

Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Landmark 1938 bridge to be closed summer



The Rainbow Bridge will be getting “extensive maintenance” beginning in the late summer or early fall, the Texas Department of Transportation has announced.

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County’s most famous landmark is set to get its first facelift in nearly 30 years and the project will require a major traffic change.

The Rainbow Bridge will be getting “extensive maintenance” beginning

in the late summer or early fall, the Texas Department of Transportation has announced. Traffic on the bridge from Bridge City to Port Arthur will be closed during the project, which is estimated to take 18 months.

During that time, the Veterans Memorial Bridge, which usually

takes one-way traffic from Port Arthur to Bridge City, will be made to accommodate two-way traffic. Two lanes from Orange County to Jefferson County, and two lanes from Jefferson County to Orange County.

During that time, TxDOT will divert the traffic lanes leading to the Rainbow Bridge across the median to travel onto the Veterans Memorial

Bridge. To change the traffic to the enter the Veterans bridge and then to change traffic back to the proper lanes at the end of the bridge, TxDOT will make “S” turns.

However, the Bridge City City Council is officially asking TxDOT to change the detour plans. (see separate story)

Southern Road and Bridge LLC was awarded a \$10.9 million contract for

the project.

The last time the Rainbow Bridge had major maintenance was nearly 30 years ago. The two-year-plus project ended in October 1997 when a re-dedication ceremony for the 1938 bridge was held. The companion Veterans Memorial Bridge was opened in 1990.

The Rainbow Bridge opened to great fanfare and national attention in

1938 and is still to this day, the highest bridge in the Southern United States. It has a Texas Historical Marker and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The bridge was considered a major boost to car and truck traffic along the Gulf Coast when it was opened to cross the Neches River from Orange

RAINBOW Page 3A

BC Council protests Rainbow Bridge traffic plan

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Bridge City City Council is asking for the Texas Department of Transportation to redesign a traffic detour at the Rainbow Bridge when the landmark will be closed for maintenance later this year.

The council in the letter says a plan to install “S” turns for diverting Rainbow Bridge traffic on and off the Veterans Bridge “will lead to an unnecessary and totally avoidable potential for accidents and traffic congestion.”

TxDOT’s plans call for closing the Rainbow Bridge and turning the adjacent Veterans Bridge to accommodate two-way traffic, with special “S” turns for traffic that would be going on the Rainbow Bridge to go onto and off of, Veterans.

In the letter signed by Mayor David Rutledge, the



Mayor David Rutledge

city is says that when going down the Veterans Memorial Bridge from Orange County to Jefferson County, vehicles tend to speed on the decline. The increased speed, especially with rain or other inclement weather, would reduce visibility at the end of the bridge and make problems for traffic diverting on the “S” turn.

Speed, low visibility and a sudden “S” turn could lead to vehicle collisions.

BC Council Page 3A



The Bridge City High School Strutters officers won the national championship for the Nashville Crowd Pleasers Dance competition held in Nashville, Tennessee. The whole team was named first runner-up in the championship and received the academic award for the team with the highest GPA. Traylor Tran won first place in ninth grade solo performance and Brooklyn Landry won first place tenth grade solo performance.

County’s sales tax returns stay strong

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County saw strong sales in January, leading to a 16.5 percent sales tax payment this year, compared to last year.

The state comptroller’s office in March sent the sales tax payments to the entities with the monthly returns covering January. The year-to-date collections includes the amount of money sent for the calendar year.

The county has a half-cent per dollar sales tax that was approved by voters to off-set some of the property taxes. For January this year, the county gets to add \$670,100 to its

bank account, which is 16.5 percent more than the \$555,318 for January last year.

The county for the first three months of 2024 has collected \$1.98 million, compared to \$1.91 million for the same period last year. That is a 3.47 percent increase, slightly above the most recent U.S. consumer price index of 3.2 percent inflation.

Pinehurst had the largest increase of the five largest cities in the county. The city collected \$52,119 for January, a 12.3 percent jump from \$46,418 last year. The city has a 1.5 cents per dollar sales tax and has \$183,390 for the year to date, up 10.6 percent from

\$165,840 for the first three months of 2023.

Bridge City had slight drops in sales tax payments. The city was down 4.2 percent for January with \$155,533 this year, compared to \$162,398 last year. The city is now at \$552,555 for the year to date, down from \$580,411 last year, a decrease of 4.8 percent. The city has a 1.5 cents per dollar sales tax.

The city of Orange saw giant increases for 2023 sales compared to 2022, and now is showing decreases in returns this year. The city for January received \$530,077, a drop of 6.73 percent from the \$58,367 last year. The city has a sales tax of 1.5 cents per dollar and now has

collected \$1.675 million, down 19.14 percent from \$2.07 million last year.

West Orange has a 1.25 cents per dollar sales tax and received \$103,158 for January, down 4.4 percent. So far this year, the city has a total of \$388,70, up 3.7 percent from \$374,587 last year.

The Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department, or Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3, collected \$25,500 for January and is now at \$83,344 for the first three months of the year. The department has a 1.5 cents per dollar sales tax and is the only special district in the county with a sales tax.

REMEMBERING SEN. CARL PARKER

Distinguished lawyer, statesmen, and native son

Senator Carl Allen Parker, distinguished lawyer, statesmen, and devoted native son of Port Arthur, Texas, died peacefully in his home on March 22, 2024, following a long illness. He was 89 years old.

A life-long public servant, Carl will best be remembered for his 34 years as a member of the Texas Legislature, starting with his election to the House of Representatives in 1962 and later to the Texas Senate, where he served until 1995. A staunch, unwavering, and wholly unapologetic proponent of public safety, public education, workers’ rights, and protection of the environment, Texas’ “Singing Senator” was a formidable legislative opponent who



Senator Carl Allen Parker

used his sharp and disarming wit and even sharper mind to stubbornly push his people-first priorities into law. His humorous and sometimes scorching quips during legislative debate were legendary but were inevitably tied to persuasive points supporting the bill he was advocating. His toughness was tempered by his pragmatic devotion to getting things done. He was too clever to hold a grudge, and fellow legislators were often shocked to find that after suffering the consequences of opposing him on one issue, Carl was willing to become a crucial ally on another. His ability to build consensus and, yes, even

compromise, made him unusually effective. Following the 1991 legislative session where Carl had bested the changing political winds in Texas and passed a variety of bills from school finance to creating a new environmental super agency, Texas Monthly begrudgingly proclaimed: “We never thought we’d say this, but ... thank the Lord for Carl Parker.”

Carl’s devotion to the needs and hardships of everyday folks and his conviction to improve their lives was instilled at an early age. Carl was born in 1934 in Port Arthur during the Great Depression. His father Harvey was a refinery worker, a nationally recognized union leader, and was ultimately elected mayor of Port Arthur. His mother Juanita, who was herself unable to attend college, was an active advocate and zealous, life-long supporter of higher educa-

tion.

When Carl was 17 and working a summer job at Zesto’s, an ice cream parlor in Port Arthur, he decided that he wanted to be either a florist or a lawyer. With considerable encouragement from Harvey, he ultimately chose the latter and went on to attend the University of Texas Law School. During his final year at UT, he met Beverly Stiegler, a student from San Antonio attending nearby Southwestern University. Carl’s children recall their father often shared that his two best life decisions were asking Beverly to marry him and becoming a lawyer, in that order. Carl and his cherished “Bev-o” were married in 1960 and recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.

Following law school and his first le-

SEN. CARL PARKER Page 2A

Sen. Carl Parker funeral services

From Page 1

gal job as a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy, Carl returned to his beloved Port Arthur and joined the law firm Long and Parker (now the Parker Law Firm). Carl was a lawyer's lawyer who relished a widely varied and local practice that included criminal defense, family law, business transactions, personal injury, and even representing foreign governments. Carl received but steadfastly turned down offers to join bigger and more specialized firms, preferring the variety, satisfaction, and autonomy of maintaining a hometown law office that helped and provided services to his friends, neighbors, and fel-

low citizens of Port Arthur, Jefferson County, and East Texas. In the later years of his life, Carl reduced his professional commitments but was anything but idle. He continued to answer the call of community service, joining various government committees and working groups that supported education and economic development. He remained a voracious reader who gobbled up books in a day and then ordered copies for his friends for discussion. He wrote an autobiography to share his personal history, wisdom, and life lessons with family and friends. He stayed current with the news of the day and had no

shortage of opinions, which he happily shared in op-ed contributions to local newspapers. He became an enthusiastic user of social media with varying measures of success. Carl also found time to retreat to his wood-working shop where he created toys for his adoring grandchildren and legions of holiday-themed figurines for his friends and family. At age 88, he still traveled to and presided as Mayor of the Parker deer lease in central Texas, where he shot the self-proclaimed best deer of the season. And of course, until his last day, he continued to meet with and talk to family and friends to share his thoughts on life, laced with

plentiful doses of his inimitable East Texas humor. Carl is survived by his wife, Dr. Beverly Parker; his daughters, Valerie Hintzen (Erich) and Chris Parker (Elena Labrador); his son, Allen Parker (Andrea); his grandchildren Andrew Hintzen, Emma Hintzen (Michael Martinez-Silva), Peyton Garrett (Jace), and Tripp Parker; and his sister, Karen Parker Trees (Bob). Visitation will be held at 1:00 PM with funeral following at 3:00 PM on April 2, 2024, at Calder Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Parker Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 1446, Port Arthur, TX, 77641; Gift of Life, 2390

Dowlen Road, Beaumont, TX 77706; or Calder Baptist Church, 1005 N. Eleventh St., Beaumont, TX, 77702 Graveside Services will

be conducted at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the Texas State Cemetery located at 909 Navasota St, Austin, TX 78702.



