

Penny Record

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Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Couty pays tribute to local Workforce

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners Court has declared February as Southeast Texas Workforce Month and the county's economic development director said there's reason to celebrate.

Megan Romero Layne, the EDC director, told the court just this month, the county added 80 new healthcare jobs with the opening of Christus Hospital-Orange.

The EDC in Orange County currenting has \$12.5 billion in construction and planning projects, with another \$73 billion in construction and planning for the rest of Southeast Texas.

Also, Lamar State College-Orange is now working with the Texas Federation for Advanced Manu-

facturing Education to form a "pipeline" of skilled workers into the work force. With a new LSCO program that now has open enrollment for the fall, students will be able to get 60 college credit hours and two years of experience on the job.

In addition, Golden Triangle Polymers, the new \$8.5 billion chemical plant under construction, will have another Local First job fair on March 7. The plant is a joint venture of Chevron Phillips and Qatar Entergy. Part of the county's tax abatement agreement included the company designating money for the Local First program to help local residents and business owners get jobs and contracts during the construction.

County Page 3A

Trump enters local political fray with endorsement



Dade Phelan



David Covey

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Former President Donald Trump is bringing his MAGA star power to Orange County by endorsing David Covey of Mauriceville, who is seeking to beat Dade Phelan of Beaumont for the District 21 seat in the Texas House of Representatives.

Both are Republicans running against each other and Alicia Davis of Jasper County. Phelan, who is seeking his fifth term, has never before drawn an opponent.

Phelan not only represents all of Orange County, part of Beaumont in Jefferson County and part of Jasper County, he has served two, two-year terms as the Texas Speaker of the House, considered one of the most powerful positions in state government.

Phelan this past summer oversaw impeachment hearings against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Though the Texas House voted to im-

POLITICAL Page 2A



The Bridge City High School Strutters win big at their first contest of the 2024 season. The Strutters attended the American Dance Drill Team SETX Showcase Saturday at Goose Creek Memorial High School. Under the direction of Chassadi Decker-Cude, the Strutters won best overall team and officer line at the competition, along with numerous other awards and recognitions

Precinct 2 candidates talk experience, serving public

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The three Republican candidates for Precinct 2 constable touted their long experience in law enforcement as reasons voters should elect them in the March 4 primary races.

The candidates, incumbent Jeremiah Gunter and challengers David C. Bailey and Harold Hass, are running for the Republican nomination. Because no Democrats are running for local offices, the winner of the primary will run unopposed in the November general election.

Last week, the Orange County Republican Party held a public forum at Mauriceville Elementary School with the candidates so the public could get to know them. Questions were submitted before the forum and candidates were given the questions.



A similar forum for the four Republican candidates for Orange County sheriff will be this Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. at Little Cypress Elementary School, 5723 Meeks Drive in Orange. Candidates are incumbent Jimmy Lane Mooney, who is seeking his second four-year term. He is being challenged by veteran law officers Ron Dischler, Mike Sanchez, and Bobby Smith.

In Precinct 2 Gunter is finishing his first four-year term in the office. He

said he moved to Mauriceville with his parents when he was a child in 1986. He has 23 years of law enforcement experience.

Hass said he and his wife moved to Orange County 48 years ago when he took a job with the Orange Police Department. He is now in his 70s and has also worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Office under different sheriffs and has years of training. He has never held public office before. Records show he has pre-

viously run for office, including the constable's position.

Bailey said he has been in the Mauriceville area for more than 60 years with he and his children graduating from the Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School. He has served in various positions in the Orange County Sheriff's Office through the years, including serving as chief deputy, an administrative position.

Records also show Bai-

CONSTABLE Page 2A

Bills to fight Paxton's case top \$700,000

LAUREN MCGAUGHY
The Texas Tribune

A private law firm has charged the state nearly \$700,000 to defend the Office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against the whistleblower lawsuit that led to his impeachment.

According to documents The Texas Newsroom obtained through a public information request, Houston-based

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith filed an invoice on Jan. 1 that brought its charges to date to \$697,658.63.

Including other charges, the state has been billed just more than \$700,000 to fight the case over more than three years. These costs are in addition to, and separate from, those incurred during Paxton's impeachment trial.

The lead lawyer on the case, William Helfand, is



Ken Paxton

charging \$540 an hour. The January invoice, which detailed \$30,637 in charges, included time spent drafting arguments that Paxton and his aides should not have to testify under oath.

Paxton's agency hired the outside law firm in 2020, shortly after four former senior employees sued for wrongful termination under state whis-

PAXTON CASE Page 2A



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Political fray

peach Paxton, the Texas Senate did not. In the Texas House, 60 of 85 Republicans voted in favor of the impeachment.

Paxton has been a strong supporter of Trump and is now endorsing Covey against Phelan.

The Texas Tribune, a non-profit online publication known for covering Texas government and politics, this week described Phelan as the “No. 1 enemy of Texas’ far-right conservatives” because of the impeachment hearing. The publication pointed out the political divide even though Phelan has led the passage of some of the most conservative bills in state history.

Trump’s written endorsement statement reads, with his capitalization, “David Covey is running against Dade Phelan, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, who led the Fraudulent Impeachment of the recently re-elected, in a landslide Attorney General of Texas, Ken Paxton.

“David is an American First Conservative who will Secure the Border, Restore Election Integrity, Protect our Families and

From Page 1

Military/Vets, and Defend our under siege Second Amendment.

“Last week Dade Phelan said ‘I voted for President Trump twice for President, and I’m going to vote for him a third time. I think he’s going to be the nominee.’ Words, however, do not mitigate the Absolute Embarrassment Speaker Phelan inflicted upon the State of Texas and Our Great Republican Party!

“Therefore, David Covey has my Complete and Total Endorsement for Texas’ 21st State House District--He will never let you down!”

Phelan in a statement said he has supported the former president in the past and will continue to support him this year. However, the “Trump himself has stated he does not know me nor does he know my record of fighting for Southeast Texans. Unfortunately, my opponents have sought this endorsement in yet another attempt to get retribution against me for holding public officials accountable and defending the Texas House against outside interests.”

Paxton case

tleblower laws. They accused Paxton of forcing them out of their jobs after they reported him to the FBI for alleged corruption.

The allegations eventually led the Texas House to impeach Paxton for alleged bribery and abuse of office. He was acquitted after a trial in the Senate.

But the whistleblower lawsuit has continued.

Spokespeople for Paxton’s agency did not respond to requests for comment. But the attorney general himself has repeatedly weighed in on the cost of the lawsuit.

In an attempt to toss the lawsuit last month, Paxton said it had become too costly for taxpayers and distracting for his agency. He wrote in a statement that he wants to refocus “the entirety of agency expertise and resources to our urgent legal initiatives.”

It’s likely Paxton hired the private firm to avoid conflict of interest concerns that would have been raised if his own agency lawyers had taken on the case. The same

From Page 1

firm also produced a paper that purported to clear Paxton of the corruption that the whistleblowers raised.

Paxton has denied all wrongdoing in the case.

In addition to Lewis Brisbois, Paxton’s agency has brought on other private firms to handle other aspects of the case. According to the new invoices, it hired the Kingsland-based firm Brown, Lacallade & Lange to attend a hearing in December.

That day cost the state \$1,375.

Another private firm billed \$2,876 in December and January, according to the newly-released invoices.

This brings the grand total to defend Paxton’s agency in the case to just more than \$700,500.

The state of Texas also incurred costs to prosecute Paxton in his impeachment case. The investigation and trial cost at least \$4.2 million. The attorney general tapped his campaign funds to pay his attorneys \$2.3 million to defend him against the charges, according to The Texas Tribune.

The impeachment procedures against Paxton have split the Orange County Republican Party and the Texas Republican Party. Besides having the endorsement of Trump, Paxton has endorsed Covey and even visited Roberts Meat Market in Orange to meet with the candidate and other local Republicans. Also, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller are endorsing Phelan.

Phelan has the endorsement of Rick Perry, a longtime Republican governor of Texas who served in Trump’s cabinet as Secretary of the Department of Energy. Locally, Billy Rowles, the popular former sheriff of Jasper County has endorsed Phelan. He has also been endorsed by the National Rifle

Association and the Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association.

On Tuesday, Phelan came out with a new political ad outlining reasons for the impeachment, which included allegations of Paxton using his office to help a rich donor and friend. The allegations included information about an extramarital affair Paxton was having.

The impeachment allegations came after former top lawyers in Paxton’s office sued under the state whistle-blowers law that they were wrongly terminated after giving their allegations against Paxton to the FBI. Lower courts decided in favor of the whistle-blowers and the case is now with the Texas Supreme Court.

