

Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, January 24, 2024

County approves Hwy. 62 RV park

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners Court Tuesday approved the plans for another RV park on Texas Highway 62 south of Interstate 10. The approval for Shadee RV near Dempsey Drive is the first park to come under the county's new regulations. With an influx of construction workers moving to the area because of new and expanding industrial plants, more RV parks are being developed around the county. Last year, Commissioners Court added some additional rules to assure the RV parks in unincorporated areas meet local standards.

County Environmental Health and Code Compliance Director Joel Ardoin told the court the new RV park has passed the regulations for his department, for the county's Road and Bridge Department, and by the Orange County Drainage District. With the court's approval, the developers will be able to get a county permit. The park will be only for RVs and not mobile homes.

During comments at the beginning of the meeting, Precinct 2 Commissioner Chris Sowell thanked Entergy for improving the lines in his area, which helped cut back on the number of outages during the recent freezes.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte, whose area includes the East Roundbunch Swing Bridge outside of Bridge City, said

he is working with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Orange County Road and Bridge Department to handle freezing surfaces.

Last week during a winter storm that brought severe weather, a small amount of freezing rain fell, which led to several bridges and overpasses being closed. When the East Roundbunch Swing Bridge is closed, county road and bridge crews open the swing to prevent vehicles from going over the dangerous frozen surface of the bridge.

Roccaforte said the bridge's mechanisms froze, which can be a hazard for county workers. He said perhaps the bridge could be left in place for some vehicles like trucks during a freeze.

The bridge crosses Cow Bayou and is a shortcut to and from Bridge City from the many industrial plants on FM 1006, known as Chemical Row.

A resident on Foreman Road in West Orange asked if signs could be placed at the beginning of the roads that told of bridge closings so traffic would not be faced with having to travel a distance and then turn around.

Roccaforte said TxDOT is supposed to put out the signs when the bridges close. He said some business owners will remove the signs because they are afraid travelers will think their businesses are also closed if the bridge is

COUNTY Page 3A



Bridge City High School's Winter Formal names King and Queen

Carys Wolfe, holding flowers, and Lorn Little, wearing crown, were named King and Queen of Bridge City High School's Winter Formal held this past Saturday at the Orange County Expo Center. Other senior members of the court were Heidi Broussard, Elizabeth Bunch, Raema Lyda, Victor Hernandez, Aden Lapeyrolerie, and Brayton Tetre.

Actress to return home for festival

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Dolores Cantu got a job at the old Strand movie theater in the 1960s when she was 14 years old. At the time, she could only dream she would one day be on the big screen.

She ended up on the big screen and TV screens for decades and has gone down in film history as the only woman who ever beat up John Travolta in a movie. It was the classic "Saturday Night Fever."

Cantu, a 1968 graduate of the old West Orange High School, will be returning home to be featured at the Boomtown Film and Music Festival in Beaumont February 23-24.

She will appear at the Jefferson Theater's Classic Movie Night on Friday, February 23, for a 7 p.m. showing of "Saturday Night Fever" and then speak at a festival forum



Dolores Cantu, a 1968 graduate of the old West Orange High School, will be returning home to be featured at the Boomtown Film and Music Festival in Beaumont February 23-24.

at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, February 24.

In addition, Cantu has been nominated to be in Port Arthur's Museum of the Gulf Coast's Hall of

Fame, though board approval may not come in time for her to be inducted during her February visit back home.

The Boomtown Film and Music Festival will have an Orange County

flavor with Penny LeLeux of Orangefield serving a second year as chair of the festival.

LeLeux has been a writer for The Record Newspapers and has branched out into film-making. She wrote a short "Shhh" that was filmed in Orange and won numerous awards at film festivals across the country and was nominated for an award at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France.

Since then, she has acted in and helped produce a short "Death by King Cake" by a Lake Charles filmmaker she has gotten to know.

LeLeux said Cantu, who will turn 75 later this year, is a great fit for the regional film festival because she has been in Hollywood for more than 50 years. Not only has she acted in dozens of TV shows, films, and national

DELORES Page 3A

Bridge City Pearl Harbor survivor dies at 102

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Cedric Stout of Bridge City, one of the country's last survivors of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, died Wednesday at the age of 102.

This past December, the U.S. Navy reported only 25 living survivors of the attack were left. The December 7, 1941, Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific fleet in Hawaii was described by President

Franklin D. Roosevelt as "a day that will live in infamy" when he asked Congress for a declaration of war.

Stout had his 20th birthday a month before the attack, which killed 2,400 Americans and wounded nearly 1,200 more. He was the last person to escape from the U.S.S. Utah before it was hit with torpedo bombs. The bombs made the ship capsize and sink, drowning those left on board.



Cedric Stout

Stout once recalled to The Record that he escaped machine gun fire from Japanese attack planes as he ran across the deck of the ship. He got off by going down on of the berthing ropes.

The World War II veteran spent his adult life in Bridge City, where he and his first wife, Delma Marie Stout, raised nine children, who all attended Bridge City schools. He and his first wife were married for 55 years. He

later married his second wife, Cherry, who survives him. They were married for 24 years.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, January 20, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Visitation will start at noon at the funeral home.

Stout grew up as the son of sharecroppers in rural Leonville, Louisiana, in the Bayou Teche region. His love of Cajun music lasted throughout his life.

As a teenager in the

Great Depression, he got a job with the federal Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave unemployed, unmarried men jobs on public projects. He worked on parks in Oregon.

After serving in the CCC, he joined the Navy, which took him to his fateful assignment at Pearl Harbor. He told The Record he was often seasick, whether on deck or down below. Sometimes, he was

CEDRIC Page 3A



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TEXAS STATE NEWS

Here’s what Texans need to know about the new FAFSA to get aid for college

SNEHA DEY
The Texas Tribune

The launch of the revamped federal application to receive aid for college pushed this year’s filing deadlines, but financial aid counselors are still advising college hopefuls in Texas to fill out the form as soon as possible to up the odds of getting more money.

The new Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the biggest update to the form in decades. Mandated by Congress in 2020, the changes are expected to streamline the application to make college accessible for more families. Students will see fewer questions and a different formula used to award need-based aid.

Completing the application has been a pain point for Texas families. The form came three months late, on Dec. 30, because the U.S. Education Department needed more time to roll out changes. In a weeklong, rocky “soft launch,” the form was only accessible for intermittent periods of time, with a waiting room to manage capacity. As of Jan. 8, the form has been available 24 hours a day.

FAFSA is the single best way to get assistance paying for college because it opens the door for federal, state and school grants and scholarships. The Texas high school class of 2022 missed out on \$390 million in Pell Grant money by not completing the FAFSA.

Here’s what’s changing with FAFSA and what the updates mean for Texas students and their families.

Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible

Because the changes to the new form were released late, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board pushed its own priority deadline for financial aid applications from Jan. 15 to Mar. 15.

But students should still fill out the form as early as they can so financial aid



College hopefuls should fill out the new federal student aid application to as soon as possible to get more funds.

counselors can help them resolve any hitches with the new system.

More importantly, many schools provide their own award packages to students on a first-come, first-serve basis. While a student may qualify for federal aid, a school’s pot of money to subsidize tuition can tap out faster, depending on how much it set aside for financial assistance and how generous the school wants to be with each student’s aid package.

That means the sooner you submit the FAFSA, the better your chances are at getting sizable award packages, said Sara Urquidez, the executive director of Academic Success Program, a college access center in Dallas, Houston and College Station.

“The real challenge... is that many of our state institutions will have run out of money before [the state priority deadline],” Urquidez said. “You really just have to get it done early.”

The U.S. Education Department has said it would likely start sending information from completed FAFSAs to colleges in late January, meaning that some schools will soon start putting together financial aid packages for people who have already applied.

The new FAFSA is shorter

The new FAFSA is supposed to be easier for families to complete. The number of questions has dropped from 108 to about 36, and applicants can skip as many as 26 questions. The Education Department says it takes most people less than an hour to fill out the form.

Members of Congress ordered the changes to the financial aid application after complaining the old version was unduly complicated and acted as a barrier to college.

The amount of financial aid students receive could change

The funding formula, which determines how much federal financial aid students are eligible to receive, has also gotten some updates, too. While the changes expand eligibility for some benefits, they’re also expected to result in less aid for some applicants.

The new formula extends eligibility for the Pell Grant, a subsidy that goes to the lowest-income families and doesn’t have to be paid back. Eligibility will now be calculated based on family size and income.

In Texas, about 51,000 new students will now qualify for the Pell Grant and

about 133,000 Pell recipients will get the maximum amount of \$7,395 per year under the grant, according to data from the U.S. Education Department.

For students with divorced or separated parents, aid will be determined based on the parent who provides the most financial support, instead of the parent the student lives with.

Small businesses and family farms, previously exempt from the formula, will now be counted to determine a family’s financial situation. That could mean students in rural communities could see less aid. A study from the Iowa College Student Aid Commission estimated a typical family with a small business or farm could be expected to pay out of pocket five times the amount they had in previous years.

Rural students already attend college at lower rates than their urban and suburban peers. Experts are worried this new formula will make rural students even less inclined to pursue a college degree.

In addition, families with more than one child enrolled in college at the same time will no longer get a break and qualify for more aid, a benefit that was known as the “sibling discount.” This will hit mid-

dle-class families the hardest, according to an analysis from the Brookings Institute.

In Texas, completing the FAFSA is mandatory

High school seniors in Texas must fill out the FAFSA, the Texas Application for State Financial Aid or sign an opt-out form to graduate.

This is the third academic year Texas is mandating the completion of financial aid applications. Texas was the second state to institute such a requirement in 2019, after Louisiana. Research suggests that students who file the federal form are more likely to attend college.

This also means Texas high school counselors will get increasingly busy as summer approaches. Because of the FAFSA delays, they have a shortened window of time to get every student to fill out a form before graduation. That’s added pressure, as they also try

to understand the changes in the new system.

In May, counselors at San Angelo ISD will go into “opt-out form mode,” where they track down students who have not completed any form to have them formally opt out.

“It’s just one more thing [counselors] have to crunch down on in a semester. And spring semesters are always the busiest.” Rebecca Cline, the director of counseling at San Angelo ISD in West Texas, said. “But we also know it’s not forever.”

Where to get FAFSA help

Families can call the national FAFSA hotline at (800) 433-3243. Texans working on the FAFSA online can also use the “Live Help” function on the website, which starts a chat session with a customer service representative.

Students should look out for FAFSA workshops led by their local high schools, college access centers and college financial aid offices.

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Round The Clock Hometown News

OC Parkinson Support Group

The Orange County Parkinson Support Group will hold its first monthly meeting since the Covid pandemic on Wednesday, November 1, at 11:00 a.m. at the Train Depot in Orange. Since November is National Family Caregivers Month, we will focus on healthy tips for caregivers. All are welcome, especially those individuals with any movement disorder and/or their caregivers. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact:

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Orange is beginning a new year cleaning

Staff Report For The Record

The city of Orange is beginning a new year cleaning house, or at least dilapidated houses and buildings.