Carl Parker during his service in the Texas Legislature.

Broadway musical 'Annie' returning

Staff Report
For The Record

Leapin' Lizards - the Broadway musical "Annie" is coming to Orange. The iconic Tony Award-winning production of "Annie" will be at the Lutch Theater for one night only on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Holding onto hope when times are tough can take an awful lot of determination, and sometimes, an awful lot of determination comes in a surprisingly small package. Little Orphan Annie has reminded generations of theatergoers that sunshine is always right around the corner, and now the best-loved musical of all time is set to return in this new production - just as you remember it and just when we need it most. This celebration of family, optimism and the American spirit remains the ultimate cure for all the hard knocks life throws your way. "This show, with its iconic title character, continues to delight generations of



A limited amount of tickets for "Annie" are available and can be purchased online at lutch.org or by calling the box office at (409) 886-5535. The Lutch Theater is located at 707 Main Avenue in Orange theatre-lovers old and new by joyfully singing directly into the face of great adversity with perseverance, guts and guile," said Lynae Sanford, executive director of the Lutch Theater. "I am constantly reminded of the biggest reason we love this show - it's just plain happy and hopeful, and sometimes we just need a reminder to think about such things." The original production of "Annie" had its world premiere on August 10, 1976 at the Goodspeed Opera House (Michael J. Price, Executive Director) and opened on Broadway on April 21, 1977 at the Alvin Theatre (Neil Simon Theatre). It went on to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, the Grammy for Best Cast Show Album and seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book (Thomas Meehan) and Best Score (Charles Strouse,

Martin Charnin). It closed on Broadway after playing 2,377 performances. "Annie" was revived on Broadway in 1997 and again in 2014. It has been made into a film three times (1982, 1999, 2014) and was most recently featured as a live television production on NBC. The show remains one of the biggest Broadway musical hits ever; it has been performed in 28 languages and has been running somewhere around the world for 45 years. The beloved score for "Annie" includes "Maybe," "It's the Hard Knock Life," "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," "Easy Street," "I Don't Need Anything But You" and the eternal anthem of optimism, "Tomorrow." A limited amount of tickets for "Annie" are available and can be purchased online at lutch.org or by calling the box office at (409) 886-5535. The Lutch Theater is located at 707 Main Avenue in Orange, Texas.

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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Free egg hunt on Friday, but offices closed

Staff Report

Perfect spring weather is in the forecast for the Easter holidays this week, and once again the city of Orange is expecting hundreds of children and their families for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday.

The free hunt and activities will be at the Riverside Pavilion at the City Boat Ramp off Simmons Drive. Gates will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the egg hunt will start promptly at 10 a.m.

Children ages 11 and younger should bring baskets to collect the candy eggs. The egg-hunting is

divided into age groups so the bigger kids don't beat out the younger ones.

The annual egg hunt has been sponsored by the city for nearly 45 years, except during the pandemic and for a few years in the early 1990s when budget cuts eliminated the activity.

Besides the egg hunt, a petting zoo will be available along with games and activities. Drawings will also be held and some of the eggs will hold certificates for special prizes.

Even though some of the Orange city employees will be working at the special event, city hall and other non-emergency offices will be closed Friday.

The Orange Public Library will also be closed on Saturday.

Also, city halls and non-emergency offices will be closed on Friday in Bridge City, Pinehurst, West Orange, and Vidor. West Orange will also be closed for a holiday on Monday. All the cities will have regular garbage pick-up schedules on Friday.

The Orange County Courthouse, plus other county offices will be closed for Good Friday. Others closing that day include the Orange County Drainage District, Orange County Appraisal District, and the Orange County Port.

Deaths & Memorials

Russell Allen Roberts, 60, Orange

Russell Allen Roberts, 60, of Orange, Texas, passed away on March 17, 2024, at his home in Orange.

The family will be holding a memorial service for Russell at 2:00 p.m., Friday March 29, 2024, at Silver Oaks Baptist Church in Orange.

Born on September 6, 1963, he was the son of Arlon Roy Roberts and Donna Jackson Roberts. In his leisure time, Russell found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He had a passion for hunting and fishing, finding solace in nature's beauty.

Russell was a member of the Silver Oaks Baptist Church. His kind heart and unwavering devotion were evident. He will be deeply missed by all who



Russell Roberts

knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his father, Arlon Roy Roberts; and his brother, Martin Roberts.

He is survived by his mother, Donna Roberts; his son, Jackson Roberts and wife, Mercedes of Bridge City; his brother, Jerry Leon Hammers and Lori; and numerous other loving family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Silver Oaks Baptist Church at 16460 FM1442, Orange, TX 77632.

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

BC Council protests From Page 1

The bridge is on Texas Highway 87, which is the main thoroughfare through Bridge City. Crashes on or at the bridges can cause traffic to back up into the city, creating more traffic problems.

The letter says Mayor Rutledge, along with City Manager Christopher Baker and the police chief met with a representative of TxDOT in mid-February to discuss their con-

cerns with the plans for the bridge detour. They even drove the representative around the bridge to show their concerns.

Even though the representative said he would contact TxDOT's traffic management, by mid-March the city had no reply on any changes.

The council voted unanimously to send the letter asking for the traffic changes. Last week, Tx-

DOT announced the Rainbow Bridge would close for at least 18 months beginning in late summer or early fall. The 1938 bridge will undergo "extreme maintenance."

Also the Bridge City Council voted to annex 16.9 acres for a new subdivision off Honeysuckle Street.

In addition, the council voted to rename Pine Lane to Derick Lane in honor of the Quibodeaux family.

WOC bonds to move North ELC to new school

Margaret Toal For The Record

The West Orange-Cove school district has plans to build a new North Early Learning Center near the elementary school if voters in May approve a \$72 million bond proposal.

The bulk of the bond money will go toward building the new school to replace the current one on Cordrey Avenue in Orange that was built in 1964.

The school district has already acquired 27 acres of land behind West Orange-Stark Elementary School on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Pinehurst. The elementary school opened in 2010.

North Early Learning Center was built as a high school and later served as a middle school. For nearly 40 years, the building

school has been the early learning center for Pre-K age 3, Pre-K age 4, Head Start, and early childhood special education. Currently, the school has 300 students.

The school district is reporting that because of its tax base and finances, taxpayers will not see an increase in their property taxes if voters approve. Still, the state law requires school districts to say on the ballots a bond issue could raise property taxes.

April 7 will be the deadline to register to vote, if not already registered, for the bonds. The election will be May 4 and this year, the district does not have to have a board of trustees election because the incumbents filed to run and drew no opponents.

Early voting for the election will be April 22-26,

and April 29-30.

The new early learning center will take up the majority of the \$72 million in the bond issue. The district also plans to improve safety and security for existing schools and buildings, plus install technology upgrades.

In addition, the bonds will be used to improve existing staff and student restrooms for better hygiene, plus buy new school buses. The other project is improvements in the district's HVAC systems for air conditioning and heating. The upgrades will be more energy efficient to save on utility bills and improve airflow in buildings.

The district currently has a tax rate of \$1.06 per \$100 valuation.

Rainbow Bridge From Page 1

County into Jefferson County. When construction began in 1936, Bridge City did not exist and was the community of Prairie View. A ferry at the end of Ferry Road, later called Bailey Road, took vehicles back and forth across the two counties. The name Bailey Road is common because the Bailey family built a store-dance hall near the Orange County entrance to the ferry.

Even though people knew a highway bridge was needed, citizens and officials in Orange, Beaumont, and Port Arthur argued for years. People in Beaumont wanted to be assured a bridge would not hamper any ship traffic into its port. The compromise was that the bridge would be tall enough to handle the tallest ship in the U.S. Navy, which at the time had a ship with a tie-down for a dirigible. The bridge has a clearance underneath of 177 feet.

The grand opening of the bridge was held in September 1938, 17 months after the Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco.

The New York Times to announce the opening of the bridge described it as "a valuable new link in the Texas highway system and shortens travel distances between Gulf coastal points."

The Texas bridge did not have land above the water for the roadway to cross like the Golden Gate Bridge has. "As a result, the bridge rises like a rainbow-like arc from flat prairie with an elevation of a few feet above sea level," the story reads. That may be the first reference comparing the bridge to a rainbow.

The bridge opened without an official name because people in the three cities could not agree. Most people called it the "Port Arthur-Orange Bridge." However, it seems residents in Orange called it the "Port Arthur Bridge" and those in Port Arthur called it the "Orange Bridge."

In 1957, 19 years after it opened, a Lions Club in Port Arthur held a contest to name the bridge and a six-year-old girl won a \$50 savings bond for her name "Rainbow Bridge," its official name since.

