

Penny Record

Vol. 64 No. 42

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

Week of Wednesday, March 13, 2024

At least 53,900 OC voters qualify for runoff

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The battle for Texas House of Representatives District 21 is now in a runoff and will depend on how many people get out and vote in the Republican primary runoff on May 28.

According to the Orange County Elections Administration, the county has 54,871 voters and a little more than 41,000 did not cast a ballot in last week's primary race. Of those voting, 12,834 voted in the Republican primary and only 981 in the Democratic primary.

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



Dade Phelan

number could increase if more people register in time for the runoff.

Incumbent Dade Phelan, who serves as the powerful speaker of the Texas house, is facing David Covey of Mauriceville for the district that includes Orange and Jasper counties, plus part of Jefferson County.

The runoff will be Tuesday, May 28. Early voting will run only five days, between Monday, May 20, and Friday, May 24. The last day to register to vote



David Covey

is April 29.

District-wide, including Jasper and part of Jefferson counties, Covey chalked up 15,579 votes, or 46.3 percent, with Phelan at 14,547, or 43.2 percent. Alicia Davis of Jasper threw the race into a runoff by getting 3,517 votes, or 10.7 percent, mostly in Jasper County.

Davis campaigned on eliminating all property taxes, but did not propose

an alternative way for counties, cities, and school districts to pay for their basic services. She is now endorsing Covey, who also wants to stop property taxes.

In Orange County, Covey received 8,203 votes, or 54.52 percent, with Phelan getting 5,911, or 39.33 percent, and Alicia Davis of Jasper getting 925, or 6.15 percent.

In Orange County, the

Republican primary brought the same kind of political divisions seen across the United States in recent years. In a split vote last year, the local Republican party censured Phelan for working with Democrats.

Cheryl Warren of Mauriceville, who started the Orange County Freedom Caucus and the School In-

RUNOFF Page 3A

JW Link made history in Orange, Houston

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

In the Gilded Age, Green Avenue in Orange was lined with mansions and grand houses. The biggest and most elaborate of the mansions was built by J.W. Link, a lawyer who owned a lumber mill.

Link also served as mayor of Orange, but a few years later, moved to Houston, where he became a major land developer and founded the Montrose subdivision. His mansion in Houston, similar to his one in Orange, still stands today and serves as administrative offices for St. Thomas University on Montrose Avenue. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Who knows what would have happened if he had stayed in Orange? And did the election in 1903 when voters here made the decision to close the saloons have anything to do with his leaving? We may never know.

According to the book "Orange: Gateway to Texas" by Dr. Howard Williams, Link was elected mayor in 1900. He began a program to grade and pave the streets. In those days, the "paving" meant covering with clam shell.

Paved streets would have been a major improvement project for Orange with its dirt-clay



J.W. Link and his wife, Ihna Imola Holland Link, are photographed together in the early 1900s. The couple built a grand mansion in 1903 on Green Avenue at Ninth Street in downtown Orange.

streets that became muddy in the frequent rains.

But in 1903, voters in Orange County decided to make the county dry, which meant the saloons in downtown Orange would have to close down. Link said he couldn't make the improvements he envisioned for the city without the liquor tax income from the saloons and resigned.

The Texas State Historical Association's online biography of Link says he was born in 1866 near Gallatin, Texas. He studied law at Baylor and was admitted to the state bar in 1888 at the age of 22. In 1891 he became a member of the Amarillo law firm Holland and Holland. That same year he married a partner's daughter,

Link House Page 3A

Workforce partners with Digital Workforce

Staff Report
For The Record

To help bridge the skills gap for customers new to the construction industry, Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas has partnered with Digital Workforce Academy to provide free certified pipefitter helper pre-apprenticeships.

The first class is already underway with 15 students and was funded using the Local First donation provided by Golden Triangle Polymers Com-

pany, a new facility under construction in Orange County.

Ten more classes are planned this year in Orange and Port Arthur and are certified by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

"We're changing the way industry and community come together. These trainees are going to develop skills that lead to a lifelong career, and this helps build the entire community up one family at a time," said Melvin

White, founder and operator of Digital Workforce Academy, the non-profit arm of Golden Triangle Empowerment Center (GTEC).

Individuals interested in learning more about the Digital Workforce Academy and signing up for classes can go online to gtcc-triangle.org for more information and to apply. There are no class prerequisites and classes are free.

"Since we first announced Golden Triangle Polymers was coming to

Orange County, our goal has been to provide meaningful and sustainable opportunities for local residents. Finding a local educator to upskill local workers is exactly what we had in mind, and we appreciate Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas for making the connection," said Heather Betancourt, spokesperson for Golden Triangle Polymers.

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas to prioritize Orange County and the Golden Triangle region first.

Texans asked to heed wildfire warnings

Staff Report
For The Record

Extremely critical fire weather conditions are expected to be widespread in the Texas Panhandle tomorrow near Amarillo, Borger, Canadian, Childress, Lubbock, Pampa and Perryton.

High winds, above normal temperatures and low humidity will align with dry grass vegetation across the area and may result in large wildfires that are difficult to control.

A Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak may develop

under these conditions. Any wildfire that ignites in dry grass could have forward rates of spread up to 3-5 miles per hour. Forward progress of wildfires may not be stopped until the fire burns into a large barrier, such as an agricultural field or heavily grazed area.

Evacuations may be necessary under these conditions.

Texas A&M Forest Service urges Texans to have an evacuation plan that can be used during a wildfire or other disaster.

"With recent wildfire

activity and wildfire potential, Texans should prepare to evacuate at any moment," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief.

When planning for an evacuation consider the needs of every person and animal in your home. Be sure to update your plan regularly to include seasonal changes, the needs of children as they grow and any updates to insurance or medications.

"Don't wait for an emergency to occur to start planning for it," said Moorehead. "Be informed

about the risk in your area, monitor conditions, stay vigilant for mobile text alerts and ensure that you are prepared."

Some tips to help you get started in your evacuation planning include:

- Assemble a Go Kit that meets the needs of all family members and start with the five P's:
- People and Pets – plan for the whole family, including pets and livestock
- Prescriptions – bring extra medication, eyeglasses, hearing aids and

WILDFIRE Page 3A



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Texas Music historian ranks Top-50 recordings

The perfect playlist for hitting the road

From Michael Corcoran
Texas Highwaya

First, a question: What makes a song Texan? Michael Corcoran has covered music in Texas for 40 years. He's been a music critic for the Dallas Morning News and the Austin American-Statesman and authored the books All Over the Map: True Heroes of Texas Music and Ghost Notes: Pioneering Spirits of Texas Music.

The longtime music aficionado created a list of 50 Greatest Texas Recordings for Texas Highways Magazine—"the perfect playlist for hitting the road."

Corcoran follows simple criteria: It's either a) recorded by a Texan, or b) has the state, or a location therein, as a subject. And he specifies that his list is greatest recordings, not songs. That means influential melodies like "The Entertainer" by Texarkana's Scott Joplin doesn't make the list.

Also missing are such classic Lone Star songs as "Yellow Rose of Texas," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," and "Streets of Laredo." Why? There aren't definitive versions to these ears, though some might say Gene Autry nailed them. "This list limits one song per artist, and I put the singing cowboy from Tioga down for a Yuletide classic he co-wrote," Corcoran says.

Without further elaboration, let the countdown begin:

50. Delta Dawn (1972)
TANYA TUCKER
A 13-year-old girl with a big voice from Seminole has the first hit of an illustrious

career still going strong five decades later.

49. Si Una Vez (1994)
SELENA
The Queen of Tejano made so many great recordings, but this trumpet-peppered modern cumbia stands out for a sense of musical adventure.

48. He'll Have to Go (1959)
JIM REEVES
This smash was not only No. 1 on the country chart for 14 weeks, but it also hit No. 2 and No. 13 on the Billboard pop and R&B singles charts respectively.

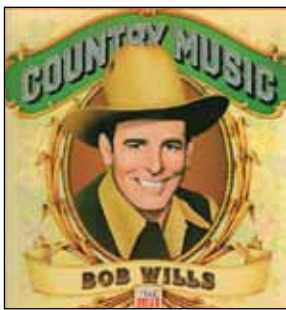
47. Possum Kingdom (1994)
TOADIES
Whatever sound and fury Fort Worth has, the Toadies mustered it in the hardest rockin' song ever inspired by a lake in a state park.

46. Wide Open Spaces (1998)
THE CHICKS
Written by Susan Gibson of Amarillo, this song about breaking out on your own logged four weeks at No. 1 on the country chart and became the signature song of the bestselling female group of all time.

45. Cowboys From Hell (1990)
PANTERA
This was the record that established Phil Anselmo and the Abbott brothers, who went by the stage names Vinnie Paul and Dimebag Darrell, as the new savage princes of groove metal.

44. Colors (2019)
BLACK PUMAS
Singer Eric Burton wrote a song about people coming together, and producer/guitarist Adrian Quesada layered on the right shading, resulting in a Record of the Year nomination at the Grammys and sold-out shows all over the world.

43. You'll Lose A Good Thing (1962)
BARBARA LYNN
Left-handed Barbara Lynn was a pioneering guitarist who straddled the border between Texas and Louisiana, swamp pop and



BOB WILLS

blues, with a song she wrote as a student at Beaumont's all-Black Hebert High. Teenaged female singers weren't supposed to write their own songs back then, but Barbara Lynn didn't know that. She still lives in the house she bought with her first royalty check.

42. Hot Girl Summer (2019)
MEGAN THEE STALLION FEAT. NICKI MINAJ AND TY DOLLA \$IGN
Houston's lyric-spitting queen owned the summer before lockdown with a party song that drove folks to the dancefloor and the gym.

41. Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane) (1947)
GENE AUTRY
The pride of Grayson County was riding his horse in a Christmas parade when the crowd saw the white-bearded man in red behind him and started chanting. Autry's song about that moment became a beloved Christmas classic.

40. The House That Built Me (2010)
MIRANDA LAMBERT
The Lindale native's first No. 1 single is nostalgic without being maudlin, no matter how hard that steel guitar tries near the end.

39. If You've Got the Money, I've Got the Time (1951)
LEFTY FRIZZELL
If you hear this song on the jukebox, you're in the right place, and it's been that way for over 70 years.