Constable race

From Page 1

ley has run for public office in the past and won a seat on the Orange City Council three years ago. He has not filed for reelection to that spot and his term expires in May.

On a question concerning the roles of a constable in Texas, Bailey said the constable serves as bailiff for the precinct’s justice of the peace court and serves papers for the JP court. The constable also works patrol, does traffic stops, helps in school ones and works with all other law enforcement agencies. He said he is retired and will not need to take outside jobs. However, as constable, he can take on extra pay to work for security at events like football games or provide funeral escorts.

Hass said Orange County has full-time, not part-time constables and he will be a full-time constable. He will quit his construction job in Beaumont if elected and work more than 40 hours a week to the constable’s work.

Gunter said he, as constable, not only serves warrants and legal papers for Orange County, but also for other counties and law agencies. Last year, he served more than 870 legal papers, from about 300. He said he works 40 hours a week and is available at any time for people who need him.

However, Gunter, who is the youngest of the candidates and the only one not retired, said the county does not pay for his car expenses in the job and he spends \$288 a week for the car. He said that leaves him with \$648 to support his family of wife, two sons and two stepdaughters. He said he will continue to do extra jobs to support his

family and has never asked the county for a larger salary.

Concerning one question about having a criminal record, Bailey said he has never been convicted of a criminal offense and is up-to-date on his Texas law enforcement certification. He said he was not fired from the sheriff’s office in the past, but retired after a new sheriff was elected and took office. Bailey served as chief deputy in the 1990s.

Also, Gunter denied an accusation that he had sued Orange County and used up years of work from the county attorney’s office. He said he filed a grievance with a previous sheriff after he was terminated when a supervisor lied about him. The grievance went through the legal process with the deputies union and the opinion came in his favor that he was wrongly terminated. He said he has never sued the county.

Hass said he worked under Sheriff Huel Fontenot, who took office in 1989 and served until 1997. Hass said under the next sheriff, he went from working as a narcotics investigator to being on patrol. He said he doesn’t know why, but the mechanic for the office told him about a request to turn back the odometer of a vehicle owned by Texas Parks and Wildlife for game warden patrol.

Hass said he followed protocol by reporting the complaint to the chief deputy at the time and later talked to the FBI about it. He said officials in the sheriff’s office blamed him for talking to the FBI, so he resigned. He said he was not fired.

Spring Break Shootout March 17 & 18

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

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County business

From Page 1

Layne also updated Commissioners Court on the tax abatement deal with Olson Engineering in Bridge City which expanded under a tax abatement agreement. She said the company went from a property value of about \$295,000 to \$3.7 million, adding a little more than \$3.4 million in taxable property. The company added five more jobs this year.

She said the county is now in the third year of the tax abatement policy and the county will reimburse the company the \$19,590 in county property taxes that were paid this year, which is 100 percent.

Also during the meeting, the court approved three more plat changes for housing development in the county. One was for subdividing 2.7 acres into two lots of the Dowers Addition in Precinct 4.

Another was for the Ravenclaw subdivision in Precinct 2 to subdivide 8.18 acres into two lots, plus the replat of 5 acres of Verrett Acres in Precinct 3. County Engineer Corey Oldbury said the plats met all county standards and were approved by the Orange County Drainage District.

County Judge John Gothia thanked Maintenance Director Curt Guidry and his crew for moving back the court's platform and podium from the wall. He said court members had only about three inches to push back their chairs when standing for things like the prayer, pledge, and proclamations.

In a report to the court, Guidry said crews were fixing things at the new Elm Avenue building. It was originally part of the old Southwest Bell Telephone offices and later used by the First United Methodist Church. The church last year donated it to the county to be used to help house emergency responders coming here after disasters like hurricanes.

The court approved a number of payments for bills, including \$105,875 to the Texas Association of Counties for the

medical, dental and life insurance for county employees, plus another \$79,500 to Amwins Group Benefits for insurance of county retirees age 65 and older.

Another \$21,653 went for contract payments due in February, plus \$26,142 to Shaumburg and Polk engineering and planning for drainage improvements through the Texas General Land Office disaster recovery grants.

The court extended an interlocal agreement between the county and the city of Pine Forest in Precinct 4 for a project reworking drainage ditches in the Sugar Mill Road area west of Ten Mile Creek.

The sheriff's office received permission to use \$11,770 from contingency funds to pay for an increase in price from three Ford Explorers that had been back-ordered since 2022. Judge Gothia said the court had to approve the expenditure.

County Engineer Oldbury was given permission to hire a new office manager for the Road and Bridge Department on February 20 rather than on March 4. The current manager is retiring at the end of March. Oldbury said the other employee in the office has had to be off work for approved reasons.

Also, the court approved spending \$14,585 for switches for the updated security camera system at the Orange County Expo Center, which also serves as the county's emergency operations center during hurricanes and other disasters. The system has 136 security cameras.

The county will also seek grant proposals to oversee the administration services for flood improvements through the Texas Water Development Board, along with selecting an engineering service for the grant projects. The court appointed a committee to review the proposals.



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club recently sponsored Bridge City and Orangefield students for a leadership conference at RYLA(Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Pictured are Embrie Manshack, Jessica Utterback, Addison Moore, Hannah Block, Raema Lyda, Ashley Hale, Lacy, Whitney Cunningham, Kaleb Graham, Zack Dommert, Zack Bourque, Luke Williams, Adam Tsan, Matthew Goleman, Eric Andrus, and Quade Clark. For the first time ever 6 of these students were invited to return next year as Counselors.

12 Orangefield Choir Members Earn Awards



On Saturday, February 3rd, 12 Orangefield High School choir students competed in the UIL Solo/Ensemble contest at Vidor High School. Natalie Roach, Christa Kyle, Jose Salinas, and Kadence Kressman brought home Excellent ratings. A superior rating was given to Tessa Bailey. Also receiving superior ratings and advancing to the State Solo and Ensemble contest were Katelynn Copeland, Jayde Baggett, Diana Burns, Landon Dickens, Aiden Young, and Dalyn Miller. The State Solo and Ensemble contest is in Pflugerville in late May.


BC-OF Volunteer firefighters needed

The Bridge City Volunteer Fire Department, which also serves the Orangefield area, has put out a call seeking new volunteers to assist in the department's efforts to serve the community as first responders.

Requirements are to be at least 16 years old and live in the Orangefield-Bridge City area. Volunteers will also need to attend weekly meetings.

The fire department is also Orange County Emergency Services District No. 2 and collects property taxes. The Volunteer Fire Department operates fire stations in Bridge City and Orangefield.

The Bridge City station is at 330 Bland Drive and applications may be picked up there. People may also call the department's dispatch at 409-735-2419 for more information.



CHERYL WARREN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FOR ORANGE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR

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as the Orange County Republican Party." -Cheryl L. Warren

ACTIONS NOT WORDS

The following is from Lydia Damrel, one of the
smartest, most reliable, and most dedicated
conservatives to serve the people of Orange County:

"I have worked with the Orange County Republican
Party of Texas since 1978, yes 46 years. There have been
several Orange County Republican chairmen, including
me - TWICE! Cheryl is an asset and incredible worker,
she has: recruited conservatives who now serve as
precinct chairs, provided classes and training for new
party attendees, knocked on doors, and organized and
built active coalitions within Orange County and with
our neighboring counties. She has already performed
the chair's duties unlike our present chair. He has
fought her at every turn, and only recently recruited
opponents for our hard working precinct chairs, some
of those he recruited have never darkened the door of
the Republican Headquarters and have no interest in
party activities. He simply seeks to destroy the
conservatives that voted to censure Dade Phelan. Save
your local conservative Orange County Republican
Party of Texas by voting for Cheryl Warren for
Republican County Chair and your present Republican
Precinct chairs, you will be glad you did."

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Political ad paid by Cheryl Warren



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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.

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From the Creaux's Nest

A BORDER SECURITY BILL WORTH PASSING

The Senate bill has reforms Trump never came close to getting. Despite weeks working with Democrats to shape a compromise on illegal migration that also bolsters national security threats, the Trump-dominated GOP intends to do nothing until Election Day. Do Republicans want to better secure the U.S. border, or do they want to keep what has become an open sore festering for another year as an election issue? That's the choice presented to Congress this week with the rollout of the Senate's bipartisan border security bill, and we'll soon learn what the GOP really wants. By any honest reckoning, this is the most restrictive migrant legislation in decades. The Senate bill is a major improvement over the status quo, as the Border Patrol union said Monday in endorsing it. The bill would go far to reduce the incentives for illegal migration and provide new tools to the executive branch to control it. Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford, who negotiated for the GOP, deserves thanks for digging into the policy nuances and writing a bill that Mr. Trump never came close to getting when he was President. If Republicans reject this bill, they will hand Democrats an argument that the GOP wants border chaos that they can exploit as a campaign issue. The chaos will continue for at least another year. If Republicans pass up this rare chance at border reform, they may not get a better one. (Editor's note: The Wall Street Journal is owned by the Rupert Murdoch Company owners of Fox News.)