As the city continues to give out Economic Development Corporation grants for new businesses and construction, the city is also tearing down eyesores, including another section of Sabine Park Apartments, which were originally Gilmer Homes built in the early 1940s for World War II.

City Planning Director Kelvin Knauf said a the city council a few years ago agreed to spend money from the general fund to demolish falling down buildings and clear the lots. On Tuesday evening, the council was set to approve 32 more demolitions.

Besides a unit in the Sabine Park Apartments between First Street and Simmons Drive, the

buildings include two abandoned buildings off the 16th Street business section. One is the former Palms car wash next to HEB, and the other is the former washateria - Orange Wig Shop by Walgreen's.

The houses are spread across the city south of Interstate 10, which is part of the old parts of the city, which is now 196 years old. The neighborhoods include the Cove, East Town, Brownwood, Historic District, Roselawn, and Clairmont.

Section 3 at the Sabine Park Apartments for low-income tenants is set to be demolished of its 18 buildings plus a parking lot. Manshack & Sons was the low bidder with \$55,000.

In the summer, the city demolished sections 1 and 2 when the tenants complained about not having water and raw sewage leaking into the street and units. The city could never get the out-of-state owners to respond and put a lien on the

commercial property of \$145,000 to cover the demolition costs.

Knauf said a new owner paid the lien and is looking for investors to renovate Section 4. He said other affordable housing for low-income tenants is available for the Sabine Park tenants in Section 3.

The two buildings in the 1666th Street business corridor have been eyesores for years. Knauf said the city has been working to improve the appearance of 16th Street, which is the main entrance off Interstate 10 into the heart of Orange.

Others buildings being demolished with the low bidders and cost are, 1004 Second Street, Lark Group, \$10,500; 907 Seventh Street, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$3,940; 605 Eleventh Street, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$4,000; 1610 14th Street, Ceaser, \$4,250; 3025 16th

Street, Lark Group, \$4,800; and 3315 Bowling Lane, Lark Group, \$14,372.

Also, 408 Burton Avenue, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$2,880; 1605 Burton Avenue, Southern Style Service, \$17,500; 3024 Byley Road, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$5,880; 1311 Cherry Avenue, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$4,240; 1601 Church Street, Manshack & Sons, \$6,800; and 513 College Street, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$4,140.

Also, 513 College Street, Cypress Point Construction, \$4,140; 3308 Cosmos Street, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$3,000; 2224 Cross Lane, Manshack & Sons, \$4,900; 515 Decatur Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$2,800; and 1215 DuPont Drive, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$1,800.

Also, 655 Gardenia, Lark Group, \$6,250; 1300 N. Hart

Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$2,600; 1310 John Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$3,600; 2001 Lincoln Drive, Lark Group, \$4,400; 1603 Louisiana Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$3,600; and 707 Miller Street, Lark Group, \$3,500.

Also, 1912 Missouri Street, Manshack & Sons, \$5,000; 820 Moss Avenue, Lark Group, \$3,250; 1046 Polk Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$2,200; 2319 Riverside Drive, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$1,200; 1012 Ruby Lane, Manshack & Sons, \$5,000; 808 Sholars Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$2,800; 1501 Simmons Drive, Cypress Pointe Construction, \$3,880; and 903 Texas Avenue, Ceasar Landscaping and Construction, \$4,000.

County business From Page 1

closed.

In other business, the court approved the sale of fireworks in unincorporated areas for Texas Independence Day, San Jacinto Day, and Memorial Day. A few years ago, the Texas Legislature allowed counties to approve fireworks sales during those holidays in addition to the traditional fireworks sale times around the Fourth of July and Christmas-New Year's.

The sale dates this year will be February 25 through midnight, March 2; April 16 through midnight April 21; and May 22 through midnight May 27.

Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher reported her office collected \$16.75 million in taxes during December, with \$4.52 million of that for the county. Her office also collects property taxes for cities, school districts, and special districts

in the county. Taxes for this year are due on January 31.

Payments approved by the commissioners were \$256,211 from the general fund to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Regional Crime Lab, which provides services to the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

Also, \$106,937 from the general fun to the Texas

Association of Counties HEBP insurance fund for a month of group medical, dental and life insurances for employees under the age of 65. \$1,10 from the General Fund to Claybar Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses. \$29,159 from the general fund to Silsbee Ford for a 2023 Ford Escape S FWD. The vehicle was purchased from bidding through a regional government co-operative.

Upon questioning from citizen Cheryl Warren, County Judge John Gothia

said the small SUV will be used by the county's maintenance department. He said the county has about 170 vehicles, including sheriff's patrol cars and trucks for the road and bridge department. Replacing that many vehicles appears as if the county is always buying new ones. Gothia said most of the cars are used for 12 years and chalk up more than 200,000 miles before they are replaced.

More payments included \$12,000 from the hotel-motel occupancy tax to

the Gulf Coast Cajun Chapter for their annual festival, and \$7,000 from the same fund to the Conn Park Complex in Vidor for the Texas Star Music Festival. The groups sponsoring those events first spend the money and then give the county receipts for pre-approved expenses for events to booster tourism.

Other payments were \$381,611 and \$317,516 to T Construction LLC for drainage improvements through federal and state grants.

Delores Cantu From Page 1

commercials, she is also a talent manager.

Cantu is of Spanish descent and was born in Refugio, Texas. She didn't speak English until she was in the second grade. Her parents moved the family to West Orange when she was 13. She helped the family with her job at The Strand Theater on Front Street in downtown Orange, where she worked for four years making \$5 for an eight-hour shift.

Even though she loved watching the movies, she didn't set out to be an actress. Cantu has said she got a job at Prudential Insurance in Houston after graduating from high school. Someone noticed her striking looks and bubbling personality and suggested she become an airline stewardess.

Those were the days when airlines hired only attractive women who met certain standards to serve as what are now known as "flight attendants." She got a job with Eastern Airlines and was able to travel the world.

The airline company chose her to appear in national commercials and then to represent them in the Miss USA-Miss Universe contest. Judges there suggested she go into acting.

Through the years she appeared in a number of popular television shows in roles like playing J.R. Ewing's secretary on "Dallas," or being one of Mr. Roarke's beauties on "Fan-

tasy Island."

"When she went to Hollywood, there weren't many roles for Hispanic women beyond being a housekeeper or gang member," LeLeux said.

Cantu was a ground-breaker. Back in the 1970s, she starred in the first McDonald's commercial featuring a Hispanic. She made the spot in English and Spanish.

However, she did portray a gang member when she beat up John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever."

Other television roles included "Falcon Crest," "Benson," "Diff'rent Strokes," and "Quincy M.E." She did the voices of several characters on Saturday morning cartoon series.

LeLeux said Cantu also started a floral and entertaining company to help her make it through the times when the acting jobs were lean. She became known through the L.A.-Hollywood area for her floral arrangements and would appear as a guest on local TV talk shows giving demonstrations.

More than 20 years ago, Cantu decided to use her knowledge of Hollywood business to help others and started Candu Management, a company to manage the careers and help others steer through the business. Her clients have included renowned game show host and TV producer Wink Martindale.

LeLeux said she was

surprised to learn Cantu was not in the Southeast Texas Hall of Fame at the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur. She learned no one had nominated Cantu, so LeLeux has.

Hall of Fame nominations need only three letters of recommendation.

LeLeux collected 15, including praise from Martindale and others in the business like a producer on "E.T." LeLeux is still hoping the museum board votes for an induction soon so a ceremony can be held while Cantu is in the area for the film festival.

LeLeux said she became the director of the Boomtown Film and Music Festival

last year when the festival started up again after a hiatus because of the Covid pandemic. LeLeux is on the board of directors of the non-profit Southeast Texas Arts Council as a representative of Orange County. The arts council works with the regional film and music festival. Because LeLeux had been traveling

the country as "Shhh" appeared in other film festivals, she had learned how festivals are run.

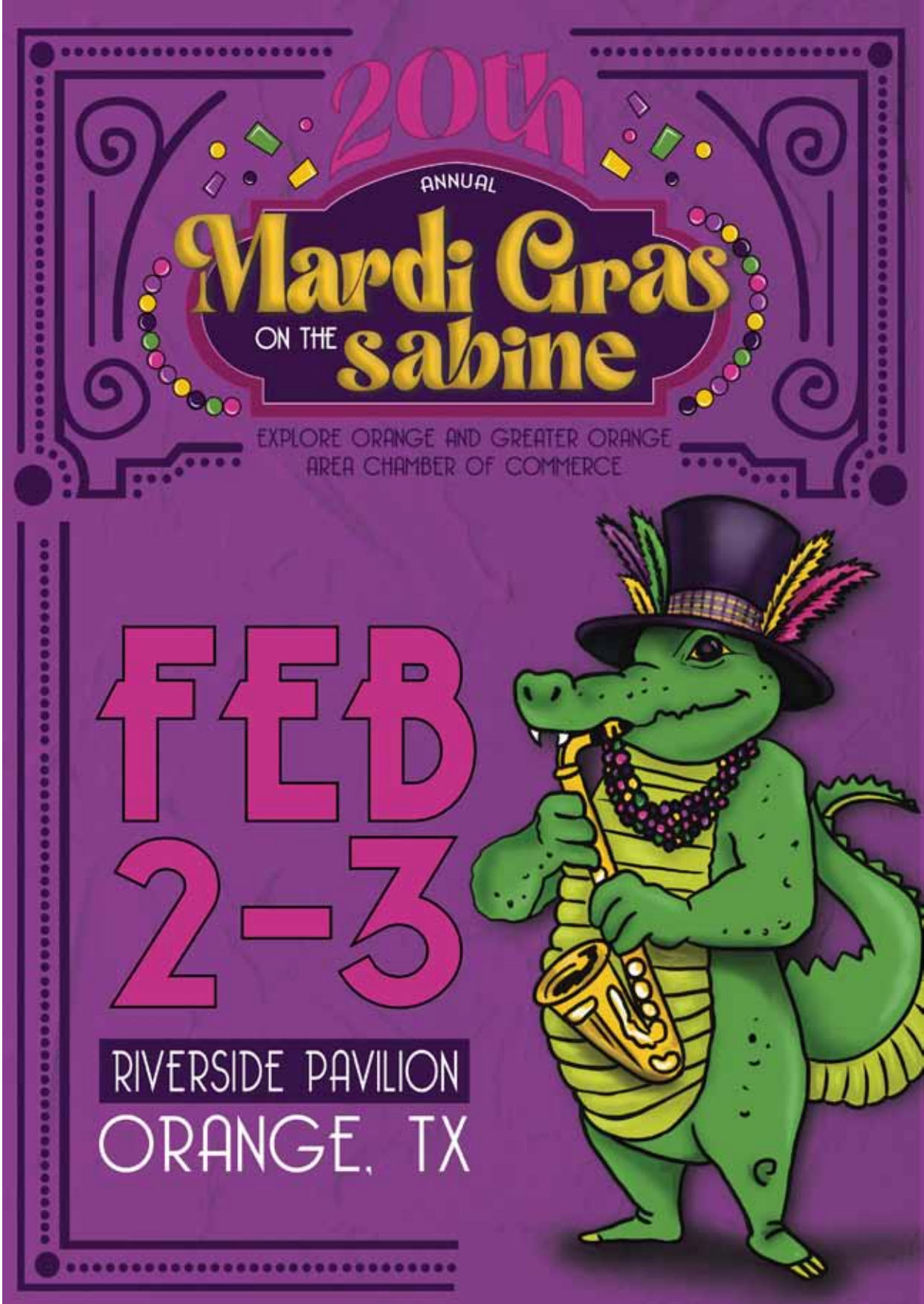
Festivals for a variety of new artworks are held in different cities for all types of short and full-length movies and documentaries. The Boomtown Festival features new films and music from a variety of genres.