38. Rockstar (2017)
POST MALONE, FT. 21 SAVAGE
The loveable goofball from Grapevine has more



WILLIE NELSON

Spotify streams than any other Texan, even Beyoncé.

37. Live Forever (1993)
SHAVER FT. BROTHER PHELPS

Guitarist Eddy Shaver came up with the melody and papa Billy Joe wrote the words in his head on a long drive home, staying wide awake with the idea that his songs would keep him alive in people's memories.

36. I Summon You (2005)
SPOON
This song about a long-distance relationship just melts a person with the melody, soaring over choppy rhythm chords. But it's a miracle that sounds like no other song, and all the other songs.

35. Driftin' Blues (1945)
JOHNNY MOORE'S THREE BLAZERS
A trio of Texas natives living in Los Angeles, including Charles Brown (Texas City) on vocals and piano, took blues from the juke joint to the cocktail lounge with this post-war smash that Ray Charles credited with influencing his style.

34. Heaven (2004)
LOS LONELY BOYS
A Texican pop-rock sensation, this trio of brothers from San Angelo rode a tasty guitar intro and irresistible harmonies to the promised land. "Heaven" peaked at No. 16 on the Billboard Hot 100.

33. Walkin' the Floor Over You (1941)
ERNEST TUBB
Texas music is all about dancing, but sometimes the chattering crowd at those big halls would drown out the band. To cut through



GEORGE JONES

the sonic haze, Ernest Tubb had the idea of using an electric guitar instead of the standard acoustic. And that, friends, is how honky-tonk music came to be.

32. Harper Valley P.T.A. (1968)
JEANNIE C. RILEY
Written by Tom T. Hall, this song of small town hypocrisy was a huge crossover hit for the singer from Anson.

31. That's Right, You're Not from Texas (1996)
LYLE LOVETT
A showstopper for a couple years before Lovett recorded it on Grammy winner The Road to Ensenada,

this has become an anthem of quirky Texas attitude, with the inclusionary tag line "but Texas wants you anyway."

30. Since U Been Gone (2004)
KELLY CLARKSON
The cocktail waitress from the Fort Worth suburbs became the first winner of American Idol and went on to prove that she was the real deal with the ferocious chorus of this pop number.

29. Before the Next Teardrop Falls (1975)
FREDDY FENDER
Born Baldemar Huerta, Fender made his pop breakthrough with this No. 1 bilingual crossover smash.

28. Galveston (1969)
GLEN CAMPBELL
Jimmy Webb's subtle anti-war song about a soldier who just wants to go home has been named by Country Music Television (CMT) the eighth greatest country

TOP 50 Page 5A

The Record Newspapers

of Orange County, Texas

The Record Newspapers- The County Record and the Penny Record- are published on Wednesday of each week and distributed free throughout greater Orange County, Texas. The publications feature community news, local sports, commentary and much more. Readers may also read each issue of our papers from our web site TheRecordLive.Com.

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Do We Care

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

I am starting to think that America is becoming like the old gentleman who once said that ignorance and lack of action is what is wrong with the world. He followed by saying, “I don’t know what’s wrong, but I really don’t care.”

Our news sources daily carry stories about violence we impose on one another. Shooting and killing four or five people would have made front page headlines at one point; now such incidents cause little notice. We are getting de-sensitized to these kinds of horrors.

Hundreds of children are starving in Gaza, hospitals are being bombed in Ukraine and our government failure to deal with the hordes of immigrants pouring into our country is all very disturbing. I believe there are things we can do.



Former State Senator
Carl Parker

Carl Parker is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

First, we need to choose leaders who will find solutions, rather than play politics. Such as spending millions of dollars sending troops to our borders who have no authority to arrest or deal with the immigrants. Then sending those immigrants all over the country rather than making the hard, non-partisan decision to deal with the problem. We should expand the processing centers to follow those who enter legally and send most back to their home countries. Second, we can donate to charities that work on relief. Third, we can support reasonable gun laws.



Seven OHS students attended the TAFE State Conference this past week. Several groups placed in their event at the competition. The Teacher Created Materials Team was given a Gold Certification. They are Brenna Hooks and Natalie Roach. The Elementary Interactive Bulletin Board Team was given the Silver Certification. They are Kiley Nichols and Madison Kc. Two groups qualified for Nationals. They are: the Ethical Dilemma Team of Katy Hewitt, Caydence White, and Calvin Kelly and the Project Visualize-Service Team of Katy Hewitt and Caydence White. Nationals will be held in Washington DC June 28th to July 1st.

Runoff election

From Page 1

tegrity Project accusing Bridge City ISD of having “dirty” books, beat sitting OC Republican Chair Leo LaBauve III, who did not want to censure Phelan. Warren was endorsed by Attorney General Paxton and Lieutenant Governor Patrick.

The division brought about unusual contested races for Republican precinct chairs. A group calling itself “Restoring American Values” supported LaBauve, plus Gary Self, Stephanie Roberts, John Dubose, Kandice Bacon, and Robert Simonton for precinct chairs. O those, only Dubose and Simonton won.

For Precinct 9, Genevieve Garrison beat Gary Self 304-217. Tim Morrison beat Stephanie Roberts, 242 to 126 for Precinct 15. John P. Dubose, a former county commissioner and county judge candidate, beat Trudy Pellerin 149 to 90 for Precinct 2 chair. Rachel Stein, who describes herself as “Neighbor. Christian. Patriot” won the Precinct 26 chair 177 to 128 against Kandice Bacon. Robert Simonton beat Aaron Collier 470-360 for the Precinct 28 chair.

The District 21 race has drawn national attention as Covey as gained endorsements from former president Donald Trump, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, and Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick.

Trump, Paxton, and Patrick have long supported each other. Phelan last year, as speaker of the house, led a bipartisan impeachment hearing for Paxton.

The impeachment procedures began after Paxton settled a lawsuit by former attorneys in his office who accused him of wrong-doings, including giving favors to wealth supporters. Paxton asked the state to pay for the \$3 million to go to the former assistant attorney generals.

Phelan refused for the state to pay the money and the Texas house began an investigation into Paxton and voted in favor of the impeachment. However, the

Texas Senate, under Patrick’s leadership, voted down the impeachment and Paxton remained in office.

Governor Greg Abbott has not endorsed anyone in the race, but has been behind the scenes trying to oust representatives who opposed his longtime plan for school vouchers in the state.

Under the voucher system, parents may receive public tax money to pay for their children’s private schools, including religious ones, or for homeschooling. Phelan and many representatives in rural Texas have opposed the voucher system.

Covey was homeschooled and has supported vouchers. He is a former Orange County Republican chair and worked for U.S. Representative Steve Stockman from 2013-15.

Covey’s brother, Jonathan, is director of policy for Texas Values, a Christian lobbying group in Austin. The lobby’s website says “The Texas Values vision is to stand for biblical, Judeo-Christian values by ensuring Texas is a state in which religious liberty flourishes, families prosper, and every human life is valued.”

Covey has also drawn large financial support from a political action group founded by West Texas oil billionaire Tim Dunn, recently featured in a Texas Monthly story about his support for Christian politicians.

Phelan has the support of former governor Rick Perry and former state representative Ron Lewis, whose district included Orange County. Phelan also is touting his record of helping get more money for Lamar State College Orange, Lamar University, and Lamar State College Port Arthur, plus getting money to Orange County for drainage projects and other public works.

Many county and city officials here are backing Phelan and giving him credit for helping to entice the new \$8.5 billion Chevron Phillips Chemical plant here.

JW Link house

From Page 1

Ihna Imola Holland.

The online biography reports the Link family moved to Orange in 1895, but Dr. Williams’ history of Orange says the year was 1896. Williams’ local history book ‘Gateway to Texas’ says Link came to Orange to practice law with Judge J.A. Holland and George Holland.

Link bought a lumber mill here in 1902 in partnership with his friend Leopold Miller. They formed the Miller-Link Lumber Company. “Gateway to Texas” says Link joined with other local lumbermen, W.H. Stark, Dr. E.W. Brown, and F.H. Farwell to establish the Yellow Pine Paper Mill, which stayed open nearly a century. The mill used scraps from the lumber industry to make into paper products.

In 1903, Link and his wife built the mansion on Green Avenue. The Three-story house used the Greek Revival style and had tall Corinthian columns. The grand exterior stairs leading to the entrance were built in marble.

A newspaper story in 1958 published when the house was being demolished reported it had cut-glass windows in every room. Each bedroom had a fireplace and a bathroom, complete with rare-for-those-days sinks and bathtubs of pastel porcelain. A domed conservatory housed tropical plants including soaring palm trees.

Link planted palms in front of the house, too. Those palms are almost shrub-like in old photographs but the two palms grew tall with long trunks. They stayed long after the house was demolished and a windstorm blew them down in the early 1990s.

When the Links moved to Houston in 1910, Dr. Edgar Brown and his wife, Carrie Lutchter Brown, bought the mansion for their daughter, Fannye Brown Moore. Mrs. Brown moved into it the mansion in 1917 after the doctor’s death. Fannye Moore died in 1918 at the age of 27 during

Great Influenza pandemic, leaving behind a young daughter.

Carrie Lutchter Brown lived at the mansion there until her death in 1941, according to Dr. Williams’ book. However, the Brown family history includes her moving to Europe and living in Paris for a while until the outbreak of World War II.

First Presbyterian Church was built next to the mansion and was under construction when the Links moved to Houston.

After Carrie Lutchter Brown’s death, the Brown family donated the house and property to the church. For more than a decade, the mansion was used for Sunday school classes and for Presbyterian Day School. It was demolished because of termites and the upkeep was too expensive for the church.

A recent history report by the City of Houston’s Planning and Development Office describes Link as “one of Houston’s most prominent businessmen.” The history said Link named Montrose Boulevard after the historic town in Scotland as written by Sir Walter Scott.

While in Houston, Link didn’t spend all his time working and developing the city’s first restricted subdivision. He also helped start the No-Tsu-Oh Carnival in 1912, described as Houston’s answer to Mardi Gras.

He had many other business accomplishments. Link had many more business accomplishments. According to the Texas Historical Commission online biography, he became president of Link Oil Co. and the general manager of the Kirby Lumber Co. in 1912. In 1926 he was the first chairman of the board for the American General Insurance Co. Then in 1929 he became the president of the parent company of Dr Pepper. Link died on March 18, 1933, at the age of 66, leaving his wife and five children as survivors.