The New York Times 1938 story reported the new bridge rose to a height of 230 feet, taller than a 20-story building. It was 176 feet above water, or 43 feet more than the Brooklyn Bridge, and 41 feet more than the Huey P. Long Bridge over the Mississippi River at New Orleans.

The steel truss bridge was built on eight caisson piers sunk 90 to 105 feet below the water. Each caisson had two separate cylindrical concrete piers.

The day before the opening of the new bridge in 1938 a stunt man Ogden Smith was going to jump off the bridge. Ogden in 1936 during the Texas Centennial celebration dived 1,100 feet into a tank of water. However, his jump off the bridge was a historic failure. The follow-up story reported the stunt man broke both legs in his jump.

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11:00 am - Osmosis Jones
1:30 pm - Curse and the Cure

NO DOGS/NO PETS



From the Creaux's Nest

SERVICE TO BE HELD FOR
SENATOR PARKER

Longtime lawmaker and political titan **Carl A. Parker** passed away Friday, March 22. He was 89. **Parker** was born in 1934 in Port Arthur and left home to live elsewhere twice: the first time when he attended law school at the **University of Texas** — he graduated in 1958 — and the second when he served four years in the U.S. Navy. For more than three decades, he served in the legislature: from 1962 to 1977 in the **House of Representatives** and from 1977 to 1995 in the Senate. His accolades abound: He was chosen as **Outstanding Senator** by Lawmen's Magazine and named among the **Ten Best Legislators** by Texas Monthly. He was chosen as one of two Americans at the International Education Roundtable at Oxford University. He owned The **Parker Law Firm** in Port Arthur and Nederland. He wrote legislation to create the Port of Port Arthur. He wrote legislation to create **Lamar State College Port Arthur**, **Lamar State College at Orange** and passed a bill elevating the status of **Lamar University**. He was elected to the legislature before he was 30 and, while there, became friends with some of the state's most colorful characters. Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m., with funeral at 3:00 p.m. on April 2, 2024 at Calder Baptist Church in Beaumont. Graveside services will be 1:00 p. at Texas State Cemetery, Austin.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2014

We lost **Bobby Taylor**, 79, last Saturday after a long and tough battle with cancer. He and **Barbara**, the Georgia girl he married many years ago, fought the good fight together. In and out of the hospital was constant over the last couple of years. They were true partners, side by side, extending **Bobby's** life for as long as they could.*** Congratulations to everyone's friend, **Gina Mannino** who recently received her doctorate from Lamar University. From now on we will have to get used to calling her **Doctor Mannino**. We're proud of our Bridge City grad, she was someone special even before she became a doctor.***The Swamp Pop show at the VFW, featuring **Jivin' Gene** and the **Gulf Coast Boys**, drew a sellout capacity crowd. People were turned away and the place holds 750 folks.*** **Sheriff Keith Merritt** has always thought a lot about former Bridge City **Chief Joey Hargrave** and was glad **Joey** came to work for him.***On Friday, an article in **USA Today** about Seattle free safety **Earl Thomas** of Orange stated, "Some regard the two-time All Pro as the keystone of the NFL's best defense. If **Jairus Byrd** (New Orleans Saints) is worth \$9 million a year, six years for \$56 million, there is little doubt **Thomas** will become the first at his position whose yearly salary averages eight figures."***Country music **Hall of Famer Merle Haggard** will be the focus of two tributes next month. One for an album of his hits, recorded by current country artist and the other from the **Academy of Country Music**. "Working Man's Poet, a Tribute to **Merle Haggard**" will be out April 1. It features **Luke Bryan**, **Garth Brooks**, **Jason Aldean**, **Toby Keith** and others. During the 49th Country Music Awards on April 6, **Haggard's 77 birthday**, he will be the recipient of a music artist tribute segment and will receive the **ACM's Crystal Milestone award**, honoring him for 50 years in country music. **Luke Bryan** and **Blake Shelton** will co-host. "Working Man's Poet" will be available through itunes and sold only at Wal- Mart.***Longview, in East Texas, paid \$16,150 to end their contract with rocker **Ted Nugent**, who was to be the headliner at their Fourth of July celebration. In January, **Nugent** called **President Obama** a "subhuman mongrel." It cost the city half of **Nugent's** contract fee to keep him out of town. In the past, **Nugent** suggested that immigrants, in the country illegally, should be treated like "indentured servants" until they earned citizenship. Longview gave him the money and said, "Adios."*** We remember a special lady, **Annabel Anderson**, who died on this day, March 26 in 2012, at the age of 90. I know she's with the angels.*** On March 28, a super guy, a special buddy **Garrett Gros** celebrates.*** Also the twins **Brittany** and **Tiffany Leverett** celebrate their special day. Their sister **Jamie Leverett Barber** celebrates two days later so I suspect they just have one big party.***On March 30, longtime retired educator **Terry Stuebing**, **Ella's** other half, celebrates. So does **Karen Bergeron**, **Rhonda Titter Fenton** and **Lisa Smith**.

20 Years Ago-2004

Lisa Nash, general manager of **DERA** rediscovered the 'Walking Cane Sycamore Tree' not far from the club house. The tree was featured in a story by **Randy Beeson** in a 1974 story.*****Deputy Sheriff Mark Philpott** announces for Bridge City Council Place 2. He's a 17 year resident of Bridge City where he and wife **Babette** have three sons.*****Sheriff Mike White** was rushed to the hospital after a bad scare where a stint was inserted. **The Sheriff** is reported to be doing well. *****The Bridge City High baseball Cardinals** are off to a great start. The team, coached by **Billy Bryant**, is 15-3 and 5-0 in district. The **Cards** beat **Hardin** Friday 11-1. Bridge City's pitcher threw a no-hitter. **Darrel Stephens** is now 3-0. *** **Orangefield Bobcat pitcher, Clay Bourgeois**, pitched a one-hitter in a shutout against **Buna** 5-0. *****Bridge City's Kody Duplechin** won the "A" singles title at the Silsbee tennis tournament. **Kody** soundly defeated all comers.

45 Years Ago-1979

Griffin's Smart Apparel for Men moves from downtown Plaza, 709 Green Ave., to new location at 2284 MacArthur next to Gerland's.***Come April 6, **Edna V. DeMary**, (Mrs. Flex), will be 85-years-old. She makes her home at 904 Cherry Ave. with her daughter **Annabel** and son-in-law **Arthur Anderson**. She has eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. **Miss Edna** has lived an exciting life with **Felix** and could tell an interesting story. *** The Bridge City High class of '79 chooses class superlatives. Class favorites are **Traci Taylor** and **Kenny Ronsonette**; Best All Around, **Alice Martinez** and **Kirk Harmon**; Most Likely to Succeed, **Holli Day** and **David Dutschmann**; Friendliest, **Nina Scales** and **Brian Murphy**.*****Pam Crew**, counselor at the Orange Tourist Bureau, doesn't only have a beautiful smile, she has the personality to go with it as she greets the thousands of tourist who enter our state.***Some of the **CB handles** making the rounds are **Tugboat Mama**, **Blue Max**, **Snuff Gully**, **Cowboy**, **Salt Shaker**, **Bug Hunter**, **Lady Godiva**, **Double Bubble**, **Lady Bronco**, **Doc Feel Good** and **Coon Skinner**.