Cedric Stout From Page 1

so sick, he would go a week without eating. The seasickness, though, didn't stop him from spending World War II in the Navy fighting across the Pacific.

He participated annually with a group of Southeast Texas Pearl Harbor survivors, who gathered each December 7. The gathering in 2001, 60 years after the attack, was the last because their numbers were dwindling.

On his 100th birthday, the city of Bridge City honored him with the Key to the City and a special proclamation.





From the Creaux's Nest

COURT SAYS TEXAS CAN'T BLOCK FEDERAL AGENTS

The **U.S. Supreme Court** on Monday ordered Texas to allow federal border agents access to the state's border with **Mexico**, where Texas officials have deployed miles of concertina wire. The order for now, effectively upholds longstanding court rulings that the **Constitution** gives the federal government sole responsibility for border security. In recent weeks, **Shelby Park in Eagle Pass** has become the center of a standoff between Texas and the federal government over immigration enforcement. Most recently, **Gov. Greg Abbott** has ramped up border enforcement around the 47-acre park by surrounding the perimeter by the razor wire and limiting access to the city park. "The **Biden Administration** has repeatedly cut wire that Texas installed to stop illegal crossings. Since 2021, **Abbott's Operation Lone Star initiative** has created tension between the state and federal government. Under the operation, **Abbott** has deployed state troopers across the 1,200 mile **Texas-Mexico border**; ordered state police to arrest migrants who are suspected of trespassing; spent **\$11 million** to install **70,000 rolls of concertina wire** along the Rio Grande; and spent **\$1.5 billion** on about a dozen miles of border walls. **Border Patrol** has cut through parts of the barrier to assist injured people. **Attorney General Ken Paxton** filed a lawsuit against **DHS**, claiming federal agents had illegally destroyed state property. On Monday, the **Supreme Court** vacated the 5th Circuit's order after the **Biden** administration sent a cease-and-desist letter to Paxton for blocking federal access to the border. **Chief Justice John Roberts** and **Justice Amy Coney Barrett** joined the court's three liberal justices in issuing the order. In a separate lawsuit, **President Joe Biden** sued Texas over the deployment of floating barriers on the Rio Grande.

THE OLD SAILOR HAS LEFT US Pearl Harbor Hero Cedric Stout, 102, passed away January 17

Cedric Stout, born November 7, 1921, was a member of the United States Navy aboard the Utah when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. For all the years since Cedric had been a hero survivor. Many words have been written about this good man. Over the past 18 years he was a proud member of the Wednesday Lunch Bunch and was treated as their special hero. He was an inspiration to all who knew him, always standing straight and proud.. We will miss him. Our condolences to his large family. Special thanks to his wife Cherry, who cared for him his last quarter century. We pray for her to have a good life. May Cedric rest in peace. Please see his obituary. He will long be remembered.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY COTTON

Dorothy Mae (Leach) Cotton, 87, of Vinton, Louisiana, passed away on Monday, January 22, 2024. When Henke & Pilot, located on Green Ave. in Orange built a new Kroger on 16th. St., the company transferred **Bill Townes** from South Texas to the new Orange store as manager. **Townes** picked **Dorothy Cotton** as his assistant. **Towns** often said she was just the right person for the job. She was a hard worker who demanded the same from employees, yet pleasant and the customers loved her. Tough but fair. I see a lot of her in daughter **Tina. Ray Cotton** and **Dorothy** were a perfect team. **Ray** is just a big, kind, puppy who will give the shirt off his back. He likes people and is a promoter. **Dorothy** was the business person.. Two great people. **Dorothy** had been ill for some time. Her service will be held Thursday, January 25. She was a good, kind lady. May she rest in peace. Please see obituary.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Orange County is where the sun rises on Texas and the stars shine first. One of our latest stars is **Earl Thomas**, a downtown Orange lad who honed his young talent at **West Orange-Stark High School** m. under the coaching of **Dan. Hooks** and **Cornell Thompson**.. WO-S has been a factory for developing young football talent over the years. **Coach. Thompson** has been a master at taking an ordinary kid, with good speed, and molding him to reach his highest potential. It is said that if a kid is good enough to play safety for **Thompson** chances are he's a good prospect for college recruiters. **West Orange-Stark**, over the last three decades, has produced many outstanding football players who went on to make their mark in the college and pro ranks. ****I recently learned from **Judge Pat** that many years ago, the late **Roy Wingate** asked **Judge Clark** for permission to build a lawyers bench in his courtroom in order to have something for attorneys to place their papers on. **Roy** found cherry wood that perfectly matched the judge's bench and that's

how the bench came to be in the **128 District Court** room. Another tid-bit about **Roy** is that he designed, cut and nailed every board one by one, to make the nice, sturdy picket fence that surrounds the old **Sims** house, (**Historical Museum**). **Roy** built many things, including furniture that he donated to needy. **** Making all the wire services this past weekend. was Houston mayor **Annise Parker**, tying the knot with her partner of 23 years. **Parker** married **Kathy Hubbard** last Thursday in Palm Springs. She had waited for Texas to legalize same-sex marriage but it wasn't happening. **Parker** is the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city. "This is a very happy day for us," **Parker** said.

20 Years Ago-2004

Area police chief officers are **Mike Stelly**, West Orange; **Dan. Robertson**., Pinehurst; **Sam. Kittrell**, Orange; and **Steve Faircloth**, Bridge City.****Young baseball player, **Matt Hicks**, 12, was hit by an auto on Hwy. 408 while riding his bike. He took a big hit and was broken up badly. (Editor's note: **Matt** did suffer some altering injuries but that didn't prevent him from seeking his dream. He was a great B.C. Cardinal pitcher and shortstop and is now a pitcher for the Ragin' Cajuns of LSU Lafayette. **Matt** is facing his senior season.)****On Jan. 20, **Jason Menard**, of Bridge City, a soldier in the U.S. Army, left for war in Iraq.

45 Years Ago-1979

Bridge City's \$172,000 administration building is dedicated. Legislators speaking at dedication include U.S. Congressman **Charles Wilson**; State Senator **Carl Parker** and State Representative **Wayne Peveto**. The Rev. **Ed. Robinson** delivered the benediction. City Manager **C.R. Nash** proclaims the opening as a red letter day for Bridge City. Ground breaking on the new city hall started in January, 1978. On Dec.1, 1978, moving into the building started. Twenty-five employees, seven of them fulltime, will work in the building that houses the city administration, fire marshal, building inspector and police chief. The building contains 4,400 square feet. **Nash** was cited for bringing to pass the new building. He became city manager on Dec. 1, 1976. **Nash** and his wife have two children. They are members of the **Second Baptist Church**. ******Judge Sid. Caillavet** is in Orange hospital after taking a nose dive in his bedroom. Friends kidded that his big nose broke the fall.**** **Senator Carl Parker** and **State Representative Wayne Peveto** file joint resolution which would repeal all state ad valorem taxes and set up a higher education assistance fund (SHEAF) similar to the permanent university fund available to **University of Texas and Texas A&M**.

50 Years Ago-1974

Spotlight on Bridge City basketball coach **Don Calvert**. Players are **Randy Fults**, **Steve Harmon**, **Billy James**, **Art Simmons**, **Jeff Gephardt**, **Shannon Martin**, **David Weishaar** and **Robert Truncale**.****Bridge City football coach **Chief Wilson** accepts new position with school district. He becomes vocational adjustment coordinator. **Chief** had coached in six different school districts. He has been in BC the last 12 years. ******Allen** and **Viola Bandy** celebrate their 12th wedding anniversary.

60 Years Ago-1964

Flashy **Eddie Sutton**, bleeding from a gash at the mouth, threw caution to the wind and hammered out a unanimous decision over Lafayette's **Anneal Foreman**. **Sutton** won the 'Outstanding Boxer' award. (Editor's note: He was 'Showboat Ruby's' boy and he was tough.) ****The new First Savings and Loan is dedicated. Formal speaker was **Congressman Jack Brooks**. Officers are **Ward. Stephenson**, director; **Wayne Cox**, executive V.P.; **Davis Cooper**, V.P. and director; **Joe Powell**, **Walter Ebanks** and **Donald Cohenour**, directors; and **Jessie Dickerson**, assistant secretary. ****Commissioners **Casey Peveto** and **Asa Mansfield** seek reelection. **State Rep. Clyde Haynes** asks for a third term. **W.D. Bill Joyce**, former County ID officer seeks sheriff's post in Newton County.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

All hail the king and queen from the **House of Pennington**. Retired lawyer and city **Judge Jerry Pennington** and his wife, **Susan**, a retired educator, reigned over the 20th. **annual Orange Mardi Gras Ball** held this past Saturday at the **VFW** in Orange. The ball drew a capacity crowd as the **Mardi Gras Krewe**s paid tribute to past kings and queens. The **Penningtons** will ride in their elaborate gold and white costumes in the parade through downtown Orange on February 3. Former **King Ebb** and **Queen Kim Moore** even traveled from their new abode back to their longtime home of Orange. **Betty Harmon**, who was queen in 2005 with her late husband, **Corky**, as king, attended in a black gown with sequins and was accompanied by her daughter, **Debora Harmon Lanciaux**. Other former kings and queens attending included **Gary and Angie Stelly**, **John** and **Glynnis Gothia**, last year's **Johnny** and **Becky Trahan**, **Bobby** and **Sherry Hommel**, **Kathy** and **Randy Brown**, and **Ross** and **Eva Smith**. Former King and King **Paul** and **Raul Burch** wore tux jackets of colored sequins to contrast with their black shirts. **Kenneth Wheeler** served as captain of the ball with dukes and duchesses this year named as **Michah** and **Cody Trahan**, **Tant**, **Rabon** and **Lori Ezell**, **Trent** and **Crystal Rogillio**, plus **Marty** and **Jan Klucik**. Of course, **Robert** and **Carol Sims** were there, with **Carol** in a silver glittered gown and **Robert** in traditional black tie. Others packed into the elaborately decorated hall included **Lainie Hall**, **Adam Conrad**, **Jody Chesson**, **Pam Stelly**, **Russell Bottley**, **Dale Ezell Foreman**, **Terri** and **Brad Childs**, **Cindy** and **Ambrose Claybar**, **Leslie Williams**, Orange Mayor **Larry** and **Trisha Spears**, **Bob** and **Cheryl Stalnaker**, **Andre** and **Lanier Robertson**, **Krystal** and **Michael Sanchez**, **Angie Smith**, **Meri Elen Jacobs**,