Wildfire warnings


From Page 1


medical equipment including necessary batteries and power cords

- Papers – include copies of insurance information, phone numbers and other important documents
- Personal needs – pack personal items including clothes, food, water, toiletries, first aid kit, cash, computers/tablets, phones, chargers and sanitation supplies
- Priceless items – include items of sentimental value, such as pictures, heir-

looms and irreplaceable memorabilia.

- Identify at least two evacuation routes, in case one is impacted, and save them in a navigation system or phone.
- Practice your evacuation plan. Locate and load your Go Kit into your vehicle and drive your evacuation routes. Include all individuals at your home in this drill and ensure they are confident with the plan.





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

THANK YOU, ORANGE COUNTY!

I AM INCREDIBLY HUMBLLED AND GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED DURING THE PRIMARY ELECTION. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO VOTE FOR ME. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY BOTH IN FRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE THE BOBBY SMITH FOR ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS.

I AM TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AND REMAIN COMMITED TO MY PROMISE TO RAISE THE BAR FOR ALL ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS. I WILL DO THIS BY SETTING HIGH STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, EXCELLENCE, AND TEAMWORK. I AM EXCITED TO SERVE AS YOUR NEXT SHERIFF.

**ALL THE BEST,
BOBBY SMITH**

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YOGI SAYS
“IT AIN’T OVER TILL IT’S OVER”

First let me congratulate the winners in the Primary Elections. Those with opponints and those without. After the smoke cleared we ended up with one runoff race in **District 21**. Our state representative **Dave Phelan**, who also is speaker of the house, one of the three most powerful offices in state government, finds himself in a runoff with **David Covey**. Covey, a political unkown from Mauriceville chosen by **Attorney Gen. Paxton** and **Lt. Gov. Patrick** in an attempt to unseat the **Speaker** thus removing the speakership from Southeast Texas. Covey led slightly in a three-way race. A lot of campaign money was spent on his behalf. Under **Phelan's** leadership the **House** moved to impeach **Paxton** on corruption charges. After being impeached by the House, **Patrick**, the powerful senate leader, led the fight not to indict **Paxton** by the Senate. **Phelan** says, “This runoff is not just another race it is the front line of the battle for the **Soul of our District**.” **Phelan** is the first speaker from **Southeast Texas** and first and only one in the leadership roll of **Texas**. Covey received his campaign funding from groups, bankrolled by far, right-wing **West Texas** oil tycoons, **Tim Dunn** and **Farris Wilks**, and a political action committee that supports school vouchers. **Phelan** angered **Paxton**, **Patrick** and **Abbott**, now he faces a runoff, the first **Speaker** to be challenged since 1972. Neither **Covey** nor **Phelan** hit 50% of the votes, sending the race into a runoff where **Phelan** is bracing for a tough battle to continue his political career. “In the next couple of months, the deceit and vitriol we’ve witnessed from my opponent and his dark money allies is poised to escalate to even greater heights,” **Phelan** said in a statement to constituents. “I urge the citizens of **Southeast Texas** to meet the coming storm with a critical eye and recognize the external forces desperate to claim what is ours.” It’s easy to see why **Trump** had a good night. His supporters were the most likely to get to the polls in a low-turnout election because he was at the top of the ballot. **Trump-backed candidates** all campaigned heavily on his endorsements, a benefit for races where many candidates lack name recognition with voters. **Abbott** did more than just endorse this cycle. In February, he spent more than **\$6 million** of his campaign dollars and held dozens of campaign events to support candidates around the state. In one week in February, he made 15 campaign stops from **South Texas to the Panhandle** trying to will candidates to victory. The third-term Republican had warned lawmakers last fall that he would work to unseat them if they didn’t get on board with his plan for private school vouchers, also known as expanded educational savings accounts. “I will not stop until we pass **ESA's** in the state of **Texas**,” he said.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2014

We were sorry to hear about the death of **Dr. Nolan LeBlanc**, age 87. **Doc** was one of the great guys I’ve had the privilege of knowing. The Port Arthur boy made quite a name for himself caring for thousands of babies. Funeral service was held Thursday at St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City, burial at St. Mary Cemetery. We go back a long way with this good man and his wife, **Fredna**, having known most of her **Cajun** relatives since childhood.**** **Dist. Attorney John Kimbrough** has joined the small group of elected officials and department heads that have voluntarily downsized their staff. The **County Judge, County Clerk, Auditor and Records Management offices** have also downsized. They are committed to helping their county financially. ****Our friend, **Elaine Myers** at the **Horseman Store** is having a big sale on western wear in conjunction with the **Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo** and coming up next month the **Sheriff's Posse Rodeo**.****Celebrating on St. Patrick's Day is **Brenda Swan, Ernie Edwards, John Tallant, Tiffany Moreau, Jan Jacobs, Crystal Thompson** and **Sally Wingard**.****March 18 finds our friend of 60 years, **J. Carlton “Corky” Harmon**, president of the **Lamar Foundation**, **Betty's** long-time husband and a great guy celebrates.

20 Years Ago-2004

Saturday, **March 20**, marks the anniversary of the **start of the war in Iraq**. The coverage of the war was unprecedented with embedded reporters from around the world making video and audio reports live from the scene. It was the first time smart bombs were used and seen in action by the American people. Some **smart bombs** found their targets from as far away as **1,500 miles off a ship** at sea. (Editor's note: The “**Axis of Evil**” marks its 11th birthday. ****Everyone is preparing to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**. Even **Joel Steirman, Carl Thibodeaux** and **Sostan and Cloves** can be **Irish** on this day.******Rex Peveto** makes runoff against **Mike Hamilton** in state house race.******Sharon Bearden, Rodney Price** and **Troy Johnson** pull the wagon in local races. **Bearden** and

Johnson, in runoff for county court at law post. Sheriff **Mike White**, constable **John Ford** and commissioner **John Dubose** are re-elected.******March 17, St. Pat's Day**, in 1971, **Roy Dunn** published his first **Opportunity Valley News**. (Editor's note: Hard to believe that was 53 years ago.)******Karen and Tony Fusilier** held ribbon cutting of their new **Cajun Corner Furniture Outlet**. **Karen** even had her hair done by pros. Plenty food, Swamp Pop music and a street dance held.******About Stelly's catch** of a 10-pound bass last week, **Capt. Dickie Colburn** says **Gary** probed the brush and exceptionally skinny water. He actually lobbed a waeky worm behind a log and still managed to wrestle her out. A lengthy battle.****South East Texas **Congressman Jim Turner** of **Crockett**, joined by all **Democratic members** of the Texas congressional delegation, urged the congress to stand with **Texas teachers** and pass the “**Social Security Fairness Act**.” The bill would end the unfair discrimination against Texas teachers and other public employees. The bill has been **blocked by Republican leaders**. **Turner and Democrats** are using a procedure to force the leadership to move the bill. The act has enough votes to pass if it wasn't blocked.****A bunch of changes are taking place at the **Leader**. **Margaret** is gone, along with others. Very few local folks are left at the paper. New leadership has been brought in from Canada. (Editor's note: **The start of their downfall**.)****March is declared **Colon Cancer month**. It's the second largest cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.)

50 Years Ago-1974

“**Dusty Trails**” was selected as the title of the publication of the **Orange County Historical Society** at a meeting. **Louis Dugas**, a local attorney and a director of the society, presented a program on early **Orange County history**. “We are collecting articles for the first publication,” said **James Broussard**, president.******Cindy Ferguson**, seven, won the title of **Miss Purple Pride Baton Beautiful**, during competition events at West Orange High School. **Cindy** is the daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Texas W. Ferguson**. **Cindy** also won three first place trophies and five medals in other competition.******State Rep. Wayne Peveto** announced that a public hearing will be held by the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.** in Orange County establishing fishing and hunting regulations for 1974-75. **Peveto**, a sportsman, said he wants Orange County to have a voice in the new regulations.******First Assistant County Attorney**, under **District Attorney Jim Sharon Bearden**, resigns to enter private practice effective March 31. **Don Burgess**, 27, is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Houston Law School. He will open his law office in April at 110 N. Seventh Street. “I have a duty to my family to leave the county and enter private practice. It’s been a great experience and I’ve learned a lot working with **Sharon**,” **Burgess** said in a statement. **Bearden** said, “I certainly hate to see **Don** go. We have been a good team and accomplished a lot in this office. **Don** is a smart, hard working lawyer who will do well in private practice. I predict, however, he will be back in government some day. **Bearden** was undecided whether the vacancy will be filled through promotion of one of the two remaining assistants, **Bill Wright** or **Joe Alford**, or through the hiring of a third person. “We have a great team and I want to continue moving the case load forward,” **Bearden** concluded. A decision was expected in the next few days. The County Attorney’s office budget is \$56,000 a year total.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