50 years ago-1974

American Party candidate for Texas governor **Sam McDonnell**, visits area. **Billy Cole** is his county chairman. *****Jack Luther** is the big guy who owns **Nelson's Auto Service**.*****Charlie Bullock** is manager of **Ames Fried Chicken**. **Jim Ames** is owner. ***Sunday night, March 31, at 8 p.m., **Joan Greco** and **Ed Lovelace** tied the knot at the Lutheran church. The reception was held at the Orange House. **Joan** was a beautiful bride; **Ed** was his same old self. The bride and groom went up to their suite when the clock struck midnight on April Fool's Day.*****Betty Harmon** loads the bus with kids and heads out for Garner State Park.*****Buzzy Gunn** goes on diet, loses 20 pounds. **Dayle** and **Buzz** are trimming down for their annual summer trip to the Florida beach. *****Sue Collins** has surgery. *****Inez Hearn** is the new manager of Montgomery Wards.*****Jerry Reid** and **Bonita Blanda Davis** were wed Friday night. *****Bill Towns** runs for re-election to school board at Bridge City.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The **Galloping Gourmets of the AAUW** (American Association of University Women) gathered at the new **Barry's Mediterrean Grill** in Orange on Saturday. **Jack McKinney** and **Margaret Light** arranged for the outing. They were there along with **Karen McKinney**, **Rebecca Flickinger**, **Sarah Boehme**, **Willard** and **Doris Hudson**, **Juliet Smith** (Jack wouldn't leave his basketball games), **Carolyn** and **Ken Hillsten**, **Linda** and **Billy White**, **Mary Ann Fetchin**, **Shirley Marshall**, and **Kathy Crawley**. Not part of the group, but enjoying the new eatery that evening were **Al Granger** and **Scott Hasty**. **Scott's** going to be busy this week in another floral design contest.*****Theresa Cronin** will be on the Atlantic Ocean for a few days as she takes a cruise from Tampa all the way to Barcelona, Spain.***The **Hargrove** women, **Pauline**, with daughters **Jeanie Alexander** and **April King**, took a spring trip to Louisville, Kentucky. They visited Churchill Downs and a ghost walk through Old Louisville. No reports yet on whether any Kentucky bourbon was tasted.*****Amie Smith** and **Ronda Allee** went shopping at Round Top. **Amie's** purchases included a custom cowgirl hat and some things that will show up in her floral shop, **Trendz**. Has **Trey Smith** seen the bills, yet?*****Krewe de Onyx** this weekend is having a March Madness Sneaker Ball at the **American Legion**. Semi-formal wear with sneakers. A lot more comfortable for the women than heels.*****Cris McLeod** with the **Lutcher Theater** marked her 35th anniversary with the theater. She is now director of operations, working her way up from beginning part-time in the box office.*****Pat Caillavet** rode the **Lions Carnival Carousel** for the first time in years. She couldn't turn down the request from her great-granddaughter.*****The Lions** continued through wet grounds this week with the annual charity carnival. That carousel was already down and in storage on Sunday after the carnival had its last night on Saturday.*****Tammy Burch-Baker** and **Tamara Baker** took a birthday beach trip along with **Regina Marple**.*****Becky** and **Ron McAnnelley** saw **Eric Church** at the Houston Rodeo.*****Nancy Denmark**, who grew up on 20th Street in Orange and graduated from Stark High, has become a butterfly and plant expert. She will be back in town Tuesday, April 2, to give a 5:30 p.m. talk at **Cottage Cuttings** on Bancroft Road about growing native milkweed to help attract butterflies. The night before, she'll have a program at the **Logon Cafe** in Beaumont at 7 p.m., sponsored by the **Big Thicket Association**.***Co

ngratulations to the new 2024-25 cheerleaders at **Little Cypress-Mauriceville High**. Tryouts were last week and the varsity cheerleaders are **Kyndall Davis**, **Peyton Elliott**, **Bella Ferro**, **Kolbi Fountain**, **Sydney Guidry**, **Kenidee Istre**, **Kinley Lacouture**, **Hanna LaBlanc**, **Madison Loupe**, **Cailynn Nichols**, **Ava Rambo**, **Jaiden Romar**, **Ella Russell**, **Gracelynn Smith**, **EmmaKate Staton**, **Brooke Tinsley**, **Delani Van Pelt**, **Kylee Vincent**, **Teagun Wilson**, and **Zoe Winn**, with **Lanie Roff** as mascot. Junior varsity cheerleaders are **Aubrey Blackman**, **Jayslea Bourdier**, **Bristol Castino**, **Kymber Dogherty**, **Addyson Farwell**, **Mattie Glende**, **Charley Jones**, **Jada Jones**, **Henley Kalena**, **Ashlynn Mobbs**, **Kaylee Ray**, **Laney Reynolds**, **Emmerson Richards**, **Arden Robison**, **Olivia Scheiderer**, **Avery Standley**, **Lilly Tarver**, and **Morgan Worster**, with **Chloe Zarate** as mascot.***The **Boston Red Sox** have been showing some Orange County, Texas. **Grant Anderson**, a West Orange-Stark grad who pitched last year for the champion **Texas Rangers**, is now at **Red Sox** spring training camp along with **Chase Shugart**, a Bridge City grad. Wonder if OC can get two pitchers on the **Red Sox** this year.***Speaking of spring training, **Nancy** and **Tony Dallas** have been in Florida seeing sons **Jack** and **Chad** in pro baseball training. **Chad** is in the **Phillies** system and **Jack** with the **Blue Jays**. **Broderick** and **Leigh Anne Dallas Harrell** brought baby **Honey** on her first plane trip to see her uncles.*****Sherry** and **Mike Combs** had their 54th wedding anniversary and went to Hot Springs Village in Arkansas where the had a cabin along a picturesque lake.*****Gregory** and **Paris Rodriguez** also celebrated an anniversary.*****Meri Elen Jacobs** is celebrating the engagement of **Alayna Jacobs** and **John Jefferson III**. The **Combs** will also be preparing for a wedding. **Grandsone Black LeBlanc** popped the question to **Alana Sullivan**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know having birthdays in the next few days. **March 27:** **Art Mason**, **Nancy Crew**, **Jordan Harper**, **Sarah Coffey**, **Dale Forse**, **Jane Scherer**.*****March 28:** **Mike Roberts**, **Jennifer Kreamer**, **Dorothy Keith**, **Jean Jackson**, **Lindsey Peoples**, **Rob Butler**, **Steve Holland**, **Annely Domas**, **Jason James**.*****March 29:** **Katie May**, **Kaydee Wingate**, **Robert Clark Jr.**, **Julie Norwood**, **Ivalyn Anderson**, **Julie Walker**.*****March 30:** **Kate Ferguson**, **Lisa Smith**, **Terry Stuebing**, **Karen Bergeron**, **Cliff Brookshire**.*****March 31:** **Terry Seal**, **Malori Walton**, **Dana Myers**, **Danny Carter**, **Hunter Wilson**, **Mary Lejeune**, **Matthew Cooper**, **Rebecca Hunter**, **Carolyn Whittaker**.*****April 1:** 93rd birthday **McDonald Baptist Church**, **Tracie Ray**, **Elizabeth Weir**, **Pam Savoy**, **James Williams**, **Steve Adams**, **Allison Asbury**, **Angie Sellers**.*****April 2:** **James "Mack" McDonald**, **Barbara Riddick**, **Vickie Foreman**, **Dalica Marie Bienivides**, **Ed Whitrock**, **Jason Vincent**, **Kellie Fontenot**, **Kent Pierce**, **Norma Free**, **Michael McAllister**, **Mikayla Kohn**, **Nevella Toal**, **Sawyer Hogan**.*** Birthday greetings go out to **Bill Belcher**, who celebrated 97 years with family, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Others making another trip around the sun included **Larry Fisher**, **Michael Catt**, **Raul Burch**, **Sandra Gross**, **Connie Powell**, **Sissy Hargis Willey**, **Jack McClelland**, **Pam Nugent**, incoming district attorney **Krispen Walker**, **BCISD Police Chief Cliff Hargrave**, **Cody Strause**, **Jessica Singer**, **Marcia Brown**, **Evan Guidry**, **Keely Mason**, **Terry LeGrande**, **Kelvin Knauf**, **Jessica Singer**, **Adi Hommel**, **Melissa Ashby**, **Kelly Griffin**, **Angela Mills**, **Joey Robins**, **Angie Cagle McGee**, and **Deann Lathrop**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Da state of Louisiana was taking some bids for carpenter work on one of the state's historical buildings. **Joe Morceaux**, from Carencro, look da job over, him. After measuring and figuring his bid, **Morceaux** said, "I can do it, me, for \$9,000." I need \$4,000 for da material, \$4,000 for my crew and dat leave \$1,000 profit for me. "Tex" **Walker**, from Texas him, look at da job. He measures and calculated, him, dat he could do dat little job for \$7,000; \$3,000 for materials, \$3,000 for labor and still make himself \$1,000. Last bidder, **Alsid Fuselier**, (I'm not sure if he is kin to **Tony** or not) from Breaux Bridge, steps up dire and witout looking at da job, he says to **Roy Theriot**, da government man wat is taking da bids, he say, "Me, I do dat job for \$27,000." Surprised **Theriot**, da bid man, ax him to explain his bid. "It's like dis, **Fuselier** says, "\$10,000 for me, \$10,000 for you and we hire dat dere Texan for the utta \$7,000.

C'EST TOUT
HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND YOURS

Easter, a significant festival in Christianity, commemorates the resurrection of **Jesus Christ** from the dead after His crucifixion. While the core celebration is consistent across **Christian denominations**, various traditions and customs have developed over time. **Easter** is a time of joy, hope, and renewed faith for Christians worldwide, regardless of cultural variations. The central message remains constant: **Jesus Christ** conquered death, offering eternal life to all who believe.***Thanks for your support through all the years. We are proud to be your community newspaper. Take care and God bless.



'Down Life's Highway' with the late Sen. Carl Parker

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY ROY DUNN-COLUMNIST For The Record

Monday I got a call from Senator Carl Parker, I always called him 'Senator.' He said he was checking on me. I told him outside of nearly daily visits to some doctor, and having to get up too much during the night I was hanging in there.

He said join the club about night's ups and downs, that's an old man's curse. He told me he was due to have a heart valve repaired. I didn't understand why it was put off, something about the doctor not being available. I asked if he had talked to Dr. Morbia, he said no, but one of his partners, Dr. Abochamh, had recommended the heart surgeon. Morbia, for 30 years, has been Carl's doctor. I don't know what happened between Monday and Friday. We had a nice, long talk about the old times when we were young and burnt the candle at both ends. Carl and I started out as political adversaries.

