

County Record

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Orange councilors in Facebook brouhaha



Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr., right, posted this photograph on his Facebook page to show solidarity with Councilor Paul Burch after Councilor Terri Salter wrote a public letter comparing friendships on the city council to nepotism and why she opposed Burch being reappointed as mayor pro tem.

Councilor Terri Salter wrote to the editor of a weekly mailed subscription newspaper. Salter commented about the close friendships on the council and compared them to nepotism.

Mayor Larry Spears Jr. posted a professional photograph made of him and Burch as a way to show solidarity.

Councilor Caroline Hennigan commented on Burch's page "Paul Burch, we would hard pressed (sic) to find anyone that is not your friend or doesn't want to be your friend. The interpersonal relationships you have developed highlight your innate talent of working with people, as does your successful business of

nearly 40 years. No matter how well we do, there will always be an enemy. Keep pressing forward. I will continue to work with you, council, and the mayor to keep Orange moving forward!!"

Councilors Brad Childs and Mary McKenna have stayed out of Facebook comments in the brouhaha. New Councilor Matt

Chandler, who took office last week, has refrained except for a few innocuous words on one of Burch's posts concerning the subject.

Before Salter's letter to the editor was published online, on Facebook, or in traditional print, Burch wrote on his Facebook

FACEBOOK Page 3A

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Four members of the Orange City Council have gotten into a Facebook disagreement that has

their fans in a tizzy. One man even compared Councilor Paul Burch to Jesus in the way that people talked about him.

The comments were triggered by a letter Coun-

Bridge City sees healthy sales tax collections

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Most of the entities collecting sales taxes had big increases in March sales compared to last year, with Bridge City now having nearly 13 percent in sales taxes compared to last year. The city of Orange is the only entity down for the year.

All five of the largest cities in Orange County have a 1.5 percent sales tax, or 1.5 cents per dollar. The Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3 also has a 1.5 percent sales tax. The county has a 0.5 percent sales tax, or a half-cent per dollar.

The numbers and percentages reported are from the Texas Comptroller's Office, which collects all sales taxes and reimburses the shares to each

entity. Bridge City for March received \$360,375, compared to \$221,353 for March 2023, a 62.8 percent increase. For the first five months of the year, the city has collected \$1.08 million, up from \$960,232 last year, an increase of 12.7 percent.

Orange collected \$984,761 for March, an increase of 5.16 percent increase from March 2023. The city is down 17.58 percent for the year to date, collecting \$3.07 million, compared to 3.735 million for the same five months last year.

Pinehurst is up in both monthly and year to date sales. The city collected \$63,216 for this March, compared to \$53,588 last year, a jump of 17.96 per-

Sales Tax Page 2A

Public offices close Monday for Memorial Day

Staff Report
For The Record

All federal, state, and local offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day. The local ones include Orange County Courthouse and other county offices. Also, city offices for Bridge City, Orange, Pinehurst, Pine Forest, Rose City, Vidor, and West Orange.

All emergency responder offices like police and fire will be open.

Bridge City, Orange, and Vidor will have regular garbage pickup on Monday. Pinehurst and West Orange do not have regular pickups scheduled on Mondays.

Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday of every May. The

traditional U.S. holiday has its roots in the early days after the Civil War, which ended in 1865. It was first held as Decoration Day, a day to go to cemeteries to decorate the graves of the military who died in the four-year war.

The holiday was changed to Memorial Day after World War I, which ended in 1918, to include all men and women who died while serving in the military.

The 1968 Uniform Holiday Act of 1971 moved all national holidays, except for Christmas, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and New Year's, to a Monday. The act took effect in 1971, when Memorial Day was moved from May 30 to the last Monday, creating a whole Memorial Day Weekend.



The Lutcher Stark HS Class of 1963 held their class reunion on May 4th, 2024. It was hosted and held at the Holiday Inn Express in Orange. Food was catered by Jerry Hughes and some fabulous desserts were furnished by several classmates. The class picture was courtesy of Macc Hughes.

Historic 1953 flood stopped by hundreds of volunteers

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

River flooding has become so common in Orange County that the "Great Flood of 1953" isn't so great now. But the rising Sabine on May 22, 1953, 71 years ago, brought thousands of volunteers together build sand levees and sandbags along the Sabine in the Simmons Drive area.

The emergency was so bad the Orange Independent School District to let the white high school out of classes so the boys could make the sandbags and the girls could make and serve sandwiches. Hundreds of sailors based at the Orange Naval Station assisted and Ellington Air Force Base sent men.

The community and volunteers from all over fought back with heavy equipment, sand, sweat, and cigarettes. Women and girl volunteers were not only serving the sandwiches, they were taking the men cigarettes.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard Peterson was helping lead the protection effort along with the city's civil defense director, Martin K. Thomen, who later became mayor and whose son and grandson in later years served on the city council.

"Flood Fighters Optimistic About Whipping Mad Sabine," was the 60-point headline on Page One of the daily afternoon newspaper on May 22, 1953.



News reports referred to the 1953 flood at the time as the worst in local history.

The biggest thing they were protecting was the vast Riverside housing complex, which was built by the federal government in World War II and later sold to private interests, which then rented to hundreds of local residents with families.

The newspaper reported 1,542 homes were occupied in Riverside at the time. The complex was where Orange now has the Boat Ramp and Riverside Pavilion area, along with many more acres along the edges of the Sabine.

Riverside was so large it had its own elementary schools and its own shopping area. Weingarten's had a grocery store on Second Street in Riverside and the corporation sent

1,000 sandbags to protect the store.

Newspapers around the country were reporting on the local flood, with the Associated Press also covering it. The Orange Naval Base sent 600 sailors based there, along with Naval Reserves, to work with the sandbags. Ellington Air Force Base had 500 men travel to Orange for the protection effort.

The naval base plus the shipyards had three draglines pulling up sand from the river to make levees. Bulldozers and amphibious vehicles were used to turn the dredged sand into make-shift levees.

The shipyards included U.S. Steel Corporation (later American Bridge), which had 1,500 "men" employed, according to

the newspaper. Livingston Shipbuilding had 500 employees.

The shipyards brought thousands of residents to work and live in Riverside during World War II. Though the number of employees were drastically cut after the war, many workers stayed. Men released from military service after the war moved to Orange for jobs in the shipyards and the burgeoning petrochemical industry.

The city of Orange, which had a smaller land footprint at the time compared to 2024, had a 1950 population of 21,174. In 1940, before World War II, the population was 7,421. No official census

May 1953 Page 2A

May 1953 flood From Page 2

was made during the war, but historical references estimate the population as high as 60,000.

The 1953 flood, according to the weather bureau, was caused by a tropical wave off the Gulf of Mexico, which brought days of heavy rain across East Texas. A lot of the rain was draining into the Sabine north of Orange and then flowing downstream to the gulf. At the time, Toledo Bend dam and reservoir had not been built.

Also, Interstate 10 had not been built and Simmons Drive ended at the Brownwood subdivision, west of Simmons.

Brownwood, the Cove area, and land north of the city of Orange still had open pit toilets and septic tanks at the time of the flood. Dr. H.H. Key, who served as the city-county health officer, told reporters he was watching to make sure there was no "outbreak of typhoid and intestinal disorders" from the "waste matters in ditches."