Eric Ellison, **Tricia Gillis**, **Greg Rodgers**, **Alyson Nickum-Smith**, **Regius Guillory**, **Freddie Champine**, **Janice** and **John Semien**, **Olivia Reves**, **Gina** and **Skipper Yeaman**, **Trey** and **Amie Smith**, **Sarah** and **Jake Nash**, **Randy** and **Paula Ragsdale**, **Rebekah Ragsdale**, **Ida Schossow**, **Denisha** and **Matthew Lafleur**.****The **Orange Public Library** is looking for people who love jigsaw puzzles. This Saturday, January 27, the library is having a puzzle competition for teams beginning at 10:30 a.m. Teams will each get the same **500-piece jigsaw puzzle** with a race to see who can finish first. Also Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the library will sponsor a **puzzle swap**. People who have completed puzzles and are looking for new ones will be able to swap out with each other. Call the library at **409-883-1086** to get more information or to register a team for the competition.****Congratulations to **Mikail Molley** of **Boy Scout Troop 290** in Bridge City for completing his tasks to earn the title of **Eagle Scout**.******Ross** and **Eva Smith** found time Saturday morning to attend great-grandson **Mason's** basketball game.****We finally located **Quincy Procell**. He's hanging in there but his wife **Nancy** is in Baptist Hospital where she is being treated for diabetes in hopes of saving her leg.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Jan. 24**: One of my good buds **Nancy Vincent** celebrates on this day. Celebrating also are **Larry Gray**, **Randy Franklin**, **Toni Robertson**, **Eric Shuford**.******Jan. 25**: Our longtime friend **Roy McDaniel** turns 99 on Jan. 25, also **Amy Kidder**, **Jessica Hobbs**, **Judy Rogers**, **Melanie Thevis**, **Taylor Thompson**, **Taylor Fraccastor**, and **Chelsea Anderson** celebrate their big day.******Jan. 26**: **Noreen Cook**, **Haley Parish**, **Flip Flippen**, **Hayden Anderson**, **Mike Faulk**, **Ginny Pelpier**, **Ron Huebel**.******Jan. 27**: **Roy** and **Phyl's** great-grandson **Leland Clay Gros** celebrates his 15th, also **Tommy Wolford**, **Hazel Reardon**, **Jonathan Arnold**, **Kimberly Barclay**, **Melanie Prosperie**, **Mick Weidner**, **Tori Lummus**, **Virginia Pelletier**.******Jan. 28**: **Cheryl Gonzales**, **Hollie Fregia** **Justin Gearhart**, **Chase Rendall**, **Colin Briggs**, **Jim Snider**, **Cheryl Richard**, **Kerstin Jewel**. Also on this date **Rosalie Clark**, twin to the late **Mary Ann Scofield**, celebrates. Her twin grandsons **Jackson** and **William**, sons of **Pat Jr.**, celebrate along with grandmother.******Jan. 29**: Longtime friend, Bobby's better half, **Devra Cormier**, turns another year older, also **Wyman Ogden**, **Paula Perkins**, **Caitlyn Eubanks**, **Rachel Beaulieu**, **Ricky Miller**, **Traci Anderson**.******Jan. 30**: **Jeanie Kreger**, **Lindsey Garrett**, **Shirley Whitley**, **Carolyn Martin**, **Brenda Dubose**, **Ted Blanchard**, **Chuck Rowley**.****Birthday greetings this past week to people edging closer to the century mark. **Sue Repasky** turned 99, **Donnie Hutch** is 97, and **Les Patin** is 91. Other birthdays this past week included **Rita Bonnin Monson**, **Cecilia Pillsbury**, **Keith Lindsey**, and **Nell Futch**.****Congrats to **Lawrence** and **Gerry Huckabay**, of Bridge City, who are celebrating 75 years of wedded bliss on January 28th.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

A few years ago, cussin. **Sostan** got hisself a ticket for da Super Bowl. He gave \$200 for it. He sure was disappointed dat his seat was so high up he nearly got nose bleed him. Tee-Boy had sold him da ticket but it was closer to da blimp dan it was to da field.

Sostan look through his binoculars and he spots an empty seat plum across Reliant Stadium.. After several minutes of observation, **Sostan** decides to make his way across the stadium to see if he can use dat seat him. "Excuse me please, is dat seat dere taken?" he axe.

No, says da man, you are welcome to use it."

"Tank you very much," **Sostan** say.

He axe da man, "Why do dis seat be empty, hanh?"

"Oh, dat was my wife's seat, after 50 years of marriage she died."

"Oh, I'm so sorry me, **Sostan** say, but couldn't you have given da seat to family or a friend, after all, man, dis is da Super Bowl."

Da older man replied, "No, I tried but they're all at da funeral dem.

C'EST TOUT

Local Politics Become Toxic

Back before **George W. Bush** became Texas governor, most of Texas leaned toward the Democratic Party. Orange County was mostly Democratic (split in two parts by idealization, the liberals and conservatives, commonly known as labor and management.) The primaries were hard fought, often no holds barred, even attempted pipe bombings and picket area violence but they always reunited in the General Election. However, for the very first time, with the **Republicans** in charge of local politics, the violence has gotten toxic. In all my years I have never seen people being threatened and people running for office having to worry about their families being safe. It's been a problem nationwide since **Donald Trump** came on the scene. For some reason I didn't expect all the meanness **Trump** preaches to reach this little part of Texas. Maybe it's more obvious because the **Speaker of the House Dade Phelan** is from our district and is being attacked by even some of the Texas leadership. For the first time slates are vying for control of the local **Republican Party**. It is important that voters know who the players are and what type of local leadership we will end up with. It is important that you, the voter, is aware of who is running the party, who is chairman and most importantly that each voter makes the right choice for precinct chairman in their voting box. **Be an educated voter**. The local party is now at the crossroads.****I've run way past deadline. Thanks for your time and please shop our family of advertisers. We thank them for supporting their local community paper. **Take care and God bless**.

Deaths & Memorials

Dorothy Mae (Leach) Cotton, 87

Dorothy Mae (Leach) Cotton, 87, of Vinton, Louisiana passed away on Monday, January 22, 2024. She was born to her late parents, Milford James and Nettie Mae Leach on December 23, 1936 in Many, Louisiana. Dorothy enjoyed riding and breeding horses, traveling, playing cards, and was owner/operator of Longhorn Entertainment Complex.

She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Charles Ray Cotton, Sr.; daughters, Sandra Cotton Bernhard (Brian) of Crystal Beach, Texas, Tina Renee' Cotton of Vinton, Louisiana; five grandchildren, Charles Ray Cotton, III (Melanie), Brion Bernhard Pampell (Jon), Amanda Renee' Schlesinger, Cody Byron Bernhard (Mandy), and Aimee



Dorothy Mae (Leach) Cotton

Brooke Schlesinger; along with seven great grandchildren.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her son, Charles Ray Cotton, Jr.; her parents; along with her two brothers, Floyd Wayne Leach and Charles James Leach.

A Graveside Celebration of Dorothy's life will be held at Ft. Jesup Cemetery in Sabine Parish, Louisiana on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm, with Bro. Wade Penfield officiating.

Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. World Traveler "Strongest Woman We Know"

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.hixsonvinton.com.

Gloria Ann Sanchez, 78, Orange

It is with great sadness that the family of Gloria Ann Sanchez announces her sudden passing on Monday, January 15th, 2024, at the age of 78.

"Puddin'" as she was affectionately known, was born in Orange Texas on August 30th, 1945 to the late Frank Nezat and Linda Guidry.

Gloria was born and raised in Orange where she met her late husband, John Philip Sanchez. She then resided in Orange County, California, West Palm Beach, Florida, and returned to her hometown of Orange Texas in 1993.

Gloria loved the simple pleasures of



Gloria Ann Sanchez

life. She loved spending time with her friends, drinking coffee while having a smoke, "hitting up the casina", and most of all spending time with her children.

Gloria will be lovingly remembered by her two children, her son, Troy James Sanchez of Port St Lucie, Florida, her daughter, Tracy Lynn Sanchez of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, and her daughter-in-law's Tracey Raymond and Camilla Howe.

As per puddin's request no funeral or memorial services will be held.

Jeannie Marie Lobb, 75, BC

Jeannie Marie Lobb, 75, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on January 15, 2024, in Clear Lake, Texas.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Reverend Harland Strother of Cowboy Church in Orange.

Visitation will begin prior to the service at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Edgerly, Louisiana, on April 17, 1948, she was the daughter of John Alden Richard, Sr. and Agnes (Sonnier) Richard. Jeannie's career was rooted in her passion for hairdressing. She owned and operated The Hair Scene in Vinton for many years, where she skillfully styled the hair of countless clients. When she was not working at the salon, Jeannie cherished spending time with her family and friends. She was happiest when surrounded by her loved ones, creating beautiful memories together. Jeannie was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. Her dedication to her family knew no bounds as she selflessly cared for their well-being and provided support whenever needed. Jeannie had many interests that filled her life with joy. She enjoyed riding motorcycles and watching soap operas, particularly Young and the Restless, brought excitement to her days. She delighted in guessing the outcomes of game shows while cheering along with



Jeannie Marie Lobb

contestants from the comfort of her own home. Traveling and going camping were some of Jeannie's favorite ways to unwind and connect with nature. She particularly loved going crabbing. Jeannie also had a sweet tooth and could never resist chocolate or her beloved Hostess Cupcakes. One of Jeannie's proudest accomplishments was becoming a member of the American Legion in Orange. She actively participated in events and supported the organization's mission to assist veterans and their families. Her memory will forever be cherished by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Agnes and John Richard, Sr.; husband, Larry Lobb; and son, Robbie Thibodeaux.

She is survived by her sons, Allen Thibodeaux and wife, Kim, and Ronald "Beannie" Thibodeaux; grandchildren, Holly Thibodeaux, and Kaycie Jo Thibodeaux; great grandchild, Makayla Short; siblings, Kenneth Richard and wife Carol, and John Alden "Pee Wee" Richard, Jr.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to American Cancer Society at <https://donate.cancer.org/>.