What a weekend. Things were going on all around and a lot of Orange County people took to the road. However, the biggest event was local with the annual **LSCO Foundation fundraiser Boot Scootin’ at the Brown Estate** to raise scholarship money for students. Seen in the crowd were **Amie and Trey Smith, Judge Courtney Burch-Arkeen, Emily Mellon, County Commissioner Chris Sowell, Becky Hunter, Gisela Houseman, Ida Schossow, Heather Montagne Mankopf, Todd Landston, Mindy Nance, Jarrett and Camille Peavy Theis, Carrie Phillips, Loreal Fult, Maureen McAllister, and Kent Marzel**.****The **Savannah Bananas** professional baseball team, described as a ‘**baseball circus**’ are a popular attraction across the country and played their first game on a MLB field. It was **Minute Maid Park** and locals traveling to see the fun included **Jade and Justin Johnson, Brittany and Max Williams, Crystal Sanchez** and daughter, **Josh Peveto** took daughter **Ryleigh** along with friends **James and Hudson Wright**.****Monster trucks showed off at Ford Park in Beaumont. You can bet **Aaron and Mandy Roccaforte** were there. Others taking in the show were **Aaron and Latouia DuBois, Suann Scott, Casey Leger, and Mandie Robinson**.******Billy Joel and Stevie Nicks** performed Saturday night at **At&T Stadium** and several people from Orange County traveled to Arlington to see the two superstars, including **Christine Brown-Zeto**.****Rare bioluminescent plankton were in the **Gulf of Mexico off Bolivar Peninsula** this weekend. The lines of plankton glowed blue in the waves at night and drew a lot spectators. **David and Sabrina Claybar** took their kids, and **Brandi Griggs and Justin Rieson** traveled with her two. **Brad and Terri Childs** were in Galveston, but couldn't see it.****The **Stark Museum of Art** drew in a number of out-of-town visitors, including artists and their families, for a special artists talk and reception for ‘**Black Pioneers: Legacy in the American West**’ quilt show. Museum curator **Sarah Boehme**, who is the most creative dresser in town, wore a skirt and top made of quilt designs in honor of the show.******Bret and Rebecca Johns** are celebrating their daughter, **Elizabeth**, being named this year to the **Who's Who Among Students at Ole Miss**. The LC-M graduate has been named outstanding student for communications and sciences disorder.****Heard reports this weekend of a rude, out-of-town property owner calling members of the **Orange and West Orange city councils** and their relatives to complain about property taxes. **Orange City Councilor Paul Burch** got a call late Saturday night from the person, who had also called **Paul's elderly father** that night. **West Orange Mayor Randy Branch**, who is a man of God, listened to the man

complain for an hour until midnight Saturday. Our society has gotten so used to **complaining about ‘politicians’** many people don’t realize it’s their neighbors and friends donating their time to **serve on city councils and school boards**. Those are unpaid positions, except for the **Orange City Council**. Members there get a token payment that was started more than 40 years ago and the rate has not changed. Local members of **school boards and city councils** serve the public out of a sense of duty. Complain at meetings or send letters or emails. Or even run against them in an election and dedicate your own time. Don’t call them late at night ranting about something.****Be sure to check out the great specials at **Danny’s Super Foods**, Western Ave., West Orange.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **March 13: Angel San Juan, Rod Sheppard, Amy Peevey, Kyle Dubose, John Collin Kimbrow, Lindsey Bland, Claude Tarver, Lana Sepulvado**.******March 14: Shane Chapman, Lucy Fields, Jill Peveto, John Brister, Martha Williams, Anthony Fraccastoro, Bud Briggs**.******March 15: Jan Trahan, Gene Harper, Dick Powell, Dusty Jennings, Jennifer Kelly, Julie Myers, Addie Batson, Amber Doiron**.******March 16: Amy Peveto, Chelsea Coleman, Colton Sterling, Steve Kidwell, Buffy Doiron, Jordan, Doiron, Karli Anderson, Leslie Paula Robinson, Dorothy Morris, Margie Baker, Cody Edwards**.******March 17:** Today is **St. Patrick's Day, Janet Jacobs, Brenda Swan, Ernie Edwards, John Tallant, Martha Dyer Howell, Luke McFarlane, Sally Wingard, Stephanie Hughes, Tiffany Moreau, Ty Moreland, Elroy Edwards Josh Sims**.******March 18: Robert Sehon, Kellie Miller, Geraldine Cherry, Beth Shepherd, Tammy Stark, Blaine Slaughter**.******March 19: Lori Johnson, Courtnie Campbell, Barbara Roy, Deborah Miller, Roman Carpenter, Hannah Walles, Brandy Mayo, Donna Fong**.****Birthday greetings this past week to **Michael Norwood, Tripp Ashby, Clint Permenter, Leah Guillotte-Stark, Chad Richard, Cindy Shuman, Suanne Benoit Broussard, Sheila Zirlott Dans, Nancy Sonnier, Rebel Lewis Raley, Eric Jacobs III, Chrislyn Burch, and Jennifer Wright**. **Adam Conrad**, also known as ‘**Buddy the Elf**,’ also celebrated. He’s getting ready at the **Lutcher Theater** for the musical “**Come from Away**,” the story of an airline with passengers that ended up grounded on 9-11 in a small Newfoundland town. Everyone in the town pitched in to feed them and give them shelter. In that spirit of giving, the **Lutcher Theater** is collecting foods like peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and canned tuna for the **Orange County Salvation Army**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Otis Comeaux wanted to get his boy **Tee-Not**, wat is not very smart, a job. He talk to his fran **Claude Desomeaux**, wat owns da drug store bout giving **Tee-Not** a job.

It was his first job ever and he had trouble finding da items da customers axe for. After a few customers stormed out of da store without dere merchandise da druggist say to **Tee-Not**, “Look, you costing me too much business, if you don't sell da next customer something, I’m gonna have to let you go.”

A few minutes later in walks **Sostan**, looking for something for a bad cough.

Tee-Not look an look but he can’t find no cough medicine. Knowing dis was his last chance to keep his job, he sells **Sostan** some **Ex-Lax** and told him to take da whole box at one time.

Sostan, he’s coughing so bad he pays for da **Ex-Lax** and chews up da whole box right den.

After he leaves **Desomeaux** says, “I see you finally sold something. Wat did dat customer buy hanh.”

Tee-Not answer, “Well he wanted cough medicine him, but I couldn't find it so I sold him some **Ex-Lax** me.”

Desomeaux scream, “**EX-Lax**, dat won’t help his cough.”

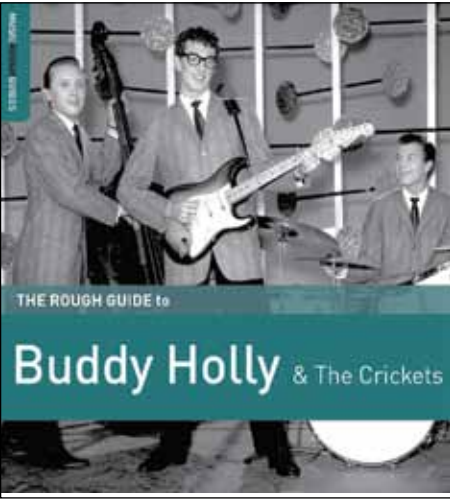
Tee-Not answer, “Yeh sir, it will help him, look at **Sostan** over dere leaning on da post, he’s too afraid to cough him.”

C’EST TOUT
ST. PATRICK, BORN 385 AD

A wee-bit of **St. Patrick Day history**: Better wear green or you might be pinched. Though there are tons of stories about how this tradition was started none can really be proven, all that is really known is that school children really love this part of the holiday. The person that the holiday was named after didn’t even start his life off with the name **Patrick**. Born in Wales about 385 AD, **St. Patrick**, the patron saint of **Ireland**, was born to the name of **Maewyn Succat**. In his early life he was far from being a saint, up until the age of 16 he considered himself a pagan. And that is where the story really begins. When he was 16 he was sold into slavery after his village was raided by a group of Irish marauders. It was during his captivity that he became closer to God. After six years of slavery he escaped to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under **St. Germain** for 12 years. During his training he became aware that his calling in life was to convert the pagans to Christianity. His wishes were to return to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity but the leadership in the church appointed **St. Palladius** instead. Two years later **Patrick** was moved to Ireland after **Palladius** was transferred to Scotland. **Patrick** was so successful at converting his people that the **Celtic Druids** in the area had him arrested several times, but he escaped each time. Traveling throughout Ireland **Patrick** established monasteries all over the country, in addition to this he setup churches and schools all of which helped him convert the Irish people to Christianity. Legend has it that **Saint Patrick** drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Evidently they all went into the sea and drowned. The snake is a pagan symbol and perhaps this is a figurative tale explaining that he drove paganism out of Ireland. After 30 year mission in Ireland, **Patrick retired to County Down** where he died on March 17, 461. Which is the reason that we celebrate **St. Patrick's Day on this date**.******Happy St. Pat's Day** to you and until next time happy trails. **God Bless**.

Top-50 Texas tunes

From Page 2A



Buddy Holly and The Crickets

song of all time.

27. She's About a Mover (1965)
SIR DOUGLAS QUINTET
This song by the Alamo City rock group is a raucous patchwork of Ray Charles soul, West Side San Antonio groove, and hippie innocence.

26. Pancho and Lefty (1972)
TOWNES VAN ZANDT
The Fort Worth native's most famous song, about betrayal and burial in Mexico, came to him out-of-the-blue, he once said. This mystery was partially inspired by Mexican Revolution leader Pancho Villa.

25. Faded Love (1950)
BOB WILLS AND HIS TEXAS PLAY-BOYS
Country radio's love for Wills faded not long after this song, featuring Johnny Gimble on fiddle, reached No. 8 on Billboard's country singles chart.

24. You're Gonna Miss Me (1966)
13TH FLOOR ELEVATORS
Psychedelia is born, as Austin rocks to a new soul shouter named Roky Erickson.

23. Ay Te Dejo En San Antonio (1986)
FLACO JIMENEZ
Written in 1942 by his father, the great Santiago Jimenez Sr., Flaco earned a Grammy with this deft cover, inspired by the Los Lobos version.

22. Dallas (1981)
JOE ELY
"Have you ever seen Dallas from a DC-9 at night?" is as great an opening line as there is, and Joe Ely keeps up the intrigue with his heel-grinding delivery. "Dallas is a jewel, Dallas is a beautiful sight," he sings.

21. Wild Side of Life (1952)
HANK THOMPSON AND THE BRAZOS VALLEY BOYS
This song became a huge hit for Waco-born Hank Thompson, topping the Billboard country single chart for 15 straight weeks.



Janis Joplin

20. Mr. Bojangles (1968)
JERRY JEFF WALKER
During the counter-culture heyday of the Sixties, Walker wrote a 6/8 waltz about an itinerate street dancer grieving a dead dog, and created a page for the Great American Songbook.

19. Wooly Bully (1965)
SAM THE SHAM AND THE PHA-RAOHS
You may think you're sick of this novelty hit, until it comes on and you can't help groovin' to it.

18. Flying Home (1942)
ILLINOIS JACQUET WITH LIONEL HAMPTON
The honking, stuttering Texas Tenor saxophone sound that musicians like King Curtis of Fort Worth and Bobby Keys of Slaton took to the top of the pop and R&B charts. The Houston native was just 19 at the time of the recording.

17. Crazy Arms (1956)
RAY PRICE
This East Texan invented a new dance-hall rhythm, the 4/4 country shuffle, and kept honky-tonk alive. The "Ray Price Beat" still rules the counterclockwise dancers.