Bridge City also had a health problem at the time, though it didn't have to do with the rising river. The town had its second rabid dog of the year reported.

Snakes were also a problem as the rising water forced them out of their holes onto higher ground. Reporter Ralph Ramos wrote about various snake encounters in Orange and Deweyville.

Luckily, only one serious snake bite was reported. It came after Mrs. Maurine Linscomb stepped out of the car she was traveling in to help her husband adjust the head-

lights. She stepped on a rattlesnake, which bit her three times, news accounts said.

Areas along West Bluff were evacuated with about 200 people leaving, except for "stubborn old 'Uncle Jim' Weaver and Eddie Forrest," "stubborn old 'Uncle Jim' Weaver and Eddie Forrest."

Heavy equipment was moved in to the Brownwood area to build a levee along Bilbo Road. About 50 families were evacuated from the neighborhood.

News reports referred to the 1953 flood at the time as the worst in local history. However, local officials and reporters did not have easy access to the National Weather Service records. The 1953 flood crested in Orange at 5.67 feet above sea level, according to current NWS records online. Orange's river flood stage is 4 feet above sea level.

The 1953 level was close in May, 1935, the time of the infamous local shooting when the First Baptist Church minister in Orange shot and killed the police chief in the afternoon outside a cafe in downtown. Another serious river flood occurred in 1913.

Now, the 1953 flood is down in the list of local Sabine records. The worst flood was from the storm surge of Hurricane Ike in 2008, when the Sabine registered at 9.86 feet at the location of the old Navy base. The level was 7.83 feet above sea level after Tropical Storm Harvey in 2017, and 7.62 feet in the March 2016 Sabine River Flood. The volunteers not only included stu-

dents from Stark High, but also the principal, Paul Pearson. He rescheduled final exams and let the boys out to make sandbags and the girls to make sandwiches. He worked with the Red Cross in the preparation and delivery of food, soft drinks, coffee, cigarettes, cookies, and candy to the workers on the front lines.

The food crews worked four days to provide hot meals and an estimated 100,000 sandwiches.

The sandbag piles and sand levees helped keep the flooding away from Riverside, even though a few places had leaks that needed to be fixed. No catastrophic flooding was reported in the city limits.

The river was beginning to go down by May 24, 1953, and the town was left with an estimated 500,000 sandbags, many of them wet. Orange also had a lot of community pride for stemming back Mother Nature and saving homes.

Bridge City also had a health problem at the time, though it didn't have to do with the rising river. The town had its second rabid dog of the year reported.

Sales tax revenue From Page 2

cent. For the year to date, the city has \$303,135, a 10.14 percent increase from the \$275,214 collected last year.

Vidor is down for the month, but up for the year. The city received \$357,587 for March, compared to \$389,900 in March 2023, a decrease of 8.28 percent. For the first five months of the year, the city has collected \$1.58 million, a 3.3 percent increase from \$1.53 million for the same time last year.

West Orange is up 11.42 percent for March this year with \$144,171, compared to \$129,390 last year. The city has \$644,745 for the year to date, an increase of 4.61 from the \$616,302 for the year to date.

Orange County has a whopping increase

in March sales of 29.26 percent with \$950,720 this March, compared to \$735,487 for March 2023. The county is up a healthy 5.53 percent for the year to date with \$3.41 million this year, compared to 3.23 million last year.

Orange County Emergency Services District 3, or the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department, is the only special district in the county to collect a sales tax. Voters earlier this month rejected a similar tax for ESD 1, which serves Vidor and the Vidor area. The Little Cypress group collected \$30,525 for March, down from \$35,033 last year, and is now at \$134,466 for the first five months of the year, down from \$146,170.

LCM CISD Meetings for Homeschool and Private School Parents

A meeting to discuss possible services for homeschooled and private school students that are eligible to attend LCM schools will be held at the Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD Administration Building located at 6586 FM 1130, Orange, Texas on Monday, June 3rd at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to give representatives of private schools and parents who homeschool their children the opportunity to participate in planning and consultation for the federal Title 1, 2, & 4 programs. Following the presentation of this information, there will be a consultation meeting to discuss which eligible private school students will receive special education services, the services to be provided, how and where the services will be provided, and how the services provided will be evaluated.

For more information, contact Laurie Gordon or Beverly Knight at the LCM Administration Office at 883-2232.



Orange County Judge John Gothia

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

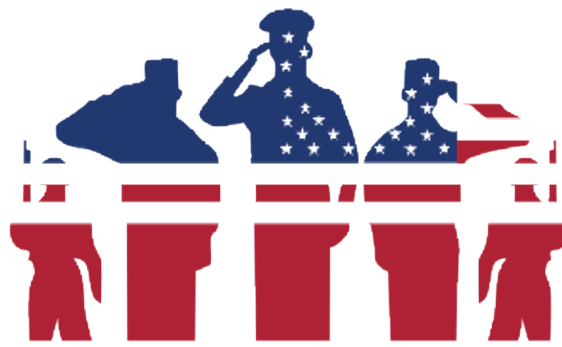


Our guests will receive:

- FREE Otoscopic Ear Exam** to check for any blockage
- FREE Consultation** we will explain all treatment options
- FREE Demonstration** of new hearing aid technology
- FREE Phone or Tablet** Texas residents *may* qualify for an amplified phone, smartphone or iPad



Enjoy all of life's sounds this **Memorial Day.** Schedule your consultation **TODAY** and hear what you have been



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9 AM - 5 PM

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Nederland - 2190 HWY 365
Orange - 105 Camellia Ave.

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Facebook brouhaha From Page 1

page "I was contacted today by a local newspaper about an article coming out about ME, after he read the articles about me/us to me, he asked for my response, I said NO RESPONSE," he said I figured so!!!!Y'all anyone can say things about me/us that doesn't make them true, jealous people are everywhere and constantly seek to interrupt peoples lives daily IF ITS ALLOWED,, I choose not to allow it in my life (sic) (closing with two smiley face emojis) !!!"

He had 297 Facebook friends either like, love, or give care to that post. In addition, 143 people commented. A number of people were concerned that a newspaper had done a "hit" piece about Burch without even talking to him.

Richard Allan wrote "Wayment...didn't they talk about Jesus too...Paul you should feel special that you are always on someone's mind...if you have any haters you don't want, send them my way... it makes me feel so special to be on someone's mind all the time...sadly you are a Super Star and don't even know it..." (sic)

Burch's reply to Allan's Jesus comment was "...Yes they did and he was PERFECT NO FLAWS,,I get what you are saying my brother,,," (sic)

Salter said in the letter that she wanted to explain a report on KOGT.com on why she didn't support Burch to be reappointed as mayor pro tem. "Pro tem" is Latin "for temporary" and refers to a person who is temporarily holding a position.

KOGT.com reporting

on the vote, was a rare example of any local media directly covering a city council meeting in recent months.

In professional journalism, Salter's writings are a "letter to the editor," a personal opinion from an identified person that does not libel another person. The newspaper made the professional ethical move to allow Burch to write a reply.

Burch is a hair stylist and longtime owner of a salon and accessories store in Northway Shopping Center. Through the decades, he has hundreds of loyal clients, women and men. Burch has also been a successful house-flipper, buying houses, remodeling them, and then selling them.