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

Cedric Stout, 102, Bridge City

Cedric Stout, 102 years old, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on January 17, 2024, peacefully at home.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Officiating will be Father Ernie Carpio. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Leonville, Louisiana, on November 7, 1921, he was the son of Jean Francios "Frank" Stoot and Marie "Rita" (Nezat) Stoot. One of Cedric's proudest accomplishments was his military service during World War II as a member of the United States Navy. He bravely served our country, including surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Cedric had several hobbies that brought him joy. He took great pride in maintaining his yard and spent countless hours on his lawnmower meticulously cutting the grass to perfection. Being outdoors brought him immense happiness as he cherished the beauty of nature that surrounded him. Listening to, and dancing to Cajun music was something he enjoyed more than anything. He was involved in St. Henry Catholic Church and served as an usher and Eucharistic minister. Additionally, he was an active



Cedric Stout

member of both the Pearl Harbor Association and American Legion, organizations that held significant importance in honoring those who served during wartime. Cedric was a man of simple tastes and had a warm and kind-hearted personality. His family remembers him as a wonderful husband who always put their needs

first. As a father, he provided love and support to his children, guiding them through life's challenges. His grandchildren were the apple of his eye, and he cherished every moment spent with them. Cedric will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Rita Stoot; first wife of 55 years, Delma Marie Stout; daughter, Denise Evavold; and two grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Cherry Stout; children, Shirley Harmes and husband, Ed, Julie Pike and husband, Gordon, Gerald Stout and wife, Pam, Darlene Montagne and husband, Johnny, Janet Johnston and husband, Steve, Janine Carter and husband, Gary, Daniel Stout and wife, Lisa, and Theresa Hock; 17 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; 1 great great grandchild; sister, Genevieve Darbonne; many other loving family and friends; when Cedric married Cherry he extended his family by six

"Do Well Be Well" Diabetes classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will hold free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join them in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthily, and much more to control your diabetes.

The series will last for 5 classes on January 11, 18, 25, and February 1 and 8, 2024, and will be from 2-4 PM. They will be held at the Neighborhood Facility Building at 303 N. 8th St. in Orange.

To get the full educational benefit, you must attend all 5 classes if possible. Call the Extension Office at 409-882-7010 to sign up for this series.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The two properties, the first commonly known as 5615 Tyler St., Vidor, TX 77662 and the second commonly known as 1520 Buckhorn St., Vidor, TX 77662 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 02/06/2024 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse in Orange County, Texas. If the preceding area is no longer the designated area, the sale will be held 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.

There will be an auction to satisfy a landlords lean on Saturday, February 3rd at 10 AM at Johnson's Mini Storage, located at 2400 MLK Drive in Orange, TX, 77630.
The following units contain household furniture and misc items.

A03 McClendon
A35 Hand
B10 Granger
B11 West
D09 Johnson
E37 Kleinpeter
E46 Brown
E61 Pepper
E67, E71 Jones
E68 Polk
F29 Boyd
K13 Pitre
S*19 Brown

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROY ELLISON BENDY**, Deceased, were issued on **JULY 19, 2023**, in Cause No. **P19715**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DIANA D. VIATOR**.

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: Barron Law Office
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX
77631-0279

Dated the 19th day of July, 2023.

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

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OC girls battle for district standings

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Girls high school basketball has entered the second half of district competition. The local teams are vying to capture one of the four playoff positions in their two respective districts.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats won a huge game on the road Wednesday, January 17. The Lady Bobcats went to Kountze and beat the previously unbeaten in district Lady Lions 47-32 to move into a tie for first place with Kountze.

The Lady Bobcats were led by senior Greenlea Oldham who finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Freshman Mikayla Locke scored 14 points and 8 rebounds. Other big contributors were Rebecca Durbin with 9 rebounds and Kaylea Gravett with 4 assists, 4 rebounds, and 3 points.

Orangefield celebrated with Head Coach Eric Girola who earned his 300th career win as a head coach. Two nights later the Lady Bobcats won a tough one for Coach Girola by a score of 36-33 at home against Kirbyville to improve to 8-1 in district.

Mikayla Locke was the leader for Orangefield



Keylie Washburn scored 20 points in the Lady Bears win over West Orange-Stark. RECORD PHOTO

with 14 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 steals. Rebecca Durbin was big again scoring 8 points and snaring 3 rebounds. Greenlea Oldham led the Lady Bobcats with 6 rebounds while scoring 4 points and making 2 steals. Brooklyn Wagoner had a good night at the free throw line sinking all four shots from there and had 5 steals defensively.

The Lady Bobcats played at the Orangefield Gymnasium Tuesday against Buna. Their next game is Friday, January 26, at Hardin.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals, the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears, and the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs all compete in District 19-4A. The Lady Cardinals solidified their



Kaylee Britten was the leading scorer with 16 points and made 9 steals in the Lady Cardinals victory against Jasper.

chances of making the playoffs with two good wins last week.

On Wednesday Bridge City played at home and won decisively 65-23 against Jasper. Coach Larry Sterling got balanced



Coach Eric Girola and the Orangefield Lady Bobcats celebrate his 300th career coaching win after they beat Kountze. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

GIRLS Page 4B

Mustangs beat Bears but fall to Cardinals

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The first half of boys district basketball wrapped up on Friday as scheduled after cold weather postponed Tuesday's games until Wednesday, January 17. Local teams were involved in two exciting games during the week that went down to the final buzzer before the winners were determined.

West Orange-Stark trailed by fifteen points at half time to Little Cypress-Mauriceville on Wednesday night. The Mustangs played an intense second half to pull off their thrilling 65-61 comeback win over the Bears at the West Orange-Stark High School gymnasium.

After making the initial basket of the game the Mustangs went cold from the field and saw the Bears score the next fifteen points to take a 15-3 lead. The LCM advantage was 40-15 at the half.

Jamar O'Neal of West Orange-Stark hit two quick baskets to start the third quarter. Andrew Cooper contributed nine points in the period as the Mustangs narrow the deficit to three points 47-44 with a quarter to play.

Cooper scored again to begin the final period to cut the difference to one point. Mustang Braylen Solomon hit a three pointer to the game 49-49 at 6:10 of the fourth quarter.

Little Cypress Mauriceville scored the next six points. Baskets by Al-antheon Winn, Bryson Price, and Jayden Benton put the Bears up 55-49



Jagger Carlin scored 14 points in Bridge City's exciting win at home against West Orange-Stark.

about midway through the fourth quarter.

Three pointers by Cooper and Ja'Vaughnte Richard got West Orange-Stark back within two points before Joshua Holifield of the Mustangs tied the game 57-57 with 3:30 to go in regulation. Winn and Richard exchanged field goals to keep the score tied.

With 2:10 left Tahj Amerson registered his only points of the game to give the Mustangs their first lead, 61-59, since the opening minutes of the game. Richard and Solomon sandwich field goals around a bucket by the Bears' Winn to round out the frantic fourth frame to secure the triumph for WOS.

Both teams had three players finish in double figures. Andrew Cooper led the Mustangs with 18 points followed by Braylen Solomon with 13 and Ja'Vaughnte Richard who had 12 points. Al-antheon Winn of the Bears was the high scorer in the game with 21 points, Jayden Benton had 16 points, and Jonah Fuller finished with

BOYS Page 3B

OC SOEA ENDORSES JIMMY LANE MOONEY FOR SHERIFF OF ORANGE COUNTY

Unified Support, Proven Results, and Unwavering Trust

In a **significant** show of solidarity, the Orange County Sheriff's Office Employee's Association has officially endorsed Jimmy Lane Mooney for re-election as sheriff. This endorsement not only reflects a sense of unity within the sheriff's office but also emphasizes the proven results and unwavering trust in Sheriff Mooney's leadership.

Four years ago, Orange County embarked on a journey for change when they elected Jimmy Lane Mooney as their sheriff. His vision for a forward-moving Orange County resonated with the community, and today, the endorsement from the Sheriff's Office Employee's Association further solidifies their belief in his ability to lead.

Unity in the Sheriff's Office:

The endorsement underscores a sense of unity within the sheriff's office—a crucial factor for effective law enforcement. Sheriff Mooney has worked tirelessly to foster a collaborative and cohesive environment, ensuring that the entire department works together seamlessly toward the common goal of serving and protecting Orange County.

Proven Results in Policy Implementation:

Sheriff Mooney's tenure has been marked by tangible and positive results in the policies he implemented. His commitment to the safety and well-being of Orange County residents has translated into real-world outcomes. The endorsement highlights the Association's recognition of Sheriff Mooney's ability to turn vision into action, bringing about positive change through thoughtful and effective policies.

Complete Trust in Sheriff Mooney:

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this endorsement is the complete trust that the Orange County Sheriff's Office Employee's Association places in Sheriff Mooney. Trust is the bedrock of any successful leadership, and the Association's endorsement is a testament to their confidence in Mooney's character, decision-making, and dedication to the community.

Leading Change:

Four years ago, Orange County voted for change, and Sheriff Mooney has been at the forefront of that transformation. Making tough decisions, even when unpopular, Mooney has proven to be the kind of sheriff needed to navigate the challenges of a dynamic community. The endorsement reaffirms the importance of having a leader who is resolute in their decisions and unwavering in their commitment to Orange County's best interests.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office Employee's Association's endorsement of Jimmy Lane Mooney for sheriff is a resounding vote of confidence in a leader who has consistently **demonstrated unity, delivered proven results, and earned complete trust.** As Orange County looks towards the future, the endorsement highlights Mooney's capacity to lead and continue bringing about positive change for the community.



RE-ELECT

SHERIFF JIMMY LANE MOONEY

PROVEN RESULTS, PROACTIVE POLICING

KEEP ORANGE COUNTY MOVING FORWARD

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OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

“Howdy Tex” was a common greeting from other anglers as Bink Grimes and I strode down the sidewalk towards our waiting boat. “I wonder how they know we’re from Texas” I thought to myself, then I looked down at my rods and it hit me as gazed at the fist full of baitcasters. We were in Florida and baitcasters are a dead giveaway that you are from the Lone Star State, down in the Sunshine State spinning tackle rules the angling world. Now before you go get in a fired up huff and quit reading this article because you think it’s another one of those “Florida is superior to Texas” propaganda speeches take a minute to realize what the real story is about.

For whatever reason most die-hard Texas trout fanatics refuse to throw a spinning rod for any one of a myriad of reasons. Most testosterone junkies discount the gear as being for novices or beginners; nothing could be farther from the truth. Now I am not saying that the spinning rod is better than a baitcaster, let’s get that straight. I am saying however that the spinning rod is an overlooked and under utilized weapon in Texas saltwater. By adding a spinning rod to your arsenal of baitcasters you can cover just about any type of fishing situation that comes up along the gulf coast.

When I first started guiding one of the most valuable pieces of information I got came from Dickie Colburn, he said “son, a man can make good living with a quality spinning rod”. Dickie should know because he has been doing just that for many years on both freshwater lakes and coastal bays. By using a light line presentation on a 6 foot spinning rod Dickie has caught more flounder than you can ever imagine. “The spinning rod is perfectly suited to throw the tiny road runner jigs and gitzits that flounder just absolutely love,” said Colburn, “You just can’t fish those little baits on a regular baitcaster”.