16. Amarillo by Morning (1982)
GEORGE STRAIT
This fiddle-woven tune about the long drive home from a rodeo was a fixture on the Texas/Oklahoma country nightclub scene for 10 years.

15. Say My Name (2000)
DESTINY'S CHILD
The first great single of the millennium was one of the first radio songs to reference the cellphone culture that would come to dominate social interaction. Even more significantly, this announced Beyoncé as an artist in control.

14. El Paso (1959)
MARTY ROBBINS
This "gunfighter ballad" by singer-songwriter Marty Robbins gives a musical mov-

ie plot in 4 minutes and 38 seconds. With Grady Martin's Spanish guitar, you can almost feel the spirit of border town love.

13. Tighten Up (1968)
ARCHIE BELL AND THE DRELLS
This classic Southern dance jam should be credited also to the T.S.U. Toronados, a group of Texas Southern students who recorded the instrumental hook days before Archie Bell and the Drells stepped inside the studio.

12. Only the Lonely (1960)
ROY ORBISON
The shade-wearing master of operatic pop set the stage for his solitary man persona with this majestic hit. It was the first of many that Orbison wrote with fellow West Texan Joe Melson.

11. Honky Tonk Heroes (1973)
WAYLON JENNINGS
This revved-up version of the Billy Joe Shaver song proved Waylon to be the Elvis Presley of country music, a vocalist who could sing anything, and make it his own.

10. Blue Yodel (T for Texas) (1928)
JIMMIE RODGERS
The Singin' Brakeman's first hit, which remained his biggest, can be considered the foundational tune of country music.

09. Mind Playin' Tricks on Me (1991)
GETO BOYS
Putting urban paranoia over a slinky Isaac Hayes sample, Houston's Geto Boys took gangsta rap to a headier space.

08. I Fought the Law (1965)
BOBBY FULLER FOUR
Written by Sonny Curtis (who would later pen The Mary Tyler Moore Show theme) and originally recorded in 1960 when he was a member of the post-Buddy Holly Crickets, the definitive version was by these guitar-rockers from El Paso.

07. Dark Was the Night, Cold Was the Ground (1927)
BLIND WILLIE JOHNSON
A moaning slide guitar instrumental, this haunting number was the model for Ry Cooder's soundtrack to Paris, Texas, Cooder calling it "the most soulful, transcendent piece in all of American music." Not bad for an itinerate singing preacher from Marlin.

06. He Stopped Loving Her Today (1980)
GEORGE JONES
This "morbid son of a bitch" (George Jones' initial reaction to the songwriters' demo) is generally regarded as the greatest country single of all time, the record that made an East Texas hayseed country music's Sinatra.

05. Mal Hombre (1934)
LYDIA MENDOZA
A young woman with a 12-string guitar in San Antonio created a worldwide anthem with a melodramatic song about a bad man. Women didn't perform solo back then, but Mendoza stepped out of her family band for this one, whose lyrics she found on a bubble-gum wrapper. The original Queen of Tejano!

04. Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain (1975)
WILLIE NELSON
The stripped-down Roy Acuff cover from Red Headed Stranger made Willie Nelson a star far beyond the outlaw country cult. Before this tune shot to No. 1, Nelson had not had a Top 10 country hit in 13 years.

03. La Grange (1973)
ZZ TOP
This air guitar classic about a cathouse in Fayette County never gets old. Doctors could use this song to measure "how how how" fast blood races to the brain.

02. That'll Be the Day (1957)
BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETS
Perhaps the most influential single in the history of rock 'n' roll, Holly's smashing chart debut provided the model for the self-contained rock combo. Inspired, a fab new band from Liverpool took their name in homage to the Crickets.

01. Me and Bobby McGee (1971)
JANIS JOPLIN
This Kris Kristofferson song about a hitchhiking couple finding love and then distance on the road was really the story of Janis, so full of life, but also sorrow. The Port Arthur native recorded the song four days before her overdose death in October 1970. It became her only No. 1 record four months later.

Spring Break Jet Ski races March 17 & 18

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

Cottage Food Law Class, March 18

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

Date: Monday, March 18th
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Orange County Convention and Expo Center

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

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



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JUDITH STANDFIELD DORMAN**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 6, 2024, in Cause No. P19920**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Cristal L. Fertitta and Billie L. Dorman**.

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 **7th day of March, 2024.**

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for Co-Executors, Cristal L. Fertitta and Billie A. Dorman

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice to all persons having claims against the Estate of **HARRIS DON WILLEY**, Deceased. **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on **MARCH 11, 2024**, administration of the Estate of **HARRIS DON WILLEY**, Deceased, Cause No. **P19941**, was commenced by an Order of the Court that, among other findings and directives, authorized the issuance by the Clerk of the Court of original Letters Testamentary to for an independent administration of that Estate to **CASSIE ELIZABETH WILLEY**, Independent Executrix.

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

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

Attorney for Lynda Courtney, Independent Executrix

Texas Bar No.: 17602100
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ANNOUNCEMENTS


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

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Time: 6:00 PM

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LCM wins all three in Orange County Classic

DAN PERRINE

Orange County Sports For The Record

The Orange County Classic baseball tournament was held at Little Cypress Mauriceville High School's Don Gibbens Field on March 7-9. Five teams competed including the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears, the West Orange-Stark Mustangs, and the Vidor Pirates from Orange County all of which are in District 19-4A.

The Mustangs opened the tournament on Thursday against the Liberty Panthers. West Orange-Stark scored two runs in the second getting a bunt single from Cortez Robertson to score Blade Williams and Zach Nation delivered a two out line

drive for a hit to plate Christian Anderson giving the Mustangs a 2-1 lead.

Will Lee led off the third with a double that rattled the left field fence. WOS increased its lead to 3-1 when Lee came home on a wild pitch.

Liberty scored three runs in the top of the fourth only to have the Mustangs answer with three tallies of their own in the bottom half of the inning. Noah Robles bunted for a single and Diego Ibarra walked before Lee delivered a rbi single to tie the game. Grayson Gregory hit a ground ball to shortstop that led to a throwing error scoring pinch runner Josh Robledo and Lee to put West Orange-Stark up two runs.

6-4 after four.

Two bad throws by the Mustangs proved costly in the top of the fifth giving the Panthers new life. Liberty took advantage of the miscues scoring 12 runs to take a 16-6 advantage which was the final score.

Adding injury to insult Ibarra hurt a finger on his right hand trying to catch a throw at first base. The extent of the injury was not revealed, but Ibarra left the game.

Little Cypress Mauriceville played Thursday against the Woodville Eagles. The Bears took the initial lead on a two run double from Marco Bandiero to bring home courtesy runner Kacen Scott and Parker Seago in the bot-

ORANGE Page 3B



Clay Raney pitched five innings in relief to win Saturday's game for the Bears allowing just one unearned run. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

Lady Bears 'Fall' to Bridge City in district ball

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Local softball teams have entered district action and one of the first games pitted two of the favorites in the local Class 4A district the Bridge City Lady Cardinals against the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears. The Cardinals got the victory at home 4-0 behind the no hit pitching of ace Carson Fall on Friday, March 8.

Fall was fantastic in the circle yielding only one walk to Tessa Erickson in the second inning while striking out 18 Lady Bears. In the fourth inning Fall struck out three LCM batters on nine pitches.

The pitching for Little Cypress Mauriceville was very good too except for one inning. Ella Stephenson started in the circle and kept Bridge City from scoring through four in-



Lexi Nugier was hit by a pitch to drive in the winning run and pitcher Carson Fall threw a no hitter as Bridge City beat LCM in a key softball game. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

nings despite walking five, hitting a batter, but giving up only a single to the Cardinals' Cambree LaComb in the fourth.

The Bridge City half of the fifth inning ended the scoreless tie. Makenna

Knight reached base on a one out grounder that could not be fielded cleanly. Anna Autrey singled to center, and Erickson replaced Stephenson in the circle.

Erickson hit Fall the



Orangefield pitcher Abigail Curphey won both district games for the Lady Bobcats last week.

first Cardinal batter she faced with a pitch to load the bases. The next Bridge City batter Lexi Nugier took one for the team when she was hit by the first pitch to her which forced in the first run of

the game. Then Brooklyn Drodgy worked to get a full count fouling off several pitches before earning a base on balls to bring home the second Bridge City run.

With two outs Jensyn

Yeaman slapped a two strike pitch to the left side of the infield that was knocked down. The throw to first was wide of the base allowing two more Cardinals to come home making the score 4-0 in favor of Bridge City.

With a four run lead Fall closed the door on Little Cypress Mauriceville striking out five of the last six Lady Bears to face her. Leading off the seventh Jacelyn Cook hit a liner to right field on which Kyleigh Hamilton made a good catch to preserve the no hitter.

Bridge City Coach Kylie Bradley was excited by the job done by Carson Fall to throw a no hitter in such an important district game. "Carson always comes out and throws an outstanding game. I've been confident in that the whole time. She's a kid who's going to do that."

SOFTBALL Page 4B

Orangefield golfers win medals in competitions



Branden Greenway, Lincoln Parks, Cole Sanches, Payton Revia, and Zane Wrinkle took third place at the Bridge City Invitational golf tournament at the Sunset Grove Country Club in Orange with Parks grabbing the first place medal with his 71 the lowest score in the tournament.

DAN PERRINE

For The Record

Local high school boy golfers competed last week at the Sunset Grove Country Club in Orange during the Bridge City Invitational. Two teams from Bridge City competed, as did one from Little Cypress Mauriceville, and the team from Orangefield did quite well.

The boys from Orangefield finished in third place behind the Port Neches-Groves and the Beaumont Kelly teams.

Winning his second gold medal of the season for shooting the low score of 71 was Lincoln Parks of Orangefield.

Parks helped Orangefield shoot a team total of 335 which was just one stroke behind second place Beaumont Kelly. Joining Parks were Cole Sanches (86), Branden Greenway (87), Peyton Revia (91), and Zane Wrinkle (93).