Burch also works in an estate sale business with Caroline Hennigan and her husband, Mike. The estate sale company, owned by a local businesswoman, mostly organizes and sells items of deceased Baby Boomers, or those downsizing. The goods are often things like crystal, china, "collectibles" and other items their heirs do not want.

Mike Hennigan holds a position on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. Members of the commission are appointed by the city council from citizen applicants.

Mike Hennigan applied recently to fill an unexpired term on the city's Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, which awards, with final council approval, millions of dollars of development grants. City rules allow citizens to

serve on more than one appointed city board. The vote on the position was last week, but the council appointed Margaret Adams to the spot.

Burch's husband Raul has also worked in the estate sales. The Hennigans and Burches, according to their Facebook posts, often socialize together. The Burches also visit the Hennigans at their beach house.

The Burches are popular socially and they have served as king and queen of Orange Mardi Gras. Councilor Burch is involved in several non-profit groups and has been president of the Orange Community Players working in their efforts to get a new theater.

Councilor Hennigan, a LC-M educator, also is active with the Orange Community Players.

Mayor Spears, who has an accomplished voice, has sung before for an OCP fundraiser. Burch performs in many OCP fundraising musicals.

"Nepotism, whether involving family or close friends, can compromise the integrity of decision-making processes within boards and organizations. While friendship can be akin to family, it should not impede the fair and impartial execution of one's duties," Salter's letter read.

She posted the letter to her three Facebook pages and "tagged" nearly 100 people, meaning the letter then appeared on their Facebook pages.

"Unfortunately, I have observed instances of nepotism and unprofessional behavior that I cannot

condone. As an elected representative, I am accountable to the constituents of District 3. It is my duty to ensure transparency and fairness in governance.

"Regrettable, attempts to address concerns directly with the Mayor Larry Spears Jr. and Mayor Pro Tem Paul Burch have been met with silence. Despite numerous calls, texts, and emails, my attempts to communicate have been ignored," Salter wrote.

Salter backed a candidate last year who ran against Burch for city council.

The Burches live in the

Old Orange Historic District and have hosted the traditional Toy Coffee Christmas home tour to benefit the Salvation Army and sponsored by the Service League of Orange. The couple has had three tours in recent years in two different houses. Their current house is in the Old Orange Historic District and across the street from the house they owned a decade ago.


The city passed ordinances in the 1990s creating the historic district and the district has rules for any exterior changes in the neighborhood that dates back to the mid-1800s. Demolitions and exterior changes are to be

approved by a five-member board appointed by council.


Some people in the neighborhood were upset that a sitting member of the group was not reappointed but was replaced by a former next door neighbor to Councilor Burch. That led to a dispute in the neighborhood with another resident running against Burch unsuccessfully.

Mayor Spears last week took the oath for his last three-year term in the position because of term limits. Facebook comments have accused Salter and Burch as being interested in running for mayor.

Congratulations!
To our 2024 Scholarship Recipients



Abigayle Ernst
Bridge City High School
Attending
Lamar College Orange



Major Copeland
Orangefield High School
Attending
Lamar University

BRIDGE CITY BANK


Member FDIC LENDER

ORANGE AL-ANON MEETINGS


Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. Al-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange, TX 77632. Call Angela at 474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info. Calls are kept Confidential.

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COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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From the Creaux's Nest DOW REACHES ALL TIME HIGH

The Dow posted its all-time high during intraday trading on May 16, 2024, reaching a peak of **40,051.05 points**. The highest close occurred the day before when the index closed at **39,908.00 points**. The peak was led in part by optimism that the Federal Reserve could cut interest rates later this year. All three of the big U.S. Stock indexes set records last week in large part because of revived hopes that the Federal Reserve will be able to cut interest rates this year as inflation hopefully cools. More reports showing big U.S. companies are earning fatter profits than expected also boosted stock prices. Norwegian Cruise Line was helping to lead the market and steamed **6.1% higher** after giving some financial forecasts for the year that topped analysts' expectations. It said demand is growing for cruises. **Inflation may finally be heading back in the right direction.**

'Seize the Grey' seizes the day

D. Wayne Lukas, the 88-year-old Hall of Fame trainer, keeps winning big time races. 'Seize the Grey' ended Kentucky Derby winner **Mystik Dan's Triple Crown** bid Saturday by going wire to wire to win the **Preakness**, giving **Lukas** his second victory in the race, one short of the record held by good friend **Bob Baffert**. The strapping grey colt took advantage of the muddy track just as **Lukas** hoped he would, pulling off the upset. Going off at 9-1 as one of the longest shots on the board, **Seize the Grey** moved to the lead immediately out of the starting gate and never looked back, finishing in 1:56.82.

IDIOTIC WAY RUDY GOT SERVED BIRTHDAY INDICTMENT

Rudy Giuliani shitposted himself into an indictment Friday night as he left his 80th birthday party in Florida. The former Trump lawyer spent weeks mocking the Arizona attorney general as he evaded receiving a subpoena. Agents traveled to Florida on Friday knowing he was there because of his nightly live video streams. During Friday night's birthday bash, **Giuliani**, whose birthday is May 28, posted a photo of himself surrounded by a gaggle of cookie-cutter blonde women beaming through Botox. He taunted the **Arizona attorney general**, writing, "If Arizona authorities can't find me by tomorrow morning they must dismiss the indictment and concede they can't count votes." Hours later, **Arizona attorney general Kris Mayes** tweeted that authorities with the Arizona attorney general's office had served **Giuliani his subpoena**. "The final defendant was served moments ago. **Nobody is above the law**," Agents took the opportunity to serve **Giuliani** when he was out at a friend's nearby house as he left his birthday party. It was confirmed that the **former Mussolini of Manhattan** was served. "We knew he'd get served eventually, but it seemed like he was playing these games just because he felt like it." **Giuliani**, expected to appear in Arizona court alongside **17 co-defendants** schemed to prevent the lawful transfer of the presidency to keep **Unindicted Co-conspirator 1 in office** against the will of Arizona voters. At the rate **Giuliani's** going, he'll be celebrating his next birthday in jail.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Ben Culpepper, Jr.**, 71, who died Monday, May 19. An Orange native, **Ben** gave back so much of himself to the community he loved. Our sympathies go out to wife **Gloria** and her entire family. ****Our outstanding county clerk, **Karen Jo Vance**, was honored by Region VII as "Outstanding Clerk of the Year." We've known a long time that she's the best and had a chance to be voted the best. ******Lacie Gunn** was notified by her Godfather **Russell Bottley** that her music was being played on 102.5. **Lacie** has been performing regularly on the college circuit. She stays busy. And is just a step away from the big times. ****A few folks we know celebrating birthdays this coming week. On May 21, our friend **Babette Philpott** celebrates and in a few days, May 25, she and husband **Constable Mark Philpott** will mark 24 years together. ***Also celebrating a birthday on this day is pretty **June Gregory**, **Fred's** widow.***May 22 finds **Margaret Toal**, longtime newspaper person, who has vast experience in publishing and worked at one time in this publication celebrates. Lately she has become a radio personality and seems to be enjoying it. She shares a birthday with **Apollo Ohno**, 32 and **Naomi Campbell**, 44. Both her juniors.****On May 23, **Billy Raymer**, one of **Beverly** and **Jody's** sons, celebrates on this day.*** Also a real sweetheart **Amanda Uzzle** celebrates another one as does our friend **George Gros**.****On May 24, **Joey** and **Rusty Williams** mark another birthday. They share birthdays with **Bob Dylan**, 73 and **Priscilla Presley**, 69.****May 25 finds one of the nicest people we know, **Barbara Olson**, longtime

Bridge City resident and longtime bride of **Dr. David**, celebrating on this day.******California Chrome**, winner of the **Kentucky Derby**, won the **Preakness** Saturday. All that is left is the **Belmont**, a 1.5 mile race, to complete the **Triple Crown**. I don't believe **Chrome** can win the long race however, he will be permitted to wear his nasal strip designed to open up his air passage. He has won all six races wearing the strip. If not allowed the owners won't let him run. **** **Judge Thibodaux** told the story about agreeing to a debate and shortly after it started he learned his opponent had prepared answers to the loaded questions. **Carl** said, "Look, I'm out of here, I'm not staying for my own lynching." He left.