Another area where the spinning rod shines is when the situation calls for delicate or subtle presentations, throwing weightless soft plastics over grass or when you are sight fishing. The ease at which an angler can cast these offerings with pinpoint accuracy and minimal splash results in more fish caught and less fish spooked. I cannot tell you how many times this summer I switched from a baitcaster to a spinning rod just for the ability to throw a subtle bait at a finicky redfish, it worked like a charm.

Wade fishermen can also benefit from using a spinning rod, I know several anglers who carry both a baitcaster and a spinning rod while wading. The baitcaster is used for casting down wind and for throwing big topwaters while the spinning rod is used for throwing into the wind and casting more subtle offerings. The spinning reels are excellent choices for throwing corkies also, the low gear ratio helps you slow down your retrieve and that generally translates into more fish.

I hope that after reading this article you might look at fishing with a spinning rod a little differently, it is a great tool that can really help you catch more fish if you just give it a chance.

‘The Lakes’ Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water clear; 47 degrees; 3.65 feet below pool. Rain is in the forecast next week, and after the recent cold weather and high winds there are few anglers on the water. Shallow fish will be difficult to catch, so best to key on fish in the 8-20 feet range. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• Sam Rayburn

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 48 degrees; 7.20 feet below pool. The bite will be slow after the cold front, and there is rain in the forecast next week. The females will be lethargic while they hunker down in the grass gearing up for the spawn. Bass will move shallow and deep with the heat of the day with rattletails, crankbaits and jigs. Bass are slow to fair but now is the time to catch a big fish. Crappie and white bass are in the creek channels and river. Catfish are in the river channel bends biting cut bait, or live minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Large amounts of black bass are offshore, in creek channels or main lake ditches biting Alabama rigs, jigging spoons, dropshots or shaky heads.

Report by Captain Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

FAIR. 52 degrees. Fishing primarily in the Neches River and marshes for sheepshead, drum, with some redfish mixed in. Fish in 12 feet of water with Carolina rig with live shrimp. Limits of redfish and some trout off the Neches River shell banks and rock piles, points and turnarounds. The water is low in the system after the hard freeze, so the bite will slow until the water returns and the forecast warms bringing the bait back into the system.

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

• Bolivar

FAIR. 58 degrees. This is typically the slowest time of the year. Bay side of Bolivar is holding nice trophy size trout catches, redfish, sheepshead and black drum using topwaters or live shrimp under a popping cork. Report by North Jetty Bait Camp.

Redfish and trout are biting where the Goat Island drains water runoff into the open water on soft plastics early and late in the day. Fish cuts through the intercoastal waterway from goat Island to rollover. Ytes Bayou drains holding redfish on soft plastics and live shrimp under popping cork.

Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 45 degrees. Cold front slowed what was only a fair bite for speckled trout and the occasional red from Dow’s Reef to the HL&P spillway. Upper end of the bay, Tabbs, Scott and Burnett, has been slow for catches of trout, and fair for black drum and sheepshead. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

The bite has changed after the recent rains. Big winds and cold temperatures tend to veer people away from fishing, but being able to read what is happening makes these fish highly predictable in the colder months. Trout are hitting dead ends and warmer discharges being caught on rat tails and swimbaits, if you are going slow, go slower. Redfish are a more durable cold blooded animal, but will be mixed in with trout until the flats heat up.

If you can find a hole in a flat, that’s a great spot. We are catching redfish with weedless gulp and with swimbaits attached to 1/4 ounce jigs. Drum and sheepshead are being caught around rocks and structure pilings, free lining shrimp and weedless gulp shrimp. Imitation shad has been working the best on the weedless presentation as far as hooks go. Watch the weather and watch the winds. Certain situations will lead you to the fish. Be safe and be smart. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. Surface water temperature 50 degrees and water clarity varies depending upon where you are on the bay as a number of our areas have been blown out by the winds. Our anglers are still having the most success back in the marsh or bayou areas where we can



Limits of redfish and some trout off the Neches River shell banks and rock piles, points and turnarounds. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

get some protection from the wind and waves. This redfish bite has been consistent in areas where good current flow has bait up against the shorelines or grass lines in 1-3 feet of water around oyster shells on imitation shad lures in Rollover Moon, fished with 1/8 ounce heads, as well as fished under a popping cork, with an 18 inch leader. The trout this week have preferred a super slow presentation, targeting deeper pockets close to channel bends with shells, triggering the most strikes. The lighter the jig head determined by the wind and current, the better, for a slow fall, as the bites have been light for the most part. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC

Smith Point shoreline still holding redfish and trout on artificial twitch baits and soft plastic or shrimp under a popping cork. SeaWolf Park holding bull redfish and black drum on the pier. Trout on shrimp under popping cork at the concrete wall. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spot-

ter Guide Service.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 42 degrees. Overall fishing has been slow. A few anglers are finding a mix of trout, redfish, and black drum in the deeper bayous and channels on live shrimp. All this took place prior to the cold front. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The jetties holding sheepshead and speckled trout with shrimp under a popping cork or free line shrimp near the rocks. Trout fishing near drop off or deeper water. Swan Lake rock shoals holding sheepshead on popping cork with shrimp, trout with live shrimp or paddle tails. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• West Galveston Bay

FAIR. 46 degrees. Decent catches of speckled trout, along with a few redfish on mullet imitation plugs and soft plastic lures prior to the cold


snap. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Carrancahua Lake and Green’s Lake are holding redfish and black drum on shrimp at the grass lines. And some redfish and trout inside on soft plastic. Watch the tides. South of cold pass waders still getting trout and redfish in deeper waters. Jones bay holding a few fish early on soft plastic. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.


• Texas City

FAIR. 46 degrees. Slow catches reported this past week. The bite is slow and rather cold. Prior to the cold front a few catches of large black drum and bull redfish were taken out on the end of the Texas City Dike and the Galveston jetties. Little else reported. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The rock shoals near Dollar Reef are holding trout and redfish on soft plastics and shrimp. The rocks just across Texas city channel are holding nice trout on split tail soft plastic. The dike is holding Trout and redfish at night under lights. Bull redfish and big uglies are at the end of the dike. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• Freeport

SLOW. 58 degrees. Fishing was good before the cold front. Sheepshead, drum, redfish and trout were biting in the old river and old intercoastal. Redfish and trout were biting in Bastrop and Chocolate Bayou fishing with live shrimp or 1/4-3/8 ounce jig heads. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures.





REPUBLICAN
TEXAS RANGER MAJOR (RET.)
BOBBY SMITH
FOR ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF

POW. AD. PD. FOR BY BOBBY SMITH CAMPAIGN. KEITH MERRITT - TREASURER

Bobby Smith, a seasoned law enforcement veteran with an impressive 29-year track record in criminal and traffic law, proudly presents himself as the Republican candidate for Orange County Sheriff. Bobby firmly believes that there is no greater responsibility than safeguarding the cherished citizens of Orange County. In an ever-evolving landscape of threats, both traditional and new, he is unwavering in his commitment to protect Orange County with the highest levels of competence and integrity.

Make no mistake, Bobby retired from the Texas Rangers to be your next Sheriff in Orange County. His loyalty is to the Constitution and the citizens of Orange County. He understands what that means and will protect and defend your rights. Bobby and his wife, Brandy Musgrove Smith, have four children and four grandchildren who all reside in Orange County. He wants to make Orange County a better place not only for them, but for all of you. Thank you for your overwhelming support and we humbly ask you for your vote to elect Bobby Smith as the next Sheriff of Orange County.

Texans set standard for 2024 and the future

Drew Dougherty
Houston Texans News

A standard has been set. The 2023 Texans are finished. A wildly successful season considering what was expected of a bunch with a rookie head coach and rookie quarterback came to a close on Saturday evening in Baltimore. After entering the halftime locker room all square at 10-apiece with the top-seeded squad in the AFC, Houston ran out of gas and fell to the Ravens, 34-10. There was disappointment. There were what ifs. But more importantly, there are high hopes for the future. Head Coach DeMeco Ryans wasn't pleased with Saturday's outcome, but he put the present and that bright future in per-

spective. "It's not a moral victory, just being here," Ryans said. "But I'm proud of this team. This team accomplished a lot this year and I'm just looking forward to the future." Head Coach DeMeco Ryans: 'Proud of our guys for being relentless this entire season' Defensive end Jonathan Greenard, who led the team with 12.5 sacks in the regular season, reflected on the 10-win season that saw the Texans capture the AFC South title, and said sights are set much higher for 2024 and beyond. "It kind of sets the standard," Greenard said. "It does give us a little bit of good things to look forward to because we obviously know that it's not the end of the tunnel." Right guard Shaq Mason was



A wildly successful season considering what was expected of a bunch with a rookie head coach and rookie quarterback came to a close on Saturday evening in Baltimore.

traded to Houston during the offseason and wound up starting every game the Texans played this year. The offensive

lineman won Super Bowl rings with the Patriots over the last decade, and he sees a lot of promise for the future.

"I think guys can take a lot away from this season," Mason said. "A lot wasn't expected of us. But we expected it the whole time. You have something to look forward to." Quarterback C.J. Stroud will likely win the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year Award. He completed 19-of-33 passes Saturday for 175 yards in the defeat. Stroud also shared in the sentiment that "our future's bright" and described what he'll do over the offseason and into next season. "I'm going to continue to work my tail off next year to make the City of Houston proud, make my family members proud, make God proud," Stroud said. Offseason conditioning begins again in mid-April.

C.J. Stroud reveals early plans for "huge" offseason

Drew Dougherty
Houston Texans News

For C.J. Stroud, it's time to rest. The season is finished for the Texans, and they spent Monday with final meetings, locker cleanouts and other administrative tasks to close out the season. The quarterback on Saturday capped off a whirlwind year-and-a-half. In between the summer of 2022 and now, Stroud's vigorously prepared for a final college season, got set for the NFL Draft process, and then came to Houston and helped engineer a 180-degree turn in

wins and culture mindset with the Texans. "First, I'm going to relax," Stroud said. "Take some time off. I've been going hard since I was like 12 years old. AAU tournaments, baseball, football, 7-on-7, high school, a ton of sports being played. It's been a blessing. It's been a ball. I'm 22 years old, and this is my first time ever having freedom away from school, away from college. So I'm excited. But at the same time, just like I'm ready to relax, I'm ready to get back to work, too. But I have to take some time to myself. It's just the right thing to do."