STOMACH CANCER KILLED TOBY KEITH

Country singer-songwriter Toby Keith died at age 62 Monday from stomach cancer, a relatively rare form of cancer that is usually discovered in a person's late 60's but can also strike younger people. Keith died after battling the disease for three years. The Academy of Country Music Awards, which named Keith entertainer of the year twice, in 2002 and 2003, recapped his spectacular run with the institution, which amounted to 15 awards. "With worldwide sales of more than 40 million albums, he built an exceptional career on well-sung ballads, barroom sing-alongs, and patriotic anthems, as well as heartfelt songwriting, for which he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame as well as received the National Medal of Arts. The ACM said in a statement posted on social media, "Keith wrote the vast majority of his no. 1 hits and had a chart-topping single every year for 20 consecutive years.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

The most hyped Super Bowl in history has come and gone. The results were not what anyone expected, 43-8. My prediction was that if Seattle scored 28 points they would win. I didn't believe anyone could score 29 points on them. After the safety, just 12 seconds into the game, I told those gathered, "Guys, this could very well be a blow-out." The Denver/Manning diehards were not convinced until the second half kickoff return by the Seahawks. Our guy Earl Thomas got a lot of air time and Coach Jimmy Johnson told about Earl being from Orange and him from Port Arthur. Earl, for sometime, has been an Orange County star but today millions of people in the US know who Earl is. Soon he will visit the President at the White House with his teammates. Earl became only the third local guy to play in a Super Bowl, Kevin Smith, Shane Dronett and Earl. Kevin won three rings. Statewide politics don't seem to be creating the interest it usually does. Texas is not really a voter state. Texas ranked dead last among the 50 states in voter turnout for the 2010 general election with only 36.4 percent of registered voters. The national average was 45.5 percent. For the most part, it seems Democrats have lost interest. They have to show up on the ballot. This year, no Democrat has filed for election to a county position in 86 of Texas' 254 counties. In 168 counties, no Democrat is running for county judge, including Orange County. The U.S. senate race has very little interest. Sen. John Cornyn's opponent is nutty Steve Stockman. I bet he will get 30 percent of the nutty vote. With not much statewide interest, local candidates in Orange County will have to pull the wagon. Right now interest is low despite a very important county judge's race. This seat is not a ceremonial position and folks should really be concerned about who takes over from Judge Thibodeaux. It is a full time job, with a lot of responsibility and a large payroll and budget. It's not a ribbon cutting job. Coach R.C. Slocum, the winningest coach in Aggie history, will be the honored guest at the Aggie Moms gathering at First Baptist Church in Bridge City next Tuesday evening.

20 Years Ago-2004

Orange attorney Louis Dugas was listed as one of the best 100 defense lawyers in the U.S. by "Attorney's Best of the Best." He was ranked one of the best seven in Texas, joining Dick DeGeurin, Samuel Adams, Gerald Goldstein, Edward Mallett, Randy Schaffer and Mike DeGeueria. Nationwide, Louis is listed with such notables as Leslie Abramson, Barry Scheck, Roy Black, James M. Ross, Roger Dunn and Gary Spence regarded as the best trial lawyers in America. Louis has not lost a criminal case or trial since 1967. (Editor's note: I was fortunate to watch Lou work at his craft. I've missed him since his death a few years ago. There are still a few of my attorney friends around who worked with or were around Louis. Many of Lou's cases were won on technicalities. In that area he was as good as they came.) Jerry Childress, executive editor of The Record Newspapers, is named Orange County Veterans Service Officer. (Editor's note: After serving six years, Jerry and Barbie left the county and Jerry has since died.) Our U.S. Congressman Jim Turner proposed an East Texas memorial for the spacecraft shuttle Columbia. The bill is titled, "The Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Act of 2004." The Feb. 1, 2003 accident killed seven astronauts when their shuttle broke apart over East Texas. More than 25,000 volunteers spent several months collecting pieces of Columbia's debris.

50 Years Ago-1979

The West Orange Chief's basketball team consisted of Coach Jim Weaver, players, Kenneth Richards, Mike Geter, Randy Trahan, John James, Bill McNamara, Donald Sargent, Bohn Dorman and Andre Robertson. Louis Dugas surprises everyone and announced for Democratic chairman against incumbent Pete Rannels. Dr. John Greco to run for County Judge in the Republican primary. Those running as Demo's are: incumbent Grover Halliburton, James Stringer and James Broussard. Running for Commissioner Pct. 2, are: S.P. "Pete" Dickey, Claude Broussard, Glenn Seale, George Stevens, Morris Collier and Glen Peveto. Commissioner Pct. 4: Incumbent Raymond Gould, C.O. "Goober" Williamson, L.B. Tiner Williamson, Ray Willie, Harold Carter and Sam Humberson. For Constable Pct. 2: S.N. Bill Dickerson, "James" J.R. Aaron, Leon Frederick, H.D. Tucker, R.J. "Ronnie" Burns, Robert E. Smith, Donald A. Gunn, Joe D. Hubbard and R.L. Bob Frederick. Justice of the Peace Pct. 1: Viola Shirley, Claude Wimberly, S.E. Bellfield, C. Arnold Buxton and Allen D. Cary, Sr. Justice of the Peace Pct. 2: Larry Gunter, Charlene Trahan and incumbent Marlin Shelton. Justice of the Peace Pct. 4: Incumbent Joe Bunn and V.L. "Coon" Constance. State Representative: Incumbent Wayne Peveto and Thomas Porter. County Court Judge: David Dunn. District Clerk Edna Enmond. County Clerk Sallie Frazier. County Treasurer Earline Hillard. County School Superintendent James B. Peddy. Cecil Scales says the only thing lit up in Orange after 10 p.m. is Ken Rainwater.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week was a blur of events in Orange County ranging from the ribbon-cutting at the new hospital to the Lutch Theater's presentation of 'Pretty Woman,' plus concerts in the park, a tribute to a local football star, plus the grand Mardi Gras parade. Perhaps the busiest person of all was Orange County's Gisela Houseman, the queen of philanthropy. Everyone in the community paid tribute to her contributions at the grand showcase of the new Gisela Houseman Medical Complex. She also dined at the Old Orange Cafe Friday evening before heading to the Lutch Theater. On Saturday, she was at the Julie Rogers Theater in Beaumont for the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Judge Rodney Price and Margaret Light, pastor at St. Paul Episcopal in Orange were also spotted in the crowd. We all know that Dr. Tom Johnson, LSCO prez always has something going. On Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. the groundbreaking ceremony of the Student Success Center will be held. Lamar Orange is one of Orange County's real success stories and growing everyday. Rodney and Amy Townsend took off for Las Vegas and got to see U2 in the Sphere. Jo Harris at Farmers Mercantile has tickets for the Valentines Dance to benefit the annual Special Angels Rodeo. The dance is at 7 p.m. this Saturday, February 10, at the VFW Hall on Highway 87 North in Orange. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Raffles and auctions will be held with prizes including a gun, a dozen red roses, and diamonds. Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. was also busy with all the activities. He was front and center welcoming the new hospital to town with At-Large Councilor Paul Burch, who serves as mayor pro tem, right beside him. The two were also together Friday night before the city's Zydeco concert giving the key to the city to Orange's football star Kevin Smith, who played for the Dallas Cowboys and was recently named as a 2024 inductee to the College Football Hall of Fame for his playing at Texas A&M. Free concert's at the city's Riverside Pavilion drew crowds Thursday and Friday nights, but heavy rain on Saturday canceled some of the Mardi Gras events, including the do-dah parade. But friends at the National Weather Service in Lake Charles predicted the rain would move out, so the grand lighted parade went on. King Jerry and Queen Susan Pennington presided over Mardi Gras this year and they helped draw crowds by going to see young students in the Bridge City, West Orange-Cove, and Little Cypress-Mauriceville school districts. Mayor Spears and his wife, Trisha, belong to a krewa and were throwing beads to the crowd. Lots of Orange City Council members participate with float crews with Brad and Terri Childs, along with Paul and Raul Burch also waving and tossing trinkets. Orange County Judge John Gothia and wife Glynnis, along with Commissioner Johnny and Becky Trahan were on floats and have served as king and queen in the past. Gary and Angie Stelly had on