20 Years Ago-12004

The community mourns the death of **Tim Lieby**, 60, who died May 21, 2004. Services were held May 24 at Community Church. **Tim** and his former wife **Ann** were owners of the **Print Shop** and at the time of his death he had retired from **Texas Polymer Service**. He was very active in civic organizations and was a charter member of the **Bridge City Rotary** club. He was a member of the famous **W.T. Oliver** gumbo cooking team that won the world gumbo cooking contest in the **Astrodome** and also the championship in **Bridge City Louisiana**. The team also won several championships in the **Orange Gumbo Cook-off**.******Brown Claybar** is elected mayor of Orange. He had been a longtime school board member. ****The **City of West Orange** is celebrating a 50th birthday Saturday, May 29. **Jay Trahan** and **Cajun Jam** will furnish the music with plenty of food and entertainment. ******Debbie** and **David Fusilier's** daughter **Crystal** gave birth to a son **Easton Drew Gibbons**. He's **David** and **Deb's** first grandchild.****The annual "Fat Boy's" pig roast was held. Who are the "Fat Boys" you ask? They are "Buckshot" **Winfree**, **Bobby Cormier**, **Dr. David Olson**, **Dr. Lance Craig**, **Kenneth Smith** and host **Johnny Montagne**. ****Someone spotted **Judge Pat Clark** paying for a couple of meals at **Van Choate's** place. They say when **Pat** opened his wallet; a couple of moths flew out.****The Bridge City High 2004 class Valedictorian is **Kenneth James Prosperie**, Salutatorian is **Ellen (Missy) Bloomfield**.****At West Orange-Stark, **Jacob Moore** is Valedictorian and **Jefery Hamilton** is Salutatorian.****Little Cypress-Mauriceville Valedictorian is **Elizabeth Smith** and Salutatorian is **Amy Lynn Heiner**.****At Orangefield **Valerie Austin** is Valedictorian and **Jennifer Broussard** Salutatorian. (Editor's note: A lot of youngsters left school 20 years ago to scatter around the world. Think about that.)

45 Years Ago-1979

Cowboy Adams and 94-year-old **Jim "The Fisherman" McKay** were among the 30,000 to attend the **Gumbo Cook Off**. Some others were **Congressman Charlie Wilson**, **Miss Orange County, Carla Elaine Alsandor**, **Sheriff Ed Parker**, **Lynn Hall**, **Vickie Cash**, **Arlene Turkel**, **State Rep. Wayne Peveto**, **Jim Stelly**, **Martha Hughes**, **Barbara David**, **Sandi Mabley** and **Mark Dunn**, photographer for the **Opportunity Valley News**. The **Bridge City Chamber** gumbo team won top gumbo award. The team members were **Lawrence** and **Ethel Foux**, **W.T. Oliver**, **Roy Dunn** and **Tim Lieby**.****Legal Secretaries name **Carol Romero** as **Secretary of the Year** and **Wayne Peveto** was chosen as **Boss of the Year**.****The **Bridge City Rotary Club** has named two teams in attendance contest. **Bubba Hubbard** is captain of one and **Roy Dunn** the other. The team names were "The Outlaws" and "Good Guys." Can you guess which is captain of which team?****Happy birthday this week to **Karen Dunn**, **Kim LeBlanc**, **Evy Kathleen Ramsey** and **Vernon Peveto** who celebrated May 20.****New officers of the **B&PW club of Bridge City** installed were: **Sue Pate**, president; **Claudine Hogan**, first vice president; **Jessie Hebert**, second vice president; **Bettye Lormond**, recording secretary; **Lennie Rutledge**, correspondence secretary and **Mary Railey**, treasurer.******Britt Godwin**, age 10, a 5th grade student at **Hatton Elementary in Bridge City**, has been playing the guitar and performing since kindergarten. **Britt** also plays the piano and saxophone. He is the son of **Mickey** and **Sandra Godwin** of Bridge City. Last year he did an **Elvis tribute** on TV Channel 4 and has been performing throughout the area. (Editor's note: **Britt** went on to record but is best known for his musical talent.)******Jill Wheeler**, age 6, is the 1978 Bridge City grand talent winner and also the 1979 Orange and Nederland heritage talent winner.****On May 28, Memorial Day, the **Putman Curry** official Texas historical grave marker was dedicated in the **Evergreen Cemetery**. The marker was financed by the Hotel occupancy tax fund. **Dr. Howard Williams**, historian, researched and wrote the historical narrative which is required to receive an official historical marker. **Putman Curry** was born Sept. 16, 1835 at **Owego, Tioga County, New York**. He came to **Texas** on July 1, 1861. His company participated in the **battle of Galveston**, Jan. 1, 1863 and also the battle of **Sabine Pass**. On June 14, 1868 he married **Eliza Ann Ochiltree**, the eldest daughter of **Colonel Hugh Ochiltree**. They had two girls and two boys. He died May 15, 1910. His wife passed away Sept. 15, 1907. Both are buried in **Evergreen Cemetery**.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

This coming season the **Lutcher Theater** will be no degrees of separation from **Kevin Bacon**. The **Bacon Brothers**, including movie star **Bacon**, will be playing there in the **2024-25 season** that was announced on Monday. The theater in **downtown Orange** is so popular that it has a waiting list to get season tickets. First dibs always go to the season holders for the previous year. Right now, the theater is once again the site for **local dance studio recitals**.****The **Texas Lions Club International** convention was held in **Amarillo** last week and a tribute was given to the **late Stump Weatherford**, who was known around Orange as "Mr. Lion." He was also known across the state for his contributions and volunteer work with **Lions Club charities**.******Gary** and **Allisha Bonneau** seem to be everywhere now that they're in retirement. Last week they saw the **Brooks and Dunn**