Texans Rookie QB C.J. Stroud

Quarterback Case Keenum, who just completed his 12th NFL season, said a mental "recharge" and unwinding a bit is of the utmost importance. Especially in regards to the

gauntlet Stroud just completed over the last 18 months or so. "Your rookie year is really, really tough, because coming from that offseason workout—for me it was at Houston, but it was Ohio State for him. Obviously the ups and downs, big season for him. Then you get straight into training for the Combine. Then train for your Pro Day. Then your Draft comes and it's like, 'Okay, here's this playbook' and it's massive, and you're like, 'Oh my gosh.' So you have to learn all that in OTAs and rookie minicamp. You get a couple weeks in the summer and then it's the

longest season of your life. To go in the playoffs and do what he did, it's impressive." But once the rest and relaxation period ends, Keenum has no doubts about the new highs on the way for Stroud and the Texans. "He's preparing to start an era here," Keenum said. "I truly believe that's what it's going to be around here. Houston fans have an incredible amount of really awesome quarterback play to look forward to for the foreseeable future." Wide receiver Tank Dell caught 47 passes for 709 yards and seven touchdowns in 11 games with

Stroud this season. Dell finished three games—all Texans victories—with 100 or more receiving yards, and he thinks Saturday's playoff loss at Baltimore "motivated C.J. tremendously." "I know in the offseason the work he's going to put in, the work everyone is going to put in together," Dell said. But I just know what type of guy he is. You know he's going to come back even hungrier." Stroud and the Texans will re-convene as a team in mid-April for the start of the Offseason Conditioning Program.

Boys basketball From Page 1B

11 for LCM. Coach Chris Castille of the Mustangs expressed his emotions after the game. "Oh, man those crosstown rivalries are always going to be something special. I love the way my kids fought, they never gave up," Castille emphasized. The Bridge City Cardinals that same Wednesday night played at Jasper. Aiden Gutierrez scored 24 points and Aaden Bush added 15 as the Cardinals won in a rout 77-43 to move to 4-1 in district tied with West Orange-Stark. That set the stage for another showdown on Friday night in Bridge City between the Cardinals and the Mustangs for second place at the halfway point in district action. Bridge City beat West Orange-Stark 64-62 improving its record to 5-1 in District 19-4A. Just like on Wednesday the Mustangs fell behind early in the first quarter.

Lincoln Breaux of the Cardinals hit a three pointer to start the scoring and Jagger Carlin popped another three moments later as Bridge City took an 8-2 lead. The margin increased to nine points 14-5 after Aaden Bush made his second field goal of the quarter for the Cardinals. That sparked a resurgence from the Mustangs who tallied the next eleven points culminated with a basket by Jamar O'Neal to give West Orange-Stark its first lead of the game 16-14 with three minutes to go in the first period. The remainder of the quarter was back and forth. Breaux scored to tie the game 22-22 to end a wild first eight minutes. Baskets by Hunter Silveira and Carlin put Bridge City on top to start the second quarter. The Mustangs' Andrew Cooper ripped a three pointer before Silveira scored again followed by two

points from Breaux to give the Cardinals a five point advantage 30-25. Bush hit back to back baskets to boost Bridge City's lead to eight points 36-28. WOS cut the lead to one point but Carlin closed the first half with a three to give the Cardinals a 39-35 lead. Carlin began the third quarter with a field goal. Later in the third Gutierrez made two free throws that gave Bridge City its largest lead of the game

eleven points at 51-40. West Orange-Stark trimmed the margin but still trailed 55-49 after three. Braylen Solomon of the Mustangs made the final points in the third quarter and the first two of the final quarter. O'Neal made consecutive buckets and then Jamikael Davis nailed a jump shot that tied the game 58-58 with 4:33 to play in regulation. Gutierrez for the Cardinals and Cooper for the Mustangs exchanged making a pair of free throws apiece.

Ja'Vaughnte Richard with WOS and Breaux of Bridge City traded field goals to keep the game knotted 62-62 with just over two minutes to go. At 1:47 of the fourth Breaux appeared to give the Cardinals the lead with a driving layup, but was called for a charging foul wiping out the two points. With less than a minute remaining Gutierrez sank the second of two free throws to put Bridge City up by one point and later Breaux did the same thing to extend the Cardinal lead to 64-62 with

twenty-six seconds left. West Orange-Stark in-bounded the ball and called a time out with seven point six seconds on the clock. The Mustangs inbounded again in the forecourt this time and got the ball to Geramicah Davis who put up a three point shot for the win at the buzzer but it hit the rim and stayed out. Bridge City got balanced scoring on the night including four Cardinals in double figures. Aaden Bush led with 15 points,

BOYS Page 4B



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The Orangefield Bobcats celebrated Zane Wrinkle (#4) surpassing 1,000 points as a Bobcat after Orangefield beat Kirbyville.

Boys basketball

From Page 3B

followed by Jagger Carlin with 14, Aiden Gutierrez with 13, and Lincoln Breaux who had 11 points.

The Mustangs got 19 points from Andrew Cooper to lead all scorers. Three Mustangs Jamar O’Neal, Braylen Solomon, and Jamikael Davis finished with 9 points each.

Cardinal Coach Randall Robertson was excited with the clutch win by Bridge City. “This game had a lot of implications for second place seeding for the first half of district. This one’s really big for us. We’re playing good right now. I tell the Cardinals great teams find ways to win in close games like that,” Robertson exclaimed.

Little Cypress Mauriceville played the first place Silsbee Tigers on Friday. Silsbee won 75-56 to remain undefeated in the district. Alantheon Winn led the Bears with 24 points

and 11 rebounds. Bryson Price scored 15 points and Braylon Lewis had 11 points for LCM.

Bridge City with its two wins during the week are in second place in District 19-4A at 5-1 behind Silsbee. West Orange-Stark at 4-2 is in third place. Little Cypress Mauriceville at 2-4 is battling with Lumberton and Vidor for the fourth and final playoff position in the district.

Second half district action started Tuesday, January 23, with Bridge City hosting Silsbee, West Orange-Stark traveling to Vidor, and Little Cypress Mauriceville having its second bye date. The Cardinals and Bears play at LCM High School on Friday, January 26 while the Mustangs face the Lumberton Raiders at West Orange-Stark High School.

The battle for first place in District 22-3A took place

on Wednesday, January 24, at Kountze between the Orangefield Bobcats and the Lions. Orangefield suffered its first district loss 55-46 to the Lions. Jaden Scales scored 21 points, grabbed 4 rebounds, with 4 assists while Zane Wrinkle finished with 15 points and 6 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Friday night Orangefield bounced back beating Kirbyville 65-41. Scales was again the top scorer for the Bobcats with 22 points. Griffin Thomas made 18 points, Kadyr Rucker had 9 points with 8 rebounds, and Zane Wrinkle led the Bobcats with 11 rebounds and 9 assists. Wrinkle also scored 6 points which gave him over 1,000 points as a Bobcat.

Orangefield started the second half of district at home on Tuesday against Buna. The Bobcats next game is Friday, January 26, at Hardin.



Mustang players, coaches, and a couple of fans celebrate their comeback win over cross-town rivals the LCM Bears.

“Do Well Be Well” with Diabetes classes

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will hold free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join them in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthily, and much more to control your diabetes.

The series will last for 5 classes on January 11, 18, 25, and February 1 and 8, and will be from 2-4 PM. They will be held at the Neighborhood Facility Building at 303 N. 8th St. in Orange. To get the full educational benefit, you must attend all 5 classes if possible. Call the Extension Office at 409-882-7010 to sign up for this series.

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Girls basketball

From Page 3B

scoring as every Lady Cardinal tallied at least two points.

Kaylee Britten of Bridge City was brilliant scoring 16 points and snatching 9 steals in the game. Kennedy Campbell scored in double figures with 10 points and assisted on 7 baskets by her teammates. Whitney Cunningham contributed 9 points and Kailey Nelson had 8 points. Nicole Sasser and Nyah Hantz tied Nelson in rebounds for the Lady Cardinals with 6 boards apiece.

Bridge City followed up on Friday, January 19, at West Orange-Stark winning 51-43 over the Lady Mustangs. The Lady Cardinals improved their district

record to 6-2 which has them a half game ahead of the 5-2 Lumberton Lady Raiders who beat Vidor on Wednesday, January 17, and had their second half bye on Friday of last week.

Kennedy Campbell was the high scorer for the Lady Cardinals with 18 points against WOS. Laken Belenger made 7 rebounds, and Whitney Cunningham had 3 steals.

Little Cypress Mauriceville split its two games last week which puts them in fourth place in the district standings. The Lady Bears at 4-4 are battling with the Vidor Lady Pirates for the final playoff spot in the district.

Cold weather postponed

the LCM game with West Orange-Stark until Wednesday which the Lady Bears won 37-28. Keylie Washburn was the high scorer with 20 points for Little Cypress Mauriceville. First place Silsbee beat the Lady Bears on Friday night 77-48 as the Lady Tigers remained undefeated in district.

Bridge City traveled to Silsbee on Tuesday. The Lady Cardinals play at home on Friday, January 26, against the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears who had a bye on Tuesday. The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs played Vidor on Tuesday and go to Lumberton on Friday.

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Blood tests can help diagnose Alzheimer’s — if they’re accurate enough. Not all are

Jon Hamilton
NPR News

A new generation of blood tests is poised to change the way doctors determine whether patients with memory loss also have Alzheimer’s disease.

The tests detect substances in the blood that indicate the presence of sticky amyloid plaques in the brain — a hallmark of Alzheimer’s. So these tests have the potential to replace current diagnostic procedures, like costly PET scans and uncomfortable spinal taps.

Blood tests also promise to provide doctors with a quick way to identify patients who could benefit from new drugs that remove amyloid from the brain.

But the accuracy of the tests still varies widely.

“Some of them are really good, and some of them are really bad,” says Dr. Suzanne Schindler, a dementia specialist at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

The search for plaques and tangles

Blood tests represent the latest advance in efforts to detect the buildup of amyloid plaques and fibrous tangles in the brain.

“It used to be that the only way you could definitively diagnose someone with Alzheimer disease is by doing an autopsy,” Schindler says.

Then, starting in the early 2000s, scientists found ways to detect plaques and tangles using PET scans and tests of spinal fluid. There are now versions of both approaches that are



Newer blood tests can help doctors diagnose Alzheimer’s disease without a brain scan or spinal tap. But some tests are more accurate than others.

approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

But the scans are costly, and spinal taps are unpopular with many doctors and patients. Both also require expertise that is in short supply.

So Schindler and her colleagues got a lot of attention in 2019 when they published a paper showing that amyloid plaques could be revealed by a blood test.

“Since then, I’ve probably had 100 people email me wanting a test,” Schindler says. “In many cases, they are people who had family members who had Alzheimer’s disease, and this is their biggest fear.”

Today, labs offer more than a dozen Alzheimer’s blood tests.

“The technology has really developed very quickly,” Schindler says. “People see the dollar signs, and it’s very doable to get into the market.”

That market is potentially vast because more than 6 million people in the United States have Alzheimer’s and an even larger number are at risk for the disease.

FDA’s lack of approval

But there’s not much regulation of existing blood tests for Alzheimer’s. So far, none has been approved by the FDA.

Instead they are marketed as laboratory developed tests, a special category that usually receives minimal FDA oversight. (This past October, the FDA proposed a rule that would increase scrutiny of these tests.)

For now, though, “you can have a test for Alzheimer disease that’s not very good,” Schindler says, “but as long as you get similar results over time you can market it.”

This means that many tests, if used on the population that typically visits a dementia specialist, would misdiagnose about one in four patients, Schindler says.