their fun sparkles, as did Leslie Williams, Gina and Skipper Yeaman, Lori and Joel Ardoin, Allisha and Gary Bonneaux, Cara and Joe Love. David and Sabrina Claybar held their Mardi Gras parade party at the cafe along the parade route. Of course, mother Peggy Claybar was there. Others included Kimberly and Bob Manning, Karie Trotter, Janois and Mark Grizzaffi, Shari Rule, Amie Smith, Kari Trotter, and Denee Marks. Kudos to Bridge City First Baptist Church with their First Saturday give-away. This past week included a 'chili dinner' gift bag with a can of chili, a can of chili beans, a bag of rice, plus saltine crackers. Bibles and prayers are also offered. Coach Les Johnson and Wanda visited the Dunn's Friday. Roy and Phyl were glad to see their old friends. They brought 50 pounds of paper shell pecans that Les picked himself. They lost one of their trees but still got at least 400 pounds from the other tree. They live in Bastrop one block off the highway to Austin. This great couple have celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Also celebrating anniversaries are Jim and Christy Reves on 50 years of marriage and Todd and Terri Goss who marked their 17th wedding anniversary. We got to visit with Keith Wallace, port commissioner and owner of Reliable Cleaners in Orange, Bridge City and Vidor. Keith, like other small businesses, is still having trouble hiring employees. He is always one of my better sources of finding out what's happening in local politics. If he doesn't know he checks with Logan. Don't be fooled by over-the-counter hearing devices, amplifiers. Visit a licensed, qualified dealer for good hearing care.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few of our friends celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Feb. 7: Our late friends Neighbor Cox and Ms. Ginny's daughter Karen Duplician celebrates today along with Darlene Brown, Charles Smith, Jamie Beaulieu, Jeanna Campbell, Luke Lyons and Jeremy Sleeman. Feb. 8: Roy and Phyl's great-granddaughter Delilah Bellou turns 16 today. She's Mark Dunn's granddaughter by way of daughter Jenna. Celebrating also are Dolores McQueen, Addison Geldard, Kezavien Roberts, Barbara Fix and Mike Lindsey who turns 33 today. Feb. 9: A boy we've known since he was in short pants, Jivn' Gene Bourgeois celebrates today. Our friend Karen Fuselier shares this birthday with Gene, also Lisa Woods, Leonard Bock and Cynthia Fisher. Feb. 10: For at least 25 years we have been wishing the Gunn twins, Trevor and Tyler, happy birthday. Their grandfather used to call their birthdays in. I wonder if he's still around. Also happy birthday to a very special lady, our friend Peggy Albair. Wishes also to Shane Brister, and Bobby Arnold. Feb. 11: Kevin Bourque, Deric Prevost, Eric Prevost, Jody Connor, Stephen Allen, Tom Stephenson, Brittany Carpenter. Feb. 12: Sara Childs, Christy Reves, Delondra Cooper, Dola Rucker, Jordan Guererro, Marjorie Gandy. Feb. 13: Lee Ann Jaarah, and Jeremy Delano. Birthdays this past week included retired educator Sue Rathburn, who turned 90. One of the grande dames of Bridge City, Jane Chesson, also celebrated, along with former mayor and rock 'n roll expert Jim Dunaway. Other birthdays recently included Tony Dallas, Stan Mathews, Ralf Mims, Aaron Roccaforte, Tommy Clary, Sandra Rue Dickey, Steven Trahan, George McConathy, Elvis Rushing, Jennifer Burch, Myra Comeaux, Elizabeth Ludwig, Bradley Bilbo, Nick Zeto, Stacie Peveto, Honey Staudenmier, Ethan Tant, Cody Trahan, Mel Moreau, Dewey Kemp, Christ Gunstream, and Lisa Taylor Horgan.

WELCOME DANNY'S SUPER FOODS

We are proud to welcome Danny's Super Foods, Western Ave in West Orange, to our family of advertisers. You will always find top quality meats at the best prices. Check out this week's ad for great bargains. Remember there are many more in-store deals, like Danny's famous Boudin. You won't find better in Texas or Louisiana. This week I'm picking up on those Angus special cut Rib Eye Steaks. Danny's also features great daily meals at the deli for breakfast and lunch.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Oris Robichaux call his neighbor Joe Comeaux, who recently built him a nice brick fence. Oris say, "Hello Joe, dat sho is a nice fence you build you. I'm going to build me one jus like yours, almost da same size. How many pallets of dem bricks did you get hanh?"

Joe answer, "I got ten of dem pallets me."

Oris say, "Tank you."

So Oris order ten pallets of dem bricks to build his beautiful fence. Wen he finish him, he's surprised to find dat he only used four pallet of dem brick.

Oris him, he call his friend, "Hello Joe, I jus finish building my fence me and I got six of dem pallets of brick left over."

"Yep, says Joe, me too."

C'EST TOUT ECONOMY ALL TIME HIGH

In January 353,000 new jobs were created and unemployment fell to an all time low of 3.7 percent. That followed 333,000 jobs that were added in December. My guess is that history will record President Joe Biden's first terms as one of the nation's best ever. In Biden's first three years 15 million jobs have already been added, an all time record, plus inflation is near normal. In real time however the poll numbers don't reflect that. The numbers are the numbers and that's what history will record. Proof that reality is often shadowed by perception. Did the magician really make the tiger disappear? Was that real or not. Thanks for your time. Read us cover to cover and check us out on the web at therecordlive.com. Take care and God bless.

THE RECORD Community Classifieds

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BURIAL PLOT

Cemetery Plots for Sale, Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Bridge City Tx. Lot 200, Blk B, Space 3-4, Last Supper Garden, 2-spaces \$5,500.00. Please call 281-806-1832

DOGS FOR SALE

Darling tiny toy poodle puppies for Valentines! 1 black male, 1 white female, 7 weeks old. CKC registered, all shots, groomed, only 3 pounds when grown. \$1800 each. 409-504-8879.

GARAGE SALE

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LEGAL NOTICE

The three properties, the first commonly known as 1790 Bassett, Orange, TX 77632, the second commonly known as 7125 W. Windy Lane, Orange, TX 77630, and the third commonly known as 3396 Martha Dr., Orange, TX 77632 are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 03/05/2024 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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JAMES EDWARD MEYERS**, Deceased, were issued on JANUARY 30, 2024, in Cause No. P19868, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Jon Edward Meyers**.

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

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

Dated the 1st day of February, 2024.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway

Attorney for:
Jon Edward Meyers
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE
409-886-7183

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GEORGE D. HICKS**, Deceased, were issued on JANUARY 31, 2024, in Cause No. P19870, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Laura Elizabeth Heckler**.

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

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

Dated the 1st day of February, 2024.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway

Attorney for:
Laura Elizabeth Heckler
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

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Call with your items to list.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **GAVIN P. COMEAUX**, Deceased, were issued on JANUARY 31, 2023, in Cause No. P19887, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JUDY M. COMEAUX**.

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:
Judy M. Comeaux
5530 Hudnall Road
Orange, TX 77632

Dated the 1st day of February, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **RUSSELL JUNIUS JANUARY**, Deceased, were issued on FEBRUARY 1, 2024, in Cause No. P19885, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **SAMEKA ESTES WOOD**.

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:
Sameka Estes Wood
11910 Susan Forest Lane
Houston, TX 77089

Dated the 5th day of February, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **PATRICIA ANN BOREL**, Deceased, were issued on FEBRUARY 5, 2024, in Cause No. P19896, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **MARY DEZIREE STONE**.

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:
Mary Deziree Stone
4442 Kandywood Drive
Port Arthur, TX 77642

Dated the 5th day of February, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

The Bridge City Volunteer Fire Department, which also serves the Orangefield area, has put out a call seeking new volunteers to assist in the department's efforts to serve the community as first responders. Requirements are to be at least 16 years old and live in the Orangefield-Bridge City area. Volunteers will also need to attend weekly meetings. The Bridge City station is at 330 Bland Drive and applications may be picked up there. People may also call the department's dispatch at 409-735-2419 for more information.

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Girls basketball teams head to playoffs

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The regular season for girls high school basketball concluded Tuesday, February 6. Three local girls teams will be playing in the post season.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals earned their way into the playoffs with a win at Vidor on Friday, February 2. The Lady Cardinals won 52-45 over the Lady Pirates to clinch their playoff berth.

Kaylee Britten broke loose scoring 19 points for Bridge City. Britten also assisted on 4 baskets by other Lady Cardinals. Whitney Cunningham and Nicole Sasser scored in double figures with 11 and 10 points respectfully. Cunningham added 4 rebounds while Sasser blocked two shots. Kennedy Campbell contributed 6 points, 5 assists, and 5 steals.

Little Cypress Mauriceville took a big step to the post season with a win on Tuesday, January 30. The Lady Bears beat the Vidor Lady Pirates 53-48 at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium.