Bridge City's #1 team shot 360 led by Luke

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OUTDOORS

Spring Break on Sabine Lake

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

Next week marks the annual hiatus from school that kids of all ages look for once the Christmas holidays are over, spring break is here! During this week off from the rigorous demands of reading, writing, and arithmetic you can rest assured that a cry will rise up from the masses that there is nothing “fun” to do. Video games have long been mastered and challenges are getting more difficult to come by every day, give your student a first hand look at some real life they may have never seen before and take them out on Sabine lake.

It is astounding that so many kids have so little idea about things that pertain to the outdoors. On a guide trip last year a client had brought his college age son along, during the day we encountered some rosette spoonbills feeding in the shallows near the mouth of a bayou. “Man would you look at those pink flamingos” the young man exclaimed, “I had no idea that there were really birds that looked like that?”. After a brief lesson on the actual name of the birds and the places that they inhabit I could tell that the young man was becoming more interested in the trip as well as the surroundings. After a day on the water this young man had a better perspective on a whole new world that he never knew existed until he witnessed it himself. When things like this happen and I am fortunate enough to see how people are affected by the outdoors it gives me a good feeling that little else can compare with.

I know as I watched my son at a young age when we would venture out on the water that he was being affected in a positive way. By introducing him to things in nature he learned valuable lessons and experienced things that hopefully will affect him in a way that will help him later on in life. By introducing a youngster to the outdoors you may be opening up a whole new area of interest that your child will never outgrow.

Now you don’t need to have a boat or fancy gear to get a kid started or introduced to the outdoors, all you need is some time and a little bit of planning. There are plenty of places like piers, beaches, lakes, and rivers that offer outdoor opportunities. State parks are great places to start because they have helpful information as well as personnel to get you headed in the right direction. By placing a call to a particular park or outdoor venue you can get some idea of what each place has to offer as well as the best times to go there. By doing a little bit of homework you can plan your outdoor activity and maximize your fun, after all fun is what it is all about.

There are lots of local outdoor attractions here at home as well as all over the state, choosing the right one for you and your young one is just the first step on a long journey that will provide many pleasant memories in the years to come. The Blue Elbow Swamp, canoe trips on Village Creek, and just about any refuge along the gulf coast all offer some of the more interesting places to visit and things to do. A simple phone call to the state park headquarters or visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website for all the information you need concerning each park and the activities offered.

On a side note last week Joe Biden subjected the country to a state of the union address that more closely resembled an old man screaming at kids to get off his lawn. He continued to take zero responsibility for his border debacle and he clearly has Trump on his brain as he referred to the past president over a dozen time during the speech that was more campaign driven than anything else. This week the democrats continued their plan to put Americans second as they vetoed a bill that would keep non-citizens from being included in any census count. By vetoing the bill that would allow population numbers to include everyone.



Chuck Uzzle

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 65 degrees. North jetty holding limits of sheepshead and drum, with redfish and oversized bull redfish with live shrimp Carolina rigged. Sabine Channel to the ICW rock piles and shell flats are good for catches of sheepshead, drum, flounder and redfish. Limits of redfish, with nice trout mixed in the Intra-coastal Canal. North Levee wall on Pleasure Island producing limits of trout on Carolina rigged live shrimp, live shrimp under a cork, 5 inch plastics with quarter ounce jig heads worked off the bottom. There is a good pocket of salty water on the North Levee, this is why this area is so good for trout.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 60 degrees. Spring is peeking out with more and more people out fishing at the north jetty this past week. We received reports of black drum being caught across the bay along with keeper speckled trout and plenty of redfish using live shrimp and finger mullet. Along the beachfront, people reported catching sand trout, whiting, redfish, black drum and gafftop. People are catching pompano and flounder off the Galveston surf. The Bolivar surf anglers landed a nice tiger shark and lemon shark in the surf as well as a couple stingrays. At the Texas City dike and flood gates, speckled trout, flounder, and redfish were the predominant catches. Sheepshead are showing up more frequently all over the bay and on structures in the surf. The bay temps are rising slowly and the water color has been changing back to normal with strong incoming tides. Report by North Jetty Bait Camp.

• Trinity Bay

FAIR. 67 degrees. Better



Sabine Channel to the ICW rock piles and shell flats are good for catches of sheepshead, drum, flounder and redfish. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

numbers of speckled trout showing up along the northwest shoreline of Trinity bay, same with Tabbs, Burnett, and Scott Bays. Lots of undersized fish, to go along with keeper size trout. Black drum catches are fair, a few oversized drums are caught and released. Redfish bite is slow for most anglers. Live shrimp is working beat, followed by soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Boy, ohh boy, is springtime near and with that the trout are moving in being caught on live shrimp under a popping cork, also on WAC Attack plum and chartreuse rat tails also in rollover moon color. Redfish are in the grass lines by the old shorelines also being caught on live shrimp under a popping cork and around rocks with current on gulp with the wedges presentation. A few were caught on reefs. Drum are plentiful mixed in with the redfish and sheepshead are being caught on pilings, ducks and concrete walls next to barnacles with live shrimp. Be safe, have fun and be

prepared. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 65 degrees. Favorable winds have produced scattered catches of speckled trout over the reefs. Best action still on shorelines, near bayou drains for redfish and speckled trout. Best bite on soft plastics and live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Surface water temperature dropped back down to 58 degrees, due to the front that pushed through the area. Water clarity stained for the most part, with a couple areas with better clarity west of Elm Grove. The majority of our success remains back in the marsh and bayou areas. This redfish bite remains consistent in areas where good current flow has bait up against the shorelines and grass lines in 1-3 feet of water around oyster shells on Wac Attack Tails in Chartreuse, fished with 1/8 ounce heads, as well as weight-

less presentations. The trout have preferred an erratic presentation with pauses, targeting deeper pockets close to channel bends and deeper drops with shell, triggering the most bites. Our experience has been that if you see bait flipping on the surface you will find some fish, if not, you are best to move on. The lighter the jig head the better, determined by the wind and current, and tails without paddles, performing the best. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 69 degrees. Eagle Point shorelines seeing some speckled trout, mostly undersized. Gas wells holding good numbers of sheepshead on live shrimp. Kemah, Seabrook, Sylvan Beach shorelines fair for speckled trout, black drum, and a few redfish. Soft plastics and live shrimp are the best baits. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• West Galveston Bay

FAIR. 66 degrees. When conditions permit, San Luis Pass is producing catches of black drum, sheepshead, and redfish. Waders finding speckled trout along the shorelines. Those drifting the open bay reefs are finding scattered trout and redfish on soft plastics and live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• Texas City

FAIR. 65 degrees. The drum run is on. Good numbers of fish coming from the Galveston jetties, Texas City Dike and the Bolivar gas wells. best bite in live crab and shrimp. Live shrimp thrown tight to the rocks producing sheepshead, slot and oversized redfish, and keeper black drum, Some speckled trout showing up. Beachfront piers reported catches of flounder, black drum, whiting, a few sharks and gafftop. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing



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New vessell added to Galveston fleet

**Staff Report
For The Record**

GALVESTON, TX – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proudly unveils its latest maritime marvel, the Galveston to Port Bolivar ferry, in a momentous dedication ceremony honoring the esteemed pioneer of Texas transportation infrastructure, Esperanza “Hope” Andrade.

This marks a significant milestone as it is the first ferry to be named after a woman and the first to be named after a Latina. Furthermore, this celebration coincides with Women's History Month, adding an extra layer of significance

to the occasion.

Esperanza “Hope” Andrade’s indelible mark on Texas transportation is beyond compare. As the inaugural female chair of the Texas Transportation Commission and the historic first Latina Texas Secretary of State, Andrade’s legacy resonates throughout our state’s infrastructure landscape. With the christening of this vessel bearing her name, we pay homage not only to her remarkable accomplishments but also to the beacon of progress she embodies.

The debut of the Esperanza “Hope” Andrade ferry heralds a new era characterized by efficiency,

sustainability, and safety. Stretching an impressive 293 feet, this state-of-the-art craft showcases cutting-edge propulsion technology and pioneering battery energy storage systems, setting a precedent for environmental stewardship and passenger welfare.

As we embark on this journey of transformation, this ferry stands poised to serve generations of Texans with distinction.

Operating around the clock, seven days a week, weather permitting, the Galveston Ferry remains an indispensable linkage for Texas’s transportation network, with each voyage averaging a mere 18 min-



Capable of accommodating 70 passenger vehicles or eight 18-wheelers per trip, the ferry services ensure seamless flow of goods, services, and people along coastal highways.

utes.

Capable of accommodating 70 passenger vehicles or eight 18-wheelers per trip, the ferry services ensure seamless flow of

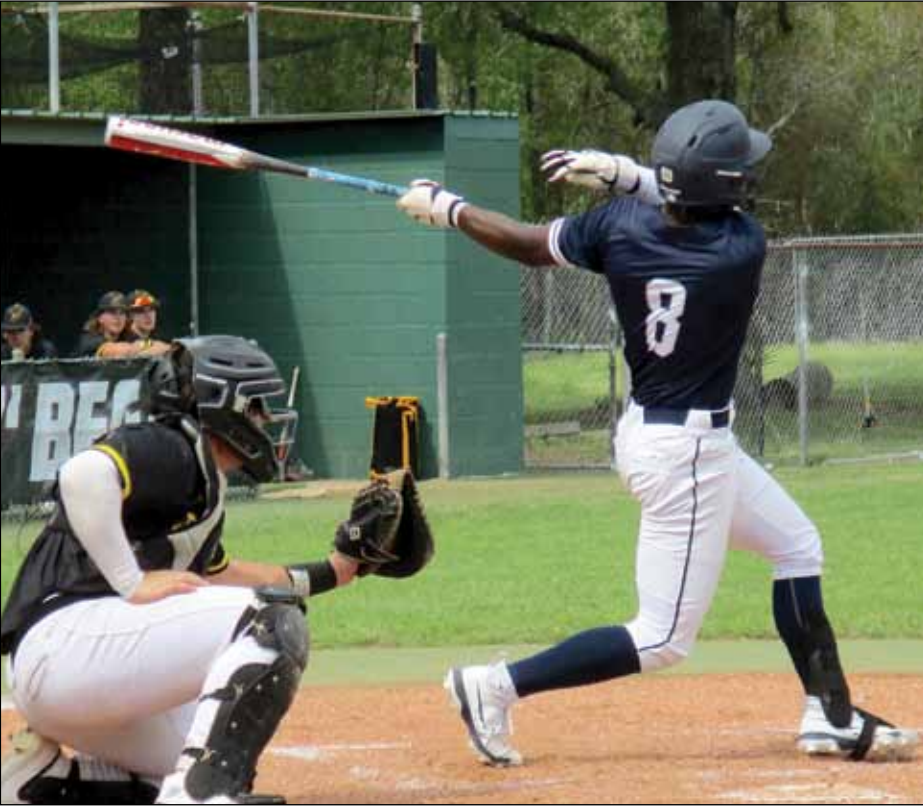
goods, services, and people along coastal highways.