Reboot tour concert in the **Woodlands**.******T'Era Garrett**, a freshman at **Blinn Junior College** with a softball scholarship, was named to the **NJCAA Academic All-American** second team. She was also an **NFCA Scholar Athlete**. Proud parents are **Bianca** and **Charles Garrett**, along with kid sister **Charlsi**.******Payson' Scales** had a birthday party and his grandmother, **Donna Scales** wasn't invited. **Payson'** is the 3-year-old dachshund of **James Scales**.****On this day 90 years ago, in 1934, **Bonnie Parker** and **Clyde Burrow** were killed.**** Point of interest: **Elvis Presley's** hair was naturally a dirty blond color. He first dyed it on this day in 1957, hoping to emulate his Hollywood idle, actor **Tony Curtis**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next week. **May 22:** Our own **Margaret Toal** celebrates. Have a good one. Also **Jackie Tate**, **Lauren Parrish**, **Will Schisler**, **Bailey McCurry**, **Gary Hollingsworth**.******May 23:** **George Gros**, **Billy Raymer**, **John Hanes**, **Louis Purifoy**, **McCartney Miller**, **Justin Trahan**, **Tracy Davis** and **Philip Douglas Thomas**.******May 24:** **Lance Faulkner**, **Rusty Williams**, **Gracie Lemley**, **Jane Logsdon**, **Chris Green**.******May 25:** **Monica Stephens**, **Cutler Hubbard**, **Jo Lynn Harris**, **Judy Duncan**, **Sheryl Frazier**, **Archie McLellan**.******May 26:** Celebrating today are **Barbara Olson**, **Logan New**, **Greg Williams**, **Willamette Reynolds**, **Dylan Ball**.******May 27:** **Keisha Tomplait**, **Mary Donahey**, **McKenzie Louvier**, **Bruce Montagne** and **Charlene Terro**.******May 28:** **Debbie Guidry**, **Lisa Mesch**, **Lee Ludwig**, **Jacque Phelps**, **Jeanie Larch**, **Judy Landry**, **Kyle Smoke**, **Maureen McAllister**, **Michael Garcia**, **Rebecca Brumer**, **Shelly Smith**, **Keith Boehme**, **Steffan Milligan**.*** Birthday greets also to **Wally Brown**, **Ashley Brackens**, **Marisa Peevey**, **Rusty Honeycutt**, **Braxton Burch**, **Cissie Cameron**, **Bridget Toohey**, **Baylee Bonnin**, **Theresa Blankinship**, **Latouia DuBois**, **Sydney Catt**, and **Randy Lane**.****Congratulations to **Blake** and **Anna Allbritton**, who were married this past weekend.*****Royce** and **Cherry Scales** celebrate **69 years** married on May 27th.

(Call 409-886-7183 or email therecordlive.com to publish a birthday or anniversary free of charge in this publication.)

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Otis Broussard's widowed **Papa, Alcide**, was sickly and not expected to live too much longer, him. **Wen da** big rice farmer passes, **Otis** him, would inherit a fortune, so he searched for a woman to share all dat wealth wit him.

He made da round him. He went to **Tee-Boy's Bar** and utter places, but didn't find da right woman. Finally he went to a singles bar. Dere he spotted a woman whose beauty took **Oris's** breath away. He axe if he could buy her a drink.

She agreed. Dey talked and **Otis** told her his story. "I'm jus an ordinary man, me, but before too long my **Papa** will die him, and I will inherit \$15 million and a lot of land."

The beautiful woman went home wit him.

Wen he came home from work da next day, she had become his stepmother.

C'EST TOUT

ONCE IN A LIFETIME ELECTION EARLY VOTING ENDS THURSDAY MAY 24 ELECTION DAY MAY 28

The **Texas District 21** representative race has been the wildest and most expensive race in district history. It is the first time **Representative Dade Phelan**, **Speaker of the Texas House**, faces a challenge in his ten years in office. **Phelan**, after a three-way race in March, was forced into a runoff with **David Covey**. **Phelan** is the only **House Speaker** to ever come from **Southeast Texas** so being challenged in his own district came as a surprise. So much money and dirt has been thrown at him that it seems he faces great odds, however, voters now have had a chance to think about what losing the powerful speakership would mean to our little part of Texas. Voters are now realizing the budget process is controlled by **Speaker Phelan**, involving everything a district needs from mental health, to schools, shipping and storms. Local officials have a direct line to the **Speaker** without having to appear before several committees and possibly getting turned down on a request. **Orange County** has never had it this good and the results over the last few years prove it. **Southeast Texas** has never had such a powerful voice. **Paxton's** revenge has no limit to how far they will go to defeat **Phelan**. **West Texas** billionaires want the speakership out of **East Texas** so they can pick a speaker of their own. There is no guarantee **Phelan** can keep the speakership, however, there is no chance if he is not re-elected at home. If he is replaced by a freshman representative, who would have the lowest seniority in the House, bottom of the list, and in just two years will face a strong challenge in another election. Chances are his friends with all the millions today won't be found. They will be off on another mission and have no more use for this one. We know what we have. (These are my individual views.) **Either way don't forget to vote**. ******Take care and have a safe Memorial weekend. God bless.**



Deaths & Memorials

Lena Maddera Dodson, 91

Lena Maddera Dodson, 91, of Azle, Texas, passed away on May 19, 2024, at her home in Azle.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be John Bickham. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.



Lena Dobson

crafted beautiful creations.

Her dedication extended beyond her passions as she devoted herself to work at Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and volunteered selflessly at the Lutch Theatre in Orange. Lena was also a member of First Baptist Church since the 1960's and worked as a Sunday School teacher there for many years. She will be deeply missed by all

who knew and loved her.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 35 years, Edgar P. Dodson; her son, Paul Dodson; and her sisters, Ludy Maddera and Sue Maddera.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Jones and husband, Kenny; her grandchildren, Tyler Ryan Whitmire, Laura Nicole Backer, Jordan Paul Dodson, Brandon Ray Dodson, and Joe Jones; her great-grandchild, Allison Marie Backer; her brother, Buddy Maddera; and numerous other loving family members and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Joe Jones, Kenny Jones, Brandon Dodson, Jordan Dodson, and Tyler Whitmire.

Coastal Texas Project gets funding

Staff Report
For The Record

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) allocated the first installment of federal funding toward the USACE Galveston District's (SWG) Coastal Texas Project (CTX).

The U.S. Army Civil Works Program Fiscal Year 2024 Work Plan will provide \$500,000 to support the preconstruction, engineering, and design of the first segment of CTX's Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) shoreline and island protection feature, also known as Ecosystem Restoration feature G-28. This funding will also go toward preparing the project for construction.

USACE can now work with non-federal partners the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD), the Texas General Land Office

(GLO), and non-profit partner Ducks Unlimited to begin work on CTX's first set of plans and specifications and to prepare the G-28 feature for construction.

"The Coastal Texas Project is one of the largest projects in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Col. Rhett A. Blackmon, SWG's district commander.

"This project is important to the nation for many reasons," Blackmon added. "Not only will it reduce risk to the vulnerable populations along the Texas coast, but it will also protect vital ecosystems and economically critical infrastructure vital to the U.S. supply chain and the many global industries located here."

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Orangefield moves to 4th round

Orangefield Bobcats beat Dibol in playoffs

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

For the second time in three years Orangefield has advanced to the fourth round of the state baseball post season. The Bobcats swept the Diboll Lumberjacks in two games on May 17-18 to advance in the playoffs.

Friday's first game at Lamar University's Vincent-Beck Stadium in Beaumont took over four hours to complete as a result of three weather delays because of lightning in the vicinity. When the

game was finally over and the time was approaching midnight Orangefield had a 6-2 victory over Diboll.

"We showed a lot of mental toughness right there. One weather delay is hard enough much less three, and we're out here until 11:30 at night. It was good to see the Bobcats were able to handle it, bounced right back on the field, and picked up where we left off," Orangefield Coach Tim Erickson explained.