LCM and Vidor went into the game battling for the fourth and final playoff position with the Lady Bears enjoying a half game

lead in the District 19-4A standings. The Lady Pirates came out strong to grab a 13-7 lead after the first quarter.

The second quarter turned out to be the turning point in the game. The Lady Bears' got a quick basket off of a steal by Keylie Washburn that started a twenty-two point run for the home team.

Mallory Russell of LCM tossed in five points including a three point basket in the middle of the point spree. Washburn rang up fifteen points in the second quarter as the Lady Bears grabbed a 33-17 advantage by the end of the first half.

Washburn got called for her fourth foul early in the third quarter and sat out much of the period. Keylie returned to the court in the final quarter and almost immediately fouled out.

Lady Bear Lucia Lopes-Montoto made her only basket during the game to give LCM a 50-38 lead with 3:30 to play in regulation. Vidor cut the lead to four points before Maya Meadows made three late free throws to help wrap up the win for Little Cypress Mauriceville.

Keylie Washburn led the Lady Bears with 19 points despite being on

the bench almost the entire second half. Eden Frenzel played a gutsy game having been ill as the game tipped off. She scored 9 points. Mallory Russell registered 8 points for LCM.

Coach Eddie Michalko of Little Cypress Mauriceville was happy with the win over Vidor. "Of course the Lady Pirates are very talented and very well coached. With Keylie on the bench my young girls came off the bench and did a heck of a job as far as staying even with them," Michalko praised.

The coach analyzed the huge second quarter for Washburn and the Lady Bears. Michalko observed, "We actually made some of our shots that



The Orangefield Lady Bobcats celebrate with Coach Eric Girola as they will be going to the post season in basketball. The Orangefield Lady Bobcats extended their winning streak to eleven games before losing a tough contest on the road to the East Chambers Lady Bucs. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

GIRLS Page 5B

Mustangs, Cardinals, Bobcats battle on



The West Orange-Stark Mustangs celebrate after an earlier district win that has them poised to make the playoffs. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

With three games remaining on their district schedules three local boys basketball teams in Orange County appeared to be headed to the post season. Bridge City and West Orange-Stark in Class 4A as well as Orangefield in 3A should be making the playoffs.

The Orangefield Bobcats still have an opportunity to become the champions in District 22-3A. With a record of 10-1 in district the Bobcats need to win their remaining three games against Anahuac, Kountze, and Kirbyville to finish tied for first place.

The key game will be on Friday, February 9, at Orangefield when the Bobcats play the Kountze Lions for the top spot in the standings. Kountze beat the Bobcats earlier in district 55-46 on the Lions' home court and hold a one game lead over Orange-

field in District 22-3A.

The Bobcats won twice last week to stretch their winning streak to five straight games. On Tuesday, January 30, Orangefield bested the Warren Warriors 76-41 on the road, and followed that up on Saturday by outlasting the East Chambers Buccaneers 46-32 in Winnie.

Jaden Scales was shooting lights out for Orangefield at Warren with 29 points. He also had 2 assists. Zane Wrinkle scored 18 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, and made 6 steals. Kane Smith was a third Bobcat scoring in double figures with 12 points while also making 7 rebounds, 6 assists, and 5 steals.

Three Bobcats also scored in double figures against East Chambers with Wrinkle being their leading scorer with 17 points and pulling down 4 rebounds. Scales had 12 points with 4 assists and Griffin Thomas scored 10 points while making 4 re-

BOYS Page 3B

PROVEN RESULTS

Proudly Serving Orange County: Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney

At 59, I am your dedicated Sheriff, deeply rooted in Orange County, specifically Vidor, throughout my life. Married to Michelle for 36 years, we have two sons, Marshall and Matthew.

With over 35 years as a licensed Peace Officer, I hold a Master Peace Officer Certificate. I've owned local businesses, served as a director for the Vidor Chamber of Commerce, and contributed as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Texas State Guard.

My extensive law enforcement career includes roles as a street cop, detective, narcotics investigator, SWAT Team member, and more. I've been privileged to lead initiatives that matter:

- Responded hands-on during Harvey and Imelda, aiding citizens in devastating floods.
- Reopened the Mauriceville and Vidor sub-stations to give the continuing presence of law enforcement in our communities, invested in school shooter response training, and controlled neglected areas.
- Saved \$500,000 for Orange County** using drug forfeiture money.
- Pioneered the first domestic violence vehicle in Texas without taxpayer funds.
- Donated resources to law enforcement, enhanced mental health access in the jail, and supported community initiatives like the "Hope House."
- 32% reduced property crime and 7% overall crime in Orange County**, arrests have increased, and I've ratified Union Contracts. Investments in patrol vehicles, K9 training, and tactical/SWAT training showcase my commitment to safety.

Looking ahead, I am in the process of starting Citizens on Patrol; a cops program that allows everyday citizens to work hand in hand alongside law enforcement, establish a motorcycle unit, and revive the police academy at the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

In the 2024 Sheriff's election, I am the **only** candidate with the genuine desire, passion, and determination for this role. I humbly ask for your support and vote. Together, let's continue building a safer, stronger Orange County.

SATURDAY, FEB 10

RE-ELECT SHERIFF JIMMY LANE MOONEY

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Big drum offer up full pull

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

Spring is the time when the whole fishing world loses its collective mind, winter is in the rear view mirror and most anglers are suffering miserably from cabin fever.

Some of the angling faithful have taken advantage of the lack of on the water participation from most fishermen, big trout hunters have spent the past weeks waist deep in chilly water snatching stud trout from nearly every venue along the coast. Bass fishermen have enjoyed some incredible catches already this spring; double digit bass seem to be popping up anywhere and everywhere.

Big trout and big bass certainly steal the thunder for the most part at this time of the year but they aren't the only big fish game in town. Right now there are some genuine huge fish patrolling the near shore waters and only a few people actually take advantage of what could be the best opportunity all year to take a bona fide giant fish.

The jetty systems at both Sabine and Calcasieu are known for spitting out some huge redfish and black drum. These fish routinely top the 40 pound mark and occasionally go much bigger. This style of fishing is nothing close to finesse and requires some degree of patience along with some good gear. If catching the biggest fish of your life interests you then read on.

Having these giant fish so close is not a new concept, for many years local anglers have gone to the rocks to tackle these huge fish. In a yearly ritual both fish and fishermen make their way to the passes, each for different reasons. The spring currents and water temps coax the redfish and black drum to follow their instincts and heed the call of nature; this is what brings them within most anglers reach. These big spawning size fish make an annual predictable migration that only few fishermen take full advantage of.

Once you decide to head for the jetties or the channel to tackle one of these awesome fish you need to be sure to gear up accordingly. Light action rods meant for chunking soft plastics and topwaters need not apply here, you can catch these fish on those lighter rods but they are certainly not preferred. A quality rod made to handle 20 pound test monofilament is a good place to start, the stiffer the action the better.

Fish of this size are not delicate; they are pulling machines and require the angler to put plenty of pressure on them. A quality reel capable of storing a good amount of 15 to 20 pound test mono is the other piece of the equation. The old tried and true wide framed Ambassador or Calcutta are favorites for this duty. Good drags on reels are also a must as these fish will certainly put them to the test.

Rigging up for these fish consists of a basics fish finder rig, also known as a Carolina rig. On the terminal end of the rig it's preferable to have some heavy shock leader or fluorocarbon for extra abrasion protection from rocks, shell, or gill plates. The big 5/0 circle, live bait, or J style hooks are tailor made for this application, they need little or no pressure for a hook set and make releasing these big fish much easier as they tend to lodge in the corner of the mouth rather than being swallowed. Any number of live or dead baits will work on these fish, shrimp, crab, mullet, or shad area all proven producers.

Now that you are all rigged up it's time to concentrate on an area, deeper holes along the jetty wall and along the channel are without a doubt the best places to start. One of my personal favorite places to use this technique is around Lighthouse Cove; the shallow shell that lines the drop off into the ship channel is a magnet for these big fish.

The opportunity to catch 40 plus inch fish that weigh near 50 pounds is awfully exciting, I don't care who you are. A couple of reminders to think about take caution fishing around the channel or the jetty system because the ship traffic can be dangerous if you are not careful.

Also take care of these huge fish when you catch them, most will be too large to keep so take great care when releasing them so they can live another day. Now that you have the low down on catching those huge fish get out there and get your line and arms stretched out.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

FAIR. 54 degrees. Sabine Lake is stained after the recent cold fronts. Limits of redfish, drum and sheepshead in the Bessie Heights area and ditches leading into the marsh in 6-8 feet of water Carolina rigged live shrimp, or live shrimp with popping cork. Fish are on the Neches River on shell banks, points and drops. When the winds are blowing out the south the bite improves in the lake and ICW. North Levee wall producing nice trout early in the morning on Carolina rigged live shrimp or live shrimp under a popping cork. ICW holds limits of redfish, sheepshead and drum popping cork with live shrimp, or Carolina live shrimp off the bottom. ICW slot redfish 5 inch plastics 3/8 ounce jighead morning glory chartreuse.