For two elections I was W.T. Oliver's campaign manager. W.T. was incumbent when Carl won the next two elections. Sometime back he wrote a column about how our friendship had evolved. I believe it was mutual respect. He once told me, "No one can accuse you of not being loyal." Carl did me some valuable favors. I had the opportunity to do him a favor that likely led to him being elected senator. He, W.T. and Chester Slay were in a three-way race to replace Sen. D. Roy Harrington. Oliver ran a close third, putting Parker and Slay in a close runoff.

Doug Harrington, my friend the pharmacist, the senator's son, called me all panicked. He had just learned that W.T. was endorsing Slay. There weren't any cell phones then but Oliver's wife, Ann, gave me the ad-



Carl Parker in US Navy.

dress where they were gathered. I contacted W.T. and told him he couldn't do that. He said he had already done it. He had not met with his supporters or financial backers so I told him he had to undo it. Chester Slay showed up at my office and left with tears in his eyes. He knew that with Oliver's strong conservative support, he would beat Parker. I agreed.

W.T. would not endorse either candidate; however Oliver's supporters did endorse Parker in political ads. The last time Carl and I spoke on Monday, he brought up that race. Doug Harrington never forgot that favor and gathered funds to help Oliver with expenses. The singing Senator: Each time Carl and Beverly attended a party at our place Carl sang his songs. H.D. Pate always jokingly urged Carl to sing the only two songs he knew. Carl and I were the same age and we talked about racing down the hill to our 90th.

We talked about all the old political grinders being gone. Gene Edgerly left us last year but Judge Flo is still with us, not as politically active but still involved. Carl turned in his column last Tuesday and we think it is worth running again. Beverly said he was working on a new column when he went to take a nap. I got the awful news that night.

Senator Carl Parker was one of a kind. He was one of the smartest people I have ever known. He was one of the most decorated

Texas legislatures, authoring over 400 bills that became law. Here at home, he was responsible for H.D. Pate becoming president of Lamar Board of Regents, Judge Don Burgess an Applet Court Judge, plus several district judge appointments. He was responsible for Gov. Ann Richards appointing me to the Sabine Pilot Commission.

While I was on the Commission we swore in the first lady pilot.

There were many more local appointments. Sen. Parker was the only legislature elected speaker pro-tem of the House and president pro-tem of the Senate. Rest in peace my friend.

MIXED EMOTIONS

SEN. CARL PARKER FINAL COLUMN For The Record

As a long time, Democrat, I must admit I have mixed emotions about the way Dade Phelan is being treated by the Republican Party. While I am pleased to see the Republicans are so disorganized, I am convinced that having the Speaker of the House representing this area is a great benefit to us all.

There is a time and place for an area to benefit. The time is while the Legislature is in session. The place is various committees of the House and Senate. As an example, had I not been chair of the Senate Education Committee, there would not



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.

have been a Lamar at Orange or Port Arthur. A new nursing program would not have been created.

People of District 21: would it not be foolish to dump an honest, young man because he allowed the House to impeach our attorney general who has been sued by his employees and is under indictment? Or that vouchers did not get passed by the House? Think before you vote!!

HE IS
RISEN

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Matthew 28:7

Julie LeDoux

Becky Barker

Ellen Nickum

Carolyn Boswell

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THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Michael Thompson, Respondent,

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of JESSICA ANN MCFARLIN, Petitioner, was filed in the County Court At Law #2 of Orange County, Texas on 19th day of March, 2024, against Theda Isabelle Guidry A/K/A Theda Isabelle Martin, Shannon Lynn Martin, Deceased, and Michael Thompson numbered 240186-D and entitled In the Interest of Chanler Memphis Martin et al Children. The suit requests Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship and Request for Temporary Restraining Order.

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

Chanler Memphis Martin 12/27/2008 Beaumont, Texas
Khristlynn Seihara Martin 05/10/2010 Beaumont, Texas
Nicholis Jayden Guidry 08/23/2011 Beaumont, Texas

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this March 21, 2024.

Anne Reed

ANNE REED, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
By: /S/ Ramee Fowler, Deputy

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM CONWAY, Deceased, were issued on MARCH 25, 2024, in Cause No. P19928, pending in the County Court at Law of ORANGE County, Texas, to: RANDY CONWAY.

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: RANDY CONWAY
618 Player's Place
Brookeland, TX 75931

Dated the 26th day of March, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CLARENCE JOSEPH DUHON, JR., Deceased, were issued on MARCH 25, 2024, in Cause No. P19917, pending in the County Court at Law of ORANGE County, Texas, to: BEVERLY GAY DUHON.

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: BEVERLY GAY DUHON
1711 Arkansas Avenue
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 25th day of March, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHERINE ELAINE HOCK, Deceased, were issued on FEBRUARY 20, 2024, in Cause No. P19901, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: VINA JEAN MCKAY.

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

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

Dated the 1st day of February, 2024.

James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Heritage House of Orange County will present Cemetery Walk at Jett Cemetery at 4249 W Park Ave, Orange, TX 77630 on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, donation only. The Heritage House Museum is excited to bring back our Cemetery Walk. This year we will highlight graves from Jett Cemetery. Come learn cemetery etiquette while hearing about some of the interesting facts and histories of people that are interred here. This is an outdoor event, be weather aware and dress accordingly. Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you at The Heritage House Museum of Orange County Cemetery Walk at Jett Cemetery.

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SHAKE-SPEARE

ACROSS

1. Type of help center

6. Fake tooth

9. What geysers do

13. Lagoon wall

14. Acronym, in brief

15. Syrup producer

16. Papal court

17. It often comes with Aloha!

18. External

19. "Richard III: "A horse! A horse! My ____ for a horse!"

21. "Romeo and Juliet: "Parting is such sweet ____"

23. Animal's nose

24. Fail to mention

25. Capone's family

28. "Hamlet: "O, this is the poison of ____ grief"

30. Soap froth

35. Iris holder

37. "He ____, She Said"

39. ____ Apso

40. Cheap form of payment?

41. Bert's roommate

43. Not in favor

44. Hipbone-related

46. The Destroyer, in Hinduism

47. Thomas the Engine's warning

48. "Heart of Darkness" author

50. Brewer's kiln

52. Beer choice

53. Not a verb

55. Comic cry

57. "The Tempest: "We are such stuff as ____ are made on"

60. "As You Like It: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely ____"

64. Primatologist's concern, for short

65. "This land is your land"?

67. "Macbeth: "Our ____ master's murder'd!"

68. Scoundrel

69. Hi ____ monitor

70. Wombs

71. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning

72. Teacher's favorite

73. Got ready for a close up

DOWN

1. Nordstrom's outlet

2. Purse for the red carpet

3. Cape on Tierra del Fuego

4. Set straight

5. Like a knife

6. Comes before a storm?

7. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"

8. Spectrum maker

9. Wild ox of India

10. Plotting (2 words)

11. Multitude

12. Having Everything Revealed, singer and songwriter

15. "Hamlet: "When we have shuffled off this ____ coil"

20. Corpulent

22. Tin Woodman's "medicine"

24. "Two cents"?

25. "Twelfth Night: "If ____ be the food of love, play on"

26. Convex molding

27. Nigeria's western neighbor

29. Listening devices

31. "Hamlet: "To be, or not to be: ____ is the question"

32. Capital of Vietnam

33. Bar by estoppel

34. Indian restaurant condiment

36. Petri dish filler

38. Prima donna

42. Artist's tripod

45. High tea sandwich

49. P rignon's honorific

51. Destroy a document (2 words)

54. Seize a throne

56. City in Japan

57. Type of sailing vessel

58. Capital of Latvia

59. Outback birds

60. "Blast from the ____"

61. "The ____ of Tammy Faye," movie

62. Uncommon

63. Went down slippery slope

64. Cathode-ray tube

66. "Merchant of Venice: "But love is blind, and lovers cannot ____"

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Bridge City, Orangefield hold on to first

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

This begins the third week of district action for the teams in District 19-4A. The Bridge City Cardinals have won their first four games to claim first place in the standings. Bridge City has swept its first two district opponents starting with taking two from the Silsbee Tigers on March 12 and March 16. Last week the Cardinals grabbed two from their cross-county rivals the Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears.

The Cardinals and the Bears faced off on Tuesday, March 19, at Chuck Young Field in Bridge City. The contest was a pitching duel that went extra innings before Bridge City

prevailed 2-1 in the tenth inning. Owen Tucker was the first of five pitchers used by Bridge City, and Landon Richards was the LCM starting pitcher. The game was scoreless until the fourth inning when the two teams scored one run apiece to keep the score tied. Three straight innings beginning with the fifth the Cardinals got a runner as far as second base twice with only one out. Richards wriggled out of the jams in the fifth and sixth before his reliever Jacob Scheiderer escaped the third time in the seventh for Little Cypress Mauriceville.