Especially noteworthy in overcoming the complications caused by the weather was Bobcat pitch-



Brycen Tait was the winning pitcher for Orangefield in the first game versus Diboll as Caleb Fregia and Kyle Michael had key hits for the Bobcats. RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

er Brycen Tait who threw a complete game to earn the win on the mound. Tait allowed five hits, walked three, and struck out six in his seven extended innings of work.

Coach Erickson exclaimed, "I told Brycen this was probably the gutsiest performance I've seen since I've been here. Despite the three interruptions he got back out there and got after it."

The Lumberjacks were a good hitting team having swept their previous series by the ten run rule in both games against East Bernard. Erickson believed it would take the Bobcats scoring some runs to capture the series with Diboll.

BOBCATS Page 4B

'Tis the season for wildlife encounters

Sarah Fuller
Texas A&M Agrilife

Whether hiking remote trails or backyard gardening, 'tis the season for Texans to encounter the offspring of many wildlife species.

A juvenile white-tailed deer fawn stands in tall grass.

Spring and early summer brings an increase in sightings of juvenile wildlife across Texas. While many people fear for the safety of these animals, which are often found alone, an expert with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service warns that interfering with wildlife often causes more harm than good. (Stock photo)

While concern for the safety of these seemingly defenseless creatures — oftentimes found alone — may motivate citizens to handle or move the animals, experts with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service warn these well-meaning actions more often cause harm than good.

"It's important to realize that the natural adaptations and behaviors we may see juvenile wildlife display can be easily misinterpreted," said Jacob Dykes, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, Corpus Christi. "This time of year, we hear of so many human and wildlife encounters that are not only unnecessary and potentially detrimental to the wildlife but are against the law."

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the state agency responsible for managing and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat, possessing wildlife without a permit is unlawful.

"As biologists, even we are required to possess proper permits to handle wildlife for research," said Dykes, who also serves as an assistant professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management. "This is especially true for species that are state or federally threatened and protected under the Endangered Species Act."

To avoid these potential legal infractions and benefit wildlife altogether, Dykes said citizens should educate themselves on what to do if they encounter juvenile wildlife.

Parenting looks different with wildlife

While it may be un-

thinkable for a human to leave a child unattended for hours at a time, it's common practice for wildlife.

Many species spend time away from their young for various reasons, including to search for food and prevent their presence from attracting predators.

A prime example is white-tailed deer.

"Within 10 hours of birth, a doe will move the fawn to another area, and the fawn will instinctively bed down in vegetation," Dykes said.

While the fawn is concealed, the doe will venture away to not only forage, but prevent her presence from attracting attention to her young.

"This is a key predator-avoiding strategy and

the one likely responsible for the 'abandoned' fawn idea," he said. "In fact, for the first few weeks of life, the doe and fawn spend most of their time apart."

Even if someone encounters a lone fawn, Dykes said it's likely that the mother is nearby, as she returns throughout the day to nurse and consume any waste produced by the fawn — yet another way to prevent predators from detecting the fawn.

Unfortunately, humans often misinterpret this behavior.

A state-certified wildlife rehabilitator study found, in some years, 40% or more of the fawns referred to them for care were not orphaned or injured, but inadvertently taken from their mothers. Based on anecdotal data,



Young birds develop wing feathers large enough for flight as fledglings. During this time, they also make their first attempts to leave their nest.

they believe the situation for baby birds is similar or worse.

In fact, if a killdeer, which is a large plover bird often found along shore-

lines, senses that a potential predator is getting too close to the nest, she will feign an injury away from that area to distract attention from her young, Dykes said.

Young birds develop wing feathers large enough for flight as fledglings. During this time, they also make their first attempts to leave their nest.

"Baby birds can and do leave their nest before they can successfully fly," Dykes said. "They almost always end up on the ground hopping around for a while before they get the hang of things."

During this time, avian parents will continue to monitor and provide the young with food.

Dykes said it is a myth that the scent of a human will cause wildlife to abandon their young, so if someone does touch the bird to place it back in a nest, it will not be negatively impacted. However, Dykes said doing so is neither ideal nor necessary.



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OUTDOORS

Golden Rules

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Years ago there was an incredibly popular ad campaign started by the athletic shoe giant known as Nike that coined the phrase "Just Do It". The catchy slogan **Chuck Uzzle** has become entrenched in our pop culture mindset and in some ways represents the way people nowadays think they should act regardless of how it affects others around them. It's no secret the population near the Texas coast is growing and the gravitational pull felt farther inland by vacation loving tourists makes the bays and beaches an immensely popular and sometimes crowded place to be.

Over the years I have witnessed some incredibly discourteous acts on the water and I'm sure most folks who spend time on the water can relate to all of them. Recently I have noticed more and more personal accounts of rude behavior, discourteousness, and just general lack of manners being shared on various social media outlets. I must admit out of morbid curiosity I have a hard time not reading those threads about bad encounters between boaters, similar to folks in traffic slowing down to gawk at an accident or another motorist receiving a ticket. Easily the most reported or discussed acts of bad manners centers around someone feeling like another fishermen encroached on their space and got too close. When discussing the subject of "what is too close" you can expect a myriad of responses as to exactly how close is too close. Wade fishermen probably are the most interesting examples of this problem because they are on both ends of the spectrum. On one hand waders get their space invaded more frequently simply because they can't challenge a boat. On the other hand some waders believe they are entitled to an enormous amount of real estate around them and if you get anywhere close to that imaginary barrier you are in the wrong and should be punished accordingly.

Another highly contested area is the space around a flock of birds working over an active school of fish. It would be so easy to write page after page chronicling some of the insanity that I have seen take place under situations like this. The excitement of the impending good fortune that accompanies finding these fish can go south in the time it takes for another boater to ruin the opportunity by spooking the fish and leaving everyone involved with that feeling of "what could have been". Generally these encounters end with one boat grumbling to themselves about the lack of respect shown by the offender. Sometimes you can even learn new and exciting words that you may have never heard in that particular context. I have heard some combinations of anger laced with profanity that would make a sailor either blush or roll on the deck with laughter.

Now following the Golden Rule is not just for interaction between other fishermen it's for everything related to your time on the water. Easily one of the worst acts of disrespect I have ever seen didn't even involve interaction between boaters or fishermen, it involved a guide with clients and a flock of seagulls. I was on the south end of Sabine Lake one afternoon with clients chasing the birds and on occasion following schools of shrimp that would come to the surface and show themselves. The boats in the area had plenty of birds to work so nobody ever got crowded as everyone had their own school of fish to chase.