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

• Bolivar

FAIR. 44 degrees. Believe it or not, there have been catches of catfish, bass and redfish in East Bay due to the freshwater runoff. Surf producing catches of black drum, red drum, a few speckled trout and sporadic sheepshead. Surf at bolivar flats producing catches of sand sharks and spinners. Report by North Jetty Bait Camp.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 56 degrees. What had been steady action has come to a halt due to the freshwater runoff from the recent rains. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Major water event with San Jacinto and Trinity rivers dumping heavily. Redfish, being more durable, are bouncing back quickly around rocks and water movement being caught on swimbaits and gulf baits. Sheepshead are in

abundance around docks and pilings with barnacles free lining shrimp along with black drum. Trout will bounce back after returning to their fine waters monitoring the salinity levels. Flounder can be caught on drains dumping from muddy lakes on live shrimp and gulf baits. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 50 degrees. Fishing has been slow due to freshwater runoff and the bay is off colored. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperature rose to 58 degrees, water clarity stained for the most part. Our success remains back in the marsh/

bayou areas where one can get some protection from the Strong North wind and wave action. This Redfish bite has still been consistent in areas where good current flow has bait up against the shorelines/grass lines in 1 to 3 feet of water around oyster shells on Wac Attack Tails in Chartreuse, fished with 1/8 oz heads, as well as fished under a Fish Smack popping cork, with an 18" leader. The trout have preferred an erratic presentation with pauses, targeting deeper pockets close to channel bends/deeper drops with shell, triggering the most bites. The lighter the jig head the better, determined by the wind and current, and tails without paddles, performing the best. Water has warmed this week and the fish are more active

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 58 degrees. Lots of freshwater runoff in the bay. Few catches of black drums and redfish reported from deeper channels on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• West Galveston Bay

SLOW. 56 degrees. Fishing has been slow, although the water remains in good shape in the middle of the bay. Tides are low, but once they come back up, look for the fishing to pick up. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

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'The Lakes' Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water clear; 52-55 degrees; 1.28 feet below pool. Bass are fair around the bank in 2-5 feet on spinnerbaits and chatterbaits. Most catches were small to 15 inches. Better fish have been coming in 8-14 feet on Texas rigs, Carolina rigs and crankbaits. There still few fish out deep, but getting fewer by day and ones out deep are mostly small. No report on crappie. Creeks are muddy, and should remain so with another big rain in the forecast. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.



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Boys basketball

From Page 1B

bounds. Bridge City has clinched a playoff berth and is striving to finish in second place for District 19-4A. The Cardinals beat the Vidor Pirates 67-56 in Bridge City on Friday, February 2, to improve to 7-2 in district which guarantees they can finish no worse than fourth place in the standings.

The Cardinals blitzed the Pirates in the first quarter with some expert shooting from seniors Aiden Gutierrez and Lincoln Breaux. The two combined for 17 points as Bridge City jumped to a 21-9 lead after one period.

Much of the same came in the second quarter as Gutierrez scored eight more to reach 16 points and Breaux got 10 points by half time giving the Cardinals a 36-23 advantage. Bryce Loftin was keeping the Pirates relatively close notching 17 points through the first sixteen minutes.

Vidor popped a trio of three point shots in the third quarter getting two from Eric Baker and one from Jose Guerrero Evans. Loftin scored six more points as the Pirates narrowed their deficit behind the Cardinals to nine points 50-41 with a quarter remaining.

Early in the fourth the difference got as close as six points until Gutierrez gutted the rim with back to back three pointers to put Bridge City up 58-46. Breaux hit two buckets sandwiched around one by Loftin for the Pirates to keep the Cardinals ahead 62-50 with less than two minutes to play.

The dynamic duo for Bridge City closed out the scoring in the final twelve seconds. Breaux sank two



Jaden Scales had 29 points against Warren and Zane Winkle scored 17 at East Chambers to help Orangefield win both of its games last week. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



Aiden Gutierrez scored 32 points and Lincoln Breaux tallied 18 in Bridge City's win over Vidor. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

clutch free throws, and Gutierrez got his third three of the quarter as the buzzer sounded to give the Cardinals the all important win by eleven points.

Gutierrez finished the night with 32 points and Breaux brought the victory home with 18 points. Aaden Bush of the Cardinals contributed 8 points which included a pair of three pointers and Bryce Linder got 5 points for Bridge City.

Randall Robertson the coach of the Cardinals

praised the excellent night by Gutierrez, Breaux, and the other Cardinals. "These seniors have been with me for three years, and they've had some disappointments like missing the playoffs by three or four points last year in the last game of the year against Jasper. They have let that fuel them for this year knowing how close they were, so they work hard every day. The Cardinals wanted it, and they earned it tonight," Robertson insisted.



The Bridge City Cardinals and their fans celebrate clinching a spot in the post season with a win at home against the Vidor Pirates. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

The win over Vidor was Bridge City's only game last week after a bye on Tuesday. The Cardinals played on Tuesday, February 6, at Lumberton and will host the Jasper Bulldogs on Friday this week.

Bridge City is assured a playoff berth, and Coach Robertson is optimistic the Cardinals could finish in second place in District 19-4A. Robertson reminded, "We control our own destiny. If we come out and take care of business like we did the first half we can get second, but a lot can still happen, so we've got to keep working."

West Orange-Stark had a bye last Friday, and the Mustangs won their only game of the week 52-49 at Jasper against the Bulldogs to move to 6-3 in district play. The Mustangs have a tough remaining three games. They played at home against the first place Silsbee Tigers on Tuesday, February 6, and travel to LCM on Friday before their last district

game in the West Orange-Cove Event Center against Bridge City on Tuesday, February 13.

Little Cypress Mauriceville continued to have bad luck in district losing both of its games during the week. The Bears lost on Tuesday in double

overtime for the second time during the month of January 63-62 at Vidor and then fell at home 46-33 to the Lumberton Raiders on Friday. LCM at 2-7 in its district games has been eliminated from any chance of making the post season.

W6-1
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Section 127.096 Texas Election Code
9/23

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC
TABULATING EQUIPMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Primary Election held on March 5, 2024 will be tested on February 12, 2024 at 9:00 am at Orange County Elections Administration at 206 Border Street, Orange, TX 77630 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Donna Allford
Donna Allford
Orange County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR
EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE
Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usará en la Elección Primaria que se llevará a cabo el 5 de marzo de 2024 se probará el 12 de febrero de 2024 a las 2:00 pm en 206 Border Street, Orange, TX 77630 para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

Donna Allford
Donna Allford
Prensa del Jefe de Oficina

Annual Crab Trap Pickup starts

AUSTIN – From Feb. 16- 25, Texas coastal waters will close to crabbing with wire mesh crab traps to facilitate an annual volunteer crab trap cleanup.

Any traps left in bays — including traps tied to docks — will be assumed abandoned and considered litter under state law. This allows volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find. Each February volunteers spend 10 days on the water along the Texas coastline searching bays for abandoned crab traps left to foul shrimpers' nets, snag anglers' lines, "ghost fish," and create unsightly views.

Over the past 22 years, they've hauled off more than 42,500 of these derelict traps, saving an esti-

mated 700,000 blue crabs.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the coast-wide effort. To facilitate volunteer efforts, select sites — denoted as "facilitated" in the list below — will have volunteer events on Feb. 17.

Registration with partner organizations may be required. Registration links for partner organizations can be found in the list of trap drop-off sites. Additionally, at all sites, dumpsters or collection areas marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure. Volunteers may focus their efforts on Feb. 17 or work at their own pace anytime during the closure, but traps cannot be removed prior to Feb. 16 or after

Feb. 25.

To participate, volunteers may pick up free tarps, gloves and additional information at their local TPWD Coastal Fisheries field stations. The closure will not affect any other legal means of crabbing. For more information, contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries office or Holly Grand at (361) 431-6003 x822 or crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov.

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Orange County Sheriffs Department

• Sergeant, Auto Theft task Force

• Lieutenant, Narcotics Division

• Lieutenant, Patrol Division

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Star Spangled Super Bowl opens with Reba

NFL.COM
NEWS RELEASE

NEW YORK -- The NFL announced the pregame entertainment lineup for Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas, which will be played at Allegiant Stadium on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, and will air on CBS.

Multi-media entertainment mogul Reba McEntire will sing the national anthem.