The Bears had their chances too as Richards doubled with one out in



Christian Anderson of the Mustangs drove in a run in both of West Orange-Stark's games with Lumberton last week.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

the seventh but Max Pachar retired the next two LCM batters including one by a strikeout. Parker Seago singled and Parker Freeman walked to put runners at first and second in the eighth before Cardinal pitcher Austin Frederick recorded a strikeout on a full count pitch to retire Little Cypress Mauriceville in the top of the eighth. Having some control issues Frederick reached a full count to five straight Bear batters in the eighth and ninth innings resulting in three bases on balls over his inning and two thirds on the mound. When it counted though Austin got the job done yielding no runs and strik-

BASEBALL Page 3B

BC Lady Cardinals on top in district action

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The first half of district games concluded on Tuesday, March 26, in District 19-4A, and the Bridge City Cardinals are in first place winning all their games played so far in district. The battle of unbeaten teams played out at the Bridge City softball field on Tuesday, March 19, only the hometown Cardinals were undefeated when the contest was over. The Bridge City Cardinals improved to 4-0 in district with the 3-0 win over the Lumberton Lady Raiders. The loss was the first in district for the Lady Raiders who had won their first four district games averaging 13 runs a game.

Cardinal pitcher Carson Fall continued her dominant pitching this season throwing a two-hit shutout, with one walk, and striking out 17 Lumberton batters. Only one ball was even hit out of the infield by the Lady Raiders. Fall struck out four of the first five Lady Raiders she faced before allowing the only hard struck ball of the night a single to center field by the sixth hitter. Carson got her fifth strikeout on the next batter to end the second inning.

Bridge City took the lead in the bottom of the second as Lexi Nugier hit a bloop double to right field. The right fielder for Lumberton then made an errant throw to third base which allowed Nugier to continue to hustle around third and come home just beating the throw to the plate for the first run of the game.

With two outs in the third inning the top of the Lumberton batting order faced Fall for the second time and coaxed a base on balls. The Lady Raider stole second base but that was as far as she got because Fall struck out the next hitter to end the inning.

The Cardinals threatened in both the third and fourth innings. Pinch runner Gabby Moore was thrown out at the plate trying to score following a Lady Raider throwing error in the third inning. Two runners were left on base in the fourth for Bridge City.

Some insurance runs came for the Cardinals in the fifth after Nicole Sasser socked a leadoff double against the centerfield fence. Haley Munoz then lined her second of three



Haley Munoz had three hits and drove in a run for Bridge City against Lumberton while catching for pitcher Carson Fall who shutout the high scoring Lumberton Lady Raiders.

hits on the night to drive score Sasser to make the score 2-0 in favor of Bridge City. Makenna Knight

reached on a fielder's choice and advanced to third on a single by Anna Autrey that clanged off the centerfield fence.



Lady Bobcats Charlee Sanches and Aubree Beck were heroes in Orangefield's two softball wins last week against Buna and Hardin.
RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

Knight scored on a ground ball to second by Fall that put the Cardinals up by three runs. A great defensive play

robbed Bridge City of two more runs that inning. Brooklyn Drodody singled moving Autrey to third as Drodody advanced to sec-

ond on the throw home. Nugier lined a drive to left center on which the Lumberton centerfielder made a sensational catch. Lumberton got its second and final hit as well as last base runner of the night in the top of the sixth with a bunt by the top of the batting order that landed just beyond the reach of Fall behind the pitching circle. A sacrifice bunt got the Lady Raider to second, but she rounded the bag too far and was forced to scramble when Drodody at first base for the Cardinals fired the ball to second base. Fall tagged out the runner out following a brief rundown to end the inning. Three more strikeouts in the seventh completed

SOFTBALL Page 3B

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OUTDOORS

Leading the charge into spring

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

Just about any Texas fisherman who ever wet a line knows that the spring is full of many things, most of which fall into the category of uncertainty and unpredictability. The all time #1 villain is the weather man and his friend the marine forecast, aka “that #\$\$@ wind”! For plenty of us who take advantage of every season the waders that were used during duck hunts have become your best friend as the gears switch in favor of chasing trophy trout in 60 plus degree water.

All but the most hard core of anglers routinely shun the thought of winter or early spring fishing in favor of warmer environments until the mercury creeps up slightly and the first warm weekend has them scrambling for boats, gear, and a spot at the local launch.

Little do most of them know that a few really dedicated anglers spent some less than perfect days on the water doing some reconnaissance in preparation for the warmer days that will inevitably come. The super low tides of winter offer up a great opportunity to find structure that under normal circumstances go un-noticed and many times un-fished.

Several of my last trips on the water have been solo adventures without a fishing rod and accompanied only by my 2nd best “girl”, a black lab named Jolie and my binoculars. I truly love these days because it helps me switch gears from ducks to fish without missing either one. March and April offer some of the best opportunities to see ducks in their full plumage as they make their way back north.

The Blue winged teal migrating back from Mexico are usually the stars of the show, especially when I’m scouting the marshes of Sabine and Calcasieu for redfish. The small groups of birds work low and fly thru the maze of islands like little jet fighters making just as much noise from their wings as they do with their calls. The drakes are painted up like a brand new decoy and easily identifiable, they drive my dog nuts because she keeps waiting for a shotgun to go off and the opportunity to go fetch one. To see birds in the air and fish in the water at the same time is what really gets me going, the best of both worlds right there in front of you.

On one such recent outing I made a loop through some of the marsh ponds that I hunted this past season. On my way in I passed a line of waders standing like solitary figures on an expansive flat, I’m sure we both were thinking “what’s that idiot doing out here” as the day was less than “bluebird beach” weather. I swung my skiff wide of their position and made my way into the marsh and some much more comfortable surroundings. The lake that was churned up from wind and runoff gave way to beautiful clear water and a slight ripple. I sat the skiff down off of plane and gave the pond a chance to settle as I climbed up on the platform. Much to my surprise a defined group of redfish were milling about as if they had no idea a visitor had made his way into their pond. I pushed up on the pod of fish and just watched for a few moments until they made their way

down the pond and eventually swam away from where I was. The rest of the afternoon was more of the same, small groups of fish just relaxed and enjoying small crabs and a few finger mullet.

For an early spring day it was an eye opener, we normally don’t see fish like that until late April or May. Calcasieu will crank up a little earlier than Sabine on normal years but it appears that both may be a little ahead of schedule. Those waders I told you about will certainly vouch for the fact the winter pattern for redfish has been about as constant as you could ever hope for, in fact the numbers of redfish in both bays appear to be as high as anyone can ever remember. The fish are all really healthy and seem to be almost “cookie cutter” identical, lots of fish on the low end of the slot with a nice mix of oversized fish. The upcoming spring and summer months could be memorable ones for local and out of town fishermen alike.



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. Limits of redfish with a few trout mixed in are good in Lake Sabine ake on shell, points and drops. Some flounder mixed in as well.

Drum are in shallow water cuts in 8 feet of water with live shrimp under a popping cork. Sabine Channel rock piles and bulkheads in 5-12 feet of water are holding redfish and trout. Sheephead and drum catches in the cuts of Texas Bayou.

Jetties are good for sheephead and drum on Carolina rigged live shrimp. Sabine South Revetment Wall and the North Levee are producing good catches of trout drifting with a popping cork with live shrimp drifting. Sheephead, drum and redfish are good in the banks and points in the ICW with live shrimp under a popping cork.

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

• Bolivar

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

• Trinity Bay

FAIR. 67 degrees. Best catches are still being reported from the upper northwest corner of the bay around the Fred Hartman bridge. Waders are beginning to see some activity for speckled trout along the east shoreline. Best bite on live shrimp and for those wading, hard plastic baits and soft plastics lures. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Water clarity bounces back quickly after winds and rain with the incoming tide. Trout are grouping up heavily in reefs being caught in 2-3 feet of water using popping corks and purple and chartreuse WAC assassins with a 1/4 ounce jig heads. Redfish are easily caught in areas with better water clarity with moving tide and a partially protected shoreline from the wind using live shrimp under a popping cork and gulp shrimp in the penny color. Drums are mixed in with the redfish. Sheephead are lined in the sides of the ship channel on riprap free lining shrimp with a 1/4 ounce split shot. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

Surface water temperature 68 degrees. Water clarity is decent for East Galveston Bay. Still catching trout, redfish, and a few flounder in the marsh and bayou areas, but the fish have started their transition out into the main bay system. We found good numbers of solid trout on the Shorelines over shell pockets and within close proximity to drains. 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 to another spot. The lighter the jig head the

better, 1/16 to ¼ ounce, determined by the wind and current, and tails without paddles, performing the best, as we were utilizing Wac Assassin’s in Chartreuse & Monkey Milk, depending upon clarity and light conditions. This week Fish Smack Popping corks with a 2 feet leader above a Marker 54 Glide Shrimp has done equally well on our trips, with a hard pop and about a 5 second pause gathering the most strikes. Spring is here and fishing will continue to heat up as the water warms into the 70s and the days continue to get longer. Report by

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

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 64 degrees. Open bay catches put on hold due to windy conditions. Those fishing protected areas finding a few speckled trout. Black drum numbers are increasing, along with sheephead over structure. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

The South Jetty is holding trout, sheephead and redfish near the rocks on free-lined shrimp, or Car-

olina rigged float with live shrimp or soft plastic. SWP Holding Redfish from Pier and from Rocks. Sheephead are in front of the concrete Seawall. The drains out of Swan Lake Campbell Slough holding sheephead with an occasional Redfish. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• West Galveston Bay

FAIR. 68 degrees. Scattered catches of speckled trout being reported from lower west bay. San Luis Pass is good for sheephead, black drum, and a few catches of redfish on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

May this Holy Week bring you blessings of love, joy, peace & hope. May it linger in your heart forever.