Well I guess I can climb down off my soapbox now and maybe give a little bit of relevant information concerning the fishing. There has been a decent bite starting to show up on the south end of the lake for speckled trout on the incoming tides. Redfish have been a little more predictable along the Louisiana shoreline on the outgoing tides. The brown shrimp and small shad are running for their lives as everything from undersized redfish and birds are taking advantage of the buffet on the bank. Please be mindful of all the debris floating around, there are some really bad obstructions out there and they are tough to spot. Keep that PFD handy and slow down.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• **Sabine Lake**

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

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 72 degrees. Water levels are normalizing depending on the wind. The best bite conditions this week will be on edges of the color changes and deeper spots holding saltier water. Still catching plenty of redfish of varying sizes everywhere! Sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with a few more stingrays and sharks. The surf is producing black drum, gafftop, stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula. People were using all kinds of different things for bait this past week with good results. We did sell out of live shrimp twice this past week with plenty in stock. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 76 degrees. Fresh and off colored. Salinity reading at Morgan's Point near 2. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Sa-



The Record's outdoor columnist Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a bull red caught in Sabine Lake.

linity level is really affecting how our water system is producing right now. With East Bay and Moses lake bouncing back, be watching for the fresh water line to be inching its way back. A salt and freshwater line can really produce great fish this time of year so would definitely be in the lookout for that. Especially one that sweeps the shoreline. Reports of drum are being caught by Fred Hartman and will not be long before redfish, then trout return to our bay system. Usually, the

ship channel will bounce back first then disperse salt water into other water systems accordingly based off of tide and wind. Be safe, be prepared and watch the wind and weather. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 76 degrees. Lots of freshwater in the bay. A few black drum and trout were caught near Moses Lake. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston

Bay Charter Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 78 degrees. Open bay is off-colored and muddy. Isolated pockets of fishable water on the south shoreline holding speckled trout black drum, redfish, and gafftop. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Surface water temperature 76 degrees. Water clarity stirred up more than usual after the front we had this past week, in conjunction with the freshwater entering the bay system from the heavy rains. Typical springtime winds again this week, limiting where we are able to fish effectively. We found good numbers of solid trout on the shorelines over shell pockets and within close proximity to drains where we had good tide movement, as well as redfish along the grass lines with the higher tides. If you see bait flipping on the surface the fish are close by, if not, you are best to move on to another spot, after making a few casts. The lighter the jig head the better 1/16 to 1/4, determined by the wind and current, and tails without paddles, are still performing the best, as we were utilizing Anahuac based, Wac Assassin's in Pearly White & Chartreuse, depending upon water clarity and light conditions. This week Fish Smack Popping corks.

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Let's Keep Dade Phelan Working For Us

My name is Paul Mattingly and I have lived most of my life in Orange and Beaumont, and attended school in Orange. My father founded M&P (Marine and Petroleum) Company, which I then owned and operated for many years.

I am endorsing Dade Phelan for District 21 State Representative in the May 28 primary runoff. I have been friends with the Phelan family for many years and have known Dade since he was a toddler. He has always been honest, smart, courageous, and considerate.

Orange and Jefferson counties have never had such strong representation in state government since Dade earned the honor of becoming Speaker of the House. It would be a shame for us to lose the influence he has made in helping our area.

First of all, he has worked to help recovery after our numerous natural disasters and has showed up in person wearing jeans and boots. Orange County has received millions of dollars in recovery grants to help rebuild our roads, public buildings like schools, and for individuals.

Also, he has been crucial in getting bills and a constitutional amendment for the state to help fund projects to solve drainage problems to help prevent future flooding.

Dade is a tireless worker for businesses and industries in Southeast Texas and his influence has

led to billions of dollars of investments, including the new ChevronPhillips Golden Triangle Polymers plant in Orange County.

He has worked with the legislature to increase state money going to Lamar State College-Orange so that tuition could be reduced and more buildings constructed. Expanded LSCO programs have helped Orange County residents enroll in programs that teach them to get high-paying jobs.

Dade has supported gun-owner rights through various bills, including a bill to allow Texas residents to legally transport their guns when they are under a mandatory evacuation order.

He also supports his rural areas through standing by public education and its state funding because he knows the schools are an integral part of a community.

While his opponent has drawn wide support from outside the district, Dade is supported by many local officials who have seen his dedicated work.

Don't let Orange County lose its force in the Texas House of Representatives. I am asking voters to support Dade Phelan, just as he supports you and your interests.



Vote Dade Phelan

May 28th Runoff Election Day



Nine Lady Bobcats make All-District in softball

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Orangefield softball team finished second this year in the District 22-3A standings and advanced to the third round of the state playoffs. Nine of the Lady Bobcats were named All-District by the coaches in the district.

Special recognition went to sophomore Aubree Beck as the Defensive MVP. Beck was the shortstop for the Lady Bobcats and a

leader in the infield.

Senior Abigail Curphey got voted the Co-Pitcher of the Year.

Curphey has been the ace in the circle for Orangefield the last three seasons registering over 500 strikeouts during her career with the Lady Bobcats.

Also making all district on the First Team as a pitcher was sophomore Charlee Sanches. She played third base when Curphey was in the circle, but made significant contributions as a pitcher and will take over as

the ace during her junior year next season for Orangefield Coach Rebekah Ragsdale.

Other First Team selections for the Lady Bobcats were infielder junior Alysén Vincent, flex player senior Greenlea Oldham, outfielder senior Paris Becker, and outfielder sophomore Hallee Becker. Outfielder sophomore Haylee Spears made the Second Team, and catcher senior Abby Broussard received an Honorable Mention.



Charlee Sanches of the Lady Bobcats was named to the All District First Team as a pitcher and teammate Aubree Beck was chosen the Defensive MVP in District 22-3A for her stellar play at shortstop.

Bobcats advance

From Page 1B

The Orangefield bats were quiet the first three innings of the first game as the first nine batters went down in order including five of them being struck out as Diboll took a 1-0 lead with a run in the second off Tait. The weather stoppages may have affected the starting pitcher for the Lumberjacks or maybe the Bobcat hitters just needed to see the Diboll hurler a second time.

The top of the Bobcat batting order Kane Smith opened the fourth inning for Orangefield with a base on balls. Cameron Dearing and Logan Cheek followed with walks too.

Cleanup hitter Caleb Fregia then hit a frozen rope down the left field line for a double that drove in Smith and Dearing while sending Cheek to third. The two runs gave Orangefield the lead 2-1 which the Bobcats never relinquished.

A third run tallied when Cheek scored on a ground out by Kyle Michael to put the Bobcats up by two runs. The third lightning delay occurred one inning later prior to the start of the sixth inning.

Diboll changed pitchers at the beginning of the bottom of the sixth. With two gone Michael, who suffered a serious knee injury during the football season, boomed a long fly ball to the wall in right centerfield that he legged out for a triple.

"Kyle is Kyle. He's been working his way back into it, getting a feel for everything, and it's starting to show up. This time of the year if he gets back to Kyle Michael form he's going to be real big for us," Erickson reminded.

Michael's three bagger sparked a three run rally for Orangefield which included a double by Camden Fountain to drive in courtesy runner Kyler Green. Fountain and Matthew Johnson also scored when the Diboll reliever walked three straight Bobcats and then hit Smith with a pitch to put Orangefield up 6-1 going to the seventh.

The first two Lumberjack hitters in the top of the seventh reached base on a walk and a single. Two ground outs to Fregia at shortstop netted one run for Diboll, but Tait shut the door getting a pop up to Fountain at

first base to end the game with the Bobcats taking a one game to none lead in the series.

The teams traveled to Lufkin for the second game on Saturday. A possible third game was to follow if Diboll could pull out a win in game two.

Bobcat pitcher Kaleb Menard made sure there would be no need for a third game throwing a shutout in the 5-0 series clinching triumph for Orangefield. Menard was magnificent surrendering only four hits and striking out seven Lumberjacks in his complete game performance.