The new ferry boat will be put into service after a christening ceremony to compliment the peak demand that normally begins with the beginning of the spring break season.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a rich tradition of naming vessels after former Texas Transportation Commission Chairs and is responsible for the planning, construction, and maintenance of the state’s extensive transportation network, serving millions of Texans each day.

Orange County Classic

From Page 1



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

tom of the first.

Two more runs in the second inning thanks primarily to Eagle errors had LCM on top 4-1 after two innings. Woodville got a two run homer in the third to cut the Bears lead to a run, but LCM got a run of its own in the bottom of the third when Parker Freeman walked, went to third on single by Clay Raney, and scored on an infield hit by Landon Richards.

A two out rally in the fourth boosted the Bears’ lead to five runs. Justin McCarver started the ball rolling with a single to center, Bandiero walked, Freeman singled home the first run, and two more runs came in on a Woodville error to give LCM an 8-3 advantage and as it turned out the final score.

Bandiero pitched all five innings for the win on the mound. Marco struck out five Eagles.

One of the teams originally scheduled to be in the tournament withdrew which caused the other teams’ games to be redone. Instead of four games most of the teams got to play three games over the three day tournament.

Little Cypress Mauriceville played the Liberty Panthers on Friday evening. Landon Richards started on the mound for the Bears throwing five plus innings without allowing an earned run and

got credit for the win.

Richards had a key hit in the fourth inning with an opposite field double that scored Parker Freeman and Clay Raney. Richards and Jackson Struwe both scored on a two out hit by Justin McCarver to put the Bears up 4-0 after four innings.

The Panthers scored an unearned run in the fifth thanks to two Bear errors and two more in the top of the sixth when an error with two outs loaded the bases. A single by the next Panther batter made the score 4-3 in favor of the Bears.

Little Cypress Mauriceville responded with two runs in the bottom of the sixth after there were two out. Jackson Struwe started the rally beating out a grounder to shortstop. Jacob Scheiderer and McCarver walked to load the bases for Parker Seago who singled to left to bring home the insurance runs.

Scheiderer started the game in left field and relieved Richards on the mound in the sixth. Scheiderer struck out one of Liberty’s most dangerous hitters with two Panthers on base in the seventh to get a well deserved save in the 6-3 win for the Bears.

Following that game West Orange-Stark got to play Port Arthur Memorial which was not even originally invited to be in the tournament. The Mustangs took a resound-

ing 10-0 victory in their final game of the tournament.

Noah Robles threw a brilliant five innings yielding only a single and two walks while striking out five in the shutout win. Blade Williams drove in two runs with a single and Cortez Robertson slugged a bases loaded triple for the big blows by the Mustangs’ bats.

The final game of the tournament was played on Saturday afternoon in a rematch of Thursday’s game between LCM and Woodville. The Bears prevailed 5-4 over the Eagles.

Woodville scored three times in the first inning knocking out the Bears’ starting pitcher Jacob Scheiderer. Clay Raney came on to stop the bleeding and got the win pitching into the sixth inning allowing one unearned run.

Little Cypress Mau-

riceville tallied two runs in the first and took the lead for good in the second with three more runs. Landon Richards walked, Jackson Struwe doubled into the left field corner, and both scored on a single to left by Ethan Fry. Marco Bandiero drew a bases loaded walk to put the Bears up 5-3 after two innings.

Pitching dominated the remainder of the game with Liberty taking advantage of an error in the fifth to score the final run. Parker Freeman relieved Raney on the mound in the sixth to get the final out and a save.

LCM Coach Hunter Hagler thinks this tournament has got his Bears ready to start district play in about a week. “Every single Bear we ran out to the mound did really well this weekend which is always exciting to see right before you get district going. We had some timely

hitting and some really good base running at points too which was exciting,” Hagler replied.

This week marks the beginning of District 19-4A games. The Bridge City Cardinals opened with the Silsbee Tigers on Tuesday, March 12, at Silsbee and then at Bridge City against the Tigers on Friday, March 15. The West Orange-Stark Mustangs started Tuesday against the Vidor Pirates at Ronnie Anderson Park and on Friday play at Vidor. The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears have the bye this week and start next week March 19 and March 22 against Bridge City.

The Orangefield Bobcats began district action the week before and are 0-1 in District 21-3A. The Bobcats were at home on Tuesday, March 12, against the East Chambers Buccaneers. Orangefield plays its next game Friday, March 15, at Warren.

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Cortez Robertson hit a bases loaded triple for the Mustangs in their win over Port Arthur Memorial on Friday night.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine



Ethan Fry scores what proved to be the winning run for LCM in the last game of the tournament on Saturday.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

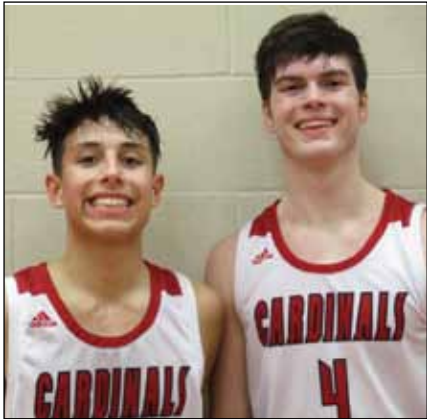
Class 4A All District Boys Basketball Honored

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

All-District selections have been released by the District 19-4A basketball coaches. The Bridge City Cardinals, the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears, and the West Orange-Stark Mustangs all had players honored by being chosen All-District.

Two of the Bridge City Cardinals received special recognition. Aiden Gutierrez was named co-Offensive MVP and Lincoln Breaux was selected as co-Defensive MVP. Alanthreon Winn of the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears was the other co-Offensive MVP. Randall Robertson of Bridge City was named the Coach of the Year.

Making the First Team All-District were sophomore Aaden Bush for Bridge City, Andrew Cooper and Jamikael Davis both with West Orange-Stark. Second Team All-District honors went to Jonah Fuller at LCM and Joshua Holifield from West Orange-Stark.



Aaden Bush of Bridge City was selected First Team All-District.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Five local players received Honorable Mention. Jagger Carlin and Stephen Stone of Bridge City, Jayden Benton and Braylon Lewis with Little Cypress Mauriceville, and Ja'Vaughnte Richards for West Orange-Stark were recognized.

Softball district action

From Page 1

Carson wanted this game, and she worked hard for it by preparing all week. Carson gave it all she's got and it showed," Bradley praised.

The way Bridge City scratched for four runs also pleased the coach. Bradley described, "We had girls on base all night, and I kept telling them we've got to push them across, but I was very proud that they kept scrapping and working and kept their heads up in the dugout and when they got back in the dugout the girls adjusted and we scored."

Bridge City improved its District 19-4A record to 2-0 with the win over LCM which lost its opening game in district. Earlier in the week on Tuesday, March 5, the Cardinals shutout Silsbee 6-0 on a one hitter by Fall who had 18 strikeouts in that game too. Autrey drove in two runs while LaComb and Nicole Sasser both had two hits.

The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs had a tough week losing both of their games. Vidor won 19-0 and Lumberton triumphed 15-0 over the Lady Mustangs in District 19-4A action.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats won both games they played last week. The game on Tuesday, March 5, was scheduled to be played at Orangefield but rain earlier that day forced the game to be moved to Kirbyville. The location did not matter as the

Lady Bobcats won 7-4 to even their district record.

Abigail Curphey went six innings giving up just one earned run to get the win. Charlee Sanches pitched the seventh inning to preserve the Orangefield victory.

Sanches was the leader with the bat wrapping out four hits, scoring two runs, and driving in one. Alysen Vincent had three runs batted. Hallee Becker, Paris Becker, Aubree Beck, and Haylee Spears each produced at least one run apiece.

Orangefield improved to 2-1 in District 21-3A with its win on Friday, March 8, over the Anahuac Lady Panthers. The Lady Bobcats won 8-2 at Anahuac.

Curphey got the win again pitching five innings surrendering no earned runs and striking out five. Sanches allowed just one hit in the last two innings to again preserve the triumph for the Lady Bobcats.

Beck scored the first three runs for Orangefield which included a homerun. Paris Becker hit a double, scored a run, and knocked in a run. Her sister Hallee scored two runs and drove in one. Vincent reached base three times and brought a run home. Sanches had a run and a run batted in. Paisley Reeves, Abby Broussard, and Audrey Sonnier each accounted for a Lady Bobcat run.

Softball district action

From Page 1

Campbell (86) and Brayton Tregre (88). Aidyn Mulhollan (90) and Drake Blackwell (93) led the Bridge City #2 team which had a score of 377. Little Cypress Mauriceville shot a team total of 380 led by Maddox Manual (84) and Carter Foreman (98).

The girl golfers of Orangefield played last week at Liberty. Two of them shot personal records with their lowest scores ever. Jordyn Rucker had a personal best of 96 to capture the second place individual medal in the tournament. Abby Slaughter achieved her personal record with a 106. Addi Moore (111) and Emma Pierrotte (114) also contributed to a strong showing by the Orangefield girls.



Aaden Bush of Bridge City was selected First Team All-District.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

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ENTERTAINMENT: Goo Goo Dolls coming to Beaumont

TOMMY MANN JR.
Entertainment Writer
For The Record

The Goo Goo Dolls are returning to Beaumont as the featured artist for the 41st Annual Christus Gala on Saturday, April 20. This concert is a black-tie event and features a variety of sponsorship packages. Individual tickets, if any are available, they went on sale March 4 for \$375 each. Visit www.christussoutheast-texasfoundation.org for details.

Check out the listings here and visit www.therecordlive.com for the full schedule that is currently available.