John Gothia, County Judge
Orange County Commissioners Court

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Baseball round-up

From Page 1B

ing out three.

Frederick led off the tenth for Bridge City with a grounder in the hole to the left side that Bear shortstop Seago fielded but could not get the throw to first in time to record the out. Landon Reeves was hit by a pitch to put Cardinals at first and second with no outs.

LCM pitcher Scheiderer retired the next two Cardinals on an infield popup and with his fourth strike-out since coming in to pitch with one out in the seventh. Bridge City's CJ Riojas who knocked in the first Cardinal run back in the fourth did the honors again ripping a low liner just inside of third base that scored Frederick with the winning run from second.

Aidyn Mulhollan pitched the tenth inning for Bridge City and got credit for the win. "We threw five Cardinals tonight. We ended up with five arms, and each one of them did a great job," Cardinal Coach Chad Landry commented after the win.

The two teams shifted to Don Gibbens Field on Friday, and Bridge City got a strong pitching performance from Landon Reeves in the 13-1 victory. John Van Huis went three for three with two runs batted in, and Gavin Bo-



Brycen Tait pitched shutout ball and Cameron Dearing scored two runs in the Bobcats 8-0 win over Hardin.

din got two hits to drive in three Cardinals.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs lost twice to the Lumberton Raiders last week. The Raiders won at home 9-3 on Tuesday after the Mustangs took the lead in the top of the first inning scoring two runs with two out.

Will Lee and Blade Williams scored the Mustangs' runs. Christian Anderson and Grayson Gregory had runs batted in.

Lumberton took the second game 6-1 on Friday, March 22, at Ronnie Anderson Park. Noah Robles, Cortez Robertson,

Lee, and Anderson had hits for West Orange-Stark with Anderson driving in the lone Mustang run against the Raiders' pitcher Roman Ardoin. Robles pitched a complete game for WOS giving up just two earned runs in seven innings.

The Bridge Cardinals have their bye this week and will play a non-district game with St. Louis Louisiana on Wednesday. The Cardinals' next district games will be Tuesday, April 2, at Vidor and at home on Friday, April 5, against the Pirates.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears were look-



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

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

ing for their first win in district on Tuesday, March 26, at home against the Vidor Pirates. The Bears and the Pirates play Thursday, March 28, in Vidor.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs play Jasper twice this week. Tuesday's game was at Ronnie Anderson Park while on Thursday the Mustangs and the Bulldogs play at Jasper.

The Orangefield Bobcat took possession of first place in District 21-3A after winning their two games last week. Orangefield has a record of 4-1 in district after losing the district opener 3-2 to Kirbyville on March 5.

This past Friday Orangefield shutout Hardin 8-0 behind the shutout pitching of Brycen Tait and Garrett Rawls. Tait went five and two third innings to get the win with eight strikeouts, and Raw-

BASEBALL Page 4B

For More Orange County Sports
read us online TheRecordLive.com

Softball action

From Page 1



Aubree Beck trots home after her three run homer gave the Lady Bobcats an 8-0 lead against Hardin on Friday in Orangefield.

those games but were shutout by Fall and Bridge City.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears are in third place in District 19-4A through the first half of games. LCM (3-2) has lost to Bridge City and Lumberton in district.

The Lady Bears won twice last week 12-1 against Jasper and 23-0 at West Orange-Stark.

Keylie Washburn homered and tripled driving in four runs during the game with Jasper. Tessa Erickson hit a bases loaded double to bring home three Lady Bears and was strong in the circle with 11 strikeouts to get the pitching win.

Ella Stephenson needed only three innings to get the pitching win against West Orange-Stark without giving up a hit, walking one, and striking out four. Eden Frenzel hit a double and a triple, scored four times, and knocked in two other Lady Bears. Ava Wright was two for two including a double driving in four runs, and Erickson had five runs batted in for Little Cypress Mauriceville.

SOFTBALL Page 4B

the job well done by Carson and her Cardinal teammates. "I couldn't really ask for more. I love these girls. They work hard, and I think they deserve the wins that they're getting, so that's a big deal," Bridge City Coach Kylie Bradley responded.

The Cardinals gave Coach Bradley a decisive victory on Friday, March 22, with a 14-0 win over Jasper. Carson Fall threw a no-hitter and drove in two runs with her bat.

Lexi Nugier and Kyleigh Hamilton both had two hits in the triumph.

Bridge City concluded the first half of district at home against the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs on Tuesday. The second half starts on Thursday, March 28, at Silsbee for the Cardinals.

Second place Lumberton blasted Vidor 14-3 on Friday. The Lady Raiders have won five district games outscoring their opponents 66 to 18 in

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Softball action

From Page 3B

Silsbee visited “The Pete” on Tuesday to conclude the first half of district play for the Lady Bears. LCM plays its next game also at home on Tuesday, April 2, against first place Bridge City.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats concluded the first half of play in District 21-3A on a six game winning streak. Orangefield captured two of those wins last week against Buna and Hardin.

On Tuesday, March 29, the Lady Bobcats had a 6-5 comeback win on the road over Buna. Charlee Sanches was the hero with her arm and her bat getting the win in the circle throwing the last four innings while also driving in two Lady Bobcats in the seventh for the tying and winning runs.

Hallee Becker got the rally started for Orangefield in the seventh with the third

of her three hits in the game. Aubree Beck added three hits and scored two runs. Haylee Spears had a double among her two hits and scored a run.

The Lady Bobcats beat the Hardin Lady Hornets 8-1 at the Paul Cormier Softball Field in Orangefield on Friday. Charlee Sanches pitched a complete game going seven innings allowing four hits, walking none, and striking out seven.

The Orangefield offense started and ended with Aubree Beck who led off the third inning of a scoreless game with a single to left for her second hit of the evening. Aubree stole second, went to third on a wild pitch, and scored the first run on a grounder by Paris Becker.

Sanches doubled to drive in Hallee Becker who had

walked to give the Lady Bobcats a 2-0 lead. Abby Broussard singled to bring home Abigail Curphey who reached on a base on balls, and Haylee Spears blooped a single to score two more runs.

Beck came up for the second time in the inning and proceeded to plant a pitch over the leftfield fence for a three run homerun. Eight runs scored for Orangefield in the third which was all the scoring in the game except for Hardin’s lone tally in the seventh.

“Defensively I thought we looked good. Charlee got a start tonight and threw really well taking a no hitter into the fifth. Scoring those eight runs in the third I wish they would have been a little more spread out and that we scored a few more times in some other innings. I was proud of our



The Bridge City Cardinal softball team is 5-0 in district with wins over Silsbee, LCM, Vidor, Jasper, and Lumberton which was also undefeated until losing Tuesday at Bridge City.

effort tonight,” Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale replied.

The second half of District 21-3A began on Tuesday, March 26, for Orangefield against Kountze who beat the Lady Bobcats 3-1 to open district on February 27. The next game for

the Lady Bobcats will be Thursday, March 28, in Orangefield against Anahuac.

Baseball this week

From Page 3B



The Bridge City Cardinal softball team is 5-0 in district with wins over Silsbee, LCM, Vidor, Jasper, and Lumberton which was also undefeated until losing Tuesday at Bridge City.

Is got the last four outs striking out the final Hardin batter in the seventh.

The Bobcats tallied a pair of runs in four different innings taking the lead in the second later adding runs in the third, fourth, and sixth innings. Camden Fountain and Matthew Johnson began the initial rally with base hits.

Logan Cheek walked and Cameron Dearing doubled down the leftfield line leading

ing to the two runs in the third. In the fourth inning Mason Houghton reached base on a hard liner to third before Cheek and Dearing walked to load the bases. Caleb Fregia hit a sacrifice fly to bring home Houghton, and Cheek scored to make it 6-0 on a Hardin error.

A light rain blew through the fifth and sixth innings. The Bobcats tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the sixth to finish the scoring.

“We’re starting to put some innings together and not leaving people on base. That was our big thing early in the season. We’d get people on and just couldn’t get them in which made it harder on ourselves. We’re doing a better job with that,” Coach Tim Erickson

of the Bobcats analyzed.

Earlier last week the Bobcats bombed Buna 18-3 on Tuesday. Logan Cheek, Caleb Fregia, and Matthew Johnson each collected three hits. Camden Fountain had a double and drove in four runs for Orangefield. Carson Gonzales started and went two and two third innings before being relieved by Kaleb

Menard who allowed one run in the final three and a third innings.

This week the Bobcats closeout the first half of district competition against two of the top teams in District 21-3A. Orangefield played at home on Tuesday against Kountze, and will face Anahuac at Paul Cormier Field on Thursday.

Willie Nelson’s Fourth of July Picnic lands in the Philadelphia area for the first time



The country luminary’s mostly annual mega-concert, hosted in his native Texas for most of its 50-year-history, will be held for the first time in the Northeast this July, with a bill that includes Bob Dylan and Robert Plant.

Associated Press reports that Willie Nelson’s Fourth of July Picnic is two-stepping out of Texas to the Philadelphia area.