And the accuracy would be worse if the tests were used on a population at lower risk, speakers told a press conference on Alzheimer’s blood testing at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in November.

“When you’re assessing a big group of people, a lot of whom don’t have the disease, you are going to get a lot of false positives,” said Keenan Walker, an Alzheimer’s researcher at the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health.

That’s why it’s so important to use the best blood tests, says Dr. Randall Bateman, a professor of neurology at Washington University in St. Louis.

“The one we developed can be 95% accurate,” he says, “so now these blood tests are rivaling the performance of the PET scans and the spinal taps that we’ve traditionally used.”

Testing for treatment

Interest in blood tests has soared since July, when the FDA fully approved Leqembi (lecanemab), the first drug shown to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s.

A second Alzheimer’s drug, aducanumab, had received a limited FDA approval in 2021, and a third, donanemab, is likely to get full approval in the next few months.

“For the first time ever, right, Alzheimer’s doctors are now able to treat patients with these drugs,” Bateman says.

All three drugs remove amyloid from the brain. But to prescribe them, doctors need to show that amyloid plaques are present.

That needs to happen quickly, Bateman says, while a patient is still in the early stages of the disease.

“There’s a time window where there’s a benefit,” Bateman says. “And if they’re going to be treated

in that time window, you almost have to have blood tests.”

That’s because most doctors aren’t equipped to immediately offer a brain scan or a spinal tap.

The need for testing will increase if the existing Alzheimer’s drugs are found to be most effective in patients who aren’t yet showing any signs of memory impairment or thinking problems.

“The challenge then will be: How do we know who to treat if they don’t even have symptoms?” Bateman says.

The answer, he says, will be the blood tests, which can detect brain changes long before patients develop problems with thinking and memory. Bateman says that eventually, blood tests for Alzheimer’s could even be-

come a part of a routine doctor visit for people older than 50.

“They go into their regular doctor’s office for a checkup,” he says, “[and] blood pressure is checked, cholesterol is checked and a screening test for amyloid plaques is checked.”

Some of the scientists at the Society for Neuroscience session agreed.

“It’s likely that in the future anyone over the age of 60 will get an Alzheimer’s test,” said Virginia Man-Yee Lee, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

When that day comes, Bateman says, it will be critical to ensure that every blood test for Alzheimer’s is as accurate as possible.

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Texas Medical Board asked to issue guidance on state abortion

Madaleine Rubin
The Texas Tribune

Two attorneys have asked the Texas Medical Board to clarify what qualifies as a medical exception to the state’s abortion laws, following the Texas Supreme Court’s rejection last month of a Dallas woman’s attempt to terminate her nonviable pregnancy.

The petition, filed last Tuesday by attorneys Steve and Amy Bresnen, who are also lobbyists, asks the board to issue “clear guidance” about when an abortion is allowed under the law. Dr. Sherif Zaafran, the board’s chair, said the agency is in the process of reviewing it. The medical board expects to respond by the end of this week, he said.

Since Texas banned nearly all abortions in summer 2021, dozens of women

have come forward to say they were denied medically necessary abortions for their complicated pregnancies. These women have said they should have qualified for an abortion under the state’s narrow medical exceptions, but their doctors were too fearful or unclear on the law to perform the procedure.

“It’s time for the Medical Board to get off the sidelines. The fact that life-threatening conditions related to pregnancy are driving women out of state for abortion care is not acceptable,” Steve Bresnen said in an email to The Texas Tribune. “The Legislature, the Governor, the Supreme Court of Texas and physicians have asked for clarity and the TMB has the power to give it. There is no excuse for further delay.”

In Texas, the medical board can revoke a doctor’s

license if they violate the state’s abortion laws. Texas’ Supreme Court asked the board in December to provide doctors with more guidance on interpreting those statutes after the court rejected Dallas resident Kate Cox’s request for a medical emergency abortion.

The court’s request prompted the Bresnens to also ask for clarity from the board. Their petition also calls on the board to identify steps doctors can take to ensure that their decisions are in line with the standards for a medical exception.

an uncertain world are, you can lose everything, including your freedom, for 99 years,” Steve Bresnen said. “Physicians and hospitals need the state to tell them, ‘Here’s what this exception means, and here’s how you go about making sure that you’re acting within the exception so it minimizes your legal risk.’”

In response to this petition, the Texas Medical Board could publish a rule addressing the medical exception in the Federal Register. If that rule is published, there will be a 30-day comment period before a final rule is issued.



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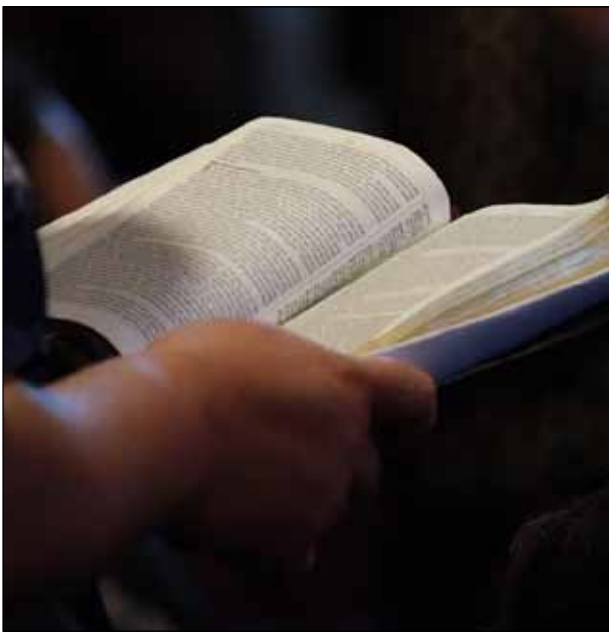
Daniel J. Brendsel
PhD, Wheaton College
desingGod.org

“The truth about a man lies first and foremost in what he hides.” So wrote the French novelist, art critic, and statesman André Malraux in 1967, in a weighty diagnosis of the human predicament (Anti-Memoirs, 5). Malraux was on to something. We may broadcast what we want to be known for, but we hide what we are.

We might think first of the dark side of this insight. We may keep the skeletons safely in the closet, our secret sins and hidden idolatries, thinking to ourselves, “If others knew who I really am, they’d despise me.” We well know that we are what we hide.

But there’s a positive side to the insight as well, and our Lord may be said to commend it. Jesus encourages us to hide, in a manner, what’s closest to our hearts: “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them” (Matthew 6:1). We face a common and strong temptation to do what we do to receive the praise and admiration of people.

The appearance of righteousness can easily become more important to us than righteousness itself. But true righteousness, we might say, isn’t merely something we show, but also and especially something we hide. Thus arises Jesus’s exhortation to practice righteousness — alms-



giving, prayer, and fasting — “in secret” (Matthew 6:2–18).

Call to Secret Prayer

Jesus’s words and warnings about almsgiving, prayer, and fasting clearly overlap. We are to take care lest our motivation for them is the ephemeral reward of others’ esteem (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16). But prayer seems to be central among these three, and not only because it’s sandwiched in the middle. For one thing, Jesus spends twice as much time addressing prayer as he does almsgiving and fasting combined. For another, when it comes to prayer in the middle, Jesus warns against a second problematic motivation in addition to seeking others’ admiration.

“When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they

think that they will be heard for their many words” (verse 7). At root, it seems, “the Gentiles” pray to acquire things of want and felt need, thinking prayer to be simply a means to that end. But additionally, they presume that the divine needs goading to deliver the goods. So, they heap up many words — perhaps thinking that God needs to be informed of our grocery list of needs, or that long-winded eloquence may impress him to act, or that abundant articulation of “truth” is required to pass a threshold.

Jesus blocks off all such wrong ways at the trailhead: “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (verse 8). Apparently, we don’t need to pray long to inform God. Neither are long prayers needed to butter God up for generosity and care that he isn’t already inclined toward.

For the Father’s knowledge of our need signals his intention to provide for us his children, whom he loves more than he loves larks and lilies (Matthew 6:25–34), and to whom he would never dream of giving rocks or serpents in response to prayer (Matthew 7:7–11).

Secret prayer doesn’t secure the loving orientation of the Father toward us. In Jesus’s outlook, the Father’s loving attention and wise intention to meet our truest needs precede our praying and invite it. We don’t need to enter the prayer closet anxiously angling after our good.

Centrality of Secret Prayer

If prayer isn’t best thought of as merely an effort to get what we desire or need, and if it’s to be done in secret where no one else is looking, then what motivates it? Is it not simple love for and desire to commune with the Father who sees in secret?

We are what we hide because what we do in hiddenness — in secret, in the closet, when no one else is looking — is what we love. And we are what we love.

In secret prayer, our love is most clearly manifested. It is the crucial and indispensable test of the wholeness, rather than double-mindedness and dividedness, of our souls before God.

SCRIPTURE

On the one hand, pray with your Bible open. As a

sword is for enfolding in the hand, so the sword of the Spirit is especially for folded hands. The word of God helps, stimulates, and shapes our prayers, and this in numerous ways. As a basic starting point, it gives us words to pray. I think here especially of praying the Psalms. These prayers are a gift of the Spirit to help give us voice when entering our prayer closet.

The Psalter can function like a divinely inspired form of speech therapy, training the underdeveloped muscles of our mouths and hearts in shapes and sounds and speech-acts they may not be used to making — particularly prayers of adoration and praise of the splendor of God’s glory (also, for example, prayers of lament, and intercession for widows and orphans).

SILENCE

On the other hand, silence in secret prayer isn’t to be avoided. “To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools,” the Preacher asserts. Indeed, “Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:1–2). The prayer closet is first a place of listening in silence before we find the proper words to speak — silent meditation on the word, silent vulnerability before God..

Comfort for Secret Prayer

Crucially, our Lord speaks of the Father who sees in secret. Jesus wants

us to know that the God who sees us in secret is one who looks upon us with the relational orientation of a Father.


But can we know for sure that God is not only Lord and Judge, but Father? We can know it because the one who speaks of God in this way, the one who invites us with him (in him) to pray to “our Father” (Matthew 6:9; see also John 16:23, 26–27; 20:17), is himself, by eternal begetting, the Son of God who has ever known the joy of calling upon his Father. Jesus has come to reveal the Father’s identity to us. And Jesus has come to reveal the Father’s love for us.

According to the loving plan of God the Father, the Son was sent into the world to accomplish — through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension — a great exodus work of deliverance (Galatians 1:3–4). By faith in Christ, we are delivered from our sin and adopted as beloved children of God. Indeed, God’s own Spirit of adoption is poured out into our hearts.


In Christ, we need not be unsure of God’s posture toward us. We need not strategize about how — by our persuasion and prolixity — we might secure God’s attention and get into his good graces. We need not let uncertainty and fear block the way to the prayer closet.

Rather, we can turn and turn again to the gospel, and know the love of the Father for us made flesh, and find welling up in return love for him. Which is as good a reason as any to find a secret, undistracted, hidden place to speak forth our thanks in love to the Father.

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