The big inning for Orangefield was the top of the third when it scored four of its five runs in the game. Kane Smith drove in two with a single, Logan Cheek plated one with a sacrifice fly, and Kyle Michael singled to bring home the fourth Bobcat in the inning.

Caleb Fregia was stellar with the bat and the glove. Fregia went three for three driving in the final run for Orangefield and made some outstanding defensive plays at shortstop.

Orangefield has moved to

the Regional Semifinals of the UIL state baseball playoffs like it did two years ago when the Bobcats were in Class 4A. The opponent will be the Rockdale Tigers which defeated West in a deciding third game to advance to the fourth round.

The best of three games series will be played at the Cypress Woods High School in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD northwest of Houston on Wednesday and Thursday, May 22-23. The first game on Wednesday will start at 7:00 PM

with Orangefield as the home team. The second game will be Thursday at 4:00 PM and Rockdale as the home team. A third game if necessary will follow thirty minutes after the second game.




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PETERSON**

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great work!*

Mom

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Classifieds

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HARRY'S APPLIANCES - Used appliances starting at \$99.95, 302 10th. St. (10th. & main) Orange. We also buy used appliances, Call or come by 409-886-4111.

FOR RENT

RV for Rent in Bridge City, TX \$725.00 a month. Call 409-272-4166

HOME FOR SALE

Toledo Bend property located on the foot of the Pendleton Bridge. Older 2 BR, 2 BA mobile home in great shape, a large storage building about 12'x24, 2 boat stalls, 2 rv hookups, 1 rv cover. Over an acre of land 2 minutes away from free boat dock. Sit on the front porch and see the lake across the street. A lot of rental potential. \$150,000 firm.

BURIAL PLOT

Two Cemetery spaces for sale, Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Bridge City. In the Lords Supper Section. \$3600.00 for both. 1-281-806-1832

Two Burial plots located at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. In the Garden of the last supper Lot 2 Block C space 1 and 2. \$3900 for both. 409-781-7986

Two side by side places available at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Garden of the Good Shepherd section. Valued at over \$5,400, make me a reasonable offer. 1-337-515-9296

CHAIR FOR SALE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale this Sat., 5/25 from 7:30 am - till at 301 Elizabeth St. in Bridge City. Womens & girls clothes and accessories, wheelchair, canes, kitchen items, glassware and much more.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

FOR SALE
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SCAN QR Code!



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of **J.M. WILKERSON**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 14, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19951**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **LINDA L. MACE**.

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.

Estate of J.M. Wilkerson
c/o: **Barron Law Office**
P.O. Box 279
Orange, TX 77631-0279

Dated the 14th day of May, 2024.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JANIS SMITH**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 21, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19927**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **WILLIAM SMITH**.

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: **WILLIAM SMITH**
10040 E. Greenwood Dr.
Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 21st day of May, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **ALICE KATHERINE YOUNG**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 21, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19959**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **SHAUN YOUNG**.

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: **SHAUN YOUNG**
405 S. Walnut St.
Kountze, TX 77625

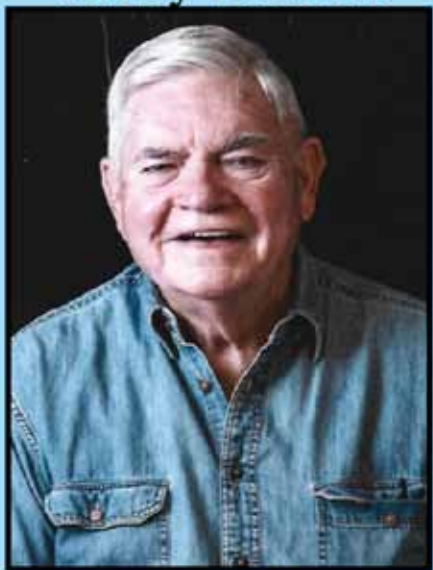
Dated the 21st day of May, 2024.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

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

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Orange County Happenings...

8th Annual Mike Hoke Memorial

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County is holding The 8th Annual Michael Hoke Memorial Outdoor Awareness for Kids on June 4th, 2024 at Claiborne West Park in the Halliburton Pavilion. This is a free event and will be held rain or shine. On the day of the event, check-in is at 8:45 am with the event starting at 9 am and lasting until 1:30 pm with lunch provided. This is a program for ages 8 to 14. Activities include a Duck Dog Demo, Skulls and Furs, Benthic Testing, Nature Trail, and Kayak Paddling Demo and Water Safety Education. To register, go to orange.agrilife.org and click on the registrations page link. If you have any questions, call the Extension office at 409-882-7010.

was courtesy of Macc Hughes.

Free Diabetes Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office is having a Free Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes Series at the Extension office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center on FM 1442, Orange. They will be held on July 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, and 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Join us in learning how to prevent type 2 diabetes, eat healthy, and much more to control your diabetes. You will need to attend all classes to get the full educational benefit. Call the Extension office at 409-882-7010 to reserve your spot.

City of Orange Rec Center Summer Program

The Orange Recreation Center is hosting the annual Youth Summer Sports Camp! Starting May 28th, camp will be held for five weeks from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Tuesdays through Fridays until June 28th. This staff-supervised, co-ed sports camp for ages 7-12 offers fundamentals and skills of a new sport each week, including basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and flag football!

Luther Stark HS Reunion

The Lutch Stark HS Class of 1963 held their class reunion on May 4th, 2024. It was hosted and held at the Holiday Inn Express in Orange. Food was catered by Jerry Hughes and some fabulous desserts were furnished by several classmates. The class picture

Weekly Schedule:
 • Week 1 (May 28 - May 31): Basketball
 • Week 2 (June 4 - 7): Volleyball
 • Week 3 (June 11 - 14): Pickleball
 • Week 4: (June 18 - 21): Flag Football
 • Week 5: (June 25 - 28): All Sports

Lamar State College — Orange —

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MAY 28, 2024

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Bethel Baptist Church
 2906 Western Ave. • Orange
 Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner
 (409 782 5352)
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Triangle Baptist Church
 6446 Garrison at Hwy. 408 Orangefield
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 Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
 Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
 We are a KJV independent Baptist Church

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 200 W. Roundbunch
 735-3581
 www.fbcbc.org
 Sunday schedule: Bible study 9:15 a.m.,
 Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,
 Adult, Youth, Children
 Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting
 Youth & Children's Activities
 Pastor: Keith Royal

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 409-920-2271
 youtube.com/c/cowboychurchfororangecounty

Starlight Church of God in Christ
 2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
 Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.
 Interspersory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.
 www.slccgicorange.org

Living Word Church
 Pray For The Sick & Cast Out Demons
 7403 FM 1006 (Corner of 87 & FM1006)
 409-735-6659
 COME WORSHIP WITH US
 Sunday 10 A.M. & Thursday 6 P.M.
 Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor
 Rev. Ron Richardson, Co-Pastor

Winfree Baptist Church
 19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
 office@winfreebaptist.org
 Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor
 Sunday:
 Sunday School - 9:15 am
 Morning Worship - 10:30 am
 Wednesday:
 Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
 Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
 Committed... To Christ, To His Word, To His Church, To His Commission

Church Directory

First United Methodist Church Orange
 502 Sixth Street 886-7466
 10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY
 All of our services are also available premiered on:
 Facebook at 9:00 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOrangeTX)
 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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In Print & Online

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 Wednesday Service: 6 pm
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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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