The country luminary’s mostly annual mega-concert, hosted in his native Texas for most of its 50-year-history, will be held for the first time in the Northeast this July, with a bill that includes Bob Dylan and the duo of Robert Plant and Alison Krauss at Freedom Mortgage Pavilion in Camden, New Jersey.

The open air amphithe-

ater is just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia.

The lineup also includes Mavis Staples, Marlen Morris and Celisse. Tickets go on sale Friday.

The giant patriotic party that Nelson first threw in 1973 has made occasional forays outside the Lone Star State, to Tulsa, Oklahoma; Kansas City; Atlanta and, most recently, to South Bend, Indiana in 2009. With the exception of virtual concerts in 2020 and 2021, it’s been held in Austin for the past decade.



TAX SERVICES

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Certified Public Accountant

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At 90, Nelson has not slowed the constant touring, recording and performing he’s kept up for more than six decades. Last April he was feted for his birthday with two nights of tribute concerts at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, and in November he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.



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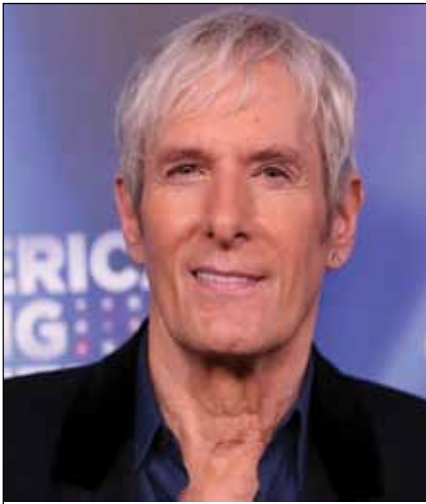
ENTERTAINMENT: Bolton highlights weekend events

TOMMY MANN JR.
Entertainment Writer
For The Record

Several concerts have been announced for late summer and fall, such as Five Finger Death Punch and Marilyn Manson, Breaking Benjamin and Staind, as well as Clint Black.

Glance through the list below to find something that appeals to you and visit the full list of concerts online at www.therecordonline.com.

- **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, Loveless, 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



Michal Bolton will be performing March 30 at the Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

- **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, Lutch 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
- **May 1**
Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston
- **May 2**
Ashley McBryde, Bella White, House of Blues, Houston
- **May 4**
Flatland Cavalry, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **May 5**
Motionless in White, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **May 5**
Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **May 6**
The Teskey Brothers, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **May 7**
Canaan Cox, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **May 9**
Blackberry Smoke, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **May 15**
Armored Saint, Scout Bar, Houston
- **June 13**
Noah Khan, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **June 16**
Alanis Morissette, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **June 22**
Styx, Foreigner, John Waite, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands
- **July 13**
New Kids on the Block, Paula Abdul, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

March Madness: How to watch and what to watch for in the NCAA Sweet 16 tournament

March Madness is on. The beloved annual tradition that is the NCAA Tournament opened with bracket busters and overnight stars — Oakland's Jack Gohlke and Oregon's Jermaine Couisnard, anyone? — emerging out of nowhere. Who will win it all? UConn is the No. 1 overall seed and the trendy pick to claim a sixth overall title and become the first team to repeat as NCAA champion since Florida in 2006-07. Other top seeds are Houston, Purdue and North Carolina. There are no obviously dominant teams this year and it could be a wild ending again; last year's Final Four, remember, included two 5 seeds (Miami and San Diego State), the fourth-seeded Huskies and 9 seed Florida Atlantic. One thing is for sure: The Big East and the ACC rolled in Week 1. Will it continue?

TOP GAMES

1 UConn vs. 5 San Diego State, Thursday. This is a rematch of last season's national championship game won by UConn in a 17-point cruiser. The defending champions have won their first two tournament games by an average of 28 points.

The Aztecs have faced UAB and Yale so far; the challenge is far greater against the Huskies, who will have plenty of fans on hand in Boston. 3 Illinois vs. 2 Iowa State, Thursday. The Illini have one of the most exciting players in the tournament leading their explosive offense in Terrence Shannon Jr. They will face a rugged defense this time in the Cyclones, who have wins this season over the likes of Houston and Baylor. A clash of styles. 1 Houston vs. 4 Duke, Friday. Houston has to quickly forget the thriller over Texas A&M with the Blue Devils up next. Duke is coming off a 38-point win over James Madison, but will face an outstanding Cougars defense. Depth and foul trouble could be key in this one. 5 Gonzaga vs. 1 Purdue, Friday. The Boilermakers are rolling behind big man Zach Edey. The Zags will try to figure out ways around Edey — literally — with their crafty offense that emphasizes assists and kick-out 3-pointers. On defense, Gonzaga will try to limit Edey and force other players — Trey Kaufman-Renn or Fletcher Loyer, perhaps — to step up. Every game of the men's

tournament will be aired — here is a schedule — either on CBS, TBS, TNT or TruTV and their digital platforms, including Paramount+. TBS will handle the Final Four and national title game this year. The NCAA is streaming games via its March Madness Live option.

WHEN ARE THE GAMES

Sweet 16 weekend will see games March 28-31 in Boston (East Regional), Dallas (South), Detroit (Midwest) and Los Angeles (West). The Final Four is in Glendale, Arizona, on Saturday, April 6, with the championship game the night of Monday, April 8.

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Making the Most of Holy Week and Easter

David Mathis
Executive Editor
desiringGod.org

In one sense, there's nothing special about "Holy Week." Just another sequence of eight days each spring — nothing is intrinsically holy about this Sunday to Sunday that moves around the calendar each year.

We have no mandate from Jesus or his apostles to mark these days for particular observance. Paul, for one, would be quite happy for us to partake, or not. "One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind" (Romans 14:5).

Clearly, the celebration should not be pressed upon the conscience of others. "Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath" (Colossians 2:16).

Opportunity, Not Obligation

Celebrating Holy Week is not an obligation, but it is an opportunity. It is a chance to walk with the church, throughout time and throughout the world, as she walks with her Bridegroom through the most important week in the history of the world. It is a chance to focus our minds on, and seek to in-



tensify our affections for, the most important and timeless of realities.

While not mandating the observance, or even suggesting it, the New Testament does give us indirect reason, if we're looking for it. The final eight of Matthew's 28 chapters are given to this one week, along with the last six of Mark's sixteen and the final six of Luke's 24.

Most significant, though, is John. Ten of the Gospel's 21 chapters — essentially half — deal with the final week of our Lord's life, his betrayal, his trials, his crucifixion, and his triumphant resurrection. Even Acts, which then narrates the life of the early church, returns to the events of Holy Week

with frequency (see, for instance, Acts 1:15–19; 2:22–36; 3:11–26; 4:8–12, 24–28, among others).

Indeed, it could even be said that all the Old Testament anticipates this week, and the rest of the New Testament reflects it in theology and practical living.

Seize the Week

Without any arm-twisting or conscience-pressing, I would encourage you to consider how you might make the most of this week. These are some of the darkest and brightest days in the history of the world, and they are rich with soul-sustaining food and life-clarifying vision.

In the chaos of our in-

creasingly fast-paced and hectic society, Holy Week is a reminder to pause and ponder, to carefully mark each day and not let this greatest of all weeks fly by us like every other.

Perhaps pick a time each day — alone or with family or housemates — to slow down and savor what was happening during the Passion week some two thousands years ago. Consider reading through a Holy Week devotional — or even better, one (or a couple) of the Passion narratives from the Gospels:

Matthew 21–28

Mark 11–16

Luke 19–24

John 12–21

Block out several minutes. Find a comfortable place to sit. Seek to quiet your soul, and pray that God would meet you in the events and significance of this week. And spend a few moments in prayer after you read and turn the truth Godward in adoration of Christ. Receive this week with thanksgiving, and make it holy by the word of God and prayer (1 Timothy 4:5).

You may want to make it memorable with candles or some other special flair. If your church, or another in town, does a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service, that presents another opportunity.

A Prayer for Holy Week

If you'd like a specific biblical text to serve as a prayer charter for this week, here's what I'm asking for myself and my family: that God would make the prayer of Ephesians 3:16–19 increasingly true of us this Holy Week —

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend


with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Jesus's step-by-step journey to Golgotha is a glowing revelation of the extent of his love. He loved us "to the uttermost" (John 13:1) in going all the way to the cross for us, with every bruise, every puncture, and throb and stab of pain. And it is during Holy Week that we see most profoundly how deep the Father's love for us. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).


May God make this to be for you a week of being newly grounded in the love of Christ, so plainly on display from the resolve of Palm Sunday, to the ultimate sacrifice of Good Friday, to the triumph of Easter Sunday. And may you freshly know the love of Christ, in all its breadth and length and height and depth — and wonder upon wonder, be filled with all the fullness of God.

David Mathis (@davidc-mathis) is executive editor for desiringGod.org and pastor at Cities Church. He is a husband, father of four, and author of Workers for Your Joy: The Call of Christ on Christian Leaders (2022).


Church Directory



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or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.
www.fumcorange.org
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

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John 16:33

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Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner
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Starlight Church of God in Christ
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Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
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Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
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Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
office@winfreebaptist.org
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor
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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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