A household name through a successful career that includes music, television, film, theater, retail and hospitality, McEntire is a Country Music Hall of Fame and Hollywood Bowl member who has more than 50 award wins under her belt, including honors from the ACM Awards, American Music Awards, People's Choice Awards, CMA Awards, GRAMMY® Awards and GMA Dove Awards.

Post Malone, the eight-time diamond-certified, Grammy-nominated phenomenon,

will sing "America the Beautiful." Since emerging in 2015, Post Malone's catalog comprises the Grammy Award-nominated "rockstar" [feat. 21 Savage] (Diamond), "Sunflower (Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse)" [feat. Swae Lee] (Diamond), "I Fall Apart" (5x-platinum), "Psycho" [feat. Ty Dolla \$ign] (5x-platinum), "White Iverson" (5x-platinum), "Better Now" (4x-platinum) and more.

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter, activist and acclaimed actress Andra Day will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Initially known for her 2016 Grammy-nominated behemoth, "Rise Up," which amassed over 1 billion streams and an RIAA triple-platinum certification, Day has performed alongside numerous global artists and stars. Her feature-acting debut "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" earned her a nomination for Best Actress at the Oscars, two Golden Globes for Ac-



Multi-media entertainment mogul Reba McEntire will sing the national anthem..



Post Malone, the eight-time diamond-certified, Grammy-nominated phenomenon, will sing "America the Beautiful."

Daniel Durant, who starred in the Academy Award-winning movie "CODA," will perform the national anthem in ASL; Actress, model and dancer Anjel Piñero will sign "America the Beautiful;" and Shaheem Sanchez, actor and choreographer, will sign "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Sanchez will perform the ASL rendition of the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show. The ASL pre-game performances and the ASL Halftime show will be produced in partnership with Alexis Kashar of LOVE SIGN and Howard Rosenblum of the NAD.

The NFL previously announced one of the most influential artists of a generation, Usher, will headline the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show, which will be produced by DPS with Roc Nation and Jesse Collins serving as executive producers, and Hamish Hamilton and Shawn Carter serving as directors.

trass in a Drama Motion Picture and Original Song in a Motion Picture.

The national anthem and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" will be produced and arranged by Emmy Award-winning Musical Director/Producer Adam Black-

stone.

The pregame entertainment and Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show will also feature premiere American Sign Language (ASL) performances. On behalf of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), actor

Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes on chasing Tom Brady: ‘Seven seems like a long ways away still’



Patrick Mahomes is a two-time Super Bowl and league MVP who has played in three Super Bowls, winning two and losing one.

Christian Gonzales
Digital Producer
NFL Feature News

When the Kansas City Chiefs take the field for Super Bowl LVIII against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, it will make their fourth Super Bowl appearance in five seasons.

With Patrick Mahomes at the helm, the reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs are seeking to become the first team to win back-to-back championships since the New England Patriots won Super Bowl XXXVIII and Super Bowl XXXIX in 2003-04.

In Monday's Super Bowl LVIII Opening Night, Mahomes was asked about possibly surpassing future

Hall of Famer Tom Brady in Super Bowl wins and his legacy in comparison to Brady.

"I mean, I'm not even close to halfway, so I haven't put a lot of thought into it," Mahomes told the media. "I mean, your goal is to be the best player that you can be. I know I'm blessed to be around a lot of great players around me. And so, right now, it's doing whatever I can to beat a great 49ers team and try to get that third ring. And then if you ask me that question in 15 years, and I'll see if I can get close to seven. But seven seems like a long ways away still."

Mahomes is a two-time Super Bowl and league MVP who has played in three Super Bowls, win-

ning two and losing one. He is set to face the 49ers again after beating San Francisco in Super Bowl LIV. In Super Bowl LVII, Kansas City defeated the Philadelphia Eagles. His only loss in the big game came against Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Super Bowl LV.

The only starting QBs in NFL history with more Super Bowl appearances than Mahomes are Brady (10) and John Elway (5), per NFL Research.

At 28, Mahomes will be the youngest QB to start

four Super Bowls. In his seventh season, Mahomes hopes to play football for as long as he can just like Brady.

"That's the goal, you want to play as long as they'll let you play," Mahomes said. "It takes a lot of work outside of the building. It takes taking care of your body, it takes eating healthy and try to get rid of the dad bod that I got. But try to do whatever you can just to get healthy and go out there

and be the best player that you can be.

"My hope is to take it year in and year out, but I want to play as long as they'll let me play. Fifteen years seems like long, but Brady did it and some other guys have done it so, I'm going to strive to see if I can do it as well."

Mahomes is inspired to win his third Super Bowl in the final game of the 2023 season at Allegiant Stadium, but he's inspired just as much not to lose

another.

"I've lost the Super Bowl and I know how bad that hurts, and you want to make sure you stay away from that feeling," Mahomes said. "So, I think even more than hoisting that trophy is when you lose and you're in that locker room and you feel like you're that close and you didn't get it that feeling is -- I'm almost more addicted to staying away from that feeling than I am hoisting the trophy."

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I am a lifelong resident of Orange County. My wife and I have three children, five grandchildren and a sixth on the way. I am also a proud Little Cypress-Mauriceville graduate.

Currently I serve as District 1 Orange City Councilman. While I have very much enjoyed serving the citizens of Orange, Law Enforcement is where my heart has always been.

I have served in every position in law enforcement; from a corrections officer to a patrol deputy to a criminal investigator. I have held positions of supervision from sergeant to chief deputy. I hold a current peace officers license, an advanced peace officer license and an advanced corrections officer license.

Serving as a public official is a calling not a job. A law enforcement officer has to have the passion and desire to serve.

When elected I intend to be very involved in the Mauriceville schools at every level. I will immediately open and utilize the office in Mauriceville and be actively involved in all aspects of the community.

VOTE NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

DAVID BAILEY



FOR CONSTABLE PCT. 2

REPUBLICAN

Girls playoffs

From Page 1B

quarter, and Keylie was taking the ball off the boards and just went straight down the floor with it and Vidor had a hard time keeping up.”

Little Cypress Mauriceville lost 48-37 at Lumberton on Friday, February 2. Prior to the final district games on Tuesday, February 6, the District 19-4A standings had the undefeated Silsbee Lady Tigers in first place. Second place Lumberton (8-3) played third place Bridge City (7-4) on Tuesday with a shot at second place on the line. Vidor's loss to Bridge City gave Little Cypress Mauriceville (6-5) fourth place as the Lady Pirates (5-7) dropped out of contention for the final playoff berth.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats extended their winning streak to eleven games before losing a tough contest on the road to the East Chambers Lady Bucs. The loss dropped Orangefield into second place with



Eden Frenzel, Keylie Washburn, and Mallory Russell are all smiles after the Lady Bears' victory over Vidor which helped them secure a playoff spot three nights later.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

a record of 11-2 in the District 22-3A standings one game behind first place Kountze. The final district game was played on Tuesday, February 6, at home against Anahuac which Orangefield beat by 49 points when the two teams met previously in district ac-

tion.

The Lady Bobcats won 43-36 on Tuesday, January 30, at Warren. It was the eleventh consecutive district victory for Orangefield.

Brooklyn Wagoner was the leading scorer for the Lady Bobcats with 10



The Bridge City Lady Cardinals beat Vidor on Friday clinching their trip to the state basketball playoffs with Coach Larry Sterling.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

points. She grabbed 3 rebounds and made 3 steals in the triumph.

Other stars for Orangefield were Greenlea Oldham with 8 points and 7 rebounds, Kaylea Gravett getting 7 points and 3 assists,

Olivia Smith scoring 5 points with 3 steals, Mikayla Locke scored 5 points and grabbed 5 rebounds, while Paisley Reeves pulled down 5 rebounds.

The Orangefield win streak was snapped 38-33 at Winnie on Friday. Locke

led the Lady Bobcats with 13 points, 2 rebounds, and 2 steals. Oldham scored 10 points, made 7 rebounds, had 2 steals, handed out 2 assists, and blocked a shot. Reeves pulled in 7 rebounds and Steely Franklin had 3 rebounds with 3 steals.

TPW Approves Statewide Changes to Spotted Seatrout regulations

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission approved proposed rule changes to bag and size limits for spotted seatrout during its Jan. 25 meeting.

Spotted seatrout bag and size limits approved by the commission include:

- Three fish daily bag limit per angler
- A minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches
- One oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit

These rules will go into effect as soon as possible, with notice on the actual dates to be provided when that timeframe is known.

Additionally, commis-



The changes to bag and size limits follow emergency and temporary regulations enacted after Texas' 2021 winter freeze and are based on multiple scoping efforts

sioners granted permission to publish a proposal to create a tag system allowing for the take of oversized trout (greater than 30 inches), including one bonus tag per year, for an associated fee. The commission will pursue future public input and consider adoption of the proposed tag system in March.

