in and around Southeast Texas. It’s possible the intense weather activity may have also washed more rattlesnakes into the area. “The occurrence of snakes in sand dunes and along the beach is not out of the ordinary or an anomaly to snake behavior or habitat,” TPWD said. “TPWD encourages everyone that enjoys spending time outdoors to brush up on snake safety.”

Last week, beachcombers encountered a massive alligator measuring between eight and 10 feet long at a beach on the nearby Bolivar Peninsula. At the time, oth-

ers also speculated the short-legged reptile may have also been drawn out due to the increased storm activity. TPWD said every year a small handful of alligators wash ashore or are observed on the beach or in the surf along the Texas coast.

“This behavior is uncommon and is usually related to inland flooding events,” TPWD reported, adding alligators are known to leave freshwater to briefly feed in saline environments, though this is also rare. “Unlike crocodiles, alligators don’t possess salt glands so they cannot tolerate marine conditions for any significant amount of time.”

Captain Chuck From Page 2B

less are perfect examples of folks who get it done without all the digital or electronic wizardry. They have learned to actually look for signs of life or variations in the water color, things most electronics are unable to do in those areas, in order to catch fish. Obviously the sight fishermen lead the field in reading water or fish behavior and it’s refreshing to see those who are really good at it in their own element. I hate to sound like the old man who screams at the clouds or says “get off my lawn” but every now and again you must open your eyes because you could be missing a whole lot of good stuff.

Some of the best signs you’ll ever see cannot be duplicated electronically, set off an alarm, or call your attention to the circumstances at hand. Seeing a big heron walking easily down a shoreline is more often than not a dead giveaway to finding fish, especially redfish. In the spring when the tides get high and the tiny shad that have just hatched ball up along the shorelines the flounder will also give away their position as they gorge on the bait fish. Both the sight of a heron along the bank or a flounder busting through the bait are welcome sights that many anglers key in on when they are actually looking for fish instead of the screen. And any talk of visible keys to finding fish would not be complete without at least mentioning “slicks” which are perhaps the most unmistakable sign out there. Both the sight and often times smell of a slick will cause just about any saltwater

angler who is worth the price of a topwater plug to instantly go on point like a good bird dog. The best way to describe a slick to those who don’t know is it’s a shiny spot on the surface of the water that’s caused by oils off of baitfish that trout and redfish feed on. Often times fish will eat and the oil released from the baitfish will cause this “slick”, it actually looks like an oil sheen on the water, to appear. You not only can see these signs but you can smell them also, they are often described as smelling like watermelon. Once you learn the nuances to finding slicks you will have a decided advantage over those who haven’t gotten on board with the concept because they flat out produce fish.

May will be one of the nicest months to be on the water as we will soon be staring at summer. As of right now we are still dealing with extreme run off but there are a few bright spots. The redfish bite has improved in the marshes, especially on Calcasieu where effect of the run off is much lighter than Sabine. Most of the best catches have been on live bait during the tide changes around major drains and cuts. Speckled trout are still tough to come by but hopefully that gets better as well. Until we get some better conditions things will tougher than usual but that can’t last forever. Take advantage of whatever pattern you can find and be sure to take a kid fishing if you get the opportunity.

Saltwater fishing From Page 2B

• **Freeport**

SLOW. 81 degrees. Lighter winds in the forecast so expect the bite to improve. Target trout, redfish and drum in the cuts and back lakes with shrimp under a popping cork. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

• **Texas City**

FAIR. 78 degrees. Wind has been a factor for those trying to fish the Galveston jetties. Anglers fishing lower Galveston Bay from Swan Lake to the Galveston causeway finding a few speckled trout, black drum and redfish on live shrimp under popping corks. beachfront piers.

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Find Your Way to Help the Hurting

Marshall Segal
Staff Writer
desiringGod.org

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

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

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

A Hundred Roads to



the Hurting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unlikely Help and Generosity

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

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

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

Yet, in the storms of affliction and the shadows of scarcity, we find an outstretched hand, a bright and warm light beating back the darkness, a wealth of generosity. And behind that outstretched hand, an even more surprising smile — an impossible smile, really. An abundant joy. With God, a people without any earthly wealth had found a way to be wealthy toward others.

If even the severely afflicted and seriously needy could move toward the suffering, how about the lightly afflicted and the rarely hungry? How might we find and experience what stirred up such unlikely help and generosity? Before holding out our hand, we first lift up our eyes to God.

Godward Otherness

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

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

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

They had not set their hope on the possibility of better, more comfortable circumstances. They weren't tempted by the uncertainty of riches. No, they had set their hearts on God.

And a heart set on God learns to define words like wealth, poverty, risk, sacrifice, and security differently. As they surrendered their claim on their earthly possessions, they stumbled into a treasure that could not be counted (1 Timothy 6:18-19). An unusually generous life will always be an

unusually Godward one.

In Every Good Work

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

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

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

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

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