- **March 13**
Nickelback, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 14**
Zac Brown Band, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 14**
Sasha Colby, House of Blues, Houston, Jhayco, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **March 15**
Jamey Johnson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Geoff Tate, Vandenberg, House of Blues, Houston, Jonas Brothers, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 16**
Brad Paisley, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston, Rev Run, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Brian Stokes Mitchell, Grand Opera House, Galveston
- **March 17**
Eric Church, Rodeo Houston, NRG Stadium, Houston
- **March 19**
Circle Jerks, Descendents, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 20**
Adelitas Way, Classless Act, Scout Bar, Houston
- **March 21**
Laura Pausini, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **March 23**
Los Lobos, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La., Dylan Scott, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **March 24**
Twiztid, Blaze, ABK, Reddstar, Scout



The Goo Goo Dolls are headed back to Southeast Texas as the featured artist of the 41st Annual Christus Gala on April 20 at the Beaumont Civic Center. This is black tie event that features numerous sponsorship opportunities and more.

- Bar, Houston
- **March 28**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston, Busta Rhymes, Spliff Star, DJ Scratchator, 713 Music Hall, Houston
 - **March 29**
Jackson Dean, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston, Ministry, House of Blues, Houston
 - **March 30**
Michael Bolton, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Waterparks, Lovelless, House of Blues, Houston, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Home Run Dugout, Katy, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Arena Theatre, Houston
 - **April 4**
Last in Line, Black Heart Saints, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston
 - **April 5**
Home Free, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., The Black Crowes, 713 Music Hall, Houston
 - **April 6**
Eric Johnson, House of Blues, Houston, Trace Adkins, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **April 9**
Starset, House of Blues, Houston
 - **April 10**
Tasha Cobbs Leonard, Israel Houghton, Erica Campbell, Jonathan McReynolds, Jekalyn Carr, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
 - **April 12**
Parker McCollum, Corey Kent, Catie Offerman, Lake Charles Civic Center, Lake Charles, La.
 - **April 13**
Bernadette Peters, Grand Opera

House, Galveston, Primus, A Perfect Circle, Puscifer, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Last Starfighter, Facetime, White Oak Music Hall, Houston, Asking Alexandria, Memphis May Fire, The Word Alive, House of Blues, Houston

- **April 19**
Melissa Etheridge, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Black Stone Cherry, Cajun-Dome, Lafayette, La.
- **April 20**
Goo Goo Dolls, Christus Gala, Beaumont Civic Center, Beaumont, Scott Mulvahill, Lutchter Theater, Orange, Adam Ant, The English Beat, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **April 22**
Tyr, Trollfest, Another Realm, White Oak Music Hall, Houston, Social Distortion, Bad Religion, Julian James, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **April 26**
Great White, Slaughter, Quiet Riot, Liliac, Rise Rooftop, Houston, Trout Fishing in America, Old Quarter Café, Galveston
- **April 27**
Set It Off, Crown the Empire, Caskets, House of Blues, Houston, Kane Brown, Tyler Hubbard, Parmalee, Toyota Center, Houston
- **April 28**
Say Anything, House of Blues, Houston, Grupo Bronco, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **April 30**
Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston

Statewide changes to Spotted Seatrout regulations go into effect March 26



In addition to these regulations, TPWD proposes an additional change to the harvesting of oversized trout, or those greater than 30 inches.

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – Rule changes to bag and size limits for spotted seatrout will go into effect March 26 across the Texas coast. The new statewide changes consist of the following:

- 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

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted these changes at its January meeting to assist spotted seatrout recovery after several years of below-average abundance.

In addition to these regulations, TPWD proposes an additional change to the harvesting of oversized trout, or those greater than 30 inches. The proposed change, which, if adopted, would prevent anglers from keeping fish greater than 30 inches as part of a daily bag limit until a tag system is

implemented in the next license year, beginning Sept. 1.

This tag would allow anglers to harvest one spotted seatrout greater than 30 inches with the purchase of a saltwater fishing license or endorsement. In addition, the proposed rule would also implement a \$3.00 Bonus Spotted Seatrout Tag and a \$3.00 Exempt Angler Tag (for individuals who, by law, are exempted from license requirements) that would allow for the retention of one oversize spotted seatrout per license year.

TPWD encourages public input regarding the adoption of the oversized tag system. Members of the public who are interested in submitting comments for or against the new tag and associated fee rules can do so by accessing the public comment portal here.

The comment portal will be publicly accessible through 5 p.m. March 27.

Additionally, the Coastal Fisheries division of TPWD will host a virtual hearing on the proposed spotted se-

atrout tag regulations via Zoom at 6 p.m. March 19. Those interested in attending can register for the event here.

For the most up-to-date information check the Outdoor Annual.

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The Difficult Discipline of Joy

Clinton Manley
desirningGod.org

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Perhaps you’ve encountered this famous line penned by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Hopkins aimed all of his poetry at helping people see that we live in a world drenched in divine delights — a world that everywhere reveals the glory of God. That is a wonderful reality, but for the child of God, the wonder goes even deeper.

For the Christian, the glory revealed in the world is not the glory of some generic deity; it is the goodness of our happy Father. “The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord” (Psalm 33:5 NASB). And so, the pleasures we experience in the world are paternal pleasures. The beauty of the world is our Father’s smile in stuff. And, wonder of wonders, our Father delights in our delight in his gifts. Like a happy dad on Christmas morning, the Father of lights lavishes on us all things richly to enjoy so that we might be happy in the Giver of all good things (James 1:17). Who then could resist reveling in the pleasures of God?

We do — daily! Like fussy children, aren’t we often too greedy or self-focused or distracted to enjoy our Father in his gifts? Consider yourself for a moment. Did you enjoy the sunrise this morning? I’m not just asking if you saw it. No, did you marvel



as the sun vaulted the horizon? Did you delight in the fanfare of light and color?

As you can see, there is a reason C.S. Lewis called enjoying God the difficult discipline of hedonism. Joy is hard work, but eternally worthwhile. In Letters to Malcolm, Lewis writes, “We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito” (101). And pleasures are his footprints, reminding us that he is here. “Pleasures are shafts of the glory as it strikes our sensibilities” (121).

So, if Lewis is right, if we can nowhere evade the presence of God, then how do we so often — consciously or unconsciously — evade the pleasures of God? How are we so easily distracted from enjoying our Father’s gifts? Lewis gives three reasons well worth pondering.

Greed
Lewis starts with

low-hanging fruit: greed. Why? Because greed corrupts the pleasures of God by seizing them in degrees, times, or manners outside of God’s design. We are all prone to wander into those wonderless sins.

Greed is a scaly beast. It stashes and hoards and sleeps on treasure. Greed is always hungry, always demanding more. Lewis calls this the demand of Encore. That fatal word encore knows no boundaries. It recognizes no proper times or rhythms. It always overeats. It loves to say “just one more.”

Unfortunately, almost all of our consumer society aims to allow us to demand encore in a voice that cannot be gainsaid. And the dragon fusses — and fusses loudly — if the demand is denied. Yet Lewis doubts that God ever fulfills this desire for encore. “How should the Infinite repeat Himself? All space and time are too little for Him to utter Himself in them once” (35). Ironically, the de-

mand for encore is too easily pleased! God wants to give more than we desire to get. How many present pleasures do we render rotten by demanding again and again what God once gave?

But greed does not always announce itself in fire and destruction. Perhaps the sneakiest form of greed comes when we use God’s gifts without enjoying them for what they are, giving no heed to what Lewis called “the quiddity” of things (Surprised by Joy, 244). When we indulge this form of greed, we force honey to school us about wisdom without ever actually tasting the honey-ness of honey (Proverbs 24:13–14). We order birds to soothe our anxiety without ever delighting in bird-ish beauty (Luke 12:24). We close the sun into the classroom of theology without ever basking in his sunny glory or his Eric-Liddell-like delight (Psalm 19:5). We should delight that things are before we seek to use them. As Chesterton once

said, we must take fierce pleasure in things being themselves. Here there be pleasures the dragon never knows.

God is eternally, graciously, stunningly generous with his pleasures.

Self-Focus

According to Lewis, the wrong kind of attention also distracts us from the pleasures of God. He explains that this kind of attention subjectifies pleasures. It turns from the sunrise (the object) to try to see what’s happening in me (the subject).

We’ve all had the experience of turning inward to grasp a feeling only to have it slip through our fingers. I suspect this dynamic is often at the root when Christians struggle with assurance. A saint looks inward to find evidence of faith and discovers faded footprints in the sand because his gaze has left the object of faith. He has ceased to attend to Christ.

Pleasures, just like faith, are object dependent. When you stop looking at the sunrise to ask, Am I really enjoying it? you lose the whole pith and pleasure of the sunrise. Thus, self-focus, the wrong kind of attention, can gut the pleasures of God. This scoliosis of the soul can be traced right back to the garden, which led the ancients to call man homo incurvatus in se — man bent in on himself. So, how do we become un-

Familiarity

Finally, Lewis warns that inattention is the

greatest enemy to the pleasures of God because, over time, we fail to see what we see. Like an old bungee cord, our senses become slack — our vision veiled by familiarity. What we once enjoyed with assiduous attentiveness soon fades to the background like art on a hallway wall. Traherne warns us, “The most beautiful object being always present, grows common and despised. . . . Were we to see it only once, that first appearance would amaze us. But being daily seen, we observe it not” (65). In our fallen state, the current of human sensibility ever drifts toward this negligence.

Let me try to prove this. Have you walked past a tree today? Did you see it? If you’re like me, you didn’t even notice. But what a fantastic work of the triune imagination. This star-powered wood-tower becomes a pillar of Eden in summer, a heaven-high flower in fall, a snow-robed statue in winter, and a living signpost of hope in spring. Just imagine a world without trees! Yet we observe them not.

Just here, the poets are so helpful because, as Samuel Taylor Coleridge explains, poetry aims to “give the charm of novelty to things of every day . . . by awakening the mind’s attention to the lethargy of custom, and directing it to the loveliness and the wonders of the world before us, an inexhaustible treasure” (Biographia Literaria, 208). Poetry — perhaps preeminently — arrests our attention and helps us savor the pleasures of God.

Church Directory

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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
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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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