The changes to bag and size limits follow emer-

gency and temporary regulations enacted after Texas' 2021 winter freeze and are based on multiple scoping efforts, including surveys and input from recreational anglers and guides. Biologists expect the new regulations to increase the population numbers of spotted seatrout since more mature fish will be left in the water.

The TPW Commission also adopted the creation of an Oyster Advisory Committee to advise on matters pertaining to oysters. The committee will determine and execute appropriate strategies to maximize the long-term

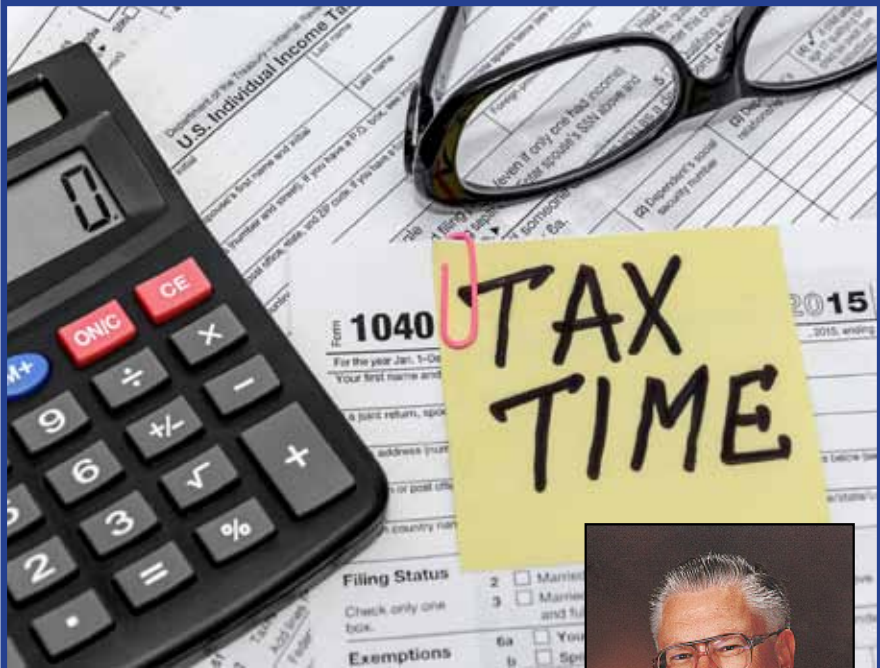
health of oyster resources and the additional habitat and ecosystem services they provide.

CRAB TRAP PICKUP

From Feb. 16- 25, Texas coastal waters will close to crabbing with wire mesh

crab traps to facilitate an annual volunteer crab trap cleanup.

SABINE LAKE – Local TPWD coordinator Carey Gelpi (409) 983-1104 (ext. 222)Pleasure Island Marina Boat Ramp – Facilitated trap drop-off site.



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29th Community Trash-Off Feb. 24

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is pleased to announce the 29th Annual Community Trash-Off to be held on Saturday, February 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This beautification initiative for the Orange community serves Shangri La's mission to encourage others to “Be Kind to Your World.” This event is generously sponsored by Dow. Participants are encouraged to complete free on-line registration for their teams at shangrilagardens.org



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Love Despite Difference

Tanner Swanson
desiringGod.org

“Oh, my. You have to pull over!” the woman pleaded from the passenger seat. “My head hurts.”

Her head hurt because my son was screaming his head off.

Rewind five minutes to when I first pulled up to her apartment building, towing a fussing baby. My one-year-old hates the car, but the ride to church is short (usually). This morning we took a detour, and he knew it. Complaints mounted to cries as we waited for the woman and her son to come outside.

She’s a single mom, and he’s a high school boy. They’re refugees, new to our country, culture, language, and (as I later realized) traffic laws. Neither of them has an American driver’s license, but what they do have is a church — our church. Just a few months back, when they took vows before the congregation and became members, others started coordinating rides for them each Sunday.

So there they were, in my car. And there we all were, listening to a baby wail at soaring decibels. His cries had become fever-pitch screams when two relative strangers, with skin far darker than mom’s or dad’s, opened the doors. I flung crackers and toys into the backseat, but there was only so much I could do while driving.

Then she had an idea: “Put him on your lap! Put him on —”



Before she could finish, her son began to protest, explaining how “they don’t do that here.” I nodded vigorously, even gratefully, as he spoke, my own voice wobbling between saying sorry and making shushing sounds. “Well, in our country,” she replied, “the police would pull you over. They would think you stole this child.”

Lost in One-Anothers

It’s far easier only to drive people you (and your shrieking baby) already know well to church. Just like it’s far easier only to invite like-minded people into your home, only to comfort or encourage those you understand, only to forgive the friends you want to keep around. It’s far easier — and far less like the “one-anothers” of Scripture.

Upwards of fifty times in the New Testament, we read of particular ways we are to treat “one another.” As our eyes speed over these commands — all the so-called “one-anothers” — our mind is quick to acknowledge two things. We

understand what is commanded (verb), and we understand that it’s commanded of us (subject). We know we should

- “love one another” (Romans 12:10),
- “welcome one another” (Romans 15:7),
- “[forgive] one another” (Ephesians 4:32),
- “comfort one another” (2 Corinthians 13:11),
- “serve one another” (Galatians 5:13),
- “build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Without realizing it, though, have we missed the who at the end of each of these commands? Have we neglected to even ask who it is that God commands us to encourage, love, welcome, forgive, comfort, serve, build up? When we do not ask God to define “one another” for us, we slip into choosing those people for ourselves. And the people we choose tend to be the people we like. And the people we like tend to be the people like us.

But have we really obeyed the one-anothers when we apply them only to those we

handpick? If we never stumble our way through the one-anothers, have we been obeying them, or have we simply been spending all our love on all our favorite people? Apart from that chaotic car ride, I can’t think of a time when it was truly difficult to press into the one-anothers. Never had my efforts to care for someone been met with so much misunderstanding, not to mention screaming. I began to wonder: Who are the one-anothers really — not as we make them out to be, but as God’s word presents them to us?

1. They are part of the (global) church.

The New Testament Epistles contain most of the one-another commands. In them, “one another” refers to fellow believers. Consider Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, where the phrase appears five times. Long before he says, “Greet one another with a holy kiss” (1 Corinthians 16:20) — that is, with certain affection — he tells us he’s talking to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

The command is not given to Christians, “to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, to apply to whomever they wish. Instead, Paul calls Christians to heed his words as “saints together.” And he doesn’t just mean the saints who live on nearby streets. He means “all

those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Which means he’s talking to me, and you, and the Christian in Kolkata, India. Were we ever to meet, the three of us are to greet one another as saints together, as those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ side by side, though several seas apart. Our mutual favor stems not from personal preference, but from our standing before God in Christ.

2. They are a part of our (local) church.

“One another” ties all believers together, and then it anchors us in the local church. Look with me at a second one-another passage in 1 Corinthians: “When you come together to eat [the Lord’s Supper], wait for one another” (11:33). I imagine you and I (and especially our sister in Kolkata) do not stand in the same line for communion. How do we respond?

We aim this command — indeed, every one-another! — toward our local church in particular, the fellow believers in our weekly (even daily) midst. That’s why Paul begins his letter by addressing the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

3. They are every part of our church.

Even after we understand “one another” as fellow believers, and especially as those in our local church,


we still often err while living out the commands. Whom do we gravitate toward, Sunday upon Sunday, after service? And whom do we seek out, almost exclusively, during the rest of the week? If the answer is only our dearest church friends, we have yet to hear the distinguishing mark of the one-anothers: love despite difference.

The words Scripture commands reflect the one Word pulsing behind its pages: Jesus. Apart from this Person, the one-anothers lack purpose and power. Upon whom does he lavish the one-anothers? Upon those like him, those he finds comfortable? Wonder of wonders, the answer is me. It’s you. In a word, it’s sinners. It’s rebellious, undeserving men and women. It’s fallen humans with whom the exalted Son of God had near nothing in common — that is, until he chose to humble himself, becoming one of us:

Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:6–7)

It’s no small task, going out of our way to love brothers and sisters unlike us, saints we may struggle to understand, sometimes even to like. But this is the love Christ has shown us, and his love empowers us to do the same for others. So may that love wash over any selfishness or natural inclination in us, and may we plunge our preferences into what brings him pleasure: showing his steadfast, widespread love to one another.

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www.fbcbc.org

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office@winfreebaptist.org
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor

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Morning Worship - 10:30 am

Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
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Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

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John 16:33

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Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

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